

The Hammer and the Orchestra

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Many philosophers, from Kant and Marx to Rawls and Angela Davis, take the nature of the economy to be central to the justification of the democratic state. Inequalities of income and wealth, they say, corrupt democratic institutions not only indirectly, through their influence on human psychology, elections, government agendas but also directly through the kind of control the rich can exert of the working lives of the vast majority.

One argument for the direct corruption idea goes as follows.

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