

Government Elitist Opposition Movement (aka Sovereign citizen movement in government circles)

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35 **1 OFFICIAL POSITION OF “THE MOVEMENT” FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE**

36 **1.1 Introduction**

37 We are NOT elitists and don’t think we are better than anyone else. However, this document will establish that people in
38 government and especially those in courts think they are better than everyone else, can make up their own LAW, enforce law
39 illegally and unconstitutionally outside the territory it was intended, LIE with impunity, and then belittle everyone else for
40 doing the same.

41 This document will prove that nearly all the negative comments directed at “sovereign citizens” in the end are actually coming
42 from an anarchist mafia that has rendered the constitution a SHAM TRUST and converted nearly all PRIVATE property into
43 PUBLIC property in doing so for the exclusive benefit of the mafia running the sham trust. Like any mafia, they only protect
44 themselves and only leave you alone when you pay them “protection money”. Justice, which is legally defined as the right
45 to be LEFT alone by everyone, including government, has been turned into NEVER leaving you alone until you pay for
46 CIVIL services (including domicile) that you don’t want and don’t need called “protection money”. Euphemistically giving
47 this “protection money” the name “taxes” doesn’t change the nature of the equation one title for this RICO mafia. That
48 corruption is described in:

- 49 1. Government Corruption, Form #11.401
50 <https://sedm.org/home/government-corruption/>

2. *Your Irresponsible, Lawless, and Anarchist Beast Government*, Form #05.054
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/YourIrresponsibleLawlessGov.pdf>

NONE of the issues raised in our rebuttal here have ever been rebutted or even addressed by any government because they are all Third Rail Issues. The U.S. Congress defines a “communist” as anyone in government who REFUSES or INTERFERES with efforts to acknowledge or enforce the limits place by the constitution or the law upon their behavior. Thus, people in government who refuse to acknowledge the limitations and problems pointed out are BY DEFINITION COMMUNISTS:

TITLE 50 > CHAPTER 23 > SUBCHAPTER IV > Sec. 841.
Sec. 841. - Findings and declarations of fact

The Congress finds and declares that the Communist Party of the United States [consisting of the IRS, DOJ, and a corrupted federal judiciary], although purportedly a political party, is in fact an instrumentality of a conspiracy to overthrow the [de jure] Government of the United States [and replace it with a de facto government ruled by the judiciary]. It constitutes an authoritarian dictatorship IRS, DOJ, and corrupted federal judiciary in collusion within a [constitutional] republic, demanding for itself the rights and privileges [including immunity from prosecution for their wrongdoing in violation of Article 1, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution] accorded to political parties, but denying to all others the liberties [Bill of Rights] guaranteed by the Constitution. Unlike political parties, which evolve their policies and programs through public means, by the reconciliation of a wide variety of individual views, and submit those policies and programs to the electorate at large for approval or disapproval, the policies and programs of the Communist Party are secretly [by corrupt judges and the IRS in complete disregard of the tax laws] prescribed for it by the foreign leaders of the world Communist movement [the IRS and Federal Reserve]. Its members [the Congress, which was terrorized to do IRS bidding recently by the framing of Congressman Traficant] have no part in determining its goals, and are not permitted to voice dissent to party objectives. Unlike members of political parties, members of the Communist Party are recruited for indoctrination [in the public schools by homosexuals, liberals, and socialists] with respect to its objectives and methods, and are organized, instructed, and disciplined [by the IRS and a corrupted judiciary] to carry into action slavishly the assignments given them by their hierarchical chieftains. Unlike political parties, the Communist Party [thanks to a corrupted federal judiciary] acknowledges no constitutional or statutory limitations upon its conduct or upon that of its members. The Communist Party is relatively small numerically, and gives scant indication of capacity ever to attain its ends by lawful political means. The peril inherent in its operation arises not from its numbers, but from its failure to acknowledge any limitation as to the nature of its activities, and its dedication to the proposition that the present constitutional Government of the United States ultimately must be brought to ruin by any available means, including resort to force and violence [or using income taxes]. Holding that doctrine, its role as the agency of a hostile foreign power [the Federal Reserve and the American Bar Association (ABA)] renders its existence a clear present and continuing danger to the security of the United States. It is the means whereby individuals are seduced into the service of the world Communist movement, trained to do its bidding, and directed and controlled in the conspiratorial performance of their revolutionary services. Therefore, the Communist Party should be outlawed.

Since Wikipedia CENSORS any and all links to our website, THEY TOO are communists. Communism has the following central elements:

1. An oligarchy. The organizers of this oligarchy are the Judges, who are ILLEGALLY enforcing franchises within the constitutional states in violation of Article 4, Section 4 using “judge made law”. See:

Government Instituted Slavery Using Franchises, Form #05.030
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/Franchises.pdf>

2. Deception and propaganda through media manipulation. This done mainly through the legal system in our case:

Legal Deception, Propaganda, and Fraud, Form #05.014
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/LegalDecPropFraud.pdf>

3. Government ownership or control of all property. In other words, socialism. We have slightly modified form of socialism where the government controls all property but the title remains in our name attached to a FRANCHISE MARK called the Social Security Number (Slave Surveillance Number). Thus, we are PEONS managing PUBLIC property on behalf of the government and without real compensation. See:

Socialism: The New American Civil Religion, Form #05.016
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/SocialismCivilReligion.pdf>

The oath of all public officers has the purpose of PROTECTING private property, not converting all property to PUBLIC property. Corruption in the court system is causing government to do the OPPOSITE of what it was created to do by abusing its trustee authority ONLY over PUBLIC property to convert all property OUTSIDE the trust to PUBLIC property they can steal:

1 "As expressed otherwise, the powers delegated to a public officer are held in trust for the people and are to be exercised in behalf of
2 the government or of all citizens who may need the intervention of the officer.¹ **Furthermore, the view has been expressed that all**
3 **public officers, within whatever branch and whatever level of government, and whatever be their private vocations, are trustees of**
4 **the people, and accordingly labor under every disability and prohibition imposed by law upon trustees relative to the making of**
5 **personal financial gain from a discharge of their trusts.**² **That is, a public officer occupies a fiduciary relationship to the political**
6 **entity on whose behalf he or she serves.³ and owes a fiduciary duty to the public.⁴ It has been said that the fiduciary**
7 **responsibilities of a public officer cannot be less than those of a private individual.⁵ Furthermore, it has been stated that any**
8 **enterprise undertaken by the public official which tends to weaken public confidence and undermine the sense of security for**
9 **individual rights is against public policy.⁶**
10 [63C American Jurisprudence 2d, Public Officers and Employees, §247 (1999)]

11 By doing the OPPOSITE of what they were created to do, government has become a de facto government as described in:

[De Facto Government Scam](https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/DeFactoGov.pdf), Form #05.043
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/DeFactoGov.pdf>

12 1.2 Definition of "Sovereign"

13 The following definition of "sovereign" is provided to begin this analysis:

14 SEDM Disclaimer

15 4.20 Sovereign

16 The word "sovereign" when referring to humans or governments means all the following:

17 1. A human being and NOT a "government". Only human beings are "sovereign" and only when they are acting in strict obedience to
18 the laws of their religion. All powers of government are delegated from the PEOPLE and are NOT "divine rights". Those powers in
19 turn are only operative when government PREVENTS the conversion of PRIVATE rights into PUBLIC rights. When that goal is
20 avoided or undermined or when law is used to accomplish involuntary conversion, we cease to have a government and instead end up
21 with a private, de facto for profit corporation that has no sovereign immunity and cannot abuse sovereign immunity to protect its
22 criminal thefts from the people.

23 2. EQUAL in every respect to any and every government or actor in government. All governments are legal "persons" and under our
24 Constitutional system, ALL "persons" are equal and can only become UNEQUAL in relation to each other WITH their EXPRESS and
25 NOT IMPLIED consent. Since our Constitutional rights are unalienable per the Declaration of Independence, then we can't become
26 unequal in relation to any government, INCLUDING through our consent.

27 3. Not superior in any way to any human being within the jurisdiction of the courts of any country.

28 4. Possessing the EQUAL right to acquire rights over others by the same mechanisms as the government uses. For instance, if the
29 government encourages the filing of FALSE information returns that essentially "elect" people into public office without their consent,
30 then we have an EQUAL right to elect any and every government or officer within government into our PERSONAL service as our
31 PERSONAL officer without THEIR consent. See:

[Correcting Erroneous Information Returns](https://sedm.org/Forms/04-Tax/0-CorrErrInfoRtns/CorrErrInfoRtns.pdf), Form #04.001
<https://sedm.org/Forms/04-Tax/0-CorrErrInfoRtns/CorrErrInfoRtns.pdf>

¹ State ex rel. Nagle v. Sullivan, 98 Mont. 425, 40 P.2d. 995, 99 A.L.R. 321; Jersey City v. Hague, 18 N.J. 584, 115 A.2d. 8.

² Georgia Dep't of Human Resources v. Sistrunk, 249 Ga. 543, 291 S.E.2d. 524. A public official is held in public trust. Madlener v. Finley (1st Dist), 161 Ill.App.3d. 796, 113 Ill.Dec. 712, 515 N.E.2d. 697, app gr 117 Ill.Dec. 226, 520 N.E.2d. 387 and revd on other grounds 128 Ill.2d. 147, 131 Ill.Dec. 145, 538 N.E.2d. 520.

³ Chicago Park Dist. v. Kenroy, Inc., 78 Ill.2d. 555, 37 Ill.Dec. 291, 402 N.E.2d. 181, appeal after remand (1st Dist) 107 Ill.App.3d. 222, 63 Ill.Dec. 134, 437 N.E.2d. 783.

⁴ United States v. Holzer (CA7 Ill), 816 F.2d. 304 and vacated, remanded on other grounds 484 U.S. 807, 98 L.Ed. 2d 18, 108 S.Ct. 53, on remand (CA7 Ill) 840 F.2d. 1343, cert den 486 U.S. 1035, 100 L.Ed. 2d 608, 108 S.Ct. 2022 and (criticized on other grounds by United States v. Osser (CA3 Pa) 864 F.2d. 1056) and (superseded by statute on other grounds as stated in United States v. Little (CA5 Miss), 889 F.2d. 1367) and (among conflicting authorities on other grounds noted in United States v. Boylan (CA1 Mass), 898 F.2d. 230, 29 Fed.Rules.Evid.Serv. 1223).

⁵ Chicago ex rel. Cohen v. Keane, 64 Ill.2d. 559, 2 Ill.Dec. 285, 357 N.E.2d. 452, later proceeding (1st Dist) 105 Ill.App.3d. 298, 61 Ill.Dec. 172, 434 N.E.2d. 325.

⁶ Indiana State Ethics Comm'n v. Nelson (Ind App), 656 N.E.2d. 1172, reh gr (Ind App) 659 N.E.2d. 260, reh den (Jan 24, 1996) and transfer den (May 28, 1996).

- 1 5. Subject to the criminal laws of the jurisdiction they are physically situated in, just like everyone else. This provision excludes
2 "quasi criminal provisions" within civil franchises, such as tax crimes.
- 3 6. The origin of all authority delegated to the government per the Declaration of Independence.
- 4 7. Reserving all rights and delegating NONE to any and every government or government actor. U.C.C. 1-308 and its predecessor,
5 U.C.C. 1-207.
- 6 8. Not consenting to any and every civil franchise offered by any government.
- 7 9. Possessing the same sovereign immunity as any government. Hence, like the government, any government actor asserting a
8 liability or obligation has the burden of proving on the record of any court proceeding EXPRESS WRITTEN consent to be sued before
9 the obligation becomes enforceable.
- 10 10. Claiming no civil or franchise status under any statutory franchise, including but not limited to "citizen", "resident", "driver"
11 (under the vehicle code), "spouse" (under the family code), "taxpayer" (under the tax code). Any attempt to associate a statutory
12 status and the public rights it represents against a non-consenting party is THEFT and SLAVERY and INJUSTICE.
- 13 11. Acting as a fiduciary, agent, and trustee on behalf of God 24 hours a day, seven days a week as an ambassador of a legislatively
14 foreign jurisdiction and as a public officer of "Heaven, Inc.", a private foreign corporation. God is the ONLY "sovereign" and the
15 source of all sovereignty. We must be acting as His agent and fiduciary before we can exercise any sovereignty at all. Any attempt by
16 so-called "government" to interfere with our ability to act as His fiduciaries is a direct interference with our right to contract and the
17 free exercise of religion. See:

Delegation of Authority Order from God to Christians, Form #13.007
<https://sedm.org/Forms/13-SelfFamilyChurchGovnce/DelOfAuthority.pdf>

- 18 12. Capable of being civilly sued ONLY under the common law and equity and not under any statutory civil law. All statutory civil
19 laws are law for government and public officers, and NOT for private human beings. They are civil franchises that only acquire the
20 "force of law" with the consent of the subject. See:

Why Statutory Civil Law is Law for Government and Not Private Persons, Form #05.037
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/StatLawGovt.pdf>

- 21 13. Protected from the civil statutory law by the First Amendment requirement for separation of church and state because we
22 Christians are the church and our physical body is the "temple" of the church. See: [1 Cor. 6:19](#).
- 23 14. Responsible for all the injuries they cause to every other person under equity and common law ONLY, and not under civil statutory
24 law.
- 25 [*SEDM Disclaimer*, Section 4.20: Sovereign; <https://sedm.org/disclaimer.htm#4.20>. *Sovereign*]

26 The above definition establishes that EVERYTHING said about the Government Elitist Opposition Movement later in in
27 section 2 is FALSE. There is ABSOLUTELY nothing ILLEGAL, UNLAWFUL, CRIMINAL, OR VIOLENT about the above
28 definition. It is, in fact, based on the legal definition of "justice" itself, which is based on the right to be LEFT ALONE by
29 everyone, including government, and equality of treatment but not outcome at the heart of the constitution and government
30 itself as exhaustively described in:

What is "Justice"?, Form #05.050
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/WhatIsJustice.pdf>

31 **1.3 Status of Government**

- 32 1. ALL JUST POWERS, according to the Declaration of Independence derive from THE CONSENT of the governed.
33 Anything not EXPRESSLY consensual is therefore inherently UNJUST.
- 34 2. The government tries to CIRCUMVENT the requirement for EXPRESS consent by the following means:
35 2.1. Using "implied consent" evidenced by ACTION, even if the ACTION was not intended as a form of consent.
36 2.2. Consent derived from ACTIONS is sometimes called:
37 2.2.1. "Assent"
38 2.2.2. "Sub silentio".
39 2.2.3. "Tacit procuracy"
- 40 3. You as the owner of yourself have the absolute right to define the CONDITIONS under which your consent is
41 manifested.

- 1 3.1. You have a right to MANDATE that all consent must be in writing and that it must be signed by TWO parties.
 2 Nearly all government forms only require one signature and most offer franchises ILLEGALLY to extraterritorial
 3 participants in a conspiracy to destroy your rights by exchanging them for privileges and thus alienating them.
 4 3.2. There is a LIMIT to what you can consent to under God’s Biblical delegation of authority order, just like there is a
 5 limit on the delegated authority of public servants. God delegates NO AUTHORITY to contact with any
 6 government to sell your UNALIENALBE rights as a birthright in exchange for worthless government privileges
 7 offered as a Ponzi Scheme, such as Social Security. Thus, any obligations resulting from exceeding that delegated
 8 authority are VOID. Anyone who INTERFERES with obeying that delegation of authority order is conspiring to
 9 deny your First Amendment rights:

Delegation of Authority Order from God to Christians, Form #13.007
<https://sedm.org/Forms/13-SelfFamilyChurchGovnce/DelOfAuthority.pdf>

- 10 3.3. The government does the same thing and it goes BOTH ways.
 11 3.3.1. They invalidate obligations incurred outside the delegated authority of their own employees.
 12 3.3.2. They mandate by law that there are no “parole” contracts or IMPLIED contracts or contracts not signed by
 13 both parties, because all their powers are delegated by you and you can’t delegate what you don’t have.
 14 [Clark v. United States, 95 U.S. 539 \(1877\)](#).

