



## A Divided House

A Rather Simple, but Difficult Solution with Important Ramifications

We are a divided house that has lost its way.

On the one hand, there are the haves and have-nots. A tiny majority controls the vast majority of our nation's wealth, while the rest of us must make ends meet with the smaller fraction that is left. This large disparity goes against the egalitarian, independent, and competitive spirit that once made us great. Even worse is that half of all American households receive some sort of government hand-out, and our national (no longer federal) government bails out our largest firms.

On the other hand, there are a myriad of special interest groups competing for government spoils — a combination of government revenue and debt that cannot be sustained in the long-run. Where before we were self-reliant and competed in the market place, we now compete in Washington, D.C. It is dividing our nation.

There is a solution to this problem, but I am sure that it is one that you would not expect, because neither Uncle Bernie, nor the President will address it.

**YOUR SPEAKER:** Roddy A. Stegemann holds two graduate degrees in economics from the Universities of Oklahoma and Washington, and an undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan. He has taught at Saitama University in Japan, King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Western Washington University in Bellingham. He speaks four languages with good fluency, and his native tongue is English.

He has also spent the better part of the past decade studying American history.