

Contradictions of Capitalism and Answers to Communism

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1. “Capitalism is the best system we have!”

- Technological innovation and human progress will occur in any ideology. Ideology determines who bears the fruit of said innovation. One might say capitalism has made the quality of life increase substantially. However, one should also question “quality of life for who?”. For example, if we look at Africa or the Middle East, can we still say capitalism has increased the quality of life for them? The regions of the world where us living in developed countries get our resources from?

2. “Competition and profit spurs innovation!”

- In an ideal system, that would be true. However, in today’s capitalist society, innovation is not the only way to create profit. If we think about it, exploitation, stealing, fraud, etc are all ways of creating profit. If we look at the largest companies in the present and throughout history, we can see this firsthand. The East India Company, the largest company in history, made their money by plundering and exploiting the regions of Africa and Asia. Apple sources the resources they need to produce iPhones and iMacs from Africa, where they are often done by slave miners. Enron was famously a company that increased its profits and shareholder value by committing fraud. From these examples alone, we cannot conclude that, in a capitalist society, profit is what drives innovation.

3. “Communism doesn’t work because humans are greedy!”

- Evolutionary and biologically, this would not make sense. We, humans, at heart, are animals. What would the human species gain by rewarding greed and self-profit? There are no species in Earth’s history that have survived by having the trait of non-cooperation and greed. We only think of greed being an inherent trait of a human because that is the system we have lived in for hundreds of years. In today’s capitalist society, greed is common and rewarded. Politicians who steal from the people, CEOs who commit fraud, et cetera all gain profit from their actions. We are led to believe that greed is inherent because it paints greed as something that is simply inescapable. Greed being portrayed as something that simply “happens” is a tool by the ruling class. This is because when a politician or CEO is caught stealing or committing fraud, we react by saying “Oh that is simply human nature”, instead of saying “We need to abolish the ability to even commit those acts in the first place”. You do not vanquish a problem by punishing its effects, you vanquish a problem by stopping the root that caused it.

4. “I don’t want a system where I have to share my toothbrush!”

- In communism there are two different types of property. There is private, and there is personal property. Private property refers to the means of production. In layman’s terms, private property are things that produce goods. This is often seen as a factory. Personal property is property that belongs to the individual. This can be objects such as your clothes, furniture, pets, and so on and so forth. In essence, private property is what creates personal property. In communism, private

property belongs to the people. This means that the means of production, the labor and the fruits of labor, belong to the people. In capitalism, the means of production is owned by the ruling class. CEOs, billionaires, business owners, et cetera. Profit that comes from that private property, instead of going to the workers, goes to the shareholders and CEO's pockets. Yes, they might use those profits to benefit their workers, but in a capitalist society, what profit would generate from giving workers more money?

5. "Name me one successful communist country!"

- That defines how we measure success. If we say that success is an increase in shareholder value, profits for CEOs, and an increase in meaningless numbers, then none. However, if we measure success as bettering the lives of the people within that country, then almost all of it. As an example, let's look at the first communist nation, the USSR. Before the communists, Russia was controlled by a Tsar. A rich, powerful man that held absolute power. In that era, the people lived miserably. Poverty was widespread, diseases ran rampant, hunger and thirst was not uncommon. After the communists took power, things drastically changed. Literacy, healthcare, worker's rights, all improved. If we look at history, almost all socialist or communist nations managed to drastically improve the lives of its people.