

# An Empirical Inquiry into Polycentric Power Structures

*Editor's Pick. Written by Wheylous.*

When anarcho-capitalists argue that protection should be provided in a private manner by companies instead of coercively by governments, opponents maintain that neighboring police agencies will start fighting amongst each other. The argument goes that one company will decide that it will make more money if it physically forces another company out of business, and this sets the stage for endless fighting. Structures that have many police forces in the same general area are thus bound to fail. Robert Murphy has an excellent refutation of this line of argumentation in his article “But Wouldn’t the Warlords Take Over?” Here, I will turn the opponents on themselves and challenge them to explain what makes government work.

Read the full thing at [The Voluntaryist Reader](#) »