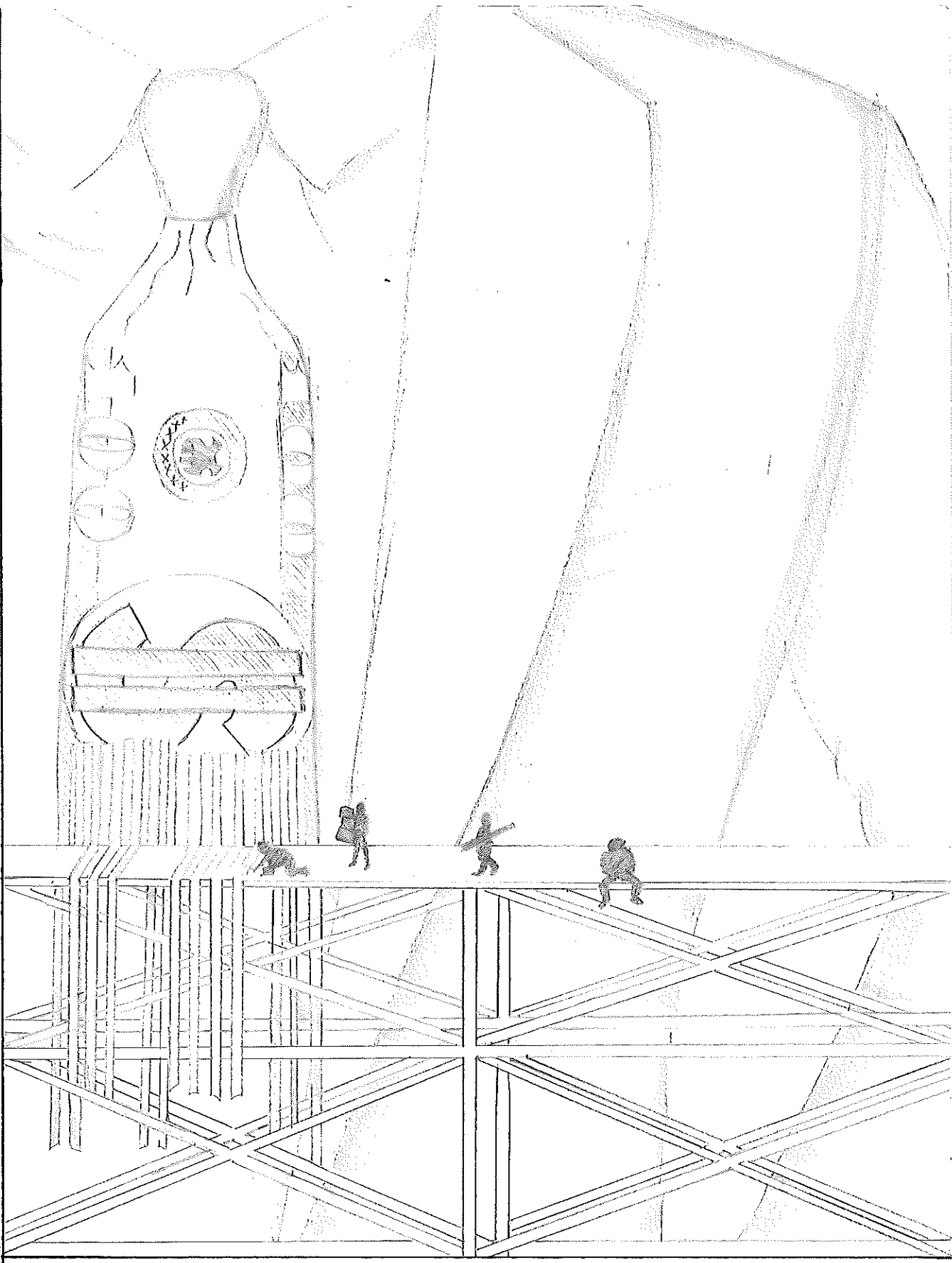


HILDEBRANDT  
JULIE  
WELCH



Jorja Irokopich

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Ms. Hildebrandt

# Definitions

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## Cap·i·tal·ism

*noun*

A system of economics in which private owners set and control the market for profit, rather than a governing body.

“Canada and the USA have economies based on *capitalism*.”

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## So·ci·e·ty

*noun*

A group of people which consistently interacts with each other or inhabits the same geographical or social area; those living together in a community of any sort.

