

Lecture 14 Reading Questions

“Is the equality of opportunity principle incoherent?”

Readings:

“The Role of Government in Education.”

“The Alleviation of Poverty.”

“The Distribution of Income.”

Chapters 6, 10, and 12 in “Capitalism and Freedom” by Milton Friedman.

(1) Friedman thinks that a certain kind of tax-funded public spending on education can be justified because it benefits everyone. What kind of spending does he favor, and in what sense does it benefit everyone?

(2) Friedman also accepts a certain kind of tax-funded poverty relief program. What is the program, and why does Friedman think that imposing taxes to pay for it would promote everyone’s welfare? (How does poverty relief promote the welfare of people who are not poor?)

(3) What does Friedman mean by the principle of “equality of treatment”? What is Friedman’s objection to government attempting to promote “equality of treatment”?

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