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3[B] – The Revival of Ayn Rand eTOC G1 Chobun TypeB

G1 12-1

The 20th century American novelist and philosopher Ayn Rand originated the theory of Objectivism, an ideology that celebrates free-market capitalism as the best form of society and condemns altruism as a destructive force that threatens to smother human progress. Rand believed individuals had a right to pursue wealth and their own personal happiness before all else; indeed, she believes that if they did not do so, they were likely to become mere slaves to society. “Until and unless you discover that money is the root of all good,” she wrote, “you ask for your own destruction. When money ceases to become the means by which men deal with one another, then men become the tools of other men.” Rand’s views were shaped by her early history. She was born in Russia in 1905 to a wealthy business family. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, her father’s thriving pharmacy was confiscated by the Bolsheviks. Hating life in the new Soviet Union, she moved to the United States in 1925, becoming a citizen in 1931.



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- (38) According to Ayn Rand, the primary benefit of capitalism is that it
1. obliges people to measure their own personal happiness in terms of factors unrelated to financial success.
 2. does not restrict, on moral grounds, the freedom of capable people to act in their own self-interest.
 3. ensures the profits of all money-making enterprises are taxed equally, regardless of whether or not they are charitable organizations.
 4. guarantees the positive effects resulting from the increased productivity of successful people also reach the poorest people in society.

Further Questions

1) What is the theory of Objectivism?

It is an ideology that celebrates free-market capitalism as the best form of society and condemns altruism as a destructive force that threatens to smother human progress.

2) What happened to Ayn Rand’s father’s pharmacy?

It was confiscated by the Bolsheviks.

Objectivism contends that only unregulated capitalism can guarantee individual freedom. This means individuals must be allowed to succeed to the best of their abilities without interference from society. To succeed and maximize their profits, individuals must rely on their knowledge of objective reality, which they gain through perception and reason. In contrast to a widely held view of capitalism as a system that unfairly favors the wealthy and privileged, Objectivism holds that capitalism rewards the most creative, productive individuals and only penalizes the lazy and incompetent. Although the unchecked—and untaxed—productivity of creative individuals ultimately

generates material benefits for the entire society, this was a secondary issue for Rand. She felt capitalism was superior not because it was more productive, but because it was morally just. Unsuccessful individuals were fully responsible for their own failure because they were either unproductive or made poor decisions. Successful people, therefore, were under no obligation to be altruistic; equally, no individual had a right to appeal for charity from society at large.

Further Questions

3) What must a person do to succeed and maximize their profits?

They must rely on their knowledge of objective reality, which they gain through perception and reason.

4) What was Rand's primary reason for believing capitalism was superior?

She felt capitalism was superior not because it was more productive, but because it was morally just.

The long novels in which Rand dramatized these ideas not only influenced many general readers but also attracted a small circle of disciples who devoted themselves to spreading Objectivism throughout American society. One former Rand follower, *The Atlantic* correspondent James Fallows, has written that he initially bought into Objectivism's ideas because he grew up in a middle-class California neighborhood where "everyone had an equal chance at the brass ring." When he moved east to attend university in the late 1960s, however, he quickly learned a simple lesson: "Men do not have equal opportunities, nor any plausible chance of being rewarded in proportion to their merit." *Washington Post* journalist Susan Jacoby put it more bluntly. Rand claimed that the only choice is between oppression and capitalism: "Blood, whips and guns, or dollars. Take your choice: there is no other." Jacoby countered, "Rand apparently never heard of systems—say slavery—that depended on blood, whips, guns and dollars."

(39) What is implied by both James Fallows and Susan Jacoby?

1. Rand's ideas are more likely to hold appeal for those individuals who come from lower-income or politically repressed communities.
2. Rand's observations about human nature make sense, but her economic philosophy contains significant contradictions.
3. Rand's conclusions regarding capitalism are not an accurate reflection of the way the world actually works.
4. Rand's philosophy has been exploited by wealthy individuals who want to justify the advantages they were born with.

Further Questions

5) What did Rand do to influence people?

