

*Resist Beautifully!
Get Commoning!
Re-Enchant the World!*

Further Reading

GodsAndRadicals.org

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Search for these articles online among many others:

- A Pagan Anti-Capitalist Primer
- Capitalism, Neurotypicality, & the War on Consciousness
- Capitalist Leveling & The Problem Of Pagan Values
- Columbia's Bloody Dream
- Heresies (I & II)
- Nature's Rights
- Never Shall Be Slaves (I & II)
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- Putting Out
- Ragnarök, The Magic Of Capitalism, & The Transformation of Consciousness
- The Rattling At The Gate
- The Roots Of Our Resistance
- Valdres Roots: Enclosure, Ancestral Displacement, & Domestication
- Why Is Brigit So Hungry?
- Words For Sale: A Critical Political Economy of Paganism

Other Articles

“Rewilding Witchcraft” by Peter Grey

Books

Apocalyptic Witchcraft by Peter Grey

Caliban & The Witch by Silvia Federici

The Death Of Nature by Carolyn Merchant

In Letters of Blood & Fire by George Caffentzis

Multitude by Antonio Negri & Michael Hardt

Reading Capital Politically by Harry Cleaver

Stop, Thief! by Peter Linebaugh

Webs Of Power and *The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk

Radical Paganism: Magic, Capitalism, & Resistance



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What Capitalism Is

Capitalism is an **economic system based on capital**—hoarded wealth—which is the ability to create profit by exploiting natural resources and the labor of others. It requires **enclosure** of land and resources, **privatizing** the means of production, and the **accumulation** of a labor force to exploit. It always results in wealth for a tiny few, and debt, servitude, and penury for the rest of us (in varying degrees called privilege, an important tactic to keep us divided and alienated from power).

What Capitalism Isn't

- **All businesses or transactions.** Capitalism is not small business owners selling their services, as this type of economy has existed for much longer than capitalism.
- **The use of money.** Capitalism is not the same thing as a monied economy. Other economic modalities have differing uses of money.

The Witch Hunts

It is essential to remember that the transition to capitalism happened at the same time as the witch hunts, the **first globally unified, systematic class repression in history**, creating a brutal climate of terror to foster the transition. See Silvia Federici's *Caliban & The Witch* for more.

Science over Magic & Religion

Many Gods were reduced to One, then None. The world was disenchanting. The priest class remains: science workers, particularly in the medical field. See Carolyn Merchant's *The Death of Nature* for more.

Mechanistic Thinking

It is a pattern of thought and inquiry that **sees the universe as disparate mechanical parts**, the foundation of science, medicine, modern economics, and much more. **It is a very useful mode of thought/inquiry**, but when it is the **ONLY** mode it creates problems:

- Organism becomes mechanism
- Indigenous healing becomes allopathic medicine
- Interconnected ecosystems become fenced lots
- Magic becomes Science
- Commons become Commodities
- Many gods are reduced to one, then none

Enclosure & The Accumulation of Labor

It is the process of forcing people off of communal lands and into the capitalist system as workers. This process requires a destruction of the **Commons** by the institution of Private Property, which is a process called **Enclosure**. Enclosure always happens like this:

- 1) **A Violent event occurs.** People die. By the dozens here, hundreds there, thousands elsewhere. If you zoom out far enough, it's millions dead: in war, kidnapping and slavery, burning at the stake, natural disaster, austerity, genocide. It can take many forms, but always lays the foundation of a climate of fear, ripe for social upheaval.
- 2) **Culture, customs, & commons** are attacked. These are the “means of social reproduction,” or the fabric of a functional society, down to the most basic needs of food, water, and shelter.
- 3) **Displacement.** Whether on slave ships or toward the promise of a new life in a new world, people are displaced from their ancestral homelands. Strangers in strange lands are easier to dominate.
- 4) **Society is rebuilt in the image of capitalism**, transforming vibrant communities into a domesticated workforce and interconnected ecosystems into fenced lots.

Commons & Commoning

The commons “is best understood as a verb.” It is what we do and how we relate to other people and the world around us: the potluck dinner, the community garden or CSA, the pick up game at the park, an intentional community, or Occupy Wall Street. On some level, **anytime you can do something with other people that doesn't involve giving money to capitalists, you are commoning.** We should do this as often as possible, in as many areas of life as we can, with the end goal of subsisting outside the capitalist system. See Peter Linebaugh's *Stop, Thief!* for more.

DeColonize & Re-Enchant

To move beyond Capitalism, we must learn to DeColonize ourselves, and Re-Enchant the world. This means **withdrawing – slowly, gradually, one bit at a time – from the capitalist system** and learning to subsist and celebrate together. Each individual must determine what this looks like for themselves. Keep as much of your money in your community, and away from capitalists, as you can. Start where you are, keep learning, speak your truth, and resist beautifully! Rewild yourself, and foster magic back into the world!

The processes that birthed the modern, industrialized world were the same processes that drove people off the land, severed their connections to ancient, magical ways of being, and forced them to subsist as worker/laborers in the capitalist system. People all over the world resisted these changes by calling on Gods, Land Wights, Spirits of Place, Faerie Queens, and other indigenous energies as allies in resistance. Look to their examples as inspiration in the quest to resist beautifully and re-enchant the world.