

		2. Why might people find it as relevant today as they did in 1970?
01:24-03:06	Defining American Capitalism	What are Seth Rockman's critiques of general definitions of capitalism? Why is it important to have clear and accessible definitions of terms like capitalism? According to Robin D.G. Kelley, what is the myth of American capitalism? What is the reality of American capitalism?
03:07-04:15	Interlude: Disparities in American Society	What has the COVID-19 pandemic revealed about disparities in America? Do those disparities redefine the way you think about the country?

04:16-08:09	Personal Account: Nikole and Chimiere *single use of profanity in conversation	In this section, Nikole Hannah-Jones and her cousin Chimiere Tillman reflect on the jobs their fathers worked throughout their lives. What are some of the jobs they mention and what impacts did that labor have on both men? Both Hannah-Jones and Tillman become emotional recounting these stories. Why do you think that is? What is your emotional response listening to them?
08:10-09:04	Interlude: Low Road Capitalism	What does it mean to “take the low-road?” What might be some defining components of “low-road capitalism?”

09:05-12:26	Forms of Labor Exploitation *pictures and images from slave labor camps	<p>According to Professor Rockman, what are the origins of the claim that slavery was not profitable?</p> <p>American chattel-slavery fueled business and economics from the first colonial settlements through the Industrial Revolution. Why is it important to understand chattel slavery as a national institution and not just a southern one? How were other nations in exchange with America during this period of time complicit in the exploitation of labor from enslaved people?</p> <p>Rockman names continuous efforts to find and implement coercive mechanisms that hold people in place and exploit their labor in the American workplace as a legacy of slavery. How did slavery impact/shape the culture of the American workplace? Can you think of examples of what this looks like in practice today?</p>
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<p>12:27-15:32</p>	<p>Personal Account: Derrick Palmer</p>	<p>Did you know that Amazon is the second-largest employer in the United States? How does this knowledge expand our understanding of the number of people and communities affected by the exploitative and dangerous labor practices the company is under investigation for?</p> <p>How do you think prioritizing productivity over employee safety impacts a work environment? How might it impact an employee even after they leave that work environment?</p>
<p>15:33-17:59</p>	<p>Record Keeping on Plantations</p> <p>*pictures and images from slave labor camps</p>	<p>Nikole Hannah-Jones describes American capitalism as historically demanding “productivity for profit at the expense of human beings.” How does this framing help us to better understand the throughline between the exploitative institution of chattel slavery and labor exploitation today?</p> <p>Have you seen a slave ledger like the one Caitlin Rosenthal shares before? Why is it important to understand the meticulous recordkeeping systems enslavers had in place? How does it contradict the imaginary version of plantations Rosenthal describes?</p>

		<p>In workplace culture today, performance statistics are often legitimized and celebrated. Why do you think that is the case? Are there any ways in which this practice may be harmful?</p>
18:00-19:00	Interlude: The Amazon Assembly Line	<p>What system of performance tracking is used for workers on an Amazon workplace assembly line? How does this system impact the workers on the line? How does it resemble the performance tracking in plantation account books?</p>
19:01-21:05	Determining Value From Labor	<p>How does it feel to learn about the ways enslavers assigned and tracked the monetary value of enslaved people? Why is determining a person's value from their potential labor production an act of dehumanization?</p> <p>Catilin Rosenthal explains that enslaved people were aware of the ways their enslavers assigned value to them and used that knowledge strategically. Have you been taught about any other ways enslaved people used strategy in their lives?</p>

21:06-23:21	Personal Account: Chimiere	How long has Chimiere Tillman been working? Why has it been difficult to sustain herself and her family despite that amount of labor?
23:21-26:12	Interlude: Capitalism and Race	<p>Are you surprised to see the statistics on wealth disparity between white and Black families? Why do you think such a great disparity exists?</p> <p>Why does Hannah-Jones argue that race and capitalism will never be inseparable in America? How does Robin D. G. Kelley support this argument in his explanation of racial capitalism?</p> <p>Why could Derrick Palmer's experience at Amazon be considered an example of racial capitalism? How do the statistics shared about the racial makeup of workers at his facility and in senior leadership at the company support this argument?</p>

