

A new book by the Tax Justice Network brings together some of the influential writing on taxation and the offshore system that is undermining it.

From its earliest days the Tax Justice Network has been formulating an alternative to the governing consensus on tax. Along the way the writings of its members and allies have raised profound questions about the relationship between the state and the most powerful actors in the economy, about the prerogatives of finance, and about the size and significance of the offshore sector.

From development NGOs and environmental campaigners to human rights activists, political theorists and economists, the Network has also reached out to others and developed a shared agenda for deep reform of both the conventional wisdom and our institutional arrangements. The result, captured in the essays and articles collected here, has been a steady expansion of the reforming imagination.

The Tax Justice Network is no longer in the wilderness. It now forms part of a broad movement for reform that has gained in strength and confidence since the financial crisis began in 2007. Its ideas have changed political rhetoric in a number of countries. Those ideas are even starting to influence policy, both nationally and in the global institutions. But resistance is as fierce as ever and there is much still to be done. A decade after the Tax Justice Network began regular publication of Tax Justice Focus, it is time to take stock of what has been achieved, and to chart the way ahead.

The Greatest Invention: Tax and the Campaign for a Just Society is released worldwide on September 24, 2015

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“Questions of taxation are important in themselves, and they also unlock wider fundamental debates about the nature of our society. TJN has been at

the forefront of opening up such issues.” Doreen Massey, author of World City

“When big businesses and the rich avoid paying their fair share of tax, they cheat us all. The Tax Justice Network describes, in plain English, how they do it, what its consequences are and how to stop it. If you want a fair society, start reading here.”

Richard Wilkinson, co-author of ***The Spirit Level***