

Earth Dividend as a Synthesis



In the module [Each of Us and All of Us](#), we learned the hazards of the “each of us” and “all of us” distributions. [The Earth Dividend](#) appears to be a compromise between these hazardous forms of distribution. It is a synthesis.

Consider that police protection is a public good. Police protection benefits the industrialist qualitatively more than the pauper. Distribution of only \$33/month/person for this protection is a godsend to the retail store owner. It is irrelevant or worse to the pauper.

The pauper and their children could spend that money on food and shelter. Nothing is more regressive than a head tax that taxes the store owner and the pauper 100% of their equal per capita ground rent distributions (the same dollar amount) for police protection.

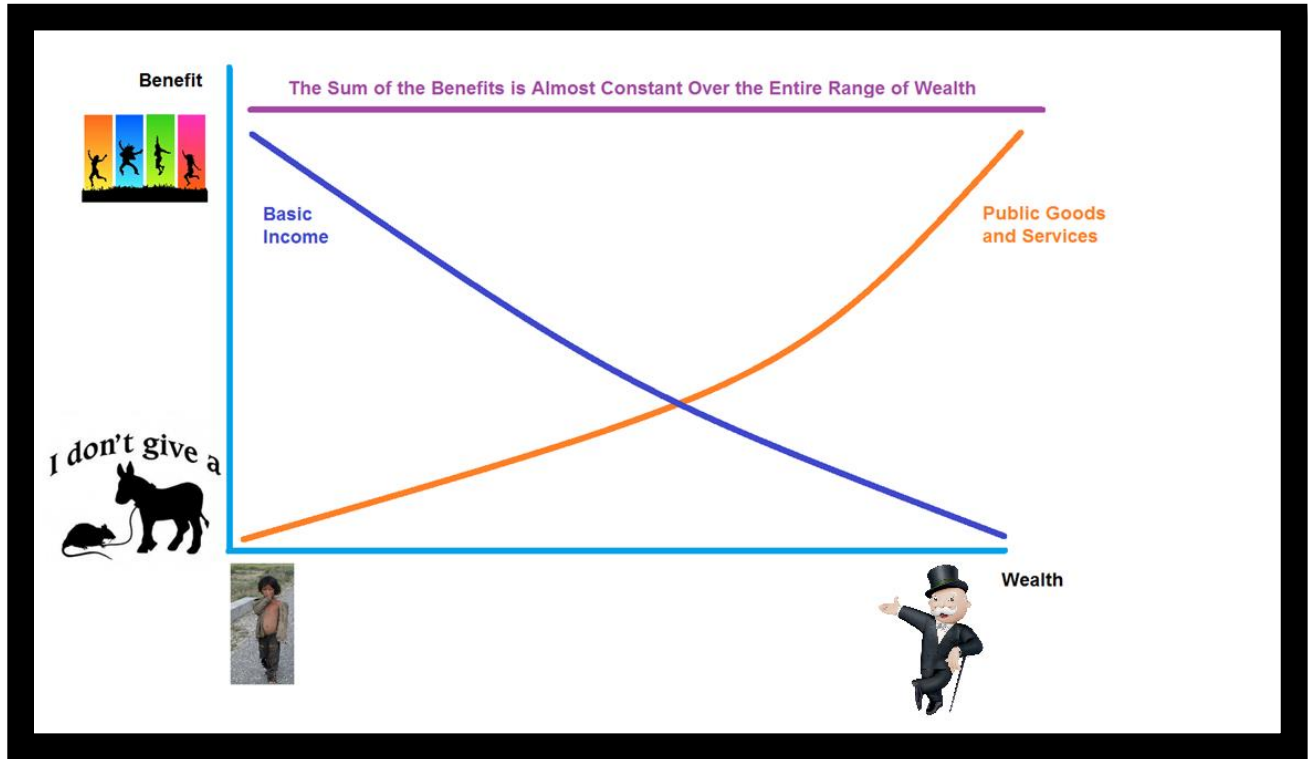
Consider that nutritious food, warm and safe shelter, cash, and basic medical care are private goods. It would be a godsend if the pauper received \$244/month for food. It would be irrelevant if the wealthy retail owner received \$244/month for food. There is nothing more progressive than this equal per capita distribution for necessities.

