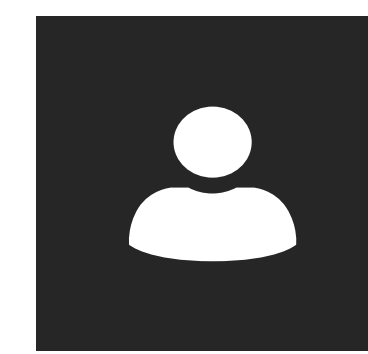


Title: *Basic Income In America: Exploring the ideology behind the Agenda*



PRESENTER:

Jack McShane

BACKGROUND:

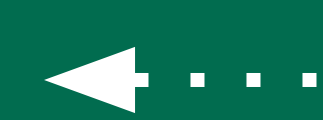
Basic income is often presented to us as an idea “everyone can get behind”, but if we look a little deeper, many basic income proposals have drastically different ideological foundations. This podcast will explore the trajectory of basic income proposals in America to examine the core motivations behind basic income and aim to address the misconception that basic income is politically neutral and not shaped by ideology.

With supporters like Nixon, MLK JR., Elon Musk, and Andrew Yang, does basic income really transcend ideology?



Nixon and former counselor to the president, Daniel Patrick Moynihan's basic income plan was the closest to becoming law in American history. It failed in part due to criticism coming from basic income advocates such as the NWRO

“When we look at the actual effects of large cash programs on people - on their sense of their own sort of working class entitlement and I mean that in a good way - I think it has a very emboldening effect and that's not to be taken lightly, and I've never quite understood why these thinkers are so dismissive of that history.”
- Wilson Sherwin, National Welfare Rights Organization Scholar



Scan the QR code to listen to the first episode!

METHODS:

- Analyzes the work of several scholars both advocating for and skeptical of basic income
- Explores historical documents relating to calls for basic income in America from the 1960s-70s including the NWRO backed bill for a guaranteed Annual income, and political analysis the NWRO and Nixon's FAP
- Features exclusive interviews with former chief of staff to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the architect of Nixon's basic income proposal, as well as Wilson Sherwin, scholar of the National Welfare Rights Organization

FINDINGS:

- Basic income is not an idea that supersedes partisanship or ideology
- Basic income isn't inherently neoliberal or socialist, its ideology varies amongst interpretations of the policy
- It is important to understand the social and political context in which basic income proposals come to be to fully grasp the effect they will have on a society.