

How the Rich Benefit from the Gov't (Video 61)

In my previous video, I discussed the ways in which rich people in particular benefit from the government. One thing I said is that the government protects rich people's property, both legally and by force.

Some people pointed out that it's not just the rich who own property, and that the government protects everyone's property.

However, I did say that the rich have much *more* property than everyone else, and the government typically defends it more rigorously. So, the rich benefit more from the government's role in protecting property.

But I'd like to further clarify. The reason why, in general, people respect the property claims of the rich is that they're written into the law, and there are legal consequences for not doing so.

Absent this legal recognition, we'd just have some people claiming they're entitled to all those resources, and others making conflicting claims. After all, different people have radically different views about who's entitled to what.

Socialists think workers are entitled to the full fruits of their labor, and the capitalist class are *not* entitled to a portion of it. Many leftists and certain libertarians think no one's entitled to private ownership over land or natural resources. And views about intellectual property are especially controversial.

So, given this disagreement over ownership, the rich receive a particularly large benefit from the government giving their extensive property claims a legal backing.