



DEBATE TOPIC AND SPEAKERS ANNOUCEMENT

THE MUNK DEBATE ON CAPITALISM

October 1, 2019 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution and speakers for its Autumn 2019 debate, to be held at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto on Wednesday, December 4th.

The motion for the Autumn 2019 Munk Debate: ***The capitalist system is broken. It's time to try something different.*** Arguing **the affirmative** is **Katrina vanden Heuvel**, Editorial Director and Publisher of *The Nation*. vanden Heuvel writes a weekly column for *The Washington Post*, and is a frequent commentator on U.S. and international politics for ABC, MSNBC, CNN and PBS. She will be joined **Yanis Varoufakis**, who is the former Minister of Finance for Greece. His bestselling books include *Adults in the Room: My Battle with the European and American Deep Establishment.* and *Talking to My Daughter About the Economy.*

Arguing **against the resolution** will be **Arthur Brooks**, Harvard professor and *Washington Post* columnist. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Conservative Heart: How to Build a Fairer, Happier, and More Prosperous America* and *The Road to Freedom: How to Win the Fight for Free Enterprise*. Joining him will be *New York Times* columnist, political commentator and bestselling author, **David Brooks**. Brooks is also a commentator on "PBS NewsHour," NPR's "All Things Considered" and NBC's "Meet the Press." His most recent book is the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life.*

There is a growing belief in western societies that the current capitalist system no longer works for average people. Economic inequality is rampant. Life expectancy is falling. The environment is being destroyed for profits. Political power is wielded by wealthy elites and big business, not the people. For capitalism's critics, the answer is a top to bottom reform of the "free market" along more socialist and democratic lines. For proponents of capitalism, it is the engine of economic and social progress, full stop. Not only has capitalism made all of

us materially better off, its ideals are responsible for everything from women's rights to a cleaner environment to greater political freedoms. The answer to society's current ills is more capitalism, more economic freedom, and more free markets.

"This is a very timely debate that touches on everything from the 2020 U.S. election cycle to the environment to economic inequality" comments **Rudyard Griffiths**, Chair of the Munk Debates. "We are fortunate to be able to host at the debate some world's brightest minds on this topic. I am looking forward to a substantive and entertaining discussion."

Now in its eleventh year, the Munk Debates are Canada's preeminent forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the autumn. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Samantha Power, Paul Krugman, Fareed Zakaria, Dambisa Moyo, Mia Farrow, Malcolm Gladwell, Stephen Fry, Glenn Greenwald, Newt Gingrich and David Frum.

The Munk Debates are a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

The Munk Debate on Capitalism will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Wednesday, December 4th, 2019** at 6:45 p.m. EST. For information on purchasing tickets, premium membership, or subscriptions, please visit www.munkdebates.com.

The debate will also be broadcast live online for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on Capitalism, visit www.munkdebates.com.

Our archive of HD videos of past Munk Debates is free for unlimited viewing to all Munk Debate members. For a free membership, and to view past debates, visit www.munkdebates.com.

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