

FREEDOM'S *Phoenix*



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FreedomsPhoenix Digital Magazine viewing tips

By Nick Barnett

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Stop Raising the Debt Ceiling - By Dr. Ron Paul

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THE federal government once again has reached the limit of its legal ability to borrow money, meaning it cannot issue new Treasury debt without action by Congress to increase the debt ceiling limit. As of this month, our “official” national debt- which doesn’t include the stag-

gering future payments promised to Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries- stands at \$14.2 trillion.

The debt ceiling law, passed in 1917, enables Congress to place a statutory cap on the total amount of government debt rather than having to approve each individual Treasury bond offering. It also, however, forces Congress into an open and presumably somewhat shameful vote to approve more borrowing. If the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives gives in to establishment pressure by voting to increase the debt ceiling once again, you will know that the status quo has prevailed. You will know that the simple notion of balancing the budget, by limiting federal spending to federal revenue, remains a shallow and laughable campaign platitude.

It is predictable that Congress will once again merely delay the inevitable and raise the debt ceiling, after the usual rhetoric about controlling spending, making cuts, and yes, raising taxes. We have heard endless warnings about how irresponsible it would be to “shut down the government.” The implication is that sober, rational, mature pundits and politicians understand reality, while those who oppose raising the debt ceiling limit are reckless ideologues who will harm the economy just to make a point.

But like any debtor that has to reduce its spending, the federal government simply needs to establish priorities and stop spending money

on anything other than those priorities. Interest payments on our federal bond debt likely will amount to about \$500 billion for fiscal year 2011, an average of \$41 billion per month. Federal tax revenues vary by month, but should total around \$2 trillion to \$2.5 trillion for FY 2011-- an average of perhaps \$180 billion per month. So clearly the federal government has sufficient tax revenue to make interest payments to our creditors. For now, those interest payments represent about 12% of the total federal budget.

What nobody wants to admit is this: even if the federal government has only \$1.5 trillion remaining to spend in 2011 after interest payments, this is PLENTY to fund the constitutional functions of government. After all, the entire federal budget in 1990 was about \$1 trillion. Does anyone seriously believe the federal government was too small or too frugal just 20 years ago? Hardly. So why have we allowed the federal budget to quadruple during those 20 years?

The truth is, in spite of how cataclysmic some might say it would be if we did not pass a new debt ceiling,

it is hardly the catastrophe that has been advertised. The debt ceiling is a self-imposed limit on borrowing. The signal congress sends to worldwide markets by raising the debt ceiling is simple: business as usual will continue in Washington; no real spending cuts will be made; and fiscal austerity will remain a pipe dream.

When our creditors finally wise up and cut us off, we will be forced to face economic realities whether we want to or not. It would be easier to deal with the tough choices we face now, on our own terms, rather than wait until we are at the mercy of foreign creditors. However, leaders in Washington have no political will to admit that we cannot afford to continue spending without any meaningful limit. They prefer maintaining the illusion and putting off reality for another day.



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Some Guy: Ron Paul Doesn't Know the Constitution

by Thomas E. Woods, Jr.

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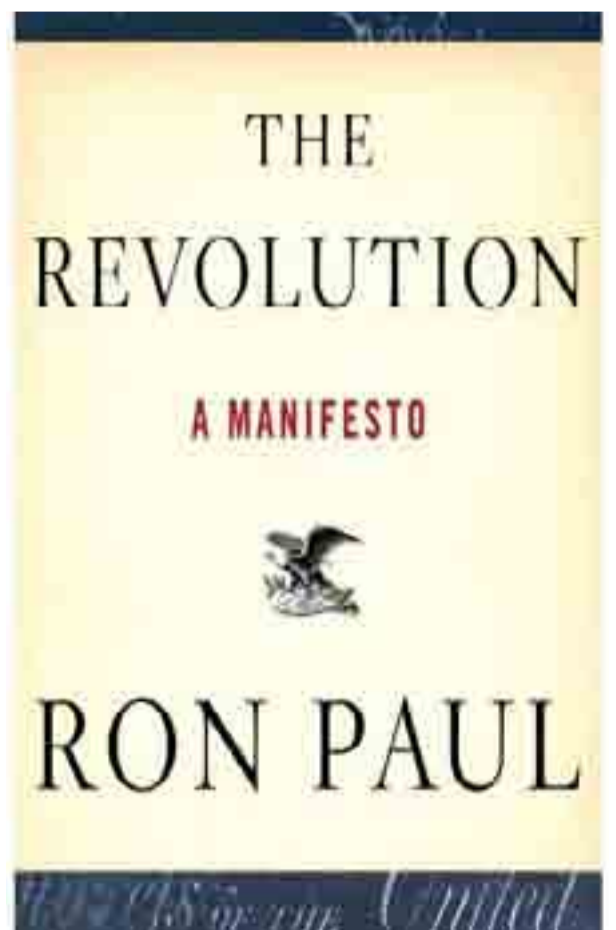
A guy named Paul O'Rourke wrote a [nasty blog post](#) today claiming that Ron Paul doesn't know what he's talking about when it comes to the Constitution. I always find it funny when conventional left-liberals like O'Rourke single out Ron Paul of all people for criticism, when (here as elsewhere) he knows more about the subject than the rest of the Republican contenders put together. (Really, Paul, you think you'd have a useful constitutional discussion with *Tim Pawlenty*?) They can't stand an anti-establishment candidate, so they focus their anger on him. As I never tire of saying, these people want us to shut our mouths and be content with the Biden/Romney spectrum.

Here are the key points to bear in mind:

The merchant marine health-care thing is supposed to prove that Ron Paul's view of the Constitution is wrong. But how could it? It is indisputable that the Constitution was sold to the people in the ratifying conventions in a particular way. Federalists refuted expansive interpretations of the general welfare clause, brought forth by concerned Antifederalists, with reminders that the federal government would have only the powers "expressly delegated" to it (and yes, the word "expressly" was used, again and again). Patrick Henry was one such skeptic, and he was thus reassured by Edmund Randolph and George Nicholas, no mean authorities. Thus any interpretation of the clause other than Madison's couldn't possibly be correct. It is the *ratifiers* whose opinions count, as Madison explained, since what they believed themselves to be agreeing to is what binds us.

The fact that years later the Constitution is violated cannot undo the brute fact that that document was ratified with this particular understanding. The word "ratifiers" appears nowhere in the O'Rourke piece. There is a reason for that.

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Jefferson said that no matter how long the British had oppressed us, the length of time of such oppression would not have legitimized it. Indeed.

If I entered into a contract with Paul O'Rourke on the basis of a particular understanding, and then turned around and violated that understanding, first in small things and then in great, what would he say? Would he say, "Hey, you're violating our agreement"? If so, I guess I could come back with, "You're living in the past, man! I've been violating that agreement for years!"

Alexander Hamilton is cited on behalf of O'Rourke's interpretation of the general welfare clause. *Prior* to ratification, as I show in my [33 Questions](#) book, Hamilton had taken a much less expansive view of the clause. Once the Constitution was safely ratified, he came out in favor of the position O'Rourke cites. Does that not strike you as a bit, well, sneaky? Why should we take Hamilton's post-ratification view as the definitive one? Wouldn't it make far more sense to cite the view Hamilton actually peddled to the public at the time of ratification?

Also, why stop with adopting Hamilton's post-ratification view of the general welfare clause? Why not adopt Hamilton's whole program? We could have presidents elected for life, senators elected for life, state governors appointed by the president, etc. Hamilton also favored enforcement of the Sedition Act. Oh, and you know how the Sedition Act was justified? With the general welfare clause!

Then we read about Joseph Story, who adopted Hamilton's post-ratification view of the general welfare clause, and whose views we are urged to adopt. We are not told that Story had op-



ponents. But he did. Abel Upshur mercilessly dismantled Story in his book [A Brief Enquiry into the True Nature and Character of Our Federal Government](#). Story's view of the Constitution was long ago exploded as unhistorical; see James McClellan's [Joseph Story and the American Constitution: A Study in Political and Legal Thought](#). His comments on the general welfare clause, written before Madison's notes from the convention had been made public, are rooted in highly debatable inferences from the constitutional text.

Continuing with O'Rourke, why is it impossible for the Supreme Court to have been wrong in *U.S. v. Butler* when it held that the taxing power was not limited by the enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8? The whole justices-as-infallible-overlords thing is a bit creepy. Moreover, in that decision the Court overturns the Agricultural Adjustment Act on the grounds that it involved the exercise of a power not delegated to the federal government by the states. Is O'Rourke really of the view that the federal government has no authority over agriculture? I doubt it. So he dissents from the most critical part of this case. Why does he jump up and down with glee regarding one aspect of the decision and remain perfectly silent about the other?

Then to read that the Founders weren't classical liberals and that this is just a right-wing myth, well, that's a bit much. Of course, the Founders were not a homogeneous blob, and some favored more power for government than others. But O'Rourke's insistence on calling the Constitution and Declaration "liberal," by which he intends the modern, 21st-century, Barack Obama meaning, is beyond absurd.

O'Rourke's ignorant comments about the words "We, the People" alone prove he is not entitled to an opinion. This is not an example of "collectivism." The original words were "We, the States."

This was changed by the Committee on Style, without a single dissenting vote, so it obviously did not involve a matter of substance. "We, the People" refers to the peoples of the states – the people of Massachusetts, the people of Virginia, etc. What is supposed to be "collectivist" about that? No originalist denies – and indeed all of them affirm – that the U.S. was the creation of a group of separate and distinct societies.

In case you need evidence that Jefferson was indeed a classical liberal rather than a liberal in the tradition of Hillary Clinton, you can find it in the excellent new book by Marco Bassani, [Liberty, State, and Union: The Political Theory of Thomas Jefferson](#).

In the comments section of the O'Rourke piece you can see further how confused our author is. He thinks we have seen a major move in the direction of the free market over the past 30 years, and that this is the reason for our current problems. If that were so, I wonder why the most free-market economists were the ones most likely to predict the crash. Were they repudiating their own position? Or did they see something a teensy bit non-free-market in the activities of the Federal Reserve, the government interventions into the housing market, the regulations that make it impossible to discipline management at financial firms, the prudential regulation that encouraged everyone to flock into AAA-rated MBS, etc.?

As usual, Ron Paul was right, and his snooty critics, who insist on picking on the rare non-drone in politics, dead wrong. 🌻

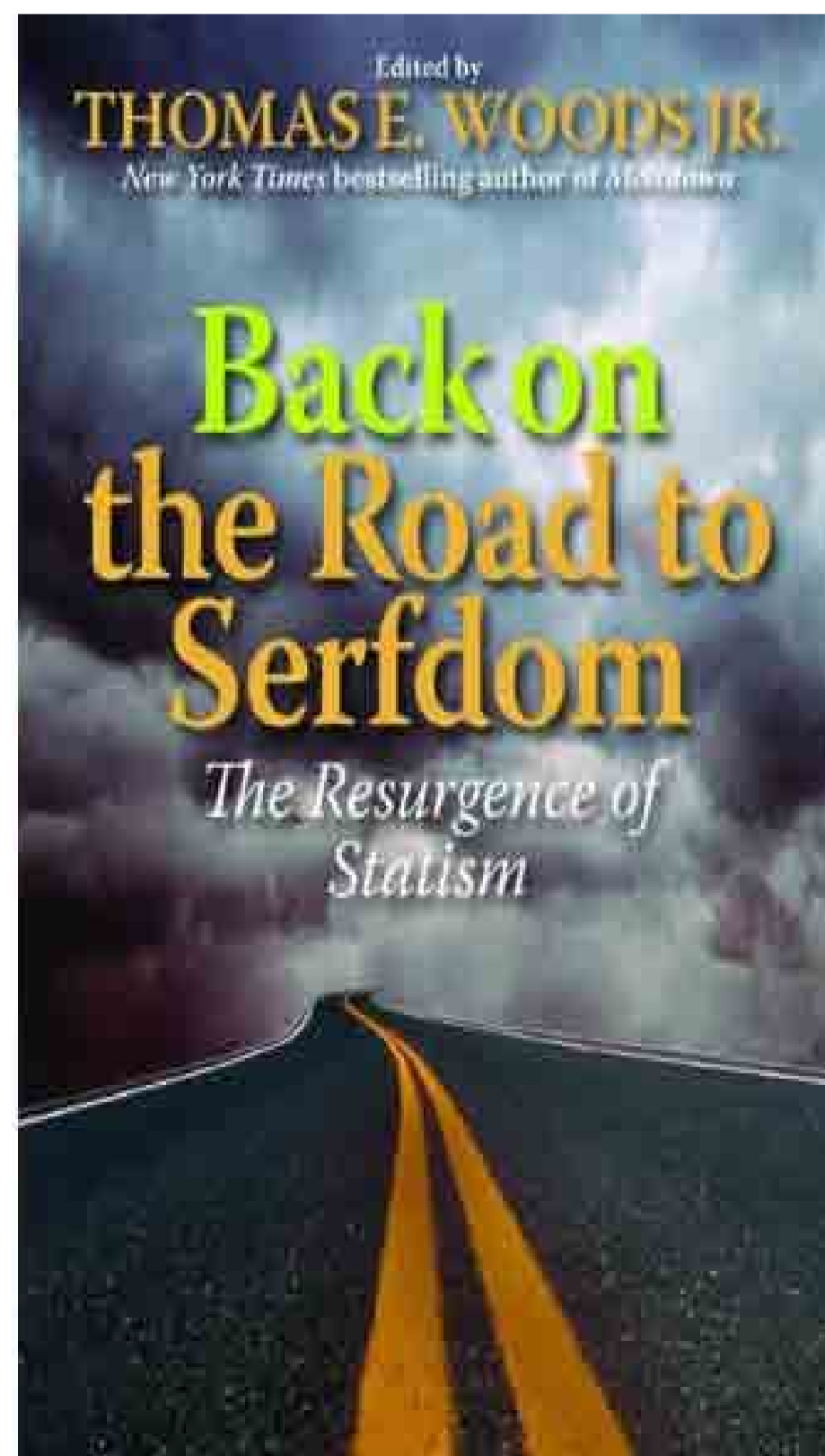
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May 21, 2011

Thomas E. Woods, Jr. a senior fellow of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, is the author of eleven books, most recently [Rollback: Repealing Big Government Before the Coming Fiscal Collapse and Nullification: How to Resist Federal Tyranny in the 21st Century](#), as well as the New York Times bestsellers [Meltdown: A Free-Market Look at Why the Stock Market Collapsed, the Economy Tanked, and Government Bailouts Will Make Things Worse](#) and [The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History](#). He is also the editor of five other books, including the just-released [Back on the Road to Serfdom](#).

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Restoring American Prosperity! By Charles Goyette

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This book truly is a must read.”

- Congressman Ron Paul



CHARLES GOYETTE

Now a few politicians have begun to damn the debt they created since it has become a crisis of unmanageable dimensions. But it is clear that they are not up to the challenges of the current crisis. Meanwhile other destructive and collectivist ideas and dispositions that entered our national ethos with the debt remain. Statist ideas are inimical to our freedom and destructive of our prosperity. They need to be reversed. But first they need to be identified.

A free economy works wonders. American’s prosperity can be restored. The new book from Charles Goyette shows how! 

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Libertarianism versus Statism by Jacob G. Hornberger

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ALL of us have been born and raised within a statist box, one in which the federal government's primary roles are to take care of people, regulate their economic activities, and maintain an overseas military empire that intervenes in the affairs of other countries.

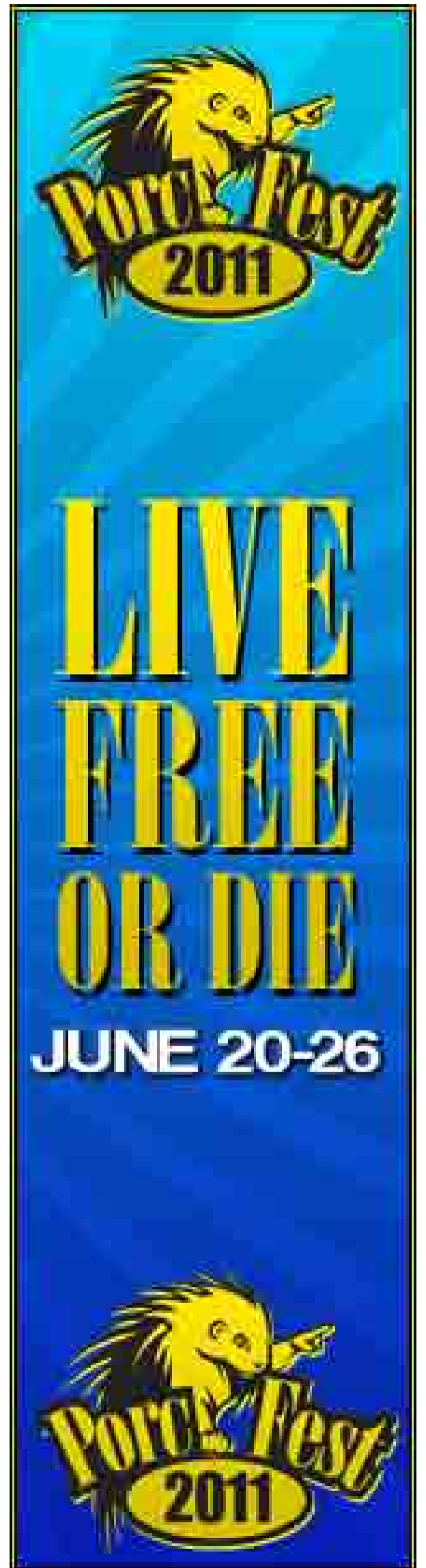
Both liberals and conservatives have come to accept this statist box as a permanent feature of American life. Even worse, they have convinced themselves that life in this statist box is actually freedom.

What makes libertarians different from liberals and conservatives is that, although we too have been born and raised within the statist box, we have broken free of it, in an intellectual and moral sense. Moreover, unlike liberals and conservatives, we recognize that statism isn't freedom at all. It's the opposite of freedom. Genuine freedom, libertarians contend, entails a dismantling of the statist box in which we all live.

Let's set aside, for the purposes of this discussion, the warfare state, and consider the welfare state, which is an economic system in which the federal government taxes people in order to transfer the money to other people, after deducting hefty administrative costs associated with making those transfers.

Welfare-state programs include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, grants, subsidies, foreign aid, and bank bailouts. Every

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one of those programs involves the federal government's forcible taking of people's money in order to give it to other people.

Most people living today have been raised with all or most of those programs. They are considered a core element of American life. While people often call for reforming the programs, hardly anyone other than libertarians questions the propriety of their existence. The attitude seems to be that the welfare state is here to stay and that we just need to continue devoting our efforts to trying to make it work and continue telling ourselves that it is equivalent to the free society.

It is not surprising that most people view the welfare state as freedom. From their earliest years, American children are taught that they live in a free country. The message that America is a free country is repeated and reinforced in school five days a week for 12 years. Those who are sent into government schools (i.e., public schools) receive an extra-strength dose of the freedom message, oftentimes beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. Those who resist the message are inevitably provided with such drugs as Ritalin or Adderall to make their minds more receptive to the official freedom message.

So by the time American children are 18 years old, the vast majority of them have no doubts that they live in a free country. They may even find themselves singing, "I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free." At



some events, they stand to proudly recite the Pledge of Allegiance, which of course all of them will know by heart, even if they're not aware that it was authored by an avowed socialist. Those who go to church on Sunday are exhorted by the minister to pray for the troops who are somewhere overseas protecting and defending the freedoms enjoyed by Americans.

In the mindset of the average American, freedom entails having the government take care of people, which it does by having the IRS take money from those who own it and giving it to others. Presumably, the more the government takes care of people (and, therefore, the more money it takes from people), the freer Americans are. In other words, the more people are

taken care of with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, grants, subsidies, and aid, the freer the American people become.

North Korea, Venezuela, and America

Suppose we asked Americans whether, in their opinion, people living in North Korea are free. Most would say no. When asked why, most of them would respond, "Because North Korea is a communist dictatorship, not a democracy."

Very few Americans would focus on North Korea's socialist economic system in framing their answer.

Now, suppose Americans were asked the same question about people living in Venezuela. They might be tempted to say that Venezuelans are free because there are elections in Venezuela, ignoring the fact that a democratically elected ruler can be a dictator.

Again, few Americans would focus on Venezuela's socialist economic system in responding to a question that asks whether Venezuelans are free. It simply would not enter their minds.

The fact is that North Korea and Venezuela have the same welfare-state programs as the United States: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, grants, subsidies, and aid. And people in those countries are as convinced that all that welfare-statism is freedom as the average American is.

This is one of the things that distinguish libertarians from statist. We oppose all welfare-state programs, including the crown jewels of the welfare state – Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We favor the immediate termination of all those socialistic programs.

The libertarian concept of freedom

Libertarians view freedom differently from statist. Our concept of freedom, in an economic sense, is as follows:

We believe that people should be free to engage in any occupation or profession without any government-issued license, permit, or other form of official permission. Let consumers, not the government, decide who engages in different lines of work.

We believe that people should be free to enter

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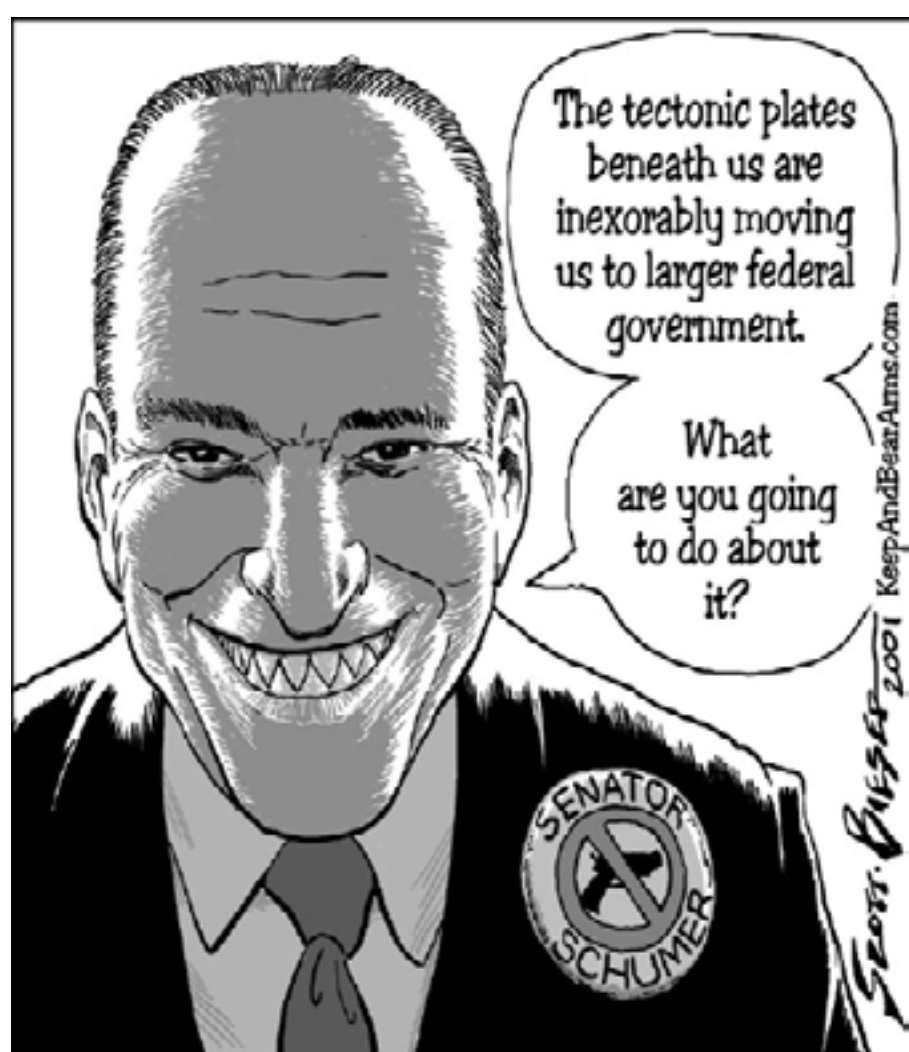


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into mutually beneficial transactions with anyone else in the world, without interference by the government. That includes such things as hiring a housekeeper from Mexico and selling food to a Cuban.

We believe that people should be free to accumulate unlimited amounts of wealth and, equally important, to decide for themselves what to do with it – spend, save, invest, or donate it. Thus, we hold that people should be free to plan for their own retirement (or not), to donate to their church or other causes (or not), and to help out their elderly or ailing parents (or not).

For us libertarians, that is what genuine freedom is all about, in terms of economic activity.



Compare the statist interpretation of freedom, an interpretation that libertarians consider to be false, fraudulent, and counterfeit. The statist version of freedom holds that government, not the individual, is sovereign and supreme. If people want to engage in a line of work, they've got to ask the government for permission. The government restricts them from engaging in mutually beneficial transactions with others, through such devices as minimum-wage laws, trade restrictions, and immigration controls. Everybody's income is subject to being taxed in any amount deemed proper by government officials and redistributed to others. People are forced to share their money with others, be it the elderly, the sick, or simply the politically privileged.



Thus, when libertarians are asked whether they live in a free country, our answer is opposite to that of liberals and conservatives. Our answer is “no,” because an essential aspect of freedom is economic liberty. If people in a society don't have economic liberty, then they cannot truly be considered free. And statisticians are not free merely because they think they are. A denial of reality, no matter how severe, doesn't affect reality itself.

It is how libertarians view freedom that befuddles and confuses, and sometimes even angers, American statisticians. They're simply unable to comprehend how libertarians are able to honestly believe that Americans are not free. That's because in the minds of American statisticians, it's obvious that Americans are free. Everyone knows that the United States is a free country.

The reason for this phenomenon is, again, that, while all of us are living within a statist box, most Americans have not been able to break out of the box, mentally speaking, and question and challenge the legitimacy of the statist box itself. Undoubtedly, that is in large part because of the powerful indoctrination that takes place in people's formative years – a period in which their minds are molded so that they believe that the welfare state is, in fact, freedom. Thus, when a statist encounters a libertarian, who wants to bring freedom to America, the statist becomes confused, befuddled, and even angry because in his mind he's already free, thanks to the welfare state.

The managed economy

Here's another example of how different libertarians are from statisticians in the realm of economics – the concept of the managed economy. What is the standard debate that takes place between liberals and conservatives in the political arena? It is that the party in power has “mismanaged the economy.” Most of the time, the accusation is directed at the president. When President George W. Bush was causing federal spending and debt to soar through the roof, what did the Democrats say? “He's mismanaging the economy!” And what have Republicans been saying about President Obama's exorbitant federal spending and borrowing ever since he took office? “He's mismanaging the economy!”

The entire process is simply a game in which voters transfer power back and forth between the two wings of what is really just one big political party – the Statist Party.

Sometimes, liberals and conservatives will ask libertarians, “What's your plan for managing the economy?” Our answer: “We don't have a plan for managing the economy,” which causes statisticians to go ballistic. They respond, “Oh, you libertarians are so impractical. How do you expect to win elections if you don't have a plan for

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managing the economy?”

Well, there is a very simple reason that libertarians don't have a plan for managing the economy. We don't believe that it's a rightful role of government in a free society to manage the economy. We believe that people should be free to manage their own economic activity and that government should stay out of the process entirely.

Thus, there are fundamental differences between libertarians and statists over the concept of freedom and the role of government in a free society.

Statists hold that freedom entails the government's having the power to seize money from people in order to take care of others and to manage and control economic activity.

Libertarians, on the other hand, hold that freedom entails people's having the right to manage their own economic activity in any way they want, including engaging in enterprise free of government control, accumulating unlimited amounts of wealth, and deciding for themselves what to do with it.

Another big difference between libertarians and statists relates to morality. Liberals and conservatives see nothing wrong, in a moral sense, with government's forcibly taking money from people in order to give it to other people. In fact, for both liberals and conservatives, the welfare state is the epitome of morality. The forcible seizure and redistribution of wealth, they say, actually reflects how good, caring, and compassionate the American people are.

Libertarians hold the contrary. We say that it's wrong for government to forcibly take money that belongs to one person in order to give it to another person. We call that stealing. And we say that stealing is immoral even when the thief puts what he steals to good use, such as funding the education of a poor student, helping a destitute elderly couple, or paying for a medical operation for a sick person.

Interesting enough, statists would agree with libertarians when the stealing is done by a private thief. They would say that such theft is morally wrong, even when the money is used for some good purpose.

The difference arises when government enters the picture. For the statist, what would ordinarily be considered to be an immoral act is suddenly converted into a moral act when the government is doing it. In other words, if the thief is a private person, the statist joins the libertarian in condemning the act. If the thief is the government, the statist praises the act, while the libertarian condemns it.

Finally, we must consider the economic consequences of the welfare state and the managed economy. Imagine a spectrum that has libertarianism at one end and total statism at the other end. At the statist end, the government owns and controls everything, and everyone is working for the state. At the libertarian end, people engage in free enterprise (that is, enterprise free of government control or management), have the right to accumulate unlimited amounts of wealth

(that is, no income taxation), and are free to decide what to do with their own money (that is, no Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, grants, subsidies, or other welfare-state programs).

Drifting to total statism

What liberals and conservatives fail to realize is that the totally statist society will be one that is on the verge of starvation. At the other end of the spectrum – the libertarian end – people will be enjoying the benefits of a rapidly growing, prosperous economy, one in which people are using their resources in different ways – consumption, saving, donating, et cetera.

The reason for this economic outcome lies in savings and capital. When people are free to keep everything they earn, they inevitably save a part of it. Their savings provides the capital that businesses use to expand their operations. The expansion produces higher revenues and profits, enabling firms to pay higher wages. In that way, standards of living rise. In the totally statist society, where the state owns everything, private savings and capital are squeezed out of existence, thereby dooming everyone to a life of extreme impoverishment, possibly even starvation.

In the middle of the spectrum are the welfare state and the managed economy, whereby the state attempts to extract sufficient wealth from the private sector to sustain its ever-growing welfare sector. What inevitably happens, however, is that the welfare sector becomes so large and so voracious that the private sector shrinks to a point where it cannot sustain the burden. The result is an environment of crisis and chaos, one in which people in the parasitic sector are demanding that the government do something to save them.

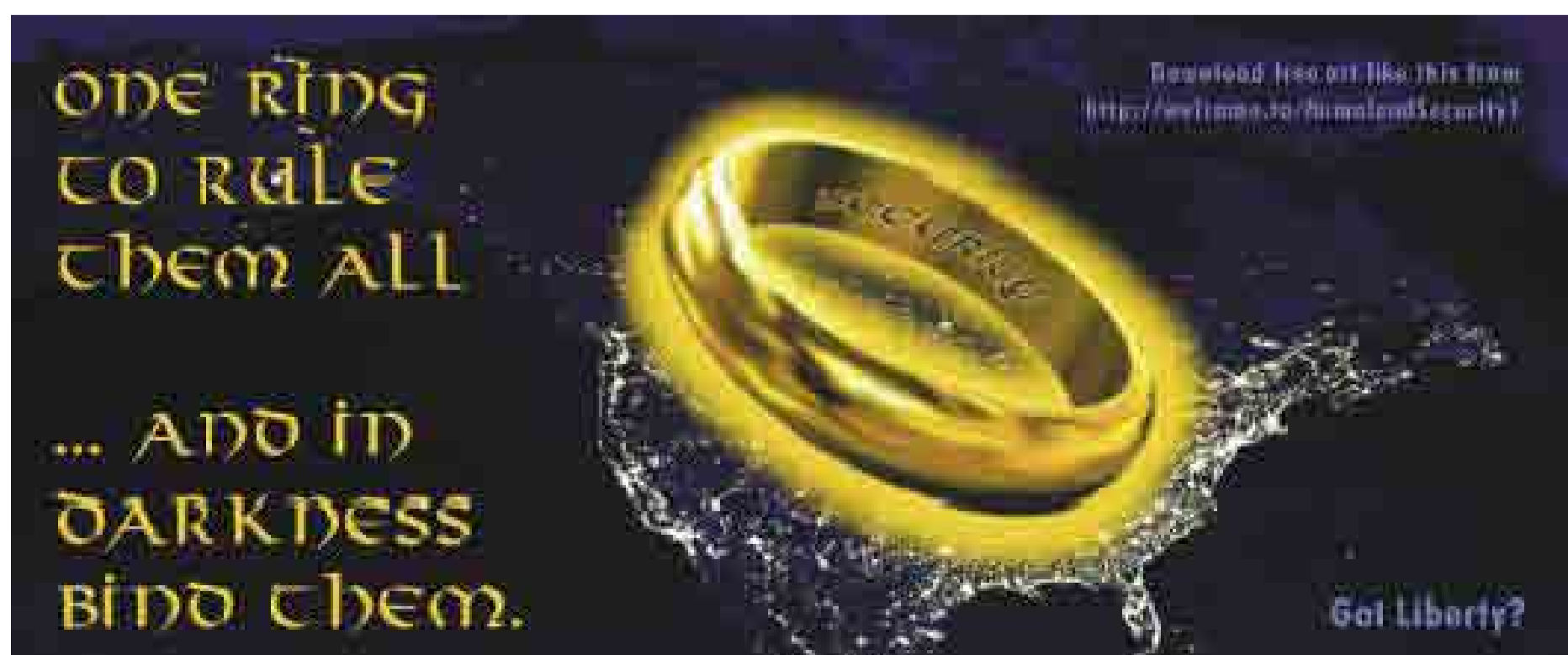
Because statists are convinced they're free, they inevitably blame the economic woes on freedom and free enterprise rather than on the government's socialistic redistributive programs and its interventionist economic policies. Thus, statists call on the government to move further along the spectrum toward more government control over economic activity and wealth.

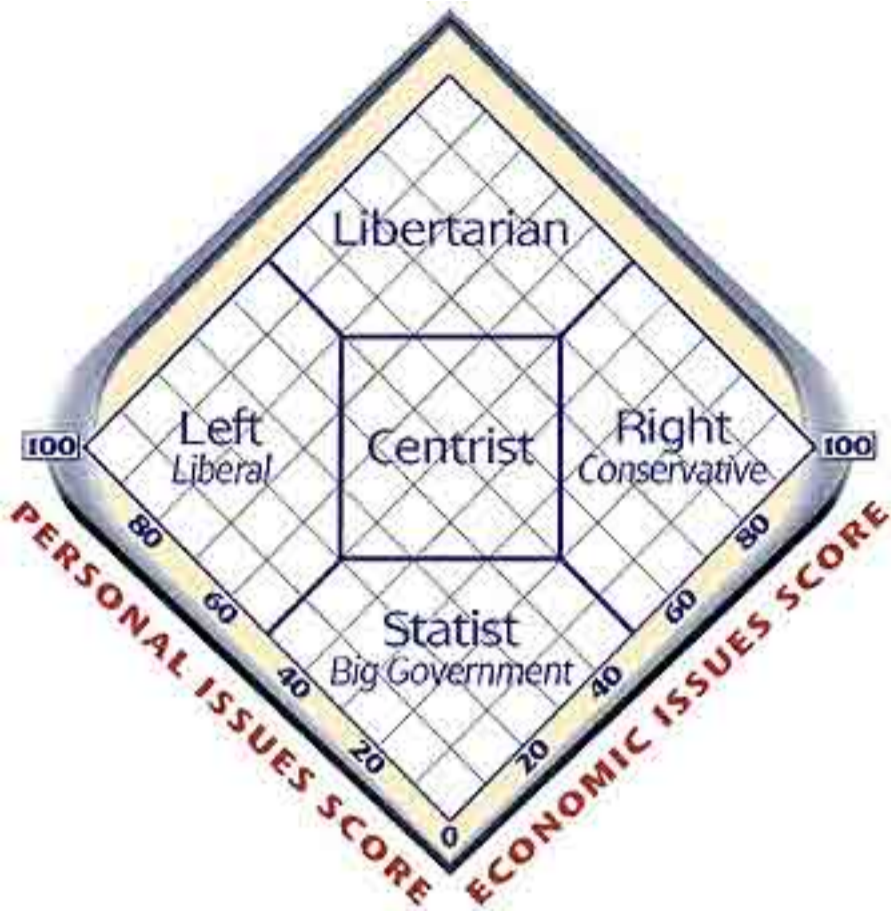
It comes as no surprise then, that libertarians have an entirely different diagnosis of the problem. It's the welfare-state programs and the interventionism that are the root of the economic woes, libertarians hold. The solution lies not in more government control but rather in more freedom. The solution lies in repealing the welfare-state programs and separating economy from the state.

For decades, libertarians have been telling Americans that the welfare state is not freedom and that it would inevitably lead to economic hardship, maybe even destitution. Americans haven't listened, in large part because their minds have been trapped within the statist mindset that was mostly molded during their 12 years of childhood schooling.

Today, an increasing number of Americans are asking questions and challenging out-of-control federal spending, debt, and even inflation. Time

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Continued from Page 11
Libertarianism versus Statism

will tell whether they're able to do what libertarians have done – recognize the statist box for what it is, break free of it, and call for its dismantling rather than for its reform. If so, we libertarians will have a much better chance of overcoming the decades of statism under which our nation has suffered and restore a free, pros-

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perous, and harmonious economic system to our land. 

