



CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY?

I've often wondered about the logic of an economic system, such as "capitalism," combined with a political system, such as "democracy," when simple analysis says the two are at opposite ends of the human values spectrum.

Capitalists (and fascists) accept the superiority of rich people over poor people, and the natural validity of social class differences. True democracy advocates the equality of all citizens.

Capitalists (and fascists) believe the people most adept at collecting wealth and power should legitimately own the nation, rightfully control the machinery of government, and deservedly benefit most from their social system. True democracy advocates the equal political and economic rights of all, and the ownership of a nation's natural resources by, and for the welfare of the whole society.

Capitalists (and fascists) scorn the judgment of unschooled commoners, and oppose any form of participatory or popular government (true democracy) which would give ignorant commoners the political power and opportunity to demand—and win—greater benefits for themselves. True democracy demands that all citizens participate in determining the human values, laws, and policies affecting their lives.

Capitalists (and fascists) believe

government funds should be used to stimulate private profit, and government should promote large populations for cheap labor, large markets, and big armies. True democracy rejects class exploitation in any form, does all it can to avoid war, and commits the lives of its citizens for national defense only as a last resort.

Capitalists (and fascists) reject the premise that social equity is government's concern. They argue it's bad policy for men of government to interfere with private business matters, or ease the hardships of working people by diverting public funds from economic to social needs. True democracy recognizes that the common welfare is precisely the reason people group into families, tribes, cities, and nations, and that the prime concern of a government, presumably, of all the people, must be the welfare of the whole community.

Today, American capitalists thoroughly control the machinery of federal and state governments and openly admit corporate management's prime concern is corporate welfare, and not social welfare. So why are we common workers, today, puzzled about the fact that the rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer? Why are we puzzled at our economic middle class struggling remain middle class? Or the growing numbers of Americans entering poverty?

Class warfare! That's the cause of all our nation's problems, and nothing else. We working class Americans have been under attack by wealthy class citizens ever since the ratification of our constitution, but most working class Americans of today don't recognize this truth

If you knew American history, you would know that from the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 to the establishment of General Motors three centuries later, profit has been the motivating force behind the development of this

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nation, not the drive for freedom.

The United States was founded upon, and thrives upon, the principles of "capitalism" and the rights of property. For better or worse, the American System has been built upon the capitalist philosophy of economic order, and millions of American commoners have died, and will continue to die, to protect the system, although most have no more than the vaguest idea what the concept really stands for.

If you had lived during the time of either of the two Industrial Revolutions and been forced to labor in a factory, you would have had first hand experience with the consequences of unrestricted and

unregulated capitalism, and couldn't possibly have believed such a system beneficial to you.

"Capitalism," say the capitalists, "makes it possible for people with lesser talents and ambitions to survive."

What capitalists don't admit is capitalism wouldn't be as appealing to people with money, if they couldn't use their greater economic-force to exploit the lives of poorer people. What capitalists don't admit is that capitalism is like fascism. And fascism is bad for the common workers of a nation.

More than 200 years ago, "Centinel," a popular writer of published letters objected to our proposed constitution solely on the basis it was designed to benefit private interests and:

...the philosophy of economic capitalism is not only incompatible with the philosophy of political democracy, it's an opposing philosophy.

...If the administrators of every government are actuated by views of private interest and ambition, how is the welfare and happiness of the community to be the result of such jarring adverse interests?

Has anything changed that should make common Americans of the 20th century believe that a government run by individuals and small groups for personal benefit will benefit society, too? Look around; read the daily newspapers; observe how our political leaders and economic rulers justify their selfish actions as they take more and more for themselves and leave less for working Americans. How

can we expect things to get better for the common people when we have so little representation in our "representative" government?

Although Establishment media today bombards us with propaganda questioning the efficiency and value of big government, it seems to me we commoners should be questioning the value of big "global conglomerates" which have acquired such an unhealthy influence over economic and political matters.

The greatest objection to unregulated capitalism as an integral part of a democratic society isn't merely that its unreasonable demands for ever-increasing production and ever-increasing profits place unhealthy strains upon natural resources, and cruel pressures upon common working people. No, the validity of unregulated capitalism as an integral part of a political democracy can be challenged on the grounds that the philosophy of economic capitalism is not only incompatible with the philosophy of political democracy, it's an opposing philosophy.

