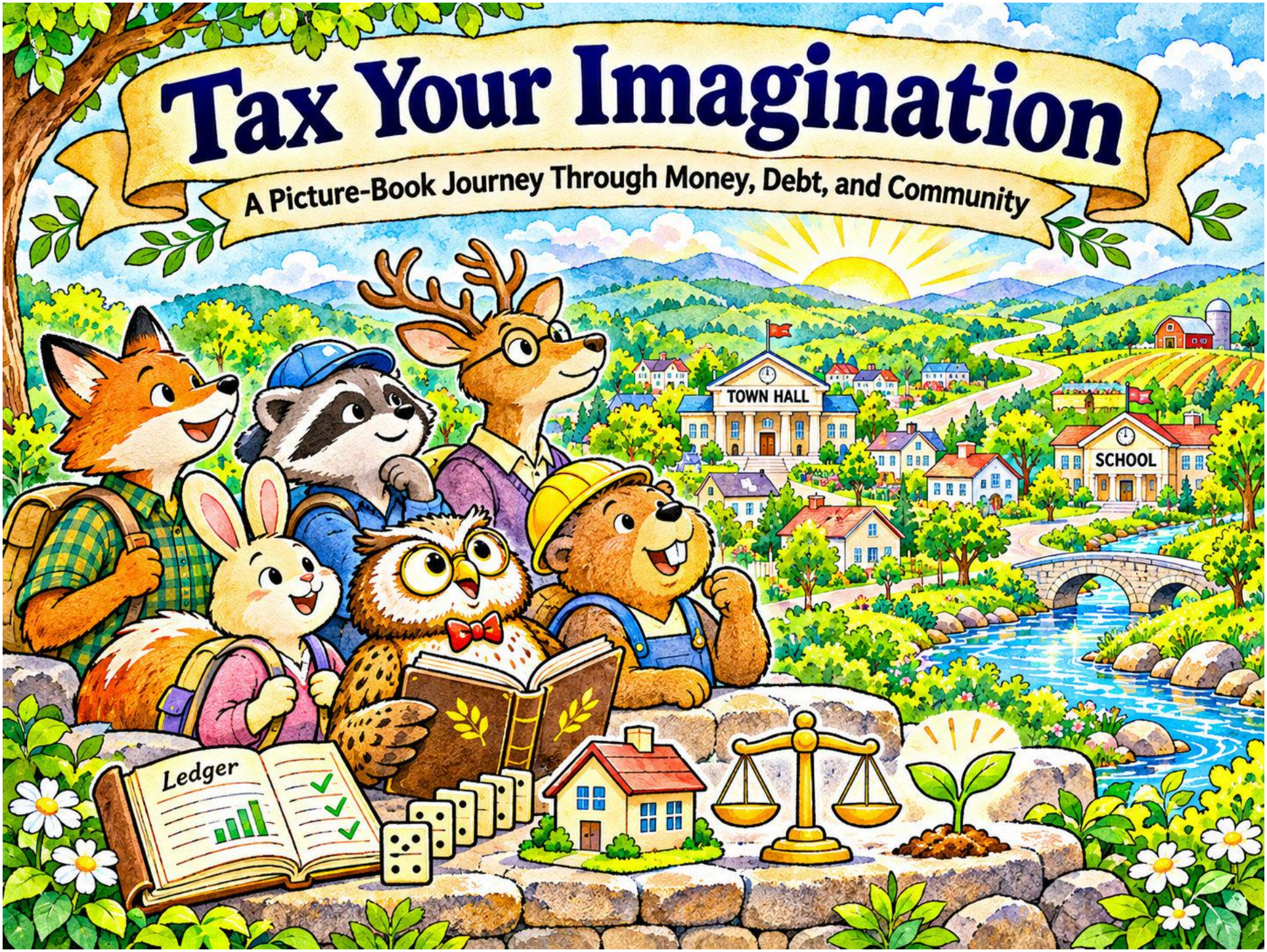

Tax Your Imagination
A Picture-Book Journey Through Money, Debt, and Community
TOWN HALL
SCHOOL
Ledger

*When I was younger, I read my kids the Berenstain Bears books. They were fun. As I have gotten older, I think differently about what I was taught and what I taught my kids.*

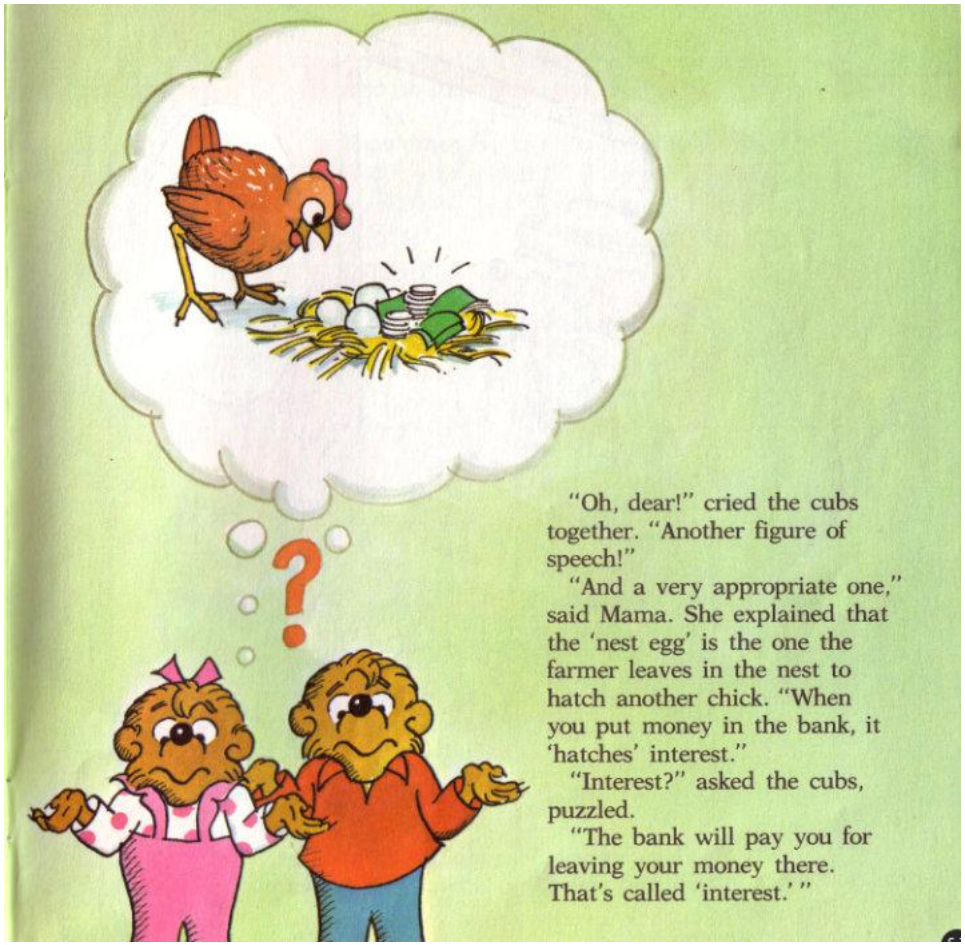
*The assumptions on this page represent all the the problems of history and economics. Money cannot "grow." It always flows from someone else.*

*We are constantly disputing about money because we don't understand why or how we create inflation, volatility, and inequality.*

*All our problems are all man-made. The Crown has been gone for 250 years. We need to take responsibility and investigate our mistaken assumptions.*

*Steve Consilvio*

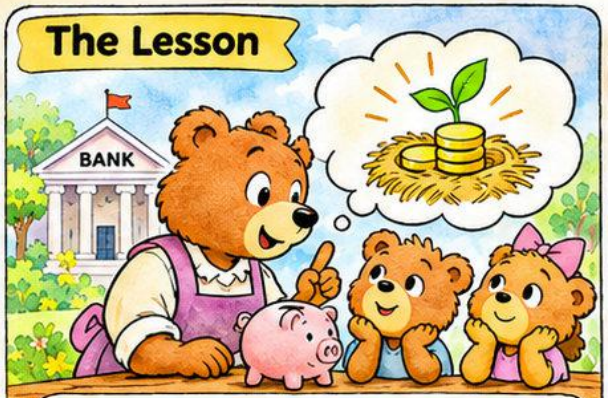
*www.behappyandfree.com*



# From Innocence to Awareness

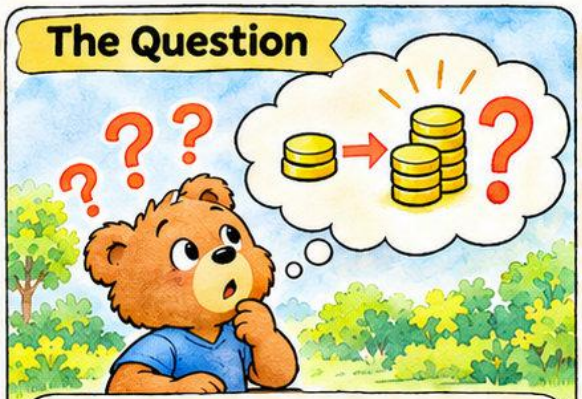
What we are taught about money — and what we eventually discover

## The Lesson




Put money in the bank and it grows.

## The Question



Can money really grow by itself?

## The Hidden Reality




**Money doesn't hatch — someone pays.**

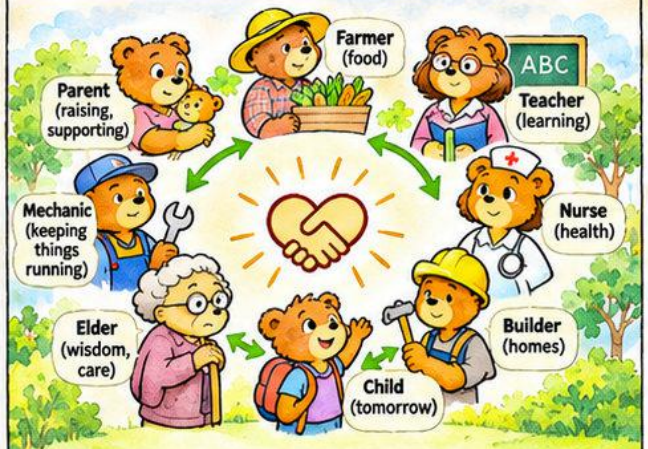
Interest and markups are written into the bookkeeping.

## The Human Cost




**When numbers become unstable, people feel the stress.**

## What Society Really Runs On




**We do not live by money alone.**

Society works because people can count on each other.

## A Better Measure




**A sound economy should reduce insecurity, not multiply it.**

The goal is not to make money grow — but to help people live well together.

**From childhood stories about money to adult questions about fairness, stress, and mutual obligation.**

# The World We Inherit

We learn what is normal before we learn to question it.

## Born Without a Rulebook

We enter a world built by others.



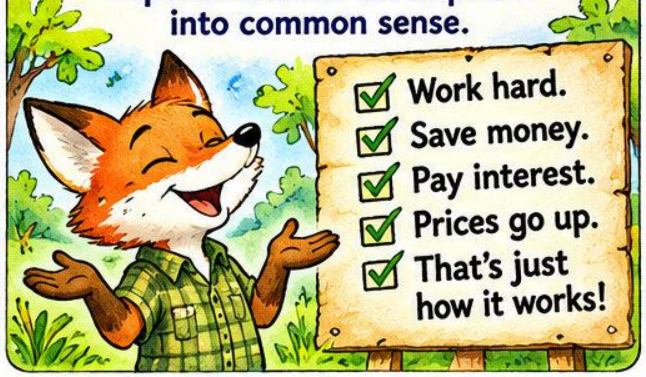

## Learning by Example

Children imitate what adults do.



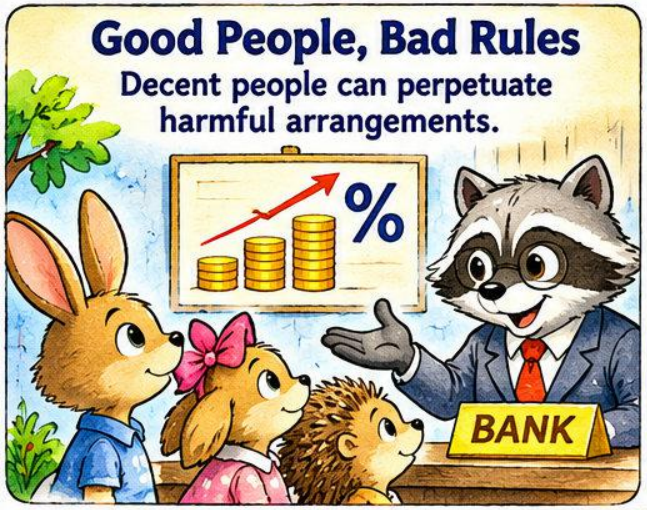

## That's Just How It Works

Repetition turns assumptions into common sense.



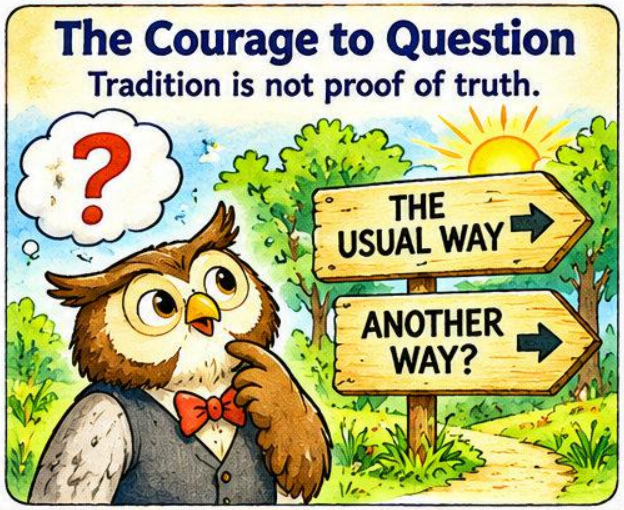

## Good People, Bad Rules

Decent people can perpetuate harmful arrangements.



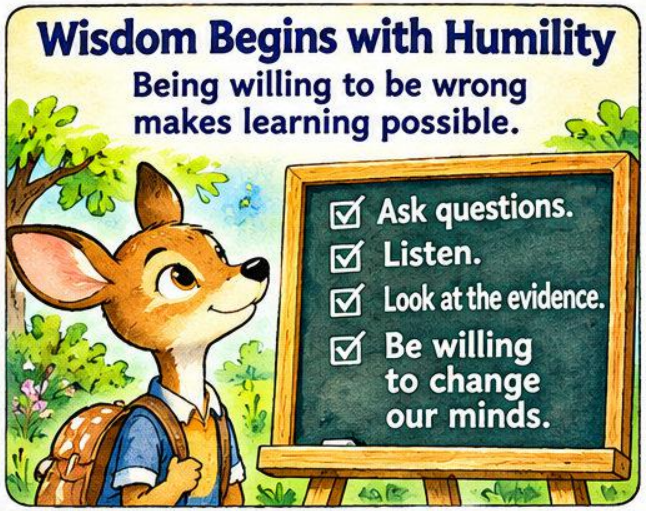

## The Courage to Question

Tradition is not proof of truth.




## Wisdom Begins with Humility

Being willing to be wrong makes learning possible.




***We inherit a world we did not create.***
***We are responsible for the world we leave behind.***

# Money Is Not Wealth

People produce real wealth. Money is the record of our exchange.

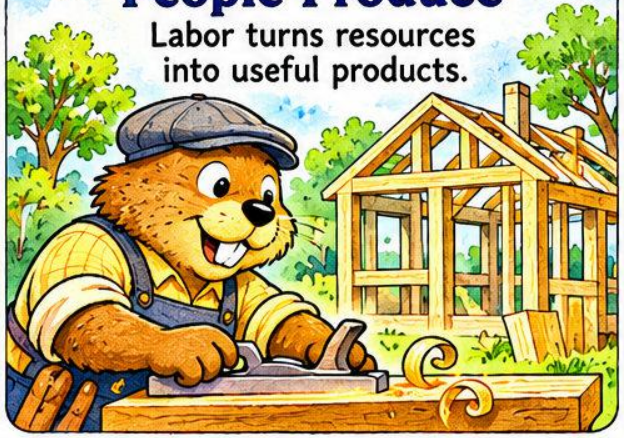
## Nature Provides

Land, water, sunlight, and resources come first.



## People Produce

Labor turns resources into useful products.



## Capital = Money + Labor

In our current system, money buys inputs and labor creates the product.

**Money (M)**
Inputs (seeds, tools, materials)

+

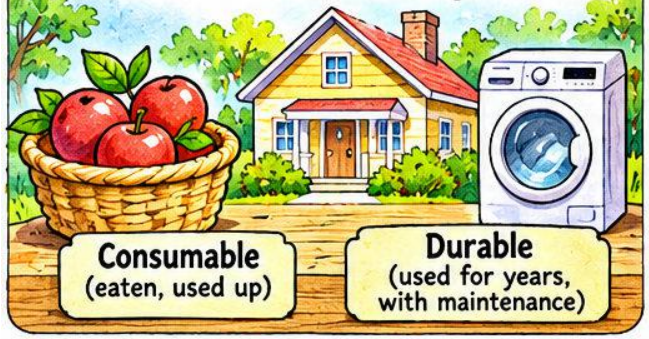
**Labor (L)**
Work, skill, knowledge, effort

=

**Capital (C)**
The resulting product (harvest, house, machine, etc.)

## Durable or Consumable

Capital can be used up quickly, like fruit, or over many years, like a house or a washing machine.



