ANYTHING THAT'S PEACEFUL THE CASE FOR THE FREE MARKET

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649008889

Anything that's peaceful the case for the free market by Leonard E. Read

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

LEONARD E. READ

ANYTHING THAT'S PEACEFUL THE CASE FOR THE FREE MARKET



ANYTHING THAT'S PEACEFUL





ANYTHING THAT'S PEACEFUL

The Case for the Free Market

LEONARD E. READ



The Foundation for Economic Education, Inc. Irvington-on-Hudson, New York 1964

THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER

Leonard E. Read, author of Conscience of the Majority, Government—An Ideal Concept, Miracle of the Market, Students of Liberty, Why Not Try Freedom?, Elements of Libertarian Leadership, and other books and articles, is President of the Foundation for Economic Education, organized in 1946.

The Foundation is an educational champion of private ownership, the free market, the profit and loss system, and limited government. It is nonprofit and nonpolitical. Sample copies of the Foundation's monthly study journal, THE FREEMAN, are available on request.

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1964

Copyright 1964, by Leonard E. Read. Permission to reprint granted without special request. • PRINTED IN U.S.A.



CONTENTS

Page

1. A BREAK WITH PREVAILING FAITH

1

Let anyone do anything, so long as his actions are peaceful; limit government to keeping the peace. The author's premise. Incorruptibility defined and its importance emphasized.

2. THE AMERICAN SETTING: PAST AND PRESENT

10

A review of our evolutionary past should help us to better cope with the devolutionary theories and practices of the present.

3. STRIFE AS A WAY OF LIFE

31

Socialism rests on raw violence. Peaceful people rarely carry noncompliance far enough to discover this shocking fact about our "social gains."

4. SOCIALISM IS NONCREATIVE

46

Socialism only gives the appearance of being productive. What we mistake for socialism's achievement is free human energy pushing its way through the stifling bureaucratic regimentation.

HOW SOCIALISM HARMS THE INDIVIDUAL

58

When the individual forsakes or has taken from him a sense of self-responsibility, he loses the very essence of his being.

6. HOW SOCIALISM HARMS THE ECONOMY

72

Socialism gives rise to unnatural and unmarketable human efforts and specialties, exchangeable only under duress. If this persists, our once dynamic economy will spin apart!

HOW PRESSURE GROUPS PROMOTE INFLATION

82

Labor unions cause inflation precisely as do chambers of commerce and all other groups which seek handouts from the federal treasury; not, as is commonly supposed, by way of price and wage "spirals."

8. APPOINT A COMMITTEE!

89

Committees tend to absolve individuals from personal responsibility for positions taken, thus permitting careless and irresponsible actions which seriously threaten the peace.

9. REGARDLESS OF CHOICE, VOTE!

108

Voting presupposes a choice. Citizens have no moral obligation to cast a ballot for the "lesser of two evils," or for one of two trimmers; trimming is not comparative, since every trimmer is without integrity.

CONTENTS ix

10. ON KEEPING THE PEACE

124

The real and revealing distinction between the socialist, on the one hand, and the student of liberty, on the other, is a difference of opinion as to what peaceful actions others should be prohibited from taking.

ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE— OR A PENCIL

136

Creative human energies combine miraculously to form a jet plane, a symphony, a pencil, just as molecules combine to form a living tree.

12. THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN ECONOMICS

144

The most important discovery in economic science may be stated in a simple sentence. If fully mastered, it is all the economics the layman needs to know.

13. THE GREATEST COMPUTER ON EARTH 157

The free market computer, if permitted to operate, requires no attendants and its services are free. It can automatically receive billions of flowing data daily, giving off simple signals in the form of prices.

14. MAIL BY MIRACLE

171

Let anyone deliver catalogues and letters as freely as we are permitted to deliver freight or sound or human beings. An explanation of why so many people mistakenly believe that mail delivery could not possibly be left to private enterprise.