

# BFU: Capitalism and Investment



## **Misconception:**

**Americans and Europeans are richer because they work harder, are smarter, and are superior to everyone else.**

## **Are white people smarter than everyone else?**

“White” countries have the best economies in the world. Well, if we look at statistics, this isn’t 100 percent true: Asian countries are pretty rich nowadays.

But it's almost true if we look 100 years ago. Europe and the US) ended up richer than the rest of the world? So why?

# TOP 10

## ECONOMIC SUPER POWERS

COUNTRIES ECONOMIC  
DETAILS 



<b>#1</b>	<b>UNITED STATES</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$16.2 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$17.8 TRILLION
<b>#2</b>	<b>CHINA</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$8.8 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$10.6 TRILLION
<b>#3</b>	<b>JAPAN</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$6.1 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$6.4 TRILLION
<b>#4</b>	<b>GERMANY</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$3.6 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$3.7 TRILLION
<b>#5</b>	<b>FRANCE</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$2.8 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$3 TRILLION

<b>#6</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$2.6 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$2.9 TRILLION	<b>#7</b>	<b>BRAZIL</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$2.5 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$2.9 TRILLION	<b>#8</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: 2.3 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$2.7 TRILLION	<b>#9</b>	<b>ITALY</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$2.1 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$2.2 TRILLION	<b>#10</b>	<b>INDIA</b> PROJECTED GDP, 2013: \$2 TRILLION PROJECTED GDP, 2015: \$2.9 TRILLION
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There is *no* simple answer. But, if you want a *simple* answer, then:

Europe and the US got rich because of capitalism. Capitalism is an economic system where people invest money in new things. People invest their money in companies and the best companies grow and grow. As they grow and grow, they create jobs. So, people get richer and richer with the country.

So, let's talk about investment!

## Complete

1. What is a common misconception about white people and economics?

That they get richer because they work harder, are smarter, and are superior to everyone else.

2. Look at the chart of economic power; Is it true that only Europe and the US are powerful?

No, not really. There are more countries are on that list.

3. What is capitalism?

Capitalism is an economic system where people invest money to create new things such as companies, as the companies grow, people find new jobs. So people get richer and richer with the country.

## True/False

**T:** Capitalism is an economic system

**T:** Capitalism is based on investment

## **Misconception:**

**The best way to get rich is to save money.**

**The Best Way to Make Money is to INVEST money!**

People tell you to be smart and put your money in the bank. But that's NOT the way to GET RICH!

Remember we studied mercantilism. Spain in the 1500s was mercantilist. They tried to get as much gold as possible and not spend it. This didn't work. Spain went from the strongest to the weakest world economy. The best way is to invest in other businesses and build production capabilities.



## Rewrite

1. The best way to make money is to save.

The best way to make money is to invest it.

2. Mercantilism is a great system for building a strong economy.

Mercantilism is **not** great system for building a strong economy.

## Complete

3. When you invest in business, you build production capabilities

## True/False

1. Your true economic power is your production capability.

## Elias Tortilla Co

Here's an example. Elias has a great tortilla recipe. He makes the most delicious tortillas. He wants to make a business.

He goes to the bank with his plans. He borrows 500,000 dollars. He starts a little shop making tortillas. Things are great! Everyone loves his tortillas. He makes enough to pay off the bank. Does he?

No, instead of putting it in a bank, he talks to some rich guys. These guys are investors. They love his tortillas. They invest 5 million dollars in his company. So, Elias buys a *tortilla* factory. He gets it really cheap and installs the best technology.

Now Elias Tortilla Co. is making the most delicious tortillas. Elias makes enough in a year to pay everyone back and start saving. Does he start saving?

No! Instead of keeping that money, Elias buys some restaurants that serve his tortillas. He has to borrow more money from the bank to do this. He borrows 10 million from the bank and investors. He opens up: Elias Tortilla Cantina. It opens all over Virginia. It's a success!

Now, Elias has borrowed much more money than he has made. But he has a successful business. He buys some trucks and warehouses. He starts selling his own brands of pupusas, injera, chilaquiles, white bread, and spices.

After 10 years, Elias Co is worth 10 billion dollars. He started with a small loan of 500,000. He didn't stop at the tortilla shop. He didn't stop at the factory. He kept getting more investments and putting it into his corporation.

## Summarize

### 1. How does Elias make his company grow:

First, Elias goes to the bank with his plans. He borrows 500,000 dollars to start a little tortilla shop. He makes that much to pay the bank back but he doesn't.

Second, he talks to rich guys who are investors. They invest 5 million dollars in his company. So, Elias buys a *tortilla* factory. He makes more money and doesn't save. He makes more restaurants.

Third, he has to borrow more money from the bank to do this. He borrows 10 million from the bank and investors.

After, 10 years, Elias Co is worth 10 billion dollars. He started with a small loan of 500,000. He didn't stop at the tortilla shop. He didn't stop at the factory. He kept getting more investments and putting it into his corporation.

## **Misconception:**

### **Countries are RICH because they HAVE all the Money**

In 1776, a man named Adam Smith wrote a book called the *Wealth of Nations*. At this time, people believed in Mercantilism. People believed the best way for a country to become rich was to save as much gold as possible.

We learned that the best way to MAKE money is to INVEST money. .

