

More Egalitarian = More Civilized

Khalil Bennett

It is possible to live in an egalitarian way. We do not have to have malnutrition, prisons, and suffering. We do not have to pollute the earth. We do not have to have people like Bill Gates being worth \$40 something billion while most of the world’s population lives off a dollar a day. We do not have to have a system that makes most people work hard to survive while a few rich people buy planes, cars, women, boats, and a house on the hill. Some people are so rich, they could never spend all their money in a whole lifetime. Others are suffering because they don’t have enough. It doesn’t make sense for us to keep going like this.

Does it sound too idealistic to think this way? It is not. The Native Americans lived for thousands of years in a way that was sustainable. Their economy was not based on exploitation. There are other examples in history of cultures living cooperatively and unselfishly. For some reason, these cultures are called uncivilized. Yet, ask yourself: Who is



Lori Pupi at a protest against bank foreclosures.

civilized and who is uncivilized – the people that always want more power and more wealth or the people who strive for an egalitarian society?

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What Would It Look Like?

Read the sign in the photo above. What do you think “an economy that works for everyone” would look like?

Cyndee and Khalil say that our economy should have certain qualities. List some of those qualities in the grid below and discuss them. What qualities do you think our economy should have? Explain.

Qualities Cyndee wants to see	Qualities Khalil wants to see	Qualities you want to see
e.g., accountability	e.g., egalitarian	