“Money dictates someone’s place in *society*.”

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## Ty·coon

*noun*

An incredibly successful person in business, especially through wealth and power.

“Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk are *tycoons*.”

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## Wealth Dis·tri·bu·tion

*noun*

A comparison which looks at assets, rather than income, to analyze wealth; an illustration of economic inequality which compares wealth between groups of people

“The *wealth distribution* between the rich and the poor has gotten worse over the pandemic.”

---

## CEO

*noun*

An abbreviation for “chief executive officer”; the top-ranking business official in a company who is accountable for administrative decisions.

“Elon Musk is the *CEO* of SpaceX and Tesla.”

## Top 10 Richest People

1. **Elon Musk**—CEO of Tesla, SpaceX, and *apparently* cryptocurrency! Better keep an eye on his Twitter, you never know when one Tweet will boost Dogecoin again!
2. **Jeff Bezos**—The founder of Amazon. What began as a humble online bookstore became a not-so-humble online mega-retailer. With only a little help from his parents, Mr. Bezos was able to make his dreams into reality. Never mind the \$245,000 investment. That's chump change!
3. **Bernard Arnault**—Ahhh, a life of opulence. CEO and chair of the biggest luxury goods company in the world. With a 97.5% stake in Christian Dior, you'd wonder why he's wearing the same two suits in every image.
4. **Bill Gates**—Co-founder of Microsoft (a pretty *insignificant* company if you ask me). I don't think I've even *heard* of Microsoft. Let alone typed countless essays on Word...and made presentations in PowerPoint...and relied on Teams for the last two years for online learning. Microsoft? *Doesn't* ring a bell.
5. **Larry Page**—Did you know this guy co-founded Google? You know, Google? That *super* small search engine that accounts for more than 92% of online searches? What a shame it *never* took off.

6. **Mark Zuckerberg**—I'm not too convinced this guy should even be on this list. Is he even a person? Changing the name of Facebook to Meta and insisting the "metaverse" will be the next big thing? He could be a robot, maybe he's trying to "reconnect" with his roots.
  
7. **Sergey Brin**—Here we have the other co-founder of Google! How *nice* that the company's venture to cell phones was a *huge* success. Move over Apple, there's a new boss in town: Google Pixel!
  
8. **Warren Buffett**—A man who made billions in trading shares. It seems so simple. Almost like *anybody* could do this. One question before we start...what are "shares"?
  
9. **Steve Ballmer**—The 30<sup>th</sup> Microsoft employee, past CEO, and the largest individual shareholder of the company. It's incredible that that he was able to buy a basketball team with his abundant wealth. This guy is the owner of the LA Clippers: a team seemingly hated by the entirety of the NBA. *Great* choice Stevie!
  
10. **Larry Ellison**—What a success story! This man went to the University of Chicago then co-founded Oracle, now the second-largest software company in the world! Just goes to show all you need is a good education to be successful. What's that? He dropped out of university? Oh, *never MIND!* Education is *entirely* unnecessary!

## An Open Letter to Jeff Bezos

Dear Mr. Bezos,

You need to do something about your company. Amazon, your biggest claim to fame, has equal benefits and detriments to everyone involved, employees and customers alike. You claim the company is for the people and yet those are who are hurt the most. Have you not seen the countless articles outlining “hellish” working conditions and grueling tasks? If you truly care about the wellbeing of the working class, I call on you to:

1. Improve working conditions for Amazon workers
2. Have additional break rooms and rest rooms provided in fulfilment centers
3. Reduce Amazon’s carbon footprint

It is public knowledge that workers at Amazon’s fulfilment centers have it rough. One search on the internet will get you hundreds of articles surrounding subpar and inhuman working conditions. There is no shortage of current and past employees bringing their personal horror stories to the press.

Some of these workers report immense physical strain, long hours, or lack of Covid safety. These workers feel disposable, with some suddenly losing benefits they were promised. One such worker was told to take as much unpaid leave as needed, but later forced to take mandatory overtime. The conditions at the warehouses are simply unacceptable. Even before the pandemic, the worker turnover rate was 150%, almost *double* the average for retail and logistics industries. The breaks that fulfilment center workers receive (two fifteen-minute and one thirty-minute break during their shift) are insufficient. The size of the warehouses results in the workers spending most of that time walking to and from a bathroom or break room and being reprimanded if they return to their station even a minute late. The “competitive” work environment fosters nothing but fear. Employees worry that tiny mistakes will spiral, resulting in their termination.

During the pandemic, workers have been left in the dark. Managers and supervisors of the fulfilment centers have neglected to tell them about the number of positive cases and provided

minimal safeguards for their health. Employees are going to work fearing their safety, but without a choice. Every warehouse has hundreds of cases, yet case counts are not disclosed to employees. Due to fear of losing their jobs, these employees continue to work while ill because they cannot go without their next paycheque. There needs to be more safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Social distancing is one the most effective ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19, yet crowded work spaces make this nearly impossible. Some Amazon supervisors even *discourage* distancing when waiting in line for the bathrooms as the spaced-out lines “take up too much space”. Workers also report minimal, if any, sanitation.

Your company not only hurts its employees, but its customers as well. The environmental impacts of Amazon have not gone unnoticed. Hundreds of millions of pounds of plastic packaging in one year is unacceptable. I recognize improvements have been made, but more must be done. Sustainability is a luxury only the rich can ignore, and *you* are the rich.

Amazon’s negative impacts on the world have gone unchecked for far too long. You hold the power to support those that assisted you in making your billions. Amazon is reliant on the working class, so for the sake of your company, throw some money into supporting its central pillar—its employees. Customers and workers alike suffer from environmental stress your company puts on the planet. Approximately one million people in the US are employed and harmed by Amazon’s policies, therefore this is not a problem for just a couple people. As executive chairman and founder of Amazon you have a responsibility to ensure safe and humane working conditions to those employed. Mandate safer Covid practices including social distancing and sanitation, improve working conditions, and take the workers into account when the warehouses are being designed. If you truly believe Amazon is for the people, ensure it does not harm those it is meant to support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorja Prokopich", written over a horizontal line.

Jorja Prokopich

## Desperation

You preach to the masses  
A congregation of privilege  
And cheering faces gaze back  
They sing praises to your wealth

Like a mythical beast  
Guarding a bed of jewels  
Without purpose  
They glitter and tempt

Where is the wealth?  
Where is your worth?  
Where is your heart?

Where is your heart?

Green surrounds you  
Maybe money does grow on trees  
Stocks treasured like children  
Yet neglected in times of need

You climb ahead  
Our backs become your staircase  
We scramble for scraps  
Yet all we find is

Desperation

# Charts Illustrating Wealth Distribution

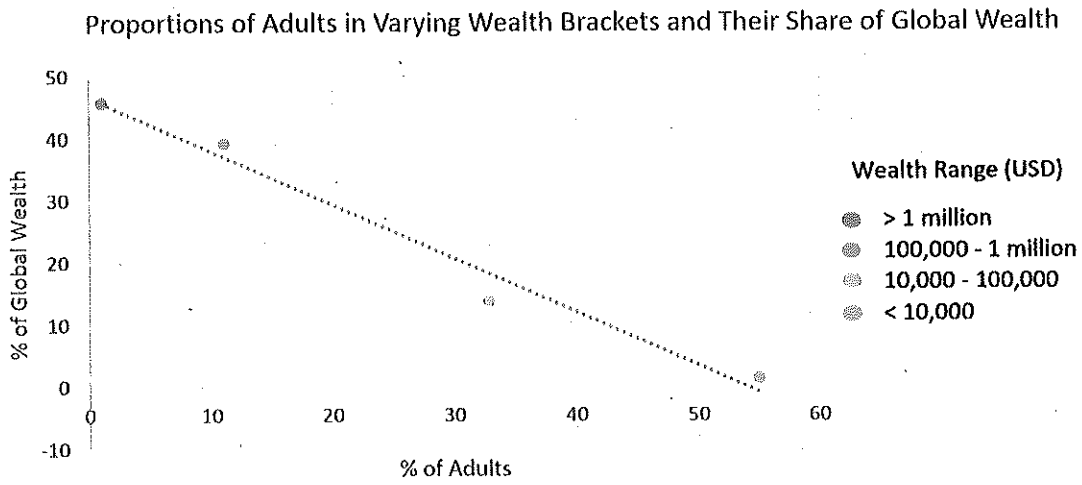


Figure 1 Proportions of adults in various wealth brackets and the proportion of global wealth that they control

