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3[B] – The Revival of Ayn Rand eTOC G1 Chobun TypeB

G1 12-1

1. The 20th century American novelist and philosopher Ayn Rand originated the  
2. theory of Objectivism, an ideology that celebrates free-market capitalism as the  
3. best form of society and condemns altruism as a destructive force that  
4. threatens to smother human progress. Rand believed individuals had a right to  
5. pursue wealth and their own personal happiness before all else; indeed, she  
6. believes that if they did not do so, they were likely to become mere slaves to  
7. society. “Until and unless you discover that money is the root of all good,” she  
8. wrote, “you ask for your own destruction. When money ceases to become the  
9. means by which men deal with one another, then men become the tools of other  
10. men.” Rand’s views were shaped by her early history. She was born in Russia  
11. in 1905 to a wealthy business family. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, her  
12. father’s thriving pharmacy was confiscated by the Bolsheviks. Hating life in  
the new Soviet Union, she moved to the United States in 1925, becoming a

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1) What is the theory of Objectivism?

*It is an ideology that celebrates free-market capitalism as the best form of society and condemns altruism as a destructive force that threatens to smother human progress.*

2) What happened to Ayn Rand’s father’s pharmacy?

*It was confiscated by the Bolsheviks.*

Objectivism contends that only unregulated capitalism can guarantee individual freedom. This means individuals must be allowed to succeed to the best of their abilities without interference from society. To succeed and maximize their profits, individuals must rely on their knowledge of objective reality, which they gain through perception and reason. In contrast to a widely held view of capitalism as a system that unfairly favors the wealthy and privileged, Objectivism holds that capitalism rewards the most creative, productive individuals and only penalizes the lazy and incompetent. Although the unchecked—and untaxed—productivity of creative individuals ultimately

39. generates material benefits for the entire society, this was a secondary issue  
40. for Rand. She felt capitalism was superior not because it was more productive,  
41. but because it was morally just. Unsuccessful individuals were fully  
42. responsible for their own failure because they were either unproductive or  
43. made poor decisions. Successful people, therefore, were under no obligation to  
44. be altruistic; equally, no individual had a right to appeal for charity from  
45. society at large.

### Further Questions

46. **3) What must a person do to succeed and maximize their profits?**

47. *They must rely on their knowledge of objective reality, which they gain through*  
48. *perception and reason.*

49. **4) What was Rand's primary reason for believing capitalism was superior?**

50. *She felt capitalism was superior not because it was more productive, but*  
51. *because it was morally just.*

52. The long novels in which Rand dramatized these ideas not only influenced

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66. **(39) What is implied by both James Fallows and Susan Jacoby?**

67. 1. Rand's ideas are more likely to hold appeal for those individuals who come  
68. from lower-income or politically repressed communities.

69. 2. Rand's observations about human nature make sense, but her economic  
70. philosophy contains significant contradictions.

71. 3. Rand's conclusions regarding capitalism are not an accurate reflection of  
72. the way the world actually works.

73. 4. Rand's philosophy has been exploited by wealthy individuals who want to  
74. justify the advantages they were born with.

### Further Questions

76. **5) What did Rand do to influence people?**

77. *She wrote long novels in which she dramatized her ideas.*

78. **6) What lesson did James Fallows learn that made him change his mind about**  
79. **Rand?**

80. *Men do not have equal opportunities, nor any plausible chance of being*  
81. *rewarded in proportion to their merit.*

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82. If Objectivism's themes of unregulated capitalism, individualism, minimal  
83. taxation, and job creation depending entirely on the wealthy sound familiar to  
84. many Americans today, it is because Rand's ideas have attracted renewed  
85. attention with the rise of the conservative political movement known as the  
86. Tea Party. Part members quote her, news articles about the Tea Party  
87. reference her, and, more importantly, Tea Party-affiliated Congress members  
88. are turning to her philosophy when creating their policy proposals.  
89. Congressman Paul Ryan devised a budget proposal that would privatize social  
90. programs such as health insurance for the poor and elderly, lower taxes on  
91. corporations and the wealthy, and drastically cut the government's operating  
92. budget—all policies Ryan admits were inspired by Objectivism. Even before  
93. this recent revival, Alan Greenspan, head of the U.S. banking system from  
94. 1987 to 2006. was paving the way for Objectivism. Greenspan was one of

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107. burden on businesses and take away the need for government-funded welfare  
108. programs.

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### Further Questions

109. **7) Why might Rand's ideas sound familiar?**

110. *It is because Rand's ideas have attracted renewed attention with the rise of the*  
111. *conservative political movement known as the Tea Party.*

112. **8) What was Alan Greenspan's relationship to Ayn Rand?**

113. *He was one of Rand's closest friends and most faithful disciples.*

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114. The recent focus on Rand's ideas has generated controversy. In Objectivism,  
115. self-interest takes precedence over all else—including religion, sexual mores,  
116. and traditional social values. Rand was a staunch atheist, believed that  
117. abortion should be a legal right, and often spoke out against traditional ideas of  
118. the family. Furthermore, because of her background, Rand denounced any kind  
119. of "collective"; she was critical of organized groups, including political parties.

120. Many commentators point out the irony in the fact that the Tea Party, which is  
121. often seen as a political arm of conservative religious factions, has become the  
122. face of modern Objectivism. Tea Party members embrace economic Objectivism  
123. but manage to conveniently ignore Rand's rejection of the traditional moral  
124. values they hold dear—a paradox she would surely have found intolerable.

125. **(41) What is true of Tea Party members' promotion of Objectivism?**

126. 1. Although they believe self-interest should be prioritized over religion, they  
127. emphasize that their views on social values are different from Rand's.

128. 2. They tend to support Rand's position on faith, ethical standards, and  
129. morality, but they remain silent on her economic ideas.

130. 3. Although they agree that organized movements should be avoided, they  
131. have been willing to align with existing political parties to further their  
132. agenda.

133. 4. They are vocal about their support of Rand's economic philosophy despite

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