ARCHAGORISM

CONCEPTUAL PAPER
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ABSTRACT

Building on Eleuthagorism — the term for voluntary, self-regulated exchange free from third-party coercion (Kayser, 2026) — this paper introduces its counterpart: **Archagorism**. Derived from the Greek *archḗ* (rule, authority) and *agorá* (marketplace), Archagorism denotes market systems shaped by external rule, regulation, and coercive authority, a regulated market economy.

Eleuthagorism aligns with the natural law of self-organization, in which spontaneous order emerges from decentralized voluntary interactions. Archagorism, by contrast, rests on the conviction that deliberate human design — through central planning, comprehensive regulation, or top-down coordination — can organize economic activity more effectively than emergent processes.

Both terms are deliberately coined as neutral, descriptive labels rather than ideological weapons. Eleuthagorism refers to the market that Archagorists regard as dangerous because it lacks authoritative direction. Archagorism refers to the market that Austrian economists regard as dangerous because it subordinates voluntary exchange and self-organization to external design.

A core feature of Archagoric systems is the enforcement of mandated legal tender, taxation, and restrictions on goods and services. Highly Archagoric systems include communism, socialism, national socialism, and fascism, while monarchies and democracies have historically operated with more moderate degrees of Archagorism. Eleuthagorian arrangements, by contrast, have remained largely theoretical.

As a normative conceptual proposal, Archagorism provides a precise analytical tool for examining regulated market enterprises. It enables clear analysis of interventionist and non-interventionist mechanisms without relying on widely misunderstood and inverted terms such as *capitalism, free market enterprise, corporatism,* or *anarchy.*

KEYWORDS

Archagorism, Eleuthagorism, agorism, regulated market economy, interventionism, corporatism, voluntary exchange, neologism, Aparactonomy, semantic precision

1. INTRODUCTION

Problem-Solution-Justification

Existing economic and political terminology has become increasingly imprecise and ideologically charged. Terms such as "capitalism," "free market enterprise," and "anarchy" are routinely applied in contradictory ways, often conflating voluntary exchange with various forms of state intervention and coercive coordination. This semantic overload obstructs clear analysis.

To address this problem, two deliberately neutral and precisely defined terms are introduced, both derived from the Greek *agorá* (marketplace). **Eleuthagorism** (*eleútheros*, free, and *agorá*, marketplace) denotes systems of voluntary, self-regulated exchange conducted without third-party coercion. Its counterpart, **Archagorism** (*arché̄*, rule, and *agorá*, marketplace), denotes systems of market exchange in which acquisition and exchange are systematically shaped by external rule, regulation, and coercive authority.

Both terms are constructed as descriptive analytical categories rather than ideological weapons. Eleuthagorism refers to the form of market organization that Archagorists typically regard as dangerous due to the absence of authoritative direction. Archagorism (e.g., corporatists) refers to the form of market organization that Eleuthagorists (e.g., Austrian economists) regard as dangerous because it subordinates voluntary exchange and spontaneous order to external design (Mussolini, 1933; Hayek, 1944).

Understanding Archagorism is important because it systematically reduces or removes the range of choices available to individuals — citizens and consumers alike — regardless of age, ability, or legal status. What is frequently presented as protective regulation often operates by restricting the options that individuals may lawfully pursue in both the acquisition and exchange phases of economic activity.

1.2 Definition and Core Features

Archagorism is defined as the system of market exchange in which some or all economic processes are fully or partially regulated by external authority. The principal phases affected are all forms of **acquisition** (whether insourced through internal production or outsourced through procurement) and **exchange** (primarily payment and transfer of goods or services) but extend much further through import and export regulations, subsidies, fees, labor laws, property taxes, capital gains taxes and many more.

A core defining feature of Archagoric systems is the enforcement of a single mandated legal tender combined with restrictions on alternative means of payment. This typically includes the prohibition or severe limitation of competing currencies, private money, or decentralized payment systems, thereby directing all economic transactions through centrally controlled monetary instruments. In practice, this manifests in measures such as strict limits on cash transactions, mandatory pre-registration for high-value purchases of alternative assets (such as gold above certain thresholds), and restrictions on barter arrangements.

By contrast, some jurisdictions have moved toward greater monetary competition. El Salvador, for example, maintains no central bank and recognizes both the U.S. dollar and Bitcoin as legal tender

(Arslanian et al., 2021). Argentina has progressively removed restrictions on currency competition (Schnabel and Kleinheyer, 2025). These cases illustrate more moderate forms of Archagorism. At the other end of the spectrum, systems such as China — which permits only the renminbi (RMB) and strictly prohibits cryptocurrencies and most foreign currencies — and the European Union — which imposes tight limits on cash and alternative payment methods — represent highly Archagoric monetary regimes.

In addition to monetary control, Archagoric systems characteristically impose taxation and extensive restrictions or prohibitions on goods and services. These interventions shape not only what may be produced and exchanged, but also the terms under which exchange may occur. In many jurisdictions, multiple layers of taxation apply across the entire economic process: inputs are taxed during acquisition (whether insourced or outsourced), the transaction itself is taxed at the point of exchange, and any subsequent reinvestment or use of already-taxed profits may be taxed again. This cumulative fiscal and regulatory overlay significantly constrains individual choice and increases the complexity of economic activity.

