# 1N v Memorial SC

## 1

#### Interpretation- The affirmative must defend resolved: “The appropriation of outer space by private entities is unjust” – To clarifty, the affirmative must only garner and derive offense of off the truth of the resolution

#### Violation: They don’t (elaborate)

#### Vote neg:

#### [1] Clash – I don’t have prep specific to their non-T aff to generate in depth clash – they can leverage their specific knowledge of their aff to always frame out generics and use their extensive frontlines to crush any pre round prep I generated, magnified by the fact that I can only prep the rez o/w [a] Education since arg interaction is the only specific way we learn in debate, B] Advocacy Skills - turns their aff scholarship – the only way to create change in the real world is by being able to make advocacies and engage in them– allowing clash forces people to actually consider your claims and forces good engagement

#### Reject clash bad – they purposely read their aff in a competitive activity that assumes clash

#### [2] Limits – absent the rez the aff could be anything which makes infinite affs. That destroys fairness – their abuse is supercharged by two things. A] they literally have infinite prep since the 2-month topic reset doesn’t apply and B] they can cherry pick their aff to be something trivially true like racism bad which I can’t substantively deny.

#### Framing issues:

#### [1] Fairness o/w - a] testing – you can’t evaluate their args because the round was skewed – if they have 10 minutes to win their aff or fairness bad and I have 1 for the opposite they will win – proves fairness is good even under their method of (insert their ROB thing) b] they concede its authority via speech times and tournament procedure c] Ballot Proximity – voting aff wont solve all of (insert what they want to solve), but its unique to being able to solve fairness [d] all your arguments assume they will evaluated by the judge fairly, saying unfairness good is just saying to not evaluate your args

#### [2] Vote on education – [a] it’s the only terminal impact to debate that matters after the round o/w on portability [b] its uniquely key to being able to challenge (insert what they want to solve) it’s the only way to know how and what we should be doing

#### [3] Prefer competing interpretations, reasonability is arbitrary and encourages judge intervention which can moot the entirety of 1ac or 1nc speeches.

#### [4] Drop the debater – a] to deter future abuse and b] drop the arg on T is functionally the same

#### [5] No RVI – a] logic – I’m fair vote for me makes no sense and outweighs because all args must be logical, b] baiting – rvis incentivize abuse to win on theory

#### 6] Can’t weigh case – A] Time Skew – B]

#### 7] SSD solves

## 2

#### Interpretation: The affirmative must articulate a delineated advocacy text in the text of the 1AC.

#### 1] Neg ground

#### 2] Statis Point

## 3

#### Freedom must exist in practice rather than only theory, or it cannot be stated that the subject is free. Freedom must be noumenal or uncaused by the laws of nature, but humans are phenomenal and subject to these laws and external interference meaning ensuring abstract rights materially is necessary for freedom. Since we are phenomenal and unavoidably change through life, our perception of the world is constantly in flux meaning there is no absolute truth for what rights we create, but they can only be recognized through intersubjectivity. Schroeder 05:

Schroeder, Jeanne L. "Unnatural rights: Hegel and intellectual property." U. Miami L. Rev. 60 (2005): 453.

