

A Working Draft

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A Bill of Economic Rights and Responsibilities

"We need an Economic Bill of Rights."

Martin Luther King, written in 1968 just before his assassination

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**"We'll never revitalize our market economy till ...
every single American is protected by
an economic bill of rights."**

Jerry Brown, "We the People, Take Back America"

**"Under a second Bill of Rights a new basis of security and
prosperity
can be established for all - regardless of station, rank, or creed."**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

State of the Union Message, Jan. 11, 1944

**"At the United Nations, the Pope urged the rich to show solidarity
with the poor.**

**His social teaching has emphasized that this moral commitment
should not be done by dole that creates dependency,
but by empowering the poor to become full participants in
economic life."**

George Weigel, President, Ethics & Public Policy Center

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Article 1

We all have the right to receive economic justice;
we all have the responsibility to grant economic justice to others.

Article 2

**We all have the right to peace and to the economic benefits of law
and order;**
*we all have the responsibility to pay for the instrumentalities of peace,
law and order.*

Article 3

We all have the right of access to natural resources;
*we all have the responsibility to pay taxes as compensation to the rest
of the community for the exclusive use of those resources.*

Article 4

We all have the right of access to national credit;
*we all have the responsibility to repay the loan issued on the basis of
national credit.*

Article 4a

**All communities with taxing power have a right of access to
national credit for the financing of public works programs;**
*communities have the responsibility to repay the loan issued on the
basis of national credit.*

Article 5

We all have the right to own the fruits of our labor;
*we all have the responsibility, if working with and for others, to offer
services commensurate with the value of the reward received in the
form of stocks -- eventually, no longer wages.*

Article 6

We all have the right to protect our wealth;
we all have the responsibility to respect other people's possessions.

Article 7

We all have the right to healthy air, water, and food supplies;
we all have the responsibility to accept the higher prices that result from the provision of those qualities.

Article 8

The poor have the right to society's surplus;
the poor have the responsibility to make good use of society's surplus.

Article 9

The government has the right to raise taxes to administer money, peace, and justice;
the government has the responsibility to administer money, peace, and justice efficiently.

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