



Search forums

Forum 2

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



Taxation by the Federal Government

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10:58 AM

This forum thread is for Taxation by the Federal Government Topic posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you should group your responses into SEPARATE posts. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Taxation by the Federal Government

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



A tale of three brothers

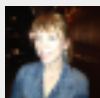
by Gordon Collver - Monday, April 20, 2015, 3:56 PM

I thought the video on progressive tax was interesting because the arguments were all ones that occur in society right now. I think that the video makes it seem as the brother with least money is rude and unfair while the richest brother is getting cheated which makes me wonder what view the person who made the video has. At the same time they could've said that the brother with the least money can't pay any or pay as much because he needs a higher percentage of his money to live off. This in my opinion would've been more realistic. Also while the video provides a good small scale example I think a larger scale would have been more beneficial to show how a progressive tax works. It also seems to me that they only used examples of just the lower and middle classes but not one of the really rich 1%.

Sum of ratings: (1)

0

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: A tale of three brothers

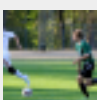
by Tamara Berge - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 11:16 PM

I very much agree with you that the progressive tax video seemed to be bias with regard to the behaviors the brothers had toward money. I disliked the implication that Tom, the youngest brother, was choosing to work just 20 hours per week and his wife was choosing to not work at all, when it would be more likely that they are unable to work more due to circumstance. The viewpoint clearly is in favor of the oldest brother Harry. He is represented not only as humble and fair in his thinking but also as a hard worker that just seems to be getting a raw deal.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: A tale of three brothers

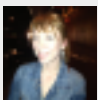
by Gordon Collver - Friday, April 24, 2015, 9:35 AM

Glad to know I'm not the only person who thought so!



Re: A tale of three brothers
by Stanley Cates - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:34 AM

While I agree that the implication about Tom "choosing" to work just 20 hours shows a certain bias I myself can't think of a better way to illustrate the point while keeping things realistic. That being said I think the video still asks a very important question. Why shouldn't lower wage earners pay anything in taxes? They get to drive on the same roads, they get the same protection from the military, if their house catches fire the same firefighters are going to come put it out, they call the same 911 as the rich do. I understand perfectly well that higher wage earners sometimes live a more lavish life, and I understand that there's a certain amount of resentment to be had there, but is it really fair to make them pay the brunt of the cost just because they have more money than the lower wage earner regardless of the reasons they earn a lower wage? No one likes paying taxes; but I really can't help but feel cheated every year when I write the checks to the state and federal government while my friends who maybe didn't apply themselves as well as they could have are waiting for their refunds to come. So; I would argue that Harry IS getting a raw deal, and paying a dramatically unfair share of the cost.



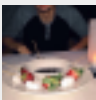
Re: A tale of three brothers
by Tamara Berge - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:17 PM

I understand your frustration of having to make payments while some others get kickbacks, but unless you are the “Harry” in this scenario you would also be contributing more in taxes. In the state of Oregon a single person making the minimum wage of \$9.25 per hour and working 40 hours per week would earn \$19,240 annually. If that person received any kind of refund back from their paid taxes then good for them. I can’t imagine how a person making that amount could afford to pay more in taxes.



Re: A tale of three brothers
by Emily Johnson - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:48 PM

I think part of the reason they didn't go into why they were working the certain hours were because it just wasn't relevant for the portrayal of the way the progressive income tax is done. However I do agree with you, the video had a little sad sound when it said Tom's wife didn't work.



Federal Government Strong Hand
by Jaalen Johnson - Monday, April 20, 2015, 9:53 PM

The one thing that I find most interesting about US tax increase is a common trend that Mr. Escobar brings up quite frequently, "if you aren't willing to change, they will force you to do so". As you can see in several different charts that right before world war 1 in 1916 taxes were very low and when the war hit and we saw something very different. Although there were ways to help contribute to the war like war bonds, we made sure to enforce our power and get the funds someway. We increased taxes dramatically.

Like Mr. Escobar said before WW1 he would have loved to pay all of his students taxes because they were tremendously low. We need some way to fund the war so we forced taxes out the roof for government spending. So along with asking for help with bonds and other things of that nature we forced it as well.



