

## Fogel: Changes in Modern and Post Modern Economics

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Summarized from The Fourth Great Awakening by Robert Fogel, a Nobel Prize winning economist with The University of Chicago

### The Increase in Discretionary Time: Basic Activities 1880-2040

Daily Activities	In 1880	In 1995	2040 Estimated
Sleep	8 Hours	8 Hours	8 Hours
Meals & Hygiene	2 Hours	2 Hours	2 Hours
Chores	2 Hours	2 Hours	2 Hours
Work Travel	1 Hour	1 Hour	2 Hours
Work	8.5 Hours	4.7 Hours	3.8 Hours
Illness	.7 Hours	.5 Hours	.5 Hours
Sub-Total	22.2 Hrs Daily	18.2 Hrs Daily	16.8 Hrs Daily
Residual Leisure Time	1.8 Hrs Daily	5.8 Hrs Daily	7.2 Hrs Daily

In 1880 a typical household required 1,450 hours of labor in the workplace to acquire its annual basic food supply. Even more was demanded to prepare the food and that was no little feat. Today we can acquire our basic food supply with far less labor, some 260 hours thus leaving households with about 1200 additional hours each year for self chosen optional activities.

This is also true of clothing and other basics. Our clothing today is better made, more easily found, abundant in style and preferences, durable as well as colorful and desirable than it was at any time in the past. In my experience food and clothing are better, cheaper and more easily accessible than any time in my life. Those items cost a mere 3/8 as much labor time as they did in 1880. Obtaining food, clothing and shelter accounted for 74% of all personal consumption in 1875. Now it accounts for only 13% of the total consumption in the USA, a reduction of 61%. Leisure time has grown from 18% of consumption to 68%.

In 1880 a quarter of lifetime volunteer time was taken after a person retired. Very little time was available for volunteer activities when making a living, cooking, and other housekeeping activities required so much of the week. Today some 50% of a person's volunteer time occurs before retirement and 50% after.

This is a tremendous shift in the volunteer focus for most Americans. With Americans living so much longer and healthier lives, the implication for non profit groups is great. They cannot benefit, however, unless they understand the sea change in demographics and education of Americans and especially Christians. It also indicates the unbelievable increase in financial security and material goods of most Americans.

Comments:

1. Historically, progressive economists saw the reduction of the work week as a way of democratizing leisure and a necessity to advance the spiritual and emotional lives of workers.
2. Before the Civil War the work week was six to six and a half days each week. The work day was 10 to 12 hours daily and the work week was 51 weeks. In 1880 a worker put in some 3100 annual hours.
3. There has been a dramatic change in the number of hours most men work since then. Male working hours have dropped from 3100 to 1730 hours annually.

Fogel says that the greatest unfulfilled needs among Americans are not food, clothing, shelter or financial but spiritual/emotional fulfillment. We are satiated but have not discovered that spiritual fulfillment comes from giving not getting more.

### Implications

The additional time for leisure activities has dramatically increased and changed society. Leisure time tripled from 1880 to 1995 and we have a lot of time on our hands. How we spend that time makes a real emotional, spiritual difference. If we choose positive activities we grow and thrive. Volunteering, reading, studying, religious fellowship, political activities, travel, adult education and family life all enhance our quality of life. But the opposite is also true. If that extra time is spent in degrading activities such as gambling, drinking and other unhealthy pastimes anxiety, depression and low motivation rise. The choice is ours.

### The Increase in Discretionary Money

4. In 1900 Americans spent 80% of income on food, clothing and shelter
5. In 2040 we shall spend only about 30% on those same items

Americans and people in other Western Democracies are living better than anyone in history including the monarchs and wealthy politicians of other eras.

1. In 1880 92% of American males age 60-64 were in the workforce.
2. Today 50% are employed.
3. A century ago only one of five men 65 and older was retired.
4. Today 6 of 7 are retired.
5. Don't Retire; Rewire and then Refire!

Earnwork is the time we spend in earning a living. As seen in the statistics below, we are spending far fewer hours earning today and yet we live much better. Volwork is the time and energy we spend in serving others. Sharing non material/spiritual resources are the marks of the Fourth Great Awakening. The data about the increase of free time show why Christian groups must facilitate the healthy involvement of Seasoned Believers to share their non-material/spiritual resources.

	1880	1995	2040	Change
Lifetime Discretionary Hrs	225,900	298,500 225,900	321,900 298,900	

		+ 62,600	+23,000	+89,900 Hrs
Lifetime Earnwork Hrs	182,100	122,400 -61,700	75,900 -46,500	-109,000 Hrs
Lifetime Volwork Hrs	43,800	176,100 43,800 +123,300	246,000	+203,000 Hrs What will we do with those talents?

Leisure time has grown from 18% of total consumption to 68%. In 1880 a quarter of our lifetime volunteer hours was taken after retirement. Today 50% is taken after stopping work. Seasoned Citizens seek meaning and values not more money.

Christian groups largely ignore people over 45. Few think about creating meaningful alternatives to a sedentary, boring and non challenging life. The opportunity in our day is not just increasing finances but releasing talents, gifts and wisdom.

Business, educational institutions, government and foundations and other groups are ahead of Christians in designing innovative ways to involve people in social, emotional and other non-material/spiritual activities. Several foundations, graduate schools, and businesses are actively involved in fostering Social Entrepreneurs. To my knowledge we are the only Christian organization that is focused on unleashing Seasoned Believers.

The addition of leisure, non committed time is one of the key issues we face. We must find ways to involve Seasoned Believers in positive, fulfilling activities so they can grow spiritually. The untapped resources of this group could change the world.

Sweeten Life Systems will motivate and facilitate the involvement of Seasoned Believers in significant levels of Peer Ministry. The movement of God at this point in time is undoubtedly one of unleashing all of His people to use their talents, gifts and experiences to be a blessing to those around them.

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