**Consumable**
(eaten, used up)

**Durable**
(used for years, with maintenance)

## The Numbers Change

Financial claims can grow without corresponding physical production.




## What Actually Grew?

More dollars do not necessarily mean more useful wealth.



**More Money**
(on paper)

**More Wealth**
(real, useful things)

*Money records claims on wealth. People produce and maintain the things we need.*

# The Mathematics of More

How percentages can make prices — and financial obligations — grow.

## Everybody Adds a Percentage

Businesses add a markup to cover costs and make a profit. Lenders add interest for the use of money.




## The Supply Chain

Each business buys inputs, adds value and a markup, then sells to the next.




## Percentages on Percentages

A markup at each step compounds, so the final price grows faster than a single markup.



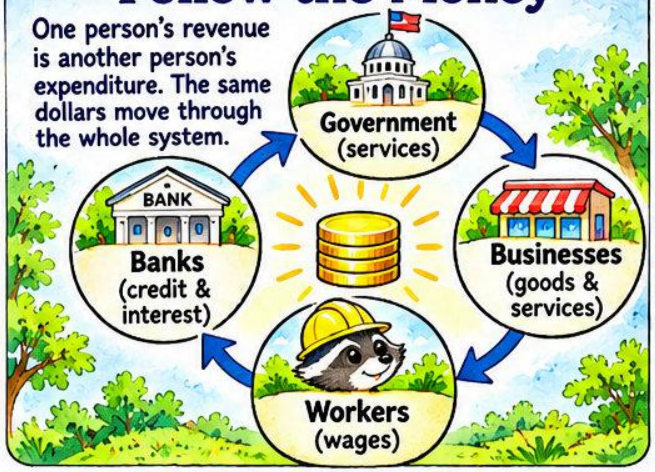

## The Ledger Grows

Interest creates additional obligations over time, even when nothing new is produced.



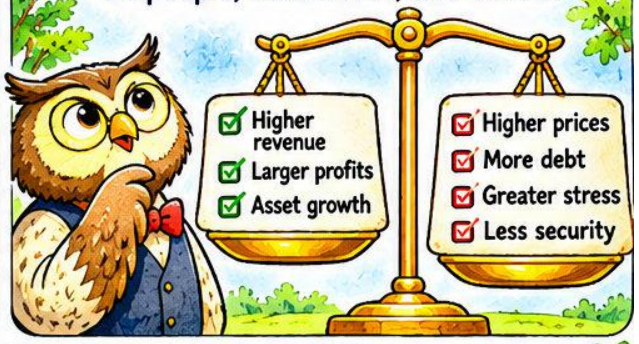

## Follow the Money

One person's revenue is another person's expenditure. The same dollars move through the whole system.




## Is Everyone Better Off?

Higher revenues can look like progress, but they can also mean higher prices, more debt, and greater pressure on people, businesses, and towns.




***The arithmetic may be correct while the consequences remain undesirable.***

# The Price of Insecurity

How financial pressure can follow us through life — even in a productive society.

## Childhood Without Worry

Children are largely free from money worries, because others provide for their needs.



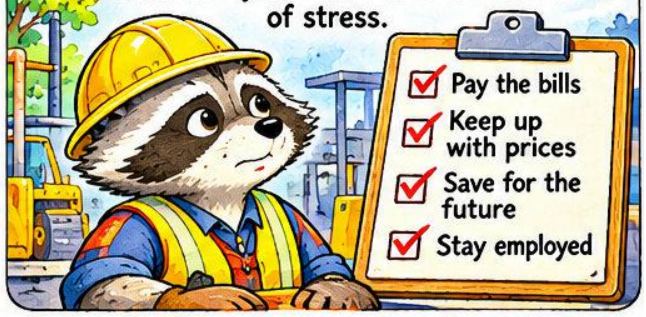
## Starting Out

Education, housing, transportation, and debt bring new pressures as we begin our adult lives.




## Working to Survive

A steady paycheck helps, but rising costs, job pressure, and uncertainty can be a constant source of stress.



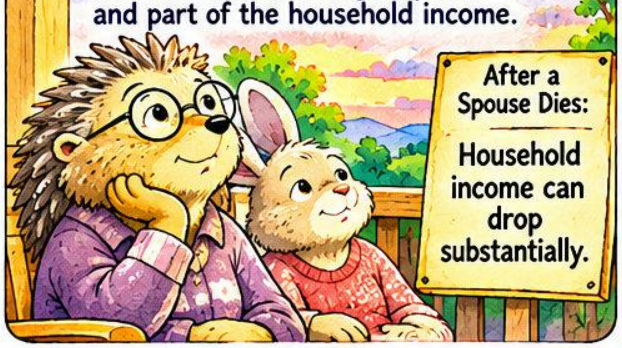

## Institutional Anxiety

Businesses, towns, schools, and charities also struggle with fluctuating costs, budgets, and debt.




## Growing Old

Retirement can bring new worries — fixed incomes, higher medical costs, and the risk of losing a spouse and part of the household income.




## An Unnecessary Burden?

We have extraordinary productive abilities, yet much of the stress and insecurity comes from the rules we have created.



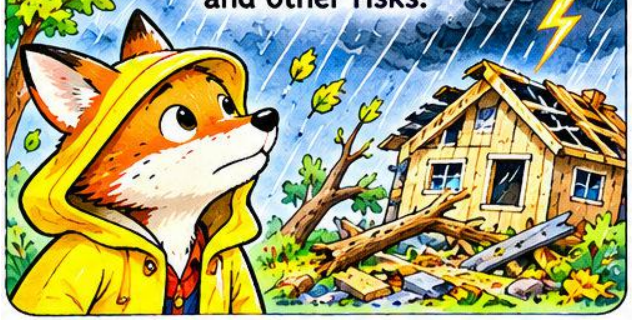

***We have extraordinary productive abilities, yet many people spend their lives worrying about having enough.***

# The Difference Between Loss and Debt

Nature creates real losses. Bookkeeping can create additional, long-term burdens.

## The Storm

Nature can bring real loss — from storms, fires, floods, and other risks.



## What Was Lost?

The storm destroyed the house, materials, past labor, shelter, and time.



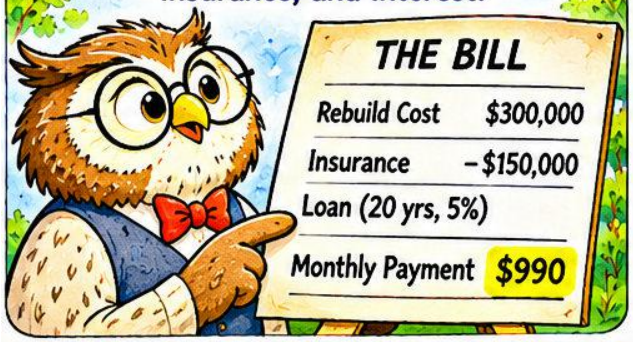
## What Is Needed?

Rebuilding requires real things: new materials, knowledge, labor, and cooperation.




## Enter the Bookkeeping

A physical loss can become a financial burden through mortgages, insurance, and interest.




## Two Different Problems

### The Physical Loss



- Replace materials
- Rebuild the house
- Restore daily life
- A finite problem

### The Financial Debt




- Years of payments
- Added interest
- Higher total cost
- A long-term burden

## Rebuilding Together

Can we organize replacement around the actual work required — helping people recover without long-term debt?



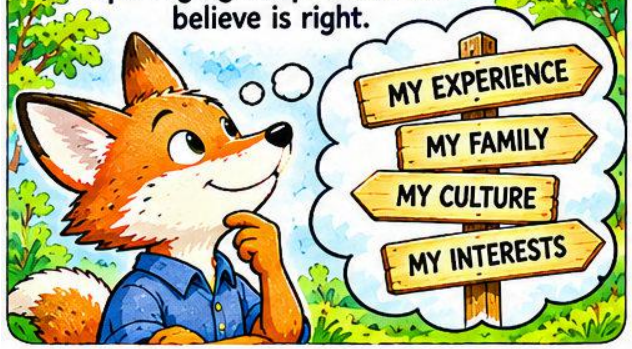
***Rebuilding a house requires labor and resources.***
***Rebuilding financial security requires examining our obligations.***

# The Burden of Being Right

Why it's not always easy to know what is right — and why it matters.

## Everybody Thinks They're Right

Our experience, interests, and upbringing shape what we believe is right.



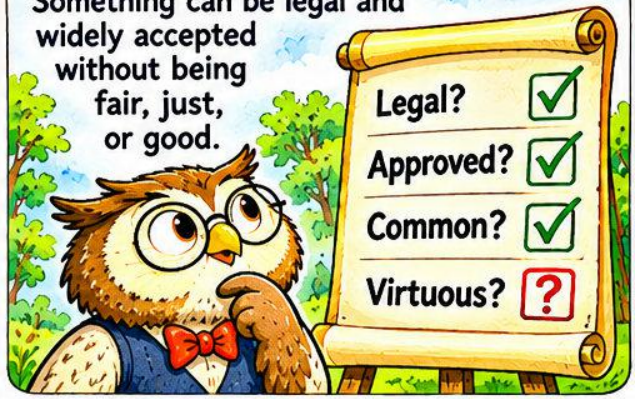

## Rights Against Rights

Different people can have reasonable and sincere claims that still conflict with each other.



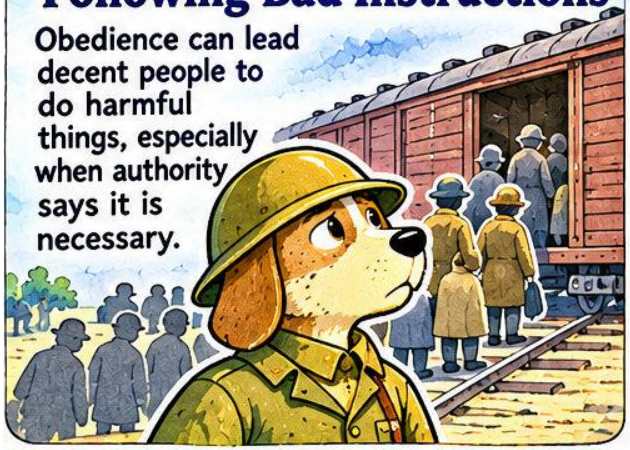

## Rules Are Not Virtue

Something can be legal and widely accepted without being fair, just, or good.



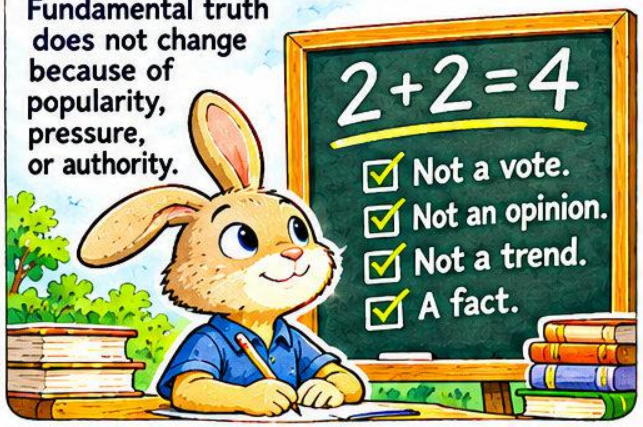

## Following Bad Instructions

Obedience can lead decent people to do harmful things, especially when authority says it is necessary.



## Two Plus Two Equals Four

Fundamental truth does not change because of popularity, pressure, or authority.




## The Virtue of Discernment

Wisdom requires humility, consistency, and the courage to re-examine our assumptions and be willing to change when we are wrong.




***A virtuous society requires people who can think clearly, question wisely, and choose what is right — even when it is difficult.***

# Counting on Each Other

A society works best when people can depend on one another — not just compete for money.

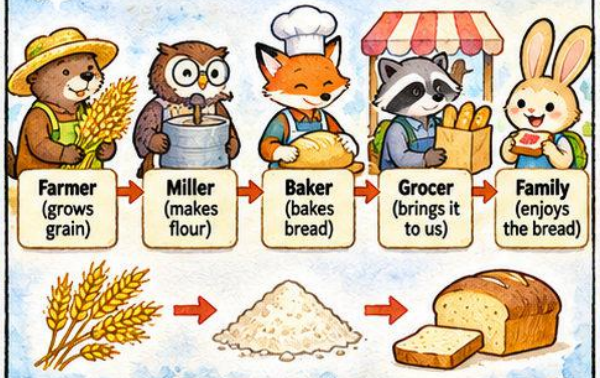
## Nobody Lives Alone

The division of labor makes us deeply interdependent.



## The Invisible Supply Chain

Every ordinary product represents the work of many hands.




## Mutual Obligation

We depend on others — and others depend on us.




## Healthy Ledgers for Everyone

A fair exchange should leave every participant able to keep going.



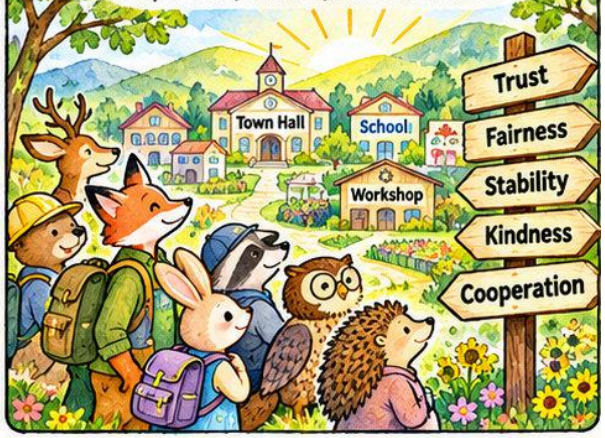

## Stability Instead of Growth

What if success meant reducing insecurity rather than multiplying financial claims?




## Change the Rules, Change the World

We can redesign institutions around cooperation, fairness, and mutual care.




**We have learned to count money. Now we must learn to count on each other.**

# The Paper Money Revolution

How paper promises, shares, and speculation changed the way people thought about wealth.

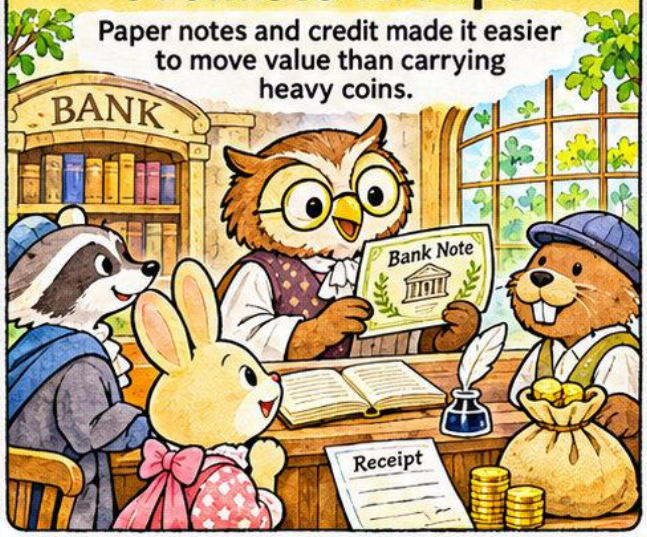
## Money as a Tool

People first used money to make trade easier.



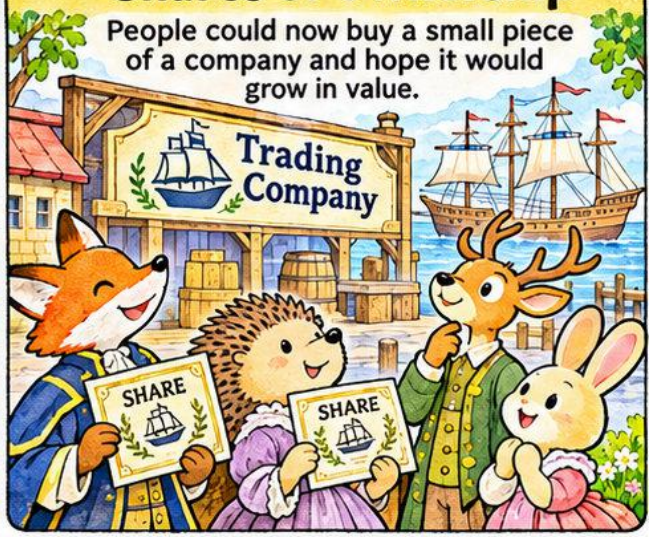

## Promises on Paper

Paper notes and credit made it easier to move value than carrying heavy coins.




## Shares of Ownership

People could now buy a small piece of a company and hope it would grow in value.



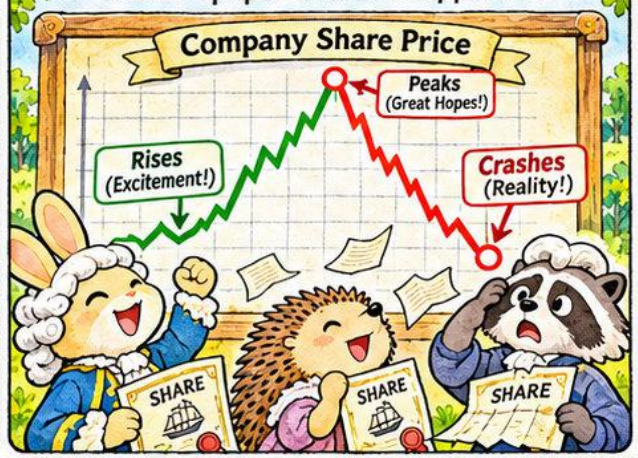

## The Year 1720

In Britain and France, paper money, public debt, and company shares helped fuel the South Sea and Mississippi bubbles.




