

HST 203: U.S. History Sp18 (Escobar Meta 41002 43590)

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Forum 2 Taxation

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Taxation

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Thursday, April 19, 2018, 3:41 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Taxation topic.

To make a new POST, always 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. (Don't reply to your own posts in an attempt to make a new post.)

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which one of the questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Taxation

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My thoughts taxes on President Coolidge's position



by [Tanner Wiese](#) - Saturday, April 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

Like most people I hate paying taxes. It's always painful to see the money taxes take from your check. I think it would be easier to pay for the taxes if I felt the money was being used correctly. But, sadly I don't think that's the case. Although, I do understand the importance of paying taxes. I still feel taxes are definitely high right now, even if they were using the money how I would want. President Coolidge stated some pretty crazy numbers of how much money people are giving up. And, the amount of money they are getting now is obviously significantly larger. In the video President Coolidge said, "I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government and more for themselves" (2:10, Coolidge's speech video). I love that quote that he said. I've seen how much my parents get taxed, and it's insane. Although, I don't think they feel like they are necessarily working for the government. I agree that taxes are too high.

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1

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"That's it, show me where my money is going."

by [Scott Fails](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 10:36 PM

The point made about the pain of seeing the taxes taken from your check and not feeling like they're being used properly is a valid issue. I recently listened to a comedian talking on this issue (forgive me, I forget whom) and his take was basically "the government takes all the taxes, but never provides a receipt of where the money goes." There's a lot of validity in that statement as it would never be ok to go to the government and expect a reimbursement for anything without a receipt of said goods or services being rendered. As a government employee for much of my adult life, everything you expect in receipt from them requires a receipt, but they (the government) are the chief hypocrites in that they don't reciprocate the expectation. Everybody wants to know where their money goes, what's it actually being spent on without the reality that your money goes to a big pot of everybody's money before being allocated to its proper location based on a decided budget. Really it creates a very lackluster situation to just say "it's going to a big bucket of money." Nobody wants that answer. The idea that each taxpayer dollar could be traced or attached to a paper trail of that particular contribution and where exactly it goes is an obvious pipe dream, but a valid desire. The outrage of each individual dollar and its final allocation would create such dismay amongst the public.

Sum of ratings: **2 (1)**

2

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**Re: "That's it, show me where my money is going."**by [David Nguyen](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:07 PM

You made a really good point and I totally agree with you. I also think that the government has not use the people's tax money to the right purposes yet. For example, based on "National Priorities Project" website, there is an article called *Military Spending in the United States* shows that the government spent 54 percent of the country's money for the military. There are only 6 percent for education, 6 percent for medicare and health, 6 percent for veteran's benefits, and other smaller categories. I am not saying that spending money on the military is wrong, but 54 percent is a huge number. When I pay taxes, I don't expect 54 percent of my money going to the military. I would love the majority of my money to go to education, medicare, health, veteran, environment purposes also. And, I believe that I am not alone with this idea.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)
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**My opinion on taxation**by [Maxam Robison](#) - Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9:19 PM

from what I gathered on the videos about taxation, my perspective on it is that it needs to be fair for everyone even if it does come at a cost. In the story about the three brothers, the setting that they are in should've required them to pay equal amounts for when they put up the gate because they would all be having the same benefits. But if they were not brothers but business colleagues, then the proposal for having to pay according to how much each one earned individually would make sense. The reason for that is because they have a family to take care of and the one that makes more has a "money cushion" and is able to afford it. But if I was the one being told that I had to pay for nearly 80% of the project while the lowest income person paid nothing I would just say "okay if that's the way you want to do it, you can do it without me." Why I would say that is because that system is telling me that they just want something for nothing, last time I checked nothing does not equal something and you get what you paid for. On the other end, even if you are fairly contributing towards the cause you still have to support yourself but if you make choices that later you are unable to afford then you need to pay the price for your actions even if it feels like your being robbed it's still fair. it all comes down to the situation you're in

and how much your willing to work towards it.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Do people had enough money for tax?

by [Jeewon Kim](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 8:28 PM

During the class and readings I been wondering how many people are afford to pay without concern in finance way. Did they have enough income to pay expensive tax for war?

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

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Equal Opportunity Taxation?

by [Larry Warner](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11:04 PM

Does the Example of the Three Brothers, which provides an explanation of the progressive tax code currently in use, help, hurt, or otherwise influence your understanding of saving, spending, personal choice, and taxation in the United States?