She wrote long novels in which she dramatized her ideas.

6) What lesson did James Fallows learn that made him change his mind about Rand?

80. *Men do not have equal opportunities, nor any plausible chance of being*
81. *rewarded in proportion to their merit.*

82. If Objectivism's themes of unregulated capitalism, individualism, minimal
83. taxation, and job creation depending entirely on the wealthy sound familiar to
84. many Americans today, it is because Rand's ideas have attracted renewed
85. attention with the rise of the conservative political movement known as the
86. Tea Party. Part members quote her, news articles about the Tea Party
87. reference her, and, more importantly, Tea Party-affiliated Congress members
88. are turning to her philosophy when creating their policy proposals.
89. Congressman Paul Ryan devised a budget proposal that would privatize social
90. programs such as health insurance for the poor and elderly, lower taxes on
91. corporations and the wealthy, and drastically cut the government's operating
92. budget—all policies Ryan admits were inspired by Objectivism. Even before
93. this recent revival, Alan Greenspan, head of the U.S. banking system from
94. 1987 to 2006, was paving the way for Objectivism. Greenspan was one of
95. Rand's closest friends and most faithful disciples. For decades, he promoted
96. Rand's ideas, helping to deregulate the banking industry, reduce the federal
97. government's role in regulating business, and arguing against CEO pay limits.

98. **(40)** The influence Objectivism has had on U.S. politics can be seen in the

99. **fact that**

100. 1. Policymakers are attempting to strengthen regulations in order to make it
101. more difficult for certain corporations to expand their businesses.
 102. 2. Many voters have admitted Rand's ideas enable them to more rationally
103. consider solutions to controversial political issues.
 104. 3. Politicians who adhere to Rand's philosophy have worked hard to make the
105. banking system stronger and more transparent.
 106. 4. Legislation has been proposed in Congress that would limit the financial
107. burden on businesses and take away the need for government-funded welfare
108. programs.
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Further Questions

109. **7) Why might Rand's ideas sound familiar?**

110. *It is because Rand's ideas have attracted renewed attention with the rise of the*
111. *conservative political movement known as the Tea Party.*

112. **8) What was Alan Greenspan's relationship to Ayn Rand?**

113. *He was one of Rand's closest friends and most faithful disciples.*

114. The recent focus on Rand's ideas has generated controversy. In Objectivism,
115. self-interest takes precedence over all else—including religion, sexual mores,
116. and traditional social values. Rand was a staunch atheist, believed that
117. abortion should be a legal right, and often spoke out against traditional ideas of
118. the family. Furthermore, because of her background, Rand denounced any kind
119. of "collective"; she was critical of organized groups, including political parties.

120. Many commentators point out the irony in the fact that the Tea Party, which is
121. often seen as a political arm of conservative religious factions, has become the
122. face of modern Objectivism. Tea Party members embrace economic Objectivism
123. but manage to conveniently ignore Rand's rejection of the traditional moral
124. values they hold dear—a paradox she would surely have found intolerable.

125. **(41) What is true of Tea Party members' promotion of Objectivism?**

126. 1. Although they believe self-interest should be prioritized over religion, they
127. emphasize that their views on social values are different from Rand's.

128. 2. They tend to support Rand's position on faith, ethical standards, and
129. morality, but they remain silent on her economic ideas.

130. 3. Although they agree that organized movements should be avoided, they
131. have been willing to align with existing political parties to further their
132. agenda.

133. 4. They are vocal about their support of Rand's economic philosophy despite
134. the fact that many of her ideals are in opposition to their own beliefs.
135.

136. **Further Questions**

137. **9) In Objectivism, what does self-interest take precedence over?**

138. *It takes precedence over all else—including religion, sexual mores, and*
139. *traditional social values.*

140. **10) How does the philosophy of the Tea Party differ from Ayn Rand?**

141. *Tea Party ignores Rand's rejection of the traditional moral values they hold*
142. *dear.*

142. 解答: (38)2 (39)3 (40) 3 (41) 4



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