

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

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From: Dr. Andrew B. Chung, MD/PhD (andrew_at_heartmdphd.com)

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"Steve Harris sbharris@ROMAN9.netcom.com" wrote:

> *"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?*

>

Christ is more effective than either you or I in our white coats and stethoscopes. What do you think?

>

>

>>>> *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*

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> > *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.*

I agree there is more confusion when you blur the distinction between economic systems with political systems.

It is one thing to let people know that you have a better mousetrap to sell more mousetraps.

It is another thing to come up with a catchy jingle or ad campaign to sell more inferior product.

> *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." ??*

Most people associate advertising with free markets. Are you now claiming that you did not bring up advertising,

Dr. Harris?

> *You bring up the term as though it was synonymous
> with capitalism. It's not.*

I bring it up because it is associated with advertising.

> *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.*

Would suggest you stick with the definition:

<http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=free+market>

Main Entry: free market

Function: noun

an economic market operating by free competition

>

> *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).*

>

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non-sequitur

- >
- > *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.*
- >

It seems that you are back-pedaling.

- >
- > > *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 "marketeeing."*

Oops. Sorry, I did mean marketing.

- > *There are marketeers, but*
- > *what they are doing is properly called simply "marketing."*
- > *"Marketeeing", particularly when used with black markets, is some*
- > *kind of monstrous construction after the manner of racketeeing, 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.*
- > *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*

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- > *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?*
- >

You started with the view that "capitalism gives people what they want" and I countered with capitalism using advertising/marketing to convince people to buy (or eat) what they don't need (creating markets where none previously existed).

Servant to the humblest person in the universe,

Andrew

--

Dr. Andrew B. Chung, MD/PhD
Board-Certified Cardiologist
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