

New Liberty

Not the Daughter, But the Mother of Order - Proudhon

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Not Your Pot Smoking Republicans

Rarely has a political philosophy been so misunderstood by the general public than modern libertarianism. This is partially due to the hijacking of libertarian rhetoric by the Republican Party, who disguise their state capitalist economies through appeals to “free market policy,” (which is, in a word, contradictory) and “vulgar libertarians” who support the current political economy, minus those “pesky regulations.” Gladly taking the bait are writers and commentators over at Daily Kos and other progressive outlets, who attempt to discredit libertarians by deriding us as “pot smoking Republicans” or “Republicans who can’t keep their pants up.” Such epithets are deceitful, harmful, and offensive to those who accept the plain and simple truth about libertarianism: *the principle of liberty stands in direct opposition to the modern Republican party.*

We are anti-corporate and anti-monopoly. Much like those on the left, we seek to dismantle the exploitative mega-corporation, but unlike self-styled progressives, we recognize the odious symbiotic relationship between the corporation and the state. Big business cannot form nor operate without existent big government to subsidize its natural inefficiency through restrictions on labor’s access to capital (be it in the form of usurious interest rates caused by government-imposed entry barriers to the market or through absentee landlordism) and monopoly-inducing regulation, thus creating and perpetuating the soul-crushing wage slave system in the workplace. Today, the irrationality and inefficiency of the modern corporation are allowed to thrive (despite the vast majority of large organizations operating under diseconomies of scale) due to the American taxpayer footing the bill. In addition, as libertarians, we are pro-labor rights, and find it clear and obvious that government has not safeguarded the rights of the worker against the excesses of management. Rather, the state has consistently been the enemy of labor and the friend of big business. Since the late 19th century, politicians have conducted vast and sweeping programs to limit the power of the laborer. This is perhaps best evidenced by the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, otherwise known as the “slave-labor bill.” Workers’ rights movements, which were so effective in the early 20th century, have been reduced to lobbying for punitive increases in wages that allow workers to accept the terribly unjust conditions they have been offered without much complaint. Furthermore, we oppose state capitalist calls for so-called privatization and deregulation, recognizing them for what they are: tools to enrich the plutocrats at the expense of the average citizen. It is not the free market that that enriches big businesses and the capitalist pigs who are perched on top; rather, it is state intervention that enables corporate abuses to continue unchecked.

We are anti-war. We vigorously excoriate the military-industrial complex and the perpetual warfare state. We speak out against imperialistic U.S. policy, whether it be military bases in foreign countries, habitual blind support of “friends” and unrelenting militaristic rhetoric directed at “evil-doers,” or assertion of power into overseas territories. We have been in fierce opposition to the War in Iraq from day one, rejecting the calls of sacrifice for an all-too-obvious web of lies and deception. We, as libertarians, believe in the Randolph Bourne dictum, “War is the health of the state,” and will seek to struggle against any and all acts of military and economic aggression in foreign lands. Rather than support the imposition of American hegemony abroad, we believe in creating defense-based mechanisms, developing resilient communities, and seeking peaceful resolution in times of conflict.

We are anti-authoritarian. By definition, a libertarian must be in opposition to any form of coercive authority. We denounce government invasion on the individual’s private life. We disdain bureaucrats and moralists due to their steadfast determination to legislate the range of acceptable behavior, rather than process being carried out through social convention or the

classic aphorism of “mind your own business.” We oppose the police state and its invasions of fundamental privacy as well as the ineffectual drug war; the same police state that gives a pass to blatant abuses of executive power and turns a blind eye to the natural implications of following orders unquestioningly.

We are not nihilists, Randroids, or selfish materialists who insincerely cry “too bad” when a human being is crushed by the very mechanism of which he is assured to be upholding. Nay, our ideal society is one that stands to be operating on the principle and recognition of the equality of liberty. We believe that all workers should receive what they are entitled to in compensation for their labor. We believe in a progression to a more stable currency, justly acquired property, and free market principles. We hold humanity to the highest standard, arguing that an invasive state is not necessary to preserve society, but in fact destroys it. In doing so, we recognize that liberty is not the daughter, but the mother of order.

If anyone is to be called a “pot smoking Republican,” let it be those who resolve to scale back the war on soft drugs, yet act as apologists for Bismarckian corporate liberalism, the Prussian education system, American hegemony maintained through interventionist foreign policy, and oppressive restrictions on civil liberties (Patriot Act and FISA Amendments, anyone?). If the slur must continue, let it be known that the Democratic Party is far closer in ideology and practice to the Republican machine than any true libertarian, and we shall turn their words right back on them.

