

Prevents Production of Resources (slows the economy):

Many argue that by attacking the practice of *residential rent*, one is therefore attacking *business* (or that they are somehow *anti-business*) – however business is centered around:

- (a) the production of resources (gross domestic product), and
- (b) trading those resources internationally in exchange for products not produced domestically (commerce).

Renters, however, are generally *prevented from producing their own resources* (e.g. growing crops). Instead we work 40+ hrs/week producing resources on behalf of the owner(s) of the businesses we work for. The *owner of the business* is the one producing the product from which they sell and earn a profit. Renters do not have a place to legally grow their own food and produce resources they themselves can sell. They are prevented from participating because there is nowhere for them to legally do so. Instead they choose the only “option” we have: find an apartment to rent.

Rent, however, does not contribute to the gross domestic product of a nation. There is no “production of resources” via the exorbitant “extraction of wealth” from the general populace in this manner each month. “Apartment rent” is not a product which can be traded overseas. Instead the practice keeps most citizens from producing resources and getting ahead (thereby contributing to the economy) and instead it robs them of half their paycheck.² Americans are losing ~ half their income to pay for something that *should* be seen as a basic right – a place to lay your head down at night without owing anyone else for doing so.

What is Money? (depends on which class you are in)

Money, for the average worker, is a measurement of “hours of labor performed”. When minimum wage is \$10/hour, for instance, a ten dollar bill represents one hour of labor. So for a \$600/month rental the \$600 represents “60 hours of labor”. 60 hours of labor each month are performed *for* the landlord, *by* each tenant. When we look at rent in this way, it makes one wonder, “Is it fair that I have to perform 60 hours of labor each month so that this other person will let me lay my head down at night?” Why do some people get to extract all this labor while the rest of us are chained to it?

Money, for the landlord, is not a measurement of “hours of labor performed”. It is an extraction of “hours of labor” someone else performed. Did the landlord earn it themselves? No. They were given unfair advantage/privilege over others. Landlords had the opportunity to own “more than one residence” while others were not afforded “one for themselves”. Landlords are in a separate class in this very apparent class system.

² **“One in every four renting households spends at least 50 cents of every dollar they earn on rent.”** 2013 analysis from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies:
<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2015/08/13/3691430/zillow-median-renter-report/>

Debunking Fallacy; most landlords did not “save up and buy land”:

Many were born into a “landed family” (you can look up the term “landed” in any law dictionary), and much of that real estate was never purchased: many allotments were taken for free during an era where the U.S. government procured property deeds to anyone who staked their claim (after Native Americans were removed). Many large farms were never purchased. Hundreds of acres were handed down through the family after the original claim was staked. For generations of people alive today you were either

- (a) born into a landed family or
- (b) born into a landless family.

Some Americans have “hundreds of acres” while most do not have one damn acre.

If your family rents out to tenants, your family has a significant economic advantage/privilege over families you extract from. If you extract from multiple families via multiple residential units, your family has exponential advantage.

If you are born into a renting family, ~half your family's income is taken away each month. Do you wish your family was taking half the income from another family instead of having half your income taken away? *Or* would you rather we dissolve this antiquated power structure and simply “guarantee housing” to people? Although many will say this is not feasible, if we set forth an en masse campaign to help people “become responsible homeowners”, we can lift people out of poverty to create a thriving, production-based economy wherein each family keeps what they earn.

Most large rental units were purchased via bank loans; the loan was given to the applicant based on their credit score and their *copy/paste business plan* which, compared to many businesses, quickly pays itself off before accumulating vast sums of monthly income for the owner(s).

Many renters, however, are unable to qualify for such an exorbitant loan. Because landlords are not required to report rental payments to the credit bureau, most renters cannot qualify for a home loan (*some* will eventually). Had all their rental payments been reported since they were 18 years old, they would certainly qualify! It is not only ironic – it is a disparity that landlords do credit checks before they will rent to tenants, however they do not report rental payments to the credit bureau to help renters build credit. Because renters are not given the option to pay toward ownership, their options are (a) “continue renting” *or* (b) become homeless – so they continue *running the treadmill* while having half their income *sucked out* as rent.

“But landlords have to pay property taxes!”

Landlords do not pay property taxes. Their tenants pay the property taxes. Landlords take the rent each month and set aside a portion of the annual income to pay the taxes. To find out how much your landlord pays each year visit your local County Assessor's office. The property taxes are listed there. Compare *that* to the amount they make each month via their tenants – we are getting ripped off!

Large rental properties: vast wealth for zero labor:

A rental property with 20 units at \$500/month procures \$10,000 per month for the owner. When they hire a property manager and an accountant, the work they perform generally includes collecting your rent check, and making a phone call to maintain the property here and there while having money dumped into their account each month. They may then invest that money in more rental properties throughout the country in order to extract from people living in several cities (or nations) at once. This common situation is building an ever-growing sort of feudal serfdom unless we point it out and make a better plan.

People do not generally “choose” to rent; it is their only option:

The predominant reason people pay rent is so they can have a place to legally lay their head at night (because it is better than living on the street and getting arrested or ticketed for “camping within city limits” etc). People do it because they *have to*; the manufactured circumstances they were born into *coerce* them to.

If business were a video game, *collecting rent* would be a cheat that lets you quickly and easily rack up points via stealing money from other players.

Rent - Facts and Statistics:

- 10% of the population currently owns ~82% of the real estate (*and 81% of the stocks and 88% of the bonds*).³ Furthermore the top 5% of landowners (*not five percent of the total population*) own 75% of *that* land!⁴
- Half the tenants nationwide pay more than 30 percent of their income on *rent*. It’s considered the worst time in 36 years to be a renter in America — *the highest cost burden recorded by Zillow since the real estate firm began tracking the figure in 1979*.⁵
- 1 in 4 renting households spends at least 50 cents of every dollar they earn on rent.⁶
- By age 30, the average millennial has spent 45% of their income on rent.⁷
- *Many* landlords implement rules that *prevent tenants from being able to live sustainably* (e.g. no gardening, no composting, no solar panels on the roof); these policies prevent the country from implementing effective means to reduce carbon emissions.

**Sign the Petition to enact the Right to Homestead Act
on www.WildWillpower.org.**

³ Federal Reserve Bank data in *Left Business Observer*, April 3, 1996, p. 5: www.endgame.org/landlords-facts.html

⁴ Geisler, *Rural Sociology* 1993, 58(4): 532-546: www.endgame.org/landlords-facts.html

⁵ Zillow, “*Worst Renters Have Had It In 30 Years*”: www.zillow.com/research/q2-2015-rent-mortgage-affordability-10268/#_edn2

⁶ 2013 analysis from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies:
<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2015/08/13/3691430/zillow-median-renter-report/>

⁷ USA Today, “*Millennials spend huge amounts on rent, using up 45% of income made by age 30*” by Bob Sullivan (May 18, 2018): www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/real-estate/2018/05/18/millennials-spend-large-percentage-income-rent/609061002/