



# How did we get here?

*Plenty Hidden in Plain Sight*

SVCreates | Think Bigger

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# What is scarcity thinking?

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Scarcity thinking is believing that what you need or want is in short supply.

There is never enough.

The competition is fierce.

*And life will be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."*

*-- Thomas Hobbes*



## How did we get here?

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We have allowed the public trust (nonprofit) sector to become infected by private sector thinking.

It is our dominant culture in American, and it is oppressive.

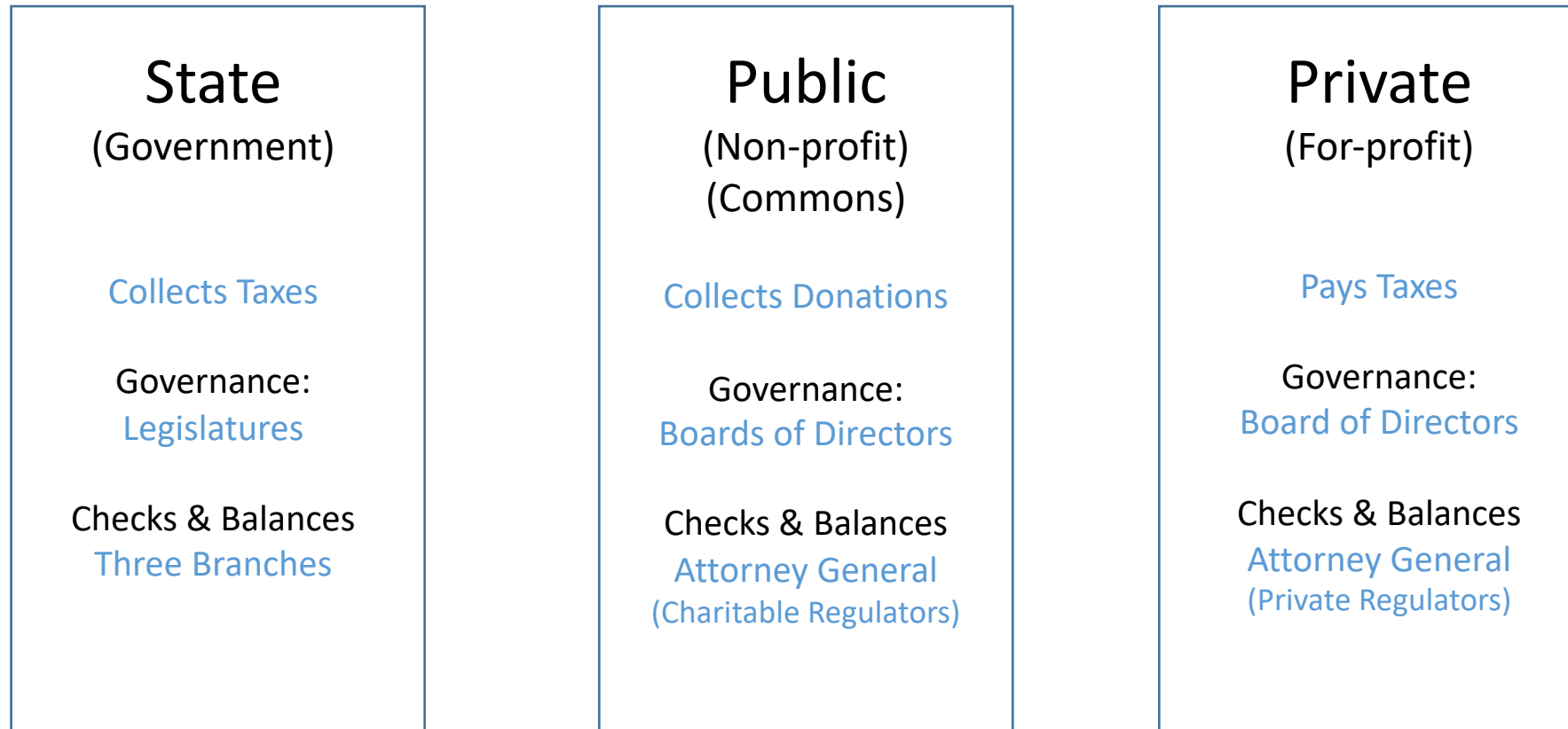
It is a culture of asset accumulation, winner-take-all, nothing-less-than-#1, transactional relationships, loss/gain, winners/losers, *and scarcity for most of us.*

*To reclaim a world of plenty, we need to reclaim the commons origins of our work.*



# A tale of three domains

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# A short history of the commons

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Institutes of Justinian and the ideas of *res communes* and *res publicae* as distinct from the assets of the “state”.

