



# **the “digital” in democracy and citizenship: back to basics**

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# COFACE-Families Europe

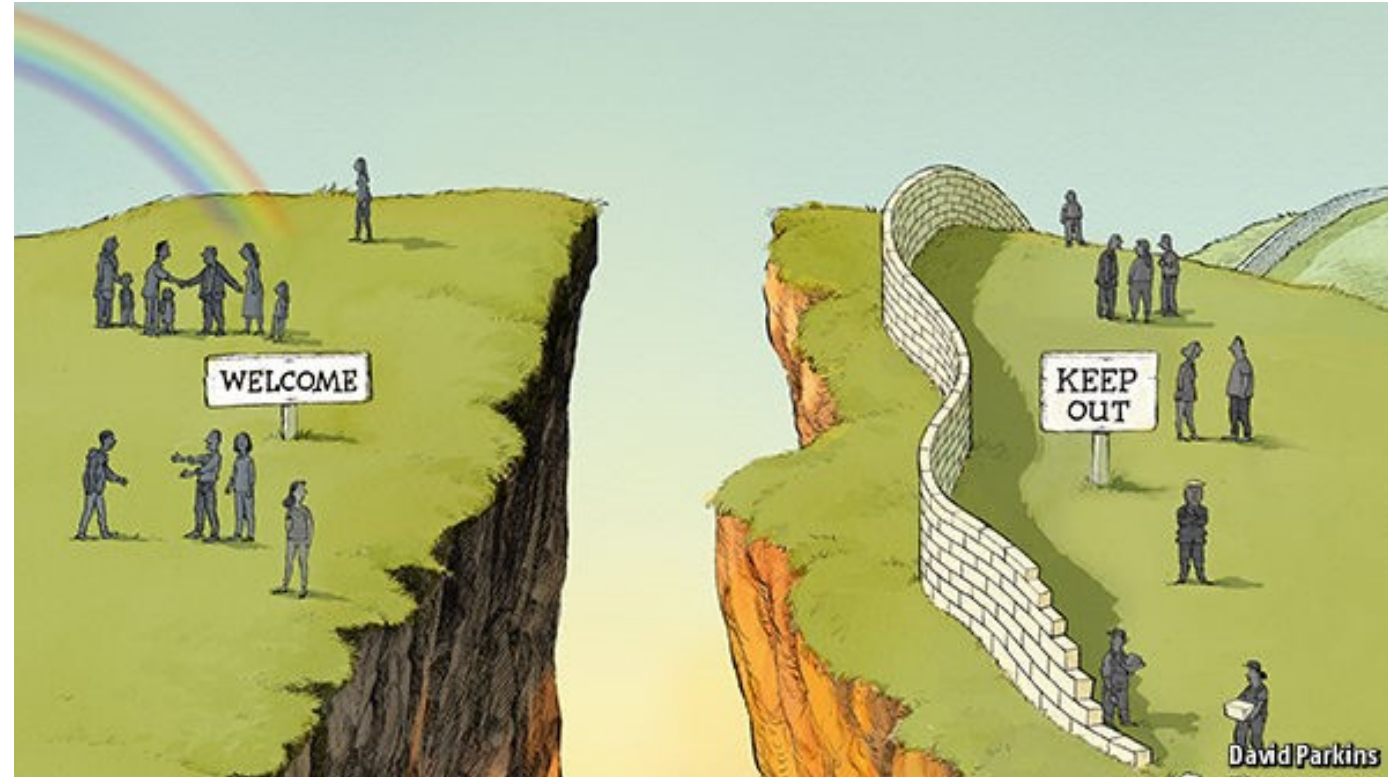
- Many areas of work:
  - Fake news and **media literacy** (DG CNECT)
  - Child online protection and cyberbullying
  - Digital Citizenship Education (expert at the Council of Europe)
  - European Pillar of Social Rights (notably the work life balance)

# COFACE-Families Europe

- Back to “basics” and exploring the future:
  - Digital citizenship: what’s that?
    - The current online environment
    - Blockchain and decentralized technologies
  - Democracy and the financial system:
    - The “missing link”
    - Money as a voting mechanism

# Citizenship

- Citizenship in a Democratic regime:
  - Sovereignty: a certain “group” or population gains control over a certain territory
  - Institutions: this group creates institutions which are mandated with applying a **social contract** adopted by the people (typically a constitution)
  - These institutions also have a mandate to enforce **rules on belonging to that group/territory and the rights and responsibilities which are tied to such “belonging”**.