## Fortunes on Paper

Prices shot upward, then crashed. Many people felt rich on paper — until the paper wealth disappeared.




## What Actually Changed?

More paper wealth does not always mean more farms, homes, tools, or useful goods.




**Paper money and shares can speed trade — but rising paper values are not the same as rising real wealth.**

# Four Ways We Get Paid

Taxes, profits, interest, and wages are different ways money flows through society.

## Government — Taxes

Government receives taxes to provide shared services.

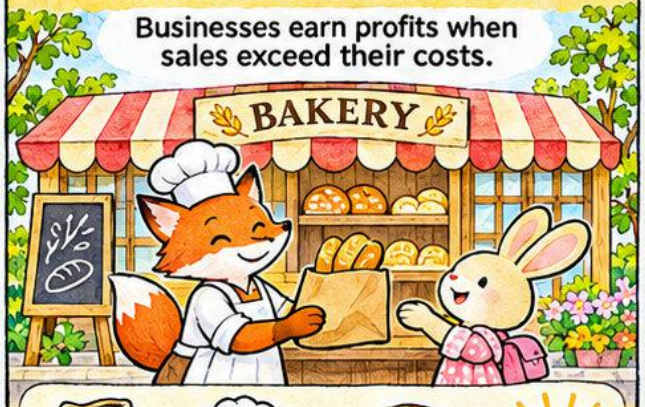



Taxes help pay for shared services such as:

School · Roads · Fire Services · Parks

## Businesses — Profits

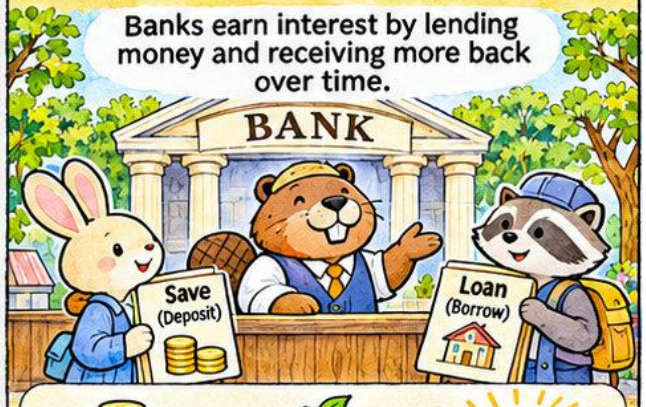
Businesses earn profits when sales exceed their costs.




**Materials** (flour, grain, etc.) + **Labor** (people's work) → **Sale** (to a customer) → **Profit** (what's left after costs)

## Banks — Interest

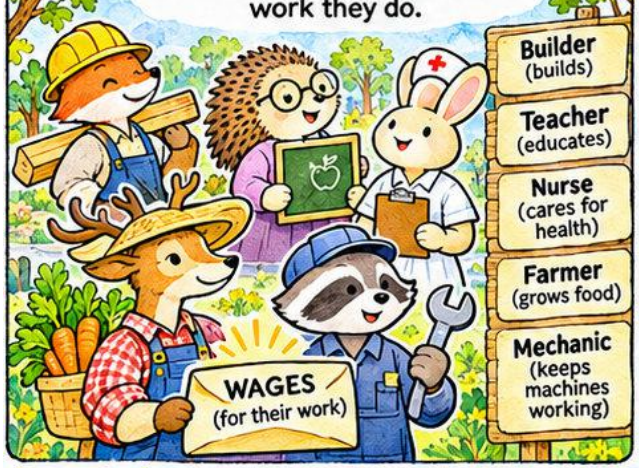
Banks earn interest by lending money and receiving more back over time.




**Deposit** (savings) → **Loan** (to use money now) → **Repayment** (with interest) (a little more back)

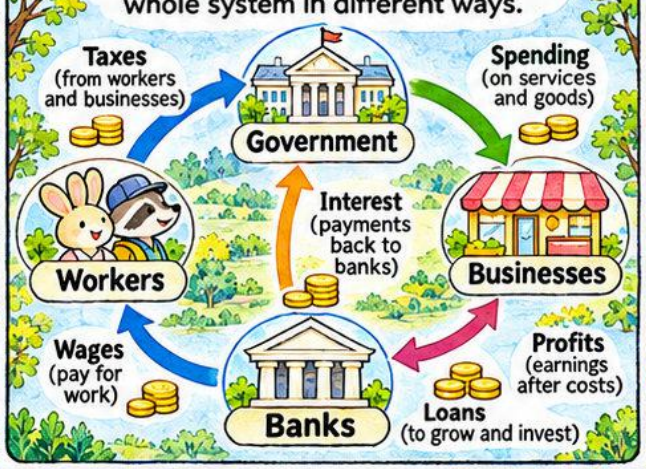
## Workers — Wages

Workers receive wages for the work they do.




## The Circulation of Money

The same money moves through the whole system in different ways.




## Everybody Depends on Everybody

Different roles get paid in different ways, but society works only when the whole system stays healthy.



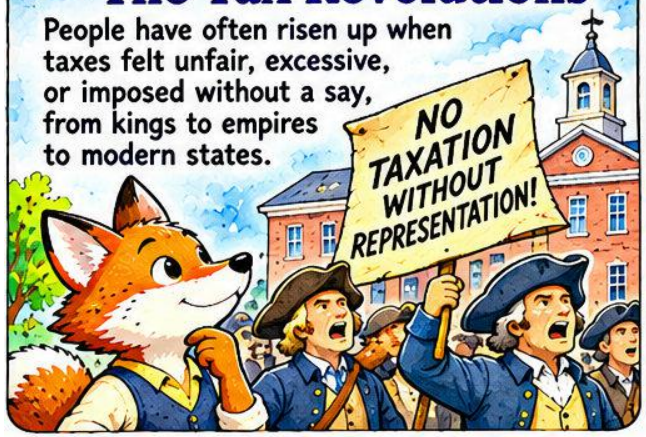

**If one part of the system takes too much, the whole community feels the strain.**

# Revolutions Over Money

Major struggles in history often began with one question: Who controls the money, and who gets paid?

## The Tax Revolutions

People have often risen up when taxes felt unfair, excessive, or imposed without a say, from kings to empires to modern states.



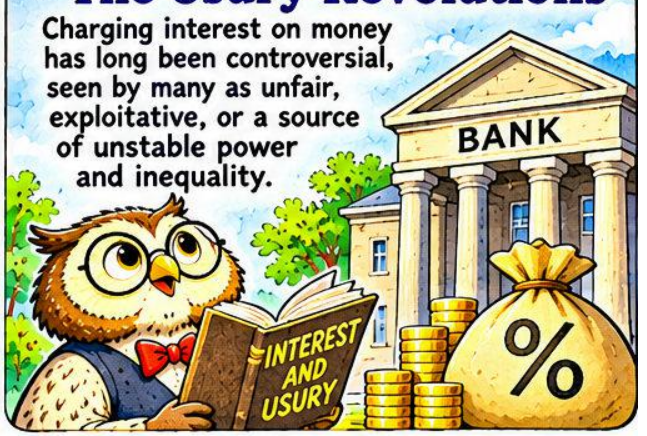

## The Profit Revolutions

The rise of large businesses and factory systems led to new conflicts over profits, ownership, and the treatment of workers.



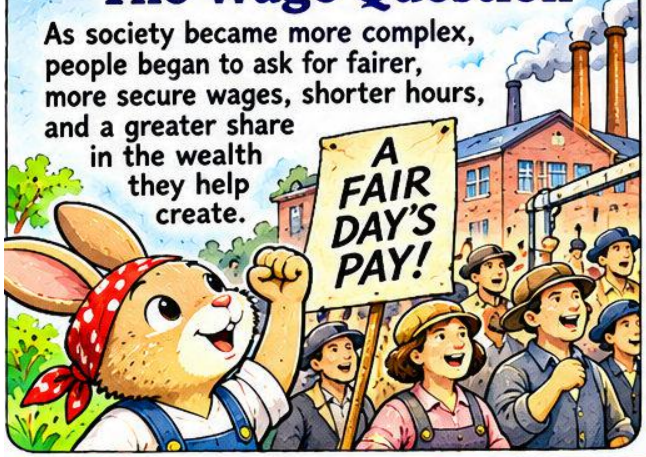

## The Usury Revolutions

Charging interest on money has long been controversial, seen by many as unfair, exploitative, or a source of unstable power and inequality.



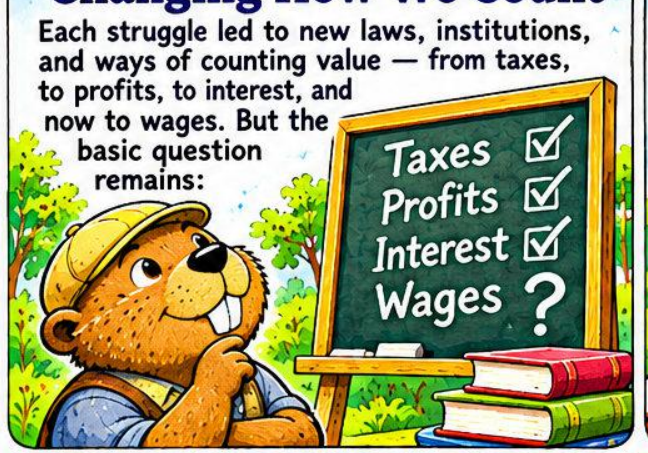

## The Wage Question

As society became more complex, people began to ask for fairer, more secure wages, shorter hours, and a greater share in the wealth they help create.




## Changing How We Count

Each struggle led to new laws, institutions, and ways of counting value — from taxes, to profits, to interest, and now to wages. But the basic question remains:




## The Next Revolution?

The next great change may not be against a single group, but in how we organize and share the rewards of work, so that the whole system works for everyone.




***The question has never been whether to change, but how to count, share, and keep the system working for all.***

# The Great Accumulation

How ownership, financial returns, and compounding can lead to a growing gap in wealth.

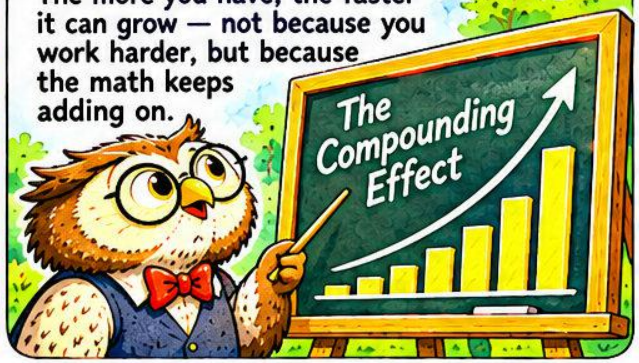
## Small Differences

When money can grow, even small advantages — a little more income, a higher return, or lower cost — can add up over time.



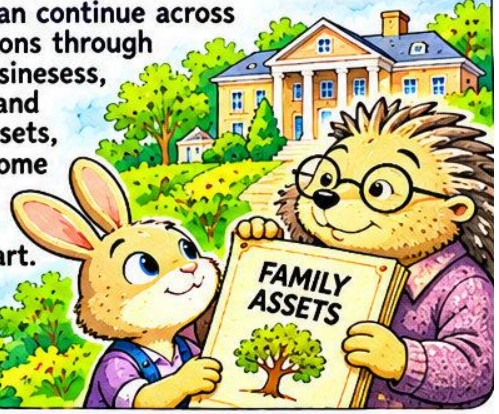

## Compounding Returns

Gains can build on themselves. The more you have, the faster it can grow — not because you work harder, but because the math keeps adding on.



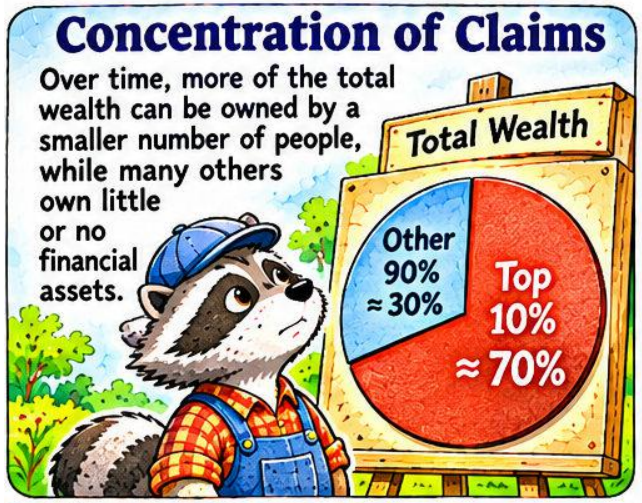

## Ownership and Inheritance

Wealth can continue across generations through land, businesses, stocks, and other assets, giving some families lasting head start.



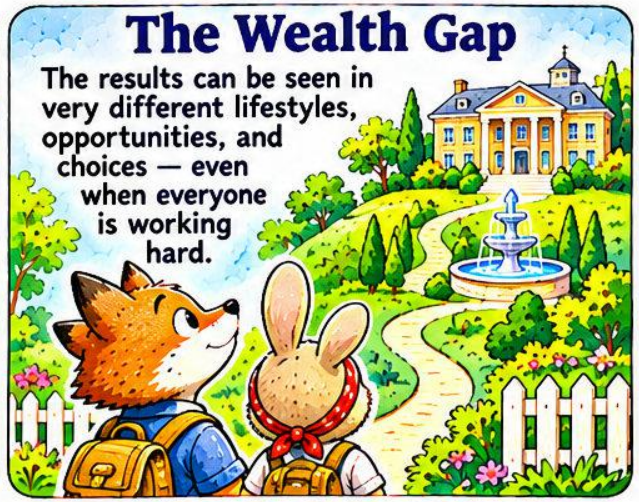

## Concentration of Claims

Over time, more of the total wealth can be owned by a smaller number of people, while many others own little or no financial assets.




## The Wealth Gap

The results can be seen in very different lifestyles, opportunities, and choices — even when everyone is working hard.



## Who Can Afford to Wait?

When wealth keeps growing for some, they can afford to wait — for better prices, higher returns, or new opportunities — while others must keep working just to keep up.



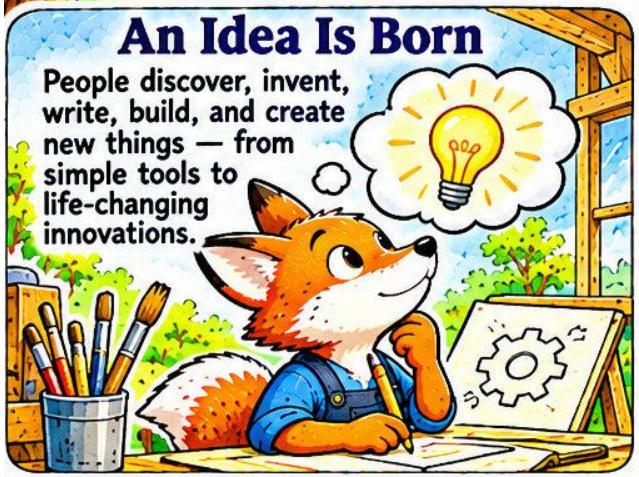

***Compounding can reward initiative and risk, but it can also concentrate wealth and opportunity in fewer hands.***

# Who Owns an Idea?

Ideas can spark progress, but deciding who owns them — and for how long — is a big question.

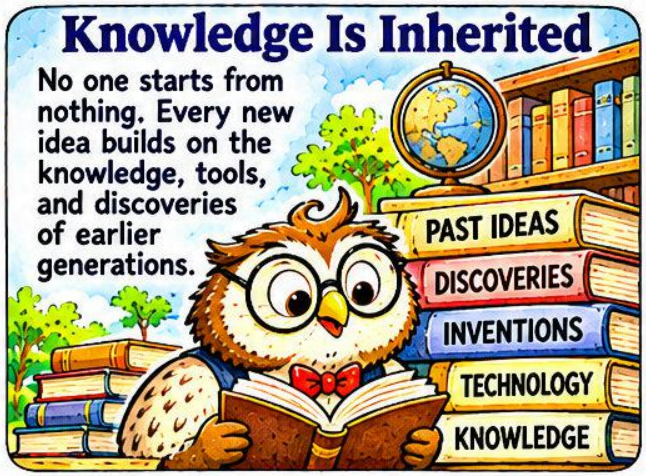
## An Idea Is Born

People discover, invent, write, build, and create new things — from simple tools to life-changing innovations.



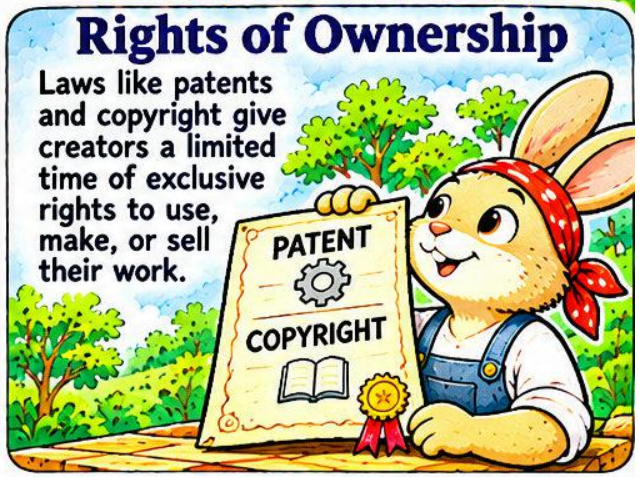
## Knowledge Is Inherited

No one starts from nothing. Every new idea builds on the knowledge, tools, and discoveries of earlier generations.



