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Taxation

by Joe Escobar – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 4:35 PM

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Agree or disagree with Coolidge?

by Kelly Canaday – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:29 PM

I find myself generally agreeing with Coolidge in his address. I'm not against taxation by any means, however, I think it is very easy for the government to reach too far into the American people's pockets. Coolidge's point that he "wants the people of America to be able to work less for the government -- and more for themselves" stood out to me, because that's exactly the way I feel today. I found it interesting that someone from roughly 100 years ago has many of the same ideas that I have today regarding taxation.

I'm very open to hear other opinions about Coolidge's speech. Anyone else agree with him, or disagree?

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Reaction to The Progressive Taxation example

by Thomas Bullock – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:12 PM

I must say that the video helped me gain a new understanding of the current taxing code. but when it is shown in this manner. the current tax method seems insane. I intend to work long hours and put funds away for retirement and am very disturbed about the influence that this method has on the American work ethic as a whole. it is no wonder that practically everyone is on welfare and is on the lazy side of the spectrum. I think that freeloaders like tom should be prevented from voting on tax laws in the future.

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Coolige and current day taxation

by Lauren Collett – Monday, April 18, 2016, 9:12 PM

When it comes to Calvin Coolidges speech there are parts of it I agree with and some that I don't think really apply to us in the same way.

It is a great idea that the government be more economical with our money. Everyone can get behind that idea. The problem is that I don't think the government ever will REALLY be more economical with our money.

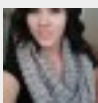
Coolidge isn't talking about the government providing better service with our tax dollars like the discussion is today. He just talks about "economy in government." I wonder where he was going to be more economical? He never mentions it in his speech.

In regards to today's politics Coolidge would be more on the republican side of things. Similar to Ted Cruz and Donald Trump who propose a simplified tax system or even a flat tax rate. Cruz has even suggested that we abolish the IRS completely. Then we have Bernie Sanders who wants to raise taxes and provide more services to the people (health care,college etc.). This system has worked in European countries but will it work in America? Many European countries pay 40% in taxes, almost twice as much as Americans.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/when-it-comes-to-taxes-americans-get-off-easy/>

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Coolidge taxation

by [Kalli Schroeder](#) – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 8:39 PM

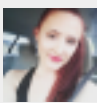
Lauren,

I really enjoyed reading you reply! I agree with you on the point that Coolidge never says how the country will be more economical. I did some research that expands on his speech and according to the article I found (Cited at the bottom) the ways Coolidge proposed being more economical included, “Accumulating capital, keeping government small, opening the economy to foreign trade and investment, respecting property rights and the rule of the law, not burdening the productive sector with unnecessary government regulations and controls, investing in “human capital””. With that knowledge I agree with you also that Coolidge is leaning towards the republican side. It is really interesting to think of the tax rate in Europe and how well it works for them. I’m not sure where I stand with believing that America will do as well as Europe with a 40% tax rate. I like the idea that Bernie has about giving back to the people with health care and college etc. but, also according to the article I found online, “The importance of tax policy to economic growth is illustrated by exploring obvious tax effects in the six characteristics of growing economies that new growth theorists have identified” Since those are the six characteristics that Coolidge was talking about, and he is a Republican, and the democrats are the ones who support the tax raise. It is hard to imagine that will ever happen.

<http://www.heritage.org/research/lecture/why-taxes-affect-economic-growth>

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Re: Coolidge taxation

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 9:44 PM

Hi Kalli,

Thank you for expanding upon Coolidge's speech and finding that info. In theory I think his plan sounds very practical. I think some of the problems lie with how do you make a government smaller once it has expanded(like the government did during WWI)? I think even in his time it would be difficult to have created all these government jobs and then say "actually we are cutting down." Sure government funding and jobs are cut all time but to really cut the government down enough to not only lower the taxes but also pay off government debts would be a difficult task. Even at the end of Coolidge's final term in office the government debt was at 17,604,293,201.43 dollars (source is linked below).