# Digital citizenship

- The “digital” in citizenship:
  - We can consider the digital or “virtual” online space as a **new territory** where various actors gain “control” over certain parts.
  - Some territories, controlled by **private companies** can be seen as a **mix between an autocracy and a democracy.**



# Digital citizenship

- Key developments:
  - Blockchain technology and decentralized online spaces
  - Control of a “digital space” by a group which collectively decide what the “rules” are going to be (embedded into an unbreakable piece of software: blockchain).
  - This is why making sure that the current **values** of our “offline” democratic systems gets transposed online, or we will have to start “from scratch” (experimenting with online “dictatorships”...)



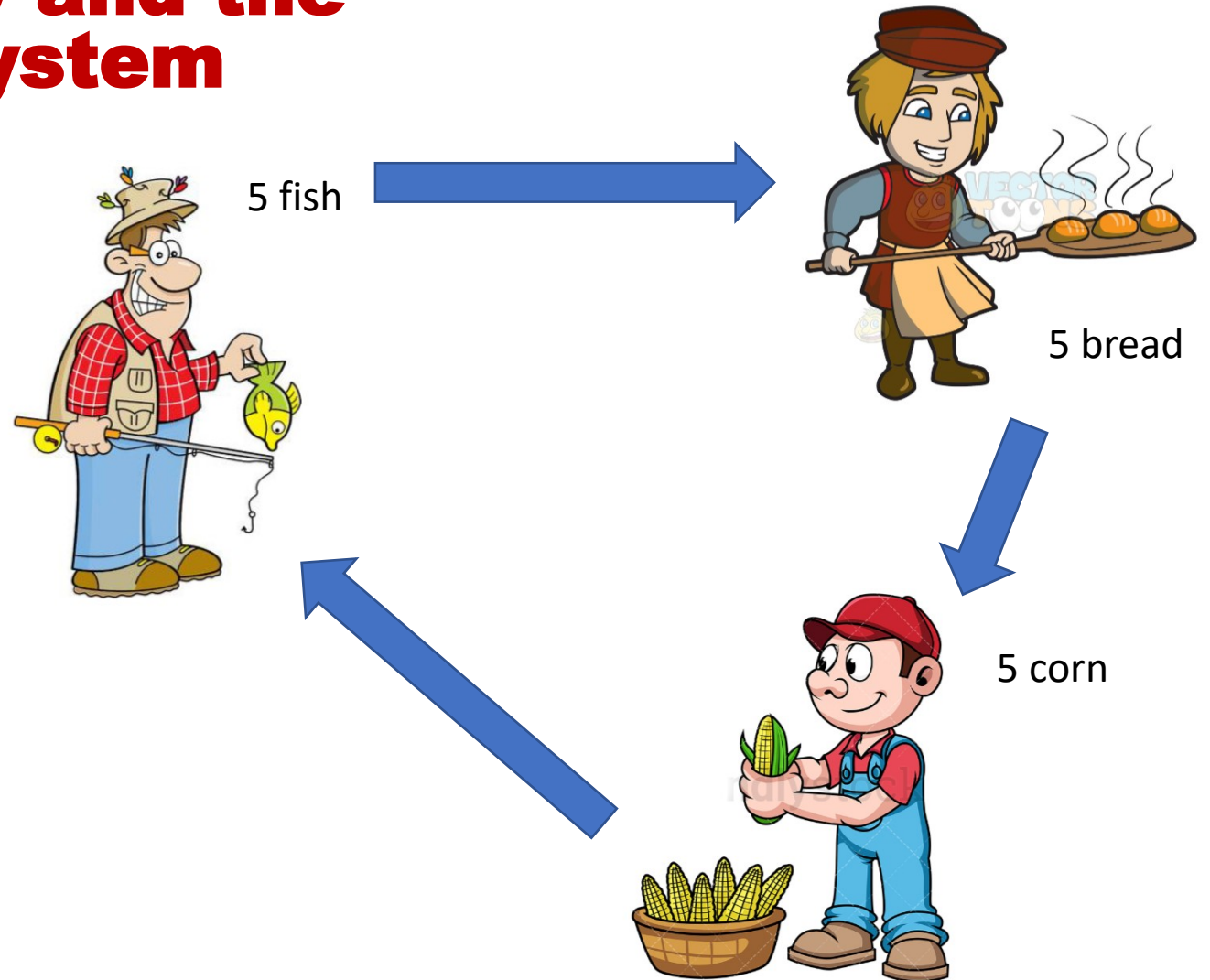
# Democracy and the financial system

- We assume that voting is the “main” mechanism for changing our society.
- The current economic and financial system, however, has arguably a much greater impact than politics.
- Let’s first look at how it works.