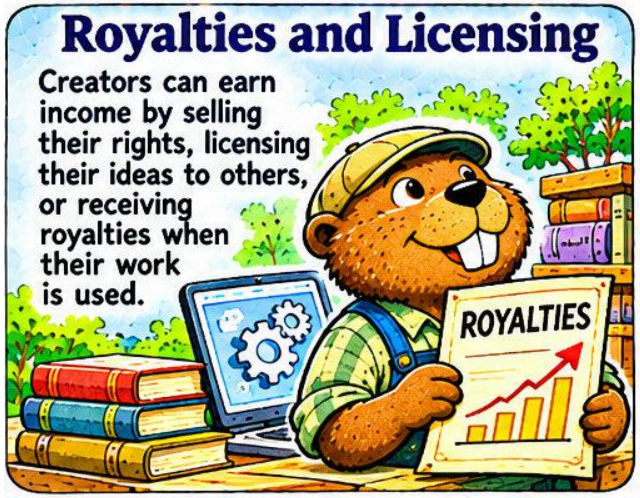

## Rights of Ownership

Laws like patents and copyright give creators a limited time of exclusive rights to use, make, or sell their work.




## Royalties and Licensing

Creators can earn income by selling their rights, licensing their ideas to others, or receiving royalties when their work is used.




## Protecting or Restricting?




## What Should We Reward?

The challenge is to find a fair balance — rewarding creativity and hard work, while also keeping knowledge and useful ideas within reach for everyone.




***A good system should reward new ideas, build on past knowledge, and help people everywhere benefit from human creativity.***

# The Debt That Holds Us Up

How credit, borrowing, and government deficits keep money circulating — and why it can be both helpful and risky.

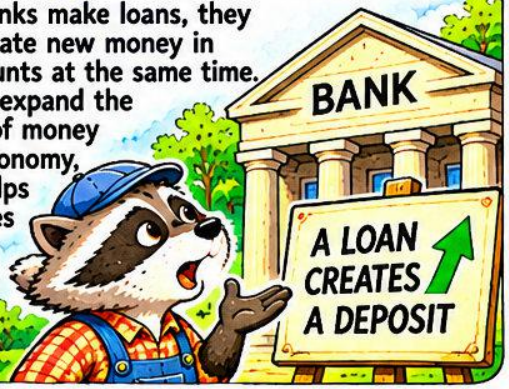
## The Need for Money

People make and exchange real goods and services, but a modern economy also needs enough money circulating to keep work, trade, and daily life moving.




## Lending Creates Deposits

When banks make loans, they often create new money in our accounts at the same time. This can expand the amount of money in the economy, which helps businesses invest, hire, and grow.



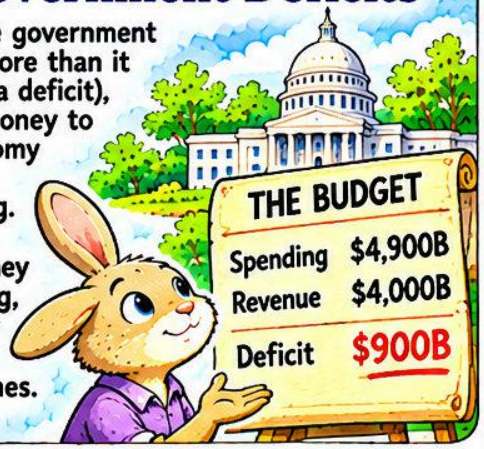

## Interest and Repayment

Loans are not free. They must be repaid with interest, which adds to the total cost and can make debt grow over time.



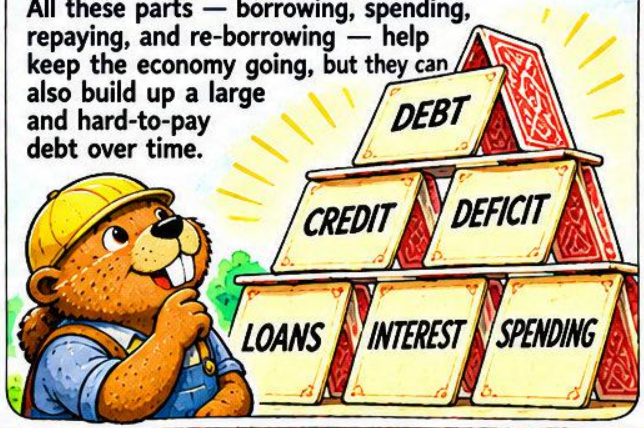

## Government Deficits

When the government spends more than it takes in (a deficit), it adds money to the economy through borrowing. This can keep money circulating, especially during tough times.



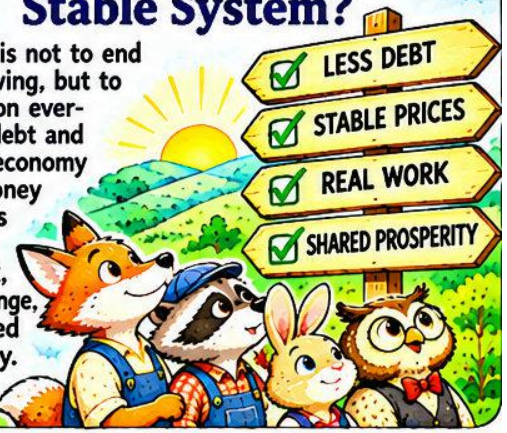

## Keeping Money Circulating

All these parts — borrowing, spending, repaying, and re-borrowing — help keep the economy going, but they can also build up a large and hard-to-pay debt over time.




## Can We Build a More Stable System?

The goal is not to end all borrowing, but to rely less on ever-growing debt and build an economy where money circulates through real work, fair exchange, and shared prosperity.



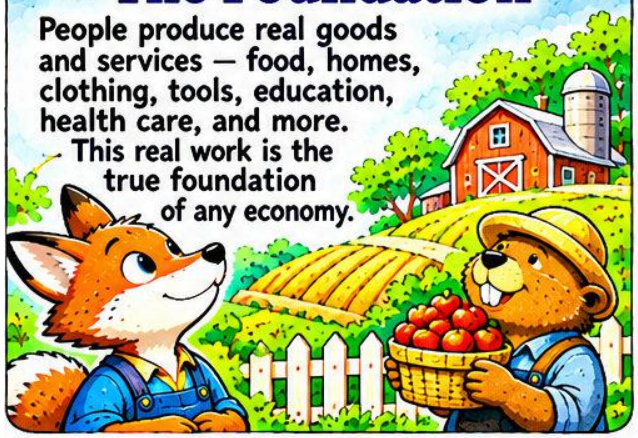

***Debt can keep the system running, but a healthy economy should be able to circulate money, create opportunity, and meet real needs without relying on ever-growing debt.***

# The House of Cards

How a useful system for exchange can grow into a tall and fragile structure.

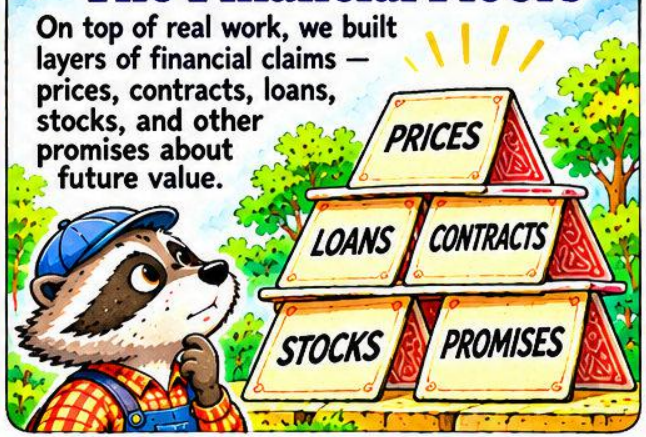
## The Foundation

People produce real goods and services — food, homes, clothing, tools, education, health care, and more. This real work is the true foundation of any economy.



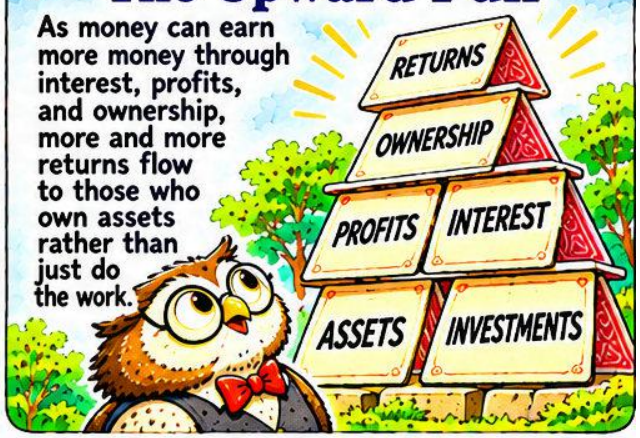
## The Financial Floors

On top of real work, we built layers of financial claims — prices, contracts, loans, stocks, and other promises about future value.



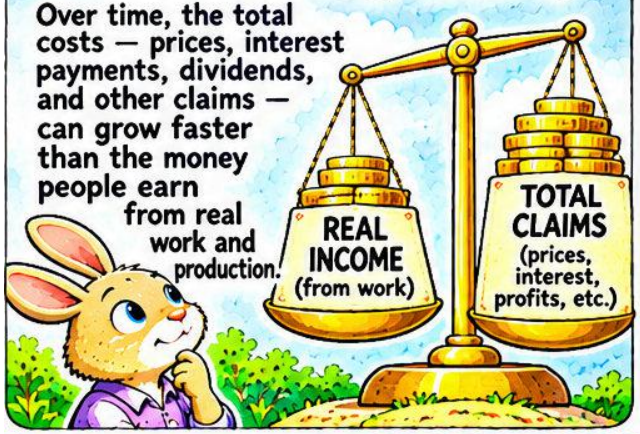

## The Upward Pull

As money can earn more money through interest, profits, and ownership, more and more returns flow to those who own assets rather than just do the work.



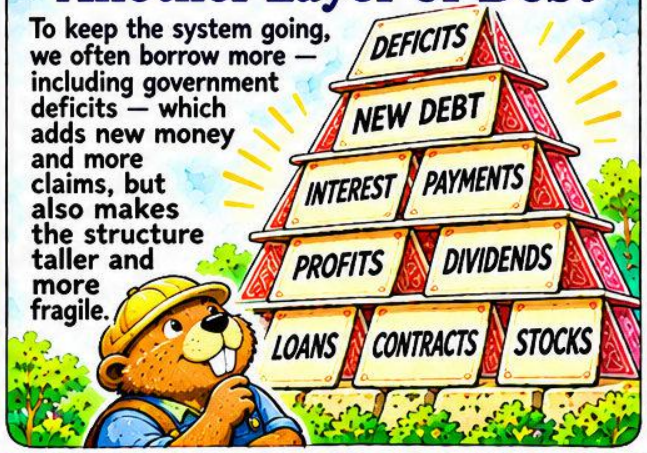

## The Missing Money

Over time, the total costs — prices, interest payments, dividends, and other claims — can grow faster than the money people earn from real work and production.




## Another Layer of Debt

To keep the system going, we often borrow more — including government deficits — which adds new money and more claims, but also makes the structure taller and more fragile.




## Can We Build Differently?

Instead of a taller and riskier tower, can we build a stronger system that keeps money circulating, rewards real work, and serves everyone?




***Our goal should not be a higher tower of debt and claims, but a stronger foundation that works for everyone.***

# Turn the Bookkeeping Around

A different way to count: from adding ever-larger markups and debt to keeping everyone's ledger healthy.

## The Old Calculation

Today, prices often rise as each step adds a markup — a percentage on top of a percentage — making things more costly over time.




## Buy Low, Sell Low

Instead of everyone raising the price, what if we kept markups small and stable, so costs stay lower and more people can afford what they need?




## Reverse Bookkeeping

Instead of maximizing what we can charge, we start with what people need, what it really costs to produce, and a fair, shared return.



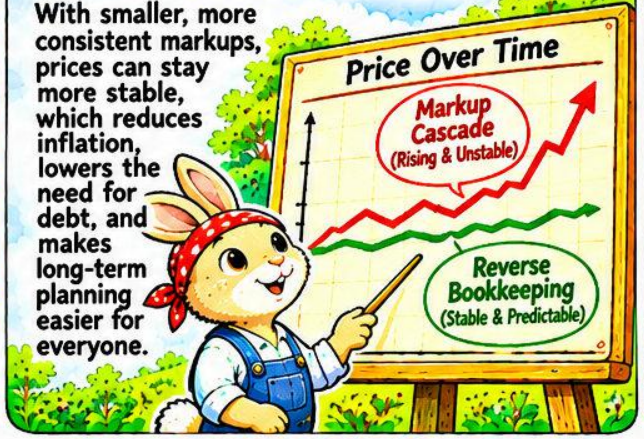

## Healthy Ledgers

The goal is not for a few ledgers to grow very large, but for everyone's ledger — workers, businesses, banks, and government — to stay balanced and healthy.




## Stable Prices

With smaller, more consistent markups, prices can stay more stable, which reduces inflation, lowers the need for debt, and makes long-term planning easier for everyone.




## A Different Definition of Success

Instead of "How much can we make?" we can ask, "Are people and our community better off because of what we do?"




*A healthier economy counts on balance, fairness, and shared gain — so everyone can work, create, and live with more security and opportunity.*

# A Fair Day's Work

How a 3:1 wage relationship can reward work, keep prices stable, and give everyone a fair chance.

## Everyone Contributes

A healthy community depends on many kinds of work — teachers, builders, health care workers, farmers, mechanics, clerks, and more. Everyone's work has value and keeps life moving forward.



## What Is Fair Pay?

Fair pay means a reasonable and consistent relationship between the highest and lowest pay in an organization or community.




## The Wage Ladder

In many places today, the highest pay can be 10, 20, 50, or even 100 times greater than the lowest pay. A very tall ladder can create bigger gaps and more pressure on everyone.




## A 3:1 Relationship

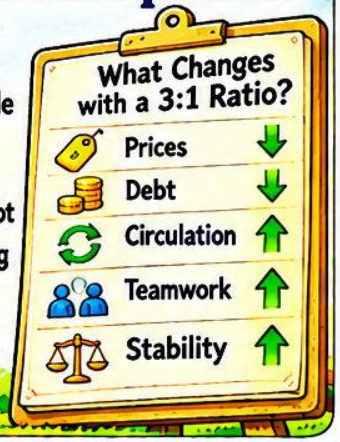
A 3:1 wage ratio means the highest pay is no more than three times the lowest pay. It still rewards skill, added responsibility, and leadership, but keeps everyone on the same team.




## Testing the Consequences

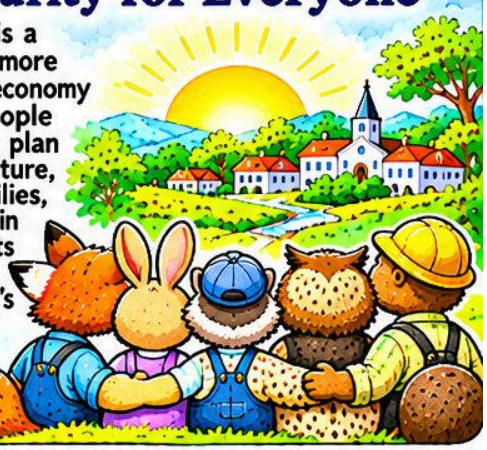
A tighter wage range can help to:

- ☑ Keep prices more stable
- ☑ Reduce pressure for higher markups
- ☑ Limit the buildup of debt
- ☑ Keep money circulating in the local economy
- ☑ Increase teamwork and shared purpose




## Security for Everyone

The goal is a stronger, more resilient economy where people can work, plan for the future, raise families, and share in the benefits of the community's success.



***A fair day's work means rewarding contribution, keeping a healthy balance, and building a more stable and caring community for everyone.***

# Everyone Has a Stake

Why reform is hard: nearly everyone has an interest in preserving or improving what they have.

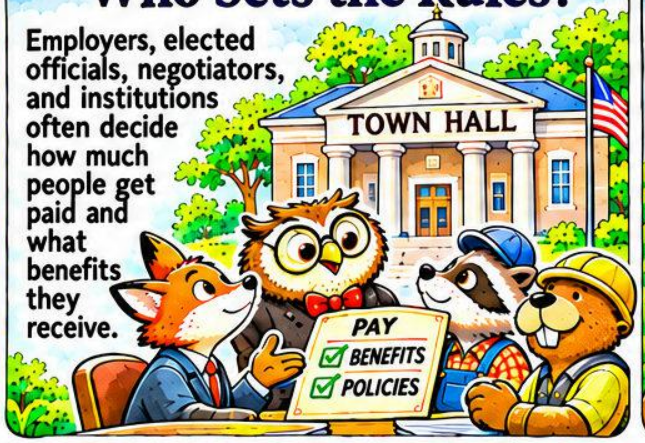
## Everybody Wants More

Almost everyone wants a better income, greater security, or more favorable terms — for themselves and their families.



