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The Rent-Seekers

I wonder if we might be better to call them rent *suckers*. Karl Marx referred to them as *rentiers*, that class of people who make a profit from renting. Under a Marxist system, there is no rentier class—collecting rent. Everybody (except the elites as it turns-out), is expected to work for their supper.

Socialists, out of touch with reality, disparaging all capitalism (including small business capitalism), paint rentiers with a broad brush. This is because the left is divorced from human nature. This republic was built on small business. There is no problem with someone working hard, building a rental and then renting it out. That's human nature.

Instead, we see small business evisceration, replaced it with state-sanctified corporatism—in endless pursuit of evermore wealth for the elite. This has gotten so out-of-hand that individual incentive is now frowned upon—something to be regulated/done away with.

As seen in NYC where Mayor Mamdani institutes *rent-freeze* for the 40% of rentals subject to government control. In NYC, and across the nation, the economic model favors an elite-controlled, corporate rentier system—which *is* the problem. Mamdani's NYC rent-freeze is a sad attempt (after misdiagnosing a broken system), to fix it by shutting down rent increases, which affects the little guy with 1 rental and Blackstone's empire of rentals. Mamdani

forgets that both landlords and tenants, suffer inflation and bad policy.

If we listen to communist sympathizers such as Professor Richard Wolfe, we might think socialism's the answer—except socialism is antithetical to the human condition. Pure communism, much like the concept of *equity*, supports those who lack incentive to make their way in the world. Socialism fails because, given human nature, socialism is too pure of an ideal.

What works is small business capitalism, backed by government with a mission to not allow elite takeover of citizen's wealth. That mind its own business, steers away from military adventurism, keeps spending under control—and allows for some socialism in things government does best..

But the elite, as always, incrementally take over—instituting a rentier model for everything. Rentier reduces to relying on someone else for something. You don't own anything—you're just renting. This has political implications. You don't think for yourself—you align with one of the parties. They tell you what to think—and you think it .

This involves unquestioned assumptions. Whether they be scriptural or corporate-speak, you are instructed what to think and what to say. A more importantly—what not to say.

What exactly is it the elite want to own? Everything. All the houses, and now, all the vehicles. As absurd as it sounds, automotive elites are writing laws to own the car you bought. To that end they gain proprietary ownership (code and such), they can then rent back to you, heated seats, for a monthly stipend. The entire world is being built on a Netflix model.

Will they stop there? Government also has to get a piece of the control. Your auto interface will determine if you are too worked up to drive. And, if so, shut-down your car. Is this sci-fi? No, it's allegedly in Subaru for 2026, in every car/truck for 2027. You will own nothing—and be happy?

Will it stop there? Nope. Got to get rid of all those old cars on the road—as hazards to your health. They did it with *Cash for Clunkers*. They took 700,000 cars off the road and crushed them. Do you really think they will stop before getting rid of your vintage car?

Not only used cars, but auto graveyards/auto parts stores. Can't be fixing high-tech yourself—take your car to the dealer for service. Why is that? Auto repair shops can't possibly fix a headlight assembly, containing computers, relays, etc. Non-dealer service needs to be shut-down as dangerous to your health. 'Trust in us. We do what we do for your safety'.

It used to be the job of government to go after and break-up monopolies. Now monopolies are the objective of corporatism. Peter Thiel, *Palantir*, thinks competition is for losers. Why bother competing when teaming-up with government makes for such a cozy fascism?

So far, the US rentier plague is mainly focused on taking our wealth. In the EU, always just a step ahead of the US when it comes to mind control, great advances are made to reduce citizens to automatons. In Britain, Starmer is a thing of the past, but the same policies abide: British citizens need protection from 'disinformation', and to that end, social media platforms need to prioritize BBC/state approved broadcaster content. Britain is pushing for more control over what citizens read/watch/think.

How do the elite function to take our wealth? By distributing risk/costs/consequences away from themselves to a diffused populace, directing gains from that practice into pockets of insiders.

To this end, elites rely on a bought/sold Congress, with power concentrated in a confluence of cooperate wealth/executive power. Can we rely on the Supreme Court to do its duty and stop this fascism? We cannot—the Court is also highly politicized. The SC was intended as the Constitution's court,

standing in the way of everything except the Constitution. In a system designed to protect the minority, the Supreme Court (like the Constitution), was instituted to favor law rather than any majority opinion.

Will elites get to rent their heated seats to you? Property taxes and insurance are so out of control that we have no say in what we pay—in effect we are renters in our own cars, homes, and, unfortunately, in our blessed guarantees of liberty. With Inflation as a rentier tool, deductibles and fees are meant to be complicated. You don't choose the plan—they choose it.

It wasn't always that way. When I was 16, I went up to Pasadena and bought a 1950 Ford convertible for \$100. 10 years old and well used, it suited me fine. With a flathead V8 and 3 on the tree, I headed home. But I heard a bang, as something in the engine gave way and I coasted to stop in front of an auto parts store. Lifting the hood, I found the detritus of a broken generator belt. Back then gas stations had belts hanging along a wall. Bates belts to fit every/all needs. The auto parts store had its own wall of belts.

The guy came out and showed me what to do. Loosen the generator tension bolt with 1 adjustable wrench, lift up on the housing to put the new belt in place, and use a 2nd adjustable wrench as a lever between the block and generator to get the belt tension right—then the 1st wrench to tighten the bolt. I was back on the road for 5 bucks—with pride of ownership.

Why the story? We need to be reminded how simple life used to be—in our own hands and under our control. We said whatever we wanted to say. And when we bought it—we owned it. It was ours.

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