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Capitalism and the Historical Psychology of Greed

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Greed, Psychology, Society and Capitalism

By Hannah Kirsch

Research question:

How do greed and capitalism coexist and interact?



Thesis statement:

Although greed is a manifestation of capitalism in contemporary America, its origins are based in the complexity of humanity through an intrinsic phenomenon of desire in society, reminiscent of historical times.

Introduction

- Often, greed and capitalism are viewed as intertwined or synonymous
- My research will prove greed's existence throughout time and capitalism's distortion of it

Method

- Establish foundational truths of greed from historical/ biblical examples that set a precedent
- Prove how those truths prevailed throughout time
- Prove how those truths have been utilized by capitalism

Results

- Greed is an emotionally ambiguous trait that holds true in every society
- Within capitalism, greed has been established as a tool to push production surplus value forward

Conclusion

- Greed is psychologically and societally significant in its connection with capitalism and ultimately the systems within humanity
- Greed has converted from emotional to systematic within capitalism