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### How Jewish Students at Binghamton University Mediate Discrepancies between Judaism and Capitalism

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# How Jewish Students at Binghamton University mediate discrepancies between Judaism and Capitalism

## Introduction:

- The ideology of capitalism exists subconsciously within individuals and influences one's world perspective while our own religious ideologies also influence our world perspective.
- I seek to examine the paradox of how individuals connected to their religion rationalize their existence among potentially conflicting personal core religious truths and core truths of systemic capitalism. My research looks at Jewish students at Binghamton University.

## Method:

Performed interviews of 5 Jewish students at Binghamton University who affiliate themselves with the Hillel organization on campus and I am familiar with.

### ***Interview Steps:***

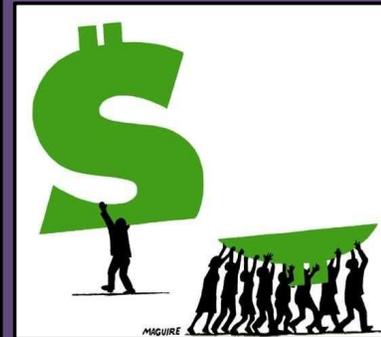
1. Expose the subject to the core truths of capitalism
2. Have the subject explain their core truths of Judaism
3. Discuss with the subject how they manage the disparities (if they find any) between the two sets of ideas.

## Results:

- All subjects recognized the discrepancies.
- Some core Jewish truths: Morality from religious texts, Tzedakah, Sanctity of human life, Treat people the way you want to be treated.
- Majority rationalized their existence with the two ideologies, believing that doing what one can, making educated decisions to help others, can make up for the disparities.

## Conclusions:

At BU, Jewish students' religion proves to counterbalance capitalism's abuses in society, and their core Jewish values, especially pertaining to tzedakah (the giving of charity) incentivize them to work to lessen, not eliminate, the injustices they see.



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