

FREEDOM'S *Phoenix*



www.silvercircle.com

F. BIESER

Featured Articles

- Pg # 3 Nick Barnett - Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine Viewing Tips**
- Pg #4 Lawrence M. Ludlow - Libertopia 2011: Four Days in the Freest Place on Earth**
- Pg # 6 Anthony Gregory - The Occupiers and the State**
- Pg # 8 Kimberly Hartke - Mommies Openly Defy Food Police by Serving Up a Raw Milk and Cookies Protest**
- Pg # 9 Adam Kokesh - Last Generation of Combat Vets?**
- Pg # 11 Charles Goyette - Red and Blue and Broke All Over**
- Pg # 12 Dr. Mercola - RED ALERT: FDA Set to Ban Your Supplements**
- Pg # 15 Anthony Gregory - Abolish the Police**
- Pg # 19 Woody in Ventura - 13 Videos from Libertopia 2011**
- Pg # 21 Copblock.org - Copblock at Libertopia**
- Pg # 22 Michael Strong - Creating Libertopia**
- Pg # 25 Stefan Molyneux - What About the Roads?**
- Pg # 29 Powell Gammill - Curing Olives for Eating**
- Pg # 33 Michael Suede - Libertarian News Responds: Jon Stewart's 19 Questions To Libertarians**
- Pg # 36 Bill Buppert - America's War on the World: Back to the Future**
- Pg # 38 Bill Rounds - Freedom of Your Mind**
- Pg # 39 L. Neil Smith - WE DON' NEED NO STINKIN' BODGES!**
- Pg # 41 Chip Saunders - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?**
- Pg # 48 Nicholas Shankin - Ignoring Opposition, City Passes Curfew**
- Pg # 49 James Babb - Will We Step Aside for a Skating Rink?**
- Pg # 51 Ralph McKittrick - Help the dedicated teams that are serving the movement.**
- Pg # 52 James Woods - Idolatry of the Market?**
- Pg # 53 Bernie Sanders A Socialist Perspective On the Federal Reserve Audit**
- Pg # 54 John Murphy - Will Democrats Buy the Occupation Movement?**
- Pg # 55 James Babb - Peace Activist Shot by Oakland Police, Thousands Rally in Response**
- Pg # 56 James Babb - Who Speaks for the Movement?**
- Pg # 57 Ernest Hancock - Publisher's Back Page**



SUBSCRIBE NOW!

(CHECK OUT OUR SILVER PACKAGE)

Credits:

Editor-In-Chief

Donna Hancock

Publisher

Ernest Hancock

Technical Advisor

Nick Barnett

Illustrator

Scott Bieser

Webmaster

FreedomsPhoenix.com

Tyger Gilbert

The domain and name of FreedomsPhoenix are servicemarks of Ernest Hancock. All rights reserved worldwide. Feature articles, columns, artwork and illustrations should be examined to determine the copyright status claimed by each individual creator.

Ernest Hancock
4886 W Port Au Prince Lane
Glendale, AZ 85306 USA.

PERMISSION is Granted to Forward this magazine in its entirety.



Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine viewing tips

By Nick Barnett

(For continuous updates to enhance your digital magazine experience use links below)

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

[iPad/iPhone](#)

[SmartPhone](#)

[Andriod Device](#)

[Other](#)



The Freedom's Phoenix digital magazine has been optimized and tested for use on the iPad with the "GoodReader" application. Since Apple's products do not have native

support for interactive publications, you have to purchase the application from the iTunes digital download store. You can either follow [this link](#) to be taken to the application purchase page or use your iPad's AppStore and search for "GoodReader."




Once GoodReader is installed, you can optimize your digital magazine experience by changing a few default options in the application. Launch

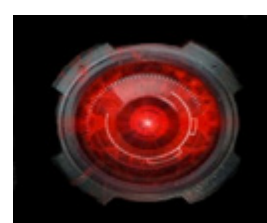
GoodReader and click the settings icon (it looks like a little gear in the bottom left of the screen). In the "General Settings" tab, it is recommended that you set the "Asks for link action" option to OFF. In the "PDF files" tab, you should ensure that "Horizontal swipe" is set to ON, and "Fit page to width (portrait)" is set to ON.

Once you have made the above changes, you will be able to swipe left and right to "flip" through the digital pages and the pages should appear as intended, just like a real paper magazine, but with modern paperless interactivity.

To obtain the Freedom's Phoenix digital magazine, launch GoodReader and click "Browse the Web." To get to this option, you may need to expand the "Web Downloads" sub-window found on the right hand column of the application. When you click "Browse the web" you

will be presented with GoodReader's internal web browser, just type in www.freedomspheonix.com in the address bar and hit "Go" on your iPad onscreen keyboard.

Once Freedom's Phoenix has loaded, click on "Magazine/Radio/TV" in the website's navigation bar, then choose the option for "Online Magazine List." You may be prompted to enter your Freedom's Phoenix username and password at this point. Choose the digital magazine you wish to download and you will be taken to a page with a link that says "Download Magazine File." Once you click this, GoodReader will begin downloading the file. Once the file has finished downloading, you will be able to access it from the "Recent Downloads" menu in the "My Documents" screen of GoodReader. 



The best software for all [android devices](#) so far has been the FREE software from the Andriod Market: [ezPDF Reader](#)

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)





FREEDOM'S

Phoenix

Reigniting the Flames of Freedom

Freedom'sPhoenix.com

Uncovering the Secrets & Exposing the Lies



FREEDOM SUMMIT
Phoenix Arizona

www.FreedomSummit.com

PAST SPEAKERS: JACOB G. HORNBERGER - DON BOUDREAUX - ROBERT A. LEVY - BUTLER D. SHAFFER - VIN SUPRYNOWICZ - CLINT BOLICK - KATHERINE ALBRECHT - JAMES BOVARD - NATHANIEL BRANDEN - RON PAUL - PETER D. SCHIFF - GEORGE H. SMITH - EDWARD STRINGHAM - ALAN BOCK - DOUG CASEY - CHARLES GOYETTE - JUSTIN RAIMONDO - MARY RUWART - KEN SCHOOLLAND - CLAIRE WOLFE - RICHARD BODDIE - HARRY BROWNE - HANS-HERMANN HOPPE - ERNEST HANCOCK - BOSTON T. PARTY - MARC VICTOR - DONALD "MAC" MACPHERSON - RICHARD MORRIS - WALTER BLOCK - LEW ROCKWELL - JOHN PUGSLEY - LARRY PRATT - SHARON HARRIS - LOUIS JAMES - JOHN BUTTRICK - L. NEIL SMITH - MARSHALL FRITZ - DR. STEVEN GREER - CHRISTOPHER HEWARD - KAREN KWIATKOWSKI - JANE SHAFFER - SUNNI MARAVILLOSA - DR. BRIAN WOVK - DAVID D. FRIEDMAN - STUART KRONE - ADAM KOKESH - BUD BURRELL - JOEL SKOUSEN - JOHN TAYLOR GATTO - JEFFREY A. SINGER - DAN BARKER - JAMES P. GRAY - MARC STEVENS - WILLIAM BUPPERT - SCOTT HORTON - LAWRENCE W. (LARRY) REED - STEFAN MOLYNEUX - JORDAN PAGE - THE CARTRIDGE FAMILY BAND

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

Libertopia 2011: Four Days in the Freest Place on Earth

by Lawrence M. Ludlow

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



OCTOBER 2011 witnessed a jarring contrast between East Coast and West Coast. In the East, at the headquarters of the Evil Empire in Washington, D.C., the pimple-shaped dome of the Capitol bubbled over the low-lying buildings nearby, swollen to bursting as a symbol of theft, murder, and coercion. On the West Coast, a very different phenomenon was in full bloom. [Libertopia 2011](#) found a welcome home next to the waters of San Diego Bay. There, more than 400 people discovered what it meant to be part of the World's Largest Gathering of [Voluntaryists](#).



Members of Libertopia 2011 came from every region of the United States and as far away as Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands. Until they arrived, Libertopia was only a state of mind. But in San Diego from Thursday October 20th through Sunday the 23rd – in a city otherwise dominated by the military-industrial-surveillance complex – these same people discovered that Libertopia could, indeed, be a real place.



Acting as both an anchor and backdrop for the weekend was the fabulous stage of [Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay](#) – offering a full roster of live bands, impromptu performances, speakers, and artistic creations that included an evolving canvas painted by a [local artist](#). While some visitors filtered in on Thursday evening to mingle in the bar, register at the hotel, play hipster ghost in the dark, or watch a screening of the offbeat Star Trek: Of Gods and Men in the Lysander Spooner Room nearby, Libertopia hit the ground running on Friday morning. The day began with a rousing challenge by Stefan Molyneux of [Freedomain Radio](#). Stefan, whose podcasts have enraged and inspired more than a few people over the years, played host throughout the weekend. On Friday, he cranked things up by reminding Libertopians that now is the time



to speak up and act on one's belief in liberty – not at some “perfect” time in the future. He was followed by [Butler Shaffer](#), who teaches at the Southwestern University School of Law. After reminding Libertopians that he studies law in the same way biologists study cancer – and for the same reasons – he reminded us of something important: liberty requires all kinds of people to be truly “balanced.” In other words, it requires both the left-brain types who prefer to think in a logical, sequential, analytical manner as well as the right-brain types who prefer a more random, intuitive, synthetic (holistic) style.



And both types were certainly out in force. There were 42 exhibitors – including precious metals dealers and their customers ([Liberty Coin](#) and DelValley Silver); a helping of lawyers (including Libertopia sponsors [Liberty Legal](#) and [Marc Victor](#)); booksellers and dozens of think-tanks and institutes with tables groaning under the weight of books, tapes, and films of every type; [volunteer first-aid](#) providers; filmmakers; [Students for Liberty](#); mortgage companies; publishers; the [Ladies of Liberty Alliance](#); plenty of causes with t-shirts and calendars for sale, and the folks from [antiwar.com](#) visiting from points beyond. All this and the scheduled comedians and guest speakers and presenters – all 49 of them!



One of the most humorous moments of the weekend came on Sunday at about noon – while the Sovereign Awards Banquet was underway in

the Marina Ballroom. For some reason, the San Diego Harbor Police got it into their heads that there was some kind of Ron Paul gathering taking place. Who knows what was going through their heads. Maybe it was all that talk of gold. Maybe they suspected that someone was licking

Continues on Page 5

Continued from Page 4 - Libertopia 2011: Four Days in the Freest Place on Earth

a toad, which is illegal in California. Or maybe they heard about the impromptu Karaoke performance of the folks at CopBlock.org on Saturday night.



The Karaoke was a clever rendition of Cee Lo Green's ** You!* For whatever reason, this small gang of water-lily cops in funny clothes tried to crash Libertopia. They were met by the all-volunteer Libertopia Security Force, which kept them at bay. They were politely informed that entrance to Libertopia cost \$200 per person and that they were welcome to fatten the purses of Libertopia. This seemed to confuse them. They complained until they were allowed to cross Libertopia to get to the Humphrey's business office. On the way, they paused briefly at an exhibit sponsored by – guess who? – the local members of CopBlock.org. For those of you who don't follow their activities, the folks at CopBlock have a habit of shooting and posting digital videos of policemen...without their permission. Needless to say, the Harbor Police did not linger. Figure it out: cops and cameras; vampires and garlic. 'nuf said.



But Libertopia 2011 didn't just happen. Fifty-seven people had been volunteering for several months to put it together. In addition to the many people who emailed their friends, holding down

the fort in San Diego was a group of local voluntaryists who meet weekly at Café Libertalia for their Mises Mondays events. Together they provided audio-video services, registration and hospitality arrangements in the lobby, on-site security, retail-booth information, registration packets, logistical support throughout the weekend; advertising and communication services; photography; and help with the generation of up-and-coming voluntaryists located nearby in the Kidz Zone.



For most of the Libertopians who came together to make this little pocket of San Diego a better, freer place for the weekend, Libertopia is usually just a state of mind. Like the rest of us, they live in some corner of this Leviathan state most of the year and long for a chance to escape. But just as Saint Augustine had his City of God and Thomas More had his dream island of Utopia, we voluntaryists have our dreams, too. And for four days, Libertopia was more than just a dream.



Film of Libertopia: 32:08



[Lawrence Ludlow](http://LawrenceLudlow.com) is a freelance writer in San Diego. His nonfiction essays and satires have appeared in newspapers, magazines, and web sites. For the last 20 years, he has providing marketing and technical writing services at <http://www.spiltinc-writing.com>.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupiers and the State

by Anthony Gregory

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



IN Oakland, California, where I live, the Occupiers have been struggling to keep their ground on Ogawa Plaza, a piece of public property in front of City Hall. On the night of Tuesday, October 25, I saw from my apartment, miles northeast of the action, dozens of police cars zoom in from a neighboring jurisdiction. I looked at an online police scanner where the Oakland police department described the situation as a riot and requested a multi-county tactical response. Hundreds of police, donning intimidating riot gear, swept in to confront the crowd on the streets. There was no riot, however, as almost all the protesters were peaceful, the only ones acting out with petty violence being loudly chastised by the crowd. The most belligerent participants by far were law enforcers, who responded to thrown bottles and civil disobedience with [tear gas and rubber bullets](#). One man, Scott Olsen, was hit with one of the police's projectiles, his skull fractured. Thankfully, he is now reportedly in fair condition. You can tell from the videos that the police were not exactly using restraint with these weapons. They even threw percussion grenades at the protesters who came to Olsen's aid. What began as a typical overbearing government response to protesters in the name of public health now offers a peak into the full threat to liberty that we face in modern America.



When it comes to the rights of the protesters vs. the police, we have to side with the protesters. Some of the particulars were different in his time, but we should remember that [Murray Rothbard](#) argued that the occupiers of People's Park in Berkeley were in the right and the police who beat, gassed, arrested and injured them entirely in the wrong.

Beyond this human rights issue, how freedom lovers should regard the Occupy movement, now alive in over a hundred towns and cities worldwide, depends largely upon whether we see it as a radical rebellion against the establishment or an uprising on behalf of more statism. But there's also another consideration: whether there exists an opportunity to reach out to the disaffected and explain to them why only true liberty will remedy the grave economic and social problems some of them at least partly diagnose correctly.

Insofar as this movement is an arm of the left-liberal establishment, there are reasons to worry. There appears to be an Astroturf element in play, and as the movement grows, the risk of it being co-opted by the administration and the institutional center-left increases. At the same time we must cautiously note that, as with most leftist groups, the more radically opposed to the status quo someone is, the more likely he is to oppose private property and to wish to revolutionize society in many of the worst possible ways.

Yet there is also a libertarian contingent in these protests that cannot be denied. Like the Tea Parties, the Occupy movement comprises a hodgepodge of voices, some of which are aimlessly calling for change, some with good rhetoric but not so good an agenda, some who simply favor one faction of the bipartisan American state, and some who would replace current policy with something much worse. The folks in both camps who rail against corruption but oppose key pillars of the free society have no better a vision than Obama or Bush. Occupiers who wish to expropriate the entrepreneurial class, nationalize the economy, and abolish private property are flirting with totalitarian ideals, just as Tea Partiers who reject civil liberties, demonize Muslims, and cry for war with Iran are embracing the very worst components of modern American governance, and are in fact calling for a program even worse than the current president's.

But many like millions of other Americans are simply frustrated with the undeniable corruption running through the state-corporate nexus. Seeing this common ground, some conservatives have defended the Occupiers, just as Noam Chomsky has humanized the Tea Partiers as "people with real grievances." And surely there is a lot to be angry about. Like some of the disenchanted Tea Party types, the Occupiers include many who have played by the rules and work hard to scrape by in a system that seems gratuitously rigged in favor of corporate fat cats, which of course it is. A faction of the Occupiers have been waving End the Fed signs, as they among the crowd understand that the government's money monopoly – anathema to Austro-libertarians, Old Right conservatives, and Tuckerite anarchists alike – has created a crooked system that gradually seizes money from the poor and middle class and funnels it to the banking establishment, government contractors, and the military-industrial complex. And beyond this, nearly the whole economy is dominated by the corporate state.

Intellectual property and licensure have turned much of the telecommunications industry into a fascist arm of the government. The agricultural sector is so distorted by the USDA and subsidies so as to present a threat to the health and liberty of all Americans and many foreigners. Ameri-

Continues on Page 7

Continued from Page 6 - The Occupiers and the State

can health care is plagued by patents, the FDA, Medicare, and other national programs that tip the scales in favor of Big Pharma, the medical cartels, and the insurance companies. Clearly, the ubiquity of corporate influence, if it could emerge in a free market setting, did not do so in our world. Even the welfare state and federal education programs often benefit the rich and connected as much as they help the poor.

But how many of the Occupiers see this? When establishment hacks like Paul Krugman and Robert Reich cozy up to the protesters, many of whom take them with open arms, we know something is wrong, because the very New Deal-Great Society style of governance that has ruled America for four generations is exactly what is responsible for the very disease the Occupiers wish to cure.

The modal Occupier appears to be some kind of social democrat who can easily be used as a pawn for Obama's left-corporatist schemes like job plans and infrastructure Keynesianism. The Occupy Wall Street Demands Working Group unanimously approved a horrible "Jobs for All" proposal, reportedly angering anarchists and others who see it as an obvious call for Obama-style liberal corporatism. As for the more radical and yet more clueless camp, I previously [wrote about](#) one list of socialistic demands and was criticized on the Web for tarring all Occupiers with the same brush, although I didn't really intend to, but it really does seem that insofar as the Occupiers are calling for anything, it is channeled into a statist demand. I still stand by my concern that this movement, at least on its current trajectory, will ultimately serve as pressure from below to enhance the ruling class's power.

The same day the liberal Democratic Oakland government brutally cracked down on the Occupiers, President Obama held a posh fundraising event in nearby San Francisco. This speaks to an immutable political reality the Occupiers need to understand: the president probably loves the demonstrations to the extent that they serve as pressure for his jobs, student loan, and stimulus programs, but in any altercation between the protesters and the police state, the president of course represents the side of power – not just represents it, but serves as its chief executor and figurehead.

The Obama administration and domestic liberal government are the police state. The same police

power involved in tear-gassing and critically injuring dissidents is used to implement national health care. The same statist force behind war and the corruption on Wall Street is behind taxation and liberal social democracy. It is also this force that has extracted the nation's wealth for the benefit of a few, so that now the Washington, DC, area is the richest in the country. Mao was right: All political power flows from the barrel of a gun. To ask for the state to tax anyone more or regiment society in any way is to give another tool to the true power elite to punish enemies, give advantage to the politically connected, and threaten those who don't go along with the central plan with imprisonment and state violence.

Entrepreneurs, taxpayers, and everyday Americans should see one another as being on the same side, with big government, the fascist financial system, the empire, and corporate state being on the other, and as long as the establishment divides us against each other, liberty will be lost and Obama's cronies will laugh all the way to the bank.

I've been nuanced on the Occupiers and I've been asked to take sides. I think it's time for the Occupiers to take sides: Do you oppose police brutality? Do you oppose state capitalism? If so, you must oppose the government power that makes them both possible. Reject any and all calls for more government for any reason, and instead only focus on reducing and abolishing the state's control.

Divorcing the ruling class from state power, using political power to equalize the economy, is the most fanciful aspiration humans have ever considered. Lord Acton was right that no class is fit to govern. It is why when the disenfranchised grab the reins of the state, they almost always become as despotic as those they have supplanted. Instead, we must all reject the state and all its works. Government is the iron fist, and its promises of welfare and universal humanitarianism always come with nightsticks, tear gas, and rubber bullets, at best. When the state offers you a hand up or a handout, notice the blood dripping from its fingers.



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

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Mommies Openly Defy Food Police by Serving up a Raw Milk and Cookies Protest

by Kimberly Hartke

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



MOTHERS and their children staged a unique protest at the FDA on November 1, 2011. Calling themselves the Raw Milk Freedom Riders, the moms and supporters deliberately broke federal law by crossing state lines with raw milk. The mothers met a farmer in Pennsylvania, picked up milk then drove into Maryland. The convoy of 30 cars and vans then joined awaiting protesters at the headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for a 'milk and cookies' party. The peaceful protest was in response to numerous armed raids of family farms and food co-ops around the U.S. spearheaded by the government agency.



Over 150 people from states as far away as Minnesota, Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts showed up to support the rally. Michael Schmidt of Glencolton Farms in Ontario Canada, currently on a month long hunger strike for responsible food freedom, was a special guest speaker at the event.

The ban on interstate transportation of raw milk, implemented by the federal agency in 1987 is causing hardship on farmers and consumers as farm fresh foods grow in popularity. The patchwork of state laws which either allow or deny sales of unprocessed milk, often result in consumers seeking product from across a state line. The FDA has stepped up federal enforcement efforts, and it is leaning heavily on state agencies to crack down on the raw milk dairy farms.



[Farmageddon--The Unseen War on American Family Farms](#) is a new full length documentary film by Kristin Canty, a mother in Massachusetts, whose son was healed of severe allergies by raw milk. She had trouble sleeping at night once she learned of the raids on small farms. She knew the government was attempting to deny people access to this life-giving natural food. Last year, even within her own state borders, agricultural officials banned carpooling and milk delivery services, and this occurred in Massachusetts, a state where raw milk is legal to sell at the farm gate. She attended the rally to film the protest and to share her story.

"My son was allergic to the world. Raw milk helped him when FDA approved drugs couldn't. We must make raw dairy available to families who want and need it," she exclaimed to the crowd of 200 who gathered for the rally.



One of the other speakers at the event, was a raw

milk producer from California. Mark McAfee of Organic Pastures dairy explained that in California, over 400 stores carry his fresh, unprocessed milk.



Pete Kennedy, President of the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund told the crowd, "How do you know when we've got a bad law? When thousands of otherwise law abiding citizens are breaking it on a weekly basis." The legal defense non-profit currently is suing the FDA over the transportation ban. [The Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund](#) was founded to protect the right to unregulated direct trade between farmer and consumer. The group promotes the concept of herd share agreements and legal private farm buying clubs, both of which are a means for consumers to opt out of the government sanctioned food supply.



Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) sent his staffer, Carolyn Moffa, to the rally, to announce that he is introducing a companion bill in the U.S. Senate, to his father, Congressman Ron Paul's bill, HR 1830, which would end the interstate ban on raw milk for human consumption. Organic farmer and Congresswoman from Maine, Chellie Pingree (D-ME) is a co-sponsor of the bill. A presidential candidate, Ron Paul (R-TX) is campaigning for raw milk consumer freedom of choice during his bid for the White House.



Rally organizers, Liz Reitzig and Karine Bouis-Towe of the [Farm Food Freedom Coalition](#), plan to pursue a dialogue with FDA officials regarding improving consumer access to safe raw milk. "Armed raids on our farmers and farm buying clubs must stop! If we are not free to eat the foods of our choice, we are not free," Liz declared to the approval of the raw milk freedom riders.



Video courtesy of Adam Kokesh, Adam vs The Man

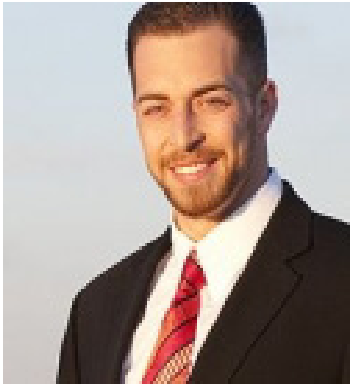
Kimberly Hartke is publicist for [The Weston A. Price Foundation](#), a nutrition education non-profit and activist group. See their Campaign for Real Milk website for more information. Kimberly covers food politics and the raw milk issue on [Hartke is Online!](#) blog.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Last Generation of Combat Vets?

by Adam Kokesh

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



HAVING served in Fallujah in 2004 with a Marine Corps Civil Affairs Team and come home with some mixed feelings, I have some thoughts I'd like to share with my active duty brothers and sisters.

Although I am dead set against serving for Obama, we share the noble cause of being willing to put our lives on the line for this country. There are some critical lessons to be learned from recent events that directly relate to your life in uniform. Whether you choose to recognize that connection is up to you.

