

# Does it “Work”?

Does government “work”? Does this or that policy or legislation “work”?

Yeah, they “work” just like a bomb works to remodel a hospital. They apply physical force—they “do *work*”.

Do they work as advertised? Almost never. There are always unintended (or at least, *unacknowledged*) consequences. They make things worse. Under the very best of outcomes, they shift the problem from one place to another.

You can feed this person by making other people hungry.

You can make one person feel safer by making everyone less safe.

You can pay for someone’s healthcare by making healthcare harder for everyone else to afford.

That’s not the kind of “success” I’m willing to tolerate. How about you?