

# THE CONSERVATIVE CASE FOR POST-LABOR ECONOMICS

Capital Ownership as the Market-Friendly Answer to Automation

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# Executive Summary

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Bezos: **\$100B** AI manufacturing fund. Labour share declining in **2/3** of OECD countries. Wages decoupled from productivity in **24** nations. **49%** of jobs face 25%+ AI exposure. Post-Labor Economics: if wages decline and transfers are anathema, capital must be the cornerstone.

Alaska PF: **\$79.6B**, **\$1,702/resident** (Republican creation). Norway: **\$1.9T**. Trump Accounts: **\$1,000/child** in S&P 500. PLE creates ownership society, protects demand, starves welfare state, prevents socialism.

Metric	Value
Bezos AI fund	\$100B (raising)
Project Prometheus	\$6.2B (late 2025)
Labour share declining	2/3 of OECD
Wage-productivity decoupling	24 countries
OECD productivity (2024)	0.4% (stagnated)
Jobs: 25%+ AI exposure	49% (OECD)
Alaska Permanent Fund	\$79.6B
Alaska dividend	\$1,702/resident
Norway SWF	\$1.9 trillion
Trump Accounts	\$1,000/child; S&P 500
ESOP participants (US)	10.7 million
Execs: AI budgets up	88%
AI agents by 2026	1 billion est.
Governance maturity	21% (Deloitte)

# 1. The Structural Break

Indicator	Data	Source
Labour share declining	2/3 of OECD	OECD Labour Share Analysis
Wage-productivity decoupling	24 OECD countries	OECD Decoupling Study
US median wage stagnation	Decades-long	OECD, BLS
Real wages vs. 2021	Below in half of OECD	OECD Employment Outlook 2025
Productivity growth (2024)	0.4% OECD average	OECD Compendium 2025
GVC effect	10pp → 1pp labour drop	OECD Working Paper

Assumption	Reality	Implication
Productivity ↑ = wages ↑	Decoupled for decades	Gains flow to capital, not labour
More output = more jobs	Automation replaces tasks	49% of jobs face 25%+ AI exposure
Workers buy products	Wages stagnate or decline	Demand-side constraint emerges
Market self-corrects	Deflationary spiral possible	Market failure without intervention

**The Bezos signal: \$100B to buy and automate factories across aerospace, chipmaking, defense. Project Prometheus: \$6.2B. The market thesis: AI-automated production is more valuable than human-staffed production.**

*“Businesses do not need employees. They require paying customers. Automate away the supply side, and the demand side collapses — unless household income is decoupled from wages.”*

## 2. The Three Buckets

Bucket	Mechanism	Conservative Position	PLE Position
<b>Wages</b>	Employer pays for labour	Preferred — but declining	Cannot be primary source
<b>Transfers</b>	Government pays from taxes	Anathema — creates dependency	Stopgap; should taper
<b>Capital</b>	Returns on owned assets	Ideal — ownership = liberty	Must become cornerstone

### Capital-Based Income Instruments

Instrument	Mechanism	Real-World Example
<b>Sovereign wealth fund</b>	State invests commons; pays dividends	Alaska PF: \$79.6B; \$1,702/resident
<b>Baby bonds / Trump Accounts</b>	Birth endowment markets	\$1,000/child; S&P 500; tax-adv.
<b>ESOPs</b>	Employee equity ownership	6,500+ US cos; 10.7M participants
<b>Municipal wealth funds</b>	Local investment; community dividends	Singapore, Norway, New Mexico
<b>Negative income tax</b>	Tax credit that phases out	Milton Friedman's original proposal
<b>DAOs / cooperatives</b>	Distributed ownership	Emerging; blockchain-enabled

### The Alaska Model

Feature	Alaska Permanent Fund
<b>Created</b>	1976 (Republican Gov. Jay Hammond)
<b>Funded by</b>	Oil royalties (commons revenue)
<b>Current value</b>	\$79.6 billion
<b>2025 dividend</b>	\$1,702 per resident

<b>Recipients</b>	600,000+ Alaskans
<b>Tax impact</b>	No state income tax; no sales tax
<b>Political support</b>	Bipartisan; untouchable

***“Jefferson’s “40 acres and a mule” no longer applies literally. But the principle — that a family ought to own their means of production — is the bedrock of classical conservatism. PLE updates the asset class from land to capital.”***

### 3. Nine Conservative Arguments for PLE

#	Argument	Conservative Value	PLE Mechanism
1	Ownership society	Property = liberty	Broad distribution of productive assets
2	Pro-business	Demand sustains growth	Capital income maintains spending
3	Saves free markets	Markets need demand health	Prevents deflationary death spiral
4	Starves welfare state	Dependency is corrosive	Capital replaces transfers
5	Fiscally conservative	No deficit spending	Wealth funds self-sustain
6	Economic autonomy	Gov checks = leashes	Asset ownership = freedom
7	Anti-socialism	Desperation → revolution	Universal capital = buy-in
8	National security	Concentrated power = tyranny	Distributed capital = bulwark
9	Pro-family	Two-income trap	Capital enables single-income