# Democracy and the financial system

- 3 Producers want to trade in a circle.
  - The baker wants fish
  - The farmer wants bread
  - The fisherman wants corn
- They cannot use barter and there is no money in the economy





# Democracy and the financial system

- 300€ (credit)  
+300€ (deposits)

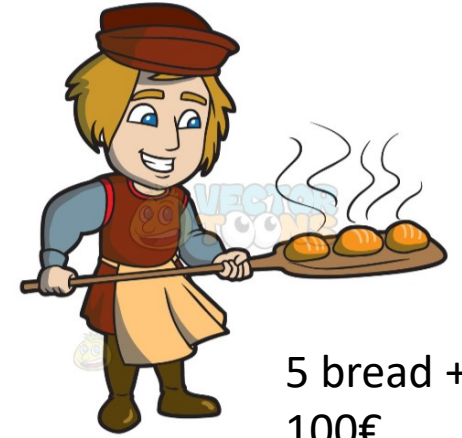
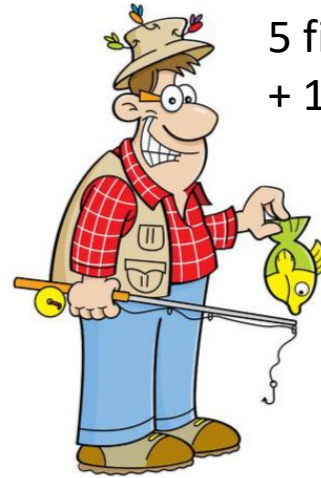
Put their  
money in  
the bank

5 fish  
+ 100 €

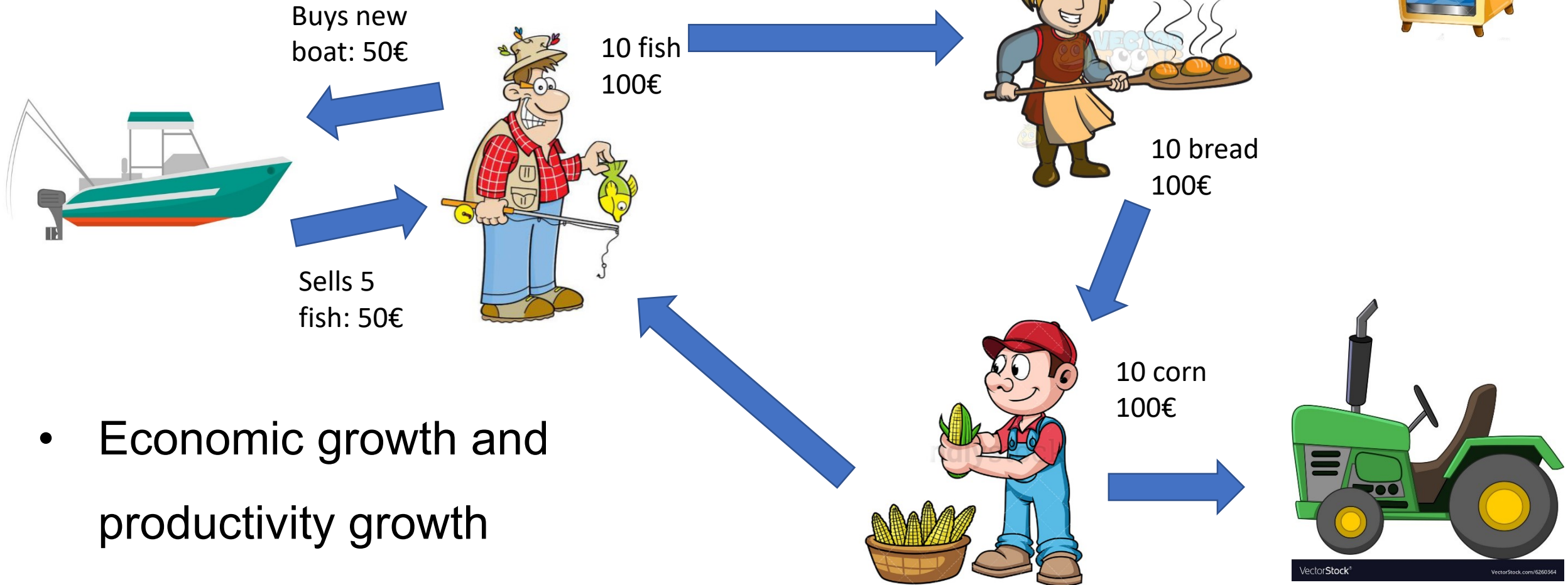
5 bread +  
100€

5 corn +  
100€

Lends 300 units of  
currency: 100 to  
each.



