

Mother Jones' critical essay on Stoicism as a philosophy of the ruling class

Post by "Hiram" of January 3, 2020 at 1:52 PM

"What's so incongruous about a ruling-class philosophy that says that things are as they were fated to be, so just deal? ... In an era of massive inequality, it was only a matter of time before someone found a way to rebrand the oligarchs' retreat from their social obligations as timeless, hard-edged virtue."

subtitle of essay:

In the most indulgent and self-satisfied place in America, Stoicism is all the rage.

<https://www.motherjones.com/media/2020/01/...oicism-holiday/>

Post by "Cassius" of January 3, 2020 at 2:38 PM

Looks like Mother Jones pursuing the same idea as the New York times in March of 2019:

[Silicon Valley, Big Tech, And Stoicism](#)

Also:

Doesn't sound like the author really understands his subject -- this quote indicates that he basically approaches issues from a Platonist / idealist perspective, and he should probably be embracing Stoicism due to the idealism Stoicism actually represents (that is when Stoicism is not wallowing in its self-pity, acceptance of fate, and inaction):

[Quote from Hiram](#)

In an era of massive inequality, it was only a matter of time before someone found a way to rebrand the oligarchs' retreat from their social obligations as timeless, hard-edged virtue.

One last edit: after thinking further I bet the author more accurately could be pegged as following Cicero's critique of the Stoics in "On Ends" (which is a work that ought to make clear that Cicero was not a Stoic himself.)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1347-mother-jones-critical-essay-on-stoicism-as-a-philosophy-of-the-ruling-class/>