In this section I will address three common mis-readings of Hegel's personality theory that might lead to the incorrect conclusion that logic dictates that society recognize intellectual property. First, I show that Hegel believes that there are no natural rights of any sort, let alone natu- ral property rights. Second, I address the closely related point that Hegel rejects a first-occupation justification of property rights. Third, I show that intellectual property has no privileged place in personality theory. For simplicity, I stated that Hegel started his analysis by contin- gently adopting the notion of the free individual in the state of nature. I now more carefully explain my terminology as we consider Hegel's the- ory of the relationship between freedom and nature. Hegel thought that the freedom of the autonomous individual in the "state of nature" was only potential. Hegel argued not merely that the individual must leave the state of nature and go out into the real world if he is to make his freedom actual as a matter of fact. He also believed that the individual is driven by a passionate desire to do so. A complete discussion as to why the individual would desire to leave this uterine state of ignorant bliss is beyond the scope of this Arti- cle. Suffice it to say, it relates to one of the fundamental points of Hegel's idealism and theism. Hegel's idealism should not be confused with a vulgar neo-Platonic concept of an ideal world "out there" beyond the imperfect physical world. Such a notion is more reminiscent of the Kantian notion of an unknowable, intellectual, necessary, eternal, and transcendent world of essences called the noumenon or "thing-in-itself' beyond the contingent, empirical, temporary, and immanent world of appearance that can be known by experience (the phenomena). Hegel's metaphysics is an extended critique of Kant's. **Hegel rejects all concepts of transcendence**. 9 8 **There is no essence beyond appearance.** 99 Essence only exists insofar as it appears. 1" Or more rad- ically, essence is nothing but appearance properly understood. Hegel's is a radically materialistic philosophy, 01 but not an atheistic one. None- theless, Hegel's God, or Spirit, is not transcendent, but immanent in the material world. Why this is significant for our purposes is that **it follows from Hegel's rejection of transcendence that there can be no potentiality with- out actuality-what claims to be potential must become actual or reveal itself a liar**. Actually, the theory is even more radical than this. As I have argued elsewhere,102 Hegel's logic is retroactive, not prospective. **Potentiality is only retroactively revealed after something becomes actual.** **Consequently, if the autonomous individual in the state of nature claims to be free, and if this radically negative freedom is only potential, then the individual's claims to freedom can only be retroactively tested after he leaves the state of nature and makes his freedom affirmative and actual**. 103 Another way of saying this is that the liberal "state of nature" is not natural at all. Rather, it is a logically "necessary" hypothesis that is retroactively posited by the fact that we occasionally observe actualized freedom in modern constitutional states. As such, the "state of nature" is actually created by human thought. To Hegel, like Kant, real "nature" is the empirical, mechanical world governed by the causal laws of neces- sity where there is no freedom. Any freedoms and rights derived from the liberal conception of the hypothetical "state of nature" by definition cannot literally be natural. 2. NATURE AND RIGHTS Hegel sharply distinguishes between natural and positive law, and locates rights within the latter. He states, "[t]here are two kinds of laws, laws of nature and laws of right: the laws of nature are simply there and are valid as they stand ....The laws of right are something laiddown, something derivedfrom human beings."'" The liberal "state of nature" is, in fact, the hypothesis that autonomous individuality is a necessary, albeit inadequate, moment of human personality that we retroactively posit to understand political freedom. If so, what is the status of "nature" and its relationship to rights and freedom? Once again, I do not pretend to give a comprehensive account of Hegel's philosophy of nature, but will point out one aspect relevant to this Article. The first thing to note is to reiterate the simple point that there can be no "rights" in the hypothetical state of nature because the "state of nature" is defined as autonomy. Rights are necessarily interrelational. Hegel's point is more subtle and powerful than this, however. More specifically, there is no freedom in the empirical natural world. This can probably best be explained by going back to Kant's famous analysis of antinornies presented in his CritiqueofPureReason."5 An antimony is a logical paradox, or two statements that seem to be equally logically required yet are in contradiction. To say they are in contradiction means not merely that they are mutually inconsistent, but that they are the only logically possible alternatives. This suggests not merely that if one statement is true then the other must be false, but also that if one statement is proven to be false, the other is proven to be true. 0 6 For reasons that do not concern us here, Kant identifies four antinomies that he divides into two dyads: two "mathematical" antino- mies and two "dynamical" antinomies. He claims to solve the two mathematical antinomies by showing that neither statement is true because there is a heretofore unrealized third alternative that may be true. 10 7 He claims to solve the two dynamic antinomies by arguing that both statements are true, but that their contradiction is merely apparent so that, in fact, they can be reconciled.108 It is Kant's third antinomy of freedom and nature that concerns us. The thesis of Kant's first antinomy is that freedom can exist in the world.10 9 Kant is referring to negative freedom as the uncaused cause- the potential for pure spontaneity, action beyond necessity. Like all of Kant's theses, this is a dogmatic proposition posited by reason alone. 1 0 Its antithesis is that everything is subjected to the causal laws of nature-there are no uncaused causes and, therefore, no freedom.' Like all of Kant's antitheses, this is an empirical proposition reached by applying logic to our experience of the world.1 1 2 As this is a dynamic antinomy, Kant must solve this paradox by arguing that the contradiction between the two propositions is only apparent. If they are properly understood, then they can be reconciled. Kant argues that both propositions are true, but about different aspects of the world. Kant relies on his distinction between the phenomenal, or empirical, contingent, changing world of appearance that we can know from experience, and the noumenal, or transcendental, necessary, eternal world of essences, or the "thing-in-itself' which we do not know directly, but can infer through logic.113 **It is true, Kant states, that the entire phenomenal world is natural and therefore subject to the laws of nature-i.e., everything empirical is caused.1 14 It is also true, however, that freedom exists in the transcendental, non-empirical world of the noumena.15 Indeed, these conclusions follow from his definitions of phenomena and noumena. 11 6** If **a "noumenon" were caused by some- thing else, then it would be contingent on that other thing and, therefore, not a noumenon. Conversely, if a "phenomenon" were free of an exter- nal cause, then it would not be a mere phenomenon, but a noumenon. The question that this analysis proposes is, if freedom is noumenal, can it manifest itself in the phenomenal world, or is merely a theoretical construct?**1 7 To put this in Kant's idiosyncratic terminology, is free- dom "practical?" ' 1 8 By extension, one might ask, since each individual human being is embodied and, therefore, phenomenal,119 can man achieve freedom? In the Critique of Pure Reason, **Kant claims to show that freedom is at least theoretically possible in the phenomenal world. He argues that although all phenomena are caused by something else, the cause need not itself be phenomenal.** A phenomenon can be caused by a nou- menon. 2 ° **Because noumena are free (uncaused), their free acts can appear in the world through the phenomena they cause. Although each individual human being is phenomenal, man's essence (his spirit or soul, his status as the liberal, autonomous individual) is noumenal and there- fore free.**12' This implies that it is at least theoretically possible that the noumenal aspect of man can actualize his freedom by causing his phe- nomenal self to act. In the Critiqueof PracticalReason, Kant tries to prove not merely that practical reason is theoretically possible but that we have good reason to think it exists. There are as many problems raised in this analysis as are solved. Even ardent Kantians are somewhat embarrassed by it.'2 2 Hegel called Kant's argument "a whole nest... of faulty procedure." 123 My simpli- fied account is not an attempt to develop a comprehensive critique of Kant. My limited point is that, as I have argued elsewhere, 24 much of Hegel's speculative logical method can be seen as being inspired by Kant's idea of antinomy. I characterize **Hegel's complaint against Kant as an accusation that Kant does not have the courage of his own convictions and is afraid to follow his insights to their logical extremes.** Hegel, in effect, criticizes Kant for thinking that there were only four antinomies. Rather, Hegel's entire universe is constituted by a fundamental, essential contradic- tion.125 Further, Hegel criticizes Kant for thinking that contradiction is a problem that must be "solved." Contradiction "is not to be taken merely as an abnormality which only occurs here and there, but is rather the negative as determined in the sphere of essence, the principle of all self- movement . "..."126 In other words, **contradiction is a universal fact about the world. It is correct that contradictions are unstable and must be resolved, but each resolution is temporary and leads to a new contra- diction ad infinitum. Far from being frightening or disturbing, this merely means that the universe is dynamic, not static. Contradiction is the engine of change.** This means that Hegel rejects the Kantian noume- nal-phenomenal distinction. **To Hegel, there can be no necessary, perma- nent, unchanging essence (noumenon) behind the contingent, temporary, empirical world of appearances that is in a constant state of flux**. To Hegel, it is appearance all the way down. Finally Hegel's sublative logic can be seen as a rejection of Kant's specific claims to have solved his four antinomies by assuming that he had to show either that both sides were true, but not in contradiction, or that both the thesis and antithesis were false because there is a third alternative. In contrast, through sublation (the standard but poor English translation of Hegel's term for the logical method of resolving contradic- tion) one realizes that both sides are simultaneously equally true and false, thereby generating a third alternative that simultaneously negates 127 Regardless of these differences between Hegel and Kant, I believe that the Philosophy of Right can be seen as Hegel's struggle to come to grips with the specific contradiction that Kant identifies in the third antinomy: freedom v. causality. In his analysis, **Hegel accepts Kant's proposition drawn from experience that all nature is subject to natural laws of causation.** This means that nature is fundamentally unfree and implies that actual (practical) freedom must be unnatural by definition. **Yet on the other hand, Hegel also begins his analysis by contingently accepting Kant's presupposition that the most basic notion of human personality is self-consciousness as free will.** Hegel seeks to prove this presupposition (that freedom is possible) by finding that freedom actu- ally exists in the phenomenal world. Because Hegel rejected transcendence, he could not adopt Kant's proposed answer to this problem: freedom is noumenal, but noumena can cause phenomena. To Hegel, Kant's proposal answered nothing. According to Kant's own theory, we can know nothing about the nou- menon. Consequently, Kant's proposition is equivalent to saying that we can know nothing about freedom. Hegel was, in effect, responding to Kant: "You are being inconsistent. Your philosophical writings show that you know a lot about freedom. By your definitions, therefore, free- dom must be actual." Hegel's counterproposal was that **actual freedom is not natural but artificial: a human creation, created out of natural materials. Legal sub- jectivity (as well as higher stages of personhood) is, therefore, not a natural state but a hard-won achievement.** The story of the development of human consciousness, to Hegel, was the struggle of man to free him- self from and overcome his natural limitations. "Hence the personality of the will stands in opposition to nature as subjective.... Personality is that which acts to overcome [] this limitation and to give itself reality .... "128 **Abstract rights are, therefore, the first most primitive step in man's attempt to actualize his freedom, understood as the overcoming of nature**. The basis [] of right is the realm of spirit in general and its precise location and point of departure is the will; the will is free, so that freedom constitutes its substance and destiny [] and the system of right is the realm of actualized freedom, the world of spirit produced 1 29 **Rights are, therefore, not merely unnatural in the sense of artificial (man made), they are a means by which man distinguishes himself from nature. 130**