I'm also not sure where I stand in regards to whether or not a higher tax system and more government services, like Europe, would work in America. I really would like our government to spend our money more wisely on things like healthcare,schools,college etc. It would also be great if they could get the government services we have to actually work smoothly. Especially the VA but including the court systems, the DMV, the IRS and all state revenue services. If you've ever actually tired to contact the IRS for any problem I'm sure you understand!

Sanders has outlined a lot of his tax plan online. Which includes higher taxes on the rich, taxing wall street speculation,taxing corporations and reforming the criminal justice systems. Although I have read

that the amount of money earned from these things would not be enough I've also read it would be enough to work, so who really knows?

<http://www.polidiotic.com/by-the-numbers/us-national-debt-by-year/>

<http://feelthebern.org/bernie-sanders-on-economic-inequality/>

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Re: Coolige and current day taxation

by [Dennis Bench](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 1:36 PM

Hey Lauren,

I totally agree with you on the I don't think it will apply to us in the same way. Great example with the presidential candidates. It will be interesting to see if Bernie will earn the democratic nomination. I doubt it because of how far behind he is in delegates, I like his ideas but I don't know how they would all work out if he was ever in that position. But interesting on the republican side as well with the flat tax rate. Great comparison to Coolidge's taxation being on the republican side.

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Taxation on farmers

by [Jacob Meili](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:52 PM

I found Coolidges speech very insightful. While only 4 years ago, in 1920, we would find that more people lived in urban areas than rural, we can assume that the rural population is still quite high. He makes the point to say

"This means that the farmer is doomed to provide a certain amount of money out of the sale of his produce, no matter how low the price, to pay his taxes."

He goes on to talk about how the countries problem with taxes is that an unacceptable amount of tax money is going to public expense instead of the people working for themselves. During this time period, it's quite easy for me to see how many people, especially farmers and rural livers, would resonate with this line of thinking. They provide for themselves, they work their own fields, and Coolidge believed that these people should be able to reap the rewards of that. The population is obviously very differently allocated in regards to rural vs. urban, today. I personally believe that given the population distribution at the time, Coolidge's desire for lower taxes would have been fair to the people who payed them.

Any thoughts?

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Modern Republican Party agrees with Pres. Coolidge

by [Justin Cox](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:23 PM

President Coolidge, at the end of his speech, summarizes his own argument on taxes quite nicely. President Coolidge concluded by saying, "One of the greatest favors that can be bestowed upon the American people is economy in government."

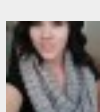
President Coolidge does not mean that the government should be making a lot of transactions in order to form its own "economy." He instead is using "economy" in the way we might use "efficiency" or "frugally" today. Simply put, he is saying that one of the greatest purposes of the federal government is to limit its own size so as to not infringe on the liberty of its people.

This argument is very similar to the mainstream view of the contemporary Republican Party. Republicans often argue that the federal government is smothering the liberty of taxpayers by charging to large a share of income in taxes. Many Democrats share this same view privately, but it is not in line with the general policy positions of the Democratic Party, which often strives to alleviate social ills with new or retooled government programs funded by taxpayers.

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I agree with Coolidge

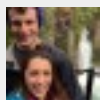


by [Kalli Schroeder](#) - Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 5:08 PM

After reading and listening to Calvin Coolidge’s *Speech on Taxes, Liberty, and the Philosophy of Government*, I find myself agreeing with Coolidge’s position on taxation. I agree with Coolidge when he says, “I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government -- and more for themselves. I want them to have the rewards of their own industry. This is the chief meaning of freedom” I believe that deserves merit because the hard working people who have too much money being taking out of their pay checks for taxes may need that money for independents or business expansion. The hard working people need to be able to expand and grow just as the government does. Coolidge also says, “Until we can reestablish a condition under which the earnings of the people can be kept by the people, we are bound to suffer a very severe and distinct reduction of our liberty”. Today our government is mostly Republican and they are the followers of imperialism which means they are want to expand power and US influence and to do so they need money which means the hard working people give up their money even if they are not Republican.

