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Human Action

Essay Chapter 8

December 10, 2013

**Action Within the Framework of Society**

*Human Society*

Society is the combination of individuals for cooperative effort. There is cooperation because we are aware that only one person is not capable of producing x amount of things, so we benefit by the joint effort of others. In order to have a more productive society we deliberate and use division of labor. That act of cooperation is what creates a society.

Many religious institutions believed before that a society has its existence independent of the individuals conforming it. They thought that another force (God, Nature), had its own ends for the society, and that the individuals must sacrifice their selfish interests in order to achieve the master plan of the external force that was independent from them. Later on, the classical economists, emphasized that social cooperation helps everyone in a society to live in cooperation rather than live in a society of murder, theft, and violence, dismissed these ideas. Mises, states clearly that if there is people still using violence in a society, the one responsible of resolving the problem is the government, because he is responsible of conserving peace, by using democracy.

Liberalism is a political doctrine. It is stated that man prefers a life of health and abundance to misery, starvation and death. The liberals strive for intellectual and moral perfection, for wisdom and for aesthetic excellence to be accessible to the common man. Liberalism doesn’t speak of religion or any supernatural elements outside of reason but in the scientific theory of social cooperation. The moral law implied by the liberals is to push individuals to act according to the requirements of life in society, to abstain from all acts damaging to the preservation of peaceful social cooperation and to the improvement of interhuman relations. One of the advantages of having the church separated from the state is that liberalism establishes peace among the various religious and gives to each of them the opportunity to preach its gospel without being bothered.

The experience of doing one thing of our own has thought us that by being isolated we are less efficient and productive, and that cooperative action and division of labor is more effective. This is has also been demonstrated by some natural fact such as: the innate inequality of men with regard to his ability to perform various kinds of labor, second, the unequal distribution of the natural resources on the surface of the earth, and thirdly, the fact that some tasks are beyond the power of one single worker.

But how more effective we become? Well, Ricardo took a step further in answering this question and he came up with a formula to demonstrate what the consequences are if you are to work more effectively in a division of labor. By calculating the task in which one is more effective than the other, it allows you to designate to which labor you are more efficient, you will focus on it and become more productive than other person. Ricardian’s Law, assumes that it will be the same within countries, and a country must emphasize his productions with the activity who he is more efficient.

Others have always surrounded the individual in society, and so he is a social being by nature. Praxeology isolates him in order to understand his actions. By belonging to a society, the individual has its means to attain all of his ends. People don’t cooperate by division of labor because they love each other, but because they know that by cooperating with one another they serve a more efficient exchange of efficiency and therefore are able to obtain their interests faster.

In order to convey a peaceful society, man must want to preserve life and health by respecting other’s people’s life and health and that will help him serve his ends. Reason deals with the means for attaining ends sought and not the ultimate ends. The final decision rests in the acting men, where he is free to choose with full awareness of the consequences of his actions. By using reason man is applying his most precious instrument that belongs only to the Homo sapiens.