

## The Minimum Wage, Unemployment and The Simple Life

by Rick Rossi

Previously, in the essay Government, Taxation and Humanity, we had established the interdependence of all people in a given society. Such a society, we said, should prepare its people to be of use as labor to business, science and the arts. To do so, we established the paramount importance of health and education. Through progressive taxation, these two most important items will be supplied to the individual by the state. In other words, we the people are going to keep you healthy and give you the skills you need to be a productive member of our society. These two gifts are without any strings attached. You are to become all that you can or want to be, if you have a mind to do so.

And so we now have a healthy and skilled citizen! The basic element of any strong society! As a citizen, naturally one will need to eat, find shelter, find meaning. Food and shelter should not be supplied by the state except in extreme emergencies and finding meaning is totally the individuals responsibility. All citizens should work at something to create a wealthy populace and therefore state. But we do now have a pool of healthy and skilled people. And they should compete so that those with the most talent and motivation are able to create wealth. No special preferences here regardless of birth or wealth. Even those with disabilities can be very helpful. If you choose not to work at anything, you will be healthy and educated but without food or shelter. This is a most natural situation for those that are lazy.

By far the largest supplier of work is business, as science and art come only with the once established wealthy state. So, we must make it easy to do business, that is for business to compete not only within our societies borders but also with other nations. Given that the

singular goal of business is to make a profit, we, the people, represented by the state, should seek to make business expenses low and therefore margins as high as possible. Since we have already dealt with the issue of health and education through the state, we will have lifted the current weight of doing so off business and thus lessened some cost of doing business. Why such was ever placed there is a wonderment. Business should free of as many shackles to profitability as possible.

Therefore, there should be no minimum wage so that the one major expense of a business is lowered to the market value of our healthy and educated citizens. Do not worry, remember, we the people, will be capturing profit later via progressive taxation so let us not hobble our businesses from making as much money as possible from the outset of their struggle to compete. Also, understand that by reducing costs, our businesses can bring food and goods to our populace and the world at a highly competitive rate, that is, at a considerably lower cost to the consumer. I see no issue of food, shelter and all sorts of goods being amply supplied by business to the populace if our businesses are allowed to reduce their costs to a minimum.

The question of unemployment is quite simple. If you work as a productive member of society for a period of time and find yourself unemployed, with qualifications, you will be kept in food and shelter until you can reenter the workforce within a reasonable amount of time. Your health and skill set have already been guaranteed by the state, so you will be well kept while you search for new work. We should also set a reproductive limit of a family to only replacing oneself due to the planet's ability to sustain itself, but that is another matter for consideration elsewhere.

This brings us to the concept of the simple life. How we continually mess things up throughout history due to the greed and material wants of people! Ask yourself what is it that

you really need? Certainly the answer will vary by individual as we each are so unique. I think though, there are some clear thoughts on what one really needs. Clean air to breath? Absolutely. Clean water, land and sea? Of course. Food? Yes yes...but not too much...and good quality because we all know what happens when you eat the wrong food and too much of it. Surprisingly, you really don't need so much. Shelter, naturally, but I really don't need a six bedroom, four bath three car garage home, do you? No, not really. Transportation I need but I don't need a gas guzzling bling vehicle and neither do you. You may want these things to show you are better than everyone else or to get sex but in reality you are just a slave to your own greed and weaknesses. In all likelihood you are attractive enough, athletic enough and intelligent enough to be happy with a simple, low stress life.. so don't be a slave to your baser instincts. Don't fall prey to the entertainment and advertising propaganda that tell you to buy more or that you are not good enough. Or to the wealthy that proselytize that greed is good to justify their position in life. Read history, people have been warning you about all these things since the dawn of oral tradition and writing. And we have been wrestling with how to handle wanting too much for whatever reason for much too long. But alas, unfortunately, each generation born resets to that primitive human with all its primitive desires and resultant behaviors. Too bad. Try to remember that fraternity wins the day, not competition.