#### Property and legal contracts are the only medium of recognition and intersubjectivity capable of ensuring the abstract right, Schroeder 2:

\*bracketed for gendered language\* Schroeder, Jeanne L. "Unnatural rights: Hegel and intellectual property." *U. Miami L. Rev.* 60 (2005): 453.

Contract solves this problem. To reiterate, Hegel believes that **subjectivity is created not by possession per se, but by intersubjective recognition by other subjects. Property is only a medium for this purpose. This regime of recognition is abstract right-the rule of law. Subjectiv- ity is the capacity to bear legal rights and duties recognized by, and enforceable against, other subjects**. To concentrate on the specific object of property is to conflate subject with object-the opposite of recognizing the person's unique subjectivity. This is in sharp contradis- tinction to Radin's proposition that the merging of owner with her per- sonal property furthers human flourishing. Hegel, looking forward to psychoanalysis, considers such a relationship to be destructive-an addiction, or more technically, fetishism. **In contract, each party remains identifiable as a rights-bearing sub- ject through object relations because the object [t]he[y] gives up in contract is simultaneously replaced by a new object. That is, the contracting parties recognize each other as rights-bearing subjects, or persons having the capacity not only to own property, but to respect the property rights of others, and to live up to his contractual obligations.** In Hegel's words: [Contract] contains the implication that each party, in accordance with his own and the other party's will, *ceases* to be an owner of property, *remains*one, and *becomes* one. This is the mediation of the will to give up a property (an individual property) and the will to accept such a property (and hence the property of someone else). The context of this mediation is one of identity, in that the one voli- tion comes to a decision only in so far as the other volition is present.74 Hegel went so far as to assert that "[tihe whole issue can also be viewed in such a way that alienation is regarded as a true mode of taking posses- sion. 75 That is, **possession is the recognition by others that a specific object belongs to a specific subject. Paradoxically, this recognition only *expressly* occurs *retroactively* when the owner contracts to sell that object to another person. In other words, the identification of subject to object in possession is only *effectively* recognized at the moment when another subject pays the first subject to release the object from her possession.** Once again, one must remember Hegel's radical definition of objects as anything that is not the individual herself. This includes not only intangibles, but also an individual's own labor is an object separate from her personhood. Consequently, service contracts, whereby the individual alienates part of her productive capacity in exchange for wages is, to the Hegelian analysis, a contract for the exchange of prop- erty. In fact, the service contract is an excellent example of the logic of Hegel's dialectic of recognition. In our modem capitalistic society, a primary way we recognize each other is through our occupations. **The mutual intersubjectivity of contract is necessary because**, according to Hegel, **one becomes a subject** (eine Person)**only when one is recognized as such by another subject. Subjectivity (the capacity to bear legal rights and duties) exists only insofar as rights are enforceable.** **Since all persons logically begin as abstract individuals (not subjects), in order to achieve subjectivity, each individual must first make other indi- viduals into subjects by recognizing them as such. This means that it is impossible to create rights by unilaterally claiming them for oneself.** Since rights are intersubjective they can only be created intersubjec- tively. This is one reason why the Lockean attempt to justify claims of property through first-appropriation fails. The conundrum should be obvious. How does anyone become a subject recognized by other subjects when there are no subjects in the state of nature? Where does thefirst subject come from? The Hegelian answer is that **multiple subjects must come into existence simultaneously**. This is the alchemy that Lacan calls "love"-the relationship in which each lover sees in his beloved more than she has, that empowers the beloved to live up to the lover's expectations and become more than she once was.76 Contract is the most primitive form of eroticism-albeit a pathetic, and unromantic one. **Each individual,by admitting that another individ- ual has legal rights** (i.e., the right to possess and contract to exchange the object to be acquired), **makes that individual into more than she once was-she is no longer an individual, but a subject**. 3. FORMALITY AND RECOGNITION The Hegelian logic of alienation confuses many commentators because they do not recognize the purely formal nature of subjectivity and abstractright. Here, **object relations are purely instrumental and subordinate to the goal of recognition.** Hegel, like Kant, defines a free individual as an end in and for her self, and not the means to the end of another. In contrast, an object is something that is the means to the ends of something else. **In abstract right, each individual paradoxically wants both-that other individuals help him reach his end of becoming a subject, and that other individuals remain an end in and to themselves rather than merely a means to the first person's ends. Subjectivity is only created through recognition as such by a person that one recognizes as another subject. To treat another person as one's means, rather than as his own ends, is to fail to recognize him as an individual or a subject. The question then becomes, how can one accomplish one's own ends (which requires action by another person) without impinging on the ends of that other person or treating her like a means (an object)?** The Hegelian answer is that subjects can mediate their relationship through objects. **Both subjects mutually exploit the objects of exchange as means of recognizing each other-each fulfills her own ends (becom- ing a subject) while respecting the ends of the other (also to become a subject). The two subjects are united in a common will, in the sense that each wills his own ends, but these potentially competing ends tempora- rily coincide in the meeting of minds known as contract.** This means that, as a logical matter, one does not enter into object relations for the sake of the object itself or for the "natural" or other concrete functions they might serve. The specific characteristics of any object of a property claim is irrelevant and should be a matter of indifference to the subjects, from a logical standpoint. Right is something utterly sacre dfor the simple reason that it is the existence [ ] of the absolute concept, of self-conscious freedom. But the formalism of right-and also of duty-arises out of the dif- ferent stages in the development of the concept of freedom. In oppo- sition to the more formal, i.e. more abstractand hence more limited kind of right, that the sphere and stage of the spirit in which the spirit has determined and actualized within itself the further moments con- tained in its Idea possesses a higher right, for it is the more concrete sphere, richer within itself and more truly universal. Each stage in the development of the Idea of freedom has its distinctive right, because it is the existence of freedom in one of its own determinations. When we speak of the opposition between morality or ethics and right, the right in question is merely the initial and formal right of abstract personality. Morality, ethics, and the interest of the state-each of these is a distinct variety of right, because each of them gives determinate shape and existence to freedom.77 In other words, a full concrete personality requires the entire regime that Hegel calls Recht, which includes not only abstract right (property and contract), but morality and ethics. Abstract right is the most primitive form of right that only creates the form necessary for freedom-the empty vessel of legal subjectivity understood as the mere ability to accept legal rights and duties imposed by others. The content of person- ality will be added by morality and ethics. Consequently, Hegel states with respect to the legal subject: Since particularity, in the person [i.e. what I am calling the subject], is not yet present as freedom, everything which depends on particu- larity is here a matter of indifference. If someone is interested only in his formal right, this may be pure stubbornness, such as is often encountered in emotionally limited people; for uncultured people insist most strongly on their rights, whereas those of nobler mind seek to discover what other aspects there are to the matter in ques- tion. Thus abstract right is initially a mere possibility, and in that respect is formal in character as compared with the whole extent of the relationship. Consequently, a determination of right gives me a warrant, but it is not absolutely necessary that I should pursue my rights, because this is only one aspect of the whole relationship. For possibility is being, which also has the significance of not being. 78 Indeed, it is precisely the function of the element of alienation to make this irrelevance and indifference manifest. Nevertheless, even as subtle an analyst as Hughes, who expressly recognizes that the fact that object relations can also serve natural functions (food and shelter) is irrelevant to a Hegelian analysis, 79 misses this point. Hughes finds alienation "incoherent"80 because the subject loses the object that supposedly makes the subject recognizable.8' He finds this particularly problematic in Hegel's discussion of copyright, because the objects of copyright, being the author's creations, seem intrinsically linked to the author's personality.82 Consequently, he infers that the objects of copyright uniquely serve the goal of differentiating and identifying the author and concludes that complete alienation of artistic works might defeat the goal of the creation of personality. Consequently, he sees the Hegelian analysis of property as supporting certain restraints on alienation of copyrightable material, such as in the droit morale under which an artist retains some control over her creations after sale.83 But this critique is based on the misimpression that, to Hegel, the legal right of property relates to the creation of the full complex per- sonhood of empirical human beings situated in relations of family, civil society, and state.84 But **legal relationships relate only to the creation of legal subjects-persons capable of bearing rights and duties. The legal subjectivity mutually constituted with abstract right is, therefore, equally abstract and formal. Moreover, it is precisely abstractness and formality that enable abstract right and legal subjectivity to serve as the substra- tum for the concrete freedom of citizenship.** Above, I mentioned in passing an analysis that I have developed extensively elsewhere: Hegel's property jurisprudence is essentially erotic because contract is a primitive type of "love."8 5 My goal in doing so was to break down the dichotomy between rationality and passion that implicitly underlies both utilitarianism and romanticism. To Hegel's jurisprudence, rationality and passion are two sides of the same coin.86 **Reason tells the autonomous individual that he must actualize his freedom and to do so requires recognition by other subjects. Conse- quently, the free individual rationally decides that he must give way to the desire for others. Because abstract right is created in order to enable the interrelationship of mutual recognition to occur, it is erotic.** The "love" and desire that exist at the level of abstract right are only a pale shadow of the passions we feel towards our family, lovers, and friends. Consequently, I have argued vociferously that although utilitarians like Posner are right in seeing a parallel between economic activity and sexuality, they are wrong in trying to reduce the latter to a form of the former.87 Rather, from the Hegelian position, the former (economics) is merely a step that makes the latter (eroticism) possible. That is, contract establishes the form of love, not its content. Conversely, Hughes and Radin are equally mistaken in trying to argue that property can perform a direct function in the creation of the full, loving artistic personality. Although Hegel was a great defender of legalism and capitalistic markets, he also insisted that they be limited to their appropriate sphere. To analyze more complex interrelationships in terms of abstract right (property) is not merely erroneous. Never one to mince words, Hegel called it "crude" and shameful.88 Consequently, only the most base persons stand on their rights.8 9 The noble person accords rights to others. This is why Hegel condemns the classical lib- eral concept of government as social contract-citizenship is Hegel's most highly developed level of personality, and therefore, unlike the subject, cannot be comprised solely by legal categories. A corollary of this is that it is equally incorrect, indeed shameful, to adopt the romantic position towards copyright that conflates the legal relationship of property with the flowering of personality in artistic expression. From a Lacanian point of view, to do so is literally per- verse. Specifically it is fetishistic-the identification of objects with subjects.90 The specific content of objects of copyright has nothing to do with their status as a legal concept. To Hegel, saying copyright is "property" is not to say that society must or should establish a copyright regime. This decision can only be made by pragmatic reasoning. In this sense, Hegel's theory has a surprising utilitarian twist. Society's desire to further creativity may, however, be a good pragmatic argument in favor of such a regime.

