

Week 2 January 20: MLK Day

Week 3 January 27: “Other Roads to Utopia: The Anti-Capitalist Narratives and Their Application”

Throughout US history, and now on an international stage, we see three distinctive anti-capitalist narratives. The Populist narrative is skeptical of capitalism’s tendency to aggregate economic power and the resulting disparities in wealth. The Progressive narrative seeks to place the government in the role of harnessing business influence and reforming corrupt practices. The anti-technology narrative is skeptical of modernity and the impacts of material progress on our spiritual and moral fabric. We will examine both the historical and contemporary manifestations of these narratives and their impact on the business-political relationship.

Reading: Jeffrey Birnbaum and Alan Murray, *Gucci Gulch*, (Chapters 1-3), 3-64 (text)
Claudio Katz, “Democratic and Communitarian Critiques of Capitalism,”
in *The American Political Science Review* (June, 1997) 277-289 (posted)

Week 4 February 3: “Corporations without Borders: The Irrelevance of US Politics to Business”

The reality of global business today is that national borders are less relevant than they were even a decade ago. Moreover, the digital revolution is further eroding traditional market barriers in ways that are just barely understood. In this asymmetrical, sometime chaotic environment, what is the relevance of domestic US politics for multinational corporations? Are US companies shopping for the best political economy? Should we be concerned if we lose traditional “US based” companies because of political policies? What if anything do we mean by “Corporate America?” Does it remain a relevant term in the political context?

Reading: Birnbaum and Allen, *Gucci Gulch*, (Chapters 4-5), 65-125
Stewart Patrick, “The Unruled World” *Foreign Affairs* (posted)

Week 5 February 10: “Beyond State Capitalism: What Should Politics Demand from Business?”

Given the state of US capitalism as we have now described it and the reach of the corporate form, is our

The Potential Role of a Carbon Tax in U.S. Fiscal Reform, Brookings Institute, Executive Summary (posted)

James E. McCarthy and Claudia Copeland, *EPA Regulations: Too Much, Too Little, or On Track?* 1-16 (posted)

Birnbaum and Allen, *Gucci Gulch*, Chapters 10-11, 234-283 (posted)

Week 14 April 14: “Snowdon and the Eisenhower: The Emergent Security-Industrial Complex”

Dwight Eisenhower’s farewell speech on the danger to democracy from what he famously described as the “military industrial complex,” is currently still very much with us. What this most decorated and respected general warned might become another form of tyranny has now taken on yet another dimension since 9-11. Today an enormous national security 0B383