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Annotative Bibliography

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Introduction:

Have you ever wondered why even in a free country we have to pay for said freedom? The actions we take with our money is to be under government watch and in turn you have to pay them for this “security” it ensures you. Many people consider taxation as theft or the cost-of-living life, any citizen in any country pays income, property, or business tax to do things we consider as a basic human right. The Boston tea party was one the major reasons why the revolution war started, the residents were being taxed without no representation being forced to pay for basic needs with high and unnecessary tax, Let me explain it to the modern audience a but better, want to start a business you must show stable income and pay more than thirty percent to the government, now one starts thinking about “Hey why are we PAYING for the right of business when it is a free country,” oh, all of a sudden you want to buy a house well do you have the ability to pay another ten percent to the government? No? too bad. The common knowledge that taxes sustain our needs as a country and gives the government more funds to create more fiscal and monetary policy for economic encouragement and I personally agree with this but there are too many cases where these taxes are burdens to the average citizen. This way of thinking led me to question if taxes ae the cost of freedom, in our economy we buy from an entity expecting service, but if we view freedom in this perspective is one truly free? In my thoughts I pondered if such was the case and I hope to see the many points of views on this topic. This topic represents the concern of the people and where their money goes towards to in turn affecting the economy.

Citation 1:

*“Taxation, Forced Labor, and Theft: Why Taxation is ‘On a Par’ with Forced Labor”*

Moore, Adam D. “Taxation, Forced Labor, and Theft: Why Taxation Is ‘on a Par’ with Forced Labor.” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 59, no. 3, 2020, pp. 362–385., <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12395>.

(“EBSCOhost Research Platform: EBSCO.” *EBSCO Information Services, Inc.* / *Www.elsevier.com*, <https://www.elsevier.com/products/elsevierhost-research-platform>.)

### Summary:

Taxation is on par with forced labor which is akin to slavery, a strong take on the methodology of taxes this journal pushes the socialist redistributive liberalism agenda in which if the people are to work to pay for taxes and cannot sustain a life without doing so in essence they are slaves. The author Moore continued this idea from Robert Nozick in which he sustained the same idea, Moore discussed as to how the most forms of taxation utilized by modern redistributive democracies are immoral. This journal stands more in the philosophy of economy rather than the statistics or analysis. For example, Moore used the “what if” case of where stranded people on an island enforced a tax system for the less fortunate, those who are doing most of the work for food or shelter feel robbed as their efforts are being spent on those who do not contribute anything. Furthermore, in the economy the labor force consists of the employed and the unemployment, those who are employed are active workers responsible for economic growth however, those who are unemployed are actively looking for work, however, they receive support from the government in which the taxpayers (workers) fund. Moore states that even in this policy these workers feel robbed and hateful because they are paying for those who cannot fend for themselves. This shows the morality of taxpayers they are being forced to be responsible for things they cannot afford.

### Reflection:

Although this is a derivative of the idea, but it still stands as to how taxation is robbery which in turn is the cost of our freedom. The morality of the taxpayers defines the consensus thoughts as to how they feel about tax which is understandable. This is by no means a criticism for the American policy on taxes but what most people pay goes to superficial projects on foreign countries or increasing militarization in these peaceful times. I agree with Moore in his theory of morality having to do part with how people view taxes which is best showcased by his many examples like the *Violinist*.

### Quotation:

- 1) “Perhaps in a case like this, the wrongness of the forced tax would be sufficiently outweighed by the benefit. But this is not the way tax systems work. In the U.S. and most countries, vast sums are wasted, spent on frivolous projects, given to foreign states, or used to fund military actions to support a vacuously broad notion of “national interest.” (Moore)
- 2) “Robert Nozick famously claimed, “taxation of earnings is on a par with forced labor.” If we assume that forced labor is morally objectionable, something akin to slavery, then Nozick’s claim about taxation challenged the very heart of socialist redistributive liberalism.” (Moore)

## Citation 2:

*Tame, Chris R. Taxation Is Theft - Idp.ticadine.com. <https://idp.ticadine.com/docs/polin044.pdf>.*

## Summary:

The author analyzes the state of taxation and why the government created this policy along with the fact on who profits and who loses. Tame briefly discussed the idea of economic freedom where people of all incomes are free to implore upon their choices of a better opportunity for work or business; this better opportunity, in other words is higher income. Taxation is the contradiction to this freedom according to Tame where people are being forced to pay more money they do not have. For example, Tame takes into account the National Health Service in which your care is determined by the amount of taxes, this policy is mainly known as “free services” this is where the contradiction takes place those who are low-income taxpayers receive less medical care in contrast to others who pay more in taxes. In other words, the economic freedom is being interfered by fiscal policies in which the livelihood is determined by the government. Furthermore, he acknowledged the wealthier benefit from no taxes in their businesses however, he showcased how these wealthy people are taxed upon their personal property or wealth; this is best known as a avoidance care. In addition, Tame mentioned the likes of the Rockefellers who were taxed like the average salary man despite his immense wealth, income tax can be up to 37% yet they paid way more less.

