

sci.med: Re: American health care best? No...Most expensive? Yes...Ranked 12th

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"Dr. Andrew B. Chung, MD/PhD" <andrew@heartmdphd.com> wrote in message news:<40E698A8.3554@heartmdphd.com>...

> > *Say, maybe we could do something about the violent crime rate by
> > getting folks with white coats and stethoscopes to let our youth know
> > that getting shot really hurts, and also is harmful for animals and
> > other livings things. What do you think?*
>
> *Christ's second commandment would be more effective.*

What, you think these gang bangers haven't heard it?

> > > *Hey, the fast food and movie industries are big businesses, not
> > > necessarily good for the general population. Capitalism gives people
> > > what they want, not what's good for them in terms of some parental
> > > model.*
> > >
> > > *Capitalism also convinces people that it has what people want.*
> >
> > *COMMENT*
> >
> > *I think you have capitalism confused with advertising. Advertising is
> > just our word for the wares—display often seen in capitalistic
> > systems, sure, but advertising is also a part of communism (where it's
> > merely called something different like "public information": or
> > "propaganda"),*
>
> *Sorry, Dr. Harris, propaganda in a communist environment does not create
> markets when there is no free market.*

COMMENT:

There is more and more confusion here. This started with you saying that "capitalism" convinces people that it has what people want. But

so do all political systems. Or at least, they all try to. None of them are perfectly effective. I see no point in you even making the comment, when it applies not only to capitalism but also to socialism and Communism.

You bring up "free markets" out of the air. Who said anything about "free markets." ?? You bring up the term as though it was synonymous with capitalism. It's not. Free market implies a market in which trades are supervised by some kind of governing trade authority, which prevents open theft and also adjudicates and guarantees fairness and nonviolent conflict resolution in the case of trade disagreements. Black markets, however, may be perfectly capitalistic (for example, the cocaine market). And black markets also, of course, often advertise (that hooker on the street corner with the miniskirt and heels).

I never claimed propaganda created free markets, or that hooker's miniskirts created free markets. I simply said they were forms of advertising. I define advertising as display of goods or services that are available. It's perfectly possible to have advertising with no market at all, if you're giving something away instead of selling it. If the government advertises free cheese, or some rock group advertises a free concert, you'll have long lines, but no free market, nor indeed any kind of market.

> > *Capitalism has nothing essential to do with advertising per se as part*
> > *of its definition-- that's a leftist piece of nonsense. Capitalism is*
> > *the system where the means of production are owned privately, end of*
> > *story.*
>
> *Free marketeering is part of capitalism, Dr. Harris.*

COMMENT:

There is no such word as "marketeering." There are marketeers, but what they are doing is properly called simply "marketing." "Marketeering", particularly when used with black markets, is some kind of monstrous construction after the manner of racketeering, and I think is being used by Leftists, hoping it will catch on as vaguely helping to express the idea that something illegitimate or nasty is being done by these marketeers, even if the market in question is not illegal. Along the lines of the idea that what I'm doing in my business is profiting, but what you're doing is "profiteering." .Which means you're getting money faster than I am, and I'm jealous of the unfairness of this. <g>.

Marketing in free markets may (or may not) be a part of capitalism, but it's not an essential or definitional part (again see the drug trade). Even if capitalism wasn't ever seen without free markets, that wouldn't mean a thing. All mammals breathe air, but breathing air is not part of the definition of what makes an organism a mammal.

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Again, capitalism means the means of production are privately owned. What the owners choose to do with those products is up to them, but if they choose to tell the public about them in newspapers, that hardly means that any other system of production wouldn't be forced to do exactly the same. So there's no point in trying to specifically pin this practice on capitalism. See the point?

> *Though it does not define it, you have to admit that it is a feature of*
> *American-style capitalism.*

It's a feature of every kind of political system. They show goods and services in newspapers and on TV. I guarantee you they do it in Cuba and Sweden, and they did it in the old USSR. My point is: so what?

SBH