

## Socialism Without The Middle Man

Socialism has traditionally been justified as a process of taking from the undeserving rich to give to the deserving poor. But the process (known as "planning") of deciding how deserving or undeserving each citizen or project is, required a large, powerful and unproductive bureaucracy which was one of several reasons why socialist societies have a strong tendency to slide into economic ruin as well as political tyranny.

Now the socialist masters of Venezuela have come up with a brilliant idea: cut out the middle man – **legalise theft**:

Supreme Court Judge Alejandro Angulo Fontiveros told Reuters on Wednesday that the so-called "famine theft" clause should be part of a broad penal code reform measure for humanitarian reasons.

"This is a guide for judges to avoid injustice," said Fontiveros, who is in charge of drafting the reforms. "They lock up for years a poor person who lives in atrocious misery and what they need is medicine."

And why not? Who has not at some time been standing in a long queue at the checkout with only a loaf of bread and a rumbling stomach behind somebody buying enough food to supply Michael Moore for an entire day? Wouldn't it be much more convenient to be allowed just to take the bread and leave?

How much more impatient must the people of Venezuela feel? They have been saddled with a bloated, corrupt, shakily democratic welfare state that has been flushing their country down the economic drain for the **past 40 years**. Their current President, Hugo Chavez, has done everything he could to worsen their economic situation and is **refusing** to hold an election despite his obligation to do so.

Just to spell it out: The problem is that if Venezuela legalises theft then it will become much harder for anyone to do business since they won't know whether somebody's going to bother to pay or not. As a result, shops will have less incentive to stock goods, there'll be even less of anything for people to steal and sooner or later the entire economy will crash and burn with terrible consequences. The only way to deal with Venezuela's current problems is not to release citizens from the rule of law, but to subject the government to it by

holding an election and reforming toward a free market.

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## that's silly

what they really need are theft monitors. they will go around and watch all the stealing, to make sure only the needy steal. if a rich man steals they'll confiscate all his stuff and ~~keep it~~ spread it around. "rich" will be defined as having enough stuff for it to be worth the bother to take it.

monitors won't need to be paid; they will volunteer. ~~to get free stuff~~ out of the goodness of their hearts.

-- Elliot Temple

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by [Elliot Temple](#) on Sun, 01/18/2004 - 16:29 | [reply](#)

## When they start building a wa...

When they start building a wall around the country is when I'll be concerned. As long as the borders remain open Venezuelans can always escape.

Alan

It's usually the obvious that gets you by surprise

by [mythusmage](#) on Tue, 01/20/2004 - 11:14 | [reply](#)