



Public Policy and Happiness: Evidence and Meaning

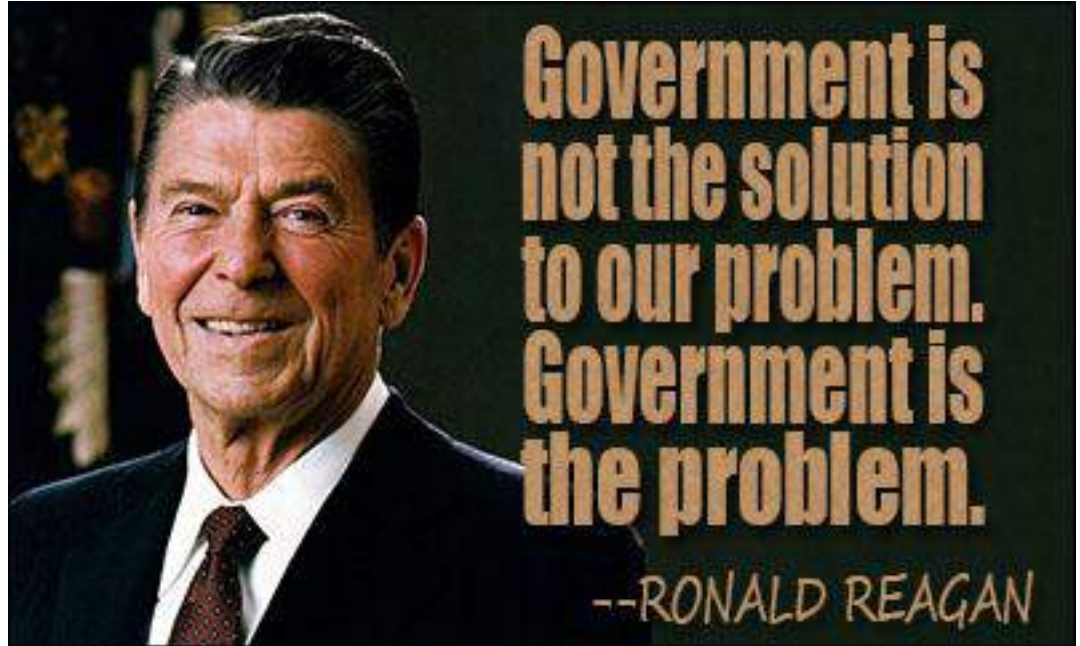
«Social, not Individual»





The “Argument”

1. Replaces Church, family, charity.
2. Degrades the individual charity
3. Laziness, dependency





The “Argument”

1. “To maximize economic efficiency, we must destroy...the social ties that keep people in dependency.”
2. “It is our duty to look after ourselves”





“Brave” New World

Washington Consensus

Austerity

Assault on Organized Labor

The Discredited State (Post-Communism)



Greek anti-austerity protests



Why Happiness?

Happiness MATTERS

Mental Health: Depression, Suicide

Physical Health: Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Longevity, "Healthy Life Years"

Family Life: Partnerships, Parenting

Community Life: Engagement, **Tolerance, Openness**

Work: Enjoyment at work

Social Life: Crime

An Individual Matter?





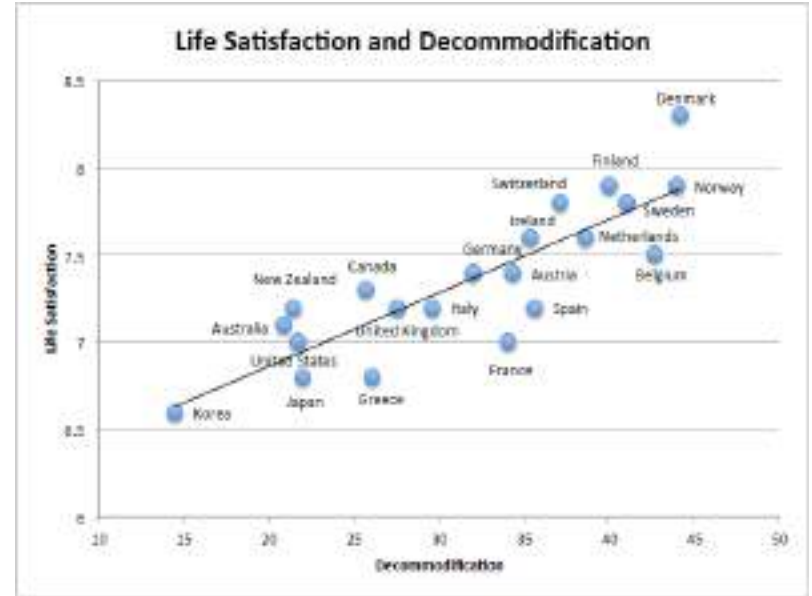
Public Policy Does Work

“Decommodification”

WHO gets support and help?

HOW long does support and help last?

How GENEROUS is support and help?





