

Two New Books Discuss Solutions for American Political and Economic Challenges *(Support Materials)*

Why TWO books?

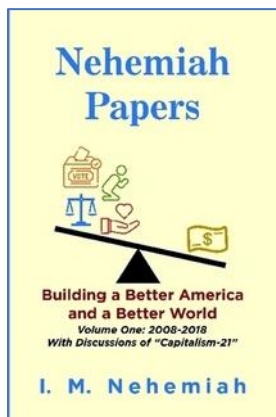
Nehemiah Papers presents **14 serious essays** that relate to American issues and proposed solutions, including **Capitalism 21**.

A Capitalist Carol is a **novella** that shows **socio-economic challenges and solutions** as they relate to life in America and other countries. Historical fiction helps us personalize the **societal challenges and increase our humane feelings**.

Essential Information

- Visit www.capitalism21.org for information about both books and access for ordering, including discounts and sign-up for newsletters.
- Copies for reviewers are available from the lead author, Dr. Paul S. Anderson, who is available for questions & interviews: editor@capitalism21.org

Why now? The current state of capitalism and politics in America makes these essays and story **particularly compelling and impactful for each of us, our nation, and our world**. Indeed, the incoming 116th US Congress (2019 – 2020) could implement some of the proposed changes, especially with a “moral center” to overcome partisan politics and the “Party of No” (see excerpt below.)



Nehemiah Papers (NP) presents solutions that draw upon **the best principles and ideas from both political parties**, likely to **appeal to the moral center** of America.

Capitalism can be viewed as a series of eras from Capitalism-17 (Adam Smith) to current Capitalism-20 (Reaganomics). **The proposal for Capitalism-21** offers real and balanced solutions for our future.

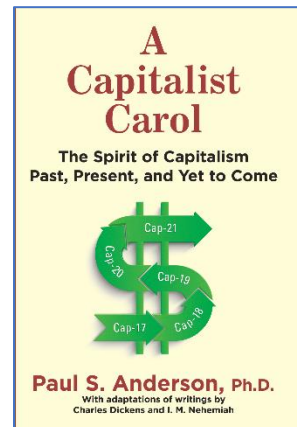
The **Five Realms of Power** are out of balance. Current Capitalism in America unjustly facilitates **economic power** (money) to exert excessive influence over **governance, religion, justice, and love**. Capitalism-21 can improve balance, including an emphasis on the **promotion and recognition of service** (an expression of love) by all Americans.

The fourteen Nehemiah Papers discuss core issues and propose **tough solutions that, when deployed together, can transform America and the world**.

A Capitalist Carol (CC) transforms Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* into a **21st Century tale of American capitalism** as seen in the life of near-billionaire, former Governor Edward Rouge. Rouge is a protégé of renowned economics professor Jonah Farley, a leading developer of **Reaganomics, the basis of Capitalism-20**.

Farley died in 2010, having lived to see the Great Recession. His ghost visits Rouge who is the head of the US delegation to the 2012 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Then three spirits reveal to Rouge his own conflicted family history and **the difficult realities of American and world economic development**.

Woven into the events is a **summary of a solutions-based blueprint for Capitalism-21, as provided in the *Nehemiah Papers*** that are discussed at the Earth Summit. Unlike the joyous ending of Dickens' tale, the conclusion of *A Capitalist Carol* is perplexing and more thought provoking.



About the Authors

I. M. Nehemiah is the allonym of one or more adult Americans who collectively write about America, as did three patriots in 1788 who wrote the *Federalist Papers* under the allonym of Publius. Ancient Nehemiah was the rebuilders of Jerusalem around 440 BC. Modern I. M. Nehemiah works to rebuild America in the 21st Century. Dr. Paul S. Anderson is the compiler of this book and designated contact editor for the collective I. M. Nehemiah efforts. He can be reached at: editor@capitalism21.org.

Paul S. Anderson, PhD, is a Vietnam War veteran and retired university professor concerned about the future of America and the world. He holds degrees from Augustana College, the University of California-Berkeley, and the Australian National University. He has lived twenty adult years outside of the United States, including when he was a Fulbright Professor in Brazil and Mozambique. He has been an active Rotarian for nearly forty years. He is an expert and leader regarding TLUD (tee-lud) micro-gasification of biomass for stoves and charcoal for biochar. Dr. Anderson founded and leads Juntos Energy Solutions NFP, a non-profit dedicated to energy solutions for the poor worldwide.

Understanding the “Party of No” and Resolving the Problem with a [Moral Center].

Commentary 9: (August 2018) in *A Capitalist Carol*, pp. 95 – 97. [Edited here.]

The term “Party of No” means nope, negative, non-accepting, opposition, blocking and against whatever is proposed. During the Obama administration, Republicans were the Party of No. During the Trump administration, Democrats are the Party of No. In an antagonistic two-party system, the one in the minority tries to block the majority; activities focus more on blocking or reaching a majority (with back-room dealings) than on the issues that need attention.

Consider the U.S. Senate with 100 votes (very convenient when discussing percentages). A 50-50 split is a tie (and the Vice President gets to cast the deciding vote). But 49-51 means ONE person decides which side has the majority. So, what if there were 5 senators (5%) who were truly independent of both parties. Bernie Sanders is an “independent.” And the Tea-Party members like to show their independence. However, Sanders and the Tea Party are at the extremes of the Democrats and Republicans, respectively. They are already counted with their respective mainstream parties.

Instead, what we need are 5 or 10 senators who truly are in the middle and are truly independent of the pressures and money of the entrenched partisans. Those few would be the swing votes on every issue in the Senate. They would have the power to decide on Senate procedural issues and chairpersons of Senate committees. These few who are truly independent would decide if a nominee (put forth by the President) was within acceptable bounds because they could block confirmations by siding with either of the major parties until reasonable, non-partisan persons are nominated. In the spirit of objective impartiality, they could essentially offer to the President a list of appropriately moderate candidates who would be acceptable for Supreme Court justices, or they could decide to leave the position vacant. Furthermore, they would influence the other Senators to become more reasonable or become marginalized.

Question: [Which members of the 116th Congress would join a bi-partisan center that is truly independent of party politics? They are] possibly coming from the liberal side of Republicans and the conservative side of Democrats. (If in fact such people could exist, they might be part of David Callahan’s “moral center.”). Try for 10% of Senators and Representatives and know that 5% could tip the balance in favor of legislative sanity instead of bitter partisan bickering. ... This would be “service” to America. This would be an effort to regain the balance between the Five Realms of Power. This could be a major step for the transition to Capitalism-21. ...

[This will never happen. Until it happens. And then we’ll wonder why it did not happen earlier.]

Selections from *Nehemiah Papers* and *A Capitalist Carol*

Fourteen Papers by I.M. Nehemiah

- 1 Introduction to the Nehemiah Papers
- 2 The Parable[s] of a Great Nation
- 3 The Five Realms of Power: Introduction
- 4 Governance and Democracy
- 5 Economics and Capitalism
- 6 Religion and Faith
- 7 Justice and Law
- 8 Love and Caring [Service]
- 9 The Nehemiah Postulates
- 10 The Nehemiah Proposals
- 11 Equality, Justice and Economic Levels in American Capitalist Democracy
- 12 Sources of Wealth in America
- 13 Lowest Acceptable Living in America and the World
- 14 Four Nehemiah Articles of April 2016
- 14-A: Variations in American Capitalism
- 14-B: Democracy at Risk
- 14-C: Unbalanced Powers in America
- 14-D: American National Service by All

Introduction to CC (pp. vii, Edited):

I credit Charles Dickens with the inspiration of this ghostly story, and I paraphrase him liberally and at times even mimic his old-style English writings. Dickens sought to entertain with an 1843 novella of the past, present and future with a tale of a stingy old man named Ebenezer Scrooge. I also seek to entertain, but my story is a broader account of the socio-economic background, realities and prospects of our 21st Century society, as seen through the life of a man named Edward Rouge. ... If you see yourself in the characters, then I may have succeeded in my intent to reach you.

The main historical events and the lives of famous people are factual and can be verified by searching on the Internet. The depiction of Capitalism as a dynamic, changing, evolving set of attitudes and norms is reality, as are the changes in American and world societies during the past three centuries. We seek to understand these realities. Our ghostly story foreshadows what may become of our children, our society, and our world. Let the ghosts show us what we cannot see, or what we choose not to see.

From CC, pp. 18-19: "I can take you anywhere in the past," [said the Spirit as] they passed through the hotel room window and soared high to see the panorama of Rio de Janeiro, with the statue of Jesus illuminated on the Corcovado peak.

"Take me to see the true Jesus," requested Rouge.

