

Introduction to Economics

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[a.k.a. Hillary's alma mater!]

ECONOMICS 101

(As they SHOULD have taught us in high school!?!?)

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- **NAZISM:** You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

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- **NAZISM:** You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.
- **BUREAUCRACY:** You have two cows. The government takes both, shoots one, and pours the milk down the drain.

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- **CLINTON'S NEW CAPITALISM:** You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. You put the cow up in the Lincoln bedroom and outsource the bull's job to China. Then you shoot the bull and blame the mess on a vast right-wing conspiracy headquartered at your daughter's undergraduate institution.

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- **W'S NEW CAPITALISM:** You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. The bull dies from hunger because all corn for feed is diverted to ethanol production. You attempt to create a new bull with stem cells from frozen cow embryos and produce only a new bull pancreas. Nevertheless, you declare "Mission Accomplished".
- **OBAMA'S NEW CAPITALISM – ????**

Dialogue From the Reagan Years:

John Sununu (then Governor of New Hampshire):

“You’re telling us that the reason things are so bad is that they are so good, and they will get better as soon as they get worse?”

James A. Baker (then Secretary of the Treasury):

“You got it.”

“Economists do not know very much; other people, including the politicians who make economic policy, know even less about economics than economists do...most of the economics that is usable for advising is at about the level of the introductory undergraduate course.”

Herbert Stein

“Why does public discussion of economic policy so often show the abysmal ignorance of the participants? Why do I so often want to cry at what public figures, the press, and television commentators say about economic affairs?”

Robert M. Solow

“Competition...brings about the only...
arrangement of social production which is
possible...[Otherwise] what guarantee [do] we
have that the necessary quantity and not more of
each product will be produced, that we shall not
go hungry in regard to corn and meat while we
are choked in beet sugar and drowned in potato
spirit, that we shall not lack trousers to cover our
nakedness while buttons flood us in millions.”

??????????

“I think the essence of being an economist, especially a Chicago economist, has to do with learning to turn off all your emotions and say, ‘Let’s think abstractly about adoption or crime.’ We have a name for people who are innately really good at this. They’re psychopaths, people who are incapable of feeling guilt, or remorse, or any emotional reaction. So there’s a good reason, I guess, why one looks with a degree of nervousness at people who are really good at this activity [economics].”

Paul Romer

“...the ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler of a few years back.”

John Maynard Keynes

“Economists are... respectable professors of the dismal science”

Thomas Carlyle

“Economics is what economists do”

Jacob Viner

“Economics is the attempt to satisfy unlimited wants with limited means”

Lord Robbins

“Economics is mankind in the ordinary business of life”

Alfred Marshall

“You can’t always get what you want.”

The Rolling Stones