Liberty & Taxation

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TTN Conference Lisbon
23 September 2016
Taxes are what we pay for civilized society.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.
Taxation is theft.

A guy at a baseball game
What is Liberty?

• Simply stated, individual liberty is the absence of coercion among men.

• No one may initiate violence against others.

• No one may take the property of others without their consent.
Left – Right Paradigm

Regulated Economy

Personal Freedom

Market Economy

Regulated Morality
The “Libertarian” Dimension
My Perspective

You may be a: Libertarian
Economic vs Political Means

There are two fundamentally opposed means whereby man, requiring sustenance, is impelled to obtain the necessary means for satisfying his desires. These are work and robbery, one’s own labor and the forcible appropriation of the labor of others... I propose in the following discussion to call one’s own labor and the equivalent exchange of one’s own labor for the labor of others, the “economic means” for the satisfaction of needs, while the unrequited appropriation of the labor of others will be called the “political means.”

Franz Oppenheimer
Chodorov on Taxation

The state is saying to its citizens: your earnings are not exclusively your own, we the State have a claim on them and our claim precedes yours, we will allow you to keep some of it because we recognize your need but not your right. Whatever we grant you for yourself is for us to decide. Moreover the amount of your earnings that you may keep for yourself is determined by the needs of government and you have nothing to say about it.

Frank Chodorov. The Income Tax: Root of all Evil
Taxation without Representation?

• “Subject to the Consent of the Governed”
• The Governed delegate their authority to their representatives
• Basis of the “Social Contract”
• But... can you delegate authority you do not possess?
• How many men...?

“If taxation without consent is not robbery, then any band of robbers have only to declare themselves a government, and all their robberies are legalized.

Lysander Spooner
facebook.com/SpontaneousOrderSociety
Legalized Theft

Conservatives and liberals are kindred spirits as far as government spending is concerned... Since government has no resources of its own, and since there’s no Tooth Fairy handing Congress the funds for the programs it enacts, we are forced to recognize that government spending is no less than the confiscation of one person’s property to give it to another to whom it does not belong -- in effect, legalized theft.

Walter E. Williams
The Enemy of the State

“Taxation is theft, purely and simply even though it is theft on a grand and colossal scale which no acknowledged criminals could hope to match. It is a compulsory seizure of the property of the State’s inhabitants, or subjects.”

- Murray N. Rothbard
Objections to the Libertarian View

...but what about THE ROADS?
Sowell on Greed

“I have never understood why it is ‘greed’ to want to keep the money you have earned but not greed to want to take somebody else’s money.”

THOMAS SOWELL
Williams on Social Justice

LET ME OFFER YOU MY DEFINITION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: I KEEP WHAT I EARN AND YOU KEEP WHAT YOU EARN. DO YOU DISAGREE? WELL THEN TELL ME HOW MUCH OF WHAT I EARN BELONGS TO YOU - AND WHY?

WALTER E. WILLIAMS
'Socialism, like the ancient ideas from which it springs, confuses the distinction between government and society. As a result of this, every time we object to a thing being done by government, the socialists conclude that we object to its being done at all. We disapprove of state education. Then the socialists say that we are opposed to any education. We object to a state religion. Then the socialists say that we want no religion at all. We object to a state-enforced equality. Then they say that we are against equality. And so on, and so on. It is as if the socialists were to accuse us of not wanting persons to eat because we do not want the state to raise grain.'

Frédéric Bastiat, The Law
I'M NOT A SMART MAN
BUT I KNOW TAXATION IS THEFT

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT
TAXATION IS THEFT

TAXATION IS THE PRICE WE PAY TO LIVE IN SOCIETY
FALSE, TAXATION IS THEFT

THIS JUST IN.....
TAXATION IS THEFT

I'M NOT SAYING TAXATION IS THEFT...
...BUT TAXATION IS THEFT

THEFT,
TAXATION IS.

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
TAXATION IS THEFT, AND INFLATION IS TOO!

KEEP CALM AND REMEMBER
TAXATION IS THEFT