

I want to be free.

You want to be free.

I want to be free.

They want to be free.

You want to be free.

Why are we not free?

They want to be free.

I want to be free.

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I want to be free.

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Why are we not free?

**Leashless attempts to
address this question
in a new way**

**We are not free
because we need
each other.**

"from each according to his ability,
to each according to his need."

Right



Wrong

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**Our obligations to each other as
human beings reduce our freedom,
but increase our well-being.**

Right



Wrong

**What obligations
Obligations?**

Society?

Am I not me?

Am I not Free?

I don't think I

owe you anything

**Is one person
a person at all?
Is there a self**

**Are there
even answers?**

outside of society?

When considering these questions, who's answers count?

**When you were
born, were you
free?**

**Yes, but you had
no capability to
use that freedom.**

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**No, you depended
completely on your
parents.**

***Free in what sense?*
is the real question
we must ask.**

**If freedom requires
capability, is it just
a word for power?**

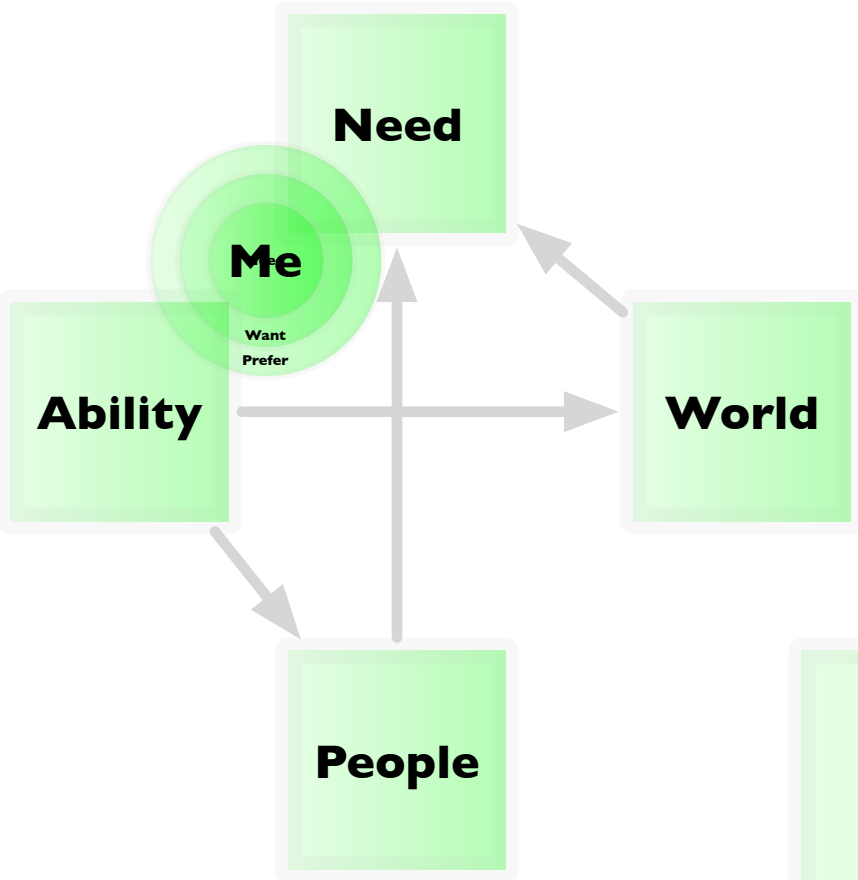
**Depending on the
State keeps you in
infancy until death.**

**What are the real
characteristics of
being free?**

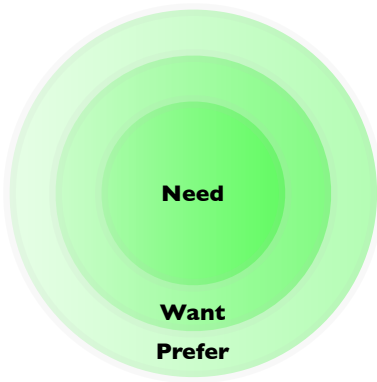
Right

?

