

The Popular Capitalist View

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<http://www.popular-capitalist.org>

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Popular Capitalism Realizes Goals of Populist Movement

Offers a Way Out of Perpetual Crises and Blame in Washington

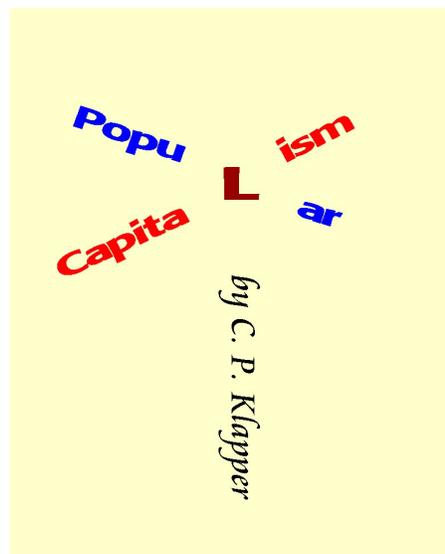
By **C. P. KLAPPER**

PISCATAWAY, Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – To those unfamiliar with "popular capitalism" and how I have been using that term since the early 1980's, it is a political-economic philosophy which seeks to achieve the goals of populism through capitalism. This results from applying economic reasoning to the entire system of political, legal and economic power, as I show in my book of the same name. The reason for taking this classical approach is not because of its effectiveness in predicting economic outcomes, but because it establishes a basis for the equitable allocation of costs and benefits which, in turn, discourages decisions that are damaging and encourages decisions which are helpful. It is a matter of laying down a fair set of rules for a game so that the players can feel that the game is worthwhile. If this is not done, then the unfairly treated players will, in one way or another, take their ball away and go home. One of the major conclusions of my book is that the critical point of fairness is that government should pay the costs of sovereignty and that those costs are the provision of survival value, the provision of the necessities

These beliefs place Popular Capitalism at odds with the major political parties, especially with their national leadership, a key point of contention being that populism is an advocate for all people, individually and without exception, while national parties are primarily advocates for national candidates, especially those who get elected. To put it more bluntly, political parties are labor unions for officeholders and career politicians. This had made populists highly suspicious, if not antagonistic, to political parties, especially the

quintessentially national Democratic Party.

Its opposition to partisan politics is made all the greater because of its capitalist sentiments, because of the diversion of capital to the wasteful enterprise of electioneering. If one truly wishes to serve the interests of the people and qualified to do so, there is no reason to conduct polls to fish out the issue that will garner a majority vote. You should know what you want to do, tell the people those goals and let the people decide. Anything else is waste as far as the people are concerned.



"Popular Capitalism" is available in trade paperback from certain booksellers and through the web site at www.popular-capitalist.org

If we strip the party labels off of the political philosophies which characterize the national parties, there is still no home for the popular capitalist. The conservatives who have taken control of the national Republican Party will not admit the cost of sovereignty, but foolishly think that peace and order can survive the wrath of a populace which has been taxed into poverty and

their consequent exploitation. Liberal apologists for the national Democratic Party also will not admit the cost of sovereignty, but claim instead that people need to be entitled to receive the bread that keeps them from starving. This bread, these liberals claim, comes from government, so that they cannot be fully separate from partisan career politics. A more centrist or "moderate" position uses employment as a way of getting bread to the people. The manipulation of the market or wasteful public spending by which they "generate jobs" are far more costly than simply paying for the bread, thus making the country poorer and less able to afford that bread.

The popular capitalist is vehemently opposed to all of these because the people are not served. Popular Capitalism seeks power for everyone, individually and without exception, with more power to those who more enhance the lives, well-being and power of their neighbors. The weakest among us should not be fed to the sharks, as the conservative will do. They should not become a slave and beggar to the state, as the liberals want. They should not become the slave of an employer propped up by our taxes and credit, through the legerdemain of the moderates. They should not become slaves, beggars or casualties. Popular Capitalism wants the people, even the weakest, to be free, alive and able to work where they can be most productive, being fairly rewarded for their success and fairly bearing the cost of failure.

The national political parties, though, have thrown a wrench in the works. We are kept a far remove from the provision of the necessities with a perpetual cycle of crises and recriminations. Any attempt to return power to the people in this climate will be rebuffed by the frantic worries of the professional politician. To put these worries to rest, I wrote a much smaller volume, "The Way Out or How Electronic Revenue Credits Can: End the Debt Crisis, Open Government and Restart the Economy" or "The Way Out" for short. This is an eBook and is also available on the web site, <http://www.popular-capitalist.org>. It is a short text and there is therefore no reason to summarize it here. It is also only 99 cents to download. Anyone who can afford a computer or a smart-phone can

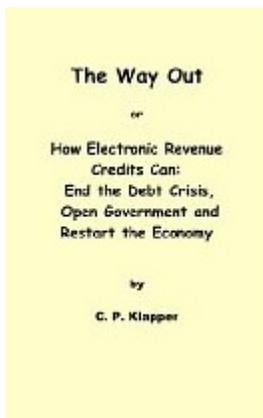
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afford to download “The Way Out”. This is not me being petulant about misplaced notions about what should be free – but I have every reason to complain about that – but a simple statement of a fact that impinges on my ability to put an idea before the general public. Every online purchase of this book increases its visibility to other online shoppers. Every online purchase makes an online review possible. If there are many online reviews, my book gains credibility, prompting others to buy it out of curiosity. All of this is far more important than the 35 cents I get from each actual sale. The point is to create the interest needed to force “The Way Out” into the national media and, from there, into an implementation in the federal government.



