



Quicklet - Capitalism and Freedom

By Danny Fenster

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Quicklets: Learn more. Read Less. About Milton Friedman Milton Friedman was a Nobel prize-winning American economist and academic from the University of Chicago. He advised president Ronald Reagan, and his theories on limited government and free markets influenced politics well after Reagan. Friedman called himself a classic liberal, and opposed many forms of government regulation in pursuit of the widest feasible realm of freedom for the individual or family unit. He was also know for the book Free To Choose, co-written by his wife Rose. About Capitalism and Freedom This book formulates markets as chief proponents of personal freedoms and warns against the tyrannical force government can wield by intruding on economics. It describes the rise of capitalism occurring in tandem with the rise of freedom in general, and attempts to fight against what Milton Friedman saw as the expanding role of government in American and Western life after the second World War. **BOOK EXCERPT** From the Overall Summary: Friedman begins the book with a broad philosophical consideration of the relationship between free markets and free society, concluding that the two are inextricably and necessarily linked together. He traces his ideas to the European liberals of the eighteenth century, then describes the assault on these values through the first half of twentieth-century America. The liberal movement sparked a counter-movement among American intellectuals which sought increasing governmental control in the name of protecting the public, culminating in the New Deal. Friedman then goes on to argue that the role of government must be scaled back. Central planning, he says, will inevitably lead to violations of personal freedom. We need to agree on the laws, the rules of the game, and the government must enforce those laws. Beyond that, it must sit back and let us play the game as we choose. Trade restrictions are burdensome, hurtful to the economy and a dangerous overreach of government. The most effective way to turn a market economy into an authoritarian one, says Friedman, is to the impose direct controls on foreign exchange; one step in that direction leads to further controls. A free-floating exchange, based on the market, ought to decide international currency values, not government price settings. ...To be continued! Quicklets: Learn more. Read less.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Introduction
 - Background Information for "Capitalism and Freedom" by Milton Friedman

- Important People in “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman
- Key Terms and Definitions for “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman
- Major Themes in “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman
- ...and much more
- Chapter Summaries
 - “Capitalism and Freedom” Summary, Chapter 1: The Relation Between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom
 - “Capitalism and Freedom” Summary, Chapter 2: The Role of Government in a Free Society
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 - ...and much more
- Additional Reading
 - Related Online Content for “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman
 - Trivia for “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman
- Quicklet on Capitalism and Freedom by Milton Friedman (Book Summary)

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- Quicklet on Capitalism and Freedom by Milton Friedman (Book Summary)

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Danny Fenster is a graduate of the journalism school at Columbia College, where he studied long-form and narrative journalism. He has freelanced for "Time Out Chicago" and covered city politics as a staff writer at the news-and-culture website Gapers Block, as well as several community newspapers throughout Chicago. After some time working on poverty alleviation for non-profits in Northern California, he got lost in the mountains. He currently lives in Telluride, Colo., is a staff writer for the website ticklethewire.com, and is working on founding a magazine of local politics and culture.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Sanchez:

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Darlene Johnson:

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