

FREEDOM'S *Phoenix*



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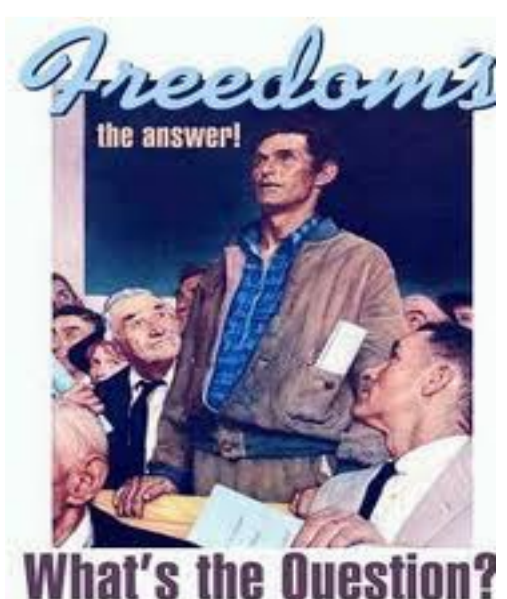
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Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine viewing tips

By Nick Barnett

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"WHERE THE GREAT MINDS OF THE MODERN FREEDOM MOVEMENT COME TOGETHER"

Dispossession and Empire: We're All Indians Now

By Will Grigg

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"I ... believe that the maintenance of the rights and authority reserved to the states and to the people, not only essential to the adjustment and balance of the general system, but the safeguard to the continuance of a free

government. I consider it as the chief source of stability to our political system, whereas the consolidation of the states into one vast republic, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of that ruin which has overwhelmed all those that have preceded it." –

Robert E. Lee, letter to Lord Acton, November 4, 1866

"What's happening in my country is also happening in your country.... You don't even know it, but you're the Indians of the 21st Century, and that's very sad." –

Russell Means, Indian Activist and Facilitator of the newly created Independent Republic of Lakotah.

Shortly before the U.S. Army slaughtered hundreds of starving, desperate Sioux who had been herded to the frozen shore of Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, the Census Bureau announced the disappearance of a contiguous frontier line for the first time in American history.

Manifest Destiny had run out of room, and the American Empire – a term used unblushingly in triumphalist literature of the period – now girded the entire North American continent, and its rulers were free to confer the blessings of civilization on untutored masses beyond our shores.

First in line for this unsolicited privilege were the Cubans and Filipinos. Chinese and Mexicans would taste – in the sense of being forced – the unpalatable fruits of American imperial benevolence, before Washington, under the reign of the unspeakably vile Woodrow Wilson, dispatched hundreds of thousands of armed missionaries for democracy to the battlefields of Europe.

American intervention broke a stalemate in WWI that could have resulted in a negotiated peace that might have preserved whatever remained of Christendom. The allied "victory" helped cultivate several nasty strains of totalitarianism and bellicose nationalism. This meant an unending list of imperial errands abroad, with America's Ruling Elite using means both relatively subtle (bribery through foreign aid) and vulgar (bombing and other forms of lethal "humanitarianism") to propagate its vision of social justice around the globe.

And as Washington eagerly audited the shortcomings of other regimes, the original beneficiaries of its civilizing mission – the residue of the various American Indian communities – were consigned to a wretched existence marked by intractable poverty, abysmal mortality rates, and pervasive despair. The status of the American Indians offered a reality-based counterpoint to America's self-enraptured rhetoric, and the reservation system served as a kind of portrait of Dorian Grey for the regime's image as guardian of liberty and justice. The mass murder of Sioux at Wounded Knee served as a kind of graduation ceremony for the Regime as it prepared to

export imperial violence abroad.

Roughly three years after the December 1890 massacre

at Wounded Knee, historian Frederick Jackson Turner treated an audience at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago to his soon-to-be-famous "frontier thesis" – namely, that the closing of the western frontier, which he called "the meeting point between savagery and civilization," brought an end to the first phase of America's national life. The conquest of the frontier, Turner claimed, had refined a distinctly American character, one that was restless and inventive, fiercely individualistic, and disdainful of centralized power and hierarchical authority.

Turner's oration was, in some ways, a scholarly version of the familiar lounge singer ploy of inviting his audience to "give yourselves a round of applause." Then, as now, Americans were eager to view themselves as hardly, independent folk, even when they were taking part in a militarized, federally subsidized land grab of unprecedented scope and shamelessness.

True, settlers and pioneers were often bold and courageous people, and more than a few of them acquitted themselves honorably both in tragic combat with Indians, and in honest commerce with them when peace was achieved. But taken as a whole, Manifest Destiny represented the triumph of corrupt corporatism.



In *Westward the Tide*, a typically worthy offering, novelist [Louis L'Amour](#), the renowned "Troubadour of the American West" (and an autodidact whose scholarly achievements were easily the equal of Dr. Turner's) captures the ambivalence of the expansionist period from Appomattox to Wounded Knee.

The dominant human type found on the frontier, he writes, "was a lean and cold-eyed man who feared God and nothing else.... He had courage, hardihood, and a stubborn will that balked at no problem as too great.... He was the man who refused to remain close to forts and so was often killed by Indians, his wife nursed her children with a rifle across her knees, and he tilled his fields with a gun strapped to his plough handles. He dared off Indians, the big cattlemen, the outlaws. He was the nester, the squatter, the man who moved west."

Whether they knew it or not, L'Amour points out, individualist pioneers acted as icebreakers on behalf of the forces of collectivism.

"Railroads came west on government subsidy and gifts of government land," he recalled. "They never advanced a foot without government land to sell, government money to spend, and the protection of the Army. The [pioneers] asked no protection from anybody, or if so, not for long, but moved on out ahead of the Army

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wherever their path was not blocked by too tight a line, and where they stopped they put down roots.”

And wherever these individualists put down roots, the Leviathan State would soon materialize to install the necessary apparatus of coercive conformity. This process was captured by publisher George A Crofutt – an energetic evangelist of Manifest Destiny – in his caption to John Gast’s 1872 painting “American Progress.”

The much-produced lithograph portrayed the American State as a fair-haired, zaftig female precariously clad in a diaphanous robe, her alabaster brow garlanded with the “star of empire,” gazing westward with an expression of benevolent resolution as cringing Indians are driven in terror before her. In her right arm is clutched a volume inscribed “Common Schools,” which Crofutt exultantly described as “the emblem of our education and the testimonial of our National Enlightenment.” With her left hand she threads the countryside with “the slender wires of the telegraph, that are to flash intelligence throughout the land.”

Before this comely yet omnipotent maiden the land is alluring, yet desolate; in her wake can be found cities, “steamships, manufactories, schools and churches, over which beams of light are streaming and filling the air – indicative of our civilization,” rhapsodizes Crofutt. From the cities “proceed the three great continental lines” of federally subsidized railway, as well as a stream of pony express riders, pioneer wagons, stagecoaches, gold seekers, and others drawn irresistibly westward.

But the true focus of this artistic celebration of “our country’s grandeur and enterprise,” as Croffut understands, is the handful of Indians who flee before the “beautiful and charming Female” who embodies the American State.

“Fleeing from ‘Progress,’ and towards the blue waters of the Pacific ... are the Indians ... with their squaws, papooses, and ‘pony lodges,’” he wrote in words oozing contempt. The Indians “flee from the presence of the wondrous vision. The ‘Star’ is too *much for them*.”

“American Progress,” as captioned by Croffut, coupled civic sanctimony with an undisguised appeal to three of the basest instincts: Simple prurience; the tribalist impulse toward the worship of collective power; and the dehumanization of those not part of the chosen collective.

The goodness of America, on Croffut’s reading, is ratified by the retreat of the Indian savages. Speaking through Matt Bardoul, one of his fictional heroes, Louis L’Amour gave voice to a less self-congratulatory view, concluding that the Indians withdrew in the face of “what some might consider a superior barbarism.”

In 1874, two years after Gale unveiled his propaganda portrait, George Armstrong Custer, an agent of American “progress,” led an invasion force into the Black Hills of South Dakota, a territory considered sacred to the Sioux and solemnly promised to them in perpetuity by treaty less than a decade earlier.

Like everyone of consequence in the employ of the American Leviathan, Custer looked upon treaties much the same way Lenin later would – as pie crusts, made to be broken as circumstances required. The Black Hills, Custer announced,

were full of gold “from the grass roots down.” This turned a trickle of illegal immigration into the Black Hills into a deluge, and Washington – true to form – decided the time had come to re-write its treaty with the Sioux.

In September 1875, Washington convened a conference with Sioux representatives in the hope that the Indians would (in Dee Brown’s phrase) “sell their land in order to save the United States Government the embarrassment of having to break a treaty to get it.”

The attitude of most Sioux was captured in a defiant gesture by Sitting Bull. Informed of Washington’s desire to purchase the Black Hills, Sitting Bull replied by picking up a pinch of soil and releasing it to the wind. “I want you to go and tell the Great Father that I do not want to sell any land to the government – not even as much as this.”

Faced with an owner not interested in selling land, the government did what it always does: It prepared to steal the land and murder those determined to defend it. Preparations began to “whip the Indians into subjection,” as Indian Bureau Inspector E.T. Watkins put it.

Of course, it didn’t turn out quite that way when federal forces collided with a huge coalition of Plains Indians the following June at what the Sioux called the Battle of Greasy Grass – or what the losers in that engagement called the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

After the Seventh Cavalry was routed and its vain and bloody-handed commander was sent to hell, the Leviathan embarked on a course of collective punishment. Not able to track down Sitting Bull, Gall, Crazy Horse, and other Indian commanders who had beaten their Army and defied the “Star of empire,” Washington authorized the impenitent war criminal Gen. William T. Sherman – the General Westerman of the Union’s war against the South – to treat *all* Sioux on the reservation as prisoners of war. This meant that those who had not fought would be punished as retaliation for the Indians’ victory.

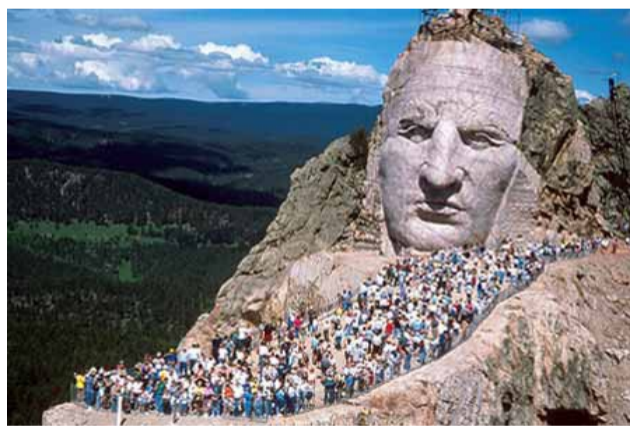
Although they were not definitively beaten on the battlefield, the Sioux were eventually broken through terror, political pressure, and the relentless logic of demographics. The Americans were too numerous to repel, their government too powerful to resist, their rulers entirely without pity or scruple.

Crazy Horse was determined to withstand the federal Army, but eventually he made the bitter choice to bring his people onto the reservation in order to avoid starvation. When he learned that the same government that had stolen his lands and killed his people was enlisting Sioux to kill Chief Joseph’s Nez Perce – a northwestern tribe experiencing the same treatment at the hands of the empire – Crazy Horse threatened to rebel and leave the reservation.

After an informant learned of Crazy Horse’s plans, the chief was “arrested” by Indian Agency police and then assassinated by a US Army Private at Ft. Robinson.

After the death of Crazy Horse in the fall of 1877, his parents – part of a Sioux band hoping to withdraw to Canada and find sanctuary there with the exiled Sitting Bull – buried their son’s

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body near a creek called Wounded Knee, on a parcel of land that would soon become the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Sitting Bull

Sitting Bull fled to Canada after the battle of Greasy Grass in the hope that his people would be protected as subjects of the British Crown. However, Washington's intervention prevented the Great Chief and his

followers from obtaining a parcel of suitable land. In July 1881, Sitting Bull joined Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, Red Dog, Spotted Tail and other Sioux chiefs in choosing surrender over starvation.

The chief and his band were imprisoned at Ft. Randall in violation of promises of decent treatment. Sitting Bull's resilient dignity proved to be an obstacle to federal Indian commissioners, who wanted to make sure that the resistance of the Sioux had been permanently broken. In his first meeting with the commissioners, Sitting Bull treated the bureaucrats with regal contempt, taunting them for "acting like men who have been drinking whiskey" in demanding that the Sioux formally turn over the coveted Black Hills.

Apparently, concern for the fate of his long-suffering band of followers caused Sitting Bull to temper his tongue in a follow-up meeting. Predictably, the Indian Commissioners weren't inclined to reciprocate; instead, they seized an opportunity to upbraid Sitting Bull for his defiance and harangue him about the manifold glories of the Imperial State.

"You are not a great chief of this country," lectured Republican Senator John Logan of Illinois. "You have no following, no power, no control, and no right to any control. You are on an Indian reservation merely at the sufferance of the government. You are fed by the government, clothed by the government, your children are educated by the government, and all that you have and are today is because of the government.... The government feeds and clothes and educates your children now, and desires to teach you to become farmers, and to civilize you, and make you as white men."

Logan unbosomed himself of this totalitarian homily decades before Mussolini encapsulated the same worldview in his fascist credo: "Everything within the State, nothing outside the State, nothing against the State."

Eventually, through the application of its favorite tactic – negotiation through extortion, in the form of threatening to starve the Indians if they didn't surrender their lands – Washington was able to secure ownership of the Black Hills. By an 1889 act of Congress, the pitiful remainder of the original 1868 treaty land was divided into six small reservations in South Dakota. The Sioux themselves were disarmed, deprived of their horses, and confined to reservation plots.

Prior to the 1889 treaty, the Sioux had been assured that the subsistence rations promised in the 1868 pact would continue. But once the Black Hills had been signed away, Washington saw no need to fulfill its end of the agreement it had wrung from the Sioux, and Congress promptly cut the rations by half. By 1890, the supplies were being withheld outright. Several years of poor harvests left the Euro-American residents of South Dakota struggling; the captive Sioux were starving.

Confronting the prospect of annihilation, the Sioux suddenly experienced a religious revival. A Paiute holy man named Wovoka was preaching an eschatological doctrine that combined mysticism with elements of the New Testament.

By 1891, he prophesied, the buffalo would return, dead warriors by the thousands would arise from their graves, and a great wind would sweep the White Man's government from the land.

Until then, Wovoka taught, the Sioux was to keep the peace.

"When your friends die, you must not cry," he insisted. "You must not hurt anybody or do harm to anyone. You must not fight. Do right always. It will give you satisfaction in this life. Do not tell the white people about this. Jesus is now upon the earth."

Rather than resisting the Whites by force of arms, Wovoka explained, the Indians were to clothe themselves in a special "medicine garment" that would protect them from bullets, and perform a "ghost dance" in order to worship the messiah and express the hope that his kingdom would soon prevail.

This new religion – a kind of Indian Sufism, without the militancy that informs the original Muslim version – gave the shattered Sioux a sense of hope and the beginnings of a new shared identity. So of course, it had to be suppressed with alacrity and severity.

In October 1890, Daniel F. Royer, a disgraced pharmacist and former M.D. (his license had been revoked in California owing to a drug addiction), was appointed Indian Agent at the Pine Ridge Reservation. He had no experience in Indian affairs; his appointment was done for purely political reasons. About two weeks later, Royer dispatched a panicky telegraph to Washington demanding military intervention and the arrest of the Sioux leaders.

Sensationalistic accounts of purported Indian plots clotted the air and darkened the pages of newspapers across the country. Royer and other Indian Agents issued arrest warrants for Indian "troublemakers" on any available pretext. In early December, the South Dakota Home Guard, a militia which had been created by Governor Arthur C. Mellette less than a month earlier, ambushed and massacred and scalped 75 Sioux Ghost Dancers.

Early on December 15, an aged Sitting Bull was surrounded by a task force of 43 police under the command of Lt. Bull Head, an Indian Quisling. The Great Chief was prepared to surrender peacefully, but when a large group of Ghost Dancers materialized to protest the unprovoked arrest he had second thoughts. After one of the Ghost Dancers produced a rifle, one of the policemen drew a gun and shot Sitting Bull in the head at point-blank range.

The murder of Sitting Bull prompted his half-brother, Bigfoot, to flee with his people to the reservation at Pine Ridge in search of sanctuary.

Bigfoot suffered from such severe pneumonia that he was coughing up blood; his weary, emaciated followers – roughly 120 men and about twice that number of women and children – weren't in much better shape. Yet Major Samuel Whitside, who intercepted Big Foot's band on December 28, insisted on treating them as a captured military force. Under the guns of the

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Seventh Cavalry – which retained the bitter institutional memory of its well-deserved defeat at Greasy Grass/Little Bighorn – the band was taken to a camp on the banks of Wounded Knee Creek, where the Indians were to be disarmed.

Bigfoot and his followers were ringed with two troops of Cavalry; four wagon-borne Hotchkiss rotating rifles, which were able to hurl explosive charges up to two miles, were carefully positioned on a rise outside the camp.



Shortly after dawn on December 29, the Army began to collect rifles from Big Foot's followers. With weary resignation, the Indians surrendered their only independent means of obtaining food, leaving themselves entirely at the mercy of a capricious enemy that had frequently used starvation as a weapon. Impatient with the pace of the gun turn-in, several contingents of soldiers fanned out through the camp, going from tent to tent to confiscate any hidden firearms. This prompted an understandable outcry from the women whose dwellings were violated.

One young man, a deaf-mute named Black Coyote, balked when his turn came to hand over his rifle. Holding his Winchester above his head, this young man – who had committed no crime and threatened nobody – somehow conveyed to several onlookers the sentiment that he had paid good money for his rifle and didn't intend to give it up. He was swarmed by several soldiers.

Shortly thereafter, a shot pierced the pregnant silence, inducing delivery of the massacre that became inevitable when the disarmed Sioux fell into the hands of a vengeful Seventh Cavalry.

"We tried to run," testified survivor Louise Weasel Bear, "but they shot us like we were buffalo." The ailing and helpless Bigfoot was gunned down, his disease-racked body left grotesquely twisted in the snow. He was joined by as many as 300 of his followers.

"Dead and wounded women and children and little babies were scattered all along ... where they had been trying to run away," recalled Ogalala medicine man Black Elk, who arrived shortly after the slaughter. "The soldiers had followed along the gulch, as they ran, and murdered them in there. Sometimes they were in heaps because they had huddled together, and some were scattered all along. Sometimes bunches of them had been killed and torn to pieces where the [Hotchkiss] wagon guns hit them."

Those who resisted survived. Black Elk recounted how two small boys had taken up sniping positions and killed as many soldiers as they could: "These were very brave little boys." Other Sioux had "fought soldiers with only their hands until they got their guns." An Army Captain named Wallace was surrounded by a scrum of Sioux mothers and beaten to death with clubs.

But this was not a "battle," as it was referred to for a century after the event. It was a massacre of helpless, innocent people by Leviathan's killing apparatus. When Black Elk arrived on the scene, what he saw was not a battlefield, but rather "one long grave of butchered women and children and babies, who had never done any harm and were only trying to run away."

When survivors sought medical help, they discovered that the first priority was to tend to the wounds of the handful of Army personnel who had been injured in the course of carrying out the slaughter. Many of them perished from exposure and untended wounds. For several days the ground at Wounded Knee was littered with the bodies of the dead. On January 3, 1891, the mortal remains of the victims were gathered and interred in a mass grave.

The military expedition that carried out the massacre cost an estimated \$2 million in 1890 dollars. This did provide a welcome "economic stimulus package" for local communities. It would have cost just a fraction of that amount to provide the dying Sioux with the rations they had been promised under the original 1868 treaty.

But Washington apparently believed the additional expense was worthwhile in order to extract the last full measure of submission from the once-fearsome Sioux. Providing the Seventh Cavalry with an opportunity to avenge its defeat, and thereby vindicate the "Star of empire," was a welcome bonus.

To this day, the U.S. Army proudly displays the "battle streamer" of what is called the Wounded Knee "campaign." Dozens of participants in that atrocity – which can properly be called America's Babi Yar – were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The monument to the "heroes of Wounded Knee Creek" still exists at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Although it closed the curtain on America's Frontier Era, Wounded Knee was merely the overture to Leviathan's career in imperial butchery. The outward course of the "Star of empire" has been marked with atrocities displaying a family resemblance to that massacre and the tactics that led to it.

Just a few years later, the Empire mounted a counter-insurgency campaign that would lead to the imprisonment, torture, and slaughter of tens of thousands of "liberated" Filipinos. At

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the close of WWI, Washington and its allies used the same tactic that had been so successful against the Sioux – deploying the weapon of starvation to secure submission to a treaty – against defeated imperial Germany.

The draconian “peace” that prevailed following the American-enforced starvation blockade thrust to power a totalitarian movement headed by a perverted little Austrian who thought that Washington’s treatment of the Indians was a suitable model for dealing with “inferior” races in Europe.

A century after Wounded Knee, the same American Leviathan that had starved the Sioux into submission imposed a murderous embargo of Iraq that would last for more than a decade and kill hundreds of thousands of children. After using starvation and the denial of medical necessities to soften up the Iraqis, the Empire – already bogged down in Afghanistan -- launched an invasion Iraq.

Scott Horton of [AntiWar Radio](#) likes to point out that wherever the Empire deploys its legions abroad, the territory not under imperial control is referred to as “Indian country.” With entirely unwarranted optimism, most Americans assume that this only applies abroad. But every once in a while – as at Ruby Ridge or Waco – the Empire offers a bloody reminder that Wounded Knee remains the official template for dealing with *any* resistance, foreign or domestic.



In a fascinating interview with Scott Horton, Indian activist Russell Means, spokesman for the newly organized independent Republic of Lakotah, describes how the American Indian Reservation


System – which was largely the creation of Carl Shurz, a veteran of Europe’s Marxist convulsions of 1848 who became one of Lincoln’s “Red Generals” in the war against the independent South -- has been the incubator for totalitarian social engineering programs both here and abroad. The subjugation of the American Indian, he warns, provided the model for the

ongoing dispossession of the American middle class.

As the financial system implodes, inhabitants of our de-industrialized country are having what remains of our wealth confiscated in order to serve the interests of the most corrupt elements of the ruling elite. The sky is thick with portents of impending military rule in order to suppress any organized resistance to this unprecedented plunder. Soon those skies will be heavy with surveillance drones of the sort used by imperial forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere.

Thanks to the NDAA, any American dissident can be confined in military detention of the sort endured by Sitting Bull. Under the Obama administration’s doctrine of summary execution by presidential decree, any American dissident deemed suitably troublesome can be disposed of as tidily as Crazy Horse, or the unarmed Sioux at Wounded Knee. In a very real sense, we’re all Indians now.

We will know that the Wounded Knee option is on the table when our rulers demand of us what they required of the conquered Sioux: The surrender of our personal firearms.

It is a glorious fact that America's private gun owners possess more firearms than the combined armies and police forces of the entire world. It is that fact, and perhaps it alone, that explains why the Regime hasn't succeeded -- yet -- in transforming our country into one giant Rez. We should never assume that this cannot change, in a hurry. 

*An award-winning investigative journalist, [William Norman Grigg](#) was the senior editor and a prolific contributor to *The New American*, the official magazine of the John Birch Society. His writing reflects views heavily influenced by constitutionalism, libertarianism, and anti-communism.*

Mr. Grigg has written and co-produced several video documentaries, including [Tragedy by Design](#) (1997), [Injustice for All: The International Criminal Court](#) (1998), and [Civilian Disarmament: Prelude to Tyranny](#) (2000).

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Free-Market Approach to Tribal Issues

By Shondean Coochise

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APRIL 5th 2012, Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain visited with Navajo and Hopi Tribal leaders in Tuba City, Arizona. The meeting with

the two tribal leaders centered around [Senate Bill 2109](#), the “Navajo and Hopi Little Colorado River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2012”, proposed by Sen. Kyl. The bill would allow non-Indians organizations free reign to the water rights of the Little Colorado River Aquifer.



One of the biggest non-Indian organizations that would benefit from this legislation and allowed to exploit resources is [Peabody Coal](#). Peabody uses the ground water to pump massive amounts of water to transport coal slurry to California power plants. This process removes ground water and transports it over great distances, and it is never returned. Naturally, any water used in the area would eventually be returned through precipitation. This is a government-sponsored handout that benefits corporations in procuring natural resources, and giving away free passes to environmental pollution by establishing “regulated” provisions to “limit” pollution instead of deterring it. This is just one of many examples of federal encroachment on Sovereign nations to exploit natural resources under the auspice of bringing improvements to the reservations. While there are many problems that exist on each individual reservation, two common problems seem to plague each individual tribe - prosperity and environmental concerns.



Free-market Environmentalism to Protect Traditional Lands

In the United States, there are an estimated 300 Indian reservations. Each reservation has their own culture, language, traditions and unique environmental concerns specific to their location. One of the biggest threats to the environment, on tribal lands, is extraction of natural resources ranging from coal to oil. Many advocates of the EPA claim their efforts to be the only solution to protecting the environment; however, there are other options that could ultimately deter and prevent environmental hazards.

The libertarian approach to the environment and the EPA is free-market environmentalism. In order for a free-market solution to work, it would require the strict enforcement of property rights. Strong property rights allow individuals to take responsibility for protecting their own property from vandalism and pollution. One of the tools that could be used by individuals is the ability to claim grievances for damage of their property through the court system. Damaged property can consist of damage to an individual’s self, family, property, ground water, etc.

Property rights can be one of the most effective deterrents because they create a huge environmental liability that corporations will have to include in their business analysis. These environmental liabilities will require a company to address environmental concerns when developing a cost-benefit analysis on a business venture. In an environment with strong property rights, a smart company, not wishing to be in court, is going to address these liabilities because court cost will be considered potential losses when looking at their business plan. The problem we have today is that the government is giving free passes to these corporations by establishing “tolerance limits” which are negotiated with government EPA bureaucrats and company’s executives who dictate pollution levels, while the public has no input. Trying to prevent pollution through legislation is providing an opportunity for corruption by lobbying. These are the same lobbyists that write legislation and regulations to benefit shareholders and big businesses by eliminating competition. Do you think that [British Petroleum \(BP\)](#) would still be drilling off the coast if everyone in the local and outside area (eating the contaminated seafood) could

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file claims against BP for damages? I think BP would find themselves in court with thousands of new claims filed every day. Property rights gives the power back to the individual to care and address damages to them and their property so they are not dependent on a tribal council that is corrupted by outside interests through “kick-backs.” Property rights are a tool that would best serve the interest of a tribe’s specific environmental concern rather than depending on a government agency (Environmental Protection Agency) to allow “acceptable” amounts pollution and damage to property.

Exerting Tribal Sovereignty to bring Prosperity

On July 30, 2001, Federal Drug Enforcement Agents conducted a raid on the [Oglala Indian Nation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota](#). The federal agents were there to destroy the hemp fields that the White Plum family had been cultivating for industrial purposes. Prior to the DEA raid, the Oglala tribal council voted to allow the cultivation of Hemp on tribal lands, by passing [Ordinance 98-27](#). The Oglala Tribal council, the governing body of the sovereign nation, allowed the cultivation of industrial hemp to export into the U.S. market. The DEA raid on the Oglala family’s hemp crop and others is just another example of the federal government's blatant disregard for tribal sovereignty. If tribes were able to exert their sovereignty, it would mean increased opportunity for farmers and businesses.

Hemp, considered a highly profitable cash crop because of its multiple uses in textile, fuel and food products, could provide income to many families that would otherwise be dependent on Government assistance. An opportunity like this could not only provide an income to families, but in the long run could eventually draw non-Indian workers to the reservation. Doing so would create opportunities for businesses to provide goods and services to these workers which now

have money due to having employment. In 1999, the United States imported 1,890,421 pounds of raw hemp from one of the largest exporters of hemp, China.

The total number of U.S. Hemp sales in 2002 equaled \$150 million dollars. This profitable cash crop could be cultivated in practically any climate and soil type. Growing hemp actually benefits the land by replacing important nutrients depleted by other types crops. Hemp cultivation would bring many opportunities to the reservations by providing anyone with land the opportunity to grow crops. They can then hire people to help run the operations associated with the cultivation, harvest and exportation which feeds into the local economy. Imagine the possibilities that this one cash crop could provide for many reservations that have the highest number of unemployment and poverty rates in the United States. This gives the individual the ability to claim their own independence of tribal and federal government assistance, claiming their Liberty. 



Dine’/Hopi/Tewa

Shondean Coochise is a 9 year Army combat veteran turned Liberty advocate and activist, and spreads the word of Liberty so that others will understand the potential each of us possesses. Peace! (U.S. Army Veteran, '98-'07; Operation Iraqi Freedom, '03-'04)

Shondean is half Dine’ and half Hopi/Tewa. Dine’ (Navajo for ‘the people’) on his mother’s side, who is full-blooded [Dine’](#) from Teesto, AZ. Hope/Tewa on his father’s side, who is full-blooded [Hopi/Tewa](#) from Sichomovi Village in Polacca, AZ.

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Venting Emissions Out the Rear By Powell Gammill

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Well this month's theme is in part about environmentalism. I coincidentally got a reminder of environmentalism this month as my 2005 Jeep Wrangler was up for its emissions testing.

The [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) was created by then President Richard Nixon in 1970, so you know it is a good thing. **NOT**

The major metropolitan area of Arizona is "Phoenix", which like Los Angeles is made up of millions of people in multiple cities that have grown together in a geographic depression that marketers call a "valley" with surrounding hillsides. Many cities worldwide have similar "valley" depressions in which their populace mainly resides.



One thing about such arrangements is it traps air pollution on warm/hot days in which a layer of cooler air gets

trapped (an inversion layer) in the depression and is held down by a layer of warmer air on top. There is no wind and no convection currents. Pollution can simply build up to literally suffocating levels. The first to go (the canaries in a mine) are those with diminished lung capacity (young, old, asthmatics, smokers, people with pneumonia). A brown haze called smog envelops the city. This was a price industrialization extracted upon the tragedy of the commons as air is owned by nobody and everyone. So, air polluting commerce simply dumps the exhaust of combustion activities and forms of evaporation (volatiles) into the air we breathe. The result was literally choking us to death. [It could be argued this is a trespass upon all whom breathe.]

In many cities today in newer (emerging) industrialized cities this smog problem threatens mass casualties for the accumulated human beings (Mexico, China and India come to mind) living in one of these valleys. Mexico City has come close to losing tens, if not hundreds of thousands of its occupants.

So, Phoenix and even Los Angeles today along with other cities no longer have this problem. The EPA must be doing a great job, right? Well, no. The vast majority of reduced emissions comes from two things: Greatly improved gasoline mileage that has reduced gallon of fuel combusted per mile each automobile has traveled, and the amazing achievement of the catalytic converter which more efficiently combusts engine exhaust air into water and carbon dioxide.