Reprinted from The Future of Freedom Foundation.

May 20, 2011

Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

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THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION



BTP Thoughts after 20 Years in All This By Boston T. Party

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DEAR Friends,

For my own peace of mind, I've come to view a certain percentage of non-liberty (coercion) to be a sociological constant. (Perhaps even a spiritual one, but sociological will do here for sake of explanation.)

Like gravity, it's an immutable force with which we must daily reckon ourselves to. While it can be minimized and even temporarily suspended, it cannot be eliminated.

This is my theory, and I base it partly on the observation that nothing in life is 100% efficient. Even the best of race-car engines use at most 40% of their fuel's energy.

A perfectly libertarian world would have no, for example, economic "gravity" (i.e., coercive misallocation) and hence is 100% efficient in that regard.

Even if we managed to reach such a height, I strongly doubt that it could be maintained over generations.

So, I've generally come to terms with our difficult world. There

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Continued from Page 13 - BTP Thoughts after 20 Years in All This

will be no perfect liberty, not soon...and not ever.

There will be no gold-backed money not interfered with by rapacious government. There will be no sovereign right to travel not hampered by the highway patrol. There will be no control of one's diet without interest by the FDA, DEA, etc.

Government is not the problem, as if some outside force. People are themselves the problem, and they make their own problems those of others'. More people are willing to coerce (or indirectly employ coercion) than not. Their system of coercion is deeply embedded, reliably funded, and popularly supported. It has acquired, effectively, the status of a force of nature.

Even if Mars were tomorrow colonized by 100,000 libertarians, I'd bet that within just a lifespan or three it would devolve to a hybrid system similar to what we have today in America. Why? Because libertarianism, though a fine inter-personal paradigm, is notoriously lacking as an intrapersonal solution.

People will continue to be people. Thus, they will continue to avoid personal spiritual growth through a variety of well-honed techniques:

- ~ nondelay of gratification (i.e., pain avoidance)
- ~ nonacceptance of responsibility (i.e., pain avoidance)
- ~ avoidance of uncomfortable truths (i.e., pain avoidance)
- ~ inability to balance (i.e., pain avoidance)

People will often enough try to take the (seemingly) easier way out
To avoid pain, even at the expense of others.

(M. Scott Peck's *The Road Less Travelled* is a superb work on this.)

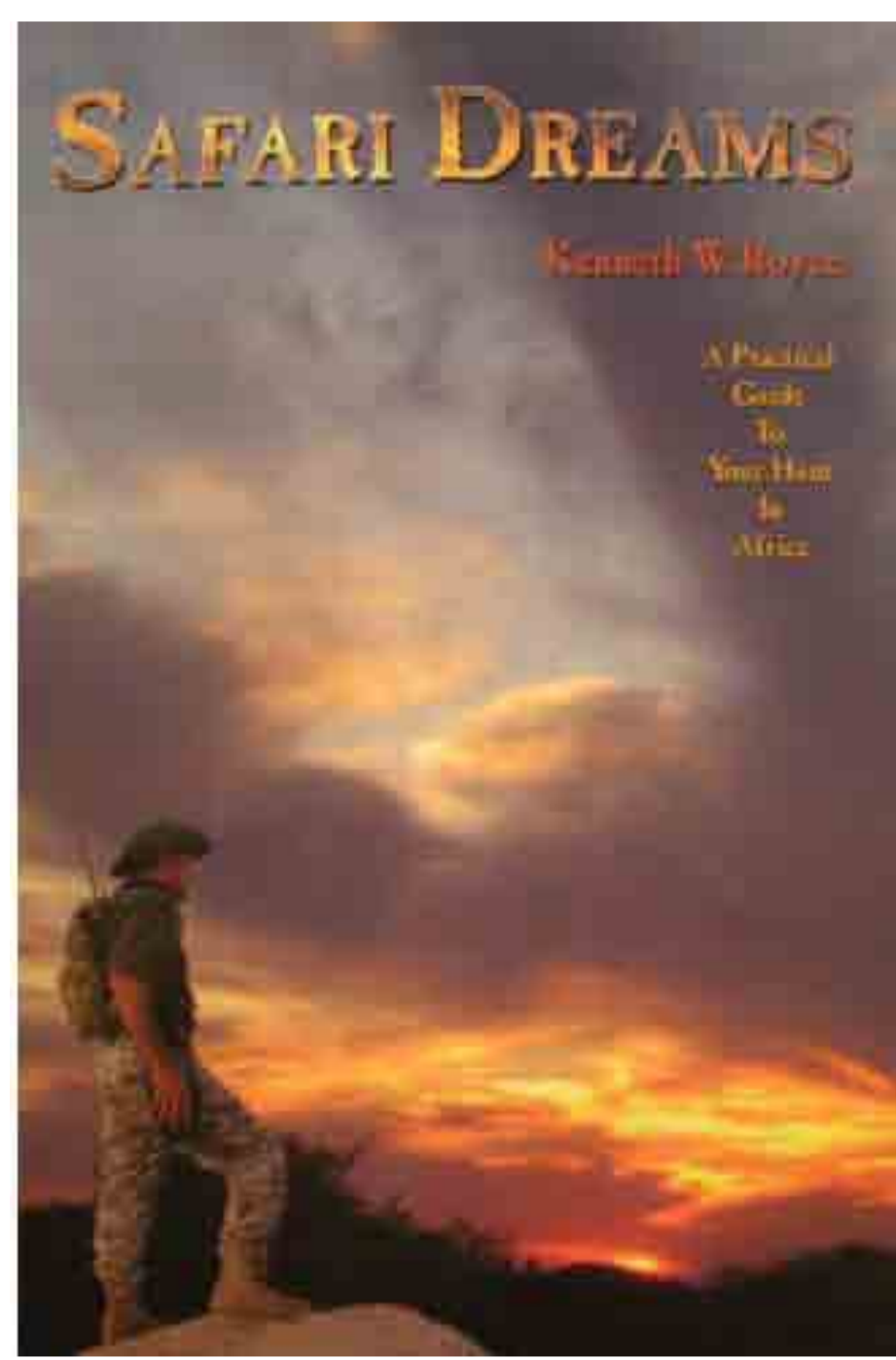
People are people. Libertarians and Objectivists included . . . and sometimes especially.

There will continue to exist a sufficient number of people who will band together for successful systems of coercion. In America, we once had a very viable country, the product of freedom technology. And Americans messed it up. Really, the only remaining question is how much non-liberty will you accept as a fact of life, in order to enjoy the balance of liberty you do enjoy? Railing against the state can become as fruitless as railing against the weather, or gravity. America will never become a libertarian utopia, and neither will NH or Wyoming. We can, of course, help to improve things and reduce the overall weight of coercion, but we'll never totally free ourselves of that weight. Thus, the trick is becoming strong enough to bear it on our backs, and no longer notice it. I do not notice the weight of my legs as I walk. We walk without conscious effort. We must be-

come strong enough to make the omnipresent weight of government an unconscious matter.

The best revenge is not "living well" but living joyfully. Root out what attempts to steal your joy, for that is the real enemy of life.

Excessive dissatisfaction of the world and its institutions will steal one's joy.



Daily strive to:

- ~ delay immediate gratification for a deeper one later
- ~ accept responsibility
- ~ dedicate yourself to truth and reality, at all costs (change your "map" when necessary)
- ~ keep all things in balance

...and endeavor to associate only with others who do. That done, the burdens and coercions and inefficiencies of this life simply must be accepted and thus ignored. But they cannot be made moot until you've first recognized them for their relentless existence.

And until one rejects utopian notions (either on this planet or on others) regarding essentially dystopian beings, one will continue to chew one's elbows over government, the police, regulations, taxes, and the rest.

Meanwhile, one's life passes by, second by second, frustrated and joyless. No coercive system or their agents deserve such a thorough victory, so easily won by default. 🌻

Boston T. Party

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Are You Really For Freedom? By Marc J. Victor

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I know you say you love freedom. Virtually everyone says they love and value freedom. Even such murderous villains as Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein claimed to love or advocate freedom.

"The German people are not a warlike nation. It is a soldierly one, which means it does not want a war, but does not fear it. It loves peace but also loves its honor and freedom." Adolf Hitler to Reichstag in Berlin February 1936

"[Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti] blood will light torches, grow aromatic plants, and water the tree of freedom, resistance and victory." Saddam Hussein, Iraqi Radio, January 26, 1999

It is easy to simply claim to support freedom, but it is much more difficult to accept the sometimes scary implications of such a claim.

Did you ever wonder what it really means to say, "I'm for freedom?" It is difficult for me to express how unimpressed I am by the enthusiasm of a person to strongly support the rights of another person to use their freedoms in exactly the same way they themselves exercise their own freedoms. For example, alcohol users who support the rights of others to use alcohol or marijuana users who support the rights of others to use marijuana does not seem such a principled stance to me.

On the other hand, people who steadfastly and enthusiastically support the rights of other adults to use their freedoms¹ in ways they themselves would never personally engage in is truly inspiring. A real freedom attitude is about accepting the sovereign rights of other adults to peacefully use their bodies and their property in ways you personally disagree with, morally oppose, find degrading, ill advised, harmful or completely foolish.² Indeed, this is the test to determine whether a person honestly supports the concept of freedom.

The adult users of the horribly destructive and often addicting drug called "alcohol" who oppose the legalization of marijuana because they personally choose not to use marijuana are, in freedom terms, identical to the adult users of

marijuana³ who oppose the legalization of methamphetamine because they personally choose not to use methamphetamine.⁴

A similar example can be found in the area of free speech. Americans rightly take pride in their right to free speech.

So long as the speech is "acceptable" there is no controversy. However, when unpopular groups like the Ku Klux Klan or the Neo-Nazis want to peacefully march, many self proclaimed free speech supporters seek to use the law to ban them.^{5 6}

These are the scary implications one must accept and embrace to truly be a person who advocates freedom. To hold otherwise suggests your freedoms actually extend no further than some other person's personal preference regarding their own freedom. This concept is what I refer to as, "The dark side of freedom."

I suspect when most people pride themselves about loving freedom, they have in mind wimpy concepts like the rights of others to decide for themselves where to go on vacation or what model of automobile to buy. This wimpy concept of freedom doesn't generate much controversy because most people personally agree with whatever decision another person makes in these areas.

Simply acknowledging that other adults have a right to run their own lives as they choose doesn't mean we are obligated to agree with or support whatever they say or do. If we choose, we may seek to peacefully persuade them to act as we believe they should act. Further, acknowledging the rights of others does not mean we are sending a message of approval regarding their choices. Indeed, we are free to peacefully send messages of disapproval if we choose and they are free to ignore our messages entirely if they choose.

In one of my other articles entitled, "Legalize Methamphetamine!" I argue that the war on drugs should be ended. I have been asked many times to modify the title of my article to something like, "End the Drug War" or to some other boring but inoffensive title.⁷ In fairness, the title is somewhat incomplete. I am considering changing it to, "Legalize Methamphetamine and Crack Cocaine!" or to, "Legalize Metham-

³ Or any other substance.

⁴ Yes, I know and agree with you about the awful consequences of methamphetamine use. Yes, I know it will rot the teeth out of your mouth and destroy your skin and possibly your life if you use it. I would strongly discourage anyone from ever trying or using it.

⁵ I agree with nothing said by either group, but I absolutely support their right to peacefully say whatever they want. It is important to note that nobody is required to listen to them. People have a right to peacefully protest against them and even to ridicule them for their deranged views.

⁶ When a Christian pastor in Florida recently threatened to publicly burn a Koran, Fox News presented legal "scholars" who generated creative ideas to use the law in an attempt to stop this constitutionally protected expression. The pastor ultimately backed down.

⁷ I have even been asked to delete the exclamation point in favor of a question mark. I like the exclamation point.


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phetamine and All Other Horribly Addictive Drugs!” My point here is to emphasize that advocating for freedom is sometimes not as easy and popular as it first may appear to the casual self proclaimed freedom supporter. However, it is necessary if we are to have freedom.

In the end, wimpy freedom advocates are not freedom advocates at all. If we are to again be the land of the free, we desperately need people to strongly advocate for freedom; in all its beauty and in all its ugliness.

Marc J. Victor is a practicing criminal defense attorney located in Chandler, Arizona. He can be reached via his website at www.Attorney-ForFreedom.com 

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We Fight For Your Freedom!

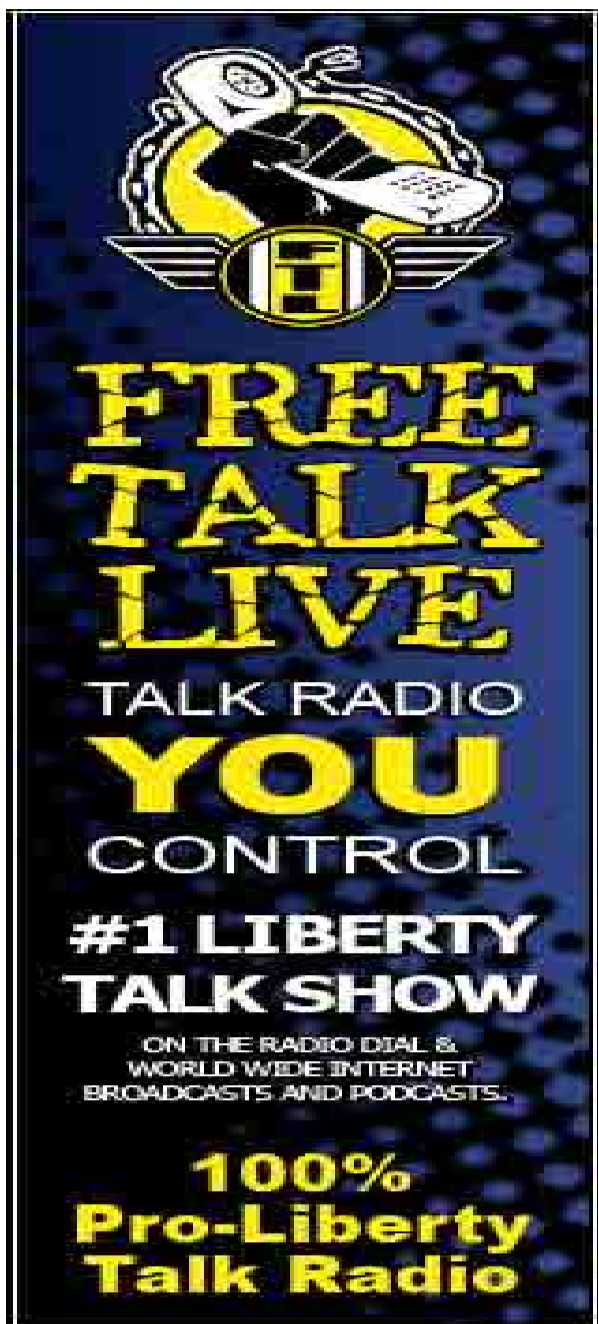


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Run your own radio station! By Ian Freeman

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HAVE you ever wondered what it takes to start your own radio station? Allow me to explain. I am the program director of LRN.FM, the Liberty Radio Network. LRN.FM airs liberty-oriented talk programming 24/7, including “[Declare Your Independence With Ernest Hancock](#),” Antiwar Radio, and Free Talk Live on weekdays, as well as other great, live weekend programs. LRN.FM was designed to make starting your radio station as easy as possible. Running a radio station can be very effective activism at a very low cost – a fifty-watt transmitter is less costly than some lightbulbs, but can reach everyone in a large area that has a radio, and that is a LOT of people. Yes, risk of aggression from the FCC is involved, or in some cases like Florida, local police. Few things are worth doing that aren’t risky, though, so if you’re ready to take your activism to the airwaves, this is the guide for you. I’m going to share with you a page from LRN.FM’s site with explicit detail regarding how to start your own radio station. You can see the page and click all the useful links at <http://station.lrn.fm>

Thank you for your interest in broadcasting the ideas of liberty, and your courage! - Ian Freeman

**Ian Freeman &
Ernest Hancock**

**80 Min Radio Show:
MP3**

**How to run your
own radio station/
podcast**

1. Choose your audio delivery method:

LRN.FM is available 24/7 to your radio station via two primary delivery methods: [Ku-band Satellite](#) and [Internet Streaming](#).

A. [Free-to-Air Ku-band Satellite](#)

Continued on Page 18



**First to name all four activist, know where this was and when gets 1 year free Full Subscription to Freedom's Phoenix Multi-Media/Tool Package.
Email Publisher@Freedom'sPhoenix.com with answer!**

Continued from Page 17 - Run your own radio station!



Pros: Our Ku-band free-to-air satellite channel goes everywhere in North America the internet can't reach. "Free-to-air" means all you need is an affordable dish and receiver, there is

no monthly cost. (Click to see a detailed signal map with minimum dish width for your location.) LRN.FM is sent with no encryption, hence the term "free-to-air". Satellite delivery is lower delay than internet delivery and has no increased bandwidth costs, meaning there is no limit to the amount of satellite receivers can be in use. Whether it's 1,000 or 1,000,000, our satellite costs are the same. Not so with internet, where each additional user contributes to an increase in cost. Satellite reception is possible anywhere that has a view of the Southern sky.

Cons: Subject to rain-fade. Heavy rain can knock out your signal, meaning dead-air, though a larger dish may help remedy this in rain-heavy areas. (There are ways to detect silence and remedy that, but at this time it requires extra equipment. Ask in the forum if you are interested.) Only works with a view of the Southern sky and the appropriate availability of dish space.

B. Internet Streaming

Pros: Our broadband stream is as reliable as your internet connection. (We've got two connections at the network, so our stream is pretty reliable.) Affordable receiving equipment is available with backup options to prevent dead-air.

Cons: High-delay. Monthly costs for your internet connection. Limited to areas with internet access.

2. Choose your receiving equipment:

Micro broadcasting can be done with a micro budget, but spending a little more on quality equipment can go a long way. Here are some suggested hardware options for various budgets (not including necessary cables):

A. Micro Budget



Satellite: Receiving equipment can be very affordable. New and used Free-to-Air receivers can be found for under \$100. Here are some receivers at Amazon. You'll also need a

dish that is at least 30" to receive Ku-band.

Internet: You can use an existing computer to receive our stream, but that requires running a computer 24/7, so a better idea might be a cheap internet radio which would consume less power and be dedicated to audio receiving. Operating system issues, reboots, or other such problems will not afflict a dedicated audio receiver.

B. Medium Budget



Satellite: You don't need to pay much more to get a receiver with decent audio connections. At the

time of this writing the rackmountable GeoSatPro DSR-R100 with balanced XLR outputs was only \$185. Larger satellite dishes don't cost much more and will collect more signal, meaning less chance of rain fade. (Though, even the minimum 30" dish doesn't tend to rain fade un-

til very heavy rain, from my experience.) Also, you'll need a larger dish if you are in the weaker signal areas shown on our signal map.

Internet: The internet radios I linked to in the micro budget section are good, but professional-level equipment doesn't cost much more. As of this writing, you can get the Barix Extreamer 100 for \$195 and free shipping.



The Extreamer will feed audio 24/7 from our stream, and if for some reason our stream fails, it can fall back to other streams or a flash drive that you plug into the front of the

unit loaded with MP3s. This nearly eliminates the possibility of dead air (unless the unit itself fails, which is highly unlikely as this is a professional, solid-state device). For the backup MP3s LRN.FM recommends using MP3s that are of an introduction-to-liberty theme. Here are some links to good MP3s, including audio versions of Wes Bertrand's "Complete Liberty", The Tanehills' "The Market For Liberty", Dr. Mary Ruwart's "Healing Our World", Spooner's "No Treason" (or this version from Mises), Bastiat's "The Law", and the Liberty Radio Underground. Wondering how to hook your Extreamer up via wifi? Read about one possible solution here on the Free Radio Forum.

C. Large Budget

Satellite: TBA – I haven't found a better unit than the rackmountable GeoSatPro DSR-R100 with balanced XLR outputs that I describe in the medium budget section, so until I do, that will occupy this space.



Internet: In the medium budget section above I introduced you to the Extreamer 100. Well, Barix

has now released the Extreamer 500, which you can purchase through Broadcast Supply World for just over \$500. (As of this writing on 9/25/10, it is not listed yet on their site at BSWUSA.com, so you'll have to call them.) The 500 is a more professional version of the 100 and includes the all-important balanced audio outputs, which are a big help if you have a professional-grade transmitter with balanced inputs. You'll need to install the streaming client firmware available through Barix's site to get it to tune in LRN.FM.

3. Choose your broadcasting equipment:

Here are some suggested hardware options for various budgets (not including necessary cables):

A. Micro Budget



Transmitter & Antenna: At the micro budget level, when you buy a transmitter, it usually comes with an antenna and cabling. I've heard good things about Hilly products,

but have no experience with them. There are a few Chinese manufacturers offering transmitters on ebay in addition to Hilly. IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to be a good neighbor and broadcaster, you need to have a low pass filter in addition to your transmitter. Most of the "cheapie" transmitters do not have this part inside them, so you'll need one separate from your transmitter.

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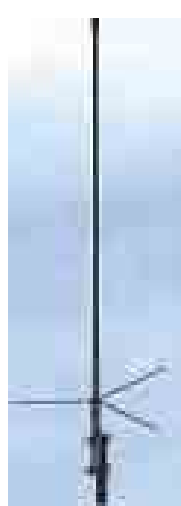
Here's one from Ramsey Electronics available as [a kit](#) or [assembled](#).

B. Medium-Large Budget



Transmitter: As mentioned above, HLLY and the other manufacturers on

ebay sell a variety of transmitters at different power levels. Plus, for REAL professional FM transmitters, [see this thread on the Free Radio Forum](#). As noted above, please ensure your transmitter has a low-pass filter in it, or you'll [need to get one](#). The more you spend, the more wattage you'll get, but watts aren't the most important factor in FM transmission – the most important factor is antenna height.



Antenna: A good omnidirectional antenna is a 5/8 wave [like this one from Ramsey](#). It can handle up to 200 watts and you can find a [similar version from Comet for less elsewhere](#). You can of course find other antennas that can handle more watts and also are directional, if you are wanting to pay more.

4. Final Steps

A. Find an open channel

First, [use this handy tool](#), then drive around listening to that station to make sure it is actually clear.

B. Install and configure your equipment.



Remember to tune your antenna for the frequency you've chosen or you will get poor **SWR**. NEVER power

your transmitter up without an appropriate antenna attached! Also, make sure you are not over-modulating as you could potentially interfere with an adjacent channel and attract negative attention. Additionally, make sure to ensure that your neighbors can receive channels adjacent to yours and that you are not interfering. Take a cheap radio outside your home and check reception on other existing channels. If it's clear in your yard, it's probably clear in your neighbor's home. If you know your neighbors, you can ask them if they've been receiving any unusual interference on their favorite stations. More useful technical information [here at LibertyActivism.info](#) and also on the [Free Radio Forum](#).

C. Power it up!

Wait – you ARE using an **Uninterruptable Power Supply**, right? Regardless of your budget, this is an important tool to protect



your investment. The more you spend, the more watts your UPS can handle, and the longer it will stay online during a power outage.

D. Let us know you're out there.

If you're using LRN for your station, please email LRN at LRN.FM and let us know so we can add your station to our [affiliates list](#). Don't forget to update us if you have a frequency change, pull our programming, or go off-the-air.

E. Join the Free Radio Forum.

Be sure to join the [Free Radio Forum](#) for more discussion about broadcasting LRN.FM including [suggestions for handling the FCC](#).

5. Options and Expansion:

Here are some ideas for how to go beyond LRN.FM and launch your own local show(s):

A. Micro Budget


Adding a local show on-the-cheap: Grab an [affordable mixer, mics and cables](#). Plug them all in and add your existing LRN.FM feed as a source on your mixer. When you want to go live-and-local, just turn up the mics, turn down LRN, and go. The output of your mixer should feed your transmitter. Don't forget to also feed your computer so you can record your show for internet release or even stream it over your own internet stream, which I'll address in the next section. Many mixers sold now make feeding a computer easy, via USB connection.

B. Medium / Large Budget

Equipment: You can spend more and get mic processors, process your entire station's audio, purchase and install radio automation software to insert local commercials or PSAs, as per our [Network Clock](#). Automation software ranges from [free](#) to [very expensive](#).

Studio: At some point you'll want to deaden the sound in your studio. There are various ways of doing this at various price ranges. LRN.FM's studio uses [ATSAcoustics](#) sound panels.

Streaming your Station: got a web server? Install Shoutcast or Icecast and stream your station online.

Promotion and Community Involvement: Get a website up, promote your station locally via fliers, word-of-mouth and other advertising. If you're doing live-and-local content and filling your programming gaps with LRN, then you've moved into the realm of being a community station so get out and volunteer, raise money for charity, run PSAs, or whatever will get you and your station integrated with the goodwill of the community. Have fun! 

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Advice to the Next Generation of libertarians by Walter E. Block



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NOW that I have reached old coot-hood (I was born in 1941 and will soon reach three score and ten years of age), perhaps it is not inappropriate that I share some of my thoughts with the next generation of libertarians.

1. Stick to principle, don't compromise

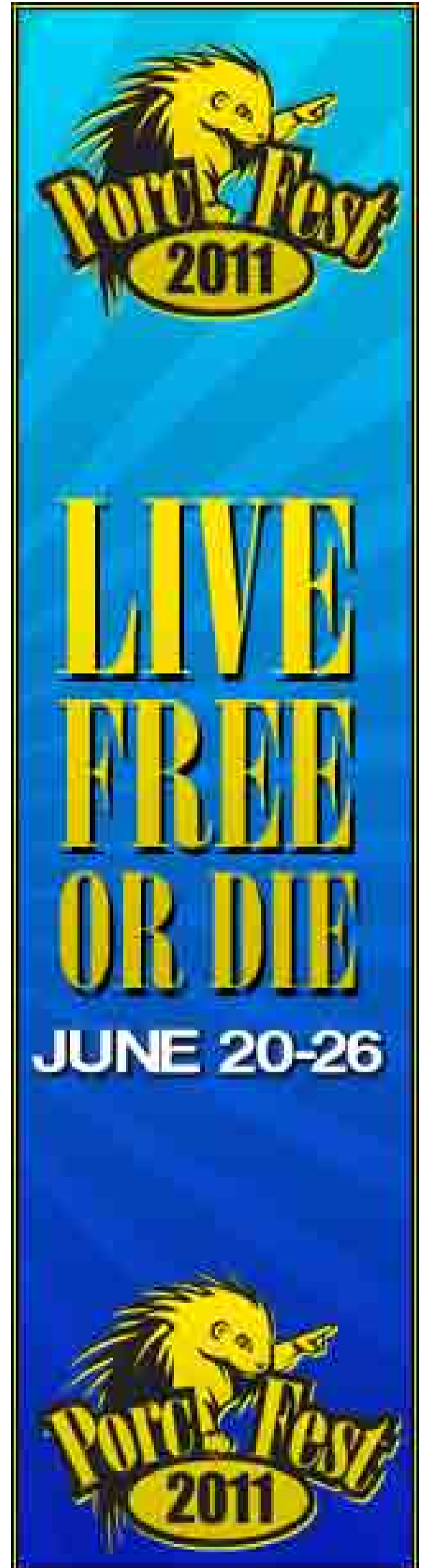
I have seen all too many young libertarians (and some not so young), engage in compromise with libertarian principles. What *are* our principles? Simply put, the non-aggression principle: keep your mitts off other people and their property. You can do anything you want, *any-ANYTHING*, as long as it is compatible with the non-aggression principle, provided, only, that you do not violate the NAP. Right off the bat, this means we all have to look with a certain suspicion, to say the least, at any and all acts by government. For this institution necessarily violates the NAP. It lives off the avails of taxation, and, this form of money raising is *not* voluntary. It is coercive.



principles? Simon aggression (NAP): keep the persons of other people do anything *thing*, yes and still re-

berle with liber-

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Continued from Page 20 - Advice to the Next Generation of libertarians

All too many libertarians have been fooled by the siren song of compromise. I have in mind, here, school vouchers, tradable emissions rights, so-called free trade arrangements such as NAFTA, the Fed should limit itself to money creation of 3% per year, etc. The argument in behalf of these initiatives is that we libertarians have to get into the “real world.” And, there, purity is idealistic, it is utopian. It must be jettisoned, if we are to have any impact. The perfect is the enemy of the good; at least these schemes move us in the right direction. No, no, no, a thousand times no. To fall for these ideas is to give up on libertarian principle. School vouchers do not constitute the completely private education we favor. Tradable emissions “rights” amount to a market in trespassing smoke particles (Rothbard, tba). NAFTA is not free trade; it is a customs union (if you don’t know what that is, look it up.) The very existence of the Fed is an insult to liberty (Paul, tba). And, who says that these compromises are at least a move in the direction of liberty? Milton Friedman says so, but he is no libertarian, his claims to the contrary notwithstanding (Rothbard, tba). Often this is very unclear, and almost always these are moves in the direction *away* from liberty.

2. Apply libertarian theory to *everything*.

In my own case, I have applied libertarian theory (private property rights, one of our basic building blocks) to highways, streets and roads (Block, 2009). Did you know that some 35,000 people are killed every year on our nations thoroughfares, and that this is the fault, not of speeding, drunk driving, vehicle malfunction, driver error and inattention, but, rather, wait for this, yes, of *government*. This slaughter of the innocents occurs on *public* property, surely, anathema for libertarians. I estimate that under a purely private, competitive, capitalist roadway system, a majority of these lives could be saved.

I am presently in the early stages of researching and writing about privatization of oceans, rivers and lakes, which, I hope, will eventuate into another book. Before you dismiss this idea out of hand, realize that the waterways of the earth comprise about 70% of its surface, and, probably, contribution less than 1% of world GDP. We are in the hunting and gathering stages on the oceans; when we last utilized these techniques on land, we were in our cave man days! Instead, we have non ownership of the treasures of our waterways, and the tragedy of the commons which has lead to the needless endangerment of many fish species. We are bedeviled by oil spills, storms, tsunamis, all of which, I hope to demonstrate, can be radically reduced with privatization.

In my career, I have block-headedly stuck to applying libertarian principles to wherever they lead me. To abortion, to blackmail, to egalitarianism, to the numerous characters in my book *Defending the Undefendable* (I am now also working on coming out with a few new books in this series). My mentor, my guru, my inspiration in all of this has been Murray Rothbard.

3. The importance of Austrian economics

Strictly speaking, the Austrian school of economics, on the one hand, and libertarianism, on the other, are orthogonal to each other. One can be an Austrian and a non libertarian; one can also be a libertarian, and a non Austrian. Economics, per se, deals with the positive realm: what causes what, how do we understand and explain (economic) reality. Libertarianism, in sharp contrast, is a normative field. It deals with political philosophy, and attempts to determine which acts are just (all of those compatible with the NAP, and none that are not.)

Nonetheless there is a strong and sharp correlation between Austrianism and libertarianism. Virtually all Austrian economists are libertarians. A large number of libertarians (who are interested in economics) are influenced by the Austrian school. Why is this? I am not sure. Maybe one day one of you young people will write the definitive explanation of why this is the case. I avidly look forward to seeing this.

4. Work hard

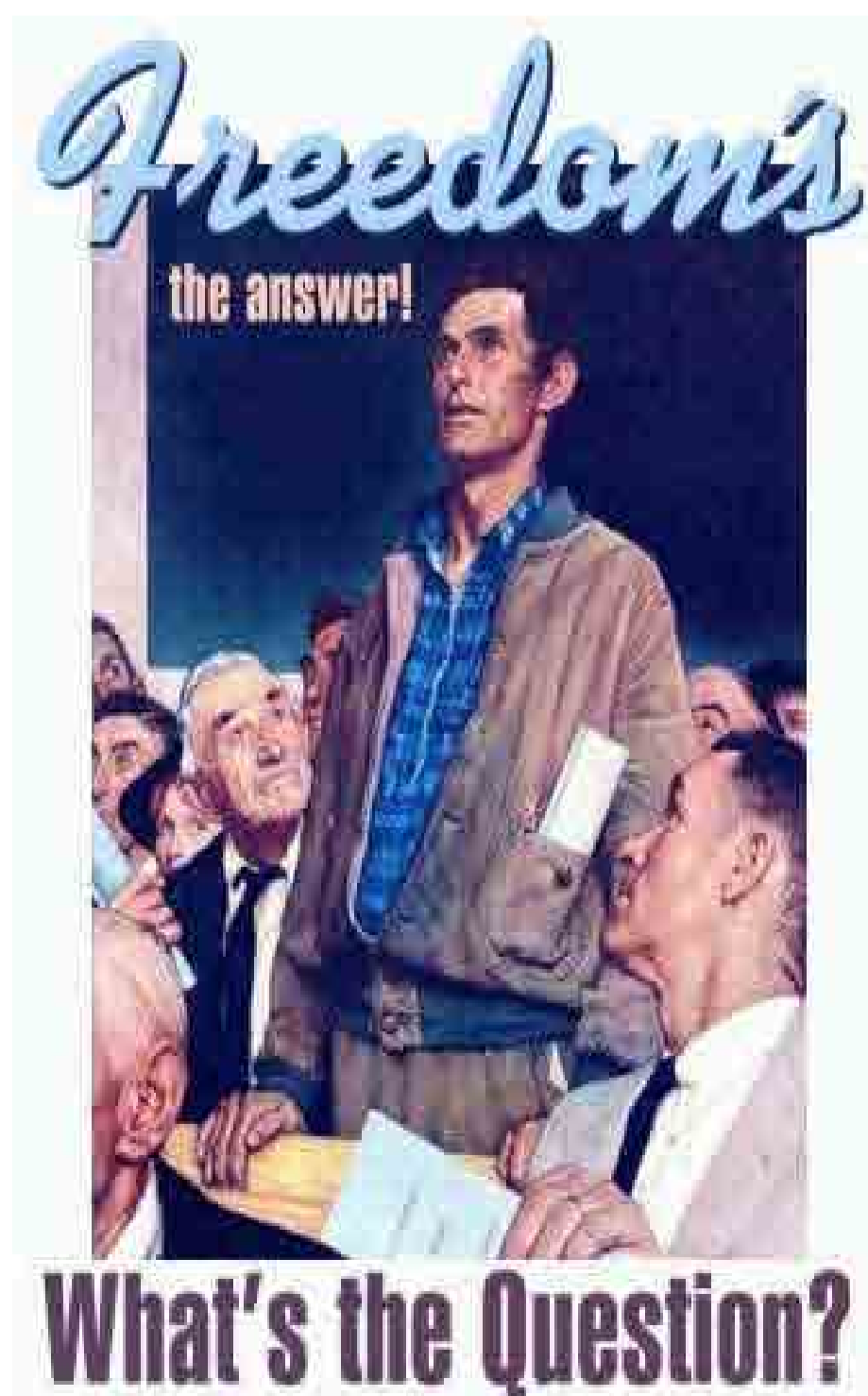
One of my greatest regrets as an Austro libertarian is that I goofed off a lot when I was younger. In those lazy days, I would produce a book every ten years or so, and two or three refereed journal articles annually. Nowadays, and for the past few decades, I have stepped up my output by quite a bit. Had I to do it all over again, I would have worked harder, much harder. Ah, well, you can’t have everything. A person can only do his best.

5. My request to young libertarians

Keep the light of liberty alive. Never let it go out. Do not be dismayed if we do not succeed, or succeed to a lesser degree than hoped for. All that can be asked of any of us is that he do his best to promote liberty. How? There are many ways. Through think tanks (my favorite is the Mises Institute). Writing. Publishing. Debating. Organizing. Promoting liberty politically as does the Libertarian Party. Or, as Ron Paul does so magnificently, through the Republican Party. Or as the Free State Project is trying to do by gathering liberty minded people in New Hampshire. By getting a Ph.D. and becoming a university professor, a path I have taken.

I became a libertarian in 1965 under the tutelage of Murray Rothbard. At that time, there were, oh, a score or so libertarians in the *entire world*. There are now scores of libertarian *institutions* about which I am ignorant, so many of them there are now. On the other hand, Obama is president, and he doesn’t have a libertarian bone in his body. So which is correct: the case for libertarian optimism or pessimism? I don’t know, and I don’t (much) care. Why? Because whichever hypothesis is true will not affect me by one iota. I will continue to do precisely the same things (writing, publishing, teaching, making a general pest of myself to the bad guys), whichever is correct. So, get out there and promote liberty. Kick butt (intellectually!) It is SO MUCH FUN! 🌻

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Expatriation: A Path To Personal Liberty

By Simon Black

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IN 43 BC, warring consuls Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian were duking it out with each other over control of Rome following Julius Caesar's assassination the prior March.

Each had legions at his disposal, and Rome's terrified Senate sat on its hands waiting for the outcome.

Ultimately, the three men chose to unite in what became known as the Second Triumvirate, representing the final nail in the coffin in Rome's transition from republic to malignant autocracy.

When the arrangement expired after 10-years, Octavian vanquished his partners and became generally regarded as Rome's first emperor.

Things only got worse from there. Octavian was followed by Tiberius, a paranoid deviant with a lust for executions. His successor Caligula's moral depravity was so infamous it inspired the 1979 porno film for his name.

Caligula was followed by Claudius, a stammering, slobbering, confused man as described by his contemporaries. Then there was Nero, who not only managed to burn down his city but was also the first emperor to debase the value of Rome's currency.

You know the rest of the story-- Romans watched their leadership and country get worse and worse.

All along the way, there were two types of people: the first group said, "This has GOT to be the bottom, it can only get better from here." Their patriotism was rewarded with reduced civil lib-



erties, higher taxes, insane despots, and a polluted currency.

The other group consisted of people who looked at the warning signs and thought, "I have to get out of here." They followed their instincts and moved on to other places where they could build their lives, survive, and prosper.

Some consider the latter option, expatriation, to be 'running away,' a cowardly and weak idea. This is flawed logic.

While the notion of staying and 'fighting' is noble in principle, bear in mind that there is no real enemy or force to fight. The government is a faceless bureaucracy that's impossible to attack. People who try only discredit their argument because they become marginalized as fringe lunatics.

Remember John Stack? He's the guy who flew his airplane into the IRS building in Austin, Texas last year because he had a serious philosophical disagreement over tax issues. While his ideas may have had intellectual merit, they were immediately dismissed due to his murderous tactics.

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Violence is rarely the answer, and it often has the opposite effect as intended, frequently serving to bolster support for the government instead of raising awareness of its shortcomings.

It's an uphill battle at best to raise awareness of the real issues. People are programmed by the education system to subordinate themselves to a good and just government. Nobody looks behind the curtain, which is why the country's core values today emphasize things like fake security, welfare, and ignorance over real freedom and independence.

When it appears more and more each day that those core values diverge from your own, it's time to reconsider what we're getting out of our citizenship and look at other possibilities.

Nobody is born with a mandatory obligation to a piece of dirt. Our fundamental obligation is to ourselves, our families, and the people that we choose to let into our circles... not to mob-installed bureaucrats.

Moving away, i.e. making a calculated decision to seek better opportunities elsewhere, is not the same as 'running away'... it is the most effective way to change your home country. And it is anything but cowardly.

One of the most difficult things you could ever do is pack up your life, leave everything familiar, and head to a new world full of uncertainty.

Just about everyone reading this had ancestors who did just that. These were not cowards, they were pioneers; they were trading tyranny for opportunity, heading to a land full of bright prospects where they could carve out a life accountable for their own successes and failures.

Granted, we have it easier today than our pioneering ancestors... but leaving behind the familiarity of home is still a difficult concept for most people to commit.

It's like staying in a bad marriage or dead-end job... people do it because their paralyzing fear of the unknown is often greater than the routine misery to which they've already grown accustomed.

Taking action requires a catalyst, and that's what we're experiencing today-- perhaps a father who watches a government agent fondle his child, or an entrepreneur whose assets are wrongfully frozen, or a student who realizes that social security will no longer exist when she hits retirement age, etc.

One by one, people will wake up and consider their options. "Stay and fight" is just a bombastic rallying cry of the institutionalized, not a real option. The fact is, there is no enemy, there is no fight... there is only gradual erosion of freedom and opportunity.

Unable to change what we cannot control, productive people will eventually reach a breaking point and leave. The "stay and fight" crowd who remain will congratulate themselves on their patriotism, chastise the "cowards" who have left, and resolve to go down with the mob-mentality, mafia-controlled sinking ship.

Here's the bottom line: your country is controlled by a very small group of people, and you're not one of them. You cannot control the machine,



you can only control where and how to invest your time.

This beast feeds on indebting and taxing you... and the best solution is to starve the beast beast by leaving.

Fortunately, there are a lot of options around the world for the open-minded. Stop listening to what Sean Hannity tells you and see for yourself, the world is full of opportunity. I've traveled to around 100 countries and done business in dozens-- some of my favorites:

Chile: the new America. Strong, independent, civilized economy, you'll think you're in Europe given how modern it is.

Singapore: Too much to say here... you need a job? They're hiring. You need capital? They're investing. You hate taxes? So do they. Singapore is ideal for families, and obtaining residency (and citizenship) is simple.

Estonia: With its flat tax structure, streamlined government, and brilliant work force, Estonia provides ample opportunity for entrepreneurs, particularly those looking for entry into Europe's harmonized customs union.



I could go on-- Brazil, Indonesia, Cayman Islands, Malaysia, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Tanzania, China, Bermuda, etc., but you get the idea.

In case you're geographically constrained, you can still take steps to increase your freedom. Start by moving some money to an overseas bank account, and store gold in an offshore vault-- this safeguards your wealth from government bureaucrats who could otherwise freeze or confiscate your accounts on a whim.

Also consider buying some land overseas, even if it's just a small piece. This is a great way to move money, and it gives you a starting point if you ever need a place to go.

Remember, these options are not exclusive to the wealthy-- anyone who is willing to reject institutional programming can find opportunity overseas or start protecting what they have at home; it takes an open mind, creativity, readiness to learn new skills, and the will to act.

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Simon Black is a former Military Intelligence Officer turned Globe Trotting Entrepreneur. As Chief Editor of Sovereign Man: Notes From The Field, Mr. Black sheds light on global economic trends and delivers actionable information for how to best achieve personal liberty. You can learn more about Mr. Black and subscribe to his free E-Letter by clicking [here](#).

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The Many Benefits of a Second Passport By Mark Nestmann

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IT may seem a radical idea at first thought, but passports are a relatively modern invention. Until about a century ago, entering one country didn't generally require official proof of citizenship or nationality in another one.

The rise of the nation-state, nationalism, and especially World Wars I and II made it essential for international travelers to obtain a passport from their national authorities. Some countries even required individuals travelling within their country to carry a passport. For instance, during the 1930s, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin issued "internal passports." This document was designed to discourage migration to more prosperous towns and cities. Over time, the internal passport became the prime instrument of Soviet police power.



easy international access can find a visa denied due to travel restrictions, trade sanctions, or political disturbances. For instance, the United States forbids U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba without obtaining a "license" from the Treasury Department. No other passport carries such a restriction.

- **It can reduce your profile to terrorists.** For instance, travel in many parts of the world using a U.S. passport can make you an instant target for criminal or terrorist groups. If you travel with a passport issued by a politically neutral country, you'll present a much lower profile to anyone with an axe to grind against your country.

- **It gives you greater travel privacy.** A U.S. passport is now equipped with biometric identifiers and a radio-frequency identity chip. It can potentially track you everywhere you travel. If you use your U.S. passport to visit a country not favored by U.S. authorities, you may face questioning—or worse—when you re-enter the United States. But, if you use your second passport to enter that country instead, no record exists of your visit in your U.S. passport.

- **It allows you to travel internationally if your primary passport is lost, stolen, or withdrawn.** The first measure many governments take if you come under investigation, or become an "enemy of the state," is to confiscate your passport. A second passport renders that sanction much less effective.

- **It gives you the right to reside in other countries.** A passport from a member of the European Union, for instance, gives you the right to live or work in any of 27 EU countries. Another example: a passport from a member of

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Today, governments still use passports as instruments of coercion. For instance, U.S. citizens can be denied a passport simply for owing money to the IRS or in child support payments. Even U.S. citizens living abroad must pay tax on their worldwide income. If they fail to do so, the government can decline to renew their passport.

Since some governments use passports to enforce coercive laws and regulations, it only makes sense for those with the means to do so to acquire a passport from another country. Fortunately, almost anyone with the financial means and determination can do so.

Having a second passport has numerous additional benefits.

- **It can expand your travel possibilities.** Even a citizen whose passport usually allows



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the Caribbean Community (e.g., the Commonwealth of Dominica), gives you the right to live or work in most other CARICOM countries.

It can avoid investment restrictions. Due to laws such as the USA Patriot Act, most international banks, mutual funds, and international financial services companies now forbid U.S. passport-holders from opening or holding accounts. But if you open the account with another passport, these restrictions often disappear.

It can aid in international tax planning. For Americans, a second passport has another benefit: it is an essential prerequisite to expatriation; i.e., giving up U.S. citizenship in order to permanently disconnect from U.S. taxing authority.

A second passport, in other words, can be your key to a new world of free movement, expanded international investment, greater flexibility, and legal tax reduction. In most cases, if you qualify for a second passport, your spouse and minor children will also qualify.

Now that you understand the benefits of a second passport, how can you acquire one?

Almost every country has a program offering citizenship or passports to individuals with a family history in that nation. In Ireland, persons with at least one Irish-born grandparent qualify for Irish citizenship and passport.

Many countries allow spouses of citizens to apply for citizenship and passport, usually after a specified period of residence. In Austria, the ordinary 10-year period of residence necessary to qualify for a passport and citizenship is reduced to six years if you're married to an Austrian citizen.

Your religion may also be a viable route to alternative citizenship. For instance, Jews who immigrate to Israel under the "Law of Return" are entitled to Israeli citizenship and passport.

If you don't qualify based on these factors, in most countries, you can acquire citizenship following a period of prolonged residence. Among other countries, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States exchange residence rights for domestic investment. Eligibility also depends on your age, education, life skills, health, and other criteria.

Your spouse and minor children can often accompany you, although in some cases they may be subject to a separate qualification process. In most cases, after you live in a country for

three to ten years of continuous legal residence, you and the family members accompanying you can apply for citizenship and passport. Some countries (e.g., Canada) even recognize same-sex marriages or domestic partnerships for immigration purposes.

Residents of the overseas territories of some nations, notably the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, qualify for citizenship in the home country. For instance, individuals living in one of the Dutch Caribbean island territories for a period of five years or longer may qualify for a Dutch passport. To qualify, you must demonstrate good conduct and substantial integration, including oral and written fluency in the Dutch language.

A handful of countries offer "instant" citizenship in return for an economic contribution. The Commonwealth of Dominica and the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis are the only countries with an official, legally mandated, economic citizenship.

The least expensive option is to obtain economic citizenship from Dominica. Under this country's program, you may acquire citizenship and passport in return for a cash contribution. Total costs including all fees for

a single applicant come to about \$105,000. Add \$25,000 if you need a passport for your spouse and up to two children under 18. Dominican passport holders can travel without a visa, or obtain a visa upon entry, to nearly 100 countries and territories. You can also live or work in most members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

In the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis, there are two ways to obtain economic citizenship. The most practical strategy is to make a direct contribution. Total costs including all fees for a single applicant under this option come to about \$225,000 or \$275,000 for an applicant with up to three dependents. Alternatively, you may purchase qualifying property worth a minimum of \$350,000. However, fees and taxes under this option are much higher than if you make a direct contribution. St. Kitts & Nevis passport holders can travel without a visa, or obtain a visa upon entry, to more than 130 countries, including nearly all of the 27 member countries of the European Union. You can also live or work in most CARICOM countries.

Many countries have in their citizenship laws provisions allowing the government to offer citizenship and passport to individuals who pro-



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vide a significant benefit to that country. These countries do not offer "economic citizenship" as such. Rather, individuals with a genuine interest in that country and who are prepared to provide an outstanding service to it (including an investment) may be rewarded with citizenship and passport without requiring a period of prolonged residence or proof of fluency in the official language. Two countries in the European Union offer such an opportunity on an ongoing basis, with total costs starting at a minimum of \$600,000. Holders of an EU passport can live and work in any of the 27 members of the European Union.

In all cases, applicants must pass a strict vetting process that includes a comprehensive criminal background check.


An Internet search will reveal many companies offering to sell passports from countries that don't legally sanctioned economic citizenship programs. In recent years, passports from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Repub-



lic, Ireland, Lithuania, and other countries have been offered. All these offers are either scams or involve illegally purchased or stolen documents. Securing a passport on this basis, through fraudulent misrepresentation, either directly or through an agent is clearly illegal. Your passport could be revoked at any time and you could be subject to arrest and/or deportation.

The Nestmann Group, Ltd. can assist individuals seeking a second passport through an economic contribution or investment in

Dominica, St. Kitts, & Nevis, and in selected EU countries. Please contact us for more information at info@nestmann.com, or call us at 1-602-604-1524.

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FREE AS THE AIR?

By **L. Neil Smith**

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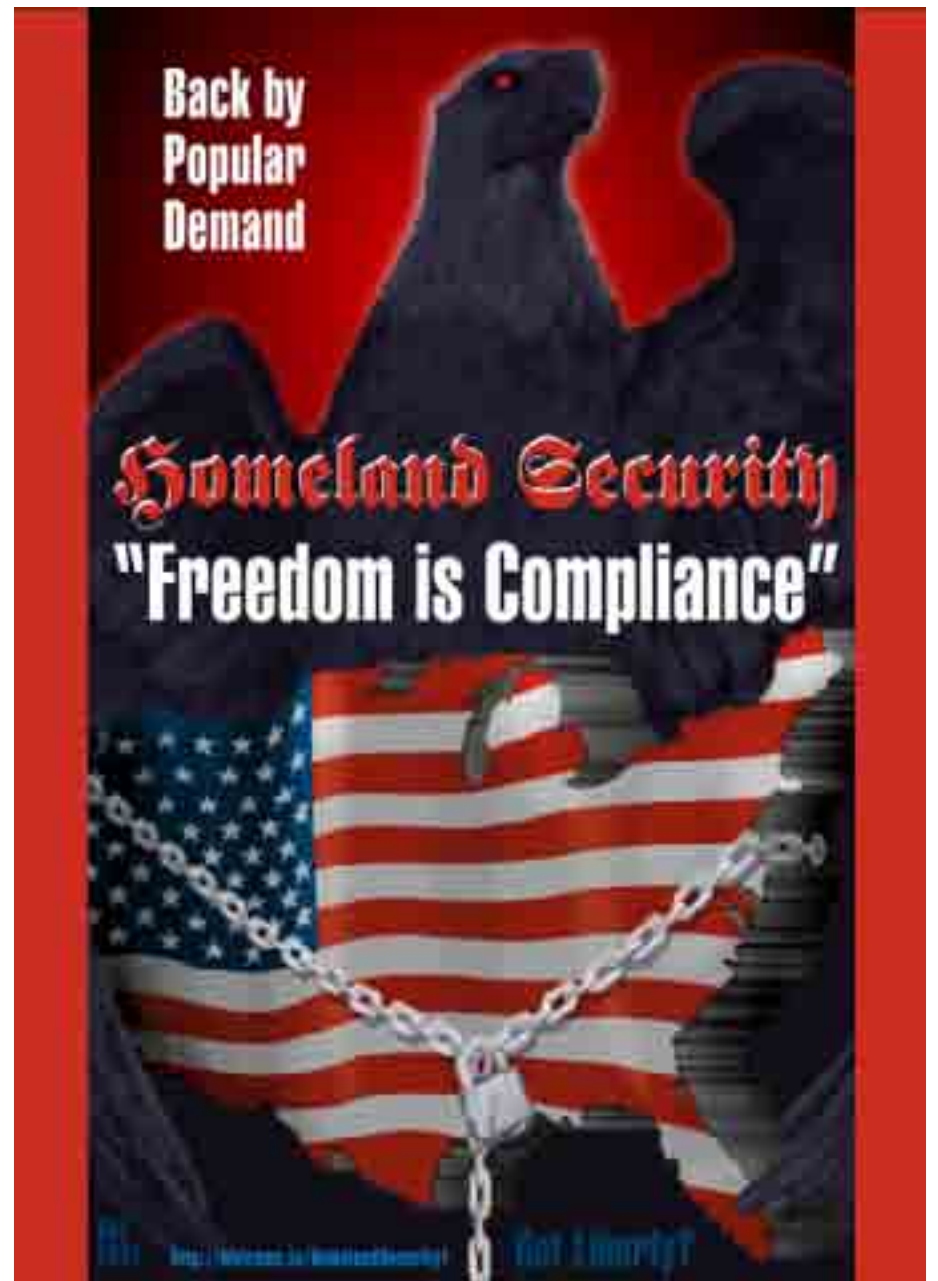
I received an e-mail message today (May 25th) about a proposed Constitutional amendment that would compel our elected representatives to be fully subject to the same laws citizens and taxpayers are all expected to obey.

This would include Social Security, in which the Congress and the Senate have never been forced to participate, Obamacare, which is what caused the issue to be raised now, and myriads of other statutes and regulations to which politicians have made themselves happily immune. There's even a part of the Constitution, Article I, Section 6, that keeps them from being punished for anything political they do while in office.

While I heartily agree with and greatly admire the spirit in which this proposed new amendment was written, I also believe that, while amendments are being proposed, there are a few higher priorities to address.

When I was a member of the national Libertarian Party platform committee in 1977, meeting in San Francisco, I wrote and introduced a plank attempting to warn my fellow libertarians that the then-new security measures being imposed in the country's airports -- they were shockingly mild by today's ugly standards -- would inevitably spread out from there like a cancer, eventually transforming America into a full-blown police state, which is exactly where we find ourselves today.

I was laughed at and shouted down by a collection of characters and movement icons as legendary and illustrious as they could possibly be. Over the thirty-four years that have passed

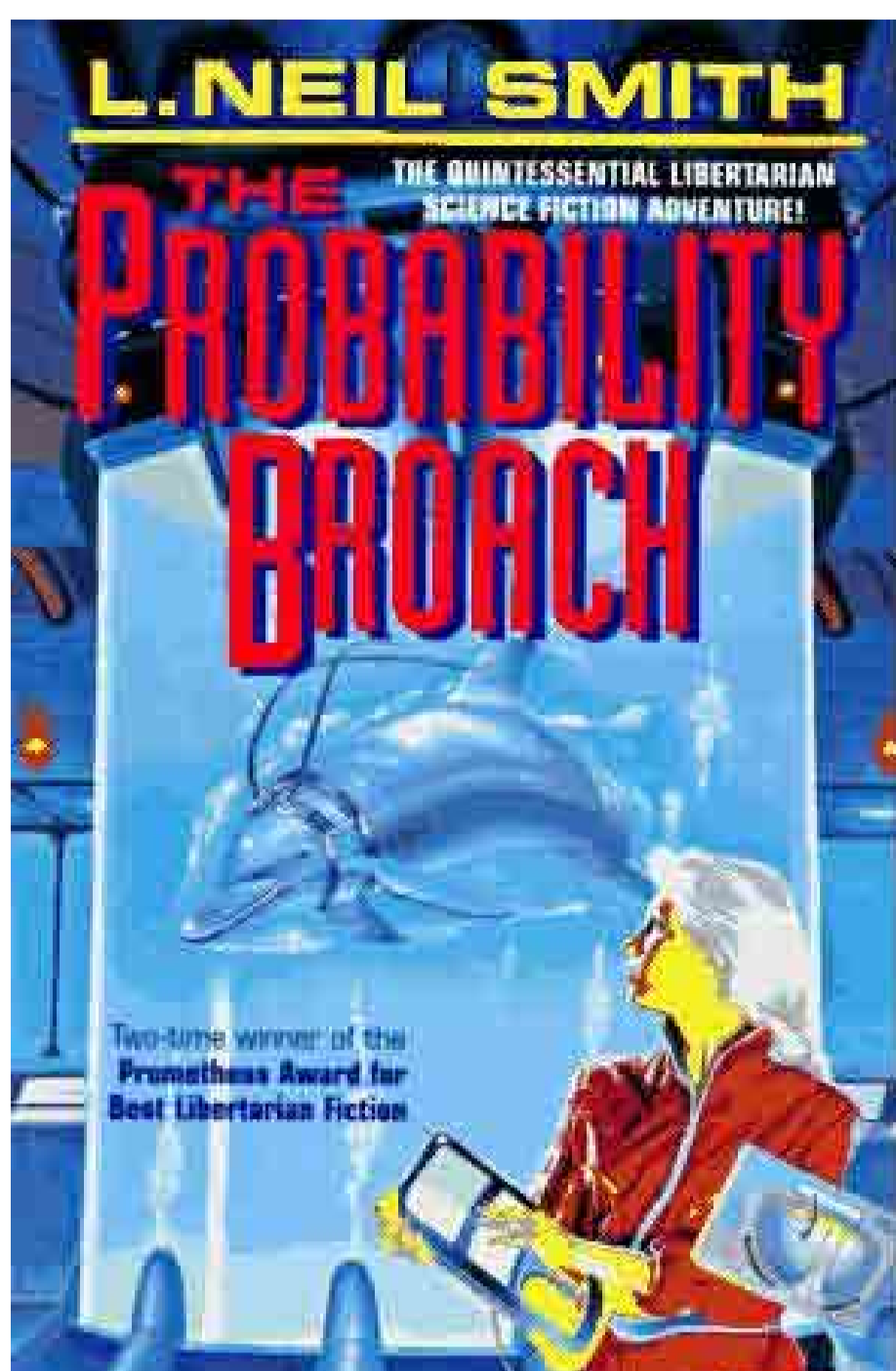


since then, not one of these legendary and illustrious characters has come forth to say, "You were right, Neil, we were wrong". But I was right: if you want to know what America will be like tomorrow, look at what airports are like now.

Today's news is filled with horrifying stories of people -- women, children, diapered babies, little old ladies in wheelchairs -- being groped and explored obscenely by dullwitted, slovenly placeholders, many of them with criminal backgrounds including sex offenders, who couldn't even meet the eligibility standards of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, formerly the most incompetent, corrupt, and least scrupulous bottom-of-the-barrel agency in the government.

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Now they're Number Two.

But we knew that.

The great libertarian teacher and writer Robert LeFevre was famous for having remarked, among other things, that government is a disease masquerading as its own cure -- a quote often erroneously attributed to me. Today, the thoroughly unconstitutional Transportation Safety Administration, as well as the equally illegal Department of Homeland Security of which it is a part, are in fact the very terrorists they pretend to be protecting us from. And they are only a small fraction of the vast standing army -- a crooked, increasingly brutal, occupying army -- of which America's Founding Fathers were so terribly wary and afraid. These are the same kind of "humanitarians" who would scramble military fighters and shoot down a hijacked commercial airliner full of innocent passengers, rather than allow these victims Constitutional access to the means of defending themselves. Some observers believe that's what actually happened to United Airlines Flight 93, one of the four aircraft seized on 9/11, which crashed into a farmer's field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania -- but that the "public servants" who authorized this outrage and atrocity are ashamed to admit what they did.



Is it true? Given all their other lies, from the sinking of the *Lusitania* to Iraq's WMDs, how would we ever be able to tell? It is instructive in this connection -- and sobering -- to remember that not one single individual in the government lost his or her job as a consequence of having utterly failed to predict or prevent the 9/11 attacks. Yet today, even as they tighten their death-grip on the Constitution, their terrorist-under-every-bed cant increasingly rings as hollow as the Yellow Peril of the 1890s or the Red Scare of the 1920s. There is a lot of money and power to be had by frightening people.

And now they are attempting to expand their operations to railway stations and bus terminals, as part of an all-out push -- or should I say *putsch*? -- to impose totalitarian discipline on

what was once the freest country in the history of the world. Here and there, with increasing frequency, government minions are stopping cars illegally, searching people without probable cause, and even stealing money from them. The infamous "no-fly list" of individuals whom the government has decided -- for no reason that they are required to reveal -- won't be allowed to board an airplane is unprecedently heinous and tyrannical, a page straight out of the Hitlerian or Stalinist playbook. Those who created the list, compiled it, and apply it belong in prison. Instead they remain free to advocate that the same procedure be applied to bus and train travel, to buying a firearm, and, eventually, to using the Internet.

But we all know that. We see it in the news, online, every day. We also know they want to silence their critics by seizing control of the Internet, something which, at all costs, must never be allowed to happen.

September 11, 2001, if we choose to believe the official story, could have been stopped before it ever started by a single individual aboard each aircraft, armed with a .22 caliber revolver. Nor would the 9/11 hijackers simply have equipped themselves with better weapons. As plummeting crime rates in concealed-carry locales clearly demonstrate, criminals only act when they feel that they enjoy an overwhelming advantage.

In my 1980 novel *The Probability Broach*, and again in *The Venus Belt*, published in the same year, I discuss alternative methods of assuring passenger safety in the air while respecting the individual's absolute right to self-defense and the means of self-defense. This is neither brain surgery nor rocket science. Rendering innocent people harmless is just the same as rendering them helpless, which is morally unacceptable.

The monstrosity of 9/11 occurred, in fact, because the government supplied the perpetrators with that advantage, illegally forbidding American citizens to fly properly protected (please, don't bring up those useless lumps known as "Air Marshals") -- a policy we now call victim disarmament -- and convincing the whorish media and a gullible public that the Second Amendment right to own and carry weapons, and the many social benefits it confers, somehow doesn't apply at 40,000 feet.



What can be done about it, short of violent revolution? Many individuals believe it's too late and that nothing can be done. But a simple fact that no one can dispute -- a feature of reality that people need to stop evading and face

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squarely and courageously -- is that if you continue to fly, your compliance is helping to take freedom away from your friends, family, neighbors, your countrymen and women.

I've often reflected that when you suffer blinding migraines, what you need, in the long run, is a CAT-scan or something like it, and perhaps surgery. But there's nothing wrong with taking an aspirin in the short run. Today, those blinding pains are in another part of our body politic, the part being brutally groped by the filthy hands of tyranny.

America was once the freest country in the history of the world, offering unprecedented peace, progress, prosperity, and above all, freedom to a new Productive Class. And it was freedom, of course, that let all the rest of it happen, that made all of us wealthy and secure, compared to the inhabitants of the rest of the globe, in a wonderful historical period when everyone wondered what marvel would be invented next.

With freedom, you can do anything. All things are possible. Without freedom, very little is possible except barbarism and death. Today, by comparison to the times of our great grandfathers, we all languish in the debtor's prison that our country has become, bound down by the chains that should have been used to bind the government down.

For a long-run solution to this and many other problems currently plaguing the former land of the free and home of the brave, it is necessary to pay attention to Thomas Hobbes, an author unsympathetic to freedom, who I'm not generally accustomed to quoting, but who was pitch perfect when he declared in *Leviathan*, that "... covenants, without the sword, are but words ... of no strength to secure a man at all."

America's Founding Fathers made a deadly error -- or perhaps the Hamiltonian Federalists got what they actually wanted -- when they failed to write a penalty clause into the Bill of Rights. If, for the past 220 years, we had been arresting, indicting, trying, convicting, and punishing politicians, bureaucrats, and policemen who violate or evade its provisions, we might have a completely different country today. A free country, technologically centuries ahead of where we are now.

Instead, our ancestors allowed the Founders to write the precise opposite into the Constitution, an immunity clause, Article I, Section 6, which has permitted what was so hard-won in the Revolution through bloodshed, gunpowder, and steel, to be gnawed away at and finally destroyed.

Our highest priority today must be to write that long overdue penalty clause ourselves, to make it, along with the Bill of Rights, the highest law of the land, and then to repeal Article I, Section 6. Supreme Court justices must be held to higher standards or replaced. Police departments must be reduced in numbers and demilitarized. After 49 years of political activism on my part, this is the only path I can see clearly, short of another bloody Revolution, to getting a free country for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren to live in.

The following proposed amendment has been

criticized because it doesn't call for capital punishment, which may be a fair observation. A second clause, repealing Article I, Section 6, could be added. Whether it was ever ratified or not, if this proposal were circulating widely enough on the Internet, it might just give the many enemies of individual liberty some occasion to pause and to reflect on possible consequences:


Any official, appointed or elected, at any level of government, who attempts, through legislative act or other means, to nullify, evade, or avoid the provisions of the first ten amendments to this Constitution, or of the Thirteenth Amendment, forbidding involuntary servitude of any kind, shall be summarily removed from office, and, upon conviction, deprived of all pay and benefits including pension, and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

But with regard to commercial air travel, right now and for the foreseeable future, the proper palliative is obvious. The airlines must be forced to choose between respecting the Bill of Rights or going bankrupt. They may choose the latter course, and then go whimpering to the government for subsidy, but government's means are limited. There isn't that much real money left to steal, and to print more would be suicidal.

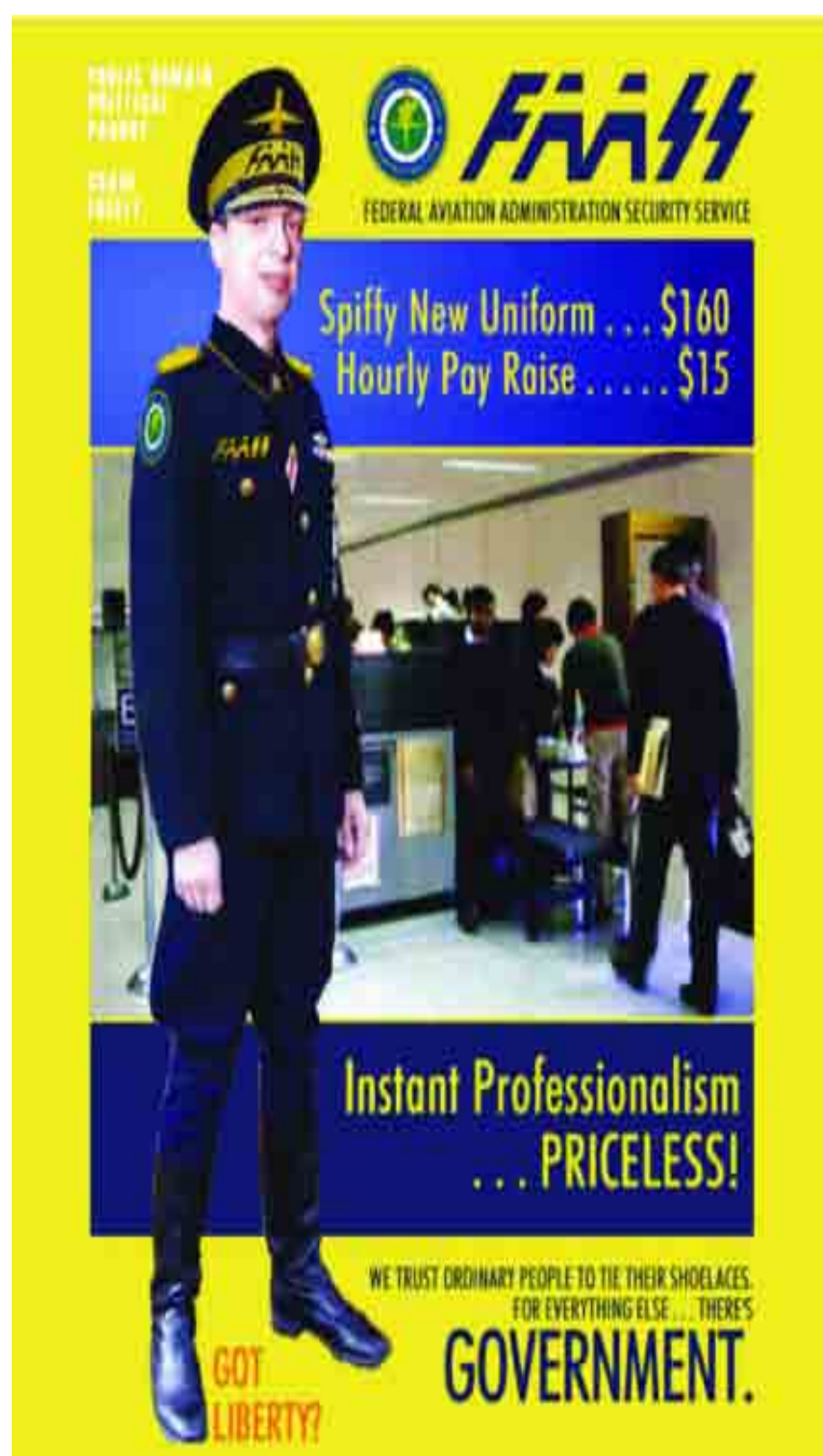
Our policy must be *boycott*. I repeat: as long as you continue to fly, you are helping to take freedom away from your friends, family, neighbors, and your countrymen. Until the Bill of Rights is enforced in the air as it should be on the ground, don't buy, don't fly, don't comply.

Period.

If you're not willing to do what is necessary to restore freedom to the skies, then just stand there, spread your legs, and enjoy the grope.

It's your only alternative. 

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Power or Liberty? By Glenn Jacobs

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THE modern conservative movement finds its roots in Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign. Goldwater, of course, lost by a landslide to Lyndon Baines Johnson. The defeat disillusioned many Goldwater supporters who abandoned politics altogether, but it galvanized others who created the organizations and infrastructure necessary to bring the Republican party electoral success. This success was realized with the election of Ronald Reagan to the presidency in 1980. The conservatives had won.

What, however, did conservatives win? Ronald Reagan was not the fiscal conservative that he is popularly believed to be. If one abandons the Limbaugh-Hannity rose-colored glasses when analyzing the presidency of Reagan, one finds that the Gipper nearly doubled the size of the federal government, ran monstrous deficits financed by the hidden tax of inflation, and acquiesced to the domestic spending demands of congressional Democrats in exchange for a massive expansion of the military-industrial complex. Yet, this is The Conservative Icon.

Goldwater was rabidly anti-communist and, in his later years, his hostility towards the Religious Right earned him the enmity of the GOP establishment. In 2011, neoconservatives, the philosophical stepchildren of Leon Trotsky, form the intellectual vanguard of conservatism, while social conservatives fill the ranks of its foot soldiers. The movement that Goldwater spawned has become everything Goldwater opposed.

Conservatives won some elections, but they lost the war. Just like the Ringwraiths in Tol-



ien's *The Lord of the Rings*, the conservative movement's covetousness of power destroyed it. None of this should come as a surprise. The conservative movement was created specifically to win elections. Whatever societal changes conservatives wanted to implement were to be imposed from the top down, that is, as a result of government force. In the end, power became the goal in and of itself.

The goal of the libertarian movement is not only much broader than the conservative movement, it is actually the opposite of the conservatism. We seek not to wield political power, but to diminish it. This goal cannot be realized through the electoral process. Although libertarian office holders would certainly attempt to diminish the State, their ability to do so is severely limited. After all, the public currently views the government as a baker whose job is to give everyone a free slice of pie. If you ain't getting your slice, something is wrong. And woe to him who points out that the pie isn't really free after all!!

The role that libertarian politicians can play is to use electoral politics as a platform to educate. There are many within our movement who will claim that this statement reveals a great deal of naiveté. These folks, many of whom I count as friends, claim that the critical mass necessary for libertarian ideas to take hold can never be reached, and thus we must seize the levers of power. This attitude ignores a political reality: all governments, no matter how oppressive, ultimately rely on the consent of their citizens to remain in power. Even if a libertarian politician could deceive his way into office by concealing his ideology, he would face major resistance when implementing changes which would diminish the State and enhance individual liberty.

On the other hand, it often seems that education and outreach are overwhelming undertakings. Most Americans have been completely indoctrinated into statism by twelve or more years of government controlled education. The mass media often acts as a fourth branch of the federal government. And once folks are locked into their paradigm, even attempts at questioning that worldview are often met with resistance and sometimes outright hostility. Our task, it seems, is hopeless.

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The educational approach, however, seems much more viable if we realize that we don't need to persuade everyone; we only need to persuade the right people. We never know who these people are until later--the individual who will become the next great activist, or the next great spokesperson, or the next great salesman of liberty.

Personally, I find outreach much more gratifying than electoral politics. While you may never know if you win or lose, i.e. if your subject eventually changes his mind, you don't face the frustration of trying to compete at a game in which your opponents make the rules, own the venue, and pay the referees.

Unfortunately, with all the noise that surrounds various political and economic issues, we often lose sight of the forest for the trees. The foundation of libertarianism is the concept of self-ownership. Many of us believe that self-ownership is, as the Declaration of Independence states, self-evident. I can attest from personal experience that it is not. When I ask folks "who owns you," they usually say "I do," but only after a few moments of deliberation. In many cases, they have never before contemplated that question.

We have become so engrossed with the minutiae of politics that we have forgotten the most fundamental question of all--who owns whom, and therefore who is entitled to control whom. If you own your life, no one else has the right to take that life or any part of it. You acquire property by investing some of your time in that property. If that property is taken from you without your consent, you are losing a part of your life. If you are denied the ability to control your life, if you are deprived of your liberty, you no longer have full dominion over your life. In other words, you no longer own your life. So long as you are living peacefully and your interactions with other individuals are consensual, you should be left alone to live your life as you wish. Even if doing so means that you may make decisions which are harmful to you. Even if doing so means that you are not contributing to the "common good," whatever that means.

Our natural rights of life, liberty, and property are derived from our ownership of our lives. Only individuals are endowed with these rights.

The collective has no more rights than the individuals forming the collective possess themselves. Likewise, an agent acting in our names (or claiming to act in our names) does not somehow acquire rights which we ourselves do not have. You cannot grant something to someone else if you do not possess it to begin with.

The State, therefore, must be held to the same moral standard as the individual. Murder, theft, and fraud are unjust and illegal when perpetrated by private individuals. Nothing changes when those private individuals are replaced by "officials" or "the authorities."

The mainstream debate about taxation concerns what level of taxes is optimal. This debate is specious. All taxation is unjust because it is based on theft. While we can advocate for programs that will lower taxes, libertarians must always make the point that taxation is immoral and unjust ipso facto. Conscription, whether it is the military draft or "national service," is unjust. The argument is not for what purpose should the State use your life, but how can the State lay claim to your life or any part of it in the first place?

In other words, not only should we make utilitarian arguments for liberty, we should also make the moral case for liberty. When we make the moral case for liberty, we bring to light the mendacious sophisms upon which collectivism rests. Of course, this strategy is not a magic incantation that will suddenly transform the world into a libertarian paradise, but it is a start. At least we are putting splinters in people's minds.

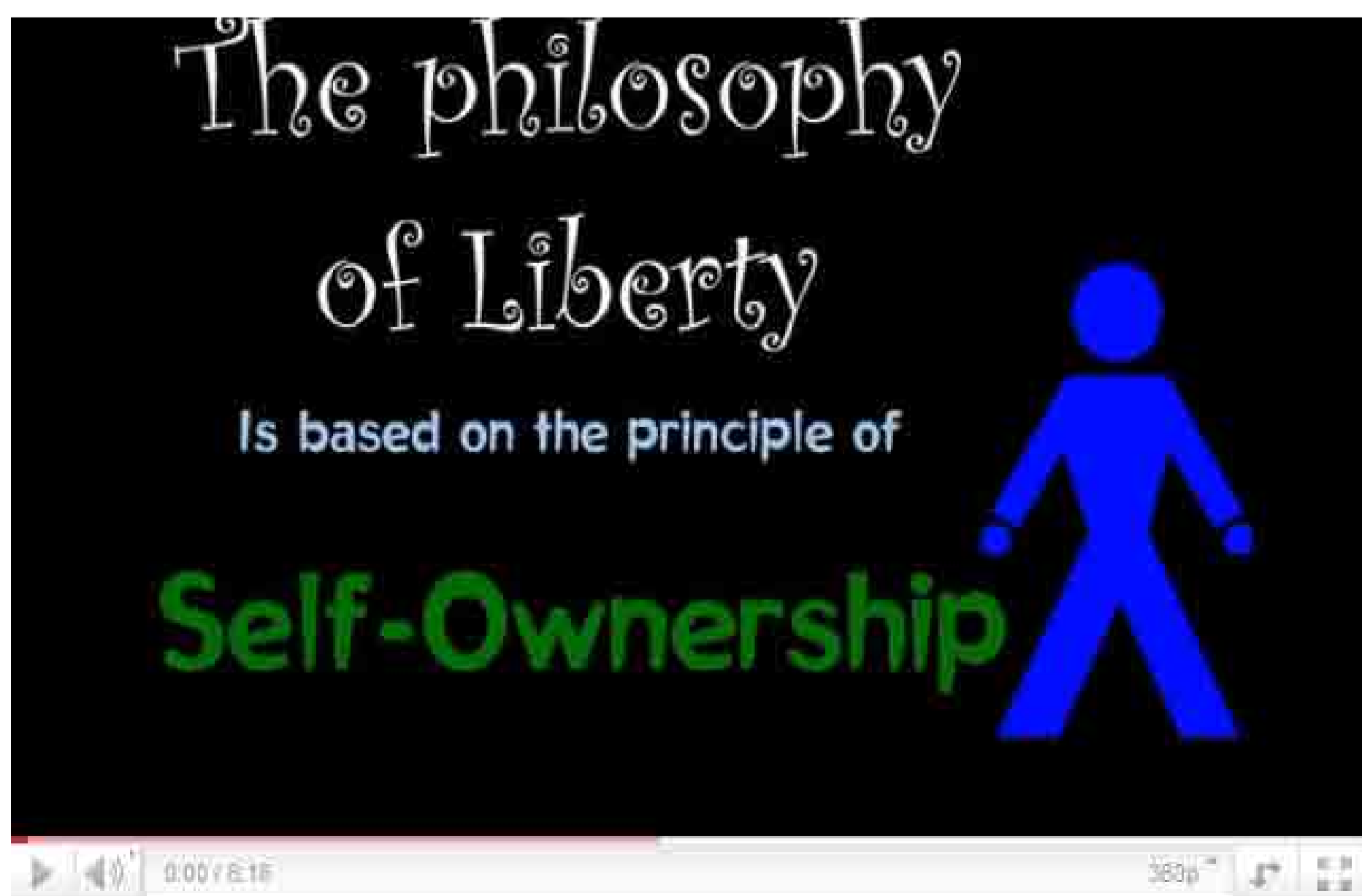
An argument can be made that there is no time left for this approach since every day brings us closer to an inevitable economic calamity. While I sympathize with this opinion, the fact is that this crisis will give us our greatest opportunity, but only if the groundwork has previously been built. It is too late to stop it, but we can influence the world which will arise on the other side if we do our work now.

Although conservatives may claim otherwise, the conservative movement failed because whatever principles that conservatives may have had were compromised by their thirst for power. Some claim that the libertarian movement has failed for the opposite reason: our principles have led us to reject political power. This claim is false. Our movement is still small, but it is rapidly growing. It will grow even more quickly as statism continues to bear its poisonous fruits.

We should never forget what our real goal is. Our goal is not, as I've heard Tea Party conservatives say, to "take the county back," meaning to reclaim control of the government. Our goal is not the acquisition and wielding of power.

Our goal is to free as many minds as we can. 

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Libertarian Strategy and Principle: A Long-Term View By Anthony Gregory

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IT didn't take long for the shift to transpire. The conservatives, after eight years defending the obscenely criminal and authoritarian Bush regime to the most degenerate depths, have rediscovered their role as rigorous defenders of Constitutional federalism, boasting that dissent is the highest form of patriotism, questioning the very legal and moral legitimacy of governmental and even executive power, daring to

hope aloud that the regime fails. The left-liberals, meanwhile, have resumed their role as the most enthusiastic admirers of American leviathan, calling for its expansion in a hundred different directions, questioning the patriotism of those who oppose their commander in chief and even, at times, calling dissent treason. The transition concerning who plays opposition is typically awkward but usually has the pretense of being gradual and organic. This time, it came rather quickly right after Obama's inauguration and, in the last two years, has taken on a surreal character.

Now it is the beginning of the 2012 election season and the same maddening hypocrisy will surely escalate. We will hear absurdities that would cause a saint to lose his composure in frustration. Much of the dissonance arises because both Bush and Obama have been unspeakably energetic and abusive with government power, and because more than 95% of their policies are identical. And so when those who a few years back lobbied for loyalty oaths today question the legitimacy of the president, cheering on some of the most histrionic and irreverent displays of political protest since Vietnam – and when those who once called the president a war criminal today declare that those who deride the president are anti-American and should be censored – all of this is much more frustrating since the domestic and foreign policies are fundamentally the same.

One could say the conservatives are more jarring in their metamorphosis given how completely brown-shirted they could be at the height of the Bush years, and just how Jeffersonian they pretend to be today, some of them even comfortable with the ideas of challenging the Federal Reserve. You turn the radio's dial to the right and it's all about the Founding Fathers, the Declaration of Independence and the Tenth Amendment. The blather is intolerable.

But the liberals can be, in their own way, just as perplexing to ponder. All the wars and surveillance and detention abuses they decried for years continue on their guy's watch, and although some protest, most are at best vaguely discontent with the murderous bombings, but much more preoccupied with defending the president's war on the American economy.

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Whether you are
Buying or Selling
Your Home ...

**I WON'T
WASTE
YOUR TIME!**

— Donna Hancock

DEDICATED
TO MARKETING
YOUR HOME

SPECIALIZING
IN FINDING YOUR
DREAM HOME

Metro Phoenix



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So let us consider what some would call a strategic matter. Whether in terms of activism or educational outreach, what exactly do we make of this phenomenon of yesterday's neoconservatives sounding like libertarians today? What kind of inroads can be made into the chaotic conservative movement, defined by a fractured and vacuous party and a sort of crisis of identity? What are the dangers of being co-opted?

At first, it may have been encouraging to see the Tea Party phenomenon, which was, at its best, independent from the Republican machine. But soon enough it came to resemble nothing very different from the conservatives' presumed anti-government antics of the 1990s, which themselves culminated in one of the worst presidential administrations in history. And then many of these activists lined up behind the same old Republican creeps and con artists as usual. Early polls showed Newt Gingrich to be a Tea Party favorite. Polls after the 2010 election revealed that so-called Tea Party types were much less unhappy with the federal government than only months before. It turns out that just as the antiwar movement of 2003 was largely an anti-Bush movement pretending to stand for something more principled than partisanship, the anti-government rhetoric of the anti-Obama populist right was largely so much subterfuge.

In a time somewhat reminiscent of our own – 1965, the height of the Great Society, as the conservative opposition resisted some of LBJ's domestic program while whooping it up for the warfare state – the great libertarian [Murray Rothbard addressed](#) the fundamental problem with political conservatism:

The Conservative has long been marked, whether he knows it or not, by long-run pessimism: by the belief that the long-run trend, and therefore time itself, is against him. Hence, the inevitable trend runs toward left-wing statism at home and communism abroad. It is this long-run despair that accounts for the Conservative's rather bizarre short-run optimism, for since the long run is given up as hopeless, the Conservative feels that his only hope of success rests in the current moment. In foreign affairs, this point of view leads the Conservative to call for desperate showdowns with communism, for he feels that the longer he waits the worse things will ineluctably become; at home, it leads him to total concentration on the very next election, where he is always hoping for victory and never achieving it. The quintessence of the practical man, and beset by long-run despair, the Conservative refuses to think or plan beyond the election of the day.

We see the same thing today. The conservatives are obsessed with every single battle, as though it's the defining one between civilization and living under tyranny. Whether it's a judicial appointment, an amendment to legislation, a slight procedural change in indefinite detention policy, a given military engagement, a fight between two budget plans that are virtually identical, or a midterm election, victory or defeat determines whether the human race will be saved or forever doomed. When they were in power, every crackdown on the Bill of Rights and move to aggrandize the military was advertised as absolutely essential to our national security, lest we all be consumed in mushroom clouds and anthrax.

Indeed, these individual instances can carry great importance, and I too have strong opinions about most of them, and sometimes agree with the conservatives. But the point is there is a myopic perspective in the conservative outlook. "For the first time in my life, I worry for my country," is something I've heard many conservatives say – as though their dread Soviet enemy or Bill Clinton didn't cause them great alarm in their own time, and as though George W. Bush kept the country safe and free.

Meanwhile, it also seems true that most conservatives suffer long-term pessimism. Human nature is inherently evil, they seem to think, having adopted the core Hobbesian belief that the state must force people into civility, order and peace, whether by taser, electric chair, predator drone or nuke. Thus they believe freedom to be inadequate concerning a wide range of questions – law and order, national defense, drugs, immigration, agriculture, roads, zoning, occupational licensure, family relations, intellectual property, international trade. On these many crucial areas, most conservatives are essentially as statist as most liberals.

The importance of conservative and liberal statist ideology is paramount. Ideology determines the nature of the state, as Oppenheimer, Mises and others have long noted. In particular, conservatism, warned Rothbard, is the ancient enemy of freedom. That is not to say it is the only one.

Today's left-liberalism, like all liberalism of the modern era, is corrupt, incoherent, managerial, envious, puritanical, utilitarian and oppressive. It is forever interested in invading every aspect of your life to make you a better person, so long as it does not trample on those freedoms that are politically correct. It is relentless in its obsession to make life fairer, safer, cleaner and socially manageable, all at the barrel of a gun. It is the philosophy that leads to bans on plastic bags, glorious incandescent light bulbs, deliciously flavored cigarettes, and Happy Meals.

Left-liberalism is also at best unreliable in opposing war, since it accepts most of the fundamental precepts involved, including the power of government force to remake societies for the better. The way so many left-liberals jumped on the bandwagon for war with Libya underscores this. They were enthusiastic about the prospect of their liberal government, once again, stopping genocide. They swallowed whole all the state propaganda, as though Obama and NATO would never lie the way Bush did.

The dominant strain of the American left is progressivism – international do-gooderism, secular Puritanism, thorough-going unionism, belief in good government, corporate socialism, and faith in bureaucracy with a near worship of the capacity of the nation-state to advance society.

The far left is even worse on most economics questions. It is a horror to me that socialism continues to bamboozle swaths of the youth. Seeing Mao glorified by college students is sickening. It is frustrating that often the better a lefty is on civil liberties and war, the worse he is on economic science and property rights.

But hard socialism is not dominant and the far left has to some degree served as a boogeyman. The rightwing fear that Obama represents the politics of New Left agitators, the Marxists, and Jeremiah Wright is off the mark – as is the bizarre accusation that he is a shill for the Islamists. Similarly, the progressive left attacks the far right, demonizing those who, for better or worse reasons, are somewhat extremist – as in, principled. From a libertarian perspective, however, Obama's subversive reverend is probably one of the most inspiring things about his political identity, just as Sarah Palin's husband once having an interest in Alaskan independence is a cause for celebration, not condemnation.

The radical left, while in some ways most naive about economics, are sometimes the best at following the money, analyzing the corporate state, and revising the U.S. record on war and police abuses. The truly traditional conservatives, whatever their failings, long for a time of localism and individualism. The far left and far right would perhaps as bad as, even worse than, our current masters if they wielded power. But in general, they do not dominate.

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It is the center left most in power right now, and this gives us more perspective and makes sense of the fact that the Republicans and Democrats govern so similarly. It also shows us that the biggest political evils we must actually fear are all rooted in mainstream American political culture. The leadership of both parties, and most supposedly respectable thinkers on left and right, and sadly most Americans, share a devotion to interventionism both at home and abroad.

There is an answer to this problem, and it can be found in our ideological heritage: classical liberalism, predating the Old Right and New Left by well over a century. Something rather akin to radical individualist libertarianism could be seen in 19th century American anarchist thinkers. Earlier than that we of course see our ideas in the Western legal tradition, in the Scholastic thinkers, in the Levellers, the Founding Fathers and the abolitionists. The point is, we hail from an ideological origin much more venerable and impressive than anything touted by today's American left or right.

Indeed, the extremist nationalist statism of modern liberalism is not much more than a century old. The liberals had thrown away natural rights and individualism in favor of Marxism and progressivism. The nationalist statism of modern conservatism hails back to the post-War era, when the right organized to resist the domestic excesses of Truman while cheering on nuclear war with the Soviet Menace. The New Deal and especially World War II ingrained statism in mainstream American thinking. The state became national planner, humanitarian crusader and spiritual savior. By the time anything resembling today's political battle lines were drawn, the entire spectrum had been taken in by corporate liberalism, mixed-economy central planning, the national security state and perpetual foreign war.

And this has been the state of affairs for three generations. Practically no American is alive who really remembers a time when 90% of political thinkers didn't agree on social security, public schooling, business regulation and foreign adventurism.

This is one reason we have to look at the long-term historical trajectory, not just the next election or political tussle, as the conservatives tend to. We have to understand what is truly at stake and what the real prospects for freedom can be found. And with that in mind, the threats to liberty are far broader and less immediately conspicuous than even the most vociferous Teabaggers recognize.

Let's start with Obamacare. Now, this is truly a nightmare. Much of the discussion has concerned the so-called public option. But the big debate over it ignored all fundamentals. It is true, as the far left argues, that mandated health insurance without a public plan would be a de facto corporate subsidy of huge proportions to the insurance industry. The right is correct that with the public plan, there would be an effective subsidy for the public option that could lead to the destruction of the private sector.

Either way, socializing medicine is a major affront to liberty, and must be opposed. Mandating health insurance is particularly cruel during a recession, and it is incredibly invasive into personal affairs. We will see that as the plans are enacted, they will be hugely expensive, drive up health costs, and lead to rationing, puritanical controls on personal behavior, and even something we could call death panels.

But what about the bigger picture? American health care is not nearly as great as conservatives claim, thanks to the FDA, licensing, Medicare and many other governmental interventions. It is in crisis. Costs are exploding. Only moving toward true health care freedom, which is not

something that has happened under any Republican administration in the history of America, will address the problem.

And what about Medicare, which Bush expanded, and the entire welfare state? The entitlement state is unsustainable and oppressive, but most conservatives focus on the easiest targets.

The conservatives complained about cap and trade, but what about the very existence of the EPA, created by Nixon, or of the nationalization of the right to pollute, a usurpation of property rights effected long ago and still defended by most Americans, not just the extreme environmentalists?

The conservatives derided cash for clunkers, and surely this is a ridiculous and tragic example of the pure destructive potential of government subsidy, but it was Bush's ownership society and easy credit that caused a far more important and destructive distortion of the economy, leading to one of the largest bubble-and-busts in American economic history.

The conservatives note Obama's wild deficits, which truly are a frightening thing, dwarfing even the massively spendthrift Bush administration. But what about the fact that spending has always gone up, under every Republican starting with Hoover, and that we have a bipartisan ticking timebomb of unfunded liabilities that still succeeds in making Obama's New Deal look cheap?

The conservatives complain about the bailouts, as they should, and to their credit, many of them began protesting in 2008 under Bush. But what about a fundamental reexamination of the central banking cartel that has persisted unscathed under both parties?

The conservatives worry they will be silenced, pointing to troubling government reports warning government agents to be on the lookout for rightwing extremists. Indeed, it is horrifying to see the Obama administration and its kept media conduct these witch-hunts against dissidents. But what about the fact that these reports were commissioned by Homeland Security and could be pinned on the war on terror? What about all the civil liberties violations and expansion, militarization and nationalization of American policing, which has commenced administration after administration, mostly in the name of fighting drugs, terror and now everything?

The conservatives fear Obama will take away their guns and now it appears he plans more gun control through executive fiat. But we must not forget what happened under Bush: Ashcroft's Project Safe Neighborhoods, the post-Katrina roundup of weapons from New Orleans residents, the disarming of innocent Iraqis in Baghdad, and other assaults on the right to bear arms.

The conservatives decry judicial political correctness, in Sonia Sotomayor and Obama's general legal philosophy. But what about the general trend of judicial tyranny that has dominated for well more than a century? The idea that any Supreme Court Justice in recent memory has adhered to the Constitution with any loyalty is laughable. And besides, the Obama Justice Department has echoed the Bush line on presidential wartime powers almost verbatim.

The conservatives complain that Obama isn't delivering what is needed in Afghanistan to win. But Bush didn't win in Afghanistan or Iraq, either – he destroyed hundreds of thousands of foreign lives and fed thousands of Americans into the meat grinder.

The conservatives warn that we are vulnerable to terrorism under Obama, misunderstanding that Muslim extremists are anything but shortsighted the way conservatives are, and that it is

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the memory of decades of US meddling in the Middle East that fuels anti-American terrorism.

The conservatives say Obama is pandering to the international community, but what about Bush's war to enforce UN sanctions? What about the permanent alliances with Israel and our effective global empire of dozens of satellites — something far more pernicious to American safety and freedom than a president who accidentally and rudely bows to Saudi royalty.

I know I am being very hard on the conservatives, but the fact is, if there is hope in reaching out to the right, we must understand what we're up against. We need to understand the ups and downs of conservative thinking, which competes with our own as the alternative to left-liberal statism. We must reject the short-term view also, because in pushing for a minor market reform here, or putting all our energy into defeating a particularly egregious version of Obamacare there, we risk associating the message of liberty with the status quo of conservatism. The disasters for liberty in America existed before long before the menace currently in the White House, many long before he was born. Mixed economics and rightwing Keynesianism have yielded an apocalyptic economic crisis.

And I believe it is important to try to reach out, for we face a very real threat to liberty in the form of [blue-state fascism](#), and we need to know how to reach out correctly.

The threat from the Obama administration is very real. Although it is largely a continuation of Bush policies, that alone should scare the hell out of us. What's more, Obama seems dedicated to intervening in more areas of our lives.

Everything truly horrible about Bush — executive aggrandizement, aggressive war, warrantless spying, detention without habeas corpus, massive corporatism — is continuing or even accelerating. Meanwhile, the left-liberal tendency to intervene in the domestic policy is coming out in fuller force than ever before. This may be the first Old Left administration since LBJ — a government devoted to war and social engineering more than either Bush, or Clinton, or Reagan.

For now, most of the left-liberal antiwar energy has been dissipated. Progressives regret the wars but love the emperor. On Libya, they have begun to repeat the Clinton-era trope that those who oppose “humanitarian wars” are soft on genocide. I fear these smears will intensify if another war breaks out.

The Obama regime has co-opted popular media and the counterculture. At the same time, progressivism has become the dominant strain in the American left. This includes a mocking demonization of those opposing the Democratic total state. People who question Obamacare on Constitutional grounds, and those defending federalism, are derided as “Tentherers” for their devotion to the Tenth Amendment. And don't dare question the climate change zeitgeist.

Since many left-liberals care more about socializing America than reining in its empire and criminal-justice system, we are looking at the worst of all worlds: The Republican state of endless war, crackdowns, and a revolving door between Wall Street and Washington, coupled with the Democratic fervor to expand the welfare state and enforce political correctness. We are looking at a regime that hails true-believers from the left — population controllers, environmental extremists, and professional victimologists — alongside a more impressive corporatist oligopoly of financial and business interests than Bush ever had. This is an administration whose political economy falls somewhere between that which is good for Goldman Sachs and that which is touted by Che Guevara. Like FDR, Obama incorporates the worst ideas from

America's fascist right and socialist left.

The movement for liberty needs ever more people. Under a Democratic administration, we can try to reach out to people who might be taken in by mainstream conservatism and show them the consistent alternative: the respect for natural law and individual liberty that can only be found in libertarianism. We must explain to them economics and the morality of individual liberty, to get them to move beyond the short-term goal of stopping Obamacare or dethroning the Democrats in 2012, and to embrace the program and philosophy of liberty.

We must appeal to their values, showing how bourgeois liberty is eternally threatened by the state, especially the military state. This is the biggest hurdle and most important issue. The right, taken in by utilitarian ethics and a religious devotion to American nationalism, is still more pro-war than the left. But they must be shown that war is the greatest of all enemies to freedom, that U.S. intervention abroad, even more than social engineering crusades at home, built up the huge and invasive government in Washington. They must be taught that every freedom they cherish is imperiled by empire and every regulatory and welfare scheme they decry has its roots in war.

Conservatives must be brought around to oppose limitless power itself, not just the person of Obama. In the 1990s, there was some hope that the right would come around to embracing a more consistent understanding of freedom, but they became obsessed with Clinton's personality and then sacrificed all their good principles after 9/11. If they cannot be brought along to a more consistent position now, they will at best be short-term allies who help usher in another Republican administration roughly as bad as Obama's.

Meanwhile, we must explain to left-liberals who feel betrayed by Obama why the betrayal was inevitable, and attract them to the tenets of libertarianism, just as happened when many of FDR's liberal supporters found themselves horrified by the New Deal and radicalized in the traditions of American individualism. We must reach out to everyone who seems interested in liberty, without sacrificing our own values. We must be neither sectarian nor opportunistic, as Rothbard believed.

Although the state has seemingly been on the march throughout the lives of everyone in this room, there are reasons to rejoice. Some freedoms are stronger than in years past. Freedom of speech is more widely protected. We have no mass conscription, thanks largely to a philosophical shift in public opinion. Our presidents don't defend total war in the same terms. Protectionism, while resurgent now, has largely been discredited. The insights of Austrian economics, constitutional decentralism, and foreign non-intervention have a far wider resonance now than any time in the last several decades. Reversing the trend of drug prohibition may be on the horizon. The American people will not tolerate the tax levels they did in years past. Social freedoms and tolerance have made great headway in many areas. There is less public trust in our national institutions than before. The Federal Reserve and central banking, a few years ago esoteric and fringe subjects, are now popular topics, with increasing number of Americans realizing that something is seriously amiss with U.S. monetary policy. And globally, freedom has been on the march in China among other foreign nations.

We libertarians with our long-term outlook may have a deeper and therefore more disturbing sense of what is wrong with America than those on right or left, but we also have more reasons to be happy. We know that central planning fails. Our intellectual understanding of the world

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lines up with reality. We do not put all our stock in one victory or loss, knowing that the story of humanity is one plagued by tyranny, with freedom being an anomalous but achievable thing. We can look upon this world that was enslaved by communism and fascism, or our country that was once tainted with the horror of chattel slavery, and know that not everything was better in the good old days.

We are also much less demoralized by the little things than the right or left. We don't put all our hope into a single ballot initiative or political development. We are much less concerned with the politicized hysterias of the day. We lose less sleep over terrorism, rightwing extremism, global warming and the supposed dysfunctions of society and capitalism than do the other folks. We also understand and love the market, meaning we recognize that mankind is not doomed in the next generation due to its own greed. Understanding economics unlike the left, and not clinging to the kneejerk nostalgia of the right, we know humanity's potential is much grander than what the others imagine. We know that if only set free, humans, working in the market and through voluntary interactions, would advance much quicker and smoother than anyone else recognizes, and we know that even in the face of institutional coercion, the market will continue to perform miracles, produce wealth and improve our lot in life.

On a positive note, the Bush-Obama years provide us a good opportunity to share our message with our compatriots. The vast similarities and disastrous continuity to be seen in Republican and Democratic rule, and the great extent of today's crises may eventually give way to public opinion.

If there's any force more important in limiting state power than public ideology, it is economic law. Already the laws of economics have destroyed the aspirations of the post-Great Society entitlement state that has completely enfranchised the middle class. They have put the lie to the Ownership Society and the very idea of printing, borrowing and spending the society into prosperity.

As the crisis continues to deepen, as the politicians' attempts to reflate the bubble eventually result in an even bigger downturn, we will have an opportunity to help move public opinion away from the post-war consensus on state control of the economy. The entitlement state, like the monarchies and communist regimes of yours, may be in the dustbin of history within our lifetimes. And for the first time in a century, the consensus on inflationism and central banking is in jeopardy.

In foreign affairs, we could see the end of the empire. It operates in direction tension with economics, as well as humane principles and the golden rule. It necessarily brings with it blowback, crushing debt and taxes, a total corruption of political life and a wholesale attack on our liberties. But it is also unsustainable, as all empires are, and will fall. A century of advancing U.S. imperialism could reverse, because of the limits of economic reality and an American public that comes to rediscover its earlier roots as an anti-colonial, anti-imperial people, gravitating toward a commercial republic and not a mercantilist empire. We can see it happening with growing disillusionment with the Bush-Obama foreign policy.

In the realm of personal liberty, much could easily turn around. The prison system can't keep growing forever. The drug war is eventually going to be dumped, or else large parts of it. Gun control is less popular than in the past. Americans were, believe it or not, more outraged about Bush's attacks on civil liberties than were the public under earlier modern wars.

But it could go the other way. Economic collapse could end the cushy welfare state yet en-

trench a more repressive economic system than Americans have ever seen. Socialism is, I'm saddened to say, back in vogue. People play with the idea of destroying markets and regimenting society as though their good intentions overcome the laws of economics and the whole history of human experience. In modern times, nothing has been more destructive to humanity than socialism.

We may continue to see personal liberty restrained across the board, not just in prisons but in daily life, under a managerial surveillance state that tracks us from birth to death. The Middle East situation could explode into world war, as the US continues to attempt to impose, applying ever more force and producing ever more bloodshed. The long-term nightmare unleashed by the last few administrations is yet to be seen.

Confronting the horrors of the modern state and envisioning a society so much more peaceful and free, as we do, can be frustrating. Our message has, however, become much popular than ever. The libertarian idea was fully embraced by a small group of rebels from the 1930 to the 1950s. From the 1960s to the 1980s, the movement grew, but I'd say that in the last ten years especially there has been an explosion in the popularity of these ideas, culminating and also boosted by the Ron Paul phenomeneon. Our movement is very small, but it is growing very fast.

One thing we must all do is stick to principle and tell the truth, even as it is frustrating to try to engage others. We should always uphold the most radical and consistent vision of liberty we can, and reject all compromise that moves us away from freedom. This doesn't mean we can never work with or learn from those who do not adhere to our level of purity. Some short-term goals are worth working toward. Coalitions can do some good. We must be ecumenical in the sense of not pushing away all fellow travelers who share a passionate opposition to the greatest tyrannical excesses of our time—the empire, the police state, corporatist fascism, nationalist welfarism, and central banking. But it is crucial never to concede an inch on the question of principle.

It can be hard to get conservatives, or liberals, to take the red pill, because, if for no other reason, it is psychologically costly. To recognize how messed up things are takes a lot of energy, a lot of heart, and it can be most difficult. But it is also rewarding to know the truth and to defend liberty, to be on the side of right and the dignity of human life. Human nature, the laws of economics, and the precarious nature of political power are all on our side in the long run. If we keep this in mind, we can weather any political storm, adjust to any partisan shift, and continue to pick up converts as we battle the leviathan state. 🌸

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**MP3 Anthony Gregory on
 Declare Your Independence
 With Ernest Hancock**

Tea Partiers and Anarchists

By Doug Casey

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WHAT seems to be brewing in the Tea Party movement both intrigues and disturbs me. It's just a straw in the wind, of no real significance itself, but a foreshadowing of something ominous. The Tea Party knows change is needed, but they will never agree on exactly

what kind of change, because they have absolutely no underlying philosophy. All the false hope this Tea Party movement is creating impresses me as similar to what was going on in France in the late 1780s. It's a double-edged sword. Of course both the left and the right wings of the Demopublican Party are disasters. But the Tea Party, I'm sad to say, would be no better.

Of course it's nice to see that there are people out there who are unhappy with the status quo, with the so-called two-party system, and with the Republican party in particular. But the process of "throwing the bums out" has gone on since Day One, and it's accomplished absolutely nothing. And more than ever before, government draws the absolute worst type of people and totally corrupts those who might be decent. That's because government is so overwhelmingly powerful today.

Look at what the two major parties supposedly represent. The Democrats definitely don't believe in economic freedom, but they say they believe in social freedom. While the Republi-

cans definitely don't believe in social freedom, but they say they believe in economic freedom. Neither believes in both – that would make them libertarians.

The only good thing about the Democratic party is that they're at least consistent: they are collectivists and statists through and through, they acknowledge it and think it's a virtue. They are collectivists in what they say, and they are collectivists in what they do. That gives them the appearance of being more honest than the Republicans, who say they value freedom and the individual. but their actions give lie to those claims, and they thereby give freedom a bad name.

It makes you reluctant to use words like "free market," when you have the likes of the hostile and mildly demented McCain, and the bent and clinically stupid Bush, claiming those principles for themselves...

It adds insult to injury that Ronald Reagan got elected on essentially libertarian rhetoric – smaller government, lower taxes, getting the state off the little guy's back, etc.– and then signed appropriations bills that grew the government by huge, then-unprecedented amounts. Many people today think the Reagan years prove that less government is a bad idea. Reagan talked the talk, but he didn't walk the walk.

It's a real pity, in that the Reagan team used to say, "If not us, who? And if not now, when?" As it turned out, it wasn't them and it wasn't then.

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The worst enemies of individual liberty are knaves that claim they're for it but utterly betray it. And incompetents and ineffectual fools who say they're trying to save freedom by increasing the size of the state.

The chances of the Tea Party pushing the center of debate in the right direction are equivalent to a \$1 lottery ticket making someone a zillionaire. The French Revolution also probably seemed like a good idea at the time, if only because it wanted to overthrow a totally corrupt *ancien régime*. Except after they got rid of Louis XVI, they got Robespierre, and then Napoleon. The problem with the Tea Party movement is that it has no underlying philosophical basis. Without that sound foundation, it's either going to fail or transform into something ugly. On average, Tea Party members know something is wrong. They're disgruntled, and they want change. Not the Obama type of change – but what? You just don't know which direction they may go, and there are some very disturbing directions they could end up taking.

They tend to be thoughtless and reflexive. They conflate some muddled feelings of "tradition" with an actual belief system. They operate on a stimulus-response basis. They're religious in exactly the same way as fundamentalist Muslims. And they're hypernationalistic.

gether to look for political solutions to every real and imagined problem facing America today. And they seem to combine religion with politics quite easily.



The fact that they are looking for political solutions to the problems they see is, itself, a formula for disaster. If they are successful, they *will* pass laws. And maybe, accidentally, some of those laws might do some good, but most of them are going to be just like the laws being passed now: arbitrary, ill-informed, misguided, symptomatic of group-think, and ultimately destructive. They are simply legal manifestations of the psychological aberrations of the politicians who enact them.



If you view religion as the quest for a spiritual reality, I have no problem with it. But, unfortunately, whether in Christendom or the world of Islam, in reality it amounts to thought control and enforced morality. There's a real strain of "old time religion" in the Tea Party movement. I don't think the men who signed the Declaration of Independence would approve.

And that's not all; there's also a bit of a class problem brewing in the Tea Party pot. To use an admittedly broad and somewhat nebulous short-hand, we can say there are three visible classes in America today: lower, middle, and upper. They can be defined many ways, but I'd like to briefly discuss their emotional wiring. Or at least the problematic aspects of the emotions that characterize the classes.

The problem with the lower class is that their emotional level varies between desperation and apathy. Both are destructive forces. It's why most members of the lower classes are cemented there. If you're apathetic, you feel you have no hope of improvement, and you actually don't care.

The upper class suffers from a poisonous mix of arrogance, greed, and delusions of superiority. Think of corporate hacks, who are good mainly at back-slapping and back-stabbing, paying themselves multi-million-dollar salaries while the companies they run flounder.

I'm a fan of the middle class, made as it is of people who want to work hard, create and run businesses, move up in life, and so forth. When a country doesn't have a middle class, it's in trouble.

But, entirely apart from the fact the U.S. is rapidly losing its middle class – which is another huge problem – the American middle class today has a dark underbelly, and that is a deep and driving fear. Fear permeates the middle class today. For one thing, fear of losing what they have; that's a fear that's going to grow like a cancer as the Greater Depression gets worse. For another, fear of outsiders – Mexicans and Muslims, for example. They fear anything that may challenge or change their culture. Fear is the lowest common denominator of the middle class.

The Tea Party is a middle-class movement that channels this fear into the political arena – and politics always caters to the lowest common

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They seem to substitute atavistic catchphrases for reasoning. "My country, right or wrong." "Support our troops." That sounds good, until you realize the troops are just a bunch of heavily armed kids who are blindly doing whatever they're told in some fly-blown place they can't even find on a map. The Germans supported their troops when they invaded Poland. "Us" against "them." Wave the flag. The Tea Party people seem to love that sort of thing.

It's likely, in my view, to wind up as a gigantic replay of the Milgram experiment. It's just another dramatization of collectivism and jingoism, and the abnegation of individual responsibility. It's almost a Pavlovian stimulus-response type of reaction, more appropriate to chimpanzees around a watering hole than rational humans who can think things out for themselves.

RELIGIOUS AND CLASS OVERTONES

The very strong religious streak that seems to characterize Tea Party types is a related danger. It's not just religion itself I'm talking about, but a willingness to use the state to impose religious values on society, that I'm afraid is a big element in the Tea Party movement. It can be fine for people to have personal values derived from their religions, but these people are coming to-

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denominator. Fear is very dangerous, it can have all kinds of very nasty results. Fear causes people to act irrationally. Fear causes people to desperately look at the short term and myopically disregard the long term.

There is plenty of self-serving myopia in the Tea Party movement. They want to cut spending – but not for their Social Security benefits. They want less government – but they want the government to protect or "create" jobs. They want to close the borders – forgetting that we're all immigrants. They want a "strong national defense" – but they forget that fear has already turned the U.S. into a paranoid "national security" state.

The bottom line is that the Tea Party is just a hodgepodge of discontent and grumbling. Tinged with some inchoate rage around the edges. It stands for nothing. It's simply a reaction. It's as laughable as the fascists being against the communists, when they're just two sides of the same coin.

Unfortunately, there are no political solutions to political problems. To believe there are is like looking for a cancer to cure a cancer. The problem, fundamentally, is that people keep on looking to the government to solve their problems. So they come up with a new party or a new movement, and they propose new laws. This is not just the wrong approach, but the exact opposite of the right approach. The only way to get back on the right track is to undo the expansion of government and interference in the economy we've seen over the last 100-plus years. Repeal the laws, abolish the agencies. Get rid of it all, and free to the market to administer its harsh but effective treatments.

ANARCHY

That's why I believe in anarchy. Yes, I know you're shocked and incredulous to hear such a thing. But I'm completely serious.

Many people think of anarchy as being chaos. They see riots and violence on TV from some place in conflict and think, "What anarchy!" But

violence and bomb throwing are not anarchy, they are chaos. Chaos is the actual opposite of anarchy.

Let's define the word. Anarchy is simply a form of political organization that does not put one ruler, or ruling body, over everyone in a society. It doesn't imply the lack of order, only the lack of a ruler. Whether that's actually possible is a separate matter. This is what it means. And I see it as an ideal to strive for.

In point of fact, far from its violent reputation, anarchism is the gentlest of all political systems. It contemplates no institutionalized coercion. It's the watercourse way, where everything is allowed to rise or fall naturally to its own level.

An anarchic system is necessarily one of free-market capitalism. Any services that are needed and wanted by people – even including the police or the courts – would be provided by entrepreneurs, who'd do it for a profit.

I'd be happy enough if the state – which is an instrument of pure coercion, even after you tart it up with the trappings of democracy, a constitution, and what-not – were limited to protecting you from coercion and absolutely nothing more. That would imply a police force to protect you from coercion within its bailiwick. A court system to allow you to adjudicate disputes without resorting to force. And some type of military to protect you from outside predators.

Unfortunately, the government today does everything but these functions – and when it does deign to protect, it does so very poorly. The police are increasingly ineffective at protecting you; they seem to specialize in enforcing arbitrary laws. The courts? They apply arbitrary laws, and you need to be wealthy to use them – although you're likely to be impoverished by the time you get out of them. And the military hardly defends the country anymore – it's all over the world creating enemies, generally, of the most backward foreigners.

In a free-market anarchy, the police would likely be subsidiaries of insurance companies, and courts would have to compete with each other based on the speed, fairness, and low cost of their decisions.

"Anarchy" is a word that's been stolen and corrupted by the collectivists – like "liberal." It used to be that a liberal was someone who believed in both social and economic freedom. Now a liberal is no better than a muddle-headed thief – someone who's liberal only with other people's money.



I refuse to let the bad guys control the intellectual battlefield by expropriating and ruining good words.

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In any event, there's no conflict whatsoever between anarchy and the rule of law, since there are private forms of law and governance. That's what Common Law is all about. I'm not saying a truly free, anarchic society would be a utopia; it would simply be a society that emphasizes personal responsibility and doesn't have any organized institutions of coercion. Perfect harmony is not an option for imperfect human beings. Social order, however, is possible without the state. In fact, the state is so dangerous because it necessarily draws the sociopaths – who like coercion – to itself.

What holds society together is not a bunch of strict laws and a brutal police force – it's basically peer pressure, moral suasion, and social opprobrium. Look at a restaurant. The customers pay their checks not because anybody is afraid of the police, but for the three reasons I just mentioned.

It's like when people form lines at movie theaters or ski lifts. There doesn't have to be a cop with a gun there to make everyone take turns. Everyone knows that if they take turns, it all works out better for everyone – and they are brought up to act that way, so they usually don't even have to make that calculation.

Of course there are always bad actors and criminals. As Pareto's Law indicates, there's inevitably a bad element. 80% of folks are basically decent, and 20% are perhaps problematical. 20% of that 20% are bad apples. And 20% of that 20%, or say 0.8%, are active sociopaths. You have to have a culture that keeps them hiding under rocks, rather than rising to the top – as they wind up doing quite often in government.

The reaction of a person to the idea of a truly free society is an excellent moral litmus test. The more negative the reaction, the more likely you're dealing with a sociopath.

There is nothing in human nature that makes it impossible to create a society of people who respect each other's rights and follow accepted systems for working out differences, like getting in lines at movie theaters. There would still be criminals and sociopaths to deal with, as these occur as a standard distribution in every population. The point is that the society doesn't have to be built around an essentially criminal organization, the state.

And just because the state does something doesn't change the morality of the action. If it's wrong for me to point a gun at you and take all your money, then it's still a crime if a whole bunch of people vote to ask someone with a spiffy uniform and a badge to do the same thing.

No matter how benign a state might be, even one that found a way to fund all of its activities without resorting to force, it must still violate the fundamental human right of self-determination in order to preserve its own existence. That's why the state is inherently a criminal organization – it must rely on force. Even the best of them are never based entirely on consent of the governed; there is coercion of the non-consenting minority. And there are *always* some who do not consent.

Democracy is no solution – it's just 51% bossing the other 49% around. Hitler was democratically elected. Democracy is just mob rule dressed up in a coat and tie.

I suppose I could live with the idea of a state, as

long as there were about seven billion of them in the world – and everybody had one. That would show that the whole idea of the state is just a scam, where everyone tries to live at the expense of everyone else. But the only people who really benefit are the guys on top.


People say the state is necessary because that's all they've ever known. But it's not, in fact, part of the cosmic firmament. There have been times and places in history when central authority was so distant, or negligent, that the people did function – and prosper – in what was essentially a functioning anarchy. David Friedman draws attention to medieval Iceland as one example of this. I recommend his book *The Machinery of Freedom* for lots of great discussion on how society would work without the dead hand of the state suppressing it.

The Amish and Mennonites provide other examples, although religious communities are entirely too uptight to suit my taste. Actually, UL (Underwriters Laboratories), as well as CU (Consumers Union) both provide examples of how society regulates itself without the state. People foolishly worry that businesses would all turn rapacious if the state weren't there to regulate them. But electronics producers are *not* required to get UL seals on their products. They go to the extra expense of meeting UL standards because they know they'll make more money if their products have the UL seal of approval on them. And everybody wants a good review from CU.

There are lots of private regulatory services. Insurance companies also exert a lot of influence on the insured, who have to go by certain rules to stay insured. And, of course, there's a huge private security industry used by those who want to protect their assets, rather than call 911 after they've been robbed, etc. All by subscription.

You don't need government for anything; if something is needed and wanted, an entrepreneur will provide it for a profit. And do so far better and cheaper than anything a government could possibly hope to.

The economic arguments for a free-market anarchy are overwhelming. I'm of the opinion we'd already be living with the technology of Star Trek if it wasn't for the state slowing things down. But that isn't the reason I'm an anarchist. The real argument is moral and ethical. You don't need a legislature to manufacture a library of laws and regulations. In fact, I'd argue that you only need one basic law.

What might that be? The most basic law is "Do as thou wilt – but be prepared to accept the consequences." You can extrapolate that out, as a practical matter, to two others. One, do all you say you're going to do. And two, don't aggress against other people or their property. Everybody understands those laws, and you don't need a corrupt, and corrupting, government to elaborate on them any further, as far as I'm concerned. 

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ESCAPE FROM TERRA

A CONTINUING SCI-FI ADVENTURE BY SANDY SANDFORT AND SCOTT BIESER, ILLUSTRATED BY LEE OAKS, LEILA DEL DUCA, AND JEN ZACH

HIS BIRTH NAME IS JEMAL BUT HE TOOK THE WESTERN NAME 'JIM' TO FIT IN WITH THE BRITISH SECTOR, WHERE HE WAS BORN AND GREW UP.



IT DIDN'T WORK - IN BRITAIN HE WAS A 'WOG,' 'PAKI' OR 'BLACK' NO MATTER WHAT HE CALLED HIMSELF.

JOKERS WILD HAD BEEN HIS SOLUTION.

BY ORGANIZING OTHER BOYS OF COLOR, HE CREATED A UNIFIED RESPONSE TO THE TAUNTS AND ABUSE OF THE WHITES. IT WORKED ... AFTER A FASHION.



JIM'S FATHER, SAMI (A.K.A. 'SAM') HAD BEEN A MINOR UW FUNCTIONARY WHO'D BEEN CAUGHT WITH HIS HAND IN THE COOKIE JAR.



THE SCANDAL WOULD PROVE EMBARRASSING TO HIGHER FUNCTIONARIES, SO ...



SAM AND HIS FAMILY WERE ALLOWED TO 'ESCAPE' FROM TERRA.

NOT LONG AFTER SETTLING IN, JIM ASSEMBLED A MOTLY COLLECTION OF BOYS IN CERES' VERSION OF THE PLACE DE LA CONCORDE.



IF YOU WANT TO BE IN JOKERS WILD, BLOKES, YOU HAVE TO BE INITIATED.

UH, JIM, WHAT DO JOKERS WILD DO?



ANYTHING THEY WANT! JOKERS LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

IF ANYONE FUCKS WITH A JOKER, WE FUCK WITH THEM.



WHEN I RAN JOKERS WILD IN LONDON, WE BEAT UP ENOUGH BULLIES TO CONVINCE EVERYONE TO LEAVE US ALONE AND STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.

ANYONE WHO DISRESPECTED US, GOT A BOOT TO THE ARSE.



AND WE GOT ALL THE BIRDS WE WANTED.



GIRLS, MATES. 'BIRDS' ARE GIRLS.



OKAY JIM, BUT WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?



YOU WILL FUCKING DO WHATEVER I BLOODY WELL TELL YOU TO DO!!

GOT IT, MATE?

ESCAPE FROM TERRA

A CONTINUING SCI-FI ADVENTURE BY SANDY SANDFORT AND SCOTT BIESER, ILLUSTRATED BY LEE OAKS, LEILA DEL DUCA, AND JEN ZACH



OKAY, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO 'TAKE OUT THE TRASH.'

DO YOU ALL KNOW WHAT 'PISSED' MEANS IN BRITAIN?



ANGRY?

NO, THAT'S HOW THE YANKS USE IT. IN BRITAIN, IT MEANS 'DRUNK.'



WE ARE GOING TO CLEAN UP THE AREA NEAR THE SPACEPORT, WHERE ALL THE DIRTY, DRUNKEN LAYABOUTS BREATHE THE CITY'S AIR FOR FREE AND FOUL THE TUNNELS.

SO, YOU HAVE TO GET PISSED OFF AND PISS ON THE PISSED BUMS.



AND JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION FOR THIS BATTLE ...



JIM TOOK HIS BOYS - NOW UNCOMFORTABLY READY FOR BATTLE - TO AN ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT AREA OFTEN FREQUENTED BY DOWN-AND-OUTERS.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEY FOUND A LONE TARGET.



READY ...



AIM ...



FIRE!



NOW!!!



YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!

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(AND PLEASE BUY OUR BOOKS!)



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Activist Action Packed Summer at Antiwar.com

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THE future. Ernie Hancock, Mary Ruwart and many others will show you the way. The national political conference 'Future of the Libertarian Political Movement' will showcase antiwar activists including Counterpunch contributor John Walsh, Iraq veteran Alex Peterson and Angela Keaton. Sunday, June 19th, Manchester New Hampshire. Please visit [here](#) for details.

L.A. vs. War! Antiwar.com will be a sponsor of the arts show critics have described as "an unprecedented gathering of artists united to deliver a message of peace, and offering resistance and opposition to war and violence." Organized by Yo! Peace, Los Angeles artists will exhibit their work in "opposition to the U.S. government's war policies" Sept. 10-13. Location to be announced.

The second annual [Libertopia](#) is being held in San Diego, CA and *Antiwar.com is there*. A celebration of peace, prosperity, and voluntaryism, noted speakers include peace activist L.K. Samuels, Butler Shaffer, Gary Chartier, Sheldon Richman, Stefan Molyneux and Anthony Gregory. Not a war monger in the house. October 21-23. ['Like' Libertopia on Facebook today!](#)

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Even Libertarians Love the Maximum State: The Myth of Limited Government

By Bill Buppert

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I have written before about the impossibility of limited government. Let us make sure our terms are correct. Government is any entity that attempts to monopolize the use of force and reserves first use of same to itself. They make

noises about consent but this is simply window-dressing to keep the animals in the feedlot from feeling oppressed or taken advantage of. Their variants range from communism to socialism

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.”

- Groucho Marx

to democracy. The first two, at least, are honest in their intentions of ballooning government oppression to proportions common in history but democracy is probably the biggest and most dangerous sham when it comes to governance. While the usual bugbears of collectivism make themselves manifestly evident in terror-states like the USSR and Communist China, the Western democracies make Orwell proud. The pastiche of 1984 and Brave New World come to the fore in Europe and America. Here in the land of

the unfree and home of the formerly brave, the huge Federal leviathan is helmed by telegenic Presidents whose claim to fame is the ability to speak (George Bush?) in platitudes and illiterate homilies to the joys of government intervention and using the state as the means to empty your neighbors pockets and, magically, the pockets of the unborn through non-consensual deficit spending. Boasting the highest corporate income tax and capital gains rate in the galaxy, America continues to run up mountains of debt and oceans of red ink in pursuit of ...bigger government. In addition, we are afforded the opportunity to spend countless billions and trillions maiming and murdering tens of thousands of men, women and children overseas in the name of liberation and advancement to the joys of democracy (God help them...).

Take a breath because I am about to insult most of my readership and increase the volume of my hate-mail.

If you believe in limited government, you are no different than the Communist Party apparatchiks or the socialists or even the Democrat Party or Grand Old Politburo (GOP) members. You all share a common bond with every **democidal** maniac traipsing through the sordid and bloody history of government on Earth. Whether an active member or simply the usual elec-

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tronically tethered shambler that makes up most of America, your belief in limited government is a fraudulent assessment of what is going on around you. Limited government never has and will never exist. Whatever the hopes and dreams of the political schemers at the heart of the cre-

**“...and he loved big brother.”
Orwell’s chilling first line to 1984.**

ation of the new government, usually in the ashes of the last epic government failure, the government will metastasize into a monstrous and bloody-minded giant intent on crushing freedom at every turn and annihilating self-ownership of individuals whenever those unfortunates make their intentions known.

Your belief and advocacy of limited government cripples and destroys the journey to liberty and freedom. As my friend is fond of saying, “you can’t stop cannibals by eating them”. Stop the madness and come to your senses. Humans practice a stateless existence every day with their family and friends. Your decency and peaceful interchange with the aforementioned folks is not about your fear of the law. It acknowledges you are better than the law because you don’t have to threaten people to make them behave. Those who call for secession or a peaceful devolution of power by the empire in Mordor on the Potomac are the champions of freedom not the policy wonks who constantly are trying to find a better way to skin citizens or appropriate their earnings. This is where the Cato Institute and other such beltway libertarians have it wrong. You can NEVER reform DC. There is zero historical precedent for it, anywhere on earth in this time or the past and I would daresay the future.

Perhaps hundreds of years hence, our posterity will look back and, having liberated themselves from the prison of the state and statist notions, will wonder aloud at what were they thinking back then. All governments on built on initiated aggression and bloodshed, without these components, no one would participate in these insane constructs.

All the Founding Lawyers, even the sainted Thomas Jefferson, were guilty of this tragic delusion that armed strangers must be invested with the power to fine, cage, maim and kill residents of tax jurisdictions (also known quaintly as nation-states) to maintain a just and prosperous society.

So I just arrived from another dimension and know nothing about the formation of societies and Western culture on Earth and the man in the street explains to me why America looks the way it does:

Inter-Dimensional Being (IDB): What is the purpose of government in this country?

American: To make us free and prosperous.

IDB: How is this accomplished?

American: Well, the government sets up rules for us to live by. It seeks to make it fair and equitable for every citizen to attain the American Dream.

IDB: What is that?

American: To get rich and be free and prosperous.

IDB: Do you sign a contract? Can you disagree with the policies of this government?

American: What contract? Sure, we can disagree but we may very well end up in big trouble like fines or jail if we don't agree with the majority or whatever our elective representatives have done. The only contracts I am familiar with are the ones I have with the cell company or mortgage on my house.



IDB: So if you have a moral disagreement with your government, they will still harass you or worse if you refuse to comply, yet you have signed no contract? On what grounds can they hold you responsible in that way when they do not even have your personal signature?

American: That is just crazy talk, I have to do what the government says or I can get in big trouble.

IDB: Is the government so good with money and resources that you trust it to be financially frugal and make competent decisions?


American: Look, if you have any experience with TSA or the DMV, you know the government can't find its ass in the dark with five Klieg lights. Hell, you should see the total amount I pay in income, sales and property taxes much less the millions of rules and regulations that strangle my small business on a daily basis.

IDB: The government appears to be no better than organized crime or highwaymen. Who would put up with that?

American: I have to go to work now...

Limited government is a chimera and has never existed anywhere. It is impossible. One may be a happy minarchist libertarian carping on endlessly about returning to the Constitution, placing government within reasonable limits and holding the elected officials responsible through voting but you may as well be a Communist Party USA organizer or teachers union official; you all speak the same language. You are providing the government with all the power it needs by simply acknowledging its rightful existence. Once you fail to question its expansionist nature and participate in endless debates on how to curb the beast, you have lost already.

The question is not how to limit government but simply to take the path to dissolve it, salt the earth where it stood and swear on the blood of your children that you will never let that tragedy happen again.

“The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace in a continual state of alarm (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing them with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.” - H.L. Mencken 

Bill Buppert is a retired US Army officer living in the high desert in the American Southwest. He is the Founder and Publisher of [Zero Gov.](#)

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Agorists Field Exciting New Disruptive Technologies

By Brock Lorber

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TRUE to their motto of “Agora! Anarchy! Action!” agorists specifically, and CypherPunks in general, have been furiously creating secure, resilient, pseudonymous (and even anonymous) communications and transactions systems. Assets and messages traveling through

these systems are untraceable and, therefore, untaxable, and it's already starting to worry government cheerleaders.

Although encrypted communications and digital transfers are nothing new, several new projects are coming together with the promise of making their use more widespread.

Since 1992, the Cypherpunks have been predicting a “crypto-anarchy” (a phrase coined by Timothy C. May in Cyphernomicon) and, more importantly, have continually worked on the tools to bring this radical evolution in privacy and freedom to fruition through strong public-key cryptography. A favorite project of the Cypherpunks has always been the development of mechanisms for anonymous, encrypted payment and asset transfers.

As with any evolutionary process, different ways of accomplishing the goals have been tried, each with their own strengths and weaknesses, and successive projects have retained the good while trying new techniques to solve some common problems:

Traceability – there are plenty of payment processing and banking services that are linked into the banking system, and thus every transaction is linked to one or more account holders. Users of any alternate system are, by definition, seeking anonymity (or, at least pseudonymity where transactions are linked to an account, but the account is not linked to the user). This is not just a technical problem, but also one of trust.

Scalability – beyond the technological problems of fielding an Internet application, there are real costs associated with hosting and storage. Many projects and secure networks are hosted on volunteer hardware unless and until they can be made profitable enough to purchase dedicated hosting and storage. This can become a Catch 22, where hardware and network connectivity cannot be upgraded until there are more paying users, but the current infrastructure cannot support more users.

Resiliency – Internet services must be able to withstand both network and physical attacks from malicious government and non-government actors. Practically, this involves not just hardware, network, and storage redundancy, but also automatic recovery in the event of a successful attack. Resiliency is not cheap and certainly not easy, especially when physical assets must be securely stored yet publicly auditable.

Interoperability – as various projects take different approaches to solving these problems, an unfortunate side effect is that the services become closed systems where assets and messages cannot even be traded between servers running the same service, let alone other services. This requires users to commit to using one, and only one, service with a particular set of assets.

User Experience – user interfaces to date have been created largely as after-thoughts and almost wholly as a product of the team developing the various projects. As a result, form has been sacrificed for function, making the UIs confusing and difficult to use. This leaves many users wanting to participate, but functionally unable.



The experiences of Napster, E-Gold, and Neteller are all educational in their own way. All three were able to be brought down by malicious actors due to multiple instances of the identified problems. Just as decentralized peer-to-peer bitorrents solved some of the problems of Napster, the new transactions and accounting applications promise to solve some of the problems of E-Gold and Neteller. Other complimentary services will, for the first time, allow the Cypherpunks to solve all of the problems at once.

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One of the exciting new pieces is Bitcoin, a digital peer-to-peer currency. There is nothing physical about Bitcoin; it cannot be touched, printed, devalued, forged, or backed by any other asset. To the extent that Bitcoins can be said to exist, they are in the form of long chains of data containing the ownership information that are continuously factored and refactored by participant computers in the Bitcoin P2P network.



Although Bitcoin is seeing accelerating usage as a human-used currency to pay for various goods and services, its

two most promising uses are just beginning to be realized. The first use can be seen in Bitcoin itself – participants are rewarded (in Bitcoin, of course) for their participation in the Bitcoin network, processing all those long chains.



Similarly, Bitcoin is ideally suited to paying fees for using the processing, networking, and storage in secure, anonymized networks such as Freenet and

I2P. This elevates the various nodes in these networks from volunteer to paid, providing an economic incentive for these networks to be extended. In turn, that makes those networks faster and more secure. Using Bitcoin in this way goes a long way toward solving a big chunk of the scalability Catch 22.

The other underutilized value of Bitcoin is as a universal solvent for other currencies. Because Bitcoins are so useful for paying and receiving network fees, they will always have the liquidity to translate transactions involving multiple physical currencies. For example, if you prefer to use silver for transactions, you no longer have to find a seller of a good or service that

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accepts silver. Your silver can purchase Bitcoins and those Bitcoins can be used to purchase the gold, dollars, or chickens the seller demands as payment.

As a universal solvent, Bitcoins are also the natural choice for transferring assets from one server or service to another.

Another piece, which is not new but is being newly implemented, is the awareness that using computers for double-entry book keeping is neither efficient nor desirable. Because computers are capable of authenticating and signing receipts automatically, they are more suited to triple-entry book keeping where balances are constructed on the fly from the source documents (the receipts) rather than as compiled ledgers.

An implementation of "receipt is the transaction book keeping" can be seen in Bill St. Clair's TruLedger. TruLedger maintains only account balances which are mutually agreed upon by the server and user whenever a transaction occurs. In other words, there is no transaction history to discover, even if the system were somehow compromised.



Also, because massive databases of transaction histories are not kept, disaster (natural or man-made) recovery is a simple matter of submitting the last mutually-signed receipt. The server verifies the signatures and that the receipt has not been altered since it was signed, and (with no evidence to the contrary) accepts it at face value.

Another type of transaction processor is implemented by Alex Wied in PorcLoom, an "anonymous digital trading system intended for liberty activists in New Hampshire." Unlike TruLedger, PorcLoom maintains a full transaction history database, but obscures ownership information by hiding it within a massive "grid" within the database.

Bringing all these pieces together is FellowTraveler's Open Transactions (OT). At first glance, OT seems to be just another implementation of a transaction processor. However, it brings much more to the table, including anonymous digital cash, digital cheques, fully-functional stock markets, and the introduction of basket currencies backed not just by one physical asset, but multiple physical assets.

Most importantly, though, OT provides a native application programming interface (API) that allows developers of client applications to create simple yet powerful user interfaces for

trading stocks, making and accepting online payments, or using the anonymous digital cash. FellowTraveler has developed a client called Moneychanger to demonstrate interoperability with OT servers as well as PorcLoom and TruLedger.

Although still in Alpha testing, OT opens up multiple possibilities, including the network fees using Bitcoin discussed earlier. It is almost inevitable that peer-to-peer clients will be created, allowing automatic currency trades to be handled separately from any OT server, and thus avoiding any transaction fees.

At that point, and this is key, traditional retailers will have an economic incentive to accept payments from Open Transactions (or a similar service) without even having to participate in alternative currency markets. Imagine just one transaction:

Standing in line at a convenience store far from home, you grab a fountain soda and ask for 10 gallons of gas on pump 4. On the 2" by 2" screen on the counter, a 2D barcode flashes up, which you scan with your Android phone. The barcode has all the information the OT client on your phone needs to pay the retailer in her preferred currency, Canadian dollars.

As you prefer to pay in labor hours, though, you select that on your screen, which, through a secure, anonymous network, prompts your employer's client to search for sellers of Canadian dollars for its preferred currency, silver. Finding none, it instead trades silver for bitcoins, then bitcoins for Canadian dollars, assigns ownership of that asset to the retailer and makes a note that you owe the company two hours of labor.

The OT server notifies the retailer of successful payment, and you're off to fill up your tank with current gas paid for with future labor. Each party to the transaction, from the retailer, to your employer, to owners of the secure network nodes and the OT server tacked on a little transaction fee as compensation for your use – a total most likely comparable with credit card fees on the same transaction.

The difference is, rather than going to a TARP-accepting, Federal Reserve-using, big bank, the fees you paid go to the enablers of the transaction who share your need for privacy and security. Each can report that fee as income to the extent they feel compelled. With no record of the transaction having occurred, who's to say it did?

That's the kind of thing that should keep IRS agents up at night, and it's all due to Agorists' affinity for direct counter-economic action! 🌻

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Is There a Constitution to “Get Back To”?

by Butler Shaffer

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A tiresome plea I have heard throughout my adult life is that urged by most political conservatives: “we need to get back to the Constitution.” While there is no doubt that the powers of the federal government have greatly expanded since it began operating in 1789, the presumption that various words were added to or deleted from the original text – other than the amendments arising after the “Bill of Rights” – is incorrect. The same words that define the scope of federal power, and those that assure individual liberty, are present as they were when George Washington took office. What possible complaint could be voiced about the modern exercise of governmental authority?

“Your Constitution is all sail and no anchor.”- Lord Thomas Macaulay (1857)

Those who speak of governmental abuse of its powers forget the first lesson to be drawn from the coercive nature of *all* political systems: each derives its existence by the *conquest* of some by others. Those who continue to delude themselves with “social contract” theories of the origins of the state, ignore its fundamental character as a monopolist on the use of violence within a given territory. “Contracts” arise out of *voluntary* transactions between or among individuals who freely choose to commit their energies or

other resources to some agreed-upon purpose. No more can a system of slavery be rationalized on contract grounds than can a voluntary system be set up in which one party enjoys a monopoly on the exercise of violence.

The second lesson to be learned has to do with the inherently uncertain and inconstant nature of words. When Alfred Korzybski declared that “the map is not the territory,” he was reminding us that the words we use to describe things are not the things themselves. The word “water” will not quench your thirst; nor will the word “liberty” provide you with any freedom. When I hold up a drinking “glass” to my students, and compare it to the “glasses” I wear, I am quick to remind them that neither of these items are made from glass, but from plastic.

With an awareness of the haziness associated with words, we can then examine their usage in a constitutional context. Because words have no objective meaning to them, they must be interpreted; applied to a given set of facts. But who is to do this? In the Anglo-American legal system – which includes the interpretation of words in the Constitution, statutes, contractual agreements, etc. – such a task has been assumed by the government court system! The state’s courts – and, ultimately, the Supreme Court – enjoys the power to interpret what the government – in the exercise of its monopolistic authority – is empowered to do. Through its judicial enforcement branch, the state gets to interpret *the range of its own authority!*

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How has this come about? Those who still cling to the illusion that the Constitution limits government power can search in vain for any language in that document that confers upon the Supreme Court any powers of judicial review; any authority to pass judgment on the actions of the other branches of government. In the landmark case of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803),¹ the Court – in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Marshall – adroitly usurped such authority. Subsequent courts and lawyers have as carefully avoided questioning this action as most Judeo-Christian churches have been unwilling to challenge the Book of Genesis explanations for creation.

With its monopolistic powers of constitutional interpretation established, the Supreme Court has proceeded to inform us what the key operative provisions of the document mean. Highlighting the more significant powers granted to Congress in Article I, Section 8, the following language stands out: “Congress shall have Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.” One could end his or her inquiry right there. But the framers went on. As if such powers were not sufficient to establish unrestrained governmental decision-making, this section goes on to give Congress the authority “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government. . . .”

If I were given the power to “provide for the common defense and general welfare” of America, and to “make all laws which shall be necessary and proper” for my exercise of authority, what could I not do, particularly if I enjoyed the monopoly to interpret these words? “Defense” against what? Any threat that I chose to name? Would any pet project of mine foster the “general welfare,” particularly if I, alone, enjoyed the authority to define these words? Who, besides myself, could determine what other laws would be “necessary and proper?”

Do you begin to grasp the meaning of Lord Macaulay’s words? Do you understand how the constitution empowers the state to do virtually anything it chooses, subject only to the extra-constitutional resistance it might encounter from its citizenry? Might you have some appreciation for the modern words of Anthony de Jasay, whose response to the idea of “limited government” was to note that “collective choice is never independent of what significant numbers of individuals wish it to be”?²

But the powers of interpretation continue. To whom does federal authority, as well as “Bill of Rights” protections extend? To “persons.” And “persons” are clearly understood to mean “human beings,” right? Not quite! Dred Scott, had the arrogance to believe that a congressional statute had the effect of terminating his slave status when his master transported him to the Northwest Territories. While he was clearly a *human*, he remained the “property” of his master, which the federal government could not take.³ Eight

years later, the 13th Amendment was ratified, prohibiting “slavery” as well as “involuntary servitude,” a measure that ended, by its clear language, any “servitude” that was “involuntary.” Right? Through its powers of interpretation, the Supreme Court has held that such a prohibition does not apply to such governmental enslave-



ment as *military conscription, jury duty, or the taxation* of the proceeds of one’s labor. Without so stating, it is clear that this amendment did not end slavery, but only *nationalized it!*

But in upholding the slave-master’s “property” interest, the court has consistently shown the importance of defending the inviolability of the private property principle, right? Again, no. In the 1823 case, *Johnson v. M’Intosh*⁴, John Marshall wrote another opinion for the Court in which claims to substantial parcels of land, acquired through the United States government and, ultimately, back to Christian, European nations [Marshall’s criteria] were recognized as *superior* to claims to the same lands *previously* acquired, by the plaintiff Johnson, from Indian tribes. The ancient common law doctrine, “first in time, first in right,” was ignored in favor of claims acquired “by the sword,” by “conquest.” The logic of such thinking continues into the present, as an extension of the state’s monopolistic authority to employ violence in furtherance of ends made possible by

broadly-worded powers. In the 2005 *Kelo* case⁵, the Supreme Court decided that a local government’s forced transfer of land from one private owner to another private owner was not violative of the Fifth Amendment’s “public use” limitations on the powers of eminent domain. *Kelo* – like Johnson – was just another victim of the Court’s inconstant position on private property, as was Dred Scott for whom the question of his self-ownership did not enter into the discussion.

Questions as to who does and does not qualify as a “person” in the Constitution are subject to other interpretations that do not necessarily equate with being “human.” An unborn baby, for instance, has no legal sense of “personhood,” while a state-created “corporation” does. Is there any *clear* meaning to such definitions to which all intelligent minds can repair? Did George Orwell perform perhaps the greatest service to all who live in a world of abstractions? Should we continually remind ourselves of his lesson, by including a preamble to the Fourteenth Amendment that reads “all men are created equal, but some are more equal than others”?

(1857).

1 Marbury v. Madison, 1 Cranch 137 (1803).

2 Anthony de Jasay, *Against Politics: On Government, Anarchy, and Order* (London: Routledge, 1997), pp. 59-60.

3 See, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 61 U.S. (19 How.) 393

4 Johnson v. M’Intosh, 21 U.S. (8 Wheat) 543.

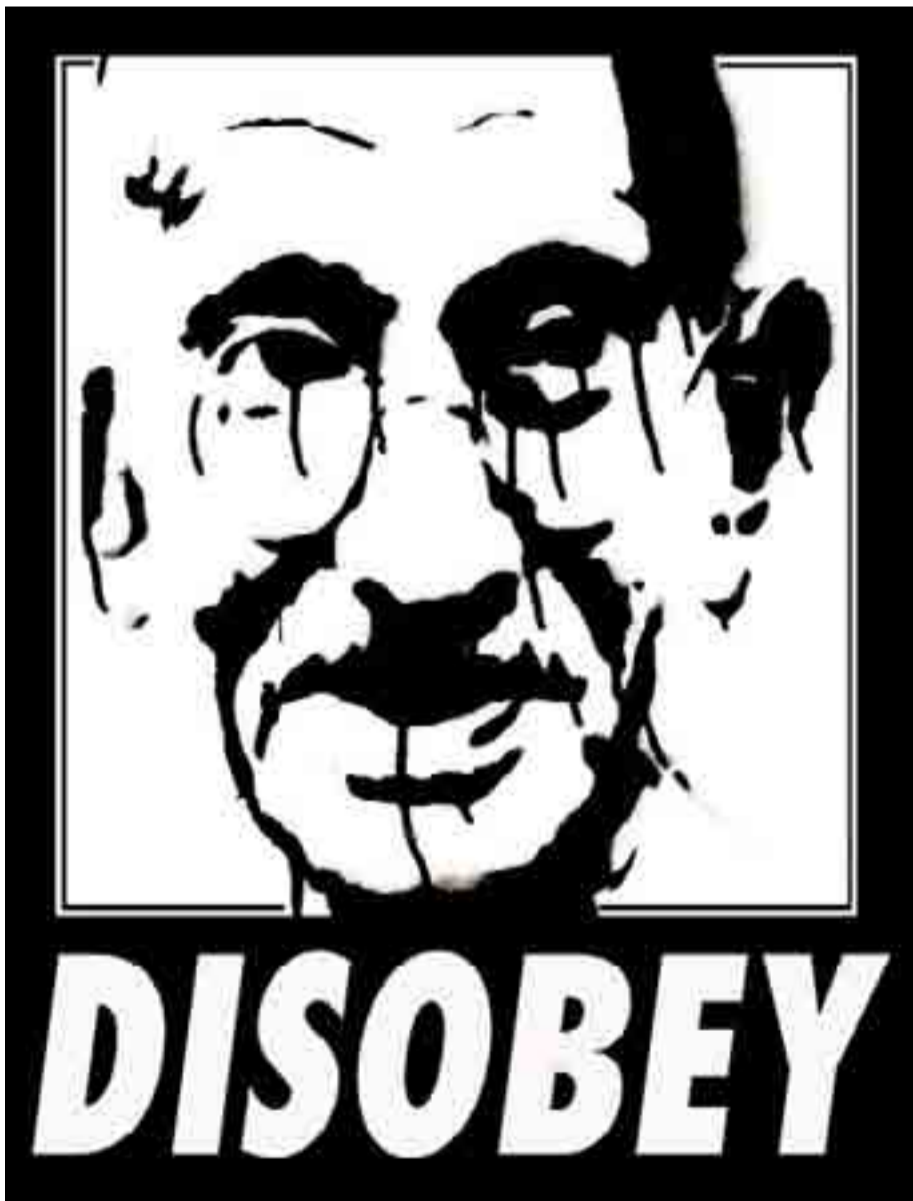
5 Kelo v. City of New London, 545 U.S. 469 (2005).

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Such other general language in the Constitution as “*unreasonable searches and seizures*,” “*due process of law*,” “*just compensation*,” “*excessive fines*” and “*bail*,” and “*cruel and unusual punishments*,” have provided the government such a leeway in interpretation as to amount to an unbridled license. Meanwhile, language in the “Bill of Rights” that purport to be guarantees of individual liberty, have been given very narrow – and, in the case of the Ninth Amendment non-existent – meanings.

The constitutional provision that has done far more than any other to increase the powers of the federal government over American society is the “commerce clause” of Article I, Section 8. The words “To regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . .” have been interpreted by the Supreme Court to empower Congress to control virtually any aspect of the personal, social, and economic life of Americans. Legislation to prohibit racial, religious, gender, or ethnic discrimination in employment, housing, education, or business practices can be traced to this clause. Federal control over what foods, drugs, or other items people might choose to consume, has been justified by the commerce clause. So, too, have product standards in clothing, automobiles, childrens’ toys, household appliances, been established through this provision. The examples are as endless as the appetites of the “people-pushers” who desire to extend their controls over the lives of others.




Just how far this language has permitted Congress to go can be seen in the 1942 case *Wickard v. Filburn*.⁶ An Ohio farmer was charged with violating federally established wheat marketing quotas by growing wheat *on* his farm, to be consumed on his farm for the feeding of his family, livestock, and the seeding of next year’s crop. Only a very small portion of his wheat was sold.

The farmer argued, among other points, that Congress’ powers “to regulate commerce” did not extend this far. In upholding the regulations, the court provided a clear statement about the expansive nature of government power: “That an activity is of local character may help in a doubtful case to determine whether Congress intended to reach it.” Congress, in other words, is to be the judge of how far, and to what activities, its authority extends!

By allowing the government to be the interpreter of the words that both *empower* and *restrain* it, we are inevitably left in a situation in which the self-interest motivations of the state give it *expanded* definitions of its authority, and *narrow* interpretations of restraints. If those who yearn to “get back to the Constitution” plead for a return to *earlier*, less extensive interpretations of empowering language, that is one thing. But let us heed the words of de Jasay, and recognize that there is nothing, *nothing*, in words themselves that restrains their usage to the kinds of objective, concrete meanings we find in mathematics. As long as constitutional governments persist, we shall always be plagued by a “living constitution.” As most modern Americans seem to have embraced the concept of a unitary president, whose arbitrary decisions are not subject to oversight or reversal by other branches of government, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and any subsequent rulers, will *be* the “living constitution.”

The inherently fuzzy nature of words – a quality that always requires interpretation as to their meaning – was provided in an example of a late friend of mine, Sy Leon. Suppose that a constitutionally-based government was granted only the power “to regulate time.” He then proceeded to demonstrate how our present level of government could be rationalized through this phrase. “No one shall use their time consuming drugs;” “people shall be subject to having two years of their time spent in military conscription;” “no one shall spend their time working for less than a prescribed minimum wage;” “no one shall spend their time discriminating against others on the basis of race, religion, gender, or lifestyle;” “no one shall spend their time driving a car faster than 55 mph.”

Until men and women are able to transform their thinking regarding the principles upon which society is to operate; until the illusions upon which all political systems are based shall be exposed to even the weakest of minds, the defenders of constitutionalism will have to comfort themselves with the idea that *the Constitution is what keeps the government from doing all of the terrible things that it does!* 

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6 Wickard v. Filburn, 317 U.S. 111 (1942).

Is the TSA advancing the cause of liberty? by James Babb, Co-founder of We Won't Fly

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THE unconscionable behavior of the TSA is well known: the gropings, the humiliation, the naked scans, the rampant theft, etc. But could the TSA also be helping the cause of liberty?



As libertarians, we are often called upon to explain how government agencies are harmful to our society. We've all heard it before. "Without the Food and Drug Administration, we'd all be drinking lead based smoothies and eating rotten rat meat." "Without the Federal Communications Commission, we would have no iPhones." "Without the Federal Department of Transportation, we wouldn't have paved roads." "Without Social Security, old people would be starving in the streets." It often takes a fair amount of explaining to reveal how these bureaucracies have the opposite effect of their advertised purpose. Our best arguments are often dismissed without even the courtesy of a counter argument, because the pro-government view is considered self-evident.

Our society is largely conditioned to accept any government program at face value, even if people see that it isn't run well. One reason for this phenomena is that most agencies are out of the public view. The old media regularly regurgitates the official press releases, and with the exception of the post office and the IRS, most Americans have little direct interaction with the alphabet soup of regulatory monsters.

There is one program that is noticeably different. The Transportation Security Administration just can't hide from their own criminal behavior. Their evil deeds spread like wildfire on YouTube, and no amount of official orwellian newspeak can negate what Americans are seeing (and feeling) first hand. The victims of the TSA aren't criminal suspects, or "greedy" corporations, or even "dangerous" raw milk providers. The millions of victims from this agency are from all walks of life, and they are victimized in plain sight. This makes the TSA a unique window for many into the inner workings of government.

We Won't Fly (www.WeWontFly.com) was started by two regular dads who are opposed to the full-body airport 'porno' scanners on grounds of privacy, ineffectiveness and health.

When the new scanners were headed to Philadelphia in the fall of 2010, I realized that my ability to travel by air with my young daughters was in serious jeopardy, so I began researching and organizing local opposition.



My friend and fellow freedom activist, George Donnelly immediately offered to build a website to support the effort. The website that George created, exploded across the internet within days, resulting in millions of web hits, tens of thousands of Facebook fans and twitter followers. Overnight, we found ourselves in the heart of the TSA resistance movement. The old media scrambled to catch up with the public's concern and the obvious moral issues raised by the new invasive procedures.

Our success is largely do to blog posts containing first hand accounts from travelers about the TSA's new invasive procedures. These stories and videos of average Americans being molested by government agents spread like wildfire. We have had the opportunity to educate tens of millions of people across the world about government abuse and the need to abolish the TSA. What started as a typical libertarian outreach project, became an international news story. In the weeks leading up to the infamous "National Opt-out Day" George and I did more interviews than we could count, around the clock. In addition to the cable and network news channels, media from the UK, Australia, Canada, Mexico, France, New Zealand, China, Iran, Poland, Brazil and many other countries wanted to talk to us.

The stories that really take off are those of average people like Meg McClain (<http://wewontfly.com/question-tsa-risk>) and John Tyner (<http://wewontfly.com/traveler-to-tsa-agent>). People are shocked to see what's happening to mothers, grandmothers, cancer survivors, children with special needs, and those with implants and prosthetics. Videos of children being groped by blue-shirted goons is particularly disturbing (<http://wewontfly.com/why-the-no-patdowns-for-kids-campaign-could-end-the-tsa>). The most vulnerable in our society were the first to take the brunt of TSA abuse. Now, no one is safe, not former Miss America, Susie Castillo (<http://www.susiecastillo.net/blog/2011/4/25/>)

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my-tsa-pat-down-experience.html), not even US Congressmen (<http://nation.foxnews.com/politics/2010/11/23/ron-paul-crotch-groped-tsa-calls-boycott-airlines>) or hollywood celebrities (<http://wilwheaton.typepad.com/wwdnbackup/2011/04/i-dont-feel-safe-i-feel-violated-humiliated-and-angry.html>).

One of our best tools are the videos of TSA's perverted deeds. The TSA is itself a giant billboard, promoting their own banishment from civilized society. Every time they pat down a child, peak in to a diaper, or grope a grandma, statism is exposed. Every time another TSA groper is caught stealing, America's patience weakens. Every time a TSA bureaucrat opens her tax-fattened maw, the bald faced tyrannical agenda is revealed. Libertarians have never had an easier job exposing the true nature of government.

Anyone with a shred of decency knows that what the TSA is doing is immoral and totally unacceptable. This is well beyond conservative, liberal or libertarian, beyond race, age or economics. This is a matter of basic human dignity. This problem is beyond the point of reform. There is no "better way" to strip search a child or a more "professional way" to feel up our grandmothers. This is not an issue of TSA training. Its not even an issue of security. This is about the fundamental coercive nature of government. As libertarians, we can help people make the connection between the abuse they see with everything else the government does, including the endless wars of aggression and foreign meddling.

Our job is to reveal the TSA as the latex gloved, tip of the iceberg. The public is outraged because they see a TSA hand reaching into our waistband. We can show that everything the government does is a hand in our pants. The public is outraged about nude scans of our families. We can show how the IRS forces us to reveal far more than any x-ray scanner.

Politicians wage endless wars of aggression abroad, participates in regime change, meddle in foreign elections, impose sanctions and blockades and then claim that we must let them grope our children and irradiate us because crazy foreigners "hate us for our freedom." The police state at home and the empire abroad are flip sides of the same coin. We can help outraged Americans make that connection.

Eyebrows have been raised by the windfall profits of former Homeland Secretary Michael Chertoff who now works for Rapiscan Systems selling scanners to the TSA. While on the public dole, he lobbied hard for the purchase of Rapiscan branded porno-scanners. Libertarians

weren't surprised to see another tax-feeder step through the revolving door. We can show that this is the rule, not the exception. It is no different than Monsanto's chief lobbyist Michael Taylor becoming Obama's "food-czar," or former Goldman Sachs CEO becoming the United States Treasury Secretary.

In addition to providing us with these wonderful teaching opportunities, the TSA has done us an another huge favor. The TSA has become a rallying point for the new progressive/libertarian alliance. People are united against a common foe. Left, right, progressive, libertarian, religious, atheist People from all philosophical, political and economic backgrounds now stand shoulder to shoulder against tyranny. For example, during an interview with progressive San Francisco radio host Peter B. Collins, he mentioned to me that as a liberal, there usually isn't a government program he doesn't like, but the TSA makes him feel like a "nutty libertarian."

At a recent TSA opposition conference (<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Security-Proc>) the Electronic Privacy Information Center assembled a wide range of speakers including hardcore anarchists, politicians, libertarian-conservatives and liberals. LP executive director Wes Benedict noted "When Libertarians and Ralph Nader agree a program is bad...it's time for our government to listen."

The TSA has handed us a wonderful teaching opportunity. They are doing all the work, we just need to help people fit the visible abuses into the bigger picture.

Could TSA opposition become a catalyst for a wider rebellion? I think it can. Millions have been exposed to the true nature of government. The false left/right paradigm has been weakened and many Americans have reached the limit of sufferable abuse. As we bring down the TSA, we are tugging on the stings of the empire. Eventually, the entire tapestry may unravel. So, while we curse the outrageous crimes of the TSA, let's hope history will show this to be a key historical tipping point toward freedom. 🌸

James Babb is a small business owner, musician, father and libertarian activist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a co-founder of We Won't Fly (www.WeWontFly.com).

Inspired by James Babb and George Donnelly, Phoenix got busy...

<http://www.freedomspheonix.com/Article/079168-2010-11-24-tsa-opt-out-bags-handed-out-at-phenix-sky-harbor.htm>

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The Future of Freedom is the Truth of the Past Lessons in Propaganda from Government Education

By Stefan Molyneux

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By Stefan Molyneux, MA
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popular philosophy show in
the world.

<http://www.freedomainradio.com>

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“A general State education is a mere contrivance for molding people to be exactly like one another; and as the mold in which it casts them is that which pleases the dominant power in the government, whether this be a monarch, an aristocracy, or a majority of the existing generation; in proportion as it is efficient and successful, it establishes a despotism over the mind, leading by a natural tendency to one over the body.” John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, 1859

“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”

Abraham Lincoln

Introduction

Try asking a web site for directions without typing in a starting point. The web page will rightly tell you that this is impossible. If you are lost on the ocean, you cannot plot a course for Tahiti.

In a famous chapter from George Orwell’s “1984,” Winston Smith tries asking an old man what life was like before socialism, but can ex-

tract only scraps and faded scenes from the ancient man’s broken recollections.

In order to seal you in slavery, your government must pretend that you were never free. It must shatter your true history into facile propaganda, into fairy tales that endlessly repeat the fantasy that your political leaders rescued you from the scary chaos of liberty.

The murder of memory is the first crime of the State – and the source and sustenance of all its other crimes.

Why do we believe this propaganda, these fairy tales?

I submit that it is to avoid the knowledge of our own enslavement.

Most people’s beliefs are ex post facto justifications for the after-effects of brute power. Almost no one wants to pay taxes – otherwise, why force them? – but because we are compelled to, we find solace in pretending that our tax money does great and necessary good in society – and comfort ourselves with the lie that without taxes, charity, benevolence and civilization itself would collapse.

The history-killing Statist argument goes like this:

- ‘X’ is required

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Lessons in Propaganda from Government Education

- We are forced to do ‘X’
- Without force, ‘X’ would not exist

For example:

- The poor need help
- We are forced to help the poor
- If we were not forced to help the poor, the poor would not be helped

You can plug all sorts of Statist programs into this equation. Helping the poor, the old, the sick, opposing drug use and illiteracy, protecting the environment, and so on – they all fit.

The true madness of this equation is easy to see if we plug in defunct Statist programs such as slavery:

- We need food
- Slaves must be forced to grow food
- Without slavery, there will be no food

Or:

- We need families
- People must be forced to get married
- Without forced marriage, there would be no families

One of the most destructive uses of this mad syllogism is this:

- Children need education
- We must force children into government schools, and force everyone to pay
- If we do not force everyone, children – and particularly poor children – will not be educated

To sustain this fairy tale, the State must bury the true history of free and voluntary education – which inevitably gives rise to the following syllogism:

- Children are now forced into State schools, and everyone is forced to pay for them
- In the past, children were not forced into State schools, and no one was forced to pay for education
- Therefore, the imposition of force in the case of education must have occurred because in the past, *children were not being educated.*

A false corollary of this is:

- Children can only be educated through government force
- Therefore anyone opposed to government force is opposed to the education of children

This is the same logic as:

- Food can only be grown by slaves
- Therefore anyone opposed to slavery must want universal starvation

This fallacy is beyond ridiculous – which is

why it must be so often repeated, since absurd statements gain credibility only through repetition – which is easy to see once we plug other arguments into the equation:

- Slaves are forced to work
- In the past, slaves were not forced to work
- Therefore, slavery exists because slaves did not work before slavery

Or, in the case of a warrior forcibly taking a bride:

- I forced this woman to marry me
- Before I forced her to marry me, she was unmarried
- Therefore, if I did not force her, she never would have gotten married

If the Dentist Is Drilling, There Must Have Been a Cavity!

In the realm of education, the generally-held fantasy is that State schools were imposed to address terrible deficiencies in instruction, particularly among the poor. This belief is so tenacious that no amount of genuine scholarship seems able to dislodge it (as is so often the case with Stockholm Syndrome justifications).

For example:

- If you tell fans of State education that literacy was higher before government schools were inflicted – and has been declining ever since – they will dismiss you.
- If you tell them that neither parents nor children expressed any real dissatisfaction with voluntary schools before governments took over education, they will dismiss you.
- If you tell them that the stated goal of government education was the social, economic and political control of the population – particularly religious minorities such as Catholics – they will dismiss you.
- If you tell them that bitter enemies of freedom such as Marx, Hitler and Stalin continually demanded and achieved more and more State control over the education of children, they will dismiss you.
- If you remind them that one of the greatest advocates for compulsory attendance laws was the Ku Klux Klan, they will dismiss you.
- If you remind them that a free market society cannot long survive when its children are indoctrinated in a socialistic educational system, they will dismiss you.

The reason for this blindness is simple:

When universal force is used to “solve” a “problem,” the original “problem” – even if entirely imaginary – grows and grows in people’s imaginations.

The “reasoning” goes like this:

If universal state violence was the best and only possible solution, the original problem must have been truly awful! If the forced nationalization of an entire industry such as edu-

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Lessons in Propaganda from Government Education**

cation was required, imagine how bad education had to be to require such a drastic step! This completely ignores the possibility that the takeover was simply an expansionistic abuse of State power.

If a woman is savagely beaten by her husband, would we say that she must have been really bad to deserve such a punishment? Or that slaves must have been incredibly lazy, because they had to be violently forced to work? Or that there must have been something funny going on with all those witches in Salem, otherwise why would they have been burned at the stake?

Of course not!

This kind of nonsense can go on forever, of course, and it seems ridiculous when we put other arguments through the standard equation – but once you understand the true history of American education, the current propaganda will seem equally foolish.

...And this, my friends, is what they call a “solution”...

American schools were forcibly taken over by the State around 1840 – beforehand, in the populated areas of the Northern US – as well as all of New England – literacy rates were between

by about 2.25 million each year.

- 20% of high school seniors can be classified as being functionally illiterate at the time they graduate – after over 15,000 hours of State “education.”
- 75% of unemployed adults have difficulty reading and writing at a basic level. 7 in 10 adults in prison perform at the lowest literacy levels. 85% of all juvenile offenders are functionally or marginally illiterate. Almost all were forced to go to government schools for many years.
- The percentage of American children who are able to read well hasn’t improved at all in the last 25 years, despite a near tripling of educational funding and a significant reduction in class size.

Unless early 19th century schools were continually on fire, or underwater, or filled with noxious gases, it’s hard to conceive of how the above could ever be called an “improvement.”

When You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know...

Some people ask how financial institutions are able to get away with ripping off the entire population through predatory lending and endless

“A general state education is a mere contrivance for molding people to be exactly like one another: and the mold in which cast them is that which pleases the predominant power in the government... in proportion as it is efficient and successful, it establishes a despotism over the mind, leading by natural tendency to one over the body.” John Stuart Mill, On Liberty, 1859

91 and 94%! (In Canada, according to contemporary reports, “by 1867, most people... were more or less literate,” and, “nearly every town or village must already have had its Grammar School.”)

This literacy rate has been steadily falling ever since, despite staggering increases in funding and technology, and significant decreases in class size.

How has State education “solved” or “improved” those historically high literacy rates?

In the world of the government, these are what are called “improvements”:

- 1 in 5 students now carries a weapon to school – 1 in 36 a gun!
- Nearly half of all students in major US cities drop out of high school.
- Every day an average of 7,200 students drop out of school – that is 13 million children fleeing State schools every year.
- In Canada – very similar to the US – 7% of Ontario dropouts were “A” students, while 46% had been “B” students, and 45% say they are dropping out because they basically hate school.
- More than 32 million adults in the US – 14% of the population – have very low literacy skills. Many of them cannot read anything more challenging than a simple children’s book with pictures. (Naturally, there is no literacy requirement for voting.)
- 42 million American adults can’t read at all; 50 million can only read at a fourth or fifth grade level. The number of adults classified as functionally illiterate increases

bailouts – the answer lies in the almost complete financial illiteracy of the average American. From an article in the “New Yorker”:

“The depth of our financial ignorance is startling. In recent years, Annamaria Lusardi, an economist at Dartmouth and the head of the Financial Literacy Center, has conducted extensive studies of what Americans know about finance. It’s depressing work. Almost half of those surveyed couldn’t answer two questions about inflation and interest rates correctly, and slightly more sophisticated topics baffle a majority of people. Many people don’t know the terms of their mortgage or the interest rate they’re paying. And, at a time when we’re borrowing more than ever, most Americans can’t explain what compound interest is.”

Ah, but at least a country with 700 military bases overseas is chock full of people with a good knowledge of geography, right?

Not so much. Eleven percent of young Americans couldn’t even locate the US on a map. Almost a third had no idea where the Pacific Ocean was; 58% could not find Japan, 65% could not find France, and 69% could not locate the United Kingdom. Fewer than 15% could find Israel or Iraq.

Almost a third insisted that the population of the United States was between one and two billion, rather than around 300 million.

Also, even though educational standards have declined since government schools came into being, only about a third of eighth graders currently score at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in Reading (32%), Mathematics (34%), or Science (29%). (Imagine giving them a grammar or math test from 1840!)

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Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently admitted that 82% of public schools could be labeled “failing” under “No Child Left Behind” specifications. What was his solution? Kill the program and return the money to taxpayers, or expand its funding? You only get one guess.

“Head Start” has cost \$166 billion since 1965, despite many studies proving that most of the money was wasted, and did not help poor kids gain or keep any improvements. Recently, its funding was increased by over \$2 billion.

People respond to incentives – when you pay people for failure, you tend to get more failure. America spends over \$150,000 per student between the first and the 12th grade – nearly 3 times as much as it did in 1970. Between 1960 and 1985, the ratio of students to teachers in public schools fell by almost 30%. As is always the case with government programs, more money, more resources and more people means more and more catastrophic results.

Economist Thomas Sowell notes that Scholastic Achievement Test scores are significantly lower now than 30 years ago, and that the vocabulary of the average student contains half as many words as it did in 1945.

Is it because teachers are underpaid? Not in Canada, where teachers earned 80% of the manufacturing wage in 1950, and now earn over 50% more than the basic manufacturing wage.

Unemployment

Why are so many people unemployed? Well, unemployment is closely linked to illiteracy. More than 40% of working-age Canadians lack the necessary basic literacy skills required to successfully participate in the labor market.

In the US:

- 43% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty.
- 17% of people with the lowest literacy skills receive food stamps.
- 70% of people with the lowest literacy skills have no full or part-time job.

Literacy rates have also stagnated or fallen during a period in history when job requirements have grown. One reason US manufacturing jobs have vanished is that in 1950, 60% of manufacturing jobs were unskilled – a number that plunged to 15% in subsequent decades.

The American Management Association reported that over 40% of job applicants lacked the basic reading, writing, and math skills needed to do the manufacturing jobs they wanted. In a recent survey, 90% of US manufacturers reported a shortage of qualified workers in at least one job category.

After over a century and a half of government controlled and enforced “education,” the situation has become completely unrecoverable.

As Pulitzer prize-winning author Chris Hedges has noted in his book “Empire of Illusion”:

“A third of high school graduates never read another book for the rest of their lives, and neither do 42% of college graduates. In 2007, 80% of the families in the United States did not buy or read a book... The Princeton Review analyzed transcripts of the Gore-Bush debates of 2000, the Clinton-Bush-Perot debates of 1992, the Kennedy-Nixon debate of 1960, and the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. It reviewed these transcripts using a standard vocabulary test that indicates the minimum educational standards needed for a reader to grasp the text. In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Lincoln spoke at the educational level of an 11th grader, and

Douglas addressed the crowd using a vocabulary suitable for a high school graduate. In the Kennedy-Nixon debate, the candidates spoke in a language accessible to 10th-graders. In the 1992 debates, Clinton spoke at a seventh grade level, while Bush spoke at a sixth grade level, as did Perot. During the 2000 debates, Bush spoke at a sixth grade level and Gore at a high seventh-grade level.”

How long before Presidential debates are performed with hand puppets, singalongs and bouncing balls?

Conclusion

The decay of the mind and spirit that arises from universal compulsion is truly the greatest tragedy of Statism. It is not so much that our bodies are taxed, but that we slowly refuse to tax our minds. As the inevitably awful results of compulsion rise to the foreground for all but the most willfully self-blinded to see, the young no longer believe in the ideals of their society, hold their elders in contempt for their mealy-mouthed hypocrisies, and view with bottomless cynicism the social rules that they’re supposed to follow.

As education, income and opportunities for the young fall away, the oldest social compact between generations – obey your elders, and receive the benefits – disintegrates as well. Generations that used to benefit each other – the vitality and creativity of the young combined with the savings and wisdom of the old – now glare at each other with skeptical and distrustful eyes. “Why should we pay for your retirement?” “Why should we pay for your postgraduate degree?”

The greatest tragedy of Statism is its destruction of communal trust, and the rupture of cooperation among those with beneficial differences, such as old and young, rich and poor, leaders and followers.


When we have locked our young year after year in dangerous prisons of State indoctrination, and sold them into future serfdom for the sake of political bribery in the moment, will they really listen to us when we tell them to be good, to defer gratification, to work hard, when we have no rewards left to offer them – neither financial nor spiritual?

Of course not.

We must abandon our illusions of Statist benevolence – not to save ourselves from the State, but from each other - from the festering resentments and predations that inevitably grow among citizens clawing and biting for crumbs from the political table.

The future of freedom is the freedom of the young, and the freedom of the young depends on the old abandoning their illusions.

I leave the last word to the great poet W.H. Auden, in the hopes that his prophecy about the 20th century proves false in the 21st:

*We would rather be ruined than changed;
We would rather die in our dread
Than climb the cross of the moment
And let our illusions die.* 

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Freedomain Radio

Liberty is the Right to Be Who You Are

by Michael Nystrom, May 28, 2011

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True story...

I became an early adopter of the Internet after it was brought to the forefront of my attention one summer day back in 1995, when I was a young stockbroker in Seattle. On that day, Netscape, one of the first firms to capitalize on the nascent World Wide Web, set a new IPO record by rising over 250% on its first day of trading. No one had ever seen anything like it. The brokers in the room stood in amazement, watching their quote screens like they were seeing a meteor fly straight through the office. This complete astonishment was compounded by the fact that no one, including me, was quite sure exactly what Netscape was or what it did.

What I did know was that we were witnessing something big, and from that point on I was hooked on the Internet. After Netscape's IPO came others, a plethora, and the late 90's turned into a real Internet meteor shower, with strange and interesting new IPOs nearly every week. Some of these companies had their moments and faded away gracefully; others flamed out spectacularly. And some built up momentum and kept getting bigger and bigger, riding the rising tide of the new technology. Amazon, Ebay, Yahoo, Google, Facebook and more are still with us, and new firms are still emerging every day. The Internet, almost unknown 15 years ago, is now a deeply embedded part of our society and culture.

I was also an early adopter of Ron Paul. In January 2007, after a decade of experience working in the Internet industry, I happened upon a podcast in which the then not-quite-yet-running-for-president Ron Paul talked about the potential impact this new medium would have on politics: "We live in a new and modern age and nobody has truly measured this," he said. "I think Howard Dean got around the edges two years ago and did pretty well...but the technology continues to improve and the ability to reach millions of people at a very low cost is very intriguing."

I knew instantly that he was right. Howard Dean had set the previous standard in 2004 for a candidate's ability to leverage the Internet, but since then magical new technologies had materialized - namely MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and Meetup. I saw the potential clearly, and at a visceral level knew that I wanted to be part of it. The day after hearing the podcast, I launched a website called the Daily Paul. I could foresee that it had the potential to allow me to learn and grow while at the same time making an impact on the world by doing something that I believed in. I could offer my expertise in the common cause of Liberty while keeping my actions in alignment with my values.

Ron Paul's noisy, ragtag 2008 grassroots campaign went on to take everyone by surprise, including Dr. Paul himself. The campaign was like another unexpected and uninvited meteor, screaming through the 2008 presidential race. This was due in no small part to the Internet, which allowed individuals to communicate directly with one other on a massive scale, something that was fundamentally new. Individuals were given a choice, and many chose to circumvent the traditional, infrastructure-heavy mediated channels of broadcast news and printed pages to get their information directly from one another. Email, community sites like MySpace and YouTube, and dedicated Ron Paul sites like the Daily Paul, the Ron Paul Forums, and many other blogs moved to the forefront of importance of the campaign.

Ever since the end of the 2008 campaign, legions of Ron Paul supporters have been waiting for 2012 to begin. But as Heraclitus noted some 2,500 years ago, no man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and it's not the same man. Ron Paul's 2012 campaign will not be the same as 2008. This time around, the campaign faces a different set of challenges. A major problem for Dr. Paul in 2008 was near zero name recognition. The grassroots set about attacking this problem with gusto, both on the Internet and off. We owned every online poll, spammed comments, and changed our Facebook & My Space pictures to that of Ron Paul. We

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made thousands of homemade stickers, signs and t-shirts and made sure everyone saw them, and launched outrageous projects like the Ron Paul Air Corps and of course, the Blimp.

This time around, name recognition is not the problem. These days Ron Paul is famous. So famous, in fact, that he is attracting imitators. In the 2008 debates, he stood alone onstage, and his message was clear as a bell. How will he differentiate himself from the Sarah Palins, the Michelle Bachmans, the Herman Cains and other tea partiers of the 2012 field who will aim to copy his rhetoric and capitalize on its popularity? How will voters know the difference?

This speaks to a more challenging and fundamental issue - the weak understanding by the American people of the concept of Liberty itself. The problem is one of education, and once again, most of the mass media is actively working to distort the meaning of Liberty in the name of sensationalism and profit. Alarming, this perspective is no longer limited to just the mass media. In the 15 years since Netscape's IPO, the online technology environment continues to shift. The first static websites allowed everyone to be publishers. Blogs made it easier. Community 2.0 sites facilitated interaction. But the new technologies have also changed the nature of our interactions. Once upon a time we had conversations; now we just seem to leave messages for one another: txt msgs, fb likes, tweets & voice mail. This fragmentation of conversation allows for easy manipulation of the message - not only by the mass media, but by everyone else in the cloud as well. Snip a few words, remove the background and context, and suddenly sensible, innocuous statements sound

literally insane. It is like throwing red meat to wild animals, and it becomes nearly impossible to find the truth after the original words have been mashed, clipped, opined on, and relentlessly attacked and defended.

Furthermore, the online world is becoming even more fragmented and filtered by the recent advent of "personalization algorithms." Unbeknownst to most of us, these algorithms serve to clump us together into homogeneous, like-minded groups based on our preferences. Everything has become "personalized." Google now tailors its search results for you, giving you what *it thinks* you want to see. In other words, your Google search results for "Ron Paul" are likely to be radically different from those of a neocon, a liberal, or a person with no political interests whatsoever. The same is true for your Facebook wall and Yahoo! news feed. Increasingly, Internet surfers are confined to nearly invisible "filter bubbles" that keep them safely ensconced in their own comfort zones, unexposed to new and different perspectives.

Sadly, if the American people are unable to understand the problems our country is facing, they simply will not have the ears to hear Ron Paul's message. Two message points of primary importance are: 1) The Federal Reserve and 2) Foreign Policy, and how they are connected.

Our monetary system has been hijacked at the expense of Liberty. Since very few people understand this, the only way to bring about an end to this immoral system is through a relentless campaign of education. Sadly, most Americans today don't have the time, energy or capacity to understand the problem, let alone care. And personalization algorithms make it that much more difficult to stumble upon needed information.

This is not a failure on Ron Paul's part, it is symptomatic of the larger, systemic collapse that our nation is currently experiencing. While some in our movement believe that electing Ron Paul will solve all of our nation's ills, it is actually the reverse that is true, because virtue cannot be instilled from above. Only after citizens are properly educated would they have the wisdom to elect someone like Ron Paul, someone who does not want to rule the world or fight endless wars, and someone who sees strength not in excess, but in restraint. If "change" could be instituted from the top down, everything would have been fixed in the 2008 election. But that is not how the world works. Liberty is not merely a slogan - it must be earned and lived to be fully appreciated and cherished.

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As Ron Paul has stated many times, he is merely a messenger. The Message itself is what is important, and that is the message of Liberty. He is a visionary, transmitting to us the idea of a free world. He is a teacher, showing us by example what is possible when you stay true to your own convictions. Real change, i.e. *transformation*, is only possible from within. People must figure it out for themselves, make their own connections, come to their own conclusions, and take responsibility for their own actions. Once that shift takes place within the individual, the external world cannot help but bend to the new emergent reality.

My definition of Liberty for our soundbite world is simply this: Liberty is the right to be who you are. In a free society, you will never be forced to be something you are not. Understood in this way, Liberty becomes as much of an internal journey to achieve as an external victory to fight for. The rub is that in order to be who you are, you must first know who you are, and understanding who you are is a lifelong journey.

do u no who u r?

At the same time, everyone is looking forward to Season 2 of the Ron Paul Show, in which Ron Paul sticks it to the Man before hostile studio audiences on live national television. We want him to speak our minds for us. We want him

to lead and stand up for our rights the way only he can. But it is unlikely that Liberty will be handed to us in this manner. Even if it is, it will be impossible for us to maintain without a deep, introspective practical knowledge of what Liberty means and what it costs to maintain.

After five years on this intense journey, I have come to understand that the surest way to change the world is first to change yourself. I can think of no better living example of this principle than Ron Paul himself. He is a true American original, who without apology exercises his right to be himself. Each day his influence grows simply because he knows who he is, what he stands for, and refuses to waver from his convictions. We can all learn something from his example.

What will the grassroots do in 2012 for an encore? Look inside yourself and discover who you are in order to tap into the wellspring of creativity that made 2008 a success. Realize that 2012 will be different than 2008. Be part of the meteor shower of Liberty, letting your conscience be your guide. And above all, remember what Ron Paul said in a recent interview, and understand the reason he said it: "I always win." 🌻

Michael Nystrom is the founder and editor of the Daily Paul

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Time to overthrow the government

Submitted by [The_Gov_is_a_](#) on Thu, 09/25/2008 - 00:10
in [Daily Paul Liberty Forum](#)

Let's be realistic- just talking it up senselessly and espousing hilariously pathetic wishful thinking isn't going to do anything. I say it's time to overthrow the government, and I don't mean by buying yard-signs for Chuck Baldwin. What are your thoughts?

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Living in the Facebook Nation

By Gary S. Franchi Jr.

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ARE you on Facebook? If asked, over 600 Million people would answer “yes” to that question. So, what’s all the hype about? Well, I’ll lay it out for you. Back when the internet was run by a small handful

of nerds who ruled the world with HTML code, the average person was left out in the cold, faced with insurmountable odds. Armed with only a handful of search engines and geocities to vent their frustrations and conquer cyberspace, the race to restore freedom in America was crawling along.

As the internet grew up and the cyber nerds become open-source wizards the message of freedom began spreading through underground file sharing networks. Once it dropped in my hard drive I was hooked. Today the message of freedom is carried on a variety of mediums. Facebook, is in our cell phones, our TVs, and has integrated itself into almost every aspect of our lives. Some people only use the internet to log into Facebook. Facebook, it is projected, will soon BE the internet.

So how do we make it work for us? How do we make it carry the message of freedom? In the last presidential race Barak Obama made it one of his goals to ensure that he hired Facebook’s top programmers to work on the social marketing side of his campaign. Some argue that it was this method that won him the election. By tapping into the social conciseness of the nation, through Facebook, Barak Obama reached a generation of Americans who turned out the vote for him. However, change doesn’t come by simply creating a Facebook profile, but it can surly start with one. From the hardcore anarchist to the ardent statist you will find that many have Facebook accounts.



Since 2005 I’ve been working to get people organized around the concepts of freedom as espoused by our founders. I’ve owned many websites, on a variety of platforms, with these

specific goals, educate the masses, organize them for action, and restore the republic.

In late 2010 I purchased a new web address and migrated our social networking platform to it. Once we updated the software to allow Facebook members to join with just a few clicks, and opened the doors the people began joining by the thousands. They began self organizing, sharing and taking action, on their own initiative. We finally achieved a pure, organic social network dedicated to spreading the message of freedom.

The new website found at <http://RTR.org> functions as a Social Network, and permits you to use your Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, or Google login to enter the site. That is only one of the powerful features. Aside from the ability to network with over 31,000 patriots using the site, you can use it as your base of operations for your daily political outreach and edification.

You can command your entire “Social Universe” by broadcasting your RTR “status update” to Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and LinkedIn, with just one click. Likewise, at RTR, when you post a video, create an event, join a group or upload a picture from rally you just attended, with one click it can viewed and shared by the masses at RTR and by your friends on your other networks.

Just like Obama used Facebook to carry his message to the masses we can use RTR.org as our base camp to launch salvos into Facebook. With this online resource you will be able to effectively spread the freedom message while being updated with the latest trending news and information, as it happens from the members online.

Take a moment and check us out on the web at <http://RTR.org>. If you like the site, help us grow by inviting your friends from Facebook using the Invite feature at <http://RTR.org/invite>.

We have a mission, it is to infect the internet with the message of freedom and liberty, and <http://RTR.org> is now the hub for you to do just that.

Let’s tap into the social conciseness of the nation. 

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A case study in the evolution of the surveillance state

By Terry Bressi

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IT all started back in 2003 along SR86 in Southern Arizona with the establishment of a “[High Intensity Enforcement Area](#)” by the newly formed Department of Homeland Security. The so-called enforcement area, a twenty mile-long zone running East to West along the highway, included signs, lots of roving patrols by Border Patrol agents not actually patrolling the border and mobile surveillance towers setup at either end of the ‘zone’. The mobile surveillance towers came complete with Border Patrol agents peering out of twenty foot high bullet proof glass windows into the cabs of oncoming vehicles using high powered binoculars & cameras. Radios in the surveillance towers were used to give the heads up to the closest roving patrol waiting around to pounce on the next unlucky traveler targeted for extra-special attention from [homeland security](#) agents more concerned with [security theater](#) than real security



After two years of constant harassment by roving patrols tailgating vehicles, [shot-gunning traffic](#) & generally [looking for any justification](#) whatsoever to pull people over, the Border Patrol started to throw random checkpoints into the mix. My first encounter at just such a checkpoint took place in April of 2005:



Several more years went by with more routine roving patrol [harassment](#) & random but relatively few checkpoint encounters until the Border Patrol decided to divert even more scarce border security resources away from the actual border. In January of 2008, a tactical checkpoint was established near mile marker 146 along SR86 & operated 24/7 beginning in early January of 2008:



For another two years or so after its establishment, my checkpoint encounters now taking place on a [regular basis](#), made it clear the checkpoints had little to do with interdicting illegal aliens and much to do with [obedience training](#). At first, the use of [drug dogs](#) at the checkpoint was rare but over time, that too became a mainstay of checkpoint operations. Individuals were stopped, seized, detained, sniffed, questioned & sometimes searched absent any reasonable suspicion whatsoever in the vast majority of cases:

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Some of those who resisted such efforts at other checkpoints in Southern Arizona were either mercilessly **harassed** by the Border Patrol or **brutalized**, oftentimes with the ready assistance of Arizona DPS officers:



Still not satisfied with the level of interference & control being exercised over the daily lives of commuters from local communities just trying to go about their daily lives with a minimum of harassment from unelected, unaccountable federal agents incapable of finding the border they're paid to patrol, the anty was recently upped yet again along SR86 in Southern Arizona. The Drug Enforcement Agency under the DOJ wanting in on the action, teamed up with a local tribal police force, the **Tohono O'odham Police Dept.**, to install multiple video surveillance systems along public highways in the area. These systems include six video cameras, two automated license plate readers (**ELSAG AD3-FG models**), infrared led arrays, high intensity halogen lights for night operations & a gasoline powered generator running 24/7. Personally identifiable information on every individual entering the area, indiscriminate of whether or not they ever cross an international border, is collected, stored and analyzed by a host of local, state and federal enforcement agencies with access to the surveillance data:

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Since the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down as illegal the use of checkpoints to interdict narcotics in [City of Indianapolis V Edmond](#), the DEA has had to rely upon the Border Patrol to do their dirty work for them over the years. Specifically, the DEA cross-trains Border Patrol agents to enforce federal drug laws who do so with zeal at suspicionless checkpoints around the country. Checkpoints that are supposed to be limited in scope to brief immigration queries. This is one of the reasons why the use of drug-sniffing dogs at Border Patrol ‘immigration’ checkpoints has increased dramatically over the years. It’s also the reason why most of the DEA-sponsored surveillance systems described above are being setup in close proximity to existing Border Patrol checkpoints. The checkpoints are de facto staging areas for DEA enforcement efforts associated with their surveillance systems popping up all around the Southwest. This in turn augments checkpoint activities already heavily geared towards narcotic interdiction over their stated purpose, illegal alien interdiction. The DEA’s interest in using Border Patrol immigration checkpoints as an end-run around the U.S. Supreme Court’s prohibition against drug and general law enforcement checkpoints is further highlighted by various [public statements](#) made by the agency advocating for the proliferation of Border Patrol checkpoints for just such a purpose.

Having a front row seat to the continued evolution of the police and surveillance states in my small corner of the world over the past decade has been an interesting experience to say the least. Given the evidence regarding just how [ineffective](#) these [police state](#) tactics are at their stated purpose, it has become clear the police and surveillance states have become goals unto themselves independent of the justifications for their original creation & initial expansion.

To find out more regarding my continued experiences in authoritarian utopia in Southern Arizona, feel free visit my blog at [Roadblock Revelations](#). In the meantime, welcome to [Checkpoint USA](#).



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Predicting the Future in the Middle East

By: **Karen Kwiatkowski**

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SEDUCED by the soothing intravenous drip of socialism at home, and swaddled in an [unresolvable debt](#) that Congress has denied and forgotten, the thoughts of the U.S. political class turn to ... wait for it ... the rest of the world. What can the American political class do in the Middle East and elsewhere? What will be their historical role? How can we spread “democracy” and freedom to more and more people, how can we create more countries that we can entice into Western debt and military slavery, and destroy more countries that we do not like because we have the brute force, and because it creates bigger markets for our [one large export industry?](#) See, it’s not so bad at home. Trust us, we can still, in the 21st century, be the kingmakers.

An obsession with “what the world will say” twenty or thirty years from now is a clear sign of a sclerotic American political class riding our out-of-control parasitic government like [Major “King” Kong](#) on a missile to oblivion. Except this time, it won’t be Slim Pickens on a movie reel, it will be slim pickings for everyone living in the post-imperial phase of what was once a great Republic.

