Some people say that wage labor is voluntary. I'm gonna argue against this, using an argument by analogy.

By wage labor, I mean when workers, who own barely any resources and no other means to live, sell their labor to an employer for a wage.

Suppose you and your family are wandering around a desert and come across an oasis, with the only source of water for miles around. When you try to let your child drink, people with guns come by and tell you this is private property owned by a warlord. You can only some water if you work for the warlord and do what they say.

Here's the argument:
(W1) Working for the warlord is involuntary.
(W2) If so, then wage labor is involuntary.
(W3) So, wage labor is involuntary.

I expect most to agree with W1. Consider the clearest cases of something involuntary, like giving a mugger your wallet at gunpoint. Why is it involuntary? Well, plausibly, because you had no reasonable alternative to giving up your wallet. Getting shot isn't a reasonable alternative.

Well neither is having you and your child die of thirst or getting shot trying to drink without the warlord's permission.

One objection to W2 is that: In this case, there's just one warlord, but in the case of wage labor, there are multiple employers to choose from.

But we can tweak the case to get around this. Suppose now, there are several oases and competing warlords who control them. Now, is working for one voluntary? I still think not.