The greater fuel efficiency has nothing to do with the EPA; though they would love to take credit by pointing to their required average fuel efficiency standards. That however was taking after the fact credit for a market demand by a public rejecting poor fuel mileage vehicles as gasoline prices rose. And the rising fuel efficiencies have been really impressive.

Mandating a catalytic converter on all vehicles and smokestacks is less likely to have been demanded by the public until people started dying and cities started dissolving from the bad air. Indeed, the early catalytic process mandated

by government produces high amounts of nitric acid in the air which led many cities around the USA to experience dissolving from the increasing acidity of the air. Changes mandated to automobiles with improved catalytic converters made this exhaust component fairly low. Reagan was correct that in modern cars in Los Angeles, the intake air going into the carburetor was dirtier (more polluted) than the air coming out of the exhaust.

So here, it may be argued that [some] government pollution monitoring and cleanup programs have been successful and that a public would not have proactively demanded polluters clean up their act (which costs are passed on to the consumer) without government stepping in and demanding pollution equipment for them.

Many of us can remember in the early to mid 1970's, however, the wretchedly horrible Rube Goldberg type emissions designs foisted upon the American automobile industry by the EPA that only went away because a consuming public rejected such vehicles terrible costs and diminished efficiencies and lifespans.



And of course, to prevent so called free consumers from modifying (repairing) their vehicles by removing or altering their emissions equipment the EPA demanded all states start to mandate inspection of its citizens motorized property annually for signs of tampering with or failing design of their mandated emissions equipment. Noncomplying vehicles were effectively or literally seized, and not allowed to operate on government roads without being repaired to pass testing.

Arizona has a unique program. Well no longer unique actually, six other states experience its joys. But Arizona was the first to enjoy a benevolent mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency compelling all vehicles within a county with more than a certain number of people people **MUST** pass an enhanced emissions test in order for that vehicle to operate on the road. In Arizona there are two such counties that must undergo this enhanced testing referred to as IM240 in which the car is paced upon a driving dynamo rather than an idle testing. And what a hoot the early days were too. These two counties have about 90% of the state's population and we all pretty much own a car---often multiple cars.

Like ALL government programs, a large percentage of vehicles failed in the early days of the newly implemented IM240, and the peasants were revolting at the costs, the TSA style treatment at the testing centers, the long nonproductive waits in line to be tested, and effective vehicle confiscations being shifted onto them. Long, and I mean LOOOOOOOOONG lines of idling cars would be at these testing centers with their mandated fees where overheating vehicles particularly in the sweltering above one hundred degree days of Arizona summers ("recommend not running your air conditioners if you want your vehicles to pass") would

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not only fail cars far and wide it would overheat and stall them, or burst radiators ("sorry that's a fail") further holding up the lines of cars awaiting testing.

So the testing cycle was shortened and a vehicle that failed at first testing was given an immediate idling test where the engine was revved and held for a minute or so to equalize the engine temperatures and then the tests were performed again. Now most of the failures were passing. What a pain!

Dynamo testing, where the car is "driven" on a simulated speed up course through its operating gears and speeds while emissions is tested mandated a car's driver be forced from their vehicle and detained in a small glass cage that everyone can see while a government hired "technician" occupied the property of the vehicle and "test drove" it.

A few lawsuits latter and a law change and probably not a few claims that valuables went missing from the vehicle after the testing was concluded and the law was changed to permit the driver to be forced from their vehicle for testing purposes to an alternative where they could occupy the passenger seat during testing. Of course no notice of this new accommodation was posted or printed anywhere. And when you tried to assert this new found right to not be detained in a cage for the world to see as well as to monitor the technician in your car, you were told they didn't know what you were talking about and if you didn't want the testing you could just move along (after waiting an hour in line to get tested).

It took MANY years before the annual testing pamphlet was modified to state in plain language that you had the right to observe from the passenger's seat. Most good little monkeys still obey the barked command to go wait in a glass cage for your own protection, of course.

All states have emissions testing. Most an idle test. It should be pointed out that Arizona was blackmailed under threat of loss of highway funds if it did not adopt in law the enhanced testing. This was done by people being bribed, er, lobbied at the EPA by a private entity that would build the testing machines and would later hire said EPA people onto their staff to help "lobby" the adoption of these testing machines everywhere.

Over the years market forces of a dissatisfied peasantry have resulted in other changes to the program. In order to speed up testing the state has looked at places to drop testing. Motorcycles get different quicker tests. Alternate fuel vehicles are either exempt or have an alternate quicker testing procedure. Vehicles are now tested in alternate years cutting lines in half. And new vehicles which rarely failed their first five years of testing are now no longer tested their first five years. That \$5 forever test is now \$27. Testing fewer vehicles means higher prices to pay for the testing program. The last major change is to skip much

OBD Test



of the IM240 testing on cars made after 1995 that have a plug in port to their computer chip, the On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) computer which records the status of the emission systems within the vehicle. There the details of what the chip have recorded are compared to see if everything has been running well. The passed test takes less time

than the cash exchanging hands. I do not know what a failed "OBD" test means: Further retest protocol or expensive service at repair shop, but I suspect the latter.

Of course, this sort of mandated activity leads to corruption at the source by bribing the inspectors---which would explain many of the cars on the road that have current tags and smoke like a chimney.

Most of these rule changes did not please their federal masters but local political pressure forced compromise lest the peasants revolt by tossing the bastards out of office. So some sanity drifted into the EPA's IM240 enhanced testing program. I suspect the IM240's days are numbered as the average age of vehicles removes the pre-1996 ones. If only the EPA's and its corresponding government's days were numbered.

IM240 Test



Lastly, let us remember this air pollution program was never about removing polluting vehicles from the road. It was about getting a favored testing machine built by a corporation to have government enslave a pool of customers to use their product at the cost of a few bribes to government officials and the cost of freedom and earnings of the masses. At least in the most populace areas of Arizona. We know this is true because at the time legislatures were also being lobbied by another company to use their "smogdog"---vans that would be parked along the side of single lane freeway entrances or exits that would both record a vehicle's emissions and license plate as it passed by without interfering with the vehicle's transit. Failed vehicles (polluting) would receive a summons in the mail to report for further testing. This was rejected by the EPA who wanted IM240 on all cars or no highway funds.

Our legiscritters complied by implementing both of course as a "compromise." But the smogdog went by the wayside in a year or two, despite the fact that it actually did single out polluting cars from nonpolluting and demanded testing of only the polluting cars. I'm not saying such surveillance is consistent with libertarian principles, but it restricted our freedoms less, lowered the confiscation of earner's wealth less and targeted those vehicles who were trespassing upon the air we breathe as opposed to government solution of everyone ponying up to wait in line.

This does bring up a question for libertarians that smarter people than I have addressed: Can air pollution be dealt with by the private sector without government standing by with guns? Certainly private sector solutions are fairer in that polluters are usually allowed and even encouraged to pollute by the EPA and other government entities if enough money changes hands. This puts the big polluters at a competitive advantage over their upstart would be rivals who would pollute less in volume. But where is the incentive to not pollute without the guns? Where is the voluntary consumer demand and willingness to pay more for a product that pollutes less? Of course air pollution addressed in this country and not in other countries puts any air polluting business at a disadvantage in this nation compared to nations with no restrictions. Oh, to be Solomon. 🌻

Powell Gammill is the Senior Editor of [Freedom's Phoenix](#).

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Just Go Away: Why the American Indian Needs to Leave the United States...Forever

By Bill Buppert

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- Chief Joseph Nez Perce (Nimiputimt)

“YOU might as well expect the rivers to run backward as that any man who was born free should be contented to be penned up and denied liberty to go where he pleases.”

I despise the term Native American and think the use of Aboriginal American is more appropriate. Russell Means told the Federal government the Lakota Sioux were going to secede and we are still waiting. The American Indians are ideally positioned to break away from the US in the most expeditious means possible if they would simply do it. Since first contact in the early sixteenth century, the original inhabitants of the North American continent have been getting



Wounded Knee 1973

a raw deal. Treaty after treaty has been broken and the concomitant trail of tears has been a veritable river.

Beset by government largesse that has largely subsidized sloth, alcoholism and slavish dependency on welfare transfers, they are the poster child for how a government can quite literally destroy a sliver of humanity through a dependency that poisons the soul and eradicates any notion of independence.

The Lakota are five years running after petitioning the State Department for withdrawal. And so far nothing, so what is a Indian secessionist to do. Maybe they can become North America's first “returnist” movement trying to advocate for complete divorce and reparations. Reparations is not necessarily the notion of salary and benefits for aggrieved parties as some black elements have advocated for because the term technically means a return or a “making whole” of the parties. In the case of American Indians, they have an originalist claim to large swaths of America while black slaves would legally be advocating for a return to their respective homelands in Africa. A return to that continent may make them less than whole depending on where they happen to land.

The tribes need to take the initiative and stop the intruders by waging a soft revolution that refuses to accept any poisoned subsidy on reservation land and take some of the following steps:

- Federal Reserve Notes would longer be accepted as currency and only conversion to hard specie currencies like minted silver, gold or composite value currency could be used
- Take gambling to the next level and declare that the IRS is no longer welcome on tribal land and all winning by even US residents will no longer be considered winnings taxable and no proof of winnings would be provided to the Federal government and all winners would be paid in cash only
- Immediately declare ALL federal law null and void and unenforceable on penalty of arrest and confinement for all remaining Federal and State agents on tribal land. Give them 48 hours to leave or swear allegiance to the local tribal entity
- The tribes can send a bill to the IRS insisting that four hundred years of estimated taxes have been calculated and they would expect remuneration for penalties and interest paid to put teeth to the notion of kicking the Feds out
- Declare that American firearms laws have no force in tribal boundaries and build the greatest small arms industry America has seen since before the infamous 1934 National Firearms Act that started the choke-hold on American firearms ownership in these united States
- Build an all-volunteer Army within the confines of every reservation by eradicating ALL gun laws and encouraging the possession of any infantry arms any of the world's armies employ on the battlefield
- Decriminalize all drugs and declare international/national zones non-aboriginals can come to imbibe in their drug of choice
- Seek diplomatic ties with other nations and insist on a seat in the United Nations similar to the consular activities of the extant Palestinian movement. China would be very interested in pursuing formal recognition to plant seeds of division in the American body politic
- Use gambling proceeds to finance spot rebellions and flash protests throughout the US

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- Institute the shunning and non-fulfillment of services to any Federal employees on tribal land so they can't order a meal in a restaurant or find a hotel room
- Insist on the repatriation from US jails of all aboriginal American inmates to include Leonard Peltier
- Offer economic citizenship and passports to any American citizen (non-aboriginal) in order to provide a service for any American who wish to renounce their US citizenship (except for death, this is the only way to get the IRS out of your your affairs)
- Minimize or liquidate the size of government by reversing vote incentives in congressional bodies e.g., ten percent of the vote would be necessary to lower or eradicate taxes or laws and super-majorities would be necessary to increase taxes and regulations

ALL nations are born in divorce and secession from other imperial or dying nation-states. It is the natural ecology of governments around the world as they create unsustainable hothouses of dependency and oppression that inspire the orchids of liberty that briefly spawn. I say briefly because the fire of liberty and freedom is usually quickly extinguished by the weed of rot and tyranny we call modern government.

There are less than one percent of the US population that is recognized as aboriginal but the



THE ORIGINAL BORDER PATROL

Ask a native American about the effects of uncontrolled immigration

reservations are everywhere. These are potential hotspots that can flash into rebellious and seditious fiefdoms to complicate matters for the Federal government. One could only hope that these secession movements would spark the other movements that blossoming across the nation in Hawaii, the South and the Inland Northwest. Even Vermont.

If any interest group in the US has a more vested interest and legitimate complaint than the aboriginal Americans to leave the tentacled and fatal embrace of the US government, it is the Indians. May they prosper and see the light that the path to prosperity is not the government dole from an alien occupier but self-determination and freedom in the sphere of the city state or better yet, no state at all.

“This report is maybe 12-years-old. Parliament buried it, and it stayed buried till River dug it up. This is what they feared she knew. And they were right to fear because there’s a whole universe of folk who are gonna know it, too. They’re gonna see it. Somebody has to speak for these people. You all got on this boat for different reasons, but you all come to the same place. So now I’m asking more of you than I have before. Maybe all. Sure as I know anything I know this, they will try again. Maybe on another world, maybe on this very ground swept clean. A year from now, 10, they’ll swing back to the belief that they can make people . . . better. And I do not hold to that. So no more running. I aim to misbehave.”

~ Captain Malcolm Reynolds (Firefly) 

Bill Buppert is the Publisher of the website ZeroGov.Com, which is dedicated to the total abolition of slavery and the state.

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The Factory Upstream

By Larken Rose

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"ENVIRONMENTAL" issues make great examples of how things will change when people finally let go of the mental crutch of "government," and start acting like responsible adults. Even if there are still honest disagreements about the details, the fundamental approach will change from "What should the state force on everyone?" to "What should normal people do about things?"

Consider the simple example of a factory that pours pollutants into a creek, which then flows across the property of others. The water becomes undrinkable, and fish start to die off. The standard response to such a situation now is to run to the politicians and beg them to "legislate" a solution. (Since this situation involves quantifiable property damage, even self-described "libertarians" might approve of a state-enforced solution.)

But introducing the "government" creature into any situation will always replace reason and responsibility with unaccountable thuggery. The reason for this is simple: when actions are taken in the name of "government," no one involved--not the "law-makers," not the inspectors or regulators, not the "law enforcers"--accepts personal responsibility for what is done. Each cog in the wheel of "government" cooperates in forcibly controlling others, but none of them accept any blame for what happens after that.

In the case of the factory, for example, various committees and legislatures may eventually come up with some formula, saying that the factory may not introduce certain levels of certain pollutants into the creek. And they may decide that if the factory does, it must pay a hefty fine to the state. If the restrictions imposed by "government" don't do enough, or do too much, all those involved will fall back on saying, "Well, this is what the law is." The politicians may impose unnecessary restrictions, forcing the factory out of business, when there was a better solution. Or they may impose no restrictions, because the factory owner paid them off. Or they may impose restrictions that reduce, but do not actually fix the property damage inflicted by the factory. Or the factory owner may decide that it's worth paying the fine to be able to dump pollutants into the creek. In most of those scenarios, the property damage continues and the politicians get some money, while the victims of the damage get nothing, and get no relief from the problem.

Now compare that to what would likely happen if no one--neither the factory owner nor the people downstream--had "government" to run to or hide behind. No one could use "the law" as an excuse to duck personal responsibility for

his actions. The factory owner could not fall back on the excuse that what he was doing was "within legal limits," or was otherwise approved by the politicians, nor could the landowners use "the law" to force something unreasonable or unjustified upon the factory owner. In short, whatever anyone involved chose to do, he and he alone would be responsible for his actions, and everyone else would know it. That naturally makes people more cautious, and makes people try (though not always successfully) to find non-violent ways to compromise or otherwise settle disputes. Whether it comes down to boycotts, petitions, PR campaigns, or even outright threats of force (i.e., "If you don't stop killing our fish, we'll come kill your factory"), there is no "authority" for either side to hide behind. The matter won't be settled by lawyers, campaign contributions, legislation, regulation, or any other pseudo-religious statist ritual. It will be settled, one way or another, by people being people, and no one pretending to be "authority."

Understanding the concept of self-ownership brings with it the power of freedom, along with the inconvenience of responsibility. One reason people cling to the myth of "authority" is to try to relieve themselves of having to figure anything out or do anything for themselves. In an authoritarian society, whenever there is some problem or disagreement, competing gangs of people will quickly form, each trying to get "authority" to issue and enforce a decree in their favor. Any attempt at reason, compromise, or peaceful problem-solving, is replaced by a perpetual fight over who can wield the club of "government" to force his preferences on others. Rather than trying to figure out what is actually right, what is effective, what is rationale, what would best serve humanity, the game of "politics" leads to perpetual violent conflict, hidden under euphemisms like "law enforcement" and "the will of the people." In truth, playing the games of "government" is never rational nor civilized; it is nothing more than people behaving as stupid, violent animals, guided by the principle of might makes right--i.e., to hell with reason and morality; if I can get the giant gang with machine guns, tanks and bombers to support my side, then I win.

For example, I personally love the wilderness and animals. If I were a state-worshiper, it would be so easy and convenient for me to beg the state to use its violence to stop other people from logging, hunting, developing, or anything else that might interfere with what I want. If my own personal preferences, forcibly imposed by the gang called "government," put people out of work, make lumber prices soar, and deprive people of food or a place to live, hey, what do I care? If I were a good statist, I wouldn't view myself as bearing any responsibility for having forced those consequences on others. All I

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did was "vote," and ask the beast called "government" to violently dominate others on my behalf. But since I didn't directly do it myself, I don't have to take any responsibility for the thuggery I advocated.

However, since I've outgrown the "government" myth, things aren't so convenient. If it ever comes to the point where I think it's necessary to exert force upon someone else, I'd have

to do it myself, and incur the risks and responsibility of doing so. Where's the fun in that? Ironically, many people think that "working within the system" is the respectable, proper thing to do, while "taking the law into your own hands"--i.e., taking it upon yourself to figure out what must be done,

and to do it yourself--makes one an uncivilized beast. Such thinking is completely backwards. "Authority" is the opposite of civilization, as it seeks to settle every disagreement and dispute, not through reason, discussion, compromise and arbitration, but through the brute force of the state. It doesn't use violence as a last resort; it starts and ends with violence and the threat of violence, euphemistically referred to as "law." The belief in "government" is used, by everyone who believes it, as an attempt to coercively subjugate others, while completely avoiding any feelings of guilt or personal responsibility for having acted like stupid, vicious pack animals.


The problem is not one of details or a particular "policy." The problem has to do with the fundamental mindset of most people. When people stuck in the authoritarian paradigm ask, "What



will the solution be?" they are seeking an external, final decision--one that they are not responsible for making or carrying out--to be forcibly imposed via the overwhelming physical power of the state. The assumption behind every statist question of, "How will this be handled?" shows that most people are not yet willing or able to accept the reality that in a free society, there won't be any centralized, monopolized, forcibly-imposed authoritarian solution to any-

thing. What solutions we find must come from normal people, using their own judgment and taking action themselves, instead of whining for a super-nanny to do it for them.

In short, being free requires people to grow up. It requires a basic change in how people view the

world. When faced with the problem of the factory polluting the stream--or just about any other problem or conflict--instead of falling for the temptation to ask the beast called "government" to do your bidding, hoping for some centrally prescribed and enforced authoritarian "solution," you must face the uncomfortable question, "What should I do about this?" In fact, I will end this article, not even suggesting what I might personally do about the polluting factory, precisely because you shouldn't be looking for anyone else--including me--to hand you a pre-packaged solution to anything. Instead, you should face the possibly unpleasant fact that figuring out what to do, resolving conflicts, and making society work, is YOUR job, as much as anyone else's. So... what would YOU do? 

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ENVIRONMENTAL MAN

By L. Neil Smith

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THE air is the air; what can be done?

-- T'Pau, "[Amok Time](#)"

Let's get the hard part over with first: I am a hunter.

Whether or not it was politically correct or socially acceptable, whenever circumstances have permitted it, I have gone out in the field searching for tasty animals to shoot, gut, skin, and drag back for my family to eat. So far, excepting the occasional rattlesnake, I have only managed to take mule deer and snowshoe rabbits; that doesn't mean, were an elk or pronghorn antelope (possibly the most delicious animal on the planet) to wander into my sights, I wouldn't harvest it, as well. I'd like to live long enough to shoot a buffalo and a grizzly bear.

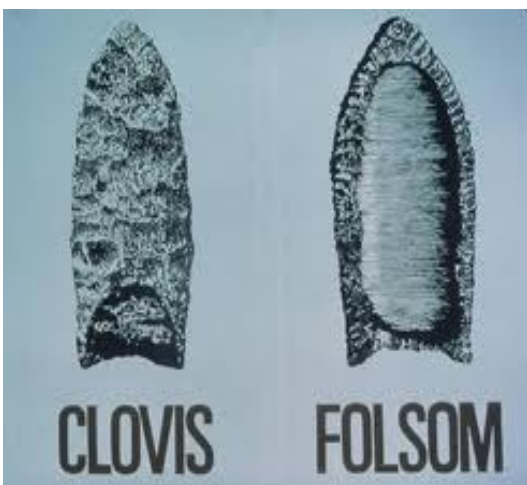
So now you know the worst.

Currently, what remains of Western Civilization is passing through a prissy, panty-waisted period of what I choose to call "prey-pity" in which certain individuals, usually effete urbanites who don't have a clue where anything they eat actually comes from, denounce those of us who not only do know, but feel a sort of prehistoric pull, some kind of an obligation to the 150,000 increasingly human generations that came before us to take a hand in feeding ourselves and those whom we love.

That, in essence, was what my 1993 novel [Pal-las](#) was all about.

One hundred fifty thousand generations: if *Homo sapiens* has a natural right to do anything, it is to hunt other animals. Different species may be intimidatingly large. My hat is permanently off to the little guys who took it on themselves, routinely, to kill mammoths with nothing more than sharpened sticks and pointy rocks, feast on their flesh, and build houses out of their bones. Animals may be fleet of foot, although a patient human being can run a deer to exhaustion. They may be difficult to see against their natural background, or possessed of terrible teeth and claws with which to feed and defend themselves.

H. sap. is armed with a couple or three pounds of gray neuron pudding in his head that, over a space of fifteen hundred centuries, generated broken stones, sharpened stones, breathtakingly



delicate and eart-breakingly beautiful flaked works of pragmatic art such as those created by the Clovis and Folsom people, then copper and bronze axes,

spears, swords, and knives, followed by similar implements of steel. And then came slings, spear-throwers, bows and arrows, and finally firearms.

In his seminal book [Meditations on Hunting](#), Jose Ortega y Gasset dismisses those who complain that hunting deer and other animals with a powerful scoped rifle isn't "fair". Who says it's supposed to be? Man is a predator. The deer is his prey. Does the mountain lion worry about whether her claws and fangs make hunting unfair? Then why should we?

From [Australopithecus afarensis](#), through [Homo habilis](#), [Homo erectus](#), [Homo antecessor](#) and [Homo heidelbergensis](#), people have been hunting for millions of years, since long before they were wholly human. We didn't really begin to get smart until we pitted our wits -- as meager as they may have been in the beginning -- against all those natural defenses, receiving as a reward fresh protein and the complex fats that are all-important in the process of constructing brains like ours.

So what, I pretend to hear you ask, is the point to all this? What does it have to do with environmentalism? Simply this: from our rawest beginnings, we human beings have always been fully as much a part of the natural environment as any snail darter or bouquet of furbish lousewort.

I think that's important enough to repeat: man is a part of the environment.

That we alter the environment by living in it is perfectly irrelevant. So does everything alive. The greatest environmental change the planet ever witnessed was caused three and a half billion years ago, by a living entity, [cyanobacteria](#), when the oxygen it produced as a metabolic byproduct "contaminated" the primeval nitrogen/carbon dioxide atmosphere and caused the "Rusting of the Seas".

Don't trust any "authority" who talks about a "Balance of Nature". There is no such thing. Nature is an ever-shifting, ever-changing phenomenon, of which we see only snapshots: fossilized stromatolites, trilobites, sea scorpions, crinoids, cycads, dinosaurs, giant sloths, our pre-human ancestors, or our own shockingly-brief lifetimes. Nothing lasts forever. In fact nothing lasts very long at all on a geological timescale. Even the stars themselves slowly fade until they burst and die.

On at least a dozen occasions during its natural history, life on Earth has nearly been wiped out -- by falling rocks, by exploding mountains, by the collision of continents, by excessive heat

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and cold, by bacteria and viruses -- and almost had to start all over again. And yet we human beings wouldn't be here if it weren't for cataclysms such as the asteroid impact that killed the dinosaurs (along with a great many other species) and reduced the atmosphere's oxygen content by about a third. Catastrophe is a life-giving, as well as a lifetaking process.

The great evolutionary thinkers Raymond Dart and Robert Ardrey concluded (the latter somewhat regretfully in his book [*The Hunting Hypothesis*](#)) that the one thing that makes us different from all of our fellow apes, the fountainhead of our wars and symphonies alike, is that, for millions of years, we alone have killed for a living. In [*The Naked Ape*](#), zoologist Desmond Morris underlined it, pointing out the many physical and behavioral characteristics we still share with animals.

The fanatical environmentalist is no better than (and very little different from) the Bible-thumping evolution denier: for powerful political and psychological reasons, neither wants to acknowledge that we are a species of animals, a part of nature, and that anything we do, any change we bring to the environment is perfectly natural, as well.

Billions of tiny coral animals build vast, continent-long current- and weather-altering structures. Should we report their crimes to the EPA?

As a hunter -- and a human being -- I appreciate clean air and water, blue skies, fluffy white clouds, mountains, and forests and the Grand Prairie as much as anybody else. I grew up beside the sea -- several seas, in fact -- and miss it terribly here in landlocked Colorado.

But nowhere is it written, except in the scribbles of fools or charlatans, that I should -- or


can -- preserve any of that by denying or disavowing what I am. I am a predator, a carnivore, a hunter. Better far to revel in what I am, to rejoice in it, than to take up the burden of a tarted-up ecofascistic version of Original Sin. Porcupine and beaver and moose all change the landscape around them, simply by living. I demand the same right as porcupine and beaver and moose.

I am also the child of technological capitalism. I expect to live four or five times longer than my ancestors of only three hundred years ago. Someday, I am confident, our species *will* be capable of altering environments sufficiently to make uninhabitable planets inhabitable. Someday we'll be able to intercept those killer stones from the void.

Through modern technology, I can see molecules right now, or galaxies billions of light years away. And if it weren't for the brutal and stupid



thugs installed at the nation's airports by those fools and charlatans I mentioned, I could fly to any spot on the planet in just a few hours. When we get rid of the brutal and stupid thugs, we can all fly to the Moon, the planets, and eventually to the stars.

I'm not about to give up any of that for unfit species of weeds or minnows. 

L. Neil Smith is the award-winning author of 33 freedom-oriented books, including [*The Probability Broach*](#), [*Ceres*](#), [*Sweeter Than Wine*](#), and [*DOWN WITH POWER: Libertarian Policy In A Time Of Crisis*](#).

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Does the “Environment” Have “Rights”?

By Butler Shaffer

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ONE of the least understood aspects of human behavior is that every social interaction – whether positive or negative – has, at its core, the matter of property ownership. If you and I want to enter into a contract, or if I wish to bestow a gift upon you, or if another person or the state coerces me in some way, such acts are invariably connected to the question of how property is to be owned and controlled. This has nothing to do with how any legal or political system is constructed: human action – in a social setting – is unavoidably tied up with relationships over property. The question of the ownership of my car has nothing to do with my relationships to the *car*, but to *you* in connection with the car.

The question “who gets to make decisions about what?” is central to all social and political philosophy, but is rarely asked, primarily because its asking opens up all kinds of inquiries that the institutional establishment does not want examined. The distinction between “victimizing” and “victimless” crimes – e.g., murder, rape, burglary versus drug use, prostitution, or gambling – comes down to whether someone has been victimized by a property trespass. Such important distinctions are rarely made in schools, it being sufficient that we be taught “the law is the law” as a standard for our behavior.

In order to distract us from exploring our social and political problems as *property* questions – whose resolutions can be achieved by the employment of such property principles as “who is the owner?”, “what are the boundaries?”, “did one person trespass the boundaries of another?” – such inquiries are disguised as something else. Such concepts as “women’s rights,” “privacy,” “civil rights,” “national security,” “health,” and “gay marriage” are the many ways in which property questions become redefined as something less troublesome to establishment interests. The more troublesome aspects of American history involve failures to respect the inviolability of private property claims: slavery – with its denial of self-ownership, the slaughter and despoliation of Indians, and the Civil War’s destruction and subjugation of the lives and other *property* interests of southerners, are rarely analyzed as transgressions against property. The issue of “environmentalism” is another such diversion.

“Environmentalism” is the latest secular religion, complete with the “original sin” of humanity’s very existence, an ever-expanding list of “commandments,” “saints” such as Al Gore and Rachel Carson, and a “judgment day” that is certain to follow unless we sinful humans mend our ways. Josie Appleton – of Britain’s Manifesto Club - has accurately described this new religion as being based upon “Climate” as

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the new deity, it being the role of the true-believing scientists to function as the priesthood, and to pass onto humanity Climate’s will. One fundamentalist zealot of the Climate Cult – Kari Norgaard – is reported to favor having doubters of the faith subjected to “treatment.” Whether this proposed therapy would involve burning at the stake – in the manner that earlier heretics were “treated” – and whether drawing and quartering might be reserved for more stubborn cases, this woman did not say.

Without having to resort to statist enforcement of the doctrines of the environmental cult, it is evident that the problems generated by genuine pollution can be resolved by resort to basic property principles.

The contention that one who dumps toxic wastes into rivers or into the ground water, or emits smoke from a factory that permeates the neighborhood, is committing a *wrong* against the environment, is difficult to support. What *is* the “environment,” and how are its boundaries defined? Is it the air, clouds, flowing water, or trees? One can at once see how bestowing personhood upon such an amorphous embodiment only multiplies the confusing and unfocused categories by which law and politics are already burdened.

Furthermore, how are we to determine whether any of these entities regard our acts as *trespasses*, the very essence of property violations? Anyone familiar with the most elementary nature of botany understands that plant life *welcomes* our emission of carbon dioxide, and emits oxygen in return, providing plants and animals with a symbiotic relationship beneficial to both forms of life. We can comprehend how individuals might try to project *their* sense of propriety onto the rest of nature, but is there any way to identify the preferences of their imagined beneficiaries?


On the other hand, a human being who asserts, vis-à-vis his neighbor, a “right” not to have his or her property boundaries violated can articulate a principled case against the polluter. The injuries that acts of pollution inflict are not to an abstract “nature,” but to other humans. Smoke emitted from chimneys get into the clothing, lungs, and land of self-owning persons. When we lived

in Chicago, it was common to wipe soot from our foreheads when we were outdoors. Dumping industrial wastes into rivers or underground waters ends up on the lands, drinking water, or other property not belonging to the trespasser.



These are just a few of the many ways in which some people dispose of the unwanted, entropic byproducts of their activities by imposing them upon others. That economists correctly define such behavior as “the socialization of costs,” is a tip-off to the violation of property principles involved.

