

[Mobile ebook] The Law and the Profits.

The Law and the Profits.

Cyril Northcote, Parkinson

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Cyril Northcote, Parkinson : The Law and the Profits. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Law and the Profits.:

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people; there's a good account of families of soldiers killed during the First World War having to pay out death duties, perhaps several times, to the 'vultures'. And he makes a good point about death duties (on capital) being spent as though income. Parkinson follows through some consequences: remember he was writing in 1960 and had lived through the Second World War - Britain declared war when he was about 30. He gives good accounts of the psychology of the near-death of private property - taxation hitting more than 90% so that it was impossible to own a traditional estate, and impossible for several generations to build up businesses with integrity. Conversely, 'success' became a matter of maximising money from governments. And people increasingly turn to tax avoidance, and (illegal) evasion, and increasingly feel the law is against them. Young people in particular (he feels) become disaffected and angry. Taxation is so dangerously high, so societies have few reserves, and disaster may well follow. On spending all this tax money, he notes that the Civil Service became more secure, and better paid, than much of business, and also that there was no equivalent of bankruptcy or failed technology to prune out useless civil servants. He lists failed and abandoned US military projects (the same thing happened in Britain), and comments on the vast property ownership of the military - covered storage, in total twice the size of Manhattan Island in the US, large landowning (including Criche Down) and old forts in Britain. Parkinson was uneasy about official science - one of his mini-playlets is a made-up encounter between Isaac Newton and a modern civil servant. They can't promote science, because nobody knows what inventions will be forthcoming; Parkinson lists the failures of the British to equip properly, and the difficulties faced by many inventors of military devices. (There's an amusing parody of the difficulties of people with ideas and projects in the chapter on 'The abominable no-men'). Parkinson lists the amounts paid from tax purely on interest, and on failed projects, and on unaccountable foreign handouts. He also comments on the poor quality of government accounts, notably in the UK. All of this is quite well-written, and relies on minimal information - Parkinson is very good at drawing conclusions from a few big numbers. (Note that this book postdates the Korean War, and shows no awareness of looming genocide in Vietnam.) The weaknesses of this book stem from his having no theory of the motive forces that developed in the world after about 1900. He has no idea about the Rothschild/paper money swindle - Parkinson attributes inflation to increases in tax - and doesn't consider the idea that there are temptations to large scale frauds, of the NASA type. Many of the abandoned weapons projects must have been scams; the nuclear weapon stuff was a huge scam; the EU was in the process of becoming a huge scam; the independence of former colonies, often accompanied by disasters, was a recent series of events. One motivation for wars was simply to make money from supplies; but Parkinson never once makes any criticism of any war. And so on. Although this book has great omissions, it's thought-provoking and does its best to provide a useful overview of the world and economics and the place of government after 1945. If only Parkinson had been more knowledgeable.

The law and profits