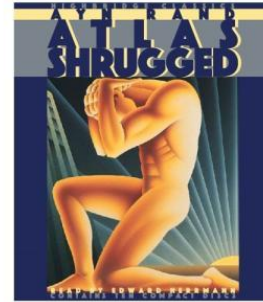


🇺🇸 WHAT HAS OBAMA ACCOMPLISHED?

(Well Uh Hmmm!?)
... WHO IS JOHN GALT?

Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 October 16, 2012



In 1957, Ayn Rand authored the controversial (to some) novel *Atlas Shrugged*. I have even seen the book classified separately as science fiction, since it took place in strange United States at another undefined time, using unfamiliar (in 1957) sets of events and conclusions. Rand was a Russian-American novelist, philosopher, playwright, and screenwriter. Most consider *Atlas Shrugged* to be the culmination of her career. It has indeed remained ageless and become ever more important and influential than ever. Recently it gained more status as Paul Ryan exclaimed his fondness for it.

The book is presented in three parts, the first of which was released in movie form in 2011. The second part was released in theaters last week, as I write this, and the third is expected to be completed for release in 2013.

The film's producers describe the storyline on IMDb.com this way:

- The global economy is on the brink of collapse.
- Unemployment tops 24 percent.
- Gas is \$42 per gallon.
- Railroads are the main transportation. Brilliant creators, from artists to industrialists, are mysteriously disappearing.
- Dagny Taggart, CEO of Taggart Transcontinental, has discovered an answer to the mounting energy crisis -- a prototype of a motor that draws energy from static electricity. But, until she finds its creator, it's useless.
- It's a race against time. And "someone" is watching.
- **That "someone" is the government.**



Depiction of Barack Obama posing as "Atlas" while trying to hold up a globe full of "pointless confusion." – or so I say - SB

The government has a "fair share law" which:

- limits production.
- seeks to "spread the wealth around," to borrow a modern term.
- **stifles innovation, risk-taking and capitalism.**
- If Taggart finds the solution she seeks, government loses.

According to the book's narrative:

- A degree of economic freedom still exists in America, but it is steadily declining, as is American prosperity.
- **The successful are heavily taxed to support the poor.**
- The American poor are levied to finance the even poorer people in foreign Peoples' States (destitute communist countries outside of the U.S.).
- **The government subsidizes inefficient businesses at the expense of the more efficient.**
- With the **state controlling large portions of the economy**, the result is the rise of **corrupt businessmen** who seek profit by **manipulating crooked politicians** rather than by doing productive work.
- **The government forces inventors to give up their patents so that all manufacturers may benefit equally from new products.**
- **The government breaks up productive companies, compelling them to share the market with weaker (less efficient) competitors.**

Atlas Shrugged presents a fictional future in which the U.S. trend toward socialism has been accelerated. Rand shows that without the independent mind, our society would collapse into primitive savagery. *Atlas Shrugged* is an impassioned defense of the freedom of man's mind. Rand argues that the **freedom of American society** is responsible for its greatest achievements.

Who is John Galt?

While economic conditions worsen and government agencies continue to enforce their control over successful businesses, **the naïve, yet weary citizens are often heard reciting the new, popular street phrase, "Who is John Galt?"** This sarcastic phrase is given in response to sincere questions that seem to have no answer. It sarcastically means, **"Don't ask important questions, because we don't have answers"**, or **"What's the point?"** and **"Why bother?"**

Reading comments coming from John Aglioloro, the producer of the movies, one comes away with these observations about the book, the movies, and their meaning:

- We learn firsthand how a government that is out-of-control can take over more and more control of the individual.
- The story is all about individuals fighting for their own interests.
- **You are allowed to have rational self-interests, and it's good to pursue them.**
- The enemy of the entrepreneur is often the politician.
- The movies **weren't** made to change the mind of politicians, whose minds do not provide fertile soil for ideological shifts to benefit entrepreneurs.
- The movies **were** made to influence the electorate, who choose the politicians that run the government.

Many modern conservatives feel that if the Obama policies continue, "Atlas Shrugged" won't be a work of fiction. It will be seen as prophecy. You make your own comparisons and draw your own conclusions. Read the book to find the answer to the question: "Who is John Galt?"

So why, you might ask, did I write such a seemingly obtuse, perhaps even pointless, report and bother you with it? The only response that makes sense to me is:

WHO
IS
JOHN GALT?

*If you saw Atlas, the giant who holds the world on his shoulders, if you saw that he stood, blood running down his chest, his knees buckling, his arms trembling but still trying to hold the world aloft with the last of his strength, and the greater his effort the heavier the world bore down upon his shoulders - What would you tell him? **To shrug!***

*When you have made evil the means of survival, do not expect men to remain good. Do not expect them to stay moral and lose their lives for the purpose of becoming the fodder of the immoral. **Do not expect them to produce, when production is punished and looting rewarded. Do not ask, "who is destroying the world?" You are!***



- Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged

Thanks to friends, reviewers, IMDb, Wikipedia, Cliff Notes, and several articles for helping me piece together a brief and meaningful "teaser" analysis of the "Atlas Shrugged" story. I recommend the book and movies! If you decide to take a further look at this story, be patient and imaginative!