

Raising the Flag for Capitalism

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To the Editor:

Mr. Jenkins claims that socialism leads to cooperation between people. He also claims that "faulty economic theory, or the usual human failings, have kept it from working."

But Mr. Jenkins is wrong. He is wrong about human nature and morality, wrong about the political implications of socialism, and wrong about the cause of wealth.

Human nature is neither intrinsically good nor bad; humans can choose good or evil. The socialist concept of good is that which is purportedly good for the group as a whole, regardless of the goals of individuals within the group. Indeed, one's pursuit of individual goals is regarded as evil. Under socialism, if an individual commits the "sin" of seeking his own happiness, he is condemned.

In the political arena, socialism enforces its moral base by coercion. It requires the individual to sacrifice his life in order to meet a planned political agenda. The consequences of such an agenda have been illustrated in the fate of peoples in Communist Russia and Nazi Germany.

As to the cause of wealth, its origin is the most fundamental human virtue: rationality. Wealth exists because humans think, and produce values to aid them in survival and the pursuit of happiness. According to socialist theory, such aspirations should inspire guilt.

Socialism is a variant of human slavery. Capitalism, on the other hand, is the only moral social system ever devised. Pure, unregulated, laissez-faire capitalism recognizes that it is good for human beings to achieve values. Morally, it asserts that human life is the standard of value and that each individual human life is the purpose of that standard.

Capitalism requires that individuals be free, and it provides a government whose primary function is to protect the individual rights of all its citizens. Finally, in contrast to socialist deceptions, capitalism is honest. It recognizes that money is the product of human minds committed to rationality and moral integrity.

The socialist creates poverty -- both morally and economically -- and blames capitalism (or its remnants) for its failures. As the philosopher Ayn Rand observed, however, "capitalism did not create poverty, it inherited it." MARK A. HURT Chesterfield, Mo., Jan. 23