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# Capitalism Unbound: The Incontestable Moral Case for Individual Rights

*Andrew Bernstein*

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## CAPITALISM UNBOUND

THE INCONTESTABLE MORAL CASE  
FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS



ANDREW BERNSTEIN

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**Andrew Bernstein : Capitalism Unbound: The Incontestable Moral Case for Individual Rights** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalism Unbound: The Incontestable Moral Case for Individual Rights:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. At last:The truth about capitalismBy Sylvia BokorThe foundation of capitalism is individual rights. As such, capitalism is essentially a social system. It is from this perspective that Andrew Bernstein's Capitalism UnBound stunningly shows why and how the protection of individual rights gives rise

to prosperity, and creates a nation of benevolently generous wealth holders. Bernstein adroitly concretizes individual rights to illustrate one's personal stake in capitalism. In a slim volume (133 pages), he offers in clear language aimed at the layman a riveting presentation of capitalism's true nature. He then proceeds to a galvanizing review of its antipode---collectivism---in the form of socialism. Shuddering examples of socialism's destructiveness show the reader that every socialist system is a loot-and-kill system, fully dependent on the able. Looters and killers do not create values. Ergo, they cannot sustain themselves without victims. In one of a score of astute observations, Bernstein states: "If socialism, not capitalism, were the political-economic system generating prosperity, then Cuba, North Korea, and the former Soviet Union would be (or have been) wealthy---and the United States and other capitalist (or semi-capitalist nations) poor. But the reverse is manifestly true." Mixed economies lead to totalitarianism, Bernstein states. He backs up his statement providing a hair-raising examination of various government policies that plague us today in our own mixed economy---policies with which a government hog-ties and castrates producers, employer and employee alike, that seek to earn their own way and enjoy life. He examines government-enforced coercive monopolies, government-enforced coercive unions, government-enforced coercive practices of the Federal Reserve, government's coercive policies that led to and prolonged the Great Depression, and the current financial disaster wrought by the government's interference in mortgages and lending, the so-called "Affordable Housing" program. He identifies what politicians, appointees and bureaucrats have done, covered up and blamed on banks, financial institutions and other businesses across the board, including private investors and traders. *Capitalism Unbound* is an impassioned declaration that every human being has the right to life, property, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that the protection of these rights and the freedom to exercise them constitute certain moral principles, which men need in order to live life qua man. Every social system rests on some ethical point of view. The nucleus of every ethics is its view of man's basic relationship to existence. Does man have the right to live for himself or must he live for others? Bernstein demonstrates with dozens of examples why egoism is the life-promoting force of the individual, of the group, of a culture---and why altruism is the destroyer. He shows that it is capitalism's recognition of a man's right to live for himself that makes it the greatest and the only moral social-political-economic system. Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not bad content, but bad presentation  
By Jeffrey Newholm  
I've had the opportunity to meet Dr. Bernstein a couple of times and he's an extremely engaging fellow. Unfortunately, this book was not so engaging. It had a very dry tone and I found it very hard to make it through. However, there were some very interesting defenses of capitalism in it, so it wasn't all bad. May I recommend "Capitalism, the unknown ideal", which is a much better sourced book and was mostly written by Rand, who is a much more accessible writer than Bernstein.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Required knowledge  
By bradw2k  
This slim book does a superb job, in a limited space, of describing what happened when innocent men finally enjoyed freedom in the 19th century, and how reason and morality require more of the same: a social system upholding individual rights. I have been reading Ayn Rand's books for years, and I think part of what Dr. Bernstein has done here is to make it much easier for someone with limited time to follow Rand's recommendation, in "Faith and Force", to learn the \*actual\* history of capitalism in order to "see" it in practice, and then to judge its moral stature by the standard of enabling individuals to pursue their own happiness. If you enjoyed *Atlas Shrugged*, you will find this passionate description and defense of capitalism satisfying.

*Capitalism Unbound: An Incontestable Moral Case for Individual Rights* is a concise explanation of capitalism's moral and economic superiority to all forms of socialism, including America's current mixed-economy welfare state. Bernstein shows that the current crisis is essentially similar to the Great Depression in its causation and in the steps necessary to resolve it. The book's concluding section applies moral and economic principles to the current economic crisis, showing that government intervention is its cause and a policy of *laissez-faire* its necessary solution. Furthermore, socialist/statist policies are universally the cause of social calamities and that the answer lies in individual rights and *laissez-faire* capitalism. The principles that this book clearly articulates are timeless; in diverse forms, the conflicts these principles explain will recur repeatedly throughout history. As a result, this book is relevant not merely today, but will be forever. Bernstein accomplishes all of this in a concise, lively, impassioned volume that is fully accessible to potentially countless readers.

*Capitalism Unbound* is a triumph. Passionately written and painstakingly researched, Bernstein's primer on capitalism is actually an urgent call-to-arms for individual rights. This is a must-read book for those who love liberty and are concerned about the country's present course. (Jonathan Hoenig, portfolio manager, Capitalistpig Hedge Fund LLC and Fox News contributor) In *Capitalism Unbound*, Andrew Bernstein has presented the too-often neglected but essential moral case for capitalism alongside the historical and economic one. The great virtue of this work is the taut and well-written prose that makes it both easily digestible and full of important ideas. In these times when capitalism is unfairly blamed for every social ill, Bernstein's work should be read by everyone as the antidote. His rousing call to unleash the human mind and celebrate productivity is both rare and to be cherished. (Dr. Eric Daniels, research assistant professor, The Clemson Institute for the Study of Capitalism) About the Author Andrew Bernstein holds a

Ph.D. in philosophy from the Graduate School of the City University of New York. His book, *The Capitalist Manifesto: The Historic, Economic and Philosophic Case for Laissez-Faire* was published by University Press of America in 2005 and a second work, *Objectivism in One Lesson: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Ayn Rand*, was published by Hamilton Books in 2008. Andrew Bernstein is also the author of the Cliff Notes for *Anthem*, *The Fountainhead*, and *Atlas Shrugged*. Additional essays and information about Dr. Bernstein can be found at his website: [www.andrewbernstein.net](http://www.andrewbernstein.net).