

Offshore exists because onshore lets it do so

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There's [a great deal of truth in this](#), even if I am not at all sure I agree with many of the writer's sentiments:

The important point to remember about offshore financial centers is they exist solely and exclusively to the extent that onshore financial centers permit them. Simply put, they are a convenient way for onshore regulators and tax authorities to turn their back on difficult and knotty problems that they lack the political prowess or conviction to solve directly.

This to a very large degree is the argument Prof Ronen Palan made in his seminal 2002 book, [The Offshore World](#), and in his book co-authored with me and Christian Chavagneux, [Tax Havens: the true story of globalisation](#).

This is why I do not as yet trust the George Osborne / David Cameron approach to this issue.