The economy is the great unknown of this world, impossible to forecast and equally difficult to analyze when all has been said and done. However, one can say with confidence that there are a few norms which must be followed. Among them lies the concept of capitalism which, when applied explicitly to the United States, is the source of the nation’s wealth and success. Constructing a society one hundred percent capitalistic has proven unfeasible, though the jumble of various systems in the U.S. has shown the world that the miscegenation of opposing beliefs and principals is capable of surpassing unforeseen obstacles. It is easy to write a book about economic theory, see Karl Marx and Adam Smith, but successfully putting it in action is not. The privatization of industries is an oft disputed notion among societies and has been the starting point as well as the crux of our economy for many years; nowadays it is impossible to imagine daily life without it. Conversely, the government of the United States has attempted to modify the economy from the ground up, thus signaling a fissure with the traditional roots and businesses that for several years have earned their living feeding off capitalism. Although the future may be hazy, only it knows how these changes will impact the country.

Privatization, at least from an American perspective, is the most practicable option for this country. Since the inauguration of Barack Obama, a change has been seen in the Government’s values and policies with respect to the economy. Instead of continuing with a capitalistic mentality, which has given many fruits and triumphs to the entire world, the Government has decided to switch tactics and convert to socialism. The key to this plan requires that the Government take possession of several industries, for example, the banks, car manufactures, etc. Without a doubt, maintaining the infrastructure under the Government’s command is essential in order to control the number of pipes and other necessities. Throughout its history, the United States has stood by the philosophy of Adam Smith, in other words, “The Invisible Hand” or “Laissez-faire”. Following these values the U.S. has achieved in a mere 200 years what both the Roman and British Empires were unable to accomplish in centuries of existence, which adduces evidence to the power and efficiency of the American economy. At present it is
difficult to understand the abrupt turn the U.S. is making, after so many years of prosperity. If it is true that the world tries to emulate the U.S., let the question be raised: Why should the U.S. follow the ideals of the countries that wish to emulate it?

Traditionally and fundamentally the U.S. has been a privatized country in almost every facet of the economy. There are only a handful of businesses controlled by the Government and, generally speaking, the economy sustains itself without government intervention. Nevertheless, the current administration is clandestinely trying to take over more industries. This is plainly seen in the new health care laws, which are nothing more than an attempt to create a new government industry that can benefit at the expense of American citizens, whom will have no other choice but to pay and subscribe to the new “United States” brand. A few years back, Europe and a handful of other countries opted to install universal health care; successful or not the results of this still have yet to be seen. Even so, it is incontrovertible that the United States is unlike any other country, a clear gap divides the ‘haves’ from the ‘have-nots’; the country consists of a large middle class that simply cannot afford this ambitious new system. Though the European model may be better, the United States is neither ready nor prepared for the change. Amidst the lack of available funds and the mounting debt, there simply is not enough money. When the country has resolved its internal problems, perhaps then it will be the moment to initiate a change that could aid the whole population. With the situation as it is, however, this law could sink the economy even further.

The existence of private businesses allows the consumer more selection and the liberty to frequent a business based upon its quality, friendliness, and price. It is well known that competition amongst businesses usually lowers prices and strengthens customer service with the goal of gaining customer loyalty. When the Government refrains from meddling in the affairs of small businesses, those upon which the American economy is based, a life-or-death attitude is produced: a survival instinct. In order to survive, each business must stand out for something: normally the price, assortment, rarity of certain products or the quality of the service. Every business must accordingly exert itself and better its final product in the hopes of making a profit, thus guaranteeing the contentment of the consumer.
Following the natural course of life, the businesses that fail to serve their clients will flounder and those that do it well will succeed. Should the Government take control of the private sector, it would have a free hand to do as it pleased, effectively placing consumers under governmental caprices. Prices would rise to satisfy the needs of the Government and the quality would subsequently deteriorate; if only a single supplier existed, there would be no reason to put the finishing touches on a product. Hence, it is imperative that the United States remain a capitalist nation in order to assure the liberties and opportunities that consumers have enjoyed until now. It would be foolish, after so much success and after having become a World Leader, for the U.S. to transform itself and adhere to left-wing standards.

In spite of the humble origins of the United States, a former colony of Great Britain with a rural population and without its own weapons, this country has endured numerous episodes and trying years but, in the end, is still a World Leader. However, the U.S. finds itself sitting on the fence: should it follow its traditional course or veer towards socialism? The current government has decided that the country would be better off assuming a philosophy closer to that of Karl Marx. This has ignited a controversy among the American people, although as has been seen following the disaster faced by the Democratic Party at the polls this past November, Americans demand a return to the capitalism of old. Only time can elucidate the future, though for the welfare of the nation and its people, capitalism remains the best option.