Adam Smith invents an idea called capitalism. The central ideas of capitalism are:

1. How Rich a Nation Is = How Much Businesses Produce
2. Comparative Advantage: Nations Shouldn't be Self-Sufficient. They Should Produce What they Can Best
3. Governments Shouldn't Interfere in the Economy
4. Entrepreneurship= Competition = Businesses Survive and Grow because They are the Best



## Rewrite

1. The founder of capitalism is Joe Mamma.

The founder of capitalism is **Adam Smith**.

2. Adam Smith studied the best way for a person to get rich.

Adam Smith studied the best way for a **nation** to get rich.

3. Adam Smith believed the best way for a nation to get rich was by hoarding gold.

Adam Smith believed the best way for a nation to get rich was by **investing gold**.

4. The wealth of a nation equals how much gold it has.

The wealth of a nation equals **how rich a country is**.

**Complete** The foundations of capitalism are:

1. <b>Production</b>	2. <b>Comparative Advantage</b>
3. <b>Entrepreneurship</b>	3. <b>Governments Shouldn't Interfere</b>

### **Wealth of Nations = Production**

Apple is based in the USA. Even though most of the iPhone is made in China, the highest paid employees for Apple are from the USA. Why? They design the iPhone. They make the

models. They organize the production. They make the software. They do the advertising.



I'm a PC.

I'm a Mac.

So, Apple is part of the GDP or Gross Domestic Product of the USA. Even when they do business in Asia, the money makes it back to the USA. GDP measures how much companies from a country *produce*; the GDP of Apple reflects the USA.

## Rewrite

1. GDP = how much gold a country has  
GDP = how much companies from a country produce.
2. Apple is made in China; it is part of China's GDP.  
Apple is made in China; it is part of USA's GDP.



## Comparable Advantage = No Self-Sufficiency

The USA produces cars. Cars need tires. Tires require rubber. Rubber trees grow in Brazil.

Should the USA try to grow rubber in Florida so they don't have to pay Brazil for rubber? Of course, not! Brazil has the advantage so they should make the tires.

We say, no, but before Adam Smith, most economists said yes. Mercantilists wanted self-sufficiency. Capitalists don't want self-sufficiency. They want trade.

Instead, the USA makes all of the parts of the car where they are cheapest. They make the tires in Brazil. They make the

plastic parts in China. They make the metal parts in Mexico. Then, they assemble it together in the USA.

## Complete

1. Mercantilists want self-sufficiency, which means that a country doesn't need to trade to grow.
2. Capitalists want trade, where each country produces what it can best produce.



True/False

**F:** USA has a comparable advantage to produce tires.

**T:** USA should trade Brazil for the tires

Government Interference versus Competition

Remember Myspace? Blockbuster video? Farmville? These are all business that—at some point—people wanted to invest lots of money in. At some point in time, if you asked someone whether Netflix or Blockbuster video was a better company, they would say “Blockbuster” without a doubt.

Blockbuster had stores. Netflix just had mail-order DVDs. But Netflix adapted. They competed better. They became the better product.

Imagine if we all still used Myspace instead of Facebook. Imagine if the USA government was friends with the guy who owned Myspace. Imagine if the government made a law that said: “Myspace is free but Facebook users have to pay a tax.” This is government interference. It was very common.

Adam Smith says: The Government shouldn't interfere. They should let the economy alone. This is called laissez-faire or let business do what it wants.

## Rewrite

1. Adam Smith supports government interference in the economy.

Adam Smith **does not** supports government interference in the economy.

2. Laissez-faire means that government should interfere in the economy.

Laissez-faire means that government shouldn't interfere in the economy.

## **Misconception:**

### **Capitalism helps everyone right away.**

Remember my example about the car? Or the I Phone? Think about it: Who is doing most of the *physical* work for I Phone? The Chinese. Who is making most of the money? The Americans.

Capitalism is going to benefit the countries that industrialize first. Our original question is why Europe and US are rich.

The reason is that they adopt capitalism and industrialize before the rest of the world. They get a head start.

Capital = money, technology, and people for your business

Here's the ideas of capitalism:

Money	Don't save it; invest it in your business	Grow, grow, grow!
Technology	Don't be happy with your technology: come up with better ways to make even more money!	Research, research, research!
People	Workers = business	Efficiency, efficiency, efficiency!

	costs = the lower wages, the better	
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## **So are white people smarter than everyone else?**

No, but in the early 1800s, English people are better capitalists than everyone else... And then Americans. And Germans.

England is going to start the Industrial Revolution. We have talked about the French, America, Haitian, Latin American, and Russian Revolutions.

They are NOTHING compared to the Industrial Revolution.

## Rewrite

1. Europe and the United States are rich because they saved their money instead of investing.

Europe and the United States are rich because **they adopt capitalism and industrialize before the rest of the world.**

2. Investing your money is part of an economic system called communism.

Investing your money is part of an economic system called **capitalism.**

3. The founder of capitalism is named John Locke.

The founder of capitalism is named **Adam Smith**

4. Investing in what your country does well—like Brazil making tires—is called laissez faire.



Investing in what your country does well—like Brazil making tires—is called **industrialism**.

5. Adam Smith wanted the government to interfere with the economy. This is called Laissez-Faire economics.

Adam Smith didn't want the government to interfere with the economy. This is called Laissez-Faire economics.

6. The Wealth of a Country is how much it saves.

The Wealth of a Country is how much it invests.

7. Mercantilism is the same as capitalism.

Mercantilism is not the same as capitalism.

8. Capitalists want self-sufficiency and gold.

Mercantilists want self-sufficiency and gold

9. Mercantilists want investment and free trade.

Capitalists want investment and free trade