

# What is Capitalism?

In order to explain exactly what Capitalism is, I think it is primarily important to identify what Capitalism is not.

Let me be clear: Capitalism is not a political ideology. Capitalism is not a “trickle-down” economic theory. Capitalism was not fostered by the Bush Administration. Furthermore, Capitalism did NOT cause the current global recession.

So then, if Capitalism is not the greedy, gluttonous bedrock of all the world’s evils; if it is not a system that exploits working-class proletariat at the behest of wealthy bourgeoisie; if it is not a bigoted and disparate conspiracy used to instigate class warfare, what is it?

Simply put, Capitalism is an independent philosophy that embraces human nature and rewards personal initiative and self-reliance.

It does not favor the rich, but rather the hard-working. It does not favor white-society, but empowers all people; blind to divisions of race, culture, gender, sexual preference, age and disability. In fact, as much as Liberals hate to admit it, Capitalism is the only system on earth that provides true equality of opportunity. People hindered in any capacity are given the ability to expound upon whatever talents they possess and use those talents to improve their lives as well as the lives of others.

Providing for oneself is certainly a difficult challenge, but our Constitution never said all Americans were entitled to an easy life. It is a lot simpler to hand the responsibility of one’s wellbeing over to his/her government - to believe that big brother has your back no matter what life throws at you - than to face such adversity alone. Unfortunately, this illusion of safety comes at a price (and I’m not even talking about tax increases). Every time we pass up the opportunity to help ourselves, we give away a little bit of our freedom.

Liberals might hate Capitalism, but they do not hate its merits. In fact, they rejoice in them every time they drink Fiji water, buy organic food, talk on their iPhones or watch indie films.

Many hard-working people seek shade under the tree of Capitalism, yet the Statists in Washington (revealing their jealousy, hypocrisy and callous disregard for personal struggle) feel compelled to chop it down. Indeed they poison its roots while eating its fruits; profiting from the same system they intend to destroy. But when that tree produces no more, and there is no more prosperity with which to fund the decadence of Congress, all they offer is blame.

Those that hate Capitalism do so because they fear the uncertainty that leads to prosperity; the seed of rampant growth they can neither understand nor control.

And it is that fear, not Capitalism, which is crippling our great country.

*“That some should be rich shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another; but let him labor diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.” – Abraham Lincoln*