feedback

Intervention causes injustice

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Morrison displays another misunderstanding of altruism when he says an employer cannot be an altruist if his employees enjoy working for him. A businessman is not altruistic when he improves his employees' working conditions. He knows that improved conditions will improve his workers' productivity. If conditions are bad, his employees may quit. The businessman will not provide infinite comfort, but some level is optimal.

Ah, Morrison might object, but workers can be replaced. Yes, this is true, but it is not without a cost to the businessman. At some attrition rate, he will be motivated to find out why everyone's leaving. And it will be in his own interest to implement and maintain changes. Since the workers are free to do other jobs, they will stay where they are until it is in their best interest to leave. Worker quality varies. Thus there is a competition between employers for good employees. It behooves a businessman to keep efficient people, and so for his own benefit he cares about their happiness.

Labor unions fit into the anti-altruist world easily. Everyone has the same rights to assemble, talk and quit. Individuals or groups of workers make demands of their employer, but the employer can refuse to listen to them. They can decide to work elsewhere. They can peacefully protest, but anyone can cross their line. Unless one party initiates physical force, the government has absolutely no role to play.

Only when a government intervenes in economics, destroying the freedom of choice that is the lifeblood of trade, and all human relations, do monopolies, wars, and injustice occur. When people believe that their lives are the property of anything other than their own selves, further scenarios like the Third Reich are inevitable.

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