RASKOLNIK

Democracy and Republic

In my journalism class the professor commented that one of the purposes of the press was to “protect our democracy.” But I thought to myself that this country was not intended to be a democracy; America was founded as a republic. In grade school we did not pledge allegiance to the democracy “for which we stand,” but to the republic. A democracy’s defining quality is the rule of the majority, meaning there is no protection for the rights of the individual from the overruling masses. It is only a republic, founded and checked by the authority of the Constitution, that can protect the rights of the minority.

Within a democracy, one cannot depend on the self-restraint of the persons making up the ruling majority to protect the individual or the minority against tyranny. In this regard, a democracy is the antithesis of a republic, whose primary purpose is to limit the government to only “just powers” to secure the unalienable rights of the individual. Hamilton Albert Long defined the term republic as a “constitutionally limited government of the representative type, created by a written constitution – adopted by the people and changeable (from its original meaning) by them and only by its amendment with its powers divided between three separate branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. A republic protects us from a governing elite and prevents the government from gaining enough power to

be capable of being misused... as to violate the people’s liberties.”

So can we say that we have this promised protection from our government right now? Hell no we don’t! Those who fail to recognize that their rights are being violated need to wake up. To quote a bumper sticker, “If you aren’t outraged, you aren’t paying attention.”

I was a democrat for a long time before I discovered the inherent dangers of a democracy. If you want to end war-mongering, the expansion of our tyrannical empire, and the violation of our fundamental rights then you must favor a system that limits the power of government. Can one honestly say that the legislative branch has the self-restraint to protect the rights of the individual? Again, another hell no! Just look at the legislation they are passing: the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, and countless other violations of constitutional authority.

Right now *both* parties desire the seizure of more power, and the net result will be the increased ability of the government to exploit and abuse the common citizen. In this regard, McCain and Obama are no different. They both want to use their expanded power in different ways, whether it’s inflating the already bloated military or increasing the reach of government programs. The two mainstream parties are one in the same; they will abuse your liberties for their own ends. So don’t be a “good Democrat,” nor a “good Republican.” Be a *good American*, and open your eyes to the dangers of unconstitutional violations of your inalienable rights.

SHAUNA MUSSER

Perspectives

In light of Constitution Day, September 17th.

“Do not separate text from historical background. If you do, you will have perverted and subverted the Constitution, which can only end in a distorted, bastardized form of illegitimate government.” - James Madison

“The moral and constitutional obligations of our representatives in Washington are to protect our liberty, not coddle the world, precipitating no-win wars, while bringing bankruptcy and economic turmoil to our people.” - Ron Paul

“Stop throwing the Constitution in my face. It’s just a goddamned piece of paper!” - George W. Bush

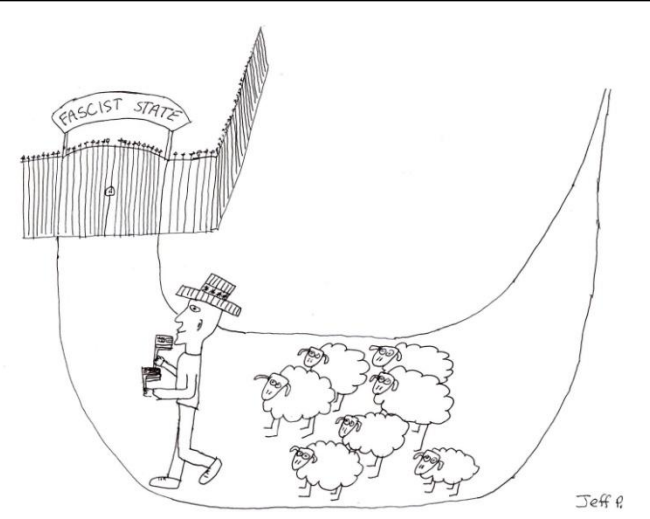
“But whether the Constitution really be one thing, or another, this much is certain: that it has either authorized such a government as we have had, or has been powerless to prevent it. In either case, it is unfit to exist.” - Lysander Spooner

Liberty In Action

Today, corporations control the most popular sources for obtaining news and opinion.

What passes for news today is a marketing scheme designed to further a statist agenda. It is our policy to drive truthful information to the public in an effort to challenge the ruling set of standards, regardless of the emotions elicited by such reports.

In a speech given after the Bay of Pigs incident, President John F. Kennedy illustrated the importance of the media in limiting the power of the state, arguing that, “Our press... [is] the only business in America specifically protected by the constitution.” In today’s world, it is imperative that we search for the truth!



Uconn Students for Liberty

Meets Thursday in Student Union Room 312 at

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Open to Everyone

Website: www.uconnliberty.wordpress.com

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Our Purpose

When the political process has been exhausted, declared useless and hopeless; when the act of force is ruled out on principle; when all avenues lead straight to statism; who then, stands to defend the cause of liberty? Politicians seek only to advance their own power and speak unenthusiastically of real, undiluted freedom, practicing it even less. The corporation is not interested in liberty; it is bereft of principle, concerned only with profit. The media appeals solely to the authoritarian with its jingoistic rhetoric and parochial outlook. And while it is the nature of power to defend authority, liberty has no such voice. She cannot speak for herself, for where there is authoritarianism and invasion, there can be no liberty to make her case. Her fate lies with the people, and only the people.

