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## **ANTIWORK MOVEMENT: A SCAM OR A NEW RELIGION?**

The ideology of Antiwork has been gaining popularity since about 2019. People are more and more inclined to believe that work is only a part of life, and not the main purpose of existence.

Two years into the pandemic, employees all over the world are tired. Poor mental health and burnout are common, particularly among low-wage and essential workers. This lengthy period of uncertainty has made many people re-examine the role their employers play in making matters worse; record numbers of workers are leaving jobs in search of better options.

But some people are going further, wondering aloud if there's purpose to their work – or the economic system itself. These people are part of the 'anti-work' movement, which seeks to do away with the economic order that underpins the modern workplace. Anti-work, which has roots in anarchist and socialist economic criticism, argues that the bulk of today's jobs aren't necessary; instead, they enforce wage slavery and deprive workers of the full value of their output.

The purpose of this research is to trace the roots, essence and potential outcomes of the antiwork movement.

Antiwork doesn't mean there would be no work, however. Supporters of the anti-work movement believe people should self-organise and labour only as much as needed, rather than working longer hours to create excess capital or goods.

The Anti-work movement determines the following issues:

- Salaries are not high enough;
- Overwork is too common;
- Calls from superiors outside of business hours are not OK.

In August 2021 alone, 4.3 million Americans voluntary left their jobs and the rate of people quitting increased to 2.9%, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed. The trend is popular among young workers, representatives of generation Z, who leave their mark on the labor market. Similar movements are observed in other countries, especially in China, where young people refuse to race for productivity and labor competition, finding happiness in their own lives and leisure [1].

In the US, salaries have been declining for several decades, while student debt is rising. The number of people in low-paid jobs has grown since the Great Recession, as

salaries supporting the life of the middle class have declined. Then the pandemic began: the collective wealth of billionaires grew by \$2.1 trillion, and millions of Americans became unemployed. Inequality has increased [2].

‘Change-work’ would be a more appropriate name for the movement being described. How people organise and motivate ourselves to work hasn't ever been subjected to enough scrutiny. The five-day work week was introduced almost arbitrarily in the 1900s, and has only really just started to be questioned, thanks to a groundswell of support for flexible and remote working, and large-scale trials for a shorter workweek.

Of course, people have to work: to put a roof overhead and food on the table. But life should come first and work should be the enabler.

According to the participants of the movement, the more different people follow the ideology of Antiwork, the higher the chances of changing the work culture. In general, each of them independently determines what it means to be supporters of an idea, but there are several principles that everyone adheres to:

- One of the important principles is to do only what is necessary.

Many people have realized that they are doing more than they should. They also realized that if they stop working over the norm, nothing will happen. The participants of the movement believe that if people continue to quit at such a speed, employers will simply have no people left to run their business, and they will go bankrupt, be forced to close or change their approach to work.

- Refuse the schedule from 9 to 17.

The eight-hour working day is historically associated with industrial revolutions — it protected factory workers from exhaustion due to long shifts. Followers of the Antiwork movement believe that in the 21st century, people should not be in the office for eight hours if they can perform their duties faster.

The idea of Antiwork is that an employee does not steal the company's time if he deals with tasks faster and goes home earlier.

- Antiwork is not against work.

One of the common objections to the movement is that if everyone stops working, the society will collapse. However, Antiwork does not give up work and any professions [3].

Whether the chiefs realize it or not, in fact, this is a strike for the improvement of working conditions. And this tactic can work.

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## **GROWING INFLUENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A TREND IN THE WORLD ECONOMY OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

One of the main features of the development of the modern world economy is the strengthening of the role and importance of the former colonial and dependent territories – the current developing countries. The Group of developing countries today unites approximately 142 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Oceania, where 6.5 billion people live.

Having joined the world community as independent states, developing countries have been striving to actively participate in the global economy since the early 70s. A rapid economic growth in these countries over the past decades has increased its share of international trade and the global GDP. The share of developing countries in the world GDP has increased approximately 2.3 times since 1990, to 40.5 from 17.7 [1].

Twenty years ago, 62 percent of all bilateral trade was between just rich countries – namely the U.S., Canada and Europe. Now that share is down to 47 percent as developing countries become more prominent trading partners. The value of trade between emerging economies is up 10-fold during that period. 53 percent of bilateral trade now involves at least one developing market, up from 38 percent in 1997. The number of countries where the majority of trade is with developing countries grew up sharply, to 64 from 19 two decades ago [2].

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual growth rates in developing countries exceeded the growth rate in developed countries approximately 2.1 times.

As coronavirus-weary countries enter the third year of the pandemic, the global growth is expected to slow sharply. Against this difficult backdrop, a variety of economic challenges mount for developing economies – including continued COVID-19 outbreaks, elevated inflation, record debt levels, and rising income inequality. However, the Global Economic Prospects report 2022 predicts in developing countries the economic growth is expected to drop from 6.3 percent in 2021 to 4.6 percent in 2022 and 4.4 percent in 2023, while in developed countries it is expected to drop from 5.0 percent in 2021 to 3.8 percent in 2022 and 2.3 percent in 2023. This suggests that even during a global pandemic, developing countries maintain higher growth rates than developed countries [3].

A special place among developing countries is occupied by a group of countries that have taken the lead after the collapse of the colonial system and are called “new industrial countries” – Hong Kong SAR, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan,