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Taxation

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

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Tom, Dick, and Harry.

by Christopher Burton – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:01 AM

This video definitely influenced me. I'm not surprised that it sounds completely ridiculous, but our country in not as simple as the three brothers street. I'm also not quite sure how accurate the video was. I can say that I don't make \$25,000.00 a year and I still have to pay taxes. I do understand where they're trying to go with the video, however, and in this particular video instance the tax codes seem unfair toward the higher income tax payers.

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Calvin Coolidge

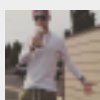
by Christopher Burton – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:28 AM

I think Overall I tend to agree with what Coolidge is saying in his speech. It seems like common sense that everyone must pay their taxes. I would love to see a world were no one has to pay taxes, and the money that it costs to run a country comes from some where else. I don't believe that will ever happen. I'm not quite sure what he means when he 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 sever and distinct curtailment of out liberty." I don't like gross generalizations just to get a number. Saying on average taxes will take \$300 from every household means little to me. If you take \$300 from some one barely make by with what they have, it is a lot of money. If you take \$300 from some one with money to burn it is nothing. \$300 is definitely a relative term here. If he would have put the amount in terms of a percent of income, I believe it would be more relative and make more sense, and it would be more alarming and less alarming to the tax payers, respectively.

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Re: Calvin Coolidge

by Zachery Brown – Thursday, April 21, 2016, 12:14 PM

I think what Mr. Calvin Coolidge means when he 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 sever and distinct curtailment of our liberty." At least as far as my interpretation goes, is that until "we" as in we Americans, can be financially set up, "reestablish" and good to go as in not a broke or in debt country. And the way to do so, to Coolidge, is tax us Americans and take a part of "the earnings of the people". And once we are fully reestablished, it can be kept by, "the people". And as far as the part where Coolidge says, "we are bound to suffer a very sever and distinct curtailment of our liberty." Is that we as the people of America are obligated to be okay with giving a portion of our hard earned money, to the Country that we live in, until the Country is fully reestablished and no longer in a struggle. That my friend is my personal interpretation of that specific line in the Coolidge speech. I also wish that there could be a time in which we Americans were no longer required to pay taxes. But I also agree with you that that will never happen. I mean our country is trillions of dollars in debt to other countries. And now days the tax money doesn't even go toward paying off our foreign debt. Goes to building new buildings, schools, and whatever else. Which is fine, but you catch my drift.

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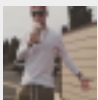


Re: Calvin Coolidge
by [Christopher Burton](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:01 AM

That seems to be a good interpretation. That's about what I was thinking, but it sounds better when someone else says it. It does sound sad when you say we will never not be taxed, but until some genius comes by and figures out how to cut government sending enough to pay off our national debt I thin we're stuck with being taxed. I don't even want to think about the tine period that it would take to actually pay off the trillions of dollars in debt. Thanks for your input though.

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Re: Calvin Coolidge
by [Zachery Brown](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4:15 PM

Yea It definitely is sad, I agree. And whats even more sad, and almost humorous, is that without history classes like this one, generations not far behind us aren't even going to realize or know that there were times when nobody was taxed. They will just assume that that is the way this country works and always has. So in that case, Thank you Joe Escobar for being a history teacher and teaches us people about all of the good things and the bad things that has happened with this country.

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Re: Calvin Coolidge
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 6:08 PM

I agree with you. I also tend to agree with what Coolidge says in his speech. As far as this quote is concerned "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 sever and distinct curtailment of out liberty." I think was Coolidge is saying that taxes are necessary until the government can function without as much money from the taxpayers. I think based on the time period these "severe" taxes were absolutely a necessity. As we learned last week during our study of WW1, before the war the government could survive with only spending 1 billion dollars a year. This changed dramatically after the war. The war cost 33 billion dollars. Higher taxes were needed in order to finance the war and counter any debt the war caused the U.S.

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Taxation in the United States
by [Philip Engel](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 5:51 PM

After looking over the materials provided for the forum and from what I have experienced in today's society, it is pretty easy to see that in recent years the amount that Americans are being taxed every year is on the rise. The average amount that an individual gets taxed from overall from federal taxes is on the rise but it is no where

close to being the same for all Americans. In recent years, the less money you make means that a smaller percent of your taxes will be taken out of your income from federal taxes. Once you leave the lowest tax bracket and enter the second bracket, the total percent that is taken out of your income from federal taxes just about doubles. This trend continues all the way to the top 1%. Personally I do not agree with the idea of taxing the hard working and wealthier American citizens while others who make less and may not of persued a better eudcation get handouts.

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Re: Taxation in the United States
by Christopher Burton – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:03 PM

I don't think it's a simple thing, but for the most part I completely agree with you. I would /will be quite irritated getting taxed higher because I went to school (took out lots of money in loans) and got a better well paying job. I'm all for helping people who actually need the help; however, it pisses me off when I see people purposefully not working just to get government help and being quite content with that life style.

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Re: Taxation in the United States
by Philip Engel – Monday, April 18, 2016, 11:27 PM

I somewhat agree on how if people really need the extra help while working towards bettering themselves and contributing to society. What I don't understand is how someone can think that it is acceptable to coast off of every one else's hard work.

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Re: Taxation in the United States
by Mariah Marelli – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 6:21 PM

I see where you are coming from, but I have to disagree. I think that it is fair that the wealthier people in America get taxes much higher than those in the lowest tax bracket. It is startling that once you leave the lowest tax bracket the percent of tax taken out of your income doubles. I think that it is an unfair generalization that people in the lowest tax bracket are receiving handouts. Some simply can't afford to pay higher taxes or pursue a higher education. So I think that it is fair that the rich get taxed far more than the poor.

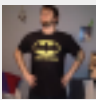
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Re: Taxation in the United States
by Philip Engel – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 11:22 PM

Given, I do disagree with what you are saying, I also see where you are coming from. not everyone who is in the lowest tax bracket is recording handouts. The reason why I can relate I what you are saying is because I am personally in the lowest taxt bracket while I go to school. I think it's great that there are places who give recourcrs to students on campus. An example of this is an organization that gives out a free bag of grocieries to willing UO students. That being said not everyone in the lowest tax bracket do serves these privileges.

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In agreement with Coolidge
by Barry Peiskee – Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:36 PM

While I could see the benefits of a country running at maximum efficiency, but I would have to agree with Coolidge's approach. He spoke like a man who was out for the betterment of his people. Coolidge spoke about the American laborer working 300 days out of the year. If the government were to increase its budget by 100 million, it would require the laborer to work an additional 4 days out of the year for each worker. 4 extra days of

work for people to earn 100 million in taxes sounds profitable if it is applying to one project/person, but this is going towards a budget of 7 billion dollars 500 million dollars. I think Collidge saw this and thought better to spend wisely with the established budget, than expand it for a small relative amount.

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The speech that spoke in many ways

by [Joe Paredes](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:26 PM

I agree with what Calvin Coolidge said in the beginning of his speech.

" The expenses of government reach everybody. Taxes take from everyone a part of his earnings and force everyone to work for a certain part of his time for the government."

No matter what happens, taxes take money that is earned from people and it feels like it's not evenly spread through out the people. People who work for the government still end up paying taxes anyways and hearing President Coolidge say he wants America to enjoy the chief meaning of freedom which is rewards from their own industry.

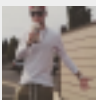
What i do question is the understanding of what he means by explaining that each household is taken 300 dollars away, but includes in the speech that " It's actual, real" and that they must be paid. They are not "Voluntary"

America understood and i assumed they understand they they are not "Voluntary."

Why is he explaining it again in a very memorable speech? Is it because of the "Pension" he is mentioning that increases the overall living?

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My Perspective

by [Zachery Brown](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 8:53 PM

Being as this is my first post in the forum for this week. I will keep it fairly brief. I personally do agree with Calvin Cooledges speech on taxation, to a certain degree that is. If taxing all of the American People, like said in his speech, actually was the case then by all means I do agree. Although I don't feel that that's the way it had worked out. Being as even today, and surely back then, big corporations were able to dodge the taxes and not pay their fair share. Therefore the U.S. Government did not receive enough money and they either higher the tax rates or create new taxes. So on that note, if everything would have worked out fairly for the American People that would have been great. In my opinion at least.

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My ideas on Coolidge's perspective

by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 9:15 PM

I think that Coolidge's plan to focus directly on the recession after WW1 was an implication of his presidency. The result of various markets not producing as much as they needed to left someone with the need to reevaluate the national wage margin and aspects of workers in these said businesses. I personally am all for the market system on a local level. I always try t find local businesses to shop at rather than big name brands because the prosperity and culture of my immediate surroundings will increase if I invest in locals. So what Coolidge said about believing that "the earnings of the people should be kept by the people" is a very important point to me because I believe that equal reward should be given for the amount of work someone produces. I appreciate this aspect of Coolidge in a time of the industrial revolution and production of big name industry.

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Coolidge's Speech

by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 9:57 PM



Overall, do you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with Coolidge’s position on taxation?

Overall I find myself agreeing with Coolidge’s position on taxation. I think that they are a necessity. They are taken out of everyone's pay to help support both the federal government and the state government. As stated by Coolidge taxes are not a voluntary donation they are a necessity that enables the government to function and support the nation. However; I do not agree with his statement that taxes come before everything. Coolidge states that they come before basic necessities such as; food, shelter and clothes. I agree with him when he has they come before household comforts and luxuries, but food really? I disagree with that if you can’t afford to buy yourself food especially back in the 1920’s–1930’s then I don’t think that you should have to pay taxes. At least not until you are able to support yourself.