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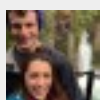
Coolidge's Taxation

by [Dennis Bench](#) - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 3:23 PM

I agree with President Coolidge on his view on taxation. I find that his points are compelling. He states everyone must pay taxes for the government with very many examples of the working. He also states it is not voluntarily and very stern necessity which supports his previous statements

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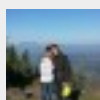
Progressive Tax Code Video

by [Dennis Bench](#) - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 3:35 PM

I would say it helped me understand more. I thought the idea of one brother paying nothing is bizarre. I would have preferred the 12% one the middle brother proposed. I did not know the U.S Tax Code was like that for the lower income, but I did know the higher making majority usually ends up paying more due the tax tables stated on the forum question page.

Sum of ratings: -

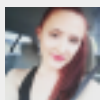
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Prager University is stupid

by [Dan Johnson](#) - Thursday, April 21, 2016, 11:22 PM

I've watched many of these Prager University clips before, and each one creates scenarios removed from any existing realities in the current and relevant issues of the time. They're essentially doctrine out of ideologues minds. By removing their position from real-life examples, they are able to construct scenarios which externalize any factors which can in any way weaken their ideas. It's a dishonest way of representing information. Without placing logic within real-life, multi-faceted content, a constructive process can't truly ensue. At times, scenarios can be helpful, but portraying them as definite outside of the bounds of real-life context is dishonest to say the least. It also obfuscates issues of inequality by portraying the real-life context of inequality as a matter of "takers" and "makers". This kind of simplification of the poor and the wealthy or even the middle class is really an exercise in generalizing about masses of people in completely unfair ways. It's extremely dishonest and cruel in many ways to those people on food stamps and other government assistance who work two or three jobs. 73% of those people who take welfare are apart of a family where at least one adult works according to UC Berkeley Center for Labor Reasearch and Education. Taxation has multi-faceted and dynamic effects and origins. To play on the idea that taxation is largely due to a portion of societies lack of morality is a far-cry from the reality of American society. To distract the public from massive wealth inequalities not between "people" making "25,000" to "people" making "150,000", but to real examples of people making 25,000,000 dollars a year to people making 14,000 dollars a year during a time with the highest levels of wealth-income inequality since the Great Depression is an advocacy for imbalance economically and more broadly, in society. It's funny how the Calvin Coolidge ideology matches up similarly with current approaches, and in both cases, whether it be in "Reaganomics" or 1920's Republican doctrine, when the country becomes out of balance with the indiscriminate application of these doctrines, the same result occurs: the economy crashes.



Re: Prager University is stupid

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9:03 PM

Hey Dan,

I agree with you about the Prager University clip. It seemed to me very biased, like someone that is pushing for a flat tax rate acting like "look how it makes sense in this fake situation we created."Also highly offensive that the lowest earning brother is the "lazy" one. When we know that in reality not all wealthy people work more than all poor people. For a few obvious reasons why a flat tax rate would not easily work.

"the latest flat tax proposals are being pitched as a broad tax cut for the middle class. But, in fact, most Americans would end up paying a greater share of their income — except the very rich....So if a flat tax hit all households with, say, a 15 percent rate that would mean taxes on the bottom fifth would increase more than sevenfold, while the top 1 percent would see their taxes cut almost in half."(according to CNBC article linked below)

It makes sense why this video is pushing for this particular view because Prager University is run by a very conservative group of people with there founder being Dennis Prager, a former talk show host.

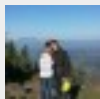
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/11/gop-simple-flat-tax-proposals-simply-do-not-add-up.html>



Taxation: The American Bully

by [Tyler Paselk](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 9:09 AM

Calvin Coolidge's speech about taxes was as strange speech to me. He talked about taxes in a negative, but necessary way. I like that he is talking about the levels of taxation being too high, and that taxes are a detriment to the joy and bank accounts of the American people. What I didn't like about his speech is that he never talked about how he was going to reduce taxes and where the government would get its money after tax cuts. There would have to be budget cuts on important parts of our lives, like education and road quality. It was easy to tell how he felt about taxes. He said "They are grimly, actual, and real, reaching into every household in the land". He makes taxes seem like a big bully that comes and takes your lunch money every day. Overall i agree with Coolidge. Taxes should have less of an impact on people lives, but i don't ever see that becoming a reality. The government relies on taxes, and we rely on tax money to create and sustain the technological world we live in. Taxes are a necessary evil.

