



WILL POPE FRANCIS GO LEFT IN ECONOMICS?

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Will Pope Francis promote a leftist view of economics? Hot Air's Ed Morrissey asked that question of Kishore Jayalaban, Director of Acton's Rome office. Jayalaban says the impression that Francis will push economic arguments to the left is a misunderstanding of both Catholic economic thought and the economic situation in Argentina—where capitalism is much more rife with cronyism and corporatism than in the US.

See the video of the interview on the following link:

<http://vimeo.com/61881830>

Of all the questions I've fielded since the election of former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope Francis, the one that has been most difficult to answer clearly is the direction in which the new pontiff will take the Catholic Church on economics. It's no secret that while Pope Francis clashed with the Kirchner government in Argentina over its policies on abortion and gay marriage, he also sharply criticized its policies on fiscal austerity and its impact on the nation's poor. That has some American conservatives worried that the new Pope will push the debate to the left in the US.

I asked Kishore Jayalaban of the Acton Institute to talk with me about that very question. Jayalaban has lived in Italy for more than a dozen years, part of them working at the Vatican, and he says the impression that Francis will push economic arguments to the left is a misunderstanding of both Catholic economic thought and the economic situation in Argentina — where capitalism is much more rife with cronyism and corporatism than in the US. While Catholic doctrine teaches that public policy must offer preferential treatment of the poor, Jayalaban explains that this leaves a wide spectrum of options that fall within "prudential judgment." Jayalaban is working on an Acton endeavor called Poverty Cure, which just launched — fortuitous timing: