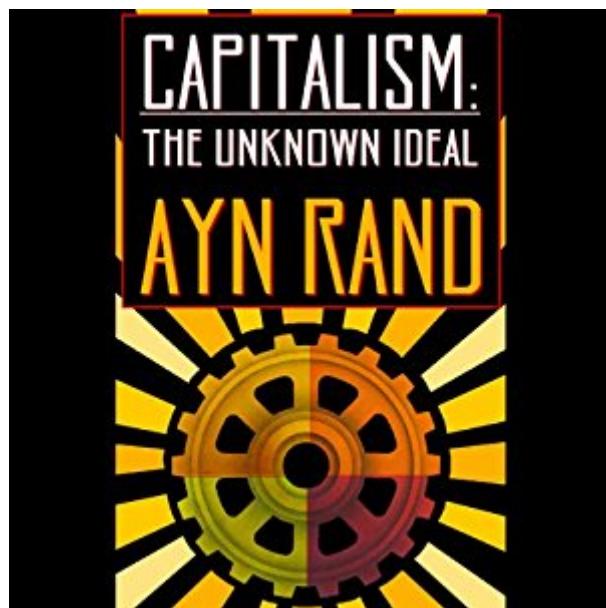


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# Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal



## Synopsis

[This is the Audiobook CASSETTE Library Edition in vinyl case.] This collection of 26 essays constitutes a challenging look at modern society. The foundations of capitalism are being battered by a flood of altruism, which is the cause of the modern world's collapse. This is the view of Ayn Rand, a view so radically opposed to prevailing attitudes that it constitutes a major philosophic revolution. In this series of essays, she presents her stand on the persecution of big business, the causes of war, the default of conservatism, and the evils of altruism. Here is a challenging new look at modern society by one of the most provocative intellectuals on the American scene. This edition includes two articles by Ayn Rand which did not appear in the hardcover edition: The Wreckage of the Consensus, which presents the Objectivists views on Vietnam and the draft; and Requiem for Man, an answer to the Papal encyclical *Progresso Populorum*. This collection of 26 essays includes twenty by Ayn Rand as well as three essays by Alan Greenspan, two by Nathaniel Branden, and one by Robert Hessen. As an interesting relic of the past, this outlandish piece of propaganda is worth the listener's time, even though the author's overconfident sense of her own rightness and persistence at pressing her points with little respect for opposing views can quickly become more than a little annoying. Using outdated words such as "altruists" to represent the forces of evil who would overburden the poor, beleaguered American business community, Rand "protesteth" far too much. Americans have seen many of the abuses come to pass that Rand, writing in 1946, claimed would never happen if free enterprise were just left to its own devices, so many of her arguments will be lost on a modern listener. For instance, the antitrust laws forced railroad barons to use illegal payoffs to forge ahead with expansion, and they shouldn't, therefore, be blamed the antitrust laws are the real problem. Narrator Anna Field's cold, crisp voice is actually well suited to such a heartless piece as this. Recommended. Mark Pumphrey, Polk Cty. P.L., Columbus, NC Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The chapter What is Capitalism takes one back a bit, because it goes into the roots of why in any free or semi-free society, we must have property rights and individual rights to trade, i.e. capitalism. The chapter, The Roots of War is completely brilliant, and should be required reading in public schools IMO. More could have been said about how EVERY market is ALREADY regulated by supply and demand, and all gov regulations can possibly do is offer counter-orders to the inescapable laws and effects of demand and supply, mucking up how free markets regulate themselves in various brilliant ways. (There is no such thing as an unregulated market). Another example, not only are monopolies not possible in a free market, (a point driven ad nauseam by libertarians), but it's also true that shortages and surpluses are impossible, as these can only occur when price controls are instituted by economically illiterate bureaucrats. (Realize that shortages and scarcity are two different things). Shortages will cause scarcity, but scarcity CANNOT cause shortages in a free market. The chapter The Property Rights of Airwaves seems a bit out of place and an academic exercise that's a bit irrelevant. For anyone interested in how free markets self-regulate, I recommend The Government Against The Economy, by economist George Reisman. A brilliant short book. 'Not to be confused with his magnum opus titled Capitalism.'

Published 60 years ago this year, this book is still relevant not only because of Ayn Rand's deep insight, but despite all the social and technological changes the world has seen, much of the same machinery is in place. Ayn explains the flaws with critiques of capitalism and how they often aren't rational, why the 'capitalism' of today isn't the capitalism she advocates, why aiming to profit by taking advantage of others isn't congruent with capitalism, and why the laissez faire capitalism she \*does\* advocate is based on goodwill and justice, not deceit and plunder. As such, she presents capitalism as an economic system almost as an aside: she focuses on it as a moral system, and tells you why it's superior to its predecessors and various alternatives. While there are a few things out of place, and the overall philosophy isn't perfect, this book presents a powerful case for why

laissez faire capitalism should be the bedrock of a peaceful, rational society.

This book is where Ayn Rand compares Capitalism to the current systems of government. In it she explains quite well the working of everything from Capitalism to every system of Interventionism to Communism. I was raised to believe that the "middle ground" (Interventionism) was good and moral although (as a French Canadian living in Quebec) I could see how government Health Care was burning through doctors and never made the connection why it was/(still is) getting worse. This book is like 50 years old and it is still describing very well the working of what I seen as a Canadian inside our system. Like corporate favors that disadvantage the customer (air canada, bell, etc) this book help me notice how everyone of our major political parties are just a representative of pressure groups (out to get advantages at the benefit of everyone else). A damn good read.

Her call for a separation of economy and state continues to resonate to this day. She recognizes what few still fail to see, that true laissez-faire capitalism does not exist, and never has existed.

The essays in this book are as relevant today as when the book was first published. This book is for anyone who wants to understand: the foundation and nature of capitalism; how capitalism's indispensable foundation is the principle of individual rights; and, how the purpose of government is to protect individual rights. As Ayn Rand writes in her introduction, "No politico-economic system in history has ever proved its value so eloquently or has benefited mankind so greatly as capitalism - and none has ever been attacked so savagely, viciously, and blindly."

Essay after essay on the virtues of laissez-faire capitalism are presented in this groundbreaking work by Rand and her co-authors. The title says it all, but the essays reveal both why any government intrusion/regulation of the free market is destructive and why a truly free economy would be of ultimate benefit to every rational individual who participates in the totally free economy. A must read for any individual struggling to understand why the current mixed economy is failing them and those around them as well as anyone interested in going into business or economics.

An outstanding collection of essays that begins with "What is Capitalism?" and ends with "Man's Rights" and "The Nature of Government." Ayn Rand and her collaborators provide an expansion on her philosophy of Objectivism from a political perspective by providing a moral base for capitalism.

Along with her other nonfiction collections, "For The New Intellectual", and "The Virtue of Selfishness", the reader is provided with Ayn Rand's analysis of the world around us as initially fictionalized in "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged." It is amazing how prescient she was, envisioning the kind of troubled world we have today, over 50 years ago. Her works are as relevant today as they were then.

Capitalism is usually denounced by some individuals as a system of exploitation, Rand proves that those claims are false through her persuasive moral arguments and evidence. This book is about the virtues of Capitalism. It reveals systematically the valid reasons to practice this virtuous system. Rand identifies who the malefactors and benefactors of Capitalism are.

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