

September 8, 2020

POLS 4900

### Response 2: Not Guilty

Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Bill Gates, what do all of these people have in common? In addition to having more wealth than most people will experience in a life time, these people all benefit from living in a capitalist society in the western world. Most people admire and respect people like them in the hopes to learn from what they did to become so rich. The answer is simply capitalism, the producer and the consumer. Karl Marx believes that in capitalism one must reduce the wages of the workers to yield a larger profit. The silver lining is capitalism is not negative on its own, it takes people to make it that way given their views on society. In the court of law, in laymen's terms, guilty means one did the crime, innocent means one did not do the crime, and not guilty means that there was not enough evidence for conviction or possibly a technicality. Capitalism fits best in the not guilty category and there is much more positive with capitalism than negative.






Capitalism has created jobs for years. It seems that Marx lives in this somewhat fairytale land or utopia. He expects for people to work hard, earn a lot of money off of their ideas and they give it away. That's not the way that life works all of the time. However what capitalism at its core does is create jobs where people can but their skills, God given or learned, to work and earn a wage. Now the subject of a living wage has come up quite frequently but that is completely subjective. (Smith) A person forced to take a job or die is inhumane and evil but if a person takes a job knowing the pay involved and agrees to take it there is no harm in that. If said person decides one day that they would like higher pay they can ask for an increase, the

answer they receive is not what they want to hear they are free to work somewhere else they feel like their talents will be appreciated or start a business of their own but it is their prerogative. This doesn't take away from the capitalism creating copious amounts of jobs.

There are definitely some problems with living in a capitalist society. No system is perfect and one issue that could come up could be the reinforcing of a ruling class, in addition to an ideology that the accumulation of vast wealth makes one better off or happier. Capitalism can also force people to be not only be completely unoriginal but extremely competitive as if getting to the highest of heights on the socioeconomic ladder will make a person something superhuman. Another part that can be problematic, mentioned by Smith in the *Wages of Labor*, is as need increases the labor will increase. This is all a part of supply and demand but what makes this so problematic is very rarely is there an increase in pay for the laborers. (Smith). So basically the laborers are doing a lot of work for the same rate of pay as always while the people at the top benefit from the surplus that comes from the extra demand. ~~But no system is perfect.~~

Capitalism helps assist in making societies run easier. Marx gives an excellent example of the weaver and spinner. He goes on to explain how the capitalist has nothing to do with one or the other. This is actually not a true statement because what can be seen is that these people needed a middle man to facilitate the transaction. (Marx) If they didn't need a capitalist help; why allow them to buy their labor in the first place. Another important point that was touched on was how capitalism in how leads to mass production, assisted with the creation of currency is used today. Marx speaks about it like it is a bad thing speaking on the way currency was throughout history but there are not many people could imagine trading fifteen goats and

twelve lambs for a house. Capitalism helped facilitate things like the currency that is used to easily move through society without stress.

 ~~To sum it up,~~ there is a lot more right with capitalism than wrong. Capitalism may have some problematic ways, and kinks that could be worked out but it is up to the people to change that, such as demanding more pay and  sticking with their guns. There are so many men, women and children that have benefited off of a capitalist society being that it has provided so many jobs and helped create an easier way to attain and spend wages. There are many that might disagree with someone being for a capitalist society  but being that there is not any illegal foul  play on the part of capitalist it definitely deemed not guilty. If one attempts  to things in different societies, no system is going to be perfect.

4.25/5

Better. You've definitely toned down the language, with the notable exception of copious. I take it that your thesis was that capitalism was imperfect, but better than the alternatives. You didn't need to phrase this in terms of guilty/not guilty. You did support this throughout the essay, but it was unclear at some points. Biggest issue here is that you don't robustly anticipate and contend with possible counterarguments. Taking just the second paragraph - Is capitalism the best way to create jobs? What kind of jobs? Are these jobs desirable? Good job.