It is the nature of every political system – however defined and constituted – to function by depriving private owners of the control that is the very essence of ownership. The new theocracy of “environmentalism” differs from other political tyrannies only in terms of the rationale by which it presumes to use violence against others. The environmentalists are not as concerned with protecting *nature*, as they are with amassing control over other humans. And they will resort to whatever arguments that might prove plausible to members of the booboisie. Thus, the forecast of “arctic cooling” advanced in the 1980s, was morphed into “global warming,” which was later modified to read “global change,” to accommodate the evidence that the earth had undergone climatic changes long before humans (with their SUVs) arrived. With a greater sense of desperation, one defender of the creed – working at NASA – went so far as to suggest that the denizens of other planets might choose to attack and destroy earth unless Al Gore’s words are accepted as gospel.

When so-called “environmental” problems are seen for what they in fact are – i.e., trespasses to private property – and when the solutions offered by environmentalists consist of nothing more than institutionalized campaigns to make universal trespasses upon the lives and property interests of individuals, one more racket is exposed for what every political program amounts to: the effort of a few to control (and even destroy) the many. 

Butler Shaffer is a [Law Professor at Southwestern University School of Law](#) in Los Angeles. His articles are posted on [LewRockwell.Com](#), and [Mises.Org](#)

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Free-Market Environmentalism

By Bart Frazier

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One of the most important lessons that economics teaches is that incentives matter. Economics is not a field that is normally associated with the environmental movement, but the recognition of the importance of incentives has led to a schism in the movement — between those environmentalists who turn to the state to protect the environment and those who instead rely on private property and the free market to do so.

When ecological sensitivity first crept into the social consciousness, the consequences were swift and strong. The traditional notion of private property was swept aside and draconian rules were put in place that severely restricted what one could do with his property, including what he could build on it, what he could store on it, and who had access to it.

To say that this new property-rights regime caused some friction is an understatement. The notion that people should be able to do whatever they see fit with their property as long as their actions do not infringe upon the property rights of others is deeply rooted in Americans. The inalienable right to be safe in the use of one's own property is one of the basic tenets of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

A society based on secure property rights has a very redeeming feature — the owners of property have a strong incentive to protect and conserve it in order to maintain its value. This is not the case when the public “owns” property. A comparison of overrun, overused public parks with lush, serene private parks is strong evidence that private owners are much better stewards of resources than government.

It is this incentive to preserve value that led property owners to start doing the opposite of what environmentalists hoped for with the passage of their new legislation. After finding bald eagles' nests on their property, many people immediately cut down the trees upon which the nests are built. Why? Because new laws dictated that property containing eagle nests could not be developed, hence its value fell.

However, it did not take long for some environmentalists to recognize the friction for what it was — a natural reaction by property owners who did not appreciate being told what they could and could not do with their own property. A new method for encouraging good stewardship evolved. If private-property rights naturally instill in owners a sense of stewardship, even if it is for personal gain, why not work with property owners instead of against them?


From this kind of thinking sprouted free-market environmentalism. Although the free-market

movement has had a much lower profile than the highly visible activities of such organizations as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, arguably it has done a more efficient job in preserving the environment. Instead of relying on the coercion of the state, free-market conservationists use the voluntary mechanism of the market. They purchase land they want to conserve. And as with all voluntary transactions, both parties involved are better off than they were before. The purchaser exchanges money for property he places a higher value on and the owner exchanges his property for money he values more than his property.

The [Nature Conservancy](#) has been an innovator and leader in free-market environmentalism (though unfortunately they also often rely on government to achieve their goals). They take voluntary contributions and purchase ecologically valuable property. With more than a million members, they have been able to conserve 14.5 million acres in the United States and 83.5 million acres in other countries. Other groups followed their model, most on a smaller and more local scale, but almost all highly successful.



Think tanks that support the viability of free-market environmentalism and document the destruction caused by public ownership of resources have also come into existence. Most notable has been the work of the Political Economy Research Center and the Competitive Enterprise Institute. These organizations have shown time and again that in addition to being huge taxpayer expenses, public lands are routinely overused and dilapidated while privately conserved lands, guarded jealously by landowning conservationists, are normally in a state of reversion to wilderness, if not already there.

No one can in good conscience trespass on private property and force the owner to conserve at the point of a gun. It is no different if he uses the state to do the same, which is exactly what environmentalists who turn to the state do. Free-market environmentalism has been a highly successful tool of conservation where it has been applied and its healthy respect for property rights and individual freedom is equally laudable. 

Bart Frazier is Program Director at [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#) in Fairfax, Va.



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Why Capitalism Is Worth Defending

By Anthony Gregory

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AS Obama demonizes the wealthy and pitches a dozen plans to restructure the economy, opponents of this program need a reminder of what exactly we're fighting for. We are resisting bureaucracy, central planning, and encroachments on our freedom and communities. Yet this does not get to the heart of the matter. We are not only an opposition movement, countering the president and his partisans' agenda. More fundamentally, we stand in defense of the greatest engine of material prosperity in human history, the fount of civilization, peace, and modernity: Capitalism.

Many regard it a dirty word and it is tarnished most of all by its supposed guardians. Wall Street giants fancy themselves capitalists even as they live off the taxpayer and thrive on the state's gifts of privilege, inflation, and barriers to entry. In the military-industrial complex they champion it by name as they produce devices of murder for the state. In the Republican Party and every conservative institution they talk it up while making such vast exceptions to the principle as to swallow it whole. When many think of capitalism, they think of the corporatist status quo, leading even some who favor economic freedom to abandon the term.

But we should not abandon it. For one thing, most opponents of capitalism do not merely oppose Goldman Sachs or Halliburton or even McDonalds. Rather, they oppose free enterprise as a matter of principle. They object to employers' liberty to hire and fire whom they want, at whatever wage is mutually arranged. They protest the right of entrepreneurs to enter the market without restriction. They disapprove businesses designing infrastructure; providing energy, food, water and other necessary commodities; and running transportation without government meddling. They lament the rich getting richer, even through purely peaceful means. They op-

pose the freedom to engage in short selling, insider trading, hostile takeovers, and corporate mergers without the central state's blessing. They

begrudge the worker who dissents from the labor establishment. It is exactly the anarchy of the free market they despise, not the consolidated state-big business nexus they most want to smash. For every liberal who hates monopoly capitalism for anything approaching the right reasons, there are ten who deplore the capitalism part of it more than the monopoly.

It is simply a fact that capitalism, even hampered by the state, has dragged most of the world out of the pitiful poverty that characterized all of human existence for millennia. It was industrialization that saved the common worker from the constant tedium of primitive agriculture. It was the commodification of labor that doomed slavery, serfdom, and feudalism. Capitalism is the liberator of women, the benefactor of all children who enjoy time for study and play rather than endure uninterrupted toil on the farm. Capitalism is the great mediator between tribes and nations, which first put aside their weapons and hatreds in the prospect of benefiting from mutual exchange.

A century ago the Marxists acknowledged the productivity of capitalism and its preference to the feudalism it replaced, but predicted that the market would impoverish workers and lead to greater material scarcity. The opposite has happened and now the leftists attack capitalism mostly for other reasons: it produces too much and is wasteful, hurts the environment, exacerbates social divisions, isolates people from a spiritual awareness of their community, nation, or planet, and so on.

Yet all the higher, more noble, less materialistic aspirations of humankind rest on material security. Even those who hate the market, whether they work in it or not, thrive on the wealth it generates. If Marx's buddy Engels hadn't been a factory manager, he would have lacked the leisure time needed to help concoct their destructive philosophy. Every social sciences grad student, every Hollywood limousine liberal, every Christian-left do-gooder, and everyone for whom socialism itself is the one religion; every anti-market artist, scholar, philosopher, teacher and theologian screams atop a soapbox produced by the very capitalist system he disparages. Everything we do in our lives – materialistic or of a nobler nature – we do in the comfort provided by the market. Meanwhile, the very poorest in a modern capitalist system, even one as

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corrupted by statism as the United States, have it much better than all but the wealthiest people a century ago. These blessings are owed to capitalism, and unleashing it further would finally erase poverty as we know it.

There is a myth that capitalism is the dominating doctrine. It seems almost everyone believes this, most finding it at least somewhat unfortunate, which itself should tell you there's a problem with assuming capitalism's unchallenged popularity. In fact, capitalism has few authentic defenders. Conservatives pretend to support it, but make exceptions for education, energy, agriculture, labor, central banking, borders, intellectual property, and drugs, to say nothing of national defense and criminal justice. Even worse, many conservatives of the anti-corporatist, localist variety are more protectionist and economically nationalistic than the establishment right. They will sacrifice property rights for their cultural preferences on guns, religion, so-called family values, and certainly patriotism. With friends like these, capitalism needs truer allies.

Progressives and socialists are downright hostile. They claim to have made their peace with the market but have a new scheme every day to restrain it, punish it, manipulate it, and beat it into submission. Liberals insist they don't want to rid of it, only refine it, only save it from itself. But if capitalism needs saving, it is not from itself, but only from liberals and conservatives.

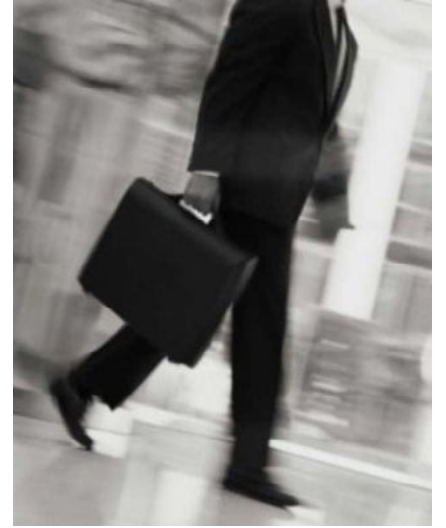
Libertarians will speak up for capitalism, but often with some reticence. It has gotten such a bad name, and it is so despised by the liberal culture, that many do not wish to defend it outright. It is indeed crucial to be clear and precise in explaining what we mean by capitalism. But this great force for progress deserves our bold support, not our qualified testimony. It has given us everything we have. The least we can do is not pretend we're embarrassed of it.

For the last century, capitalism's most ardent defenders – the school of [Mises](#), [Hayek](#) and [Rothbard](#), and even the less radical followers of [Rand](#) and [Friedman](#) – have been clear that they mean the individual's freedom in property rights and exchange, and almost everyone understands this. The enemies have mostly meant

the same thing, when they weren't disingenuously conflating free enterprise with state-sanctioned privilege.

Mises said "a society that chooses between capitalism and socialism does not choose between two social systems; it chooses between social cooperation and the disintegration of society." Hayek believed "the preservation of what is known as the capitalist system, of the system of free markets and the private ownership of the means of production, as an essential condition of the very survival of mankind." While always careful to critique state capitalism for its interventionism and violence, Rothbard espoused

"free-market capitalism [as] a network of free and voluntary exchanges in which producers work, produce, and exchange their products for the products of others through prices voluntarily arrived at." Capitalism



and freedom go hand in hand, and it is no wonder that the enemies of the market target libertarians as the most extreme proponents of what they loathe, rather than mostly focus on the corporatists and social democrats that dominate the modern left and right.

Some libertarians worry that "capitalism" puts too much focus on capital, but this is in truth no problem. Only through deferred consumption can we build civilization, by the amassing of higher order goods and the lowering of our orientation toward the present. This is the essence of the capitalist emphasis. Maybe it takes longer to explain ourselves when we adopt the battle cry of capitalism – it also takes longer to be a capitalist than only a consumer. In the long run, however, it is worth it. Libertarianism is a long-term struggle, and so why not take the long-term view of capitalism, both as a term worth embracing and a label for the economy we envision? Anarchism, too, is a hard pill to swallow, a tradition with a mixed history where a plausible case can be made that its conventional meaning does not always encompass the values we hold dear, but rather a lack of social order. Yet

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libertarian anarchists embrace the term, as we should the term capitalism.

Rothbard was particularly sensitive to the fact that the term was coined by its enemies, and many today believe that defenders of free markets should not allow the opposition to define the debate. Yet this point leads me to a very different conclusion. First, even insofar as the word has negative connotations in popular culture, we might still want to adopt it. The anti-Federalists were initially opposed to the label affixed to them by the Hamiltonian statist. But now I would uphold that descriptor with pride. This is an area where we can take a cue from the gay rights activists who were smeared as "queer," only to proudly appropriate the term for their own uses.


Second and more important, if Marx and his ilk – whose ideas, to the extent they have been implemented, have yielded unparalleled human misery, starvation, and slavery – position themselves as the adversaries of capitalism, we should be so lucky to have these be the terms of the debate. The socialists of all stripes argue that real socialism has never been tried, and some say we market radicals are stuck with no better a response than to say that real capitalism has never been tried, either. However, unlike "real socialism," which Mises demonstrated was impossible on a large scale, capitalism simply exists wherever it is left unmolested. It is the part of the market that is free. But regardless of how we define it, in terms of feeding the masses and sustaining society, I will take flawed capitalism over flawed socialism any day. I will take state capitalism, crony capitalism, or corporate capitalism over state socialism, democratic socialism, or national socialism.

Yet we need not make that choice, since opposing state capitalism is part of the capitalist cause, as should opposing state religion be the calling of every religious anti-statist, opposing state schools be the goal of every libertarian who loves education, and opposing state law and order be the creed of those who endorse the natural law and peaceful social order.

The capitalist portion of state capitalism is the part that works. The fruits of capitalism can be used for evil, and they are surely used this way by the state. For instance, the military-industrial complex's evil is due to the socialist state military feeding off the production of semi-capitalist businesses. The one downside to capitalism is that the state becomes richer in absolute terms



than with any other system. If the military were fully socialist it would be less effective – this is true. But this is merely a practical and moral indictment of the state, not the concept of capitalism. If this is the only real confusion that confounds capitalism's detractors we should simply ask them: Are you for a complete separation of capitalism and state, then? Of course they are almost to a person violently opposed to such a prospect. For them the problem is not the state having weapons and law enforcers and soldiers and national boundaries. Instead, the problem is unfettered entrepreneurship and the inequality of profit. Anti-capitalism is best defined, to paraphrase Mencken, by the fear that someone, somewhere, is getting rich. Looking at the warfare state, the anti-capitalists object to someone making money off the militarism, and indeed they should be embarrassed that the state institutions they favor can only successfully mount a military machine by exploiting the profit system. Yet, tellingly, their primary objection is often not with the profiteers' war; it is with the war's profiteers.

Some words are harsh and the concepts they embody seem harsher. Some notions seem too idealistic for many cynics. Peace, love, and freedom are all words that get a bad rap as head-in-the-cloud concepts that don't describe reality as it actually exists. But we do know that in a world where not all is peaceful, love is sometimes hard to find, and freedom is always in peril, all of these ideals, insofar as they are allowed to flourish, point the way to a future of harmony and plenty. The same is true of capitalism. Don't let its enemies spoil a good word for the greatest economic system in the history of the human race. 

Anthony Gregory [[send him mail](#)] is research editor at the [Independent Institute](#). He lives in Oakland, California. See his webpage for more articles and personal information.

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Red and Blue and Broke All Over- Restoring America's Free Economy

By Charles Goyette

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IN his *New York Times* bestseller [The Dollar Meltdown](#), Charles Goyette showed how increasing government debt is destroying the dollar and the wealth of the American people. But the problem goes much deeper:

A explained in [Red and Blue and Broke All Over](#), the country is heading for financial ruin because our leaders are ideologically bankrupt. The time has come for a dramatic solution.

We need look no further than the Obama White House to find the culprits of America's crippled prospects for recovery. They've forced the adoption of bailouts and unnecessary spending programs that do little but destroy wealth and drown the government in more debt and ever increasing red tape while engaging in undeclared wars at the expense of the people and their prosperity.

But this isn't just a Democratic problem. The Bush administration was no better, with its unending and bankrupting elective war and the largest bailout in our nation's history. It's time for a solution that goes beyond politics as usual from the same old Red or Blue.

Goyette explains how the growth of federal power and its costly warfare and welfare spending are bankrupting America and strangling our prosperity. The incredible \$1.2 trillion a year we spend on state security is leading us straight down the road to ruinous debt. Transfer payments and social spending are equally unsustainable financial time bombs. The time has come to release the stranglehold of excessive government spending and ineffective over-regulation and let the free economy function as it was originally intended.

Career politicians continue to pointlessly argue without enacting real and effective change. No wonder a feeling of disenfranchisement is growing. Their destructive agenda needs to be exposed and stopped before it does us any more harm. Goyette reveals:

How increasing government debt and inflationary manipulations will bring down the dollar,



which is already in decline. How the longstanding practice of crony capitalism—the strong ties between bankers, corporate executives, and their buddies and former colleagues in high government posts—strangles our economy. Why

we need to reign in overseas spending and end American interventionism, before we meet the same fate as The Roman Empire, Napoleon's France, the Soviet Union, and every other empire in history. Why freedom works and why the state doesn't. Left to flourish on their own, spontaneous, self-organizing systems can and will restore our prosperity.

Red and Blue and Broke All Over couldn't be timelier. In the face of the American government's reckless spending, invasive social programs, unnecessary warmongering, and ill-advised, ineffective financial manipulation, it's time to face the facts: we can't continue along the same destructive path if we're serious about turning our country around.

"Charles Goyette is a real treasure. For years he has delighted radio and TV audiences with his unwavering devotion to the values of small government and sound money and personal freedom."


In "Red and Blue and Broke All Over," he has given us a funny and irreverent examination of 'only in America tales of government excess and stupidity. If you have a crazy, Big Government loving brother-in-law who needs a dose of reality, read this book and you will win every argument you have with him. And if you want to know how the government has stolen freedom and property and enriched itself, Charles has it all here for you."

- Judge Andrew P. Napolitano

[Click on the link below to order the book from Amazon.Com](#)

[Click on the link below to get the Kindle Edition:](#)



Charles Goyette is a libertarian-conservative commentator, who is noted for his outspoken anti-war views, his opposition to the war in Iraq, and his economic commentary. His latest book is [Red and Blue and Broke All Over: Restoring America's Free Economy](#). Goyette is also the editor of the [Freedom & Prosperity Letter](#), a monthly political and financial newsletter. The newsletter includes biweekly podcasts. 

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So Long And Thanks For All The Fish!

By Stefan Molyneux

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ONE of the sad paradoxes of the environmental movement is the degree to which it tends to ignore or obscure State destruction of natural resources. One chilling example of

this was the fairly recent obliteration of the cod stocks off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada – which powerfully illuminates the dangers of allowing the State to (mis)manage natural resources.

These cod stocks were among one of the great natural resources of mankind. When John Cabot first arrived near the shores of Newfoundland 500 years ago, he reported that the cod stocks were so thick that he felt he could actually walk ashore from his ship – and his sailors could simply scoop the fish up in buckets! For generations, tens of thousands of fishermen made their living harvesting this immense natural resource. Free of government intervention, they managed to maintain this resource in a manner that sustained itself for centuries.

All this began to change in the late 1960s. Larger and larger foreign fishing vessels began to ply the waters off Newfoundland. These new factory-freezer trawlers could not only catch up to 200 tons of fish in a single hour (twice the take of a typical 16th-century ship for an entire season), but could be re-crewed and supplied by ocean-going tenders – and had onboard processing plants with automated filleting machines to boot!

By the early 1970s, hundreds of these massive (and often publicly-funded) vessels were plying international waters – effectively strip-mining the sea of fish. (Russia had over 400!) Starting in the late 1960s, the cod catch peaked off Newfoundland at 810,000 tons. As the amount of fish available began to decline, the international fishing vessels moved off to other waters, leaving the Newfoundland fishermen with a still-healthy resource base. So all was not lost.

In 1977, following the United Nations “[Law of the Sea Convention](#)”, Canada extended its territorial waters from 12 to 200 miles off shore – effectively kicking foreign fishing vessels away from the cod stocks. Atlantic fishermen were overjoyed. Finally, the Canadian government was coming to aid of the fishermen by forcing foreign vessels offshore! Hallelujah, the resource is now safe!

As we can expect, their joy proved relatively short-lived. Also in 1977, the Government of Canada – through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – took over the management of the fisheries, and quickly and decisively went to work. After getting rid of the foreign fishing fleets, the Canadian government then proceeded to subsidize the building of a deep sea trawler fleet of its very own – and further subsidized the expansion of onshore fish processing plants in Newfoundland. As the new fleet was being constructed, the processing plants lay empty – and so the DFO set up joint fishing ventures with the very same foreign vessels that were supposed to have been kicked outside the 200 mile limit! To ensure continued domestic employment, these foreign vessels were allowed to further pillage

the cod stocks, in return for transferring part of their catch to the idle processing plants in Newfoundland.

Why would the government do such a thing? Well, for popularity of course, since selling the future to fatten the present is one thing the government is very good at – but also for the increased taxes that come from a higher level of economic activity.

Now, because so many people had become dependent on government subsidies and programs for their income, a death spiral for the cod industry began. Many local wives, sons and daughters began working in the state-subsidized fish processing plants – and, as the cod stocks began to diminish, families as a whole began to rely more and more on the income of those working in the plants. However, the processing plants could only continue to receive their subsidies if fish kept coming in from offshore – thus there was a strong incentive to fish even more as the cod stocks began to decline.

As family income declined, fishermen began to directly lobby their local and federal governments for increased subsidies. The federal government defined the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) on and, starting in 1981, the Personal Registration System was instituted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – there was also the Limited Entry Licensing system, which granted fishermen licenses to harvest different species such as crab and lobster. As an unofficial way of controlling numbers, new fishermen were generally classified as ‘part-time’, which meant that they had to go through a fairly lengthy apprenticeship period before getting their full-time licenses. Sadly, however, “part-time” fishermen were only allowed to catch – you guessed it – cod!

Things went rapidly downhill from there. Governments began hurling money at the fishing communities – subsidies were handed out for boats, seasonal unemployment insurance, welfare schemes, alternative employment schemes (one even envisioned that chilly Newfoundland would somehow become the cucumber growing capital of the world through a system of state subsidized greenhouses!) and all such regular ‘instant-gratification’ political and economic idiocies. For instance, in a response to the downturn in the fisheries market in the early 1980s, the Federal government created a crown corporation (Fishery Products International) designed to sell more fish and increase the market. Makes sense, right – if a resource is running out, the best thing to do is to try and sell more of it!

The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was set by the DFO, supposedly on the advice of its own scientists. However, intense political pressure was brought to bear on those scientists to produce the ‘correct’ (i.e. politically advantageous) numbers. No politician wanted to face the wrath of the fishermen by telling them that they were not allowed to catch as much as they wanted – or felt they needed to survive.

At first, the scientific models just proved faulty – but even after those faults were corrected, politicians simply increased the TAC over and

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above the recommended levels for the sake of political expediency. After such excessive quotas remained in place throughout the 1980s, the DFO scientists began recommending drastic cuts – over 50% – to the TAC in 1989.

The scientific ‘miscalculations’ were almost incomprehensible. The DFO scientists based their estimations of cod stocks on the volume of commercial catches – without taking into account massively increased technological efficiencies in fish finding. Thus catches remained relatively high, even while cod stocks were in precipitous decline. Also, fishermen were very aware that the more fish they reported catching, the less their Total Allowable Catch would be – and so under-reporting was commonplace. Finally, fishermen not allowed to catch cod but allowed to catch other fish simply dragged their nets along the bottom of the sea and threw away the cod they caught (called ‘bycatch’) – thus not exactly lowering the incidence of cod destruction.


This was all well-known throughout the 1980s – and everyone who tried to raise the red flag and warn about the coming environmental catastrophe was either ignored or repressed. The government-subsidized [Kirby Commission](#) studied ‘all aspects of the Newfoundland industry’ in 1983 – with the notable (and regrettable) exception of the fish themselves. If you wanted a sociological analysis of fishing communities, you were in luck. If you wanted to know whether there would be fish in five years, well...

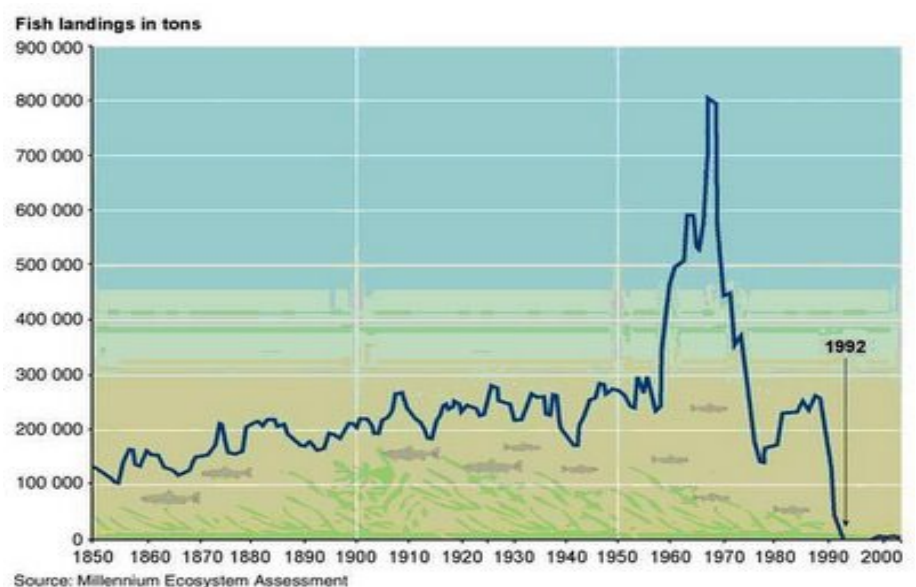
In 1988, the scientific models were updated, and a new survey revealed that most fish stocks were on the edge of collapse. DFO experts recommended that the TAC had to be cut by more than 50% for the fish to have a chance to survive. Politicians merely laughed and, after a massive internal turf war, agreed to cut the TAC by 10%. As the fishermen continued to over-fish, more data poured in confirming that more than 60% of the adult cod had been captured for several years in a row. Nearly \$600 million of state subsidies flooded into Newfoundland.

As is so often the case, as the end drew near – as endless fleets of state-subsidized fishing vessels ploughed back and forth over the emptying seas – local fishermen began to realize the Faustian nature of their bargain with the State. Talk began to turn from how to best milk State programs towards how the cod might be saved from

the disaster every fisherman knew was coming. They began to descend upon government offices with demands that the TAC be lowered. They talked to the media, protested, marched, wrote petitions – and, as their desperation grew, they began to understand the truth of turning power over to the government. The government had no interest in their long-term futures – politicians just look to the next election; they don’t care about cod; they care about votes. The people of Newfoundland had taken the tax money, given up control over their own lives, their own communities, and their own resources – and now the time had come to pay the bill.

In a final mad panic, the inshore fishermen dug into their own emptying pockets and commissioned their own study on the failing cod stocks – the Alverson Commission – in the mad hope that their government might respond in a rational manner. No suck luck, of course. The politicians just smiled, passed the report to their handlers, and went right back to talking about their deep and abiding love of the people of Newfoundland.

The end came as swiftly as one would expect. After the 1992 fish surveys were released, just over 1% of the 1960s cod stocks remained. On July 2 1992, the then-Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced a moratorium on northern cod fishing. It was, of course, presented as a ‘short term’ solution, which has lasted up until the present. Economically, it was a complete catastrophe – 19,000 fishermen and plant workers lost their jobs, and 20,000 other jobs were lost or harmed. These jobs were not evenly distributed geographically. Hundreds of communities – some hundreds of years old – were effectively wiped off the map. 



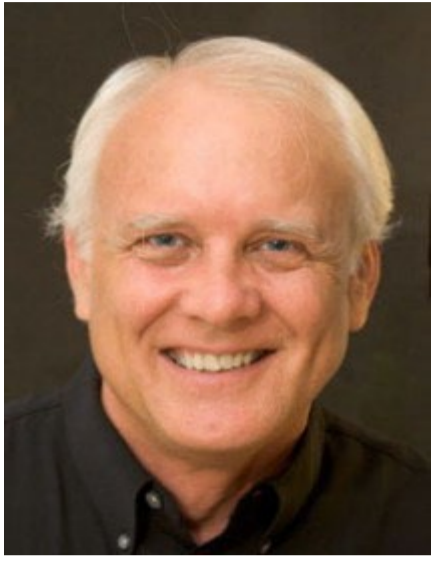
Stefan Molyneux is a blogger at freedomain.blogspot.ca and host of Freedomainradio.com

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Global Johnny Appleseed of Liberty

By Ken Schoolland

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ON a recent visit to Ernie Hancock's internet studios in Phoenix, I saw the most spectacular headquarters of liberty and the Ron Paul Revolution. Ernie's dynamism in the midst of his arsenal of computer control panels, DVD copiers, and poster and t-shirt makers would have made a comfortable outpost for the Minutemen of 1776.

In 10 minutes, Ernie finished his broadcast to thousands, fed his egg-laying chickens, and copied another 200 DVD's of the Arabic "Philosophy of Liberty" (PoL) for distribution to libertarians across the Middle East from Egypt to Morocco. As he packed them up, Ernie handed me books with the Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, and Bill of Rights in Arabic with instructions on the Constitution page saying, "We already tried this, maybe you can do better"

Philosophy of Liberty - Arabic (Video):



The PoL is just one more weapon in the arsenal of libertarians that began as the epilogue of a little book, [The Adventures of Jonathan Gullible: A Free Market Odyssey](#) (JG). The book has now been published in 65 editions in 45 languages—the PoL epilogue has been turned to animation, now in more than 40 languages.


Most recent is the French edition in a nation highly resistant to free market ideas. The New English Edition for youth has more than 40 colorful illustrations and an audio CD. New editions due to be released this year are a second Dutch edition, a second Albanian edition, a second Chinese edition, and new editions in Vietnamese, Estonian, Hindi, Armenian, and Finnish.

Robin Sitoula of the Liberty Institute in Kathmandu says that a normal publication in the small country of Nepal runs about 2000 copies. JG has sold 15,000 copies in just three years. Nepal is no playground for the battle for free markets, where devotees of freedom have long battled Maoists who currently hold a majority in the Parliament.

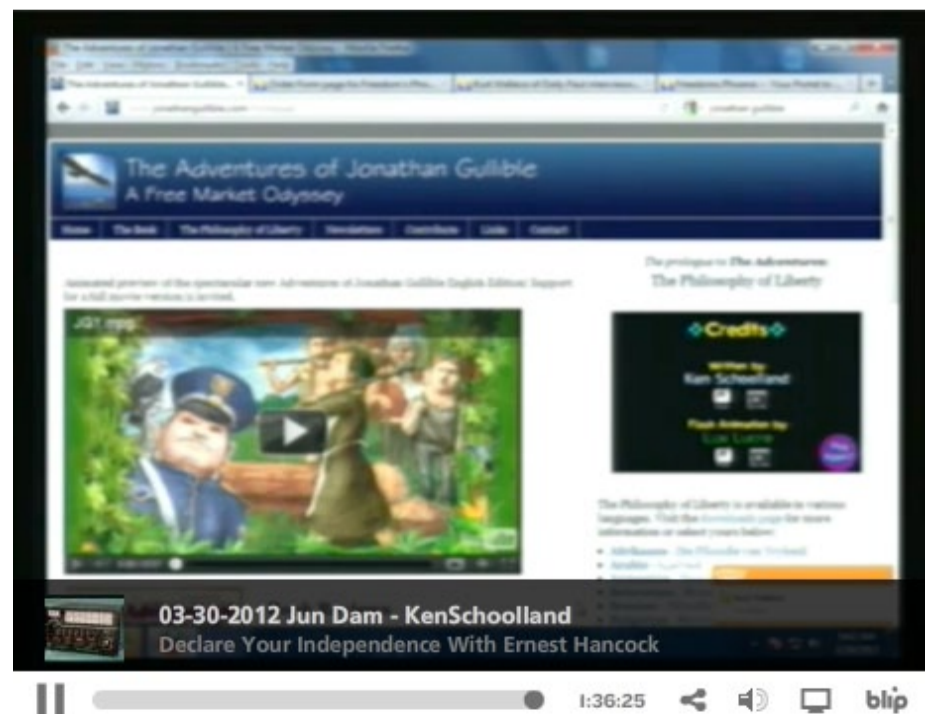
[Adedayo Thomas](#) has developed a very successful and ambitious theatrical program in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Ghana utilizing a very effective play, A Letter From Jonathan Gullible, based on the book. Of the performance, Franklin Cudjoe

of the free market [IMANI Institute](#) wrote: "Real Theatre at Ahmadu Bello University! You're missing it guys...Just saw the greatest play on the intrusiveness of governments around the world. Performed by the Theatre Arts Department of Ahmadu Bello University. ... Truly, Nigerian theatre producers are the best! I told the cast (actors) they had done our whole week's work in just one hour. I requested a reenactment on Sunday. I will do anything to support the cast to go global. The audience was largely African, drawn from six countries." The Atlas Foundation for Economic Research subsequently awarded Thomas a \$28,000 grant to take the play on tour.

The JG book was produced in 100,000 CD's, "[Ideas for a Free Society](#)," by the [International Policy Network](#). These were featured by my family in summer economics programs in Romania, Bulgaria, and China. In Morocco, Nouh el Harmouzi, conducted a liberty seminar program for Arabic economics students in Morocco.

The new, expanded Chinese edition will be published in time for the [Shanghai Austrian Economic Summit, July 20-23](#). This program is organized by my wife, Li Zhao Schoolland, and sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty, [www.isil.org](#). More than 20 speakers will be addressing a global audience on the lessons of free market [Hayek](#), [Mises](#), and [Rothbard](#). This is followed by a post conference tour of China. Please join. For information contact: li.schoolland@gmail.com or jimelwood@isil.org. 

*Ken Scholland stops into the Freedom's Phoenix Studio on 3-29-12 and records a special bonus segment with Ernest Hancock on the [Declare Your Independence with Erenst Hancock show](#). **BONUS** the last segment of the regular show and for another 40 minutes, Ken and Ernest provide some inside information on how *Freedom's Phoenix* and Ken will impact the *Generation Next* across the planet.... it's just this easy :-)-Video:*



Ken Schoolland is presently an Associate Professor of Economics and Political Science at [Hawaii Pacific University](#). He is an economist, academic, author, and political commentator. Schoolland is also a member of the Board of Directors for the [International Society for Individual Liberty](#), and a Sam Walton Fellow for [Students in Free Enterprise](#).

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Rut Roh. The “Stock Manipulator” Meme Finally Escapes the Box. Somebody Call Somebody.

By Patrick Byrne

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“MINKOW’S manipulation of the market ... caused a severe drop in the stock prices of a large local corporation. This type of deceit and abuse of trust will not be toler-

ated... we will investigate and prosecute stock manipulation cases to help protect the integrity of our capital markets...When false statements are disseminated to deceive the investing public, whether they’re designed to prop up a company or tear it down, the FBI will dedicate all available resources to bring disseminators of such falsehoods to justice.”

– [United States Department of Justice](#), Press release, March 24, 2011

“Minkow Charged In Stock Fraud, Extortion Case – A financial fraud investigator and ex-convict was charged with conspiracy in a Florida federal court on Thursday, a week after agreeing to plead guilty to allegations that he intentionally depressed a company’s stock with false accusations of fraud.” – [Law360](#), [March 24, 2011](#)

DeepCapture is seeing an influx of visitors, many of them new. So I am going to give a concise explanation of the stock manipulation [meme](#) that Deep Capture explores.

THE STOCK MANIPULATION MEME

Years ago, Steve Cohen figured out that finding a good company to invest in and waiting for its stock to go from \$4 to \$28 took acumen and patience, whereas taking a company down from \$28 to \$4 could be done in weeks, and, through the magic of short selling, was just as profitable. For Steve Cohen and a number of associated players this insight led to the emergence of a business model: instead of simply *betting against* companies (short selling), it would pay to *disrupt* them (*naked* short selling, orchestrating smear campaigns in the press, instigating federal investigations and shareholder class action lawsuits, etc.)

In the intervening years a network has emerged that developed this business model into an industry. [Michael Milken](#) and [Ivan Boesky](#) (two famous criminals from the 1980’s) were financiers to the stock manipulation industry, and brought with them the involvement of Organized Crime (primarily, Genovese Family, and later, Russian Mafia). Its current shining lights appear to include [Jim Chanos](#), [David Einhorn](#), [Dan Loeb](#), and [Bill Ackman](#). Numerous wannabees have circled from time to time, from low-rent (David Rucker) to preppy ([Whitney Tilson](#), it now appears). Profiting from stock manipulation would be difficult without the involvement of prime brokers who turn a blind eye to certain trading strategies, primarily, naked short selling, but also, variants such as married puts (by which hedge funds lay off an aspect of their criminal activity to the prime brokers, and prime brokers lay off an aspect of the crime to market makers).

The journalists who became spokesmodels for these cutpurses range from Pinto ([Roddy Boyd](#),

[Carol Remond](#), [Herb Greenberg](#)) to Lexus ([Bethany McLean](#)), with every make and model in between (some, such as [Bethany McLean](#) and [Roddy Boyd](#), have never written a story that was not sourced from this tiny set of hedge funds, and breezily engaged in email conversations which reveal their understanding of their role as puppets). Other financial journalists (e.g., [Joe Nocera](#), Floyd Norris) sided with these now-exposed journalists not from corruption, but from having forgotten their duties as journalists. At the bottom of the food chain, we find a small group of phony “researchers” (Barry Minkow, Sam Antar, Gradient Analytics) who conduct no real research, but who produce endless phony “where there’s smoke there’s fire” allegations for parroting by C-list bloggers ([Gary Weiss](#), [Tracy Coenen](#), [Floyd Schneider](#), [Yolanda Holtzee](#), etc.), which are then imported into the mainstream financial press through the efforts of the shill journalists listed above.

For many years, these schemers made a federal toy of the [SEC](#), whose staffers gave concierge service to stock manipulators before going to work for their law firms (e.g., [Linda Thomsen](#)), or sometimes, even directly for the hedge funds in question (e.g., [Richard Sauer](#), for whom [Rocker Partners](#) and [Bethany McLean](#) had a code-name, “Lavaman”). [Jim Cramer](#) has participated both as a money manager (as he confessed [on video](#)), and also, as a journalist (as DeepCapture has [demonstrated](#)). DeepCapture also suspects the involvement of former New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer’s, due to [Spitzer’s proximity to Cramer \(Spitzer’s college roommate and lifelong friend\) and Chanos \(Spitzer’s largest financial backer\)](#), the confluence among this network’s targets and the objects of Spitzer’s prosecution, and the slightly salacious fact that Jim Chanos let [live rent-free](#) in his house Eliot Spitzer’s main escort, Ashlee Dupree (who should be ashamed of herself for having anything to do with these low-lives).

THE COVER-UP

Such schemes are illegal, as is the trading that seeks to profit from them. Though these patterns are easy to spot, with this basic scheme distributed so cleverly across so many market participants (hedge funds, prime brokers, market makers) and typists who look enough like journalists to be shielded by the 1st amendment (e.g., Jim Cramer, Herb Greenberg, Carol Remond, Bethany McLean), they are difficult to prove, . In fact, any attempt to inform the public about these patterns has traditionally been met by tremendous smear campaigns by all the journalist-typists mentioned above. Importantly, these smear campaigns not only attack the messenger, they distort the message, insisting that what is at issue is “short selling” (a practice which is easy to defend), and systemically refusing even to mention the allegations of *stock manipulation* (via naked short selling and manipulation of journalists and law enforcement). It has become clear over the last six years that the New York financial press has a mandate to suppress the stock manipulation meme. That is why the New York financial press, once so intense on discrediting this meme, flipped off like

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a light-switch the moment we began expressing and documenting it in both particular and pattern on DeepCapture, criticism of which would have led readers to visit and understand the arguments for themselves.

THE CRUSADE

In 2004 Gradient Analytics, a Phoenix-based company putatively in the business of providing research to hedge funds, began a smear campaign against Overstock (a company in which I work by day). The zeal with which they stretched to make any allegation they could muster in literally dozens of poorly-researched publications, and their strange behavior in communication with us (aggressively turning a deaf ear to any attempt to explain to them the accounting basics they had misunderstood) left us certain that they were up to mischief, but puzzled as to their motives. Soon, several sympathetic hedge funds contacted me to inform me that this was Gradient’s business model: any hedge fund could pay them \$25k/year, and for that fee, command the preparation of multiple hatchet jobs. Clearly, someone had bought the economy pack regarding us. Not long thereafter, several employees of Gradient Analytics got in touch with me and described, in great detail (and ultimately [in three affidavits](#)) how a hedge fund named “Rocker Partners” (run by David Rocker) was the hedge fund behind this stock manipulation scheme (they named Herb Greenberg as participating, and also said that Steve Cohen was “twenty times worse”). As much from a sense of civic duty as anything else, Overstock sued Rocker and Gradient, and then, the entire prime brokerage industry.

Throughout the litigation, pretty much the entire aforementioned set of typists, pseudo-journalists, and C-list bloggers who had spent so many years carrying water in these hedge fund schemes (i.e., Jim Cramer, Herb Greenberg, Bethany McLean, Roddy Boyd, Carol Remond, Joe Nocera, Floyd Norris, Sam Antar, Gary Weiss, Tracy Coenen, Floyd Schneider), tried to convince the public that Overstock’s lawsuits had no merit and that no such schemes exist. All but the most shameless C-list players, however,

contracted laryngitis on the subject when Overstock received apologies for and withdrawal of [Gradient’s smear campaign](#), a \$5 million check from Rocker (“[Rocker Pays \\$5 Million to Overstock.com to Settle Lawsuit](#)”), another \$5 million check from some of the prime brokers, and got going a serious-as-a-heart-attack [RICO action going against Goldman Sachs and Bank of America subsidiary Merrill Lynch](#), with a trial date in December, 2011.

THE BREAKTHROUGH

An identical scheme starring many of these players has come to light in federal court in Florida over the last two weeks. Barry Minkow (like Sam Antar, an ex-convict with a history of enormous financial crimes) “was charged with conspiracy in Florida federal court... after agreeing to plead guilty to allegations that he intentionally depressed a company’s stock with false allegations of fraud.” The company whose stock was being “intentionally depressed... with false allegations of fraud” was a Fortune 500 company named Lennar, Inc. The *modus operandi* was identical to the David Rocker/Gradient Analytics scheme against Overstock.

The fact that there is such overlap among the cast of characters should not be surprising. As is documented in numerous places in DeepCapture (“[The ties that bind Sam Antar and Barry Minkow](#)”, “[Today’s ‘If Only There Were a Pattern’ Moment: Sam Antar Crony Barry Minkow Still a Crook. Who Knew?](#)”, “[The Honorable Gill Freeman Throws Book at Barry Minkow, Nicks Paymaster Sam Antar. Plus, A Question for Whitney Tilson, Minkow Paymaster #2](#)”, “[Memo to Barry Minkow and Sam Antar: Roll Early, Roll Often](#)”, etc.) these folks all work together. Sam Antar paid Barry Minkow \$250,000 for services Barry could not explain; Gary Weiss re-introduced Sam Antar to the world in 2006; Gary Weiss introduced Tracy Coenen in 2007; Whitney Tilson paid Barry Minkow \$40,000 for “research” in the model of Gradient Analytics’ smear campaign; Barry Minkow paid Sam Antar \$30,000 back for cooperation in another smear campaign; Dan Loeb’s hedge

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fund, [Third Point](#), employed as a cut-out another ex-convict stock manipulator named [Michelle McDonough](#) to manage related manipulation campaigns conducted by Floyd Schneider and Yolanda Holtzee. Gary Weiss brags in email to Floyd Schneider about feeding Joe Nocera his material. And so on and so forth.

What is not yet public is who was *behind* this particular stock manipulation scheme now being pursued in federal court. Barry Minkow’s publications, filled as they were with “false allegations of fraud,” were always closely preceded by large trading activity far beyond the capacity of Barry, Sam Antar, or even Whitney Tilson (who, as his hedge fund is about \$120 million, is something of a *pisher* in the hedge fund world). That is to say, someone knew every time that Barry was about to publish “research” that would move a stock price, and was betting big that Barry’s publications would move those prices (that is, after all, the point of a stock manipulation campaign: to create a lead-pipe cinch on which to bet). Given the size of the bets, it had to be someone *big*.

Far bigger than Whitney Tilson.



This post was written by [Patrick Byrne](#), CEO of [Overstock.Com](#), and writer/journalist at [Deep-Capture.Com](#). Patrick is a concerned citizen who has spent four years trying to prevent a meltdown of our financial system.



The Deep Capture website was created to bypass the “captured” institutions that mediate our nation’s discourse. It was initially funded by Patrick Byrne, CEO of Overstock.com, but it is not part of Overstock. It functions as a separate, limited liability media company, whose co-owners and managers are Evren Karpak and Mark Mitchell (former partner Judd Bagley having

left the organization upon returning to work at Overstock.com in 2010).

Public choice theory describes a phenomenon whereby industries take control of, or “capture”, regulators who are supposed to oversee them. The claim of this website is that powerful actors have been able to influence or take control of not just the regulators, but also law enforcement, elected officials, national media, and the intellectual establishment.

It is our mission to expose this “deep capture.”

Patrick also appeared on the Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock radio show, April 3rd, 2012 (Video):



04-03-12 Bonus - Patrick Byrne, CEO of Overstock.Com (Video):



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Environmental Protection and Energy Independence Requires Less Gov't and More Individual Creativity

By Howard Blitz

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TALK show hosts, elected officials, and just every day common individuals are constantly crying out for the U.S. economy to be less dependent on imported oil and shift America's reliance on energy to renewable energy supplies and technologies thereby cleansing the environment.

They also cry out for the individual's inherent right to clean air and water at work and home.

Also noted with much desire are energy-efficient transportation systems through investments in local bus and rail transit, regional high-speed rail, and magnetic levitation rail projects.



All of this is possible, but not without the individual possessing the liberty to create all of it. Government rules and regulations and taxation did not create the automobile, electricity, or any other 21st century technology that helped clean up the environment of horse manure in the streets and saved the largest animal on the planet from being destroyed to provide energy for human use. The creative mind of the individual did with minimum government interference.

Although no one has an inherent right to clean air and water, most individuals want such an environment. The free market pricing system accomplishes this better than any government controlled system. One only has to look at those systems where government regulation and control is the order of the day to find that those places have the dirtiest water and air.

Those places where government is in control of the transportation system, lines develop, wait time increases, and more breakdowns occur, making the transportation system more expensive.

To pay for all of it, in a government controlled society, taxes must be paid by everyone, even those not using such systems, to provide the needed products and services. In a free market, meaning free from government intervention, only those individuals that decide to use a particular product or service pay for that product or service.



In order for the American economy to become less dependent on imported oil, incentives to keep what one earns must exist. No matter what the society, government controlled or free, individuals look out for themselves and seek their own self-interest including government


officials. The difference lies in who does the controlling, the individual or government officials. By allowing the individual to keep what he earns, the chances are enhanced that clean air, clean water, and less dependency on foreign oil result.

Individual property rights and the enforcement of those rights by government is what makes our environment clean.



If there were no protection of our right to our property, then anyone could do whatever they desired with our property, such as dump garbage on it, or pollute it in some way. This is why government is to be restricted to just making sure that individual's right to his legitimately obtained property is protected from others and that voluntarily entered into contracts are adhered to. In order for individuals to maximize their own well-being, individuals must provide others what they desire, such as clean air and water, otherwise they will not have any customers. The reason one does not dump his garbage in his neighbor's yard is because he knows there will be a cost to acting that way through the enforcement of private property rights. By doing the job government is intended to do, to punish and therefore restrict individuals from using force on one another to achieve the goal of a clean environment and to enforce contracts freely made between individuals, individuals are then free to give what the consumer desires, such as clean air and water, since each individual on the planet is out to maximize his own well-being.

Less government rules and regulations and less taxation upon individuals and companies to do business can and does result in a greater chance of more clean air and water existing, less dependency on foreign oil, and more efficient transportation systems developing.

America has drifted very far from its once proud heritage of individual liberty toward a government controlled economy causing the air and water quality to deteriorate in recent years and the increased dependency on foreign sources of energy. Government is not the solution to protecting the environment and providing an energy source. Individual liberty has provided both in the most cost effective and efficient manner throughout history. 



Howard J. Blitz, President of The Freedom Library, Inc. (FreedomLibrary.Org), a center for Libertarian Thought, Sound Economic Principles, and development of future leaders by educating minds in liberty.

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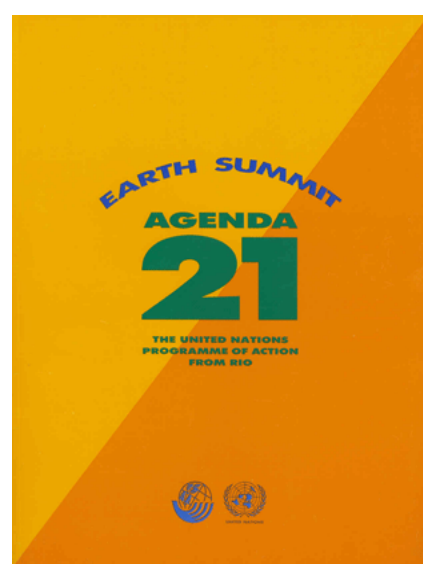
Lies and Doublespeak of American Planning Association And How to Fight Back

By Tom DeWeese

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I don't know about you, but when I take on a cause or a project I'm proud of what I do. I support it against all detractors and nay-sayers because I believe in it. So, when proponents of a cause suddenly start to hide what they are doing, or deny they are even doing it – that should set off alarm bells and raise questions about the honesty and legitimacy of that cause. Case in point, when evidence emerged that the Earth was actually cooling instead of heating, the alarmists didn't miss a beat as they changed the predicted disaster from Global Warming to Climate Change. These are clever guys.



Such is the case now with the enforcers of [Agenda 21](#) and its policy called Sustainable Development. For the past several years, those imposing this policy have denied its United Nations origins, ignoring the many documents that clearly prove that the very term “sustainable development” can easily be traced back to the 1987 UN report titled, “[Our Common Future](#).” That radical report has been used by the UN as a virtual springboard for a “*wrenching transformation*” (Al Gore's words) of human society. The words “[sustainable development](#)” are used in nearly every federal, state, and local development plan; on nearly every federal, state, and local government web site; and in nearly every public statement on new development policies. We even had a President's Council on Sustainable Development, created by an Executive Order of Bill Clinton, with the stated purpose to impose the policies of Agenda 21 into United States law. Many serving on the Council helped write Agenda 21, including [John Sawhill of the Nature Conservancy](#), [Jay Hair of the National Wildlife Federation](#) and [Michele Perrault, international Vice President of the Sierra Club](#).

So, the exact words “*Sustainable Development*” come from UN documents and its exact policies are imposed at the local level – yet, we are told by its proponents, none of these development plans have anything to do with UN policy. It's an amazing tap dance. As local residents question their county commissioners, city councilmen, mayors, state legislators, and governors about the origins of their policies, it has become routine for these “representatives of the people” to get a puzzled look on their faces and a wrinkle in their brows, as they say, “I've never heard of Agenda 21.” “That's just a conspiracy theory.”

Yes, we've heard it for years now. But as more and more citizens begin to learn the truth and opposition builds, what is the response of the Sustainablists? Do they now stand up and proudly defend their policies? Do they attempt to open debate and allow other voices to be heard in a legitimate discussion about our “*Common Future*?” Do they try to find reasonable solutions for citizens who have become victims of such policies? None of the above.

First they have ignored those protests with the usual, “*don't know what they are talking about.*” Then they have tried to ridicule those of us who have led the charge against the policy, calling it a conspiracy theory. As our anti-Agenda 21 movement has picked up steam, they have enlisted the big guns to attack our credibility, including front page articles in the New York Times, and in the pages of the Washington Post. Each of those articles took the position that protestors at public meetings are simply wasting the valuable time of legitimate professional planners who are just trying to do their jobs. How dare we question their motives or the origins of their schemes? There's serious business going on here. Will the peasants please get out of the way of progress?

But such arrogant, strong armed tactics which used to confuse and disperse opposition has ceased to work. Too much information is out there and too many citizens have become victims of the policies of Sustainable Development. Opposition has become fierce and organized in the face of this wrenching transformation of our lives.

So, since they can't beat us with strong arms, the Sustainablists are rushing to change the entire playing field, changing tactics, re-educating their storm troopers to employ non-confrontational new-speak, and rewriting the dictionary to “*avoid polarizing jargon.*” In an attempt to neutralize their opposition they seek to lull us all into believing the policies they continue to enforce aren't Agenda 21/Sustainable Development. There is no hidden agenda, they now promise. It's just local planning by local officials, so they claim with a straight face.

Hiding their agenda in “*new speak*”



The worst of the worst of the Sustainablists is the [American Planning Association](#) (APA). So panicked is this American Trojan Horse over growing opposition to its policies that APA has organized a “Boot Camp” to teach its operatives how to counter our opposition. Recently APA released a memo entitled “*Glossary for the Public.*” It is quite telling on how an organization that is supposed to be one of the most respected planning groups in the nation, operating in nearly every city, will teach its people to lie at all costs in order to maintain their power and influence in our communities.

Say's the introduction to this memo, “*Given the heightened scrutiny of planners by some members of the public, what is said – or not said – is especially important in building support for planning.*” Here is a list of words the APA warns planners not to use – because they cause “critics to see red,” as they have become “highly politicized and generate suspicion among some citizens:” Affordable; Agenda 21; Collaboration; Consensus; Delphi technique; Density; Livable; Localized planning; Long-term; region-wide planning; Organize and facilitate; Public visioning; Public- Private Partnerships; Regional, regionalism, regional planning; Smart growth; Stakeholders; Sustainability; Walkable.

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So, the very policy they are implementing, the policy they have invoked time and again – Sustainability – is no longer to be used. So, what instead? Say's the APA memo, "Some may find the words "district" or "central" to be an indication of a "top down" or "Big Brother" process. Using the common word "downtown" or "business area" may be more neutral and preferable."

More words not to use: "Code enforcement, design review, design review standards." Why? Explains the APA memo, "Avoid talking about or linking plans and planning with regulatory matters." It is apparently necessary to point out to these stealth controllers of our lives that their planning process has EVERYTHING to do with regulatory matters and that is precisely why we are objecting to and fighting their policies in the first place!

It's the "regulatory matters" that are taking our private property rights and creating victims.

More words to be eliminated: Councils of governments; metropolitan planning organizations; regional planning; Density; clusters; Eminent domain; police powers; Green infrastructure; Mixed-use development; Urban growth boundary; Zoning; and many more. The entire language of Sustainable Development is to be eliminated. And yet, says the memo to the planners – "stay on message." What will the message now be? Some examples of the new speak now provided by the APA: "We have a responsibility to think through the long term consequences of our decisions. Planning enables us to do that." "We need to understand together how to make sure our local community and our local economy are strong enough for our children to grow up and have a good life here. Planning helps us do that." We need to make decisions that are careful, cost effective, efficient, and fair to everybody. That is the purpose of this meeting. There is no hidden agenda."

In every one of those canned descriptions of the "planning process" you will find the tenets of Agenda 21. The use of the word we is the standard "Delphi technique" of the consensus process they are trying to hide. The reference to the future for the children is right out of the UN Agenda 21 definition: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Of course, as we have learned, that to accomplish such an innocent-sounding goal, means locked away lands and resources. Agenda 21.

The APA intends to dazzle citizens with meaningless statements designed to appeal to their personal interests, appeal to their local patriotism, and crush them with the results when they aren't watching.

As Henry Lamb, of [Freedom 21](#) describes the true American tradition of planning, "The process is truly similar to a sausage-making machine. At open meetings, ordinary citizens are

free to suggest new ideas about community needs, for consideration by the governing authority. Other citizens are free to oppose those ideas. Ultimately the elected officials discuss and debate the suggestions then vote." Now is that so hard? But none of those easy and established practices of honest and open government are used by the APA and their ilk. In fact, they are adamantly opposed and crushed every step of the way.

The [American Planning Association](#) and their allies have chosen to counter the anti-Agenda 21 movement with lies, double speak and stealth. Why? Aren't they proud of their policies? I guess Seattle planner J.Gary Lawrence said it best when he admitted several years ago that "participating in a U.N. advocated planning process would very likely bring out many... who would actively work to defeat any elected official... undertaking Local Agenda 21. So we will call our process something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth." Now, even those words have caught up with their secret agenda. Soon they will have to start inventing their own words.

How to fight back

However, those citizens who want to end this deception and take back their communities don't have to wait for the next round of lies and secret tactics. They can begin to fight back right now.

As many know, I have been working to create a "[Stop Agenda 21 Action Kit](#)." It's now ready



and it is the most comprehensive tool ever created to provide a complete education on Agenda 21 and the tools necessary to combat it. With this specially designed Action Kit you and I can begin to turn the tables on those who are working at every level of government to destroy our unique system of freedom. You will be fully armed to stand up to any challenge presented; any planner trained by the APA to lie; and to any elected official who still proclaims ignorance of Agenda 21.

Included in the Stop Agenda 21 Action Kit are four DVD presentations; an overview presentation of Agenda 22 by me; connecting the dots to other issues by [Dr. Michael Coffman](#); connecting the dots to the public education curriculum by [Mike Chapman](#); and connecting the dots to rural areas and farming by Don Casey. In addition, there are two workshops; one presented

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by [Beverly Eakman](#) on tactics to stop the group manipulation tactics (consensus); and a workshop presented by [Dan Byfield](#) of [American Stewards of Liberty](#) on “*Coordination.*” The Kit also includes manuals from each of these experts. In addition, there is a 14 minute power point presentation created by John Anthony specifically designed for showing to busy elected officials.

But, that’s not all in the Stop Agenda 21 Action Kit. Included is a detailed manual, with a complete history of Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development, from the back rooms of the UN to local government. In addition, it details policies such as regionalism; sustainable farming, conservation easements, sustainable medicine; the lies of global warming; smart growth; the Agenda 21 links to the education curriculum and to Christian churches; and more details about [ICLEI](#) than you have probably ever seen. In addition, the manual details the top planning groups, their histories and their planning goals.

And more: The heart of the Stop Agenda 21 Action Kit is the Work Book. Here you will find details on how to fight back; copies of actual legislation being used successfully to protect rights and repeal regulations; how to begin researching these policies in your town; links to Agenda 21 and the [Presidents Council on Sustainable Development](#); analysis of actual development plans, showing their direct links to Agenda 21; actual documents from the [Federal Register](#) showing direct links between the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and [Agenda 21](#); and a speaker’s bureau featuring some of the top experts in the nation that you can bring to your community. Above all, the workbook includes reprintable handouts that you can use at public meetings. There is even a CD containing those handouts that you can load into your computer and copy from there.


And finally, there is a manual with stories of the victims of Sustainable Development – people who have lost their homes; seen their livelihoods destroyed; even gone to jail for offences

as silly as filling in a ditch. These stories are important because the Sustainablists like the American Planning Association will again get that puzzled look on their faces and that wrinkle in their brow as they say, “*why, I’ve never heard of anyone being victimized by these policies.*” After reading these horror stories you’ll never again question if you are right or not. The drive for justice will keep you in the fight.

I’ve worked on this project for months trying to be certain that it contains everything possible to help activists fight back. I have consulted activists about what tools they need and I have worked with the top experts to provide them. The full Stop Agenda 21 Action Kit can be ordered from the American Policy Center Web site at <http://americanpolicy.org>.

For over 20 years, Agenda 21 has made a steady, unchecked advance across America, eradicating property rights in the name of Sustainable Development, while cloaked in environmentally friendly terms like open space, smart growth and climate change. It is changing our style of government, our way of life, and our hope for a happy, peaceful future.

The latest tactics by the American Planning Association reveals the dark intent of the Sustainablists and the lengths they will go to hide their goals. Honest intent doesn’t have to hide in lies and double speak. Those are the tactics of tyranny.

Arm yourselves well, my fellow freedom fighters. Arm yourselves with the truth of the tyranny of Agenda 21. Get the knowledge. Learn their tactics -- and let’s take these liars down as we take America back. 

Tom DeWeese is one of the nation’s leading advocates of individual liberty, free enterprise, private property rights, personal privacy, back-to-basics education and American sovereignty and independence. Go to americanpolicy.org for more information.

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American Policy Center

Bitcoin - The Libertarian Introduction

By Erik Voorhees

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WHAT it is, how it's used, and why you should care.

"When a state currency is challenged, the state itself is challenged, and market forces move swiftly around sickly, depreciating inhibitors."

- **Introduction**
- **What is Bitcoin?**
- **How does it work?**
- **Why is Bitcoin valuable?**
- **No really, WHY is Bitcoin valuable?**
- **How does one obtain it?**
- **Being careful with money**
- **What can one do with it?**
- **Bitcoin vs. The State**
- **Bitcoin and Disruption**
- **Useful Resources**

Introduction

There has been much talk about Bitcoin within libertarian and economic circles. It's becoming a buzzword, but like all new systems that break onto the public stage quickly, Bitcoin brings with it excitement, speculation, rumor, and downright confusion. To be sure, Bitcoin is complicated. After all, it's an entirely new global monetary system - both a currency and a payment network for that currency.

Like all powerful tools, it's important for those interested in using Bitcoin to spend some time engaging in the due diligence of education. Similar to a bicycle, once you know how to use Bitcoin, it will feel very easy and comfortable. But also like a bicycle, one could spend years learning the physics that enable it to operate. Such deep knowledge is not necessary to the actual rider, and in the same way one can enjoy the world of Bitcoin with little more than a healthy curiosity and a bit of practice.

This article is a primer on Bitcoin: an overview of the fascinating new phenomenon from the perspective of a humble libertarian who cares more about the ramifications for human liberty than about the technical protocol and brilliant science underlying the network.

The basics of Bitcoin are all covered here, ranging from a light technical overview to due diligence to monetary economics and theory. You'll also find an extensive list of resources to bring you up to speed on this most fascinating thing to happen in the realm of anarcho-capitalist technology since the internet itself.

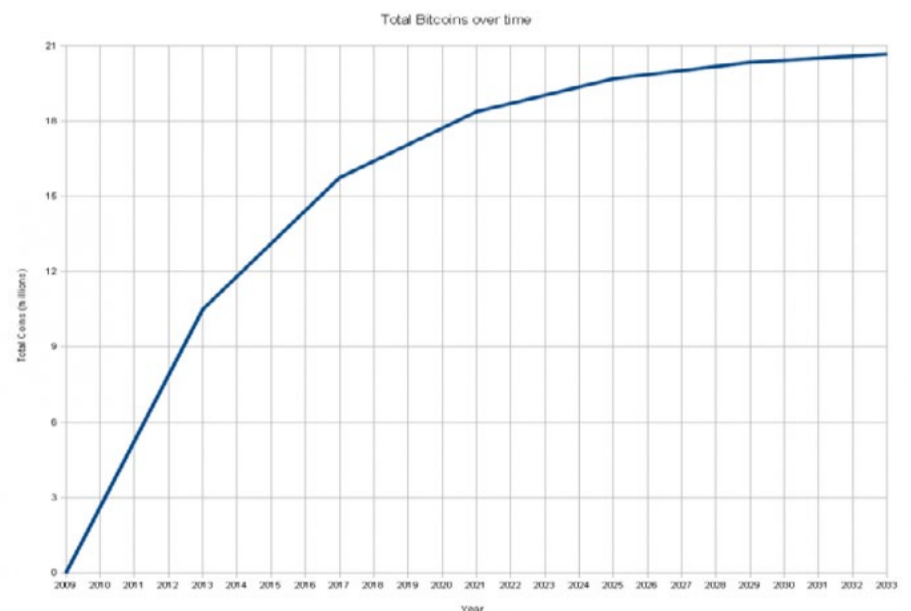
What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is two things: it is a **digital currency unit** and it is the **global payment network** with which one sends and receives those currency units. Both the currency unit and the payment network share the same name: Bitcoin.

As a currency unit, consider Bitcoin like other currencies. The world has euros, dollars, yen, gold and silver ounces, and now it has Bitcoin as well. The properties of the Bitcoin currency unit are as follows:

- There will never be more than 21 million in existence, and they are released over time at a declining rate (at the time of writing, about 8.5 million Bitcoins exist).

- As new coins are released on the set schedule, they are given at random to those who contribute computing power to securing the network. This is called "Bitcoin Mining" but it should more accurately be called "Bitcoin Auditing." Those who contribute more computing power to this work have better odds of receiving the new coins, but the rate of new coin creation never increases (in fact it diminishes over time until all 21 million coins exist). Inflation is thus pre-determined and ever-decreasing toward zero. The below graph shows the release schedule and inflation rate



- Each Bitcoin is divisible by one million. You can thus possess 0.00000001 Bitcoins.
- Bitcoins are perfectly fungible, they are divided and combined seamlessly in your account.
- It is theoretically impossible to make a fake Bitcoin (to fully understand why this is true, one needs to study cryptography and fairly advanced mathematics).
- As a currency existing in a perfectly free market, Bitcoins always have a market price. At the time of this writing, this price is about \$4.80 each. Because Bitcoin is global, there are also market prices for Bitcoin in every major national currency from yen to Brazilian reals.
- Bitcoins are traded like other currencies on exchange websites, and this is how the market price is established. The most prominent exchange is MtGox.com

So those are the details of Bitcoin as a currency unit, but Bitcoin is also a payment network. As a payment network, Bitcoin replaces the function of banks (especially the Federal Reserve as money creation is not at the whim of any person nor group), inter-bank funding networks (like SWIFT and SEPA), payment processors (like PayPal) and remitters (such as Western Union). The entirety of these massive industries as they relate to the creation, storage, accounting, and transfer of money has been usurped by Bitcoin. If Bitcoin succeeds, it is likely that PayPal and Western Union would be removed from the marketplace. The Federal Reserve (and every central bank) would be made redundant. "Disruptive technology" is thus an understatement.

How does it work?

But how does Bitcoin work, you ask? How does it replace the functions for which we've so long relied on (and been beholden to) governments, banks, and payment companies?

To use Bitcoin, you traditionally download the client software (though you can also use an "ewallet" system, discussed later). The client software acts as your "bank account." It stores a secret code on your computer, and this code

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enables funds to be spent from your bank account. In Bitcoin terminology, this bank account is called your "wallet." So your wallet sits on your computer, and as soon as one has this wallet software one can receive and send Bitcoins to other wallet-holders anywhere in the world. It is as fast and easy as sending an email (easier because you don't have to bother writing a message!).

In order to get this wallet on your computer, you simply download it like any software. You don't need a name, an address, a Social Security/Slavery number, or any personal information of any kind. Nobody "approves" you for Bitcoin. It's free and open-source software. You get it from Bitcoin.org.

Transactions are sent and accounts are secured using what's known as "public key cryptography." Every account has a *public key* and a *private key* - both of which are long strings of numbers and letters. Your wallet software knows your *private key*, and this allows your it to send money. To send money to someone, you merely need to know their *public key* (basically their bank account number). If you have your private key plus their public key, a transaction can be created and the funds are deducted from your account and credited to the receiver's account, without anyone else having a say in the matter.

As mentioned, your account is merely defined as a long string of numbers and letters:

1PGFCtrJHUsc7fs4LGWlmXUEwuKyDaHuRa

Thus, your account has no personal information attached to it. You do not need to divulge any information whatsoever in order to obtain a Bitcoin account. This means you can receive, store, and spend Bitcoins with *relative anonymity*. The anonymity is relative because if you post your address anywhere that can be attributed to you (like on your Facebook page), then of course one can see that the account belongs to you, and money going to it would not be anonymous.

Bitcoin therefore works as a peer-to-peer network upon which account holders can transfer Bitcoin currency between accounts instantly and with relative anonymity. So long as an account holder protects her *private key*, her funds remain perfectly secure and only she can send them to someone else (and nobody can stop her).

Why is Bitcoin valuable?

This is perhaps the most important topic to address, as nothing else matters if Bitcoin has no value. What makes Bitcoin worth anything? Isn't it just "fake"? Isn't it just a made-up pretend virtual currency? Many say, "I can't hold it, I can't see it, and thus it's artificial and not worth my time." Let's challenge this understandable initial reaction. Let's demonstrate why Bitcoin is valuable, and very much worth one's time.

Financial privacy has long been symbolized by the notorious "Swiss bank account." Yet, anyone with a Swiss bank account has to trust that bank, and as we've seen in the last couple years, "bank privacy" even in Switzerland is a myth - banks there have been bending over for the US government and divulging customer information. So imagine having a private, numbered Swiss bank account, but without having to bother with the Swiss bank itself. That is Bitcoin. Instead of placing your trust in a regulated bank governed

by fallible humans, Bitcoin enables you to place your trust in an unregulated cryptographic environment governed by infallible mathematics. 2+2 will always equal 4, no matter how many guns the government points at the equation.

Bitcoin is thus the only currency and money system in the world which has no counter-party risk to hold and to transfer. *This is absolutely revolutionary.* Gold advocates will point out that physical gold bullion has no counter-party risk, but that is only true for storage in your own home. Store it in a vault or bank and you have counter-party risk. And sending gold? You have to trust all sorts of people if you wish to transfer your gold somewhere else or spend it across distance.

Bitcoin means complete ownership of money both in storage and transfer. Nobody can prevent you from having it. Nobody can prevent you from spending it. Even if one's home is broken into, or even if the government issues a "confiscation order" (as they did with gold in 1933), one's Bitcoins are perfectly safe. Try fleeing a country with \$1,000,000 in bullion without the government knowing about it. Easier said than done. With Bitcoin, it's almost easier done than said - you could put \$100,000,000 of Bitcoin on a USB drive, or even write the private key on a piece of paper, or just email the wallet file to yourself to be retrieved outside the country.

Starting to see the value? Never in the history of the world has an individual had this ability. It is unprecedented.

No really, WHY is Bitcoin valuable???

At this point, skeptics should say, "okay fine, you can store and spend Bitcoins without interference, but what gives them initial value? Why do they have a price?" It's a very good question, and even expert economists have struggled with the answer.

But really, the answer is simple. Bitcoins have value because A) they are useful and B) they are scarce. Combine those two attributes in any asset and you will discover it has a price. The moment the first Bitcoin was traded to someone in exchange for something else, an exchange rate (market price) was established. Subsequent exchangers agreed or disagreed with that rate, and made further trades accordingly. Bitcoin thus spontaneously developed a price, as do all things in an open market if they are sufficiently useful and sufficiently scarce.

Let's look at value a little further, because it's a contentious issue with Bitcoin. There are many (including Paul Krugman) who believe Bitcoin isn't worth anything and is no more than a speculative bubble fad.

I wouldn't expect Krugman to "get it," but wiser/real economists need only observe metals to start understanding why Bitcoins have value. After all, any strong advocate of gold or silver as money should hopefully understand *why* these metals should be money. The answer is that these metals tend to be chosen in an open marketplace as money, *because their specific properties make them useful as a means of exchange.* It is the properties of gold and silver—unique to these metals—which make them excellent money. They are scarce, fungible, uniform, transportable, have a high value-to-weight ratio,

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are easily identifiable, are highly durable, and the supply is relatively steady and predictable. Contrast other goods like chickens, or seashells, or sand, and you discover that none of them are as good on the above attributes as precious metals. Chickens can't well be cut in half or recombined, seashells are not uniform, and sand is too plentiful to be used as money. Why not other metals... why don't we use iron as money? It's not scarce enough - you'd need carts of it at the store to go shopping.

As any Austrian economist can tell you, money is merely that commodity in an open market which best satisfies the properties necessary for useful exchange. Gold and silver take the cake every time a violent government doesn't get in the way... or at least, this is true historically. But, this doesn't mean that gold and silver are "perfect, infallible money." Indeed, there are practical problems. One can't easily divide and combine silver coins to make change. One can't easily send large values of gold across distance without hiring security and waiting for transport. One must pay storage fees, or risk theft at home. And, while difficult, it is possible to make fake gold and silver ingots and pass them off in trade as real.

So then it follows that if gold and silver are not perfect money (though admittedly the best we've had), perhaps mankind could discover or invent something that was even better. This is the Bitcoin experiment - the question of whether Bitcoin, with its specific attributes, is an even better form of money than what the marketplace currently enjoys (or in the case of state fiat, is forced to use). If the Austrians are right, and a marketplace tends to choose the medium of exchange which best works as money, and Bitcoin's specific attributes make it excellent money, then perhaps the marketplace will, over time, increasingly use it for such.

The answer so far, is yes. Bitcoin is finding more and more niches for early adoption, which further supports its market price, providing confidence to holders that it will retain value, and this further lends Bitcoin to be used for still more purposes. It's an organic and messy process, full of trial and error, potholes, brilliant innovations and terrible failures. But that's what an open marketplace is, no? Every day a more resilient economy is being built, and not at the point of a gun, but voluntarily - not by decree of Bernanke, but by spontaneous, self-interested private order.

Many have made the argument that "nothing backs Bitcoin." And this is true. Bitcoin cannot be redeemed for any fixed value, nor is it tied to any existing currency or commodity. But, neither is gold. Gold is not backed by anything - it is valuable because it's useful and scarce. Cars are not backed by anything, they are merely useful as cars and thus have value. Food is not backed, nor are computers. All these goods have value in proportion to their usefulness and scarcity, and one merely needs to see the usefulness of Bitcoin to understand why, without backing from any government nor corporation, without being tied to any fiat currency or existing commodity, it commands a price on the market and rightly so.

How does one obtain it?

When one understands why Bitcoins are useful and therefore valuable, one might wish to obtain some. But how? Well, how does one obtain

any currency? Two basic ways, either by selling goods and services for it, or by buying it at an exchange.

We'll examine buying at an exchange first. "Exchanges" are simply websites where buyers and sellers come together to trade one currency for another. If you have an account at an exchange, and fund the exchange with Bernanke Bucks, you can buy Bitcoins.

The practical steps for doing this are as follows:

Step 1) Create a free account at a trustworthy exchange like MtGox.com or CryptoX-Change.com or (mainly for Europeans) Intersango.com.

Step 2) Put money in the exchange by using an intermediary like Dwolla.com or (much faster with a small fee) BitInstant.com. Dwolla will link to your bank account and takes 3-5 days to move money from your bank to the exchange. BitInstant, comparatively, allows anonymous cash deposits up to \$500 at a time and takes under an hour. These cash deposits are made by you at any major bank branch (you don't even need a bank account). Within 30-60 minutes of your cash deposit, BitInstant will credit your exchange account with your USD. You can literally have your first Bitcoins 30 minutes after reading this article.

Step 3) Once your funds are at the exchange, you can buy Bitcoins at the current market price. The coins then stay at the exchange in your account until you send them somewhere else (to your personal wallet or someone you'd like to pay, etc). If you want to sell Bitcoins for dollars, you simply do the process in reverse - send the Bitcoins to an exchange, sell them at market price, and transfer the USD to your bank.

The Bitcoin market is fully-liquid and operates 24/7 with no holidays. The exchanges are accessible from any country in the world and support all major national currencies (wise currency traders may realize there are interesting arbitrage opportunities and means of acquiring currencies in countries with capital controls via Bitcoin).

The other way to get Bitcoins is to sell goods and services for them, just like you sell goods or your labor for dollars. Being able to receive Bitcoins is as simple as putting your Bitcoin address on your webpage, and you get this address automatically once you have a Bitcoin wallet. There is no "sign up" or "approval" to be able to accept Bitcoin. You can be any age, and in any country. Just get the wallet software (from bitcoin.org) or use an "ewallet" such as Paytunia.com, and paste your Bitcoin address for the world to see. Anyone who knows your Bitcoin address can send you Bitcoins instantly.

For small businesses who would like a more advanced way to accept and track Bitcoin payments for website orders, there are a few good merchant solutions. Paysius.com is one of the best - it will plug into your site (using common shopping cart plugins) and enable your customers to select "Bitcoin" as payment during check-out instead of credit card or PayPal, etc. (this doesn't replace those methods, it merely gives your customers a new option). Further, because very few businesses can pay their salaries and suppliers in Bitcoin (yet), systems like Paysius

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give the business the ability to auto-convert incoming Bitcoins into normal USD and have that deposited in the company bank account. Fees are much lower than credit card processing, and Bitcoin payments have zero chargebacks or reversals (it's impossible to reverse a Bitcoin payment) so merchants can securely accept payment from any country with no more risk of reversal, which should be a welcome relief to those who have been burned by PayPal or credit card fraud. Other than Paysius.com (disclaimer, the author is a stakeholder in Paysius), Bit-pay.com is another good option for merchants to accept Bitcoin.

So that's it - that's how you get Bitcoins. Just buy them on an exchange, or sell goods and services to someone who pays in Bitcoin.

Being careful with money

This is where many people have justified concerns. Bitcoin requires a high degree of personal responsibility, and so users need to know the basic rules for using Bitcoin safely. The bad news is, if you screw up, you can lose money and never get it back. The good news is, with a few basic pointers and some practice, you can use Bitcoin *extremely* securely, without fear of loss. Do not get into Bitcoin without understanding these basic concepts:

Concept 1) Bitcoins are like cash and are thus stored in a specific physical place. This means, you must always be mindful of where your Bitcoins are, and what risks that location presents. For example, if your coins are on your computer, and you don't back them up somewhere else (yes, they can be backed up easily), and the computer crashes, your money is gone. There is no company you can call to complain about it... the money is lost forever. Similarly, if you store your coins with an online service (like an ewallet or exchange), then you are trusting that service to hold your coins safely. If you give your coins to someone who is not trustworthy, they can run away and you'll never get them back. You wouldn't give \$100 cash to someone you don't trust. The same is true with Bitcoin. So if the coins are in your possession (on your computer or smartphone), you must be mindful of them, back them up, and keep your systems secure. If the coins are held for you by someone else, then you must be able to trust that party. This is the most important safety concept of Bitcoin.

Concept 2) Wherever you keep your Bitcoins, they will be protected with passwords. If coins are on your computer in your wallet file, and someone learns your wallet password and they obtain your wallet file, then they can spend your coins! Similarly, if you keep coins with a service provider, and someone learns your login information, they can steal your coins. Use strong passwords whenever you deal with Bitcoin (more than 12 characters) and keep them always in a safe place. Funds are not protected by government-mandated and taxpayer-subsidized FDIC insurance - a Bitcoin bank cannot just type in digits into your account to replenish funds stolen by your own carelessness with your password.

Concept 3) When coins are on your own computer (meaning you're using the wallet software from bitcoin.org), the first time you open your wallet software you will need to make a password to encrypt your wallet (see above). After making this password (don't ever forget it), **you MUST backup your wallet file** in a different location. This file is where your money is stored. The file name is "wallet.dat" and backing it up is as simple as copying the file and putting it somewhere else. To find your wallet.dat file:

On Windows, you must first tell your computer to "Show hidden files and folders" - look up how to do this online. Then, you can find your wallet here:

C:\Documents and Settings\YourUserName\Application data\Bitcoin (XP)

C:\Users\YourUserName\AppData\Roaming\Bitcoin (Vista and Windows 7)

If you're on a Mac, you can find it here:
~/Library/Application Support/Bitcoin/

Put this wallet.dat file on a USB drive in your safe or mail it to your parents. Burn it to a CD and put it in a bank safety deposit box. Put it on a different computer. You can even email the file to yourself. Better yet, do two or three of the above. You only need to back up the wallet file once at the beginning (you don't need to do it every day or week, etc), and you should do it before you've received any money. Back it up, keep it safe, and the likelihood of you losing your Bitcoins will be lower than you dying in a car crash. If you don't back it up, the likelihood of you losing your coins is almost guaranteed.

Concept 4) Liberty advocates love free markets. But, with freedom comes responsibility. Bitcoin exists in a free market. It is not regulated, tracked, or overseen by anything other than cold hard mathematics. Thus, the companies and organizations you find in Bitcoinland are often unregulated and private. A Bitcoin-based company doesn't even need to be registered as a company anywhere, because it doesn't need a business checking account or an IRS extortion number (known as an EIN). While this means Bitcoin enables truly free trade on a global scale, it also means Bitcoin users need to be careful and prudent. Don't buy things from companies or websites you don't trust. You may never see your money again, and there is no way to "reverse" a payment. With Bitcoin, reputation and history are everything. If you wouldn't give cash to a stranger in an alleyway, don't give Bitcoins to a stranger online. Enjoy the free market, and be a responsible adult.

Concept 5) Remember that Bitcoin should still be considered an experiment. As resilient as the system has proven to be, it is still new. The value of a Bitcoin could drop to zero tomorrow. This means under no circumstances should people invest money in

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Bitcoin which they cannot afford to lose. Bitcoin is a highly volatile commodity with an extremely uncertain future. Grandmothers should not be putting retirement money into Bitcoin (nor in US dollars, for that matter).

What can one do with it?

The short answer is that you can do anything, but you might have to build it first! Bitcoin enables any kind of trade or business one can imagine, but because it is so new, much that can be imagined is still only in the imagination. Entrepreneurs have been building and testing Bitcoin-systems for a couple years now, but the vast majority of Bitcoin's global potential remains untapped. Every liberty-minded entrepreneur should be considering this point.

As for what's currently available, the most basic thing one can do with Bitcoin is buy products and services from anyone who accepts Bitcoin. A partial list can be found here: <https://en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Trade> There is also the booming illicit drug market known as Silk Road, where almost any substance imaginable can be purchased for Bitcoin. Accessing Silk Road requires further security precautions such as the use of Tor, which is beyond the scope of this article.

Next, donations are made very efficient via Bitcoin. Groups from Wikileaks to indie film companies and animal shelters accept Bitcoin donations. Bitcoin works great for donations because micro-transactions are possible (you can't send \$0.10 to a charity via PayPal, because the fees are larger than \$0.10... but with Bitcoin you can). If you want to accept donations for anything, put a Bitcoin address on your website. It costs you nothing. Want to donate to Wikileaks? Here's their address: 1HB5

Like to gamble? Bitcoin lets US players actually play poker online. The government can't stop the payments, after all. Sites such as SealsWithClubs.com are gaining popularity, with larger casinos being built.

Want to send money to friends or family overseas? Use Bitcoin. Instead of paying Western Union \$40, just send Bitcoins for free. Remittance markets are one area where Bitcoin really shines, because it passes across borders instantly and with no possibility of regulation nor interference. Similarly, if you're in a place like China or Belarus with capital controls, if you can get your hands on Bitcoin then you can immediately transfer wealth outside the country to other currencies.

Want gold or silver to store value acquired via Bitcoin? Try a site like Coinabul.com

Work with freelancers or have a business that pays people in other countries? Use Bitcoin. After all, Bitcoin enables "under the table" payments to anyone, anywhere. Paying a contractor in Italy or India is now as easy as sending an email.

Want to protect wealth or move it privately? Bitcoin transcends all borders and regulations. No longer do you need to have your wealth sitting in an account that can be frozen or seized.

Basically, anything you can do with "money" generically, you can do with Bitcoin - yet you now have no governmental restriction upon that activity. If you're a merchant, why not start accepting Bitcoin as payment? It's easy to integrate if you use a system like Paysius.com or Bit-pay.com.

If you think Bitcoin could be used in a creative new way, then go build the system! Just as few people understood the power of the internet in the early '90s, the same is true with Bitcoin. And just as with the internet, it is attracting builders and entrepreneurs all over the world.

Bitcoin vs. The State

Now we get to the more fun part, which is especially relevant to any libertarian discussion of Bitcoin. This is the manner by which Bitcoin supersedes government control. "Okay," people say, "so Bitcoin is new and the government doesn't regulate it yet, but they will!" Unfortunately for the government, they cannot. No person nor group of people can defy the laws of mathematics upon which Bitcoin is built.

But first, let's look at the ways the government *could* interfere with the Bitcoin system.

Private websites on a hosted server can be taken down by the government. We saw this in amazing clarity recently when MegaUpload was taken down by the US government, even before any trial or finding of criminal activity had been accomplished. It should be assumed that the government can take down any site it wishes, with or without the legal cover of legislation like SOPA and PIPA (which merely give legal blessing to powers already assumed and demonstrated). So this means that any website that dealt in Bitcoins could be removed and shut down. The exchanges would be the first target.

Yet, even here the government runs into trouble, because websites can be mirrored, copied, and hidden very easily. Taking down Bitcoin websites would be like cutting the heads of a Hydra - for each successful severance, publicity and the profit motive would compel more sites to spring up (case in point: how many file sharing sites exist, other than MegaUpload?).

In fact, certain sites have proven impossible for the government to take down altogether. Take the example of The Silk Road, which is a brazen website selling illicit drugs. US Senator Chuck Schumer expressed angst in this regard, though he's pitifully impotent to remove the site because it exists on what's known as the "dark web," on servers hidden via cryptography. If the above-ground Bitcoin websites are shut down, the below-ground sites will flourish. And every time a high profile site is taken down, Bitcoin would get free publicity around the world.

So taking down websites is an inadequate strategy if the government wishes to impede Bitcoin. What else could they do?

Within one country, at least, a government could prohibit individuals and businesses from openly accepting Bitcoins (and if this happened in the US, it'd be the ultimate sign that the Supreme Court had fully abandoned its proper responsibilities). Suppose the US Government did ban the acceptance of Bitcoin: it would mean Bitcoin could only be accepted in secret. This would harm the economy significantly, but wouldn't come close to stopping Bitcoin (and indeed, unless every government did this, Bitcoins could be openly accepted in other countries leading to capital flight which would pressure governments not to outlaw it in the first place).

But what about the more obvious attack method - can't the government just "shut down" Bitcoin transfers? Amazingly, no. Centralized systems such as PayPal, Visa, or even companies like

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e-gold are highly vulnerable to an angry state. The thugs must merely break down the door, confiscate the servers, and throw the owners in jail. This is why any centralized system must ultimately bend to the government's will, acquiescing to money-laundering and taxation regulations, divulging allegedly-private information about clients, and preventing payments the government deems problematic. If they don't, they're shut down.

Bitcoin is not vulnerable to this risk, because there is no central point of failure. There is no Bitcoin office. There are no central Bitcoin servers. There is no president nor employees of Bitcoin. Bitcoin has no home country, it is licensed nowhere. It is a distributed network, a protocol, that can operate as long as the internet exists (and, in fact, even without the internet per se). Transactions occur peer-to-peer, meaning no governing body approves them. Accounts cannot be frozen, because nobody has the freeze button.

Bitcoin cannot be turned off - it is like a benevolent cancer which, so long as a few hosts survive somewhere in the world, can perpetuate itself and regrow at the speed of information.

Bitcoin and Disruption

Once one makes this realization - that the government is actually quite powerless to stop Bitcoin, then a few ramifications might spring into mind. If Bitcoin doesn't fail on its own, then to some extent it will succeed, and as it succeeds, it starts to replace many of the institutions which have caused so much trouble for humanity.

First on the chopping block are market actors which compete for the business of money transfer. Mega-companies like PayPal and Western Union (and even more deeply rooted companies like SWIFT) discover that they have to compete with a system that transfers money at practically zero cost. The "service" these companies provide is made redundant, and just as the buggy-whip manufacturers were out of a job at the onset of the automobile, so too will payment services be useless at the onset of the frictionless global transfers afforded by Bitcoin.

From a market efficiency standpoint, if these companies are earning billions of dollars a year for providing a service which can be done for free, then if that service catches on, humanity will be billions of dollars per year richer. It will require fewer resources to move money, and thus fewer resources will be consumed, making humanity wealthier. Cars made humanity richer by enabling transportation at lower cost, Email made the world richer by enabling communication at lower cost, and in the exact same way Bitcoin can make the world richer by enabling monetary transfers at lower cost.

If Bitcoin grows large enough to start replacing financial transaction networks, its value will stabilize further and more confidence can be imbued in the long-term price. Subsequently, Bitcoin will become an increasingly better (more stable) means of value storage, which threatens banks first and then national currencies second.

All the work done by banks to hold and account for money (and transfer it between individuals and companies) can be done natively by Bitcoin. And so just as the payment services become redundant, so too do many services provided by banks, shrinking the banking sector down to those areas where it still serves useful value.

A Bitcoin world would still have banks, of course, but the banks would be properly placed

into those market roles where they do useful work. People don't necessarily want to store value on home-based PC's, and a bank with security staff and safe systems may make a smart place to hold funds (but instead of everyone *having* to hold funds at the bank, it would be their option based on their risk-profile). Similarly, there will always be a need in a capitalist system for loans and interest paid on deposits. Banks would enjoy this ability with Bitcoin so long as they were efficient and could compete in the open market.

And as we move further along the adoption and growth curve of a Bitcoin monetary system, we see that national currencies themselves become challenged quite quickly. Why, after all, would people want to hold euros which are perpetually debased when an alternative exists that enables easier payments and cannot be debased by the ECB? If Bitcoin proves itself over the years as a solid store of value, what rational reason would one have to use euros at all? Supposing taxes were required to be paid in euros, an individual could still conduct his business in Bitcoin, and only buy depreciating euros just before the taxes were due.

Why don't we see this with gold today? Because gold has no good payment system built into it - physical bullion is not efficient for daily trade, and digital vaults backed by gold have all come under fire from government AML concerns, as we've seen the transfer systems of companies like GoldMoney be pressured into shutting down.

Remember, Bitcoin automatically makes both the storage *and* transfer of funds easy, secure, private, and instantaneous. With a history of price stability earned over time, or in conjunction with gold and silver as an even more reliable store of value, why use state fiat at all?

The final domino to fall, of course, is the power which governments wield over their flock via their ability to print, regulate, and control the nation's money. When a state currency is challenged, the state itself is challenged, and market forces move swiftly around sickly, depreciating inhibitors. The press conferences of someone like Bernanke would become less and less important, because the currency he printed would be used in narrower and narrower circles. Instead of fighting the government, Bitcoin enables individuals to sidestep it - to ignore it to a large degree. Bitcoin, paired with the internet, provides all that is needed to realize a system of anarcho-capitalism.

After all, what power would the Zimbabwe government have if its people had had Bitcoin in their communities - money they could hide and spend via cell phones and email accounts. What cause would there be in Greece to riot at the ECB mandates when the country can abandon the euro in favor of a money that each of them controls unto themselves. And from where would the US get the resources to deficit-finance its wars and welfare programs when it no longer has the ability to print money and pay back debt with debased currency? Like a gold standard, Bitcoin shackles a government and forces it to subsist only on what it can tax openly and legitimately borrow, but unlike a gold standard, Bitcoin doesn't require any official status to become a standard. The market can arrive at the standard sans government approval, again because it works elegantly both for storage and transfer and it cannot be stopped because it exists in the realm of information.

We see that along Bitcoin's growth and adoption curve, some exciting and quite revolutionary

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possibilities occur. Instead of trying to change governments with a useless vote, or pathetic pleading, we merely abandon the government's powerbase - the power derived from control of exchange and currency. The awkward inconveniences and growing pains of this new monetary system should be easily outweighed by the gift given to the noble cause of liberty if it should succeed.

Time for a reality check. A prudent person should assume Bitcoin will fail, if for no other reason than that most new things fail. But, there is a very real chance it will succeed, and this chance is increased with every new user, every new business, and every new system developed within the Bitcoin economy. The ramifications of success are extraordinary, and it is thus worth at least a cursory review by any advocate of liberty, not just in the US but around the world.

Spend some time with Bitcoin. Learn it, challenge it, and use it. You can assume no government wants you adopt this system in any capacity, and for that reason alone it's worth consideration by honest, moral, and industrious people.

Useful Resources

As Bitcoin is decentralized, it can be hard to find all the resources one might want. Below is a list of some of the most useful websites and tools for learning about and engaging the Bitcoin economy.

WeUseCoins.org - Best place for beginners to start.

QuickCo.in* - Best way to buy Bitcoins for beginners (ready by end of April 2012)

Bitcoin.org - Official site of the Bitcoin project, download the wallet software here.

MtGox.com - The leading Bitcoin exchange. Buy and sell Bitcoins here.

CryptoXChange.com - Another popular Bitcoin exchange. Buy and sell Bitcoins here.

Paytunia.com - Very nice online ewallet service with Android app. Store your coins here.

BitInstant.com* - Allows quick purchases of Bitcoin via anonymous cash deposits at major banks across the US. This is currently the easiest and fastest way to buy Bitcoin in the US.

BitcoinTalk.org - The official discussion forum, and large enthusiast community

Wiki.Bitcoin.it - Encyclopedia of most aggregated Bitcoin knowledge, very extensive.

Bitcoin.it/wiki/trade - Partial list of companies that accept Bitcoin as payment

BitcoinMagazine.net - Professional publication and news portal

Blockchain.info - Tool for viewing accounts, payments, and numerous economic statistics.

BitcoinCharts.com - Shows current market prices and economic statistics.

Preev.com - Super easy Bitcoin<->fiat calculator, multiple currencies supported

BitcoinMonitor.com - Live view of transactions as they happen on the Bitcoin network.

Paysius.com* - Enables businesses to automatically accept Bitcoin payments on their website.

Coinabul.com - Leading gold and silver bullion seller for Bitcoin

SpendBitcoins.com - Enables you to buy credit with major brands like Amazon and Southwest Airlines for Bitcoin.

WorkForBitcoin.com - Bitcoin job board - freelance projects which pay in Bitcoin.

StuffExists.com - Extensive repository of hundreds of other resources.

*Sites with an asterisk indicate the author has an ownership stake. 

About the Author

A writer, entrepreneur, and armchair economist, Erik Voorhees (originally from Colorado) moved from Dubai to join the Free State Project in New Hampshire in 2011 in order to advance the cause of liberty. While there, he discovered Bitcoin and accidentally fell down the rabbit hole. Bitcoin has now become his hobby, his activism, and his career, believing the new currency to be the greatest tool for global liberty since the internet itself.

Erik is a well-known member of the Bitcoin community forum (screen name- evoorhees), and currently works for BitInstant, based in New York City, which enables customers to buy Bitcoins from any major bank within 30 minutes. Furthermore, Erik is also a partner with Paysius.com and a couple top-secret super-subversive Bitcoin-based projects, and coordinates the Free State Bitcoin Consortium group among liberty activists in New Hampshire.

Follow Erik's Twitter account [@ErikVoorhees](https://twitter.com/ErikVoorhees) or email him at [erikvoorhees \[at\] gmail](mailto:erikvoorhees@gmail.com)

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Young Americans for Liberty Review

By Starchild

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SAN FRANCISCO Libertarians Michael Edelstein, Aubrey Freedman, Marc Joffe and myself recently met for about an hour with [Young Americans](#)

[for Liberty development director Piyali Bhat-tacharya](#). She showed us a presentation on her laptop about YAL, describing the organization and highlighting its growth and what kinds of things it does, and we asked her lots of questions. Here are some points from that presentation and from Piyali's answers to some of our questions:

YAL has 300 chapters, each of which creates its own constitution that is approved by the national organization so long as it does not conflict with YAL's mission. My impression is that most or all of the chapters are student groups based on college campuses.

YAL has 26,000 members, 4,000 of whom are dues-paying members and pay \$10 a year which gives them access to materials

The group has been growing rapidly, with membership and fundraising both on a steady upward curve

YAL has 5 full-time paid staffers, including Piyali. She is paid \$40,000 a year; she said the development director is paid \$60,000 a year, and that none of them is paid a lot of money. Salaries are not publicly listed on the group's website (www.YALiberty.org), but she said that the information would be made available to anyone who asked.

YAL has 7 part-time regional directors who are paid around \$1000 per month. These individuals travel around to campuses and help start new chapters.

YAL has state chairs in 30 states, including California (Adam Weinberg, based in the Sacramento area). These individuals are volunteers who have typically been with the group for a while and are often recent college graduates

The group also has four interns per semester (presumably volunteers working out of a national office)

As a non-profit, YAL is both a 501c3 and a 501c4 organization, meaning that donors can choose to make either tax-deductible donations which can't be used for political activities (501c3) or non-tax-deductible donations which can be used for political activities (501c4)

YAL conducts monthly national events such as its "Choose Charity" event (presumably encouraging people to support voluntary charity as an alternative to coercively funded government programs)

YAL has had a presence at CPAC (the Conservative Political Action Conference) at least a couple separate times, and played a role in garnering Ron Paul his straw poll victory at the 2009 event with a historic 31% of the votes cast

Individual YAL chapters choose which events to engage in. Common activities include building mini Berlin Walls and gulags on campuses in order to teach about the dangers of tyranny, building "debt clocks" to highlight the national

debt, participating in local Tea Party events, and petitioning against war.

YAL has a \$1.7 million national budget for 2012 (up from \$1.1 million in 2011). All of YAL's donations come from individuals (there are no institutional donors).

There is no democracy or other bottom-up governance in the organization. The national board consists of the paid staffers, who do not hold regular meetings, but discuss things informally. Ultimate organizational power is in the hands of founder and executive director Jeff Frazee (former Ron Paul national student coordinator and presumably one of the paid full-time staffers). Piyali said that if she or others hypothetically disagreed with his decisions, they would quit.

The organization sees itself as occupying a unique niche in the libertarian movement by being engaged in politics and looking to change the system from within (in contrast with Students for Liberty, which Piyali described as not being interested in electoral politics)

YAL does not have a formal set of issue positions, but generally adheres to Ron Paul's focus on limiting government spending and taxation, opposing unconstitutional wars and overseas military involvement by the U.S. government, and a sound monetary policy, while seeking to end federal involvement in social issues so these issues are decided at the state or local level (Paul provided seed money to start the organization -- Piyali told us the amount but I did not catch it)

Some YAL members (including Piyali herself) are pro-life, others are pro-choice; many disagree with Ron Paul's somewhat unlibertarian position on immigration, favoring more of an open borders approach; "probably 99%" oppose the War on Drugs and favor at least some degree of legalization; members range in views from constitutional conservatives to mainstream libertarians to perhaps a few anarchists.

Piyali was very polite and professional, and did not get defensive about any of the tough questions we asked. She offered envelopes for donations, but was low-key about it and did not pressure us. Michael said that he viewed YAL much more favorably than he had, now that he knows more about it. I expressed an interest in donating to individual YAL chapters that are engaged in what I refer to as "methodologically radical" activism, such as civil disobedience or other "guerilla" approaches that fall outside the establishment-oriented, by-the-book ways of doing things. Right now there unfortunately appears to be no ready means for donors to support individual YAL chapters on an informed basis, but perhaps my inquiry will spur improvement in this area.

ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS

Young Americans for Liberty seems competently-run at present, and poised for further growth. It is not as radically libertarian as it could be or probably ought to be, either ideologically or (especially) methodologically, but neither is it doing or advocating anything un-libertarian that came to our attention.

My main concern is that YAL seems rather *too* "professional" and establishment-oriented in its

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approach to politics, which makes it vulnerable to its libertarian perspective being eroded over time as a focus on "success" pushes the long-term goal of freedom toward the back burner and its successes along with the naturally corrupting influence of politics gradually attracts more "careerist" types and people whose views are not necessarily very libertarian to the group's leadership. I did not get a sense that the organization's leadership views itself with a grassroots "rEVOLutionary" spirit. Training of volunteers appears to be long on practicality and short on ideology.

One slide in Piyali's presentation about training that YAL conducts referred to teaching participants about "The Real Nature of Politics". When I asked what this meant, she mentioned some nuts-and-bolts type campaign skills; but while that kind of thing may be useful for engaging in politics, it doesn't address the underlying nature of the beast. Understanding the real nature of politics (and therefore having the discernment necessary to engage it effectively from a libertarian perspective) means understanding that governments as they generally exist in the world today are organized systems of oppression and looting, based on a foundation of violence and aggression, and that politics are the means by which competing interests in society struggle for control of these coercive apparatuses.



While it is arguably necessary for libertarians to engage in politics, both as a means of damage control and in order to bring about real change that devolves power back to the people rather than seeking to wield it in furtherance of one agenda or another, we would be wise to recognize that it is largely a dirty business which needs to be regarded with a healthy dose of wariness and skepticism. Talk of "working within the system", which seems to be part of YAL's organizational self-image, does little to reassure.

A few further related concerns are:

(1) YAL, like many libertarian groups, appears to be too narrowly focused on its own organizational objectives, and not strongly enough focused on the larger goal of seeking freedom by whatever means are both opportune and in keeping with our principles. This could hinder it from working as closely as it might with other groups such as Students for Liberty which share a similar mission, as well as with other libertarian groups like the Libertarian Party. Piyali described S4L as not being interested in electoral

politics while YAL is, and that the groups' leaderships have different goals, but I have to question the extent to which these things are true or unavoidable. To the extent such obstacles may exist, I would suggest that the cause of liberty would benefit by seeking to overcome them and develop a greater sense of solidarity as being part of the same movement and seeking to work together and help each other stay libertarian and advance libertarianism.

(2) In building a mass organization designed to "train future leaders" without practicing bottom-up governance along democratic, republican, or consensus-based lines that empower its grassroots membership, YAL is failing to set a good example by structuring itself as a model for how governments ought to operate. As media visionary Marshall McLuhan observed, "the medium is the message"; while it may not necessarily result in disaster, there is a fundamental disconnect and tension inherent in a group whose mission is to bring about a bottom-up society but which internally practices top-down governance. Given the important distinction between coercive and non-coercive organizations I wouldn't say it quite rises to the level of hypocrisy, but a libertarian organization seeking to prepare young people for occupying positions of power in society ought to be particularly concerned with seeking to "practice what it preaches" by empowering members, being open and transparent, and keeping any "leaders" strictly accountable.

(3) I see no meaningful safeguards in place attempting to guarantee that YAL will continue to exist as a strongly libertarian organization in the future, and no indication that the group's leaders are aware of the dangers that engagement in politics poses to its sustainability in this respect.

All that being said, I don't think YAL is any worse than most other libertarian groups when it comes to recognizing and avoiding these dangers (sad as that may be), and they appear to be doing good work right now. As an organization engaged in spreading libertarian ideas among young college students, and getting those students plugged into freedom activism, YAL is engaged in work that is critical for our future.



Starchild is a libertarian activist in San Francisco. [Piyali Bhattacharya](#) is the Development Director of Young Americans for Liberty

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Sustainability in All Things except Rational Thinking

By SARTRE BATR

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Few words stir up passion and polarization like sustainability. The [EPA](#) offers up this description. "The tradi-

tional definition of sustainability calls for policies and strategies that meet society's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Gee, who could disagree with such touchy and feely sentiments? The answer is always in the details and when you strip away the platitudes, what remains is a coordinated plot to enslave humanity under a burden of a Carbon Tax scheme. The environment has more risk from globalist central planning than from any fossil fuel emissions. Proponents of the global warming religion demonstrate a disdain for rational thinking that challenges their doctrine of a heterodox belief. The sustainability cult ignores any evidence that conflicts with their political agenda.

The accomplished author [Robert Bryce](#) cites in Forbes, A New Study Takes The Wind Out Of Wind Energy.

"For years, it's been an article of faith among advocates of renewables that increased use of wind energy can provide a cost-effective method of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The reality: wind energy's carbon dioxide-cutting benefits are vastly overstated.

But if wind energy doesn't significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, then critics can easily challenge the industry's hefty subsidies, which include the federal production tax credit of \$0.022 for each kilowatt-hour of electricity. That amounts to a subsidy of \$6.44 per million BTU of energy produced. For comparison, in 2008, the Energy Information Administration reported that subsidies to the oil and gas sector totaled \$1.9 billion per year, or about \$0.03 per million BTU of energy produced. In other words, subsidies to the wind sector are more than 200 times as great as those given to the oil and gas sector on the basis of per-unit-of-energy produced.

If those fat subsidies go away, then the U.S. wind sector will be stopped dead in its tracks. And for consumers, that should be welcome news."

After years of exposing the industrial wind fraud, most card carrying "Green" purists reject all proof that wind factories are useless and unnecessary. This perverse anti-intellectual conduct is systemic in the simplistic and emotional realm where tree huggers reside. Sincere and pragmatic environmentalists recognize that the planet can and will survive all that man can do to disrupt the eco balance. However, sustainability theorists refuse to acknowledge that the true danger is that humanity is under universal assault by the originators of all the carbon-based myths.

By ignoring the primary nature that the Global Warming hysteria, is a political attempt to deceive and control, the indoctrinated and easily influenced are led to slaughter.

Global Warming Carbon Politics (Video):



The video [Global Warming Carbon Politics](#) clarifies the differences between the radiant rhetoric and the ruthless reality of the planned global taxation tribute. If you believe there is a correlation between paying a carbon tax and the saving of the planet, you are too stupid to understand the ways of the world. For such eco fanatics, the question they need to answer is what stops you from giving up all electric use and revert to [Rousseau's](#) state of nature? Sensible environmentalists recognize that [Hobbes'](#) assumption that human nature is naturally competitive and violent, face reality with maturity and a healthy skepticism.

The problem with the stereotypes and impressions of the meaning of sustainability is the flawed supposition used by the EPA and most proponents of *greening the world*. Sustainability calls for policies based upon government action that is inherently unsound. Government by nature is a destructive force. It creates nothing of value. All bureaucracies fail in comparison to a true free market. In the corporatist environment that rules political strategies, the only beneficiaries of sustainable public policy are the transnational monopolies.

Conglomerate organizations make the policy that government adopts and invariably forces people into becoming compliant consumers. The individual as a customer is a facade, especially when it comes to energy usage.

A classic article by [William S. Lind](#), A modern-day Luddite argues that computers deaden our souls, also applies to the environmental sustainable mindset.

"The first Christian principle, and the first principle of Western civilization, is that there is and can be only one reality. If there can be multiple realities, we lose both Jerusalem and Athens. If there can be more than one reality, there can be more than one God; so falls Jerusalem and monotheism. If there can be more than one reality, what is logical in one means nothing in others, where logic itself may not hold; so falls Athens and reason. All things are indeed relative where realities proliferate.

Hell has always hated reality, for in the real world, Christ is King. Old Screwtape's problem, for millennia, was that philosophy made a poor weapon against reality. Even

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Hell's most sophisticated philosophical device, ideology, fell sure prey to reality, seldom lasting more than a couple of generations. His Wormship knew that he needed a more powerful and enduring weapon than philosophy could provide. He needed convincing but false images of the true: virtual realities."

The virtual reality that the global warming zealots profess violates the cardinal principle of Western tradition by making the twisted creed of sustainability their god. [C.S Lewis](#) converted back to Christianity and was influenced by his colleague and friend J. R. R. Tolkien and the writings of G. K. Chesterton. His journey is a chronicle of redemption and instructive wisdom. The cohorts in the sustainability legion dismiss the first principle because their Screwtape preachers bend their Wormwood brethren into becoming "Green" comrades.

George Carlin - Saving the Planet (Video):



'Sustainability' means Fascism and Depopulation (Video):



The video of the late George Carlin tells the tale of [Saving the Planet](#), in colorful language. Alan Watts expresses the real substance of ['Sustainability' means Fascism and Depopulation](#) in the next video.

For sustainability to have a valid meaning, it must start with affirming human beings first. How can a planet of created individual mortals survive when they willingly abandon their own soul? The elites intend to condemn you and your offspring's to subsistence level survival at best. The fictitious guilt trip they promote is illogical. Rational and prudent business practices to develop and use the abundance of fossil fuel resources are not only sensible but also necessary. Eliminating coal to fuel electric generation is a viewpoint that qualifies for psycho treatment in an asylum.

Did you ever wonder that the technology that allows for placement of satellites into earth's orbit would be impossible without the use of

fuel derived from those nasty carbon based substances? Maybe the irony is missed by the "Save the Planet" crowd because they are too busy watching the Green TV channel or polluting the cell frequencies and internet bandwidth. Their message of sustainable compromise of the present population, in order to reduce future generations from ever being born, is absurd. Without an affordable price for energy, our society cannot support a level of acceptable and sustainable prosperity.


Beware of outlandish promises of technological miracles. Burning wood for heating your home is now becoming an essential alternative. How long will it be before the sustainability lobby distorts the language to condemn wood as a non-renewable resource?

The Luddite philosophy needs to be examined in depth before it is condemned. Since this post industrial age is rapidly becoming a [global gulag](#), the basic survival practices of the past need to become the skill set learned, once again, in order to subsist. The future standard of living is headed for a momentous collapse. The carbon tax is designed to accelerate that downward spiral process.

Fellow Americans, do you still have doubts? View this [Carbon Tax](#) summary from down under. Australians get it, why are so many of our neighbors so dense? Just maybe George Carlin had it correct . . .

It is long overdue for citizens to become as independent as possible from corporate controlled energy dominance. A safe and clean environment is important, but that goal cannot be achieved as long as the [General Electric's](#) of the world are drafting energy policy, receiving government subsidies and charging you for the privilege of using their toxic mercury fluorescent light bulbs.

One conclusion is completely clean. The current political system is out of control and does not serve or benefit the interests of our citizens. Industrial wind and corn ethanol are creations of a mindless wishful hoax. Natural gas is more than a temporary alternative. However, the fracking drilling process only maximizes the financial interests of cousin corporatists. The Carbon Tax end game will destroy more people than the most harmful emissions from a coal plant.

Since America is now out of man space exploration, isn't it time to direct our energies in producing CHEAP energy that is benign to the environment and allows for national independence and regional autonomy based upon local needs and resources? If you want this nation to achieve real sustainability, it is important to abandon the globalist formula of phony environmentalism and damaging renewable schemes. Do you have the courage to apply rational thinking or are you just another causality of their media *sniffing glue* propaganda? 



Breaking all the Rules - [BATR.Org](#)

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Friends Don't Let Friends Vote!

By Mike Wasdin

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YOU will never be able to vote yourself more freedom than your master is willing to allow you. Let's think about this logically for a moment. Would the government promote anything that actually would limit their power? Of course not, which is why they promote the farce of Democracy. Voting is a scam, If voting really worked the government would pass a law making it illegal. Democracy is nothing more than 9 wolves and a sheep voting on what's for dinner, don't vote it only encourages them!

We have all heard the mantra before: "If you don't vote, you can't complain." Well I disagree, I think it's just the opposite: "If you vote, you can't complain." By voting, you are legitimizing the system. You are giving your stamp of approval that you will accept the outcome because you agreed to it. If it does not turn out like you had hoped, you have no right to complain, because that would make you nothing more than a sore loser. Besides, it does not matter who you vote for anyway...government still gets elected; and government is not the answer, it's the problem.

Whenever I am in hot debate with the neurologically challenged, I have found this to be a good example: If I were having lunch with you, and in the middle of lunch I were to stand up and announce to everyone in the restaurant that you were buying everyone's lunch, I am sure you would take issue with that. What about if I agreed to put it up for a vote, would that make it fair? If you agree to accept the result, then you are therefore legitimizing it, and agreeing to the outcome.

On the other hand, if you were to say it is not up for a vote, I am not buying; I don't care what everyone else thinks, well then you would have every right to complain if I tried to coerce you into paying. By not agreeing to participate in the vote, you have not legitimized it, and therefore have every right to complain, and should. The sheep cannot seem to grasp this concept.

Democracy is nine wolves and a sheep voting on what's for dinner. The State loves to promote the scam of Democracy so the sheep will think they have a say in who runs the State. In fact, most sheep believe they are the State. Butler Shaffer does a brilliant job of explaining this in "[A Holiday For Fools](#)" where he talks about an ancient society that would elect a King (Fool) for the day.

Today it is not that different. People still believe that they are the State, and have a say in what happens. The so-called two party system is an enormous charade that gives people the illusion that they have a choice. I love listening to one Republicrat arguing with another Republicrat about an issue such as taxation. Neither one seeing the bigger picture of it being theft, but instead arguing at what rate it should be. The one who calls himself a Democrat thinks it should be at 49.99%, and the one who calls himself the Conservative thinks it should be at 49.98%, both simply disagreeing about the rate of theft only.

Theft is theft, even under the guise of words like taxation, funds appropriation, and welfare. If I were to walk up to you on the street and remove your wallet from your pocket and only take half your money, leaving you the rest...would this make me less of a thief for not taking it all?


Time after time, election after election, Democrat after Republican, nothing has changed. Government always gets elected, and it always grows larger. The sheep have very short memories and cannot remember the lies that were told just four years earlier. One side blames the other for the failures of both of their abortive administrations. Don't get caught up in the - Democrat/Republican game, because that's all it is...a game. There is no difference between these two jack booted masters. Having the boot moved from the right side of your face to the left every four years is not a real relief..it's still a boot in your face.

As in "A Holiday For Fools," it is easy to see that a fool really can be defined as a person who keeps responding to the same situation in the same way, expecting a different result. The next "feast for fools" is creeping its way upon us, and the sheep are anxiously awaiting the call to stumble into the voting booths. Like rats that are being summoned by the Pied Piper, the sheep will soon emerge from their dark caves and scurry to the polls.

I must admit I do find all of this amusing in a sick-disturbing way. It is very humorous to drive around on Election Day and watch the fools on the side of the road holding their signs and waving as you pass. This of course is to entice you into voting for their guy. After all, if it were not for these morons holding signs, how would you know which charlatan to vote for?

If you have friends who still participate in the farce, it is your duty as a friend to persuade them to find something better to fritter away their time on. I am starting a campaign to deter voting. Just as the campaign to deter drunk driving used the slogan "Friends don't let friends drive drunk," I am starting a grass roots campaign to teach people "Friends don't let friends vote."

Voting

Someone once defined a "fool" as a person who keeps responding to the same situation in the same way, expecting a different result. Perhaps the best illustration of this infirmity is found, every two years, in the system known as voting, wherein millions of people are induced to go the polls and vote for candidates who keep promising to carry out the unfulfilled promises they made in the previous election! How many presidents, senators, and congressmen have been sent to Washington by promising to "get big government off our backs" or to "lower taxes?" When these people do not deliver on their promises, and the burdens and failures of government continue to escalate, the booboisie can nevertheless be counted upon to stumble into voting booths at the next election to cast their votes for the same charlatans making the same promises! The principle article of faith of the electorate comes down to the proposition: "this time for sure!" 



Mike Wasdin I am an Anarcho-Capitalist Atheist and I wear that fact like a badge of honor.

Being an Anarchist means I own myself and I do not need a daddy (government) to tell me how to live my life.

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Convoy of Hope - A Driving Passion to Feed the World

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HISTORY

In 2010, [Convoy of Hope](#) assisted nearly 8 million people in the United States and around the world by providing food, clothing, medical aid, and other needed resources through our community outreaches and disaster response arms.

The mission of Convoy of Hope is simple - we exist to feed millions of people in need in the United States and around the world through children's nutrition initiatives, citywide outreaches and disaster response.

Hal Donaldson, president of Convoy of Hope, knows how powerful compassion can be. On August 25, 1969, his parents, Harold and Betty Donaldson, were hit head-on by a drunk driver. Harold was killed; Betty was incapacitated for some time. Hal and his younger siblings quickly learned what it was like to live without many of life's basic necessities.

However people from local churches and the community assisted the family by providing food and shelter. Those generous acts gave the Donaldson kids a sense of hope and also a determination to one day help others in need.

In 1994 Convoy of Hope was formed and has morphed into a global movement where churches, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations join forces to carry out Convoy of Hope's mission, which is to feed the world through feeding initiatives, community outreaches, disaster response and partner resourcing.



In 16 years Convoy of Hope has helped more than 51 MILLION people in more than 100 countries. In that time we have also given away more than \$287 million worth of food and supplies to people in need.

Currently, there are more than 100,000+ children in our feeding initiatives in El Salvador, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Kenya, Nicaragua and the Philippines. Through the feeding initiatives we provide good nutrition, clean and safe drinking water, instruction on agricultural techniques, healthy living environments and education.

Year after year, we are lauded for our effectiveness and efficiency in mobilizing tens of thousands of volunteers for community outreaches and during times of disaster response.

No matter what we are doing, our objective is to always deliver much-needed food, supplies and hope to the impoverished and suffering.

What We Do

At Convoy of Hope our goals are to provide help and hope to people in need in the United States and around world through our children's feeding initiatives, community outreaches, disaster response and partner resourcing.

How We Do It

Children's Feeding Initiatives

With millions of children going hungry and lacking access to clean drinking water each day we focus heavily on providing the basic necessities of life to those in need. Currently, Convoy of Hope is expanding its feeding initiatives to more than 100,000+ children in seven nations. We also provide clean and safe water, teach community leaders agricultural techniques and help provide healthy living environments and education.

Community Outreaches

Each year in the United States we hold up to 50 community outreaches with the help of thousands of volunteers who serve tens of thousands of guests. At each outreach free groceries, job and health fairs, and activities for children are provided. In doing so, volunteers are given an opportunity to connect with members of their community, and guests are shown love and respect regardless of age, race, physical appearance, or spiritual condition.

Disaster Response

Convoy of Hope is considered a "first responder" organization in disaster relief. With a fleet of tractor-trailers, a 300,000-square-foot warehouse, a high-tech Mobile Command Center and through a scalable distribution model we have been heralded for quickly providing resources and help to victims of disasters worldwide.

We rely heavily on the faith-based community, businesses and national and state disaster relief agencies and organizations. Because of strong alliances, we were one of the first humanitarian aid groups to distribute food in Haiti after a

Continues on Page 49

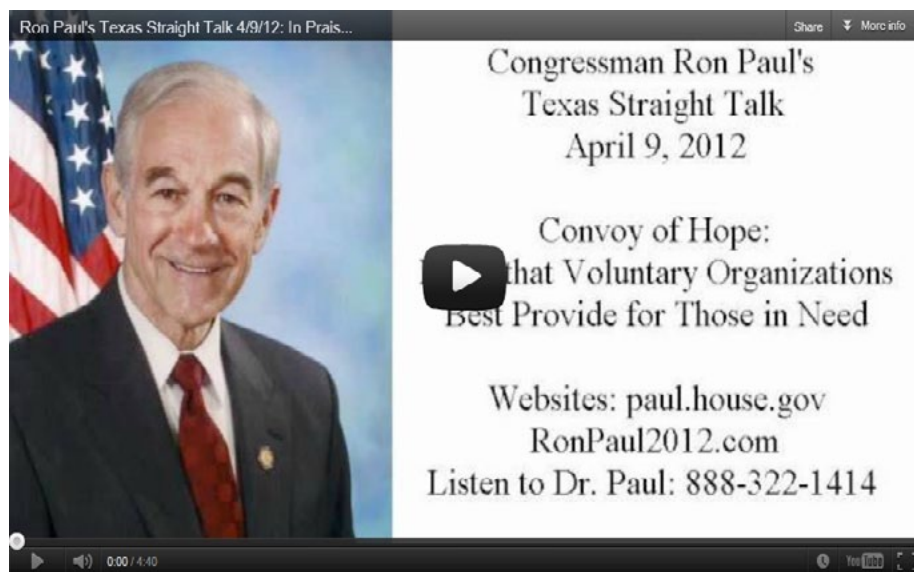
Continued from Page 48 - Convoy of Hope - A Driving Passion to Feed the World

7.0-magnitude earthquake struck the country on January 12, 2010.

Partner Resourcing

Convoy of Hope believes in supporting the work of like-minded organizations throughout the world. Through partner resourcing, we have empowered hundreds of organizations by providing the food and supplies they need to make a positive difference in their communities.

Dr. Ron Paul on Convoy of Hope (Video):



Capacity

Since 1994, Convoy of Hope has relied on its expertise in logistics, quality products and determined people to fulfill its mission to feed the world. To meet the pressing needs represented among the poor and suffering, the organization constantly evaluates its capacity and makes adjustments as necessary to stay lockstep with needs and opportunities in the United States and throughout the world.

- * 300,000 square ft. World Distribution Center
- * 6 International distribution centers
- * Fleet of Trucks in multiple countries
- * Over 23,000 Churches/Organizations involved
- * Over 1,200 Volunteer Teams
- * \$277,103,322 of gifts in kind to date
- * 354,752 volunteers mobilized

*As of February 2012

Where We Go

In the past 15 years, Convoy of Hope has been active in 46 states and over 109 countries providing disaster response, conducting community events, and directing nutritional programs and sustainability projects.



Convoy of Hope's headquarters, warehouse and distribution center are located in Springfield, Missouri at the crossroads of America, where U.S. 65 and I-44 intersect. Springfield is an ideal location for the rapid transportation of goods. Loads of food and other relief supplies are transferred to and from the warehouse weekly.

By the end of 2009, the organization's fleet of trucks had delivered **nearly \$180 million worth of food and supplies** to those in need. In 2009 alone, the services of Convoy of Hope touched the lives of **over 6.8 million people**, including those affected by disasters in 15 countries.

Partnering with individuals, churches, community organizations, corporate donors, and government, Convoy of Hope has been able to provide real help and lasting hope to people in need all around the world.

Community Outreach

Convoy of Hope is a faith-based organization with a driving passion to feed the world. Our children's feeding initiatives are a result of that.

The goal of our children's feeding initiatives is to see lives changed as we promote healthy children, community sustainability, and development. To accomplish our goal we believe that we must go beyond the basic meal to intervene at five levels: nutrition, clean and safe water, agricultural initiatives, healthy living environments, and education.



Nutritious meals

We feed and monitor the health and growth of children each day in far-flung places such as El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

We implement appropriate sustainability programs based on the needs represented in each country.

Clean and Safe Water

Clean water is life sustaining. That's why Convoy of Hope has committed to the collection of water, distribution of water filtration systems, and training and equipping local partners where safe water is not available.

We empower the local church, mission workers and non-governmental organizations.

Agricultural Initiatives

Poverty and dependency on food aid are alleviated when we teach agricultural techniques that allow families to grow nutritious food, raise livestock and sell their surpluses for profit.

We feed children while moving toward sustainability.

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Healthy Living Environments

Dangerous structures and improper sanitation can derail a child's education. We create healthy living environments by teaching appropriate sanitation practices, completing school rehabilitation projects and showing locals how to build proper latrines.

We conduct regular evaluations that determine when programs will be implemented or adjusted.

Education

Investing in the teaching of job skills, basic financial practices and methods for starting and maintaining small businesses creates sustainability and productive lives.

We empower personal and economic growth.



How To Help

Click here for information about [volunteering or partnering with Convoy of Hope Disaster Response](#).

Click here to make a [financial contribution](#).

