

American Republicanism 2017

By

Rick Rossi

I think I finally understand the American Republican philosophy of the year 2017. The Republicans for the most part believe no government has a right to earnings, personal or corporate, other than the minimum necessary to maintain order and security. With this philosophy in mind, they would argue that minimum taxes should be the rule of law. It seems the Republicans also believe that any "entitlements" voted in by the people, such as Medicare, Social Security or food subsidy programs, should be borne by taxing the people that benefit from them - for the most part, the middle and lower economic classes. The wealthy do not need Social Security or Medicare for example. Furthermore, they believe that "trickle down" economics will suffice for maintaining a vibrant middle class. The last two beliefs are what the latest Republican tax bill is all about...thus the disappearing middle-class tax cuts and the permanent wealthy tax cuts within their latest bill. But, on the face of it and overall, common sense would make this is a seemingly fair philosophy. Except that the premises are demonstrably idealistic and wrongheaded when examined in detail experientially. History clearly bears witness to the failure of "trickle-down" economics beginning with the first agricultural societies through the Greek city-states and feudalism to our current capitalist society. The wealthy inevitably become more wealthy and societies become more and more oligarchic and plutocratic. There is no denying it. We have been here numerous times

before. The majority of people become economic slaves to the few. Luckily many countries understand that this happens and so have created governments that do not let this happen. Maybe one day the United States will do so as well. Maybe one day the Republicans will learn the health and welfare of a society is not about the few, it is about the many, and should be looked to, as clearly stated in the General Welfare Clause of the United States Constitution.