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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

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stuck on the fence

by Perry Washington - Monday, April 20, 2015, 5:32 PM

I can't help but find myself agreeing with a lot of what Coolidge has to say. This is because I find myself split on the issue of taxation. People have to be responsible for providing public services that we rely on such as police, fire, and sewer. On the other hand I believe the budget needs a major audit and taxes won't relive the debt. I'm just curious to know if Coolidge was on the right track about living without taxes, would increases the quality of life. I'm skeptical I have heard that as a nation we were the "happiest" in the 50's and the rich where paying like 90%.

I often hear how taxing the wealthy more, hurts small business. I hope to own a business some day and I don't plan on making it to the one percent before I can do that. Also I belie in fair business, I only need enough to live comfortably, and I would want to afford all of my employs the same level of comfort. This article showed me that higher taxes on the elite don't commonly effect small business. "Less than 3 percent of tax filers with any business income earn enough (\$200,000 as individuals or \$250,000 as couples in a year) to be affected—and many of those that do are Wall Street investment partners, big business CEOs paid to sit on boards of other big companies, and wealthy folks renting out investment properties and vacation homes." <http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/the-small-business-case-for-ending-tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy>

The video was kind of funny and surprisingly informative I'm not sure it really helped me understand the situation any better. The whole clip was based on all things being equal which there not. That being said I'm sure harry would have benefited 80% more if the gate detours robbers. But there's no way I would have agreed to that deal if I was harry, I would do all future negotiations with a contract between my brothers.

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Tax talk

by Jose Camarillo - Monday, April 20, 2015, 8:07 PM

I found myself agreeing with Coolidge for the most part on his position on taxation. I like that he started by saying that he wanted to, as he put it, "I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government -- and more for themselves." It shows that he had a plan to lower taxes, but then begins to talk about the importance of taxes. I believe that was a very

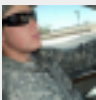
good way to show that you want to do something but before then we as a nation must play our role. If you look at the third graph you can see that by 1925 the tax on the wealthiest people was down more than 10% showing that Coolidge indeed did want to lower taxes.

"Since the middle of the last century, millionaires' tax burden has been cut in half. During the same time period, the share of government revenue coming from corporate taxes has plummeted while the portion coming from payroll taxes has jumped. As a freelancer, I have to give 30% of my income to the Internal Revenue Service. Hedge fund managers, meanwhile, pay 20% because they're allowed to pretend that their regular income is actually investment income. This particular rich-person tax perk is one of the main reasons income inequality in this country is out of control." This is from the LA Times on an article that talks about how the GOP is trying to make the rich even rich by giving them tax cuts. The author points out proposed bills from republican party members that would give the rich tax breaks. <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-0415-eichelberger-taxes-20150415-story.html>

I enjoyed the video because it did a good job of explaining what the progressive tax code is. This example shows how it can be unfair to the wealthier individual, but I feel like it fails to show that the top 1% or even less wealthy individuals are a lot wealthier than that, so aren't hurt as bad as it made it seem like that guy was getting hit. aside from that I liked that the video showed how each individual was making their own choices like how much to work and how much to save or not to save.

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Coolidge Taxation

by [Matt Devine](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 10:30 PM

I find myself mostly agreeing with Coolidge in his speech. The line that caught my attention and most likely the attention of every middle and lower class worker was " I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government -- and more for themselves." While taxes are a must, at that time the tax rate was incredibly high leaving the Rural and lower class Americans, who didn't benefit from the prosperity of the decade, with even less to provide basic necessities for themselves or their family. The part where i disagree is when Coolidge states "...-- and taxes must be paid. They are not a voluntary contribution to be met out of surplus earnings. they are a stern necessity. they come first. It is only out of what is left, after they re paid, that the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter can be provided.." I believe, as an American. I should support my family and myself with atleast food and shelter before providing for the government. At the end of his speech Coolidge goes on to say "It increases the value of everybody's property, raises the scale of everybody's wages." If everybody's wages and property value increased wouldn't the value of the dollar drop and amount of taxes increase also?

when i did a little research I came across an article from the Tax Education Foundation. Naturally they were for Coolidge's tax policy, stating that today's policy makers can learn from President Calvin Coolidge's budget and tax policy. through out the article John Hendrickson, the author of the article, used many quotes from Coolidge. Hendrickson goes on to quote Coolidge saying " We are seeking to let those who earn money keep more of it for themselves and give less of it to the government. this means better business, more of the comforts of life, general economic improvement, larger opportunity for education, and a greater freedom for all the people. It is in essence restoring our country." Hendrickson used this and a few other quotes to support his article.

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Re: Coolidge Taxation

by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 8:46 PM

I understand your concern with Coolidge's speech. As for me I agree with the points he made, but you made me think a little differently with the quotation you chose. This is my interpretation. Yes it would drop the value of the dollar (which is inflation) and because of that the taxes would also increase, but here is the benefit of that: economic growth. Economic growth and inflation go hand in hand; every economy has inflation but the goal is to have a steady rate of economic growth with a steady rate of inflation. When governments print a lot of money that is when you should really be concerned about the value of the dollar. Economic growth is the reason why Coolidge wanted to cut taxes to begin with. That is why he said one of the most famous republican lines "I want the people of America to work less for the government and more for themselves." Also his reasons for why he wanted to cut taxes were because the government was already spending a "stupendous sum" and he wanted the people to "have the rewards of their own industry." Having more money in the pockets of Americans leads to more spending which leads to more opportunities for small businesses and corporations to do well. More businesses also mean more jobs. Coolidge was just trying to sell American people a good environment (economy) for their "American Dream" opportunity to come true.

Maybe that will answer your question/concern.

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Re: Taxation by the Federal Government

by [Chloe Steger](#) - Monday, April 20, 2015, 11:25 PM

As my opinion goes, I do agree with Coolidge's position on taxation. I feel as if he stepped into our shoes and saw the reality of taxes and saw that too much taxes were being taken away from people and their families making it hard to meet peoples needs and their families needs.

From the Speech on Taxation and Government from Calvin Coolidge I found some statements I really understood and liked from him.

"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."

"These results are not fanciful; they are not imaginary. They are grimly actual and real, reaching into every household in the land."

My favorite one is: "One of the greatest favors that can be bestowed upon the American people is economy in government." This statement right here stands out enormously to me. I think this says a lot about where he stands in his beliefs and it was an awesome stand for America and their taxes.

Even though the 5 minute video was cartoonish and kind of silly, it helped me learn in a better way by telling a story and giving examples. I understood tax code in the U.S to a point but that helped me understand a lot more even though there is much much more to learn about it.

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Re: Taxation by the Federal Government

by [Erik Umenhofer](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 8:55 AM

coolidge makes some good points in his speech on taxation which makes me lean more to agree with him. I really like his qoute "the expenses of Government reach everybody". He goes on to say " i want the people of america to work less for the government and more for themselves". i guess how i was raised makes me agree with coolidge, in the sense that if you work hard, you can achieve the american dream and not have to worry about the government taking all your hard earned cash. Is there a need for taxes? Yes, but with the government being a little more responsible for what they spend their money on me, you and the hard working american could save more money for our families and live out the american dream.

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Taxation by the Federal Government

by [Mikaila Riddle](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 8:43 PM

Erik,

I agree with you when you said that if we Americans work hard we should be able to keep our money and live the American dream. I also agree that their is a need for taxes, as much as I don't like them. They help for the roads we drive on and so much more. I think that the government, however, like you said, should really work on "government spending" and pay attention to what they are really taking from us and what they use it for. We are so in debt as a country that I don't see tax rates changing anytime soon, which is unfortunate. Your post was well put and made me reconsider what I thought about taxes and what Coolidge say. Those quotes fit perfectly with my thoughts. Well done.

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Re: Taxation by the Federal Government

by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:09 PM

I think I was also raised in a way that made me believe in Coolidge's message and ideas. Maybe instead of funding a whole bunch of "projects" the government could pay off a little more of their debt. A lot of our tax money goes to schools and I still wonder how they are so underfunded when people's tax money is supposed to go to them. It almost makes

me want a list of everything my tax money is going to. Or why can't we decided which projects or areas our money goes to? Maybe we could fill out a form with our taxes and say this is what I want to give my money to. When I say this I mean both State and Federal Government. This way people could make sure that money is going to places, people, or things that they actually want worked on, instead of having all the trust in the government politicians. If there happens to be an issue where people aren't funding to something like street cleaning or maintenance I'm sure people would notice it and decided oh I should fund to them too. Those are just some things that your post made me think about.