#### Thus, the standard is consistency with materializing abstract right.

#### Abstract right is materialized in the community in the legal order. Controlling their production undermines the system through which we manifest our rights, meaning it violates our freedom as subjects and outweighs. Buchwalter,

Buchwalter, Andrew. “Hegel, Human Rights, and Political Membership.”

In addition, Hegel asserts that **the very idea of autonomous personality presupposes and demands articulation in an existing system of law**. Hegel construes autonomy intersubjectively, as selfhood in otherness, or Bei-sich-selbstsein. **A comprehensive account of achieved intersubjectivity depends on establishing a legal-political community juridically committed to principles of respect and reciprocity.**3 On the one hand, **autonomous personality depends on a social order that recognises and supports that autonomy**. **Conversely, that order itself depends on individuals who recognize its authority and act accordingly**. Only in a lawfully ordered community is the individual ‘recognised and treated as a rational being, as free, as a person; and the individual, on his side, makes himself worthy of this recognition by overcoming the natural state of his selfconsciousness and obeying a universal, the will that is its essence and actuality, the law; he behaves, therefore, towards others in a manner that is universally valid, recognising them—as he wishes others to recognise him—as free, as persons’ (EM y432). It is no coincidence that Hegel construes the principle of autonomous personality in terms of a legal imperative: it is a commandment of right that one ‘be a person and respect others as persons’ (PR y36). Hegel may proceed from the seemingly abstract notion of autonomous personality, but **a proper account of the person itself depends on a developed system of legal relations**. The point is also central to Hegel’s concept of right itself. In line with the modern natural law tradition, Hegel understands right as a normative principle, one based on the principle of freedom and the free will. Indeed, for Hegel right is the idea of freedom itself. But an idea on his view is not an abstract principle contraposed to conditions of institutional embodiment. In line with his general conceptual realism, he maintains that an idea denotes a concept conjoined with its existence—an understanding consonant as well with a view of freedom as selfhood in otherness. As the idea of freedom, right itself is nothing but freedom under the conditions of its actualization; it is indeed the ‘existence of the free will’ (Dasein des freien Willens) (PR y29). **In its capacity as a principle of freedom, right is a general normative principle. But in that capacity it is also a principle of legal positivism, one tied to a legal system committed to its institutionalization and enforcement. Right for Hegel is the ‘realm of actualized freedom’, articulated in an existing system of positive law. A developed legal system is the domain in which ‘freedom attains its supreme right’** (PR y258) and ‘in which alone right has its actuality’ (EM y502). In fashioning an embodied account of right, Hegel demonstrates his distinctive relationship to the natural right tradition. To the extent that that tradition evinces an abstract prepolitical ahistoricism, he is opposed, proposing instead that natural law ‘be replaced with the designation philosophical doctrine of right’ (NRPS y2). Directed to the ‘idea’ of that under consideration (the concept joined with its realisation), a philosophical doctrine of right affirms that right is intelligible only within the framework of developed social and political institutions (PR y1). Elaboration of the idea of right is itself exeundum esse e statu naturae (VRP 1: 239f ). And lest there be any doubt about his distance from the natural right tradition, Hegel even suggests that the term right itself is inadequate to the requirements for institutional embodiment. While sometimes calling his practical philosophy a Philosophy of Right, he elsewhere, in his philosophical system, employs the title Theory of Objective Spirit. It is this account of spirit objectified that reflects the distinctiveness in Hegel’s notion of right as institutionally realised freedom. At the same time, however, Hegel’s departure from the natural right tradition should not be exaggerated. An early proponent of the method of immanent critique, Hegel maintains that the most consequential criticism of a contested position is one that confronts that position on its own terms. This expectation is no less in evidence in his reception of the tradition of natural right. Employing the dialectic of true and spurious being central to his principle of self-contradiction, Hegel criticizes the natural law doctrine because its liberal formulation conflicts not with an alien standard, but with its true self or ‘nature’. Thus an analysis of individual rights in terms of their inherent concept focuses not on an individual’s natural and immediate existence, but on his true being, what Hegel calls ‘die Natur der Sache’ (PR y57). For Hegel, a citizen is defined by a concept of autonomous personality which is realised only in developed political and cultural community.4 Hence, a defence of natural rights is likewise a defence of the principle of political community, just as a repudiation of the liberal approach to natural rights is a realisation of the concept of natural law. It is no coincidence that Hegel subtitles his Philosophy of Right ‘Natural Law and Political Science’, for the concept of natural law is meaningless on his view without an account of established political institutions. Hegel champions the idea of Objective Spirit over that of Natural Right, not because he opposes the principle of the latter, but because that principle only finds expression in a system of ethical life. The point may be made as well by noting how appeal to communal membership itself reaffirms elements of the tradition of natural right. For Hegel, **a proper account of communal membership depends on a self-awareness** (Selbstgefu¨hl) **on the part of members of their status as members** (PR y147). As Hegel says of political community generally, ‘[i]t is the self-awareness of individuals which constitutes the actuality of the state’ (PR y265A). **Proper to membership is an appreciation of oneself as a member of such community.** Such self-awareness is, however, no mere acknowledgement of the norms, practices, and traditions of a particular community. **Membership also involves, if in differing degrees, its acceptance and endorsement.** **Especially in an account of a polity, membership involves the capacity to affirm the validity of the norms and practices operative in a particular community.** Such norms and practices are not simply to be obeyed but must ‘have their assent, recognition, or even justification in y heart, sentiment, conscience, intelligence, etc.’ (EM y503). For Hegel, the capacity for cognitive affirmation—it has been termed ‘reflective acceptability’5 —is understood by means of the language of rights. A full account of membership rests on a ‘right of insight’, which itself expresses the right of subjectivity central to modern accounts of freedom. ‘The right to recognize nothing that I do not perceive as rational is the highest right of the subject’ (PR y132).6 Hegel claims that rights are not abstract normative principles but depend on conditions for membership in existing institutional settings. It is for this reason that he supplants a Theory of Right with a Doctrine of Objective Spirit. Yet the appeal to particular communities and institutions does not entail abrogation of conception of rights. Not only is membership in a political community a condition for realizing rights, **a proper account of communal membership itself entails affirmation of subjective rights and the right of subjectivity itself.