Wrong



**We exist in a constant state of
give and take with our
environment: other people and
the natural world around us**



Without our *needs*
we die or live in
misery

Without our *wants*
we enjoy life less
but it goes on

Our *preferences*
can even be about
other people's lives

I need water
I want a radio
I prefer the blue

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I *need* water

Millions of people die of
dirty water every year

Regardless of politics,
nobody with unmet
needs is genuinely free



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I *want* a real job

Millions live in poverty
even in rich countries

Nobody's wants should
remove another's ability
to meet their needs

We do not choose our
needs, only our wants
and preferences

I *prefer* apartheid

Some prefer things
which harm others

Your preferences should
not adversely affect my
wants or needs

Therefore our wants
and preferences are
negotiable at all times

Most Libertarians

derive freedom from
self-ownership

stating that you are
your own property, and
not anybody else's

but this leaves
environmental and
social justice unserved.

Ecolibertarians

recognize that the
planet belongs to all

and that individuals are
their own masters
without any exception

but balance the needs of
all and the freedom of
the individual.

The logo for 'leashless' is located in the top right corner. It features the word 'leashless' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller, lighter font, is the tagline 'a manifesto about freedom'. The text is overlaid on a background of several overlapping, semi-transparent green geometric shapes, including rectangles and triangles.

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If your acre is the last
arable acre left, it will
not rain any more.

What is the fair price of
ecosystem services, and
to whom is it paid?

**Land usually
becomes property
by violence.**

**The earth has no
ruler. People are
free upon it.**



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**Air is shared
property as it
exists unenclosed.**

**The enclosures
that exist are not
fundamentally real.**

**Do not legitimize
what was stolen as
valid property.**

**Just land use must
fully acknowledge
these facts.**

**They exist in
people's minds and
are kept by force.**

**Land rights must
be derived from
the earth's rights.**

The first Axiom

"The Earth owns itself
as we own ourselves."

We "rent" the bodies
we inhabit from the
matter of earth.

Whether it is a
corporate body or a
being matters not.

When we die, inevitably
to it do we return,
unless lost in space.

What then is the charge
we owe the planet just
for existing on it?

We start by assuming
that the planet it its
own owner.

All of our fundamental
needs are derived from
its ecosystem services.

What is the rent for
being alive, and to
whom is it paid?

The second Axiom

"The matter of your
body belongs to Earth."

Further property
arrangements are built
on simple embodiment



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Each body comes with
the same obligations to
the earth

What we create
together after simply
existing is our own.

No person speaks for
the earth in the matter
of this simple duty.

breathing the same air,
drinking the same water,
eating the same food.

But we are free only
after doing our duty to
the planet we rent from.

Rather, we each decide
for ourselves what we
owe the place we are.

The third Axiom

"Aught else that can be owned is ever yours."

Your rights over your own being are absolute and not alienable.



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A person may or may not be considered property.

While your body is clearly rented from the earth, the rest is you.

Beyond that, the understanding of the rights of beings changes.

However, if a person is in any way property, they are their own.

This self ownership is defined as inalienable, meaning no slavery.

How we define or decide about rights changes over time too.

The fourth Axiom

"Just property value is defined by utility."

This principle matters in seeking justice around "ownership" of assets.



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The value of a piece of property is its use value to its current owner.

If a poor person takes from a rich person, it is often *need* over *want*.

The land was stolen from those who settled it by later rulers.

Those who own much attach little real value to their property.

The utility of the asset transfer must be taken into account in law.

Where is righteousness in handling stolen property?



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On Property

**"Earth provides enough to
satisfy every man's need, but
not every man's greed."**

M.K. Gandhi

What about stuff?

Around Self and Body
lies the world we live in.