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Taxes help but need to be fair

by [Joshua Melick](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 4:26 PM

Id have to say I somewhat agree with Coolidge's ideas on taxation but I think on the other hand extreme tax cuts only cause more problems then they fix. I like that he begins by saying “this country needs every ounce of its energy to restore itself. The costs of government are all assessed upon the people.” He knew that America needed to build from what was lost after WW1 but in a way that did not seem to be robbing the american people and enforcing governmental power. With the introduction of the Revenue Act of 1926 Coolidge helped push his idea of a nation that was lead less by the government and more by the people. The reduction of income and estate tax seemed good to the people at that time but we also must understand how taxes are also there to help the people, so reducing the amount the government gains from people also reduces the quality of things the government gives back as well.

“In April of 2014 Rep. Paul Ryan then the chairman of the House Budget Committee — released a budget proposal that would give millionaires an average tax cut of \$200,000. Ryan was vague about how those cuts would be offset, but Citizens for Tax Justice argued that the proposal would require increasing taxes on low- and middle-income people.” This I believe is a great example of how problematic tax cuts can be because reducing taxes from one group will require more taxation of another to keep a balance. The problem is that the people with extreme wealth are also extremely good at hiding their money or use their money to manipulate taxes in a way that helps them save money. Now I know this website may have some bias but this is not the first time i have read about the current republican party trying to reduce taxes for them selfs and friends

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/04/15/how-republicans-are-trying-make-rich-even-richer>

The short animated video did do a good job at explaining how the taxation process is somewhat corrupt. I think that the idea that everyone should pay 12% is the best way to deal with taxes. I also think the video over simplifies the Progressive income tax by the means of the three brothers starting equal and though hard work or not it determined how much they made. Some lower-class people work multiple jobs just to live a modest life while other people are born into extreme wealth. In my eyes the idea that everyone is charged a percent of there earning would be the most fair and honest way to charge taxes.

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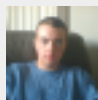
Re: Taxation by the Federal Government

by [Chaofan Huang](#) - Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 11:45 PM

In my opnion,In the eve of World War I, all levels of government in the role of the national economy should be much larger than half a century ago. Government agencies to hire employees increased; spending on social services has expanded; the government has taken positive steps to try to manage and control the business, and banking supervision implemented; the government has started to preserve and protect the country's natural resources. After the Civil War, resulting in government spending and taxes are greatly increased. according to Wilson thought he could avoid the risk of further world war new world order.

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taxes are complicated

by [Brent Hill](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 12:20 AM

I would agree with Coolidge and his ideals. I think that the American people should be able to keep as much of their hard earned wages as possible. No one likes to pay taxes but it is completely necessary to require taxes because our nation

could not function without tax dollars. I think that there is a lot of wasted tax dollars and that is why many people do not want as much of their money to go to the government. People would rather keep their money and put their money toward something that they want to see their money to go to rather than paying that money in tax dollars and there being a likely chance that it will be wasted.

I thought that video was really interested and put the tax code in an interesting light. The video is brief but I think that it is very effective. I see how some people would benefit well from how it is set up and some people would consider this very unfair. It all depends on your perspective and that is why many people disagree on how taxes are done. I did not see taxes in this way until I saw this video and it really made me think twice about taxes.

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Re: government debt

by [Brent Hill](#) - Thursday, April 23, 2015, 11:17 PM

I would also like to add that I do not think taxing the richest people will totally solve our debt problem. I think it is a start but there would need to be some serious cuts in spending to solve this debt problem we are in. I think the hardest part is to decide what needs to be cut first and how much. This problem will have to be solved over a long period of time and will take a lot of consideration and careful planning. I think if we slightly raised taxes and cut unnecessary spending we could make some serious progress in solving this ever growing problem. If we do not start to take care of this problem soon then it will only grow and it will continue to spiral out of control. If we continue to wait to solve this problem then the effects could be much worse down the road that's why it is important we take a serious look at this issue right now. We do not feel the effects of this out of control spending right now but we could in the near future.

