Time-Based Economics

In time-based economics the world's natural resources are shared, and individual labor contributes to a common wealth (by maximizing public goods and services) which provides for individual happiness. With a sharing of wealth, fear of economic loss or exposure (fear of scarcity) is reduced and greed is not rewarded. Happiness, then, is found as much in working for the good of all, as in work for personal benefit.

Types of Communal Economies and of Exchange Economies

Sharing Economies:*
- Gifting or Anti-Quota Labor Systems - no minimum labor requirement
- Fair-Share Labor Systems - regular work roles, often gender-specific
- Labor Quota Systems - specific hour commitments for members

* Also known as "Communal Economies" or "Labor-Sharing Time Economies"

Exchange Economies:
- Labor Exchange Time Economy - labor hour as trading commodity
- Barter Economy - item-for-item or mediums of exchange: wampum, tobacco
- Monetary Economy - currencies: paper, coin, electronic

A. Allen Butcher, 2003. "Communal Economics." *Encyclopedia of Community: From the Village to the Virtual World*. Christensen, Karen and David Levinson (General Editors). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Sharing Theory:
- Rational Altruism
- Mutual Advantage
- Multi-Faith Reciprocity Ethic and the Spirit of Communalism

As economic systems are no more than agreements that we make, changing from an exchange to a sharing economy simply involves removing our consent from one system and giving it to another. Each may be described by similar yet opposite theories.

Exchange Theory:
- Rational Self-Interest (Adam Smith)
- Comparative Advantage (David Ricardo)
- Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Max Weber)

Communal Theory

"Trusterty Theory" refers to what is held in common (attributed to the 19th Century anarchist theoriest, Peter A. Kropotkin). In land trust theory, society has the responsibility to manage trusterty, or all natural resources. In communal theory, trusterty refers to all community property owned by groups and used by individuals.

Entrusting communal resources to individual members is consistent with the communal value of sharing because:
- The **"Communal Privacy Theory"** states that increasing levels of privacy, afforded by entrusting additional resources or powers to members, does not reduce the community's level of communalism as long as the equity or ultimate responsibilty and power remains shared under communal ownership and control.
- The **"Communal Sharing Theory"** states that the greater the experience people have of sharing among themselves, the greater will be their commitment to the community thus formed.

A. Allen Butcher. *Classifications of Communitarianism: Sharing, Privacy and the Ownership and Control of Wealth*. 1991.

Time-Based Economics - common property system, with varying levels of private property or no private property.

Plenty Paradigm - Sharing Economies

Participatory form is "communalism."
Authoritarian form is "communism."

Service credit systems coordinate only non-income producing labor, while labor credit systems integrate both domestic services and income-producing labor in the time economy. **Communal distribution:** planning and budgeting, rationing, first-come-first-served, to each as needed, seniority, chance (roll of dice), the "double-blind preferences matrix."

The Economic Continuum

Time-Based to Debt-Based Systems—*Time-Based Economics: A Community-Building Dynamic*, 1997 by A. Allen Butcher. Includes: labor and service credits, barter and indirect barter, time dollars, constant currency, labor and scrip exchanges, negative interest, etc. **www.CultureMagic.org**

Debt-Based Economics - private property system, with common property in tax-exempt organizations and government property.

Scarcity Paradigm - Exchange Economies

Participatory form is "capitalism."
Authoritarian form is "fascism."

Monetary systems may be either funded (backed by reserves like gold) or non-funded (like Federal Reserve Notes). In "fractional reserve banking" the system of "multiple deposit creation" requiring a 10% reserve increases a $100 loan to $1,000 via lending, creating money from nothing, thus the term "debt-based." Time is used in present-value (or time-value) of money in interest and inflation rates.