

Separation of Concerns

By keeping truth and knowledge as public goods that are not subject to capitalistic interests, we increase the amount and quality of shared information. This unites the population as a whole and allows the government to gain insight that helps it to manage the country. In exchange for that anonymized and/or aggregated insight, government must abandon direct materialistic roles, warlike or industrial partnerships, or other competitive roles that create conflicts of interest.

The following three policies are proposed to create a more equitable, participatory, and responsive society:

1. **Tax Capital Instead of Labor:** Focusing taxation on capital rather than income ensures that citizens are rewarded in proportion to their work as opposed to their wealth. It also simplifies taxation, which allows the government to redistribute wealth in proportion to public interest. This type of taxation changes a competition to accumulate wealth (which is taxable) into a competition to both earn and spend wealth (which is not taxable because it does not result in an increase of capital).
2. **Direct Democracy and Participatory Budgeting:** Introducing mechanisms for direct democracy and participatory budgeting gives citizens a direct voice in how public funds are allocated, which fosters greater civic engagement and ensures that government spending reflects community priorities. Thus, in addition to voting on representatives and issues, citizens should be allowed to participate in the creation of the budget (at least in an abstract way).
3. **Data-Driven Subsidies and Taxes:** Divesting government of material ownership (*privatization of capital*) and investing government with increased knowledge (*publicization of information*) decreases conflict of interest and increases efficiency. Because material interests are a zero-sum game, allowing competition within the private sphere is desirable. Similarly, because intellectual interests are not zero-sum (knowledge can be shared without loss of knowledge), increasing cooperation by sharing information within the public sphere is also desirable.

For example, if a government knows both how much money a given corporation made and from whom that money comes, it is in a position to observe the negative externalities of that exchange and to impose excise taxes that ensure public welfare. Absent of this mitigation, our economy pits our weakest citizens against our strongest for-profit corporations, which is a losing battle for the country as a whole.