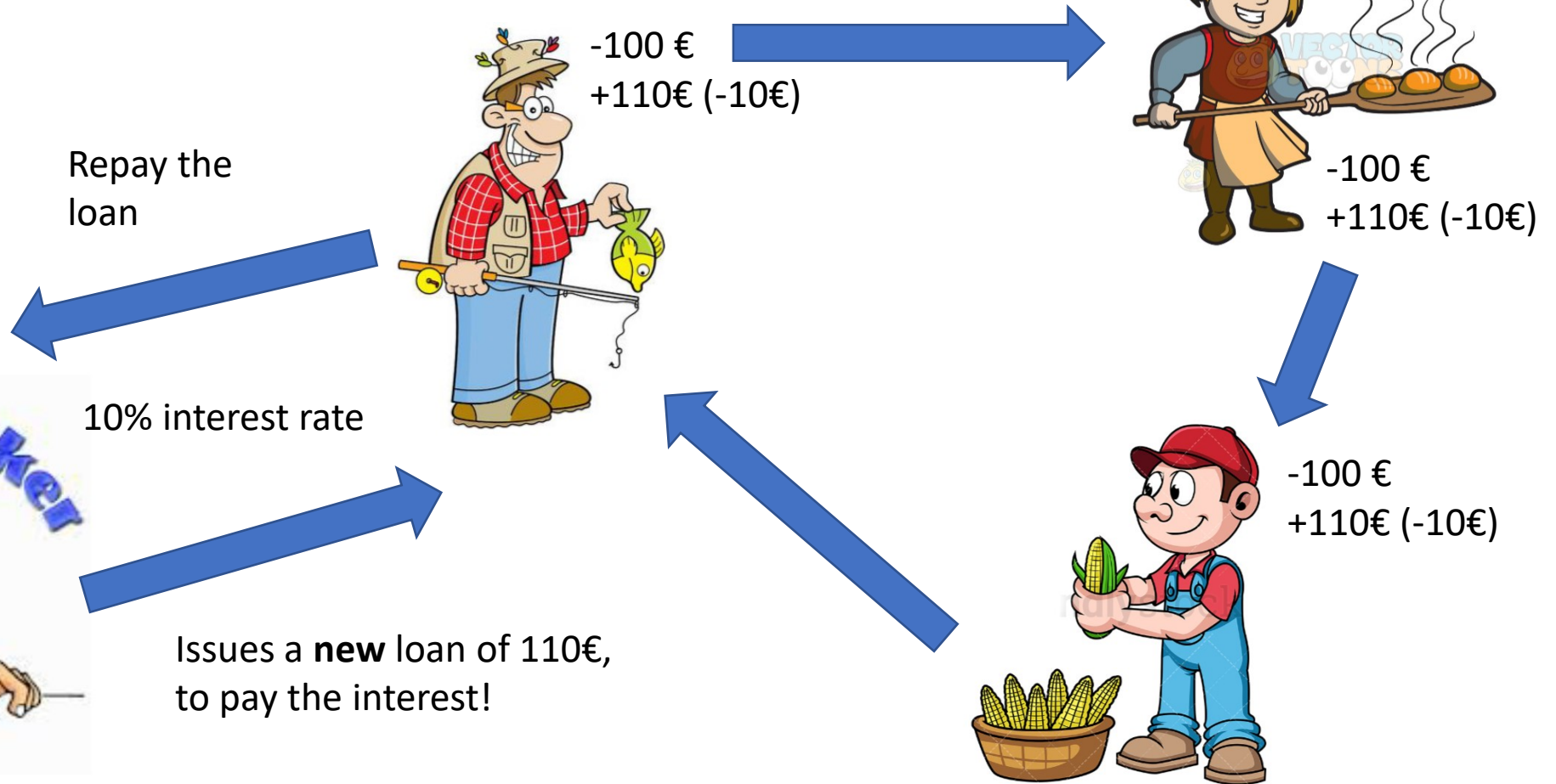
# Democracy and the financial system



- Economic growth and productivity growth

