

Ascension Notes



Government and Taxation

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I happen to believe that the ideal government structure does have greatest balance and flexibility when there are three branches, the executive, legislative and judicial. However, the best any governing system can be is an accommodation of familiar forms modified by enlightened intent. I can conceive of a multi-layer structure roughly akin to what I'm familiar with at present but with some profound differences. Roughly the first level of government would be local. It would have oversight of the areas surrounding physical centers of commerce and communication. The next level up would be collections of local governments with common geographical similarities roughly analogous to states. The hierarchical organization just below world government would be the equivalent of our contemporary nations.

Ok that isn't too different from what we have presently in my home in the US. Here's the departure. It has to do with the funding and purpose of governments. Each level of government will deal with issues vital to the citizens but unique to the scope of their overview of society. Health, education, land use, conservation, disaster relief and local communications will probably be the foci of local governments. Even that sounds pretty normal. However things start changing once we factor in the idea that the government can't go into debt, that individual citizens should have some direct mitigating say about their government and that public services should be performed by private companies with public oversight. Those changes really start with voting for leaders, taxation and budgeting.

Local legislative officials should be elected by popular vote from citizens known to have a clear vision of the needs of their corner of civilization as well as their administrative capacities. The administration would then be elected from among that group. The legislature's job will include presenting a budget to the electorate for the following year's anticipated expenses. Every time money changes hands 10% is the tax owed to the local government. However the taxpayer gets to vote on the proposed budget by putting 90% their tax money into the specific budgetary allocation of their choice. Once a program is funded it is closed for that fiscal year. In that way budgets need to be simple enough that people understand them and become active directors of social programs to the degree of their tax participation. The remaining 10% of the local taxpayer's annual fee is funneled by the local governments to the state government.

So the hierarchy is this. Citizens vote for their local officials who propose courses of action that affect them (budgets). The results are administered by the best of those elected representatives but performed by local companies acting as public utilities. Citizens directly ratify the guidance of their local representatives and administrative branches by paying for them in taxes. 10% of the local taxes are sent to the state along with representatives who are selected by the local officials chosen to represent the voters. The state level officials choose representatives and send them with their 10% tithe to the national level and so on to the world level of government. Government is not designed in this vision to make laws or rule but to support the structure of civilization by providing positive direction and alleviating stresses before they become

overwhelming. The amount of Love in a society is inversely proportional to the number of Laws.

Speaking of laws. There won't need to be many. In a world where good will is a principal some structure will still be required as forms for social interaction. There will need to be some judicial element to help resolve disputes but I have little experience with such matters. I can see a few basic principles. The legal system must be lawful as well. It has to be simple enough that the average person can comprehend it and participate in it directly. A justice system will mostly be required for the resolution of disputes. The objective of law should be to achieve a consensus of truth. As far as disposition of disputes it seems that almost all would be satisfied as well as possible with restitution. Those instances beyond that remedy might be cause for social exclusion.