

The Argument Against Government As We Know It

by

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caveat lector



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The Argument Against Government As We Know It

The Argument

Mutuality of consent is a necessary part of any agreement.

If a transaction lacks mutuality of consent, then there isn't an agreement. For such a transaction to occur at all, some party to the transaction must be compelled.

Any transaction in which a party is compelled is extortion. There isn't an agreement and there isn't any obligation under duress.

An Application of the Argument: Citizenship

In order for me to be a citizen, two conditions are necessary.

1. The government must want me to be a citizen, and
2. I must want to be a citizen.

The consent of both parties is necessary to make the agreement. The objection of either party will prevent the agreement. Thus, if I don't want to be a citizen then I'm not a citizen. Citizenship is voluntary.

The only alternative is that a legitimate agreement can exist without mutuality of consent. However, if I can be compelled to be a citizen then there isn't any difference between citizenship and slavery. In that case, I don't have any obligations as a citizen. There isn't any obligation under duress.

An Application of the Argument: Social Security Numbers

In order for me to have a social security number, two conditions are necessary.

1. The government must want me to have one, and
2. I must want to have one.

The consent of both parties is necessary to make the agreement. The objection of either party will prevent the agreement. Thus, if I don't want a social security number then I don't have one.

The only alternative is that a legitimate agreement can exist without mutuality of consent. If I can be compelled to have a social security number then there isn't any difference between voluntary participation and extortion.

An Application of the Argument: _____

You fill in the blank. The argument is general and can be used whenever the government tries to compel you.

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