

What. Free. Market?

Old story or meme about gun control: (cite LawDog, meme version by DK@hsgca.net)

You're sitting there with all your freedoms (the cake) and the gun controller walks up and says "Gimme that cake"

You say "No, it's my cake"

Compromise, half cake

Half an hour later they come back and say it again

Compromise, quarter cake

...and so on

Various commentators right now are saying we need to give up a little of the "free market" and accept a little more socialism

To which I reply: I WANT MY DAMN CAKE BACK

What do we already have that destroys the free market?

- An income tax: a punishment for working productively, a fee for the privilege of producing
- A central bank
 - Print new money to snatch up useful goods to waste on gov't boondoggles
 - Disrupt local supplies of goods
 - Pick winners and losers in industry
 - Reduce the value of savings by the lower & middle classes, give that value to cronies
- Licensing of various careers: the State, not the market, decides what is the correct form of a service, puts that knowledge behind a paywall, and creates bodies that gatekeep what goes into that knowledge base, and maybe even control prices (AMA)
- Crazy complicated business law
 - Hard to start a business
 - Hard to maintain a business
 - Special taxes and requirements and deadlines
 - Food for lawyers and accountants
 - How many great ideas died in the cradle because it was too hard to start a business?
- Sales tax: a protection racket for all businesses
- Zoning: Prevent small one-man businesses from starting without large seed capital
- Business regulation:
 - Written by big corporations
 - Similar to "indulgences" for big businesses: they may pollute and limit the costs of failures to contain, small businesses can't
 - Blockades for small businesses: can't start operating without a handicapped ramp
- Capital gains tax: penalty for saving/investing intelligently, pushes poor and middle-class people to maintain cash balances rather than investments
- Minimum wage: Gov't has to know how much you're paying everyone per hour, reporting requirements, surveillance
 - Blockade to new employment, moving careers, trying new things, odd jobs/handyman
- Tariffs: hand in hand with min. wage
 - Extortion: pay me \$50 or your shipment from so-and-so might not make it
 - Need to pay someone \$7 per hour to wipe new iPhones with a soft cloth when someone else will do it for \$1 per hour

- Might be able to justify limited tariffs on a few critical supply chains but it turns into a massive bundle of sticks that you can't pick up any one of without disrupting everything
- VAT: not in the U.S. yet, but think about it: a penalty for making something better
 - Promotes service industries, kills goods production
 - Another bonus for rich, credentialed professionals
- Inheritance tax: punishment for long-term or continuous concerns
 - Break up or sell family farms/businesses to large corporations
 - Those concerns broken up/given to those who aren't qualified, fail more
 - Not in 16th century England; primogeniture isn't the law

I'm sure this list isn't complete, but my point is: They're coming for more cake, and they're doing it under the sleight-of-hand that you still have a whole cake, which just isn't true.

Of the ten points of Communist Manifesto, four mostly or fully complete:

#2: A heavy progressive or graduated income tax

#5: Centralization of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly

#6: Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State

#10: Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labor in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, etc.

Three they're working on pretty hard:

#3: Abolition of all rights of inheritance

#8: Equal liability of all to work. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.

#9: Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of all the distinction between town and country by a more equitable distribution of the populace over the country.

Two that are arguable:

#1: Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes

We have property taxes (you rent, not own)
and eminent domain (you rent as long as we let you)

#4: Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels

Price to give up Am. citizenship rising...
Civil forfeiture...

The only one that isn't being generally pushed for is

#7: Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan

We're over 40% of the way there and they want more.

Why should we give them any?