

The Difference Principle

- Created by John Rawls
- States that people only benefit from their luck in the accident of birth only if their fruits are helpful to the poorest of the population
 - e.g. Michael Jordan needs to give money to those not blessed with great basketball skills (that is the only way his basketball skills are worth his immense salary)
- More can be taken from the rich if it doesn't hurt those at the bottom
- Objections:
 - What about effort?
 - If people became rich not based on birth, but based on effort, then is it fair to take away their wealth
 - What about self-ownership?
 - By treating natural endowments as common assets, self-ownership is violated

Theories of Distributive Justice

- Libertarian: free market system
- Meritocratic: fair equality of opportunity
- Egalitarian: based on Rawls' Difference Principle