

# *SysEx – The Super Summary of ‘The System Explained’*

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## ***The Introductory Text From The Website***

*‘It’s the system’ - what shopfloor workers always said to this writer when he worked in industry and argued against the power of employers, business people and their excessive wealth.*

*‘A lesson from the Obama years – failure to seize the opportunities offered by the great recession to reform an economic system that has worked against most Americans for four decades.’ (The Observer 17-1-2021)*

*It’s ridiculous, the state humanity is in, worldwide, with all the usual problems and now the climate and the environment in crisis too. We’ve got amazing technical abilities but terrible understanding of how we interact with each other.*

*People look too much to politics for answers and not at the basic everyday system. Most think how we interact together in business, work, trade (and politics itself) is just the way things are. Few people mention the system when talking politics, or look at the basics, what’s wrong with them and what we can do about it. They just expect governments to ‘run the country’ as it is.*

*But the political institutions – Parliament, National Assemblies, the Bundestag, Congress - and the politicians – Chancellors, Presidents, MP’s, Prime*

*Ministers, Presidents, Congress(w)men - don't run everything. It's the other way round - politics emerges from wider society, especially from the core of the system - how we make a living or make money, how we buy and sell goods and services, the deals we make at work and in business to produce them - our economic activity.*

*It's futile to discuss politics without referring to this underlying system. From what politicians do to the views of ordinary people you talk to, and their role in it. And those of their family, friends, neighbours and workmates.*

*Our rights to regulate the system through politics do matter. But they are remote at best, and so, there being so many entrenched relationships in the wider system, they also keep us at arm's length from it. Another thing that does that is how the system is mystified as 'the economy', 'free markets', 'economics' or 'capitalism'.*

*Everyone knows there's big things wrong with the outcomes of the system but with no clear understanding of its processes we don't think or act coherently. Many just blame vague 'metropolitan elites' or 'the swamp', some resort to attacking each other in culture wars, to crazy conspiracy theories, some place their hopes on big-talking blusterers, some give up on politics. All because we haven't got a shared understanding of the basics of the system as a reference point for our political thinking. You can cope with politics and life better when you have a clear, factual view of the system. These works explain the system, and not with abstract talk of economics,*

*capitalism, liberalism, socialism or communism, but by showing how we interact together, ordinarily, everyday. They show how we humans can relate to each other fairly and run a sustainable global society.*

### ***The Introductory Text Continued***

*This work explores and explains the system's processes, the rights and wrongs, the protections, rewards, obligations and penalties, of our key roles and relationships. And it explores and explains what we can do about it.*

*It shows how social organisation and a lack of organisation determine power. It shows how the majority of people organising in their role as workers would make the system much fairer and more equitable.*

*We call the system 'capitalism' but that evokes a remote, mysterious process where unidentified people somehow accumulate money and power. It doesn't explain capitalism's key relationships and mechanisms. It doesn't admit that they are rooted in and observable in everyday life.*

*Crucially, it masks how capital is made by workers in the work process. A trade essential to capitalism, a key trade in it's so-called 'free' markets, goes unexamined. This is the trade in people, in fellow-citizens. Just how some citizens buy other citizens, and those citizens sell themselves to them, how employers buy labour and workers sell it to them, is taken for granted and ignored. But it is this trade that determines the unequal bargain between business people and public employers, and*

workers, that is the root cause of the huge imbalance of wealth and power, monetary, economic and political. Here is what's wrong with it – in these industrial economies, with large workforces, each employer has so many staff they can easily mistreat or do without any one. Each worker is of only marginal utility to the employer. For each worker it is different. They need a job far more than the employer needs them. Employer and worker have a different 'ratio of need'. People accept business people's argument that they earn their wealth from their own efforts because they don't understand this process through which they take most of it from them, workers.

Finally - capitalism is a poor name for the system. Business is its core activity - capital is created in the business process. We see business, take part in it everyday, and speak about it. So let's call it all 'the business system'. Let's locate it in our normal, felt experience and enable ourselves to deal with it mentally.

### **What We Can Do**

To solve humanity's problems, we need to build the above observations into everyday political debate and to get it widely understood -

... that most things in the economy, work, income and jobs don't come from what politicians and governments do.

... that we work most of it out in the long-established relationships of the business system.

