The corrupt debased culture of neo-liberalism
“I deal with tax avoidance - he deals with tax evasion.”
Individualism, Neo-Liberalism and Aggressive Capitalism

* Pogge: Humans will shape their thinking to suit their interests

* therefore powerful persons ‘can do it

* While ‘The Weak Suffer What They Must’ (Varoufakis)

* (Pope) ‘Unbridled Capitalism is the devil’s dung’ 2015
Neo-Liberalism

- Predicated on selfishness;
- Competition between individuals
- Consumerism
- Bad for the rich, status symbols; insecurity; mental health issues
- Wrecking the planet
- Tax havens are an outgrowth of the Neo-liberal economic paradigm
- Inequality
Corrupting spiritual principles: How?

- Franciscan thinking; wealth and power were evil
- ‘submitted wholly to God by giving up all of their worldly goods’
- Vow of poverty including
- ‘property will’ they didn’t own their mind or body
- (Michael Freeman, Human Rights and Capitalism, Elgar 2007).
Sliding into possessions

* Papacy: didn’t like this, argued that everyone needed food and water, therefore the Franciscans’ doctrine was flawed
* If water and food: what else
* Good possessions v bad possessions
Individualism v Human Rights: uneasy relationship

- What about will of individuals?
- A) is free will a possession? (autonomy and individualism and Human Rights)
- If there are Good possessions: how much is allowed? (consumer societies)
- Extreme individualism (N. MacLean, Democracy in Chains, Scribe: populism)
The age of Enlightenment?
Vow of poverty

Owning your own self

entitlement

Food and water/possessions

Human Rights

consumerism
Add communities; other stakeholders

Corporate governance; Community Interest Companies; Benefit Corporations; Co-ops

Enterprise law; Whole company groups can be sued in any jurisdiction

Limiting the power of MNEs (see Albanian Company Law)
**Exceptions:**

* Un Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007
* “indigenous peoples’ rights are by definition collective rights”
* “The international community clearly affirms that indigenous peoples require recognition of their rights as people to enable them to enjoy human rights”
* OECD; [https://www.oecdwatch.org/cases/cases/all-cases/casesearchview](https://www.oecdwatch.org/cases/cases/all-cases/casesearchview)
* Property; resources; oil and gas; North Dakota Pipeline
Human Rights and Climate Change

- Problematic: No individual directly
- But After the UN Guiding Principles for Business 2011
- The HR jurisprudence is changing because the HR framework includes companies as actors as well as States and individuals.
- UN Guiding Principles for businesses; “the corporate responsibility to respect Human Rights and the duty to remedy abuses”
HR and climate change

* But on climate change Human rights are indirect
* Some constitutions have included the right to a healthy environment