It seems to me, that a planet ruled by merchants and money manipulators is ruled by the lowest values of humankind: greed and the acquisition of power. How can such a system of rule be expected to solve the problems of common working people, when it all probability it will produce only what it has been producing since the beginning of recorded history—social environments hostile to commoners.

*Dedicated to
the Principles of
Direct Democracy*

WHAT DOES FREE ENTERPRISE REALLY MEAN?

For most working Americans, capitalism and the concept called "Free Enterprise" are synonymous.

Free Enterprise is based upon Adam Smith's two hundred year old theory which claims society as a whole benefits when all parties tend their own interests in a free, unregulated economic marketplace, and that an "unseen hand" helps to better society when men are devoted to bettering themselves.

This may have been true two hundred years ago, when all parties consisted of small merchants and craftsmen, but if there's one truth Americans of the late 20th century have learned, it's that when businessmen are allowed to place their own interests before the interests of society, society as a whole doesn't benefit: it suffers. Our propped up economy and the hordes of unemployed and underpaid workers are a direct result of American businessmen caring for their own interests, regardless of the consequences to the American society.

The noble concepts of free enterprise and capitalism have proven to be nothing more than a glorification of the Law of the Jungle in which the strong and ruthless take whatever they want, whenever they want. Truly low, animal-level behavior.

Today, we witness corporate giants rapidly devouring one another in unrestrained greed, all pretense of civility and social responsibility cast aside. These acquisitions and mergers don't produce lower prices, they don't produce new products, and they

don't produce new jobs. They provide society with no new benefits and cause no change whatever, except to concentrate more of the nation's resources in fewer hands.

According to Ferdinand Lundberg in his well-documented book *The Rich and the Super-rich*, published soon after WWII, at the beginning of the century there were about 250,000 very wealthy

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Americans, belonging to about 500 wealthy families. Studies have shown the share of wealth for these families has been steadily increasing since 1953, and that although we have hundreds of thousands of active American corporations, only 0.2 percent of them hold more than 65 percent of all corporate assets and enjoy about 67 percent of net corporate income.

These studies also report at least 50 percent of Americans not only don't own anything of substantial value, but live in constant debt?

What does it say about the U.S.A., if only 500 families from among millions of American families, own or control the major portion of the country's natural and productive resources, while at least half of the country's citizens are impoverished? Is it any wonder so many of us must scrounge around to survive?

We Americans are on the road to oblivion. In the short few hundred years of our existence, we

have badly fumbled the opportunity to make planet Earth a safe place for all people. Instead, we have allowed our rulers to acquire astounding wealth and power, which they use to destroy the birth of freedom everywhere it appears.

The wealthy and powerful cannot dare allow true freedom to sink roots on planet Earth, for it would be the end of their way of life: the end of their exclusive control of the planet's natural resources; the end of extreme wealth and abject poverty; the end of unfair wages and overpriced products; the end of false truths and mass ignorance.

It's why there are so many unemployed, or underpaid male workers in this country, and why there are so many females and mothers in the workforce. It's why family relationships in this country have deteriorated so badly, and why there are so many angry, confused young American children. It's why the public education system has been diluted with so many trivial subjects and is now under threat of being dismantled. It's why our political "representatives" spend so much of our tax dollars and focus their attention on foreign affairs rather than solving domestic problems.

It's why we common American workers should unite to change the American System to one which attends the welfare of all citizens and not special groups; to a true democracy and not a pseudo-democracy; to a direct democracy, and not a representative democracy.

May the Greater-Force be with us. Always

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**Active Humanists
of America**
and help to make this
a better country
in which to live.

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Download Lee Gottlieb's
FREE 500 page book
and read about the benefits of a
true democracy; a participatory
democracy in which all citizens
decide what to do with their lives,
their country's natural and
productive resources,
and their tax money.

HUMANITY'S
DESTINY



IS TO
METAMORPHOSE

The term "metamorphose" as used by Active Humanists has two meanings. It first refers to the transformation of a human child from an ignorant infant to an educated, mature, caring adult.

It also refers to the evolution of a society from one governed and driven by the selfish desires of its powerful citizens, and biased against the common working masses, to a more caring society governed by all citizens, and sensitive to the needs of all.



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Never in the history of Western civilization h
there been an instance in which privilege
propertied people voluntarily shared their weal
and political powers with the common, destitu