

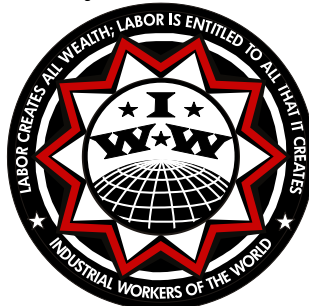
What does it mean to “*build a new world in the shell of the old*”? ? ?

The Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) mentions building a new world in the shell of the old. The expression refers to moving forward to a new age, while building upon the technologies, philosophies, and the infrastructure of the past. Why must we move forward? In 1915, IWW member Ralph Chaplin wrote:

*It is we who plowed the prairies;
Built the cities where they trade;
Dug the mines and built the workshops,
Endless miles of railroad laid;
Now we stand outcast and starving
Midst the wonders we have made...*

In nearly a century, things haven't improved much for working people. Why? When we work for a wage, we are selling our labor, and getting the lowest possible value in return. Wealthy plutocrats seek to own everything, and they lay claim to the value of our labor via the wage system. Our labor is worth more to them than it is to us! In a new, cooperative world, there won't be any bosses imposing a wage system on working people. We'll own our own businesses! No more Wall Street plutocrats, no more lobbyists, no more greedy, selfish billionaire class driving all the rest of society over a cliff – just rank and file democracy for everyone! Join us today!

**Industrial Workers
of the World**



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