

The Social Consensus - second edition

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I [wrote recently about the Social Consensus](#), as I call it, setting out the high-level principles that should, in my opinion, guide the operation of the style of government that we actually have, rather than the fantasy one that almost all politicians on the right and some on the left think we should have instead.

My proposal attracted a lot of comments on and offline and I have considered them all. The structure of what follows looks similar to the first version, but there have been many small tweaks to, I hope, improve the suggestion and address the concerns raised, most of which I did in some way take into account.

Please remember when commenting that these are meant to be principles and not policy proposals.

Further comments are still welcome.

The Social Consensus

Proposition one

The state shall recognise each individual within it as having equal rights. This includes the right to choose a government that fairly reflect the views of all within its jurisdiction, in whose individual and collective best interests any government shall be tasked to act, seeking to reconcile these claims as best it is able.

Proposition two

The state will create law to reflect the ethics of the society within its jurisdiction as determined by its properly elected government.

In pursuit of this goal the state will:

- require that any government within its jurisdiction and those who act on its instructions shall abide by these principles;
- provide mechanisms to hold a government to account if it does not adhere to these principles, including by the operation of an independent judicial system capable of demanding remedy for failure to do so;
- provide for freedom of speech unless it promotes harm towards or hatred of another person;
- secure the availability of diverse news media that reflects the range of opinion within its jurisdiction.

Proposition three

The state will uphold the rule of law and provide access to all citizens who wish to seek remedy under that law, whatever their means.

Proposition four

The state will maintain peace within its jurisdiction and seek to secure peace internationally.

Proposition five

The state will uphold the right to own and trade property, whilst ensuring that its own property rights are respected and upheld.

Proposition six

The state will eliminate poverty, whatever its cause, and ensure a fair allocation of resources so that all might participate fully within society.

In pursuit of this goal a state will seek to provide appropriately rewarded work for all who want it and education throughout life to all who might wish for it and can benefit from it.

Proposition seven

The state will protect each person from harm whether that be from:

- Physical risk;
- Discrimination;
- Preventable disease or illness.

Proposition eight

The state shall secure those resources that it needs to fulfil its obligations, in pursuit of which it shall:

- manage the macroeconomy of its jurisdiction, including its currency, currency creation, taxation and deposit taking to provide sufficient economic stability to achieve this goal;
- limit the power of those who seek to exploit corporations or positions reflecting artificial competitive advantage including through the exercise of monopoly power within marketplaces;
- regulate terms of exchange, trade and sharing to promote fairness;
- encourage the free movement of people and ideas within and beyond its jurisdiction.

Proposition nine

The state shall recognise the limitations that the availability of natural resources imposes upon it, managing its affairs to ensure that future generations enjoy the opportunities available to those currently alive.

Proposition ten

These propositions shall be interpreted within the framework of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.