

# The wealthy are not self-made

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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This week, a former Google executive asked President Obama to raise his taxes so that more people will have the chance to succeed as he has. It was nice to hear the president defend the idea that individual wealth is built in part by *collective* investment--even if he didn't state it as forcefully as [Elizabeth Warren](#), and even if he mostly avoided the word "taxes" itself: