Giá trị Cộng đồng trong Chủ nghĩa Duy Dân

Theo Raghuram Rajan, cựu thống đốc Ngân hàng Dự trữ Ấn Độ, hiện đang dạy tại Trường Kinh doanh của Đại học Chicago: chủ nghĩa Tư bản đương đại thất bại vì quá chú trọng đến hai trụ cột chính Nhà nước (the state) và Thị trường (the market) – đến mức, bỏ quên trụ cột thứ ba là Cộng đồng (the community).

[Bài báo đính kèm]

Như nhiều người Việt cũng biết, chủ nghĩa Cộng sản ở Việt Nam và Trung cộng đã phát triển một cách không bền vững và phi nhân bản bởi tập trung toàn bộ nguồn lực quốc gia vào việc củng cố cơ Nhà nước; Thị trường tại Việt Nam và Trung cộng chỉ là đất sống của chủ nghĩa Tư bản hoang dã và thân hữu, Cộng đồng chưa bao giờ được tôn trọng đúng mực.

Trong Chủ nghĩa Duy Dân, xây dựng một môi trường sống hòa hạc với con người là một trọng điểm, đó là Cộng đồng gắn liền với quốc dân. Trọng điểm này sẽ khắc phục được thiếu sót của Chủ nghĩa Tư bản hoang dã và Chủ nghĩa Xã hội nói chung trên thế giới, mô hình Cộng sản tại Việt Nam nói riêng.

Vị trí của Cộng đồng? Liệu những suy nghĩ đầy bi quan của Raghuram Rajan và Angus Deaton (người đoạt giải Nobel kinh tế năm 2015 và là tác giả bài báo) như: Cộng đồng là nạn nhân của một nhóm thiểu số tinh hoa nắm giữ cả Thị trường và Nhà nước; hoặc tình chất kém hiệu quả và nhiều bất ổn của một chính sách cụ thể cho các địa phương – có thể giải quyết được hay không? Trong lĩnh vực chính trị xã hội, Chủ nghĩa Duy Dân là một tập hợp các chính sách hợp lý, với cơ chế vận hành quyền lực Dan quyền, lợi ích của quốc gia và từng địa phương đã được thiết kế thỏa đáng.

Cộng đồng sẽ là một trọng điểm trong chiến lược xây dựng và phát triển một Việt Nam mới. Là mô hình truy nguyên thống và căn bản của xã hội Việt Nam đã có, cần thêm nhiều hỗ trợ và hoàn thiện cùng đời sống quốc dân theo xu thế này.

Huỳnh Việt Lang
What’s Wrong with Contemporary Capitalism?

Mar 13, 2019 Angus Deaton

Behind today's populist upheavals is a widespread recognition that the economy no longer serves the public good, or even the interests of most of its participants. To understand why, one must identify what has been lost amid so much material technological gain.

PRINCETON – Rather suddenly, capitalism is visibly sick. The virus of socialism has reemerged and is infecting the young once more. Wiser heads, who respect capitalism's past achievements, want to save it, and have been proposing diagnoses and remedies. But their proposals sometimes overlap with those who would tear the system down, making nonsense of traditional left-right distinctions.

Mar 4, 2019 Emmanuel Macron calls on EU citizens to focus on three goals ahead of the critical European Parliament election in May.

Fortunately, Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India who teaches at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, brings his unparalleled knowledge and experience to bear on the problem. In his new book, The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave Community Behind, he
arguesthat the cancer afflicting contemporary capitalism is the failure neither of “Leviathan” (the state) nor of “Behemoth” (the market), but of community, which no longer serves as a check against either monster. Rajan thus prescribes an “inclusive localism” to rebuild communities that can furnish people with self-respect, status, and meaning.

Rajan’s book, like Oxford University economist Paul Collier’s *The Future of Capitalism*, is part of a rapidly growing genre of critiques by capitalism’s friends. Rajan is a proponent of capitalism who has accepted that it no longer works in the interest of the social good, and must be brought back under control.

