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PERSPECTIVE

Apartheid: War on Capitalism

The whole ugly history of apartheid has been an attack on free markets and the rights of individuals, and a glorification of centralized government power. In 1900 when South African Prime Minister Jan Christiaan Smuts said, "It is ordained that we [Afrikaners], insignificant as we are, should be amongst the first people to begin the struggle against the new world tyranny of capitalism," he was recognizing that free markets along with their inherent dispersion of power have little respect for race. Therefore, South Africa declared war on capitalism. Now—in order to promote tranquility, dignity for the individual, and prosperity for all—South Africa's people must strengthen its beleaguered market forces, and declare war against centralized government power.

—WALTER E. WILLIAMS
South Africa's War against Capitalism

Jackie Robinson

One of the central myths of the modern age is the belief that politics is the arena for effective social action, and for the advancement of causes. To the contrary, however, politics only adopts causes which have already gained popularity or success, and then often does harm to them. . . .

The civil rights issue is a case in point. Before it ever became a political issue, countless numbers of successful black businessmen, clerks, scholars, and others were winning victories, each in their sphere. They won respect and established beachheads in a variety of areas.

Perhaps the two most important men in gaining civil and societal freedom for blacks were [Brooklyn Dodgers president] Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson. The two men broke down the barriers in perhaps the most rigidly segregated aspect of American life, baseball. When Rickey first talked to Robinson [in 1945], he told him, "I need more than a great player. I need a man who will accept insults, take abuse, in a word, carry the flag for his race. I want a man who has the courage not to fight, not to fight back. . . . Can you do that?" Robinson thought it over and answered finally, "If you want to take this gam-