

Is my work aimed at preserving capitalism?

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I was troubled [by Grace Blakeley's accusation](#) that I am working to:

make the existing capitalist system work more effectively, rather than effect a systematic redistribution of wealth and power

So, I asked ChatGPT:

Is Richard Murphy's work aimed at preserving capitalism by making it work better?

This is the answer I got, unedited:

Richard Murphy's work is aimed at preserving society — not preserving capitalism.

But because we currently **have** a capitalist-dominated economy, much of his work focuses on reshaping it so that it serves democratic and social goals rather than the other way around.

Here's the nuance:

What Murphy does argue

He argues that:

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Markets can be useful where competition delivers real value.

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Private enterprise has a role in innovation and productive activity.

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Money and the state must work together, and public investment is essential for shared prosperity.

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Tax justice, regulation, and democratic accountability are required to curb exploitation.

In this sense, yes, he engages with the existing framework and proposes reforms that would make economic life fairer, more stable, and less extractive.

What he explicitly rejects:

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Capitalism as a system that concentrates wealth and power in a tiny elite.

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The notion that markets alone can organise society.

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A rentier economy that extracts income without creating value.

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Any economic model blind to ecological limits and human well-being.

He is **not** defending capitalism's current structure — he is challenging its foundational priorities: profit before care, property before people, extraction before sustainability.

So which is it?

A concise answer:

His work keeps what works in markets but seeks to replace what doesn't — especially the power structures and rent-seeking behaviours at the heart of contemporary capitalism.

Murphy's framework — the **Politics of Care**, economic democracy, public financial systems, ending rentier control — is **closer to a social, democratic, and ecological transformation** than a patch for neoliberal capitalism.

He's not trying to save capitalism from itself.

He's trying to **save people from capitalism** — and if markets survive in a subordinate role, so be it.

I think that's fair. I will be curious to see what Gace Blakely has to say, if she accepts my invitation to comment, as I hope she will.

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