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# “Capitalism Besieged”

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In his pre-midterms column “Capitalism Besieged”, Robert Samuelson provides his brief comments on capitalism and on the books *Capitalism in America: A History* by Alan Greenspan and Adrian Wooldridge, as well as *Can American Capitalism Survive?* by his colleague Steven Pearlstein, both published just this fall, and just in time for the growing national debate pitting capitalism against socialism.

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**Is a socialist economic system necessary to create a “fair” economy? Or can capitalism be “fixed” to provide fairness? What is fairness anyway?**

Now we’re talking basic worldview. Your religious views, your socio-economic status, your education, even where you live will all influence your answers to the above questions.

Samuelson offers an interesting view by describing capitalism as more of a “spirit” with only a few ground rules. Greenspan and Wooldridge provide a timely review of the history of American capitalism which might be required reading before jumping into the capitalism/socialism argument. And Pearlstein presents a perspective that argues for a “reformed capitalism.” One thing is crystal clear: Fundamental facts and precepts are being questioned.

Questioning is the beginning of building a worldview. It can help you create an informed position in this discussion; it may even lead you to new and novel thoughts! Join the discussion now: PC membership.

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