In the long run, the tree
branch is matter, and
therefore the Earth's.



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Who owns this tree
branch? Is it the tree? Is
it the Earth?

While part of the tree,
the tree owns its own
branch, doubtless.

But it is mine in the
rented sense, a transfer
from its true owner.

Is it you? Is it me? Let us
untangle this matter
swiftly and clearly.

On the ground, if I pick
up the branch, it is mine.
This is common sense.

Your desire for my
branch.. is it a *need*, a
want or a *preference*?

Existing property rights are largely based on violence

Land rights are descended from either colonial or feudal times.



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Usually property rights are artifacts of previous social control.

Kings granted lands to military figures, who gave them to their sons.

Military power turned into money though land not looting.

Copyright started as censorship. Patent has better roots though.

Land became tradable for gold, but passed by inheritance.

Colonialism is even simpler: kill people and take their stuff.

Property rights can change and be remade any time

If Eldred vs. Ashcroft had gone the other way, old would equal free.



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Copyright is changing right now - for the worse!

Patents are changing too - large companies rebelling *against* them!

Could we redefine land to include ecosystem services in the rights?

The DCMA and similar laws extend it's reach brutally.

Patents are stifling innovation because they've gone too far.

Could we redefine money so it was a better fit to real value?

Use and property

Need, want & prefer are three different things.

If you *prefer* your bucket is kept clean, and I leave it dirty, I am careless.



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If you *need* this bucket to live, and I take it from you, I am a murderer.

Usually property rights are oriented around things and not people.

Property is a shorthand for talking about *needs*, *wants* and *preferences*.

If you *want* this bucket and I take it from you, I am at worst a thief.

But, in truth, a thing is its usefulness or its value to a person.

A dollar means different things to rich and poor, it is not objective value.

Fixing our property rights systems

Taxation is often used to give property to those who have none.



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Copyright and patent are new forms of property made by fiat.

The old, violence-based property system takes away.

But if we got real about human needs we could have one system.

The limited liability corporation is also new property made by fiat.

And the new social security systems patch the bug with more.

The point of the property is the thing's usefulness to you.

**What would a sane
property rights
system look like?**

Leased land is subject to
rational environmental
regulations.



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What is yours is yours
and people may not
take it from you.

Regional land use
assemblies set local
agendas - not global.

The income from land
leases genuinely belongs
to all and can be shared.

Land is leased, not
owned, on the basis it is
really owned by all.

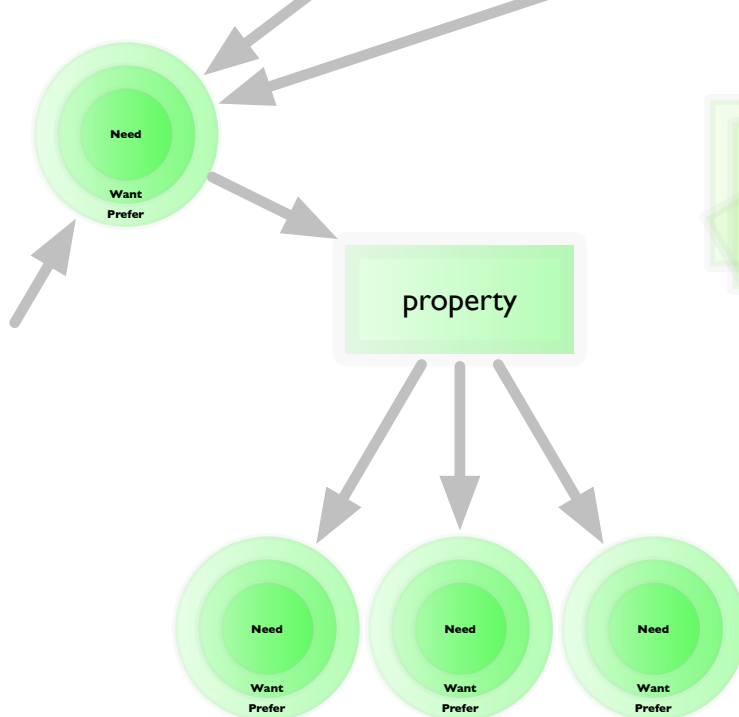
Limited liability and
similar fiat subsidies to
groups are phased out.