** Indeed, basic to the idea of Objective Spirit—where spirit for Hegel is understood as the conjunction of substance and subjectivity7 —is the ontological dependence of a communal substance on the experience of subjective reflection. Hegel construes his philosophy of right as a theory at once of natural law and positive political science. The ‘interpenetration’ (PR y1A) of these two approaches is not only central to but constitutive of the idea of Objective Spirit.8 II In asserting that the meaning and reality of rights are linked to conditions of social membership, Hegel does not hold that any type of communal membership is acceptable. Needed rather is a community that can properly accommodate the requirements of an account of rights. Historically, Hegel claims that such requirements were at least minimally met with modern society and, in particular, modern civil society. Expressive of that ‘system of all-round interdependence’ (PR y183) diagnosed as well by theorists of political economy, modern civil society provides, on multiple counts, the conditions for a concrete realisation and embodiment of a system of right. First, civil society permits and fosters affirmation of a genuine account of human rights. Although critical of cosmopolitanism (PR y209), Hegel is not opposed to the concept of universal human rights. His position is rather that that concept cannot be asserted abstractly, but must be embodied in circumstances that accommodate and do justice to it. Historically, such concrete validation first occurred in modern civil society (PR y209). Previously, individuals may have been able to claim rights in virtue of particular status considerations, e.g., class, familial or ethnic background, social standing, or gender. In modern society, however, Hegel claims that the individual is now recognised, at least in principle, simply as such, in virtue of his/her very humanity (PR y124R). Inasmuch as a system of commercial exchange best functions only to the degree that individuals, for better or worse, are now valued simply for their economically and quantitatively relevant contributions, irrespective of other status considerations, civil society permits the realisation of right as a universal principle, indeed as a uniform principle of humanity. It is not coincidental that Hegel famously advanced his claim about the universality of rights only on his discussion of civil society, for here ‘I am apprehended as a universal person in which all are identical. A human being counts as such because he is a human being, not because he is Jew, Catholic, Protestant, German, Italian, etc.’ (PR y209, emphasis added). Modern civil society supplies the conditions for the realisation of a notion of right wherein ‘the individual as such has an infinite value’, and in the sense that freedom constitutes the ‘actuality of human beings—not something which they have, as men, but which they are’ (EM y482). Civil society is also important for Hegel in that it clarifies the binding nature of rights. One feature of modern civil society is its compulsory character. Given the complex, differentiated, interdependent nature of modern industrial society, individuals can pursue a livelihood only as a member of that society. Civil society is ‘that immense power which draws people to itself and requires them to work for it’ (PR y238). Indeed, life itself depends on such membership. For a system of realised freedom, then, membership in civil society itself entails certain rights, even as those rights also entail specific duties. ‘[I]f a human being is to be a member of civil society, he has rights and claims in relation to it. y Civil society must protect its members and defend their rights, just as the individual owes a duty to the right of civil society’ (PR y238A). Civil society further clarifies what counts as rights. Revolving around particular need satisfaction, modern societies give special place to ‘negative’ rights, those guaranteeing ‘the undisturbed security of persons and property’ (PR y230). The system of justice institutionalized with civil society secures recognition for the principle Hegel associates with the abstract right of persons: ‘not to violate (verletzen) personality and what ensues from personality’ (PR y38). For Hegel, civil society is also expected to secure certain ‘positive’ rights, those enabling individuals to realise themselves and the freedoms civil society is presumed to actualize (NRPS y118). Given that the livelihood and indeed the very existence of individuals is dependent on membership in civil society, society in turn has an obligation to provide the resources—e.g., subsistence, health, education, housing—enabling individuals to function effectively as members of society. The system of interdependence constituting civil society is such that ‘the livelihood and welfare of individuals should be secured—i.e., that particular welfare should be treated as a right and duly actualized’ (PR y230). Moreover, given that the right to life—that which is ‘absolutely essential’ (NRPS y118)—is presupposed in the protection of rights of person and property, Hegel assigns a measure of priority to positive rights.9 In addition, civil society gives rise to political rights, those enabling individuals to participate in collective efforts to define and shape the conditions of their shared existence. Such rights, to be sure, are fully articulated not in civil society itself, but in the state or political community proper. Yet the idea of political rights is entailed as well by requirements for full membership opportunities established with civil society. They are entailed as well by a full account of the reciprocity of rights and duties articulated by civil society. And they are entailed by the account of the complex and wide-ranging intermediation of individual and community facilitated through civil society. Certainly Hegel does not affirm a right to direct participation in public affairs. He also does not allow for universal suffrage, preferring instead a mode of political representation based on membership in intermediate associations, subpolitical bodies, municipalities, and community based organizations (PR yy308f). Yet far from militating against a notion of public autonomy on the part of the wider populace, participation in such entities can serve to facilitate it. Not only does membership in such bodies facilitate representation in modern societies, whose size and complexity have rendered all but impossible meaningful direct participation on the part of individuals in the affairs of state; citizen involvement in intermediate associations is a central factor in the very ‘constitution’ of a polity, itself based on the intermediation of objective institutional structures and subjective dispositions of individuals. In addition, Hegel maintains that governance of communities, intermediate associations, and subpolitical entities—many of which are already present in civil society—is itself linked to participatory rights. ‘This is the point of view of right, that individuals have the right to administer their resources’ (NRPS y141). Civil society is distinctive not just in that in articulates the three central rights attendant on social membership. It also gives voice to a meta-right, what Hegel calls the ‘absolute right’ (VPRHe: 127). Right on this account denotes not simply the possession of specific rights, but the general recognition, by those directly affected and by the community as a whole, that members of society are entitled to rights and their status as bearers of rights. This is indeed ‘the right to have rights’ (VPRHe: 127),10 and it is uniquely facilitated by civil society. **Predicated as it is on the comprehensive mediation of individual and community, civil society provides the institutional basis to recognise general claims to right**. For one thing, modern civil society underwrites the idea of a realised constitutional order, understood as a promulgated system of law applicable to society as a whole and committed to the dignity and equal treatment of each and every member of society. In addition, it furnishes the conditions for what Richard Rorty has termed a ‘human rights culture’,11 one in which individuals are recognised as entitled to rights and the protections they afford. **Not only does civil society nurture in individuals an understanding of themselves as holders of rights that are to be respected and honoured; through its system of wide-ranging interdependence, it provides the framework for a community in which individuals appreciate that support for the rights of others and the institutions providing such support is intertwined with their own rights and wellbeing.** Civil society ‘gives right an existence [Dasein] in which it is universally recognized, known and willed, and in which, through the mediation of this quality of being known and willed, its validity and objective actuality’ (PR y209). In terms of both institutional and cognitive requirements, civil society concretizes a right to have rights: it represents a social order in which individuals are recognised, by themselves and others, as subjects possessing rights (and corresponding duties)

