

Strong Capitalism

Playing entrepreneur on Hard Mode



"I didn't deserve to win it," says 24-year-old Fernández Anaya. "I did what I had to do. He was the rightful winner. He created a gap that I couldn't have closed if he hadn't made a mistake. As soon as I saw he was stopping, I knew I wasn't going to pass him."

Manifesto

The strong capitalist recognizes that free markets are the best way to create opportunity, innovation, and economic prosperity, while simultaneously acknowledging that in the absence of any other operating principles, capitalism leads to non-meritocratic wealth inequality, monopoly, resource depletion, and extraction. The strong capitalist demonstrates and upholds a set of additional behaviors which maximize the health, prosperity, and longevity of the free markets,

even when those behaviors make their own success more difficult - AKA - “**hard mode**”. The strong capitalist is an honorable competitor, a source of inspiration to others, and deserving of their returns.

This draft paper proposes the principles to which strong capitalists agree to be mutually bound, accepting of the judgement of their peers for their standing.

Operating Principles

Beyond economic competition in free markets, the strong capitalist adheres to the following principles:

Encourage and Sustain Competition

The strong capitalist considers the lack of competitors a dishonor. Where is the greatness in running a race alone? Where the weak seek to eliminate competition, the strong capitalist encourages and delights in it. More competition means higher quality products and greater welfare for all. Never take an action to weaken a competitor - only take action which improve your own products. No monopolies or monopsonies.

Fair Pay

The strong capitalist recognizes that they will often have unfair leverage over workers, as their choice of a job may well not be made in an efficient market. The former employees of a strong capitalist will recommend their former employer, irrespective of bonuses, returns on stock options, or other forms of compensation. When done properly, former employees will proudly consider themselves ‘alumni’.

Wealth Distributed by Merit

The wealth of a strong capitalist remains proportional to their net contributions to society, not to their re-use of accumulated capital. The strong capitalist recognizes and respects that, in the absence of incremental skill or merit, money can easily be used to create more money. The strong capitalist uses accumulated capital only to make riskier bets, not to attack competitors, create moats, or protect wealth. Additionally, where appropriate, the strong capitalist redistributes gains to others to help with their own growth.

Do No Harm

The Strong Capitalist rejects products, services, team members, strategies, investments, or design patterns which do harm to the well-being of others. These behaviors are beneath them.

They strive to be recognized as successfully improving the collective wealth and well-being of society in a competitive market of others with the same goal.

No Hiding

The strong capitalist does not use secrecy unfairly. They reject dark money, shell companies, and false identities as weakness. They always share information whose dissemination is to the public benefit, and never use private information to their advantage where the same information would not also be available to a competitor.

No Lying

Pretty self-explanatory. As Westley famously said in the Princess Bride: *"We are men of action, lies do not become us."* Never lie as a business tactic.

Personal Responsibility

The strong capitalist takes personal responsibility for the actions of their companies, co-workers, and investments - treating their actions as equivalent to his or her own.

Give Back

Where the patents, software, copyrights, or excess returns of a strong capitalist would create greater collective wealth and progress by being returned to the public interest than kept, they will do so.

OTHER HISTORICAL/SIMILAR GROUPS/GUILDS/SOCIETIES

Samurai

Stoic Circles

Knights Templar

Bushido Clans

Hashashin

Rosicrucians

Freemasons

Jesuits

Shaolin Monks

Yamabushi

Ngakpa Lineages

Boy Scouts

Rotary, Odd Fellows

SUGGESTED NEW PRINCIPLES / COMMENTS

(thank you!)

(if you'd like to suggest a new major principle or edits to the above, let's add it here)

The Strong Capitalist will understand that Employees are assets and not expenses. And will treat them as such. You get what you put into that employee. You pay for training and other costs that go along with that. That should be seen as an investment in the company. Happy employees = Happy customers.

Uplift don't oppress

As another aspect of giving back, a strong capitalist also understands and values the right of everyone in society to find the positive activities that bring joy to themselves and those around them. Everyone deserves to dream of a better future and be empowered to help make it so. Because enabling all to do better rather than just surviving creates more economic activity and innovation that creates a positive cycle of even more gains.