

The Relationship between the Foundations of the Second Generation of Human Rights and the Theoretical Foundations of Capitalism

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Abstract

The second generation of human rights emerges from a specific theological context and in contrast to the mainstream of economic thought. This means that concepts such as social justice cannot find a place within a system that relies on the free market and the sanctity of private property. This difference in foundations manifests itself in a wide-ranging conflict between advocates of the second generation of human rights (the left) and economic freedoms (liberals). Understanding the fundamental difference between these two spheres of human life, while at the same time understanding the global unity that both influence, requires an approach to their relationship that, while paying attention to their fundamental separation, focuses on the possibilities of each of these spheres, and suggests a way to moderate them in practice.

Keywords: Human rights; second generation; capitalism; liberalism; neoliberalism.

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