

Critically assess Nozick's Wilt Chamberlain argument.

Notes:

- To show that the theories of justice based on the patterns or historical circumstances are false, Nozick devised an elaborate objection known as the "Wilt Chamberlain" argument

Scenario:

- Assume that distribution of wealth in a society is just, also based on patterns or historical circumstances.
- Chamberlain is a great basketball player, many teams compete with each other to engage in his services.
- Chamberlain agrees to play for a team, but for every ticket sold 25 cents will go to him.
- 1 million fans see him, so he gains \$250000
- Now the supposedly just distribution of holdings is upset, he has more than anyone else.
- Is the new distribution unjust?

Nozick's Claim:

- Nozick claims that this is not unjust due to the entitlement theory
- Chamberlain acquired his holdings through legitimate means
- This debunks the egalitarian theory because this perfect world could be upset by any ordinary and objectionable transactions.
- Nozick concludes that any society that uses this theory has to infringe on the liberty of its citizens in order to enforce the distribution that that society considers as just.
- "The socialist society would have to forbid capitalist acts between consenting adults"