- 15 4. The constitution is a trust indenture written by “We the People” called “The State”. All trusts are contracts. As a
 16 contract, it CANNOT directly obligate anyone who was NOT ALIVE at the time it was signed, which includes
 17 EVERYONE at this point. The only way a living being can therefore become subject to it or obligated by it is if they
 18 consent by taking an oath of office after CONSENTING to a government position.
 19 5. “The State” is legally defined as:

20 *“State. A people permanently occupying a fixed territory bound together by common-law habits and custom into one body politic*
 21 *exercising, through the medium of an organized government, independent sovereignty and control over all persons and things within its*
 22 *boundaries, capable of making war and peace and of entering into international relations with other communities of the globe. United*
 23 *States v. Kusche, D.C.Cal., 56 F.Supp. 201 207, 208. The organization of social life which exercises sovereign power in behalf of the*
 24 *people. Delany v. Moralitis, C.C.A.Md., 136 F.2d 129, 130. In its largest sense, a “state” is a body politic or a society of men. Beagle*
 25 *v. Motor Vehicle Acc. Indemnification Corp., 44 Misc.2d 636, 254 N.Y.S.2d. 763, 765. A body of people occupying a definite territory*
 26 *and politically organized under one government. State ex re. Maisano v. Mitchell, 155 Conn. 256, 231 A.2d. 539, 542. A territorial unit*
 27 *with a distinct general body of law. Restatement, Second, Conflicts, §3. Term may refer either to body politic of a nation (e.g. United*
 28 *States) or to an individual government unit of such nation (e.g. California).*

29 [...]

30 *The people of a state, in their collective capacity, considered as the party wronged by a criminal deed; the public; as in the title of a*
 31 *cause, “The State vs. A.B.”*
 32 *[Black’s Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, p. 1407]*

- 33 6. The purpose of any trust including the constitution is to manage PROPERTY owned by the trust. In this case that
 34 property includes authority to manage ALL PUBLIC property owned ONLY by the government and never PRIVATE
 35 property. Such property includes:
 36 6.1. COMMUNITY property held by the States such as territories and possessions, federal enclaves, government
 37 facilities, and chattel property.
 38 6.2. Offices and civil statuses legislatively created by Congress to MANAGE that property. These offices are just a
 39 collection of privileges and obligations, and since rights are property, they too are PROPERTY.
 40 7. The authority of Congress to even ENACT CIVIL law presupposes that they have an OWNERSHIP interest in all
 41 affected property under Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.
 42 7.1. They cannot write CIVIL laws that affect, tax, or regulate the use or enjoyment of PRIVATE property WITHOUT
 43 the consent of the owner in some form if the property has not been used to injure anyone.
 44 7.2. If they do enact a law violating this requirement, it is a TAKING under the Fifth Amendment.
 45 7.3. You must DONATE property to the trust if you want it regulated or protected. Otherwise, JUSTICE itself
 46 DEMANDS that the property must be LEFT ALONE as a matter of LAW and not PRIVILEGE.
 47 7.4. The act of CREATING civil statutory statuses such as “person”, “citizen”, “resident”, “taxpayer”, etc. is an act of
 48 CREATING PUBLIC property. These statuses consist of OBLIGATIONS and PRIVILEGES that are both
 49 property and the NAME (such as “person”) they attach to is the “res” or “thing” that is the subject of those right.
 50 7.5. You have to CONSENT and ASK for the civil statutory status they create before the obligations and privileges
 51 can attach to you personally. Thus, the status functions as an OFFICE within the government that you have to
 52 VOLUNTEER for. If this were NOT the case, the following constitutional violations would occur:

- 7.5.1. Involuntary servitude in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment.
- 7.5.2. Compelled LEGAL association in violation of the First Amendment.
- 7.5.3. A taking of PRIVATE property in violation of the Fifth Amendment.

7.6. For a demonstration of how the above process works with INCOME TAX see:

Property View of Income Taxation, Form #12.046
<https://sedm.org/LibertyU/PropertyViewOfIncomeTax.pdf>

- 8. The Constitution is a delegation of authority from the Sovereign, which is the “State” to its SERVANT, the Government corporation. The Congress CANNOT by legislation AMEND, REVISE, or EXTEND the constitution or even DEFINE terms in the constitution. To suggest otherwise would permit the SERVANT to write their OWN delegation of authority order. This would make the SERVANT greater than its MASTER.
- 9. The Government Corporation collectively:
 - 9.1. Is a SERVANT of “The State”, and NEVER its MASTER.
 - 9.2. Is also NEVER the master of individuals WITHIN “the State” and doesn’t need to be the master.
- 10. 5 U.S.C. §301 delegates the authority to manage government/PUBLIC property to the head of each department. The head of a government department then has the authority to manage ONLY the following:
 - 10.1. PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT property controlled by his department.
 - 10.2. Personnel VOLUNTARILY serving within the department.
 - 10.3. NEVER the public at large or anyone OUTSIDE his department or even in ANOTHER branch of government for that matter.
- 11. The Constitution creates a CORPORATION called “Government”. ALL governments are corporations, as held by the U.S. Supreme Court in [Ngiraingas v. Sanchez, 495 U.S. 182 \(1990\)](#) and [Proprietors of Charles River Bridge v. Proprietors of Warren Bridge, 36 U.S. 420 \(1837\)](#). The Government Corporation is divided into THREE branches in order the “diffuse power” and implement the separation of powers:
 - 11.1. Executive.
 - 11.2. Legislative.
 - 11.3. Judicial.

The above design of government was first conceived by Montesquieu in the following classic book written EVEN BEFORE the Declaration of Independence:

The Spirit of Laws, Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu
<https://famguardian.org/Publications/SpiritOfLaws/sol.htm>

- 12. Anyone in government or any law which DESTROYS the separation of powers is UNCONSTITUTIONAL and ILLEGAL as documented in:

Government Conspiracy to Destroy the Separation of Powers, Form #05.023
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/SeparationOfPowers.pdf>

- 13. There are TWO types of law:
 - 13.1. Civil, which is voluntary and based on DOMICILE per Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17.
 - 13.2. Criminal, which is NOT voluntary and applies equally to everyone.
- 14. The CIVIL STATUTORY LAW, which is basically everything OTHER than the Criminal law is VOLUNTARILY club rules for a Private Membership Association (PMA) called “the State”.
 - 14.1. These club rules are called “the social compact” by the courts. A “compact” is a “contract”.
 - 14.2. You must CONSENT to join “The State” as a Private Membership Association (PMA) in order for those CIVIL “club rules” to apply. That consent manifests itself as a VOLUNTARY choice of CIVIL DOMICILE.
 - 14.3. These rules DO NOT apply to those who are NOT “consenting members”, such as nonresidents or nonresident aliens. This is because
 - 14.4. When you receive an injury from those who are NOT club members and the injury is not criminal in nature, the choice of law dictated is the common law and equity, not the civil statutory law. This is because YOU CANNOT force others to contract with you.

For proof of the above, see:

Why Domicile and Becoming a “Taxpayer” Require Your Consent, Form #05.002
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/Domicile.pdf>

- 15. The act of JOINING any group and becoming a member ALWAYS involves a SURRENDER of natural rights in some form, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, and it is VOLUNTARY:

“When one becomes a member of society, he necessarily parts with some rights or privileges which, as an individual not affected by his relations to others, he might retain. “A body politic,” as aptly defined in the preamble of the Constitution of Massachusetts, “is a social compact by which the whole people covenants with each citizen, and each citizen with the whole people, that all shall

1 **be governed by certain laws for the common good.” This does not confer power upon the whole people to control rights which**
2 **are purely and exclusively private, *Thorpe v. R. & B. Railroad Co., 27 Vt. 143*; but it does authorize the establishment of laws**
3 **requiring each citizen to so conduct himself, and so use his own property, as not unnecessarily to injure another. This is the very**
4 **essence of government, and 125*125 has found expression in the maxim sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas. From this source**
5 **come the police powers, which, as was said by Mr. Chief Justice Taney in the *License Cases, 5 How. 583*, “are nothing more or**
6 **less than the powers of government inherent in every sovereignty, . . . that is to say, . . . the power to govern men and**
7 **things.” Under these powers the government regulates the conduct of its citizens one towards another, and the manner in which each**
8 **shall use his own property, when such regulation becomes necessary for the public good. In their exercise it has been customary in**
9 **England from time immemorial, and in this country from its first colonization, to regulate ferries, common carriers, hackmen, bakers,**
10 **millers, wharfingers, innkeepers, &c., and in so doing to fix a maximum of charge to be made for services rendered, accommodations**
11 **furnished, and articles sold. To this day, statutes are to be found in many of the States upon some or all these subjects; and we think it**
12 **has never yet been successfully contended that such legislation came within any of the constitutional prohibitions against interference**
13 **with private property. With the Fifth Amendment in force, Congress, in 1820, conferred power upon the city of Washington “to regulate**
14 **. . . the rates of wharfage at private wharves, . . . the sweeping of chimneys, and to fix the rates of fees therefor, . . . and the weight and**
15 **quality of bread,” 3 Stat. 587, sect. 7; and, in 1848, “to make all necessary regulations respecting hackney carriages and the rates of**
16 **fare of the same, and the rates of hauling by cartmen, wagoners, carmen, and draymen, and the rates of commission of auctioneers,” 9**
17 **id. 224, sect. 2.**

18 *From this it is apparent that, down to the time of the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, it was not supposed that statutes regulating*
19 *the use, or even the price of the use, of private property necessarily deprived an owner of his property without due process of law. Under*
20 *some circumstances they may, but not under all. The amendment does not change the law in this particular: it simply prevents the States*
21 *from doing that which will operate as such a deprivation.*

22 *[Munn v. Illinois, 94 U.S. 113, 124-125 (1877);*
23 *SOURCE: https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=6419197193322400931]*

- 24 16. NO ONE can force you to surrender an unalienable right because it is a TAKING of PRIVATE property. Therefore, no
25 one including any government can FORCE you to join any group including the CIVIL SOCIAL COMPACT or to
26 follow its “club rules” called civil statutes crafted ONLY for its members and never outsiders. If they DO, they are:
27 16.1. Compelling you so associate in violation of the First Amendment.
28 16.2. Compelling you to contract in violation of the right to NOT contract. See [Sinking Fund Cases, 99 U.S. 700](#)
29 [\(1878\)](#).
30 16.3. Committing CRIMINAL identity theft.

[Government Identity Theft](#), Form #05.046
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/GovernmentIdentityTheft.pdf>

- 31 17. Government CIVIL franchises implemented with CIVIL STATUTORY law are the main thing we oppose because:
32 17.1. They cause a SURRENDER of unalienable rights.
33 17.2. They cause a CRIMINAL conflict of interest on the part of the government. 18 U.S.C. §208, 28 U.S.C. §144, 28
34 U.S.C. §455. Governments should never be in the position of making a profitable “protection racket” out of
35 taxing, regulating, or stealing rights or property in the name of PROTECTING that property. How ridiculous!
36 17.3. Turn a de jure government into a DE FACTO government that does the OPPOSITE of what governments are
37 created to do, which is PROTECT private property. The FIRST STEP in providing that protection is to LEAVE
38 IT ALONE and not tax or regulate it. See:

[De Facto Government Scam](#), Form #05.043
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/DeFactoGov.pdf>

39 We describe the above conundrum as follows:

40 *Governments are founded to provide protection for PRIVATE property and PRIVATE rights. The first stage in that protection is to*
41 *LEAVE such property alone and not tax or regulate it. Justice itself is defined as the right (not the privilege) to be LEFT ALONE by*
42 *everyone, INCLUDING the government.*

43 [What is “Justice”?](#), Form #05.050
44 <https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/WhatIsJustice.pdf>

45 *Like any mafia, corrupt governments only protect themselves. In practice, they implement the OPPOSITE of justice by NEVER LEAVING*
46 *YOU ALONE and CONSTANTLY harassing you until you pay them “protection money” called “taxes” to procure the PRIVILEGE of*
47 *being left alone. Any attempt to turn “justice” into this kind of taxable privilege represents the WORST form of injustice as*
48 *documented in Section 5.3. of the above.*

49 [Civil statutes \(franchises\)](#) only protect the government from you and never you from the government. You have to join the government
50 as a public officer straw man called a civil “person”, “individual”, “taxpayer”, etc. to receive ANYTHING from them. Their services
51 and property you asked for are then rendered or paid or rendered to the straw man office they created and own, and never to you in
52 your private capacity. Thus, they are the ONLY real “beneficiary” of everything they do:

1 *Why Government is the Only Real Beneficiary of All government Franchises, Form #05.051** (Member Subscriptions)*
2 <https://sedm.org/product/why-the-government-is-the-only-real-beneficiary-of-all-government-franchises-form-05-051/>

3 *In practical effect, government as a security guard has MANDATED that you must DONATE whatever PRIVATE property you want*
4 *them to protect and convert it to PUBLIC property before they will protect it or even RECOGNIZE it. Hence, the term "REAL*
5 *property". Its unreal if it isn't party to a franchise with them called the CIVIL code. Only by connecting/DONATING PRIVATE*
6 *property to a voluntary office can the property be CIVILLY protected. This is the origin of the phrase "effectively connected", in fact.*
7 *The existence of that office, civil status, or tax status is legal evidence of your consent to participate in the civil statutory protection*
8 *franchise and Private Membership Association (PMA) called "domicile". Income taxes in effect are "club dues" for voluntary*
9 *members. Those members are called CIVIL**+D DOMICILED "citizens" and "residents" and "taxpayers". They are NOT called*
10 *POLITICAL/CONSTITUTIONAL Citizens* or even Fourteenth Amendment "citizens of the United States", because an act of birth is*
11 *not an act of choice or consent.*

12 *Would you KNOWINGLY hire a PRIVATE security guard to protect your property who insisted on OWNING everything you want them*
13 *to protect?*

14 **NEVER!**

15 *Statutes that only protect PUBLIC/DOMESTICE/GOVERNMENT property are not needed for those who are FOREIGN, PRIVATE,*
16 *and protected only by the Bill of Rights, the common law, and equity. Are you PRIVATE or PUBLIC?*

17 18. A franchise is simply an agreement or contract or quasi-contract that regulates public property granted temporarily to
18 you under terms specified in the contract or statute regulating it. In the case of government, the property granted that is
19 the origin of the authority to regulate can be:

20 18.1. Land.

21 18.2. Privileges.

22 18.3. Chattel property.

23 18.4. Intangible property.

24 18.5. Contracts.

25 18.6. Civil STATUTORY statuses that CONVEY rights, including "person", "individual", "taxpayer", "spouse",
26 "citizen", "resident", "driver", etc.

27 19. The police power of the state is CRIMINAL in nature ONLY.

28 19.1. It is an ABUSE of the police power to abuse the police for REVENUE collection or CIVIL enforcement or even
29 FRANCHISE enforcement.

30 19.2. Infractions such as traffic tickets where there is no injured party constitute CIVIL enforcement and an abuse of
31 the police powers.

32 19.3. Forcing people into FRANCHISE courts such as Traffic Court instead of CONSTITUTIONAL courts who are
33 unlicensed is ABUSE and a violation of the Constitution. Mere EFFICIENCY in "fleecing the sheep" is
34 insufficient to justify such abuses.

35 20. LICENSES are NOT needed to regulate the roadways.

36 20.1. People don't need to become OFFICERS of the government such as FRANCHISEES or "drivers" to make the
37 roadways safe.

38 20.2. CERTIFICATIONS are sufficient. When vehicle operators people become unsafe, pull their certification and it
39 would have the same effect.