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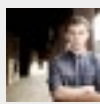
Re: Coolidge's Speech

by [Christopher Burton](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:20 AM

I agree with you on the food part. I don't think that's exactly what he was trying to say. I'm just thinking that, like you said, if you can buy food then you wouldn't be paying taxes. This makes me think of a family member of mine who instead of buying necessities first, likes to go have fun, and gripe later about how they have no money for food and what not. While I agree that food first is kind of important I believe some people put important things, such as taxes, on the back burner for later, so that when it comes time to pay they can say "sorry I can't pay taxes I have to buy food." Living within your means I feel is an important factor here.

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War Bonds

by [Jade Sotelo](#) – Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:15 PM

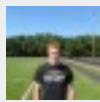
" To help pay the bills, the government slapped the rich with a 67% income tax, and a 25% inheritance tax."

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I didn't know that they government could tax the wealthy a substantial amount more than the rest of the population. The fact that all the taxation of businesses and people only did 1/3 of the 33 billion total amount needed was very much shocking. If the cost of war was that expensive than how about now ?

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Re: Chief Meaning of Freedom

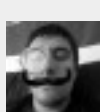
by [Jeb Harper](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 12:06 AM

One thing Calvin Coolidge mentioned that stuck out to me was how he wanted the people to work more for themselves and less for the government and how he wanted them to have the rewards that comes with their own industry. He went on to say this is the chief meaning of freedom. I respect how he valued the American people and their freedom. You see so many people today base a presidents worth on how much he does and how much change he can cause by writing all these new policies and stuff but I like how Coolidge seemed to be the kind of guy that tried to do as little as possible as president. He didn't think that that was his job, that that was what the President of the United States was meant to do, he was a man who wasn't about the action or power and trying to control things but more about the people.

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3 brothers



by [Joe Paredes](#) – Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 8:28 PM

I love how they made it even for the brothers in all the ways ,up until hours came into play , as well as making us understand and take into consideration of their families .

The progressive income tax tale helped me understand the idea of saving and what it can do to help me in the future but isn't paying into stocks a High Risk / High reward kind of living ? Also, wouldn't investing in a cheaper housing for "Tom" since he's rating a family of 4 with only \$25,000 and a wife that doesn't work?

Ok, dividing the "12%" or in 3 ways was definitely a different way to look at it ,but still doesn't seem fair in the least. – Dick's idea

I'm against the idea of the Progressive Income Tax System ,but nothing we can do at the moment to see a change of this. I do have to say , even if they may be getting billed or taxed with certain things more so than the lower class, just the living and money they earn from whatever Income based Job they have is worth those higher taxes.

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"Opinion: Tax day is over, but the public’s desire for tax reform remains" by David Williams
by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:06 PM

I chose to respond to David William's article on his opinion of the tax reform from Insidesource.com. This article was released yesterday so the information is more than relevant. He starts of by saying that this is an "interesting" year to look at tax day because of the presidential election and how the public is able to see how each representative approaches the problem of taxation in America. He said because of this we can concur that "the taxpayers do want reform", but many people were confused on how this can happen. This problem remains mainly because " the candidates have been taking personal shots at one another rather than talking about fixing the broken tax system" (emphasizing the word "broken" in this statement). I personally have not been keeping up with who is saying what but I have heard from many people that are watching that this seems to be the general census.

After determining the problem, David follows up with some desired solutions he possess and, lo and behold: "the United states must lower their corporate tax rate". This is right along the lines of what Coolidge did by cutting governmental taxation. This article proves to me that the same problem with governmental taxation is held nearly a century later.

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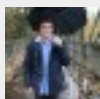


The three bros and one's woes
by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:40 PM

This is a very helpful video on how the federal tax system works for me. I have always been puzzled by talk of the 1% and the factor that I contribute to this puzzlement is lack of a simple, yet solid base example. The story of the three brothers really helped me to understand that even the reason that people make more is in direct correlation to how much more they work, at least in this example. It seems that the video was made to point out the unfairness in Tom and Dick's resolve towards Harry. Harry was the wisest of the three because he worked the most and saved the most. His proposition of splitting the bill evenly three ways since they have the same benefits seems the most fair, but clearly that is not how the federal tax system works. Very enlightening video.

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Re: The three bros and one's woes cont.
by [Christopher Cockman](#) – Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:44 PM

However looking into the wonderful comment section provided by Youtube, I see that one user says " Almost all new income are generated by the already-wealthy, and because of this wealth is for the majority

of cases, inherited. So who am I supposed to believe? PragerU or this random citizen?

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