Our foreign policy is one of the primary reasons the government is bankrupt and has to borrow about 40 cents of every dollar spent today. The debt per citizen is almost \$50,000. That's a stone around the neck of every child who is supposed to be born free in America today. For the sake of argument, let's accept that the threat of terrorism is as bad as the government claims (which is a pretty ridiculous assertion) and accept that the government might be justified in dropping a few Predator Drone bombs. But the premise of the majority of our military spending is that it's ok for the government to sell future generations into debt slavery so that rich men can get richer while poor men die in wars based on some supposedly well-intentioned notions that we can improve the lives of people in other countries through imposing martial law.

Of course, there's always the reassuring idea that you are serving in the military to protect our freedom. As the size of the military has increased, and the number of troops deployed has gone up under Obama, freedoms have continued to decrease here in America. Obviously, economic freedom is at an all-time low, but the police policies under which we live, have become a constant threat to civil liberties as well. So let me be brutally honest for a second here: if you're defending our freedoms, you fucking suck.

You may have heard of the "Occupy Wall Street" movement, which, although deeply misguided, consists of a diverse group of people attempting to exercise their rights of speech and assembly. While at times, the protestors have provoked confrontations with police, their reactions have shown a frightening disregard for those rights. While random, unprovoked punches in the face, (as made famous by YouTube) are the exception, is the rule any better? Any objective observation of recent protests, (not just "Occupy Wall Street") will tell you that it is not.

In Oakland, where the police decided that tear gas canisters, bean bag bullets, and flash-bang grenades are acceptable crowd control policy, you get a near combat zone, with real consequences. For former Marine Scott Olsen, who survived two tours in Iraq without a scratch, the consequence is a two-inch skull fracture from being shot with a tear gas canister at short range. When fellow protestors gathered around him to tend to his wounds, they were hit with a flash-bang grenade and tear gas. And this is nothing new. I was there when Army Iraq veteran Nick Morgan was trampled by a police horse at a protest in New York three years ago. Horses for crowd control are not for crowds. They're for control.

In 1932, the bonus army of 17,000 WWI veterans and tens of thousands of supporters marched on the capitol to demand the bonuses that the government had promised them. They set up an encampment quite similar to Occupy Wall Street, except - well-run, well-organized, with a critical mass of people, and in order to live in the camp, every veteran had to prove their honorable discharge. Back then, they referred to it as a Hooverville, like the thousands shanty towns that sprang up around America due to economics that were blamed on President Hoover. If they weren't still under the propaganda spell of our exploiter in chief, the "Occupation" protestors

Continues on Page 10

Continued from Page 9 - Last Generation of Combat Vets?

might refer to their encampments as "Obamavilles." President Hoover ordered the veterans' encampment cleared and sent in Generals MacArthur and Patton. Yes, THAT MacArthur, and THAT Patton. The protestors thought the troops were marching to honor them, until the cavalry charged and the infantry came in with fixed bayonets, and adamsite gas, a vomiting agent. 55 veterans were injured, 135 arrested, and the speech of all effectively silenced.

In New York, former [Marine Sgt Shamar Thomas](#) used his NCO voice to shout down 30 cops who were "just doing some crowd control" on Occupy Wall Street protestors by reminding them that this is not a war zone, and that there is no honor in hurting innocent Americans for protesting. Maybe he was wrong about one thing though: This IS a war zone. No modern war was fought for the reasons the troops were told and the police who think they are supporting the rule of law are just as clueless as the troops in Vietnam who thought the Gulf of Tonkin incident was real. As much as there is a war on drugs, and a war on crime and a war on poverty and a war on terrorism, there is a war by the government, against you. War is the health of the state. War is exploitation. And as Marine Major General Smedley Butler said, "[WAR IS A RACKET](#)."

The greatest exploitation happens here at home. Wealth flows to the friends of government while the dependent class grows and the people that actually pay taxes get fleeced. So what is YOUR role as one of Obama's imperial foot soldiers? You're just a pawn. Nothing new. But not only are you a good excuse for the government to spend more money on the military, you're also a way to "project power" abroad so that our government can exploit foreigners, AND a way to control the population here at home. Remember the Kent State incident on May 4th 1970 when

national guard troops shot and killed four protesting students? While using troops to confiscate firearms during Hurricane Katrina was a rare exception, more troops are now training for domestic operations than ever before, and the police are increasingly militarized.

But of course, if you really want to crack skulls, you don't have to wait for the next mobilization of troops against civilians, you can just join the police. For obvious reasons, many veterans go right into law enforcement, and while this may help you get out of a few speeding tickets if the officer pulling you over is a fellow vet, it doesn't do anything but reinforce the system that has become the greatest threat to the rights that it's supposed to protect.

So finally, back to that noble cause. As much as I'd like every soldier to immediately start disobeying all unconstitutional orders and, you know, live up to our oath of enlistment, I realize that's a bit much to ask. Standing up for what you believe in has consequences after all. But it also has rewards. So I'll just INVITE you to apply the same courage it took to put on that uniform for the first time, to asking yourself WHY you joined the military in the first place and WHETHER OR NOT the system you are a part of serves that cause, or undermines it. While a war can be just on one side, if it is truly defensive, war has always represented the greatest failure of humanity, and modern war, has never been about settling legitimate disputes, but rather the most vicious exploitation by government. Whether or not you believe that war has ever been just or necessary, let us share the lessons of our experience, let us not be deceived again, and let's make ours the last generation of combat veterans the world will ever know. Hoorah?

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



Red and Blue and Broke All Over

by Charles Goyette

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



FROM Charles Goyette, the New York Times Bestselling Author of The [Dollar Meltdown!](#) comes his new book, [Red And Blue And Broke All Over](#). The book is available for pre-order now at Amazon, and will be available on March 15th, 2012.

I have written Red and Blue because, as you know, we are entering a period that will demand more able defenders of freedom. If Red and Blue and Broke All Over is successful it will help recruit and arm new generations to be champions of liberty - now, when they are so badly needed! I've attached the cover art for you to see.

The book is available for pre-order now at Amazon: www.amazon.com/Red-Blue-Broke-All-Over/dp/1595230823/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpt_2

Thanks,
Charles Goyette

Ernie:

I thought you'd like to know that I have completed the final editing on my new book Red and Blue and Broke All Over: Restoring America's Free Economy. It's set for release on March 15th.

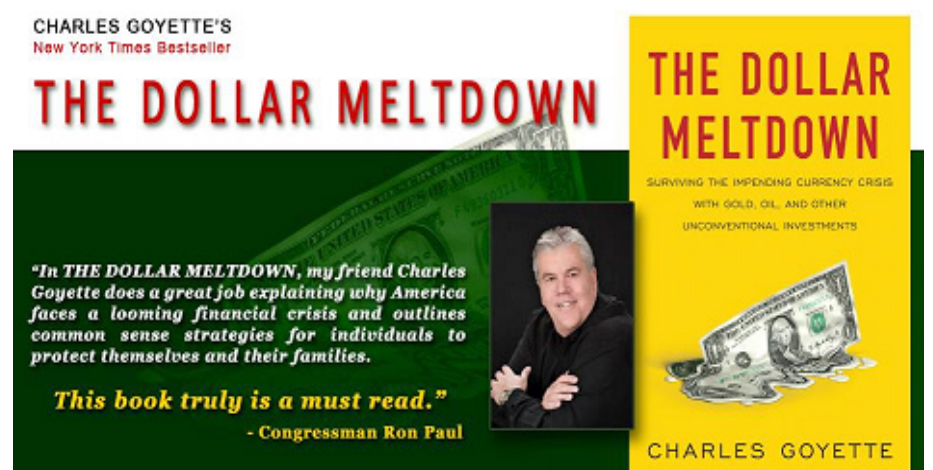
The title is intentionally ambiguous. It describes both a financial and a philosophical condition. Red and blue are graphically useful ways of referring to the two parties: red representing Republicans and blue describing Democrats. While the title describes America's national government as broke, and the people made poorer, it also describes the politics of the Republicans and Democrats as broken. The country is financially insolvent and the American dream is withering because the Washington parties, red and blue alike, are philosophically bankrupt. Their shared statist philosophy needs to be exposed—and abandoned—before it does us any more harm.

I make the case in a clear and patient way that the choice before Americans isn't between R's and D's but between statism on the one hand and liberty and prosperity on the other. It goes further by explaining in terms of current events why freedom works and why statism is bound to fail.



15th, 2012).

The [Dollar Meltdown](#) examined the generational destruction of the dollar and extrapolated the debt crisis for investment purposes. It showed thousands of grateful readers how to protect themselves and their families from decades of governmental folly and wealth destruction and profit along the way.



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! Coming in early 2012.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

RED ALERT: FDA Set to Ban Your Supplements

by Dr. Mercola

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THE [FDA has issued a proposed mandate](#) that represents the greatest threat to dietary supplements since 1994. Back in the early 1990s, consumers were so alarmed by FDA bullying that they staged a massive revolt. The result was that Congress passed a law prohibiting the FDA from banning popular nutrients (as the agency had threatened to do).



[Visit the Mercola Library](#)

There was, however, a loophole in the 1994 law. The FDA was given authority to regulate ingredients introduced after October 15, 1994.

It has been **17 years**, but the FDA just issued draconian proposals as to how it intends to regulate what it now calls "new dietary ingredients". You can find the [FDA Draft Guidance on New Dietary Ingredients \(NDI's\) here](#). If implemented, some of the most effective nutrients you are taking will be removed from the market. This includes many **fish oil** formulas and natural **plant extracts**. A [detailed analysis of the FDA Draft Guidance is available here](#).

These oppressive rules are exactly what the 1994 law (DSHEA) sought to prevent. The FDA is using its authority in direct violation of Congressional intent.

In order for these ingredients you are using today to return to the market, the FDA will require manufacturers to conduct outrageously expensive studies using absurdly high doses, in some situations multiplied by a "safety factor" up to 2,000-times the recommended dosage on a per product basis.

The FDA defines dietary supplements as being "new" if they were introduced after October 15, 1994. That means that even certain nutrients that have been safely used over the course of three decades will be subject to the FDA's oppressive policies that mandate costly animal testing.

The FDA Views Supplements in Same Light as Synthetic Food Preservatives

According to the new guidelines, the FDA believes that "new dietary supplements" must be regulated similarly to **synthetic food preservatives**. The FDA guidelines have modeled the outrageous safety thresholds after those in place for food additives. This appears to be in **direct violation** of DSHEA, the law enacted in 1994 to protect consumer access to dietary supplements, which classifies dietary supplements as **foods**, **not** food additives.

The FDA proposes that new dietary supplement ingredients should adhere to aggressive safety margins, which are typically reserved for chemical compounds known to be dangerous in all but the most miniscule concentrations.

Since food additives or preservatives such as aspartame, monosodium glutamate, and sodium nitrate are known to cause cancer or other severe health problems, the FDA has implemented safety guidelines which limit allowable concentrations of these food additives to levels that are supposed to be physiologically inert.

The fact that the FDA is trying to impose the same limits upon dietary supplements seems to be arbitrary and completely unfounded. In fact, when someone takes a dietary supplement, their intent is to positively affect the structure or function of their bodies in some way – limiting dosages of dietary supplements to physiologically inert levels defeats the entire purpose of supplementation with health-sustaining nutrients.

The FDA's new guidelines are so flawed that even nutrients shown to be completely safe in hundreds of human clinical studies would fail to accommodate the unreasonable safety margins.

To give you an example, each manufacturer of certain fish oils would have to conduct a one year study where animals would have to consume **the human equivalent of 240,000 milligrams** each day of fish oil.

Another option under the FDA's proposed mandates is to conduct a 90-day, 1,000 – fold safety margin study in which two species of animals, one being non-rodent – likely young beagle dogs, will theoretically consume the equivalent of **2.4 million milligrams** of fish oil daily. We know of virtually no species can tolerate this high dose, so by default, FDA guidelines will make it impossible for certain omega-3 supplements to be sold. (Note typical dose of EPA/DHA people take each day is around 2,400 mg—**100 times less** than what the FDA proposes must be tested.)

Since these are not patented drugs, no supplement maker will be able to afford these "safety" studies, which means that many of the nutrients you now purchase at low prices will convert into high-priced drugs.

Pharmaceutical Industry Profit Threatened By Low Cost Supplements

It appears that the FDA is claiming that dietary supplements are unsafe, and in order to "protect consumers" the agency must place a **stranglehold** on the dietary supplement industry by requesting *exorbitant* safety testing. These ludicrous safety thresholds are in **excess** of those required by **pharmaceutical drugs** despite studies showing supplements are far safer than drugs.

According to the 2001 report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), of the substances implicated in fatal poisonings in 2001, 84.6 percent were pharmaceutical drugs, with analgesics being implicated as the primary cause of death in 32 percent of fatalities or 341 deaths. This compares with 0.8 percent for all dietary supplements combined, even including substances such as dinitrophenol, a dangerous (and illegal) substance banned in 1938, as well as the central nervous system stimulant *Ma Huang (Ephedra)*. Interestingly, the anti-asthma drug theophylline alone was responsible for 15 deaths, 66 percent more than all the available dietary supplements combined. There is, however, a massive economic benefit for the drug industry if the proposed guidelines

Continues on Page 13

Continued from Page 12 - RED ALERT: FDA Set to Ban Your Supplements

are enforced by the FDA. Health conscious Americans who properly supplement slash their risk of degenerative disease. The FDA's new rules, if enacted, will force the price of many supplements to surge upwards, while removing many effective ones altogether. That means that more aging people will have to rely on side effect laden prescription drugs to treat the degenerative diseases they will contract because they will be denied access to health-promoting nutrients.

What You Can Do to Stop this Impending Carnage!

No one can sit on the sidelines with an emergency of this magnitude about to befall everyone who depends on dietary supplements. As citizens, we have the constitutional right to petition the government to redress our grievances. In this case, the FDA proposals pose a direct threat to our health and longevity.

We therefore have to take extraordinary measures to defend our right to continue using supplements that our very lives depend on, and to gain access to new natural ingredients that demonstrate efficacy in scientific studies.

I ask each one of you to contact your representatives by following this link:

[Contact your local representative now!](#)

Recall how Consumers revolted back in **1994** and the result was a glorious victory over FDA tyranny!

Let your voice be heard by exercising your right to petition the government against these serious violations of the law and scientific principle. **Please be sure to call, fax, or send a certified letter** to your representative - emails can be easily dismissed.

Here is a set of talking points for your consideration:

- My name is [Name] and I am a constituent of [Congress Member's name].
- I am very concerned about the new FDA draft guidance on dietary supplements and new dietary ingredients.
- I request that Congress hold hearings and take action to review the FDA's draft guidance and stop their overreach of power.
- The FDA's draft guidance flies in the face of the original congressional intent of the Dietary Supplement Health Education Act: The guidance turns what was meant to be a simple notification system for new dietary ingredients into a preapproval scheme that Congress did not intend to create.
- Congress recognized that dietary supplements are natural ingredients and therefore inherently safer than drugs and chemical food ingredients. It did not intend that the FDA would have the power to approve or reject dietary supplements.
- The FDA's draft guidance creates unnecessary regulations that limit my access to dietary supplements I rely on. The expensive and burdensome process will force between 20,000 and 42,000 dietary supplements to be removed from the market and will increase the cost of those supplements that remain.
- The draft guidance hurts our economy. Expert analyses show that this guidance will cause a total economic loss of \$21.2 billion to \$39.8 billion annually.
- Thank you for your time.

Continues on Page 14

Continued from Page 13 - RED ALERT: FDA Set to Ban Your Supplements**Tips:**

- Be courteous and respectful.
- Keep your comments brief and focused on the facts.
- Always thank the staff member for their time taking your call.

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS:

The Honorable _____
Washington, DC

In direct violation of the law, the FDA is threatening to ban my access to new dietary supplements.

The FDA defines dietary supplements as being "new" if they were introduced after October 15, 1994. That means that nutrients that I have been safely using over the course of three decades will be subject to FDA's oppressive policies that mandate costly animal testing, which translates into forced withdrawal from the market, and higher prices for me if the supplement is ever allowed to be sold again.

The **Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act** of 1994 states that:

"The Federal Government should not take any actions to impose unreasonable regulatory barriers limiting or slowing the flow of safe products and accurate information to consumers."

It says that Congress finds that:

"dietary supplements are safe within a broad range of intake, and safety problems with the supplements are relatively rare."

And it says that:

"legislative action that protects the right of access of consumers to safe dietary supplements is necessary in order to promote wellness."

This draft guidance does the exact opposite of what Congress intended. It imposes unreasonable barriers that limit and slow the flow of safe products and accurate information to consumers. I call upon Congress to:

1.Uphold the landmark legislation it passed seventeen years ago, and to direct the FDA to revise its New Dietary Ingredient draft guidelines to reflect DSHEA's (and Congress's) stated values and goals.

2.Vote against the newly introduced Dietary Supplement Labeling Act as this would give the FDA even greater arbitrary powers to remove safe dietary supplements from the market, and will profoundly impact this nation's health in a negative way.

All of these proposals result in wasteful federal spending, while at the same time impose a massive new "regulatory tax" on consumers and the vitamin industry.

Kindly let me know what actions you are taking in response to the urgent issues raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



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



Dr. Mercola

**[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)**

Abolish the Police

By Anthony Gregory

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



ants of that distinctly American city were caught up in the attack. After ten thousand rounds were fired at civilians over a period of two hours, a helicopter swooped in and dropped C-4 and Tovex explosives, destroying 65 houses. Five children were slaughtered in the strike.

The perpetrator was not the Soviet Union, or else the attack might have escalated into international conflict. It certainly would have made it into textbook timelines and become part of the nation's consciousness. No, those responsible for this atrocity were members of the Philadelphia police department. The local cops sought to finish off their political enemies after years of animosity and tension. The proximate legal excuse for bombing their own city? The cops had gotten complaints about noise and the stench of compost.

Twenty-six years have passed since the bombing of the [MOVE house](#) and if there was any doubt before, it is now beyond question that the local police have become the occupying troops that Malcolm X described. They are the standing army the Founding Fathers warned against. In the United States, they are the most dangerous gang operating and they do so under the color of law.

Anyone who reads [Will Grigg](#), [Cop Block](#), or [Radley Balko](#) should be familiar with this reality. The man who once edited the magazine for the John Birch Society, an organization whose 60's mantra was "support your local police," has since then focused largely on documenting the daily outrages conducted by these tax parasites. Reading his specific accounts of misconduct and brutality, one comes to the inescapable conclusion that police abuse is not a bug in the system; it is an intrinsic feature.

We can cite some of the most gruesome and high-profile outrages of recent years, such as the murder of [Oscar Grant](#) on New Years Day, 2009, a young man shot by a Bay Area cop in the back while lying face-down on the ground; or the [brutal beating of Alexander Landau](#), a college student who dared to ask Denver cops for a warrant before they searched his trunk; or the plight of seven-year-old [Aiyana Stanley Jones](#), who was murdered last May in Detroit as she lay on her family's couch while the cops raided the home, tossed in a flash-grenade that set her on fire and then shot her in the head.

On May 5 of this year, police in Tuscon stormed into Jose Guarena's home around 9 AM, [and shot him 71 times](#). Yes, fearful for his family's safety, he was holding an AR-15 in self-defense, but didn't get a shot in, despite lies to the contrary – yet there was no evidence found of any wrongdoing or illegality on his part.

In June, [police in Ohio tasered](#) and kicked man to death after a minor traffic accident. In July, about a half-dozen police in Fullerton, California, beat an unarmed homeless schizophrenic man, Kelly Thomas, to death. His only crime appears to have been resisting arrest.

Any one of these incidents should set off as much anti-government anger as the Boston Massacre, but some will object that I am cherry picking. So let us limit ourselves to just the last two months to illustrate the depth of the problem.

On September 3, a stray bullet hit Brooklyn mother Takesha Griffin in the leg. Police detained her for five days, trying to get her to name her friend who drove her to the hospital as the man who shot her. She claims the police left her handcuffed where she urinated and menstruated on herself in front of male prisoners.

On October 15, a transit police officer in Atlanta shot Joetavious Stafford, once in the chest and twice in the back, killing him. Stafford's brother claims that Joetavious was shot twice while lying on the ground. The police say he was armed, but eyewitnesses disagree. His cousin told reporters, "He wasn't an aggressor in the situation, he was just a young boy coming from a game."

On October 16, a Philadelphia police officer used his car as a weapon to crush Tyrik Admiral against a building, causing severe leg injuries that have required numerous surgeries.

In San Jose, California, where I grew up, police shot Javier Gonzales-Guerrero multiple times on the night of October 22. They insist he was reaching for a firearm on a waistband, which turned out to be a toy gun. He had been drunk and asleep after a Halloween party. This was "the seventh officer-involved shooting this year involving the San Jose Police Department," according to the Associated Press.

In Oakland, where I now live, police on October 25 responded to Occupy Oakland protesters, almost all of them peaceful and a handful throwing plastic bottles at the cops donning riot gear, by calling in comrades from neighboring jurisdictions. With a helicopter overhead and hundreds of police backing him up, one officer shot a tear-gas canister at Scott Olsen, sending him to the hospital with a fractured skull. Fellow protesters rushing to his aid were greeted with a flash-bang grenade, and many others were hit by rubber bullets, although the police deny they were used. Over a dozen tear gas bombs were exploded, filling the neighborhood's night sky with chemicals banned in warfare.

Not all police abuses end so terribly, but even the mundane injustices speak to a totalitarian tendency in today's law enforcement procedures. In late October, a Hawaii couple was arrested and had their three-year-old daughter taken away for eighteen hours, because when buying \$50 worth of groceries, they forgot to pay for two sandwiches.

These are just very recent examples that can be found from a minute of Googling. Or visit

Continues on Page 16

Continued from Page 15 - Abolish the Police

the [Injustice News feed](#) and read about over a dozen cases of police misconduct a day. They are no doubt the tip of the iceberg. They do not begin to represent the millions of smaller injustices conducted by police daily, both under the cover of law and in naked violation of statutes and court decisions, or the thousands of daily injustices and acts of torture and sexual abuse in America's prisons and jails, for which law enforcers are at least indirectly and very often directly responsible.

The chaotic violence of the modern police state is ubiquitous. [Every day there are 100 SWAT raids in America](#). Remember in the old days when SWAT raids were reserved for stopping some terrorist intent on destroying half the city? Maybe that was just in the movies. There were 3,000 SWAT raids in 1981, the year I was born, which was bad enough. There will be 40,000 this year.

In modern America, even small towns have their own air forces. The TV news frets about al-Qaeda, but rarely exposes the threat of the thin blue line. About as many Americans have been killed by police since 9/11/01 as died on that day. Between 1980 and 2005, police killed 9,500 people in the U.S., approximately one per day and almost three-fourths as many people as have been sentenced and executed in the United States since colonial times. A study in Harris County, Texas, found that between 1999 and mid 2005, [officers in the county shot 65 unarmed people](#), killing 17.

But don't police put their lives on the line for us? [Only 117 police](#) were killed in the line of duty in 2009, which might seem like a lot, but being a police officer [is not](#) even one of the top ten dangerous jobs in America.

Surely, the people who are killed by the cops had it coming. Well, consider how many are killed when the police presumably do not intend to kill at all and so reach for their taser. [Amnesty International](#) found that "the number of people who died after being struck by Tasers in the USA reached 334 between 2001 and August 2008."

This all puts aside the unspeakable corruption that plagues virtually every police station in America. From an [Orlando officer](#) covering up evidence of vicious brutality against a 100-pound woman to the [systematic corruption of a small-town department in Kansas](#), from the massive drug-planting scandal that has recently led to four cases being dismissed in Brooklyn and Queens to the hundreds of NYC cops involved in ticket-fixing to the [San Francisco undercover cops](#) stealing drugs for themselves, even the reported cases of police misconduct – [there were 2,500 such reports last year](#) – are enough to show the whole system is rotten. A cursory look at [the admitted child rapists](#) and [other such lowlifes](#) who often "serve" as officers for years before being caught also puts the lie to the very idea that police are on average any more noble than the general population.

Limited-government libertarians often reserve at least three functions to the state – military, courts and police. But why police? We never tire of talking about America as it was before the government swallowed society whole. In particular, we reminisce about the principles of 1776. Yet, although there was plenty to object to in colonial law and law in the early republic, police as we now know them didn't exist back then.

