

“Why Environmentalism is Anti-Capitalism”



“[Morals and Markets](#)” meets the *fourth Thursday of every month* at 8-9:30 PM ET. Add to your calendar! Tell your friends!

Course Information:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/education/morals-and-markets>

Upcoming events:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/events/morals-and-markets>

Next session: Thursday, April 22, 8-9:30 ET

Zoom url: [Register to get link on Course Info webpage](#)

Environmentalism is fundamentally *anti-capitalist* – thus also anti-science, anti-technology, anti-liberty, and inhumane. America’s first “Earth Day” was in April 1970 (the same year the EPA was established). Initially called the “ecology” movement, proponents seemed merely to want cleaner air and water, for the benefit of humans (while denying that capitalism alone delivers it). Before long, the movement became “environmentalism,” with the premise that “nature” has *intrinsic* value (apart from man) and man is *non-natural* (not part of nature, hence expendable). Professor Salsman discusses how best to counteract environmentalism and promote capitalism.

Suggested Readings/Sources:

- Kelley, D. “[Whose Environment?](#)” *The Atlas Society* (2010.06.21).
- Rand, A. “[The Ecology-Environmental Movement.](#)” *Ayn Rand Lexicon* (essays from 1970s).
- Shellenberger, M. “[Why Renewables Can’t Save the Planet.](#)” *Quillette* (2019.02.27).
- McElwee & Ray. “[Young People Really, Really Want a Green New Deal.](#)” *The Nation* (2019.02.17).
- Bernstein, A. “[The Truth About Climate Change.](#)” *Capitalism Magazine* (2017.06.05).

Host: Dr. Richard M. Salsman is an [assistant professor of political economy at Duke University](#), founder and [president of InterMarket Forecasting, Inc.](#), a [senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research](#), and a [senior scholar at The Atlas Society](#). In the 1980s and 1990s he was a banker at the Bank of New York and Citibank and an economist at Wainwright Economics, Inc. Dr. Salsman has authored three books: *Breaking the Banks: Central Banking Problems and Free Banking Solutions* (1990), *Gold and Liberty* (1995), and *The Political Economy of Public Debt: Three Centuries of Theory and Evidence* (2017). His next book, *Where Have all the Capitalist Gone?*, will be published in 2021 by the American Institute for Economic Research. He is also author of a dozen chapters and scores of articles. His work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Reason Papers*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Economist*, the *Financial Post*, the *Intellectual Activist*, and *The Objective Standard*. Dr. Salsman earned his B.A. in economics from Bowdoin College (1981), his M.A. in economics from New York University (1988), and his Ph.D. in political economy from Duke University (2012). His personal website is <https://richardsalsman.com/>.

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THE ATLAS SOCIETY

— Morals and Markets —

Exploring the intersections between ethics, politics, economics, and markets



Dr. Richard M. Salsman

— Testimonials

"Morals & Markets provides students of all levels an opportunity to engage with some of the most interesting (and sometimes difficult!) issues in philosophy, politics, and economics. Professor Salsman's experience as an outstanding educator and commitment to presenting a holistic view of contemporary tensions between public policy and moral philosophy encourage vibrant debate and an unparalleled learning experience. I am enthusiastic about Dr. Salsman's future iterations of Morals & Markets with the support of The Atlas Society!"

- **Nikhil Sridhar**

"Dr. Salsman's lectures from Morals and Markets always leave me with a newfound framework to consider important ideas; they serve as some beacon of critical thinking in a world that needs it. The topics discussed are always fully engaging, both intellectually and practically and the discussion helps me orient my views of current political circumstances, historical trends, and political philosophy, more generally, in a rationally focused way. I hope Morals and Markets grows to become an institution – it certainly deserves to be one."

- **Clifford Gilman Jr.**

"Morals and Markets has been a spectacular learning experience for me. Professor Salsman's lectures and guided discussions have opened my eyes to alternative ways of viewing issues and generally strengthened my grasp of the intersections between philosophy, politics, and economics."

- **Gaurav Sharma**