

# R(eep)ough

(April 2025)

Presocrat XLV and XLVII has lamented that:

**"The Entire World is RIPPING US OFF!!!"**

The rationale appears to be that the Entire World sells more to the United States than the latter sells to the Entire World.

Likewise, one could contend that since one sells much less to one's Grocer than the latter sells to one, the Grocer must be ripping one off. The Grocer, whose groceries keep one alive, is a wealthy man, by necessity: business being in essence rocky and shaky, the Grocer is either wealthy or bankrupt. For the sake of one's survival, let us pray the Grocer is not bankrupt.

However, if the Presocrat's philosophy holds true, the Grocer must be Ripping Off Society at large. The same would go for any billionaire real estate magnate.

On the other hand, when it comes to the Chinese, for example, about 30 million of them toil around the clock to satiate the immense American appetite for all things Chinese. Since there is in America only one tenth of 30 million which is unemployed and available for employment, substituting for the 30 million Chinese laborers would require that American factory workers be 10 times as efficient as the quite efficient Chinese, an assertion which one could possibly question.

Now, considering that:

1. The vast majority of the 30 million Chinese laborers dedicated exclusively to the American market cannot afford the wares they produce for Americans, since
2. These 30 million Chinese laborers receive a salary equal to 1/10<sup>th</sup> only of the average manufacturing salary in America, and
3. The American Gross Domestic Product per capita is 7 times that of China,

Explain in a few words the subtle mechanism by which the Chinese are ripping us off.

*"Servants are the plague of one's life. So careless, so forgetful, so dishonest!"*