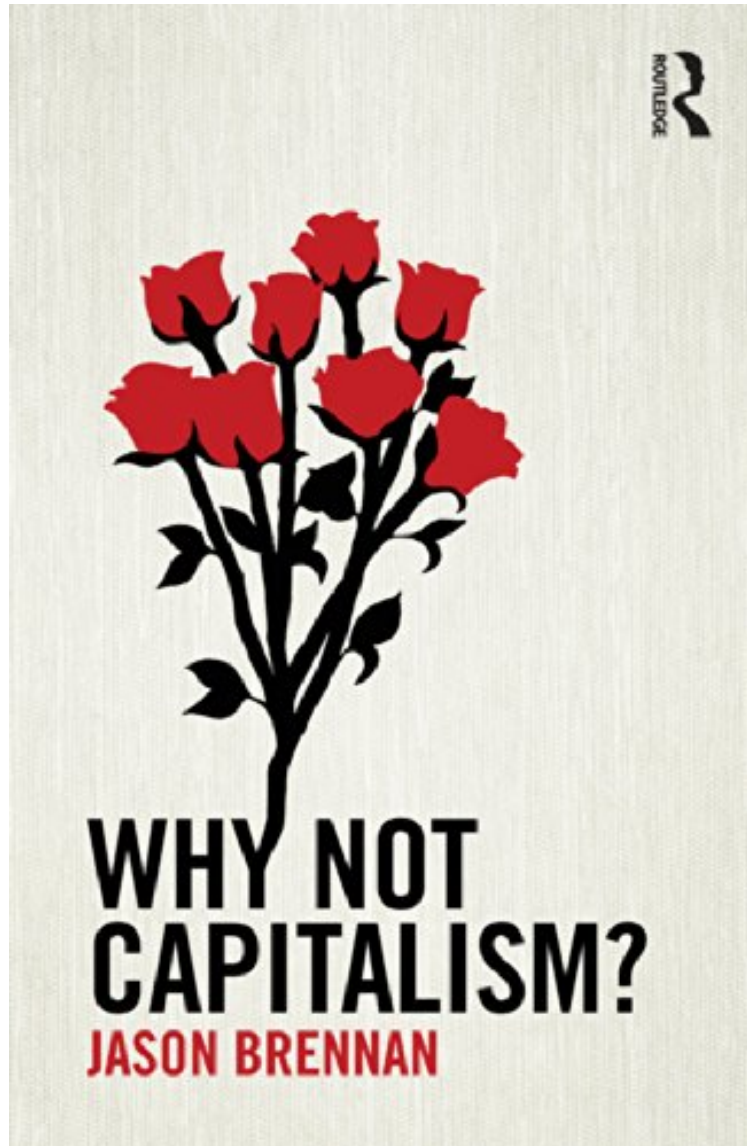


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Why Not Capitalism?

Jason F. Brennan

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Jason F. Brennan : Why Not Capitalism? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Not Capitalism?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Capitalism is the moral high groundBy James T. Humphrey IIThis short book tips over the common idea that socialism is the utopian ideal. Indeed, the author convincingly shows that capitalism is actually the utopian ideal-- and why we should prefer it over socialism, even in an ideal world where there exists no injustice.Unfortunately many critics (and even proponents!) of capitalism assume it is less than an ideal system, but that is only because they compare an ideal socialist society to the imperfections of capitalism as fleshed

out in the real world. Thus, critics of capitalism aren't comparing like with like, they are comparing apples to oranges. The author ultimately does this by drilling down to the essence of what capitalism and socialism ultimately is: an issue of who should own what. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerGreat moral argument for capitalism 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant, concise explication By Gary Richied Succeeds in doing what free marketers at least appeared to be loathe to do--argue for the real moral superiority of free markets. Humor abounds as well.

Most economists believe capitalism is a compromise with selfish human nature. As Adam Smith put it, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest." Capitalism works better than socialism, according to this thinking, only because we are not kind and generous enough to make socialism work. If we were saints, we would be socialists. In *Why Not Capitalism?*, Jason Brennan attacks this widely held belief, arguing that capitalism would remain the best system even if we were morally perfect. Even in an ideal world, private property and free markets would be the best way to promote mutual cooperation, social justice, harmony, and prosperity. Socialists seek to capture the moral high ground by showing that ideal socialism is morally superior to realistic capitalism. But, Brennan responds, ideal capitalism is superior to ideal socialism, and so capitalism beats socialism at every level. Clearly, engagingly, and at times provocatively written, *Why Not Capitalism?* will cause readers of all political persuasions to re-evaluate where they stand vis-a-vis economic priorities and systems as they exist now and as they might be improved in the future.

"Are you interested in capitalism as a path to your personal utopia? This stirring moral defense of a free society is the place to start." ?Tyler Cowen, George Mason University "In forceful strokes, Jason Brennan attacks the work of the late G.A. Cohen's defense of socialism and neatly shows why and how it is not the best of all systems even in the best of all possible worlds, let alone the highly imperfect world in which we live. His combination of accessible prose with technical precision is a model of good writing on political theory that should enable this book to reach the wider audience it deserves." ?Richard Epstein, New York University School of Law "Gone is the false triumphalism of the 1990s. The question of how to organize society, and the ideological conflict between market systems and socialist systems, is live. Brennan offers in this brief volume a fully realized and compelling answer to Jerry Cohen's rightly celebrated book *Why Not Socialism?* Many of the responses to socialist advocacy dismiss command economies as impractical or impossible. But Brennan grants Cohen his premises, and carries out the argument in a way that faithfully mirrors the logic that Cohen tried to marshal in his defense of socialism. Brennan offers an unflinching defense of capitalism, and does it with style and humor. His writing is at once accessible to the first-time philosopher and yet persuasive to the denizens of the ivory towers. This book will be on the reading list for every class I teach." ?Michael Munger, Director of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Duke University About the Author Jason Brennan is Assistant Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Compulsory Voting: For and Against*, with Lisa Hill, *Libertarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know*, *The Ethics of Voting*, and *A Brief History of Liberty*, with David Schmidtz.