Philadelphia adopted a police force in 1845. New Orleans, Cincinnati, Chicago and Baltimore followed suit in the next decade. From the begin-

ning these were politicized bodies, involved in corrupt local politics and enforcing questionable laws. They were not immaculately conceived any more than the state itself. But it was not until the Progressive Era that the modern police force was truly born. At the turn of the century, cities adopted fingerprinting and forensics labs. Soon came radios and patrol cars. Berkeley, California, home to many great strides in progressive social engineering, was also a pioneer in creating modern police. August Vollmer, Berkeley's chief of police, trained a new generation of cops through the University of California. His protégé O M. Wilson went on to revolutionize the forces of Wichita and Chicago.

By the 1960s, police were more often in cars than walking the streets. This made a big difference. Lawrence M. Freedman writes in [Crime and Punishment in American History](#):

A cop on foot was a familiar cop, a neighborhood cop; he knew his beat, and the beat knew him. He was also pretty much on his own. Headquarters was far away; he was beyond its beck and call. But now a ton of steel separated the motorized officer from the community; police cruising in patrol cars were strangers to the dark, dangerous streets; these police tended to feel alien, beleaguered; the locals, for their part, thought of them as an outside, occupying force.

This alienation from the community tends to galvanize the police into a tight-knit gang complete with its own identity: "The police are a tight, beleaguered group. They develop their own subculture, and it is a subculture of tough, macho conservatism. . . . They see human beings at their worst, and that certainly colors their philosophy of life."

Furthermore, cops have come to "believe in fighting fire with fire. Police brutality was part of a more general system of police power. It rested on a simple credo: the battalions of law and order had the right, if not the duty, to be tough as nails with criminals. Force was the only language the criminal understood."

Force might be necessary to deal with violent thugs, but allowing the greatest predator of all – the state – to monopolize the sector of the economy concerned with using force against criminals is a recipe for oppression and injustice. The entire history of government police demonstrates they cannot be trusted. They are the henchmen of all the totalitarian regimes we see on the History Channel. In the United States, they were always a menace, at least to some. They tended early on to focus their brutality against the other – immigrants, gangsters, ethnic minorities, transients and the counterculture. Today they still bias their violence against the fringes of society, the young and the powerless, but they are now so vast a presence that no one is safe, no matter how respectable, no matter his demographic.

The 20th century brought us all the horrors of progressivism, and one conspicuous example has been the militarized city police force, which has become an organization hostile to all manner of civilized decency. The last century, particularly since the 1960s, also meant an increasing nationalization of police, arming them with military weapons, plugging them into national databases, harmonizing oppression throughout the country so there is no escape, charging cops with new national crusades against drugs and other non-crimes. Then there is the revolving door between the military and police precincts, with veterans, often traumatized from battle, increasingly enlisting back home as cops. The in-

Continues on Page 17

Continued from Page 16 - Abolish the Police

stitutional and cultural nationalization has made matters worse, although local police, as agents of the state, have been very eager partners in the federalization of law enforcement. They have never been the great defenders against national usurpation conservatives long hoped for; but today they are all-out quislings.

Needless to say, all anarchists should support outright and immediate abolition of the police. We're talking about the enforcement arm of the state, after all. If you oppose the state monopoly, you must favor eliminating the state's method of maintaining its monopoly – through the police. And indeed, if you distrust socialism, you should distrust [law-enforcement socialism](#) as much as anything, for this is the original sin that allows all other state depredations to follow. Also, when the state misallocates resources, it is not nearly so evil in itself as when it inevitably misallocates violence on a massive scale.

For much of U.S. history, Americans had less government and fewer police. Government will necessarily be weaker, all else being equal, the fewer enforcement agents it boasts. Without any armed enforcers, the state withers away. The fewer armed state agents the better. The growth of modern leviathan in the 20th century accompanied the rise of the city police force. Big government and cops go hand in hand.

If your goal is to end the welfare state, the regulatory state, the wars, or anything else seriously bad about government, abolishing the police would seem to be a major priority. Do you oppose taxation? Abolish the police, as well as all other agencies of government law enforcement, and see how threatening those 1040s and state tax forms seem then.

Some will argue that the police protect our rights. But if the market is really better than socialism, abolishing the police outright shouldn't be a problem. Why trust the state to continue cornering the market on rights protection? If protecting life, liberty and property is important – and it most certainly is – we cannot let the central planners and their armed enforcers run the show. Fire them immediately. The market will find a better way to protect us within 24 hours, if it takes nearly that long. If we all take up the abolitionist cause, certainly by the time police are abolished, civil society will find a way to fill the void.

And of course, the very premise that we must maintain state police for the sake of our rights assumes that they protect our rights more than they infringe them. This is completely dubious. Surely we have no "constitutional right" to police protection, as the Seventh Circuit Court determined in [Bowers v. Devito](#) (1982). When there's a riot or huge unleashing of social unrest, police often bail out, leaving shop owners and other people to fend for themselves, who do a better job anyway, as during the 1992 LA riots. What's more, the police often exacerbate the catastrophe by disarming homeowners and shooting at people committing petty offenses, like they did after Katrina. Furthermore, studies seem to indicate that [police strikes](#) don't lead to any demonstrated rise in crime.

We can probably assume that abolishing the police would not lead to the apocalypse people fear, not even in the short run as the market sorts things out. Why?

First of all actual crimes are almost never prevented by the police. The vast majority remain unsolved. At best, the police investigate them after they occur, and then usually do nothing. Sometimes they make an arrest, which might, at a huge expense to taxpayers, result in someone in jail – and maybe even the right person. Even in this minority of cases, the idea that jail is a remedy to the rights violation, or prevents more rights violations from occurring, is an unchecked premise. Even putting violent predators in prison where they can brutalize less violent people may not actually reduce the amount of aggression, if we count the victims in the cages, as we should. Meanwhile, even the government's pursuit of actual criminals entails numerous rights violations in itself – investigations of the innocent, enslaving jurors and witnesses, turning lives upside down. Victims are never made whole. And for this we have to run the risk of being shot or wrongly arrested by the state.

Second of all, the police actively encourage violent crime in myriad ways. They enforce the drug war, which probably doubles the number of homicides and vastly increases street crime, along with some help from gun control, which they also enforce. Gun control, by the way, demonstrates that people do fear the police more than criminals – otherwise no one would fol-

Continues on Page 18

Continued from Page 17 - Abolish the Police

low these gun laws. Instead, law-abiding folks know the risk of being caged for this non-crime is more significant than the risk of being caught unarmed by a private thug. So does gun control operate in preserving the advantage for private criminals. Abolishing the police outright, even if it put upward pressure on crime rates, would probably overall lead to fewer crimes because of the elimination of the criminality incited and encouraged by state activity.

Third and most important, the police themselves routinely violate the rights of innocent people as a major component of their job description. The greater their numbers, financing and power, the worse it gets. It is the job of police to harass the innocent, to jail people for victimless crimes, to stop people for minor traffic violations, to trick people into admitting law breaking, to fulfill quotas for arrests, and to generally instill in the community a fear and awe of the state. It is almost impossible to be a police officer on the beat and not violate the non-aggression principle on a regular basis. As a material fact, most police conducting arrests on the street are committing acts of kidnapping, theft, trespass, and invasion. Those who arrest people who end up in prison are effectively accessories to rape and assault.

Even if having police is a desirable thing, we cannot do so safely until the bad laws are off the books, and then it would be best to fire all police and start over. If having had a severe criminal record tends to disqualify people from the job, so too must having been a reputable police officer. If I am too harsh in this regard, it is just one more reason to abolish the government's police and allow for the market to take over. Allow entrepreneurs to decide which former government police are redeemable and employable as private security and which are not.

What to do about violent thugs? The market, social norms, private security, the wonders and corollary institutions of private property, gated communities, private gun ownership, religious values – all the blessings of civil society are on our side. But the police rarely are. When a violent criminal kills or assaults or rapes or steals,

we all condemn it, and we can find a way to deal with it when the criminals are not protected by the system. But what about when the criminals are the system?

Private security is already a greater bulwark against violent and property crime than many people realize. As of 1997, according to the *Economist* ([as cited by Robert Higgs](#)):

There are three times as many private policemen as public ones.... Americans also spend a lot more on private security (about \$90 billion a year) than they do, through tax dollars, on the public police (\$40 billion). Even the government itself spends more hiring private guards than it does paying for police forces.

For a decade and a half, we have had three times as many private guards as public ones, yet it is an oddity indeed to hear about their abuses, unlike those of the police that make the papers every day – and that's just counting reported offenses. It should be no wonder. As market actors, private security guards are generally heroic defenders of property, commerce and life, and are liable for the wrong they do, unlike the state's armed agents, who work for an institution of monopoly, theft, kidnapping, rape rooms and murder.

Can we really survive without government police? When we consider how much they do to disrupt civil society, it would seem obvious that we can. The police, on balance, are a force for decivilization and disorder. They commit massive violations of person and property. They enforce gun and drug laws that basically create organized crime and breed gang activity. Most of what they do encourages, rather than diminishes, violence. Despite all this, America remains a fairly civilized place. If we survived this long with the police, just imagine how much better off we'd be without them.



Anthony Gregory is research editor at the [Independent Institute](#), policy adviser at [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#). See his website: [AnthonyGregory.com](#)

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

13 Videos from Libertopia 2011

by Woody in Ventura

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



change the World.

It is a unique experience...a 3 day celebration of our individuality and diversity packed with renowned speakers, workshops, panels, parties, banquets, music, film, art, literature, commerce, exhibitors, themed camps, performers, social networking and much more!

It's more than a conference...more than a festival...it's our future! Why? It leaves behind the least attractive aspects of conference and festivals while encouraging a big participatory element. Libertopia also is more than "libertarian." It's voluntaryist to the core – bypassing and transcending politics completely. Finally, it's kind of a model for us and a starting-point for a society of the future. It's a kernel of something we'll need more of very soon – especially as we watch coercive institutions begin to implode one by one. And that's part of the reason we chose San Diego as our home this year.

Visit the website at Libertopia.Org

Here are 13 awesome videos from Libertopia 2011, which took place at the beautiful [Humphrey's Half Moon Inn & Suites and Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay](#), the weekend of October 21-23, 2011. Participants include Ernest Hancock, Stefan Molyneux, Butler, Shaffer, Marc Victor, Bill Buppert, Anthony Gregory, Larken Rose just to name a few.

Libertopia Welcome Intro Stefan Molyneux 10-21-11



Libertopia - Stefan Molyneux - The Future Will Be Nothing Like The Past 10-23-11

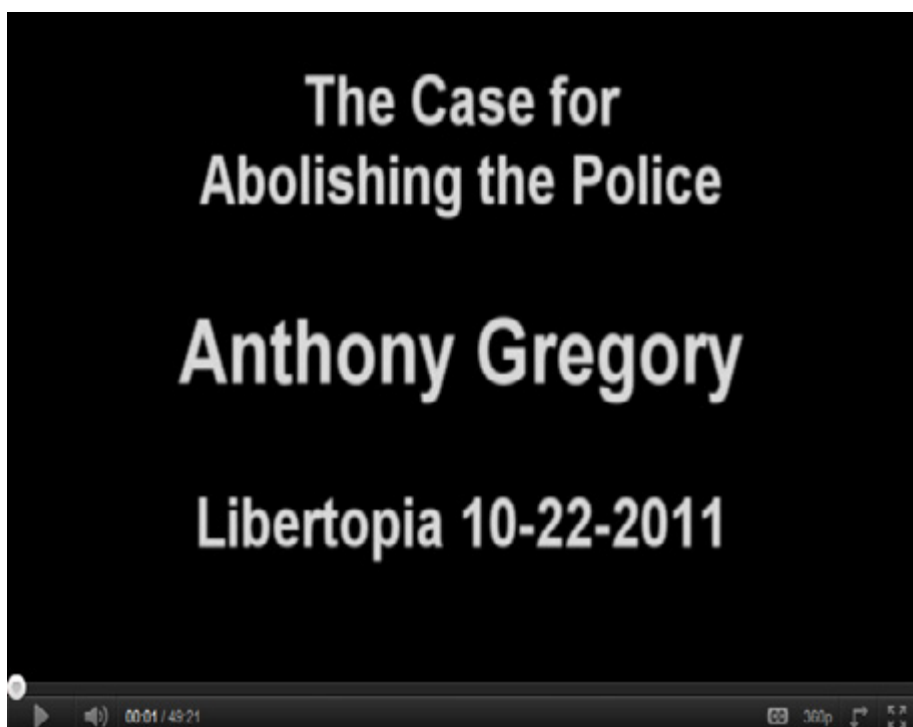


Libertopia - Larken Rose, Scott Beiser, Robert Anthony Peters - Entertainment



Panel 10-21-11

Libertopia - AnthonyGregory 10-22-11



The Case For Abolishing The Police

Libertopia - Living Free and Happy in



an Unfree World - John Rafenello 10-21-11

Libertopia - Individual Strategies To



Get To Libertopia 10-23-2011

Libertopia Panel - Meet The A Team 10-23-2011

Stefan Molyneux, Larken Rose, Marc Stevens, Butler Shaffer



Libertopia - Marc Victor 10-21-2011 Dealing With The Kings Men



Continues on Page 20

Continued from Page 19 - 13 Videos from Libertopia 2011

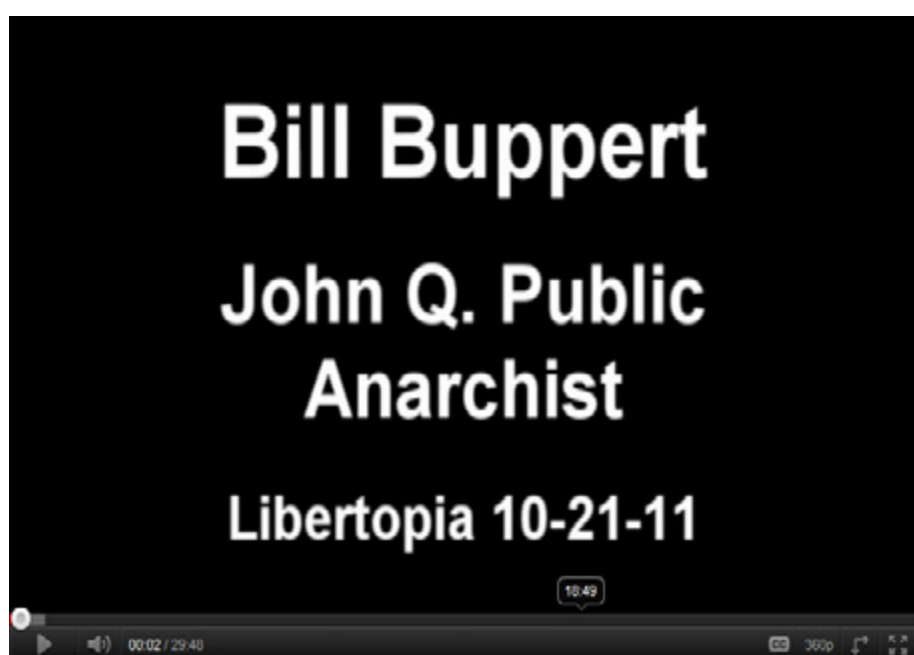
Libertopia - Mark Stevens 10-22-11
Effective Damage Control



Libertopia - Bill Buppert 10-22-11
Private Security And The Post-State World



Libertopia - Bill Buppert 10-21-11
John Q. Public



Libertopia - Molyneux/Hancock Debate 10-23-11
Politics, Passion and Progress: Time To Abandon the Electoral Process?



Libertopia - Larken Rose 10-22-11
Seeing The Future



Here is a favorite video of Woody's he wanted to share with you-it was his first youtube [Season of Treason](#).

These videos were brought to you by Woody in Ventruea. You can view his other videos on his YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_cL00Ja4ScI.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Copblock at Libertopia

By Copblock.org

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THIS past weekend, Copblock participated in [Libertopia](#), which took place at [Humphrey's Half Moon Inn](#) in San Diego, CA. Hum-

phrey's is a lush hotel reminiscent of a Polynesian resort, located on Shelter Island in San Diego.

Stefan Molyneux was Master of Ceremonies, and kicked off the event with an opening speech on Friday morning, as Drew, Nick, and I set up shop and offered a wide variety of T-shirts, sweatshirts, informational material, pins, hats, and other gear. All weekend, we handed out fliers on tips for interacting with police, ways to get involved with Copblock, and talked to attendees about police accountability. We met many intriguing and enthusiastic people who were interested in and supportive of Copblock's efforts to document police and raise awareness about police brutality.

Others exhibitors included [Freedoms Phoenix](#), [Antiwar.com](#), [Students For Liberty](#), [The Free State Project](#), [Fr33minds.com](#), [LOLA](#), among others.

The event, which was October 21-23, featured many fantastic speakers. To see some of the speeches, just go to [Youtube.com](#) and search "Libertopia." Of particular relevance was [Marc J. Victor](#), a criminal defense attorney, who spoke extensively about why you should never talk to cops, regardless of whether you think you are guilty or not. In addition, Anthony Gregory lectured on [The Case for Abolishing Police](#), and Bill Buppert talked about [Private Security in the Post-State World](#).

During the down times, attendees freely smoked weed, ate marijuana lollipops, openly carried firearms, and drank. Unfortunately, other hotel guests complained about the open carry of firearms, and on Saturday, the hotel asked Libertopia open carriers to refrain from doing so. During an open mic moment, attendees were given an opportunity to share any thoughts, suggestions, ideas, or promote their organizations. Particularly striking to me was one guy from Pennsylvania. Perhaps

[George Sand, CopBlocking at Libertopia, San Diego Oct, 21st - 23rd](#)

the fact that he was surrounded by freedom-



lovers had warped his view of the state of California – but he said something to the effect that California seemed to be a refreshing slice of freedom. As Drew correctly stated, "California is a statist's wet dream," so I can only imagine how bad Pennsylvania must be!

On Saturday night, Drew and Nick helped me and some friends put on a quick Copblock karaoke session in between the bands that were performing. Video will follow soon, but for now feel free to check out [Drew's badass version](#) of it from Porcfest (warning: not for children's ears).

On the last day of Libertopia, some cops



walked in, uninvited. They swaggered across the exhibitor area towards the Copblock booth and did a double take when they saw our sign. I said "Hello, officer" to each one as he approached, but otherwise ignored them. One of them took a

"Badges Don't Grant Extra Rights" business card.

Overall, Libertopia was an awesome time. If you didn't make it this year, hopefully you can come next year. It will be at the same location, at Humphrey's, October 19-21, 2012.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Creating Libertopia

by Michael Strong

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



MANY of us have become convinced that the coercive nation-state is itself the source of many of our problems, and that if people were allowed to make voluntary agreements amongst themselves, without a coercive nation-state interfering, then life would become rapidly better for the vast majority of the world's population. But once we have swallowed the red pill, what do we do? Live in a state of despair, frustration, and moral outrage?

We need a specific, practical strategy for releasing humanity from statism. I see the rise of Free Cities in the 21st century to be the most promising such strategy. Free Cities are autonomous or quasi-autonomous city-scale regions, that may be located within existing nation states, but which feature distinct legal systems and governance. By this definition, there is a sense in which Hong Kong and Singapore are Free Cities, and Shenzhen and Dubai might be thought of as quasi-Free Cities. In July 2011, the government of Honduras passed legislation that authorizes the creation of Special Development Regions with largely autonomous legal systems; these may give rise to a new generation of deliberately authorized Free Cities. Other governments in developing nations are considering similar proposals as a means of attracting investment.

For the most part libertarians have been focused on either argumentation or political activism. The Free Cities movement is fundamentally different in that it is essentially an entrepreneurial initiative, with tremendous upside profit opportunities. The quality of the legal system determines the prosperity of a region; the cases of North and South Korea and East and West Germany are well known. Developing nations consistently rank lower in economic freedom indices than do developed nations; as nations increase their levels of economic freedom, both by means of deregulation as well as by means of improvements in their judicial systems, they typically attract more investment and become more prosperous. The Free Cities movement may be regarded as an entrepreneurial approach to real estate development and global poverty alleviation.

In order to understand how the Free Cities movement can become a practical strategy for creating Libertopia consider the fundamental economics of installing higher quality legal systems in regions with poor legal systems. I compare such "entrepreneurial creation of legal systems" to a change in zoning: Real estate developers often work to change the zoning of a parcel of real estate from residential or industrial to commercial. In many circumstances, such a change in zoning can increase the value of a parcel of land by 2x or 3x overnight. But successful free zones have a track record of increasing land values 50x or 100x. Both Shenzhen and Dubai were low value land thirty years ago; now both are spectacular metropolises featuring high value urban real estate (Shenzhen has grown 30% per year for thirty years, Dubai roughly 20% per year for twenty years). Hong Kong and Singapore were both as poor as some African nations in 1960, both are among the wealthiest entities on earth today. Considered as a rezoning issue, the entire developing world may be seen as poorly zoned real estate that, if rezoned with legal systems that are good for business, will result in significant land value gains.

Such rezoning will also create broad-based prosperity around the world. An unskilled Mexican laborer experiences a 10x to 20x increase in wages by crossing from Mexico into the U.S. Nations such as South Korea, Taiwan, Mauritius, and Ireland moved from lower income to middle income by means of export processing zones that jump-started commercial activity and eventually led to broader economic liberalization (a case can be made that a similar process is taking place in Mexico, India, and China as well).

Unlike development economists, who are still not sure where prosperity comes from, the leaders of more and more nations are emulating these success stories. Paul Kagame, the President of Rwanda, is explicitly modeling Rwandan development policy on that of Singapore, and the Honduran leaders who created the legislation authorizing Special Development Regions there explicitly modeled their strategy on the examples of Hong Kong, Singapore, Shenzhen, and Dubai. As more developing world leaders realize that the World Bank development economists are clueless, but that in the real world the path to prosperity has been obvious since 1776, more leaders will experiment with free zones and Free Cities.

The early free zones were largely export processing zones. Even in protectionist, crony capitalist regimes some business and political leaders (and they were often more or less the same) realized that they could make more money in an export processing region than they could simply by means of traditional rent-seeking. By creating exemptions from various taxes and regulations for goods produced in these zones, a subset of rent-seeking elites started to create significantly more wealth than they did through rent-seeking. In some cases, other rent-seeking elites lobbied for similar freedoms so that they, too, could take advantage of the extraordinary wealth creation opportunities available in such zones. This is the dynamic that led to increased economic freedom, beginning with zones, in South Korea, Taiwan, Mauritius, Ireland, Mexico, India, and China.

But these first-generation zones were often crony capitalist arrangements that depended on personal relationships in government for temporary reductions in taxes and regulation. The newer generation entities, the best examples of which are the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the Honduran Special Development Regions (SDR) are entirely new legal systems with significant operational autonomy. The DIFC was created in 2003 in a deliberate gambit to create a world-class financial center in Dubai. In order to attract leading financial entities, the DIFC hired a retired prestigious British commercial law judge to administer British common law within the 110 acres of the DIFC.

While criminal and family law remained Sharia law, all commercial transactions are based on British common law. The DIFC websites are designed to be customer friendly, with judicial precedents published so that current and prospective customers (many of which are global financial entities such as Goldman Sachs, Chase, etc.) know exactly the boundary between, say, criminal law and commercial law, and how that boundary has been defined. The result: In just eight years the barren desert soil on which the DIFC was designated in 2003 has become 110

Continues on Page 23

Continued from Page 22 - Creating Libertopia

acres of densely built real estate on which stands the 16th most important financial center in the world today.

The Honduran SDR legislation is relatively recent (July 2011) and thus a real-world implementation does not yet exist. But imagine having, say, a region with default Texas law and, more importantly, the freedom to contract around that law to create private communities with entrepreneurially-created legal systems - all within a region featuring privately supplied security, infrastructure, etc. of first world quality. In essence, Honduras is allowing for the creation of regions that are more economically free than Hong Kong, in which law, security, education, health care, infrastructure, etc. may all be supplied by private entrepreneurs (subject to various qualifications).

