

# JUSTICE

## Lecture 10 – Against Redistribution

1. Last time:
  - a. The rejection of utilitarianism as a *consequentialist* theory of morality, justice and rights
  - b. The non-utilitarian account of rights: rights as *constraints* on the pursuit of worthy goals
  - c. The fundamental right not to be subjected to force and aggression (e.g. to benefit others)
2. Context for today's discussion
  - a. Large and growing economic inequalities in America and other countries
  - b. Disputes about the justice of economic inequalities
3. Utilitarianism supports redistributive taxation in the direction of more equality
  - a. Because of the declining marginal utility of wealth
  - b. So long as redistributive taxation does not reduce aggregate economic output/growth
4. Nozick's two central claims in *Anarchy, State and Utopia*
  - a. The minimal state is the most extensive state that can be justified
  - b. Any state more extensive than the minimal state violates people's rights
5. Nozick's argument against a more extensive, redistributive state
  - a. Arguments in favor of a redistributive state typically invoke some "patterned" principle
  - b. But all such principles have unacceptable implications (they require violating people's rights)
6. Nozick's two main arguments for why all patterned principles are unacceptable
  - a. Maintaining a pattern requires continual interference with people's liberty to do what they please with what they own
  - b. Maintaining a pattern requires redistributive taxation of income from labor, but taxation income from labor is on a par with forced labor: it gives others a property right in you, your actions, and your labor

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