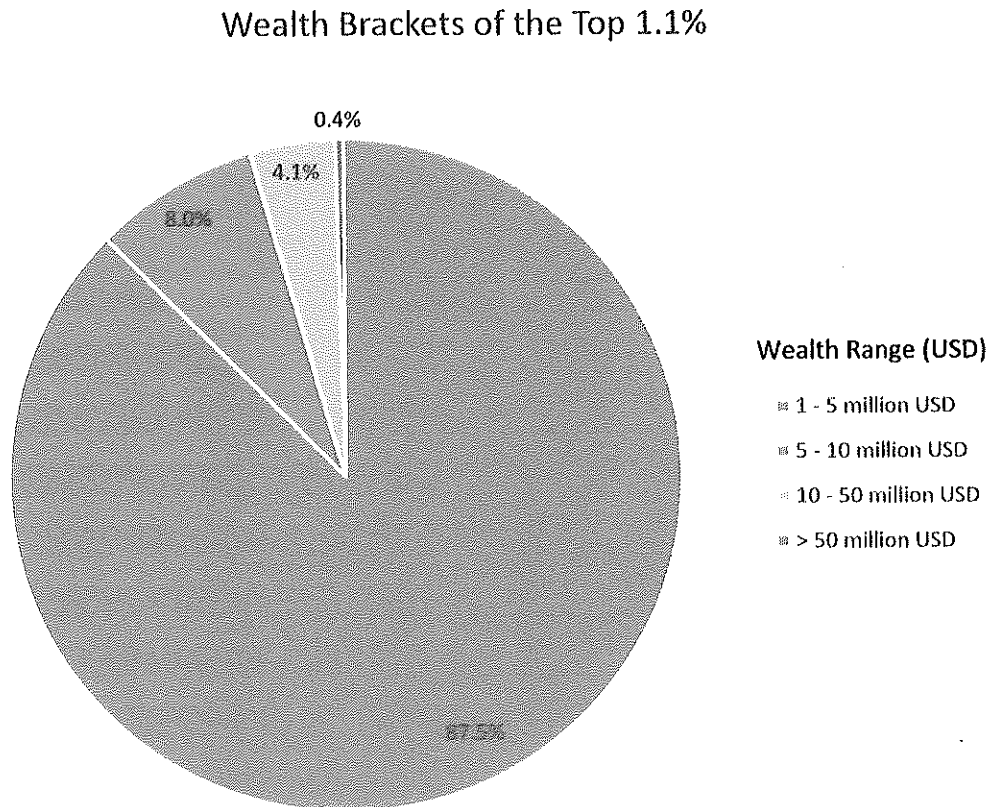
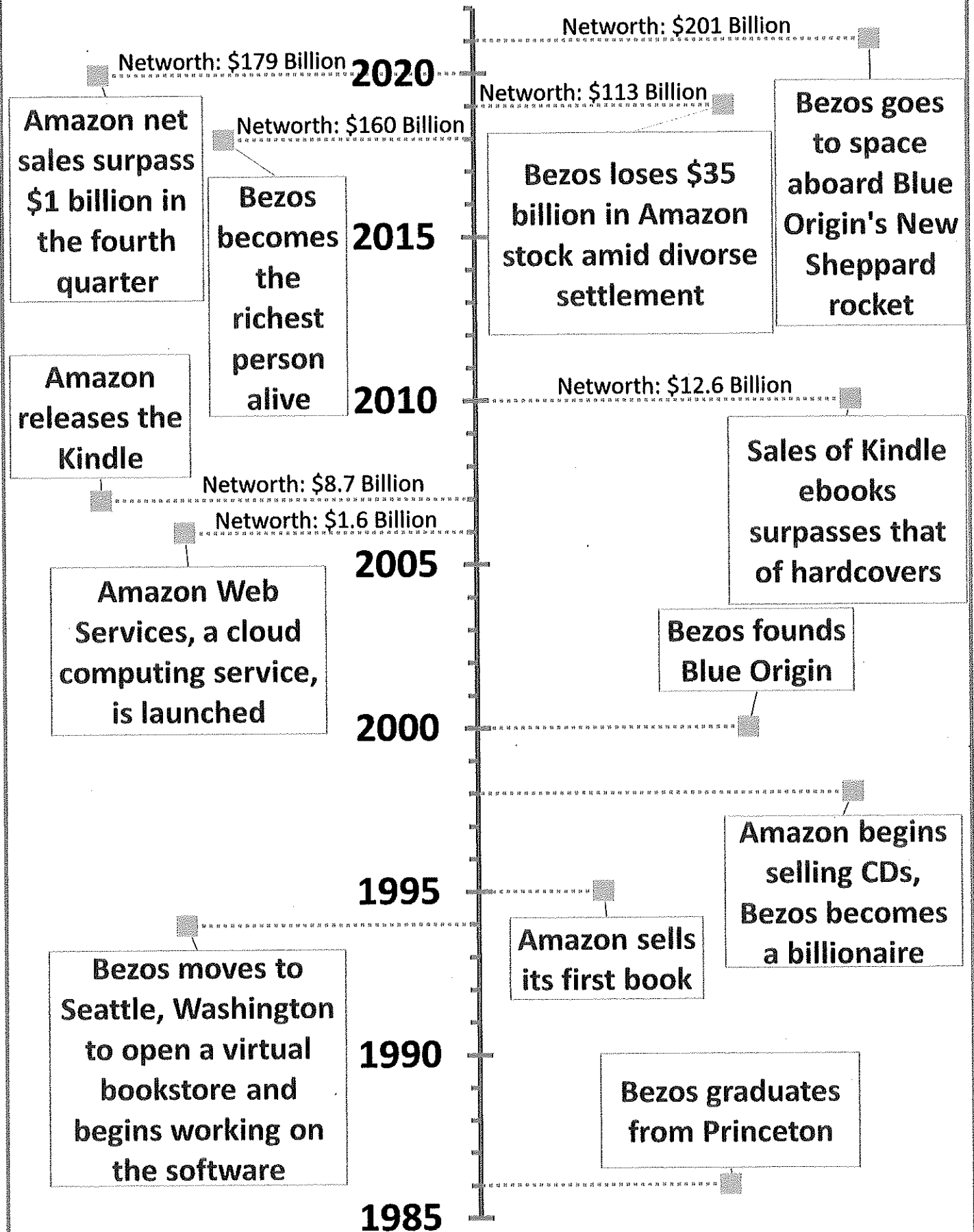


