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Reading Discussion: “The ‘Conflicts’ of Men’s Interests” HOMEWORK

Enrich and deepen your experience at AynRandCon by completing homework in advance for the opportunity to discuss your ideas with Objectivist experts during the sessions. If you submit your work by the below deadline, your assignment might be selected for discussion during the conference!

Important:

You must submit your homework assignment by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on March 10, 2025, in order to guarantee that it will be reviewed before the event. Send your homework in the body of an email (not as an attachment) to students@aynrand.org with the subject line: ARC-Europe Reading Group Homework Assignment.

You may request free ebooks at: aynrand.org/students/free-books.

Readings:

“The ‘Conflicts’ of Men’s Interests” (from *The Virtue of Selfishness*)

Assignment:

Please read Ayn Rand’s essay “The ‘Conflicts’ of Men’s Interests” (from *The Virtue of Selfishness*). Pick one question to write on and submit your essay by the above deadline. Conference faculty will review your answers, and during a conference session may comment on any questions or issues raised. Please keep your answer to no more than 400 words.

1. Why do you think Rand thought there was a need to write an article on this topic? What is she trying to convey about her distinctive approach to ethics?
2. What are some apparent conflicts of interest that seem vexing to you that are not addressed by the essay?
3. What are some philosophies or popular viewpoints that presuppose there are conflicts of interest among rational men, and how would Rand's essay address them?

General Questions about Objectivism:

In addition to the above questions about the readings, please submit a question about issues in Objectivism (or about philosophy more generally) that confuse you, or which you'd simply like to understand better. Please describe what originally sparked this question for you, and add something about what value you hope to gain from answering the question. Conference faculty will review your questions and select some of them to answer in a conference session.