Re: Federal Government Strong Hand
by Gordon Collver - Friday, April 24, 2015, 9:43 AM

I think that if we went to war today it would be very different because people would complain about paying higher taxes let alone buy war bonds. While then it was seen as very patriotic and something to be proud of.



Re: Federal Government Strong Hand

by Stanley Cates - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:55 AM

People complained about higher taxes then; it didn't stop them from raising them. The war bond thing I agree with. Try as I might I simply cannot visualize any of my friends or family loaning money to the government after they've already paid all their taxes. But; was it really a patriotic thing to do? Or was it simply not wanting to be singled out as being unamerican?



Re: Federal Government Strong Hand

by Gordon Collver - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:13 AM

I think it was probably a bit of both.



Giving back just to take more

by Andrew Duyck - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:07 PM

What is the point in the government giving back income tax money to people in the lowest bracket if the individual is going to spend well over that amount in other taxes? This is money going in a circle costing the government money and time, as well as the individual. I think a solution would be to find ways to cut down on the other taxes of people in the lowest bracket at least to the amount that the government was going to give them. This will avoid sending money in a circle and help to lower taxes other than income for individuals in the lowest tax bracket.



Progressive tax video

by Connie LaMorte - Friday, April 24, 2015, 12:47 PM

After watching the video about the three brothers I was really surprised to learn how this tax works. I personally have never thought about it in the way that it was presented. Now I am not so sure that the progressive tax system is fair. Given the fact that Harry and his wife worked harder and saved their money versus Tom and his wife who didn't work as hard and spent all their money. It just doesn't make sense that because you work harder than someone else, you should have to pay more taxes. This is something I had never thought about before and is food for thought.



Re: Progressive tax video

by Gordon Collver - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:18 AM

The example they used wasn't very realistic though, who do you know that works 60 hours a week for one job?



60 hour work weeks

by Connie LaMorte - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:43 PM

Gordon, I know lots of folks that work 60 hour weeks, in particular attorneys where I used to work were required to bill a certain amount of hours by the "firm" and this was expected, it was not optional. The philosophy was that you had to work extra hours to pay your dues and if you didn't you were not going to be promoted to partner or shareholder, who are the ones that actually reap the profits of a law firm. Usually, if your attorney worked long hours, so did the paralegals, secretaries and associates who supported them. In other words, if you balked at working long hours, you were considered weak. So, there are many reasons professionals work these kinds of hours, not only to get ahead, but to maintain status, which inadvertently leads to higher salaries and taxes for

everyone involved.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Progressive tax video
by Stanley Cates - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:41 PM

Well, in my former profession I worked 50-60 hours a week. I see your point though, it's not normal. Unrealistic as it may be I think it was more just a mechanism to keep things on an even playing field than it was to make the 40 hour a week guy look inadequate.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Coolidge's speech
by Tamara Berge - Friday, April 24, 2015, 2:03 PM

I liked what Coolidge had to say in his speech. I do not pretend to know what the best plan for taxation would be for the entire country, or if Coolidge’s speech could even be applicable to today’s times, but the idea of “America to be able to work less for the government -- and more for themselves,” sounds pretty great. I even liked that he did not make the wealthiest Americans out to be the villains and just simply stated that, “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.” I found two other quotes from Calvin Coolidge, in an article on Bloomberg Business’ web page by Joseph J. Thorndike, that gave the impression that he was interested in tax cuts for both the wealthy and the poor; “We can not finance the country, we can not improve social conditions, through any system of injustice, even if we attempt to inflict it upon the rich,” and “High taxes reach everywhere and burden everybody. They bear most heavily upon the poor. They diminish industry and commerce. They make agriculture unprofitable. They increase the rates on transportation. They are a charge on every necessary of life." However, the table provided in the link for Historical income tax rates, shows that the taxes in 1924 had only dropped 3% for the lowest earning bracket and 14% for the wealthiest. This continues in 1926 where it dropped only another 1% for the lowest earners and 19% for the top earning. It seems that the percentages could have been tipped a bit differently for to benefit those bottom earners.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Genocide intervention
by Tyler Dennis - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1:07 PM

There is no arguing that genocide is horrible thing, but I have to agree on the stance that Ron Paul takes in the Keyes_vs_Isolationism. In the video Keyes says that we don't have to send troops to fulfill military order, but how else are you going to intervene in order to prevent a violent oppressive government or organization? Not once in this video does he suggest how we are going to do that. Ron Paul says we have a moral responsibility, but we don't have a responsibility to police other countries? Who gave us that responsibility? Our own government?