40 20.3. The fact that DOMICILE and becoming a "resident" of the state are bundled with driver licensing or ANY kind of
41 government ID violates the Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine, produces an unconscionable adhesion contract,
42 and results in UNCONSTITUTIONAL "Weaponization of government". See:

SEDM Disclaimer, Section 4.30: Weaponization of Government
https://sedm.org/disclaimer.htm#4.30.Weaponization_of_government

43 21. It is STUPIDITY and COMMERCIAL SUICIDE to ask the government for ANYTHING, INCLUDING CIVIL
44 STATUTORY PROTECTION. This is because:

45 21.1. Of how we describe the result on our opening page:

46 *People of all races, genders, political beliefs, sexual orientations, and nearly all religions are welcome here. All are treated equally*
47 *under REAL "law". The only way to remain truly free and equal under the civil law is to avoid seeking government civil services, benefits,*
48 *property, special or civil status, exemptions, privileges, or special treatment. All such pursuits of government services or property*
49 *require individual and lawful consent to a franchise and the surrender of inalienable constitutional rights AND EQUALITY in the*
50 *process, and should therefore be AVOIDED. The rights and equality given up are the "cost" of procuring the "benefit" or property from*
51 *the government, in fact. Nothing in life is truly "free". Anyone who claims that such "benefits" or property should be free and cost them*
52 *nothing is a thief who wants to use the government as a means to STEAL on his or her behalf. All just rights spring from*
53 *responsibilities/obligations under the laws of a higher power. If that higher power is God, you can be truly and objectively free. If it is*
54 *government, you are guaranteed to be a slave because they can lawfully set the cost of their property as high as they want as a Merchant*

1 under the U.C.C. [If you want it really bad from people with a monopoly, then you will get it REALLY bad. Bend over.](#) There are NO
2 constitutional limits on the price government can charge for their monopoly services or property. Those who want no responsibilities
3 can have no [real/PRIVATE rights](#), but only privileges dispensed to wards of the state which are disguised to LOOK like unalienable
4 rights. Obligations and rights are two sides of the same coin, just like self-ownership and personal responsibility. For the biblical
5 version of this paragraph, read [1 Sam. 8:10-22](#). For the reason God answered Samuel by telling him to allow the people to have a king,
6 read [Deut. 28:43-51](#), which is God's curse upon those who allow a king above them. [Click Here](#)
7 (<https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Taxes/Evidence/HowScCorruptOurRepubGovt.htm>) for a detailed description of the legal, moral,
8 and spiritual consequences of violating this paragraph.
9 [SEDM; <https://sedm.org>]

10 21.2. The EFFECTS of doing so on the government, as described in:

[How Scoundrels Corrupted Our Republican Government](https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Taxes/Evidence/HowScCorruptOurRepubGovt.htm), Family Guardian Fellowship
<https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Taxes/Evidence/HowScCorruptOurRepubGovt.htm>

11 22. The fact that YOU as the reader don't know the above you owe to the fact that the GOVERNMENT runs the public
12 schools. Do you think the SERVANT is ever going to recognize that YOU are in charge or even teach you HOW to be
13 in charge? NEVER! Its YOUR duty to learn these things, and the subject is called "civics". For obvious reasons, it is
14 NO LONGER TAUGHT in public schools.

15 1.4 Status of people in relation to the government

- 16 1. Like the CIVIL SOCIAL COMPACT, YOU TOO have the PRIVATE right to FIRE the government and provide your
17 own SOCIAL COMPACT and replacement for the CIVIL law to govern you and anyone who wants to join your group.
18 1.1. That is the implication of the Declaration of Independence.
19 1.2. So long as you do it NONVIOLENTLY, it can't be stopped or enjoined.
20 2. If you decide to fire the government and form your own Private Membership Association (PMA) also called "the
21 State", you get to write all your own rules to govern it. Here are the rules we as a nonresident use when interacting
22 with the government that replace their default CIVIL STATUTORY club rules:

[Injury Defense Franchise and Agreement](https://sedm.org/Forms/06-AvoidingFranch/InjuryDefenseFranchise.pdf), Form #06.027
<https://sedm.org/Forms/06-AvoidingFranch/InjuryDefenseFranchise.pdf>

23 1.5 Government Pseudolaw

- 24 1. If you as a nonresident caused an injury to a club member called a "domiciliary" and the JUDGE IMPOSES the civil
25 statutory law against your will rather than the common law, he is:
26 1.1. Committing criminal identity theft.
27 [Government Identity Theft](https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/GovernmentIdentityTheft.pdf), Form #05.046
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/GovernmentIdentityTheft.pdf>
28 1.2. Criminally simulating legal process upon a nonresident. In other words, enforcing club rules on non-members.
29 Later in section 2 the GOVERNMENT ELITISTS call this "pseudolaw". Enforcing law that isn't law for
30 EVERYONE affected by it is enforcing "pseudolaw" and it's a CRIME in many states.
31 2. Judges are FAMOUS for UNCONSTITUTIONALLY making their own law. Below are some examples:
32 2.1. When courts enforce civil statutory obligations against nonresidents, they are making law by imputing the
33 FORCE of law to statutes to those who are not subject to it. This is called criminal identity theft and simulating
34 legal process.
35 2.2. When judges impute the status of "positive law" to that which is NOT "positive law", they are making law. For
36 instance, the following statutes are NOT positive law according to 1 U.S.C. §204 and merely a "presumption".
37 Presumptions are NOT evidence and may not be used as evidence in any legal proceeding.
38 2.2.1. Title 26, the ENTIRE Internal Revenue Code.
39 2.2.2. Title 42, including the ENTIRE Social Security Act.
40 2.3. Sovereign immunity is a judicially invented doctrine and NOT a law that is not found in the constitution and thus
is UNCONSTITUTIONAL. One court admitted so in:
[Najim v. CACI Premier Tech., Inc., 368 F. Supp.3d. 935 \(2019\)](https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=2073950510665962726)
https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=2073950510665962726
41 3. For more information on how judges unconstitutionally make law, see:
42 3.1. [How Judges Unconstitutionally "Make Law"](https://sedm.org/Litigation/01-General/HowJudgesMakeLaw.pdf), Litigation Tool #01.009
43 <https://sedm.org/Litigation/01-General/HowJudgesMakeLaw.pdf>
44 3.2. [Courts Cannot Make Law](#), Youtube

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avXHXxeT-UU>

2 **1.6 Government ANARCHISM, LIES, and propaganda**

3 Your government isn't accountable under any law for ANYTHING including telling the truth at any time! In that sense
4 they are TOTAL anarchists. Yet every time you communicate with them you have to sign under penalty of perjury. For
5 proof, see:

Your Irresponsible, Lawless, and Anarchist Beast Government, Form #05.054
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/YourIrresponsibleLawlessGov.pdf>

6 BECAUSE no government is accountable for anything, then they routinely lie about EVERYING with impunity and you
7 shouldn't trust or rely on ANYTHING they say. For a HUGE list of these LIES, see:

- 8 1. *Flawed Tax Arguments to Avoid*, Form #08.004
9 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/FlawedArgsToAvoid.pdf>
- 10 2. *Reasonable Belief About Income Tax Liability*, Form #05.007
11 <https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/ReasonableBelief.pdf>
- 12 3. *Rebutted Version of the IRS "The Truth About Frivolous Tax Arguments"*, Form #08.005
13 https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/friv_tax_rebuts.pdf
- 14 4. *Rebutted Version of Congressional Research Service Report 97-59A: Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the*
15 *Federal Income Tax*, Form #08.006
16 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/CRS-97-59A-rebuts.pdf>
- 17 5. *Your Rights as a "Nontaxpayer"*, Form #08.008
18 <https://sedm.org/LibertyU/NontaxpayerBOR.pdf>
- 19 6. *Policy Document: Rebutted False Arguments Against This Website*, Form #08.011
20 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/RebFalseArgAgWebsite.pdf>
- 21 7. *Policy Document: Rebutted False Arguments About Sovereignty*, Form #08.018
22 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/RebFalseArgSovereignty.pdf>
- 23 8. *Policy Document: IRS Fraud and Deception About the Statutory Word "Person"*, Form #08.023
24 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/IRSPerson.pdf>
- 25 9. *Rebutted False Arguments About the Common Law*, Form #08.025
26 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/RebuttedFalseArgumentsAboutCommonLaw.pdf>
- 27 10. *Rebutted False Statements about Sovereignty In the News*, Form #08.027
28 <https://sedm.org/category/rebutted-false-statements-about-sovereignty-in-the-news/>
- 29 11. *Rebutted False Arguments About the Nonresident Alien Position When Used by American Nationals*, Form #08.031
30 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/RebArgNRA.pdf>

31 In addition, there is a HUGE list of Third Rail Issues the government refuses to allow you to know about and engages in
32 sophistry to avoid and protect. See:

Third Rail Government Issues, Form #08.032
<https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/ThirdRailIssues.pdf>

33 The BIGGEST lie you've ever been told is that you can become a "taxpayer" without volunteering in some fashion. For
34 proof, see:

How American Nationals Volunteer to Pay Income Tax, Form #08.024
<https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/HowYouVolForIncomeTax.pdf>

35 Just about everything you've ever been told by government is a LIE. It's time to stop drinking the Kool-Aide and jumping
36 off the cliff like a lemming upon command.

37 The result of the COMPLETELY lawless, anarchist, unaccountable, LYING government we have now is the following
38 SUBSTITUTE social compact that makes YOU the reader a slave. See:

Rebutted Version of Wikipedia: Sovereign Citizen Movement
Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry, <https://sedm.org>
Form #08.033, Rev. 1/10/25

1 **1.7 Things the Sovereign Citizen Movement article is RIGHT about that we agree with**

2 There are a number of things the Sovereign Citizen Movement article is right about and which we agree with and which the
3 courts are correct to condemn:

- 4 1. They criticize the hyperfocus on money by the freedom community and so do we. We want justice and to be left alone,
5 not money from anyone other than money that might have been STOLEN from us through ILLEGAL tax enforcement:

6 *Most schemes sovereign citizens promote aim to avoid paying taxes, ignore laws, eliminate debts, or extract money from the*
7 *government.^[3] Sovereign citizen arguments have no basis in law and have never been successful in any court*

- 8 2. They do qualify their treatment of “sovereign citizens” by saying that EVERYTHING they do is illegal. We too
9 criticize illegal activity and FORBID such activity in our Member Agreement, Form #01.001.

10 *“But the methods the movement advocates are illegal.”*

11 Thus, BY DEFINITION, the term “sovereign citizen” EXCLUDES anyone NOT engaged in illegal activity, and thus
12 excludes US and all our members, who are FORBIDDEN by our Member Agreement from doing so.

- 13 3. We agree that all governments are corporations and that most of the evil and injustice we are fighting originates in
14 ANY and ALL CIVIL LEGAL connection on our part to that corporation.

15 *The beliefs that the government is a corporation and that people are secretly under a form of commercial law leads sovereign citizens*
16 *to believe that statutory law is a contract binding people to the state. According to this theory, people are tricked into this contract by*
17 *various methods, including Social Security numbers, fishing licenses, or ZIP Codes: thus, avoiding their use means immunity from*
18 *government authority.^{[2][73][31][73]} Another common belief among sovereign citizens is that they can opt out of the purported contract,*
19 *making themselves immune from the laws they do not wish to follow, by declining to “consent”: when confronted by police officers or*
20 *other officials, sovereign citizens typically attempt to negate their authority by saying, “I do not consent”.^[4]*

21 The article misidentifies HOW that legal connection is established, which is USUALLY by our own ELECTION
22 (“consent”) in some form by either:

- 23 3.1. A CIVIL DOMICILE election. See:

Why Domicile and Becoming a “Taxpayer” Require Your Consent, Form #05.002
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/Domicile.pdf>

- 24 3.2. Participating in a government franchise. See:

Government Instituted Slavery Using Franchises, Form #05.030
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/Franchises.pdf>

- 25 3.3. Satisfying the Minimum Contacts Doctrine in pursuing a government benefit. See:

Acquiring a Civil Status, FTSIG
<https://ftsig.org/civil-political-jurisdiction/acquiring-a-civil-status/>

- 26 3.4. A CIVIL STATUS election on a government form, such as a tax form or benefit form. These ELECTION
27 mechanisms are documented in:

How You Lose Constitutional or Natural Rights, Form #10.015
<https://sedm.org/Forms/10-Emancipation/HowLoseConstOrNatRights.pdf>

- 28 4. They state that the Uniform Commercial Code is the source of sinister activity by sovereign citizens but don’t mention
29 their OWN abuses of the U.C.C.:

30 *Many sovereign citizens believe that the Uniform Commercial Code, which provides an interstate standard for documents that they*
31 *believe apply only to their straw man, is a codification of the illegitimate commercial law ruling the United States. Therefore, they*
32 *think that exploiting supposed loopholes in the UCC will help them assert their rights or invoke their special privileges and powers as*
33 *“common law citizens”.^[6]*

34 In fact it is the OTHER way around. CONGRESS is ILLEGALLY offering federal franchises limited to federal
35 territory ILLEGALLY in states of the Union and using the Uniform Commercial Code, the Minimum Contacts
36 Doctrine, the Constitutional Avoidance Doctrine, and the Public Rights Doctrine to look the other way and
37 ILLEGALLY create OBLIGATIONS on the part of those who MISTAKENLY or illegally sign up who aren’t eligible.
38 See:

Why You Aren't Eligible for Social Security, Form #06.001
<https://sedm.org/Forms/06-AvoidingFranch/SSNotEligible.pdf>

5. They state that sovereign citizens are “non-resident aliens”. We agree with that:

Sovereign citizens may claim that their status in the United States is that of "non-resident aliens".^[22] Only residents (resident aliens) of the states, not its citizens, are income-taxable, sovereign citizens argue.

The above is not entirely true in our case. The word “only” is a dangerous word that deservedly invites frivolous accusations. Anyone who accepts or participates in a privilege is taxable, such as “aliens” present anywhere in the country, pursuing a PRIVILEGED franchise status that is a creation of and property of the national government such as the “citizen” mentioned in 26 C.F.R. §1.1-1(a), or pursuing PRIVILEGED deductions under 26 U.S.C. §162, or “effectively connecting” your earnings and thus DONATING them to the national government (See Form *The Truth About “Effectively Connecting”*, Form #05.056; <https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/EffectivelyConnected.pdf>). Only IDIOTS willingly pursue such privileges. We have an entire website dealing with the above subject if you would like to visit it. Everything is free and thoroughly vetted and NEVER legitimately discredited in court.

Foreign Tax Status Information Group (FTSIG) Website
<https://ftsig.org>

6. They state that international bankers are the source of trouble that replaced the de jure government with a de facto government.

Sovereign citizen texts often posit that "international bankers" are at the source of the conspiracy that replaced the United States' legitimate government and legal system.

The fact that the national government has to borrow all money into circulation from the Federal Reserve and pay interest instead of using the constitutional powers to mint money makes the government needlessly beholden to the PRIVATE federal reserve international bankers. Here is the proof:

The Money Scam, Form #05.041
<https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/MoneyScam.pdf>

7. They claim that sovereign citizens agree that there a secret bank account created by a Birth certificate. We don't believe in that and AGREE with them for condemning such idiotic notions:

The sovereign citizen movement overlaps with the redemption movement (also known as "A4V" after one of its schemes), which claims that a secret bank account is created for every citizen at birth as part of the process whereby the U.S. government uses its citizens as collateral.^{[20][69]} Several prominent sovereign citizens have advocated redemption schemes.^[13] The belief in a secret bank account is intertwined with the strawman theory, since each person's fund is supposedly associated with their "straw man".^{[13][64]}

8. They state that sovereign citizens becoming a “non-resident alien” by CHALLENGING or abandoning their citizenship is illegitimate. We agree.

The idea that one can avoid paying taxes in the country one resides in by renouncing or challenging the validity of one's citizenship and claiming to be a "non-resident alien" is legally baseless. The Internal Revenue Service has refuted in detail "frivolous tax arguments" such as this and the idea that filing tax returns and paying Federal Income tax are "voluntary".^{[12][113]}

They are absolutely correct here BECAUSE:

8.1. The “citizen” mentioned in 26 C.F.R. §1.1-1(a) and the U.S. person defined in 26 U.S.C. §7701(a)(30) are privileged FRANCHISE statuses that require an ADDITIONAL election and consent BEYOND mere POLITICAL Citizen* status in the Fourteenth Amendment or that in 26 C.F.R. §1.1-1(c).

8.2. The “citizen of the United States” in 26 C.F.R. §1.1-1(a) is a POLITICAL Citizen defined in 26 C.F.R. §1.1-1(c) who ALSO is “of the United States”, where “United States” in THIS scenario means the LEGAL/CORPORATE United States.

8.3. ALL those who even own the income tax as “citizens” and “residents” are volunteers working WITHIN the Department of the Treasury for the Secretary of the Treasury, as proven in the following. They STARTED as POLITICAL Citizens” and ADDED their consent through an ELECTION to join the United States federal corporation by filling out the 1040 form instead of the 1040-NR form as described in:

How American Nationals Volunteer to Pay Income Tax, Form #08.024
<https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/HowYouVolForIncomeTax.pdf>

1 8.4. It therefore HAS NEVER been necessary to REPUDIATE any kind of citizenship to become a nonresident alien.
2 All you have to do is LAWFULLY file the 1040-NR Return. For all the reasons why and how to do that, see the
3 following FREE website:

Foreign Tax Status Information Group (FTSIG) Website
<https://ftsig.org>

4 **1.8 Notice who IS NOT mentioned in this article, even though we have been doing sovereignty longer than anyone**

5 Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry has been around since 2003. We offer a larger body of research on the subject
6 than ANYONE. Our materials:

- 7 1. Are NEVER mentioned ANYWHERE in the Wikipedia article starting later in section 2.
- 8 2. Are NEVER referenced ANYWHERE within Wikipedia that we have been able to find.
- 9 3. Are not mentioned in ANY frivolous arguments on the IRS website.
- 10 4. In their current form have NEVER been discredited or called frivolous in ANY court ruling.