... that politics comes from this system,

*not the other way round.*

*... that, aside from direct government services, politics is a ride-on-top process through which you might get what you want changed in the broader everyday system where citizens interact outside of politics.*

*... that politicians can regulate the unfairness in it but won't or don't. Conservatives exist to leave it unregulated, because they represent business people, who benefit hugely over workers with the system as it is.*

*And ...*

*We need to spread awareness that business people run the world more than politicians do...*

*... because they organise most of the everyday essential activities: the buying and selling of goods, services and people - production – work, jobs and trade*

*... that this makes them 'the economy' (most of)  
... that being the economy gives them political power, even without acting directly in politics, under any government.*

*To act directly in politics some amongst them run the conservative media...*

*... and some organise the conservative parties.*

*We need to spread this understanding of the system and the rights and wrongs of it ...*

*... especially just exactly how business people, and public employers, get unfair power*

*over workers in jobs ...*

*... how to make it more balanced and fair.*

*... show this explanation is true because drawn from everyone's directly observable, everyday life experiences (and not just a matter of opinion)*

*... spread this view widely, globally.*

*The big issue in politics is the balance between individual liberty and action, and collective action, obligation and support.*

*(With particular reference to the USA)*

*Conservatives always speak of the individual, of freedom, of 'liberty'. OK, in many areas, like human rights. But it's facile nonsense to talk of it as the core principle of the economic system in this corporate, industrialised, marketized, financialized, hyper-connected, globalized society. It is intensely collective.*

*Whether we have individual liberty in the economic system is to be tested against how free markets operate. They tend to industrialism, so the many must work for the few. They enable business people to dominate the majority, who are mostly workers.*

*And business people don't operate as individuals. Each and every day, they organise and act together, collectively, as businesses, as companies, as corporations.*

*In taking the trouble to do that they earn their power. It's up to the rest of us, who mostly don't, to do*

*the same, to take the trouble to organise and act collectively.*

*Business people are a class - the business class.*

*They are a small minority of citizens. Some are alright, as people, but as a group they exploit, manipulate and mistreat the great majority.*

*Most of that great majority of citizens are workers.*

*They too are a class - the worker class.*

*But they represent their interests weakly, compared to the business class.*

*We let business people dominate us at work; in political debate in the media; and in politics itself.*

*We are so weak we don't even see them as a class, or ourselves...and ...*

*we don't organise and act together like they do.*

*We need the majority of citizens to organise, like business people do in their companies and corporations, in unions in the meaningful roles they are active in every day, being workers.*

*... from being organised, represent themselves in public life as mature citizens speaking through credible institutions, joining business people as 'players' in the system.*

*... with collective strength, to stand up to the business class and public sector managers at work... and ...*

*... to match up to conservative media and parties in politics, do as they do and act politically organised*

*in their economic roles...*

*... organise in mass political forces, and progressive parties, with other progressive groups ...*

*... and run progressive media to counter the conservative media's business class bias.*

*Since the majority of citizens are workers, they are, in their unions, central to these progressive political forces and parties.*

*Progressives always have better policies for the majority than conservatives. What they lack is organisation and its use to communicate and get support for policy.*

*Dense, widespread organisation will enable the transmission, top-down, bottom-up and laterally, of progressive insights, attitudes and policies, and counter conservative malevolence in the media.*

*Social media is not ideal for all this. It is influential but it is not people acting together in substantive social organisations. It is mostly people mouthing off to each other as atomised individuals.*

*It is because we aren't clear about all these basics that many:*

*... find politics confusing and, disastrously for themselves and for all of us, allow the conservative business class minority, who care only about themselves, to be the government ...*

*... instead, group themselves and others by mostly shallow 'identities' based on low-relevance, passive attributes.*

*We need to persuade fellow-citizens not to identify themselves and others by appearance, locality or personal preferences but by class role; to base their political stance on that and on how people actually behave, on how they act and interact, in the practical reality of business, jobs, the economy and politics.*

*To persuade the worker majority, in particular, to find their main identity in being, with most other citizens, a worker, a member of the working or worker class. Blue-collar, white-collar and whatever colour or gender.*

*When we share a clear understanding of the system such as put here and in the full book 'The System' Explained, it'll be easier to make sense of political issues, discuss them widely, and organise to get society working fairly for all.*

### ***The System Explained -***

- explains the system clearly,*
- relates it to daily experience*
- uses everyday language.*