The example of the Three Brothers does not really change the way I save, spend, or personal choice. It does represent some views on how the tax code works, though I do not look at it the same way as the video does. The video makes it look as though lower income earners believe that higher income earners should pay for everything, that part I do not agree with. Personally, I believe in a smaller government and less government control, which in turn (should) lower taxes for all. I think that the more we raise taxes on our "rich" the more we take a chance to lose them to other states or countries. In his article "Every Day Is Tax Day" published on the U.S. News website author, Travis Brown claims that states are losing their higher tax earners:

Successful people and businesses flee from states with harsh tax environments. They flock to states with benign, progrowth tax structures that allow them to save and invest. This is why a state like California, with its top income tax rate of 13.3 percent, saw a loss of more than \$31.7 billion over 15 years. Texas, which taxes its residents at the very agreeable rate of zero, gained more than \$22 billion over that same time period.

My point is there is a balance, part of that balance is smaller government and lower

taxes.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Equal Opportunity Taxation?**by [Maxam Robison](#) - Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 3:13 PM

I'm in the same boat as you when it comes to describing the three brothers scenario. The way it's put down is almost stereotyping the three different wage earners (low, middle, rich) making it seem like the rich class is being 'bullied' into paying everyone else's expense while the poor live off of cloud nine. Truth is in the real world that scenario would look more like what the middle brother proposed because of their different wages. For a more accurate depiction of what they were trying to get at, the brother earning the most should have owned something like a big corporation where people work for him and his job is to tell them what to do. But because they were all working independently then it only makes sense to wisely manage the hard earned money that you made so it works for you.

If the highest wage earner is reliant on lower wage earners then the 'rich' needs to contribute to the 'low' in order to pull their own weight because if they aren't able to do that then they are just leeching off of the system. How the three brothers story was set up was the 'low' earner was actually the leech because, in the end, he benefited from the other two without contributing his money. so, in the long run, it can go both ways ('rich' leeches/'low' leeches) it all depends on how much you draw opposed to how much you contribute.

lastly, in this scenario, the brothers were paying for what they worked on after it was built. "Reality check," I would think that the expenses would come before/during the project so that way each brother is paying for the benefits fairly. Now that raises a question: is the 'rich', or in this case the government' actually buying things that both the 'low' and 'middle' (the majority of the U.S) are unable to afford and then expect us to contribute towards something we never wanted in the form of taxes? my answer: YES!!!

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Information Overload, please try again later...**by [Scott Fails](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11:06 PM

I find the reading of the graphs to be a bit overwhelming to be quite honest and I would appreciate a little bit of help in understanding the information. I don't think each itself is individually difficult to decipher, however, all of the information from all of the graphs and charts all at once becomes confusing and all of the information loses a degree of retention capabilities for me. That said, I don't feel educated enough to speak directly

on the matter right at this point and will reserve my thoughts regarding the graphs and charts for a future post.

Regarding the speech from President Coolidge, I would say that I agree with what he says regarding taxation for the simple fact that what he explains really is how taxation works even in the modern day. The government always gets their money first before the worker even sees a dime of their pay. Be it State or federal government, there is an understanding amongst the American work force and the government we employ that was stated perfectly by President Coolidge in his message and that is every employee goes to work in part to pay for their contributions to the government. The idea of taxes being of chief importance over the necessities of each individual employee kind of rubs me the wrong way just because it sounds a little dirty when said like that. It doesn't change the fact that this is how American taxation is and will continue.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Re: Information Overload, please try again later...

by [James Croxton](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7:56 PM

I couldn't agree more with your comment about the graphs being "overwhelming" when all put together on the same document. I'd definitely like it if we could go over this in class.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

0

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some thoughts on taxes

by [Easton McVeigh-Walker](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11:23 PM

After examining the charts of the taxation in the United States you can clearly see that the majority of the major spikes occur during times of war or conflict abroad. You can see over time that the top 10% have been gradually taxed more, however this was partly caused (in the 1920's) from the industry trying to transition back into a more peacetime form of production. That included reconfiguring all these factories back into useful things, shutting down factories, and this increased the number of unemployed or low wage workers. I agree with Coolidge to an extent, I like the idea of people being able to enjoy their earnings sounds great. He says, "I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government and more for themselves." Calvin Coolidge, Speech on Taxes. I like the way he words this idea.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Taxes from graphs.

by [Chris Castro](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11:31 PM

What conclusions can you draw by examining the history of taxation in the United States provided in these charts and graphs?