Some libertarian observers point out that the Honduran legislation does not guarantee absolute sovereign freedom. There are provisions, for instance, that require that 95% of jobs go to Hondurans - the legislation is designed by Hondurans to benefit Hondurans, after all.

The fact is that no one knows exactly how much freedom will be allowed (I am working with a group that is designing a legal strategy to optimize the opportunities for commercial development in Honduras, details available upon request). But from the long-term perspective of moving towards Libertopia, the most important fact about the Honduran example is simply the precedent: A developing nation has democratically voted to allow for the creation of an autonomous legal system as a means for attracting investment and creating prosperity.

Statism is the deepest religion of modernity: The vast majority of people take it for granted that The State = The Legal System. Indeed, few can imagine an alternative world. Consider how disruptive the DIFC example (initiated by the ruling family of Dubai) and the Honduran example (the first democratic example) is to that equation. Once people realize that a legal system is simply a means of achieving an end (e.g. attracting investment and creating prosperity) and NOT an essential component of The State, we've achieved a fundamental conceptual breakthrough. Why not allow entrepreneurs to

create better legal systems for various purposes? Just as entrepreneurs have transformed technology by means of creative destruction, why not let entrepreneurs transform law and governance by means of creative destruction?

What is appealing about this approach is that it shifts the libertarian movement out of ideological debate and conventional political activism and towards the creation of an exciting, dynamic, highly profitable industry based on the entrepreneurial creation of legal systems around the world. Better yet, it does so while simultaneously capturing the moral and intellectual high ground (eliminating global poverty by means of real world solutions that work is both morally and intellectually superior to anything The Statists have to offer).

Developing nations are likely to take the lead in supporting the creation of such an industry simply because they face an urgent need to attract capital and talent in a globally competitive world. But once it becomes obvious (even to development economists) that The State is NOT identical to the legal system, once we've seen dozens of examples of the entrepreneurial creation of legal systems, the purpose of The State will begin to become less obvious.

Suppose, for example, that Honduras (or some other country) finds that 60%, or 90% of its economic activity takes place in Special Development Regions. And suppose that both the individuals and the organizations based in those regions understand the relationship between freedom and prosperity (a crucial feature: these entities should feature ubiquitous education campaigns to ensure that everyone understands this relationship). Then even in a democratic nation we have the foundation for a majoritarian lobby on behalf of allowing even more autonomy, and prosperity, to these regions. This is especially likely to take place if ordinary people are given a financial stake in Free City development projects, such that they personally and directly benefit from the increases in land values. I see the strategy of distributing shares in such real estate development projects to voters as the "Georgist Libertarian End Game" that is designed to overthrow The State.

Continues on Page 24

Continued from Page 23 - Creating Libertopia

The conventional dogma is that The State is required for administering defense, law, and police, at a minimum. Once we have a growing number of examples in which the legal and security systems are administered by a choice of private providers, and that those private providers are the leading sources of prosperity in developing nations, and the leading source of innovations in quality globally, the rationale for The State as we know it becomes attenuated. With the bulk of economic activity around the world taking place in prosperous Free Cities, we may even see a shift away from the wars of aggression that characterize State-level behavior, and towards a more stable (albeit not perfect) state of Peace through Commerce. If an increasing proportion of the world's economic activity is taking place in enclaves of private law, and it becomes widely known that poor nations become prosperous quickly by means of allowing for such enclaves or private law, ordinary people will begin to question the rationale for The State.

For instance although the U.S. Post Office continues to exist, more and more people are wondering why we continue to subsidize an organization that exists primarily to shuffle around junk mail when we've got cell phones, texting, email, FedEx, UPS, DHL, etc. Or, to take a different example, although Britain still has a Royal Family, for the most part it has become harmless, decorative, and at least slightly ridiculous. It may be that by means of the path sketched above, The State may continue to exist for some time to come; the romance of The State is even deeper than is the romance of USPS ("Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays

these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.") or Britain's Royal Family. But if we can shift to a world in which each upcoming generation regards the very existence of The State as at least slightly ridiculous ("We're spending money on what exactly?"), we are on the path to a peaceful, prosperous society for all.

There are many challenging practical steps involved in making the foregoing vision a reality. This is by no means a prediction. It is instead a blueprint for an entrepreneurial course of action, one that will involve real estate developers, marketers, public relations experts, educators, legal system entrepreneurs, infrastructure developers, and thousands of other nuts-and-bolts professionals. There will be many failures and half-baked "successes" along the way. But in order to move from fantasy to reality, we first need a vision, and then a plan. Something like the foregoing vision will allow for the creation of many thousands of plans, some of which will be executed successfully, some of which may lead to the reality described above.



Michael Strong is a co-founder of Freedom Lights Our World (FLOW), Conscious Capitalism, and the Free Cities Institute and the lead author of **Be the Solution: How Entrepreneurs and Conscious Capitalists Can Solve All the World's Problems**. He blogs at Let a Thousand Nations Bloom, <http://athousandnations.com/>, and **The Purpose of Education Is Happiness and Well-Being for All**, <http://thepurposeofeducation.wordpress.com/>. He may be reached at michael@flowidealism.org.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

What About the Roads?

by Stefan Molyneux

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THE question of roads always seems to arise as a central objection to a stateless society – which makes perfect sense in a way, because it is a form of public ownership that we have all experienced firsthand, and because it can be hard to picture what they may look like in the absence of a government.

The alternative to state-funded roads is generally conceived to be toll-based roads. This is considered a disastrous solution, because who wants to stop every block to put a quarter in a meter?

Remembering our methodology from above, it is essential that we put ourselves into the mind of a road developer, sitting on the other side of that table, attempting to sell us access to his roads.

Imagine that you have sunk your life savings into building a complicated network of roads. If you don't attract drivers who are willing to pay to use them, you are finished – your children are going to cry themselves to sleep with hunger.

When you stand up to make a presentation to a group of potential customers – drivers – are you seriously going to tell them that in order to drive a half a mile to pick up a loaf of bread, they are going to have to stop a few times to put quarters into a toll meter?

Of course not.

So – how are you going to convince drivers to use your roads?

For those who have not spent any time – or blood – in the entrepreneurial world, this is exactly how almost all companies are funded. You take your business venture to a group of investors, who play a very serious game of “devil's advocate,” trying to find holes in your business plan.

If your entire fortune hung in the balance, how would you answer these objections? If you cannot provide good answers, you will never get to sell your roads.

I am certainly no expert in construction – I was an entrepreneur in the software world – but I can tell you some possible answers that I would explore in order to prepare for such a meeting. I can also tell you that none of them would involve having drivers stop every few minutes to push change into a slot.

If I desperately wanted to build roads in a stateless society, I would first approach construction companies who wanted to build houses or malls in some area not currently served by a road. If you want to build a mall a few miles out of town, you're not likely to attract many investors unless your business plan includes road access to the mall, since there are very few people who enjoy the prospect of a bracing hike to and from a “Target” store.

If you are developing a housing complex, you will face exactly the same requirement – it is true that you can sell houses without road access, but you will not be able to sell them for more than it costs to build them.

So there are really two kinds of roads, in two kinds of environments – highways and intercity roads, and already-existing and new roads.

NEW ROADS

It is easy for us to understand that highways to new places will be built in the free market, for the simple reason that if you cannot build a highway to that new place, that new place will never come into existence. Secondly, there is not much point building a highway to a new housing development, without building roads from the highway to and within the housing development.

Thus, anything that is built that is new will only be built if roads to access it are constructed at the same time.

If I want to buy a new house somewhere outside of town, and a new highway and new roads are built to accommodate my desire, I will certainly be very interested in the long-term quality of the roads that have been built, since so much of my property's value hinges upon easy and comfortable access to it.

Thus, the long-term quality of these roads will be a significant factor – probably a deciding one – in my decision to buy a house. Road quality is as important as the house's construction quality when it comes to evaluating the value of a property. How much would you pay for a million-dollar mansion in the middle of the Amazon forest, with no road access? Assuming you are not Howard Hughes, probably nothing at all.

What about the danger that someone sells me a house, and then jacks up the price of the road maintenance?

Knowing that this is a risk, when I was negotiating my mortgage, I would ensure that a built-in and fixed price for road maintenance was included in my mortgage terms. I would also want the right to demand an open bid on road maintenance services when the contract came up for renewal.

We can all understand that the construction and maintenance of new buildings – commercial or residential – can only occur with high quality road access. (We can see this kind of phenomenon, to a smaller degree, in the fact that almost no malls are built without parking spaces, or houses without driveways and garages.)

So really, the question of road construction and maintenance – as far as it is raised as an objection to a stateless society – only hinges on existing roads, not new ones.

THE STATIST PONY

Imagine some communist country which provided out of the public purse a pony for each girl on her sixteenth birthday. Now, imagine that some crazy capitalist thinker came along and said that this country should switch from communism to the free market.

Naturally, just about everyone would then demand: “But how will each girl get a free pony on her sixteenth birthday?”

Of course, the answer is that she will not – but it may very well be asked whether the pony is really such an absolute necessity for every girl.

Continues on Page 26

Continued from Page 25 - What About the Roads?

Government roads are just such a kind of “statist pony” – they are extravagantly wasteful, badly planned and allocated, and facilitate all sorts of dangerous and inefficient behaviors, just like every other government program on the planet. There is thus no possibility that a free market system of roads will look exactly the same as a statist system – because drivers will have to pay for road use directly, rather than offloading the total costs to taxpayers as a whole.

Thus when picturing a free system of roads, the question becomes: what will we as drivers be happy to pay for?

Certainly we will pay for safety, which we currently do not receive. We get jolting and wasteful traffic lights instead of gentle and fluid roundabouts. We get endless predatory ticketing instead of road systems that promote safety. We get endless construction that does not take place in the dark of night, but rather in the agonizing slow motion of rush hour. We get a sagging expansion of our cities, because developers do not have to pay for the costs of the roads that lead to their houses, office buildings, factories and shopping malls. We get eighteen-wheeler trucks blaring and rocketing beside small passenger cars. We do not see businesses adapting to the monetary and social costs of rush hour, because they do not face increased demand in wages because traveling in rush-hour costs more. Thus everyone has to start at nine a.m. or thereabouts.

Like every other government program, roads and traffic control are run for the profit of special interests – construction companies, unions, bureaucrats and cops, primarily – and not for the sake of the end users, the drivers. The tens of thousands of deaths – and hundreds of thousands of injuries – that occur annually in the United States alone, would be a completely unacceptable body count in any private industry. Experiments such as roundabouts, removing traffic signs and lanes, charging a premium for high-volume traffic and so on – all of which have been proven to increase efficiency and safety – simply do not spread across the system, any more than salmon steaks showed up in your average Stalinist store.

EXISTING CITY ROADS

No matter what happens to the highway system in general, we all appreciate that city roads have to be maintained. How can this happen without a toll at every corner?

If we look at the average downtown core, it is largely composed of shops and businesses. Is it beyond the pale of human thought to imagine that the stores and businesses on a particular city block would be able to get together and all chip in for a relatively modest fund to maintain the roads and sidewalks around them – particularly when they no longer have to pay property and profit taxes to the State?

If we do believe that this is impossible, then we face exactly the same problem that we faced before about democracy. The central idea of democracy is that citizens are able to put aside their own petty personal self-interest and vote according to their conscience, with an eye to the collective good of society. If we accept that human beings are capable of voting in this way, then surely we can accept that they can put a few bucks a month into a common pot to pay for the roads that bring customers and employees to them. If we do not think that human beings can organize themselves to take care of a few

hundred meters of roads that they directly benefit from, then they will never be able to vote for political candidates with any thought for the common good, and democracy must be abolished.

Either way, we end up with a stateless society. There are, of course, many other ways to charge for roads in a free society. GPS tracking devices can effortlessly monitor the movements of cars, and a single bill can be sent, and the proceeds apportioned out to the road companies involved.

Furthermore, non-dangerous advertising could very easily subsidize the cost of roads – one possibility that springs to mind is radio commercials that would be inserted into programs based on the location of drivers, so that they did not provide visual distractions.

A PREDATORY ROAD MONOPOLY?

All right, you may say, but what about the reality that highways – and city roads – are extremely non-competitive situations, since no one is going to build a highway next to another highway and compete with it?

That is somewhat true, although it is important to be precise in terms of what is meant by the word “competition.”

Brad Pitt has a monopoly on Brad Pitt – or at least, he did before he got married. However, Brad Pitt still faces competition – not just with other actors, but rather with everything else that human beings could be doing instead of going to see a Brad Pitt movie. He competes with bowling, sex, napping, reading books on anarchy – everything you could imagine! Thus, although he has a monopoly on Brad Pitt, he does not have a monopoly on you. (That is the difference between the government and the free market – the government does have a monopoly on you, because it initiates the use of force against you.)

In the same way, any particular highway may have a monopoly on getting from A to B in the straightest line – but that does not mean that it has a coercive and exclusive hold over everyone’s entire decision-making processes.

Let us take an example of an “evil capitalist highway robber baron” named Jacques, who decides to start jacking up the rates for any driver using his highway.

First of all, Jacques will not be making this decision in a vacuum. After roads become privatized, everyone who buys a house who relies on a particular highway will be fully aware of their vulnerability to increased road tolls in the future. As an enterprising construction capitalist, I would sweeten the pot for people in this regard by negotiating a twenty year guarantee with Jacques that he would not raise their prices any more than one or two percentage points a year. (This highlights again a very essential aspect of understanding how a stateless society works, which is that obvious worries will always be addressed and alleviated ahead of time. If people are afraid that someone is going to jack up their road prices, they will simply negotiate fixed fees ahead of time – which is the essence of mortgages and car payments of course.)

However, let us imagine that no binding contracts limit Jacques’s ability to raise his prices, and one day he announces that his rates are going to triple.

Continues on Page 27

Continued from Page 26 - What About the Roads?

What happens then?

Well, people are not about to move because the price of their road travel is going up, so that is not likely to be an issue – what they will do, however, is go to their bosses and say that they need a raise.

Bosses – having been one myself – are notoriously cheap individuals, who do not want to pay a penny more than they have to for what they want. If I were a boss in this situation, I would explore other alternatives to giving raises.

For instance, I might offer them a day or two a week to work at home. Alternatively, since no doubt Jacques's prices are higher during rush-hour, I would also offer more flexible hours to those who wanted them, so that they would not have to pay a premium to come to work at a specific time.

If I were another kind of entrepreneur, I would set up a website dedicated to helping people find carpooling, so that people would end up paying less.

Also, the increased prices per vehicle might very well make it economically viable to start running buses along the highway.

In this way, Jacques might gain a temporary increase in his revenues, but consumers would simply adapt to his increased prices, in such a way that this increase could not be both significant and permanent.

In other words, by drastically raising his prices, all that Jacques is really doing is teaching people to find alternatives to using his highway. He is training them to avoid his service – and one of the terrible aspects of this practice is that once people get used to working at home or car pooling, not all of them will revert to their old habits if he drops his prices.

Jacques also creates another significant risk, which can easily escape the inexperienced eye.

By increasing the price of his highway, Jacques has reduced the collective wealth of entire neighborhoods to a far greater degree than he has increased his own wealth specifically. Of course, no one expects Jacques to be motivated by some abstract considerations of social wealth, but nonetheless he is creating a very dangerous situation.

Almost all neighborhoods have some sort of Business Association, where members meet to discuss a variety of collective concerns. This Association will certainly meet – and pointedly not invite Jacques – a day or two after he jacks up his prices, in order to figure out what they should do. They will likely decide to ostracize Jacques, which will certainly have a negative effect on his ability to move with ease and profit in the business world, since so many deals are consummated through existing relationships.

It is very possible that this form of business ostracism will cost Jacques more than he can possibly make by raising his rates, especially after the inevitable consumer adaptation.

However, perhaps Jacques doesn't care about these particular business relationships – it does not matter, his ability to do business is still irretrievably harmed.

Whomever Jacques wants to do business with next will be fully aware that he has a habit of

outrageously jacking up his prices without warning. Therefore, if someone has a choice about doing business with Jacques, he will very likely refrain.

Anyone who does end up wanting to – or having to – do business with Jacques will have to do far more due diligence and legal wrangling than before his fears were elevated by Jacques's deleterious and unpredictable business practices. Thus it is enormously unlikely that jacking up his prices will end up having a permanent and positive effect on Jacques's profits.

However, to take the argument to its extreme case, let us say that Jacques does somehow end up creating a permanent and positive enormous profit.

His actions have created a large number of business people who have a direct interest in reducing those prices again – all those people whose property values and business expenses have been negatively impacted by Jacques's price increase.

The Business Association members would be highly motivated to plot and execute a takeover of Jacques's highway business, in order to restore their own property and business values. Whatever debts they may incur in this process will be more than recompensed by the increase in these values. Since the personal profits that Jacques is accruing remain far less than the collective costs he is inflicting on others, he remains highly vulnerable and exposed to a takeover bid, either hostile or friendly.

Of course, the Business Association members are unlikely to be experts at running a highway, so they would more likely act as investors for competing highway companies, to fund an expansion takeover, on the condition that this new company would guarantee a return to the original rates, along with a longer-term guarantee of reasonable rate increases.

Thus in general the instability, customer alienation, ostracism and endless competitive risks introduced by sudden and large price increases do not pay off at all, and in fact threaten the viability of the business as a whole. In the example above, we have simplified the scenario by pretending that Jacques can make all of these decisions on his own, which would never be the case in any free market. Any industry that has a potential for a monopoly would require a large amount of capital investment and management, which comes with stockholders, investors, and a board of directors. Jacques would not have the right or the ability to make significant decisions about price without the support of the majority of the interested stakeholders – all of whom would view, and quite rightly too, the jacking up of prices as far too threatening to the long-term value of their investment.

MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY?

We could imagine a scenario where Jacques is able to build a \$500 million dollar highway out of his own pocket, because he has inherited billions or something like that – but it seems very unlikely that his venture would succeed in the long run, because people would be hesitant to get into business with someone who does not have a multitude of other interested parties to temper his judgment, and who retains a tyrannical level of control over his own organization. For instance, people do not want to get heavily involved in a company without a succession plan, and having a single “dictator” in a compa-

Continues on Page 28

Continued from Page 27 - What About the Roads?

ny does not bode well for its long-term success. If Jacques is not actively grooming a number of successors, and if he then gets hit by a bus, no one will be able to step into his shoes, and his company will fail. This level of risk would be too high for most other companies, since it would take a number of years to build his highway, and Jacques's company could collapse at any time, leaving bills unpaid and orders unfulfilled. If Jacques insisted upon these conditions, all that he would be revealing would be his own lack of business judgment, which would also cause more experienced businesspeople to shy away from getting involved with him. Thus it seems

exceedingly unlikely that Jacques would be able to build such a capital-intensive structure while retaining dictatorial control over the company.

I do apologize for the detailed and somewhat technical nature of the above explanation, but I do think that it is essential to understand that there are always two sides to every negotiation. In a free society, there are a near-infinite set of options available to peacefully address what could be considered sub-optimal business practices on the part of others.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Finally, let us look at how the provision of automobile insurance would affect the safety of roads. I

n most Western countries, automobile insurance is compulsory – I believe that this would continue to be the case in practice, if not in principle, in a free society.

I would much prefer to use someone's roads if I could know for certain that all the other drivers carried insurance. Thus it seems very likely that insurance would be required for anyone traveling on a road. (How could this be enforced? A number of options spring to mind, most notably that currency companies would not process gas purchases from uninsured drivers.)

Naturally, the fewer car accidents there are, the more car insurance companies can make in profit. This direct correlation is one of the core foundations to the achievement of security in a stateless society. If, say, Jacques's roads are unsafe, then the car insurance companies will charge a premium for anyone who wants to drive on

them – thus cutting into Jacques's profits considerably. This will drive Jacques to invest in road improvements.

At the moment, insurance companies have no direct control over government road policies, and so these companies can only compete on price, not on the proactive promotion of road safety. However, when competition for roads heats up through privatization – and remember, the competition is not just between different road systems, but also between using roads and not using them – insurance companies will be forced to compete on creating the safest possible roads, in order to keep their prices as low as possible.

When the costs of roads are directly borne by the drivers, the benefits are both staggering and almost limitless. Without the ability to externalize the cost of roads to other taxpayers, drivers can make more informed and rational decisions about the costs and benefits of driving. Where to live, how far to commute, whether to drive in rush hour, whether to use public transit, whether to carpool, whether to work from home – all of these decisions are fundamentally driven by cost, but in a statist society, these decisions almost always turn out to be disastrous, because the simple and rational efficiency of the price mechanism is not allowed to function, to the detriment of resource consumption, the health of the environment, and the quality of life for literally hundreds of millions of people.

AN EXAMPLE OF PRIVATE ROADS

If I were to say that roads were not only to be provided by the free market, but that they should be enclosed under a roof, cooled in the summer and heated in the winter, that all stairs should in fact be escalators, that all corners should be landscaped with plants and fountains, and patrolled by security guards – surely you would say that this would be an outlandish standard, which could never be achieved in the free market.

Well, that is exactly what a mall is.

Never underestimate what the free market can provide.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Curing Olives for Eating by Powell Gammill

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THIS article was completely inspired and very loosely based upon a talk that Ivan Monoo-gian recently gave on curing and eating olives at the monthly Arizona Rare Fruit Grower's meeting.

I never realized how easy -- but water consuming -- it was to "cure" olives. That is, make them fit to eat: They are extremely bitter off of the tree --yuck, I knew that! [An exception is a small olive called Throubes (an olive from the islands of Thassos or of Chalkidiki with bigger fruit, that's picked when **fully** mature), whose bitterness is removed by a microorganism present on the olive when the olive is fully ripe. When ripe they can be eaten directly off of the tree, and are shipped shriveled (crinkly) preserved in salt or in olive oil.]

Also, green olives are simply unripe black olives. [And those canned black olives are usually stained with iron-yum or air is bubbled through the lye curing solution to oxide green olives black = California black olives in cans... seriously?!] So you can get a twofer in taste sensations by harvesting olives at different stages. Green olives are harder than black olives, therefor some curing techniques work better on one or the other.

And the olives you buy in stores are usually cured using lye. The "traditional" non-lye methods (and lye has been used for thousands of years) result in a differenttasting olive... a fourfer ;-) Actually because there are several ways to cure olives each produces a slightly unique taste and using unripe green, in between (blonde) and ripe black olives gives the home preparer a lot of tastes and textures unavailable on the consumer market.

And I was privy to tasting several finishing (preserving) flavorings of green olives---and man was I hooked! Lemon flavored olives, or hot pepper or rosemary (I think?) flavored olives... either way, just plop some of whatever you can imagine in a jar with some olives (and you will have a lot of jars to experiment with) and you can have your own creations.

[Note: Olives are commercially grown primarily for their oil. While not discussing that in this article, usually where there are olives there are commercial small batch pressers if you are inclined to press your own. Also many olive tree varieties exist for oil not edibility---though they still make perfectly edible olives. The [main ones you see in stores](#) for food are Mission and Manzanillo varieties, with some Sevillano, Ascolano and Barouni. Other important edible varieties include the newly popular Kalamata, Hojiblanca, and Picholine olives. I include this in case you want to plant your own olive trees/shrubs. While self-fertile, cross pollinating between varieties increases yield. Olive trees tend to alternate bear, meaning one year a good yield of fruit the next year not so good.]

If you are lucky enough to live where olives grow and fruit you may have many neighbors and municipalities that use olive trees as decorative evergreen trees or shrubs/hedges. Olive trees look good, are easy to grow and propagate and use little additional water or resources. [Or they can be banned by governments as an invasive and allergenic species as birds spread seeds and the resulting wild-type olive trees are not useful except as rootstock.]

The fruit (olives) being bitter, many proud olive tree owners consider the fruit an annoying un-harvestable staining problem. They may spray them with a substance that prevents fruiting (and the olive tree's beautiful flowering). But they may just as likely be thrilled with someone wanting to harvest them and not want anything in return. At worst maybe a deal for a share of the bounty once you are done curing them. Harvest only off of the tree not olives (bruised) found on the ground.

And olive trees are prodigious. They produce a lot of fruit from September to November. Fruit that can be harvested green or black or in between.

Lidded 5 gallon food grade plastic buckets and a tarp can be used to collect the olives. Others use large plastic bags. Food grade buckets can be purchased, but plenty of restaurants toss them daily with their lids into the trash. Some people add water to the bucket so the olives are less likely to bruise.

Once you get the haul back to your place you can use the tarp to pick out any leaves or stems remaining. Also sort green olives from ripening olives (blonde) and process them separately. Toss any shriveled (dehydrated) olives as they won't cure properly. Someone suggested putting the biggest olives at the top of the bucket so when test sampling for curing progress you can see if the cure has penetrated all the way to the pit on the largest ones. Others sort large from small olives and process in separate batches to improve uniformity of cure.

Then choose your method of curing. They are **all** good and have good news / bad news.

Lye--a **caustic** not poisonous agent--freaks people out. It burns if swallowed or directly contacting skin and heats up on contacting water. But [food grade lye](#) (sodium hydroxide) is easily soaked out of the olives. And it can be used without breaking the skin of the olive. [The drug war has restricted lye purchases in many states. Be prepared to produce ID and have a record of your purchase made after telling whomever it is for olive curing...nice, eh?] It is not poisonous by itself but it is extremely alkaline in nature (pH=13) so if you ingest any in an olive not fully soaked clean of its lye it won't harm you (has a disagreeable soapy, slippery **feel** if alkaline conditions are still present).

All other methods (involving salt or brine) you must first break the skin and meat to assist the astringent (bitter) agent (called oleuropein and some phenols) present to leave and enter the surrounding water via osmosis (diffusion). Breaking the olive can be accomplished by a number of methods: (any way you readily can really) With olives in a plastic bag hit with any hard object (bat, 2 x 4, etc.), or poke holes with a fork or slit twice or more with a sharp knife to the pit if you prefer neat. Make sure to drop the punctured or sliced olives into water (maybe with a **little** lemon juice or cider vinegar added to lower the water's pH) immediately or the sliced area will oxidize and turn brown. This oxidation is harmless but you are shooting for a uniform color of the olive over time. I don't know if you can first "pit" (remove the pit, aka stone or seed) the uncured olive to break the skin but you can [manually carry this out](#) at some point (and stuff it in the end). With lye, the penetrating alkaline lye breaks the bonds of the bittering agent neutralizing it.

Continues on Page 30

Continued from Page 29 - Curing Olives for Eating

One of the great things about curing olives is it is forgiving. Not cured all the way? Re-add more curing agent with more time. For lye it is possible to over cure...the olive gets too soft. Too salty? Wash one or more further times. Et cetera. Too much of a seasoning? In that you may have a problem with removing some of it, but you can try. This is why some seasonings are added just before the product is finished lest they overwhelm the olive flavor.

Any guests trying your olives will be blown away as I was with the taste and texture of homemade olives.

The general outline of all the procedures are:

1. Essentially you gently gather unbruised clean olives off of the tree. Check for presence of a harmless but unappetizing maggot entry (olive fly) causes a small but obvious eighth of an inch circular crater scar in the olive if the fly is present in your area. Discard any olives with such a crater. Sort olives by color. Sort olives by size.
2. Pre-wash for some curing methods. Suggested not to pre-wash for the brining method.
3. Break, puncture or cut skin/meat of olive fruit to the pit. Not necessary for lye method.
4. Cure olives. Remove curing agent.
5. Bottle, or preserve olives (with seasoning if desired). Can pit and stuff at this point too. Olives can keep for two weeks to over a year depending upon storage method chosen.

I have linked to the best articles I could find (with recipes) on curing olives at the bottom of this article, and they are good ones. But moving past collecting and breaking the skin, general outlines of curing methods can be found below. They really aren't hard but can occur over a period of days to months and consume a lot of water. The shortest ones are more labor intensive. Fortunately the large amount of raw materials are not expensive. Salty waste is best poured down the drain. Alkaline waste (lye) is best poured down the drain or neutralized somewhat before pouring in the yard. I will say several authors expressed a preference for sea salt over Kosher in outcome flavor.

For example, one method (brining) uses a ratio of 1 gallon of room temperature water, plus one pound (16oz) of pickling, [sea](#) or [Kosher](#) salt (never use iodized salt) and 1 cup of white or red wine or wine or cider vinegar (provides the lactic acid producing bacteria / yeast and kick starts a fermentation environment). The solution is added to a bucket of olives, and they are weighted down with an inert object, such as a plate, so they are **fully** immersed to avoid oxidation and **lightly** sealed in their container. The gases of fermentation should be able to escape. After some weeks, the salinity drops from 10% to around 5 to 6%, once the water in the olives moves into solution and the salt moves into the olives. [Later in the curing process, if the fer-

mentation reaction prematurely slows down you can add a small amount of sugar to kick start it back up.] The olives are edible within 2 weeks to a month, but can be left to cure for up to three months. Take some out and sample them. ([wiki](#))

Curing: lye (fast but removes some olive flavor), dry salt (desiccates), brine (lactic acid production) and water (leaves olive flavor mostly intact **if** not overdone) methods ... each will impart different taste and texture to the olives.

Storage life varies with brining and preserving method and olive variety but can be extended with longer storage solutions (olive oil covered brine, refrigerator, freezing, drying, olive oil or canning)

1. **Water curing:** Good for large green olives. Water curing olives must first be cracked or cut as above. Place in a 5 gallon bucket. Place a dinner plate on top of the olives to prevent olives from floating. Fill bucket with water. Change two to three times a day for six to ten days. [This uses a lot of water. Consider dumping next to a tree instead of down a drain.] After about twelve washes taste test a sample olive until bitterness is gone or acceptable. Water curing usually has some degree of bitterness remaining but this is an often desirable characteristic of olives. I must warn you some people report up to 40 days required to remove bitterness with the water curing method (not enough or deep breaking of skin?!!!)...this can also wash out taste and make the olives too soft. Monitor carefully. CureOlives.Com



Proceed to finishing olives by refrigeration or preservation in brine. Water curing takes about a month, and the resulting olives are good, but not fabulous.

2. **Brine curing:** ([primary ref](#)) Brine curing is easy but it takes many months soaking time like a wine.

The salt is going into the olives and the oleuropein is diffusing out. Also your olives are fermenting; the fermentation is breaking down the oleuropein and produces lactic acid. That's why you never wash olives before brining — you want those natural bacteria and yeasts on

Continues on Page 31

Continued from Page 30 - Curing Olives for Eating

the outside of the olive to be present. The brine should darken, and you might get a scum on the top. That's OK. Change the brine every month or two, when it begins to look extra nasty. Don't re-rinse the olives, during changes, either, because you want the residue to act as a "starter" to get the next batch of brine going.

Keep in mind you will be in for the long haul: Olives picked in October are typically ready to eat in May or June.

Add seasonings (see below) after the New Year, otherwise you risk too much spice and not enough olive flavor; this is especially true of chiles. If you find you've gone too far, change the brine and don't add new seasonings, and let it steep for a few weeks. That should calm things down a bit.

Finishing: Drain a pound or so of the pickled olives, place in a clean jar and add one sliced garlic clove, 2 lemon wedges, a sprig of fresh dill and enough olive oil (1/2") to cover the olives. These olives will be ready to eat after two weeks and will happily store for several months in a cool, dark place.

3. [Salt curing](#) (dry): (recommended for large black olives)

[\[ref\]](#) Outdoors (reaching daytime highs of at least 85 degrees ideal), in a basket, burlap bag, or wooden box lined with burlap (to allow drying air to freely circulate), layer olives with coarse sea salt (you'll need about 1 pound of salt for every 2 pounds of olives). Leave the olives outside (with plastic underneath to catch the juices that drain) for 3-4 weeks, shaking daily and adding a little more salt every 2-3 days. Taste for bitterness (rinsing the olive first). When no longer bitter, you can either shake off excess salt and keep them that way, or shake off the excess salt and dip them quickly in boiling water to get rid of the salt. They can be marinated for a few days in olive oil to regain plumpness (this type of curing will shrivel olives), or just coat olives well with olive oil before eating.

4. **Lye curing:** [\[ref\]](#) Produces best textured, buttery smooth olive. Fast. Preferred method of home curers who have tried it—sorry but true. But with a large harvest of olives water, brining and lye methods produce different taste/textured olives that can all be cherished.

First thing you need to know about curing olives with lye is that you must use fresh green olives. Not black ones, not half-ripe ones. The lye pro-

cess softens the meat of the olive, so you want it as hard as possible [\[ref\]](#) and that is the greens.

Lye will burn. Avoid getting any on your skin or in your eyes. I assume you can keep it out of your mouth. You will see instructions to wear old clothes, long sleeve/ long pants, closed toed shoes, safety glasses and rubber gloves. The safety glasses and long rubber gloves is a good idea. Wash any skin or eye contacts with lye with cool running water for 15 minutes. Having lemon juice or vinegar around to help neutralize any spills or splashes too is a good idea. But preparing ahead is really all you need.

When you dissolve lye into cold/cool water it will heat the water up (an exothermic "heat producing" reaction). DON'T add water to lye (it could boil and expel lye outward). Add lye to water (don't use an aluminum or galvanized container as lye dissolves aluminum or galvanized metal). And add lye in small amounts (10% of the full amount) at a time while mixing to not heat up too fast. Once mixed and cooled back down then you can carefully add the lye solution to olives avoiding spilling and splashes.

Set up and leave your olives to cure near a drain so you can readily dispose of the caustic agent when it is time to drain the lye curing agent.

As was said above use food grade lye OR **100% pure** lye (no friggin additives). Lye is also called sodium hydroxide.

This curing is fast—up to 12 hours usually. With sample testing every couple of hours until lye has fully penetrated the olives.

After lye treatment, carefully and safely pour the caustic solution down the drain (it will clean out your pipes) and remove the lye from the olives with a series of long cold water rinses/soakings (which are not harmful, and can be dumped near trees in areas with overly acid soil) lasting days and then brine finishing/preservation is carried out. If brining for long term usage (more than two weeks) progressively more concentrated brine solutions are used to avoid shrinking the now porous olives.

This brining can be a nonfermenting or fermenting finishing process depending upon taste desired.

As was said above, if you should still have some lye remaining in your olives after these washes you won't be harmed, but you sure won't like the new flavor of your olives...continue washing.

Continues on Page 32

Continued from Page 31 - Curing Olives for Eating

5. [Oil curing](#): (I have never seen this anywhere else but this adjacent link and it is not referenced. Since the bittering agent is water soluble I am dubious as to its effectiveness. And does it work on green and black olives?)

Cover in olive oil and leave them alone for several months. Test for taste. [Ought to be amendable to a small batch test trial.]

Post curing---Finishing and Preservation.

At some point during or after curing you begin to finish (dress) the product (imparting its final flavor) or preserve your olives either in a refrigerator for the short haul or in a pickling agent for the long haul.

Finishing while still curing can be lowering the final salt concentration, adding spices and other flavorings, and adding lemon juice, wine or vinegar. This increases taste agreeability and preservation of the product. It gives you a final chance to make your mark upon the product. And it can be done on small batches using different combinations for different outcomes. [I also ponder if the recipe for sweet pickles would work on finishing olives....]

Ideas from various authors: Olives can be flavored by soaking them in various marinades, or removing the pit and stuffing them. Popular flavorings are herbs, spices, olive oil, feta cheese, blue cheese, capsicum (pimento), chili, lemon zest, lemon juice, garlic cloves, wine, vinegar, juniper berries, almonds, and anchovies....and of course the ultimate, jalapeno.

What herbs? Always bay leaves and coriander. Beyond that: Citrus rind, black pepper, chiles, oregano, rosemary, sage, garlic, Szechuan peppercorns, etc. Go easy though: Water-cured olives should taste like olives — slightly bitter, firm and rich. Choose just a few seasonings and leave it at that.

The traditional Spanish cure would add some vinegar to the mix, as well as bay leaf and other spices. Play with adding a touch of [smoked salt](#), chiles, black pepper, coriander, mustard seed, or garlic — think Mediterranean flavors.

You can also make marinades for your cured olives, good flavors/herbs to use in various com-

binations are: garlic, bay leaf, oregano, thyme, dried chiles, fennel seed, peppercorns, coriander seed, orange peel, lemon peel, lemon slices, cumin seed.

There are many ways to finish (or dress) olives. Do them with lemon juice, thinly sliced lemons, crushed, roasted coriander seeds, garlic and olive oil. Steep them in lemon juice, harissa and garlic or with roasted fennel seeds, sliced oranges, garlic and fresh thyme or simply covered with olive oil, chopped fresh herbs lemon juice and chilli. The possibilities are endless. One thing to remember, although olives last well, the added fresh ingredients don't, they need to be refrigerated. To prevent molding stored olives should be covered with a 1/2" film of olive oil. The olives are ready for immediate consumption, but improve within a day or so of marinating.

In closing, I only wish I could convey to you the WOW factor the first time you try someone's home cured olives. I am a fan of green olives but frankly can only eat about four in one sitting. I could have eaten a lot more of these home cured green olives. Wow!



Online References:

[Olives: Safe Methods for Home Pickling](#) by the University of California. 26 page classic.

[How to Cure Green Olives](#) - by Hank Shaw

[Curing Olives: Don't be Afraid to Lye](#) - by Hank Shaw

[Cure Your Own Olives](#) - by Nancy Gaifyllia

[Curing Katamala Olives](#) - by Chris Smith and Basil Papahronis

[Informative photos of the process](#)

Powell Gammill is a certified Permaculture Design Consultant whose interests lie in creating an environment in which food is grown to benefit families and draw neighbors together. Where dependency on outside resources is diminished. And properties are improved with use instead of being depleted.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Libertarian News Responds: Jon Stewart's 19 Questions To Libertarians by Michael Suede/Libertarian News

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THE Daily Show With Jon Stewart, October 27, 2011

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/full-episodes/thu-october-27-2011-andrew-napolitano>

A response to Stewart's questions and statements:

Is government the antithesis of liberty?

I would say that depends upon how one defines the word "government." If we define government as the modern State, then yes. The State claims for itself a monopoly on the use of force within a given geographical region and claims to be the final arbiter of all disputes within an arbitrary geographical region that it controls. The State funds itself through the expropriation and coercive theft of resources within its region of control.

As State power expands, freedom is diminished. There is a direct 1:1 correlation between the destruction of property rights and the expansion of State power. The State claims to be a protector of property rights, but clearly this is oxymoronic since the State uses coercion to fund itself. In fact, the primary purpose of the State is the destruction of property rights.

For example, business licenses demand that citizens obtain permission before they can sell their own property. Drug laws completely prohibit the sale of certain types of private property. Property taxes are a rent that the State imposes through violence on land that it does not rightfully own. Business regulations impose rules on the use of property that the State does not rightfully own. etc.. etc.. etc..

As the State expands its rule, it must take ever more from the productive private sector by force in order to fund the imposition of its arbitrary rules. Clearly the more resources the State takes for itself, the less resources the public has to produce things that people want to voluntarily purchase on their own. The more resources the State takes for itself, the more property rights are undermined and destroyed.

For example, if a State has a set of laws that can be enforced by X number of cops, it will require X + (some additional number of cops) if it wishes to impose more rules. If it requires more cops, by definition it needs to increase the amount of wealth it loots from the general public to pay for those cops. Hence, a direct correlation between the destruction of property rights and the expansion of State power. Of course, this is not just limited to cops, but includes EPA agents, DEA agents, Park Rangers, etc.. etc.. etc.. and all the bureaucrats and lawyers that are associated with those laws and agencies.

If liberty is the ability to do whatever you want as long as you are not harming others or other peoples' property, we can say with total certainty that the modern State is the antithesis of this, since the modern State is predicated on coercing people who have harmed no one and stealing/controlling their property.

One of the things that enhances freedoms are roads. Infrastructure enhances freedom. A social safety net enhances freedom.

It is a fallacy to claim that, in the absence of State coercion, roads and social safety nets would not exist. The first major roads in the US were privately owned pay-per-use turnpikes. These turnpikes failed because the State refused to uphold the road owners' property rights and enforce the tolls that were charged. In addition, the State competed against the turnpike operators by creating its own public roads at tax payer expense. It is hard to compete against an agency that has unlimited funding and gives its product away for free.

Today, we can clearly see that privately owned tollways are superior to State run highways in all aspects. Private tollways are uniformly maintained at a higher level, have less traffic congestion, and are more efficient in the routes between population centers that they employ. Private tollways use peak pricing to moderate congestion, in contrast to State run tollways that offer blanket discounts to frequent users.

Consider that if the market has a need for something, such as a road between two points, entrepreneurs will build whatever is needed if they can be reasonably assured that they can make a profit from its construction. The question is not "how would roads get built without the State?" but rather "why wouldn't private entrepreneurs build roads that were profitable?" - clearly they would. Economist Walter Block explains why private roads are superior to public roads in [this lecture](#).

Further, consider that businesses want to make it as easy as possible for consumers to access their stores, so it stands to reason that most roads in commercial districts would be funded by businesses and would be freely accessible to the public. Also consider that many private residential developers currently construct their own roads today, so it would be a simple matter for them to roll the maintenance of such roads into home owners fees.

I'm not sure how State run "social safety nets" enhance freedom given that they involve increased destruction of property rights. Consider that someone must pay for these safety nets. While private charity subsists entirely on funding sources that can afford to be charitable with their investment resources, State run safety nets are predicated entirely on the use of coercive force to maintain them. State operated "safety nets" deprive society of more important advancements in support of the human condition. When the State takes money from a medical device manufacturer through taxation and then hands that money to an indigent through welfare, it directly prevents the creation of additional medical devices that would otherwise exist had the State not stolen the money.

The only way to fund social safety nets that does not involve the destruction of more necessary goods and services is to allow private industry/individuals to voluntarily fund private charities with the "cream" of their profits that those particular people can afford to give away without damaging their business.

Continues of Page 34

Continued from Page 33 - Libertarian News Responds: Jon Stewart's 19 Questions To Libertarians

What should we do with the losers that are picked by the free market?

Nothing. If people are not willing to voluntarily pay for something, then clearly whatever that “thing” is must not be worth producing in the manner it was produced. Bankruptcy is the market’s way of telling producers that they are wasting resources that could be better put to use in other areas of the economy.

Do we live in a society or don’t we? Are we a collective? Everybody’s success is predicated on the hard work of all of us; nobody gets there on their own. Why should it be that the people who lose are hung out to dry? For a group that doesn’t believe in evolution, it’s awfully Darwinian.

A “successful” society is one that is full of abundant consumer products and services that enrich the daily lives of the citizenry. While it is true that it takes everyone working cooperatively to achieve an abundant (ie. wealthy) society, the use of coercion to redistribute resources always leads to a worse economic condition than if people had been left to trade their own property among themselves voluntarily.

The absence of coercion fosters a huge incentive for people to engage in productive activities. If people can not benefit from coercion, then they must produce something of value to society if they wish to live a comfortable life. Consider that a person must produce something of value to society before they can trade it for something else that they need more.

In a representative democracy, we are the government. We have work to do, and we have a business to run, and we have children to raise.. We elect you as our representatives to look after our interests within a democratic system.

Democracy is mob rule. It is more appropriate to say that the majority imposes rulers upon the minority in order to expropriate and control the minority’s property. How can a “leader” that was elected by the majority look after the minority who directly opposed their election in the first place?

Is government inherently evil?

If by government you mean the modern State, then yes. If people want something, they will pay for it voluntarily. Since nothing government does is predicated on the voluntary funding of resources, it stands to reason that most of what the government does is either not desired by the general public or is done in an entirely inefficient manner. If the government provided services that people actually wanted, it wouldn’t have to use coercion to fund whatever projects it was proposing. From this fact, we can deduce that the State wantonly destroys or wastes resources and does so through the use of violent threats, which I find to be a great definition of the word evil.

Sometimes to protect the greater liberty you have to do things like form an army, or gather a group together to build a wall or levy.

This assumes that private markets are incapable of defending property rights within a given geographical region and that private markets are incapable of producing infrastructure that people desire. Clearly both assumptions are ridiculous. Private insurance pools would be more than capable of funding defense forces in the absence of State coercive theft and militarism; and pri-

vate industry routinely builds the infrastructure necessary to carry out its productive activities. see: [The Market for Security | Robert P. Murphy](#) and [A Private Law Society | Hans Hoppe](#)

As soon as you’ve built an army, you’ve now said government isn’t always inherently evil because we need it to help us sometimes, so now.. it’s that old joke: Would you sleep with me for a million dollars? How about a dollar? -Who do you think I am?- We already decided who you are, now we’re just negotiating.

The defense of private property is not evil; the use of coercion to fund the defense of private property is oxymoronic and evil.

See above response for an Austrian School perspective on the voluntary funding of private defense forces.

You say: government which governs least governments best. But that were the Articles of Confederation. We tried that for 8 years, it didn’t work, and went to the Constitution.

The assertion that “it didn’t work” is refuted by the historical record. It worked just fine. However, business interests and the ambitions of political power worked to undermine freedom and centralize power for the benefits of the mercantilist and political classes. Looking at Europe as an example of decentralized States, we can see that the low debt (limited government) nations who signed on to the European Union would be better off had they not agreed to be apart of such a system. Why should Germany be forced to subsidize the Greek welfare State? Are the people of Germany better off because they have been looted to prop up the Greek government and banking interests? The same is true for the individual states here at home. Are the people of a state that produces more than it consumes better off for subsidizing the welfare system of states that consume more than they produce?

You give money to the IRS because you think they’re gonna hire a bunch of people, that if your house catches on fire, will come there with water.

Private insurance is capable of funding private fire departments. Since people want fire protection, they will voluntarily pay for fire protection. There is no need to coerce people into paying for something they would naturally pay for on their own without any threats of violence being directed against them.

Why is it that libertarians trust a corporation, in certain matters, more than they trust representatives that are accountable to voters? The idea that I would give up my liberty to an insurance company, as opposed to my representative, seems insane.

Voting takes place once every four years. Market transactions for insurance take place typically on a monthly or semi-annual basis. People vote with their wallets. If people don’t like the way an insurance company is doing business, they can change insurance companies that same day. If people don’t like the way a politician is destroying their property rights, they must wait four years and pray that the mob shares their disagreements. Remember, democracy is mob rule.

Why is it that with competition, we have such difficulty with our health care system? ..and there are choices within the educational system.

Continues of Page 35

Continued from Page 34 - Libertarian News Responds: Jon Stewart's 19 Questions To Libertarians

Competition? What competition is this that you speak of? When was the last time you went to a doctor and looked at a menu of prices for various services that were offered? If consumers don't care about prices, there is obviously no competition. You can debate the merits of competition vs. coercive funding, but it is ridiculous to claim that we have competitive markets in healthcare today.

I can not buy an à la carte menu of health insurance coverage. I can not buy coverage for just cancer from a provider based in Texas and coverage for just heart disease from a provider based in California. I am forced to fund the healthcare of indigents that were previously cared for by private charity or pro-bono care by doctors. I can not waive my rights to a civil suit in order to by-pass the exorbitant expense of malpractice insurance. I must buy insurance that my employer selects if I wish to keep more of my own money due to the corrupt tax system that is in place. Prices for healthcare are exploding precisely because there is no true free market in healthcare.

Would you go back to 1890?

Ridiculous.

If we didn't have government, we'd all be in hovercrafts, and nobody would have cancer, and broccoli would be ice-cream?

Probably, if that is what people wanted. If we consider the trillions wasted on unnecessary wars, the drug war, and the crony capitalist deals of bankers and government contractors, all of those resources could have been directed into the production of truly useful things that people would be willing to voluntarily pay for. Consider that the cost of a single F-35 fighter jet uses up the equivalent resources of creating 6,500 fully loaded Honda Accords.

Unregulated markets have been tried. The 80's and the 90's were the robber baron age. These regulations didn't come out of an interest in restricting liberty. What they did is came out of an interest in helping those that had been victimized by a system that they couldn't fight back against.