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Re: government debt

by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11:09 PM

I like the thought of your second point. I agree it wouldn't totally solve anything, but the government is just trying to squeeze out a little more money where they can. I also agree with making a plan for our debt crisis and how it will take time, but if we look at our history we have actually been in debt since 1790! See below how far our debt goes back. This kind of just shows that we have needed a plan forever so what makes you think we will actually create a plan now? http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/reports/pd/histdebt/histdebt_histo1.htm

But I don't think we could ever actually pay anything back unless we completely inflate our currency and pay China and who ever else we are borrowing from. The amount we are in debt is crazy high and keeps going up (you can check it out at <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>). Yes, that number is scary but you also have to look at the amount we have in assets. The link below kind of illustrates the idea of assets counter balancing our national debt, if you are interested. It is a Time article from 2013 so the numbers may be off a bit.

<http://business.time.com/2013/02/05/the-federal-governments-128-trillion-stockpile-the-answer-to-our-debt-problems/>

Lots of links. Hopefully they all work for you!

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Taxes are complicated..

by [Mikaila Riddle](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 3:39 PM

Brent,

I agree with you about how we as hard working Americans would like to see our tax dollars well spent, instead of feeling like we are paying taxes for no reason. Growing up, I never really understood taxes and I still have troubles sometimes understanding why we must pay so much in taxes. I also strongly agree with your other post about how taxing the richest people isn't the right answer. This problem of government spending and what's considered right and wrong

spending is tough and obviously not an easy fix. It will take a very long time to even slightly fix this problem we have ourselves in, and it will also be a long and rigorous discussion on how we need to fix the taxation. I don't think our country will ever agree on a final decision, just because there are so many factors involved.

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Coolidge's Republican Ideals
by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 9:35 PM

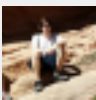
Here's my view point. I agree with Coolidge and his ideals behind tax cuts and the reasoning why he thought that they should be cut (probably because he sold it to my heart and inalienable rights). It helped increase economic growth which they desperately needed at the time after the brief depression in the early 1920's. As I was listening to his speech I remembered back to last week's form (in the Conservatism and Censorship tab) when Jack Glaser who is an assistant professor at University of Cal Berkley, said, "Conservatives don't feel the need to jump through complex, intellectual hoops in order to understand or justify some of their positions, he said. "They are more comfortable seeing and stating things in black and white in ways that would make liberals squirm," Glaser said." This really only applies because of Coolidge's reasoning to his idea of taxation cuts. Coolidge, being the republican he was really owned up to this opinion by selling his tax speech on the key fundamentals of the constitution. Those reasons were because of forced labor, freedom and liberty. Here are those quotes:

1. "Taxes take from everyone a part of his earnings and force everyone to work for a certain part of his time for the government."
2. "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."
3. "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 curtailment of our liberty."

As you can see he had a moving speech, fundamental ideals, and a thought process that really made sense at the time. People needed a stable economy and this is how he thought the best way to get that done was. You can even see on the Top U.S. Federal marginal income tax rate from 1913 to 2011 chart that the income taxes were only at about 20% compared to about 73% during the progressive era.

The short video was perfect. It really helped explain the progressives income tax in a cute way that people can get.

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Not so United States
by [Jordan Bertak](#) - Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:11 PM

Listening to what Calvin Coolidge had to say I would have to agree that working less for the government and more for yourself sounds great. However I must be one of the few that doesn't mind paying taxes because I understand we need them to function as a society. Going to the probably the poorest high school in Eugene (I don't know for sure) and reading all the horror stories about how underfunded our schools and other public services are. For example the woman who was raped in her home after 911 told her "Uh, I don't have anybody to send out there. You know, obviously, if he comes inside the residence and assaults you, can you ask him to go away?" (<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/woman-oregon-raped-911-no-send-home-article-1.1353085>).

I find America to be a very individualistic or selfish society. They don't want to pay taxes or pay for something that doesn't immediately affect them, even if it's for the good of everyone around them. You can look at the argument against Obamacare or universal healthcare which is something almost every civilized first world country has. Opponents ask why they should have to spend their money on somebody else's healthcare. And I guess that's where I'm different I guess, I have no problem with paying for another humans beings access to healthcare, not everybody has the same opportunities in life and people don't deserve to be put in crippling debt because they need to go to the hospital but obviously there's more to the issue than just that.

And about that video I wasn't a fan. I feel it wasn't very neutral at all and made things out to be very black and white when they aren't. Like I said before not everyone have the same opportunities in life and I felt it was portraying all those who earned less as non-hardworking workers who didn't care about their future and that the hard workers were only the ones making large amounts of money.

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