



The Age of Selfishness

Pseudo-Capitalism versus Authentic Capitalism

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BiO Spiritualism – Body, Mind and Spirit: Man’s Means, Nature’s Ends.

Body: *The Industrial Revolution*—a lever for man’s muscles. (1740 to 1970)

Mind: *The Information Age* – a lever for man’s mind. (1970 to 2023)

Spirit: *The Age of Selfishness* – a lever for man’s spirit. (2023 to infinity)

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Pseudo-Capitalism is what we have right now in the United States of America.

Authentic Capitalism is what we want to get to—*authentic* capitalism should be our *common* goal.

It should be our *common* goal just as authentic self-esteem should be our *individual* goal: because it is prerequisite for us individuals achieving authentic happiness.

Achieving authentic happiness—being it’s our purpose for being—is good, great, and wonderful. (I know this to be the case from firsthand experience.)

A whole culture however—because it is not an individual—can’t be happy or sad—the terms don’t apply. But as an aggregate mix of individuals viewed as a unit, it can be satisfied or dissatisfied.

I would say *a lot* of us right now are dissatisfied, *some* of us not. I would also argue that a few of us such as myself are *authentically* happy, but a far larger number are not.

In the aggregate that makes “us” dissatisfied.

“We” are dissatisfied because the political-economic system we are trying to thrive in is phony—we are told by the CINO’s that it is real capitalism, but on some level we all know that this is not true.

We are fearful to try the real thing because the partial thing isn’t all that bad for most of us—or if not most, then for sure, many.

But think about it: the partial thing is better than the alternative—i.e., Statism, especially any Marxism Philosophy driven socio-political-economic systems such as appears to be the only serious *alternative* in our culture today. The partial thing—the pseudo-capitalism thing—is better because it is responsible for producing the standards of living that we Americans do enjoy today. Hence, wouldn’t the real capitalism thing be fantastic?

One would think the answer to this is: Yes.

And it is, but fear is a real thing too.

Since fear is probably the single most influential emotion in our *survival* kit as an animal species, it is a thing we need to understand fully in order to manage it to our complete benefit and satisfaction.

Fear as an emotion can *stop us from acting* and it can *compel us into action*: fight or flight cliché for the compelling part and fear of the unknown for the in-action part.

Fear of the unknown is what is keeping us from achieving authentic capitalism.

The CINO's fear losing their wealth (to which if I were a CINO billionaire I would add: duh) and the Marxists—qua proxy for all capitalism haters as they have said so *explicitly*—fear the collapse of their metaphysical-epistemological-ethical mental scaffolding and hence of their very identity as self-made humans of one particular type (primarily [Kantian](#)).

When world views are shaken so is the worldview holder *if that worldview is irrational* (and Kantianism is). I have firsthand experience with this “collapsing” phenomenon too, albeit, in a different context: psychology, mine. (And believe me, if you have never had your psychological metal tested let me tell you the collapsing thing is an extremely scary thing to experience—and yes, only the strong survive.)

The same concept is at work in our culture that in the aggregate is very dissatisfied.

The road through our dissatisfaction to happiness and bliss is to make our capitalistic system be better—that is, soooooo’oh good that we can say, it is *Authentic*. (For psychological reasons, the road has to be “through” our problems not around them. That is, since “we” are drawing an analogy to my psychological development from programmed by nature self-regulation – to - programmed by me volitional self-regulation wherein I made the conscious choice to not evade my psychological problems any more but face them head on—i.e., went through them not around them, I apply the same concept here.)

So, how do we *make* our pseudo-capitalism be authentic capitalism?

By first knowing what it is:

Capitalism is a social system based on the recognition of individual rights, including property rights, in which all property is privately owned.

Ayn Rand, “*Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal*,” page 19.

I don’t think that *all* property in this country is privately owned.

Even a cursory look can confirm this:

Google: how much land is owned by the government

Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data

Federation Of American Scientists

<https://sgp.fas.org> › crs › misc

Feb 21, 2020 — The federal government owns **roughly 640 million acres**, about 28% of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States.

