Dream of a Nation

Creating a Sustainable and Equitable Economy

Infographic

- 1. What can be deduced about the average standard of living in the United States from these statistics?
- 2. How is underemployment an example of underutilization?

Lighting the Way to a New Economy

- 1. In what ways does New Economic theory redefine economic growth? Are these new measures measurable in traditional, economic terms?
- 2. Can the idea of scarcity be applied to the more holistic measures of progress such as environmental and societal resources?

Building a We' Economy

- 3. Listen to this podcast on capital gains tax and then explain the root of the debate on this issue.
- 4. Reed Hastings' recommendation to increase taxes to fifty percent in the highest income bracket may seem extreme to some. Take a look at how much he is worth <u>here</u> and then look at <u>tax rates</u> in Denmark—currently one of the healthiest economies in the world. According to <u>this author</u>, why do Danes accept this situation?

Moving the Green Jobs Movement Forward

- 5. How can specialization result in increased economic opportunity for workers? In what way does this superficially appear to be paradoxical?
- 6. How is the U.S. economy currently in excess demand for renewable energy?

Make it in America

- 7. Does the American market genuinely have consumer sovereignty? Is that a factor in determining whether the U.S. has a genuinely, capitalistic market?
- 8. How has the United States' physical capital become limited due to trade agreements like NAFTA? Is it possible to reverse the effects of these polices, as suggested in this article?

Real World Models for Creating Stability in the New Economy

9. What new factors does the New Economy introduce into economic theory? Are these new factors measurable by traditional economic theory?

Switching taxes to Get American Working

10. Read <u>this article</u> on the correlation between taxes and social security and then either defend or refute Drayton's idea of payroll tax elimination.

Post-Reading Questions

11. Watch <u>this video</u> and explain how Dan Pink's idea of intrinsic motivation differs from traditional notions of extrinsic motivators. Does this idea pose a threat or create an opportunity for traditionally organized economies?

Chapter 3 Discussion Questions

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12. In considering the limitations of traditional economic theory to calculate true cost to the environment, social networks and account for new theories on motivation and satisfaction, what benefits could be obtained by including more holistic economic indicators which considered environmental and societal degradation? What are the challenges of incorporating these measures?