



Robert W. Wood

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Brits Might Pay 20% Snack Tax—Americans Would Sue

Americans find the British love affair with the [pasty](#)—a meat pie more beloved than our humble hot dog—hard to understand. Think chicken pot pie. The crust of a pasty encircles the meat, a kind of Anglophile burrito. Whether or not that makes your mouth water, you'd think all Brits would understand that you don't mess with someone's pasty. See [Cornish MPs could form alliance to stop 'pasty tax'](#).



Image via telegraph.co.uk

Nope. The British government instituted a 20% tax on pasties and other takeout snacks. The bumbling British government surely didn't realize what it was doing. Up until now, the Value Added Tax (VAT), a kind of national sales tax, didn't apply to freshly baked take-away foods like pasties, pies, toasted sandwiches and rotisserie chickens.

Thinking the government needed money and that it was closing a loophole, the Brits moved to make pasties and other hot snacks pay the [VAT of 20%](#) like everything else. An attack on a British mainstay would be tough for Britons to, er, swallow under any circumstances. But with lamentable timing, the Britons paired taxing pasties with a 50% to

45% tax cut for top income earners. See [Tony Blair is Britain's Buffett as Top 50% Tax Rate Teeters](#).

Viewed together, the wealthy were feted while the lower and middle classes were hit right in their pasties where it hurts most. See [A Tax on Snacks Aggravates Austerity Tensions in Britain](#). Meanwhile, on Buffett's side of the Atlantic, our own class warfare tax vitriol seems similar, albeit not slathered in meat pies. Perhaps Buffett's buffet should feature Cornish pasties, which at least would prompt that grand old American tradition: lawsuits.

After paying \$8 for a soda and a box of candy, a Michigan man has filed a class action suing AMC Theatres for price gouging allegedly violating Michigan's Consumer Protection Act. [Read](#) it and weep.

For more, see:

[UK government feels the heat on Cornish pasty tax](#)

[Why Americans Want A Buffett Tax](#)

[The £12m Tax Mystery: Tony Blair's Earnings Soar by 42% \(But He Only Pays £315,000 to HMRC\)](#)

[Gordon Gekko Tax Moves](#)

[A Jeremy Lin Tax? Yup, and Better Than Buffett's](#)

[Buffett's Tax Buffet Is No Smorgasbord](#)

[Inside the Intriguing World of Tony Blair Incorporated](#)

[Mitt's Taxes Stoke "Carried Interest" Flames](#)

[Clint Says Manning v. Brady? Think Zuckerberg v. Buffett](#)

[In Taxes, Kim Kardashian is More Buff Than Buffett](#)

*Robert W. Wood practices law with [Wood LLP](#), in San Francisco. The author of more than 30 books, including *Taxation of Damage Awards & Settlement Payments* (4th Ed. 2009 with 2012 Supplement, [Tax Institute](#)), he can be reached at Wood@WoodLLP.com. This discussion*

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