# Democracy and the financial system

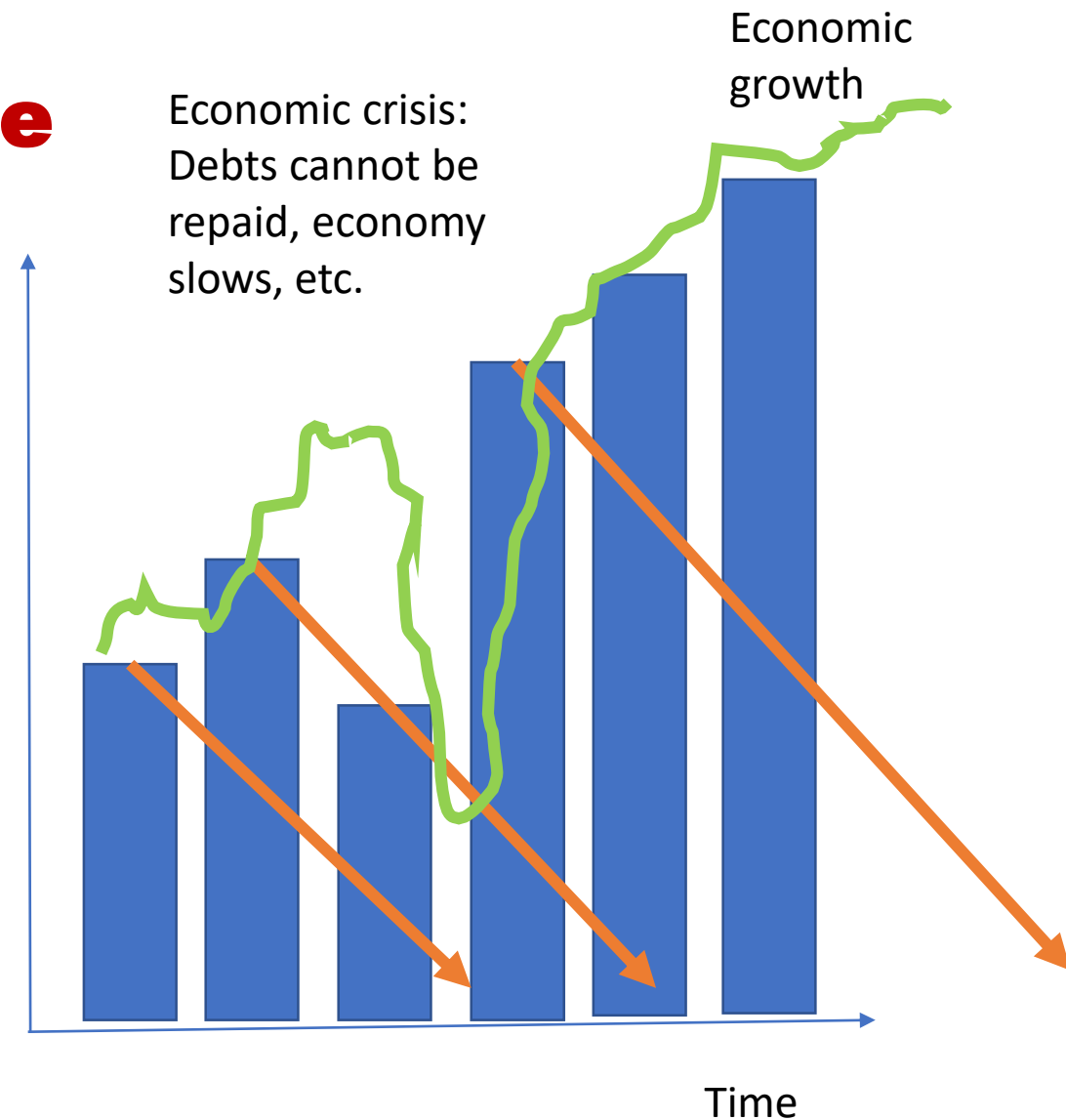
What about the interest?