"I could take you to him or Buddha or Mohammed or Krishna or Moses at the burning bush. You could hear Jesus say in a language you would not understand, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.' And 'Blessed are the meek, ... the merciful, ... the peacemakers' But you already have those messages and do not heed them. All great religions condemn excesses and greed, but you don't care.

"Instead, I will take you to someone else whom you follow with religious fervor, the great Adam Smith, the father of your beloved capitalism."

[... Transition to Scotland where men are discussing Smith's book, The Wealth of Nations]

"Oh yes, the *Wealth* book," responded Smith. "My earlier book on *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* should be equally recognized, but is neglected, as are the unfortunate souls in society. I observed in that book that as some of us become wealthy, we lack sympathy with the poor class. Though our brother is in horrible conditions, if we ourselves are at our ease, our senses will never inform us of what he suffers. Our senses never did, and never can, carry us beyond our own person. It is only by imagination that we can form any conception of his sensations. People can only relate to what they themselves should feel in the like situation, but they do not share the experience because they build shields and distance between themselves and the poor. Thereby, they are blind and without sympathy."

Rouge was incredulous. "You are making up the past, just like Dickens made up Tiny Tim."

"Not so," said the Ghost. "I cannot alter the past, and you can read virtually those same words written by Smith."

Selection from *A Capitalist Carol* about the *Nehemiah Papers*

From CC, pp. 70 – 72: [Note: Rouge and the Ghosts attend (unseen, of course) two sessions of an economics-focused Side Event at the 2012 Earth Summit.]

A series of presentations were underway. Nephew Jonathan was assisting on the stage and seated near the podium as the same moderator as before, Rob Mitchell, began to speak.

“We have heard our four distinguished speakers lay out their views of where the world should be headed, with comments about Adam’s Smith’s writings on *Moral Sentiments*, as well as comments about the 2008 writings which comprise the *Nehemiah Papers*.

“Nine recommendations of I. M. Nehemiah have been tabulated into three groups. These are not complete. They are mainly focused toward America and other affluent populations around the world. But they carry implications and responsibilities for the non-affluent people of the world also. They are appropriate starting points for further actions. Remember, any one recommendation might seem impractical or even absurd, but the nine taken together can bring harmony between conflicting positions. For everyone to win, everyone must surrender something. We seek a true transformation of our world, for the benefit and even the survival of people everywhere.”

Rouge listened as the key statements were projected on the giant screen as each was explained. They were divided into three groups: Employment, Benefits, and Funding. [The nine recommendations are summarized with a paragraph for each on pages 72 – 75.]

Nine Recommendations of I.M. Nehemiah

A. EMPLOYMENT

1. Jobs in Human Services
2. Compulsory National Service
3. Empower watchdogs to assure fairness

B. BENEFITS and ENTITLEMENTS (B&E)

4. Revise all Benefits & Entitlements
5. Reduce crime & abuses
6. Balance the 5 Realms of Power

C. FUNDING SOURCES

7. Enact Capitalism-21
8. Taxpayer influence on tasks
9. Enlist the Spirit of the People

Other included topics

1. Environmental challenges. (CC, p. 63) “Exploit the world and reap the whirlwinds of Nature,” said the Ghost without emotion. ... “By 2050, which you live to see, the ravages of conflicts over water, food and fuel have engulfed everyone.” ... [More examples] ...

Rouge reverted to his fallback ingrained beliefs and shouted: “Rubbish. It’s not true. You show that because you believe in global warming, don’t you?”

The Ghost of the Future replied calmly. “I can see all the possible future paths of this world. And every path that neglects the welfare of the planet Earth is filled with suffering. It is only a question of when. Meanwhile, the options for corrective actions are fading fast.”

2. How People Live in Affluent and Impoverished Societies. Nehemiah Paper 13 includes an interesting table describing how people live according to “thirteen survival, decency and development basics for living,” each with ten levels from Super-Upper down to Totally Destitute. Readers can find their own levels for comparison with others.

3. A Sub-theme within *A Capitalist Carol*: Improvement of Cooking Stoves. CC Commentary 5 (pp. 88 – 94). At several places in *A Capitalist Carol*, references and visions are made about smoky cooking stoves that were used historically and are still used today by three billion impoverished people around the world, about forty percent of the world’s population. The sub-theme is that there is a very promising new cookstove technology that is ready for scale-up efforts. It has been shown to have sustainable results, especially with the poorest people who need the most help. But financial support is lacking even though there are literally billions of “pledged” but unspecified philanthropic dollars (as also mentioned in the story).