The first thing I notice is the linear pattern that obviously occurs in tax brackets, in which the lower income earners are paying less than those higher up in the graphs. The other thing I can ascertain from the data is that there seems to almost be a bell curve effect going on. It seems that the lowest income earners are paying the least in total money (which makes sense), and as you go up the amount of money paid by that tax bracket is more total. You can see this in the middle class which in the pie chart seems to be paying a lot of the total tax's in the US. This also makes sense because there are a decent amount of households in the US that are in that section of the tax bracket. If you start to look at the top 1% it seems that they are also paying a fairly decent amount and they make up about 24%. This is strange to me because i feel like there aren't that many people in the top 1% in America. This would mean that they have to all be paying a pretty hefty amount compared to the rest of us which i also agree with. It just seems to make sense that the rich should pay a little more than those who have less to offer. However I'm sure some people would disagree. Also in the graphs I can see a trend in which the wealthier are starting to pay less in recent years while the lower and middle class are having to pay more, which seems a little backwards to me.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Taxes from graphs.

by [Larry Warner](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 12:40 AM

The wealthy pay most of the taxes, an article "45% of Americans pay no federal income tax" published on Market Watch.com April 18, 2016, Catey Hill claims that 77.5 million households do not pay federal individual income tax. Furthermore the top 20% of income earners will pay around 87% individual income tax, and if you include all taxes (excise, payroll, corporate, individual, and estate taxes) the top 20% pay 69% and the second 20% pay 17.5%

Rich people pay nearly 87% of all federal individual income tax in

Income level	Share of total federal individual income tax paid	Average income tax bill per person
Lowest 20%	-2.2%	-\$643

Second lowest 20%	-1.7%	-\$621
Middle income	4.2%	\$1,743
Second richest 20%	12.9%	\$6,285
Richest 20%	86.8%	\$50,176

(excise, payroll, corporate, individual, and estate taxes)Below.

Rich people pay 69% of all federal taxes in America

Income level	Share of total federal taxes paid
Lowest 20%	0.8%
Second lowest 20%	3.4%
Middle income	9.2%
Second richest 20%	17.5%
Richest 20%	69%

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/45-of-americans-pay-no-federal-income-tax-2016-02-24>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Overall, do you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with President Coolidge's position on taxation? Are there specific points he makes that you find either most compelling or lacking merit?

by [David Nguyen](#) - Sunday, April 22, 2018, 11:51 PM

There are parts that I agree, but there are parts that I disagree with President Coolidge. However, I strongly agree with him about government should not get involved too much on the people's work, but instead let their willingness to work hard, honesty, and live within their means be the way the government govern. (textbook pg. 788). I feel like the government always trying to take advantage of the people when they get involved in economy. People should be able to get the products that they make without having to share it with the government too much.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Overall, do you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with President



Coolidge's position on taxation? Are there specific points he makes that you find either most compelling or lacking merit?

by [Tanner Wiese](#) - Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 3:12 PM

I really liked everything you said. I struggled to spit out the words, and, I think you did a great job. I loved what President Coolidge said about how the government should not get involved too much in peoples work. And, allow people to work more for themselves and not so much for the government.

Sum of ratings: 0 (1)

0

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Re: Overall, do you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with President Coolidge's position on taxation? Are there specific points he makes that you find either most compelling or lacking merit?

by [Larry Warner](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 1:17 AM

There have been calls for a smaller government, one of those voices has been Donald Trump, returning the power to the state and local governments would lower the tax burden federally. In his article "Economic Freedom Versus Big Government" published on the CATO Institute website, Richard Rahn advocates for a smaller government citing the world bank:

Switzerland now has a higher GDP per capita, both in nominal terms and in purchasing power parity (PPP), than the United States. France and Switzerland are neighbors, and France has many more natural resources than Switzerland, as well as numerous ports, of which Switzerland has none. Yet, the Swiss have a per-capita income one-third larger than the French, and an unemployment rate one-third of the French.

I believe that if we could return the power to the state and local governments would also help with laws being made for the people that live in that jurisdiction instead of a national law that covers everyone with out local consideration. Ex. what law/s that work in lets say Waco, Texas may not work here in Eugene, Oregon. Different people with different needs..

I like his quote "The numbers, unlike the politicians don't lie."