# Democracy and the financial system

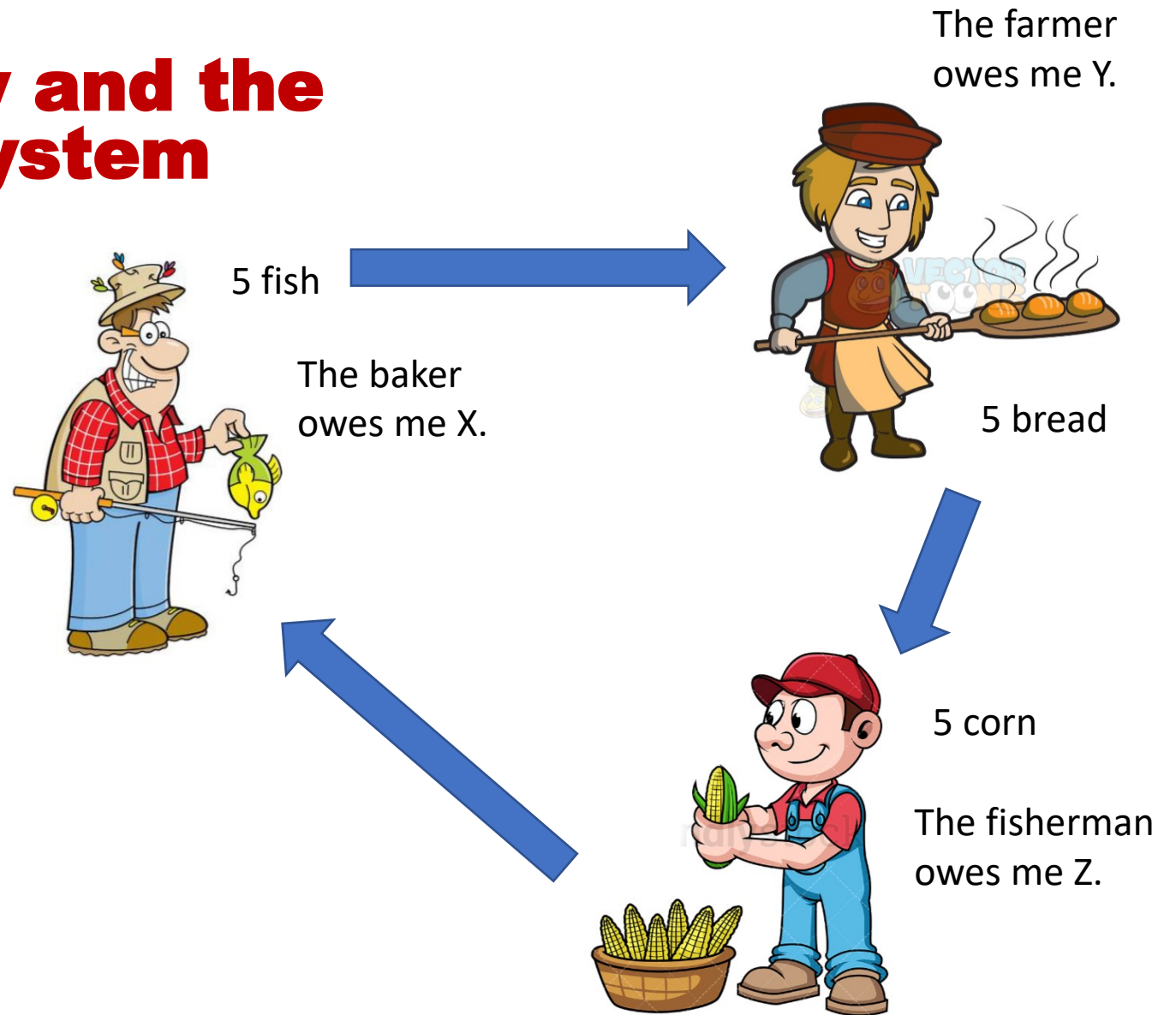
- The current monetary system is therefore a **roll over of debt into infinity.**
- Dependent on economic growth
- Dependent on banks and credit
- Stability of the economy depends on a **parallel growth of the economy and the money supply** (otherwise: inflation/deflation, crisis...)
- Choice of indicators: debt/GDP ratio.