Guaranteed basic Income Show Promise

--Evidence on impact on social cohesion

Canada

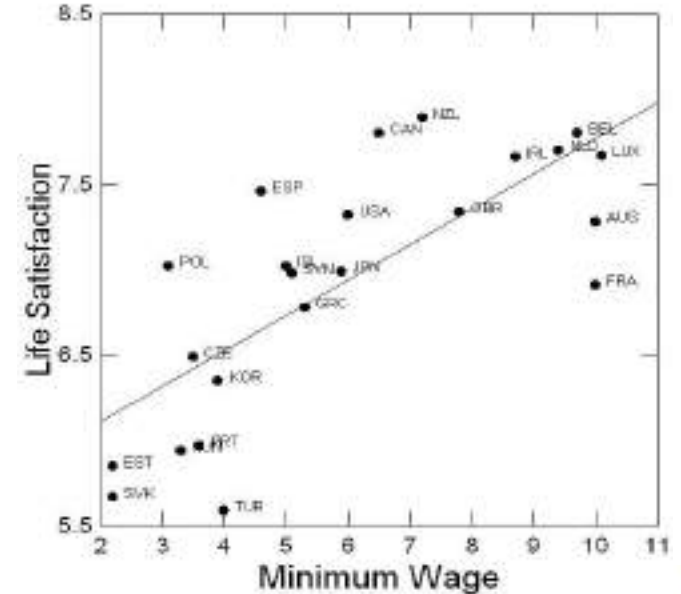
Namibia

Lebanon

India

OECD 2005 Data

Life Satisfaction and the Minimum Wage



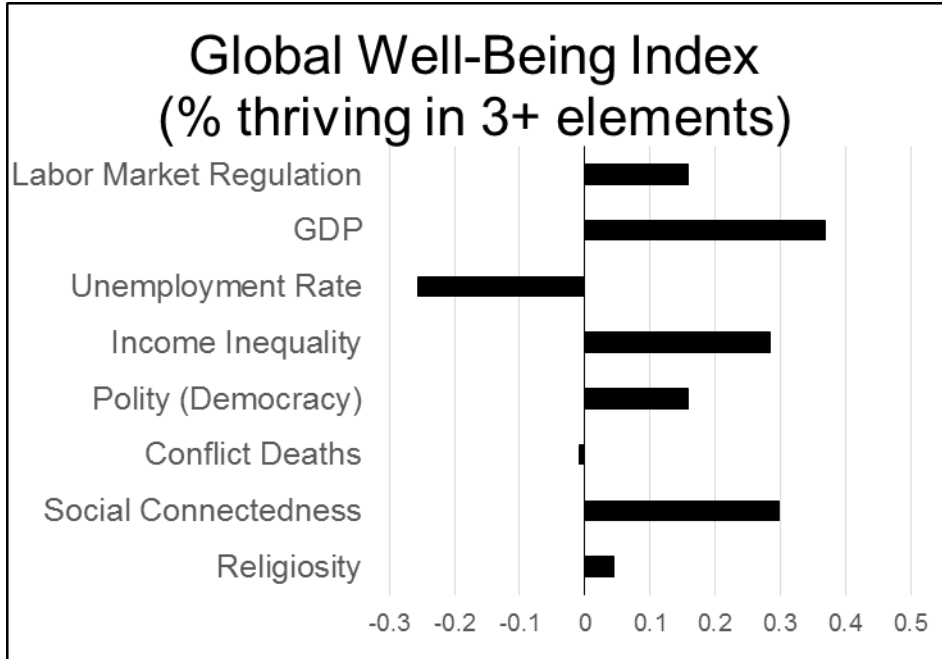


And Globally?

--160 countries, Gallup World View Data

--Regulations on the workplace

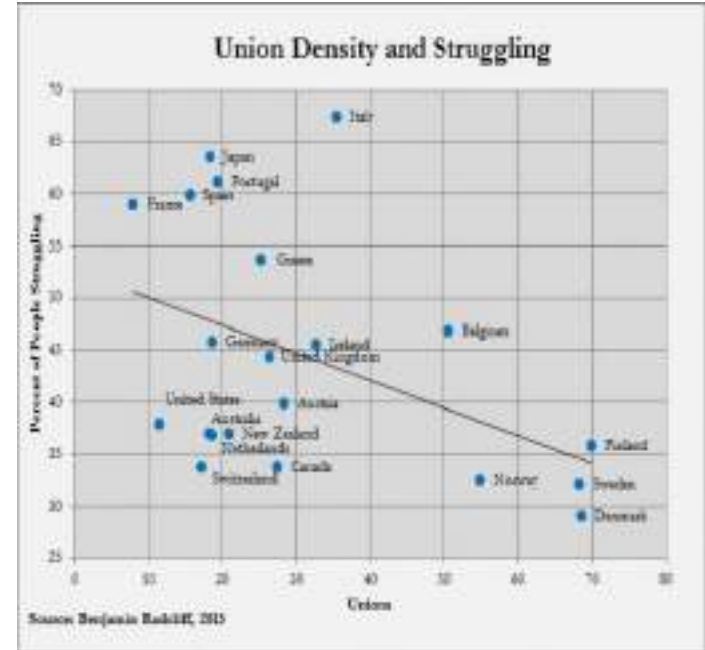
Government intervention in the market MATTERS.