## Who Sets the Rules?

Employers, elected officials, negotiators, and institutions often decide how much people get paid and what benefits they receive.




## The Problem of Self-Dealing

Self-dealing can happen in many roles. People in different positions can influence rules that also benefit themselves — such as a business owner or executive, a banker, an elected official, or a negotiator or institutional leader.




## Different Rules for Different People

Compensation can vary widely — wages, benefits, pensions, job security, and working conditions — often based on whether a job is public or private, union or nonunion.




## Protecting What We Have

Established advantages — higher pay, better benefits, secure pensions, or special terms — are difficult to give up voluntarily, even when change might be fairer for everyone.




## Who Speaks for Everyone?

Can we establish clear, fair principles that apply across the whole community — so that compensation, benefits, and opportunities are decided in a way that serves everyone?




***Fairness cannot depend entirely on who has the power to make the rules.***

# The Uneven Playing Field

Why comparing compensation is hard: people are not all being paid in the same way.

## Public and Private

Some people work for government, some for private businesses, and some for nonprofits. Their pay systems, job protections, and expectations can be very different.



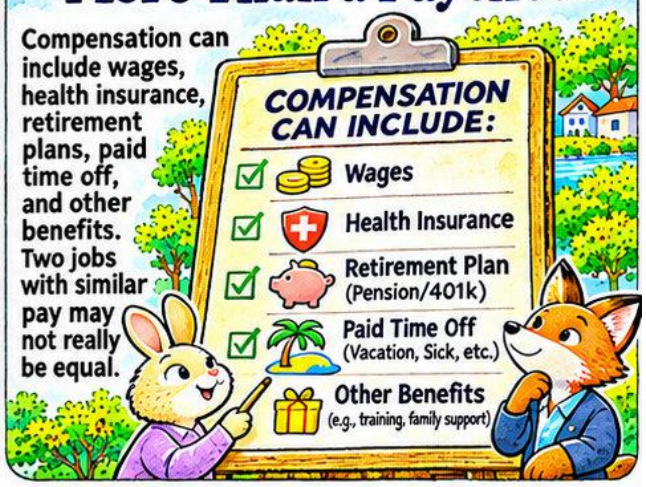

## Union and Nonunion

Some workers bargain together through unions. Others negotiate alone or accept what the market offers. That can change wages, benefits, and job security.




## More Than a Paycheck

Compensation can include wages, health insurance, retirement plans, paid time off, and other benefits. Two jobs with similar pay may not really be equal.




## Hourly, Salary, or Ownership

Some people earn by the hour. Some receive a salary. Some also earn from ownership, commissions, bonuses, or investments. We are often counting different kinds of income.




## What Are We Really Counting?

If one person has wages, another has benefits, and another has profits or assets, how do we compare them fairly? We first need to decide what counts.




## A Fair Comparison

A level playing field needs common standards, transparent rules, and honest accounting of all forms of compensation—so different jobs can be judged more fairly.



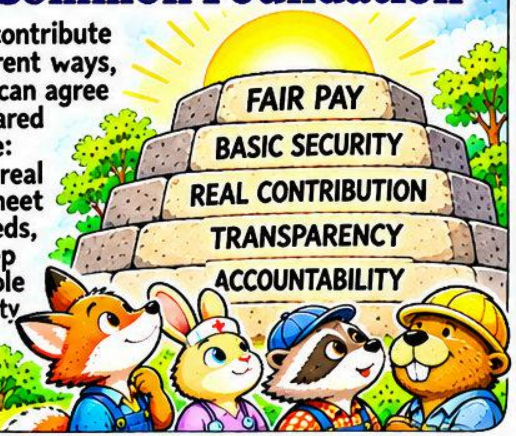

*Before we can create equal rules, we have to count everyone's rewards, risks, and responsibilities honestly.*

# The Same Rules for Everyone?

Can we design a fair, transparent, and consistent system of compensation, benefits, and accountability for all?

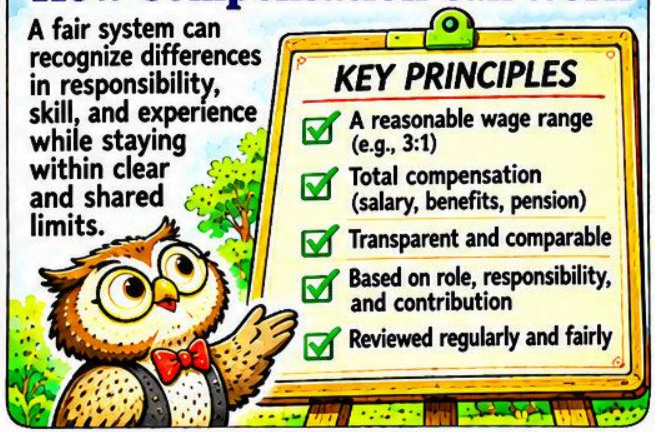
## A Common Foundation

We all contribute in different ways, but we can agree on a shared purpose: reward real work, meet real needs, and keep the whole community strong.



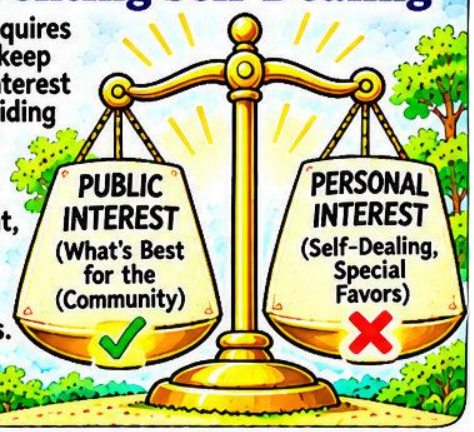

## How Compensation Can Work

A fair system can recognize differences in responsibility, skill, and experience while staying within clear and shared limits.




## Preventing Self-Dealing

Fairness requires rules that keep personal interest from overriding the public interest — whether in government, business, unions, or other institutions.




## A Level Playing Field

A fair system looks at the whole package — wages, benefits, retirement, job security, schedules, and working conditions — using the same standards for everyone in public and private work.




## Accountability and Oversight

Compensation should not be set only by those who benefit from it. We can use independent reviews, clear performance measures, and public input.




## A Fairer System for All?

The goal is not identical pay for everyone, but a consistent, open, and principled system that is fair, builds trust, and serves the long-term well-being of the whole community.




***Fair pay and fair rules are not special favors — they are the foundation for trust, good work, and a stronger community for everyone.***

# Change the Math, Not Just the Owners

The problem is not simply who owns the means of production, but the math and rules that determine prices, wages, debt, and rewards. We can choose different forms of ownership, but they all should work by sound rules.

## Different Ways to Organize

People can work together in many ways — private businesses, worker cooperatives, public enterprises, and nonprofits.



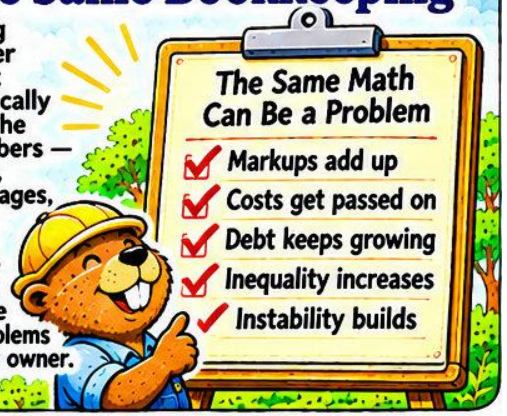

## The Ownership Debate

Capitalism and socialism disagree about who should own and control productive resources, make the decisions, and share the rewards.




## The Same Bookkeeping

Changing the owner does not automatically change the key numbers — markups, prices, wages, interest, or debt. The same math can create the same problems under any owner.




## The Mathematical Question

Can we establish accounting rules that make exchanges sustainable, keep prices stable, reward real work, and keep everyone's ledger healthy?




## Many Paths, Common Principles

Different forms of ownership can coexist and even complement each other when they follow consistent standards of fairness, transparency, and shared responsibility.




## Fix the Foundation

The goal is not to make everyone own the same things. It is to fix the basic rules so the economy is healthy, productive, stable, and works for everyone over the long term.



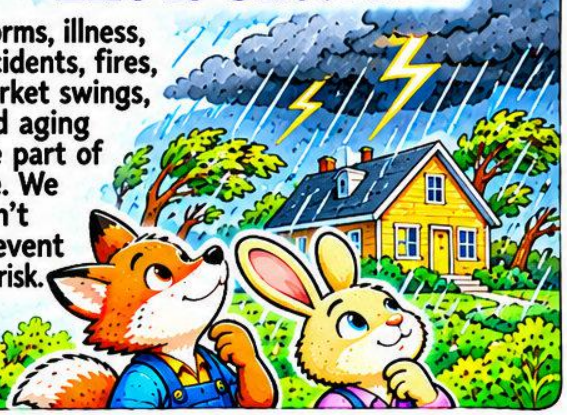

*Ownership can vary. But the arithmetic must be sound, fair, and sustainable if we want a stable and just society for this generation and the next.*

# Who Carries the Risk?

Life is uncertain. Insurance can't remove risk, but it can help us share the costs and recover together.

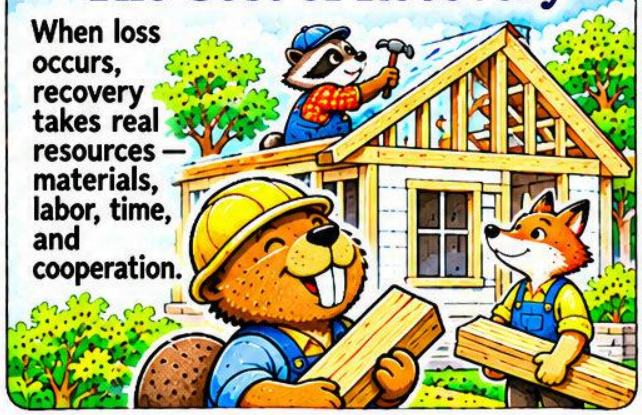
## Life Is Uncertain

Storms, illness, accidents, fires, market swings, and aging are part of life. We can't prevent all risk.



## The Cost of Recovery

When loss occurs, recovery takes real resources — materials, labor, time, and cooperation.



## The Promise of Insurance

We pool resources and make promises (insurance) to help people recover when misfortune strikes.




## Insurance Buys Insurance

Insurance doesn't stand alone. It's part of a chain of coverage, costs, and protection that runs through many parts of the economy.

- Reinsurance (Insures the Insurer)
- Insurance Company (Coverage & Profit)
- Employers (Health, Liability, Workers)
- Hospitals & Providers (Care & Malpractice Insurance)
- Suppliers & Services (Their Insurance & Markups)

## Who Insures the Insurer?

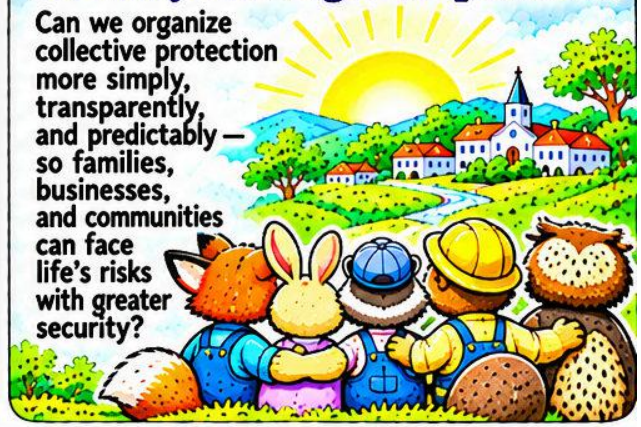
Every layer adds cost, reserves, and profit. So we need to ask:



- ✔ How is risk shared?
- ✔ Who sets the prices?
- ✔ Are reserves enough?
- ✔ How are profits used?
- ✔ Does it serve people or investors?

## Security Through Cooperation

Can we organize collective protection more simply, transparently, and predictably — so families, businesses, and communities can face life's risks with greater security?



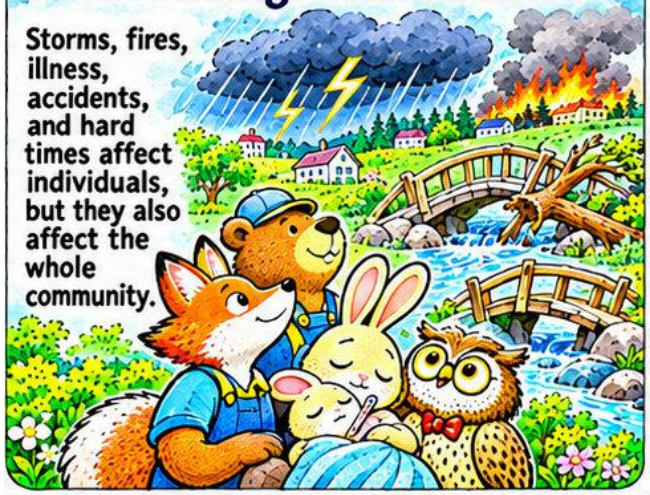
*Insurance cannot eliminate physical risk. It organizes how we share its consequences so people, businesses, and communities can recover and keep going.*

# Government Is Our Collective Insurance

A community can pool its resources to reduce risk, protect shared needs, and help everyone recover together.

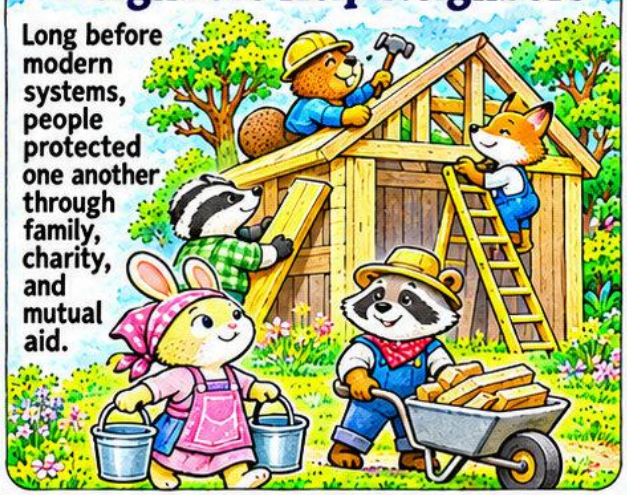
## Life Brings Shared Risks

Storms, fires, illness, accidents, and hard times affect individuals, but they also affect the whole community.



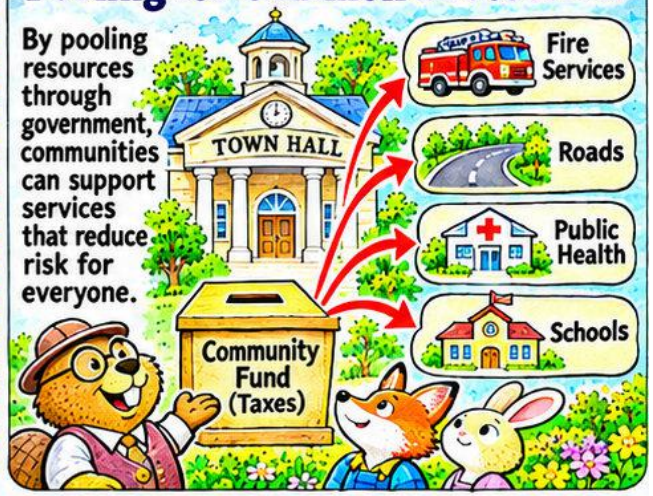
## Neighbors Help Neighbors

Long before modern systems, people protected one another through family, charity, and mutual aid.



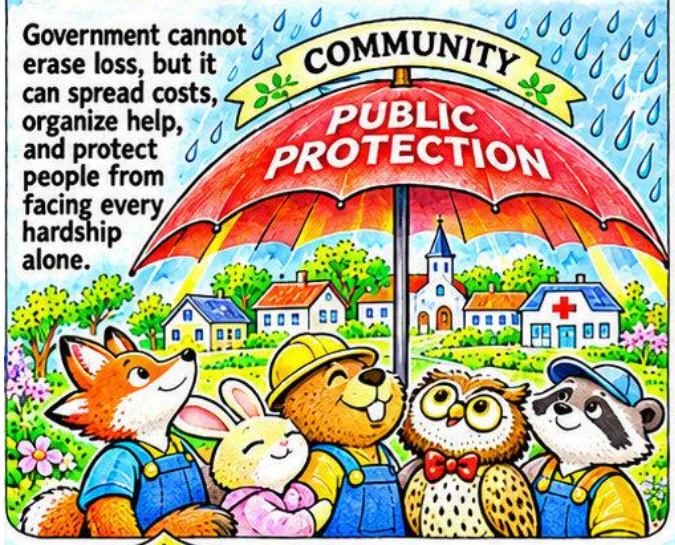
## Pooling for Common Protection

By pooling resources through government, communities can support services that reduce risk for everyone.




## Government as Collective Insurance

Government cannot erase loss, but it can spread costs, organize help, and protect people from facing every hardship alone.