NOTE: The link for getting eBook readers is http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=diag_arl_box?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771 but you could probably find it on the Amazon web site faster than you could type that URL.

We Have an Election Coming

No Need to Waste Your Vote But Let Us Think About Effectiveness Going Forward

By **C. P. KLAPPER**

PISCATAWAY, Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – You and I have both been there: an election and every name on the ballot seems a waste of a vote. Enough citizens have felt that way for so long that they do not bother registering to vote or going to the polls on election day. Rather than sink to that level of despair, however, I have adopted another strategy that assures that my vote is not wasted on

the worst of two evils by somebody's calculations: I write myself in.

This strategy assures that my vote does not give a mandate to a politician likely to do great damage to us all. Those who fall for the “evil” pitch of the politicians should remember this whenever one of these yahoos claims a mandate to do something they do not fully support. They should also remember this when the politician they support fails to do what they promised to do. Whose vote is wasted now?

Of course, you may actually support the one you helped vote in office and are entirely pleased with their performance. There is one more matter that such contentment fails to address, though, of which the partisan voter should ponder deeply. There are other candidates for other offices which benefit from their association with your favorite candidate's party. By voting for your candidate as the party candidate, you are also voting for those other party candidates with whom you are not so pleased. That less desirable candidate won their election partly because of the party brand which you, by your partisan vote, promoted. That brand association is often the deciding factor, certainly against non-branded challengers, and so your vote helped to elect all of those other politicians from your party which embarrass you.

There are then only three options available to disgruntled voters: vote for yourself, vote for someone who is not on the ballot, or run for office yourself. Of the three, the first option is certainly a vote for someone of whom you approve, but you will not get elected unless there are many people writing you in under their second option. If you choose the second option, you still may not get someone elected of whom you approve, there have been very few write-in candidates elected. These are not wasted votes, but also not effective ones. There is more promise in the third option.

There are four choices for the disgruntled voter running for office themselves. One is to put yourself forward as a write-in candidate. For all of its quixotic nature, this is the only choice available this late in the campaign season. Last minute publicity could make this viable since mobile communications are more extensive and more available to the last minute candidate. In my own case, my work on “Popular Capitalism”, and my need to catch up on the rent and other bills which were neglected in those last weeks of editing, left me having to work long hours writing software and precluded my getting around to collect signatures to get my name on the ballot.

[**Note:** If you are interested in writing me in, you would type my name “**Carl Peter Klapper**”.

I am currently a resident of Piscataway, in Middlesex County, in the State of New Jersey.]

More planning is needed for the other three choices. Choice two is to run as an independent. This means that you do not have even the minimal advertising and election day support of a third-party candidate, which is choice number three. Third-party candidates, however, also do not fare as well in a two-party environment. They do not get invited to debates. They do not get mentioned by the candidates of the main parties, even in an attack ad. However brilliant their message, third-party candidates will be ignored by the two main parties and their press because such candidates are a threat to their political cartel.

This leaves us, and me, with the fourth option, running as a candidate of one of the two main parties. It may be too late for this election, but we can lay the groundwork for the next and future contests. The key is to bring our own voters into the party. Needless to say, I completely rule out the Democratic Party, whose history with Populist candidates have been acrimonious and whose rank hypocrisy does not sit well with me. This leaves the Republican Party, which has the advantage that the local organizations have been regularly at odds with the national party leadership. We can take it over at the local level in the same way that the conservatives did in 1964 and the Tea Party did after the Great Crash of 2008.

In fact, taking the local Republican parties over as Popular Capitalists has more merit than those previous takeovers. For it has become clear to me, upon reflection, that Popular Capitalism not only completes the populist idea, but the civic republican one as well. My notion of the college is also a communitarian view of the people. My notion of urban federalism refines the republican rougher notion of states having control over their own affairs in a superficial federalism. On other hand, the obsession of conservatives with private control of everything, down to the civic functions which civic republicanism holds to be public in nature, proves that “conservative Republican” is an oxymoron. This may account for the otherwise inexplicable bouts of “moderation” in Republican primaries: there are real Republicans still in local communities who push back on the Conservative “Reprivatans” every so often by voting instead for the Wall Street Establishment candidate. If I am right about this, we may find ourselves welcomed by a Civic Republican majority in New Jersey longing for a movement which can bring the GOP back to its ideological roots without catering to interests antithetical to Republicanism.

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