

## **It's the Economic Model, Mr. Clinton**

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In 1992, during his campaign for President of the USA, William Jefferson Clinton famously stated, **“It’s the Economy, Stupid.”** He was capitalizing on the often repeated political “wisdom” that the most important factor voters take into consideration is the state of the economy (i.e., the state of the capitalist economy); specifically, how well or poorly the economy is serving them. This wisdom goes on to say that voters are far more concerned about the economy than about foreign affairs and other social and political issues. An extension of this wisdom is that people “vote with their pocket books.” Mr. Clinton’s point was that he, rather than his opponent, knew best how to tweak the capitalist economy to make it work better for voters.

But I would challenge Mr. Clinton, in four ways. First, I would suggest that **“It’s the economic model”** that is of greatest importance. For it is the economic model that determines the state of the economy and whether it is equitably and superbly serving the people. I would contend that the corporate capitalist economic model (CCEM) serves the wealthy very well, but serves the bulk of the people very poorly, particularly the middle and lower classes, particularly in the countries that have been exploited and abused for decades by imperialism, colonialism, racism, and the many other “Mean Arrangements of Man”<sup>1</sup> that have been created and promoted by the ultra-wealthy transnational corporate capitalist class---which, by the way, is the class that Mr. Clinton has primarily served throughout his political career.

Second, I would contend that the Children’s Hospital Public Economy Model (CHPEM)<sup>2-5</sup> could serve all people in all countries of the world much more equitably and superbly than has the corporate capitalist model.

Third, I would point out that focusing on the “state of the economy” without addressing the economic model responsible for the state of the economy represents a superficial analysis. Such an analysis ignores the root cause of an illness and focuses on symptoms, instead.

Fourth, I would point out that tweaking the corporate capitalist economy to improve the financial status of the common people is not sufficient, even if it were to bring about some modest improvement. I would contend that the corporate capitalist economic model (CCEM) itself needs to be thoroughly and critically examined, and replacement of the CCEM with a new economic model, such as a version of the CHPEM, needs to be considered. In keeping with this contention, I would emphasize the need for vigorous, healthy, respectful dialogue about the pros and cons of the CCEM versus the pros and cons of the CHPEM, followed by democratic determination of which economic model the people prefer.<sup>6,7</sup>

So, Mr. Clinton, instead of smugly saying “It’s the economy, Stupid,” I would have preferred to hear you say, “It is the economic model that is the problem. The corporate capitalist economic model (CCEM) is unwise, unfair, and is causing Humanity and the Earth itself to suffer immensely. We need to strongly consider replacing it with a wiser, kinder model—one that creates an economy that equitably and superbly serves all of Humanity (and protects the Earth); one that creates kind arrangements and Social Beauty,<sup>8</sup> rather than the Mean Arrangements of Man.”

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