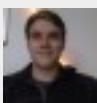


Re: Taxation: The American Bully

by [Dan Johnson](#) – Friday, April 22, 2016, 10:12 AM

I think it's also interesting how Coolidge's policies came out of, according to the video in class, at least partly in the belief that the wealthy could best create prosperity for the country when they had control of most of the wealth and thus, power. Similar to the Prager University clip, in his speech, he rather focuses on giving relief to hard working Americans than the reality that he is mostly attempting to transfer power from the government to the wealthy in the private sphere. And of course, his administration wasn't impartial between small and medium size business and large business. A member of his administration was caught taking bribes from oil companies. His administration as a whole left a legacy of corruption. Did this corruption stem from ties to small and medium size business? The idea that the Coolidges of the world are looking after the "common folk" is laughable. Far to often what is overlooked when talking about taxes is power. Quantitative fairness is often invoked, but in cases sush as these, it's about power. What Coolidge's ideology forgets and thus why it was such a failure going into the 30's is that taxes are not a way to help the poor, but also, a way to keep large social entities from accumulating too much power. It is a simple principle that governs this idea called the checks and balances of power, which Montesquieu understood and following from him, the Founding Fathers. Prager U and Coolidge distract from the deeper realities involved.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

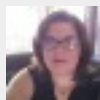


Re: Taxation: The American Bully
by [Kyler Paselk](#) - Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4:39 PM

Your point of taxes sometimes being about power and control is very intriguing. It almost sounds like a conspiracy theory but it actually makes sense. If you take their money away, then you take away their power, or at least you limit their power. I think we would see a modern day version of this come in to action if Bernie Sanders were to be elected president. He even talks about limiting the power of big corporations and the top one percent. Whether or not this could be effective all depends on if these big corporations "follow the Rules". With the recent discover of the Panama Papers it's hard to believe that we could ever tax something so big and have it actually work without them hiding money in foreign places.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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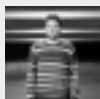
Taxing the rich
by [Sara Kosydar](#) - Friday, April 22, 2016, 2:32 PM

Today taxation to the rich is about 38%. Many people think that today we should raise the tax on the rich. In the 1930's tax to the rich was at 70%. How would we feel today if 70% of our check was going to the U.S government ? We would be extremely upset and rightfully so. I don't think we should tax the rich anymore because they would end up hiding the money elsewhere to avoid paying taxes: you should see the recently released panama papers.



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Re: Taxing the rich
by [Justin Cox](#) - Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:56 PM

Sara,

You asked how I would feel if I had to pay 70% of my salary to the federal government in taxes. I can say that while I wouldn't be happy about writing a check that large, I would be consoled by the realization that I one of the wealthiest people in the world.

My sympathies are more aligned with those who have the least. I'd ask, how can wealthy people rest easily while they pay just 38% in taxes to the federal gov. while our education, infrastructure and health care systems deteriorate?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Small Government
by Shane Cooney – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4:51 PM

My father has always been very against big government. I think Calvin Coolidge definitely makes valid points. The United States was founded to ensure individual liberties, and be a nation where any endeavor or venture could be obtained with hard work. Coolidge states in his speech, "I want [the workers] to have the rewards of their own industry. This is the chief meaning of freedom." Our nation can not continue to tax us at unfair or unreasonable rates while the government is in bed with big business. Everybody should be able to reap the rewards of their work, what you put in is what you should receive. Our money should be kept by us, we are the people; the government is here to serve us. The principle of this nation is that we give our government power and in return, they provide for us. Coolidge said he wanted the people to be able to work for themselves, not for the government. And that's the way it should be. Our hard earned tax dollars go towards unnecessary things. Tax cuts have the potential to be a real check on the expanding scope and size of the federal government.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Response to Coolidge
by Thomas Bullock – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:31 PM

after watching Coolidge's speech on taxation, I must say that I agree with his views. I have not understood taxation as funding the government. everyone knows this, but most people see taxes as just another bill to pay, rather than country insurance. moreover, it was refreshing to hear a president support wealth that is gained through hard labor and try to intercept less of it

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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