

unjust:

1. If a power structure is *hierarchical* and inferiors do not give morally relevant consent to the structure, and
 - a. inferiors have no say in the orders they are given, no say in who their superiors are, nor any way of redressing complaints about most orders, or
 - b. superiors can issue orders about private/personal aspects of the inferiors' lives, or issue arbitrary orders about the inferiors' behavior,then that power structure makes the inferiors unfree.
2. If a power structure makes people within it unfree in the ways mentioned in 1, then it is unjust.
3. All companies in the United States satisfy the antecedent of 1.
4. Thus, all companies in the United States have unjust power structures.

Give some evidence to support 2.

Is employment in the United States just because it is consensual?

“Laissez-faire liberals, touting the freedom of the free market, told workers: choose your Leviathan. This is like telling the citizens of the Communist bloc of Eastern Europe that their freedom could be secured by a right to emigrate to any country – as long as they stayed behind the Iron Curtain.” (60)

“Under coverture, a woman, upon marrying her husband, lost all rights to own property and make contracts in her name. Her husband had a right to confine her movements, confiscate any wages she might earn, beat her, and rape her... Imagine a modification of this patriarchal governmental regime, allowing either spouse to divorce at will and allowing any clause of the default contract to be altered by prenuptial agreement... Women would certainly have sufficient reason to object that their liberties would still not be respected under this modification, in that I preserves a patriarchal baseline, in which men still hold virtually all the cards... Consent to an option within a set cannot justify the option set itself.” (61)

- i. The King thinks Vivian can turn hay into gold, and won't believe her when she says she cannot. He locks her in a tower with a bunch of hay, and says that if she does not turn it into gold overnight, he will execute her. The imp Rumpelstiltskin comes in the night and offers to make the hay into gold, on the condition that she give her firstborn child to him (when that child is born). Assume that Rumpelstiltskin will treat the child just as well as Vivian would. If Vivian makes this agreement, and later gives birth, is she morally obligated to deliver the child to Rumpelstiltskin?

Objections?

Are there counterexamples to 1 or 2?

Solutions to the problem?

exit (making it easier to leave jobs)

workplace constitutions (making more rules about what employers can and cannot do)

workplace democracy