

Point of View



A LEADERSHIP COMMENTARY ON LIFE TODAY BY BOB SHANK

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Dear Marketplace Friend,

Happy Birthday, America!

Wow: 234 years old - *you don't look a day over 200!* To my beyond-America readers of **Point of View**, please indulge me as I converge my book reviews with our birthday...

Today, I want to review the new book by friends Austin Hill and Scott Rae, ***The Virtues of Capitalism: A Moral Case for Free Markets*** (Northfield Publishing, 2010). Austin is an emerging American voice whose radio talk footprint is expanding, along with his writing and speaking (*and a graduate of The Master's Program*). Scott is a highly regarded professor of Christian ethics from Biola University in California.

Modern Americans get way too much of their worldview from movie screens. Knowing that, Michael Moore has exploited entertained-to-death contemporary adults with movies like ***Roger & Me, Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11, Sicko*** and, most recently, ***Capitalism: A Love Story***. In ***Capitalism***, Moore paints the economic philosophy on which America is built as patently evil.

Poll the moviegoers as they exit the cinema; ask them to rate Capitalism as a credible framework for a fair society, and they will demonstrate Moore's

mastery of mind control. The last two years of political leadership in America has been assisted by the Moore-effect. Capitalism offers equal opportunity; Socialism offers equal ownership. Capitalism rewards people for risk-tinged effort; Socialism rewards people for breathing. The 2008 elected majority in Washington may deny the affiliation, but their actions have moved America away from Capitalism and toward Socialism... which is just a way-station on the way to totalitarian Communism.

Hill and Rae build on Winston Churchill's famous quote: "*Capitalism is surely the worst economic system, except for all the others that have been tried.*" Christian thought leaders often hold that their pulpits have no business communicating positions that are political or economic; only the spiritual and moral issues belong there. In ***Virtues***, they argue that the three domains - spiritual/moral, economic and political - are inexorably linked. Of the available, proven systems of economic existence, Capitalism most aligns with the virtues of the biblical Christian faith.

What Milton Friedman -

Nobel winner, famed American economist who converted from Keynesian to become an advocate for free markets - did with his landmark book, **Capitalism and Freedom**, Hill and Rae have done, for Christians, updated through the current Great Recession. In a conversation with Phil Donohue (www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWsx1X8PV_A) in 1979, Friedman made it clear as he responded to the classic Socialist/Hollywood liberal criticism that Capitalism enables evil. If the measure is "good vs evil," put your money on Capitalism...

"Socialism: that's the way to save the planet. Capitalism is the road to hell. Let's fight against capitalism and make it obey us." Who said that? Hugo Chavez, to the United Nations on December 16, 2009.

Dave Ramsey says that **The Virtues of Capitalism** "...should be required reading in every college in the country." Dennis Prager - conservative radio commentator, speaking recently at the University of Colorado, said, "... a society does not survive if it does not have a reason to survive. Where there is a why, there is a how. We have lost the why..." Watch and ponder his incredible comments for yourself (www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNUc8nuo7HI).

Your kids, your employees, even your well-to-do neighbors are "under the influence" of voices who are singing the virtues of Socialism, in four-part harmony. *If you don't draw the line in the economic sand and begin*

*reeducating the gullible within the sound of your voice, **who will?***

For the Kingdom,

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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