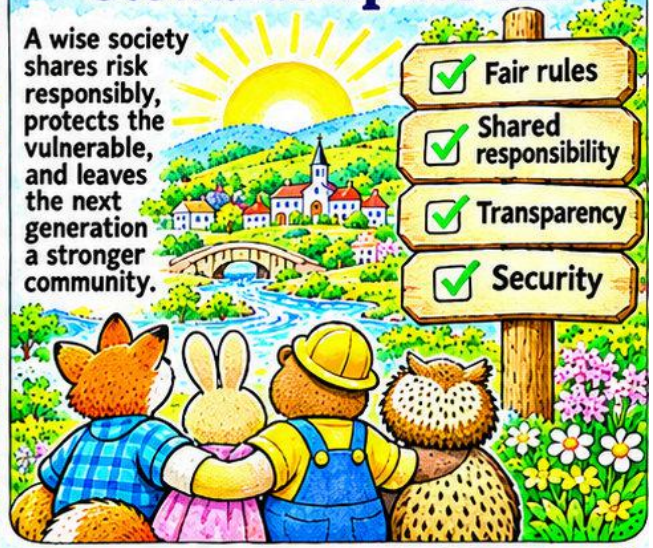

## Layers of Protection

Private insurance and personal savings can help too, but they work best when built on a strong public foundation.




## Stewardship for All

A wise society shares risk responsibly, protects the vulnerable, and leaves the next generation a stronger community.




*A healthy government is not a substitute for community – it is one of the ways a community protects itself together.*

# Are We Insuring or Gambling?

Both deal with uncertainty — but one is meant to reduce insecurity, while the other can create new risks and false hopes.

## Life Has Real Risks

Storms, illness, accidents, crop failure, and old age are real uncertainties. People need ways to prepare for losses they cannot fully avoid.



## Insurance Pools Risk

Insurance works by pooling contributions so that when misfortune strikes one person, the larger group helps cover the loss.



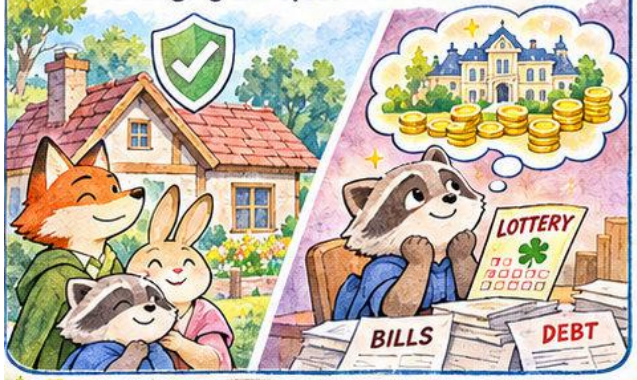

## Gambling Creates a Bet

Gambling does not protect an existing need. It creates a new financial stake in an uncertain outcome, hoping for a lucky win.




## Protection or Escape?

Insurance is meant to help people recover from real hardship. Gambling often sells the dream of escaping hardship without changing the system underneath.




## When Insecurity Grows

People are more likely to gamble when life feels unstable. The less secure society becomes, the more tempting chance can seem.




## What Should Society Encourage?

A healthy society should reduce insecurity through fair wages, shared protection, and stable rules — not depend on chance, false hope, or addictive risk-taking.



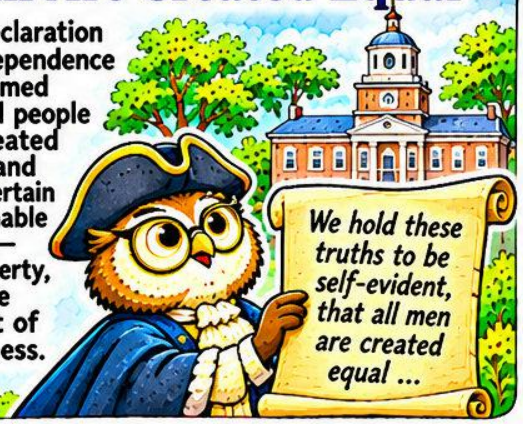

**Insurance helps people face real risks together. Gambling asks people to chase security through chance.**

# Liberty Promised, Justice Delayed

Our nation was founded on a powerful ideal, but it took generations, struggle, and great cost to move closer to it.

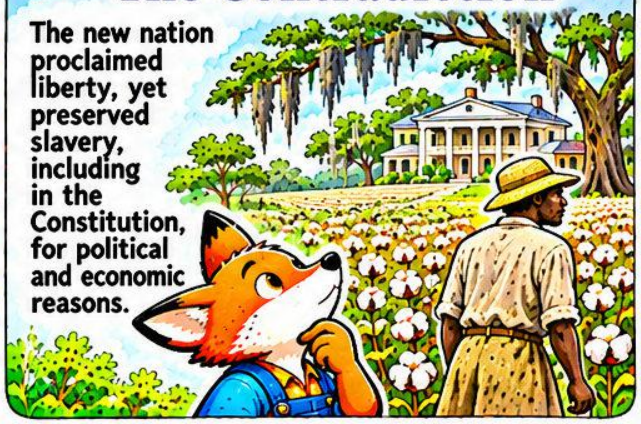
## All Are Created Equal

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that all people are created equal and have certain unalienable rights — life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.




## The Contradiction

The new nation proclaimed liberty, yet preserved slavery, including in the Constitution, for political and economic reasons.



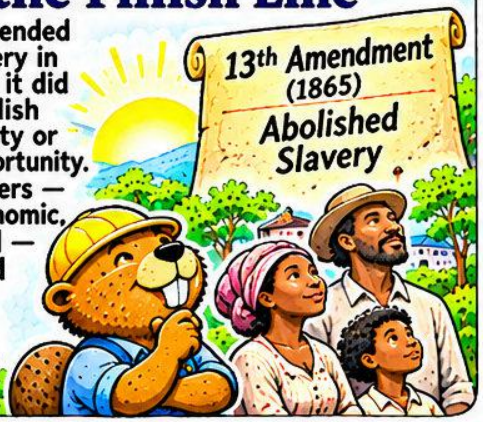
## The Cost of Delay

Injustice endured for generations and ultimately led to a brutal civil war, with immense human suffering and lasting scars on the nation.



## Freedom Is Not the Finish Line

Abolition ended legal slavery in 1865, but it did not establish full equality or equal opportunity. New barriers — legal, economic, and social — continued to limit freedom for many.



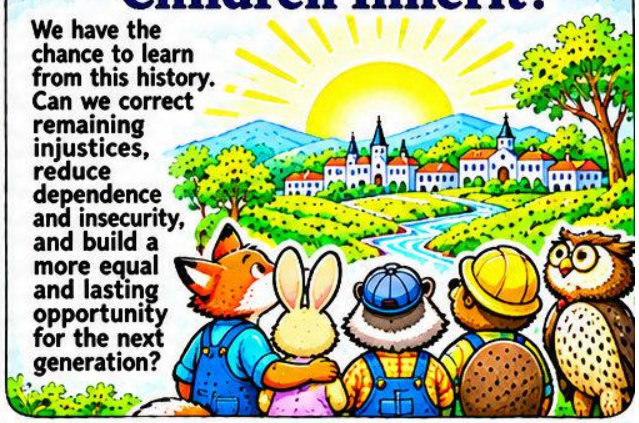

## Economic Freedom Matters.

True freedom also depends on economic security — fair wages, reasonable costs, a chance to build a stable life, and freedom from crushing debt and dependence.




## What Will Our Children Inherit?

We have the chance to learn from this history. Can we correct remaining injustices, reduce dependence and insecurity, and build a more equal and lasting opportunity for the next generation?



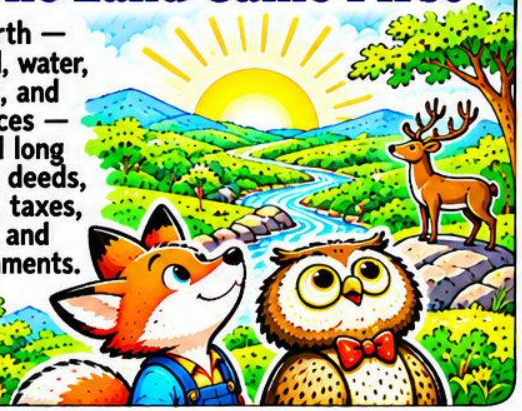
*Declaring an ideal is not the same as living by it. True liberty requires both moral commitment and institutions that make it real for everyone.*

# The First Domino: Abandon Property Tax

A practical, local first step that can set off a positive chain of change for our community.

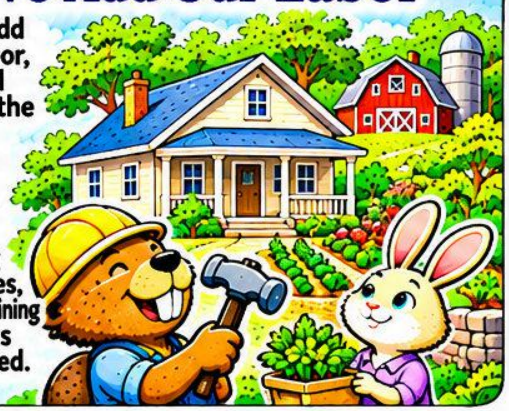
## The Land Came First

The earth — its land, water, forests, and resources — existed long before deeds, prices, taxes, banks, and governments.



## We Add Our Labor

People add their labor, skill, and care to the land — building homes, growing food, creating businesses, and maintaining the things we all need.



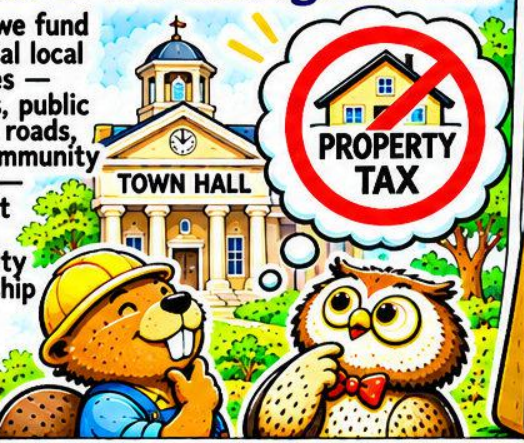
## The Annual Bill

Property owners must keep paying property taxes every year, even when income drops, life changes, or the property produces no income.




## What If We Changed This?

Could we fund essential local services — schools, public safety, roads, and community needs — without taxing property ownership every year?




## The Domino Effect

Changing one major rule can open the door to a healthier and more stable local economy.




## A Community Takes the Lead

Begin locally: bring people together, examine the numbers, design a practical alternative, and ask the state to authorize a test for our town.



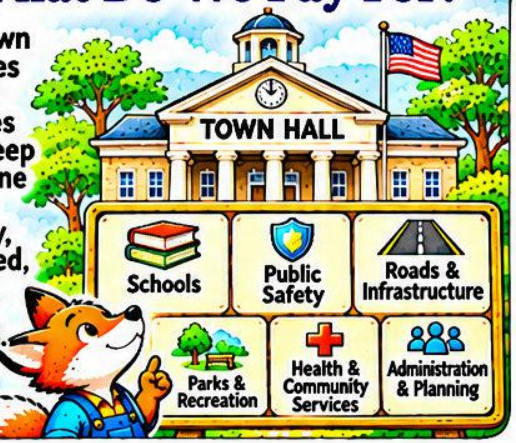

***Change one rule. Examine every consequence.***
***Build a more secure, free, and productive community.***

# Who Pays for the Town?

If we abandon the property tax, how do we fund the essential services our community needs?

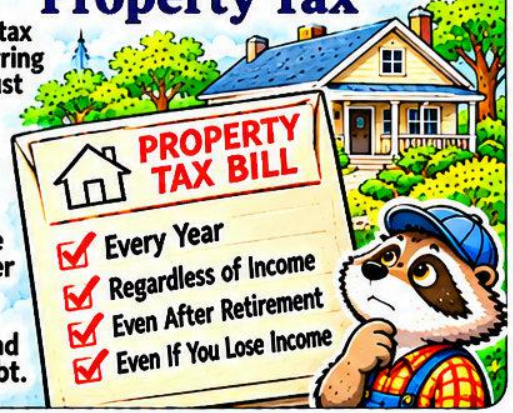
## What Do We Pay For?

Our town provides shared services that keep everyone safe, healthy, educated, mobile, and connected.




## The Problem With Property Tax

Property tax is a recurring charge just to keep what we already own. It creates pressure for higher values, higher costs, and more debt.




## Practical Alternatives

A town can be funded in other ways, such as:




## A Community Budget Plan

A town can build a clear, public plan that matches real needs with stable, transparent revenue—without taxing property ownership.




## A More Stable Foundation

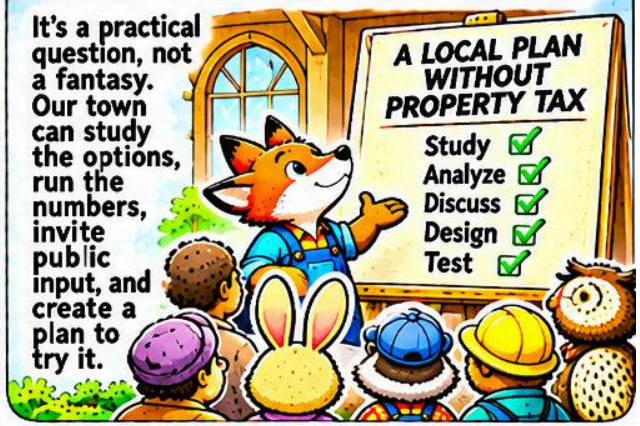
Without property tax, we can:

- Stabilize property values.
- Reduce debt and financial stress.
- Support fair, universal wages and benefits.
- Plan for the long term instead of year-to-year crises.




## Let's Do the Numbers

It's a practical question, not a fantasy. Our town can study the options, run the numbers, invite public input, and create a plan to try it.




***The question is not whether we can fund our town without the property tax, but how to do it in a way that is fair, stable, and lasting.***

# What Is Property Really Worth?

Without a recurring property tax, we can rethink how we value property—more fairly, more stably, and for the long term.

## Value Comes From Real Sources

Property has value because of its natural resources, location, usefulness, our labor, and the community around it—not because it is taxed.

- Land & Location
- Natural Resources
- Buildings & Improvements
- Community & Services
- Our Labor & Care

## The Problem With Today's System

Property values often rise not because of real improvements, but because of taxes, interest, profit-taking, and speculation.

- RISING APPRAISALS
- SPECULATION
- PROFIT-TAKING
- INTEREST
- TAXES

## A New Approach

Consider a fixed or gradually declining valuation based on real use, condition, and long-term community needs—not an annual tax bill.

**A STABLE VALUE SYSTEM**

- Set a Fair Base Value
- Keep It Stable or Gradually Reduce It
- Update Only for Major Changes
- Remove the Annual Property Tax

## How It Changes Things

Removing the property tax can lower costs, reduce pressure to raise prices, make ownership more secure, and keep homes, farms, and businesses in our community.

- More Affordable Ownership
- Greater Long-Term Stability
- Less Debt and Financial Stress
- Support for Local Families
- Stronger Local Economy

## Broader Effects

A stable, non-taxed property system can support fairer wages, more secure pensions and benefits, lower risk, and a healthier, more productive community.

**A STABLE PROPERTY SYSTEM SUPPORTS ...**

- FAIR WAGES
- SECURE PENSIONS
- UNIVERSAL BENEFITS
- MORE FREEDOM
- LESS CRIME & RISK
- A STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMY

## A Foundation for the Future

Property should be a foundation for life—a place to live, work, create, and raise a family—not a recurring revenue source for government.

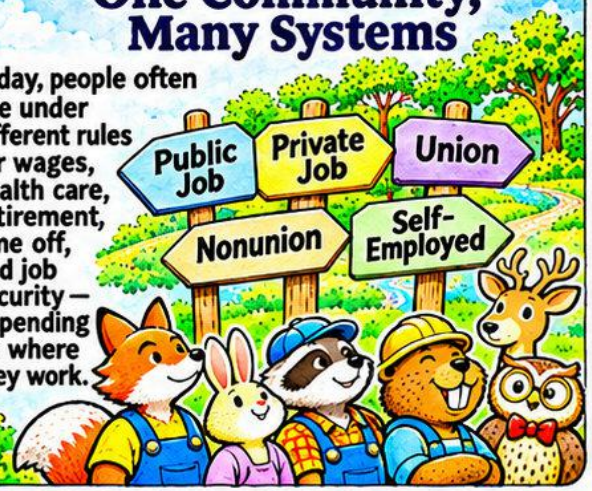
***Property should build security and opportunity, not generate endless revenue. A fair, stable value for property helps people, businesses, and the entire community plan, invest, and thrive.***

# A Universal System

Can wages, benefits, pensions, and insurance follow shared principles that are fair, simple, and stable for everyone?

## One Community, Many Systems

Today, people often live under different rules for wages, health care, retirement, time off, and job security—depending on where they work.




## Why It Feels Unequal

Two people can work equally hard but receive very different pay, benefits, and long-term security. That creates confusion, tension, and a divided community.



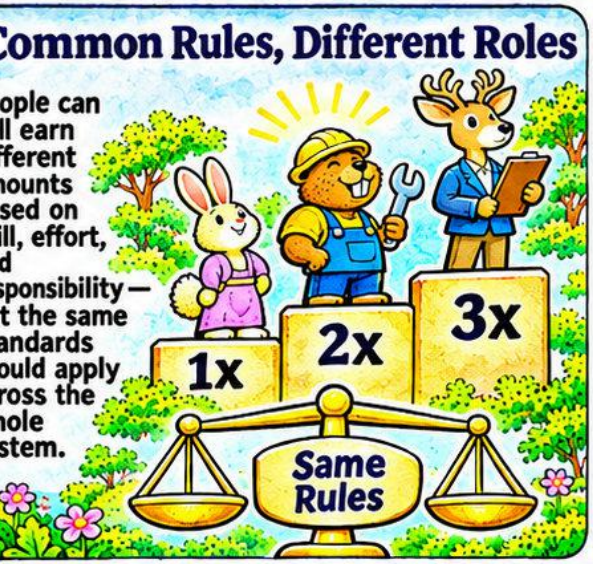

## What Should Be Universal?

A healthier system begins with shared essentials for everyone.



