

Investors

1. Wealthy individuals and public and private Pension funds invest in the Private Equity fund.

Kravis Roberts, PE fund KKR

Private Equity

PROFIT

Banks

2. The Private Equity fund takes out loans from banks.

3. The Private Equity fund uses the money raised from investors and banks to buy out a listed company.

4. The debt (loans from banks) is transferred to the company, which pays back the bank loans by restructuring and cutting costs.

6. After the company has paid back the debt to the banks it is sold and the profits are split between the investors and private equity fund.

5. When the company is in debt it no longer pays taxes. Its profits go to paying off the debt to the banks, meaning a loss of public funds.

Company in debt
Increased intensity of production
Price pressure on suppliers
Wage reductions
Union busting
Slashed benefits
Layoffs

Company

BOUGHT

SOLD
5-7 years later

profit 80%
profit 20%

