

Democrats

In targeting just the richest [1% for tax increases], Democrats rather imply that a welfare state is only worthwhile insofar as someone else pays for it.

It is not an inherent good.

It is not a nation's binding agent.

In this sense, the Sanders and especially the Warren platform is a tacit concession to the Republican view of the world, with tax as a burden, not what the jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes defined as "what we pay for civilised society." The Democratic appeal is less to Nordic universalism and solidarity than to the noblesse oblige of a remote overclass who will not miss the money.

Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, Feb. 26, 2020