Regulations always come out of an interest in restricting liberty. Consider the regulations on currency. In a true free market, the ponzi stock market schemes, stock market and real estate bubbles, would not be possible because the artificial expansion of credit (printing money) would not be possible. Further, if we know that Wall Street basically owns the political class through its extraordinary amounts of campaign contributions and kickbacks, how could we ever expect politicians to enact legislation that would undermine their largest donors? Clearly politicians work for the highest bidder (unless they happen to be Ron Paul).

Why do you think workers that worked in the mines unionized?

Voluntary unions of employees are a good thing, especially if the workers feel they are being treated unfairly. Of course, the use of coercion to force people into unions or the prevention of "scab" labor from being hired to replace striking workers is not a good thing. In a free market, workers and employers should be allowed to negotiate a fair wage under a voluntary contract that both parties voluntarily agree to abide by. The use of force undermines positive economic outcomes. People should be allowed to work in dangerous conditions if they want to –

since they will not do so unless the pay is high enough to make the risk worth the reward. Why should the State prevent someone from making a good living doing a dangerous job if the person agrees to the risks?

Without the government there are no labor unions, because they would be smashed by Pinkerton agencies or people hired, or even sometimes the government.

In the absence of coercion, people generally don't need to unionize. People who produce want to be paid based on the merits of their performance rather than seniority, and employers want to hire people who produce rather than those who wish to skate by on tenure. Modern labor unions are organized by groups of people who do not want to be evaluated on the merits of their performance.

Would the free market have desegregated restaurants in the South, or would the free market have done away with miscegenation, if it had been allowed to? Would Marten Luther King have been less effective than the free market? Those laws sprung up out of a majority sense of, in that time, that blacks should not.. The free market there would not have supported integrated lunch counters.

The free market probably would have desegregated the South. Consider that Jim Crow laws and slavery were entirely creatures of the State. Slavery could not have existed without the State enforcing it. It would have been prohibitively expensive for plantation owners to turn their plantations into prison compounds. They relied entirely on the State in order to enslave their work force. Further, if a business owner discriminates against customers based on race, they are depriving themselves of a revenue source. The market would eventually run business who discriminate out of business or it would punish them by reducing their revenues in comparison to their competitors.

Government is necessary but must be held accountable for its decisions.

The protection of property rights and the arbitration of disputes is necessary; the coercive funding of institutions to carry out those goals is not.

When people argue in favor of the State, what they are really arguing in favor of is the use of coercion to accomplish some specific goal. The use of coercion to accomplish tasks is barbaric, immoral, and unnecessary. The State abolished private slavery because it demands a monopoly on slavery. I think it is safe to say we have proven slavery to be ineffective and immoral in comparison to voluntary trade. If slavery is wrong for individual plantation owners, it is wrong for the mob as well. 🌹

Philosopher Stefan Molyneux provides his response to these questions here:



Story by Michael Suede, Libertarian News

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

America's War on the World: Back to the Future

by Bill Buppert

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



I just got finished reading two books on the emergence of American empire in the Pacific. [The War Lovers](#) by Evan Thomas and [The Imperial Cruise](#) by James Brady both treat the influence of Theodore

Roosevelt as the sin qua non of America's imperial ambitions come to fruition at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1898, we defeated the Spanish in their colonies in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines after the imaginary pretenses for the war were arranged. We occupied and colonized these island nations and the barbarity visited on the Philippine peoples during these long conflicts was brutal and horrifying.



Here are some letter excerpts from 1899 and the war only got worse over time.

Private Fred B. Hinchman, Company A. United States Engineers, writes from Manila, February 22d:

*"At 1:30 o'clock the general gave me a memorandum with regard to sending out a Tennessee battalion to the line. He tersely put it that "they were looking for a fight." At the Puente Colgante [suspension bridge] I met one of our company, who told me that the Fourteenth and Washingtons were driving all before them, and taking no prisoners. This is now our rule of procedure for cause. After delivering my message I had not walked a block when I heard shots down the street. Hurrying forward, I found a group of our men taking pot-shots across the river, into a bamboo thicket, at about 1,200 yards. I longed to join them, but had my reply to take back, and that, of course, was the first thing to attend to I reached the office at 3 P.M., just in time to see a platoon of the Washingtons, with about fifty prisoners, **who had been taken before they learned how not to take them.**"*

Fred D. Sweet, of the Utah Light Battery:

"The scene reminded me of the shooting of jack-rabbits in Utah, only the rabbits sometimes got away, but the insurgents did not."

Ellis G. Davis, Company A, 20th Kansas:

"They will never surrender until their whole race is exterminated. They are fighting for a good cause, and the Americans should be the last of all nations to transgress upon such rights. Their independence is dearer to them than life, as ours was in years gone by, and is today. They should have their independence, and would have had it if those who make the laws in America had not been so slow in deciding the Philippine question. Of course, we have to fight now to protect the honor of our country but there is not a man

who enlisted to fight these people, and should the United States annex these islands, none but the most bloodthirsty will claim himself a hero. This is not a lack of patriotism, but my honest belief."

Burr Ellis, of Frazier Valley, California:

"They did not commence fighting over here (Cavite) for several days after the war commenced. Dewey gave them till nine o'clock one day to surrender, and that night they all left but a few out to their trenches, and those that they left burned up the town, and when the town commenced burning the troops were ordered in as far as possible and said, Kill all we could find. I ran off from the hospital and went ahead with the scouts. And bet, I did not cross the ocean for the fun there was in it, so the first one I found, he was in a house, down on his knees fanning a fire, trying to burn the house, and I pulled my old Long Tom to my shoulder and left him to burn with the fire, which he did. I got his knife, and another jumped out of the window and ran, and I brought him to the ground like a jack-rabbit. I killed seven that I know of, and one more I am almost sure of: I shot ten shots at him running and knocked him down, and that evening the boys out in front of our trenches now found one with his arm shot off at shoulder and dead as h___; I had lots of fun that morning. There were five jumped out of the brush and cut one of the Iowa band boys, and we killed every one of them, and I was sent back to quarters in the hurry. Came very near getting a court-martial, but the colonel said he had heard that I had done excellent work and he laughed and said: "There's good stuff in that man," and told me not to leave any more without orders. Well, John, there will always be trouble here with the natives unless they annihilate all of them as fast as they come to them."

Leonard F. Adams, of Ozark, in the Washington Regiment:

"I don't know how many men, women, and children the Tennessee boys did kill. They would not take any prisoners. One company of the Tennessee boys was sent into headquarters with thirty prisoners, and got there with about a hundred chickens and no prisoners."

Theodore Conley, of a Kansas Regiment:

"Talk about dead Indians! Why, they are lying everywhere. The trenches are full of them..... More harrowing still: think of the brave men from this country, men who were willing to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of Cuba, dying in battle and from disease, in a war waged for the purpose of conquering people who are fighting as the Cubans fought against Spanish tyranny and misrule. There is not a feature of the whole miserable business that a patriotic American citizen, one who loves to read of the brave deeds of the American colonists in the splendid struggle for American independence, can look upon with complacency, much less with pride. This war is reversing history. It places the American people and the government of the United States in the position occupied by Great Britain in 1776. It is an utterly causeless and defenseless war, and it should be abandoned by this government without delay. The longer it is continued, the greater crime it becomes—a crime against hu-

Continues of Page 37

Continued from Page 36 - America's War on the World: Back to the Future

man liberty as well as against Christianity and civilization... ..Those not killed in the trenches were killed when they tried to come out... ..No wonder they can't shoot, with that light thrown on them; shells bursting and infantry pouring in lead all the time. Honest to God, I feel sorry for them."

F. A. Blake, of California, in charge of the Red Cross:

"I never saw such execution in my life, and hope never to see such sights as met me on all sides as our little corps passed over the field, dressing wounded. Legs and arms nearly demolished; total decapitation; horrible wounds in chests and abdomens, showing the determination of our soldiers to kill every native in sight. The Filipinos did stand their ground heroically, contesting every inch, but proved themselves unable to stand the deadly fire of our well-trained and eager boys in blue. I counted seventy-nine dead natives in one small field, and learn that on the other side of the river their bodies were stacked up for breastworks."

E. D. Furnam, of the Washington Regiment, writes of the battles of February 4th and 5th:

"We burned hundreds of houses and looted hundreds more. Some of the boys made good hauls of jewelry and clothing. Nearly every man has at least two suits of clothing, and our quar-



ters are furnished in style; fine beds with silken drapery, mirrors, chairs, rockers, cushions, pianos, hanging-lamps, rugs, pictures, etc. We have horses and carriages, and bull-carts galore, and enough furniture and other plunder to load a steamer."

The Massacre of Bud Dajo March 7, 1906. American troops with modern weapons slaughtered 800 Islamic natives.

Mind you, this is only the second year of the conflict and the war on men, women and children became a war of annihilation where hundreds of thousands of Philippines died at the hands of American arms. There was one incident where the "water cure" (water-boarding) killed 134

out of 160 prisoners it was used on. There were orders to kill all males over the age of ten in certain sectors of the islands. The horrors visited on the "Pacific Negros" (the descriptive argot at the time) were vast and unapologetic in their ferocity. I shiver to think of the brutality visited on them by the Japanese in WWII to make them welcome us back as saviors.

Of course, we discover that Roosevelt's "honorary Aryans", the Japanese, were given the green light for imperial expansion by none other than Roosevelt in a secret treaty which encouraged the Russo-Japanese conflict in 1905 that laid the paving stones for the Japanese adventurers in China and later the Pacific that precipitated the next world war. Roosevelt had considered the Chinese to be barbarians and mongrels that deserved nothing less than colonization by their betters around the world. Remember that during this time in America, the Chinese were subject to the viscous [Chinese Exclusion Act](#) which not only led to countless Chinese deaths in America but demanded open trade to China but a prohibition on most Chinese goods in America. Roosevelt was a creature of his time and the white Aryan meme was a consistent motif in American public life and permeated the foreign policy of the burgeoning imperial nation unleashed in the 1890s.

This is a stark reminder that whatever the government schools or the government-media complex spews and vomits forth as news and patriotic mewling to rally 'round the flag, it boils down to one thing: America's planetary imperialism has a long and dark history. This is not to lend credence to the usual suspects in academia hailing from the left who preach the "race/class/gender" mantra as the only way to interpret history for these same scoundrels are the apologist and cheerleaders for Obama's wars around the Earth. How often do you see any anti-war rhetoric at the Occupy Wall Street rallies? With few exceptions, these are the same academics that cheerlead the USSR in history and rush to defend the Democrat monster presidents who got us into WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

American exceptionalism is a myth. The last hundred and twenty years proves that our capability to directly slaughter innocents or abet the murder thereof by proxies is a winning formula for the foreign policy machinations in DC.

Nation-states are serial killers of the worst variety and America is no different.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Freedom of Your Mind

by Bill Rounds

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



PHILOSOPHIZING about a world where individual liberty is respected and all associations are purely voluntary is an important and fulfilling activity. But, at the close of a debate of Marx vs. Mises, we step back out into the world

as it now exists and are faced with the reality that the world we live in does not mirror our philosophical ideals. Individual freedom is suppressed and, whether we like it or not, we cannot ignore the force and coercion imposed upon us. Practical solutions, available immediately, become necessary to help bridge the gap between our current reality and a future ideal.

I have a good friend who is a former special forces soldier. He and I sat down to lunch a few days ago and the topic of conversation turned to training. Every special forces soldier gets millions of dollars worth of training making them the best trained soldiers to have ever walked the earth. He didn't get into anything that he was prohibited from sharing, of course, but I was fascinated by some of the things he shared about surviving when captured by an enemy and even how to survive torture.

Something about what he said made me realize that it was applicable to far more than those being held captive in a military engagement. The principles that we discussed apply to many other situations where individual freedom is suppressed. The two fundamental principles that keep soldiers, and anyone else, alive and strong while suffering in captivity is to follow the rules and to win small mental victories.

Why Should We Care?

There are very few of us who will be captives in a military campaign like John McCain or hostages of the FARC. Most of us will probably not even be political prisoners like hikers in Iran or Aung San Suu Kyi. It is more likely that we might find ourselves in a country, whether on vacation or not, that is less than respectful of individual liberties and human rights.

The world is full of countries that torture prisoners, assassinate civilians without due process of law, publicly execute minors who have not been charged with a crime, institute mass sexual assault, and humiliate innocent people by forcing public nudity. North Koreans, for example, are held captive by their government and need to strictly obey ridiculous laws to keep from being imprisoned or publicly executed. People in these circumstances are captives and need to use the same tactics to survive both mentally and physically as a soldier captured in the theater of battle. If residents of repressive regimes are to survive, they need to obey the two main principles of surviving in captivity.

Surviving Captivity Rule #1: Follow The Rules

Whether captured by an opposing army, imprisoned by a brutal dictator, or held for ransom by a rogue band of narco-terrorists, the first rule of survival is to obey the rules of your captor. Captors may or may not care whether a captive lives or dies, but the chances of survival are greatly reduced by being a nuisance. A captive, relying on the mercy of captors, can increase their chances of survival by complying with the rules.

There will inevitably be unfair and stupid rules. Violating unfair and stupid rules could lead to severe punishment and maybe even death. Any-

one who has seen The Great Escape will remember the iconic image of Steve McQueen tossing a baseball against the wall in solitary confinement. The reality of punishment for disobeying captors is rarely so kind. In dire circumstances, staying alive by following the orders of your captors is a high priority.

Surviving Capture Rule #2: Win Secret Battles

The second most important goal after physical survival, is mental survival. Surviving physically might be worthless unless you survive mentally as well.

To avoid mental break down, captives find ways to win secret battles against their captors. Winning a secret battle means doing something that demonstrates that your heart and mind do not belong to your captors. These signs of independence are most safely done in private.

One of John McCain's POW companions secretly sewed images on the inside of his clothes to win a small victory against his captors. The character Evey, in V for Vendetta, was able to win small victories against her "captors" by reading the journal hidden in a crack in her cell wall. Another example of winning a secret battle would be to secretly flip your captor the bird while their back is turned. If you do it and they don't see, you have won.

You Need Privacy To Win Little Victories

You cannot win little victories like Evey Hammond or John McCain's cell mate without privacy. Privacy is freedom. Fortunately, there are many practical and effective ways to legally protect our privacy. Tools like encryption are available, usually for free, to encrypt everything from the files on your computer to your phone conversations and emails. A basic tool like encryption is relatively simple to learn and can be an extremely effective tool for protecting privacy. But encryption isn't the only tool that average people have at their disposal to win private battles while living in captivity. There are lot of other tools and tactics at HowToVanish.com that are essential to helping you maintain privacy in case you might find yourself as an unfortunate captive.

Winnable Victories

Even minor victories won by protecting your privacy are helpful. If you encrypt a birthday message to your grandma, just so someone else can't read it, you have won a small victory. If you encrypt your grocery list, you have won a small victory. If you shop anonymously with cash and don't use an identifying shopper card to buy your groceries, you have won a small victory. If you watch the latest episode of the Office over an encrypted VPN, you have won a small victory. Privately buying a gold or silver coin is a small victory. These small victories will help you survive captivity both physically and mentally.

Conclusion

Stay alive and win small victories. Use the legal tools and techniques from How to Vanish to do that. If you haven't already gotten your copy of the book How To Vanish, check it out so you have a whole arsenal of ways to win little victories.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

WE DON' NEED NO STINKIN' BODGES!

by **L. Neil Smith**

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



WE'VE all heard and seen it for ourselves. It used to happen every year. Then it was every month. Now it's every week and soon we'll hear and see it every day: there are families

in America whose lives have been ruined and futures obliterated because the SWAT team got the address wrong, smashing down the doors of the innocent.

There are other individuals doing time in prison, right now, for taking pictures of the police while they were violating someone else's rights. They're luckier than the man the police dragged out of his car and beat half to death because he had a license to carry a concealed weapon. Meanwhile judges tell us, when we're attacked by cops, that we -- Americans -- have a civic duty to get beaten up and killed.

In nearly every instance where the police have injured or killed somebody they shouldn't have, they are automatically found to have been acting within official policy -- whether that policy was ever approved by representatives of the people, or is consistent with the Bill of Rights, or not -- and that's supposed to end the matter.

I find it hard to believe these atrocities, occurring all over the country, originate at the street level. My guess -- admittedly it is no more than that -- is that they're being "suggested" by somebody higher up the bureaucratic food-chain than mere patrolmen. It would be educational to be a fly on the wall at roll call, when officers of each new shift are briefed and given their orders.

Naturally, it doesn't help to have Janet Napolitano and Homeland Security warning local police that anyone with a Ron Paul, NRA, or Libertarian Party bumper sticker is a potential terrorist. Most cops know better, but the federal government is issuing a license to kill to all of the crazies and bullies among them.

Of course it didn't begin with Napolitano, DHS, or the Obama Administration. 1999 saw the New York police murder of Amadou Diallo in which forty-one rounds were fired at a single unarmed man at close range -- in what has been called an act of "contagious shooting" -- only nineteen

of which actually hit the mark. Villainy is bad enough, but incompetent villainy?

Jimmy Cliff was right: you can't get no justice under this system. Robert LeFevre used to describe government as "a disease masquerading as its own cure". Clearly, the police have become a worse menace than anything they claim to protect us from -- and it may always have been that way. Equally clearly, it's past time to do things differently.

What might things be like under another system? It all depends on whether you value the idea of a free society, how free you think it should be, and what role, if any, you think police should play in it.

I've been interested in these questions a long time -- to the point, in the late 1970s, of becoming a reserve officer in my local police department to provide background for my writing. In my 1980 novel The Probability Broach I envisioned the peace being kept by a combination of armed citizens capable of defending themselves, private security agencies in a competitive free market, and a volunteer group standing as a neutral intermediary between the criminally accused and what served as the police.

It's always seemed insanity to me -- and a situation ripe for potential abuse -- that individuals suspected of having committed crimes are automatically handed over to the tender mercies of their accusers.

But perhaps I digress.

Since then, I've had thirty years to think over what I wrote then, and now (especially thinking about the Pinkertons' excesses in the past, and those of Blackwater today) I wouldn't place as much trust in private security. In some ways, they're like the police: "When seconds count," as the saying goes, "they're only minutes away".

More fundamentally, it isn't their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of those they love, that they're protecting. Like the uninspired "money monkeys" whom the heirs of millionaires employ to take care their wealth (giving rise to the adage, "Shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three

Continues on Page 40

Continued from Page 39 - WE DON' NEED NO STINKIN' BODGES!

generations."), such hirelings are at one remove -- meaning one remove too many -- from whatever they've been hired to preserve, and therefore less eager to preserve it than they might otherwise be.

Jeff Cooper, the "Yoda" of the .45, who turned armed self-defense into a martial art, warned his wealthier clients against relying on bodyguards. One way or another, no matter how trustworthy they seem, they can be gotten to, through bribery, extortion, or threats, because they don't -- they can't -- value your life as highly as you do.

But for me, analysis came later. The words in which I first realized it were these: like eating, sleeping, going to the bathroom, and making love, self-defense is an individual bodily function that can't be delegated to anyone else. It doesn't even make sense to think about it. So the question arises, how do we achieve peace and civil order -- or in their absence, equity and justice -- without something like the police?

A veteran sheriff's deputy once told me that, given the number of square miles his department had to patrol, he believed it's the sheriff's job to come along after any violent incident, and make sure the right person had been shot. Twenty years later, when he ran for sheriff himself, I voted for him. Unfortunately, he lost. But this conversation pointed me in an interesting direction. A hundred years ago, the guy with the badge and the gun was called a peace officer.

Nowadays, he says his job is "law enforcement". Maybe nobody except libertarians know this (mainly admirers of Lysander Spooner), but most laws are unnecessary or bad. Some of them are both. Many are downright evil. Dedicat-

ing oneself to enforcing evil laws is the same as dedicating oneself to evil. And the way cops "resolve" this moral dilemma is simply to evade it, telling themselves and others that it isn't a law enforcement officer's job to evaluate the law or the orders that he's being given by his nominal superiors.

Of course the Nuremberg Tribunals held differently.

In places like Vermont, with an emphasis (deliberate or otherwise) on self-defense rather than law enforcement, crime rates are low. With this in mind, one measure worth pursuing might be to abolish municipal police departments (which have only been around a century or so) -- saving a lot of money in hard times -- and rely on the ancient and honorable office of the sheriff, who is directly accountable to the people, unlike the chief of police, armored under layers of politics and bureaucracy.

Many such measures will be necessary to straighten out this mess, first and foremost, the demilitarization of local police. Some of these will seem harsh to peace officers and "law enforcement" alike. But they are long overdue and, like amputating a gangrenous limb, can no longer be avoided.

For those who are interested, I have addressed these ideas in greater detail, in a chapter called "Toward a Police Reform Movement" in my new book, Down With Power, presently available online at DownWithPower.Com and soon to be published in both dead-tree and electronic format by Arc Manor.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

So You Want to Buy an AK-47?

By Chip Saunders

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



SO you have decided that you need an assault rifle to survive the apocalypse, and have settled on getting the famous AK47. Here's the essential stuff you need to know. (Believe it or not, this is the SHORT version. Entire books have been written on this.)

AK47 rifles were made by many countries, and while essentially the same, some are just different enough that parts do not interchange among all variants. AK47 rifles divide into 2 main subgroups,

1. Milled receiver models
2. Stamped receiver models

Milled receiver rifles cost more, are heavier, and less common. However, they have a reputation as more accurate. A milled receiver AK can be identified by the rectangular lightening cut along the body of the receiver, as seen here:



However, when used with ammunition made to western standards, stamped AK47s (more accurately called AKMs) are capable of decent accuracy as well.

The vast majority of AK47s available to American shooters are stamped models, so this will be our focus.

Among the stamped AK47 variants (available in the US), they break down into these subgroups;

1. European models

- a. Russian
- b. Hungarian
- c. Bulgarian
- d. Polish
- e. Romanian

f. Egyptian (while not in Europe, the Egyptian rifles were exact duplicates of Russian guns, made by Russian workers in a Russian built facility on Russian tooling.)

(Nearly all AK47s in this subgroup have interchangeability of parts, but vary in quality of fit, finish and quality control. When the AK74 in 5.45x39 came along, the variants made by the above countries diverged and took different forms, with less interchangeability. Most 7.62x39 AK47 rifles for sale in the US are of the euro subgroup.)

2. Chinese models (still very close copies of euro models, but vary in barrel diameter, receiver width, metal finish.)

3. Yugoslavian (yes, Yugoslavia was/is in Europe, but they were different. These rifles have different wood mounts, non-chrome bores, heavier receivers, and sometimes have gas cut-off levers for launching muzzle-fit projectiles like rifle grenades.)

Add to the mix above that cut up parts kits (the entire rifle less the receiver) of all these variants have been imported into the us for years, and many folks have assembled those parts kits on new receivers to make a functional example of the original rifle. Sometimes this was done well, with skill and attention to detail, sometimes not. Most notably, the ATF now stipulates barrels

must also be destroyed when these kits are imported. US-made barrels have had to be crafted to allow for the completion of these kits. Often, the American made barrels were not chrome-lined.

So unless you locate a Chinese or Yugo AK at a screaming good price you can't resist, you are likely going to acquire a European model. (I happen to own a Chinese variant myself, but that's because it was the right price.) Among these, they rank in affordability and value like this;

Cheapest to most expensive:

1. Romanian (\$450 range)
2. Hungarian
3. Egyptian
4. Polish
5. Yugoslavian
6. Chinese
7. Russian
8. Bulgarian (\$800+ range)

But, in common availability, they rank like this:

1. Romanian (most common)
2. Hungarian
3. Russian
4. Bulgarian
5. Chinese
6. Polish
7. Yugoslavian
8. Egyptian (very uncommon)

Pre-ban/Intra-ban/Post-ban variations

So let's assume you have found a common Romanian AK47. We first need to inspect it to look out for some features that have been previously imposed by the assault weapons ban that are undesirable. We want either a Pre-ban or Post-ban rifle. Some rifles that were made/sold during the ban years (Intra-ban) have now with the end of the ban been converted to Post-ban variants. But what do you look for?

1. Threaded muzzle (some ban-era rifles have had their threads turned off with a lathe and cannot be restored, but have had pre-ban features added, like folding stocks. Check the muzzle. Make sure that muzzle device actually removes and is not permanent.)



2. Magazine relief cut (some rifles were made with receivers that were designed for a special single-column narrow magazine that only held 10 rounds. These are California-compliant rifles, because Ca. said if the rifle can even accept a hi-cap mag, it can't be sold there.)



3. Which Romanian AK is that? (Romanian AKs have been marketed as the WASR. Variants in 5.45x39 are called WASR2, .223 versions are WASR3, and 7.62 versions are WASR10.

Continues on Page 42

Continued from Page 41 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?

But a slightly better quality one available since 2007 is called the WASR10/63.) The preferred WASR10/63 rifles will be marked like this;



But beware;...some of those narrow-mag Romanian rifles also carry the WASR10 designation, so check it out carefully.

Desirable Accessories

The 4 best features one can add to their AK are;

1. Folding stock
2. Optics
3. Accessory rails (also called Picatinny or 1913 rails)
4. Better heat-resistant forestock

Heat-resistant forestock The standard forestock on an AK47 is a laminated wood piece with brass reinforcing pins. The laminated wood is quite resilient and tough, and provides adequate heat protection,...but the damned brass pins act as heat conduits, and will carry the heat right out into your hand. In rapid fire, the pins will heat up and burn your hand nearly as well as if there was no handguard there at all.



So one thing the Romanians did to solve this issue was make a wooden pistol grip stock to replace the standard Russian design.



It works to prevent the heat from burning ones hand. But, it interferes with rapid and efficient loading and unloading of magazines into the gun, since they rock in and out, rather than drop free.

The Russians eventually realized their mistake. In frozen Siberia, the heat was not an issue, but in Afghanistan, it was a bitch. The latest versions have one that looks like this (and I have one on my Chinese AK);



The good ones also have a metal lining heat shield to keep the plastic from melting.



Some also feature accessory rails as part of their structure. But being plastic, they can only be so resilient and take only so much torque on them before an accessory might snap off.



Some also feature accessory rails as part of their structure. But being plastic, they can only be so resilient and take only so much torque on them before an accessory might snap off.

Accessory Rails As can be seen above, rails for mounting additional devices can be placed on AKs, but are essentially limited to being part of the handguard.

To be resilient and strong, the rails should ideally be made of metal. But being near the steady-ing hand holding the rifle, metal in this area is a burn injury risk. But, of these metal types, one is currently used by the US military on modified AKs they have in inventory for special purposes. This is the model made by Tactical Response. Cost for the Tactical Response rail system is \$160.



However, the gas tube section of the Tactical Response unit is not very likely to cool well, since it replaces the factory gas tube. If an electrical optic red dot sight is mounted to it, there will be considerable heat transfer, potentially damaging the optic. Slightly more affordable at \$125, the Midwest Industries rail system is a design many shooters are adopting and have reported happy results with.



Optics While the rail systems above allow for the mounting of a non-magnification red dot sight, if you need magnification, then you need an optic mounted in the traditional location closer to the shooter's eye. But the somewhat flimsy sheet metal top cover of the AK series makes for a poor mount. The Russians themselves devised a system where the mount is attached to the left

Continues on Page #43

Continued from Page 42 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?

side of the receiver via a rail affixed there. Referred to as side-rail mounts, nearly all euro pattern AKs come with this capability as a standard feature.



This is handy, but presents 2 problems:

1. The height of the mount makes getting a good “cheek weld” to the stock difficult because of how high the head must be held to get a good view through the optic. When spending a lot of time viewing through the optic, the shooter’s neck will fatigue.

2. If utilizing a side-folding butt stock, models which fold to the left will be unable to fold closed with this mount in the way. Either a rigid non-folding stock must be used, or one which folds to the right or underneath.

And of course, not all AK rifles have the euro style optic side-rail. What then? In recent years, some inventive mercenaries who have had to use AK rifles in their assignments have devised a solution. It works with all folding stocks and keeps the optic mounted as low as possible. It even provides a superior iron sighting system as a back-up, which provides more accuracy than the original sights do, due to an increased distance from front to rear sights. This is the Texas Weapons Systems “Dog Leg Scope Rail”.



There are at least 2 other designs similar to this which are based on the same concept. The most famous of which is sold by Krebs Custom Gunworks. The Krebs model is better known, but nearly \$300!! This competing model is just as solid and reliable, but costs half what the Krebs costs, at only \$140. I will be ordering one of these myself in the near future.

Folding stocks First, decide if a folding stock is important to you. Regular fixed stocks are resilient, functional and cheap. But if you might be getting in and out of a vehicle with your rifle, or have limited storage space wherever your rifle might be stowed, or foresee a need to conceal the rifle under a long jacket,...a folding stock can be a great feature. Some folding stocks are great, some are not, and some types only come on certain rifles because the rifle has to be specially built to have that stock as part of it. Other folding stocks are modular and can be added or removed at will. There are 3 types of AK folding stocks;

1. Under-folding (these suck, don’t even bother)
2. Side-folding steel
3. Side-folding plastic

Under-folding stocks for the AK were developed by the Russians not long after WW2, and they simply stole the design from the German MP40.



These stocks, typical of a communist product, were designed by a committee that had no end-users as members of the decision-making body. While the design stows away efficiently and makes for a compact package, actually using it is difficult and painful. The part that pushes against the shoulder is slick and doesn’t want to stay put, and the sharp rectangular sheet metal struts can cut into the cheek of the shooter. It also leaves the head awkwardly positioned when trying to use the sights.



Under-folding stocks are permanent and unalterably part of the rifle. If you get one, make sure it is what you want, because you’re stuck with it.

Steel side-folding stocks There are essentially 2 types of steel side-folding stocks;

1. Those which are integral to the weapon and permanent
2. Those which are modular and come off

The permanent type were first installed and used not on the 7.62 caliber AK47, but the 5.45 caliber AK74 when first fielded in Afghanistan. It is much better than the under-folding type it replaced, and the Afghan gunsmiths of the Khyber Pass region near Pakistan began converting many standard fixed stock 7.62 rifles they captured into this type of folding stock weapon. They did this so that they could conceal the rifles



under their smocks when travelling. Today, any 7.62 type AK with this style of side-folding “triangle” stock is referred to as a “Khyber Pass AK47”.

Unfortunately, in addition to being a permanent alteration to the rifle, these fold to the left. They will fold closed when a side-mounted optic is removed. But if left in place (as an optic should be) the stock cannot close shut.

A steel side-folding stock which folds to the right, and solves this problem is the type used on East German, Polish and Romanian rifles.



While perhaps not as comfortable to use in the extended position as the Khyber Pass type of stock, this style solves several problems.

1. It is removable and not permanent
2. It allows the use of ComBloc side-mount scope rails
3. It allows the weapon to be loaded, cycled and fired either open or closed

Continues on Page 44

Continued from Page 43 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?

4. It does not interfere with mag changes using the left hand

Mercenaries working for Uncle Sugar over in Hadji Land have gravitated to this model because it can be ordered cheap as surplus and fitted to most all the surplus AK rifles laying around. It is also rugged and tough. I have this very model affixed to my own Chinese AK. Cost is anywhere from \$60 to \$100 depending on current supply. However, these vary in their release mechanism. The Romanian models are a push button style, while the East German and Polish are a lever release type. In my opinion, the lever release is superior, but at the time I bought mine, only push-buttons were available.



An even better option in metal folding stocks is available from ACE Ltd. USA. However, all ACE products are expensive. The benefit, however, is that their base attachment folding mechanism is modular and adaptable to many different lengths and styles, and even whether they fold to the left or the right. They are removable. Many people with the money to spend swear by them. Average cost for one is \$175-\$200.

Notice in the images below, although the Ace stock is set up on this example to fold to the left, it clears the scope side-rail. Assuming a slide on mount of sufficient thin profile is used for the optic, the stock should be able to close over it. When set up to fold to the right, however, these stocks tend to interfere with operating the bolt and/or safety lever.



Notice, however that when closed to the left, easy access to the magazine release is blocked. To allow such easy access, another stock option exists from Ace.



Plastic side-folding stocks There is an American manufactured commercial side-folder made for civilian consumption, and a Russian design that is based on the “triangle” Khyber Pass type.

The Tapco stock has become a popular choice because it is inexpensive and can be had in Green, Tan or Black. However, when folded, it nearly blocks the trigger from being pulled by a right-handed person. They are available at Amazon.com for \$30.



The Russian polymer stock is a type that is built into the rifle. They are currently only available on Bulgarian rifles sold via Arsenal of Las Vegas. Called the SGL21-94 or the 107-FR, it costs about \$850-\$950 at retail.



These are the current issue AK series that Russians and Bulgarians are using today. However, as with the metal Khyber Pass rifles, the stock cannot close when an optic is actually mounted.

Magazines Original magazines for the AK47 are legendary for their toughness, and they are an important part of the overall ruggedness and reliability of the AK47. However, even more variations of the magazines have been made than of the rifle. It would be difficult and confusing to cover all the variants here. Almost all are useable and worth owning. Almost. Some are better than others, however. They break down into two main groups;

1. Steel
2. Polymer

Steel magazines These are also of two distinct types;

1. Ribbed (also known as European style)
2. Non-ribbed (commonly called “flat-back” or “spineless” or “Chinese style”)

Ribbed or euro AK mags are made to original Russian specs, which leaves a raised rib or spine on the back of the mag body where it is welded together. This, however, makes for a very uncomfortable object to grip with the hand when it is time to insert or remove one from the rifle. This high protruding edge tends to jab you right in the crook of the main joint of the thumb. In this way, it also keeps you from applying much grip pressure and the result is the magazine is not always held as firmly as might be desired.

Continues on Page 45

Continued from Page 44 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?

Flat-back magazines, however, don't have this feature and are much more user-friendly.



Ribbed magazines are the most common around, and the cheapest to acquire, running anywhere from \$7 to \$12 each. Nearly all spineless AK steel mags are Chinese, and have not been imported for many years. Therefore, you will have to look harder to find them and will often pay about 40% more. But sometime people selling them don't know how they are different and more desirable, and sell them for the same price. Of the metal AK mags I have in my own personal stash, they are all Chinese flat-backs.

Polymer magazines The Russians were the first to start experimenting with making their AK mags with polymers, producing a dizzying array of Bakalite mags in a rainbow of colors. Collecting all the numerous variants has become its own genre of military collectibles. But the Russians never did it quite right. The best polymer mags ever made are produced by the Bulgarians and Finns. (Finnish mags are difficult to find and expensive as a result, so let's just focus on the Bulgarian ones.) These have become so sought after, however, that copycats of standard construction have been produced to fool unsophisticated US buyers. Below is a comparison (from my own collection);



Often referred to as Bulgarian "waffle" mags, they come in many colors, but black is most common. Many copies say "Made in Bulgaria", but true specimens will have the "Circle 10" stamp. They also will have steel end caps, not plastic. Unlike the cheap copies and all other polymer mags for the AK, the Bulgarians have a metal skeleton inside the polymer body, so they are actually a hybrid design. They have flat backs, don't burn your hand if left in the sun, don't rust and have fewer sharp edges. Prices for these can vary wildly. At one point, people were paying \$40 ea. for them, but the prices dropped and I bought all mine for about \$14 ea. Unfortunately, prices have risen again, and now they are about \$25 ea. Mostly, this is due to a recent article in June of this year where a respected gun-writer torture-tested all the main AK47 mags commercially available. The genuine Bulgarian Circle 10 mags defeated even the original steel designs, while the cheap copy in the picture above failed early on and came in last. You can read the article here (sorry, no pictures available, but I have the hard copy in my literature collection).

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Are+kalashnikov+magazines+as+robust+as+their+reputation%3F+He+tormented...-a0262692779>

Stay away from magazines made by TAPCO, I.O., ProMag or anything that isn't steel or have the Circle 10 logo on it. The only exceptions are the new all-plastic mags made locally in Scottsdale by US PALM. They are good, but cost \$27 ea. If you're going to spend that much, get the Circle 10 Bulgarians.

Muzzle devices There are 2 types of muzzle devices you can hang on the end of your AK47 barrel, and they do 2 very different things. One cannot do the task of the other, and vice versa, NO MATTER WHAT ANY MANUFACTURER OF THESE DEVICES CLAIMS. These are;...

1. Flash suppressors
2. Muzzle brakes (recoil reducer)

The only flash suppressor worth bothering with is the Vortex type. Originally designed and sold here locally by Ron Smith at Smith Enterprises,



they have been so effective that the design has been ripped off and produced around the world. When using ammo with COPPER jacketed bullets, there is NO flash, NONE.

On the flip side, muzzle brakes, use the escaping gas from the barrel to try to add a thrust-reversing action to attenuate and reduce kick from the weapon discharging. Some work better than others, but the genuine Russian design works well, and looks appropriate to the rifle.



However, the trade-off is that the weapon is louder and produces more flash with these things.

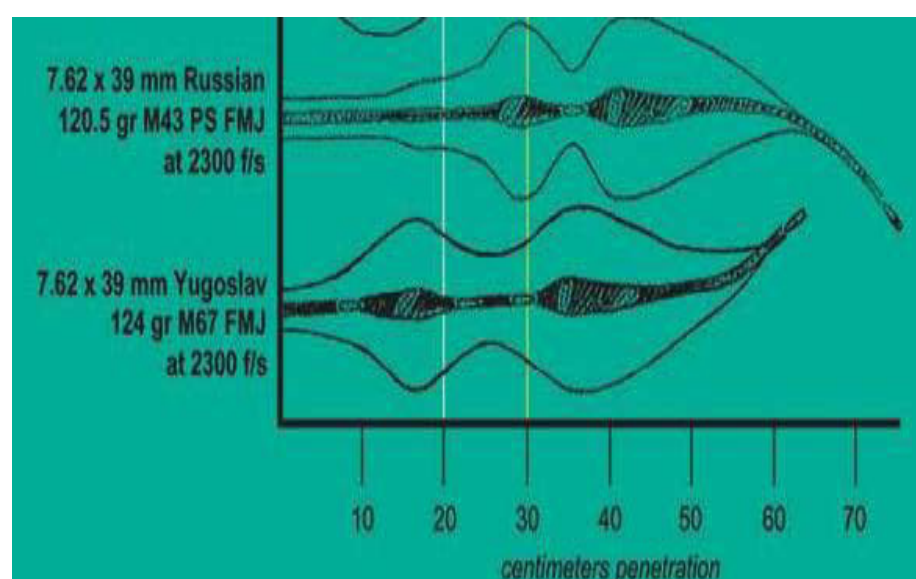
Ammunition There are a lot of choices in surplus or other affordable 7.62x39 ammo. Unlike with .223 ammo, you need not fear which of these type may or may not function well in your rifle, since the legendary AK reliability will see that it feeds them all. Therefore, your issues to consider when selecting ammo for your AK47 are;

1. Price
2. Terminal performance (particular ability to create wounds worse than other types)
3. Corrosive vs. Non-corrosive
4. Position disclosure (flash and other muzzle signatures when fired)
5. Long-term storage

Terminal Performance You can research prices fairly easily yourself (although I'll touch on the economics of 7.62x39 ammo later in this report), so for now, let's start with Terminal Performance. The typical AK47 projectile is of a "boat-tail" design. This allows for a bullet with less drag and therefore better retained velocity further downrange. It produces a bi-lobe yaw in tissue when it begins to tumble after about 7 inches of penetration. However, if the hit is a periphery to the torso or a limb, the round can exit the body before beginning the tumbling that produces the maximum wounding potential for the round. Ideally, we want a projectile that begins its "energy dump" (tumbling) immediately after penetrating. The science behind all this can take up entire books (and does), but suffice to say that a flat-base bullet, unlike a boat-tail bullet, is heavier in the butt and wants to tumble more quickly upon impact, thereby creating more reliably a more deadly wound, even with hits to the extremities. The difference in the wound profiles looks like this:

Continues on Page 46

Continued from Page 45 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?



The Russians set the pattern for almost all ammo production for the 7.62x39 service round, so most of the world's surplus ammo in this caliber is of the boat-tail M43 type in the top of the picture. However, the Yugoslavians, always being just a little different, produced their 7.62x39 ammo with a flat-base bullet, known as the M67 type. The difference is a deadlier round. (More about the Yugoslavian surplus ammo later.)

There are also non-FMJ options available. Soft-point and hollow-point ammo, which obviously have greater lethality, are available all over the place. Prices for these (if produced overseas in the same non-reloadable casings) are only slightly more than the FMJ stuff. The absolute best stuff is made in America and Europe, in reloadable brass cases, but the price is easily double over the previously described options.

Corrosiveness Corrosive ammo gets its corrosive properties from the type of priming compound used in the cartridge. The formulation of non-corrosive priming compound is more expensive to manufacture, so for decades, the communist countries continued to produce corrosive ammo long after the western world had almost completely switched to non-corrosive types. The residue left in the gun after firing corrosive ammo leaves little microscopic salts from the primer compound detonating. These salts are hygroscopic, which means they begin to immediately draw in ambient moisture present in the air. Despite dry climates like here in Arizona, this condition **MUST** be addressed soon after firing, or "staining" (a rusting process) will occur very quickly, and is irreversible. (This is why chrome bores are so important, as the chrome resists staining better than bare steel.)

In the late 80's and early 90's, when almost all the 7.62x39 ammo being imported was coming from Cold War stocks out of China, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, it was almost universally all corrosive. Demand for non-corrosive ammo eventually resulted in the demand being met. Today, the most common 7.62x39 ammo available through brands like Wolf, Tula, Ulynovsk, Brown Bear, Silver Bear, Golden Tiger,...are all non-corrosive. However, supplies of older corrosive ammo still turn up, often for a bargain price, so be on the lookout for it.



Use of corrosive ammo is fine, however, as long as care is taken to douche out the gun shortly after firing. It need not be a complicated affair. A simple spraying down with WD-40, or

even Windex, will neutralize the salts and wash them away. Even dunking the rifle in water will achieve this, although be sure to dry and then oil the gun afterwards.

Position Disclosure When shooting at the enemy, it would be nice to be able to do it unseen. At night, this is difficult to do if you have big muzzle-flashes telling the enemy right where you are. Use of the VORTEX flash suppressor listed previously in this text conquers any display due to the burning propellant, regardless of how bright it might be. But there is another property of ammunition that can produce a signature at night, and the VORTEX can't do anything about it. This is the material construction of the bullet itself.

While traditional rifle bullets are copper-jacketed, or even sometimes given a jacket of brass (because brass is copper and zinc, and thus brass costs less than pure copper), the soviets (and other bloc countries) needed to make their ammo as cheaply as possible so as to crank out more of it. Instead of copper or brass, they developed a very soft and malleable mild steel material to substitute. It works fine for its intended purpose, but with one serious drawback. Because of the steel-on-steel contact when these bullets are fired, they produce a shower of sparks out the muzzle that make for quite a brilliant show. There is no remedy for this sparkler effect other than to use copper-jacketed ammo instead.

The ideal answer is for there to be non-corrosive ammo loaded in cheap and affordable disposable casings, with copper-jacketed bullets. At one time, Wolf was selling exactly this product. It differed from the standard Wolf packaging as you see in the picture below'



If you ever see the yellow-label ammo on the right in this photo,...buy all you can afford. It is rare now and hard to find. It combines the best of all the features you want.

But since that particular batch is unlikely to be had, the current next best deal is the Yugoslavian surplus. Brass cased, copper-jacketed, throwing the flat-based FMJ bullet and among the most inexpensive ammo currently available, the only drawback is that it is corrosively primed. It can also be had in unopened crates,...perfect for long-term storage. (Two different batches have been imported; 1970's production dates, and 1990's production. Obviously, select the 1990's era ammo, if you can.)



Continues on Page 47

Continued from Page 46 - So You Want To Buy An AK-47?

Long-term storage So now you are nearly complete in your essential AK47 knowledge. You have acquired the rifle, the accessories, the magazines,...and now you are looking for ammo. But you intend to primarily lock this ammo away for a long time in case of “what if”. Sure, you’ll have some on hand for using occasionally, but the “break glass only in case war” ammo,...what do we look for?

Fortunately, the various producers of the ammo in former communist countries still are in the habit of packaging it for shipping to the USA in the same manner as they did during the Cold War when they might be storing it for a very long time. This most often in the form of “spam cans”, steel cans that are hermetically sealed and require a giant can opener to get into.



The down side to this, however, is that the markings on the spam cans are usually still in Cyrillic type language, such as Russian, Yugoslavian or Bulgarian. Just be sure that before you put away for a long time, use a label-maker or grease pencil or permanent marker to mark it now, so you don’t wonder about it later.




A Quick Note On 5.45x39 Caliber AK74 Rifles

In recent years, the .22 bore Russian answer to the 5.56nato round used in the M-16 has been made available to American shooters. And along with it, AK rifles chambering the unique round. We will not get into here as to the merits of the 5.45 vs. 7.62 debate. Those reasons are fairly well known already. Essentially, only 4 brand names have been available in 5.45x39. They are;

1. Romanian WASR-3
2. Russian Saiga
3. Bulgarian (numerous name designations)
4. Polish Tantal

As the supply of genuine surplus rifle barrels imported into the US before the ATF instituted their policy of prohibiting them has dwindled, American makers have made the move to give shooters what they want, and new manufacture barrels have been produced. Many rifles were subsequently built with these USA-made barrels before a problem was noticed. The metric 5.45 bore measures out in SAE to .214 inch. But American barrel makers didn’t have hardly any metric cutting tools suitable for barrel making, so they approximated as best they could. It wasn’t good enough, and the bullets sent through these early barrels were not stabilized. They tumbled in flight, or “keyholed”, as it is known. The majority of the rifles built with these bad barrels were Polish Tantals, distributed through Century International. Once the problem became common knowledge, ALL Tantals were suspect. Perfectly good examples were treated like the plague, because until it was purchased and fired, proper accuracy and functionality could not be verified. But then, if it was a bad one, it was too late. You rolled the dice and came up snake eyes.

As a result, the only rifles in 5.45x39 that can be trusted to be reliable functioning specimens, are either the Bulgarian or Russian produced rifles. Verify that it has a chrome bore and chamber, as the badly made early US production 5.45 barrels are bare steel. (And considering that the cheapest 5.45x39 ammo is surplus corrosive Russian stuff at half the price of new production versions, that’s just smart to begin with.) 



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Ignoring Opposition, City Passes Curfew by Nicholas Shankin

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

DESPITE the double-dose of tremendous public outcry in devoted opposition to the unjust and unconstitutional Philadelphia curfew's passing into permanent city law, City Council members voted on October 27, 2011 to enact the bill. The law, which violates the Fourth Amendment of the Constitutional Bill of Rights, requires that any minor (under the age of 18, specifically) caught wandering the streets past 10:00 PM or "downtown" whatsoever past 9:00 PM be taken into custody. Their parents will be promptly notified, and potential fines of \$300-\$500 could be issued. In the event that a parent cannot be immediately contacted, the Department of Human Services is contacted to begin conducting an investigation as to whether or not the child should be removed from the household. Many citizens feel that the curfew is unjust, unnecessary, and potentially ineffective. As demonstrated in prior attempts by New York City, Compton, Detroit, and Boston (other cities that have experimented with implementing a curfew), the policy has not worked to prevent crime. Citizens opposed to the law argue that the curfew's arrests might be racially-motivated, similar to the city's stop-and-frisk policy (which also violates the Fourth Amendment by allowing police to search pedestrians at will and without a warrant) as well as the national war on drugs. For instance, in New York City, 89% of the 500,000 incidents of vehicular and pedestrian searches conducted in the year 2006 were non-white, despite the startling statistic that whites were 70% more likely to be carrying a concealed weapon. Still more disturbing is the reality that at the dawn of the 1990s, the U.S. had more black males under control of the justice system than in college. Certainly, the curfew's enforcement will continue in this trend.



On October 20th, when the bill was initially brought to the table of the City Hall Council for vote, there was an immense outcry from the public opposing the curfew. The story made the front page and was the nightly headline of area news stations, and the outspoken rejection of the law managed to stall its passing for another week. It seemed the battle had been won—even the media was covering the citizens' outrage against the Draconian policy. And yet, in a brazen display of tyrannical oppression, the council voted by a vast majority in favor of the legislation.