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Wrong forum
by Tyler Dennis - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:02 PM

Wrong forum. My apologies.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Genocide intervention
by Emily Johnson - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:23 PM

I really liked how you pointed how how Ron Paul never comes up with a viable solution. I think, if you're going to be in politics and have such bold opinions, I'd consider coming up with some possible answers to the questions I'm posing.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Tax on the rich
by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:09 PM

After looking at the chart, i can't decide if i support that the government taxed the rich by over 90% during the world wars. The war had to be funded somehow, but do you guys think this was the best way of doing it?

Sum of ratings: [\(1\)](#) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



A video making a different claim
by [Kai Seltman](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:13 PM

I enjoyed watching Calvin Coolidge's speech on taxation and "The Progressive Income Tax: A Tale of Three Brothers." However, I feel there are some pitfalls in the premise of the video. The video says that the three brothers were born with exactly equal opportunities. In reality, this is not the case. People are born under vastly different circumstance. I do believe there are hard working citizens who earn every dollar they work for, and citizens who choose to mooch off these people and the government. However, this video implies that poor people, in general, are lazy and make poor life choices. I don't think that's a fair generalization, as I know impoverished hard-working individuals.

Here is another video that makes a starkly different claim:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM&spfreload=10>

It is hard to say which video is a more accurate portrayal of wealth inequality, but I do not believe people should pay the same tax regardless of how much they make.

Sum of ratings: [1](#) [\(1\)](#) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The Tax System (Under Which We Live).
by [Emily Johnson](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:17 PM

The tale of 3 brothers video clip accurately described the tax system under which we currently live. I remember my Dad complaining about it several years back, saying that it was unfair. I really liked the way the video portrayed the system so I could understand it a little better. It was noted how much the narrator's voice changed in regards to how we were swayed to feel about the brothers. In my opinion, the video was ever so slightly trying to show us how unfair the system really is. It seems so incredibly difficult for the government to find a balance of healthy taxing, if there is such a thing.

In Coolidge's speech he makes some clear cut points. He is very clear about his intentions and desires for the American people to be taxed primarily because we need the money. "The expenses of government reach everybody." This is true and will remain true. Unfortunately, his speech sounded more like an essay written for school than by a president, certainly by today's standards anyway. I am certain if he were running for president today it would be difficult to become elected because of his lack of charisma, but that shouldn't deflect from his desire to lead the American people in the direction that he hopes is for the good of all, and if anything his sincerity comes through.

Sum of ratings: [2](#) [\(1\)](#) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Coolidge and a Roaring Economy
by [Emily Johnson](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:44 PM

I learned many things about President Coolidge in an article entitled "Calvin Coolidge: Forefather of Conservatism" by Joseph Postell, Ph.D. In the article Postell describes Coolige and how he followed his principles as President. As we know, Harding and Coolidge inherited one of the worst economic disasters in American history. Even though I knew this, I didn't see it really as the burden it really was for Coolidge right off the bat in his Presidency and how vital it was that the president be put in a position to call for immediate action. As we learned from the text, in 1921 the national debt had shot up from \$1.5 billion in 1916 to \$24 billion in 1919. That is an enormous leap, one that I would not want to shoulder on my own. I think that

is way Coolidge makes it very clear that it is up to the American people, collectively to shoulder the burden together.

The article states, "In response, Harding and Coolidge did not blame their predecessor, Woodrow Wilson, for the disaster they inherited. They went about putting their principles into practice and turning the economy around, and they were extremely effective in doing so". Harding and Coolidge employed a three-step plan. 1. Cut spending dramatically. 2. Lower taxes. 3. Reduce the burden of regulation. I think these men really had the people's best interest at heart and that it was important to Coolidge in his Presidency that he implement change, most notably through is tax plan. I'm certain many people would agree that in the current year of 2015, it would be wonderful to see change occur more often that it does.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[HST 203 Sp15 \(Escobar Meta\)](#)