11 The reasons are QUITE clear to us:

- 12 1. The government knows that our site is filled with the brim with [Third Rail Issues](#) they don't dare even talk about.
- 13 2. There are no weak arguments they can take out of context to even create the APPEARANCE of a frivolous position.
- 14 3. By pointing at our website, they would be creating a HECK of a lot more work and lost revenue than they would be
15 saving.
- 16 4. We define ALL important terms on our website in the [Disclaimer](#) so that sophist hijacking of terms to start an argument
17 or distract away from [Third Rail Issues](#) using red herrings and logical fallacies simply won't work. To defeat sophists,
18 define all terms before the discussion or debate begins and the only choice they will have is to leave the room because
19 they will have NOTHING to talk about that won't advantage their opponent.

20 **1.9 Questions Readers should be asking the government about section 2 later**

21 Note that NONE of the questions here are a request for legal advise. They are simply the equivalent of a DEMAND for you
22 to impose the same behavior on the GOVERNMENT that your deceptive article imposes on "sovereign citizens". In a truly
23 free country, freedom BEGINS with everyone being treated EQUALLY. HYPOCRITES!

- 24 1. What's the legal definition of a "sovereign citizen". It's NEVER BEEN DEFINED! Putting a label on anyone that
25 isn't even defined and thereby forcing them to PROVE A NEGATIVE, which is that it DOES NOT apply is
26 RIDICULOUS, DISCRIMINATORY, and a VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS. Its almost impossible to prove a
27 negative.
- 28 2. If you never even DEFINE what a "sovereign citizen", how can you truthfully make general statements like the
29 following?:

30 *Their claims have been consistently rejected by courts in various countries, including the U.S., Canada,^{[6][92]} Australia,^[108] and New
31 Zealand.^[109]*

32 You have to DEFINE what you are rebutting ENTIRELY before you can say its been rebutted.

- 33 3. Exactly who wrote the DRIBBLE and lies in section 2 published ANONYMOUSLY by Wikipedia? Wikipedia DOES
34 NOT ALLOW you to identify the name, address, and email of the author. This encourages LIES on the part of authors.
- 35 4. Why do you have to BUNDLE DOMICILE with LICENSING? This violates the Unconstitutional Conditions
36 Doctrine of the U.S. Supreme Court by compelling a WAIVER of OTHER unrelated rights?
- 37 5. Licenses and franchises are based on the right of the owner to regulate the use of the property by others. If government
38 claims the right to regulate the use of its roadways as PUBLIC property by compelling a license, then:
39 5.1. Why don't JUDGES who want to ABUSE licensing to control or regulate MY PRIVATE LIFE AND PRIVATE
40 PROPERTY have to obey MY license to THEM to do so? What makes THEIR property more important or
41 valuable than mine? That license agreement is:

Injury Defense Franchise and Agreement, Form #06.027
<https://sedm.org/Forms/06-AvoidingFranch/InjuryDefenseFranchise.pdf>

5.2. By what authority do you use “weaponize government” to add whatever other obligation they want to licensing that has nothing to do with safe roadways, such as:

5.2.1. Paying child support.

5.2.2. Getting a Social Security Number. This is ILLEGAL for those in states of the Union. See:

5.2.2.1. *Why You Aren't Eligible for Social Security*, Form #06.001

<https://sedm.org/Forms/06-AvoidingFranch/SSNotEligible.pdf>

5.2.2.2. *Why It Is Illegal for Me to Request or Use a Taxpayer Identification Number*, Form #04.205

<https://sedm.org/Forms/04-Tax/2-Withholding/WhyTINIIllegal.pdf>

5.2.3. Paying all court fines.

5.2.4. Being a DOMICILIARY or RESIDENT of the state subject to income taxes.

For a definition of “weaponization of government”, see:

SEDm Disclaimer, Section 4.30: Weaponization of Government

https://sedm.org/disclaimer.htm#4.30. Weaponization_of_government

6. By what authority do you COMMERCIALY INVADE the states of the Union to offer federal franchises such as Social Security when the constitution does not permit it, and the founding fathers FORBADE IT?

“With respect to the words general welfare, I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creator.”

“If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare, they may take the care of religion into their own hands; they may appoint teachers in every State, county and parish and pay them out of their public treasury; they may take into their own hands the education of children, establishing in like manner schools throughout the Union; they may assume the provision of the poor; they may undertake the regulation of all roads other than post-roads; in short, every thing, from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress.... Were the power of Congress to be established in the latitude contended for, it would subvert the very foundations, and transmute the very nature of the limited Government established by the people of America.”

“If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the general welfare, the government is no longer a limited one possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one subject to particular exceptions.”
[James Madison. House of Representatives, February 7, 1792, On the Cod Fishery Bill, granting Bounties]

“For the love of money [and even government “benefits”, which are payments] is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
[1 Timothy 6:5-12, Bible, NKJV]

“A tax, in the general understanding of the term and as used in the constitution, signifies an exaction for the support of the government. The word has never thought to connote the expropriation of money from one group for the benefit of another.”
[U.S. v. Butler, 297 U.S. 1 (1936)]

“To lay with one hand the power of government on the property of the citizen, and with the other to bestow it on favored individuals, is none the less robbery because it is done under the forms of law and is called taxation. This is not legislation. It is a decree under legislative forms.”

[Loan Association v. Topeka, 20 Wall. 655 (1874)]

It has been urged and echoed, that the power “to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts, and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States,” amounts to an unlimited commission to exercise every power which may be alleged to be necessary for the common defense or general welfare. No stronger proof could be given of the distress under which these writers labor for objections, than their stooping to such a misconstruction. Had no other enumeration or definition of the powers of the Congress been found in the Constitution, than the general expressions just cited, the authors of the objection might have had some color for it... For what purpose could the enumeration of particular powers be inserted, if these and all others were meant to be included in the preceding general power? Nothing is more natural nor common than first to use a general phrase, and then to explain and qualify it by a recital of particulars... But what would have been thought of that assembly, if, attaching themselves to these general expressions, and disregarding the specifications which ascertain and limit their import, they had exercised an unlimited power of providing for the common defense and general welfare? (Federalists #41)
[Federalist #41. Saturday, January 19, 1788, James Madison]

1 Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but only those specifically enumerated.

2 They are not to do anything they please to provide for the general welfare, but only to lay taxes for that purpose. To consider the latter
3 phrase not as describing the purpose of the first, but as giving a distinct and independent power to do any act they please which may
4 be good for the Union, would render all the preceding and subsequent enumerations of power completely useless. It would reduce the
5 whole instrument to a single phrase, that of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United
6 States; and as they would be the sole judges of the good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please.... Certainly
7 no such universal power was meant to be given them. It was intended to lace them up straightly within the enumerated powers and
8 those without which, as means, these powers could not be carried into effect.

9 That of instituting a Congress with power to do whatever would be for the good of the United States; and, as they would be the sole
10 judges of the good or evil, it would be also a power to do whatever evil they please.

11 [Thomas Jefferson: Opinion on National Bank, 1791. ME 3:148; SOURCE:
12 <http://famguardian.org/Subjects/Politics/ThomasJefferson/jeff1020.htm> and
13 <http://thefederalistpapers.org/founders/jefferson/thomas-jefferson-opinion-on-national-bank-1791/>]

14 1.10 Further reading and research

- 15 1. *Policy Document: Rebutted False Arguments About Sovereignty*, Form #08.018
16 <https://sedm.org/Forms/08-PolicyDocs/RebFalseArgSovereignty.pdf>
- 17 2. *Why Domicile and Becoming a "Taxpayer" Require Your Consent*, Form #05.002-why CIVIL STATUTORY LAW is
18 voluntary, not ALL law.
19 <https://sedm.org/Forms/05-MemLaw/Domicile.pdf>
- 20 3. *Sovereignty and Freedom Points and Authorities*, Litigation Tool #10.018-legal research that proves that EVERYING
21 we base our position on is backed up by the courts.
22 <https://sedm.org/Litigation/10-PracticeGuides/PointsAuth.pdf>
- 23 4. *Citizenship and Sovereignty Course*, Form #12.001
24 4.1. SLIDES: <https://sedm.org/LibertyU/CitAndSovereignty.pdf>
25 4.2. VIDEO: <http://youtu.be/GolzN63Uk7E>

26 2 GOVERNMENT ELITIST LIES ABOUT THE MOVEMENT

27 From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Downloaded 1/11/2025
28 SOURCE: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_citizen_movement

29 *Not to be confused with [sovereign individual](#).*

31 The **sovereign citizen movement** (also **SovCit movement** or **SovCits**)^[1] is a loose group of anti-government activists,
32 [vexatious litigants](#), [tax protesters](#), financial [scammers](#), and [conspiracy theorists](#) present mainly in English-speaking [common](#)
33 [law](#) countries - the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. Sovereign citizens have their own [pseudolegal](#)
34 belief system based on misinterpretations of common law and claim not to be subject to any government statutes unless they
35 consent to them.^{[2][3]} The movement appeared in the U.S. in the early 1970s and has since expanded to other countries; the
36 similar [freeman on the land movement](#) emerged during the 2000s in Canada before spreading to other [Commonwealth](#)
37 countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.^[4] The [FBI](#) has called sovereign citizens "anti-government
38 extremists who believe that even though they physically reside in this country, they are separate or 'sovereign' from the United
39 States".^[5]

40 The sovereign citizen phenomenon is one of the main contemporary sources of pseudolaw. Sovereign citizens believe that
41 courts have no [jurisdiction](#) over people and that certain procedures (such as writing specific phrases on bills they do not want
42 to pay) and [loopholes](#) can make one immune to government laws and regulations.^[6] They also regard most forms of [taxation](#)
43 as illegitimate and reject [Social Security numbers](#), [driver's licenses](#), and [vehicle registration](#).^[7] The movement may appeal to
44 people facing financial or legal difficulties or wishing to resist perceived government oppression. As a result, it has grown
45 significantly during times of economic or social crisis.^[8] Most schemes sovereign citizens promote aim to avoid paying taxes,
46 ignore laws, eliminate debts, or extract money from the government.^[3] Sovereign citizen arguments have no basis in law and
47 have never been successful in any court.^{[3][6]}

48 American sovereign citizens claim that the [United States federal government](#) is illegitimate.^{[3][9]} Sovereign citizens outside
49 the U.S. hold similar beliefs about their countries' governments. The movement can be traced to [American far-right groups](#)

1 such as the [Posse Comitatus](#) and the [constitutionalist](#) wing of the [militia movement](#).^[10] The sovereign citizen movement was
2 originally associated with [white supremacy](#) and [antisemitism](#), but now attracts people of various ethnicities, including a
3 significant number of [African Americans](#).^[3] The latter sometimes belong to self-declared [Moorish](#) sects.^[11]

4 The majority of sovereign citizens are not violent.^{[2][12]} But the methods the movement advocates are illegal. Sovereign
5 citizens notably adhere to the fraudulent schemes promoted by the [redemption "A4V" movement](#). Many sovereign citizens
6 have been found guilty of offenses such as tax evasion, [hostile possession](#), forgery, threatening public officials, bank fraud,
7 and traffic violations.^{[3][5][13]} Two of the most important crackdowns by U.S. authorities on sovereign citizen organizations
8 were the 1996 case of the [Montana Freeman](#) and the 2018 sentencing of self-proclaimed judge [Bruce Doucette](#) and his
9 associates.^[14]

10 Because some have engaged in armed confrontations with law enforcement,^{[2][15]} the FBI classifies "sovereign citizen
11 extremists" as [domestic terrorists](#).^[16] [Terry Nichols](#), one of the perpetrators of the 1995 [Oklahoma City bombing](#), subscribed
12 to a variation of sovereign citizen ideology.^[13] In surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015, representatives of U.S. law
13 enforcement ranked the risk of terrorism from the sovereign citizen movement higher than the risk from any other group,
14 including [Islamic extremists](#), [militias](#), [racist skinheads](#), [neo-Nazis](#), and [radical environmentalists](#).^{[17][18]} In 2015, the Australian
15 [New South Wales Police Force](#) identified sovereign citizens as a potential terrorist threat.^[19]

16 **2.1 [History](#)**

17 **2.1.1 [Origin](#)**

18 *See also:* [Radical right \(United States\)](#), [Posse Comitatus \(organization\)](#), [American militia movement](#), [Patriot movement](#),
19 [Christian Patriot movement](#), and [Tax protester history in the United States](#)

20 The sovereign citizen movement originated from a combination of [tax protester](#) ideas, from the radical and [racist](#) anti-
21 government movements in the 1960s and 1970s,^[20] and [pseudolaw](#), which has existed in the U.S. since at least the 1950s.^[6]
22 Their belief in the illegitimacy of [federal income tax](#) gradually expanded to challenging the legitimacy of the government.^[3]

23 The concept of a "sovereign citizen" whose rights are unfairly denied appeared in 1971 within the [Posse Comitatus](#) as a
24 teaching of [Christian Identity](#) minister [William Potter Gale](#).^{[3][9]} The Posse Comitatus was a [far-right](#) anti-government
25 movement^[3] that denounced the [income tax](#), [debt-based currency](#), and [debt collection](#) as tools of [Jewish control](#) over the
26 United States.^[21] The roots of the sovereign citizen movement were thus strongly associated with [white supremacy](#) and
27 [antisemitic](#) ideologies.^{[3][9]} Gale's racist beliefs were far from unique, but he innovated by devising a "legal" philosophy about
28 the illegitimacy of the government that appealed to disaffected people.^[9]

29 After originating in that particular group, the sovereign citizen concept went on to influence the broader tax protester and
30 [Christian Patriot](#) movements.^{[3][9]} Until the 1990s, observers mainly classified the Posse Comitatus as a tax protester
31 movement rather than an outright far-right extremist group. But while the Posse Comitatus, Christian Identity, and militia
32 movements did not entirely merge with each other, there was significant overlap between them.^[22]

33 **2.1.2 [Developments](#)**

34 *See also:* [Montana Freeman](#)

35 In the early 1980s, [Gordon Kahl](#), a former [Posse Comitatus](#) member, helped radicalize sovereign citizen anti-government
36 rhetoric. Kahl considered the government not only illegitimate but actively hostile to Americans' interests. After Kahl was
37 killed in 1983 during a [shootout](#) with law enforcement, the movement considered him a martyr, which helped disseminate
38 his views.^[22]

39 The movement garnered more support during the [American farm crisis](#) of the late 1970s and 1980s, which coincided with a
40 general financial crisis in the U.S. and Canada.^[20] The farm crisis saw the rise of anti-government protesters selling fraudulent
41 [debt relief](#) programs,^[23] some of whom were associated with far-right groups. They included Roger Elvick,^[24] a member of a
42 successor organization of the Posse Comitatus. Elvick conceived the [redemption](#) methods, a set of fraudulent debt and tax
43 payment schemes^[25] that became part of sovereign citizen ideology.^[26]

1 As the Posse Comitatus movement evolved, its members created pseudolegal bodies that claimed to speak with the authority
2 of "natural law" or "common law" and to supersede the government's legal system. The most common tactic of these
3 "common law courts" was to issue [false liens](#) against their enemies' property.^[22]

4 After the 1995 [Oklahoma City bombing](#), one perpetrator of which adhered to sovereign citizen ideology, observers
5 categorized the Posse Comitatus as far-right extremism rather than a tax protester movement. Around the end of the decade,
6 the term "Posse Comitatus" was supplanted by the term "sovereign citizen". This mirrored a change in the language adherents
7 used, which reflected their increased focus on personal liberty secured through absolute ownership of personal property.^[22]

8 In 1996, the case of the [Montana Freeman](#) attracted public attention to the sovereign citizen movement. The Montana Freeman
9 were [Christian Patriot](#) sovereign citizens and direct ideological descendants of the Posse Comitatus:^[9] they used false liens
10 to harass public officials^[27] and committed [bank fraud](#) with [counterfeit](#) checks and money orders.^[28] The group surrendered
11 in June 1996 after 81 days of armed standoff with the FBI.^[29] Several members of the Montana Freeman received long prison
12 sentences. The group's leader, LeRoy M. Schweitzer, died in prison in 2011.^[30]

