

In his book *Holy Cows & Hog Heaven* Joel Salatin calls himself a fulltime Christian libertarian capitalist environmentalist farmer. I think this is one time that Joel got it wrong. He is a distributist.

We all have been taught and are familiar with the two economic models that compete against each other and that we think are opposites, capitalism and socialism. Socialism is the belief that the government should control everything and will take care of those that live under its system, while capitalism promotes the freedom of the individual to pursue and accumulate personal wealth. The end game of socialism is that the government owns everything, you own nothing and supposable the government will take care of your every need. The end game of capitalism, which the game of Monopoly is the prime example, is where one person owns everything and everyone else is in the poor house. Neither of the economic systems, if brought to the final conclusion brings happiness to the masses, to you and me, unless of course you win at monopoly. But even than you might find that it may be pretty lonely and dangerous being at the top. Socialism brought to its final end game, would on the surface seem to be the better end. But socialism squashes the entrepreneurial spirit and therefore the spirit of man and as we have seen with the collapse of communism world wide, if the entrepreneurial spirit is stifled so is the economy. There is a third economic model that is mostly unheard of and that is why Joel Salatin did not use it to describe himself, Distributism. With distributism, wealth is distributed by the promotion and of the purchasing goods from the small landowners and the small single proprietorship business. The distributist believes that man is only happy and the most productive if he owns something. He has something that he can call his. Joel Salatin is a distributist. He does not buy and or get patents for all the gadgets and things he has invented to become successful on his farm. He has not franchised his model of taking care of the land and of bringing good healthy food to his customers. He promotes and wants to see the proliferation of his farming model spread across the globe and he is tireless in promoting single family entrepreneurial farming. Joel Salatin is a distributist. Find and read his books especially the last two *Holy Cow & Hog Heaven* the Food Buyers Guide to Farm Friendly Food, and *Everything I Want to Do Is Illegal* War Stories from the Local Food Front, for a taste of what it takes to own and run a small entrepreneurial farm selling locally grown food to a demanding and hungry public.

You, our supporters, by purchasing the products grown locally by the producers of the Whole Farm coop, buy into this economic model called Distributism. With your purchases you are following the only avenue left to those of us who seek a build a new culture of fairness and sustainability. A culture that seeks out farmers that are good caretakers of the earth and supporting them financially and emotionally in their endeavor to create a new food culture that adds and not subtracts to the happiness of the whole. We cannot count on the Governmental help to bring on this new age. Every time we add a new law or regulation it only ends up working to further stifle the entrepreneurial spirit that this country is so desperately in need of. It is you, who support, who care enough to search out locally sustainably grown farm friendly food, that offer the most hope that change to our food system can happen. A hope of a new food system that creates opportunities for the future that adds and not detracts from the happiness of all.

Thank you for all you do; thank you for every purchase you make through the Whole Farm coop. Your support means the world to us.

Marty Primus