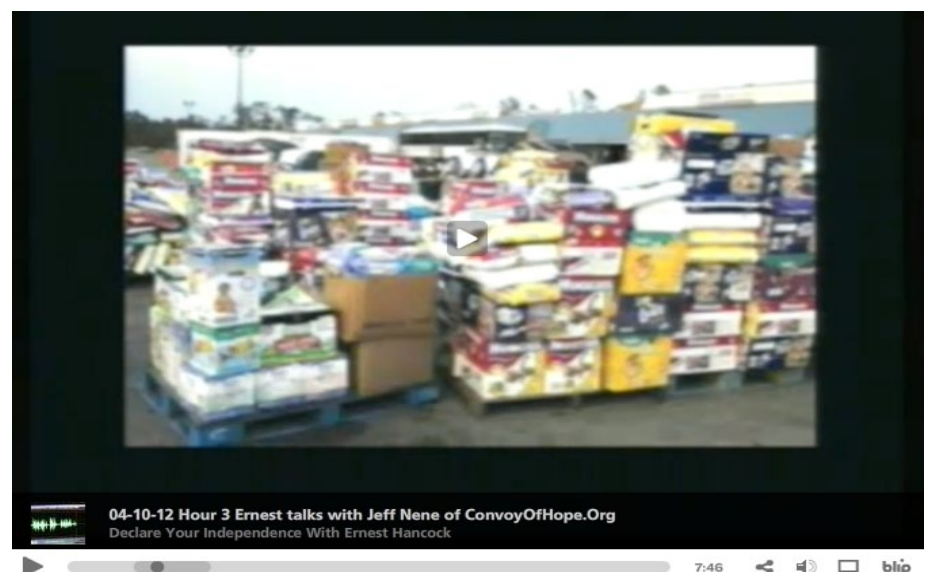
How can Convoy of Hope continue to touch millions each year? Only through the help and partnership of faithful contributors and volunteers! There are many avenues for you to engage and help Convoy of Hope.

Personal, corporate, and workplace donations are instrumental to success, as well as dedicated volunteers. Please use the links above to find an area of interest or use the contact page for inquiries and comments.



Visit their webpage at ConvoyofHope.Org for more information. To find featured news on Convoy of Hope and upcoming outreach events, go to DeMossNews.Com/ConvoyOfHope 

04-10-12 Hour 3 (VIDEO) Ernest talks with Jeff Nene of ConvoyOfHope.Org:



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The Sorry State of American Education

By Alice Lillie

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I firmly believe that the purpose of education is to teach a person how to think independently and to question. Its purpose is to teach a person to

think outside the box, be a self-starter and come up with new ideas. To learn how to question authority is part and parcel of an education.

The educated person has learned how to *learn*. Material and experience learned is used to figure things out independently. An educated person has learned to be a self-reliant self-starter and self-teacher.

To learn how to read is very important, not just so one can parrot the ideas of other people, but so that the ideas of others can trigger the formation of ideas of one's own. The classics, including not only American literature, but also literature going back to the early Roman and Greek, are very good sources of ideas, as these works were written in surroundings entirely different from our own. Literacy has declined as schooling has increased. [John Taylor Gatto](#) described some statistics on the decline of literacy. The phonics method of teaching children how to read, which works, was dropped in our schools¹.

In the United States today, there is very little of what can be called "education." In fact, until a person is 18 years old, true use of the mind is strictly forbidden. There are so many restrictions on young people that I believe a comparison study of slaves in the ante-bellum South and today's "minors" would be worth doing.

And it is tragic. It has been shown that once people reach puberty they are capable of adult behavior². If they do not behave as adults it is because they have every reason not to³.

According to studies cited in the Epstein book, the ability to reason and figure things out peaks in the early teens. John Taylor Gatto believes that by age 12 a person should be enough of an adult to be earning his or her own money out in the community.⁴

So why are youth locked in that tiny little box? Why does the establishment refuse to acknowledge their abilities? I would answer that question with questions: How would the size and scope of government increase without minor-status laws? How would teachers' unions benefit from a change in the direction of freedom? They would not. Governments, unions, and other establishment entities are benefitting on the backs of youth.

¹ John Taylor Gatto, [The Underground History of American Education](#), The Oxford Village Press, New York 2003, P. 52, 53.

² Robert Epstein, [The Case Against Adolescence](#), Quill Driver Books/World Dancer Press Inc., Sanger (California), 2007, Chapters 6 & 7.

³ Ibid. P. 164, 165.

⁴ Gatto, [Weapons of Mass Instruction](#), New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, B.C., Canada, 2009, P. 136, 137.

And, most important of all, how would the populace be kept docile if people were allowed to learn how to think at the time they could best learn? Keeping people in line is government's most important job if it is to go on growing stronger and taking freedom and productivity away. A thinking populace cannot be kept in line.

So, as far as young people and their education is concerned, by the time they turn 18 and are allowed any freedom at all, the train has left the station. And I firmly believe this is exactly how the establishment has designed the system.

Minor-status laws have proliferated exponentially over the decades. While it is true that most of these no longer apply to 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds, they have become far more numerous and stringent for persons under the age of 18. This has been on a steep rise through the last half of the twentieth century and has *doubled* since 1970!⁵

Some status laws prevent young people from engaging in activities that are technically legal for them, such as the legal inability to sign a contract until they are 18. No contract? No cell-phone, no car, no rentals, no land ownership, and no marriage, at least not on their own. And, on their own is the way they *should* do such things. Californians under 18 cannot deliver newspapers because carriers are required by newspapers to buy insurance, which "minors" cannot.⁶ The health club I belong to requires members to be 18 and I am sure this is a liability issue that it has no control over. Regulations that are choking all of us are even tougher on youth.

Therefore, "minors" are relegated to second-class- or even third-class-citizen status. Actually third-class is the more accurate as we study public schooling.



The kids do not count, as we will see. They have no money, no vote, and no rights in the eyes of the establishment. We will also

see that parents and taxpayers do not have much status either, at least not compared to politicians, bureaucrats, union big-shots, and others who are well-connected.

It is these well-connected who hold the purse-strings and power, while the rest of us, especially the students, are shafted.

As I explained before in previous essays, the establishment has picked policies out of the air when it comes to youth laws. No minor-status

⁵ Epstein P. 32.

⁶ Ibid. P. 32.

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laws at all have any basis in either the [Bible](#)⁷ or the [Constitution](#). There is *zero* mention of any age in the Constitution, except regarding holding elected office. There is no reason any young adult, Christian or otherwise, should observe any "minor" laws.

Edwin G. West's [Education and the State](#)⁸ shows that state "education" applies to groups rather than individuals and leads to state monopoly. This tends to frustrate the universal desire for self-improvement. He starts the book right at the outset with the treatment of "minors."

Even the most ardent 19th century advocates of *laissez faire*, says West,⁹ believed that the purpose of government is to protect people.

They were wrong, in my opinion. The sole purpose of government is to protect the individual's *rights*. So they were working from the premise that government is to protect *individuals* themselves rather than individuals' *rights*. If their premise is right, then it is perfectly OK, for a simple example, for government to force you to wear a seat-belt to protect you, but it should not protect your right to *decide* whether or not to wear *your* seat-belt on *your* body in *your* car.

However brilliant these defenders of *laissez faire* might have been, this was a fatal blunder. But what of children, who cannot protect themselves? This is what parents are for. God in His

7 Ibid. P. 288-290.


8 Edwin G. West, [Education and the State](#), Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, 1994, (Third Edition).

9 Ibid. P. 3.

infinite wisdom has created mankind in such a way that the child has two parents, each responsible for protecting him from all kinds of dangers, including the other parent, *and* including over-reaching paternalistic government. (Obviously sometimes a child has only one parent, or none, or cruel parents, but I will not digress.)

Minor-status laws are one evil from which parents must protect their children, even into young adulthood. There are so many things young people technically cannot do, and it is the job of parents to help them find ways around these restrictions.

Of course, the defenselessness of little children, plus the idea that government's function is to protect, led to special "protection" of kids and that segues right into the idea that education is a function of government. This idea was swallowed whole by even free-market of thinkers such as [Milton Friedman](#).¹⁰

And now today, it is this very government school system that children need to be protected from, if they are to grow into truly educated people who can think for themselves, teach themselves, and question "authority." 

Go to [AlliceLillieAndHer.Blogspot.Com](#) for more news and views of an independent woman.

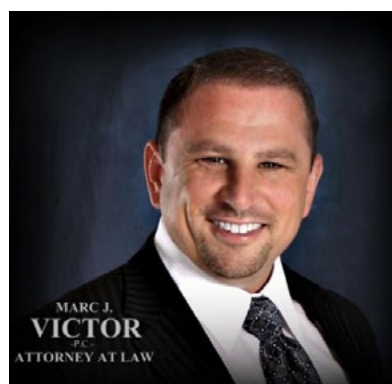
10 Ibid. P. 4.

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My Journey to Libertarianville

By Marc Victor

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I'VE always been a loud mouth. Even as a young boy, my mother would often say, "Someday, that mouth of yours is going to get you in trouble." Today, as a criminal defense

attorney, I use that "mouth of mine" to help get people OUT of trouble. It wasn't always that way.

Like most other loud mouths, I was always interested in politics. However, like almost all other Boston area Jews, I was surrounded by long time liberal Democrats. Although there may have been a time in my youth when I was in the presence of a Republican, such unpleasantness was always kept from me. I had always been informed that Democrats were "for the people" and Republicans were "for big business." If there was more to the analysis, I never heard it.

Being most comfortable in the midst of any controversy, I think my youthful pronouncement that I had decided to be a Republican was more of a reaction against the Democrat Party monopoly than a statement of principle. To their credit, my parents informed me that my Republican leanings were OK so long as I did not publicize them in front of the elder generation. I think they believed it was just some crazy phase I was going through. Ultimately, they were correct.

At some point, I became a Republican because I agreed with what Republicans were saying. In addition to sounding whiny and wimpy, the Democrats always struck me as needing a babysitter to help with living their lives. The Republicans were talking about individual responsibility and low taxes. I really bought into the limited government concept. I started arguing with Democrats about everything; whether they wanted to argue or not.

I began my college career as a political science major at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. The school is not known for its great libertarian bent. I don't know if being a socialist was a requirement to become a professor, but it sure seemed like it to me. I recall the permanent Marxist information table being a popular spot among many of the students. Everyone in my political science classes knew me. Some knew me as the loud mouth Republican idiot. Others just knew me as the loud mouth. I loved it.

Somewhere in the midst of my battles with liberals, I began to notice there were some pesky issues where the liberal Democrat voices made some sense. I couldn't deny their good points on various individual rights issues such as free speech, sodomy laws, homosexuality, pornography, and separation of church and state.

Being tired of shoveling snow and a fan of the summertime, I transferred to Arizona State University as a justice studies major. In addition to having a few conservatives around, there was no Marxist table to be found at Arizona State University. Although my Republican views had started to moderate on some individual rights issues, I was still fool enough to extol the virtues of the war on drugs.

One day after class, I participated in a heated argument about the drug war. During my long walk to the poor man's parking lot, the economic based argument against the drug war started

to sink into my hard head. I could feel myself having to change my deeply held view about the drug war and adopt a pro-legalization position. Later, I realized those great Republican pronouncements about individual responsibility were not compatible with a war on drugs.

When I entered law school at Southwestern University in Los Angeles, I was a confused conservative; not comfortable with either the Republicans or the Democrats. In one sense I was better off because I could argue with both the Republicans and Democrats. Merely rejecting both parties didn't stop me from being a loud mouth.


Although I had positions on various issues, I lacked a coherent philosophical base.

One day, I met [Professor Butler Shaffer](#). He told us to refer to him either as "Butler" or "God" if we weren't comfortable using his first name. I figured out quickly this guy wasn't a typical law professor. He showed up to class one day wearing a tee shirt with the word "anarchy" on it. I was intrigued. Butler posed questions about self-ownership and the legitimacy of the constitution. He insisted that all political questions were really different versions of the same question, "Who makes the decision over property; the owner or someone else?" He boiled all questions down to a property analysis. I harassed the guy. After endless hours kicking around the questions Butler posed, I started to understand. Butler gave me a book by Murray Rothbard that discussed the monetary system. I also read *Economics in One Lesson* by Henry Hazlitt and *Libertarianism in One Lesson* by David Bergland while I was pouring through the required law school reading.

Butler invited me to two discussion groups entitled the Mencken Forum and the Nock Forum respectively. I attended both faithfully and became a libertarian junkie. I couldn't get enough of the freedom philosophy.

After flirting with the Libertarian Party, I came to the realization that such a party is a contradiction in terms.

Although I sympathize with political Libertarians, I do not count myself among them. On the other hand, I do not believe there is or can exist a centralized plan for freedom. I have come to believe there are two groups of people; those who coerce others and those who do not.

After almost ten years as a practicing criminal defense attorney, I can say few libertarians have fought the state more regularly. I am a libertarian on the front lines in the war against tyranny; an epic multigenerational and honorable struggle. I have hosted regular discussion groups, given speeches, hosted a radio show and sponsored debates. In 2000, I co-founded the [Freedom Summit](#) with my partner and libertarian guerrilla warrior Ernest Hancock. 

Marc J. Victor, the 'Attorney For Freedom', is an honorably discharged United States Marine who requires the same commitment to excellence from all members of the law firm that was expected of him during his time in the Marine Corps.



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Muscle Soreness -- Is Cold Water Immersion An Effective Treatment?

By Dr. Mercola

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REGULAR exercise, participating in athletics, and even working in your backyard or doing strenuous household chores can leave your muscles stiff, sore, and uncomfortable for days afterward.

You may feel just fine immediately after the activity, but within 24 hours, you start to feel pain.

This is called delayed-onset muscle soreness (DOMS), and for some, this discomfort is enough to make you think twice before going back to the gym or engaging in activities you would otherwise enjoy.

Naturally, if given the option, most would choose to prevent the muscle soreness that follows intense exercise or physical activity, but so far the research looking into what methods are actually effective has been scant.

That said, cold water and ice baths, otherwise known as cold water immersion or "cryotherapy," is a popular technique among amateur and professional athletes, as it is thought to help reduce muscle inflammation and pain after exercise, as well as speed recovery time.

Researchers from the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences department at the University of Ulster in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, recently looked into the science behind this technique, and found cold-water baths did appear to offer relief from sore muscles.

A Cold Water Bath After Exercise May Prevent Sore Muscles

After analyzing 17 trials involving over 360 people who either rested or immersed themselves in cold water after resistance training, cycling or running, researchers found the cold-water baths were much more effective in relieving sore muscles one to four days after exercise.

They concluded:

"There was some evidence that cold-water immersion reduces muscle soreness at 24, 48, 72 and even at 96 hours after exercise compared with 'passive' treatment."

Just how cold does the water need to be? In this case, most of the studies involved a water temperature of 10-15 degrees C (50-59 degrees F), which participants stayed in for about 24 minutes. Some of the trials involved colder temperatures or "contrast immersion," which means alternating between cold and warm water (this did not show a significant benefit compared to rest).

Should You Try This at Home?

Most studies on cold water immersion report no or minimal side effects, so if you're willing to spend 20 minutes or so in a cold tub of water, you may very well find some relief. Of course, common sense must be used. When you immerse yourself in cold water, it will shock your body to some degree, so you need to make sure the water is not too cold, and that you do not stay in it for too long.

If you don't like the idea of full-body cryotherapy, you can also try a more targeted approach by applying a cold pack to a specific area of your body. While this won't give you full-body relief from muscle soreness, it can be beneficial for an injury or a pulled muscle.

Cold works by lowering the damaged tissue's temperature and locally constricting blood vessels. Using cold therapy immediately after an injury helps prevent bruising and swelling from the waste and fluid build-up. Cold also helps numb nerve endings, providing you with instant, localized pain relief.

Ideally, it is best to use cold treatments for the first 48 to 72 hours. You can apply the ice for 20 minutes, then remove for 20 minutes as this will minimize any potential damage. Start early and repeat as often as you can. What kind of cold treatment should you use?

There's ice, of course, if it's available. However, you want to take great care in protecting your skin from the intense cold. Always use a cloth or towel wrap. A bag of frozen peas can come in very handy for this purpose.

Gel packs are an excellent choice as they're convenient and easy to use. (Before you choose a gel pack, know what's inside. Many are filled with toxic chemicals that can eventually leak.) Whichever option you use, to get the best benefits from cold treatment, be sure to use a wrap over the ice pack to improve the contact with your skin and to compress the injured area to minimize swelling.

Could a Cold-Water Bath Speed Up Your Metabolism Too?

There may be more reasons than one to consider lounging in a cold bath after your workout. Aside from helping to ease muscle soreness, it may also boost your metabolism and fat-burning abilities.

Tim Ferriss, author of *The Four-Hour Work Week*, also published a book called *The Four-Hour Body*¹, which includes the concept of activating your brown fat to boost fat burning by exposing yourself to frigid temperatures. He claims you can increase your fat burning potential by as much as 300 percent simply by adding ice therapy to your dieting strategy. A LiveStrong article backs up Ferriss' claim stating²:

"A NASA scientist told ABC News that's no hyperbole. In studying the effects of temperature on astronauts, he saw people's metabolism boost by 20 percent in environments as mild as 60 degrees. A Joslin researcher told National Public Radio that 3 oz. of brown fat could burn 400 to 500 calories daily."

Ferriss' Ice Therapy is based on the premise that by cooling your body, you're essentially forcing it to burn much more calories by activating your brown fat. His suggestions, from easy to 'hard core,' include the following. If you want to give his technique a try, make sure you advance slowly. It may be inadvisable to go straight to

¹ [The Four Hour Body](#)

² [LiveStrong June 6, 2011](#)

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the ice bath if you're not used to frigid temperatures:

- Place an ice pack on your upper back and upper chest for 30 minutes per day (you can do this while relaxing in front of the TV for example)
- Drinking about 500 ml of ice water each morning
- Cold showers

Immersing yourself in ice water up to your waist for 10 minutes, three times per week. (Simply fill your tub with cold water and ice cubes)

What Else Can Help Prevent Sore Muscles?

Muscle soreness after exercise has traditionally been blamed on the buildup of lactic acid, but lactic acid actually does not remain in your muscles very long, and therefore is not a primary cause of DOMS. According to Steady Health, other possible theories for the cause of DOMS include³:

- Muscle soreness occurs because of microscopic tears in muscle fibers
- It is caused due to tears in the tissue that connects the muscle and not the muscle itself
- The damaged muscles release chemical irritants, which activate pain receptors
- The damaged muscles become inflamed hence causing soreness
- Changes in osmotic pressure, muscle spasms and a change in the way the muscle cells regulate calcium may be responsible for the soreness

The best strategies to help reduce muscle fatigue and soreness, whether you're a professional athlete or not, are those that will help to address some of these underlying causes. Among them:

1. Eating a diet that includes naturally occurring carnosine, i.e. animal protein such as organic grass-fed beef or free-range chicken

Carnosine is a pluripotent dipeptide composed of two amino acids, beta-alanine and histidine, found in many tissues but most notably in your muscles. It serves several important roles, two of which are:

1. Buffering acids in your muscle
2. Serving as a potent antioxidant

Carnosine appears particularly useful for improving anaerobic high intensity exercise performance, but both of the functions mentioned above also explain how it may help reduce muscle soreness. As mentioned in Steady Health, damaged muscles become inflamed, which can cause soreness. Since carnosine is a potent anti-inflammatory antioxidant,, its presence in your muscle can serve to quell muscle inflammation.⁴

The foods with the highest amount of useful dietary dipeptides like carnosine would be animal proteins, like eggs, whey protein, poultry and beef. If you are considering using carnosine as a supplement it is important to realize that car-

nosine itself is probably not that useful because enzymes rapidly break it down to its constituent amino acids (beta-alanine and histidine), which are then absorbed by your muscles and re-formed back into carnosine.

2. Taking a beta-alanine supplement

As explained above, if you do decide to take a supplement, instead of taking carnosine, I recommend taking its primary precursor, beta-alanine, based on the science in this area. Beta-alanine has also been shown to be helpful for preventing muscle soreness when working out.

3. Using acceleration training

[Whole Body Vibrational Training \(WBVT\)](#), also known as Acceleration Training using a Power Plate, works by stimulating your white muscle fibers—which are your fast- and super-fast muscle fibers. The Power Plate kick-starts your pituitary gland into making more growth hormone (HGH), which helps you build lean body mass and burn fat, as well as accelerate tissue healing.


Acceleration Training is quite different in that the vibrating plate targets your entire body, focusing on fully integrated motor and neurological patterns, which allows you to work ALL your muscles, and nerves, all at the same time.

It's a truly revolutionary approach to fitness because it addresses your neuromuscular system as a whole, rather than one limb or muscle group at a time. The net result is a dramatic improvement in strength and power, flexibility, balance, tone and leanness, along with reduced pain and soreness.

They aren't cheap but I am fortunate to have access to one virtually year-round, and it is my first therapy that I use when I get a muscle injury from an accident or over training.

4. Eating ginger

Ginger contains anti-inflammatory compounds and oils known as gingerols, which have pain-relieving effects. In one study on people who did exercises meant to induce muscle pain, those who ate two grams of ginger a day had a 25 percent reduction in exercise-induced muscle pain 24 hours after their workout, compared to those who took a placebo⁵. Researchers concluded:

"This study demonstrates that daily consumption of raw and heat-treated ginger resulted in moderate-to-large reductions in muscle pain following exercise-induced muscle injury." 

This article was written by Dr. Mercola, [Mercola.Com](#)

⁵ [J Pain. 2010 Sep;11\(9\):894-903](#)



Dr. Mercola is the founder of the world's most visited natural health web site, [Mercola.com](#). You can learn the hazardous side effects of OTC Remedies by getting a FREE copy of his latest special report [The Dangers of Over the Counter Remedies](#) by going to his [Report Page](#).



³ [Steady Health September 27, 2010](#)

⁴ [Steady Health September 27, 2010](#)

Greener than Green

By Barry Hess

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THERE exists somewhere, ‘out there’ in the public realm, the notion that philosophical libertarianism allows for, even encourages, the wanton destruction of our common environment, just so a few of those evil capital-

ists can get rich in their damnable ‘free market’. Seriously, all too many of our countrymen really do believe this media-propagated nonsense. Oddly enough, in ‘reality’ pretty much the exact opposite is true.

Even more puzzling is the lack of notice that under our current modus operandi, our common land, water and air are more-than-being-molested under the watchful eye of government. In spite of this glaring fact, it seems as though many people have been convinced that the ‘only’ way to stop it before we all die of pollution poisoning—is to do more of what we’re doing! Isn’t that fascinating?

Why, do you suppose critical thinking and reasoning skills have been dropped from the approved curriculum for the government’s welfare schools? ...but I digress.

Most normal-thinking people agree that nobody has a right to pollute our common environment, yet under the unprincipled political leadership of the Republican/Democrat social club, who operate on the whims or men; we’ve witnessed the most horrific environmental events imaginable even while regular, run-of-the-mill polluting of the world continues unabated with no end in sight. Whether their concern is ‘Global Warming’, or the illnesses and health problems that come from breathing, drinking or touching various toxins; they all seem to agree that the collective ‘we’ cannot actually clean the air, water or ground, so we have to let Mother Nature do her thing. They will mouth the words that lead to only one logical conclusion; stopping ALL pollution is the only means to reverse any damage done but as we will see, that’s where the logic stops.

On the other hand, were we guided by libertarian principles, the high likelihood is that environmental pollution wouldn’t even be an issue. Why? Because the entire philosophy is based on individual property ownership rights. The principle is simple when it comes to real estate (all pollutants come from a physical location): you can use your property for whatever purposes you, as the owner, determine to be in your ‘best’ interests. This basic principle of property ownership rights, is the root of all liberty—and the most necessary ingredient in the complex recipe that makes up a ‘free’ country. Without absolute, indisputable and un-taxable property rights, there can be no freedom—not for anyone.

Sadly, the very idea that “those people down the street” can be ‘trusted’ to do good things with their property--and nobody can say ‘Boo!’ about it” seems to be where the fear sets in, for the masses. Though they obviously haven’t thought it through and will try to convince you that you just can’t trust their neighbors to do the right things with their property. From their perspective, we ‘need’ more law(s)...I guess to somehow keep the neighbors honest.

My Grandfather used to say in his deep, thickly-accented Germanic tone, “He who cannot trust, cannot be trusted because he does not trust himself.” I think he was on to something.

The idea that an owner is ‘allowed’ do whatever they want on or with their property, as an inviolable ‘absolute’ right seems a little scary to folks who read no further than the headlines, but it really shouldn’t, because property rights do not, and can not extend beyond the boundaries of the property owned. That property owner can ‘pollute away’—within the confines of the space they own; but not a drop, a whiff or particle of that pollution can be unleashed beyond their own property line without giving rise to a suit for damages by any who might suffer because of a violation.

At some point, people realize this means that no one can pollute beyond their own private property limits and therefore into the common environment. Generally, their initial reaction is “Yeaaa! There won’t be any more pollution—at all!” Oddly enough, and almost without fail, their secondary reaction tends to be, “But that will shut down businesses and industries---people will lose their jobs, and I wouldn’t even be able to drive my car. We ‘can’t’ have that!”

Their ‘solutions’ to pollutions all effectively boil down to what we commonly know as the “Cap and Trade” model. In a nutshell, this model provides that politicians can determine an amount of pollution that can be loosed upon the community and into the common environment. This model has nothing to do with logic or even registers on the common sense scale. The “huh?” part of C and T models, is that they always have a provision allowing an “under polluter” to sell or ‘trade’ credits for the balance of their pollution allotment to any entity that goes over limit. Selling these ‘credits’ is big business, and I’m talking trillions of dollars changing hands every day as the free market determines their ‘value’ in the marketplace. It’s cheaper for a business to buy credits—than to stop their polluting.

What would you suppose might be the likelihood that a politician could be ‘persuaded’ to allow a business a higher allotment of pollutants than that business has ever used? Why, that would give the business marketable credits to

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sell on the open market for absolutely nothing. Naw, they wouldn't do that, even if a few shekels from the sale were to fall into their campaign or personal accounts, because that would be a 'bad' thing.

The Green (political) Party presents itself as a group of environmentally conscientious and responsible people. For the most part, this is what the young people in the party joined to be a part of. The problem is the party organizers and apparatchik--they're not really 'green'. A close examination of their political platform suggests that their real agenda has more to do with using the law to force fellow Citizens to submit to living the way the Green people think they should, or to subsidize favored 'green' companies or industries.

The simple fact is that applying libertarian philosophy to this issue, wouldn't just eliminate the lure to corrupt political behavior, or the award of windfall profits to campaign contributors—it would eliminate the problem. At the same time, contrary to fears of job losses, I submit that by sticking to clear, simple and absolute principles brand new industries and businesses will spring up, creating more jobs, new innovations and new inventions; to meet the principle objective; to stop environmental pollution.

Of course, some businesses will fall by the way, but they will be replaced. Such are the constant dynamics of the free market—that's what keeps any economy healthy. Bad, or worthless products and companies will naturally fall by the wayside, pushed out of the way by new businesses that actually bring value to the marketplace. The idea of subsidizing any business because it is presented in the 'media' as 'economically critical', is absurd and dams up the marketplace until the dam bursts. The free market responds only to actual values any industry or business brings with it, at any given time—only the good stuff survives. There is no such thing as "too big to fail", or "too old to die".

The good news is that the young people "get it". All they are asking for is a clean environment, and when they come to understand 'who' is really environmentally protective, they readily desert their political club to defend their original intentions. Libertarian philosophy turns out to be "greener than the Greens", how ironic is that?

As a personal example, I really hadn't realized how 'green' the libertarian philosophy actually is, until after a lengthy campaign forum held at Northern Arizona University where the application of philosophy to environmental concerns was fully explored by a panel of local celebrity inquisitors.

I was approached by a good group of very inquisitive, and slightly combative young folks who had been part of the overflow audience. They had some questions and I agreed to entertain them. It was a pretty thorough vetting of how libertarian philosophy applies to contemporary issues, and how their application might play out in real life for us as a species to avoid societal suicide. Not even one left the auditorium until the wee hours of the morning, aside from a few bathroom breaks and coffee runs.



I did my best to explain how it all fits together, and the beneficial impact a libertarian society could have on their futures, and by the end of the night we had found some common ground. That was the end of it, but I couldn't help wondering if any of the group had been affected by our discussion, or had had the "aha!" moment most libertarians remember as the moment they "got it." I resolved to hope I had done some good.

Two days later, a "Google Alert" noticed me that the group I had spoken with represented a local Green Party affiliate, and they had enthusiastically endorsed me, for public office. I got my answer and it gave me hope that the young people of today will have the political and philosophical integrity their elders lack, and put individual liberty well above any sort of political loyalty.

Libertarian philosophy applied to environmental issues will always net the benefit of achieving more positive effects because it is based on fundamental principles. What's important to know is that there are no 'new' fundamentals. We all have to be skeptical of the guy who says he 'manufactures antiques'.

Maybe Kermit the Frog was wrong. I find it easy, being green. 

[Barry Hess](#) is a businessman and libertarian activist in Phoenix, AZ. Visit him on [Facebook](#)

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Ernest Hancock - on Libertarianism and 'Living Free in an Unfree World'

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THE Daily Bell is pleased to present this interview with Ernest Hancock

Introduction: Ernest Hancock is publisher of the online news, investigative reporting and opinion web portal www.FreedomsPhoenix.com that began in 2005 and hosts the radio show "Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock" that started in early 2003. Since 2001 Ernest Hancock and his www.FreedomSummit.com partner Marc Victor have promoted the cause of liberty by presenting "The Great Minds of the Modern Freedom Movement" to their friends and fellow truth seekers at an annual gathering in Phoenix, Arizona. Ernest Hancock and fellow activists in Arizona are the creators of and steady national influence in the [Ron Paul](#) r3VOLution logo/individual activism campaign that helps represent the next [American Revolution](#)... with LOV3.

Daily Bell: Give us some background on yourself. How did you become a libertarian?

Ernest Hancock: I remember I didn't come at it from a traditional economics background. But it was May of 1988 that I started paying attention to how government actions impacted my young family of six. My father manufactured a touring motorcycle camping trailer called the Alcan Traveler that was getting excellent reviews in magazines. Distributors in Europe needed just such a high quality unit to rent to tourists from all over the world who would be taking advantage of Western Europe's removal of travel restrictions. Traveling from Spain to France like you were motoring from Arizona to Colorado would open up a whole new industry of tourism. Large touring motorcycles with a high quality light camping trailer exploring the narrow winding streets in villages and towns across Europe had a lot of appeal and generated many letters to my father's small company. But he wasn't interested in complicating his life at the time and was satisfied with his domestic market. But I was interested.

I was busy with my own business but wanted to help my father. I was also influenced by the rhetoric coming from the daily news that America's trade deficit was going to be the death of our standard of living and that every manufacturer should seek exporting opportunities. Young and naïve, I didn't know that I should have avoided the government as much as possible. Instead, I sought out government agencies that would provide me the information I needed. Tariffs and duties varied greatly country to country and I was looking for a simple list. That search provided me the foundational understanding of how government in general really works.

