

Ownership

[I]f ... private ownership is a natural and inalienable right, then conceivably that right might be *superior* to the right of self-government, and a people might not be entitled to infringe that right even through the democratic process.

Although, judged from a purely utilitarian perspective, the consequences of private property might sometimes be harmful, it would not necessarily follow that a people could properly claim the authority to regulate property so as to avoid these consequences.

Robert A. Dahl,
A Preface to Economic Democracy