COMPARING PERFORMANCE

Country	GDP per capita on PPP basis, current international dollars, 2012	Government spending, % GDP	Unemployment rate, (latest) %	5-Year growth rate %	Economic freedom rank
Switzerland	\$79,304	47.4%	3.4%	4.3%	9

Singapore	57,124	17.1%	2.1%	4.3%	2
Switzerland	53,191	33.8	3.2	1.2	4
United States	51,749	41.6	6.3	0.6	17
Hong Kong	51,170	18.5	3.1	2.5	1
Australia	43,818	35.3	5.8	2.5	10
Sweden	42,866	51.2	8.6	1.0	29
Germany	42,700	45.4	6.7	0.7	19
France	36,785	56.1	10.4	0.0	40
Britain	35,722	48.5	6.9	-0.4	12
Japan	35,618	42.0	3.6	-0.2	33

Sources: World Bank; 2014 Index of Economic Freedom; The Economist; 2014 Index of Economic Freedom; Economic Freedom of the World 2013 Annual Report

<https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/economic-freedom-versus-big-government>

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2

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Re: Taxation

by [Cameron Noriega](#) - Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 9:31 PM

I would say I agree with President Coolidge on his standards on taxations. But What I found arguable is that they would barge into people's houses and take anything of value of \$300 when people didn't give consent. But then again, taxes had to be paid. It's not like President Coolidge wanted to take away people's belongings. He was only doing what he thought was best for his people. His stand point was in order to have more money for people and live better off on their own taxes had to be paid.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Taxation

by [Emily Hemmerle](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:13 PM

I think of it as the repo man and how if you don't pay for your car it's repossessed. Taxes have to be paid and the way that the taxes work now are drastically different than back when Coolidge was president. He was trying to revive America after the mess that was WWI but as we will see in the WWII unit nothing panned out.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: Taxation Coolidge Tax Cuts

by [Sydney Plaza](#) - Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:10 PM

I disagree strongly on President Coolidge's tax cuts to the rich. I think the points he lacks merit on his state "the people" because it seems to me as if the only people Coolidge was regarding was the wealthy. I also disagree with his statement that economy should be within the government. I think that the people should have more control over their government and their economy more so than the government should be allowed to control it. I think that total government control and tax cuts on the rich will lead to an economical depression. I do not like how Coolidge uses emotional fear tactics to explain his force. " 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. These results are not fanciful; they are not imaginary. They are grimly actual and real, reaching into every household in the land." I think instead of this he should have rather defined who "The people" consisted of. Did he believe the people consisted of both the wealthy and the poor? The immigrant and the native born?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Taxation

by [Cameron Noriega](#) - Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 11:10 PM

The three brother video is very dabatable. Out of all the three brothers. I liked Dick's point of view on the cut of paying the fence depended on the overall income of the three brothers and dividing the total cost of the fence between the three brothers. It sounded unfair that the middle class brother and the upper class brother had to pay the cost for the fence in (3:07-3:20). Just cause Tom makes less doesn't mean he shouldn't have pay. It would be fair if the three brothers and their family made the same money and worked for the same hours that they could choose to split it ten grand each. But it was their choice to choose the hours that wanted to work for. Overall Dick's version on splitting the price is better.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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me thoughts on taxation and the charts

by [Tanner Wiese](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 2:20 PM

I found these charts on taxation very interesting. The highest peaks are during times of war. Like during ww1 (1914-1918). And, it is clear that the more money you make, the higher your tax rate will be. In the chart for effective tax rates and average incomes, you can see the more money you make the higher the tax rate it. I do think the taxes on

the top 10 percent is too high. I don't think the top 1 percent's total effective tax rate should be nearly 30 percent. I do think they should be taxed higher than the lower and middle classes. But, that number is still too high. I think it is unfair that the 99th percentile gets taxed 10 percent more than the 91st percent. This brings me to a quote from Calvin Coolidge that I liked, "I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government and more for themselves" (2:10, Coolidge's speech video). I think that is a very simple quote, but very true. The people of America are being taxed too much, and, should be able to work more for themselves and less for the government.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: me thoughts on taxation and the charts

by [Emily Hemmerle](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:07 PM

It's interesting that you mentioned that the tax rates increase due to the war. It's comparable to the war bonds that were sold during the first world war. However, I disagree and believe that the higher percentiles should be taxed more since they make more.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Calvin Coolidge on Taxation - My Take

by [James Croxton](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7:20 PM

Calvin Coolidge's Speech on Taxes, Liberty, and the Philosophy of Government was one that I found quite interesting. Although he is very forward in the way he describes taxes as a necessity, he is also very sympathetic to those that pay them. He says:

"Such a sum is difficult to comprehend. It represents all the pay of five million wage earners receiving five dollars a day, working 300 days in the year. If the government should add 100 million dollars of expense, it would represent four days more work of these wage earners. These are some of the reasons why I want to cut down public expense."

But, later in the speech he says that "until we can reestablish [sic] 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." - the liberty being to "work less for the government--and more for themselves."

Personally, I don't mind paying my taxes as long as I know they are going to a good cause. My Econ/Gov teacher in high school made it a passion to convince students that taxes were good and to be active voters - two things that go hand-in-hand.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Oh, you make less...well, let's have somebody else pick up the tab.**by [Scott Fails](#) - Thursday, April 26, 2018, 11:00 PM

I too agree that the responsibility of paying for the fence should be split evenly. As is my opinion in life outside this story, this story represents the real life ideas of many. The way I see it is just because somebody earns more than another doesn't necessarily dictate them needing to pay more for anything and vice versa for somebody wanting to pay less because they make less money. The brother who makes less money is a victim of circumstance that the middle and upper class brother shouldn't have to make up for. I can't imagine a real life scenario where you have 3 brothers looking to pay for a fence and they divide up the payment responsibility by how much each brother makes. I get it, there's times out of kindness that somebody pays more than another because they can afford to pay more, but the idea of one paying more being an expectation is just funny to me.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Oh, you make less...well, let's have somebody else pick up the tab.**by [Tanner Wiese](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:02 AM

I agree with everything you said here. I think everyone should be taxed the same rate, no matter how much they make. And, I would be willing to settle for them making it a little more even, because it doesn't seem like it will ever be equal. But, I think the middle and mainly upper class are taxed way too high. I don't think someone who makes more money should have a higher Tax RATE. Yes, they will be giving more money than people with less money. But, they should not have to give a higher percentage of their income. That is not equality to me. The brother who makes less money should not be allowed to pay less. Yes, the brothers can help him out of kindness, but, it should not be an expectation of them. Just like the rich shouldn't be expected to pay taxes at a higher rate than others. It should be their choice to do what they want with their left over money.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Oh, you make less...well, let's have somebody else pick up the tab.**by [Larrv Warner](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 6:48 PM

The progressive tax system that the U.S. uses works to make it as fair as it can be across the board, the video doesn't take into account a lot of variable's in the tax system. Some of the variable's it leaves out are : excise, payroll, corporate, pass through, individual, and estate taxes. Though the top 40% pay 86.5% of the tax burden, having a system were taxes are paid evenly across the board would do one of two things, one would be, the government would not make enough money to operate, which leads to the second option, the taxes would have to be so high on low income and middle class wage earner that it would completely whipe out both classes.

Rich people pay 69% of all federal taxes in America

Income level	Share of total federal taxes paid
Lowest 20%	0.8%
Second lowest 20%	3.4%
Middle income	9.2%
Second richest 20%	17.5%
Richest 20%	69%

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/45-of-americans-pay-no-federal-income-tax-2016-02-24>

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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What the charts reveal about taxation in America

by [Sydney Plaza](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 9:55 AM

In 1910 it shows that the most money that was taxed in 1910 was 6% and this was because there weren't social systems or organizations to take care of the people that relied on money from the public in order to fund these programs. The chart shows that by 1920 the rates skyrocket up to 70% It remains pretty stable until about the 1990's where there is a great reduction in the percentage of taxation. During WWI there was an increase in taxes needed to fund the war. During Harding and Coolidge's presidency there was a decrease in tax rates as both republican presidents believed in tax cuts for the rich (Wikipedia tax graph). I conclude that throughout history, tax cuts for the

the more (Wikipedia tax graph) I conclude that throughout history tax cuts for the wealthy are typically used in an attempt to regenerate the economy. When there was a war or a president who believed in increasing taxes on corporations and higher earners, including the general public it seems to come in a time of war or an attempt to minimize the role of big corporations in politics.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: What the charts reveal about taxation in America

by [Larry Warner](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 7:39 PM

Here is an article I found "How Tax Cuts (and Hikes) Affect The Economy" published on the website *Discover the Networks.org*,

quote:

"A very distinct pattern has been observable throughout American economic history: When tax rates are reduced, the economy's growth rate rises, government tax revenues increase, and living standards improve across all of society. Conversely, periods of higher tax rates are associated with sub-par economic performance and stagnant tax revenues."

