

LAW

Bastiat (1801-1850)

- 1. “Life, liberty, and property do not exist because men have made laws. On the contrary, it was the fact that life, liberty, and property existed beforehand that caused men to make laws in the first place.**
- 2. “What, then, is law? It is the collective organization of the individual right to lawful defense.**
- 3. “The law has been used to destroy its own objective**
- 4. “It has converted plunder into a right, in order to protect plunder. And it has converted lawful defense into a crime, in order to punish lawful defense.**
- 5. “The law has been perverted by the influence of two entirely different causes: stupid greed and false philanthropy.”**
- 6. Effect of legal plunder: “it erases from everyone’s conscience the distinction between justice and injustice.”**
- 7. “For when plunder is abetted by the law, it does not fear your courts, your gendarmes, and your prisons. Rather, it may call upon them for help.”**