

The Barter Economy



I. Preface

Barterists of all nations unite!

1. All people, undertakings and countries which are falling short of proper development of individual and communal faculties in the ongoing absence of access to sufficient fiat currency unite! This is an invitation to all who are effectively denied such development to do no less (unite) by participating in the online exchange of goods and services on the basis of barter. State of the art technology today and the internet now permit individuals through their endeavors to participate on a more equal basis in economic life. In this way better personal and company development can be pursued by exchanging assets directly via a decentralized platform, and without money. Barter is the new wave of participation in opportunity creation.
2. While world-wide elaborate financial systems have been developed to provide capital to entrepreneurial initiatives through intermediaries such as Banks, the bare facts seem to keep indicating that such capitalism tends to accrue gains narrowly among those who already have capital. Market mechanisms do efficiently allocate resources, other than money.
3. For others, who wish to also foster their own development and hedge against future risk while at the same time - not having the necessary funds at their disposal, there is little chance to realize the potential for common personal and social gain. Hence, individuals, undertakings and countries are destined to search for new means of economic activity.
 - a. Economic activity has three components. Changing how they interact is the secret to new optimization. We have money, assets, and human effort. Since money is the primary means of control and regulation, removing the money changes all other relationships, both in terms of law and in terms of demand and supply. The enabling technology for this shift is already available at insignificant cost. The combination of blockchain trading systems with digital currencies one of the simplest ways to realize change.
 - b. Most governments have chosen to designate digital currencies as “goods” instead of money. The ability to trade virtually anything over low-cost peer-to-peer networks is well proven.
 - c. The “Sharing Economy” demonstrates that assets can be shared at great social benefit, while preserving ownership of private property – again through electronic means.
 - d. Transacting in digital currencies incurs no significant costs to transacting parties, and electronic wallets can be maintained by anyone with a phone – solving the problem of the unbanked.
 - e. The first generation of e-markets did rely on money, but proved the platforms work well. In particular, E-Bay, Craig’s List, and Amazon have enabled many businesses in traditional e-commerce.

Through exchange, we prosper. Enabling exchange helps people anywhere. Those who have been marginalized in the money economy will find new opportunity in helping to create, produce, and assist in supply and distribution chains without borders.

While for the real economy the demand for capital is often rooted in the desire to develop or improve luxury goods or services¹, the lender traditionally wishes no other than a profit. By removing money, we can see that the participants are those actually responsible for creation, production, and distribution.

4. The structural disparity between those who need capital and those who lend it is diminished by the sharing of assets without the sharing of ownerships.
5. As much as the lenders and investors love their profit, regulators have come to exert influence through money. Whether controlling or taxing its flows or defining what may be done based on money being involved, the centralization of both wealth and power rely extreme heavily on the monetary aspects.

¹ As opposed to all who are in the (manipulative) ‘gambling’ side of financial transactions within the context of financial markets.

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6. While a Bank was once regarded as a store of trust, as old textbooks still may say, its primary motivations are now profit for its own sake, and not fiduciary. The grave effects of the Financial crisis of 2007/2008 have destroyed too much, while revealing that Banks had turned into stores of greed. And as leveraged institutions, they pose a huge risk when private greed is lobbied into public risk. Too big to fail a global issue. With lobbying often undermining regulation, we are better off disintermediating much of what Banks have previously done.
7. To underscore the above with an example, we note that in The Netherlands the Dutch *Financial Supervision Act* comprises more than 330 pages of printed text, fully covered with articles. In addition, there are close to 50 Royal Decrees, which require decision making on cabinet level, and up to 20 Ministerial regulations.² The wall of regulations that has been set this way is a clear *no-go area* for potential market entry initiatives for years to come – for those who transact in money.
8. To directly capitalize assets we suggest exploring a green territory that is rapidly emerging in the field of barter trade. The immense tectonic activity of technological advancement has opened up a completely new space to make this possible. We call it **Barteron Territory**. Please feel free to enter, unite with other barterists and rediscover your potential.

Barteron Territory

1. The above introduction to the preface of this Barter Manifesto could also be read as a political initiative or social statement. But this is not what we intend to achieve. As Barterists, we are not seeking a regime-change of the capitalist society, nor from any other dogma. We are not interested in power as such, nor in exerting influence over other people, companies or political structures. In contrast we are interested in unleashing a pragmatic new and vast potential for all of us who wish to exchange their assets in order to further the goals of all who contribute.
2. In fact, we believe that this type of barter will serve as a stimulus for the existing financial sectors as more participants to the economy can be welcomed this way. To the extent that any governing regime embraces this unleashing of exchange, a great and beneficial force is unleashed. For the governments that cave to the lobbyists of rent seekers, we can only predict that they will fall further behind.
3. In Barteron Territory a new exchange mechanism is added to existing instruments of financial markets, while the mode of its operation is different from the existing instruments. In classic barter, a goat might be traded for a knife, but it was hard to make change, and trade did not scale well. Nevertheless, barter served mankind well for untold millennia. The Romans did an excellent job of codifying barter law. With today's technology of distributed computing, blockchains, and crypto currency, which governments are declaring to be "goods" instead of money, we can tokenize anything of value. Applying the laws of barter in a world of frictionless trade on mobile devices, we enter into a new era of Neo-barterism.
4. In Barteron the disbalance between those who are seeking funding and the borrower is ironed out. In fact, this disparity does not exist in barter. This is so as the *specificity of the value added* by the commodity that is on offer on the one side is in a barter no longer matched by an undifferentiated and faceless ask for profit on the other hand. This does not occur in case of (neo-)barter. Both parties wish to obtain a specific commodity from one and other. This puts both trading parties on a more equal footing.
5. In Barteron the trust factor is fully back in the hands of the trading parties, and fully backed by assets, rather than the house of cards that is leverage. There are no rent-seeking intermediary parties that can bring down this most valuable item for making trade a success story other than the parties themselves. Trust is therefore not any longer a mechanized item that should be understood from reading long contractual documents, but it is the history of our actions as burned into the transparent blockchain for all to see.

² This massive column of regulatory art work is based on 165 articles of the European Directive 'on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms' (Directive 2013/36/EU), which is already under review once again.

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6. In Barteron it is self-evident that one knows with whom one makes a deal with. The expression *Know Your Customer* (KYC), as well as the technical support for doing so, is therefore a natural ingredient for a barter arrangement in Barteron. Moreover, with big data enabled on the barter platform, the tools are there for all to prevent criminal activity, terrorist actions, and fraud.
7. In Barteron we would also not wish to shy away from the privilege to live in the countries that we live in. So, we will make our barter deals compliant with the laws of barter, its taxation, and the prevention of crime.

Sharing & Growing in Barteron

8. The nature of the trade technology used allows Barterists to grow the barter perspective and benefit from the work done – even if they are not particularly technically inclined. While the team who programmed eBay were world-class technicians, there is no need for its users to be. This is even more the case on the barter platform. Still, millions of coders can contribute work in improving the functionality and usability of the decentralized platform around the globe. The trade platform that is available in Barteron facilitates and encourages this to happen. As you will see from using the platform barterists can execute a barter deal, but there is room for reward for those helping to make it work better.
9. That said, the barter society is intended as an open community. Those who wish to support dark platforms are advised to stay dark as the design of the trading platform will support openness to the extent reasonable privacy permits. The diving principle behind trusted trade is transparency of information. On the side of privacy protection, no infringements will be allowed in Barteron.
10. As you will see hereafter, we will make clear what approaches the trading platform is designed for, and how the security of the barterists is protected.



Authors

Reynier Overhoff
David Keller