

Freedom Matters

We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. We dedicate this paper to saving and preserving our freedom.

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With Liberty and Fairness for All

by
Bob Bowman

Most of us who attended the public school system in the United States, at least until recently, are quite familiar with the pledge of allegiance to the flag:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and fairness for all."

Oh! Wait a minute! That's "with liberty and justice for all." Well, gee whiz. Is there a difference?

Yes there is. As Thomas Sowell (for one) indicates, human beings can reasonably achieve justice. They cannot achieve fairness, no matter how they try. Yet, they try. Therein lies the source of so many social ills.

You see, there are some who equate fairness with justice, while at the same time they equate fairness with equality (see Sowell's book, *The Quest for Cosmic Justice*). Yet, life is inherently unfair. Were life not so, we would all be identical in every physique, and have exactly the same strength, beauty, cleverness, etc. We would also have a precisely equal share of the material wealth of the world, and we would all be equally happy.

Yes, you are right; that outcome is ridiculous. Put in those terms, it is clear that no one wants life to be perfectly fair, for that would mean no differences at all between us. In a word, we all **want** life to be unfair.

The logic of that does not change, when we come to the issue of material wealth. There also, we want life to be unfair. We **want** people to have different amounts of material wealth. The alternative, if one thinks about it, is unthinkable. We would no sooner divide up the material wealth of our world equally between us, then we would see it become unequal again, as we lived our lives. So, we would have to redistribute it all over again (and with all of the unequal labor

which that would entail, and labor is wealth). Equality of wealth is an impossible goal. It's not even a desirable goal, as this example helps reveal.

Yet, as impossible and as undesirable as it is, "economic equality" is the goal of certain political parties or politicians of our time. Their meaning seems not to be equality of **opportunity**, but rather, equality of **outcome**. The "living wage" and "minimum wage" are examples of "fair" (equal) outcomes rather than of "fair" (equal) processes.

Those who want to redistribute wealth so that each of us has the same amount of it, or at least has more equal amounts of it, tend to use a direct method. That is, they take wealth from those who have it, to give it to those who do not have it.

How curious, that such action would seem "fair" to them, to take wealth directly from those who have it. You see, that, in a nutshell, is the essence of slavery. If I have labored in the field, and laid the fruits of my labor in my storeroom, and you come and confiscate a part of it as your due, you have made of me your slave. Such difference as exists between that and thievery is more a matter of formality than of substance.

Therein lies the immorality of the income tax, and likewise, the immorality of communism. That government which practices an income tax has thereby compromised its own morality. Whatever good comes from it is tainted by the bad that comes from thievery. If I get government to take money from you to give to me, I have gotten government to commit thievery for me. And I've done it in the name of "fairness."

How curious, that when communism took power in Russia, the U.S.A. only a few years earlier had amended its own constitution to **legalize** the slavery of an income tax, the essence of the "redistributing" of wealth that is the essence of communism.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg. We are now engaged in the direct "redistributing" of our land.

Property rights web sites: < <http://www.fairnessinlaw.org/> >
< <http://www.takebackwisconsin.com/> >
<<http://www.PropertyRightsResearch.org>>

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