Airline Monopoly Fears Are Bunk

ROBERT D. ATKINSON | FEBRUARY 2019

While many pundits claim monopoly is the scourge of the U.S. economy, Rob Atkinson writes that the airline industry demonstrates why this narrative is wrong.

Recently, many pundits, activists, and politicians have coalesced around the same narrative: Consumers, workers, and small businesses have suffered from increasing industry concentration. Monopoly, we are told, is the scourge of the U.S. economy, the cause of all that is going wrong. And only breaking up Big Industry can restore America to its prior greatness. But as Rob Atkinson writes for Arc Digital, the airline industry demonstrates why this narrative is wrong. Today, we have four major carriers, and they cuts prices, boosts productivity, and invests in new equipment while earning lower-than-average profits. The industry should be emulated, not broken up.