# Part 4: Economies and Cultures of Capitalism

## Key Terms and Definitions

**Balanced Reciprocity:** A form of reciprocity in which the giver expects a gift of equal value will be returned at a later date.

**Bridewealth:** The transfer of gifts or money to the groom’s family upon marriage; done to reflect and acknowledge the loss of the women’s labor and childbearing potential to the bride’s family.

**Capitalism:** A market-based economic system based on private ownership of the means of production.

**Economic anthropology**: The subfield of cultural anthropology that seeks to make sense of how different cultures make a living and the reasons why people make, share and consume the goods and services.

**Disaster Capitalism**: The practice of taking advantage of a major disaster to adopt neoliberal economic policies that the population may not have accepted under normal circumstances.

**General Purpose Money**: Money which can buy almost anything.

**Generalized Reciprocity**: A form of reciprocity whereby gifts are given freely and without an accounting of the value or any expectation that a gift will be returned.

**Human Economies**: economic systems whereby exchange is focused on social relationships rather than on the accumulation of money

**Humanitarianism**: Promoting human welfare; a moral imperative to care for human beings and to alleviate suffering.

**Hurricane Katrina:** The 2005 hurricane that devastated the Gulf coast from central Florida to Texas, with levee failure and storm surge; the costliest and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States.

**Money:** any object or material that is used for exchange.

**Negative Reciprocity:** A form of reciprocity in which the giving parties try to take advantage of one another or get something for nothing.

**Reciprocity**: the exchange of goods or services to build and solidify social relationships