After his presentation in the 2004 Libertarian Party Convention in Atlanta, I asked Neil Boortz how he could justify or rationalize the invasion of Iraq the previous year. Over a year after the invasion, even the mainstream media had begun to report that there was no WMD and no al Qaeda in Iraq, and that sorry, umm, actually, Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with 9/11. Oops. I will never forget what Boortz told me. “In twenty years, the Iraq invasion will be seen as a great and wise decision by the Bush administration, and good for America.”

Allrighty, then! Let us talk a bit about history, and how history looks at American foreign policy in the Middle East.

The early 21st century is not the turning point

in U.S. policy around the world and especially in the Middle East. The political class and many academics believe that September 11th, 2001 was a watershed, but in fact, our invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq were extensions of long-practiced foreign policy in the Middle East. The selective U.S. Government support of the House of Saud began at least [as early as the 1940s](#), and the 1953 CIA Operation Ajax, the overthrow of the popularly elected Iranian Prime Minister Mossaddegh and his replacement with American puppet shah was indicative of many operations the CIA had conducted and would continue to conduct around the world.

The Carter Doctrine was articulated as a political framework in response to OPEC strikes in the 1970s (which were, in part, a reaction to both US meddling and inflationary dollar policies after Republican President Nixon eliminated the last vestiges of a gold standard). For public consumption, the Carter Doctrine was a reaction to the 1979 revolution in Iran, finally overthrowing the hated American allied dictator, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Fast forward a decade, the Soviet Union is collapsing, and



peace is breaking out uncontrollably, and by 1990, U.S. policy was updated to topple Saddam Hussein and move on up from Saudi Arabia as a military hub. We get the first Gulf War, replete with the kind of [official government lies](#) and obedient media repetition of them that we would see again and again. In between that war, we

remained at war with Iraq, bombing the country daily, restricting trade of basic food, commodities, consumer goods and technology, creating a shadow government abroad to replace Hussein, building up U.S. military forces to the south in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, and to the north via permanent bases in the former Yugoslavia (incidentally a basing concept and a war we were involved in thanks to Democratic President Clinton).

Meanwhile, we gave what would accumulate to over a trillion dollars to Israel over the years – without gaining either basing rights or a compliant government. We gave billions to Egypt for her passivity and billions more to Pakistan

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for her provocative capacity. In both of these cases and many more in the region, the money bought a mostly submissive ally in the ruling governments, while quietly enraging their citizenry and exposing American hypocrisy and fundamental interests of destabilizing conflict and oil advantage.

History can be boring, and who needs to be reminded, right? Happily, we are nearly to the present day. All that money printing, and all that puppetry and commodity market manipulation through war and pseudo-defense promises to friendly oil producers in the region has, like so many chickens, come home to roost. We now witness global inflation, and see rich governments armed to the teeth, yet precariously perched over millions of impoverished and angry people. To get the loans, developing countries around the world needed to embrace socialism, because as always, “it’s for the children” and “it’s what the people want.” And the Middle East certainly did embrace socialism, in the process destroying shared concepts of property rights, lowering expectations of rule of law, raising expectations of nanny state obligations, and being taught that governments they had were noble, necessary and good. This combination of depravation, demoralization and damned lies has morphed into what may only be seen as anti-slavery movements that governments simply cannot control or kill.

The results? Beyond the militarization of the Middle East, and hundreds of expensive, despised and largely ineffective U.S. military installations scattered across the region, we see three main results, none of which are good for the United States political class, even as they lead the charge in making these things happen.

First, nobody loves the petrodollar and that fact is panicking our central bank, and those banks and elites that rely on it around the world. The invasion of Iraq, the continuous targeting of Iran, the U.S. sponsorship of Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers, and the recent war on Libya have all been traced back to a motive of eliminating talk or pursuit of [alternatives to the dollar](#) for oil and for trading in general. For average people, the dollar itself has become a symbol of a government the vast majority of common people in the region despise and hold in contempt.

Second, new imperial power brokers are emerging in the region, and they are mainly Chinese. This is hugely frightening to the U.S. government and the American political class. Imagining a 20th century style war with China, they attempt to cage or compete with Chinese influence in the region as a rationale for our bloated

and obscene defense budget. But the real challenge is our own brand of 21st century national socialism at home, and its intense dependence on Chinese-held U.S. debt.

Thirdly, our old bought and paid for allies in the region are collapsing and being replaced by far less manageable ones, and our efforts to create new balancing states isn’t exactly working out as planned. This third main impact has two parts: choosing and manipulating the governments of regional players, and the creation of new states to “assist” and control. Today, we are seeing the unforecasted loss of satraps. We tired of Saddam Hussein, after assisting him within the Ba-ath Party hierarchy and trading him arms and anthrax for weakening Iran in a long and pointless border war. We worked [vigorously with the Taliban](#) from Kabul in the late 1990s and early 2000 until it became clear the pipelines would not be built as we wished, and the [heroin trade really was drying up](#) due to their religious prohibitions. The invasion in late 2001 had already been planned before the terror attacks of 9/11, in which Osama bin Laden was never charged, about which denied his involvement, and in which no Afghans participated.

But today it is very different. Only a few months ago, friendly dictator Ben Ali fled Tunisia and the U.S. government was surprised and unprepared, and almost didn’t believe it. Then the uprising in Egypt caused the U.S. government to make a late endorsement of the Arab street, and a mild rebuke of longtime ally and special friend Mubarak. Bahrain, Yemen, uprisings in Saudi Arabia and Libya we all heard about. By the time Syrian crowds began to rise against Assad, the United States (and Israel) were ready to foment the cause, and make use of the citizen’s anger. We heard nothing at all in the western press about [simultaneous uprisings in Iraq and Oman](#), but they also broke out and continue to happen in the countries where there are large U.S. military installations. In Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq, the U.S. supported the satraps, helping directly or indirectly to maintain state order, manage media coverage, and intimidate protesters.

The second part of the ally development strategy is the balkanization of existing states in the region, with projections of Iraq divided along ethnic/religious lines, and [Afghanistan divided along ethnic or clan lines](#). These two cases have been obvious for some time, and smaller states philosophically are not necessarily a bad thing – unless they are engineered, bribed, threatened, or otherwise manipulated by other countries and are as artificial as the original states formed by

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REVOLUTION



ونحن نعرف الحقيقة

the Europeans and Americans after World War I. But this part of the strategy – weak state creation – goes beyond the false but widely accepted concept of nation building, and seems to be a desperate choice now being applied by the U.S. (and supported by Israel as a strong regional player) across the region.

Beyond the spinoff potential of Iraq and Afghanistan, we see the upcoming division of Sudan into a Muslim north and a Christian and animist south, something the United States welcomes because our government will be financially supporting and looking for oil in the new potentially oil rich country. U.S. support for secession of oil rich sectors of countries is again seen in the recent attacks in Libya by France and the U.S. and the quick welcome of a division of that country along east/west lines, with the rebels the U.S. government is supporting holding much of the oil territory. It is not coincidence that we sent a Libyan who had been living just down the street from CIA headquarters back to Libya to “lead” the rebels, and that we are quickly “recognizing the banking and oil sales capacity” of these rebels. Will the next division be a return to North and South Yemen? That country is running out of oil, but has natural gas reserves, and what a wonderful place to place a U.S. Naval base, and possibly an air logistics center, if the country collapses and we can co-opt one of the smaller divisions in return for arms, pallets of cash, and loan guarantees. This divide and conquer strategy is certainly an old one, and it is the way of empire, that of the U.S. and it is also reflected in some versions of the modern Israel story.

For all the treasure and blood invested in the Middle East, for all the corporate and diplomatic back room deals and Rube Goldberg banking schemes, what we have today in the Middle East, from a United States perspective, are the collapsing dollar, a spread-out military posed superficially to defend against the Chinese or Chinese interests in the region. But as the Chinese control the funding for that expensive United States military, it’s already “Check.” The panicked U.S. effort to “get more countries,” from which to geographically grab oil control and manage oil flows, is a last ditch effort to win the strategic game. But the pawns we have now, and the pawns Washington may seek to gain cannot outmaneuver the more practical and long term trade-oriented Chinese approach.

I wonder if the Chinese approach in the Middle

East today is largely what our own approach would have been in the early 19th century? Are the Chinese, as Jefferson wrote, seeking "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none?" I am not suggesting here that the Chinese share our American founder’s traditions, because they absolutely do not. But fundamental truth does not change across the ages, or across cultures and traditions. Truth be known, peace, commerce and honest friendship, and avoiding personal, emotional, religious and financial entanglements with other nations are a recipe for independence and economic success in any country.

Freedom to trade, and freedom from being dictated to by other nations, or even interested powerful groups within a country, are priceless. The United States no longer has that freedom at a international level. That powerlessness is what we see today in the U.S. overarching Middle East strategy. Knowing this, American taxpayers might be interested in no longer throwing good money after bad, and bad money after worse.

If we understand the past and present U.S. strategy in the Middle East, we can begin to better understand the United States government itself. Periodic and weak demands in Congress for a “new” or “better” energy policy, and “energy independence” are smokescreens for the real problem, and hide the real lusts of the banker and political classes. Freedom is the answer, not co-optation and billions of dollars in more enslaving debt, as predictably, President Obama and the G8 casually promised to the new Egyptian leadership. Given what we know about the past and present, the future is relatively clear for the Middle East. If I could advise the new governments, given the impending collapse of the dollar, I’d say, “Take the money, invest in commodities, and quickly repudiate both the debt and dollar. You won’t get more loans, but our money’s no good anyway. Might your countries be attacked by the U.S. as a result as did Iraq, and Libya? Perhaps, but in part due to American policies in the Middle East, there are many of you, and few of us.”

The real problems Americans should be concerned about, and indeed many are, is the unsustainable government, the unsustainable socialism, and the unsustainable empire the United States has created for itself in the past 100 years. These conditions will ultimately destroy us, and like a bad case of gangrene, have already destroyed much of the rule of law, the ideals of freedom, and the Constitutional protections from government that the founders understood were fundamental for a free people and a free republic. If we can learn anything from our adventurism and manipulation in the Middle East, and most recently, Obama’s unconstitutional and executive decision to go to war with yet another country, without rationale or apology, with a predictable passive Congressional “blessing”, it is that our own nation is in serious decline, and that we share a bleak condition of servitude and slavery to the United States government with the peoples of the Middle East, and around the world.

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REVOLUTION

"We Know the Truth"

Slave Training 101

By: Larken Rose

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THOUGH people of all political stripes are continually complaining about various injustices and absurdities committed by those in positions of power, neither the real problem, nor its solution, exists inside the beast called “government.”

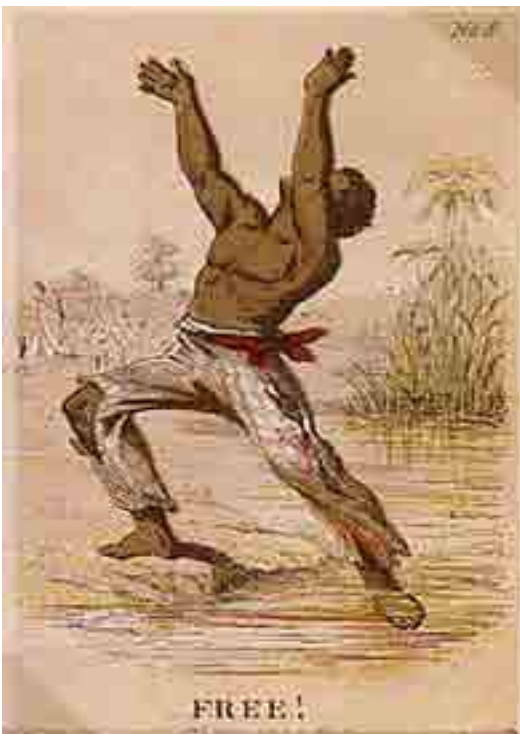
Instead, it resides inside the skulls of several billion people. The real problem is inside our own heads. In other words, to quote that wise and noble cartoon opossum (Pogo), “We have met the enemy, and he is us.”



Whether any group of people is free or enslaved has far less to do with what any outside force is trying to do to that group than it does with what’s already inside the heads of the people in the group. As Robert Heinlein put it, “Mighty little force is needed to control a man whose mind has been hoodwinked; contrariwise, no amount of force can control a free man, a man whose mind is free.” Even many self-described freedom advocates hugely underestimate just how true that is, and how much their own perceptions, assumptions and beliefs are hindering their efforts.

Time for an analogy. Imagine a southern plantation owner in the 1800’s, who one day gave the following speech to his slaves:

“From now on, this plantation will be run for your benefit, as much as for mine. This plantation will continue to provide you with jobs, and with food and housing. In return, you are asked to contribute what you can by donating your labor, in order to serve the good of all of us. Of course, a successful, productive plantation requires order and organization, which requires rules and management, and having someone in charge. Otherwise there would be chaos. And because we all suffer when one person decides to break the rules, or not perform his assigned duties, it is up to each of you to help your fellow workers to remain hard-working, and to always comply with those rules which exist to maximize peace and prosperity for all of us.”



Imagine that the plantation owner then began holding weekly meetings with all of his slaves, and had a suggestion box where they could request changes to the rules, or otherwise voice their concerns or complaints. The slaves

were still slaves, the master still made up the rules, and the slaves were still harshly punished for breaking any rules or for not working hard enough. But the plantation owner insisted that that was necessary for the “common good.”

In reality, would such rhetoric and rituals change the actual fundamental nature of the relationship between the plantation owner and his slaves?

Not at all. But it would likely change how the slaves perceived the relationship. In fact, imagine the plantation owner adding one more thing: “No other plantation around here allows you to have this much input, and allows you this much freedom. In fact, if you decide you don’t like things here, you can go work as a slave on Mr. Johnson’s plantation to the east, or Mr. Smith’s plantation to the west. That means you are free men, though of course there are still rules you must follow.”

Now, in every sense of the term, the slaves would still be slaves. (Giving them a choice between owners is obviously not the same as them actually being free.) But if their perceptions were influenced via such rhetoric and propaganda, not only might they imagine themselves to be free--or at least more free--but they might very well begin to feel a deep loyalty to their master and owner, even if he continued to work them hard, beat them, and basically treat them like cattle.

Now imagine that every week, a few slaves would come to the meeting and give impassioned, articulate, well-reasoned arguments and pleas, petitioning the master to let the slaves keep more of what they earned, and to let them otherwise control more aspects of their own lives. And every week, the plantation owner would put on a serious expression, and say that things are tough all over, and that, as much as he would like to grant their requests, the plantation just couldn’t afford it. In fact, the master regretted to inform them that he needed to “ask” them to work a little harder, and do with even less, for the sake of the common good. And so it went, week after week, year after year.

Sound familiar yet?

In such a situation, the slaves might very well imagine that they were a lot closer to being free, when in reality, not only would they not be any more free than they were before, they would actually be further away from being free, because they would stop recognizing the slavery for what it was. Frederick Douglass, while a slave, at one point was allowed to work for people other than his master, as long as he gave his master a substantial cut of whatever he earned elsewhere. At first, Mr. Douglass thought this was a big improvement, but later came to realize that it was worse, because it gave the illusion of at least partial freedom, while maintaining the reality of total enslavement. If it was still up to the master how much of the fruits of a slave’s labor the slave would be allowed to keep--if the “tax rates” were totally up to the discretion of the master--then the slave was still his property, utterly and completely.

And that brings us to today. Who decides what the “tax rates” will be? Is it the people who earn the money, or the politicians? And what do the people--even those in the freedom movement--do when they object to how much is taken? Do they just not hand over the money, or do they beg the politicians to let the people keep more of what they earn?

It’s a safe bet that as long as you talk and act as if someone else owns you, that “someone else” will act accordingly, treating you like his

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property. That's why politicians view you and treat you the way they do: because you speak and act as if you belong to them. When you beg for "lower taxes," you are condoning your own enslavement, by accepting and reinforcing the notion that it's up to the politicians how much of your own earnings you will be allowed to keep. When you refer to politician scribbles as "laws," and say things like, "That law should be changed, but we have to obey it until it is," you are accepting and implicitly agreeing that someone else owns you. If you take pride in being a "law-abiding taxpayer," you are taking pride in your status as the property of the politicians--a slave who faithfully obeys the master's rules and hands over what he produces. When you vote, or you protest, or you petition for or against this or that piece of "legislation," you are the slave who pathetically begs his master to let him have a few more scraps of freedom.

Not only won't you get it, but you are demonstrating that you still want the approval of "authority"; you still want the politicians' "official" permission to be free. And that means you're not even free inside your own head, because you continue to accept that the politicians are your rightful lords and masters, that their commands are "law," and that disobedience to them is "crime." In fact, by accepting and repeating the mythology of "authority," you are actually helping to perpetuate tyranny and legitimize the violent aggression that masquerades as "law" and "government." We have met the enemy, and he is us.

Getting back to our hypothetical plantation own-

er, who duped his slaves into thinking they had some say in what happened to them, into thinking that the plantation existed to serve them, and so on, what do you think would actually scare the master? Begging and pleading? No. As long as the slaves showed up every week to present their heartfelt pleas and petitions, the master would know that he was still in control, and that his slaves still thought they needed his permission in order to ever be free. In other words, as long as they kept showing up, the master would know that they remained enslaved in mind, and so would remain enslaved in body, no matter how loudly or how often they objected and complained about things. So the master would actually look forward to hearing them beg and cry to him for mercy, because it meant he was still in charge.

What would actually scare the master, on the other hand, would be when the slaves didn't show up at the meetings at all, and didn't beg him for anything--when they stopped playing the pointless, manipulative games the master had made up to keep them distracted and helpless (e.g., voting and petitioning). Then the plantation owner would know that, even if he still physically held them captive, he would have lost control over their minds.

And after that had happened, it would only be a matter of time before the master woke up one day and found no one to boss around. Or perhaps, one day he wouldn't wake up at all. Then, and only then, the slaves wouldn't be slaves anymore. 

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Exodus from the Cargo Cult

By: Vin Suprynowicz

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PERHAPS you have heard of the Cargo Cults. If you're going to pin your hopes of maintaining a military presence in the Pacific on a vast peninsular fortress like Singapore, the "Gibraltar of the East," you might want to make sure Japanese soldiers can't ride down the Malay peninsula on bicycles and turn off your water.



Singapore, provisioned for years, gave up on account of thirst in a matter of weeks. The British and Commonwealth troops were then stuck fighting their way north from Australia. The problem with that enterprise was a nasty piece of real estate called New Guinea.



The troops would trek in from the coast, enjoying all the local fauna from mosquitoes to leeches, and start to chop out a clearing on a high mountain plateau -- while setting out guard posts in case the Japanese decided to arrive in force from the opposite side of the mountain range. In the center strip, angled to face the wind, the roots had to be dug out so they wouldn't puncture aviation tires.

You can imagine the indigenous Stone Age in-

habitants peeking out from the jungle's edge, watching all this incomprehensible, ritualized labor with a mixture of puzzlement and outright hilarity.

But then it worked!

Their new nest properly prepared, there descended from the clouds the most wondrous, gigantic, roaring silver birds, which no man on earth had ever seen before. They landed, and sat patiently while allowing the white strangers to feed and care for them. Then, out of their bellies, they disgorged the most magical gifts. Not just wondrous weapons, but generators, radios, electric lights, phonographs, refrigerators . . . even cook stoves and exotic foods and . . . ice cream! Here were wonders unknown even to the ancient gods!

Before long it dawned on the Brits it might be smart to make some token gesture aimed at maintaining friendly non-culinary relations with the native headhunters, so at some point Prince Philip or some other spare royal would fly in, wearing an ostrich plume and some appropriate medals and ribbons, to meet with the head man of the local palm-frond village, passing out mirrors, trinkets, and other assorted gewgaws as tokens of his majesty's undying friendship, etc.

Everything was going along swimmingly, but then came 1945, somebody nuked Nagasaki, bigger things were happening in Tokyo and Hong Kong; the British pulled out.

The natives waited. They kept the landing strips chopped clear, of course, watching, waiting, for the silver birds to return.

Nothing. So they went further.

As the old control towers and radio shacks and generator sheds and wind socks fell into decay, the natives built replacements. These didn't actually function, of course. There was no working radio in the radio shack. It's not even clear whether their bamboo imitation control towers would have held your weight if you'd tried to climb up in them. Instead, they were designed to look the same from above. They were trying to recreate the white man's magic rituals, in hopes if they did it "just right," Prince Philip and the Silver Birds would return.

And the new religion proved curiously persistent. Visitors stumbling on these villages decades later would find even the children of the

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founders of the cult -- people who had never SEEN a silver bird -- engaged in all kinds of half-remembered rituals based on the former air base operations, anxiously asking if the visitors had heard anything of the god from heaven they now worshiped, one Prince Philip, or if anyone in the next valley had spotted any of the silver birds returning.

When we first hear of the Cargo Cults we smile at the naivete of these primitive peoples. Arthur C. Clarke said any technology sufficiently advanced beyond our own will be perceived as magic. I believe they based a couple of "Star Trek" episodes on that.

The problem with the Cargo Cults is that if you think about them long enough, you start to recognize other Cargo Cults, much closer to home, based on equally touching and pathetic examples of the boundless faith of otherwise rational men in the efficacy of ritual, albeit denuded of its original substance and relevance.

WE THINK OF YOU, IRWIN

I have considerable sympathy for those who believe the federal income tax not only destroys our freedoms, but that it's unconstitutional at heart, before we even get to the way the agents of the Internal Revenue Service -- an outfit that admits it can find no Act of Congress ordering its own creation -- violate their own code and statutes with regularity and aplomb.

(Just for starters, why do the forms used to levy citizen's bank accounts cite the authorizing statute on the back, starting with paragraph "B"? Answer: Because the missing paragraph "A" makes it clear Congress authorized the use of this technique only against FEDERAL EMPLOYEES with a tax liability. I looked it up. Do you think it's now used only against "federal employees"?)

"How can the income tax be unconstitutional when there was a Constitutional amendment?!" ask the exasperated skeptics.

We simplify in the interest of brevity:

The authors of the Constitution, realizing the power for evil that lies in taxation, ordered that the central government shall raise money through only two types of taxation: indirect excises, and direct taxes capitated.

The Civil War debt was paid off through a direct, capitated tax. A bill was sent to each state, pro rated by population. Each state was then obliged

to raise that sum by charging each person a head tax -- everyone paying the same, from the richest to the poorest.

(That's a little misleading. Since only landowners who paid taxes could generally vote -- as makes perfectly good sense, if you want to avoid the collapse of another democracy once drunks and bums learn they can vote themselves wealth transfers from their more productive neighbors -- the poorest, non-voting citizens probably paid nothing.)

A good example of the indirect federal excise, on the other hand, would be the federal tax on tires or gasoline. Someone who has applied for the "privilege" of entering one of these professions is responsible for collecting these excises and remitting them to the federal government. If it turns out the tire store from which I bought my last set of tires failed to collect and remit the proper excise on that purchase, can the federals come after ME for that unpaid tax? No. That's what makes it "indirect."

The income tax amendment says the federals can collect a tax on incomes, without regard to the way direct taxes are collected, which involves sending a bill to the states, who have to collect the same amount from everyone.

The amendment is TREATED as though it says "The earlier edict that there shall be only two kinds of taxes is hereby repealed; instead there shall also now be a new, third kind of tax, which is a direct tax that each resident can be jailed for avoiding, but which need not be capitated, need not be apportioned equally, so that the socialist levelers can get busy transferring all the wealth from the rich until they quit or take their pathetic remaining capital elsewhere."

But it doesn't say that. Given that the previous edict is not repealed, the tax protesters insist all the amendment says is that the federal government can collect a tax on incomes, which must be collected as an indirect excise (the only other type of legal tax remaining) -- that you can no more come after me directly if your registered excise agent didn't collect and remit enough "income tax" on my behalf, than you can if the pumps at the gas station down the street malfunctioned and failed to charge me the federal excise tax the last time I filled up.

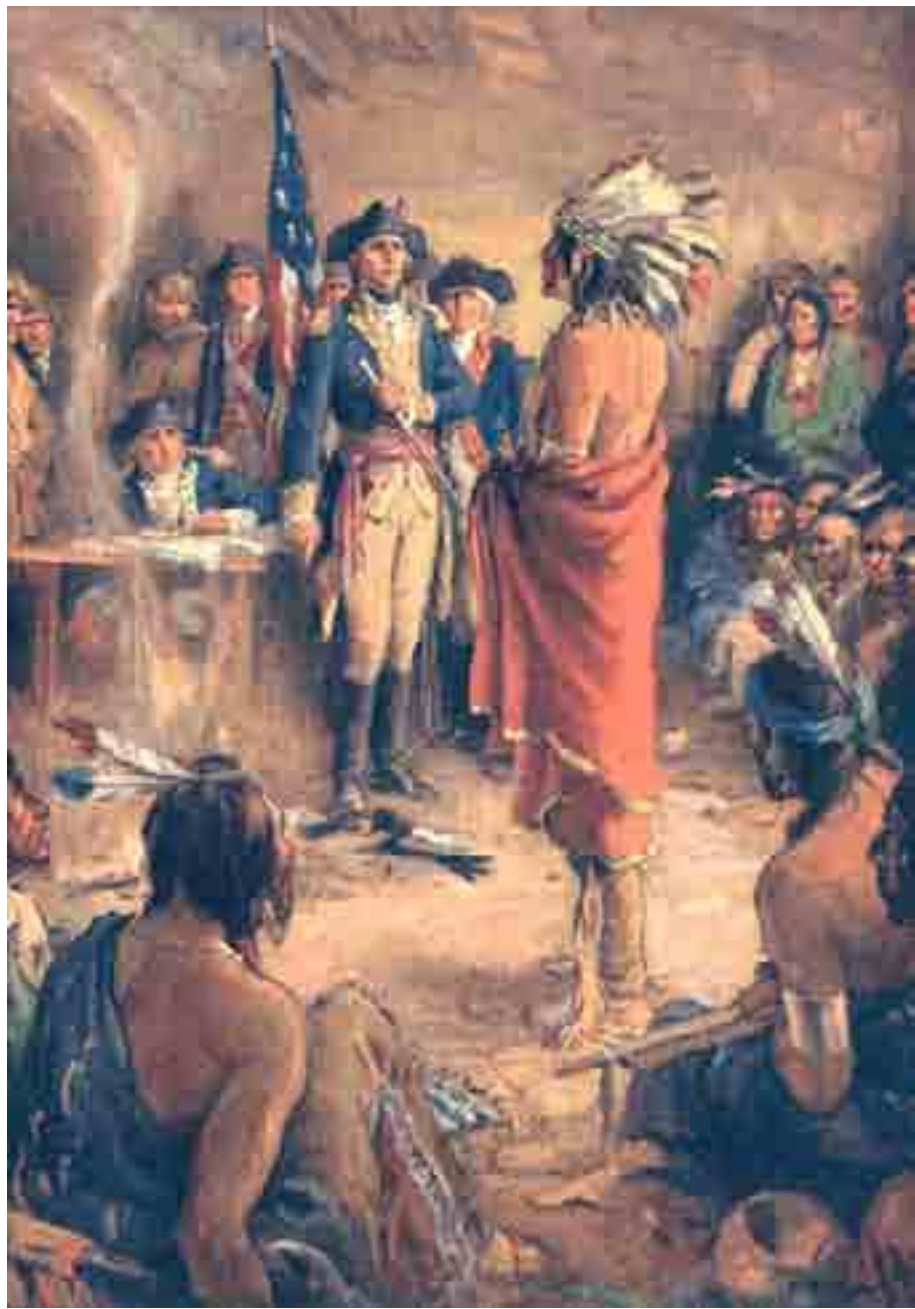
In this as in so many things, the tax protesters deserve an honest, detailed hearing -- especially as the courts are supposed to embrace that interpretation which retains for the people as much liberty as possible, while being as restrictive as

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possible of government power and usurpation, regardless of any practical concern about “where they’re going to get the money they need.”

LIKE HAVING FAITH IN SOME INDIAN TREATY



But now watch. Because a government employee in a tax-funded youth propaganda camp taught them, decades ago in their youth, that the solution to any such problem is to take your case to court and explain it all to a government judge, who will parse the law and read your exhibits and submissions and then render justice, these poor saps -- with whom I have great sympathy, mind you -- spend years, lose their homes and savings, even end up in prison, as they quite purposely get themselves arrested in order to gain “standing,” and then laboriously, pathologically fine-tune their pleadings, based on precedents written by judges in an earlier and more innocent age, 60, 70, 80 years ago.

With astonishing patience they wait, nodding and smiling in expectation, for the judge to finish reading their arguments and citations, expecting him at any moment to slap himself upside the head and exclaim “My God! When it’s all laid out in proper order like this, the conclusion is inescapable! Bailiff, release the defendant and issue him a formal apology from the court. Then go shackle those scurrilous IRS agents over there; we’re arresting them on charges of fraud, treason, misapplying their own statutes, and extorting payments under color of law!”

Try to tell them today’s federal judges aren’t going to read all those stacks of documents; that’s the **LAST** thing they want to do; they’re curiously incurious, well-schooled but actually mildly dull-witted political appointees who un-

derstand instinctively that their job is little different from the municipal judge in traffic court, giving you a minute to get it off your chest, then slamming down his gavel and saying “Nice try. Guilty. Pay your fine or go to jail.”

“But they **HAVE TO** read my exhibits and my pleadings,” these noble Quixotes will insist. “It’s their **JOB**. And when they do, they’ll see It’s all there, tracing the legal definition of “from any sources” and every other phrase, all the way back to 1913. They’re all ‘legal terms of art,’ like the difference between ‘traveling’ on the highways, for which they can’t make you get a license, and the excisable commercial activity defined as ‘driving.’ Once they’ve read these documents they **CAN’T** ignore them; they won’t have any **CHOICE** but to rule our way.” “If we just finally get the geometric relationship of the bamboo control tower and the bamboo radio shack and the bamboo wind sock **PRECISELY** right, Prince Philip and the silver birds won’t have any **CHOICE** but to return. If men made them come in the past, why can’t we do it, too? We just have to keep trying till we get all the ritual geometry **PRECISELY RIGHT**.”

Your quasi-literate illegal Mexican hedge-trimmer can figure this one out in seconds: The judge is part of the ruling class; taxes are the way they loot us to keep themselves in power and luxury; you can’t win on their ball field with their referees; your only hope is to stay under their radar; grovel and back away and apologize when they seize your day’s pay; get up earlier tomorrow and go do it again.

And the irony is, those of us who did best at learning our lessons, got all “A”s and gold stars on our papers and reports, take the most years or decades to realize the silver birds ain’t coming.

Easy enough to feel superior to some of these addled, fixated tax protesters, too. Isn’t it?

But I’m not done, unfortunately. What if the Tea Party is a Cargo Cult? They vote for candidates who vow to go to Washington and slash spending and pay down the debt and rein in an out-of-control government regulators who are driving jobs offshore by the millions. What happens?

The mainstream lapdog press eviscerates Sarah Palin and Sharron Angle and Christine O’Donnell as dangerous, depraved witches. More than sufficient fear and doubt are sown among the half of Americans who are currently on the government dole. (If the government provides your children with free day care in a “public school,” you’re dependent on government wealth transfers, and will likely shriek like a baby deprived of its Popsicle if these handouts of stolen booty are threatened in any way. You really think the state and federal budgets can

Continues on Page 72

Continued from Page 71 - Exodus from the Cargo Cult

be balanced by closing the Tea Tasters' Board while leaving all YOUR favorite disbursements of stolen loot in place?)

Yes, some "Tea Party" Republican politicians get elected, after making brave promises. Democrats proceed to announce they're going to raise taxes and spending by 20 percent to hire 5,000 new Clean Water inspectors to throw people in jail for watering their lawns on Thursdays. "Tea Party" Republicans talk the brave talk about "holding the line against government waste and inefficiency." Democrats wail that these agents of evil want "tax breaks for the rich" while the children starve. In the end, spending goes up by "only 5 percent -- barely enough to maintain services at current levels." Everyone declares victory.

(Read it again. Did you spot the "tell" which should have warned us what was coming? We don't want government tyranny imposed "more efficiently and with less waste." We want it blown up.)

Rolled like a drunken sailor, the Tea Party picks itself up from the gutter, brushes itself off, and tries again. After all, teacher said all I have to do is recruit a candidate who will tell me what I want to hear, volunteer to stuff envelopes . . .

SHALL OTHERS SUCCEED WHERE WE HAVE FAILED?

Politics is a Cargo Cult. It's our masters' large-scale equivalent of thanking the articulate and disruptive parent at the School Board meeting, hiring her to spend nine months "doing a report" on all the problems she's pointed out, thanking her profusely, and locking the "report" in the closet. You just stroke her and keep her busy till she's exhausted, her kids have moved on to high school or college, and she's ready to go bother somebody else.

I can urge people to READ the great Libertarians and Austrian economists, so they'll understand the slow-motion train wreck as it happens. But I can no longer urge people to "get involved"; go paint yard signs; back a candidate; file an initiative petition. They've seen you coming. You've got about as much chance as that ex-Marine waking from a deep sleep and rushing to his front door with his AR-15 a few weeks back, making his stand to defend his wife and child hiding in the closet as the Tuscon cops busted in. He took, what, 71 rounds, and he still had his safety on?

Yes, the widow will win a six-figure settlement. Of which those cops will pay not a penny.

They have steamrolled the resistance. The happy taxers can dance in triumph for a few more years, maybe, before the once-mighty dollar collapses like the paper money of Zimbabwe or the Weimar republic.

You can't print more money to buy your own debt, any more than you can create wealth by kiting ever larger rubber checks, or maintain proper nutrition by eating your own feet.


But I sense I'm on the edge of a far more disturbing realization. That somehow, in attempting to voice a principled but polite resistance, we have helped them, like the unarmed man who keeps trying to voice soothing sentiments to the rhinoceros, unaware his voice is the only way the famously half-blind creature keeps finding and charging him, to his eventual extreme discomfort.

When you respectfully debate a rhinoceros, carefully ordering your evidence, your arguments, your logic, his charge says "Is that all you got?"

I go back to reading the Bible, these days. A little. But nothing is quite the way I remember it. It raises more questions than it answers. Explain to me about the miracle of the loaves. You hand out three loaves and a fish. All say they are satisfied. When you pick up the leftovers, there's enough bread to make up 16 loaves. Is it miraculous that a hundred people, hiking out into the wilderness for a day to hear some preacher conduct a revival meeting, hid away and carried along with them some of their own bread? I would. Why would Jesus and his guys try to feed them in the first place? If I go hear someone talk, I expect him to take up a collection for himself and the band, not feed me for free.

Or was Jesus handing out something else, something those who wrote down the tale in Greek a century later decided to alter, in keeping with the master's reminder that he had a teaching for his disciples that was different from what they taught the masses? Was ours originally a mystery religion? If the kingdom of God is within us, how do we make it manifest? What is manna, that showed up with the morning dew but went bad if you didn't eat it by noon? Why were the Israelites ordered to dry out samples and keep them in the Ark so their descendants could see what the stuff was? What was it that Jesus accused the priests of keeping secret from the people?

I digress, though perhaps only slightly. The passage I was thinking of involves that same nation of Israel wandering in the same desert where the manna showed up -- wandering for a generation after Moses led them out of Egypt, till all the older generation who had sinned finally passed away, it being only then that the Lord would guide those blameless descendants to the promised land.

The Nanny/Police state is ascendant. We warn people what each more outrageous edict or development means, but our voices go unheard, or evoke only cackling, abuse and ridicule. Like Lot in Sodom, have we failed to turn up enough righteous men? Shall we dig our own graves, and sleep in them, till the last of the generation that deserved to end its days in this Desert of Lost Liberty shall finally have passed away? What was our sin? And how shall it be expunged? 

-- V.S.

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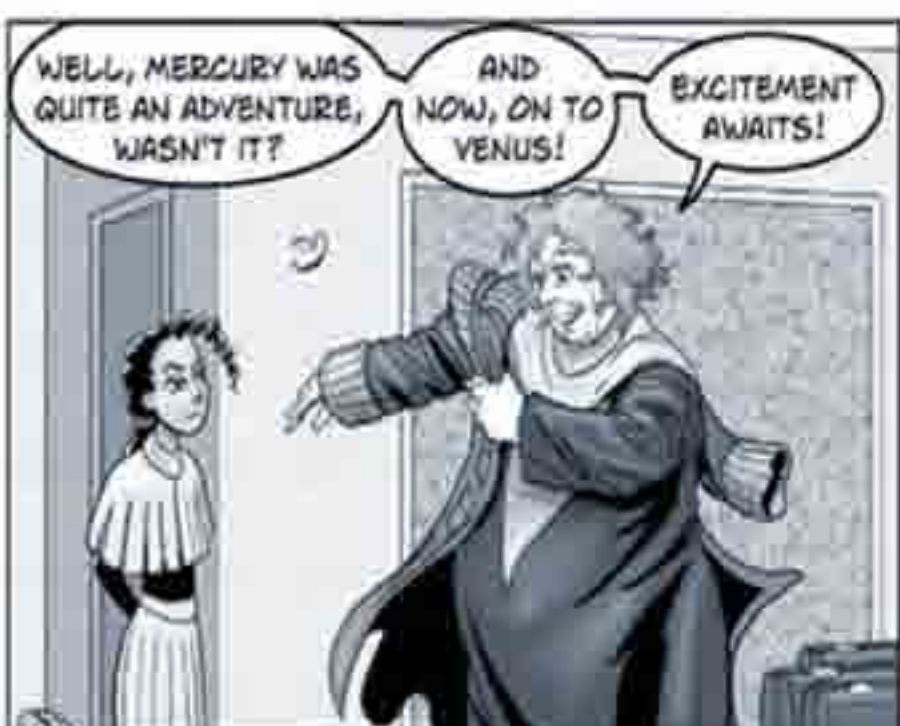
QUANTUM VIBE

A SLIGHTLY MAD
SCIENTIFUNCTION COMIC
CONCERNING A GIRL AND
HER MAD SCIENTIST
BY SCOTT BIESER



READY SOON?