Consider sodium, a toxic, corrosive metal, fatal if ingested, and chlorine, a noxious, poisonous gas. These are analogous to the “each of us” and “all of us” distributions in chemistry. By themselves, they are dangerous. Combine them, and we have a necessary component of life: sodium chloride or table salt.

This process in chemistry, philosophy, and political economy is called synthesis. The synthesis of “each of us” and “all of us” combine to form something totally different and qualitatively superior to both.

The answer lies in neutralization. A head tax and a personal distribution cancel each other out. They detoxify each other. One is feudalism remedied by a tax. The other is barbarism remedied by an entitlement. The horrors of feudalism and barbarism – are neutralized. The problems of taxes and entitlements – are neutralized. Progressive and regressive distributions – neutralized. This synthesis can be considered a subset of the [synthesis of objectivism and subjectivism](#).

Not only have we neutralized the progressive/regressive toxicity for the prince and the pauper, but for every income class in between. For instance, as one's wealth increases, the food distribution becomes less and less significant, while police protection becomes increasingly necessary.



Social Benefits of the Synthesis

Each per capita set of benefits is called an Earth Dividend. The Earth Dividend has no stigma, propensity for class warfare, or moral hazards. Warren Buffet receives the same allocation for food as the street peddler. A family of 10 receives ten times the food distribution as a family of one.

Economies of scale encourage family and [voluntary collectives](#). Public services, once irrelevant to the lower classes, become highly valuable. Police and firefighters are paid per life, not per property. Their priorities are apt to change.

There could be a genuine feeling of ownership as distributions, including those for public services, move with the person. Each person carries a portfolio of allocations for food, housing, police, firefighting, streets, sanitation, and so on (the Earth Dividend).

Strangers are welcomed into families and collectives because of the economies of scale they bring for food and housing. Strangers are welcomed into communities because of the economies of scale they bring to public services.

This is the beginning of an epoch where others genuinely value people, a world that welcomes refugees with open arms.

When public goods and services are paid per person, the trend toward mixed-use, family businesses, collectives, and mutual organizations and a general integration of home and work is accelerated.

Voluntary Collectivism and New Enterprise
Economies of scale encourage voluntary collectivism.
Collectivism leads to new divisions of labor.
Divisions of labor lead to new enterprises.
Due to the integration of home care, child care, and business matters, a collective enterprise leads to maximum efficiency and full employment.
Due to the Earth Dividend, voluntary collectives are hypercompetitive with legacy corporations.

What is the desired ratio of our two compounds: “Each of us” and “All of us”? An Earth Dividend where a personal distribution cancels every head tax is essential. That is, the allocation for private goods should be at least as large as the distribution for public goods and services. Although a 50/50 Earth Dividend split is acceptable, a bias favoring personal distributions is preferable.

There is an asymmetry between the extremes of using all the Earth Dividend for public services and distributing all the Earth Dividend to each of us. Using the dividend for public services constitutes a head tax. It drives people experiencing poverty from the city center to the margin, leading to barbarism.

As personal distributions are added, the adverse effects of public distributions are lessened quantitatively. The rate at which people are pushed to the margin decreases as individual distributions increase. Once the adverse effects of public distributions have been neutralized with personal distributions, a lack of resources might still push people experiencing poverty toward marginal land.

As personal distributions exceed the head tax, the rate at which people are pushed to the margin continues to slow until the housing distribution is sufficient to afford a minimally efficient, warm, and safe dwelling near the city center.

Contrast this with using the dividend only for personal distributions. This forces the poor to purchase protection and other services from wealthy feudal lords.

Slowly increasing distributions for public services does not lessen feudalism quantitatively. Only when a critical juncture is passed where city protection and sanitation services are sufficient for people to go off on their own does the feudal lord's economic hold end. **Additional distributions for public services do nothing to change that relationship.**

Head taxes should never exceed personal distributions, but no reverse constraint exists. If education is treated as a public service, then with arbitrary deference to the oft-used numbers of 33% and 67%, the ratio of personal distributions to public distributions should not exceed 2-1.

A 2-1 ratio is equitable to both the wealthy and poor. Consider that personal distributions create demand for necessities. Those who least need individual distributions profit most from the created demand.

The head tax/entitlement mix is mapped to both feudalism and barbarism:

