

Capitalism: The Only Moral Social System

(This letter was published in the June 20, 2019, Random Lake Sounder. One short paragraph was added to correct an error in the original.)

The heading over Wes Weinhold's 6-13 letter states, "Many Candidates Now Use the Term 'Socialist.'"

True enough. An increasing number of public officials and private citizens are advocating this immoral social system.

Weinhold suggests most of us are wrong in our belief of what socialism is or is not. You would expect him to then define what he's talking about, but since he does not, I will. But socialism is only part of the issue. The following are condensed from several dictionaries. Anyone disagreeing with the definitions, please write in and do a better job.

Slavery. A system where one individual owns and/or coerces another individual. It can be legally sanctioned, as with slavery in America up to the Civil War; or it can be done criminally, as with modern human trafficking.

Communism. A system where individual interests are surrendered to the "commune" or "community" (however that is defined).

Socialism. A system based on public ownership of the means of production.

Fascism. A system where the means of production are privately owned in name, but a centralized government controls every aspect of that means of production. (Careful! You must also define "means of production.")

Statism. A system based on state/government control of social and economic activity. This higher-level concept includes communism, socialism, and fascism.

Capitalism. A system based on private ownership of the means of production.

There's a key, fundamental question separating one of the above from all the rest: "Who owns your mind and your body?" How would each system answer?

Slavery. The slave-owner owns you.

Communism. The commune owns you.

Socialism. Here's where understanding "means of production" is important. Some socialism advocates say, "We're only talking about public ownership of factories, machines, and land. You own yourself." (Weinhold suggests exactly that.) But countries nationalize factories, machines, land, etc., and also have to nationalize the *people*, keeping them prisoners within their socialist utopias. Otherwise, people would flee those countries, which they do, at great risk to their lives. Ultimately, your mind and body are the "means of production." Bottom line: In socialism, the public owns you.

Fascism. You own your life and property—on paper. But fascist central planners dictate every action of your body, leaving you only your inner despair. For all practical purposes, the fascists own you.

Capitalism. You own your life, mind, and body. Within the parameters of individual rights for all, you are free to act.

The difference? Under capitalism, you own yourself. Under any form of slavery or statism, central planners dictate every aspect of an individual's life. This can only be accomplished by initiation of force against individuals on a massive, total ("totalitarian") scale.

As one example, with state ownership of paper production and printing presses, and state permission and licensing needed for journalists to operate, every publication would be even more

politically biased than CNN or MSNBC (if you can imagine that). Further, the state would determine that we do not “need” as many publications or journalists as we now have. You want to be a journalist? You want to start your own newspaper, as ex-slave Frederick Douglass did? You first have to grovel before the central planners who determine every aspect of your life. Your success depends not on your initiative, goals or abilities, but entirely on bureaucratic whim.

Consider an 1800s defender of slavery, George Fitzhugh. His book’s title reveals much: *Sociology for the South; or the Failure of Free Society*.

“Nineteen out of twenty individuals have a natural and inalienable right to be slaves,” Fitzhugh wrote (a perfect contradiction).

Fitzhugh: “If Yankees were caught young they could be trained, domesticated & civilized to make ‘faithful and valuable servants.’” (Oh, so *that’s* why Bernie and AOC want free college for everyone.)

Since Fitzhugh’s advocacy of slavery attacked the founding principles of America, it’s no surprise he wrote, “The Declaration of Independence is exuberantly false, and aborescently fallacious.” (I couldn’t find “aborescently” defined, but I think we get the gist.)

And: “Slavery is a form, and the very best form, of socialism.” A straight-talking guy! Real consistent. Consistently evil. Much of his thought anticipated Karl Marx by decades, and modern socialists by a century and a half.

Fitzhugh’s support of slavery was not limited to blacks; he was an equal-opportunity advocate for slavery and socialism.

Weinhold writes, “Socialism means that the 95 per cent of us who are workers can begin to control our own lives.” That is impossible under socialism. But with capitalism, 100 per cent of workers (or anyone else) control their own lives. There are no central planners, no slave drivers, no bureaucrats deciding where you live, work, use your property, your mind, your body. A capitalist government exists to preserve and protect your (and every other person’s) individual rights.

Countries can be mixtures of freedom (capitalism) and statism (everything else). History provides a laboratory-like record, showing human life flourishing as freedom rises. As freedom diminishes, so does human well-being. We saw that in recent years. With a socialist in the White House for eight years, hopelessness, diminished opportunities and economic stagnation choked the country. Now, with a president who’s taken small, inconsistent steps in the vaguely general direction of capitalism for less than three years, we see growing opportunities, increased human flourishing, and optimism.

To the question, “What about those who can’t support themselves?” Such people flourish infinitely better where people are free and benevolent, than where they are enslaved and ridden with fear and hatred.

Many falsehoods about capitalism have been spread.

If you believe there is such a thing as “crony capitalism” or “wage slavery” (clear contradictions); if you believe lobbyists, special-interest groups, or political favors for one sector of the economy, are part of capitalism; if you believe capitalism leads to depressions or inflation or widows and orphans starving in the street; if you believe we have capitalism in America...

...Then I challenge your misunderstandings, and urge you to find out what capitalism truly is.

The dirty secret of socialism is that it is morally no better than slavery. Any variation of statism, practiced consistently, leads to totalitarian slavery. That should not remain a secret.

Frustratingly, even people claiming to value freedom timidly avoid the word “capitalism” and defending it. The liberating and benevolent nature of capitalism ought not be kept a secret.

By upholding freedom, capitalism allows human life to flourish. It is the only moral social system.

Do you value your own right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Then stand tall. Take the moral high ground. Get as passionate about defending the individual rights of yourself and others, as the socialists are passionate about enslaving you.

Discover capitalism.

Rodney Schroeter
Random Lake