Figure 2 Percentages of adults in the top 1.1% of wealth (over 1 million dollars) in various wealth brackets



# Timeline: Bezos and His Billions



Friday,  
January 28,  
2022

# THIS IS NEWS

Issue #22

*Your Daily News Updates*

## Amazon on Strike!

By: Jorja Prokopich

**KANSAS CITY, USA** — Amazon workers across the country walk out of fulfillment centers in an unofficial strike this past Wednesday across the country due to horrid working conditions in the warehouses. This after reports of incredibly strict deadlines and workers fed up with being treated more as automated machines, rather than people.

At noon, employees at 56 fulfillment centers across the US walked out. As Amazon workers were unable to unionize earlier this year, the strike was unofficial, with many workers fearing repercussions when they return to work. But while employees fear the possible punishments, it isn't anything new.

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*"I was scared of losing my job every day."*

- Darren Johnson, Amazon employee

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"I was scared of losing my job every day. I didn't know if the scanner might glitch and wouldn't hit my target," said Darren Johnson, an employee who participated in the protest. "I never knew when a minor slip up could cost me my paycheck," said another, who wishes to remain anonymous. The workers were fearful of job loss due to the company's efficiency-based system. A glitch in the



*The inside of an Amazon fulfillment center*

devices used for scanning items could result in lower reported speeds and job termination.

Working conditions have long been under scrutiny, with workers at the Amazon fulfillment centers reporting long treks across the warehouse to reach the bathrooms, only to have to run back to their stations to avoid being late. Some others also cite immense physical strain as their reason for protest. "I work 10 hour shifts on my feet. I can't tell you how many times I've had to take a pause to take an Advil and got yelled at for slacking off," reported one worker we talked to.

Supervisors of involved warehouses have declined to comment.

