

Evidencing The Book (Medium Priority)

Research Question of Book

The Message of the Book

- Situation: We have a market economy with competition, growth and technological progress.
- Complication: But we have poverty and pollution.
- Question: How do we fix these issues of poverty and pollution?
- Answer: Carbon Tax and LVT but tailored for a change management political evolutionary landscape.

The core theses of this book are:

1. The cause of environmental destruction is a failure of regulation, specifically the lack of appropriate pricing of environmental damage.
2. The cause of inequality is non-degrading private property in limited things such as land and corporations with market power.
3. The cause of failure to implement appropriate policy is a lack of an appropriate theory of change.

In more detail:

1. Wicked Externalities
 - a. There are externalities and they are significant (descriptive point)
 - b. If there are external effects, they should be accounted for in the tax system (theoretical point)
 - c. Carbon Tax will have the desired effect (functional point)
 - d. If we make those tax changes, we should have a certain response (responsive point)
2. Monopoly and Poverty
 - a. There are non-productive (monopoly) assets (descriptive point)
 - b. If there are monopoly assets, then it's efficient and equitable to tax them (theoretical point)
 - c. LVT, cashflow-deductible-investment and corporate wealth tax will have the desired effect (functional point)
 - d. If we tax them, then their price will fall; also, wealth will be transferred to productive activities increasing human wealth (responsive point).
3. Theory of Change
 - a. Change happens when desire overcomes resistance
 - b. Resistance is associated with perceived concentrated financial losses
 - c. Instead, minimise losses whilst maximising the effect and associate that with moral statements of real intent (e.g. 'everyone deserves an affordable home', 'every child deserves a nice planet', 'provide opportunities to mobilise the private sector and people to make the changes we need')