

I'm going to present an argument by analogy against the libertarian claim:
(T) Taxation is theft.

Suppose there's a very large piece of private property that includes places to live, eat, work, and engage in leisure activities. The rent covers additional benefits, and there are special payment plans depending on how much income you make. Many people raise children in this place, and when they become 18, they need to start paying rent or leave.

So, here's the argument:

- (R1) Rent in this scenario is not theft.
- (R2) If so, then taxation is not theft.
- (R3) So, taxation is not theft.

Now, some leftists will deny R1 and say that rent *is* theft, so they can resist this argument. So consider this argument as targeting only those who agree with R1, which includes many right-libertarians who deny the conclusion.

One objection to R2 is that the landlord has a right to collect rent, but the gov't *doesn't* have a right to tax.

But this assumes that the landlord gained their authority over the place through legitimate means, and the gov't didn't. In which case, the objection is circular—it's assuming the conclusion in question: that taxation *is* theft but rent isn't.

Another objection to R2 is that it's difficult to leave a gov's territory and most other places you go also have a gov that taxes.

But it's also difficult to move and go live somewhere else. And most other places you go also have private property that charges rent.