Where Unions Thrive, Happiness Follows

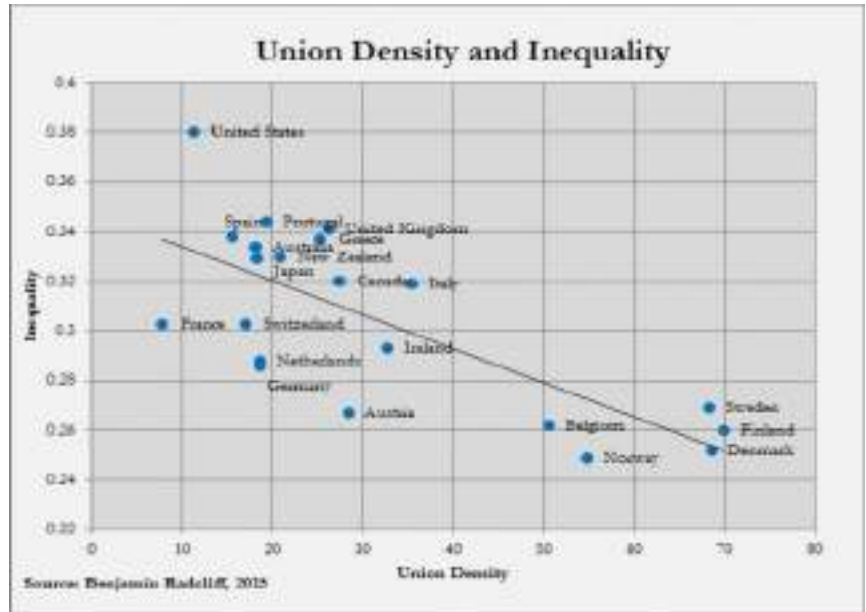
- Benefits extend beyond members
- Better mental, physical health, greater social cohesion





Unions Reduce Inequality

- Greater inequality, more residential segregation (rich vs. poor)
- Greater residential segregation, less social cohesion.

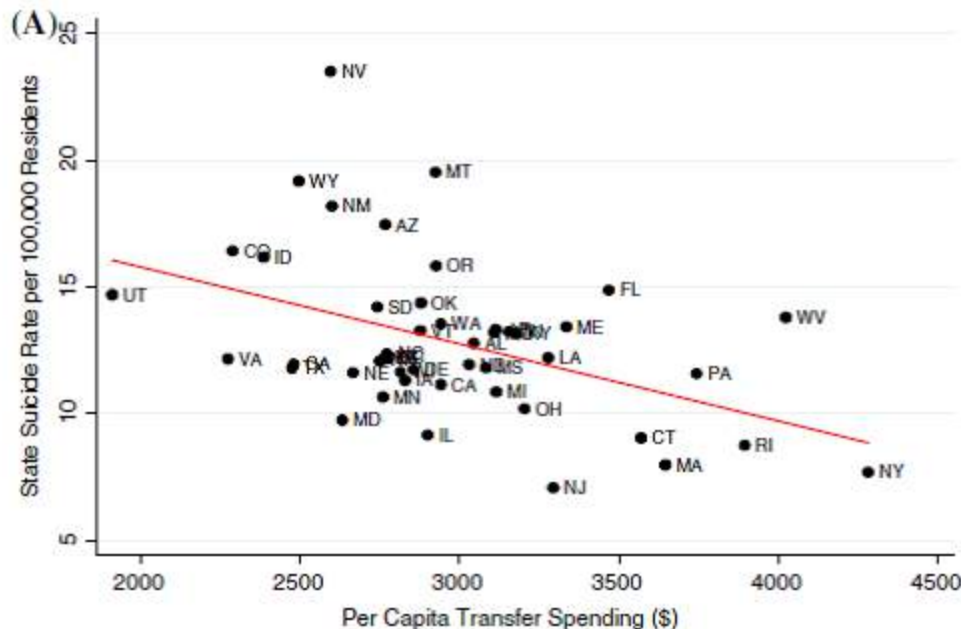




Local Government Matters

Social cohesion and suicide

Welfare mitigates suicide rates





- **But what about...?**
- The Economy: unemployment, growth, development?
- Democracy?
- Personal circumstances: marriage, children, age, religion, health, education?



- **Finding meaning and hope in all this**

- Citizens can influence the nature of government: choices matter.
- National and local government can increase well-being
- Happiness makes social cohesion possible



Thanks!

#PensaCoeso

SOCIALCOHESIONDAYS.COM

