

There Will Always Be Government

Nobody asked but ...

The only philosophical debate I got into with family at Thanksgiving ended with me being told in stern tones that “there will always be government, even if there are only two people!” But, on calm reflection, the critical issue is whether that government is voluntary.

It is not voluntary when some authoritarian force decides unilaterally, in the default case, that coercion, violence, punishment, and imprisonment will be used to keep the garden orderly. Rules, as in agreements, are not the problem — enforcement is. And, one more thing, whenever you have at least two people — neither of them dead — a living, consensual government always has anarchy as well.

Kilgore