Amount of money in the economy



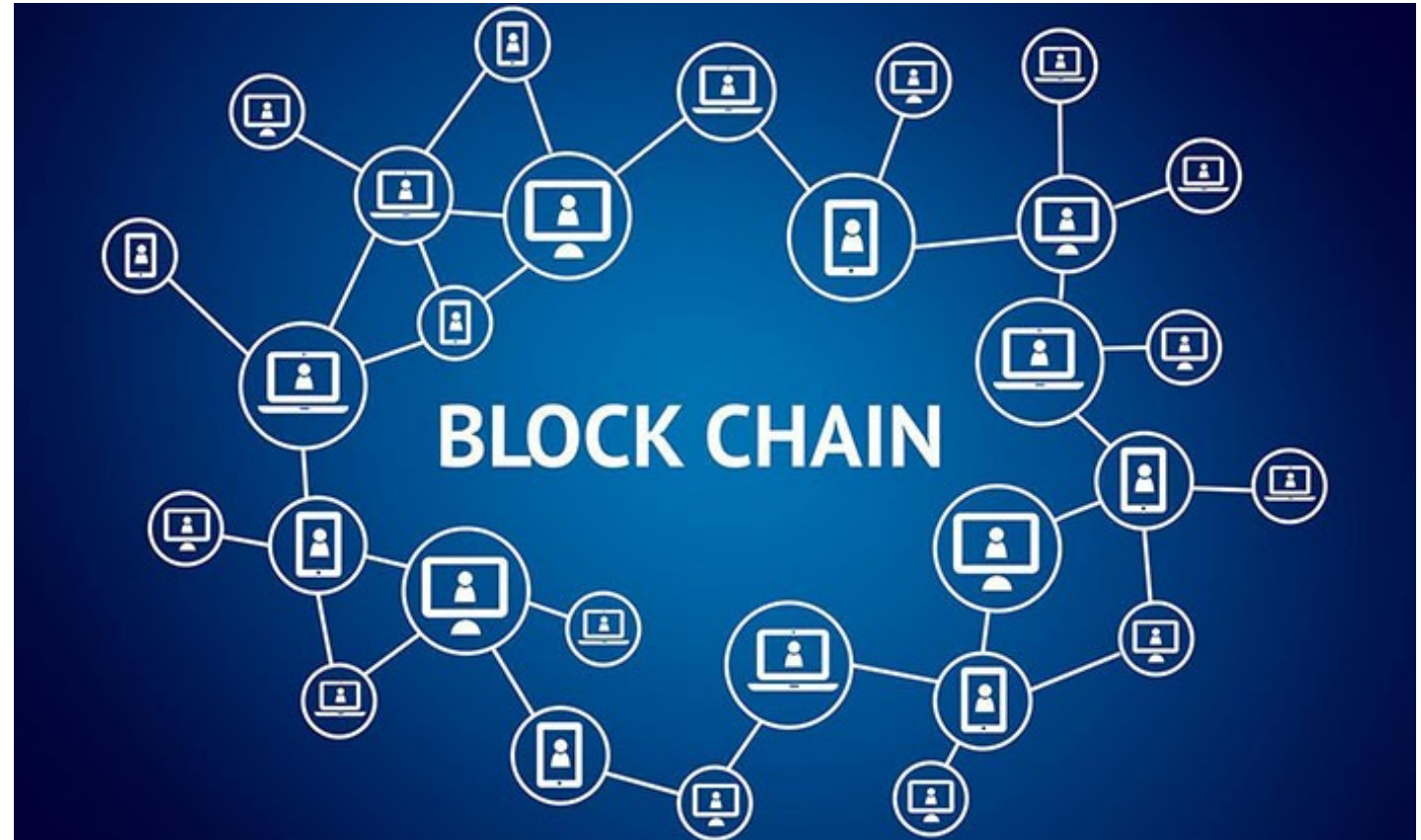
# Democracy and the financial system

- How did it work before banks?
- Barter wasn't really a "thing".
- Small scale economies (villages) with "tabs".
- Banks are just a way to "outsource" the creation of "tabs" of who owes what to whom in a "trusted" way (ideally).



# Democracy and the financial system

- Blockchain and the Relative Theory of Money
- A new financial system, where everyone co-produces the money.



