

Do you wonder whether...

... the **government** is exercising far too much **control over private industry**?

... **personal responsibility** is being rejected in favor of paternalism?

... the **stimulus** and bailout plans are making the **economy worse**, not better?

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the Undercurrent

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Liberty, Reason, Individualism



Stimulus Checks vs. Our Rights

Imagine if a thief stole your wallet but left you a note promising that your money would be “invested” in different industries and those in need “for the good of the economy”. Would you drop your objection to his act of theft, given the allegedly benevolent motive for his crime? Should you?

What our government has failed to recognize is the fact that **we are morally entitled to keep what we earn** and use it according to our own judgment and priorities, which may or may not include such things as investment and charity. But simply calling redistributed tax money an “investment” does not change its nature as stolen goods. Just as such a thief violates the rights of his victims, so too **the government is violating our rights under the guise of “investing”** in our name.

If we are to remain committed to the ideals of our founding fathers...

To continue reading this article by Alex Moya, visit <http://the-undercurrent.com/blog/stimulus-checks-vs-our-rights/>

Alex is an MA candidate at the University of Chicago.

Going John Galt and a Need for a Moral Defense for Capitalism

Across the country there have been **protests and “tea parties”** against the socialization of America’s economy. Thriving entrepreneurs and small business owners have been saying that they’ll go on strike, reducing their income, if the government is going to take it from them to pay for social programs—a phenomenon known as “Going Galt.” People are finally beginning to understand that for too long **our nation has slept while her principles were being trampled** by political opportunism. Eroding property rights little by little, politicians have traded America’s economic well-being away, as though our lives were a game of monopoly—are you successful, they demand? Excellent! Pay poor tax, pay income tax, pay school tax, pay hospital tax—and if you refuse—go to jail, go directly to jail, do not pass go, do not collect \$200.

Is this not the current nightmare? Consider—if you purchased a modest home, if you bought a modest car, if you put money away to support your retirement or your child’s education, it is you who suffers. However, those who lived beyond their means, saving nothing, borrowing vast quantities of debt—somehow, by virtue of their recklessness, they have become your creditor—their debts to be paid by your income. In a perversion of justice, **the stimulus package punishes you for being hardworking, and rewards those who pursued irresponsible extravagances.** To say that Americans have the right to be angry is an understatement. If ever a moral duty existed, then **right now you have a moral duty to be furious.**

Yet, anger alone, however much justified, will accomplish nothing. Nor will “Going Galt,” so long as that refers only to the reduction of personal income. Certainly, denying the government a source from which to steal is a worthy aim, but consider...

To continue reading this article by Zev Barnett, visit <http://www.capmag.com/article.asp?ID=5480>
Zev is an editor for the-undercurrent.com and an MA candidate at George Mason University.

AIG Executives and Mob Rule

The Founders of this nation recognized that individuals have an inalienable right to live freely, work to better their lives, and keep the fruits of their labor. They created a government whose purpose was to protect our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In the case of the AIG bonuses (and in many other cases today), **protecting individual rights is the last thing on most politicians’ minds.**

While politicians continue to pay much lip service to the idea that their proper role is to protect individual rights, they certainly don’t do so in practice. Influenced by lobbyists and public opinion, they are **no longer motivated to protect and implement the spirit of American law**, which is to protect the rights of American citizens, not violate them in pursuit of power or popularity.

For example, Obama wants to “pursue every single legal avenue to block these bonuses.” He and others like Senator Chris Dodd poignantly claim that the bonus money belongs to taxpayers. They are not, however, actually concerned with who has a legal right to this money. They ignore...

To continue reading this article by Rituparna Basu, visit <http://the-undercurrent.com/blog/aig-executives-and-mob-rule/>

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