

# Unless we tax rent-seeking society will fail

Published: January 13, 2026, 1:53 am

---

As the [FT notes this morning](#):

*France's Socialist government has vowed to continue squeezing the rich, despite the [rejection of its controversial 75 per cent tax rate](#) by the country's constitutional council.*

Quite right too, with the explanation coming from [Phillip Inman in the Guardian](#):

*As Fred Harrison, research director of the London-based Land Research Trust, points out in his new book, *The Traumatized Society*, rent-seeking by a wealthy class of people hooked on accumulating even greater wealth is the cancer that has brought down many more civilisations than the present one.*

Those who will be subject to this rate of taxation are rent-seekers. No one can 'earn' that much otherwise. Addressing that rent-seeking behaviour is vital if society is to survive. In that case progressive tax on the rewards from rent-seeking is vital. It's as simple as that. The imbalances that rent-seeking is creating, in wealth, in income, in opportunity in hope: all those inequalities will crush society. There is no choice but address these issues, now.