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Al Sandoval Memorial Scholarship

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Since the 1980s the right wing of America have been waging a perpetual, devastating war against labor and trade unions. It must be stated that America was at the height of its prosperity following World War II up until the late 1970s and early 80s. This time of unprecedented economic growth is called "The Great Expansion," and it produced the greatest, largest middle class that the world has ever seen. During this time unions were strong; the middle class had well paying jobs and economic security; and, the richest Americans paid a much greater percentage of taxes. However this great economic expansion dried up in the late 1970s, and during Reagan's presidency the great assault on American unions began and has continued ever since. Consequently, unions have been in a fight for survival. Which leads to the question, "Why is the right wing in America determined to destroy all trade unions?" The answer to this question is multi faceted. The right wing of America subscribe to the economic theory of supply side economics, often called trickle-down economics or Reaganomics, or even as George H.W. Bush called it, "Voodoo Economics." The basis for this theory is that if businesses and corporations are treated favorably by way of tax cuts and cutting down on unions, then this will translate in rising wages for workers since the business will now have more money to spend, invest, and give to their workers. Reaganomics has been the foundation of the American economy for the last thirty years, so let us examine the results of right wing economics: wages have remained stagnant, the divide between the rich and the poor has grown to levels not seen since the 1920s (the lead up to the great depression), nearly half of America is making \$30,000 or less, and the economy nearly collapsed in 2008. Indeed Reaganomics has been a monumental success--for the wealthy and the 1%, but not for anyone else, especially not the middle class. Despite these results the right wing continue to advocate for Reaganomics. The right wing have successfully tricked Americans into thinking that Reaganomics works. They have pulled a veil over Americans' eyes, convincing them that what is good for the rich is good for the poor despite all evidence to the contrary. In other words, the right has successfully marketed this failed idea. The most realistic likely reason that the right wish to end the practice of collective bargaining which coincided

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with the best financial times America ever had is because they have a lack of understanding of history and they lack empathy for the working class and the working poor of America.

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