

# Taxation: A System From Hell

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## “Taxation as we know it accords with all that is known as theft.”

Taxation as we know it accords with all that is known as theft. It is collected by force, extracted under penalty (I am bigger than you) and used for projects that many object to.\*\* The propaganda is that taxes and death are always with us. Certainly a strange set of precepts. The results of these precepts are even stranger. People, while having strong objections to theft, accept what the government does as “necessary” and generally without further enquiry; but the matter does not end there. Death, on the other hand is not accepted, we spend, in Australia alone, billions of dollars for research and medicines to counteract the effects of aging and in foiling death itself. We have extended the life of humans, in some parts of the Earth, by twenty years or more. So the matter of death is under constant review. But what of taxes? They surely deserve greater attention from the everyday battler!

Taxation is something that is growing and with it grows the power of the State. It takes from the individual what he rightfully believes is his property. After all it is his work that produces the goods! And the individual is the owner of his own body is he not? Why taxation does not receive the attention that medicine has is curious. Perhaps the sensitivity of the hip pocket does surmount all other pain! On the other hand perhaps the original “taxes and death” propaganda has been totally effective. Well, not totally! There are still people around the world who object to taxation on moral and ethical grounds. It is no exaggeration to point out that between five and six months of every year is spent working for the government. You may be saving desperately for your retirement, when the government lets you retire, but you only have six months a year in which to earn your living and save for the future. Not a scenario for a happy ending story!

There are an immense number of “laws”, and a whole government department, the Australian Tax Office (ATO), employing lawyers and accountants dedicated to extracting money from those it can bully and are too weak to defend themselves. Failing threats from the ATO, there are courts and police and prisons to back them up in their extraction of “legal” contributions for their political masters. There is an army of accountants and lawyers employed by industry, commerce and individuals to avoid, evade and simply not pay the taxes imposed upon us. The whole system is the epitome of waste; it is totally inefficient - on both sides, it is full of corruption, and no one person actually understands the “law.” This mess is then ruled upon by pontificating judges as if they were independent arbiters, which they cannot be because their appointments and wages rely on the collection of taxes. The laws on taxes would make an A4 stack of paper over two metres high. You can’t remember the first page and its plot when you’ve read the first 2 feet of the book. The newspapers cover hundreds, if not thousands, of cases every year of people and companies appearing before the courts for tax evasion and frauds. Effectively they are being prosecuted for trying to keep what they have legitimately earned. Even the GST can be evaded, especially when it comes to commercial property deals. And the “laws” are deliberately soft so that the loopholes exist. How else would an honest lawyer make a living?

Taxes are a huge burden, not only in that they make us spend more time working than is necessary for producing our living, but in the distortions those burdens cause to our society. Those distortions are