

LYRICS AND BEATS

Fear the Economics Textbook (Story of the Next Crook):

A Rap Video

By The RU Ready 4Justice Collective*

A Collaborative Project by Stephen T. Ziliak
and The Class of 2015 on Theories of Justice

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[Maya and Ben sing Refrain to “Wet Dreamz” beat by J. Cole]

I took my last look, at this textbook,/

Invisible hand, /story o’ tha next crook,/

I took my last look, at this textbook,/

Invisible hand, /story o’ tha next crook,/

So proud, so game, so orthodox,/

But ch'yer head's in the sand, Prof,
don't blame the Nash box./

We read, we think, we write about it,
But ch'you're standin' there lecturin',
n' we're worryin' about it.

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[Cyrus sings Verse 1 to "Let 'em Blow" by Chief Keef et al.]

Readin' Greg Mankiw, /

Queue the conservative man's view/

Supply, demand, invisible hand too /
Following these Ten Commandments he hands to you /
Hey kids, you understand what Econ really can do? /
These ain't the pearly gates, Mr. Mankiw/
Just preachin' efficiency and Max U/

But where's the vertical mobility?/

Masses are enslaved in poverty/Millions for your fat pockets see/

This poverty of nations ain't so efficient/

Mainstream economists are mentally deficient/

Monotonous lectures despite student resistance/What works on the Blackboard but not
with existence/

Your crackpot theories plot all the wrong axes /
If you are the state we-Uber-killin' all your taxis /

[Maya sings Verse 2 to "Let 'em Blow" (Chief Keef et al.)]

Yo I say that with gritted teeth/
Admittedly, when it comes to justice and liberty/
You Ivy leagues just can't compete, I pity thee/
So tell New Jersey fans we gonna need new Jersey's man/
Cause you just stand in the stands lookin' white wan/

Invisible hand doin' nothing but hurting me/

Burnin' me, doesn't matter if it's third degree/

Cause your economic policy causing nothing but poverty/
Death n' destruction are all that I can see/
We need wealth for society, stop with the perjury/

You cheat, you steal, you lie through your pearly teeth/But today's a new day and there's a
brand new lesson to teach/

We're turning over Ivy leaves as we stomp our feet . . . /

[Pause then Maya concludes:]

Yo, I'm like Steve Nash, so watch this sweet pass/

[Maya and Ben sing Refrain to J. Cole "Wet Dreamz":]

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[Eboni sings Verse 3 to "Let 'em Blow" (Chief Keef et al.)]

Lesson one, it starts in a sympathetic fashion/
Government spendin' can stop markets from crashin'/
You askin', "where's the money comin' from?"/
It's C+I and G and then we're done/
You see, it's really not that complicated/
But steppin' on the little guy ain't the right way to make it/
You fake it, we take it, but it's time to unionize/
Get ourselves organized, give the capitalists a surprise/
And begin the journey toward a social compromise/

Where the poor get more and the rich standby/
We fly, get high, and soar towards the blue sky/
Where moral sentiments replace demand and supply/

[Cyris and Erika sing and chant Verse 4 to “Let ‘em Blow” (Chief Keef et al.)]

Clearly your markets are free of justice/
Looks like your supply curve needs some adjustments/
We need benevolence and sympathy in the mix/
These textbooks are corruptin’ our moral sentiments/
We need O.G.s, like Smith, Marx and Lerner/
Heterodox economics is the real table turner/
Get back to the real world, no catallaxy/
Spontaneous order, can’t put me in a Cadillac, see?/
Check Ferguson, Garner, Rodney King too
People can’t work when they face black n’ blue!

[Prof Z raps Verse 5 to “Let ‘em Blow” (Chief Keef et al.)]

Dude from George Mason had a lot to say/
Not a whole lot o’ substance at the end o’ the day/
His message n’ beats are false an’ predictable/
Does he even teach his students Rawls’s difference principle?/
We come from Roosevelt, yo, n’ we are the Lakers,
Let’s get back to class now n’ forget all these fakers/

[Maya and Ben sing Refrain to J. Cole “Wet Dreamz”:]

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[Maya and Ben repeat first stanza of Refrain, with fade out . . .]

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.....END OF SONG.....

***The RU Ready 4Justice Collective** is Stephen T. Ziliak, Professor of Economics and Social Justice, and students featuring:

Singers & Rappers: Ben Kostecki, Dominique Rainey, Erika Rainey-Williams, Maya Tatum-Lattimore, Eboni Washington, Cyris “C.J.” Wesley, and Stephen T. Ziliak

Actors: Chicago, Chicago weather, Divvy bike, Brandon Duchon, economists, Anthony “Manny” Eudave, Friedrich A. Hayek, Matt Klein, Ben Kostecki, Abraham Lincoln, Jim Lockfeer, Kevin McAfee, Jesus Marquez, Karl Marx, Kristian Naoumov, NFL Draft, real people, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Arlette Sangwa, Dominique Rainey, Adam Smith in 1790, Tyler Strejc, Robert Swanton, Maya Tatum-Lattimore, Cyris Wesley, a wig, Stephen T. Ziliak, and others.

Lyrics, Beats and Mix: Quinton Bara, Sam Barbour, Brandon Duchon, Ben Kostecki, Kevin McAfee, Maya Tatum-Lattimore, Erika Rainey-Williams, Tyler Strejc, Eboni Washington, Cyris Wesley, and Stephen T. Ziliak. Special thanks to Easton Gruber for helping to mix at the end, to Joshua Schweigert, Roosevelt University Social Media Director, for technical assistance, and to Melissa Morrison, angel and coordinator of RU’s CCPA, for providing a recording studio despite a last-minute request. Big shout out to J. Cole, Chief Keef, Fredo Santano, and Young Chop Crew for putting two sweet beats in the public domain.

Storyboard: Sam Barbour, John Comastro, Brandon Duchon, Ben Kostecki, Michael Massengill, Erika Rainey-Williams, Arlette Sangwa, Daly Tongren, and Stephen T. Ziliak.

Video: Sam Barbour, Brittany Biggs, John Comastro, Michael Massengill, Erika Rainey-Williams, and Daly Tongren.

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