

Mr. Lindblom dislikes a doctrinaire attitude toward anything. He incessantly encourages the pragmatic approach to economics (and, for that matter, to everything else). It naturally follows that any reliance on absolutes, or any reference to infeasible "rights," is unwarranted and anachronistic. Early in the year, Mr. Lindblom initiates his classes in his pragmatism with respect to both ends and means.

It was in his second or third lecture in the fall of 1948, when I was enrolled in his class, that Mr. Lindblom stated that one of his foremost ambitions in teaching the course was "to disabuse as many of you as possible of 15th century [*sic*] notions about capitalism." The first subject of his assault was the concept of the right of private property, which, he stated, no enlightened society, no reputable philosopher, can uphold.

My abbreviated lecture notes read somewhat as follows:

"After all, let's take the Ford Motor Company. What sort of success would Henry Ford have had if he had built his plant in the middle of the Sahara Desert? None, of course. It is seen, therefore, that his wealth is only partly attributable to his own enterprise and ingenuity. These qualities would have availed him nothing had it not been for the community—whose services and labor he enlisted, whose materials he used, and whose citizens gave him his profits. It is easy to see from this that it is not the community that is indebted to Mr. Ford for his contributions to their standard of living, but rather Mr. Ford who is indebted to the community for making possible his success. Hence, the rewards that he reaped

William F. Buckley, Jr., *God and Man at Yale*  
*The Supremacy of "Academic Freedom"*  
 (Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1951)

properly belong to the community, which must now determine, through *legislative* policy, to what extent Mr. Ford should be rewarded."

From this illustration, it is a short step to the subservience of the individual to the society, whose wishes are, of course, uniquely expressed through the mechanisms of the state.