Need, Want & Prefer can
help set priorities for
everyone.

**Freedom is not
Property, Property
is not Freedom**

Rather, you *want* or
need and "property
rights" get in the way.

This confusion of
freedom and property is
the Libertarian problem.



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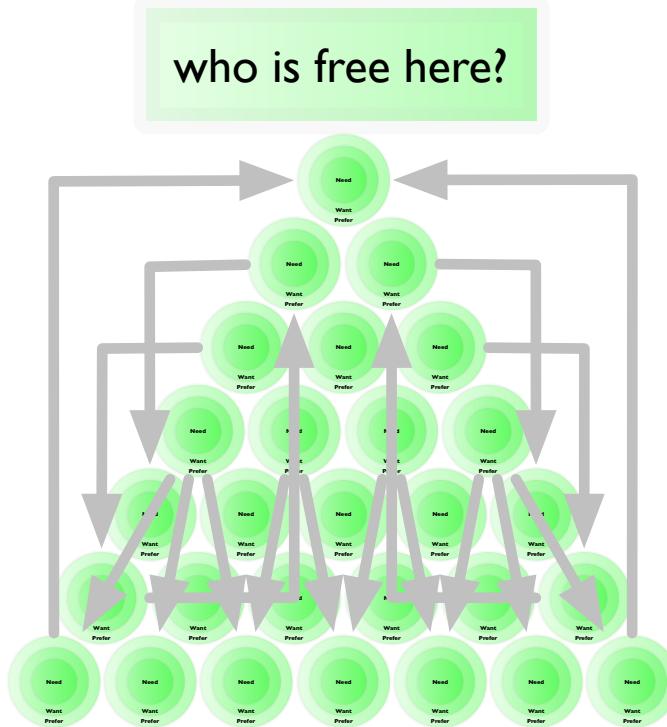
Governments take from
people using their own
"property rights."

Systems made to
manage property wind
up controlling people.

Dependence and control go hand in hand

We need use of property for our *needs*, *wants* & *preferences*.

The people who "own" that property now have some control over us.



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We depend on their property, and they then control us with money.

But even at the top, people are not free - different chains bind.

Class War?

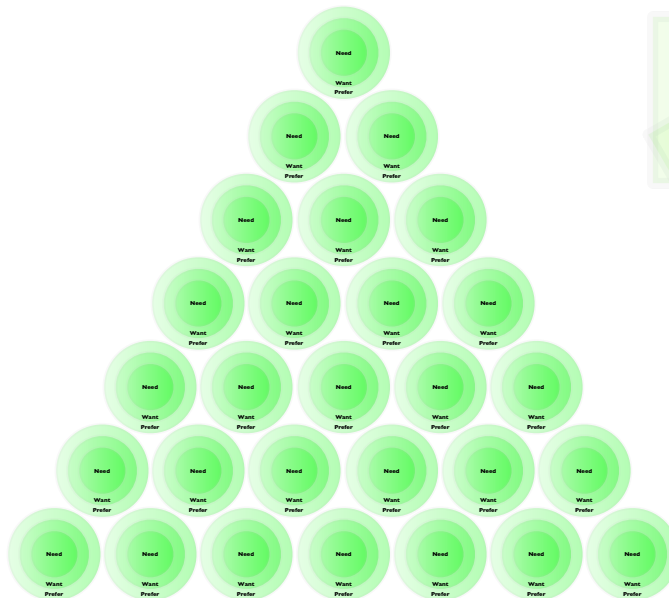
Political control of key assets is the main game.