13 Over time, the movement expanded beyond its original [white nationalist](#) environment to people of all backgrounds.^[31] By the
14 1990s, sovereign citizen arguments had been adopted by [minority](#) groups, notably the African American [Moorish](#)
15 [sovereigns](#).^{[11][32]} The Moorish sovereigns' beliefs derive, in part, from the [Moorish Science Temple of America](#), which has
16 condemned this sovereign citizen offshoot.^[11]

17 Since the 1990s, the number of African American sovereign citizens has increased substantially. Various Black sovereign
18 citizen groups have appeared, some [Islamic](#), others adhering to [New Age](#) philosophies.^[13] Sovereign citizen ideas have also
19 been adopted by some groups within the [Hawaiian sovereignty movement](#)^[2] and various other fringe political or religious
20 groups, such as [black separatists](#) or the [Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints](#).^[13]

21 American [pseudolaw](#) became well-established by 2000. Notably, Elvick conceived the [strawman theory](#) around that time; it
22 became a core sovereign citizen concept, as it gave an overarching explanation to the movement's pseudolegal beliefs.^[6]

23 **2.1.3 Spread**

24 *See also:* [Freeman on the land movement](#)

25 In the late 1990s and early 2000s, sovereign citizen ideology was introduced into Canada and then gradually into other
26 countries^[6] as the advent of the [Internet](#) facilitated communication between people sharing the same ideas.^[20] One influential
27 American "guru" who helped spread sovereign citizen ideology abroad was Winston Shroud, who held seminars in Canada
28 (until he was banned from the country), Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.^[33]

29 In Canada, sovereign citizen beliefs mixed with local tax protester concepts during the 2000s and gave birth to an offshoot,
30 the [freeman on the land movement](#), which eventually spread to other [Commonwealth](#) countries.^[34]



32 [Cliven](#) and [Ammon Bundy](#), two American activists who became associated with the sovereign citizen movement during the
33 2010s

34 Since the late 2000s, the sovereign citizen movement has significantly expanded in the U.S. due to the [Great Recession](#) and
35 more specifically the [mortgage crisis](#).^{[34][22][35][36]} In 2010, the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) (SPLC) estimated that 100,000

1 Americans were "hard-core sovereign believers", with another 200,000 "just starting out by testing sovereign techniques for
2 resisting everything from speeding tickets to drug charges".^[37] According to another SPLC estimate, the number of sovereign
3 citizen-influenced militia groups in the U.S. increased dramatically between 2008 and 2011, from 149 to 1,274.^[15]

4 Incidents such as the 2003 [Abbeville standoff](#), the 2007 [Edward and Elaine Brown standoff](#), the 2010 [West Memphis police](#)
5 [shootings](#), the 2014 [Bundy standoff](#), the 2016 [Malheur Refuge occupation](#) (also involving the Bundy family), the 2016 [Baton](#)
6 [Rouge police shootings](#), and the 2021 [Wakefield standoff](#) (involving African-American Moorish sovereign citizens) attracted
7 significant media attention. In 2022, the trial of the [Waukesha Christmas parade attack](#)'s perpetrator brought the movement
8 further attention, as the defendant used sovereign citizen arguments during the proceedings.^[38]



9
10 The site of the 2021 [Waukesha Christmas parade attack](#), a violent crime linked to the sovereign citizen movement

11 The sovereign citizen and [QAnon](#) movements overlap.^[3] A sovereign citizen group known as the Oath Enforcers attracted
12 QAnon and [Donald Trump](#) supporters into the movement after the [2021 storming of the United States Capitol](#).^[39] In 2022,
13 the [Anti-Defamation League](#) reported that the sovereign citizen movement was attracting a growing number of QAnon
14 adherents, whose belief in the illegitimacy of the [Biden administration](#) is compatible with the sovereign citizens' broader anti-
15 government views.^[40]

16 Videos of people attempting to use sovereign citizen-style arguments during [traffic stops](#), in [courtrooms](#), and in other public
17 places are common on the Internet, where they are often considered a source of amusement. Researcher Christine Sarteschi
18 has said that this may cause people to underestimate the movement's potential for violence and its links with criminal conduct.
19 Several people charged with crimes such as [murder](#) or [sexual assault](#) have used sovereign citizen arguments as attempts to
20 negate the court's jurisdiction over them.^[41]

21 The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) has accelerated the movement's spread. Sovereign citizens have been associated with the broader
22 [anti-mask](#) and [anti-vaccine](#) movements and taken part in [anti-restriction protests](#).^{[42][43][44]} An increase in sovereign citizens
23 has been observed in Australia and the United Kingdom during the pandemic.^{[44][45][46]} Several COVID-related incidents
24 involving local sovereign citizens who refused to follow sanitary measures were also reported in [Singapore](#).^{[47][48]} In June
25 2022, Sarteschi reported that the movement was rapidly expanding and could now be found in 26 countries.^[49]

26 **2.1.4 Government response**

27 After the 1995 [Oklahoma City bombing](#), [U.S. federal law enforcement](#) began cracking down on white supremacist groups,
28 including sovereign citizen organizations. The [Montana Freemen](#) incident occurred in that context.^[9] The bombing also led
29 Congress to pass the [Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996](#), enhancing sentences for certain terrorism-related
30 offenses.^[50]

31 Hundreds, if not thousands, of sovereign citizens have been imprisoned as a result of their actions. Many have continued their
32 activities behind bars, often spreading their ideologies among other inmates.^[13]

33 As of the 1990s, several hundred people involved in "common law courts" operated by sovereign citizens or, more broadly,
34 by the [Patriot movement](#) have been arrested for crimes such as fraud, [impersonating police](#), intimidating or threatening

1 officials, and in some cases, outright violence. In 1998, a number of U.S. states passed laws outlawing the activities of these
2 "courts" or strengthening existing sanctions.^[51]

3 To prevent their courts from being burdened by frivolous litigation, some states have heightened penalties for people who
4 file baseless motions. Some courts choose to impose pre-filing injunctions against certain *pro se* serial litigants, to preclude
5 them from filing new lawsuits or documents without prior leave.^[8]

6 After incidents such as the [2010 West Memphis police shootings](#), [U.S. law enforcement agencies](#) advised officers on how to
7 deal with sovereign citizens at traffic stops and elsewhere.^{[52][53]}

8 In Australia, after the 2022 [Wieambilla shootings](#), the [Australian Security Intelligence Organisation](#) and the [Australian
9 Federal Police](#) indicated they would examine the groups more closely as their beliefs increasingly align with that of other
10 extremists, with the AFP Joint Counter Terrorism Team now required to undergo training on sovereign citizen threats.^{[54][55]}

11 **2.2 Denominations and symbols**



12 A variation of the U.S. flag frequently used in the sovereign citizen movement.^[56]
13

14 Not all members of the movement call themselves "sovereign citizens", and some regard the term as an oxymoron.^[31]
15 Sovereign citizens may prefer to call themselves "state nationals",^[57] "constitutionalists", "freemen",^[58] "natural people",
16 "living people",^[1] "private persons",^[59] or people "seeking the truth"^[60] or "living on the land".^[59] The name "American State
17 National"^[40] (ASN) became popular among sovereign citizens in the early 2020s, especially among followers of the [QAnon](#)
18 conspiracy theory.^[61]

19 The sovereign citizen movement has no single universally accepted symbol or emblem, but sovereign citizen documents and
20 signs often have distinctive identifying marks. Some of the most common ones are [postage stamps](#) and [thumbprints](#) on
21 documents, and the addition of [punctuation](#) ([dashes](#), [hyphens](#), [colons](#) or [commas](#)) to one's name, which sovereign citizens
22 [believe has a legal effect](#).^[56]

23 Groups such as Moorish sovereigns and the [Washitaw Nation](#) have their own specific flags and symbols. Some sovereign
24 citizens use references to nonexistent "Republics" or to the [Uniform Commercial Code](#) (UCC), variations on the [flag of the
25 United States](#), or religious symbols such as that of the [Vatican](#), which are thought to establish "sovereignty".^[62]

26 One common symbol of the American sovereign citizen movement is a version of the U.S. flag with alternate colors and
27 vertical stripes. Sometimes known as "the flag of peace" or "Title Four flag", it is based on a flag allegedly used by [American
28 custom houses](#) for a brief period during the 19th century. Around the 2000s, some sovereign citizens began to claim that this
29 is the true flag of the United States.^[56]

30 **2.3 Theories**

31 *Main article:* [Pseudolaw](#)

32 *See also:* [Constitutionalism](#), [Tax protester arguments](#), [Tax protester conspiracy arguments](#), and [Tax protester constitutional
33 arguments](#)

Part of the [Taxation in the United States](#) series

[Tax protest in the United States](#)



[History](#)

[Arguments](#)

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 - [16th Amendment](#)
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-

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Related topics

- [America: Freedom to Fascism](#)
- [The Law that Never Was](#)
- [Cheek v. United States](#)
- [Titles of Nobility Amendment](#)

- [Tax noncompliance](#)
- [Tax resistance](#)
- [Tax resistance in the United States](#)
- [Christian Patriot movement](#)
- [Posse Comitatus](#)
- Sovereign citizen movement
- [Tea Party movement](#)
- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

1 The movement has no defining text, established doctrine, or centralized leadership,^{[8][63]} but there are common themes,
 2 generally implying that the legitimate government and legal system have been somehow replaced and that the current
 3 authorities are illegitimate. [Taxes](#) and [licenses](#) are likewise thought to be illegitimate. A number of leaders, commonly called
 4 "gurus", develop their own variations.^{[8][34]} The movement's theories include influences from a variety of sources, some of
 5 them decades old, resulting in often confusing and incoherent narratives of U.S. history.^[64]

6 Sovereign citizens' legal theories reinterpret the [Constitution of the United States](#) through selective reading of law dictionaries
 7 (notably an obsolete version of [Black's Law Dictionary](#)), [state court](#) opinions, or specific capitalization, and incorporate other
 8 details from a variety of sources, including the [Uniform Commercial Code](#), the [Articles of Confederation](#), the [Magna Carta](#),
 9 the [Bible](#), and foreign treaties. They ignore the second clause of [Article VI](#) of the Constitution (the [Supremacy Clause](#)), which
 10 establishes the Constitution as the law of the land and the [United States Supreme Court](#) as the ultimate authority to interpret
 11 it.^{[65][66][67]} Most consider [county sheriffs](#) the most powerful law enforcement officers in the country, with authority superior
 12 to that of any federal agent, elected official, or other local law enforcement official.^[68]

13 **2.3.1 Illegitimacy of laws and government**

14 *See also:* [Anti-statism](#)

15 A widespread belief among sovereign citizens is that the [state](#) is not an actual government, but a [corporation](#). American
 16 movement members believe that the corporation that purports to be the U.S. federal government is illegally controlling the
 17 republic via a territorial government in Washington, D.C.^[57]

18 Sovereign citizens believe that sometime after the [Founding Fathers](#) set up the government, [commercial law](#) secretly replaced
 19 common law. This commercial law is generally understood to be [admiralty law](#), as sovereign citizens believe the current,
 20 illegitimate law is based on principles of [international commerce](#).^{[64][3]} Sovereign citizens also claim that the [gold fringes](#) on
 21 U.S. flags displayed in courtrooms is evidence that admiralty law is in effect.^[26] This leads them to believe that U.S. judges
 22 and lawyers are actually agents of a foreign power,^[3] typically thought to be the [United Kingdom](#): one pseudolegal conspiracy
 23 theory claims that [bar](#) is an acronym for "British Accreditation Registry".^[61]

24 Sovereign citizens therefore challenge the validity of the contemporary legal system and claim to answer only to [God's law](#)
 25 or to common law, by which they mean the system that supposedly existed before the conspiracy.^[2]

26 There is no consensus among sovereign citizens as to when the secret change of the political and legal system took place;
 27 some believe it was during the [Civil War](#), while others date it to 1933, when the U.S. abandoned the [gold standard](#).^[3]
 28 According to one version, the vehicle for the change was the [District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871](#), which sovereign
 29 citizens believe created a "United States corporation" to govern the [District of Columbia](#) under commercial code; this form
 30 of corporate rule then extended to the entire country.^[64] Another theory has it that the country was secretly reorganized as a

1 [post office](#) in 1789.^[69] Pseudolegal schemes attribute a particular power to the [Universal Postal Union](#)^[70] and to the use of
2 [postage stamps](#) on legal documents.^{[69][70]}

3 The beliefs that the government is a corporation and that people are secretly under a form of commercial law leads sovereign
4 citizens to believe that [statutory law](#) is a [contract](#) binding people to the state. According to this theory, people are tricked into
5 this contract by various methods, including [Social Security numbers](#), [fishing licenses](#), or [ZIP Codes](#): thus, avoiding their use
6 means immunity from government authority.^{[71][72][31][73]} Another common belief among sovereign citizens is that they can
7 opt out of the purported contract, making themselves immune from the laws they do not wish to follow, by declining to
8 "consent": when confronted by police officers or other officials, sovereign citizens typically attempt to negate their authority
9 by saying, "I do not consent".^[1]

10 Many sovereign citizens believe that the [Uniform Commercial Code](#), which provides an interstate standard for documents
11 that they believe apply only to their straw man, is a codification of the illegitimate commercial law ruling the United States.
12 Therefore, they think that exploiting supposed loopholes in the UCC will help them assert their rights or invoke their special
13 privileges and powers as "common law citizens".^[64]

14 Adherents of the "American State National" concept believe that, through a specific procedure, they can renounce federal
15 citizenship, make themselves immune from jurisdiction and arrest, avoid the [IRS](#), and rescind voting registrations, marriages,
16 or birth certificates. In March 2023, Chase Allan, a man who subscribed to this notion and used a false passport and an illegal
17 license plate, was shot dead by police at a traffic stop in [Utah](#) during a confrontation with officers over his refusal to show an
18 identification document.^[61]

19 The belief that the current legal system is illegitimate has led some sovereign citizens to consider themselves "above the law"
20 and commit crimes.^[41]

21 **2.3.2 [Citizenship](#)**

22 *See also:* [Self-ownership](#)

23 American sovereign citizens posit that contemporary [United States citizenship](#) is somehow defective or fraudulent and that it
24 curtails citizens' legitimate rights. Some sovereign citizens also claim that they can become immune to most or all laws of
25 the United States by [renouncing citizenship](#) in a "federal corporation" and declaring themselves citizens only of the [state](#)
26 where they reside: this process, which they call "expatriation", involves [filing](#) or delivering a nonlegal document claiming
27 their renunciation of citizenship to any county clerk's office that can be convinced to accept it.^[74]

28 In the 1970s, one of the movement's originators, [white supremacist](#) ideologue [William Potter Gale](#), identified the [Fourteenth](#)
29 [Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) as the act that converted "sovereign citizens" into "federal citizens" by their
30 agreement to a contract to accept benefits from the federal government. Other commentators have identified other acts,
31 including the [Emergency Banking Act](#),^[75] and the alleged suppression of the [Titles of Nobility Amendment](#).^[76]

32 Likewise, sovereign citizen leader Richard McDonald claimed that there are two classes of citizens in the U.S.: the "original
33 citizens of the states" (also called "states citizens" or "organic citizens")^[77] and "U.S. citizens". According to McDonald, U.S.
34 citizens, whom he calls "Fourteenth Amendment citizens", have civil rights, legislated to give the rights to freed black slaves
35 after the [Civil War](#): this benefit is received by consent in exchange for freedom. On the other hand, white state citizens have
36 unalienable constitutional rights. On this view, state citizens must take steps to revoke and rescind their U.S. citizenship and
37 reassert their *de jure* common-law state citizen status. This involves removing oneself from [federal jurisdiction](#) and
38 relinquishing any evidence of consent to U.S. citizenship, such as a [Social Security number](#), [driver's license](#), [car registration](#),
39 [ZIP Code](#), [marriage license](#), [voter registration](#), or [birth certificate](#). Also included is the refusal to pay state and federal income
40 taxes because citizens not under U.S. jurisdiction are not required to pay them.^[78]

41 The concept of "14th Amendment citizens" is consistent with the movement's white supremacist origins in that it can cause
42 adherents to believe that [African Americans](#), having become citizens only after the Civil War, have far fewer rights than
43 [Whites](#),^[77] or that only [Black people](#) have to pay federal taxes and abide by federal laws.^[57]