1.3 Impact on Individual Choice

Archagoric policies directly constrain individual decision-making across nearly all domains of economic life. The range of goods and services subject to regulation is extensive: housing and construction, food production and distribution, clothing, medication, transportation, energy, and communication infrastructure are all routinely governed by licensing, standards, taxes, and prohibitions.

A clear illustration is the regulation of alcohol. In some jurisdictions and historical periods, its production, distribution, purchase, and consumption have been strictly prohibited and heavily penalized. A subsequent change in regulation can suddenly render the same activities legal and taxable. Similar shifts occur across countless other sectors. What is presented as consumer or public protection often determines not only safety standards but also which activities generate revenue for the regulating authority.

While such policies are frequently justified on ethical or protective grounds, they do not consistently follow coherent ethical frameworks. In many cases, the pattern of regulation and taxation reveals a primary motivation of maximizing fiscal revenue and administrative control rather than the consistent application of protective principles.

1.4 Historical and Conceptual Context

Archagoric systems exist along a spectrum of intensity. Highly Archagoric systems include communism, socialism, national socialism, and fascism, all of which subordinate economic activity to comprehensive central direction. Monarchies and democracies have historically operated with more moderate degrees of Archagorism, permitting varying degrees of private initiative within regulatory and fiscal frameworks.

By contrast, Eleuthagorian arrangements — systems of voluntary exchange free from third-party coercion — have remained largely theoretical. While numerous libertarian, anarcho-capitalist, and

Aparactonomous proposals describe such arrangements, no fully documented and historically verified Eleuthagorian society has existed at scale.

1.5 Purpose and Application of the Paper

This paper introduces Archagorism as a precise analytical tool for examining regulated market enterprises. By providing a clearly bounded counterpart to Eleuthagorism, it enables rigorous analysis of interventionist and non-interventionist mechanisms without reliance on overloaded and frequently inverted terminology.

The framework distinguishes between systems organized primarily around self-organization and those organized around deliberate external design. It further supports examination of how regulatory intervention aggregates complexity across acquisition and exchange, narrows the scope for positive outcomes, and generates cumulative systemic pressures. In doing so, Archagorism offers a neutral conceptual instrument for analyzing economic organization with greater precision.

2. LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT

Austrian and anarcho-capitalist literature (Menger, Mises, Hayek, Rothbard, Hoppe) already provides the clearest analysis of how intervention disrupts calculation and generates unintended consequences that justify further intervention. Corporatist theory (Mussolini's own definition) and modern descriptions of public-private partnership economies describe the same pattern from the interventionist side.

The term **agorism**, however, already exists with a specific meaning: Konkin's counter-economic strategy of building black- and grey-market activity to starve the state of revenue and legitimacy. It carries strong left-libertarian connotations and is explicitly anti-statist in intent. Archagorism deliberately inverts the root to name the statist pole — markets thoroughly penetrated and directed by authority.

This repurposing is deliberate and clarifying. It avoids confusion with existing agorism while preserving the marketplace etymology that makes the Eleuthagorism–Archagorism pair elegant and memorable.

The word can be used as follows:

Form	Pars Orationis	Example Usage	Meaning
Archagorism	Noun	"Archagorism implies third-party coercion."	The system or ideology
Archagoran	Adjective	"An archagoran transaction follows enforced regulation."	Of or relating to Archagorism
Archagorist	Noun	"She is an archagorist."	A person who advocates or practices Archagorism
Archagoric	Adjective	"An archagoric economy	Characterized by or exhibiting

		subordinates voluntary exchange to external authority.”	Archagorism (especially systemic features)

3. CONTRAST WITH ELEUTHAGORISM

Aspect	Eleuthagorism	Archagorism
Core principle	Voluntary agreement only	External rule and authority overlay
Acquisition phase	Free choice of production/outsourcing	Heavily constrained by licenses, taxes, mandates
Exchange phase	Terms set by parties	Terms distorted by taxes, controls, compliance
Outcome predictability	High (subject to market uncertainty)	Low (regulatory change adds radical uncertainty)
Sand-in-the-engine dynamic	Minimal friction	Cumulative grains erode margins until failure
Typical label	“Free market” or “capitalism” (strict)	“Regulated market,” “mixed economy,” “corporatism”

In Eleuthagorism, wins are the normal and expected result of value-creating acquisition and exchange. In Archagorism, wins become rarer and thinner as regulatory sand accumulates; break-even becomes survival and loss becomes common for non-privileged actors.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Necessities
For Archagorism to function as an analytical tool it must be used consistently alongside Eleuthagorism. Publication of this short conceptual note, integration into ongoing Aparactonomy and related research, and clear definitional material (e.g., on eleuthagorism.com or a parallel site) are the immediate steps.

Possibilities
A clean Eleuthagorism–Archagorism binary sharpens discourse on regulation, taxation, and economic performance. It allows precise discussion of why “regulated market enterprises” exhibit profitability limits, capital flight, black-market growth, and eventual stagnation or crisis — without the rhetorical fog that surrounds “capitalism.” It also supplies a natural conceptual partner for critiques of Iberian or other high-regulation environments and for the design of lower-friction alternatives (e.g., in Uganda or Paraguay contexts).

Archagorism does not claim every regulated system collapses tomorrow. It simply names the observable mechanism: each added rule increases complexity and cost in acquisition and exchange; over time the engine loses power. The term makes that process discussable with precision.

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