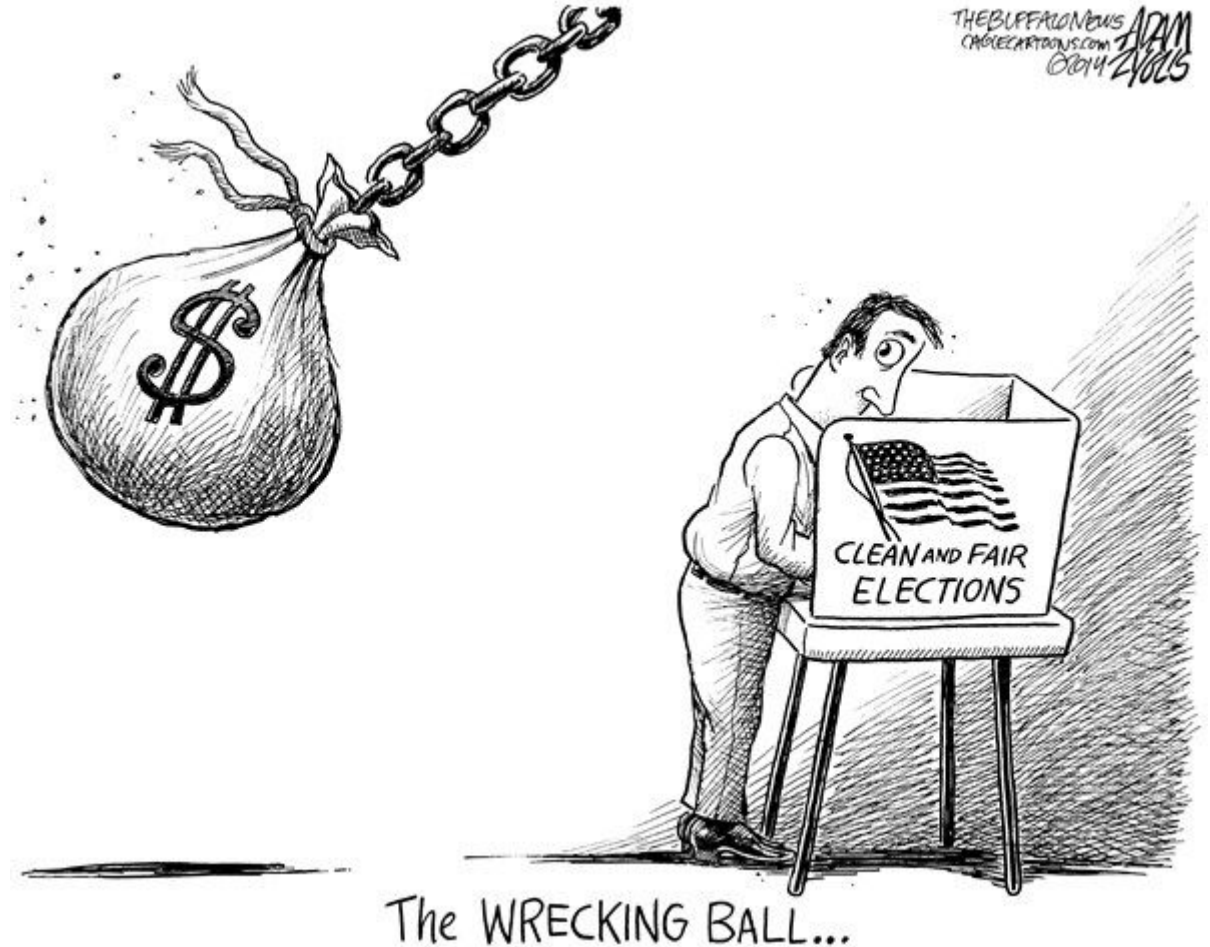
# Democracy and the financial system

- Everyone produces an equal share of the monetary base, not only in space (location) but also in **time**.



# Money as an equal “voting right”

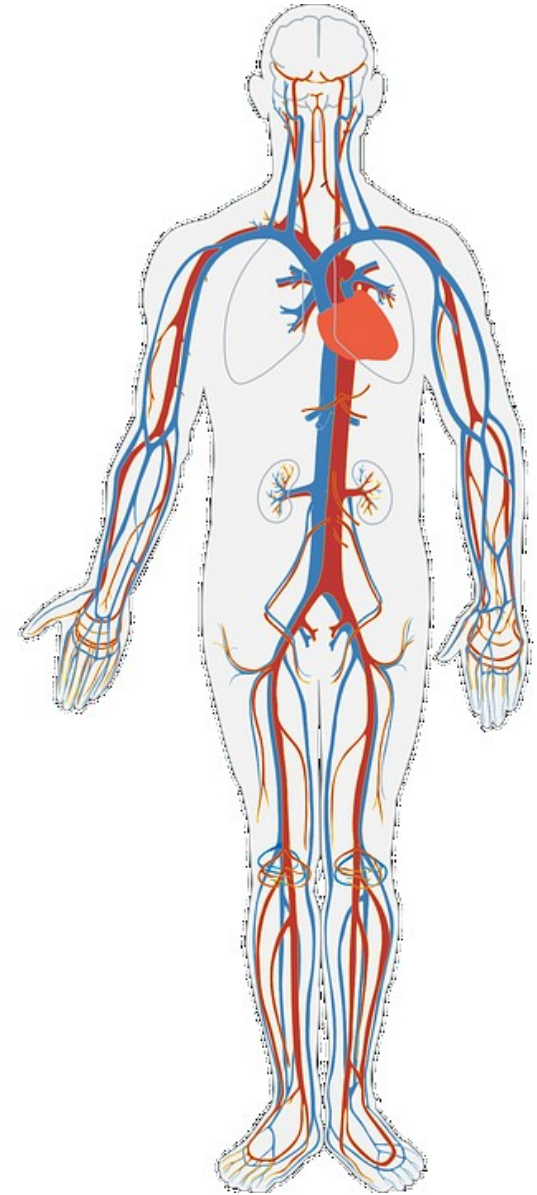
The philosophy underlying this theory is the equal right of each individual to determine **what has value and what doesn't** equally across time, meaning that each generation has an **equal voting weight** in determining what has value (their relative control of the monetary mass).





## Concluding remarks

- Mirroring biology and how our body works
  - Each red blood cell receives the same amount of oxygen/energy.
  - The energy is distributed in your body depending on needs (what you are doing) based on a collective distributed intelligence.





## Get in touch with us!

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