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English 1020

***Capitalism: A Love Story* Analysis**

In the past decade many life altering moments have shifted the way the American people perceive theology, democracy, our government, and our capitalistic economy. Michael Moore tackles the concept of Capitalism and its effects on the rich, the poor, and the evil, in his latest documentary Capitalism: A Love Story. The credibility of Moore has been debated intensively between liberals who generally believe he provides informative facts, where as their counterparts, conservatives, believe Moore knit picks and fabricates his facts in order to get his point of view across. However, let it be noted that Moore has filmed the documentary Roger & Me, on the effects of capitalism in more specifically his hometown city of Flint, MI, twenty years ago.

Capitalism in the movie has been defined by multiple people as “evil,” “sinful and immoral,” as well as “counter the teachings of Jesus” (Auxiliary Bishop emeritus Thomas Gumbleton). Now the official definition of capitalism by dictionary.com is “an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations, esp. as contrasted to cooperatively or state-owned means of wealth.” The reason why capitalism is defined so harshly by Moore is because he believes it is designed so that intelligently greedy people may exploit it in their schematic fashions. Some specific cases used in the documentary include Pennsylvania's Privately owned juvenile detention center “PA Child Care,” who in a simple way of putting it paid off judges to send kids into this center where they were detained for big profit. Robert Powell was an entrepreneur who formulated a plot with his associate former Judge Michael Conahan into shutting down the government owned juvenile detention center and having the government lease Powell's privately owned facility. This is where former Judge Mark Ciavarella would unjustly prosecute juveniles into PA Child Care. Unjustly prosecutions included imposing a school principal on www.myspace.com and another was of a boy who threw a piece of steak at his step-father. Another “exploiter” of capitalism was Amegy Banking, who secretly profited from an employee's death, Daniel Johnson, by buying a life insurance policy on his life. Amegy Banking received a check for over 1.5 million dollars for his death. Michael Moore interviews Erma Johnson, the widow of Daniel, and runs through her emotional distress on unintentionally finding out that the bank has greatly benefited financially for her husband’s death. But these exploitations are considered small scale compared to the Big Banking and Insurance Agency's who have instilled themselves deep into the government on a national level and influence practically all legal legislation and decisions.

Moore gets real specific about the banking group Goldman Sachs. Goldman Sachs is an international bank the predominately invests in the United States. Moore does extensive research and provides horrifying facts about the influence Goldman Sachs has in Washington D.C. Henry “Hank” Paulson, the secretary of treasury throughout the Bush administration, and also the former CEO of Goldman Sachs prior to his government job, was the man who proposed the infamous 700 billion dollar bailout. Not surprisingly his former company was handed 13 billion dollars from tax payer money due to his “hard efforts to save the economy.” It is also notable to state that Hank Paulson left his CEO position with a net worth of 700 million dollars. Lastly, Goldman Sachs also contributed a million dollars toward the Obama campaign after noticing he was taking lead in the presidential candidacy.

An interesting method Moore voices his issue with the exploitations of capitalism is using specific people's situation where they are being foreclosed. Moore opens the documentary with a gentleman whose house has not only been foreclosed, but boarded up so he may not enter. There is a group of neighbors who stand for him and support him. Another family is being foreclosed from their farm and have nowhere to go. These specific examples portray the struggles real people are faced with and it is evident that Moore is attempting to tweak his audience members into truly grasping the emotional breakdown of people’s financial depletion.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt had attempted to implement a 2nd Bill of Rights, or also of known as the Economic Bill of Rights, in which it would guarantee; employment with a living wage, freedom from unfair competition and monopolies, housing, medical care, education, and Social Security. This proposition was aired live on television in front of millions of audience members during his State of the Union. Michael Moore adds this final portion into his documentary as an attempt to re-ignite such a proposed bill.

Michael Moore directs documentaries, that is his profession, so naturally his piece of literature would best fit as a documentary, rather than a book or a movie. The positives of making this into a documentary is the audience members get to see real people who are in real tears, tell there story first hand. Another would be the concept of visual learning, Moore throws statistics and graphs in the movie while audible stating them. This helps because the audible is enforced by the visuals or vice-versa.

Michael Moore in his diligence to progress our nation has made many friends as well as enemies. Although many may disagree with his political or economic thoughts, not many could argue against his ability to persuade people through his hard-line statistics; sarcastic manner; “down to earth” mentality; and his ability to play with the audiences emotions whether to have them sympathetic or rowdy and rallied up for change. Moore uses Capitalism: A Love Story as a medium to shift the mentality that the American people have had for so long on Capitalism.

Credits

*Capitalism: A Love Story*, directed by Michael Moore. 2009

www.dictionary.com/capitalism