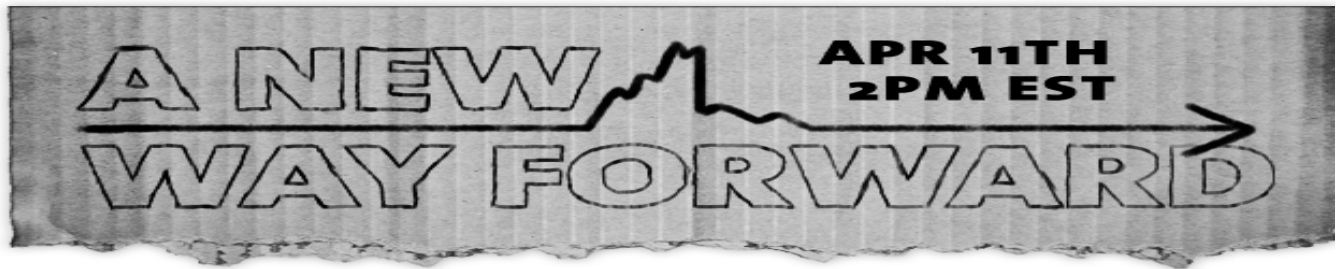


# STOP FAVORING THE BANKS.



## **NATIONALIZE, REORGANIZE, DECENTRALIZE**

Big bankers ruined our economy and now they are gaming the political system so they can profit even more off the crisis they caused. They must be stopped.

**NATIONALIZE:** Experts agree on the means—Insolvent banks that are too big to fail must incur a temporary FDIC intervention—no more blank check taxpayer handouts.

**REORGANIZE:** Current CEOs and board members must be removed and bonuses wiped out. The financial elite must share in the cost of what they have caused.

**DECENTRALIZE:** Banks must be broken up and sold back to the private market with strong, new regulatory and antitrust rules in place—new banks, managed by new people. Any bank that's "too big to fail" means that it's too big for a free market to function.

The bankers' failure to see anything beyond short-term profit for themselves has torn this country apart and jeopardized our future. But the blame doesn't lie only with the banks; it also lies with the U.S. government that failed to protect its citizens through regulation and oversight. Through their blind and unconditional faith in the financial markets, the banks and the government have made us all into victims of greed gone out of control.

This crisis is an opportunity for President Obama to lead the U.S. in a new direction; one that values economic growth, but protects the well-being of the public before the bank accounts of the world's financial elite. But, so far, the policies proposed by the Obama administration to deal with the crisis look too much like the Bush-Paulson bailouts.

For example, Timothy Geithner, Obama's "liberal" Treasury Secretary was a key architect of Bush's original bank bailout plan in his former role as Chief of the New York Reserve Bank. Under Obama, Geithner has continued to propose what sounds like more blank-check bailouts (in various disguises) and has specifically ruled out other approaches, such as temporary nationalization. The necessary solutions to our economic crisis just don't compute in the minds of the financial elite.

Nothing tells the bankers to keep on doing what they're doing more than an endless stream of free taxpayer money. The banks know that the government considers them too big to fail; if nationalization is off the table, what incentive do they have to act in the public interest?

If our government is to take decisive action to rebuild the economy in a way that protects the public, it will require Americans to fight back against this corruption. We must organize ourselves around serious ideas to demand a new way forward or things simply will not change. In the same way that the bankers have manipulated politicians to act in their favor, we the people will fight for economic policies that are good for the public.

*"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it."—Abraham Lincoln*

**You can make the difference.**

**[www.anewwayforward.org](http://www.anewwayforward.org)**