

Arguments for Capitalism

- **Capitalism allows ownership of property** – people can buy a house and leave it to their kids.
- **Intellectual property also exists** - inventors can invent things and copyright their inventions to make money from them.
- **Wealth equals freedom** - without wealth individuals have limited choice in their lives. Capitalism allows individuals to work hard and become wealthy.
- **Capitalism means having more choice.** There is more choice of goods to buy from home and abroad. **Free markets** mean we get to choose between goods from our country and imports from foreign countries
- **More profit means progress.** Profit is encouraged under capitalism which encourages hard work and makes peoples' lives better for all
- **Capitalism encourages competition** – competition means as buyers we get lower prices and often better quality goods.
- **Capitalism will solve environmental problems-** science & technology investment will come up with 'green' solutions, e.g. electric cars, renewable energy

Arguments against Capitalism

- **Capitalism exploits workers** – employers pay workers the lowest wage possible to maximise their own profits.
- **Capitalism encourages war** - Countries go to war to protect their own financial interests – e.g. the West (USA & UK) invaded Iraq in 2003 over oil and gas, not to spread democracy.
- **Capitalism encourages unemployment** – this is so there will always be others to replace workers who refuse to work for low pay.
- **Capitalism threatens the environment** – it encourages us to make and buy things we don't need polluting the environment in the process. The richest countries in the world pollute it the most.
- **Capitalism encourages waste** - Companies deliberately make things that won't last so that we need to keep buying new products
- Capitalist 'ownership' is theft- the idea of owning things is to stop others getting or using things, it is not based on letting people use things that they need– e.g. why does copyright protect pharmaceutical companies' drugs and their profits when if they were free to use they could save human lives? Why own several homes when there are thousands homeless?

Arguments for Communism

- **Communism creates a harmonious society** – the world is a better place if people receive what they need and contribute what they can, e.g. if I am a Doctor then I can help people with my knowledge but I may need people to clear my rubbish – am I better than them and more deserving of more money that I don't really need???
- **Communism views humanity positively** – humans are social animals; eventually by living together and cooperating we all benefit, e.g. we have food, company, help, love etc.
- **Communism would bring an end to wars** – if everyone had what they needed there would be no need for individuals or countries to fight over land or materials
- **Communism abolishes ownership** – in a world where there is plenty everything is divided according to what people need, e.g. if there is enough food there is no need for hunger.
- **Communism allows people to develop their talents and skills** - people would only need to do what work was necessary and then have time to pursue leisure and recreation activities; educating themselves and bettering themselves.
- **Communism encourages environmentalism** – there is no need to use more than we need if everything is shared equally. This means less waste and less pollution. Mankind should live in harmony with nature.

Arguments against Communism

- **Communism doesn't encourage progress** – why would people work hard when they will not be rewarded, while others who work less will get more???
- **Communism tries to control people** – in communist countries the police and authorities can arrest, imprison, torture or execute people without trial or evidence.
- **Communism limits individual choice** - e.g. in a communist country the government will dictate the work, wage level and how the individual lives. The needs of the country are put before the individual's need.
- **Communism takes away individual freedoms** – e.g. in a communist countries religion is not tolerated.
- **Communism leads to dictatorships** – look at the Soviet, Chinese and Cuban examples; no Democratic Elections, only one Party (the Communist Party), no political choice.
- **Communism cannot meet the needs of its peoples**, e.g. in China and the Soviet Union millions died due to starvation and famine
- **Communism steals private property from people** – under communism you are not allowed to 'own' things so the government can take them away from you.