[Veronique de Rugy](#) of the Cato Institute explains:

"Changes in marginal income tax rates cause individuals and businesses to change their behavior. As tax rates rise, taxpayers reduce taxable income by working less, retiring earlier, scaling back plans to start or expand businesses, moving activities to the underground economy, restructuring companies, and spending more time and money on accountants to minimize taxes. Tax rate cuts reduce such distortions and cause the tax base to expand as tax avoidance falls and the economy grows."

Historically Republicans have advocated for lowering tax rates with the idea that it will improve or "stimulate" the economy. The above article goes into detail over four major instances that support what Republicans claim.

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=310>

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Coolidge and my position

by [Madison Cook](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 9:52 PM

I agree with President Coolidge in the video of his speech "President Coolidge speaks on taxation(1924-1929)". Just as all of us, we need money to survive. In order for us to have a government and stay free we need to fund somehow. The government cant just pull money out of nowhere. Also, for us to have a military to protect ourselves from invasions and war, we need to pay our soldier and pay to make our weapons. The best way is taxation. Where I get a little more on the other side of the spectrum is how much we are being taxed. Everyone deserves to be paid for their work, but I do believe most of our government is paid too much.

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[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Coolidge and my position**by [Emily Hemmerle](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:20 PM

Agreed, for us to survive we need taxes because it's like paying into a pool of money that is then distributed to different parts of the government. The government needs funding somehow and it's mainly through taxes. People need to be paid and that's the only way but politicians are way overpaid and need to share the wealth. Coolidge did make some solid points on everyone pitching in.

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0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Coolidge and my position**by [David Nguyen](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:35 PM

Yes, I agree with you that we need to pay tax so that we can have a government and stay free. However, how much we are being taxed and where our money is going is a different story. I believe that we are being taxed too much for the wrong purposes. Based on *2017-2018 Federal Income Tax Brackets*, there is a bracket saying that if your income is from \$0 to \$9,325, you need to pay 10% of your income. This made me wonder that if you don't make any money, do you still have to pay 10% somehow? Also, there is an article called "*Military Spending in the United States*" showed the U.S spent 54 percent of our country's money on military, but only 6 percent for education, 6 percent on medicare and health, 6 percent on veteran benefits. I don't mind the U.S spend money on the military; however, 54 percent of the total on military is a good junk of money. I think it would be better if the government distribute it out a little bit more evenly.

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1

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Re: A restoration effort that resulted in future inequality

 by [Emily Hemmerle](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 10:09 PM

The steady increase since 1980 and fluctuations in the 00s show that when the economy starts crashing they decrease taxes for a short amount of time. Once the economy reacts negatively we start taxing more and vice versa. Most of our tax revenue comes from income tax which personally deducts out of people's paychecks. Calvin Coolidge wanted America to prosper and the people to work for themselves. Everyone needs to come together and with the money from taxes they will help fund the restoration of America. However, the middle class is dwindling and the income gap has shown to dramatically increase by benefiting the top income tax brackets by taxing them disproportionately to the lower income tax brackets.

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1

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Make more, get more.

 by [Scott Fails](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 10:24 PM

I don't disagree with what you're saying in regards to the tax system. The entire subject is objective in total. However, the idea of going into peoples homes to get items of value in order to make up for your tax contribution is just carries a little shock value. The video presents a very direct approach to how the tax system "works" during the time period without including the intricacies of detail as to how it will be enforced. While I do understand the points of the video of the president of the time discussing his taxation plans, the story of the 3 brothers creates an argument of entitlement for those who make less money, but still want the same goods and services. I'm a fan of each being responsible for their part based on their income level, but there's a fine line between what you "need" and what you expect. The thought of making goods and services cheaper for those who make less money is as I said in my last post a situation where those who earn less being a victim of circumstance. Those who make less often have their hand out because they're in a position whether self created or not where they need support. Support is fine in those instances, but utilizing the "help" as a permanent crutch resembles the United States welfare system and its abuse by those who aren't in pursuit of bettering their personal situation to break the constraints of a believed poverty.

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Is today system of taxation fair?

 by [David Nguyen](#) - Friday, April 27, 2018, 11:54 PM

I think that the government make it easy for them to take our money. but so hard to

give back. I want to share with you guys a family story as an example.

My stepdad had been working and paying his taxes for the last twenties something years. When he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer a couple of years ago, he had only 3 months left to live. Not being able to work to support our family anymore and with all the medical bills, our family were struggling financially. We went to Social Security office to apply for a disability benefit. However, with the doctor's note saying that he was be able to live for only 3 more months, they told us to wait for 6 months before we can receive the benefit which of course he never made it to get any of that. This is why I think our government is not using our tax money very rightly.

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