

THE GLOBAL VIRTUE ETHICS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

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The world in the first decades of the twenty-first century is engaged in a bitter virtue ethics debate masked in near warring political economic theories. Edward J. Martin and his associates provide the reader of GVER with a rare look at the complexities of this debate by using a remarkable summary of Western political economic theory within the context of the aftermath of the Great Recession and global values inherent in the economic debate.

The first article - The Great Recession and the Economic Security: Democratizing the Workplace--is an introduction to the symposium. The authors take a firm stand in this debate by embracing the global value of greater income equality rather than the growing income inequality with its current remarkably high, and still growing, corporate profits. They do so by reminding us with a quote from the founder of capitalism--Adam Smith--who voiced economic moral values in his day that paraphrase the virtues at the heart of contemporary progressives.

The debaters for government austerity and little government regulations called neo-liberals (actually neo-

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19th century liberals) and their opponents called progressives (late 20th century liberals) too often fail to stress their hidden values by using confusing economic jargon and concepts. Nevertheless, those debates are the intellectual bases for the future policy direction of the world or at least the economically advanced peoples of the world.

This symposium summarizes the debating points of the advocates. The reader must look past the illusions created by those debating points with their jargon and concepts. They must identify the true global virtue ethics of each side in this extremely important political debate. The future policy direction of the world is at stake and the consequences could not be more important. Which set of global virtue economic ethics our leaders embrace will define our human future.