

Literary Landlords in Plaguetime

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Theories of Copyright

- Economic Theory
 - “Prevailing” theory
 - Solves market failures in public goods
- Moral Theories
 - Actual dominant theory
 - Authors have a moral right to own & control the works they create

Copyright Metaphors

- “Good”
 - Property
 - Cultivation
 - Fruits
- “Bad”
 - Thieves
 - Stealing
 - Piracy
 - Counterfeiting

Literary Landlords

- The best metaphor for a copyright owner is a landlord
 - Copyright owners collect rents on capital goods
 - Purpose of the law is to encourage investment in capital goods
 - Authors “build,” copyright owners “rent,” can be the same person
- Everybody loves landlords?

How to explain to my girlfriend that I don't want to be a landlord

My girlfriend and I don't see eye to eye on politics, mostly because I'm very invested in leftism and she has never really been political. She has this dream of buying a property, fixing it up, and renting it out and then living in another place so that our mortgage/rent is covered. I haven't really gone full socialist on her yet but I've made it clear that renting out property isn't something I'm really comfortable with. I get where she's coming from, in her mind it's easy money and we could put the extra money towards our student loans (we're both fresh out of school with pretty good paying jobs). But to me, being a landlord is pretty amoral and goes against a lot of what I believe in. To her it's a responsible investment. Has anyone else been in a similar situation? Any advice?



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About

The group that fights to protect small landlords and their rights in Massachusetts & nationally

We are the group of small landlords who began in 1987 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, under a stringent rent control system begun 18 years earlier in 1969. We asked for reforms and got none. Then we sponsored a statewide referendum in 1994 — and won! — ending 25 years of rent control in Massachusetts by popular vote. It ended in Boston and Brookline as well as Cambridge.




Who are “small property owners”? We are small landlords, “mom and pop” landlords, who do our own management and repairs without offices and hired personnel. We are the families who own and operate 75% of America’s rental housing.

We may hire carpenters, plumbers, and electricians on occasion, but we do all the rest ourselves, which allows us to keep our rents lower.


Some of the most antiquated, harsh anti-landlord laws in the country are in Massachusetts. From the start, SPOA aimed to change laws, we did it, and we shall continue!

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Landlords: History & Concept



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