

Is private enterprise good?

Yes:

- it offers freedom to act without the constraints of bureaucracy;
- it encourages innovation;
- it rewards initiative;
- it encourages the supply of what people actually want;
- it creates competition and hence promotes efficiency.

No:

- it promotes greed;
- it rewards ruthless exploitation;
- it rewards the creation of artificial demand;
- it does not address, and can act against, global, national, and other non-specific, needs;
- it allows control of essential services to be in the hands of foreign corporations and governments.

Conclusion:

- we must have it;
- it must be appropriately and independently regulated;
- it needs to operate within a framework of national policies, laws and taxation.

Is public ownership good?

Yes:

- it inevitably makes the objective social benefit rather than commercial profit;
- it protects against the risk of loss of service by insolvency or by commercially motivated reorganisation;
- it keeps control of essential services within the country;
- it keeps profits in public hands.

No:

- it tends to hamper commercial freedom with needless bureaucracy;
- it risks having commercial business managed by commercially inept bureaucrats;
- it encourages aloof and insensitive decisions on what goods and services should be supplied;
- it inhibits competition and hence promotes inefficiency.

Conclusion:

- we must have it;
- it must be appropriately and independently regulated;
- it needs to be operated in a commercially and financially appropriate manner.

CONCLUSION:

- We must have both private enterprise and public ownership
- The best way to do things should not be decided by any party's political dogma.

Case studies: To be written up. And all ill-remembered “facts” to be checked.

Electricity.

Water.

Railways.

Buses.

Coal.

BP.

RBS.

TSB.

TV.

Press.

J Sainsbury.

Phoenix.

Post Office.

Royal Mail.

Direct Labour.

Land.

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