THIS IS THE LAST SUITCASE.



WELL, MERCURY WAS QUITE AN ADVENTURE, WASN'T IT?

AND NOW, ON TO VENUS!

EXCITEMENT AWAITS!



I SENSE A LACK OF COMARADERIE.

HAVE I SAID OR DONE ANYTHING TO OFFEND YOU?



THIS ISN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR.

BEG PARDON?



IN THE LAST THREE DAYS I WAS NEARLY VAPORIZED IN THE SUN, ENDURED A COMPLETELY HELLISH 30-HOUR RETURN TRIP, AND THEN WAS NEARLY MURDERED -- FIRST BY VACUUMING AND THEN BY ZING-FIRE.

NOT TO MENTION IN THE PROCESS I KILLED A MAN.

ER, WELL, YES ...



GODDAMMIT, I NEVER WANTED TO BE A STUNT-WOMAN, OR A SHUCKING ADVENTURER. I WANT TO DO SCIENCE, NOT FEATS OF DARING, OR ZING-FIGHTING, OR THIS IDIOTIC INTRIGUE YOU'RE SO INTO!

POINT TAKEN. HOW CAN I MAKE THIS RIGHT FOR YOU?



I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'VE NEARLY GOT KILLED FOR.

NO MORE SECRECY, SEAMUS!

TELL ME WHAT YOUR PROJECT IS REALLY ABOUT OR I'M GOING HOME!



SO YOU DON'T LIKE SECRECY?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW VITAL IT IS TO KEEP TRADE SECRETS IN A WORLD AS BOTH HIGHLY-COMPETITIVE AND HIGHLY-COMMUNICATIVE AS OURS?



OF COURSE I DO. ESPECIALLY AFTER THAT FIRST JOB INTERVIEW.

WHEN YOU TOLD ME THINGS ABOUT MYSELF EVEN MY MOTHER DOESN'T KNOW, IT FELT LIKE I'D BEEN STRIPPED NAKED.

BUT I THINK I'VE EARNED YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THESE MATTERS, DON'T YOU?



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU HERE AND NOW.



WE NEED TO FIND AN ULTRA-SECURE LOCATION, AND THERE ISN'T ONE AVAILABLE TO US ON MERCURY.

BUT I PROMISE YOU THAT BEFORE WE LEAVE VENUS, I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW. DEAL?

Continued next page

QUANTUM VIBE

A SLIGHTLY MAD SCIENTIFUNCTION COMIC CONCERNING A GIRL AND HER MAD SCIENTIST BY SCOTT BIESER



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Thoughtful Series

Legislative Corruption: Here There Everywhere - 'Produce the Note Foreclosure Bill'

By: Powell Gammill

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IN Arizona, frequent political scandals makes a splash and then rapidly evaporate. Rarely is it covered by the local media...gosh, I wonder why?

Arizona politics is uproariously funny all of the time. But if you look around where you live you will see the very same distractions in whatever ruling political entity you have that seizes your money and buys stuff and people with it. It is a well honed, time honored predictable machine that spread like a cancer along with the wagon trains. Wherever there is money, there quickly follows government.



In April of this year for instance, a Arizona Senator named [Michele Reagan](#) (R-Scottsdale) (2010 "donations") guided a bill through the Senate, SB1259, that would make the courts ask for proof that the party trying to fore-

close upon another person's property produce the note to the property. Seems reasonable? [The reason she introduced the bill is she was [screwed by her mortgage bank](#). (see 2010, KPHO-TV5 [video report here](#)) Coincidentally the federal suit was settled -- so sorry, "conditions undisclosed" -- on **the very day** the passed bill in the Senate was scuttled by a strike everything in the House with Sen. Reagan's permission.]

If I claim I own the property and you are behind in your payments for that property and I want my property back shouldn't I be able to produce the proof I actually own the land I am asking the court to seize and "return" to me? In Arizona, apparently not.

Here is the funny part. This is already Arizona law. This is already the written court procedure.

So Sen. Reagan's bill, which passed 28-2, was simply directing the courts to do what was [already 400 years of Western property legal precedence](#) and current stated procedure in the Arizona Court system. Except the hilarious part:

Arizona judges were taking the word that "we own the land" from their esteemed fellow members of the bar who are after all an "officer of the court" and thus would never, ever lie.

This has become the common foreclosure procedure [actually throughout the nation]. Those current property "occupants" who produced their sale's agreement identifying the owner of record to the property in question as someone else were over-ruled and their objections ignored. Land was being seized and given to lawyers submitting essentially a quit claim with the ink barely dry on behalf of clients for someone's land. And court procedure set into place after decades of Arizonan being known as a land fraud mecca, is once again back to assisting in the land swindles as it was in the 1970's. Black robed pirates indeed. I suppose they will be getting another shining edifice built in their honor--the typical bribe to the courts in Arizona; nicer digs.

So the overwhelmingly passed bill triumphantly travels to the Arizona House where who could possibly object to "show us the papers?" ;-)



[Rep. Nancy McLain](#), (R-Bullhead City) (2010 "donations") the chairwoman of the Banking and Insurance committee takes it upon herself to strike all of the language in the bill and insert [an unrelat-](#)

[ed fire services bill](#) for her committee to review. She explains [why she did this here](#); 'to protect stupid people who were being foreclosed upon from having false hope.' Nice. You will also see she blames the bill being deliberately killed when it came to the House by the Speaker of the House, [Rep. Andrew Tobin](#) (R- Dewey) (2010 "donations"). ["I was just following orders."]



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Continued from Page 75 - Legislative Corruption: Here There Everywhere -
 ‘Produce the Note Foreclosure Bill’

The switch occurs during the hearing in the House(video):http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfGwSBi_aUM



My hat is off, and here is a little musical tribute for Ms. McLain’s (video) abilities:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJG75FJkjr8>



The only media in the state that has covered this scandal has been the CBS affiliate, KPHO-TV5. Other so called news outlets with loans and advertising from the banks remain deaf, dumb and blind. Yet this has been covered both nationally (ex., Huffington Post) and internationally (ex., Russia Today).

Channel 5 interviewed both Rep. McLain and Sen. Reagan on April 25:

“Just to be clear, representative, it was solely your decision to not hear the original bill in committee, right?” asked reporter Elizabeth Erwin.

“That is correct, yes,” Rep. McLain answered.

McLain said the bill would have given folks in foreclosure false hope and given those who just don’t want to pay their mortgage a loophole to get out of forking over the cash.

How did she come to that conclusion?

“I call it the ‘lobbyists employment act’ because I had banker lobbyists, down (at the capitol) like crazy trying to kill this bill in the house,” said Sen. Reagan.

“I’ve got to ask, did lobbyists have anything to do with your decision?” Erwin asked McLain.

“Well, there were people that came and talked to me about it,” she responded.

This would normally be where the story ends. But there was a politician presented with a new way to enrich himself when an outraged Realtor Darrell Blomberg -- who audits trustee

sales -- approached him to ask if there wasn’t anything he could do to revive SB1259 in its original form. That politician, [Rep. Carl Seel](#) (R-Phoenix) (2010 “donations”; Clean Elections Whore) says sure there is something I can do, so he schedules to introduce a House version of SB1259 as an amendment.



But on the scheduled day he is to take the floor and offer the amendment he failed to appear or be found. Whoop, deadline passed, so sorry. Later, he says he changed his mind. Alright, bought off, not unusual.

But with him the paper trail to the bribe is clear. A few days before he is to offer the amendment putting this bill back into play in the House he gets roughly an \$102,000 amount gifted to him off of a reduction in the principle on his own home loan. Sweet. How do we know this? [Mr. Blomberg had been hired](#) to help try to get Rep. Seel’s under water home’s loan principle partly forgiven and had told him that it was unlikely he would get it reduced especially since Rep. Seel had already been turned down twice. He got a 56% reduction!


KPHO-TV5 corners Rep. Seel at his now \$102,000 cheaper home and asks him about this amazing coincidence and you can watch the video here as Seel does the “Sidestep” (no embed available):

http://www.kpho.com/local-video/index.html?grabnetworks_video_id=4688760

“Your average homeowner in Arizona doesn’t have that, ‘I’m a legislator and I’m going to draft some legislation card’ to play to force their lender’s hand,” Blomberg said.

“So you didn’t use your position as a state representative to modify your home loan?” Erwin asked.

“None whatsoever. There’s no connection whatsoever, and if need be I’ll swear in court to that,” Rep. Seel said. [I hope, but doubt, that will be arranged by a prosecutor Rep. Seel.]

So there you have it. Arizona lobbying at its finest done by banks. The federally controlled (or controlling) institutions you entrust with your money if you are still gullible. Feeling serviced? And with the exception of a Phoenix TV News station who is actually reporting this news, the best coverage and why it is important is coming from [Karl Denniger](#) who is blogging on the other side of the nation. This is so reminiscent of [The Arizona Project](#) only without [the dead reporter](#). [see also [AZScam](#)] And I suspect now the story ends. But there are so many other current stories in Arizona to tell.... 

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Individual Responsibility

By Pete Eyre

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have the freedom to act so long as you don't aggress upon another person or their property. This is complete liberty – individual freedom coupled with personal responsibility.

If you don't have the right to do something you cannot be “granted” the right by text on paper or an order from your boss. Justifications of “just doing your job” don't exonerate ones actions. If I steal from you I'm in the wrong whether I work for a cause you believe in or for the internal revenue service. The morality does not hinge on the actor but on the action. It's pretty commonsensical.

Most of us in the broad freedom movement have been exposed to such views and many of us claim to live them. Yet many of us continue to pay homage to the bad idea of the state. Almost 150 years ago Lysander Spooner penned that:

The highwayman takes solely upon himself the responsibility, danger, and crime of his own act. He does not pretend that he has any rightful claim to your money, or that he intends to use it for your own benefit – Furthermore, having taken your money, he leaves you, as you wish him

You're an individual. You have rights regardless of your skin color, your gender, your place of birth, or any other arbitrary characteristic. They are inherent. You

to do – He does not keep “protecting” you by commanding you to bow down and serve him; by requiring you to do this, and forbidding you to do that.

Why, with this insight and that of countless individuals before and since, do we sometimes act as our own biggest hurdle? Why say that "the government did X" or "the police did Y" or "the military did Z" and not name names? The government is made up of individuals, and individuals are responsible for their actions after all, right? When we use the label "the government" or "the police" or "the military" we give it legitimacy and eliminate the responsibility of the individual actors.

If we truly want to bring about a freer society we shouldn't absolve anyone of their responsibility due to claimed authority - it's not "government" itself that causes the rights-violation but the individual who acts according to the bad ideas that support that violent institution. It's not "government" that presses the button to drop the bomb or stamps the letter demanding your money but an individual.

We must work to erode the faith some grant to that arbitrary authority. We must proactively and peacefully reach out to those participating in and supporting the bad ideas that allow some (politicians, bureaucrats, rent-seekers, etc.) to subsist off the labor of others. Sure, it won't happen overnight, but real change never does. Individuals also have a conscience and the ability to reason. It'll happen one mind at a time. 🌟

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Silver Circle Adds Smart Culture to the Scene

By Megan Duffield

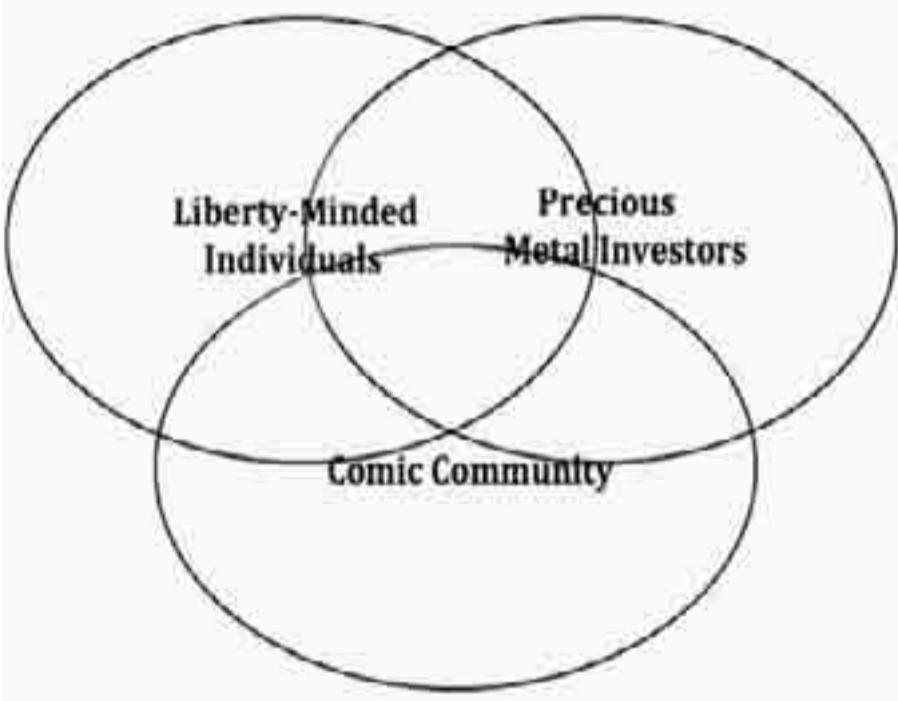
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of style, genre, taste...where is the culture?

In so many ways the liberty movement has it right: from the philosophy to the decentralized manner of business. Tactics are individualized; events are specific to the community. At times it almost feels like a one big liberty family during events and conferences. The welcoming attitude and informed mannerism is something to mimic.

The mainstream media provides excellent sources of entertainment in the arts. One problem though, no matter how amazing a band sounds, their message travels much further than their bass line. Where are the liberty bands and how can we get them better known and sneak them into the main stream?



Hollywood has provided movies that 20 years ago would've caused many to soil themselves. The technology of today allows the most spectacular theater experiences, but are the messages in these blockbuster hits freedom-friendly? Where are the liberty movies with favorable characters that uphold personal responsibility and free-markets?

This Fall *Silver Circle*, the animated-thriller-romance, will take a shot at creating this smart culture for the liberty movement and beyond. This animated film, set in 2019 during the economic collapse, tells the story of an economy in shambles and a group of Rebels who want to save it by destroying the powerful, ominous Federal Reserve. Through alternative currency and other strategic surprises the Federal Reserve may not be able to compete with this clever group of freedom fighters. The film will be submitted to Sundance Film Festival and South by Southwest this fall. A theater release is in the works and the distribution plan is coming together.

Finding a way to socialize with like-minded people can be difficult without academic research and various readings at your disposal, because people want to spend their free time having fun and enjoying something they love. *Silver Circle's* hip movie can give you the best of both worlds, and that's why we call it "smart culture". Spend a Friday or Saturday with friends with a movie that speaks your language of free markets and liberty.

Another plus side is you can also share this film and comic book with friends and family, co-workers and neighbors. Viewers/readers don't

have to be well versed in Austrian economics to understand the film and find the good and bad guy. So this film and comic book can be a great introduction to liberty for loved ones and acquaintances.

Crossing into other sub cultures is a goal with the film and we have found our greatest success in the liberty movement, comic community, and precious metal enthusiasts. The liberty movement is much of an inspiration for the film and we continue to seek guidance from this group, while also preparing a fantastic cinematic experience in honor of them. The comic community has proven itself in numbers that we are in the right place promoting the film. Comic Conventions have boasted over 50,000 people and the predisposition to liberty exists, so our story is interesting to many of the attendees who may have never been exposed to the Federal Reserve or free-market economics in general. The silver and gold bugs of today are another great group of individuals who support sound money and are standing with us to educate more people on the weakness of the dollar and potential of precious metals.

So we have the philosophy, we have the audience, but do we have the product to pave the way for our self-described "smart culture" movie?

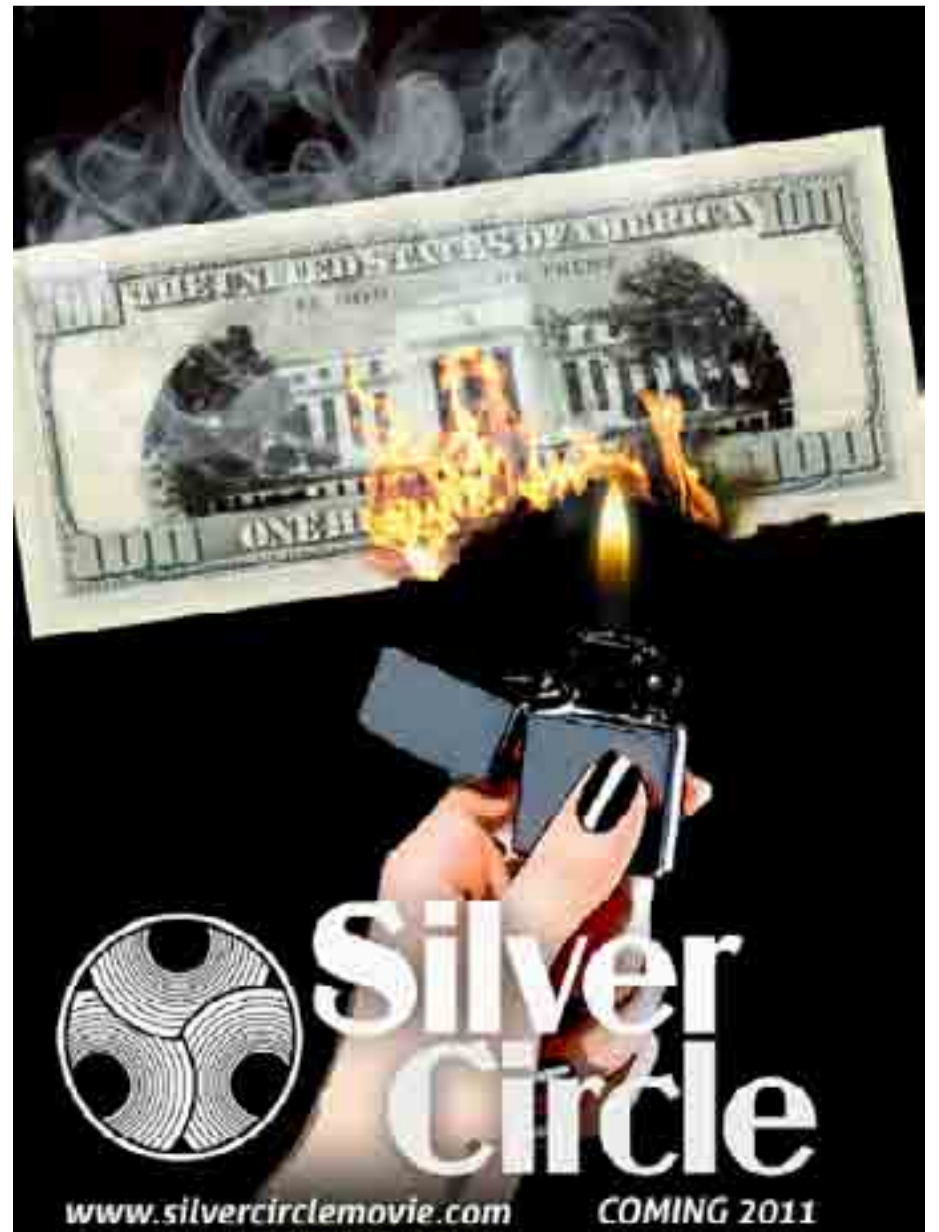
The concept of the film began back in 2008 in Lineplot Productions. The owner of the studio, Pasha Roberts, has worked in animation for over 6 years now and had the technical skills to create a feature-length animated movie. Now add an accredited LA screen-writer, amazing actors and crew, 20+ animation team, and awesome music that is on the way...and you've got yourself a movie ready to compete in any of the top-tier film festivals. Our recent cuts of the film have allowed us to see our animation and really get the feeling for the style we will be sharing. We are confident in the work we are doing and can't wait to share this project with our loyal fans and followers soon. Remember to root for *Silver Circle* this September as we arrive at the finish line of production.

"Smart culture" is growing, support efforts like ours in the quest to spread the message of liberty even further. 🍂

By: Megan Duffield, Marketing Manager for Lineplot Productions

www.SilverCircleMovie.com

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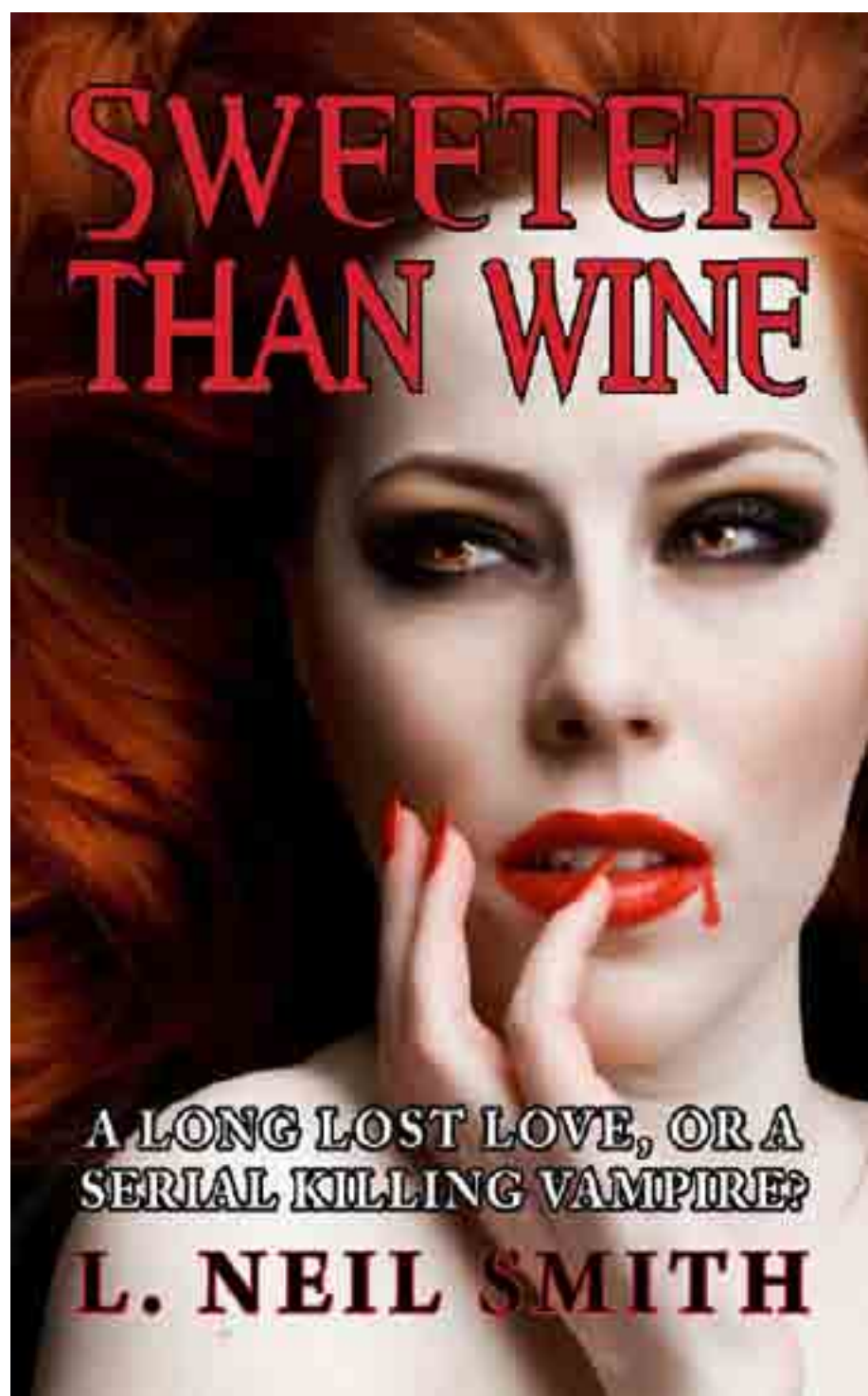


Book Review by Rex F. May

SWEETER THAN WINE, by L. Neil Smith

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I don't like vampire novels. I don't even like vampire *stories*. Never did. They lack verisimilitude — if vampires have to bite people frequently, and the people they bite turn into vampires, why aren't we *all* vampires by now? And what's the deal with sunlight? And the garlic and the wooden stake? — That all sounds like superstition. So to me, vampires belong in the realm of fantasy, not in science fiction at all, and, for the most part, I don't enjoy fantasy very much. Now, there are some exceptions — I like Terry Pratchett's Discworld vampires, because the story is humorous, like all his stuff. But most vampire stories are dead serious, with all kinds of gothic, fifteen-year-old-girl orientation — *Twilight* is nothing new, just a continuation of the old pattern. Same old same old rape fantasies — porn for teeny-boppers.



But I digress. Having established myself as a vampire-hater, I can say that L. Neil Smith's *Sweeter than Wine* is one heck of a great read. I *like* his vampire. It's definite science fiction, not fantasy, and is of the "hidden history" variety, where vampires are among us, and we don't know about it. Usually, this sort of thing is really a strain on your skeptical bump, but the world Smith creates is downright believable, making you nod you head and say, sure, this could very well be happening.

All of Smith's stuff has, as it very well should, a Heinlein flavor, but this book more than most. The protagonist has the air of Heinlein's "competent man," who knows how the world works, and has developed an ethical code to cope with it — more of a challenge than most of us have, given his special peculiarity. He's like Lazarus Long, but with a personality. And in keeping with both the vampire tradition and the Smith tradition, there are some shootouts, interesting information about weaponry, a lost love story worthy of Japanese anime, and a villain. Whoa, this is a real villain — he makes Voldemort look like Heinz Doofenshmirtz. This guy will give you the willies.

The "why aren't we all vampires by now" problem is solved, neatly and not at all in a contrived way, and we are treated to some education on police procedure, biology, history, and paleontology. Not bad for a short novel.

One more thing: I read it in one sitting. I haven't done that since *Mother Night*, about half a century ago. So it also qualifies as a top-notch page-turner. It's a vampire story, sure, but *Crime and Punishment* was a detective story. 🌸

— Rex F. May

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*Master of Ceremonies
Christopher Lawless

Free State Project spokesman and doer Christopher Lawless will preside as Master of Ceremonies at PorcFest 2011! Chris has been all over the country and the world, a big smiling FSP ambassador. Hes been quoted in print numerous times, and appeared on television, his most recent appearance being on the John Stossel show!

[Read More](#).



Adam Kokesh ~[Wiki on Adam Kokesh](#)

Adam Charles Kokesh (born February 1, 1982) is an American activist and talk radio host. Kokesh was a

Corporal in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and is a veteran of the Iraq War. He is an outspoken opponent of the U.S. military intervention in Iraq and has received media attention related to anti-war protest activities. He is the son of Charles Kokesh, a Santa Fe venture capitalist, founder of a firm called Technology Funding and owner of the Santa Fe Horse Park
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Brad Spangler [Center For a Stateless Society](#)

Brad Spangler has been a libertarian activist since stumbling across Murray Rothbard's "For a New Liberty"

while more or less randomly browsing in a public library back in 1990. He helped petition for ballot access for the Missouri Libertarian Party in the early 90's, took part in party organizing and educational efforts and supported both candidates and ballot issue campaigns.

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Brett Veinotte [The School Sucks Podcast](#)

As an educator, I've been very lucky. I have managed to completely avoid teaching in public school. However, I

was trained to teach with public school teachers, my student teaching experience was in a public high school, and in private school, invisible forces burdened me with "state standards" (no matter how hard I tried to maneuver around them). When I left private school, the system followed me into private tutoring (grades, student apathy, etc...).

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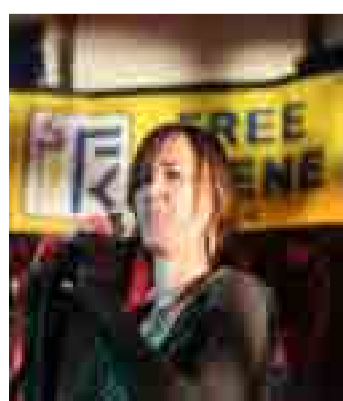


Carla Gericke [President of the Free State Project](#)

Carla Gericke, JD, MFA, AKA "Queen Quill," was born in the police state of South Africa and emigrated

to California after winning a green card in the lottery. She practiced law at Fortune 500 companies in Silicon Valley before redirecting her efforts towards liberty activism and writing. In 2008, Carla moved with her husband, FSP board member Louis Calitz, from New York City to New Hampshire. She is the program director of a NH-based arts non-profit, teaches writing, and is working on a memoir about the Free State Project.

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Cat Bleish Don't Tread on Cat

Catherine Bleish is the founder and former executive director of the Liberty Restoration Project. She currently resides in Austin, Texas

as where she hopes to finish her Masters of Public Administration graduate degree from [Park University](#).

Her activism begin through the anti-war resistance under Bush and grew into a lifestyle through the 2008 Presidential Campaign of Dr. Ron Paul. In the spring of 2009 she re-directed her energy and began to focus her research and activism on fusion centers.

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Christina Heller



Christina is the director and producer of Libertopia. Libertopia is a documentary that examines the people of the Free State Project-- ordinary citizens attempting to reclaim a voice against big government which they believe shares neither their priorities nor their interests.

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Daniel J. D'Amico [His website](#)

I was born in Demerest, New Jersey in 1982 but my family moved to south Florida when I was very young. I grew up

in Baco Raton, FL and attended Pope John Paul II High School.

I went to Loyola University New Orleans from 2000 - 2004, double majoring in economics and marketing. After completing an honors thesis and graduating with a Bachelors of Business Administration, I entered the Economics Ph.D. program at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

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Ernest Hancock [Freedom's Phoenix](#)



Ernest Hancock strives to create an understanding of the Philosophy of Liberty.

Understanding is far more important than agreement – that will come in its own time. "Declare Your Independence" works closely with [Freedom's Phoenix](#) to 'Uncover the Secrets and Expose the Lies' so that we can flourish in a very exciting future.

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Ian Freeman [FreeKeene.com](#)

Ian Freeman is a volunteer who moved his internationally syndicated talk radio show, "Free Talk Live" to Keene in 2006. He created [FreeKeene.com](#) shortly

thereafter, which has become the online destination for those seeking activist news and opinion from the Keene area and across the Shire. Ian is also the Program Director of [LRN.FM](#) and one of the directors of the [Civil Disobedience Evolution Fund](#). In addition, he is the longest-seated board member of Cheshire TV, Keene's local public access channel.

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Jack Shimek

Jack Shimek has been involved in the freedom movement since the late 60's in the objectivism study groups, Libertarian Parties of 3 states, the New York libertarian scene in the 70's, in the tax rebellion/tax honesty movement, the super club scene in 3 states and he was an early convert to Agorism, when SEK3 first coined the term.

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Jacob Huebert [His website](#)

Jacob H. Huebert is an attorney, a law professor, and the author of [Libertarianism Today](#).

His [articles](#) have been published in newspapers across the country, includ-

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ing the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Baltimore Sun*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Orange County Register*, and many others, as well as in scholarly and professional journals. He has appeared numerous times on national television and radio to discuss consumer credit issues, legal issues, and libertarianism.

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Jamie Crane [Wheels Off Liberty Podcast](#)

Jamie Crane is a host of *Wheels Off Liberty*, a show about freedom and whatever else comes across his A.D.H.D mind. He is unaffiliated with any political party and considers himself a Horny Anarchist because he feels that no politician would ever hijack a movement known as the Horny Anarchists. In his spare time he enjoys dipping snuff, drinking beer and viewing naked pictures on the internet. He loves you all hard.

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Julian Heicklen [Julian's Jailed Activist Info](#)

Julian Heicklen was born at an early age. At 8 days, he was [circumcised](#). This was so traumatic that he did not walk or talk for a year. There was nothing unusual about his early development. He went to [Cornell University](#) to become the usual [engineering nerd](#).

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Larken Rose [His website](#)

Larken Rose, a self-described "tax heretic" and enemy of the state, is the author of three books, one video, and countless articles, among other things. He is unapologetically and unconditionally committed to ending the "federal income tax" deception, and more importantly, the more fundamental fraud underlying the entire notion of "government" and "authority."

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Mark Edge [Host - Free Talk Live](#)

Host of Free Talk Live. Free Talk Live is a nationally syndicated, open-lines, current-events show with a liberty bent to the issues. FTL can be heard on 90+ stations and XM and has been named the Best Political Podcast on the Internet five times by [Podcastawards.com](#) and to [Talkers Magazine's](#) Heavy Hundred List, the 100 Most Important Radio Shows in America three times. Listen live 7p to 10p, Monday to Saturday at [Freetalklive.com](#) and in the TV Room at Porcfest!

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Michael Boldin [The Tenth Amendment Center](#)

Michael Boldin is the founder and executive director of the Tenth Amendment Center. Michael has a full schedule working as senior editor of the Center's website, writes a regular column, fields media interviews, and travels the country (when invited, of course) to speak to crowds about sticking to the Constitution – every issue, every time, no exceptions, no excuses.

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Pete, Ademo & Beau [Liberty On Tour](#)

Liberty on Tour, founded in 2010 by Pete Eyre and Ademo Freeman, couples on-the-road activism with new media to advance the voluntary society. Through in-person interactions, online networking and constantly-varying content, LOT advocates for self-government, personal responsibility and consensual interactions.

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Robert Murphy [Wiki on Robert Murphy](#)

Robert Murphy is an adjunct scholar of the Mises Institute, where he teaches at the [Mises Academy](#). He runs the blog *Free Advice* and is the author of *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Capitalism*, the *Study Guide to Man, Economy, and State with Power and Market*, the *Human Action Study Guide*, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Great Depression and the New Deal*, and his newest book, *Lessons for the Young Economist*.

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Roderick Long [~Wiki on Roderick Long](#)

Dr. Long specializes in Greek philosophy; moral psychology; ethics; philosophy of social science; and political philosophy (with an emphasis on libertarian/anarchist theory). He has also taught medieval philosophy and eastern philosophy.

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Stefan Molyneux [Freedomain Radio](#)



Stefan Molyneux is the host of Freedomain Radio. He has been a software entrepreneur and executive, co-founded a successful company, and worked for many years as a Chief Technical Officer. He studied literature and history at York University, holds an undergraduate degree in History from McGill University, and earned a graduate degree from the University of Toronto, focusing on the history of philosophy. He received an 'A' for his Master's Thesis analyzing the political implications of the philosophies of Immanuel Kant, G.W.F. Hegel, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. He also spent two years studying writing and acting at the National Theatre School of Canada.

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Tarrin Lupo [Lupo Literature](#)

Author Tarrin P. Lupo is a full time liberty activist who runs a news service called [The Low Country Liberty Report](#). He is also nationally known for co-hosting the wildly popular *Wheels off Liberty* show and guest hosting other acclaimed national podcasts. Tarrin has successfully written two eBooks titled *Stash Your Swag: 100+ Secret Hiding Places Under \$50* and *How to Make a Living Outside the System*. He currently resides in Savannah Georgia and is a member of the Free State Project, spending time in New Hampshire promoting the ideas of Freedom and Liberty.

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Publisher's Backpage

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This inaugural edition of [Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine](#) was the product of hard working and talented individuals committed to sharing the message of liberty. Every individual listed in the credits was essential to this publication.

Blazing a Trail to Tomorrow with an entirely new medium that incorporates all other forms of media will allow us to share ideas and news when other familiar methods cease to be effective tools for individuals. Collectivist traits make all methods of communication vulnerable to a 'Central Plan'. [Freedom's Phoenix Zine](#) is very clear about our understanding that you will plan your own life,... and we'll do what we can to help you.

"In the end, Freedom Always's Wins,... It Just Gets Really Messy First". This optimism is constantly reinforced in my mind by 'Generation Next',... and we have worked very hard to make certain that the voice of the LOVEolution

"From Tablets to Starships,... we are on our way!"

is heard. Special recognition is due my daughter Sierra. Those that have met Sierra understand what I mean when I say, "When I grow up I want to be just like her", smart, pleasant, competent (like her older two brothers and sister). She truly is responsible for the quality of this publication. And this is her first digital publication. She learned and implemented an entirely new form of media and on her first try has helped to launch the liberty movement into the future... at 21 years of age.

The future is in good hands, but there are years of struggle before us and this edition of [Freedom's Phoenix Zine](#) is an attempt to arm Generation Next with the intellectual and practical tools needed to understand the truth of the world and be inspired to advocate for a truly free society as humanity marches on.

Ernest Hancock

Publisher: Freedom'sPhoenix.com

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