Bubbles, Crashes, and What Capitalism Can Learn from the NFL

The NFL is a microcosm of the capitalist system. It is a highly competitive market where teams compete for profits and market share. And just like the capitalist system, the NFL is prone to bubbles and crashes.



Fixing the Game: Bubbles, Crashes, and What Capitalism Can Learn from the NFL by Roger L. Martin

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In recent years, the NFL has experienced a number of bubbles. The first was the salary cap bubble, which burst in 2011. The second was the TV rights bubble, which burst in 2015. And the third was the stadium bubble, which burst in 2017.

These bubbles were all caused by the same fundamental factors: excessive borrowing, speculation, and greed. Teams borrowed heavily to pay for new stadiums and to sign big-name players. They speculated on the future value of TV rights and stadium revenues. And they were greedy for profits.

When the bubbles burst, the NFL was left with a lot of debt and a lot of empty stadiums. Teams had to cut back on spending, and many players were forced to take pay cuts.

The NFL's recent history offers valuable lessons for avoiding bubbles and crashes in the capitalist system.

Lesson 1: Don't borrow too much money

The NFL's salary cap bubble was caused by teams borrowing too much money to pay for new stadiums and to sign big-name players. When the NFL's revenue growth slowed down, teams were no longer able to repay their debts. This led to a number of teams filing for bankruptcy.

The same thing can happen in the capitalist system. When businesses borrow too much money, they become vulnerable to a downturn in the economy. If the economy slows down, businesses may not be able to repay their debts and may be forced to file for bankruptcy.

Lesson 2: Don't speculate on the future

The NFL's TV rights bubble was caused by teams speculating on the future value of TV rights. Teams sold their TV rights for billions of dollars, but they did not take into account the possibility that the value of TV rights would decline. When the value of TV rights did decline, teams were left with a lot of debt and a lot of empty stadiums.

The same thing can happen in the capitalist system. When businesses speculate on the future value of assets, they become vulnerable to a decline in the value of those assets. If the value of assets declines, businesses may be forced to sell those assets at a loss.

Lesson 3: Don't be greedy

The NFL's stadium bubble was caused by teams being greedy for profits. Teams built new stadiums in order to generate more revenue. However, many of these stadiums were too expensive to build and operate. This led to teams losing money on their stadiums.

The same thing can happen in the capitalist system. When businesses are greedy for profits, they may make decisions that are not in the best interests of their customers or employees. This can lead to businesses losing money and even going out of business.

The NFL's recent history offers valuable lessons for avoiding bubbles and crashes in the capitalist system. By learning from the NFL's mistakes, we can help to create a more stable and prosperous economy.



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