# Recipe for the Best Homemade Billionaire

★★★★☆ 4.5 stars from 2022 ratings

Author: Jorja Prokopich

Yield: 1

*Look no further for the perfect way to make a billionaire! This innovative new recipe is sure to get you a billionaire who chooses not to help the working class and doesn't pay taxes! For best results, add a generous amount of their parents' money.*

**Prep Time:** 15 minutes

**Cook Time:** 15 minutes

**Total Time:** 50 years

## Ingredients

### BILLIONAIRE

- 2 cups greed
- 1 cup luck
- 4 ½ tbsp overconfidence
- 2 tbsp arrogance
- 2 tsp egocentrism
- 1/64 tsp of philanthropy
- 3 cups of stocks and/or shares

### GARNISH

- 1 generic t-shirt
- 1 pair of jeans

## Notes

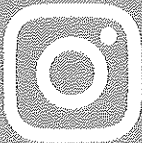
### FOR ADDED ZEST

- Make sure your billionaire is passionate about things like cryptocurrency. Being able to influence the market through a tweet can help them amass even more wealth.
- Sell the “built from scratch” story. When others question how your billionaire’s company got so big, you give them a dream that it “started in a garage”. This will give them hope (don’t let them know the billionaire’s parents gave them money to get started).

## Instructions

- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F. You won’t be needing the oven, but it’s important to leave the door open to help your billionaire contribute to climate change as soon as possible.
- 2) In a large mixing bowl, combine greed, luck, and overconfidence. Stir until fully combined to make an entitled base that is unaware of the struggles of the working class.

- 3) In a separate bowl, beat the arrogance and egocentrism until overinflated to give your billionaire a superiority complex.
- 4) Combine ingredients from steps 1 and 2 in a large saucepan. Mix again, then boil for 3 minutes to get rid of any empathy that could have formed.
- 5) After the empathy has been boiled away, add a dash of philanthropy. It is very important to do this AFTER boiling to ensure any charity your billionaire partakes in is done superficially or for personal gain (specifically to avoid taxes or for publicity).
- 6) Remove from heat and stir in stocks and shares. This will make sure your billionaire can hoard their wealth without paying taxes.
- 7) Let sit on the counter for 50 years so your billionaire can become spoiled and removed from society.
- 8) Finally, garnish with a generic t-shirt and pair of jeans. It's hard for your billionaire to be relatable, so the basic clothing can help them blend in with the people they'll exploit.
- 9) Your billionaire is ready to compete for the title of richest person alive while you struggle to pay off your debt!



*Did you try this yourself?*

Post it on Instagram and tag us @BillionDollarBaking!

# EAT THE RICH

Gourmet Dining

## Appetizers

**Monopoly Mozzarella Sticks** 14<sup>00</sup>  
Fresh, gooey mozzarella coated in house-made breadcrumbs and our signature blend of herbs and spices. Served with the best marinara sauce money can buy. Nothing can compete.

**Covid Calamari** 18<sup>00</sup>  
Atlantic-caught squid battered and fried to the perfect golden-brown crispiness.  
\*Price increased due to unprecedented circumstances.

## Mains

**Hoarded Wealth Hamburger** 99<sup>00</sup>  
A juicy beef patty served on a sesame bun with crisp lettuce, secret sauce, and money you could have used to pay rent.

**NFT Gnocchi** 22<sup>00</sup>  
Handmade gnocchi topped with a rich and creamy white sauce and garden herbs. Served to you will be a one-of-a-kind receipt for the dish while the gnocchi belong to us.

## Sides

**Exploitation Edamame** 10<sup>00</sup>  
Edamame steamed to perfection and salted with the tears of our employees, desperate for work but paid next to nothing while we make billions.

**Wealth Privilege Waffle Fries** 17<sup>00</sup>  
Garden potatoes sliced and cooked crisp. Served fresh and hot with gourmet spices.  
\*Priority given to highest paying customers

## Drinks

**Carbon Footprint Cosmo** 14<sup>00</sup>  
A tangy blend of vodka, orange liqueur, cranberry juice, and freshly squeezed lime. Garnished with the finest plastic packaging and greenhouse gasses.

**Screw(you)driver** 10<sup>00</sup>  
Freshly squeezed orange juice and vodka. Prepared by our expert bartenders who amass billions, regardless of customer satisfaction or safety.

# EAT THE RICH

## Dessert Menu

### AMAZON AVALANCHE

17<sup>00</sup> Rich, sweet, and creamy vanilla ice-cream served fast with hot fudge and a total disregard for worker safety.

### TESLA TIRAMISU

29<sup>00</sup> Elegant and rich layers of coffee and cocoa flavours with abundant panel gaps and poor paint jobs.  
\*Production not guaranteed

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