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11.007 Day 2 Notes: **Public vs. Private**

TWO VIEWS OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Our discussion today will be loosely organized around the following questions:

- Is being a citizen = being a consumer in the marketplace?
- How do we know which problems are “public” problems—to be solved by government—and which are “private” problems—to be solved by the market?
- What do we mean by “quality of life,” and to what extent should we rely government, as opposed to markets, to provide it?

What you read for today gave you two very different views of government and, hence, of the answers to these questions.

Milton Friedman: A Market Model of Politics

What is Friedman’s basic argument?

How does Friedman defend this claim?

- What historical evidence does he use? Is it credible? Why, or why not?
- What is the logic of his argument of his argument? Is it compelling? Why, or why not?

What, according to Friedman, is the appropriate role of government in a free society, and why?

- What are his assumptions?
- If we accept Friedman’s argument, what sorts of things would government do?

Kuttner/Stone: The Polis

What is Kuttner’s argument? How does he respond to Friedman?

- What assumptions does he make?
- What is the logic of the argument, and what evidence does he bring to bear?
- Is Kuttner’s argument compelling?

What is Deborah Stone's view of government?

--What is Stone's critique of the market model of politics?

--What's her alternative model—what are its features?

--Is this a compelling view? Why, or why not?

--How does Stone's approach change the way you think about politics?