### The Deflationary Death Spiral

Step	Event	Consequence
1	Companies automate (competitive pressure)	Workers laid off
2	Workers spend less	Mortgages default; taxes drop
3	Companies lose revenue	Production slows
4	Stocks decline	Recession / Depression
5	Government insolvent	Social instability

***“Socialism abolishes private property and centralizes control. PLE does the exact opposite: it universalizes private property and distributes it to everyone.***

*PLE makes every citizen a capitalist.”*

## 4. OECD Context: The Labour-Capital Shift

Factor	Data	PLE Implication
<b>Labour share</b>	2/3 declining	Wages = smaller share of national income
<b>Wage gap</b>	24 countries decoupled	Gains flow to capital owners
<b>Real wages</b>	Below 2021 in half OECD	Purchasing power not recovered
<b>Productivity</b>	0.4% (2024)	Slow growth = slow wage recovery
<b>Unemployment</b>	5.0% (stable)	Masks underemployment and stagnation
<b>Youth</b>	11.2%	Most exposed to task automation
<b>AI exposure</b>	49% of jobs	Nearly half face automation pressure
<b>Broadband</b>	98.9% (adv.)	Automation infra is universal

Policy	Status	PLE Alignment
<b>Trump Accounts</b>	Signed (2025)	Direct: capital from birth
<b>Alaska PF</b>	Since 1976	Model: SWF + dividends
<b>Norway GPF</b>	\$1.9 trillion	Model: commons at scale
<b>ESOP Fairness Act</b>	Congress (2025)	Direct: broadened participation
<b>ESOP enforcement</b>	Deprioritized (2026)	Removed regulatory friction
<b>Santiago Principles</b>	International	Framework: SWF governance

**Transparency note:** OECD does not directly measure post-labour transition readiness or capital-based household income sufficiency. Indicators combine OECD labour data with fiscal policy analyses.

## 5. Practical Actions

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- 1. Map automation vs. income dependency.** If your automation eliminates roles whose occupants are your customers, you face demand-side risk. Model the revenue impact.
- 2. Evaluate capital participation instruments.** ESOPs, EOTs, profit-sharing. Employee Ownership Fairness Act (2025) creates favorable window.
- 3. Engage with SWF/MWF policy discussions.** Alaska, Norway, Singapore models. Shape instruments, don't react to them.
- 4. Model demand-side scenarios.** If 49% of jobs face AI exposure and labour share declines, aggregate demand faces headwinds. Model capital-based income shift.
- 5. Track policy convergence.** Trump Accounts (R), baby bonds (D), SWF (bipartisan), ESOP (bipartisan). Capital participation advances regardless of party.

Action	Owner	Timeline
Automation-demand model	CFO + Strategy	Q2 2026
Capital participation eval	CHRO + Legal	Q2–Q3 2026
SWF/MWF engagement	Legal + Gov Rel	Q2 2026
Demand scenario modeling	CFO + Strategy	Q3 2026
Policy convergence tracking	Legal + Gov Rel	Ongoing

### What to Watch

- Bezos \$100B fund → political response on capital ownership
- Trump Accounts as PLE proof of concept; expansion proposals
- Next OECD Employment Outlook: labour share data

# The Bottom Line

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**\$100B** Bezos fund. **2/3** OECD: declining labour share. **24** countries: wage-productivity gap. **49%** AI exposure. **\$79.6B** Alaska PF. **\$1.9T** Norway. **\$1,702** Alaska dividend. **\$1,000** Trump Accounts. **10.7M** ESOP participants.

PLE dissolves the 250-year fight over labour's proceeds. Conservatives want ownership because it is liberty. Progressives want it because it is equality. Universal capital ownership satisfies both without the tradeoffs that wages, taxes, and seizure forced.

**The conservative case is the simplest: ownership is liberty, demand sustains markets, and the welfare state is best starved by making it unnecessary.**

**Ownership is liberty. Demand sustains markets.**

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*Thorsten Meyer is an AI strategy advisor who notes that when a Republican governor creates a sovereign wealth fund that pays every resident \$1,702 and eliminates the need for state income tax, calling the same principle "Marxist, feminist nonsense" at the federal level requires cognitive dissonance that even AI cannot replicate. More at [ThorstenMeyerAI.com](https://ThorstenMeyerAI.com).*

## Sources

1. Bezos — \$100B AI Manufacturing; Prometheus \$6.2B
2. Heritage Foundation — AI Democratizes Production
3. David Shapiro — PLE: 12 Commandments, Conservative Case
4. OECD — Labour Share 2/3 Declining; 24 Countries Decoupled
5. OECD Employment Outlook 2025 — Wages Below 2021
6. OECD — 49% Jobs 25%+ AI Exposure
7. Alaska PF — \$79.6B; \$1,702; Republican Creation
8. Norway GPF — \$1.9T; Santiago Principles
9. Trump Accounts — \$1,000/Child; S&P; 500; Cruz
10. ESOP — 6,500+ Cos; 10.7M; Fairness Act 2025
11. Mordor — \$6.96B/\$57.42B Agent Market
12. PwC — 88% Budget Increase
13. Deloitte — 21% Governance
14. OECD — 5.0%/11.2%/98.9%