#### Negate –

#### 1] Hume’s Guillotine – nothing can cross the is-ought gap, Hume 1739:

David Hume, Philosopher, “A Treatise of Human Nature,” 1739 //LHP AV

**In every system of morality**, which I have hitherto met with, I have always remark'd, that **the author proceeds for some time in the ordinary ways of reasoning**, and establishes the being of a God, **or makes observations concerning human affairs**; **when** all of a sudden **I** am surpriz'd to **find**, that instead of the usual copulations of propositions, is, and is not, **I meet with no proposition that is not connected with an ought, or an ought not**. **This change is imperceptible; but is however, of the last consequence.** **For as this ought, or ought not, expresses some new relation or affirmation**, 'tis necessary that it shou'd be observ'd and explain'd; and at the same time that **a reason** should be given; **for what seems altogether inconceivable**, **how this new relation can be a deduction from others, which are entirely different from it.**

#### NC Solves – we don’t need to bridge the gap between the noumenal and phenomenal – we can properly produce morality through the phenomenal via the NC.

#### 2] Personality theory – IP is uniquely an extension of reason and sensibility through personal investment – Priya 08:

Priya, Kanu. "Intellectual Property and Hegelian Justification." NUJS Law Review, vol. 2008, no. 2, 2008, p. 359-366. HeinOnline. // LHP PS

**Many proponents of intellectual property law seek refuge in a personality theory of property associated with GW.F. Hegel.** This theory seems to protect intellectual property from potential attacks by a utilitarian analysis that would recognizes property only contingently insofar as it furthers society's goals of utility or wealth maximization. **Personality theory, in contrast, supposedly offers a principled argument that intellectual property right must be recognized by a just state, regardless of efficiency considerations**. Personality theory **also seems to protect intellectual property from assault by critics who maintain that it is not a form of "true" property at all.** Finally, **the theory has also been used to** support **an argument for heightened protection of intellectual property beyond that given to other forms of property - the Continental "moral" right of artists in their creations is an example**! **Hegel's view of property, with its foundation on the notion of the individual and the formation of self-identity, "is perhaps most directly applicable to the narrower notion of intellectual property."** Also characterized as the "personality theory" of property, **Hegel's rationale suggests that the inventor has imbued the invention with his personality or will, making the process of creation an intensely individualistic one.** **Hegel postulates that property and ownership are important milestones in the journey toward self-development, and are essential to survival as well.** **These are ideas that should make sense to emerging countries seeking to justify their protection of intellectual property rights.** However, this view may not successfully justify intellectual property rights in cultural systems that are less centered on the individual and more focused on the identity of the community and on the protection of community property. The individualistic underpinnings of patent law, expounded by philosophers such as Hegel, may be difficult to incorporate into more community-oriented societies.9 It has long been argued that intellectual property is justified on a number of alternative bases. Economic, labour and spiritual theories have been advanced to justify propertising intellectual creations. **Intellectual property theorists**, following Hegel's and Kant's thoughts on the subject, **contend that the personhood theory of property is especially true when the property is a work of art. They argue that works of art are created through a person's mental labor and thus embody more of her individual essence of being than works created through routine physical labor.** **Since artistic works are part of an artist's very identity, she never should be completely separated from the work. The personhood theory of intellectual property thus supports not only the idea of copyright in artistic products, but also the idea of moral rights**. The debate surrounding the correct theory about why intellectual property exists is not purely academic. It can play a decisive role in the outcome of copyright cases. For example, in Sony v. Universal City Studios (The Betamax Case) 1, the Supreme Court held the videotaping of televised programs for purposes of "time-shifting" could be considered fair use. The discussion of reputation and values shows that open-source software can embody and express personality, but it assumes a capacity for software to express personality similar to that of other copyright subject matter. This assumption requires examination, because software has unique attributes as copyrightable subject matter. Despite the differences, in terms of personality expressing capacity, the similarity is sufficiently close to conclude that the opensource approach carries and expresses personality equivalently to moral rights, even if traditional closed software does not, or perhaps cannot, because the source code is not available to be viewed. The other moral rights also fit the personality theory. The author or artist needs to control the first publication or disclosure of the work in order to ensure that when the work leaves the author's domain, it embodies the personalityview desired. Once released, the right of attribution ensures that the original author or artist retains the degree of association with the work under which the author released it. This is often done by name, but could also be under a pseudonym, or be anonymous. The right to withdraw the work upon remuneration also fits the personality theory. If the artist changes the genre or reworks the image, it may be fitting, from a moral rights perspective, for the artist to withdraw from circulation works that clash with a prior era in the artist's development. The justifications advanced for intellectual property law have been many and varied. It has been suggested that intellectual property is analogous to tangible property and justifications used to support the propertisation of physical creations can be advanced for intellectual ones as well. A common assertion used tojustify propertising **intellectual works is that intangible creations require property protection because they are economically valuable works worthy of protection in their own .** This is essentially an economic justification, one premised upon overcoming market failure and market imperfections. **Economic justification for propertising creative work is premised on the very foundation that without proper protection authors would have insufficient incentives to write new works unless they are compensated with property rights.**

## 4

#### The role of the ballot is determine the truth or falsity of the resolution.

**[1] Constitutive: The ballot asks you to either vote aff or neg based on the given resolution a) Five dictionaries[[1]](#footnote-1) define to negate as to deny the truth of and affirm[[2]](#footnote-2) as to prove true which means its intrinsic to the nature of the activity b) Anything else is intervention - Branse:**

David Brasne '15 (), 9-4-2015, "The Role of the Judge By David Branse (Part One)," NSD Update,http://nsdupdate.com/2015/09/04/the-role-of-the-judge-by-david-branse-part-one

First, bindingness: the practice rules argument I’ve sketched out illustrates this point. **Once a judge commits to a round in accordance with a set of rules**, the reasons within the round are different – **the rules are absolute** and non-optional. When a person signs a contract, **if they come to regard the terms of the contract as problematic, this is not a reason to disregard the contract. It might only be a reason to try to renegotiate it.** A decision about the practicality of the contract cannot, in itself, generate a reason to disobey the terms of the agreement. Second, arbitrariness: A maxim that provides the judge with the authority to vote on their perceived assessment of the activity’s goals seems to only emphasize the arbitrary, subjective elements of debate. There would be something deeply objectionable about the referee deciding to declare the better exerciser winner. **Impositions of practical judgments seem to just be unfair ex post facto rules that step outside the judge’s jurisdiction. This is especially true with debate** – education claims may seem somewhat intuitive, but there is no reason imposing practical judgments ends there. For example, one judge could come to believe that debate is a unique space to construct value judgments, and therefore the best debater is the one who best establishes a philosophy to win the round. Even though debate is a unique space for philosophical argumentation, no debater would feel comfortable for a judge voting on the AC framework when the neg won contention level offense beneath that framework. **Every judge will have different value judgments, and so the role of the judge in each round would oscillate. This emphasizes judge intervention**, and destroys the chance for debaters to predict each other’s arguments and thus engage with them. Very few people are comfortable viewing debate as an activity with oscillating rules where judges cannot be held to any predictable standard.

#### [2] Fiat is illusory: Nothing leaves this round other than the result on the ballot which means even if there is a higher purpose, it doesn’t change anything and you should just write whatever is important on the ballot and vote for me. Answering this triggers constitutivism since the win is necessary for your scholarship which means rules inside of the game matter.

#### [3] Isomorphism: ROBs that aren’t phrased as binaries maximize leeway for interpretation as to who is winning offense. Scalar framing mechanisms necessitate that the judge has to intervene to see who is closest at solving a problem. Truth testing solves since it’s solely a question of if something is true or false, there isn’t a closest estimate.

#### [4] Inclusion: a) other ROBs open the door for personal lives of debaters to factor into decisions and compare who is more oppressed which causes violence in a space where some people go to escape. b) Anything can function under truth testing insofar as it proves the resolution either true or false. Specific role of the ballots exclude all offense besides those that follow from their framework which shuts out people without the technical skill or resources to prep for it.

#### [5] Bindingness: a) all arguments pre-assume that they are true as judges don’t vote an arguments proven false b) in order to win that your ROB is superior to TT you must prove true the claim that your ROB is better than TT.

#### [6] Intrinsicness: Truth Testing is internal to the process of debating - Branse 2:

9-4-2015, "The Role of the Judge By David Branse (Part One)," NSD Update, <http://nsdupdate.com/2015/09/04/the-role-of-the-judge-by-david-branse-part-one/>

#### In debate, those rules are testing the truth of a pre-given and pre-prepared topic. Switch-side debate provides a unique forum where we A) don’t have to endorse our arguments as true since we contradict ourselves every round [and], B) view the process of warranting as supremely valuable, and C) can challenge all ethical assumptions we hold. Truth testing allows debaters to analyze arguments from a wide range of viewpoints, with an emphasis on contesting the warrants of every argument. In my opinion, the value and skills garnered in debate arise from the process of debating, not the content of the arguments or a particular pedagogical viewpoint. Debaters learn to structure logical syllogisms to warrant everything from the outrageous to the intuitive. The process of truth testing teaches debaters how to make decisions in the real world. We learn how to justify our beliefs and become good advocates not by rejecting this paradigm but by embracing it. Competition to determine the truth of a proposition motivates debaters to engage in the very practices that provide us education. Debaters extensively prep and research unique topical ideas for the sake of winning. Few debaters would have learned as much as they did about the living wage without debate’s competitive incentive.

