

In a free society, government would not "own" the airwaves, any more than it would "own" publishing houses, "own" land, or any other means of production: activities we rightfully associate with socialist or totalitarian societies. Government should auction off the broadcast spectrum and then leave programming completely to the private market. In our current hybrid system of freedoms and controls, the next best option is to minimize government intervention into the broadcast market and reject all attempts in the name of pursuing the "public interest" to mandate programming or to control in any way how broadcasters use what should be their own private property. Current interventions should be reduced or eliminated; new proposals should be summarily rejected as inappropriate government meddling into the private sphere of American citizens. If the public does not like the programming, it can switch to competing forms, including turning the TV off. The idea that Americans need government to tell them how to run their businesses or use their time is ludicrous. The government simply needs to get out of our way.