

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE “FREE RIDER” CONCEPT

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**Abstract:** *This paper tries to identify the roots of the “free rider” problem, arising from the fact that an individual may be able to obtain the benefits of a good without contributing to the cost. After exploring the large contemporary debate around the concept, the paper concludes that free riding is not necessarily a basis for government intervention.*

**Key words:** *“free rider”, public goods, government intervention.*

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