1 On the contrary, "Moorish" sovereign citizens think that African Americans constitute an elite class within American society,
2 with special rights and privileges that make them immune from federal and state authority. They commonly adopt
3 "Africanized" version of their names by adding "el", "Bey", or a combination of the two, and associate themselves with a
4 particular "Moorish" group, claiming they are not culpable for acts committed under their former name and that their
5 affiliation makes them immune to prosecution.^{[11][79]} The underpinnings of their theories of exemption vary. One belief is that
6 the "Moors" were America's original inhabitants and are therefore entitled to be self-governing. They claim to be descendants
7 of the Moroccan "Moors" and thus subject to the 1786 [Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship](#), which they believe gives
8 them exemption from U.S. law. A variation of "Moorish" ideology is found in the [Washitaw Nation](#), which claims rights
9 through provisions in the [Louisiana Purchase](#) treaty granting privileges to Moors as early colonists and the nonexistent
10 "United Nations Indigenous People's Seat 215".^[11] Various other groups claim special status and exemption from their
11 countries' laws by purporting to belong to real or imaginary ethnic minorities.^[13]

12 Sovereign citizens may claim that their status in the United States is that of "non-resident aliens".^[77] Only residents (resident
13 aliens) of the states, not its citizens, are income-taxable, sovereign citizens argue. And as a state citizen landowner, one can
14 bring forward the original land patent and file it with the county for absolute or [allodial property rights](#). Such allodial
15 ownership is held "without recognizing any superior to whom any duty is due on account thereof" (*Black's Law Dictionary*).
16 Superiors include those who levy property taxes or who hold mortgages or liens against the property.^[78]

17 **2.3.3 Dual personas**

18 *Main article: [Strawman theory](#)*

19 One recurring idea in sovereign citizen ideology is that individuals have two personas, one of flesh and blood and the other
20 a separate, secret, [legal personality](#) (commonly called the "straw man"), created upon each person's birth, which is subject to
21 the government. Sovereign citizens claim it is possible to dissociate oneself from the "straw man" by certain procedures, thus
22 becoming free of all debts, liabilities and legal constraints.^{[6][10][26][69]}

23 **2.3.4 Economics**

24 *See also: [Redemption movement](#)*

25 Sovereign citizen texts often posit that "international bankers" are at the source of the conspiracy that replaced the United
26 States' legitimate government and legal system. In the movement's earlier form, these bankers were explicitly said to be [Jews](#).
27 While this can still be implied in sovereign citizen literature, the movement's original [antisemitic conspiracy theories](#) were
28 diluted over time; most contemporary sovereign citizens tend to present greatly simplified versions of them, with no mention
29 of Jewish conspiracies and only vague references to corrupt bankers.^[64]

30 Some sovereign citizens believe that the United States "corporation" is [bankrupt](#). This is often attributed to the 1933
31 abandonment of the gold standard.^[64] As a result, the illegitimate U.S. government is said to secretly use its citizens as
32 [collateral](#) against [foreign debt](#), effectively enslaving Americans. Sovereign citizens believe that this sale of American citizens
33 takes place at birth, through the issuance of [birth certificates](#) and [Social Security numbers](#).^{[3][64][69]}

34 The sovereign citizen movement overlaps with the [redemption movement](#) (also known as "A4V" after one of its schemes),
35 which claims that a secret bank account is created for every citizen at birth as part of the process whereby the U.S. government
36 uses its citizens as collateral.^{[70][69]} Several prominent sovereign citizens have advocated redemption schemes.^[13] The belief
37 in a secret bank account is intertwined with the [strawman theory](#), since each person's fund is supposedly associated with their
38 "straw man".^{[13][64]}

39 "Redemption" theories assert that the vast sums of money in this account can be reclaimed through certain procedures, and
40 applied to financial obligations or even criminal charges.^{[70][69]} In some variations of this theory, the secret fund may be called
41 a "Cestui Que Vie Trust".^[61]

42 Pseudolegal economic theories also imply various misconceptions about currencies and financial institutions, one being that
43 banks "create money from thin air" so a borrower has no obligation to pay them back, and another that money is actually

1 worthless when not [backed by gold](#).^[6] Many sovereign citizens do not recognize [U.S. currency](#) and demand to receive
2 payments in the form of [gold](#) or [silver](#) coins.^{[80][81][82]}

3 Some sovereign citizens also subscribe to the [NESARA](#)-related conspiracy theory.^[3]

4 **2.3.5 Freedom of movement**

5 *See also:* [Freedom of movement under United States law](#)

6 Using arguments that rely on exacting definitions and word choice, sovereign citizens may assert a constitutional "right to
7 travel" in a "conveyance", distinguishing it from [driving](#) an automobile in order to justify ignoring requirements for [license](#)
8 [plates](#), [vehicle registration](#), [insurances](#), and [driver's licenses](#). The right to travel is claimed based on a variety of
9 passages.^{[13][63][65]}

10 One common argument of sovereign citizens is that they are "traveling" and not "driving" and hence do not need a driver's
11 license because they are not transporting commercial goods or paying passengers.^[3]

12 **2.3.6 Other**

13 *See also:* [QAnon](#)

14 Other pseudolegal theories commonly shared by sovereign citizens include that "silence means consent" for any sort of
15 documents, that any claim or alleged statement of fact placed in a sworn document (known in pseudolegal jargon as an
16 "[affidavit](#) of truth") is proven true unless rebutted, and that there is no crime if there is no injured party.^[6]

17 Some sovereign citizens are involved in other forms of [conspiracy theories](#), including [QAnon](#).^[83] Certain subgroups of the
18 movement adhere to theories about [extraterrestrials](#) and [reptilians](#).^[3] One advocate of sovereign citizen fraudulent [tax](#)
19 [avoidance](#) schemes, [Sean David Morton](#), was also active as a [psychic](#) and [ufologist](#).^[84] In [Quebec](#), sovereign citizen ideology
20 has been promoted by [Guylaine Lanctôt](#), an [anti-vaccine activist](#) and [AIDS denialist](#).^[85]

21 In 2022, the [Anti-Defamation League](#) reported that sovereign citizen ideology was "increasingly seeping" into QAnon, as the
22 movement's anti-government views were compatible with QAnon's belief in a worldwide "cabal" and in the illegitimacy of
23 the [Biden administration](#).^[40]

24 Sovereign citizen groups, notably that led in [Texas](#) by "gurus" David and Bonnie Straight, a married couple, have been
25 convincing parents whose children were removed from their custody that [Child Protective Services](#) engages in [child](#)
26 [trafficking](#), and encouraging them to kidnap their children.^{[41][86][61]} The belief that child protection agencies are involved in
27 crimes against children is also consistent with QAnon ideology.^[61]

28 Several sovereign citizen "gurus" have made grandiose claims about the powers granted to them by their pseudolegal
29 schemes. One American ideologue and "[Quantum Grammar](#)" advocate, Russell Jay Gould, claims that having signed a postal
30 receipt in a specific way and [filed](#) a document relating to [Title 4 of the United States Code](#), at a moment when the country
31 was supposedly bankrupt, makes him the "Postmaster-General" and legitimate ruler of the United States.^[32] Another
32 American guru, Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf, claimed before her sentencing for fraud to have "[foreclosed](#)" and "canceled" all
33 banks and governments through [UCC](#) filings.^[87] Likewise, [Romana Didulo](#), a Canadian QAnon conspiracy theorist, uses
34 sovereign citizen concepts to back her claims of being the rightful [Queen of Canada](#), and eventually the "Queen of the
35 World".^{[49][88][89]}

36 **2.4 Tactics**

37 *See also:* [Civil disobedience](#) and [Civil resistance](#)



1

2 A homemade "[public notice](#)" with pseudolegal language used by a sovereign citizen in [Belfast](#), Northern Ireland

3 Sovereign citizens may be affiliated with a group within the movement, follow the teachings of a specific "guru", or act
4 entirely on their own. By disobeying rules they consider illegitimate, they regularly find themselves in conflict with all forms
5 of government institutions, most commonly [law enforcement](#), the [judiciary](#), and the [revenue services](#).^[13] One sovereign citizen
6 from [Montana](#), Ernie Wayne terTelgte, became a local celebrity in 2013 by engaging in a protracted legal battle with
7 authorities over the need to have a [fishing license](#)^[90] and then having multiple conflicts with law enforcement over this matter,
8 as well as his lack of a driver's license.^[91]

9 Sovereign citizens often use flawed or invented legal arguments or irregular documents that may have been bought from
10 other movement members as "proof" of their claims.^[44] It is common for sovereign citizen "gurus" to earn money by selling
11 their followers standard documents such as template filings, scripts to recite at court appearances, or other "quick-fix"
12 solutions to legal problems.^[8] Some "gurus" sell "how-to" manuals explaining the movement's theories and schemes. One
13 such manual is *Title 4 Flag Says You're Schwag: The Sovereign Citizen's Handbook*, which has been reprinted and updated
14 several times.^[70]

15 Sovereign citizens often use an unusual vocabulary^[26] and twist the meaning of legal terms, or even commonplace phrases,
16 for their convenience. This includes avoiding the use of expressions they think would make them enter into a "contract" with
17 the government. For example, when dealing with the police, sovereign citizens will often avoid saying "I understand" and
18 instead say "I comprehend", as they believe that the word "understand" acknowledges that one "stand[s] under the
19 jurisdiction", thus recognizing the police's authority.^[92]

20 As they regard themselves as bound only by their own interpretation of common law, sovereign citizens have been setting up
21 [militias](#) of self-appointed "sheriffs",^[41] as well as "common law courts", to handle matters regarding movement members.
22 These "courts", which are [devoid of legal authority](#), are frequently used to formalize the "declarations of sovereignty" of
23 movement members, in a process often known as "asseveration".^[26]

24 Sovereign citizens' conflicts with authorities have occasionally resulted in violence.^{[2][13][41][68]}

1 **2.4.1 Traffic law violations**

2 *See also:* [Moving violation](#)

3 Sovereign citizens consistently violate [traffic laws](#) by refusing to register or insure their vehicles or use driver's licenses or
4 valid license plates.^{[63][13]} Some use homemade license plates and [bumper stickers](#), which can serve the unintended purpose
5 of warning police officers that they are dealing with a sovereign citizen. Most sovereign citizens' interactions with law
6 enforcement take place on the road. As a result, the general public is mostly familiar with the movement through online
7 videos of sovereign citizens' confrontations with [traffic officers](#).^[63]

8 **2.4.2 Anti-tax and other financial schemes**

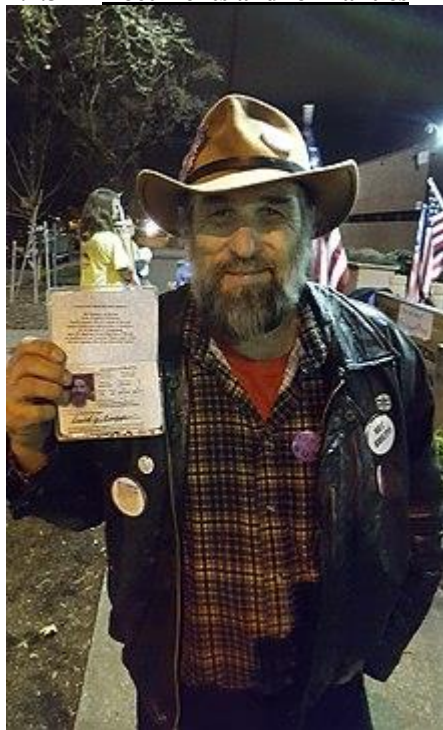
9 *See also:* [Tax resistance](#), [Tax evasion](#), and [Mortgage elimination](#)

10 Many sovereign citizens engage in various forms of tax resistance, causing disputes with government administrations.^{[68][93]}
11 It is estimated that sovereign citizens and other tax protesters have caused about \$1 billion in public losses in the U.S. from
12 1990 to 2013.^[84]

13 Sovereign citizens use a variety of fraudulent schemes, including filing false [securities](#), to avoid paying taxes, get "refunds"
14 from the government, or eliminate their [debts](#) and [mortgages](#).^[84] The belief that money is worthless since the [gold standard](#)
15 was abandoned has led sovereign citizens to create fictitious [financial instruments](#). One of the first to use this method, in the
16 1980s, was tax protester and songwriter [Tupper Saussy](#), who created check-like instruments he called "Public Money Office
17 Certificates". Saussy issued these "certificates" primarily as a form of protest, but sovereign citizens have been using false
18 "[promissory notes](#)", "[bills of exchange](#)", "[coupons](#)", "[bonds](#)", or "[sight drafts](#)" to pay taxes, purchase properties, or fight
19 foreclosures. Some "gurus" have scammed adherents of the movement by selling them such counterfeit instruments.^[94] Other
20 scams primarily target victims who are not part of the movement.^{[95][96]}

21 Sovereign citizens may use the ineffective methods the [redemption movement](#) advocates for appropriating the sums from
22 one's purported secret Treasury account: such schemes are sometimes called "money for nothing".^{[6][97]} For example, writing
23 "Accepted for Value" or "Taken for Value" on bills or collection letters supposedly causes them to be paid with the straw
24 man's secret fund^{[26][98]} (this scheme is commonly known as "A4V").^{[4][70][97]} Purported methods for claiming the secret fund
25 include filing a [UCC-1 financing statement](#) against one's straw man after "separating" from it.^[26]

2.4.3 Documents and formalities



American activist David Zion Brugger, showing an irregular "[identity document](#)" asserting him to be a "[citizen of Heaven](#)"

Sovereign citizens are known to create their own irregular, pseudolegal documents, including false [passports](#), [license plates](#), or [birth certificates](#).^[99] Sovereign citizen documents may include unusual formalities, such as [maxims](#) written in [Latin](#), [thumbprints](#), or [stamps](#) in certain places, as well as unconventional, sometimes incomprehensible [legalese](#). Stamps are generally accompanied by signatures (with the sovereign citizen's name signed across them), initials or other markings.^{[81][70][97]}

Signatures and thumbprints are likely to be in red ink or blood, since black and blue inks are believed to indicate corporations.^[69] As bonds are canceled using red ink in some U.S. states, sovereign citizens may sign in red ink to signify that they are canceling the bond attached to their birth certificate or to their straw man. Others use red ink because it represents the blood of the "flesh-and-blood person". Other methods to dissociate oneself from the straw man include unusual spelling and writing one's name in a different manner or with [punctuation](#), i.e. "John of the family Doe" instead of "John Doe" or "John-Robert: Doe" instead of "John Robert Doe".^[26]

Sovereign citizens often add the Latin phrase [sui juris](#) (meaning "of one's own right") to their names on legal documents to signify that they are reserving all the rights to which they are entitled as a free person.^[26]

Postage stamps supposedly make pseudolegal documents authoritative, but their meaning varies depending on the "guru". One version has it that stamps grant sovereignty to pseudolaw affiliates: their use on documents purportedly makes one a "postmaster" with equal rights and peer status to [nation states](#).^[70]

When signing an official document such as a driver's license, mortgage document, or traffic ticket, sovereign citizens often add *under threat, duress, and coercion* (or a variation thereof, such as the initials *TDC*) after or under their name to signify that they are not signing the document voluntarily, which purportedly helps them avoid entering into a "contract" with the illegitimate government and falling under its jurisdiction. Some write *TDC* after their [ZIP codes](#).^[98]

People and groups linked to the movement have been using a [constructed language](#) created by American theorist [David Wynn Miller](#), who asserted that this unorthodox version of the English language, variously called "Parse-Syntax-Grammar",

"Correct-Language",^[100] "Truth Language"^[101] or "Quantum Grammar",^{[8][87]} guarantees success in legal proceedings where it constitutes the only "correct" form of communication.^{[70][100][101]}

2.4.4 **Litigation and court cases**

See also: [Frivolous litigation](#), [Vexatious litigation](#), [Paper terrorism](#), and [Abuse of process](#)

Cases involving sovereign citizens can cause law enforcement officers and court officials severe problems.^[10] Sovereign citizens may challenge the laws, rules, or sentences they disagree with by engaging in the practice known as [paper terrorism](#), which involves filing [complaints](#) with legal documents that may be bogus or simply misused. Minor issues such as [traffic violations](#) or disagreements over pet-licensing fees may provoke numerous court filings. Courts then find themselves burdened by having to process hundreds of pages of irregular, sometimes incomprehensible documents, straining their resources.^{[2][68][13][3][8]}