Inherited land titles, patents and copyright all serve to fix wealth.

Otherwise everybody takes a little, and wealth doesn't concentrate.

But concentrated wealth pays for progress and infrastructure.

More property is not the key to freedom. Less control is the key.



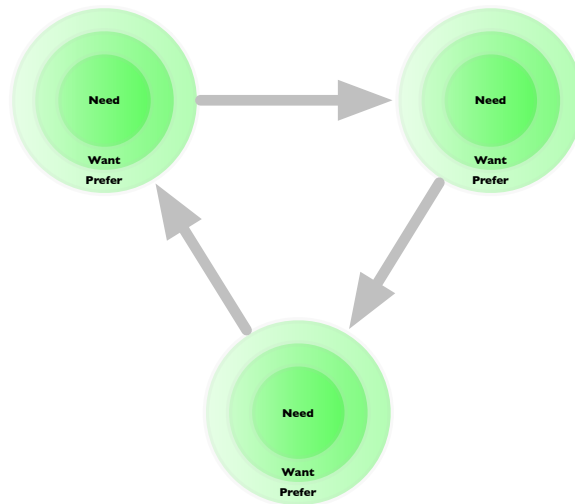
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Nobody is Free

Everybody exists in
cycles of mutual control

The CEO reports to
the board who report
to the shareholders.

Shareholders are
controlled by politicians
bought by the CEO.



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Even at the highest
levels, nobody
experiences freedom.

It is not us and them, it
is us-and-us. We are all
in this together.



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Next Steps

**"I object to violence
because when it appears
to do good, the good is
only temporary; the evil
it does is permanent."**

M.K. Gandhi

What is Freedom?

Freedom is an internal state of being.

But if we could fly, and were not allowed, that would not be freedom.



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It exists in the relationships between people, nowhere else.

Freedom exists when **people** do not stop us from doing as we like.

Needs go unmet while the *preferences* of the rich are treated like law.

That we cannot fly like birds is not a restriction on our freedom.

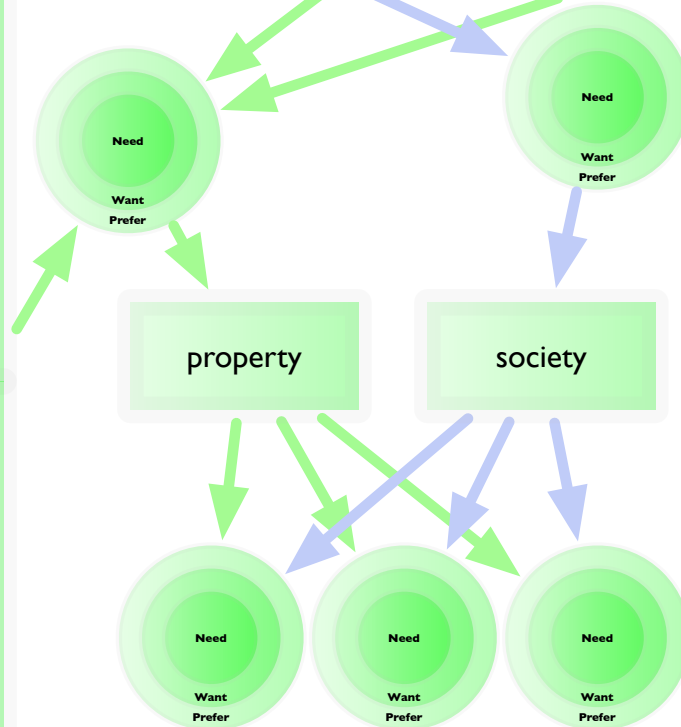
Right now, property rights are the biggest obstacle to freedom.

But freedom is not property, and it is freedom we must seek.

Separate social control and economic control

Marijuana is illegal because of social control, not economics.

The system of land ownership which makes rents high is economics.