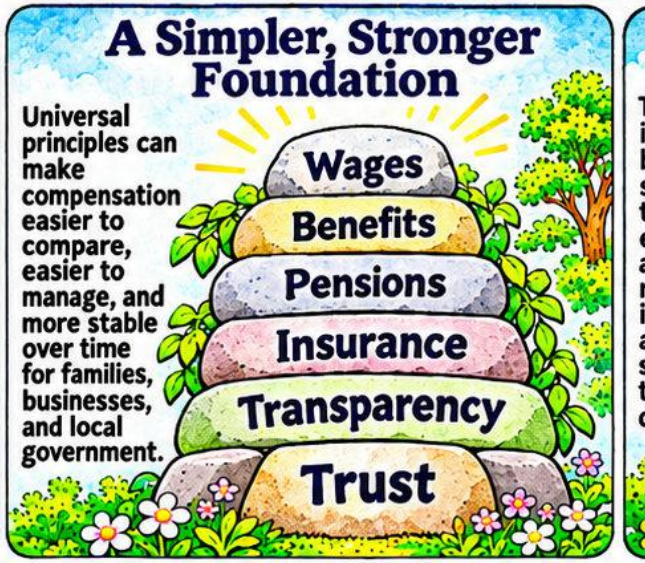

## Common Rules, Different Roles

People can still earn different amounts based on skill, effort, and responsibility—but the same standards should apply across the whole system.



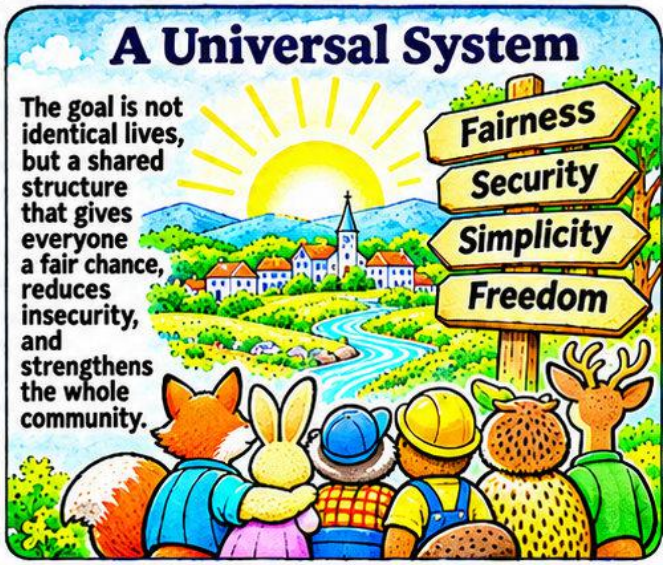

## A Simpler, Stronger Foundation

Universal principles can make compensation easier to compare, easier to manage, and more stable over time for families, businesses, and local government.




## A Universal System

The goal is not identical lives, but a shared structure that gives everyone a fair chance, reduces insecurity, and strengthens the whole community.



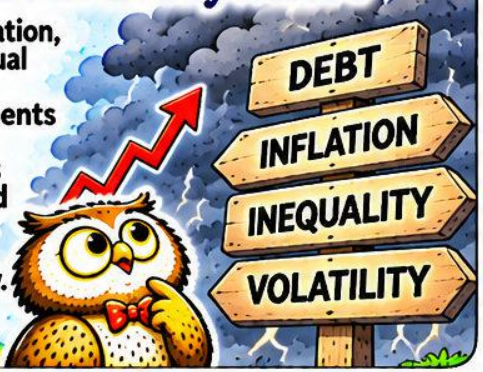

*When the same principles apply to everyone, society becomes easier to understand, fairer to navigate, and stronger for the next generation.*

# The Town as a Financial Community

A town cannot isolate itself from the economy, but it can change how its own money is managed.

## The Problem Comes From Everywhere

Debt, inflation, and unequal financial arrangements create pressures inside and outside our community.



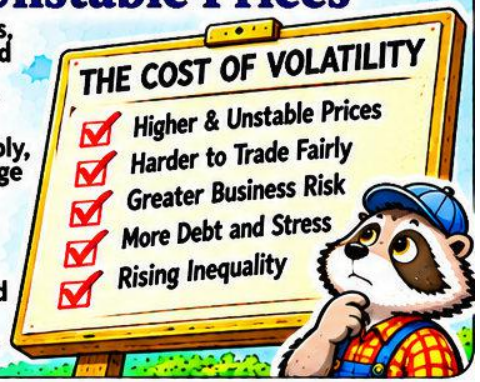

## No Town Is an Island

Every community depends on trade—for goods, materials, energy, food, services, and specialized work—from other towns, states, and nations.




## The Problem With Unstable Prices

When prices, interest, and financial obligations change unpredictably, fair exchange becomes harder to sustain, planning is risky, and everyone pays more.




## A Common Wage and Benefit Standard

A universal system with tight wage ranges and consistent benefits can reduce inequality, control costs, and create more stability and fairness for everyone.




## A Different Kind of Local Finance

A community financial institution (e.g., a municipal CDFI or town bank) can support real needs without fueling debt and inflation.




## Trade Fairly With the World

A town can establish sound internal practices — stable costs, fair compensation, and transparent finance — while trading with outside businesses and communities and encouraging others to adopt similar standards.



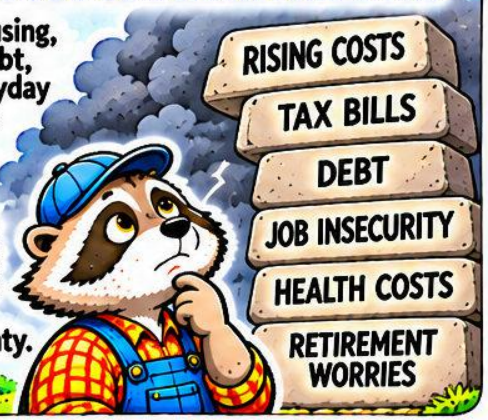

***We cannot control the entire economy from one town. But we can begin building a system of stable prices, fair compensation, manageable debt, and healthy exchange— and demonstrate how it works.***

# From Financial Fear to Freedom

A stable, fair, and locally designed system can reduce risk and stress, create opportunity, and give people more freedom to live well.

## The Cost of Financial Fear

When housing, taxes, debt, and everyday costs are always rising, people live with constant pressure and uncertainty.




## A More Stable Foundation

Eliminating the property tax and redesigning local finance can create a more predictable and secure environment for families, workers, and businesses.



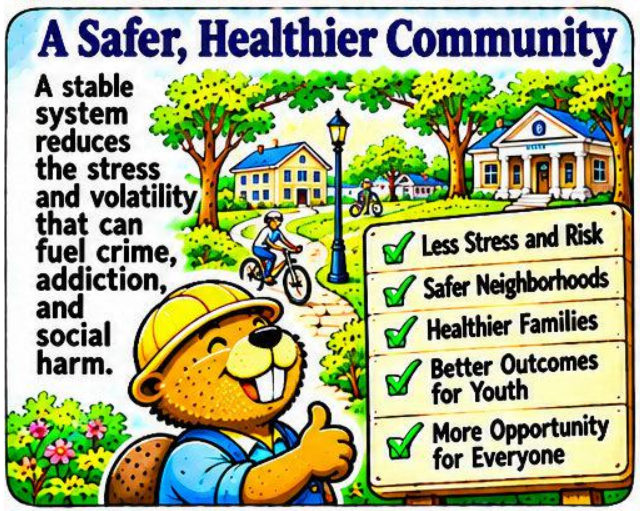

## More Freedom in Daily Life

With less financial pressure, people can focus on what really matters—family, health, education, work, and community.



## A Safer, Healthier Community

A stable system reduces the stress and volatility that can fuel crime, addiction, and social harm.



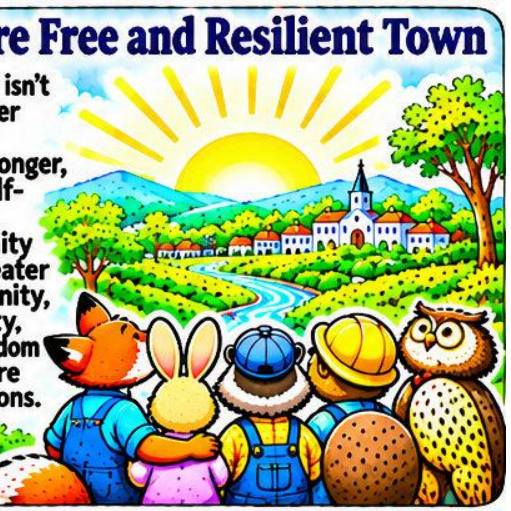

## The Freedom to Accomplish

When basic costs are stable and predictable, people and the town can plan for the long term and get the right things done.




## A More Free and Resilient Town

The goal isn't just lower costs — it's a stronger, more self-reliant community with greater opportunity, creativity, and freedom for future generations.



***Stability turns fear into freedom — giving people the time, security, and confidence to build a healthier, stronger, and more hopeful community.***

# Let One Community Try

A practical test in one town can show what works, what needs improvement, and what is possible.

## A Focused Local Plan

Start with clear, practical changes that can be tested in one community with transparency, public input, and measurable results.

**A TOWN PILOT PLAN**

- Abandon Property Tax
- New Local Revenue Plan
- Stable Property Values
- Universal Wages & Benefits
- Local Financial Institution
- Measures & Oversight

## Design, Test, and Measure

Work together to design the system, run it for a set period, and measure the results openly and honestly.

**A REAL-WORLD TEST**

- Design the Details
- Put It Into Practice
- Track the Results
- Evaluate the Impact
- Adjust and Improve

## What Should We Measure?

Use clear, simple measures to see if the changes create a more stable, fair, and productive community.

**KEY MEASURES**

- Cost of Living & Prices
- Wages & Benefit Range
- Property Values (Stable)
- Debt and Financial Risk
- Public Services & Quality
- Local Jobs & Investment

## Expected Benefits

A successful test could show whether these changes can deliver real gains for people, businesses, and the entire community.

- Lower and More Stable Costs
- Fair, Predictable Compensation
- Less Debt and Financial Stress
- A Healthier Local Economy
- Greater Security and Opportunity
- A More Cooperative Community

## Work With the State

A town can develop a detailed proposal, build local support, and partner with state officials to obtain the necessary authority for a pilot program.



## A Model Others Can Use

If it works, the approach can be refined, shared, and adapted by other towns across Massachusetts and beyond.



***A real experiment. Real numbers. Real results.***

***Let one community try — and see what a more stable, fair, and free economy can do.***

# Imagine a Debt-Free Town

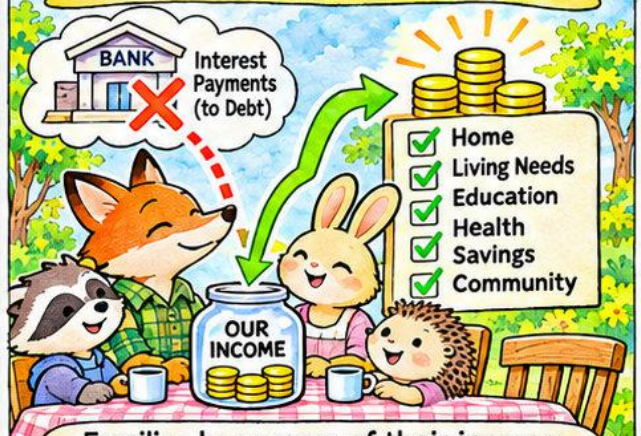
What if every home were owner-occupied, secure, and free of debt?

## Homes Truly Owned




Owner-occupied homes without mortgage debt.

## Less Lost to Interest



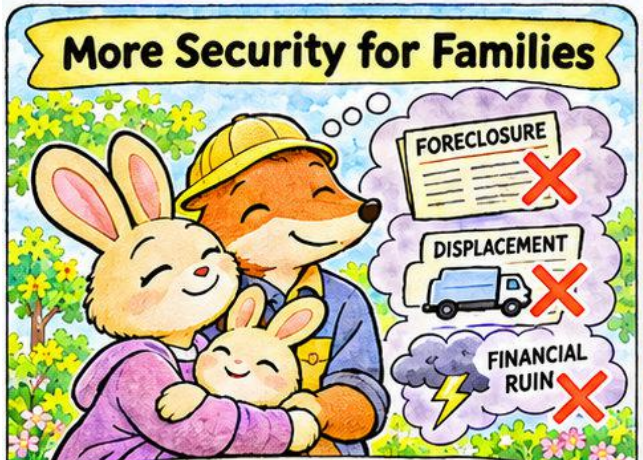

Families keep more of their income because less money flows away to debt service.

## Stable Property Values




Homes are valued for use, condition, and community, not constant escalation.

## More Security for Families




Less fear of foreclosure, displacement, or sudden financial ruin.

## Stronger Neighborhoods




More local care, long-term planning, and community pride.

## A More Free Community



People have more time, stability, and freedom to build, repair, teach, and cooperate.

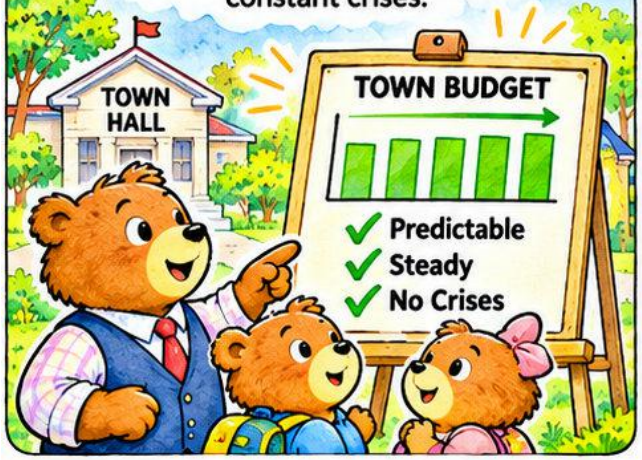
**When homes are debt-free and secure, people can spend less energy surviving and more energy building a healthy community.**

# Imagine a Stable Town Budget

What if local government could plan steadily, staff properly, and maintain what the town needs?

## Stable From Year to Year

A predictable budget instead of constant crises.




## Properly Staffed Departments

Schools, public works, public safety, and administration have the people they need.




## Maintain Roads and Buildings

Steady upkeep instead of costly delay and deterioration.




## Plan Ahead

Long-term budgeting, equipment replacement, and capital planning become possible.




## Better Service for Everyone

Residents receive dependable public services and clearer expectations.




## A Town That Can Accomplish What Matters

The town can focus on real work instead of constant financial stress.




**A stable budget turns local government from year-to-year crisis management into steady public stewardship.**

# Imagine a World Without Financial Fear

What could life look like if prices were stable, basic needs were secure, and people were free to plan for the future?

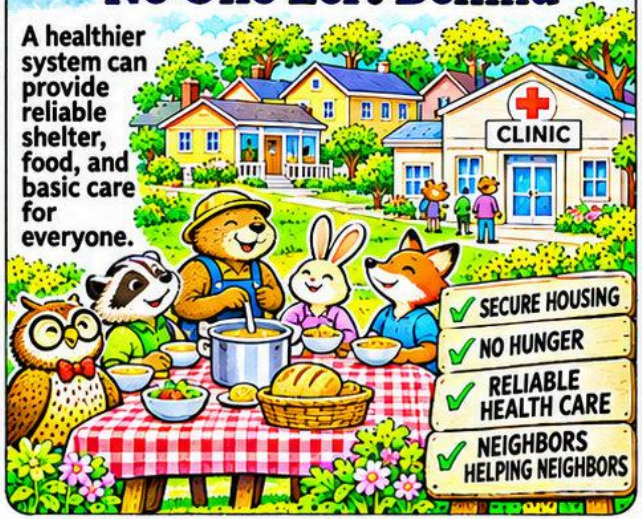
## Businesses That Thrive

Businesses can succeed when prices are stable and workers and customers are secure.



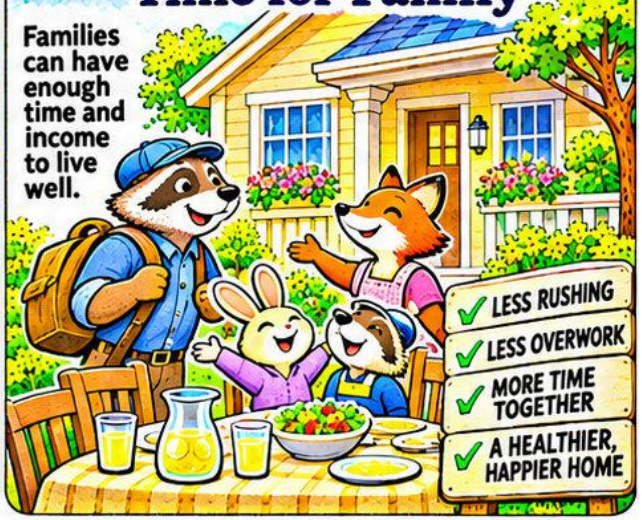

## No One Left Behind

A healthier system can provide reliable shelter, food, and basic care for everyone.