When involved in court cases, sovereign citizens generally act as their own lawyers, though sometimes a sovereign citizen "leader" may assist them in court. They often use uncommon or downright disconcerting pseudolegal tactics, and typically deny the court's jurisdiction over them.^{[8][70][97]}

In May 2019, Kim Blandino, a felon residing in [Nevada](#), was found guilty of traffic offenses. He threatened the judge who presided over his hearing that he would file complaints against him and demanded a monetary "settlement" from him.^[102] Blandino was charged with extortion and impersonation of an officer. He then filed numerous motions to delay the proceedings and tried to disqualify almost every judge in the district. Blandino's motions required multiple reviews and countless hours of hearings.^[8] In March 2022, Blandino was convicted in a jury trial. He then appealed his conviction with similar methods. On December 20, 2023, the Court of Appeals of Nevada affirmed the conviction, noting that Blandino's claims were "merely speculative" and that the court did not need to consider his argument as it was not "cogently argued".^[103]

2.4.5 **False liens and other harassment tactics**

Besides paper terrorism, sovereign citizens have used various techniques of [intimidation](#) and [harassment](#) to achieve their goals.^[13] One method of retaliation they use against public officials or other real or perceived enemies is the filing of [false liens](#). Anyone can file a notice of lien against property such as real estate, vehicles, or other assets of another. In most U.S. states, the validity of liens is not investigated or inquired into at the time of filing. Notices of liens (whether legally valid or not) are a cloud on the title of the property and may affect the property owner's [credit rating](#) and ability to obtain home equity loans or refinance the property. Clearing up fraudulent notices of liens may be expensive and time-consuming.^[10]

Illegitimate sovereign citizen common law courts also put enemies on "trial": on occasion, sovereign citizens have tried public officials in absentia and sentenced them to death for treason.^[2]

Another tactic involves false [arbitration](#) entities operated by movement members that issue unilaterally, on their clients' behalf, "rulings" ordering the client's creditors or other victims to pay damages.^{[59][104][105]} In 2022, the [Anti-Defamation League](#) reported that although this particular tactic seems to have appeared around 2014, its use had intensified since 2019. According to the ADL's report, these sham rulings are designed, besides targeting specific victims, to clog the court system that sovereign citizens consider illegitimate.^[104]

Some sovereign citizens have advocated and practiced [adverse possession](#) of properties.^[3] Notably, Moorish Sovereigns have cited [reparations for slavery](#) as a justification for [squatting](#) homes and claiming other people's property as theirs, even though they also target the possessions of African Americans.^[106]

In the United States, authorities have identified some people involved in [First Amendment audits](#) as sovereign citizens.^[107]

2.5 **Legal status of theories**

Sovereign citizens' tactics often succeed in delaying legal proceedings and occasionally confuse or exhaust public officials,^{[2][8][86]} but their arguments are never upheld in court.^[6] Their claims have been consistently rejected by courts in various countries, including the U.S., Canada,^{[6][97]} Australia,^[108] and New Zealand.^[109] Mark Pitcavage, a researcher working

1 for the [Anti-Defamation League's](#) Center on Extremism, has summed up sovereign citizen ideology as "[magical thinking](#)".^[110]
2 One [state representative](#) from [New Hampshire](#), [Richard Marple](#), repeatedly tried to introduce legislation that would recognize
3 sovereign citizen ideas, without success.^[12]

4 One crucial flaw of pseudolegal theories in general is that the "[common law](#)" they cite is based not on historical precedent
5 but instead on an erroneous perception of traditional [English law](#).^{[6][70]}

6 In 2012, the [Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta's](#) *Meads v. Meads* decision, pertaining to a contentious divorce case in which
7 the husband used [freeman on the land](#) arguments, compiled a decade of Canadian jurisprudence and American academic
8 research about [pseudolaw](#). It went much further than the matters of the case by covering the most common pseudolegal
9 arguments and tactics and refuting them in detail.^{[97][35]} *Meads v. Meads*, written by Associate Chief Justice John D. Rooke,
10 has since been used as [case law](#) by courts in Canada and in other [Commonwealth](#) countries.^[35]

11 **2.5.1 [Immunity from laws and taxes](#)**

12 *See also:* [Rule of law](#)

13 Pseudolegal documents and arguments claiming that one is personally immune from [jurisdiction](#) or should not be paying
14 taxes have never been accepted by any court.^{[70][111]} The idea that one can avoid paying taxes in the country one resides in by
15 renouncing or challenging the validity of one's citizenship and claiming to be a "non-resident alien" is legally baseless. The
16 [Internal Revenue Service](#) has refuted in detail "frivolous tax arguments" such as this and the idea that filing [tax returns](#) and
17 paying [Federal Income tax](#) are "voluntary".^{[112][113]}

18 In 1990, after Andrew Schneider was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for making a threat by mail, he argued
19 that he was a free, sovereign citizen and therefore not subject to the jurisdiction of federal courts. The [United States Court of](#)
20 [Appeals for the Seventh Circuit](#) rejected his argument as having "no conceivable validity in American law".^[114] In 2017,
21 former [Subway](#) spokesman [Jared Fogle](#) similarly tried to overturn his convictions on [child sex tourism](#) and [child pornography](#)
22 charges by denying the court's jurisdiction over him. The court dismissed Fogle's motions, reminding him that "the Seventh
23 Circuit has rejected theories of individual sovereignty, immunity from prosecution, and their ilk".^{[115][116]}

24 When he faced tax evasion charges in 2006, actor [Wesley Snipes](#) adopted a sovereign citizen line of defense by claiming to
25 be a "non-resident alien" who should not be subject to income tax. He was eventually found guilty of three misdemeanor
26 counts of failing to file federal income tax returns and sentenced to 36 months in prison.^{[117][118]}

27 The belief that legal obligations are [contracts](#) that can be opted out of fails to acknowledge that government and court [authority](#)
28 is not a product of one's [consent](#), and that the relationship between the state and an individual is not based on a contract.^[119]
29 The Canadian decision *Meads v. Meads* refuted the theory that laws are contracts, commenting:

30 A claim that the relationship between an individual and the state is always one of contract is clearly incorrect. Aspects of that
31 relationship may flow from mutual contract (for example a person or corporation may be hired by the government to perform
32 a task such as road maintenance), but the state has the right to engage in unilateral action, subject to the [Charter](#), and the
33 allocation and delegation of government authority.^[97]

34 In a 2013 criminal case, the [United States District Court for the Western District of Washington](#) responded to pseudolegal
35 filings by sovereign citizen Kenneth Wayne Leaming with the following comments:

36 The Court [...] feels some measure of responsibility to inform Defendant that all the fancy legal-sounding things he has read
37 on the internet are make-believe.^[111] Defendant can call himself a "public minister" and "private attorney general", he may
38 file "mandatory judicial notices" citing all his favorite websites, he can even address mail to the "Washington Republic". But
39 at the end of the day, while sovereign citizens and Defendant cite things like "Universal Law Ordinances", they are subject
40 to both state and federal laws, just like everyone else.^{[120][121]}

41 In 2021, Pauline Bauer, a [Pennsylvania](#) restaurant owner facing charges for participating in the [Capitol riot](#),^[122] used a
42 sovereign citizen line of defense by claiming to be a "self-governed individual"^[110] and a "Free Living Soul"^[92] and thus
43 immune to prosecution. She was jailed for one day for [contempt of court](#)^{[110][123]} and later [remanded to jail pending trial](#) for

1 refusing to cooperate with the court or comply with the conditions of her release.^{[122][124]} In January 2023, Bauer was found
2 guilty on all counts of misdemeanor and of the felony of [obstructing an official proceeding](#).^[125] In May, she was sentenced to
3 27 months in prison.^[126] Bauer's co-defendant, who had pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor, was sentenced to probation and to
4 a \$500 fine.^[125]

5 In 2022, Darrell Brooks, the perpetrator of the [Waukesha Christmas parade attack](#), claimed to be "sovereign"^[38] and used
6 other pseudolegal arguments as part of his *pro se* defense.^{[127][128][129]} Judge [Jennifer Dorow](#) ruled that Brooks was not allowed
7 to argue he was sovereign citizen in court, saying the defense was without merit;^[130] she said that sovereign citizen legal
8 theories are "nonsense" and that the movement's tactics had no place in the judicial system.^[131] Brooks was found guilty on
9 all counts^[132] and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.^[133]

10 "Gurus" Bonnie and David Straight sold to their adherents processes and documents (such as "noncitizen national passports"
11 and illegal license plates) purported to give them "American State National" status and make them immune to U.S.
12 jurisdiction. The Straights' methods were proved ineffective when they were arrested and detained on various charges in April
13 2023.^[61] Bonnie Straight was sentenced to five years' imprisonment: the court rejected her arguments that it did not have
14 jurisdiction over her.^[134]

15 The sovereign citizen concept that U.S. courts are secretly [admiralty courts](#) and thus have no jurisdiction over people has
16 been repeatedly dismissed as [frivolous](#).^{[135][136]}

17 Author [Richard Abanes](#) writes that sovereign citizens fail to sufficiently examine the context of the case law they cite, and
18 ignore adverse evidence, such as [Federalist No. 15](#), wherein [Alexander Hamilton](#) expressed the view that the [Constitution](#)
19 placed everyone personally under federal authority.^[78]

20 **2.5.2 Strawman theory and redemption schemes**

21 *See also:* [Redemption movement § Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf](#)

22 The core [redemption/A4V](#) theory that people possess vast sums of money hidden from them by the government in a secret
23 account, and that this money can be unlocked through specific means, has no basis in reality. Likewise, the [strawman theory](#)
24 has been repeatedly dismissed by courts. Both theories are listed by the [FBI](#) as common [fraud](#) schemes.^[137] In 2021, the
25 [District Court of Queensland](#) dismissed an application that relied on the strawman theory, commenting that this argument
26 "may properly be described as nonsense or gobbledygook".^[138] Redemption methods such as "Accepted for Value" are based
27 on a misinterpretation of the [Uniform Commercial Code](#) and have no effect.^[26]

28 Roger Elvick, the originator of the redemption movement, was convicted in 1991 in [Hawaii](#) of passing more than \$1 million
29 in false [sight drafts](#), and of filing fraudulent [IRS forms](#). He was sentenced to five years in federal prison. Upon his release,
30 Elvick resumed his activities, conceiving the strawman theory at that point. In 2003, he was indicted in [Ohio](#) on multiple
31 [felony](#) counts. During preliminary hearings, Elvick disrupted proceedings by denying his identity and claiming that the court
32 had no jurisdiction over him or his "strawman". A judge ruled Elvick mentally unfit to stand trial and committed him to a
33 correctional psychiatric facility. After nine months of treatment, Elvick stood trial and pleaded guilty; in April 2005, he was
34 sentenced to four years in prison.^[139]

35 Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf, a licensed lawyer who had been at one point a state prosecutor, eventually joined the sovereign
36 citizen movement: she built an online following as a "guru" and advocated the use of redemption methods to reclaim one's
37 alleged secret fund from the banking system and the [Federal Reserve](#). One of her followers, Randall Beane, used [Internet](#)
38 [fraud](#) to embezzle two million dollars, which he believed were part of his secret account; Tucci-Jarraf was aware of Beane's
39 scheme and advised him throughout. Beane and Tucci-Jarraf were arrested and charged with [federal crimes](#). Both were found
40 guilty of conspiracy to [launder money](#) in 2018, with Beane also being convicted of [wire](#) and [bank fraud](#). The court ruled that
41 Tucci-Jarraf, having used her legal training to assist Beane, was an aggravating circumstance.^{[140][141][142][143]} Beane was
42 sentenced to 155 months in prison, and Tucci-Jarraf to 57 months.^[87]

43 Creating and selling fictitious financial instruments is likewise a [scam](#). People who purchased sovereign citizen instruments
44 purported to help them pay off their debts or avoid foreclosures have worsened their situation by doing so.^[94] Winston ShROUT,
45 an influential sovereign citizen "guru" based in [Oregon](#), who advocated [tax resistance](#) and redemption/A4V schemes, issued

1 hundreds of fake "bills of exchange" for himself and others, and eventually mailed to a bank one quadrillion dollars in
2 counterfeit [securities](#) supposedly to be honored by the [Treasury](#).^{[93][144]} ShROUT was charged in 2016 with 13 counts of using
3 fictitious financial instruments.^[33] In 2017, he was found guilty of several counts of tax evasion and producing fraudulent
4 documents. The next year, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Several of ShROUT's followers who had tested his ideas,
5 including his daughter, were also sentenced.^{[145][93][144]}

6 **2.5.3 Traffic**

7 *See also:* [Traffic code](#)

8 Sovereign citizens' argument that they do not need driver's licenses, license plates, and vehicle insurances has never been
9 upheld in court.^[63] One common response to this claim from [U.S. law enforcement](#) is that, while anyone is [free to "travel"](#) by
10 foot, by bike or even by horse, operating a motor vehicle is a complex activity that requires training and licensure.^[52]

11 Sovereign Citizens falsely claim that the [United States Supreme Court](#) has upheld the right to travel as allowing operation of
12 a motor vehicle without a driver's license.^[146] On the contrary, several rulings state that drivers' licenses and traffic regulations
13 are necessary for public safety.^{[147][148][149]}

14 **2.5.4 Sovereign citizen legal entities**

15 Sovereign citizens' "common law courts" and other "legal" entities lack any legitimacy. Some may be simply ignored by
16 authorities: in 2015, sovereign citizen "guru" Anna Maria Riezinger aka Anna von Reitz, the self-proclaimed "judge" of a
17 common law court in [Alaska](#),^[31] published a letter calling for federal agents to arrest President [Barack Obama](#), the entire
18 [Congress](#) and the [Secretary of the Treasury](#),^[57] causing a minor Internet rumor. [Snopes](#) debunked her claim by establishing
19 that von Reitz was not a real judge and that her "orders" therefore had no force.^[150]

20 However, depending on the nature and severity of their actions, sovereign citizen "courts" may be disbanded and their leaders
21 prosecuted.^[51]

22 In 2016, after [David Wynn Miller's](#) "Federal Postal court" issued a \$11.5 million judgement against a mortgage service
23 company, a federal judge investigated that entity and ruled that it was "a sham and no more than a product of fertile
24 imagination".^[151] Two years later, Leighton Ward, who worked as "clerk" of this false court^[151] and had used this capacity as
25 part of a [mortgage elimination](#) scheme based on the use of Miller's language,^[152] was sentenced in [Arizona](#) to 23+½ years in
26 prison for fraudulent schemes and artifices.^{[153][154][155]}

27 During the 2010s, computer repair shop owner Bruce Doucette, who styled himself as "Superior Court Judge of the
28 Continental uNited States of America" and led a group called "The People's Grand Jury in Colorado", traveled the country to
29 help other sovereign citizens fight local governments and set up their own "common law courts".^{[156][157][158][159]} He and his
30 followers attempted to intimidate public officials so they would dismiss criminal cases against other sovereign citizens.^[160]
31 When these efforts failed, Doucette's group retaliated by engaging in [paper terrorism](#) against them^[157] with false subpoenas
32 and liens,^{[156][161]} and threatening them with "arrest" by their self-appointed "Marshals".^[160] Doucette and a number of his
33 associates were arrested and charged with multiple [felony](#) counts.^{[156][159]} In May 2018, [Colorado's 18th Judicial District](#) ruled
34 that Doucette's network of "common law courts" was a [racketeering](#) enterprise equivalent to [organized crime](#) and also found
35 Doucette guilty of retaliation against several judges and attempting to influence a public servant. He was sentenced to 38
36 years in prison.^[160] Two of his co-defendants were sentenced to 36 and 22 years, respectively.^[157] Colorado prosecutors
37 commented that through this verdict, they wished to send a message nationally to sovereign citizens and remind them that
38 threats against local government officials would not be tolerated.^[159]

39 Randal Rosado, a [Florida](#) resident, created a series of false legal entities, including an "International Court of Commerce",
40 and used them to file fictitious arrest warrants, court orders and liens against public officials and lawyers, most of whom had
41 been involved in [foreclosures](#). In September 2019, Rosado was sentenced to 40 years in prison on numerous counts of
42 unlawful retaliation against public officials and of [simulating the legal process](#).^{[162][163][164]}

43 In August 2021, [Sitcomm Arbitration Association](#), the largest sovereign citizen "[arbitration](#)" entity,^[165] was held liable for a
44 \$1,384,371.24 fine in a default judgment for violation of the [Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act](#).^[166]