Perhaps the most important question raised by this set of circumstances is, "Who exactly was the Council representing and speaking on behalf of when they voted to pass the curfew law?" They certainly were not acting for the citizens of Philadelphia, who were more vocal about their regards for this issue than perhaps any in recent past. Yet, in the post-9/11 era, this is an unfortunate trend among politicians. It's time the American people address the pressing issue that their politicians no longer work for them, and that the Constitution has been disregarded as "just a piece of paper" (the actual remark of one politician). Their very freedom and well-being depends on it.

Until that day, local activists will continue to press on against the curfew, conducting local protests and stirring up community awareness of this injustice. For what else are they to do in a political system that does not work in their favor, but encourage the public to take the matter into its own hands.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Will We Step Aside for a Skating Rink?

by James Babb

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



On October 11th, Jodi Dodd received a letter addressed to Occupy Philly from Philadelphia Managing Director, Richard Negrin (PDF: tinyurl.com/OP-letter). The letter indicated that the Occupy Philadelphia will have to leave when construction begins on a \$55,000,000 cafe and ice skating rink construction project. A subsequent visit from city officials to the tech tent, communicated a similar message in person.

Many participating in the General Assembly have decided to relocate Occupy Philadelphia to across the street, to avoid potential police violence.

Connected businesses will profit handsomely from this project, but unfortunately over 82% of the cost of this project will fall on taxpayers. Like many projects of this nature, the profits are privatized, while expenses and risks are socialized.

Several Occupy Philadelphia activists responded to the city's message.

Jeff Rousset (www.prometheusradio.org, www.civsol.org, www.ivaw.org) responds:

1. The city LIED in this letter. They said our legal team signed a permit that had an end-date (mid-November) stipulated, which is not true.

2. The city wants to kick us out so they can begin a \$40-50 MILLION dollar construction project which would kick out the homeless who



live there to build a new pay-to-play ice skating rink and give the plaza a fancy makeover. These planned expenditures coincide with yesterday's Inquirer article that Philly is the POOREST big city in the country. Kids don't have books in classrooms, yet the city wants to spend money on a fancy ice skating rink? Stopping that project and forcing the city to reconsider it's spending priorities is reason enough to stay.

3. We occupy to make demands on the city, NOT the other way around.

4. We should not keep emphasizing the righteousness of the city for not ordering the police (yet) to attack PEACEFUL protestors expressing our first amendment right.

5. The argument that the city is wasting taxpayer money on policing the protest is laughable considering Philly has the highest incarceration rate in the entire country, and the U.S. has the highest in the world. To save money on policing, stop the mass incarceration of people of color in Philly for drug offenses and other nonviolent crimes.

6. While I applaud the city for allowing us to use the space thus far with minimal interference, I realize they're not doing so because they support our cause, but because that's the strategy they've chosen to control and manage our demonstration. It's an attempt to win us over, and channel our energies into feel-good projects that will cause no fundamental policy changes,



Continues on Page 50

Continued from Page 49 - Will We Step Aside for a Skating Rink?

no shifts in the balance of power, and no redistribution of wealth - such as the mural arts and community service projects proposed in the letter.

7. We are in a position to win serious demands from Philly's political and economic elite. I refuse to accept a third of the children in this city going to sleep hungry at night, more than a fourth of the population living in poverty, and poor people of color, including youth, being packed into prisons like sardines. Meanwhile the rich dine at Rittenhouse and enjoy extravagant luxuries high above the rest of us, and set policies to rig the deck in their favor. I, for one, refuse to leave Occupy Philly until our occupation turns into a powerful nonviolent movement, and with great love and sacrifice we win some concrete changes that make life a bit more tolerable in this city. If those in power refuse to budge on reasonable demands and instead choose to use force, as they do time and again against the people of Philly, then I'll stay until I'm carried away in handcuffs, perhaps soaked in my own blood, but with dignity. I have a feeling I won't be alone.



It has been suggested that the Occupy Philadelphia General Assembly issue a response to the city's letter on behalf of the entire movement. Occupy Philadelphia demonstrator Luis Torres has another idea that is shared by many. Instead of a single response, why don't we each send our own response? Luis writes, "So, one letter to represent us all... or a million letters to make the biggest statement? What a statement that would make in the den of vipers that awaits our collective decision. What great cries that would echo through the halls at the sight of many men, carrying hundreds of parcels.. brimming with the individual ideas, of individual minds."

This makes a lot of sense. We are a group of individuals and no one speaks for as all, not even those participating in the General Assembly. Because the inhabitants of City Hall operate under a hierarchical command structure, they expect everyone else to operate that way. They don't know how to deal with a bottom-up, grassroots movement. We are under no obligation to play their corrupt game.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Help the dedicated teams that are serving the movement
by **Ralph A McKittrick**

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



THERE is an urgent need for donations of numerous items to help us continue as a thriving voluntary community. If you can help, just bring along any of the following:

Medical items:

- Stethoscopes
- Blood pressure cups (lots!)
- 3 ten-channel walkie-talkies (MUST be Motorola!)

Kitchen items:

- Metal cutlery (not plastic, please)
- Storage bins (large and small)
- Crates
- Sanitizers to clean tables (not alcohol based)
- Spray bottles
- Aluminum foil
- Saran wrap



- Zip-lock baggies (all sizes)
- Water jugs (all sizes)

Comfort items:

- Cold weather gear of all kinds
- Batteries (AA & AAA) • Blankets
- Tents • Tarps
- Pillows • Sunscreen
- Ponchos • Umbrellas
- Kid lanterns • Tampons/pads

Food:

- Water (bottles, jugs, any size)
- Oatmeal
- Whole grain cereals
- Sunflower seeds
- Oils (olive, safflower, tea tree, etc.)
- Quinoa
- Granola bars
- Any dry or non-perishable food



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

‘Idolatry of the Market’?

by James Woods

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)


THE document released yesterday by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace calling for a world economic authority and condemning the “idolatry of the market” could have been written by any number of secular think-tanks in the United States.

It is also deeply confused. On the one hand, it speaks of excessive money growth as a problem that can lead to “speculative bubbles” whose bursting can do significant damage to economies around the world. On the other, it calls for a world economic authority that will...what? Be exempt from the errors and hubris of government officials and national central banks?

We were assured that the best and the brightest were running the Fed. These were people who told us the rise in housing prices was attributable to strong fundamentals. There was no housing bubble. Alan Greenspan told people to take out adjustable-rate mortgages. Ben Bernanke said in 2006 that lending standards were sound. And so on.

Whenever rising interest rates might have discouraged crazed speculation in real estate, the Fed kept the mania going by maintaining low rates. When the market was trying to send us red lights, in other words, the Fed was turning them all green.

Had we really been engaged in “idolatry of the market,” as the Vatican document suggests, we might have listened to the market. Instead, the central authorities drowned out what the market was trying to tell us.

It’s been idolatry not of the market but of central banks, institutionalized sources of moral hazard and financial instability around the world, that has yielded us the boom-bust cycle. (The aura of infallibility and the cult of personality surrounding Fed chairmen make the language of idolatry more than mere poetic license.)

The widespread misdiagnosis of the crisis now engulfing us has led to the frequent claim that lax regulation, or deregulation, must have caused it, and that better supervision of the system can prevent future crises. This is a delusion, albeit a common one.

In the United States we have 115 agencies that regulate the financial sector, and the Securities




and Exchange Commission never had a bigger budget or staff than under George W. Bush. There has been a threefold (inflation-adjusted) increase in funding for financial regulation since 1980. For reasons I’ve explained in my 2011 book Rollback, the repeal in 1999 of one provision of Glass-Steagall had zero to do with the financial crisis. Europe has never operated under Glass-Steagall-style restrictions and is none the worse for it. There is no repealed regulation that would have prevented the crisis consuming the world right now.

The banking industry is by far the least laissez-faire sector of the U.S. economy; it is a cartel arrangement overseen by the Federal Reserve and shot through with monopoly privilege, bailout protection, and moral hazard.

The present malaise, therefore, does not call for another layer of supervision, as the Pontifical Council appears to think. It calls for a serious moral and economic reevaluation of institutions, among them central banking and fiat money, that we have long taken for granted, and in support of which all manner of historical and theoretical fallacies have taken widespread root.

The last thing we need is a larger, more centralized version of what we have now. Our problem isn’t greedy people or bad personnel. Every society and every period of world history have had those. The problem is the system itself.

An excellent moral case can be made for a genuinely free economy, one not subject to the cronyism and manipulation at the heart of the present system. The chief obstacle in the way of such an outcome is the central bank, the anomalous central planning agency at the heart of a free economy. We’ve been assured that the central bank has found a shortcut to prosperity by managing the economy with its highly touted macro tools and by second-guessing the interest rates to which the free interactions of individuals give rise. The result has been bubble after bubble and – contrary to popular belief – far more banking and currency crises and overall instability than was ever seen in the oft-misunderstood era that preceded the age of central banking.

The Vatican document reflects a vague sense of what is wrong, but any solution that involves reposing our confidence in still another layer of time-serving drones supervising a largely unchanged system is no real solution at all. 

By Thomas E. Woods, Jr. (<http://lewrockwell.com/woods/woods181.html>)

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)


The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

A Socialist Perspective On the Federal Reserve Audit by Bernie Sanders

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)


JULY 21, 2011 - The first top-to-bottom audit of the Federal Reserve uncovered eye-popping new details about how the U.S. provided a whopping \$16 trillion in secret loans to

bail out American and foreign banks and businesses during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. An amendment by Sen. Bernie Sanders to the Wall Street reform law passed one year ago this week directed the Government Accountability Office to conduct the study. “As a result of this audit, we now know that the Federal Reserve provided more than \$16 trillion in total financial assistance to some of the largest financial institutions and corporations in the United States and throughout the world,” said Sanders. “This is a clear case of socialism for the rich and rugged, you’re-on-your-own individualism for everyone else.”

Among the investigation’s key findings is that the Fed unilaterally provided trillions of dollars in financial assistance to foreign banks and corporations from South Korea to Scotland, according to the GAO report. “No agency of the United States government should be allowed to bailout a foreign bank or corporation without the direct approval of Congress and the president,” Sanders said.

The non-partisan, investigative arm of Congress also determined that the Fed lacks a comprehensive system to deal with conflicts of interest, despite the serious potential for abuse. In fact, according to the report, the Fed provided conflict of interest waivers to employees and private contractors so they could keep investments in the same financial institutions and corporations that were given emergency loans.

For example, the CEO of JP Morgan Chase served on the New York Fed’s board of directors at the same time that his bank received more than \$390 billion in financial assistance from the Fed. Moreover, JP Morgan Chase served as one of the clearing banks for the Fed’s emergency lending programs.



In another disturbing finding, the GAO said that on Sept. 19, 2008, William Dudley, who is now the New York Fed president, was granted a waiver to let him keep investments in AIG and General Electric at the same time AIG and GE were given bailout funds. One reason the Fed did not make Dudley sell his holdings, according to the audit, was that it might have created the appearance of a conflict of interest.

To Sanders, the conclusion is simple. “No one who works for a firm receiving direct financial assistance from the Fed should be allowed to sit on the Fed’s board of directors or be employed by the Fed,” he said.

The investigation also revealed that the Fed outsourced most of its emergency lending programs to private contractors, many of which also were recipients of extremely low-interest and then-secret loans.

The Fed outsourced virtually all of the operations of their emergency lending programs to private contractors like JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo. The same firms also received trillions of dollars in Fed loans at near-zero interest rates. Altogether some two-thirds of the contracts that the Fed awarded to manage its emergency lending programs were no-bid contracts. Morgan Stanley was given the largest no-bid contract worth \$108.4 million to help manage the Fed bailout of AIG.

A more detailed GAO investigation into potential conflicts of interest at the Fed is due on Oct. 18, but Sanders said one thing already is abundantly clear. “The Federal Reserve must be reformed to serve the needs of working families, not just CEOs on Wall Street.”

To read the GAO report visit:
www.tinyurl.com/GAO-Fed. }



By Bernie Sanders, US Senator from Vermont (Democratic Socialist, <http://sanders.senate.gov>)

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Will Democrats Buy the Occupation Movement?

by John Murphy[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

IT didn't take rocket science to figure that the Democrats would ultimately buy this movement's support for Obama. The progressive Caucus met with them and the

Democratic Party radio talkshow hosts are salivating with excitement.

Here's what the Deaniacs (these days they call themselves Democracy for America) have already done to buy support for Obama's 2012 campaign:

- Raised over \$40,000 for sleeping bags for cold nights
- Joined the leadership in Occupy movements across the country
- Distributed "We are the 99% lawn signs" so that folks across the country can voice their



support (probably with some recognition of the Democratic Party)

They are also asking their members to come up with another \$250 a piece so they can buy these votes and have the people wear Obama 2012 T-shirts!

What the hell; Obama bought the last election with the best advertising company money can buy, why would we expect the Democrats to buy any social movement they can? So far they own the labor movement, the civil rights movement, the women's movement and the antiwar movement. They have betrayed all of these movements. The Democratic Party, after all, is where social movements go to die but Americans have a very short memory!



By John Murphy

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Peace Activist Shot by Oakland Police, Thousands Rally in Response by James Babb

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Oakland, California - On October 25th, a Veterans for Peace member and Iraq Veterans Against the War activist, Scott Olsen was shot in the head by either San Francisco Sheriffs deputies or Palo Alto Police, at 14th Street and Broadway in downtown Oakland.

Police turned a peaceful demonstration into a war zone when they assaulted the unarmed demonstrators with flash bang bombs, tear gas and rubber bullets.

According to Jeff Rousset, Scott Olsen, a former Marine, two-time Iraq war veteran, and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, sustained a skull fracture after being shot in the head with a police projectile while peacefully participating in an Occupy Oakland march. The march began at a downtown library and headed towards City Hall in an effort to reclaim a site—recently cleared by police—that had previously served as an encampment for members of the 99% movement.

To make matters even worse, the good samaritans that came to Scott's aid also came under fire from police grenades.



The Bay Citizen reports that at an afternoon press conference with Oakland Mayor Jean Quan on Wednesday, interim police Chief Howard Jordan said the Oakland Police Department had opened a “level one investigation” into Olsen’s injury, involving OPD’s internal affairs, major crimes and homicide departments; the Alameda County District Attorney’s office; and the federal monitor that oversees the Oakland police department.

Well wishes and cards can be sent to: USMC Scott Olsen, Highland Hospital, 1411 East 31st Street, Oakland, CA 94602.

Please consider a generous donation to help cover the medical expenses: <http://bit.ly/uIgbIK> (or use this code).



This incident is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with challenging the status quo. Even peaceful demonstrations can become dangerous when the corporatist government’s interests are threatened.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

The Occupy Philadelphia Inquirer

Volume 1, Number 3

Monday, October 31, 2011

News@OccupyPhillyInquirer.com

Not affiliated with the corporate-controlled Philadelphia Inquirer.

Voluntary Contributions Only

The Revolution is Under Fire!

Who Speaks for the Movement?

by James Babb

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



This question comes up quite often. It is a frequent subject of debate, especially in a movement claiming to speak for "the 99%." The easiest answer is "no one speaks for the movement." Common sense tells us that we each have the ability to speak on behalf of ourselves, and no one may speak for us without our consent. So beware of celebrities that latch on to our movement and attempt to represent the "99%." Beware of politicians eager to acquire support for their campaigns and special interests. They are trained to seem sympathetic, but quickly forget us when voting for legislation.



This newsletter does not speak for the movement. The General Assembly may offer some opinions, but even then, they only speak for the majority of



the few people who participate in their meeting. The strength of our movement is it's diversity. Our opponents realize this, so they attempt to drive wedges along political, philosophical and racial lines. Don't fall for it.



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

Publisher's Backpage

by Ernest Hancock

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#) • [Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)

I just finished proofing this edition of Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine and DAMN!

Wow,... These Liberty Lovers didn't leave any love left over for The State. Well, who can blame them after being exposed to their reasoned arguments?

The theme of this edition was 'The Road to Liberty' ([Libertopia in Pictures](#)). I looked forward to focusing on alternatives to State enforced monopolies of force and coercion.



Most, if not all, of the perceived problems that might be left over when The State finally collapses of its own weight will disappear when individuals are free to take care of themselves, their family and the community that they choose to live in. The problems start when collective force is used to Socially and Economically engineer individuals with the forced desires of others.

The end result of this month's eZine was an understanding that the elimination of The State was the greatest solution of them all. And replacing their institutions with... well,... Nothing, is preferable by far to what we have endured for decades,... make that millennia.

For almost a decade it would be common for a new listener to my radio show to call in and accuse me of really being an ANARCHIST. All I would do is state that if my choice was the government that we have had for my entire adult life or nothing... then I choose nothing.

And life under The Gun has gotten much worse with each passing year.

But as pessimistic as I am for the future with the organized monopolies of force constantly terrorizing the planet, I am even more optimistic that humanity will evolve the awareness that their lives would be far better without government chains wrapped around their spirit.

November was a very busy month for us here in Phoenix. Immediately following the completion of the October Edition of the Digital Magazine our Layout Editor for the eZine, Gwen Strimic, had her baby almost two months early. She and baby are doing fine. But this really piled on the work for my wife Donna. My daughter Sierra took a day to train Donna using the manuals that she created for Gwen. Donna took it over from there and did a great job. An unexpected benefit has been that this new method of communication via Tablets and SmartPhones is now known

to several hard core activists and the number keeps growing.

Libertopia was the highlight of the month and has inspired local activists to help with next year's Libertopia and to explore plans of their own.

Several activities featured on FreedomsPhoenix' website didn't make it into this edition and will likely get their due next month. But I did want to share a little of the drama that we participated in this month that is both timely and often disturbing.

I've provided some links below of the Highlights.

OccupyPhoenix started here in Arizona on October 15th 2011 and we took advantage of the many minds in need of the truth by supplying them with educational material (Custom T-Shirts, DVDs, QR Codes to selected sites, printed material, Hats etc.). We met many of our friends from the left, some from the right and many LOV3olutionaries. The State acted as expected and we are still taking advantage of the educational aspects of their behavior.

Fortunately, Phoenix Activists and our allies have been documenting the rise of the Police State here in Arizona and have a greater understanding of the Who, What, When, Where, How and Whys of the last gasps for legitimacy by The State.

It's late Friday night and the deadline for the eZine is racing towards me so I don't have the time this month to detail the behind the scenes news. But if you subscribe to FreedomsPhoenix' Daily Email Dispatch <http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Secure/Join-Us.htm?AddFrom=JoinUs&EdNo=001> – or added the SmartPhone/Tablet Application https://market.android.com/details?id=com.appmakr.app292885&feature=search_result to your handheld devices then you'd have known when we did.

But I posted some links to some of the things that kept us busy here in the Phoenix Area (and our November schedule is already FULL :)

News About Bad Guys Being Bad...

Be Good.

Peace,

Ernie

Next page are just some of the highlights to the local activism that kept us occupied during October.

[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)



Continues on Page 58

Continued from Page 57 - Publisher's Backpage

OccupyPhoenix:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Media/097916-2011-10-15-occupy-phoenix-10-15-2011-photos-and-live-interviews-arrests.htm>

WINNER of Strike-The-Root Occupy Video Contest – Drew Phillips
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/097973-2011-10-17-strike-the-root-occupy-phoenix-video.htm>

(Morpheus get some slam dunk national coverage with this one :)
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098046-2011-10-18-occupy-phoenix-with-ar-15s.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Opinion/098086-2011-10-19-open-letter-to-the-occupy-movement.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098073-2011-10-18-from-a-single-hashtag-a-protest-circled-the-world.htm?EdNo=001&From=and then...>
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098144-2011-10-20-city-hall-allows-protesters-24-7-access-to-cesar-chavez.htm?EdNo=001&From=> (next month we'll reveal 'The Rest of the Story')



Hello Arizona Counter Terrorism Officials This is CopBlock.org:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098596-2011-10-28-hello-arizona-counter-terrorism-officials-this-is-copblock.org.tm?EdNo=001&From=>



Tea Party Back Room News:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098766-2011-11-01-people-power-the-koch-brothers.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

and then I started thinking, so I made a couple of calls and took a look...
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098839-2011-11-02-arizona-tea-party-groups-national-tea-party.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Opinion/098309-2011-10-24-constitutional-convention-can-not-be-controlled.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098861-2011-11-02-four-reasons-for-the-right-to-embrace-not-fear-the.htm>

The Arizona Breakfast Club:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098875-2011-11-02-remember-remember-the-5th-of-november-is-the-next-arizona.htm>

4409:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098936-2011-11-03-4409-were-back.htm>



Rock the Revolution Concert:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/097633-2011-10-11-phoenix-rock-the-revolution-tour-is-now-set.htm>

<http://www.meetup.com/RonPaulPhoenix/photos/4270552/69952782/>



Libertopia:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098197-2011-10-21-libertopia-2011-in-pictures-6-00-pm-sunday.htm>



Inspired by Libertopia and the Freedom Summit...
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098892-2011-11-03-porcwest-the-scorpupine-freedom-festival.htm?EdNo=001&From=>



PhoenixNORML:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098911-2011-11-03-phoenix-norml-meeting-downtown-phoenix-11-2-11.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Media/098713-2011-10-31-kathy-tee-from-phoenix-norml-10-31-11.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098704-2011-10-31-valley-pot-clubs-growing-in-popularity.htm?EdNo=001&From=>



FreedomsPhoenix RV Painting:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/097757-2011-10-13-freedoms-phoenix-rv-project-moving-along.htm>

CheckPoints:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098462-2011-10-26-scottsdale-arizona-roadblock-all-commercial-vehicles-forced-to-exit-and.htm>

to pay for THIS maybe...
<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/097683-2011-10-11-urgent-4409-vs-city-of-scottsdale.htm> (4409 wins 10's of thousands from City of Scottsdale)



CheckPoints:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098443-2011-10-26-phoenix-out-more-for-pensions.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

Houston gets...

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098668-2011-10-30-houston-swat-operators-get-their-own-airborne-weapons-platform.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

and then Scottsdale gets...

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Opinion/098762-2011-11-01-the-police-state-and-victorias-secret.htm>

Some Things Worth Knowing:

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098129-2011-10-19-phoenix-activists-andrew-and-gwen-strmic-have-baby-boy-today.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098356-2011-10-25-you-wont-believe-what-you-can-do-with-a-photograph.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098622-2011-10-29-one-of-my-in-laws-asked-my-wife-about-silver.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098893-2011-11-03-4409-were-back-coming-soon-from-4409.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/097828-2011-10-14-help-im-getting-arrested.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Media/097721-2011-10-12-ian-freeman-from-free-talk-live-why-i-moved-to.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/097901-2011-10-15-freedomsphoenix-android-market-smartphone-application-ready-for-download.htm>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098364-2011-10-25-skills-out-weigh-the-need-to-be-a-slave.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/097930-2011-10-16-former-quartzsite-mayor-ed-foster-out-of-jail-on-bail.htm?EdNo=001&From=> ('cause he refused to attend their illegal meetings)

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098091-2011-10-19-throwable-ball-camera-captures-panoramic-images-publisher-recommended-video.htm?EdNo=001&From=> (because I want one)

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098444-2011-10-26-an-occupy-wall-street-sympathizer-created-a-free-app-called.htm?EdNo=001&From=>



A Visit by Gary Johnson:



<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098579-2011-10-28-gary-johnson-speaks-at-politics-on-the-rocks-in-scottsdale.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/097154-2011-09-29-gop-presidential-candidate-gary-johnson-in-fountain-hills-today-5.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Article/098162-2011-10-20-the-best-presidential-candidate-no-ones-heard-of.htm>



Because Ron Paul just plain Kicks Ass...

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098934-2011-11-03-ron-paul-on-msnbc-morning-joe-11-3-11-fed.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/097987-2011-10-17-ron-paul-to-propose-1t-in-specific-budget-cuts.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098077-2011-10-18-ron-paul-highlights-in-10-18-2011-presidential-debate.htm?EdNo=001&From=>

<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/News/098767-2011-11-01-gop-debate-wed-nov-9th-2011-debate-party-at-hancocks.htm>



[Make a Comment](#) • [Email Link](#)
[Send Letter to Editor](#) • [Save Link](#)