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Privatization of Biomedical Research: A Short Term Answer with Long Term Consequences

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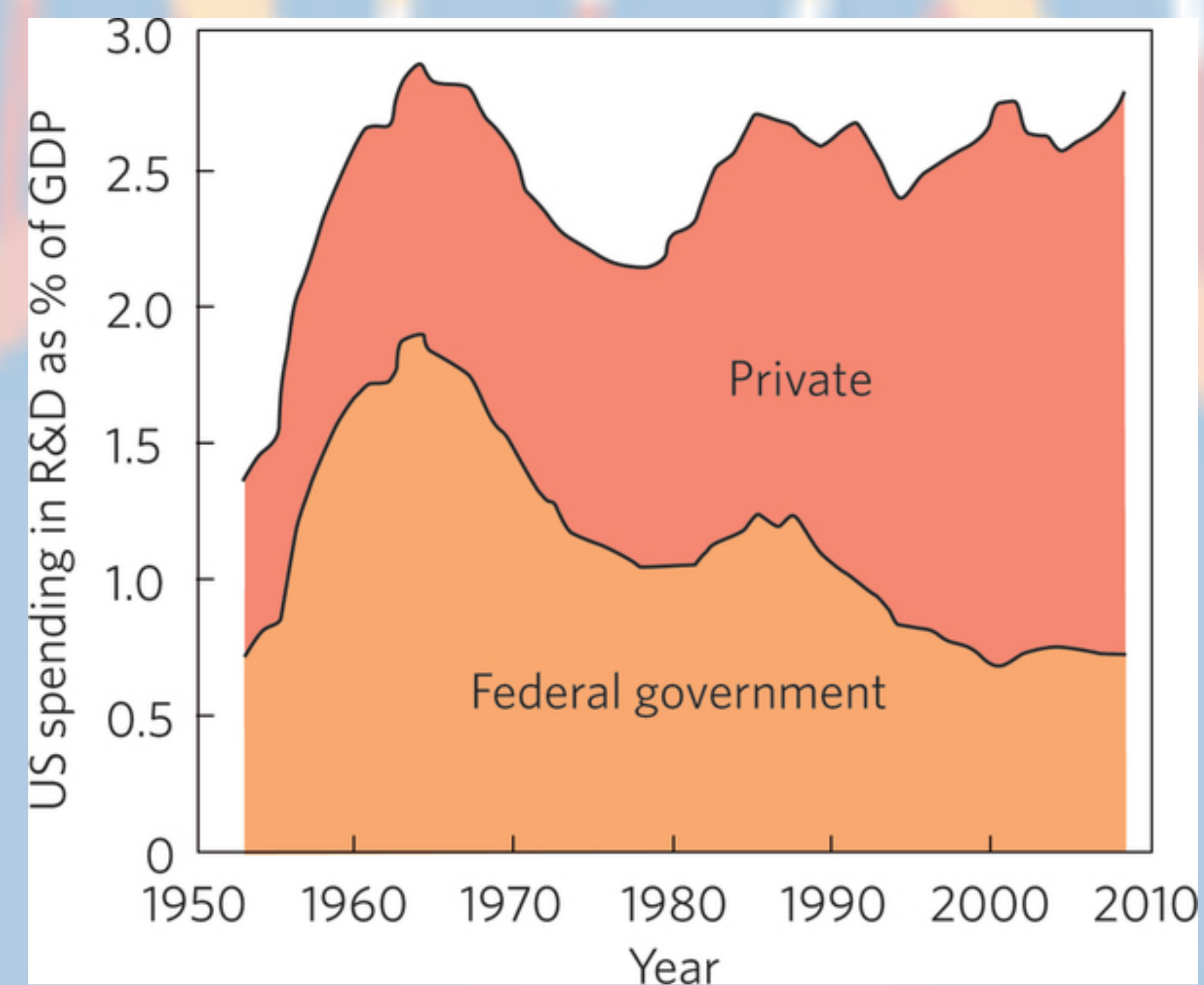
Abstract

Biomedical research owned by the government is now available to be owned by private institutions. This results in stagnant innovations because researchers have trouble with all the restrictions that are placed by private institutions. Privatization of biomedical research has short term positive effects but its negative effects are overarching and disastrous. One way to combat this, is for licenses to be deployed slowly with future consequences in mind.

Key Points

- The nature of federal funded medical research has undergone a profound transformation.
- Garret Harding's term "tragedy of the commons" has helped justify privatization.
- Privatization has increased filings and private investments which means readily available funds.
- Shift in research design has a drawback termed the tragedy of the "anticommons."
- Brings with it less consideration of research, and more focus on return-on-investments considerations.
- This tragedy can be witnessed when Israel try to purchase a section of the genome data from Celera Corporation.

Graph shows the decline in R & D spending by the federal government compared to the private sector.



Conclusions

- Privatization has short term benefits but long term disadvantages are disastrous.
- To reduce damaging effect, privatization must be deployed slowly and carefully.
- Patents or proprietary ownership must be given with far reaching effects in mind.

Future Research

Future research ideas include exploring the most effective strategies for using privatization in biomedical research.



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