Property includes more than land but since land is included too the foregoing proves the point.

My thesis as to what is wrong with our country is that it is the same or rather *similar* condition to that which was wrong with me when I was a young adult and had to transition from having *pseudo* self-esteem and being

highly repressed to one who had *authentic* self-esteem and was not repressed at all—or extremely close to it (notable exception documented [here](#) in a previous article. And note, at the time it was a surprise to me too).

The pseudo self-esteem parallelism here can be used for heuristic purposes but the repression part—at least at this time, not.

So, before I can posit the Six Pillars of Authentic Capitalism, I have to know a few more things about it.

Quoting Ayn Rand again from *ibid.*, page 19:

The recognition of individual rights entails the banishment of physical force from human relationships: basically, rights can be violated only by means of force. In a capitalist society, no man or group may *initiate* the use of physical force against others. The only function of the government, in such a society, is the task of protecting man's rights, i.e., the task of protecting him from physical force; the government acts as the agent of man's right of self-defense, and may use force only in retaliation and only against those who initiate its use; thus the government is the means of placing the retaliatory use of force under *objective control*.

And more, from “The Virtue of Selfishness,” also by Ayn Rand, page 33:

When I say “capitalism,” I mean a full, pure, uncontrolled, unregulated laissez-faire capitalism—with a separation of state and economics, in the same way and for the same reasons as the separation of state and church.

And lastly (from “*Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal*,” page 20):

The *moral* justification of capitalism does not lie in the altruist claim that it represents the best way to achieve “the common good.” It is true that capitalism does—if that catch-phrase has any meaning—but this is merely a secondary consequence. The moral justification of capitalism lies in the fact that it is the only system consonant with man's rational nature, that it protects man's survival *qua* man, and that its ruling principle is: *justice*.

So, because I am using my own life experiences with my own psychological development as a model for me to understand and communicate to you my understanding of our whole culture as a unit thing, I will use the concept of Six Pillars as that which should hold up our entire socio-political-economic system.

That is, let me now posit the Six Pillars of *Authentic* Capitalism:

1. All property is privately owned
2. use of initiated physical force one to another between people is outlawed
3. government protects individual's rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness
4. separation of economics and state
5. government properly owns the functions and property that are required to implement those functions required for the protection of individual rights, that is, anything and everything to do with: The Military, The Police and The Courts. (*Ibid.*, p. 334)
6. Rules apply equally to all citizens not just some, e.g., why can pre-President Trump et al. over extended tycoons file bankruptcy but over extended Joe College debtors can't?

I suspect that no one—including Trump types—can discharge owed *taxes* in bankruptcy but that simply makes this aspect equally applied. Hence, it's not part of what we are talking about here—here we are talking about *justice*. And in the not off chance that rich

people have figured out a way around this imperfection that I'm not privy too, I will have to have a 6a pillar to cover my ~~arse~~ *potential naivete*:

6a: If it turns out that 100% lfc (laissez-faire capitalism) is not *practical* then we'll have to switch to 100% ofc (objectively-fair capitalism). But until and unless such is demonstrated to be the case, we have to stick with 100% lfc.

Since Pillars 2, 3, and 5 by comparison are less of a problem right now, we can focus on Pillars 1 and 4 and 6.

If we greatly improve these we will greatly improve our country—we may even take it from one inhabited primarily by dissatisfied people to one dominated by people trying to cash in on the real, *authentic* American Dream: become a self-made millionaire (or billionaire if you started as a millionaire), and if that doesn't work, become a self-made *authentically* happy human being and/or both since these two are not corollaries—each requires a specific set of moral characteristics to achieve.

That is, a country that pays lip service to the idea that Capitalism is a good, moral thing to be, should itself so be: *authentically* that is, not phonily. Just like I did when I was a tran: that is, tran-sitioning from a holder (clinging on'er) of pseudo self-esteem to the proud owner operator of a person of *authentic* self-esteem.

Sounds like me and my ego became [BFF's](#) a long time ago; try it you might like it.

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