The Third Pillar offers deep historical context to explain the current moment, but it is most successful when it retraces developments after World War II to explain why everything started unraveling around 1970. Until then, the world had been busy recovering and rebuilding, and economic growth had received an added boost from the adoption of frontier technologies through replacement investment.

But trend growth has decelerated since 1970, accounting for many of our current difficulties. Through it all, governments have had no idea how to address the slowdown, other than to promise a restoration of the lost postwar paradise. In most cases, that has meant additional borrowing. And in Europe, elites have pursued continental unification with the great aim of stopping recurrent episodes of carnage. Yet in their rush to secure the obvious benefits of integration, they forgot to bring their citizens along. They have since learned that after *hubris* comes *nemesis*.

The success of social democracy in the postwar era weakened the market’s power to act as a moderating influence on the state. According to Rajan, these weakened actors, in both Europe and America, were in no position to deal with the revolution in information and communication technology (ICT) that they were about to face, leaving ordinary people to face the threats on their own. Rather than helping their workers manage the disruption, corporations made it worse by using their employees’ vulnerability to enrich their shareholders and managers.

And how they enriched themselves! With median household incomes largely stagnant and a growing share of wealth accruing to the rich, capitalism became manifestly unfair, losing its popular support. To manage its opponents, Behemoth called on Leviathan for protection, not understanding that a right-wing populist Leviathan eats Behemoth in the end.
Two points of Rajan’s story need to be emphasized. First, declining growth is a key, albeit low-frequency, cause of today’s social and economic distress. Second, the unfortunate consequences of the ICT revolution are not inherent properties of technological change. Rather, as Rajan notes, they reflect a “failure of the state and markets to modulate markets.” Though Rajan does not emphasize it, this second point gives us cause for hope. It means that ICT need not doom us to a jobless future; enlightened policymaking still has a role to play.

Rajan’s account of corporate misbehavior is very well told, and it is all the more effective coming from a professor at a prominent business school. From the start, the near-absolutist doctrine of shareholder primacy has served to protect managers at the expense of employees, and its malign effects have been exacerbated by the practice of paying managers in stock.

In *The Future of Capitalism*, Collier gives a parallel account from Britain, telling the story of the most admired British company of his (and my) childhood, Imperial Chemical Industries. Growing up, we all hoped someday to work at ICI, whose mission was “to be the finest chemical company in the world.” But in the 1990s, ICI amended its primary objective by embracing shareholder value. And in Collier’s telling, that single change destroyed the company.

What of community? The United States once led the world in public education, providing local schools where children of all talents and economic backgrounds learned together. And when elementary education became insufficient, communities started providing access to secondary school for all.

Today, however, when a college degree is a prerequisite for success, the more talented kids pursue theirs far outside of the community, ultimately self-segregating in fast-growing cities from which the less talented are excluded by the high cost of living. Ensconced in their glittering cloisters, those who succeed form a meritocracy in which their kids – and almost exclusively their kids – do well.

Collier tells the same story for Britain, where talent and the share of national income have become increasingly concentrated in London, leaving gutted and angry communities behind. Yet as Janan Ganesh of the *Financial Times* points out, these metropolitan elites now find themselves “shackled to a corpse.”

For his part, Rajan sees the meritocracy as a product of the ICT revolution. But I suspect it is older than that. After all, the British sociologist Michael Young published his prescient dystopia, *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, in 1958. Indeed, Collier and I are among the first British meritocrats. And just as Young predicted,
our cohort broke the system for subsequent generations, while continuing to extol its virtues. In Scotland, where I grew up, the local community talent, the intellectuals, writers, historians, and artists have all gone in search of wider pastures, or simply given up competing with mass-market superstars. We are the poorer for it.

Like Rajan, I think that community is a casualty of an elite minority’s capture of both markets and the state. But unlike him, I am skeptical that stronger local communities or a policy of localism (inclusive or not) can cure what ails us. The genie of meritocracy cannot be put back in the bottle.

Angus Deaton, the 2015 Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics and International Affairs Emeritus at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is the author of *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*.