2.5.5 Other arguments and schemes

The claim that the [District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871](#) turned the United States into a business corporation is based on a misunderstanding of the term [municipal corporation](#) used in the Act (which referred to the District of Columbia and not to the entire country)^{[167][168]} and on a misinterpretation of a provision in Title 28 of the [United States Code](#), which includes a definition of the United States as a "federal corporation" (meaning a group authorized to legally act as a single entity and not a business corporation).^[64]

The theories that "silence means consent" and that an un rebutted [affidavit](#) stands as truth are based on misinterpretations of the [legal maxim](#) "He who does not deny, admits".^[70]

The idea that "there is no crime if there is no injured party" is based on a misinterpretation of [tort](#) law^[70] and fails to recognize the existence of different levels of [legal violations](#).^[52]

Filing fraudulent notices of [liens](#) or documents is a [crime](#) in the United States.^[10] Other forms of [paper terrorism](#) may be similarly punished by law: Brett Andrew Nelson, a sovereign citizen from [Colorado](#), spent years filing "claims of damages" against judges and other public officials, as well as private citizens whom he felt had wronged him. His conflict with the judiciary started in 2017 over a child custody dispute. He later issued numerous false "judgements", demanding thousand of dollars from officials who had fined him for issues such as traffic violations and dog bites, and similarly harassed the mother of his child and people from his neighborhood. In April 2024, Nelson was sentenced to 12 years in prison.^{[169][170]}

American courts have routinely dismissed documents written in [David Wynn Miller's](#) "Parse-Syntax-Grammar"/"Quantum Grammar" language, calling them unintelligible.^{[100][171][172][173]} Canadian judge John D. Rooke commented, in his *Meads v. Meads* decision, that Miller's "bizarre form of 'legal grammar'" is "not merely incomprehensible in Canada, but equally so in any other jurisdiction".^[97]

The [Universal Postal Union](#), which is often invoked as a supranational authority in sovereign citizen schemes,^[70] has officially denied that it has "the authority to confer official recognition" upon sovereign citizens, "or to grant some kind of formal status to such individuals", also specifying that "the use of postage stamps on legal documents does not create an opportunity or obligation for the UPU to become involved in those matters".^[174]

2.6 Groups outside the United States

There is some cross-over between the two groups calling themselves freemen on the land and sovereign citizens, as well as various others sharing similar beliefs, which may be loosely defined as "see[ing] the state as a corporation with no authority over free citizens".^[20]

2.6.1 English-speaking countries

See also: [Freeman on the land movement](#)

With the advent of the Internet and continuing during the 21st century, people throughout the [Anglosphere](#) who share the core beliefs of these movements have been able to connect and share their ideas. While arguments specific to the history and laws of the United States are not used (except inadvertently, by litigants who use poorly adapted U.S. material),^[97] many concepts have been incorporated or adopted by individuals and groups in English-speaking [Commonwealth](#) countries.^{[20][175]} In [Canada](#), which has its own tradition of tax protesters,^[176] fiscal misconceptions of American origin were gradually introduced during the 1980s and 1990s.^[4]

Around 1999–2000, sovereign citizen and [redemption](#) concepts were introduced into Canada by Eldon Warman, who adapted them to a Commonwealth context. These ideas were further adapted in Canada by the [freeman on the land movement](#), which espouses an ideology broadly similar to that of the sovereign citizen movement, but is aimed at a less conservative audience. Canadian-style freeman of the land ideas were later imported into other Commonwealth countries, but American-style sovereign citizen ideology has also reached these regions of the world.^{[4][177][178]}

1 As of the 2010s, there are people identifying as sovereign citizens in Canada, [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), the [United Kingdom](#),
2 [Ireland](#), and [South Africa](#).^{[70][20][179]} Sovereign citizens from the U.S. have gone on speaking tours to New Zealand and
3 Australia, appealing to struggling farmers, and there are Internet presences in both countries.^[20]

4 **2.6.2 Canada**

5 Whilst the more Canada-specific [freeman on the land movement](#) has declined since the early 2010s,^[4] the Canadian sovereign
6 citizen movement has gained traction during the same period.^[180] Canada had an estimated 30,000 sovereign citizens in 2015,
7 many associating with the freeman on the land movement as well.^[181] There can be confusion between the two
8 populations.^{[35][182]}

9 Legal scholar Donald J. Netolitzky makes a distinction between the Canadian sovereign citizen and freeman on the land
10 movements, in that freemen on the land, while ideologically heterogenous, tend to be politically more [left leaning](#) than
11 sovereign citizens.^[35]

12 The 2012 *Meads v. Meads* ruling examined almost 150 cases involving [pseudolaw](#) and sovereign citizen or freeman of the
13 land tactics, grouping them and characterizing them as "Organized Pseudolegal Commercial Arguments".^{[97][70]}

14 In 2024 lawyer Naomi Arbabi resigned her license after being suspended by the Law Society of British Columbia for filing
15 a lawsuit dismissed as frivolous making use of pseudo-legal arguments like those of the sovereign citizen movement.^[183]

16 **2.6.3 Australia**

17 *See also:* [Far-right terrorism in Australia § Others](#)

18 Australia, which has its own tradition of pseudolaw, imported sovereign citizen ideas in the 1990s, even before the
19 movement's 2000s resurgence. It later imported the more Commonwealth-specific freeman on the land movement.^[4] There
20 is some cross-over between Australian freemen on the land,^[184] local sovereign citizens groups, and some others.^{[20][184]} The
21 core concept has been tested by several court cases, none successful for the "freemen".^[185] In 2011, [climate denier](#) and political
22 activist [Malcolm Roberts](#) (later elected senator for [Pauline Hanson's One Nation](#) party), wrote a letter to then Prime Minister
23 [Julia Gillard](#) filled with characteristic sovereign citizen ideas and vocabulary, although he denied that he was a "sovereign
24 citizen".^{[186][187]}

25 From the 2010s, there has been a growing number of freemen targeting [Indigenous Australians](#), with groups using names like
26 Tribal Sovereign Parliament of [Gondwana](#) Land, the Original Sovereign Tribal Federation (OSTF) and the Original Sovereign
27 Confederation. OSTF Founder Mark McMurtrie, an [Aboriginal](#) man, has produced YouTube videos speaking about "common
28 law", which incorporate freemen beliefs. Appealing to other Aboriginal people by partly identifying with the [land rights](#)
29 [movement](#), McMurtrie played on their feelings of alienation and lack of trust in the systems which had not served Indigenous
30 people well.^{[188][189]}

31 In 2015, the [New South Wales Police Force](#) identified "sovereign citizens" as a potential terrorist threat, estimating that there
32 were about 300 sovereign citizens in the state at the time.^[190] Freemen/sovereign citizen ideas have been promoted on the
33 Internet by various Australian groups such as "United Rights Australia" (U R Australia).^{[20][191]}

34 The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) has accelerated the spread of the movement in Australia; numerous incidents with law enforcement
35 have since been reported, some of them violent such as the 2022 [Wieambilla shootings](#).^[192]

36 **2.6.4 New Zealand**

37 New Zealand, which has imported foreign pseudolaw including Canadian freeman of the land ideology, has developed its
38 own sovereign citizen movement.^[4] In 2024, police identified 1,400 New Zealanders as acting under the influence of
39 sovereign citizen ideology.^[193] Many litigants using pseudolegal concepts in New Zealand are [Maori](#).^[4]

2.6.5 United Kingdom



Sovereign citizen "legal name fraud" billboard in the UK, 2016.^[194]

Sovereign citizen ideology reached the United Kingdom around 2010.^[34] British sovereign citizens have helped spread [COVID vaccine misinformation](#) as well as various conspiracy theories – including [9/11 theories](#) and one about [the Queen](#) having been replaced by a satanic [cabal](#) – and tried to set up their own [cryptocurrency](#).^[44]

The *Common Law Court* website, one of the main UK sovereign citizen resources, has for a time supported an [impostor who claimed to be the rightful heir](#) to the [British throne](#).^[44] The group known as The Sovereign Project claims to have 20,000 members as at 2024.^[195]

2.6.6 Austria and Germany

See also: [Reichsbürger movement](#)

The *Reichsbürger* (lit. 'imperial citizen') movement in Germany originated around 1985 and had approximately 19,000 members in 2019, more concentrated in the south and east. The originator claimed to have been appointed head of the post-World War I [Reich](#), but other leaders claim [imperial](#) authority. The movement consists of different, usually small groups. Some groups have issued passports and identification cards.^{[196][197]} The *Reichsbürger* movement claims that modern day Germany is not a sovereign state but a corporation created by Allied nations after World War II. They also expressed their hope that Donald Trump would lead an army to restore the empire.^[198] According to the [German domestic intelligence service](#), only a small number of groups in the Reich citizen movement fall into the far-right spectrum. Rather, the common denominator is the rejection of the [Federal Republic](#) as a legal entity.^[199] The Reichsbürger movement has used language and techniques from the One People's Public Trust, an American sovereign citizen group operated by "guru" Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf.^[87] On December 7, 2022, 25 people connected to the *Reichsbürger* movement were arrested in a nationwide raid by German police forces, for their involvement in a [suspected terrorist plot](#) against the German government and institutions.^[200]

In Austria, the group *Staatenbund Österreich* ('Austrian Commonwealth'), in addition to issuing its own passports and licence plates, had a written constitution.^[201] The group, established in November 2015, also used language from the One People's Public Trust.^[202] In 2019, its leader was sentenced to 14 years in jail after trying to order the army to overthrow the government and requesting foreign assistance from [Vladimir Putin](#); other members received lesser sentences.^[203]

2.6.7 Italy

As of the 2010s, incidents involving sovereign citizens have been reported in Italy, with various people purporting to opt out of Italian citizenship through nonlegal procedures and make themselves immune from Italian law. Members of one group attempt to do so by declaring themselves citizens of the "Sovereign Kingdom of [Gaia](#)" (*Regno Sovrano di Gaia*) while others refer to themselves as the "People of Mother Earth" (*Popolo della Terra Madre*).^[204] Another group called "We is, I am" (*Noi è, Io sono*) was reported in 2023. This movement is connected with American "guru" Heather Ann Tucci-Jarraf^[205] and, according to Italian media, had about 10 000 followers in 2023.^{[206][207]}

2.6.8 Russia

Main article: [Union of Slavic Forces of Russia](#)

A Russian movement of conspiracy theorists, known among other names as the Union of Slavic Forces of Russia (Союз славянских сил Руси, *Soyuz slavyanskikh sil Rusi*), or more informally as "Soviet Citizens", holds that the Soviet Union still exists [de jure](#) and that the current Russian government and legislation are thus illegitimate. One of its beliefs is that the

1 [government of the Russian Federation](#) is an [offshore company](#) through which the United States illegally controls the
2 country.^{[208][209][210]}

3 **2.6.9 France and Belgium**

4 In France, pseudolegal arguments claiming that enacted laws were invalid became gradually popular during the 2010s among
5 conspiracy theorists. They gained more traction during the [yellow vests protests](#), with claims that the [Constitution of France](#)
6 was null and void.^[211]

7 A [New Age](#)-oriented French group of conspiracy theorists called "One Nation" became known to the public in 2021 for their
8 involvement in the [kidnapping of a child](#). Later that year, they attempted to purchase a property in [Lot](#), purportedly to create
9 a "center for the arts" and a "research laboratory". The One Nation movement holds beliefs similar to those of American
10 sovereign citizens and denies the legitimacy of the [French State](#). They also share beliefs with [QAnon](#). The group translates
11 the name "sovereign citizens" in French as *êtres souverains* (sovereign beings) or *êtres éveillés* (awakened
12 beings).^{[212][213][214][215]}

13 In 2021, people affiliated with One Nation were reported to be active in [Belgium](#).^[216] In February 2022, the group's French
14 spokeswoman was sentenced to six months in prison for multiple traffic violations.^[217] She was arrested and incarcerated in
15 September of the same year.^[218]

16 In 2024, sovereign citizen ideology became more familiar to the French general public due to the [viral video](#) of an incident
17 between a couple of conspiracy theorists and traffic police.^{[219][211]} It was also reported that the movement was gaining more
18 followers in Belgium.^[220]

19 **2.6.10 Czech Republic**

20 The movement was first covered by Czech media in 2022, when the government noticed an increasing number of people
21 submitting a [sworn declaration](#) of life" and demanding to terminate a contract with the "Czech Republic corporation".^{[221][222]}
22 It gained further traction in the middle of 2023, when sovereign citizen movement followers tried to interrupt multiple court
23 proceedings involving disseminators of COVID-19 and [Russo-Ukrainian War disinformation](#), demanding that the judges
24 "identify" themselves.^{[223][224]} The movement was also connected to a case of a family with two unregistered children living
25 in a [yurt](#) near [Náchod](#).^[225]

26 Czech members of the movement maintain that they remain *de jure* citizens of [Czechoslovakia](#), based on a belief that the
27 [dissolution of Czechoslovakia](#) was illegal.^[222] There are multiple active groups based on the sovereign citizen ideology, the
28 most prominent one being the "Community of Legitimate Creditors of the Czech Republic" ([Czech](#): *Společenství legitimních*
29 *věřitelů České republiky*).^[226]

30 **2.7 See also**

- 31 •  [Law portal](#)

32 **2.7.1 Violent incidents**

- 33 • 1995 [Oklahoma City bombing](#)
- 34 • [2003 standoff in Abbeville, South Carolina](#)
- 35 • 2009 [assassination of George Tiller](#)
- 36 • [2010 West Memphis police shootings](#)
- 37 • 2014 [Bundy standoff](#)
- 38 • 2016 [occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- 39 • [2016 shooting of Baton Rouge police officers](#)
- 40 • 2016 [shooting of Korryn Gaines](#)

- 2018 [Nashville Waffle House shooting](#)
- 2021 [Wakefield, Massachusetts standoff](#)
- 2021 [Waukesha Christmas parade attack](#)
- 2022 [Wieambilla police shootings](#)

2.7.2 **Groups**

- [American militia movement](#)
- [Christian Patriot movement](#)
- [Citizens for Constitutional Freedom](#)
- [Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association](#)
- [Embassy of Heaven](#)
- [Family Farm Preservation](#)
- [Guardians of the Free Republics](#)
- [Kingdom Filipina Hacienda](#)
- [Montana Freeman](#)
- [Moorish Sovereign Citizens](#)
- [Patriot movement](#)
- [Posse Comitatus movement](#)
- [Sitcomm Arbitration Association](#)
- [Swissindo](#)
- [Washitaw Nation](#)

2.7.3 **Individuals**

- [Dennis Alexio^{\[227\]}](#)
- [Edward and Elaine Brown^{\[16\]}](#)
- [Schaeffer Cox^{\[228\]}](#)
- [Romana Didulo^{\[49\]}](#)
- [William Potter Gale^{\[13\]}](#)
- [John Joe Gray^{\[229\]}](#)
- [Gordon Kah^{\[22\]}](#)
- [Gyylaine Lanctôt^{\[85\]}](#)
- [Richard Marple^{\[12\]}](#)
- [David Wynn Miller^{\[100\]}](#)
- [Sean David Morton^{\[84\]}](#)
- [Terry Nichols^{\[13\]}](#)
- [Gavin Seim^{\[230\]}](#)
- [Glenn Unger^{\[231\]}](#)

2.7.4 **Concepts**

- [Anarcho-capitalism](#)
- [Anarchism and nationalism](#)
- [Anomie](#)
- [Anti-Federalism](#)
- [Antinomianism](#)
- [Consent of the governed](#)

- [Debt evasion](#)
- [Declarationism](#)
- [Individualist anarchism](#)
- [National-anarchism](#)
- [Paleoconservatism](#)
- [Paleolibertarianism](#)
- [Radical right \(United States\)](#)
- [Right-libertarianism](#)
- [Self-ownership](#)
- [Social contract](#)
- [Sovereignty](#)
- [Statelessness](#)
- [Tax resistance in the United States](#)
- [White supremacy](#)

2.7.5 **Other**

- [Eumeswil](#)
- [Freedomites](#)

2.8 **References**

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42 **2.10 External links**

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- 47 • [The Sovereigns: A Dictionary of the Peculiar, Southern Poverty Law Center](#), August 1, 2010
- 48 • [What cops need to know about sovereign citizen encounters](#) (*PoliceOne*)

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- [FBI page on the Sovereign Citizen movement](#)
- [Sovereign Citizens: A Clear and Present Danger](#) (*Police* magazine)
- [Sovereign Citizen Movement](#) – Anti-Defamation League
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