## Reflection:

In first glance one can immediately tell the Authors political stance, a liberal and one who believes in the true economic freedom with no government interference. These left-wing ideas are clearly discussed to the audience in my opinion this would be perfect to those who believe in socialism rather than capitalism. Although I truly do not agree with most ideas he was speaking on as they were very radical however, I can agree with some of the points expressed such as the inequality of income in which the taxpayers have to be limited with their income. This was clearly stated regarding the free services tax payers are granted in which their care is derived from their income and tax yields.

## Quotation:

“The shoddiness of state services like the National Health Service is an inevitable consequence of the political, economic and social forces embodied in them. Once the dignity of the cash nexus is removed between buyer and seller - patient and doctor - then the former gets treated as a bothersome supplicant by the latter. This is exacerbated by the fact that in the absence of the cash nexus the middle-class doctor tends to misunderstand or be contemptuous of his “lower-class” patients. Middle-class patients are generally treated better, and have the requisite skills to manipulate the system for their own ends”

## Citation 3:

*Youtube*, Youtube, 11 Nov. 2018, <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1rcqzN8WRg>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2022

## Summary:

Multimodal videos consists of podcasts or interviews and this is a podcast between Ben Shapiro and John Stossel both of whom are renowned for their political viewpoints. This is a discussion on what basis does the government use tax to fund themselves and to what point can they deem goods and services taxable. For example, Shapiro briefly asks the question, “until what point does taxation become theft” he then gives his basis on why this question was formed such as property taxes for homes. Shapiro stated the housing crisis and that the people could not afford it solely due to the high prices including how much one would pay in taxes. However, as a counter Stossel explained how taxation serves its purpose by providing what the people need such as protection to which Shapiro disproves of it saying we do not need militarization in this day and age. Furthermore, Shapiro speaks on how government taxes private sectors among having similar government companies. The disparity between UPS and USPS both are mailing companies only difference is the latter being a government funded in which they receive no taxation but the former does even though they are the same services.

## Reflection.

This discussion between Shapiro and Stossel just showcases how two separate ends of a spectrum can come to a pseudo agreement on which taxation is needed but at the same time so suppressing. I agree with both speakers on their cohesive statements that which were extremely well thought out along with the fact these are statements that can be reinforced through actual data. Those words spoken was not one that had no substance but one that was curious and understanding similar to my thoughts on this topic. Multimodal sources such as this is a great example of how ideas can be shared among the masses and it feels more real as one is hearing or watching someone say the information they want to know.

## Conclusion:

Overall, the question as to whether taxation is the cost of freedom has not been answered as there are too many overlapping opinions from left and right political stances however, it has been most agreed that these tax policies are too harsh on the average citizen in which their livelihood is determined by how much they pay taxes. Even amongst this uneasiness in one’s livelihood they do not understand where this money goes towards too which leads to aggression

against taxation. The populace expects their money to go towards to society, to the country to promote growth in the economy such as the labor force, taxable income leads to more funds to the government to reimburse businesses to create more job opportunities. However, that is not the case as the government takes a stance in which they will not interfere with firms and consumers even though they are taking a cut from that transaction. Rather this money goes towards the military expansion (not relief to veterans) in these peaceful times furthermore, the populace grows more aggravated as their money goes to foreign nations not to them, as they want a better quality of life. In America there is a failing healthcare and education system which the government is responsible for and citizens are upset because this is where their money is supposed to go towards. This string of events caused more and more ideologies to oppose taxation where the people lose and the government just watches as seen in the sources above. One must consider that even among the aggression against taxation there is morality, whether a worker pays for those of the less fortunate and even this moral compass is slowly rusting as they realize they are not responsible for the less fortunate. The taxpayer is being burdened to pay for things they do not know and in turn they receive lesser quality of life due to rash government spending. This amalgamation of worry and aggression led to these radical ideas that citizens feel as if they were being robbed or paying for the right of freedom, and this freedom is the lesser version of what they hoped for; their expectation ruined. Concluding this question, I have learned as to how the economy can lead to transgressions to those who uphold, how inequality is the root source of why so many people view taxation so negatively the populace.