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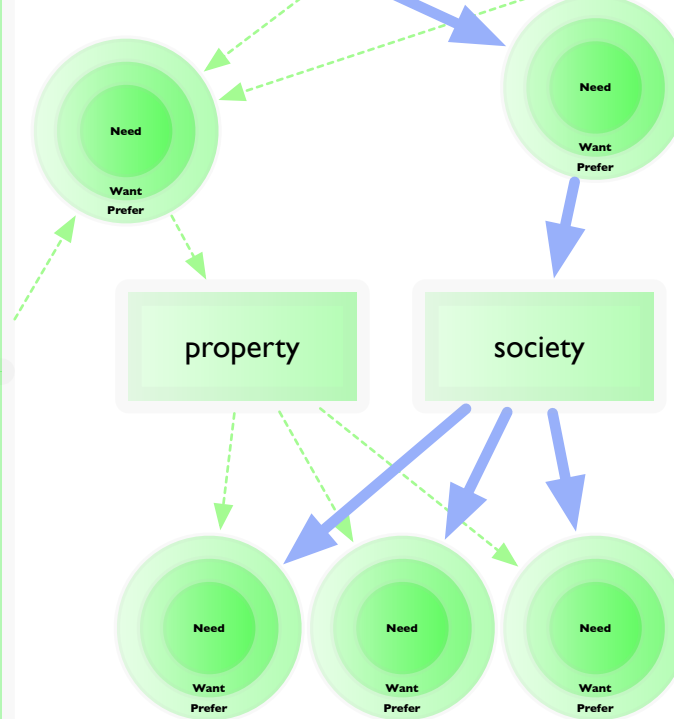
"Property rights" laws are different from social control laws.

How can we do this more sensibly, so people are as free as possible?

Use swadeshi to simplify property rights issues

Swadeshi is Gandhi's term meaning own (swa) land (desi.)

It's often understood as being about localization for political control.



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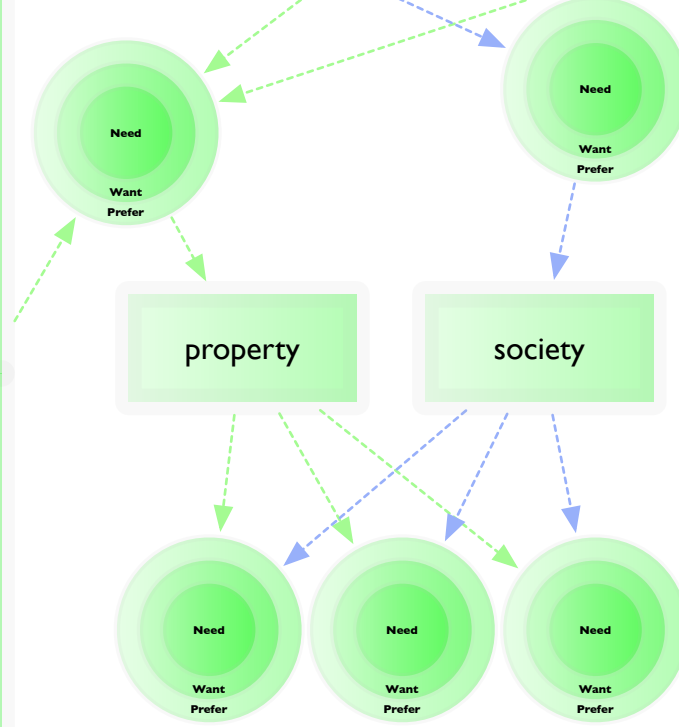
Actually, it's more about thinning out property rights dependencies.

Swadeshi can make you much harder to control through property.

Use punk rock to simplify social control issues

Most social control
does not have much
legal force.

Drug laws are one
notable exception but
mostly you live free.



As long as you don't
hurt people, they usually
don't bother the free.

How you organize your
psyche to resist control
is your own business.