My research led me to read the new Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. Immediately I understood what was going on. This inch thick 'book' detailed how all commerce would be monitored and controlled via the federal government. The government schools had at least taught me how to spot [fascism](#), and this law was dripping with it and I wished to understand how they were getting away with this.

The short story is... Election law (along with a lot of help from the media). Competition is eliminated before it even starts. In 1990 I ran for the state legislature as a write-in just so I could get standing for a federal lawsuit that I filed July 3rd 1991 that challenged 44 Arizona election

laws. I did it pro se, presented an oral argument in front of the 9th Circuit Court, benefitted from a lot of press, changed some laws, started meeting my first libertarians and have been an activist ever since.

I was asked the same question by [Walter Block](#) in 2002 as part of a project he was working on that would become his new 2011 book [I Chose Liberty – Autobiographies of Contemporary Libertarians](#) and the article can be found on [LewRockwell.com](#) under the title "[Being Libertarian – I Only Seek The Truth](#)."

But the short answer is, I insisted on the truth. And while there may be some debate on what is 'The Truth,' I knew that truth wasn't the lies everyone I loved was immersed in.

I remember the primary emotion that dominated my mind was 'worry.' Worry motivated me to act so that I could put my mind at peace. Fortunately, my wife was involved daily at every step and was very supportive of the effort to understand what was happening and what could be done about it.

Daily Bell: Tell us how you founded FreedomsPhoenix.com.



Ernest Hancock: In late 1993 we started getting our first email accounts. I immediately understood that vertical dissemination of information would be replaced with an unlimited number of 'Wayne's World' type shows from basements all over the planet; it was just a matter of time.

In the spring of 1994 gun rights activists invited [Larry Pratt from Gun Owners of America](#) and [Sheriff Richard Mack](#) to come speak at an event about gun rights that were being focused on at the time. We had just started to network with other libertarian gun rights activists from all over the country using various Bulletin Board Services (you would call a phone number and upload/download emails on a server sitting on a desk in someone's home) and the AltNews lists that existed on 'The Internet.' We discovered that Mr. Pratt was less informed than we were about GOA's positions being advocated with politicians across the country. It was at that moment that I understood that nothing could replace the instantaneous reporting of an informed activist in the presence of news being made in real time.

By 1996 the main structure, philosophy and features of [FreedomsPhoenix](http://FreedomsPhoenix.com) was already well developed in my mind. But we were limited by technology. 2400 baud modems would soon be replaced with 14,400 modems but we were still a long way from streaming HD video. Some of my friends would begin making simple web pages and were even getting awards for their efforts. We were successful in using the Internet to provide "The injection of the libertarian infection into the bone marrow of American politics... for which there is no cure," but even though our audience was limited there was lots of evidence of our influence in Arizona politics and media. In 1995 we would be recognized by the Olde Media for our use of the Internet, but it wouldn't be until 2002 that the majority of the political candidates would have a full presence on the World Wide Web.

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and 'Living Free in an Unfree World'

In 2004 the Howard Dean campaign for the Democratic nomination for POTUS provided a glimpse of what might be possible using the Internet. But it wasn't until June of 2005 that I asked a webmaster friend of mine to meet me for lunch to ask him some questions. Earlier that same year YouTube had launched and broadband Internet service started to become widely available in major cities. It was at that meeting that I detailed what my eventual goal was and how I wanted Freedom'sPhoenix to function. After getting past all of the techno-babble I understood that the answer was "Yes... we can do that." From June to October we worked on developing the site and then opened it up for beta testing to our friends for a few months as we entertained ourselves and slowly added layer upon layer of totally original coding. Any and every feature I could think of that would make my sharing information easier was added for me and every user to make use of. Highlights of the features can be viewed at our Video Tutorial; you'll be surprised. The ten-minute video tutorial goes by very quickly and you'll be shocked at what tools we have made available. Seven years ago my senior editor, [Powell Gammill](#), would write our 'About Us' and I don't think it has changed since.

The initial impact that an anarchist libertarian gets from reading Freedom'sPhoenix is that we allow the expression of opinion and news from the hard right to the hard left. This was always the plan. From my experience with email lists for a decade before starting Freedom'sPhoenix I understood that the debate between libertarians (the majority of our readers and all of our staff) and everyone else was the most educational and entertaining way of presenting the news and opinion. Another benefit was that many of these writers that I disagree with on Freedom'sPhoenix have audiences that they bring with them to get their 'libertarian injection.' Having your cortex brushed daily with a libertarian perspective on the news is very effective over time. The most disagreeable writers are often hammered in the comment section with good libertarian arguments that readers and supporters of the writer are exposed to for the first time in many cases. In seven years I have deleted the accounts of about five people for advocating open violence (likely government agents). We've been very lucky that the structure of the site is not optimized for net trolls to invade us and they usually go away fairly quickly. But you can always tell when it's election season.

Daily Bell: What's your vision for it going forward?

Ernest Hancock: [The Video Tutorial](#) will give you an idea of where we are going. Right now we are able to translate Freedom'sPhoenix into 39 languages. [HarheaPhoenix.com](#) is our Arabic version of Freedom'sPhoenix (harhea is Arabic for 'freedom') and we translate HarheaPhoenix into Arabic. The stories we place there are ones we think may be of interest to the LOV3olution in Arabia. Over a year ago we made every effort to share our LOV3olution experiences with the activists of the [Arab Spring](#). We worked with the International Society for Individual Liberty to get an Arabic version of "The Philosophy of Liberty" so we could produce thousands of DVDs in the region's DVD format. They were shipped to Alexandria and Cairo and were

passed out at protests all over the Arabic speaking world (Saudi Arabia now ranks second in viewing the [Philosophy of Liberty](#)).



The future?... 'We're Going to Space, and Government is NOT invited'



Sign says, 'SpaceShip One, Government Zero'

Daily Bell: Tell us how you became co-founder of [The Freedom Summit](#)?

Ernest Hancock: I met my FreedomSummit partner, [Marc Victor](#), in 1994 at an Arizona Libertarian Party candidate function when he was fresh out of law school. He had just spent years under the influence of Professor [Butler Shaffer](#) and was ready for battle. Marc was very critical of a candidate's incrementalism on an issue and wished to fully express himself to the AZLP's County Chairman (me) and the State Chair (Rick Tompkins – Rick would later seek the LPUS Nomination, in 1996). We were both so pleased with Marc's position and arguments we were both smiling the whole time. Marc misunderstood our smiles and went into full trial mode... we just let him go. After a couple of minutes we explained our agreement and pleasure and were able to convince the candidate to change his rhetoric. Marc went on to start his own successful criminal defense practice.

In late 2000 or early 2001 I was very busy running our family pizza restaurant and my activism was limited to a few headlines a year for important concerns. Marc called to discuss our creating a conference that we would like to attend. We hoped that we wouldn't lose money but quality was our primary motivation. Libertarian oriented speakers made up a very small percentage of the conferences available to us and we would have to attend many to see even a few of the people that we wanted to meet. Our first FreedomSummit in 2001 was three weeks after 9/11 and we both knew what was coming... a [Police State](#) fueled by hate, fear and a seemingly unlimited access to resources.

"Where the Great Minds of the Modern Freedom Movement Come Together," the FreedomSummit is "a stimulating periodic update on the current status of freedom in our world from several varied perspectives. Rather than seek to present either an optimistic or pessimistic outlook, the Freedom Summit strives to present an honest

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and very straightforward assessment of the current status of our freedom."

The Freedom Summit is our warning to our friends and family and a tool for us to get informed and network with the new 'Modern Freedom Movement.' It is also one heck of a party.

Marc and I shared a vacation this past summer and we decided that we would skip 2011's FreedomSummit. We need to think about it for a while to be inspired. The events we were warning our attendees about have come to pass and now we need to think about what value we can be to our friends before we plan the next one... we're working on it.

Marc and I expect that our next FreedomSummit will be even more fun and educational in a totally different way... please stay tuned.

Daily Bell: Please tell us a little more.

Ernest Hancock: "How Many Minds Can I Free? It really hasn't been more complicated than that. Arizona is well known for our activism and the cultural shift it has produced. The Ron Paul r3VOLution was simply an exporting of a method that has worked well for us here in Arizona. By allowing activists to do whatever they want, good ideas get supported and bad ideas fade away. But we don't make a pre-determination for another's ideas. We supply them with experience, media/communication access and equipment and see what happens. This has produced some pretty amazing results.

Individuals and groups that approach us with, "What you should do is..." are encouraged to take advantage of our helping them bring their ideas to fruition, but very rarely do we embrace another's idea while we have a long list of our own to choose from.

Our next project has been sitting on the shelf since 2003 waiting for the right time... which is right NOW!

This will be a good example for Daily Bell readers. You'll get to watch a concept develop and take off right in front of you.

I'll take the space to explain later in this post. This will be fun to watch happen.

Daily Bell: What drives you most these days?

Ernest Hancock: Grandchildren.

My wife and I are both 50 and married 27 years. We have 2 boys and 2 girls from 22-26 yrs. We have a granddaughter and grandson and two more grandchildren on the way. My wife Donna and I discussed our goals before getting married and I remember the focus on being able to enjoy grandchildren. My whole adult life was in preparation for Right Now. We knew that we had to raise self-sustaining children capable of being good parents with the motivation to pursue their own happiness.

We are very happy. But we know that troubling times are ahead and we are preparing our family as best we can. But my goal is to still enjoy my grandchildren and be a positive influence in their life while protecting them from those that would enslave them.

Daily Bell: What are you most worried about today?

Ernest Hancock: Not being as ready as I need to be for the economic collapse when it comes. I often share with my radio audience that our goal should be to maintain our humanity when things get really bad. People do desperate things when they are hungry.

Daily Bell: What do you think of the Libertarian party? Give us the roundup. You've been very active.

Ernest Hancock: I've been County Chairman in Maricopa County, I've run for State Legislature twice, US Congress three times, Secretary of State twice, County Recorder once and against [John McCain](#) for US Senate in 2004 (because he said he was a libertarian.) I've run for National Chair of the Libertarian Party four times – '04 – '06 – '08 – '10. And every single race had a goal that we set and met.

Nomination Speeches LNC 2010 Part 1 (Video):



Nomination Speeches LNC 2010 Part 2 (Video) -- aka Ernest Hancock's shortest speech ever :



The Libertarian Party of the United States was a nexus for activists before the Internet took off but has always been seen as too timid for Arizona activists. L. Neil Smith put it well in 1993 at the Salt Lake City LP convention, "Those Nerf Libertarians with their Foam Core platform," and it's only gone downhill from there.

My motivation to run for LP chair in 2004 was in direct response to the party making excuses for war while I was doing my best on the radio in a major media market five days a week trying to explain why libertarians are against war. 2006 was the stripping of what was left of the platform. I made that an issue and warned that they would open the door for anyone to be more libertarian than the LP and a few months later Ron Paul eclipsed the LP and I doubt that they will ever recover. In 2008 I protested the compromising of the party to make accommodations for Barr and to warn them that there was no way in hell that the LOV3olution would come near that campaign. 2010 was a full court press to make it very clear what W.A.R. stood for. I have no personal problems with Wayne Root but he represented exactly what is wrong with the LPUS. They worry what everyone that shouldn't matter thinks and they have lost the entire Generation Next.

I did what I always do. I make myself clear, I document the effort for others to learn from and I move on. I don't think the LPUS will recover any time soon from the direction they've taken. The libertarian activists stopped waiting for the

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Libertarian Party to join the libertarian movement a long time ago.

Daily Bell: Are things getting worse or better in the US and the Western world generally?

Ernest Hancock: Both. The olde institutions are failing but Generation Next is quickly learning why. FreedomsPhoenix covers a lot of subjects and has hundreds of individual 'Categories' filled with wondrous things to look forward to. It always surprises people that there are two private space stations in orbit right now for over two years and they never heard about them. Take a look at just a few of the stories in the following categories and feel better.

Space Travel & Exploration

Science, Medicine & Technology

Techno Gadgets

Daily Bell: What has gone wrong in the US? It's acting like the worst kind of empire now, a thuggish one.

Ernest Hancock: It's us. We're confused and afraid, but that's changing. I've been spending a lot of time with Generation Next for many years. They are waaay more informed than I ever was at that age and they have so many more resources for information. They also are much less materialistic and only need to be able to communicate with their friends... every second of the day, to be content. But I see this evolving into groups that spend more time in each other's presence... video texting the next government abuse in front of them.

Daily Bell: Is there a [power elite](#) of sorts that is driving the world toward [global governance](#)?

Ernest Hancock: Radio callers use to often say, "They? Who's they?" My response is, "There are those that just wish to be left alone... and there are those that just won't leave them alone. Which one are you?"

Soooo, is there a group of individuals and groups of groups and powerful individuals that JUST WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE? Yep! But we are the enablers.

Daily Bell: How do you stop something like that?

Ernest Hancock: Please allow me to explain [WalletVoting.com](#) in just a minute. But first, a perspective to help me make my points.



[Ron Paul](#) has spoken at three of our FreedomSummits. Two of those speeches were before his 2008 Presidential run and one was in 2009. As liberty activists, we understood how rare Dr. Paul was and that he was certain what was coming and that it was only a matter of time. Many of us had the same opinion based on whatever our experiences were. Many academic libertarians lacked the 'rubber meets the road' interactions that give many the confidence to say and do things that would demonstrate how convinced they are about future events. So when Ron Paul filed his Exploratory Committee paperwork in January of 2007, a few of us already knew where this was going. I opened a warehouse space for eight weeks of sign production in late February of 2007, invited my activist friends and

explained what was coming, why and how we could spark it. I had no desire to be involved in the voting process; my only goal was to get Ron Paul in the debates and keep him there for as long as possible. We made signs, sent them all over the country to libertarian activist friends and asked that they send us back raw video for us to make YouTubes... BOOMshakala the LOV3olution was created.

For a year and a half I would travel the country teaching young activists how to produce the signs cheap but this wasn't my primary goal. My primary goal was to eliminate the fear. We had become so indoctrinated with fear that the very idea of putting up a sign on some chain link fencing in view of the highway without a government permission slip would literally cause many to hyperventilate from fear. Fear is the most powerful weapon being used against us. Eliminate the fear in your life and you become much more creative, happy, and love becomes a much larger part of your life. Once this happens, you don't want to go back.

I'm often asked how I knew what was going to happen. Experience, paying attention, being involved at a foundational level provided me the confidence. In speeches I often say, "How did you not know?" but I know why. It is because most of us are afraid. I think that often it isn't fear that we're feeling, it's worry or regret or indecision. And when individuals are forced to act to survive they'll worry less, have fewer regrets and become decisive. And Big Bad Bubba Government fears larger numbers of people getting over this mental hurdle, in my opinion.

WalletVoting.com was created in my mind back in 2003 when I first started my radio show "Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock" that aired during morning drive Monday through Friday here in Phoenix. When I sold my restaurant I was encouraged to go on the radio so that libertarianism could be defined by a libertarian instead of Republican and Democrat politicians or the media. I started just before the invasion of Iraq and I made myself very clear. We originally committed to a 13-week contract, thinking that we would get to say whatever it was we thought we needed to and use the Internet to archive the shows on many subjects. It turned out to be popular enough to have me bouncing across the radio dial here in Phoenix until I decided to commit myself to FreedomsPhoenix and build my own studio that would interface better with what we do. WalletVoting was a clear realization that I had and I knew that its time would come.

Even though I had already stopped voting myself in 2002 (but would still run for office), I was convinced that the audience desired something they could do to impact their future... WalletVoting.

At the December 2010 FreedomSummit we had a late evening party on Saturday and the creative juices flowed. A friend had pointed out that earlier that day he had witnessed a gun show vendor offering a discount for ammunition if you paid in silver. Hmm... Silver for Bullets, Silver Bullet, Lone Ranger, Silver Bullets kill Werewolves, Coors Light Silver Bullet campaign, the Song used is 'Get All Aboard the LOV3 Train.' Within two minutes an entire campaign was developed by anarchist libertarians. Graphics would be created with Ron Paul's face photo-shopped onto the Lone Ranger while Bernanke would have his face morphed into werewolves. Many of us had already started buying old 90%

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silver dimes and quarters for wealth retention and soon a couple of young local activists (Drew Phillips and Nick Barnett) would laminate a silver dime into a credit card sized card as an educational tool for understanding inflation and the power of using silver in transactions and as a marketing piece for businesses. Take a look at the stories at WalletVoting.com and you'll get the history and future of what's coming. Here is a segment of the radio show where we first announced what we were going to be doing. A listener in Maryland heard the show and developed an early version of the Silver Calculator App in 10 days and we have been improving the concept since then.

And then the "[Moneylith Project](#)" was born ("viral video" in production now).



On Wednesday, March 28th 2012 we launched [version 3.0 on DailyPaul](#) as part of a fundraising effort for them and as a promotion of the concept. We just got artwork for several European Countries and a request that we update the [SmartPhone Silver Calculator](#) to include foreign currencies.

03-28-12

Kurt Wallace of Daily Paul Radio interviews Ernest Hancock about the Silver Dime Card Project (Video):



Daily Bell: What kind of money do you favor? Gold and silver? Competitive currencies?

Ernest Hancock: Got Chick Chick Chickens? After you take care of that food thing you might want to stock up on something you can barter. Toilet paper is a popular example but for my radio audience I joke that I'm stocking up on Tampons. "All menstruating women must come to me." It helps to get them thinking about what would be of value and can be easily traded. Stories of post WWII Germany using nylon stockings and chocolate come to mind. But after you've got the food and equipment thing taken care of, I've been advocating for 90% silver US minted coins. The premium is very low and sometimes even under spot. They are easy to trade and come in various denominations. Those with lots of money need to ask someone else :)

Daily Bell: How do you see the monopoly [central banking system](#) that the world uses now?

Ernest Hancock: Cadaverous.

Daily Bell: How did such a system evolve?

Ernest Hancock: One of the reasons that I am so optimistic is that it took generations and trillions of dollars to indoctrinate, confuse and hypnotize us into inaction and acceptance of

this total mess. Central planning and coercive governments in general are being repudiated by Generation Next for being irrelevant and increasingly harmful and violent.

Daily Bell: Is it a stable system?

Ernest Hancock: No. It is surprising that it has lasted as long as it has. But this just means that the collapse will be that much worse for the bad guys. I don't think most people will suffer as much as is feared. Once support of a government goon in every nook and cranny is rejected by nothing more than popular opinion we can start to rebuild a society that I can feel comfortable leaving to my children and grandchildren. It is for this paradigm shift that I focus my efforts.

Daily Bell: What do you think of the [European Union](#)?

Ernest Hancock: I don't.

Daily Bell: Is it collapsing?

Ernest Hancock: They are in the same situation that we are. Once the people 'Declare their Independence' in their minds it's all over for the collectivists. I'd like to see a study done to determine how many people would have a net financial benefit from a total "Fight Club" reboot. I wouldn't be surprised if a majority of people in the western societies wouldn't come out ahead financially once all of the debt and unfunded mandates were lifted from their personal balance sheets. But I don't care enough to even look. The worse things get the more 'They Them Those' try to consolidate power. The more TTT tries to consolidate power the worse things get. I make it clear to anyone who will listen that the main goal now is to keep breathing in and out for as long as we can and just survive this thing. I don't have any clue how we will stop the collapse, or if we would want to.

"In the End Freedom Always Wins; it just gets really messy first."

Daily Bell: What about China and the [BRICS](#)?

Ernest Hancock: Same. Everyone followed our example and will have the same problems for the same reasons. But then there is the Iceland exception, which only proves the rule.

Daily Bell: Where is the US headed?

Ernest Hancock: I really don't worry about the United States. I'm concerned with the people. Everyone is always soooo worried about the ship of state that they totally forget about the people. While the politicians and the bankers argue over control of the Wheel House, I'm doing my best to inspire others to start building life boats out of cabin doors, learn to live on icebergs, get on another ship... anything but worrying about who your next ruler/captain is going to be.

Daily Bell: Is the US in a depression?

Ernest Hancock: Yes. Creating trillions of dollars was done for a reason, and the resulting price increases we are experiencing is starting the boulder rolling downhill.

Daily Bell: Will we soon have global money? Is that a good thing?

Ernest Hancock: Yeah, gold (or silver, or oil, or salt or...)

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Before the 2007 legislative session started here in Arizona I was contacted by a state senator that was very concerned about the "Amero" replacing the dollar and our losing our national sovereignty. I have a reputation for creative legislation and she asked if we could help. My first comment was, "Amero?... hell, they're going straight to the 'Worldo'." Consolidation of everything is an obvious goal of TheyThemThose that won't leave me alone.

My senior editor, Powell Gammill, and I went to meet with her and we drafted legislation that resulted in Arizona minting gold, silver and copper one ounce rounds "in quantities to supply all public demand" in the form of commemorative medallions to celebrate our 100 years of statehood that was celebrated this last month on Valentine's Day. This state senator would also become a co-chair for Ron Paul in Arizona. Well, it passed, and the coins were produced but like all government involvement, corruption and ineptness [got in the way](#).

Whatever is traded, I don't need a government or governments to tell me what it should be. The best that they can do is enforce whatever private contract was agreed to.

Daily Bell: Will we soon have a regional or global war?

Ernest Hancock: There is a documentary that I think should get widely publicized. "[Sir, No Sir](#)" shows a very important part of our history that has been stricken from our culture. It tells the story of how it was the soldiers in Vietnam that stopped the war by refusing to fight it. Over 5000 officers (admitted by the Pentagon) were killed by their own men to avoid going into the field. The documentary went on to explain that the constant bombing of Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam was due to the soldiers refusing to fight and [Nixon's](#) attempt to use the bombing as a negotiating tool. Well, I see the Drone Army/Air Force as the same thing. Who needs soldiers when you can kill people with your Xbox 360?

The United States government is already in a Global [War on Terror](#) and the battlefield is Planet Earth.

Daily Bell: Does a power elite seek depression and war to move the world toward a New World Order?

Ernest Hancock: Sure as hell seems like it.

Daily Bell: How can people protect themselves and their loved ones?

Ernest Hancock: Network with people of like mind. 'Communities' of friends and neighbors that are willing and able to share skills and resources have the best chance of surviving what is coming. Some are planning to stockpile where they are, others are preparing a retreat, others are moving out of the United States. But if I had to make a simple suggestion... Food and water, you don't want to get too cold or too hot... you know, the basics of continuing to breathe in and out. We cover such things on [Freedom's Phoenix](#) a lot, off grid living and outdoor survival. The most interesting stories come from people that have actually gone through such turmoil. Often they are supportive of staying in the cities for all of the resources that are available. A rural retreat is a target that is eventually zeroed in on... so you'll need a defense.

My goal isn't to just survive but to maintain my principles and my basic humanity. I hope to avoid violence with preparation.

Daily Bell: What should people do? Should they be active?

Ernest Hancock: Prepare for the worst. Help others do so and be an inspiration. Be a good neighbor, friend and family member.

Daily Bell: Recently there have been criticisms of libertarians for proposing unrealistic and unworkable solutions. What say you?



Ernest Hancock: "Freedom's the Answer... What's the Question?"

Daily Bell: How do you feel about [Austrian economics](#)?

Ernest Hancock: [Anthony Gregory](#) was very patient with me and answered many of my questions about Austrian Economics. I was looking for a base moral principle that Austrian economics was based on and Anthony informed me that Austrian economics is more of a science that doesn't make a moral judgment about certain actions as much as it simply explains what happens when you turn economic dials this way or that. Good to know. I'll bet that if I studied Austrian economics more I would find that the 'science' supported the idea that coercive force via collective actions produces 'bad results' in the economy, but then you'd have to make a moral judgment on what was "bad." I am not well read on the subject.

Daily Bell: Where do you go from here?

Ernest Hancock: 2012 has me focused on the Silver Dime Card Project, [DontTreadOnMeme.com](#) and promotion of the Silver Calculator App. My goal is to do for silver what I did for the LOV3olution... awareness.

Smoother transition when dollar collapses: That's the big goal of this little card.

Daily Bell: Where does the Libertarian party go from here? Is it becoming more or less relevant?

Ernest Hancock: Electoral politics in general is rapidly becoming irrelevant. What was left of the LP as a possible voice for the movement was abandoned in 2006 with the stripping of what was left of the Party platform. Libertarianism is growing rapidly and the LPUS isn't even on the radar screen in the mind of Generation Next... now that took some effort.

Daily Bell: What do you think of Ron Paul's chances?

Ernest Hancock: Chances to what? I was never in this to "Save the Republican Party". This has been promoted as a goal to me more than a few times and all I say to them is, "I have no desire to save the Republican Party... I'm looking for a wooden stake and a mallet". But in reality I just can't muster up enough 'give a crap' about politics. I support Dr. Paul for the same reasons I ran as a non-voter against McCain, to free as many minds as possible. We're not going to be voting ourselves free any time soon.

Daily Bell: Should he run as a Libertarian?

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Ernest Hancock: No.

Daily Bell: What about [Rand Paul](#)? What do you think of HIS politics?

Ernest Hancock: Next. I haven't paid a moment's attention since he met with Bill Kristol.

Daily Bell: Should the US be involved in wars around the world? Why is it?

Ernest Hancock: No. Profit & Power.

Daily Bell: Should the US close down its bases overseas?

Ernest Hancock: Yes!

Daily Bell: What made the US the enforcer of the world?

Ernest Hancock: [Federal Reserve](#). Without the ability to create trillions of dollars this Empire would not have been possible.

Daily Bell: Are you encouraged by Ron Paul's progress with his campaign?

Ernest Hancock: Very much. But I know they expected the Republicans to play fairer... and many of us didn't.

Daily Bell: Do you think his support has been fraudulently undercounted?

Ernest Hancock: YEP!

Daily Bell: Are libertarians the most popular voting bloc in the US?

Ernest Hancock: Popular? Likely not.

Daily Bell: Why can't democratic and republican libertarians be brought together as a voting bloc?

Ernest Hancock: 2006 campaign – this is what I think:



Daily Bell: Is voting a kind of false paradigm anyway?

Ernest Hancock: It's a definite fraud.

Daily Bell: Does society function better with small -- very small -- interlinked entities?

Ernest Hancock: All the way down to the individual.

Daily Bell: Is the US salvageable?

Ernest Hancock: Generation Next? Yes! The Government? No!

Daily Bell: What is YOUR vision of a political system?

Ernest Hancock: A non-coercive one that I can leave when I want to.

The reason my radio show is named "[Declare Your Independence](#)" is because the DOI didn't say what kind of government to have... just how



to tell when it was a bad one. If it's not defending individual rights it is time to alter or abolish.

Daily Bell: Is it realistic?

Ernest Hancock: Humanity marches on. We'll get there sometime somewhere. I think our communication abilities now and our understanding of central banking will give us a better chance in the future.

Daily Bell: Any other points you want to make?

Ernest Hancock: Make one transaction a month in silver. When we shop on Craigslist, etc. we always ask if they take silver and about 20% will. We trade a dozen of our chicken eggs for a silver dime. Go check out the links to the [Silver Calculator App](#) for your Smartphone... very nice.

Daily Bell: Any other ventures you're embarked on you want to mention? Books or videos in the works?

Ernest Hancock: If you subscribe to our [FreedomsPhoenixEzine](#) you'll get all of the back issues. Check it out please.

Daily Bell: Resources you want to point to?

Ernest Hancock: [WalletVoting.com](#)

[FreedomsPhoenix.com](#)


[FreedomsPhoenixEzine.com](#)

[DontTreadOnMeme.com](#)

[Silver Calculator App](#)

[Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock - Radio Show](#)

[DailyPaul / FreedomsPhoenix – Ron Paul Dime Cards](#)

Daily Bell: Thanks for your time and great work.
Ernest Hancock: My pleasure. Peace. 

This article was published in [The Daily Bell](#) on March 25, 2012

Daily Bell After Thoughts



We thank Ernest Hancock for sitting down for an interview with us. We feel fortunate to have caught up to him for as long as we did. Anyone who reads this interview will soon develop an insight into Mr. Hancock's life: He never seems to stop moving.

This is a man who decided on his passion in life and has spent his time and energy pursuing it. Along the way, he's had a political career, founded a successful annual freedom gathering and built a web site that is seen around the world.

One comes away from this interview, in our view, energized by a vision that is held by a man who is a builder not a tearer-down. He's built a family, a number of businesses and held onto a vision of a freer society where his sort of ambitions and realizations shall be commonplace. In fact, there are many Ernest Hancocks in the world today, a number of them energized by the Internet and the numerous opportunities it offers.

This is one reason we're so optimistic generally about the freedom movement and what we call the [Internet Reformation](#). There are thousands, millions, of motivated, smart people who have been energized in the past decade by a vision of a better life for them, their families and their communities. Ernest Hancock speaks on their behalf in this interview. But he is not alone by any means and neither are you.

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Publisher's Backpage - By Ernest Hancock

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WE are constantly brainstorming new ideas for future articles and what the theme of an edition might be. The April Edition morphed into a double theme that we attempted to overlap as much as possible. Our list of issues we wanted to focus our attention on included 'Environmentalism from a libertarian perspective' and 'Native American Sovereignty'.

We always make room for many other interesting articles that are off theme from great writers willing to share their work with us. But we try to be true to the theme of the issue and work to have the Edition's Cover reflect the content of the eZine. This month's cover is an optimistic view of a thriving native culture integrated into a modern lifestyle.

What would life be like in America if Native American property rights were respected? How much of the native cultures, and the 150 native languages just in the USA and Canada, would have been integrated into our present way of thinking and organizing our society? Had the new settlers to the Americas respected human rights, would the 600-700 languages spoken in Central and South America provided us with some wisdom that we now lack? I couldn't get out of my mind the idea of what might have been if European settlers told the truth and negotiated voluntary contracts that were honored. Around the world we are known not only for our actions there, but our history here.

I asked Scott Bieser to work with the 18 year old daughter of a good friend on this month's cover.

Athena is a talented artist that is self taught and homeschooled on a farm in Missouri. She was responsible for all of the background, but I felt more comfortable working with Scott to make sure our Freedom'sPhoenix woman was... the center of attention. A special thanks to Scott for helping me encourage the rise of another graphic artist in the LOV3olution.

I remember several of my favorite books involved diverging timelines and parallel universes that helped explore the idea of how small differences, in thinking and actions taken, have enormous impacts on the lives of millions.

My hope is that we embrace a new beginning and live up to the promises we have made to others and to ourselves. With even the slightest examination we can clearly see the damage we have done ourselves and our environment when we don't respect the life, liberty and property of other human beings. Honoring the property of others has a much more beneficial impact on our environment than what we are now allowing in our American culture.

There is a new beginning coming our way and I am enthusiastic about what Generation Next will do with it... and all of us at Freedom'sPhoenix are going to help. 

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Athena Tivnan's Talent on display at - <http://trintinthenrec.deviantart.com/>