535 A.D.

1215

King John and the *Magna Carta*. Two years later the *Charter of the Forrest* is created and incorporated into the *Magna Carta*.

King Henry VIII begins the first great “enclosure of the commons” during his reign—a project that would penetrate through the Modern Era fueled by free-market capitalism.

1536

1601

Queen Elizabeth I creates the *Charitable Uses Act* or “Statute of Elizabeth” the first modern definition of charitable purpose.

British economist William Forster Lloyd introduces the idea later termed “tragedy of the commons” by ecologist Garrett Hardin.

1833

Economist Elinor Ostrom publishes her Nobel-winning refutation of Lloyd in *Governing the Commons* and a new era of commons thought is born.

1990



# From commons to commoning

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A **common-pool resource (CPR)** is a natural or human made resource that can be bounded or defined and shared by an intentional community.

Moreover, *commoning* is the practice, work, action of caring for resources that are managed as commons through the stewardship of *care-wealth*.

*The nonprofit sector is the original public commons.*



Think like a commoner

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*What if we thought more about...*

SHARING vs. SHAREHOLDING

MOVEMENT vs. MERCHANT

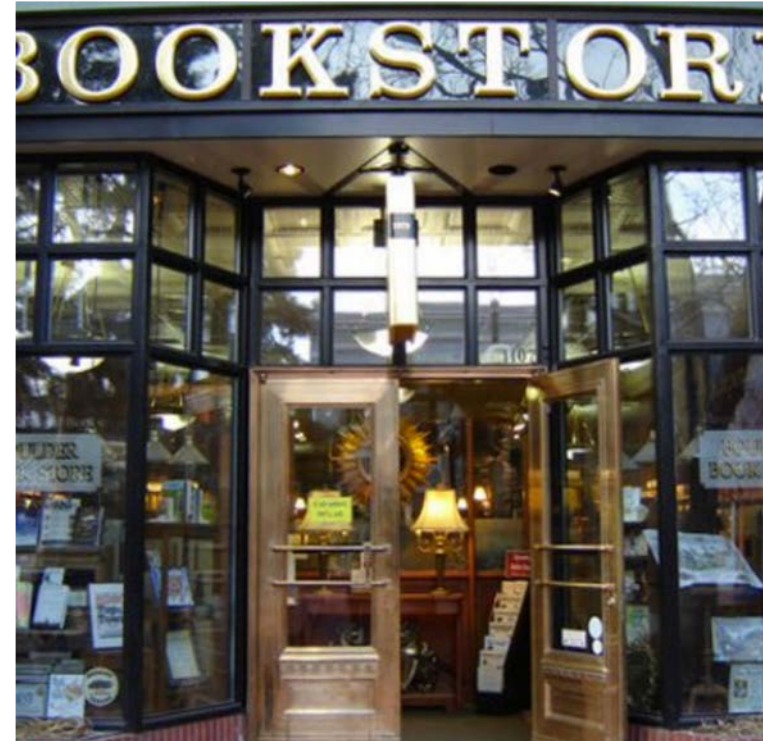
COMMUNITY vs. COMMERCE

ACTION vs. ASSETS



# SHARING vs. SHAREHOLDING

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# MOVEMENT vs. MERCHANT

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# COMMUNITY vs. COMMERCE

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# Talk like a commoner

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## **Capitalist Economy**

*(Private Asset Building)*

*Sale/Fee* .....

*Asset (service, money, space, etc.)* .....

*Client* .....

*Partner* .....

*Competition/ Competitor* .....

*Institutional Capacity Building* .....

*Sustainability* .....

*Excellence* .....

*Quality* .....

*Non-profit* .....

*For-profit* .....

**SCARCITY** .....

## **Commons Economy**

*(Care-wealth Building)*

*Contribution/Allocation/Pooling*

*Care-wealth*

*Stakeholder/Commoner/Contributor*

*Member/Commoner*

*Collaboration/Collaborator/Peer*

*Community Wealth Building*

*Flourishing*

*Intentionality*

*Benefit*

*Social or Commons Purpose/Benefit*

*Private Purpose/Benefit*

**PLENTY**



Join the movement

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**Practice Gratitude – Be Generous.**

**Embrace Meliorism – Be Better.**

**Seek Satisficing – Be Enough.**



## Why is this important?

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***We can move from transactional to transformational.***

Social norming is among the most powerful motivators of choice behavior.

***We can move from loss/gain to gentle reciprocity.***

The magnitude of pain we experience with loss is 2x the magnitude of joy we feel with gain.

***We can move from care-worn to care-wealth.***

Action and values of relational property and mutual care guide us.





SOCIAL IMPACT  
**COMMONS**