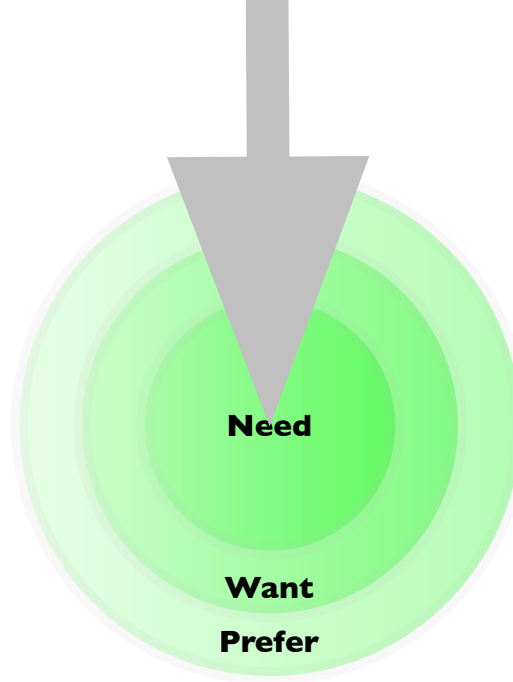
What about taxation? Isn't taxation theft?

Taxation is what
governments charge
you for renting stuff.

They own all the land,
you just lease it from
them. It's their land.

They own all the money,
you just lease it from
them. It's their money.

We are long past the
point where taxation
was meaningfully theft.



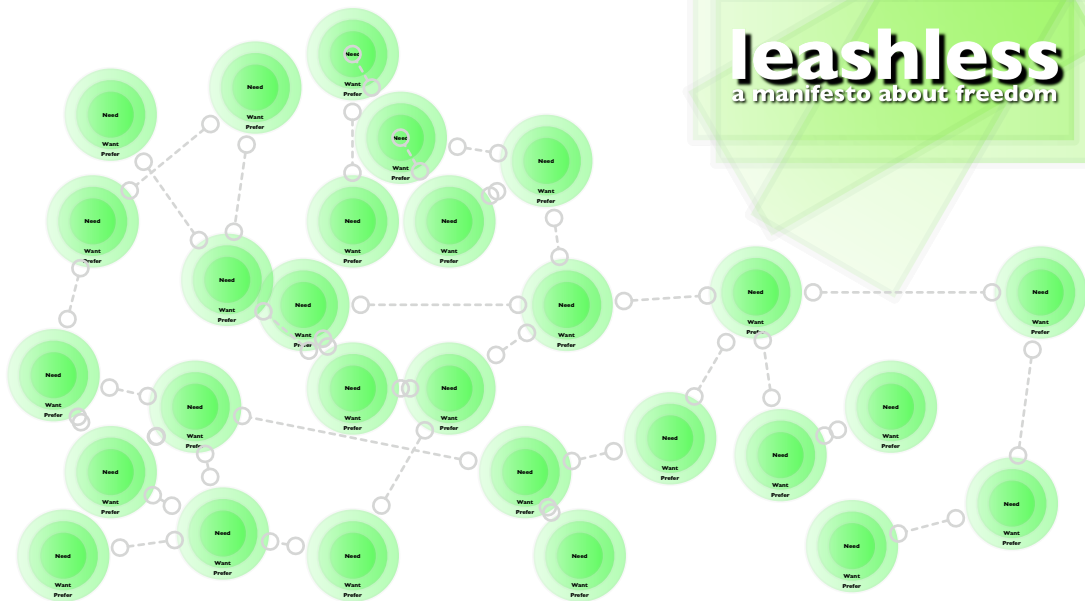
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**Freedom is when
we stop controlling
each other**

Do not let other people
control you, even those
you love.