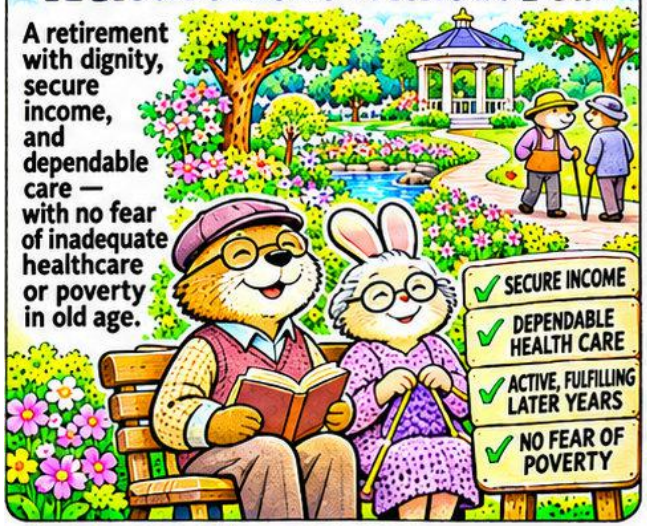

## Time for Family

Families can have enough time and income to live well.



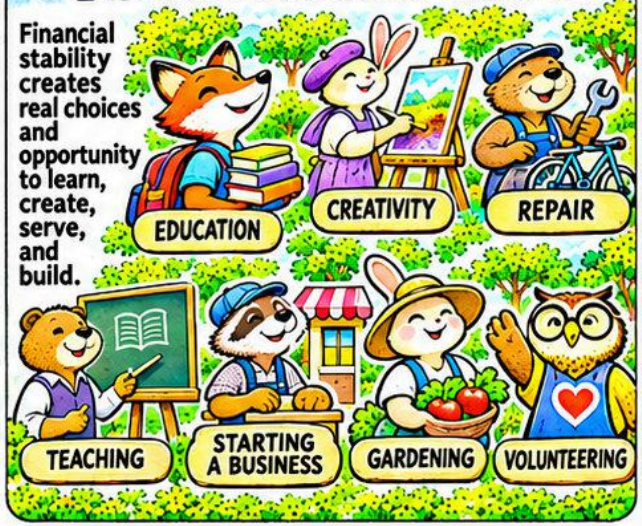

## A Retirement Without Fear

A retirement with dignity, secure income, and dependable care — with no fear of inadequate healthcare or poverty in old age.



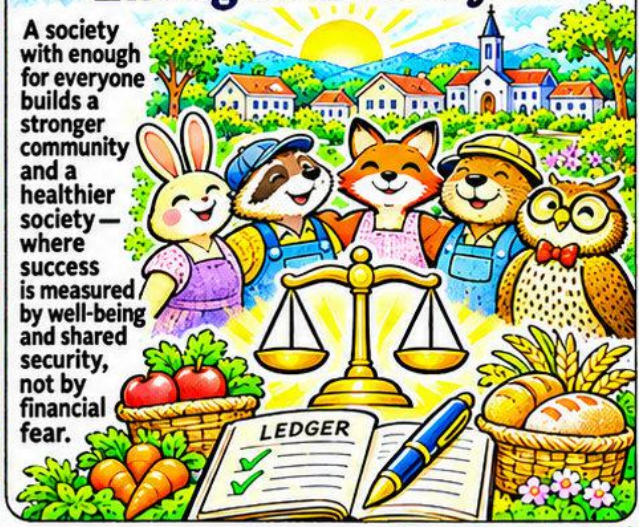

## The Freedom to Choose

Financial stability creates real choices and opportunity to learn, create, serve, and build.




## Enough for Everyone

A society with enough for everyone builds a stronger community and a healthier society — where success is measured by well-being and shared security, not by financial fear.




*Imagine a society where people spend less time worrying about money and more time enjoying life.*

# Why Wealth Keeps Rising to the Top

It isn't mainly about good or bad people — it's about how the financial rules work.

## 1. It Starts With a Fair Exchange

A simple exchange is equal: I give you something of value, and you give me the same in return.




## 2. Percentages Make It Grow

Add a percentage at each step — a markup, a fee, a return, or interest — and the total cost grows larger and larger.

- Retailer +50% = $3.38
- Wholesaler +50% = $2.25
- Manufacturer +50% = $1.50
- Raw Material = $1.00

## 3. Ownership and Interest Keep Compounding

Profits, dividends, interest, and rising asset values add more income to those who already own the most — so their wealth grows faster over time.

- ✓ Profits
- ✓ Interest
- ✓ Dividends
- ✓ Asset Gains




## 4. The Flows Become Unequal

Over time, more of the total income flows to owners of assets, while a smaller share goes to wages and work.




## 5. The Results Add Up

The combined effect is higher prices (inflation), more debt, wider inequality, and greater economic volatility for families, businesses, and the taxpayer.

- INFLATION (RISING PRICES)
- DEBT (HIGHER OBLIGATIONS)
- INEQUALITY (WIDER GAPS)
- VOLATILITY (BOOMS & BUSTS)



## 6. Can We Change the Arithmetic?

Yes. We can write different numbers — narrower wage ranges, reasonable and stable markups, low-cost credit, and rules that keep every ledger healthy.

### A MORE BALANCED SYSTEM

- ✓ Stable Prices
- ✓ Manageable Debt
- ✓ Fair Compensation (e.g., 3:1, with a transition)
- ✓ Productive Investment
- ✓ Shared and Sustainable Growth



***Inequality is not inevitable, and it is not solved by class warfare.***

***We can examine the rules, change the arithmetic, and build a more balanced economy.***

# Class Warfare Is Not the Answer

Blame divides. Understanding unites. The real problem isn't people — it's the system.

## 1. The Blame Game

Workers blame owners. Owners blame government. Citizens blame bankers. Everyone thinks the other side is the problem.




## 2. Everyone Defends Their Ledger

Each group sees its own financial interests as reasonable, necessary, and fair.




## 3. A Cycle of Conflict

Blame leads to anger. Anger fuels political division. Division creates extreme policies. And the cycle continues.




## 4. Look Beneath the Conflict

The conflict isn't about who is good or bad. It's about financial arrangements that create competing pressures, unequal risks, and unequal rewards.




## 5. Change the Rules

Examine wages, prices, profit, interest, and obligations together.

Rebalance the system so it works for everyone, not just a few.




## 6. Cooperation Instead of Conflict

Different people.
Different interests.
The same goal:
A stable economy, healthy communities, and a fair chance for everyone.





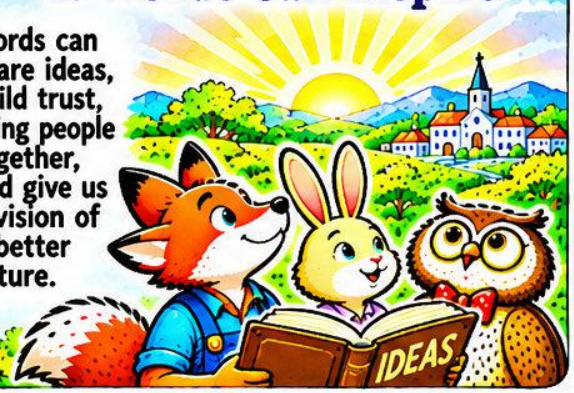

***Blame is not analysis.***
***Understanding makes peaceful reform possible.***

# The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword

*The real power to shape our lives often comes not from force, but from ideas, words, and numbers.*

## 1. Words Can Inspire

Words can share ideas, build trust, bring people together, and give us a vision of a better future.




## 2. Numbers Can Command

Numbers set wages, prices, profits, interest, taxes, and debt. They determine who pays, who gains, and who bears the risk.




## 3. The Hidden Power of Percentages

A percentage seems small at first, but when it is added again and again — through markups, interest, and fees — it grows much larger over time.




## 4. The Cost of Wrong Calculations

When we write the wrong numbers into the system, we can create inflation, excessive debt, instability, and growing inequality — without ever using force.



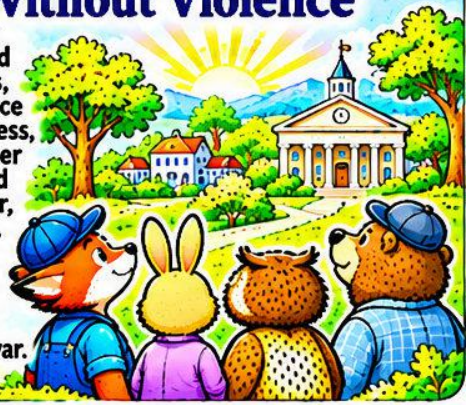

## 5. Writing Different Numbers

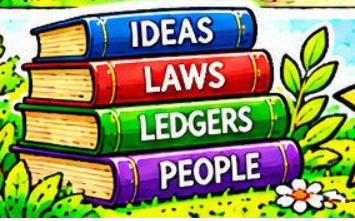
We can write a different set of numbers — narrower wage ranges, stable prices, low-cost credit, and manageable debt — so that every ledger can be healthy.




## 6. Changing Lives Without Violence

By changing the rules and the numbers, we can reduce financial stress, create greater security, and build a fairer, more stable, and more cooperative society — without conflict or war.






***We can change the world with a pen — but first we must understand what we are writing.***

# Revolution Begins Between Our Ears

Lasting change doesn't start with protests or force, but with new ideas, better understanding, and a shared vision.

## 1. Every Change Begins as an Idea

Someone first imagines that things could be different — a fairer, more stable, and more humane way of living.



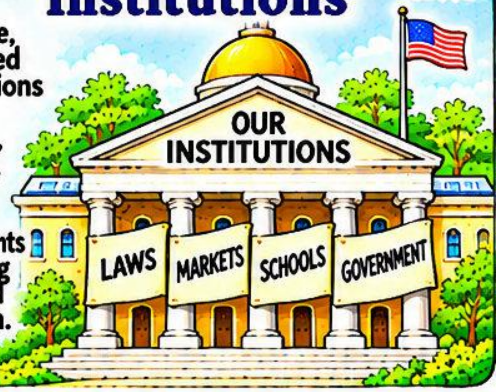

## 2. Ideas Become Habits

We repeat what we believe — in our homes, schools, businesses, and communities — until it seems normal.



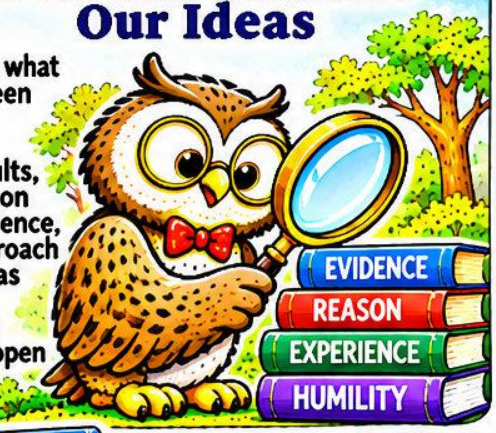

## 3. Habits Become Institutions

Over time, our shared assumptions shape our laws, markets, schools, and governments — building the world we live in.




## 4. We Can Examine Our Ideas

We can question what we've been taught, look at real results, use reason and evidence, and approach new ideas with humility and an open mind.




## 5. A Shared Vision Becomes Action

When enough people share a better vision, they can organize, cooperate, experiment, and make real, practical changes that work.



## 6. The Future Is Ours to Build

We can pass along better knowledge, better practices, and a healthier society — leaving a stronger foundation for the next generation.





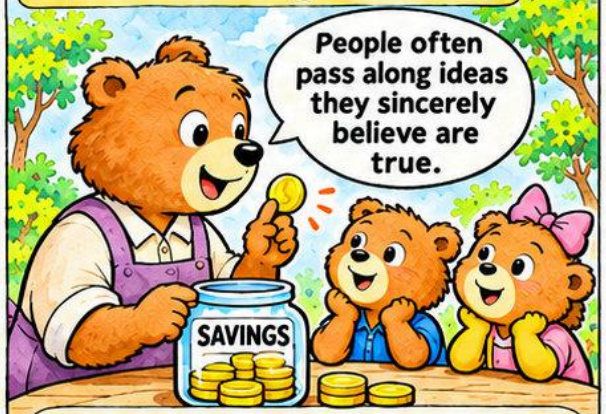

***Revolution begins between our ears.***

***What we imagine today can become the world we build tomorrow.***

# The Courage to Challenge What We Were Taught

Good people can pass along false ideas. Wisdom begins when we examine them, tell the truth, and change course.

## Well-Meaning Teachers



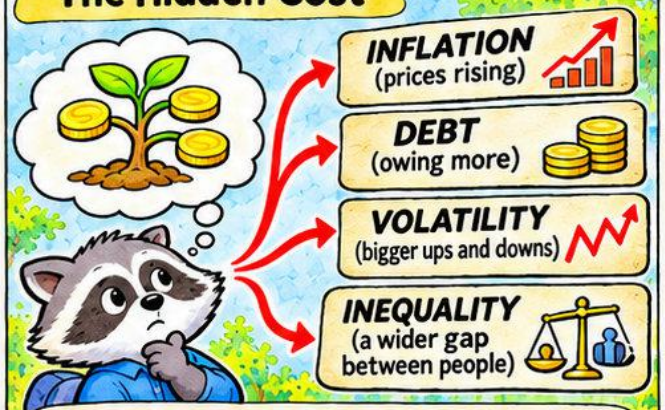

We are often taught by caring people who mean well.

## False Ideas Can Last for Centuries




Populations can believe mistaken ideas for generations.

## The Hidden Cost




A false idea about money can produce destructive real-world consequences even when taught innocently.

## Democracy Is for Reform




We can correct inherited mistakes through discussion, truth, and peaceful change.

## Truth Still Matters



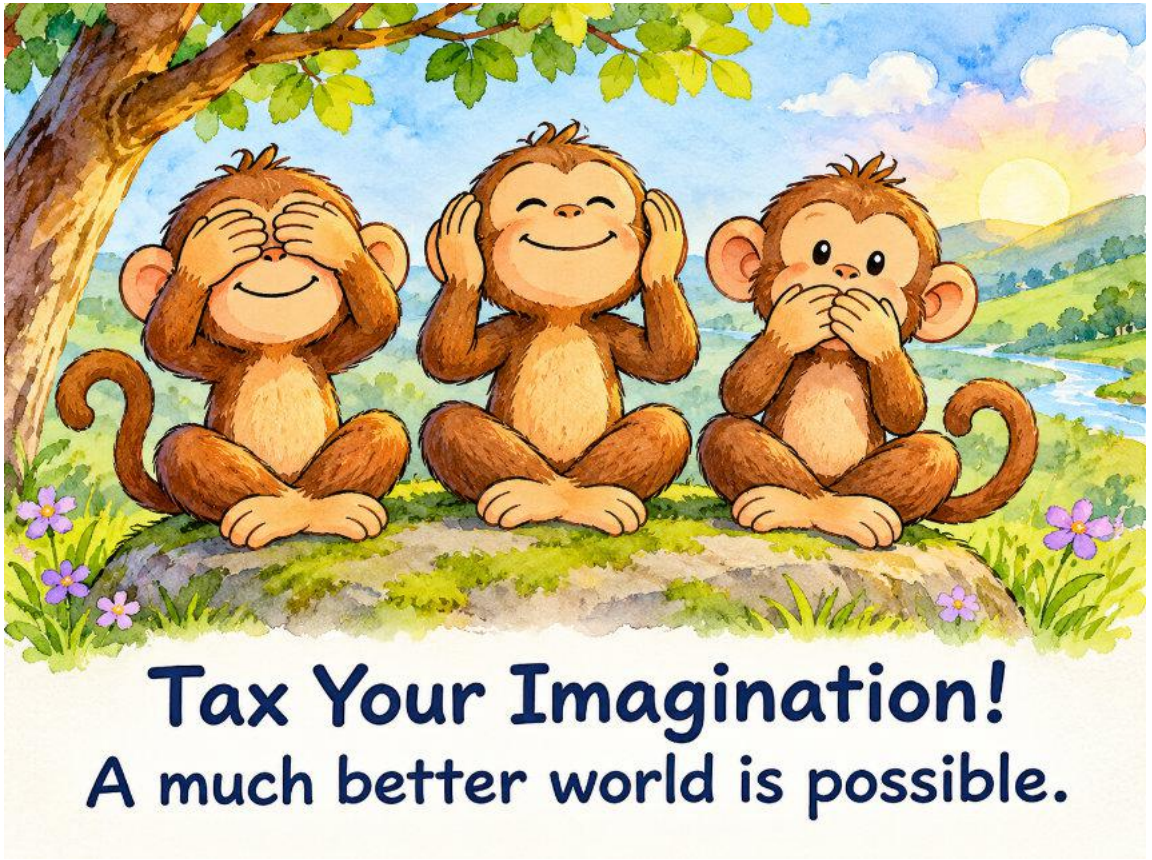

Industrialized war will not make 2 + 2 = 5.

## Begin With One Clear Step




Let's start by abandoning property tax for owner-occupied residential homes.

False ideas can rule for centuries. Truth still matters. Courageous reform begins when we change what we count — and how we live.


Tax Your Imagination!
A much better world is possible.