

Group Activity Answer Key: Philosophically Driven Organizations Resource

Cato Institute

In 1776 the Founding Fathers declared that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were inalienable rights. By creating an island of political institutions set within a vast sea of civil society, those men envisioned a federal republic guarded by a central government of strictly limited authorities. In time they wrote a Constitution that guarantees those limits and secures our freedoms. Yet, for more than two centuries, those constitutional restraints have continuously been eroded.

Last January the Pew Research Center found that, for the first time, a majority of Americans said that the federal government threatens their personal rights. As the year progressed, those fears were reinforced. From the hemorrhaging state of Obamacare and the politicization of the IRS to the government's expansive surveillance machinery and overextended global military posture, Americans continued to question the country's trajectory. Amid public disenchantment, there is an emerging consensus that the government has grown beyond its competence.

At the Cato Institute, we stand firmly on the bedrock American values of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace. Guided by the light cast from the nation's first principles, our scholars are dedicated to countering the burdens of government growth by standing outside of partisan boundaries. The American Revolution set the stage for extending the benefits of liberty to all. Today, we aim to restore that heritage.

Source:

Cato Institute. (2014). 2013 Annual Report. Retrieved from <http://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/annual-report-2013.pdf>

United for a Fair Economy

We need nothing less than a diverse, powerful social movement dedicated to advancing meaningful policy solutions on many fronts to reduce the racial divide. Foreclosure relief, federal aid to states and targeted job creation programs are needed to both combat the current economic slump and to reduce racial economic disparities. Longer-term strategies including wealth-building programs, increasing taxes on the rich, strengthening safety net programs, ending the war on drugs, and humane immigration reform are needed in order to substantially reduce racial inequality.

It is a moral and economic imperative that we address the racial economic divide now. If we are to chart a path to a more promising future, one in which the racial economic divide is significantly narrowed and prosperity is more broadly shared, then we must take immediate action to ensure that the coming majority is not further burdened by the legacy of racism and White supremacy in the United States.

Source:

Sullivan, T.; Wanjiku, M.; Miller, B.; Muhammad, D.; & Harris, C. (2012). State of the Dream 2012: The Emerging Minority. Retrieved from http://faireconomy.org/sites/default/files/State_of_the_Dream_2012.pdf

Tea Party Patriots

The current U.S. national debt is over \$18 trillion, which means that every single American citizen's share of the national debt is more than \$56,000. This year the federal government will borrow 40 cents of every dollar it spends. The yearly budget deficit now exceeds \$1 trillion while the national debt exceeds \$18 trillion. Washington has not meaningfully reduced spending, regardless of which political party has been in control. Instead, Washington's answer to these problems has been to simply ignore them by taking more of your money through taxation, raising the debt ceiling, and printing more money—instead of cutting back on the runaway spending and reducing the size of the government. This current path is unsustainable and must be reversed with policies that help us repair the damage and create a debt free future so that our children and grandchildren see greater opportunities ahead.

The solution is getting Washington's spending under control. A simple solution to move toward a debt free future is the Penny Plan. Cutting federal spending by just 1 percent every year for the next ten years will cut more than \$4.5 trillion from the debt. This means cutting just 1 penny out of every dollar the government spends each year. Requiring the government to spend one percent less next year than it does this year is a good way to get control of federal spending and finally begin reducing the debt. Ultimately, we need to make these changes permanent. To do that we must pass and ratify a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution which forces spending cuts if Congress fails to maintain a balanced budget once it is achieved.

Source:

Tea Party Patriots. (2016). Debt -free Future. Retrieved from <http://www.teapartypatriots.org/ourvision/debt-free-future/>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

We apply our extensive understanding of budgets, taxes, low-income programs, and social insurance programs—along with our analytic skills and the keen strategic sense for which we are known—to inform and shape debates, influence outcomes, and achieve concrete results.

Federal and state fiscal issues: We analyze budget proposals, focusing especially on programs for low- and moderate-income families. We also examine long-term budget challenges and promote measures to improve fiscal responsibility in an equitable way. We analyze major tax proposals, examining their likely impact on the economy, on the nation's fiscal health, and on the government's ability to address critical national needs, especially over the long term. We also examine the impact of tax proposals on households at different income levels.

Source:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2016). About the Center: Mission & History. Retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/about/mission-history>

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