Work towards meeting
your *needs* without
other people's property.

everybody can be free



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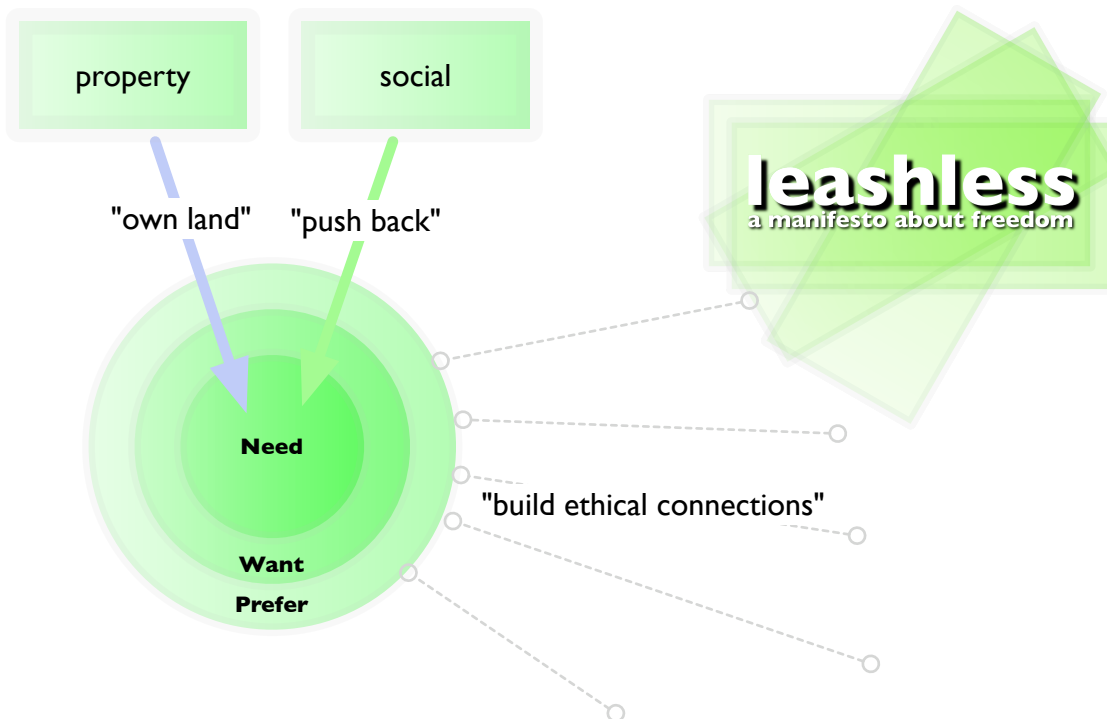
Work with others to
define sane property
rights and become free.

Change the shape of
society to promote
freedom.

**How are we
controlled? What
can we do?**

Work towards owning
property for your *needs*
- business and/or land.

Push back against social
control where you find
it however suits you.



Find people with similar
goals and cooperate
with them in freedom.

Maintain political
pressure on insane
property rights systems.

What is leashless?

It's the minimal system required to be freer.

It does not distinguish economic, social and political control.



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It's a lot like Gandhi, Libertarianism, Syndicalism and so on.

Freedom exists when **people** do not stop us from doing as we like.

Identify and understand your *needs, wants & preferences*.

Critically, it focusses on short personal steps towards freedom.

Whether they use property rights, law or society does not matter.

Work on owning what you *need* and cooperate with others to do it.

Next steps

We can and must do something quickly.

Economic instability is probably not over, and political may follow it.



Firstly, identify leashless people: it's a state of mind. Make friends.

Leashless is a political analogue to the resilience movement.

Work on getting the collar off and seeing freedom around you.

Use SCIM to identify your *needs* and work on owning infrastructure.

If people are building infrastructure and want peace, work with them.

<http://leashless.org>
@leashless
Enjoy, and thank you.

leashless is the work of
Vinay Gupta and is in
the Public Domain.



This is an alpha release
and it should really be a
book. But not yet.