

Enslavement for Freedom

Government is responsible for its impact on our livelihoods. Taxation, the blood sustaining government existence, is the pressure point in any abuse dating back to the beginning of Man, exemplified by the phrase:

"For the love of money is the root of all evil" ¹

While OUR Government irresponsibly burns through OUR hard-earned money filibustering and jockeying for overloaded defective legislation, every single disappearing dollar steals quality of life from OUR families. Funding their incompetence is taxation:

1. Federal, State, and City *"Income"* - double/triple/quadruple taxation
2. Social Security
3. Medicare, Disability, Health, and Life Insurance (If social security is a tax, so are these)
4. Real estate taxes (if you own a home)
5. Sales tax on houses, cars, boats, etc.
6. Excise taxes on motor vehicles, boats, trailers, etc.
7. Taxes on Utilities - Electricity, Heating Gas / Oil, Phone, Cable TV, etc.
8. Sales tax on gasoline, household items, certain clothing, alcohol, dining, entertainment, etc.
9. Marriage, Driver's, Hunting, Dog, and/or Fishing licenses
10. Tolls on Highways, Bridges, etc.
11. Repair parts costs on homes, cars, etc.
12. Additional – Other taxes that don't fit the above:
 - "Death tax" on inherited assets
 - Union dues at your place of employment
 - Gift tax
 - Vehicle Registration and Safety Inspections

From Government's boasted excuses above, contemplate how much of your working life you are forced to relinquish to taxes. Your **usable income**, only income that matters, would equal your gross income if you didn't pay any taxes. As itemized above, a considerable amount of income disappears.

To accurately calculate **total effective drain** on your *"liberty and pursuit of happiness"* (your personal cost of Freedom), all of the following manipulations produce a surprisingly devastating blow:

1. **Usable income** equals your total **gross income minus total taxes** you paid (from the list above).
2. Dividing total taxes paid by usable income yields **percent of your working life** supporting government.
3. Next, there is a **cost-of-living (inflation) hidden tax**. Government controls our economy, regulating the value of money, effectively assessing a cost-of-living tax. Government's conservative Cost-of Living Chart is on record in the Library of Congress, documenting an average 3% increase in cost of commodities each year. That's **another 3% diluting your usable income every year**. Over ten years, that produces a **compounded 34% decrease in spending power**.

The effective Cost-of-Living should address our most expensive necessities for independence:

- An average house was \$30,000 in 1976 to \$250,000 today, a 733% increase, an averaged 15% increase **every year**.
- A new car went from \$10,000 approximately in 1976 to \$50,000 today, a 400% increase, an averaged 8% increase **every year**.

How were your pay raises? Did you get anywhere near a 10% cost-of-living increase **every year**? If not, you are steadily working much harder for much less.

¹ the New Testament (1 Timothy 6:10) in the King James translation

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4. **Another hidden tax is the global value of our unbacked money** (Federal Reserve Notes), diluted by Government's overspending (our deficit) and Fractional Reserve Banking (lending money banks don't have). Our original precious-metal backed money system was stable, secure. Why fix something that wasn't broken, unless manipulation was the goal.

Mismanagement of our natural resources destabilizes OUR dollar's global trading value. Constantly fluctuating oil prices impact gasoline, almost as vital as the air we breathe. Is this political ineptness or purposeful manipulation of business profits?

Government consists of humans, not robots. People naturally seek growth, not just survival. Given human statistical propensity to spend more than we have, government's natural tendency toward growth perpetuates escalation. Acting like a child with money burning a hole in his pocket, government spends money as if it grows on trees. The deficit is enormous. Taxation and government deficit rest on the backs of working Americans.

Government responsibility for fiscal performance is not linked to their salaries. While the deficit grows, they enact their own raises. Are their salaries commensurate with job performance or average American lifestyle? Do their unlinked salaries impress false biases into job priorities? Private business bad fiscal performance ejects officials. Prolonged bad performance reorganizes. Instead, the strongest union ever formed, Government, continues to grow.

We don't worry about paying sales tax when we buy items in a store or gasoline tax when we fill our tanks. If we own a house, then we pay real estate tax. These taxes are straightforward.

Picturing the approach of April's deadline each year, do you feel despair, stress, and crushing insecurity? Why is "*income tax*" different, complicated? Do you know why you pay it? Do you know if you pay more than required? Do you pay more not understanding why? Do you overpay for fear of error? Overpayment of taxes under threat, duress, and/or coercion equals overtaxing and Abuse of Power, repeating our history 200 years ago, which was then resolved only by war. Was that bloodshed for nothing?

Present financial instability is causing everyone to live day-by-day. The increasing financial stress weakens our health and increases medical needs and expenses, further draining our finances. What kind of security is this?

How can most of us maintain a budget, plan a family, afford a vacation, or attain retirement? Both parents must work, sacrificing child development. How secure is OUR children's future?