The Morality of Arbitrage

Tyler J. Brough, Ph.D.

April 11, 2017



economist who is only an economist is likely to become a

nuisance if not a positive danger.

Friedrich von Hayek

But nobody can be a great economist who is only an

economist - and I am even tempted to add that the

It is apparent to me that the standard ethical arguments for capitalism are not having any purchase in the minds of most people.

- It is apparent to me that the standard ethical arguments for capitalism are not having any purchase in the minds of most people.
- Capitalism is presented as some kind of Faustian bargain: we like it for its wealth production and efficiency, but at bottom it is really about greed. It is rapacious and immoral.

- It is apparent to me that the standard ethical arguments for capitalism are not having any purchase in the minds of most people.
- Capitalism is presented as some kind of Faustian bargain: we like it for its wealth production and efficiency, but at bottom it is really about greed. It is rapacious and immoral.
- ▶ It is readily apparent that many of our colleagues in the business disciplines believe this notion

- It is apparent to me that the standard ethical arguments for capitalism are not having any purchase in the minds of most people.
- Capitalism is presented as some kind of Faustian bargain: we like it for its wealth production and efficiency, but at bottom it is really about greed. It is rapacious and immoral.
- ▶ It is readily apparent that many of our colleagues in the business disciplines believe this notion
- ► I'm afraid that our students do too! They leave the business school with some good technical tools, but not with an appreciation of just how much good they will do in their careers.

- It is apparent to me that the standard ethical arguments for capitalism are not having any purchase in the minds of most people.
- Capitalism is presented as some kind of Faustian bargain: we like it for its wealth production and efficiency, but at bottom it is really about greed. It is rapacious and immoral.
- ▶ It is readily apparent that many of our colleagues in the business disciplines believe this notion
- I'm afraid that our students do too! They leave the business school with some good technical tools, but not with an appreciation of just how much good they will do in their careers.
- ► That is on us! That's a failure on our part to teach correct principles.

► The Rolling Stone writes about the great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity

- ► The Rolling Stone writes about the great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity
- "Derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction" -Warren Buffett

- ► The Rolling Stone writes about the great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity
- "Derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction" -Warren Buffett
- "Derivatives are toxic stay away from them" unnamed donor to the Huntsman School

- ► The Rolling Stone writes about the great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity
- "Derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction" -Warren Buffett
- "Derivatives are toxic stay away from them" unnamed donor to the Huntsman School
- "In a world where profit is consistently put before both people and the planet, climate economics has everything to do with ethics and morality" - Naomi Klein