26:13-29:59	Personal Account: Jennifer Bates	<p>How did locals initially respond to Amazon coming to Bessemer? How did the reality of Amazon coming differ from the hope that it initially offered?</p> <p>How does Jennifer Bates describe her experiences working at Amazon? Why did Bates decide to stay at Amazon despite these experiences?</p>
30:00-31:12	Interlude: Nationwide Worker Strikes	<p>What are some of the differences Nikole Hannah-Jones lists between the United States and other modern capitalist societies? Why do you think those differences exist?</p> <p>Were you aware of any of the strikes mentioned in this section? Do you know of any workers in your community who are striking now? Where can you learn more about them?</p>

31:12-33:34	Labor Organizing at Amazon	Why did Derrick Palmer and his colleagues decide to strike? How were these motivations similar to those of the Amazon workers fighting to unionize in Bessemer?
33:35-36:28	Interlude: History of Union Destabilization	What are some potential explanations for the low union participation rate in the United States? What was the response to unionization efforts of the 1930s and 1940s? What are some of the long-term impacts of this response? What does Robin D. G. Kelley describe as the popular corporate response to unionization efforts today?

36:28-40:29	Labor Organizing at Amazon	<p>What strategies did Amazon utilize to destabilize their employees' efforts to unionize? How did this response impact the workplace?</p> <p>What are a few of the steps Derrick Palmer and his colleagues had to take in forming their unions? Why might it be challenging for workers to see a unionization effort through to the end?</p>
40:30-45:49	Brutality of American Capitalism	<p>The institution of American chattel slavery required the theft of land from Native American Peoples. How does the example provided about the stripping of 23 million acres from the Creek nation demonstrate "low-road" capitalism in a different way?</p> <p>How do Douglas A. Blackmon and Nikole Hannah-Jones term convict leasing as 'slavery by another name.' In what ways does convict leasing parallel enslavement?</p>

		How does this section illustrate the relationship between capitalism and land? What questions do you have about the history of the land in your own community after viewing?
45:50-46:21	Interlude: The Cost of Tax Breaks	Where does the money used on government tax breaks to companies like Amazon come from? How is this burdensome to everyday citizens?
46:22-48:46	Labor Organizing at Amazon	What was the outcome of the initial attempt to unionize the Amazon facility in Bessemer? Why was Jennifer Bates suspicious about these results?
48:47-50:46	Obstacles to Unionizing	What are some of the barriers to unionizing that have existed historically in the United States?

		<p>Robin D. G. Kelley shares a W.E.B. Du Bois quote about commitment to whiteness being a paltry wage. What do Kelley and Du Bois suggest could be gained by white workers engaging in solidarity with others over labor rights?</p>
50:48-54:19	Labor Organizing at Amazon	<p>The Amazon workers at the JFK8 facility in Staten Island were able to successfully unionize. What did the victory mean to Derrick Palmer?</p> <p>We see a clip from a speech by Chris Smalls, president of the new Amazon labor union, in which he addresses Jeff Bezos. How does his statement relate to the one made by Bezos in the introduction of this episode?</p> <p>Nikole Hannah-Jones shares that union activists in 2022 won more elections than they had in 20 years. Why do you believe that we are currently witnessing an increase in efforts to unionize?</p>

54:20-55:46	Interlude: What Covid Revealed	<p>What was Chimiere Tillman's experience with stimulus checks during the pandemic? What does it suggest about the potential of government programs that invest directly in people?</p> <p>Why does reflecting on this experience make Tillman emotional?</p>
55:48-58:24	Closing: Combating Barriers and moving forward	<p>What does Robin D. G. Kelley say must be done in order to make sure that race is not a dividing factor in social movements/labor efforts?</p> <p>What does solidarity mean to you? How can we go about building solidarity?</p> <p>According to Hannah-Jones, American capitalism requires complicity. What does it mean to be complicit? What, in your opinion, would be required to avoid complicity in low-road capitalism?</p>
