

LONG AGO:

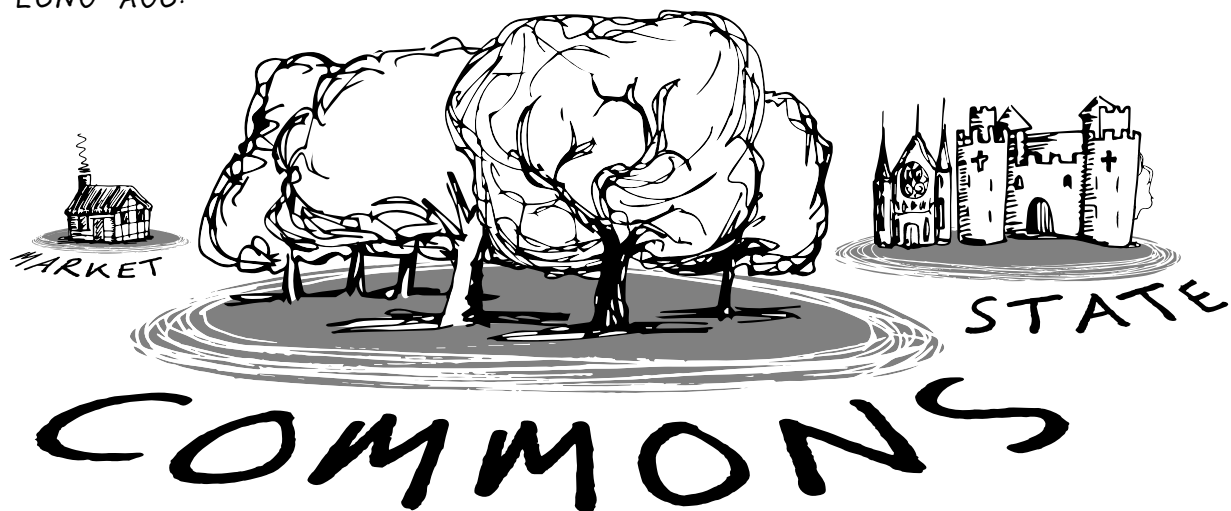


Fig. 4. In preindustrialized society.

This is followed by a long history of the state (a monarchy or ruler) taking over the commons for their own purposes. This is called enclosure of the commons.<sup>12</sup> In olden days, “commoners” were evicted from the land, fences and hedges erected, laws passed, and security set up to forbid access.<sup>13</sup> Gradually, resources became the property of the state and the state became the primary means by which resources were managed. (See Fig. 5).

Holdings of land, water, and game were distributed to ruling family and political appointees. Commoners displaced from the land

migrated to cities. With the emergence of the industrial revolution, land and resources became commodities sold to businesses to support production. Monarchies evolved into elected parliaments. Commoners became labourers earning money operating the machinery of industry. Financial, business, and property laws were revised by governments to support markets, growth, and productivity. Over time ready access to market produced goods resulted in a rising standard of living, improved health, and education. Fig. 6 shows how today the market

STATE TAKEOVER OF THE COMMONS:



Fig. 5. The commons is gradually superseded by the state.