



A Quiz to Teach

June 19, 2026

I'm too old.

I'm too old, that is, to qualify as a contestant in the “million dollar question” drawing held, this summer, by the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE). To be eligible to win the million-buck prize (minus taxes!) one must be 18-35 years of age. (I'm a bit older than 35.) FEE is sponsoring this [Million Dollar Contest Quiz](#) as a way to promote the idea of a free society and its superiority to never-ending government regulation, taxation and subsidy.

What's the question?

Nothing other than “what's behind the affordability crisis?”

The answer, in short, is *too much government*.

But the quiz format helps explain that better.

“Most people blame capitalism,” we read, “but the

reality is different. Healthcare, education, housing, and childcare are some of the most heavily regulated, subsidized, and mandated sectors in the American economy. They aren't free markets. They're crippled capitalism; markets distorted by decades of government intervention until they can no longer deliver quality at a price people can afford.”

If you are old, like me, you have probably encountered this case before. (If you read this column, you most definitely have!) But young people? They're not so lucky. Most have endured public schools and government-regulated and -subsidized universities and received, there, increasingly Marxist nonsense about how capitalism enslaves us all.

When capitalism — basically, free markets with markets in capital goods, making up what Ludwig von Mises called “mass production for the masses” — *liberates*.

Who? Just white males?

No. Free markets liberate *all* peaceful people. As the quiz and its answers make clear.

So take the quiz. Learn something. But, if you're over 35, pass it on to a young person!

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.