#### [7] Critical pedagogy forces the judge into the role of coercer – Rickert:

(Thomas, “"Hands Up, You're Free": Composition in a Post-Oedipal World”, JacOnline Journal, wbem)

**An example of the connection between violence and pedagogy is implicit in** the notion of being "schooled" as it has been conceptualized **by Giroux [is]** and Peter Mcl.aren. They explain, **"Fundamental to** the principles that inform **critical pedagogy is the conviction that schooling for self- and social empowerment** is ethically prior to questions of epistemology or to a mastery oftechnical or social skills that are primarily tied to the logic of the marketplace" (153-54). **A presumption here is that it is the teacher who knows (best)**, and **this** orientation gives the concept of schooling a particular bite: though it presents itself as oppositional to the state and the dominant forms of pedagogy that serve the state and its capitalist interests, it nevertheless **reinscribes an authoritarian model that is congruent with any number of oedipalizing pedagogies that "school" the student in proper behavior.** As Diane Davis notes, radical, feminist, and **liberatory pedagogies** "often **camouflage pedagogical violence in their move from one mode of 'normalization' to another" and "function within a disciplinary matrix of power**, a covert carceral system, **that aims to create useful subjects for particular political agendas" (212).** Such oedipalizing pedagogies are less effective in practice than what the claims for them assert; indeed, the attempt to "school" students in the manner called for by Giroux and McLaren is complicitous with the malaise of postmodern cynicism.Students will dutifully go through their liberatory motions, producing the proper assignments, but it remains an open question whether they carry an oppositional politics with them. The "critical distance" supposedly created with liberatory pedagogy also opens up a cynical distance toward the writing produced in class

#### The aff negates –

#### Permissibility Negates –

#### 1] Semantics – Ought is defined as expressing obligation which means absent a proactive obligation you vote neg since there’s a trichotomy between prohibition, obligation, and permissibility and proving one disproves the other two.

#### 2] Safety – It’s ethically safer to presume the squo since we know what the squo is but we can’t know whether the aff will be good or not if ethics are incoherent.

#### 3] Logic – Propositions require positive justification before being accepted, otherwise one would be forced to accept the validity of logically contradictory propositions regarding subjects one knows nothing about, i.e if one knew nothing about P one would have to presume that both the "P" and "~P" are true.

#### 4] Shiftiness – Permissibility ground encourages the aff to load up with triggers and the 1ar controls the direction of the round which means they can moot all my offense, I need permissibility in the 2n to compensate.

#### Presume neg- A. We assume statements to be false until proven true. That is why we don’t believe in alternate realities or conspiracy theories. The lack of a reason something is false does not me it is assumed to be true. B. Statements are more often false then true. If I say this pen is red, I can only prove it true in one way by demonstrating that it is indeed red, where I can prove it false in an infinite amount of ways.

## Case

#### 1] Vote negative on presumption –

#### 2] Method DA – they are complicit with the unjustice they critique – Landa:

Landa, Ishay. "Bataille’s libidinal economics: Capitalism as an open wound." Critical Sociology 41, no. 4-5 (2015): 581-596.

While to a certain extent concurring with such claims, I suggest that **the complicity between Bataille and capitalism goes** still **deeper**, and should not be reduced to a surprising historical postscript. The claim that Bataille was correct as far as modern capitalism was concerned, but failed to foresee its postmodern transformation is doubly problematical. To start with, one should not overstate the transformation which capitalism actually underwent in the passage from ‘frugal’ modernity to ‘spendthrift’ post-modernity. In reality, the capitalism of Bataille’s own time was already a far cry from his caricature: in 1899, more than three decades before Bataille started to analyze capitalism in terms of a restricted economy, Thorsten Veblen, albeit in a different continent, seminally introduced the contrary notion of ‘conspicuous consumption’ to describe the extravagant spending of the rich.2 Similarly, well before Bataille, sociologists, historians and economists had begun to loudly bemoan the demise of early, ascetic, Calvinist capitalism, and the rise of what Max Weber famously referred to as heartless hedonism.3 If one substitutes, in this formulation, head-less for heartless, one gets an image of capitalism which Bataille should have found rather appealing. And these examples could be multiplied many times over. **So at the time that most critics charged capitalism for its unrestrained profligacy, irrationality, wastefulness and spiraling desires, Bataille condemned it rather for its moderation, frugality, oppressive rationality, and failure to make human sacrifices.** **This was,** in short, **a critique which threatened to become an apologia**, in that it posited as a subversive ideal a future (or past) condition whose ingredients – disparity, waste, inequality, strife, sacrifice, irrationality, and so on – were at the time of writing integral parts of the present (as they carry on being, in our own times of ‘postmodern’ capitalism). The second problem with the claim that Bataille’s critique ‘has been outpaced by “cloacal” capitalism’ (Noys, 2011: 54) concerns the very term ‘postmodern’ when juxtaposed with Bataille. Here, what seems to escape the critics is the ironical fact that Bataille is often recognized as a major instigator of the postmodern, sometimes even described as ‘the father of postmodernism’ (Drury, 1994: 103, 123) **So a postmodern capitalism is one which Bataille may have helped to ideologically justify, and furnish with an ethos.** Thus, rather than thinking of Bataille as one who had been ‘outpaced’ by capitalism, it might be more productive to approach his theory as a pacemaker of capitalism, one which was congruent with this mode of production to begin with. **One finds in Bataille a classic example** **of** what Georg Lukács has called, significantly apropos Bataille’s master, Nietzsche, ‘**indirect apologetics of capitalism’: whereas direct apologetics promotes capitalism on account of its perceived positive aspects such as wealth creation, scientific advance, or harmonious social relationships, while denying or downplaying any fundamental contradictions and problems, indirect apologetics more ingeniously aims to justify capitalism precisely by affirming its contradictions and destructive aspects, once they can no longer be ignored. Thus, for example, competition, even at its most brutal, ‘cruel’, and catastrophic, is embraced as natural, inevitable and even stimulating and beneficial** (see Lukács, 1962: 354). Such justification is ‘indirect’ inasmuch as these aspects are usually presented not as emanating from capitalism as a distinct and historical mode of production, but as reflecting the ‘natural’ struggle for survival (as in social Darwinism) or displaced onto some metaphysical factors (such as ‘the will to power’).

1. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/negate>, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/negate>, <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/negate>, <http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/negate>, <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/negate> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Dictionary.com – maintain as true, Merriam Webster – to say that something is true, Vocabulary.com – to affirm something is to confirm that it is true, Oxford dictionaries – accept the validity of, Thefreedictionary – assert to be true* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)