So we embark upon this journalistic endeavor, standing to face tyranny without pretense and without fear, armed only with the truth. We advance the cause of liberty through education: informing the uninformed about her, parrying attacks directed at her, and advancing her principles until she has been achieved in full. The *New Liberty* chooses to give liberty an outlet, no matter how small in scope, with the intent of imbuing her in the hearts and minds of the people.

We are deeply indebted to Benjamin R. Tucker and the writers at the seminal anarchist periodical *Liberty* (1881-1908), for advancing their particular brand of liberty and providing us with the basis to advance ours. Here at the *New Liberty*, we encompass a wide range of views within the broader context of libertarianism: there are the democrat and the anarchist; the voter and the non-voter; the capitalist and the socialist; the right-libertarian and the left-; all with the same fundamental goal: to crush the myths of authority, monopoly, and force, with the ultimate intent of achieving the of maximum amount of liberty for the maximum amount of people.

RASKOLNIK

Eat My Shorts

- In a strikingly frank violation of First Amendment rights, federal authorities seized hundreds of anarchist pamphlets in police raids in St. Paul during the Republican National Convention. Ironically, the writings explicitly reject violence as a method for social change, with titles like "You Can't Blow up a Social Relationship" and "The Ethics of Labor Struggle." But for the state, opposition is treason!

- Libertarian candidate for President Bob Barr snubbed Ron Paul's press conference in September, where Paul recommended that voters cast their lot with third parties. Mr. Barr, whatever the merits (or demerits) of his current political philosophy, clearly represents the worst excesses of a snake-oil politician, prosecuting non-violent drug offenders one day while defending medical marijuana the next. In response to Barr's latest maneuver, Paul endorsed Constitution Party candidate Chuck Baldwin.

-The Presidential candidates debate! Okay, not nearly as exciting as it sounds. Both candidates accept the (false) narrative that Russia was the aggressor in the South Ossetia War and there can be no nuclear Iran. The economy must be saved to preserve our "free market" [sic!]. Clearly, the two talking heads are controlled by similarly-minded puppet masters. The bad guys may be different, but the issues are the same. Meanwhile, Sarah Palin sees Alaska as a defense against an airborne invasion by "Putin's head."

Financial Crisis: No Solution

Imagine that you have been diagnosed with cancer and are lying in your hospital bed. You've lurched from crisis to crisis, and after each one, your condition has significantly deteriorated. Suddenly, you hear two doctors mumbling outside your room, and your name is mentioned. They say there is still hope for a cure that will set you back on the streets with the

right painkiller. The doctors enter your room, offer their joint solution, and bid you farewell. But as they walk out the door, you notice that their fingers are crossed behind their backs. As the realization of what just occurred suffuses your mind, a smile creeps across your face.

Unfortunately, the situation is far too grave to be amused for long at the buffoonery of those supposedly in charge of your health. Imagine your horror at discovering the potentialities of the consummate incompetence exhibited by your doctors, and recognizing that their ameliorative "solutions" fail to address the real substance: that the primary issue is systemic.

Forgive the extended metaphor, but the intent was to show that the Federal Government, in response to the "nascent" economic crisis, is addressing the wrong sort of thing these days. Yes, there is a liquidity crisis, but the root of the problem is not liquidity; it's insolvency. And no matter how many helicopters Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke wishes to fly over business and banking institutions, it will never cure the weak underlying fundamentals of the American economy.

The American public has had a negative visceral reaction to the recent proposed government bailouts and nationalization, but I suppose we would rather just let the financial institutions fail and turn a blind eye to the consequences. As if the crisis is limited to Wall Street (one would hope that the housing crisis would have dispelled that myth). Naturally and predictably in tune with the general sentiment of the American ignoramus, President Bush has quipped, "Wall Street got drunk," obviously reflecting upon his own experience in destroying the economic foundations of a country while inebriated.

Nevertheless, the current calamity affects every American, and nearly every citizen of the world. Cheap credit and pollyannaish outlook in recent decades fueled several major speculative bubbles that are now only just beginning to leak trillions of dollars. Naturally, this has caused a sharp contraction of the money supply, triggering a deflationary spiral similar to that witnessed during the Great Depression in the 1930s. However, America currently operates under a completely fiat currency: the gold standard was vanquished during Franklin Roosevelt's presidency, the Bretton-Woods system was abolished during Nixon's, and the nefarious Federal Reserve System was established during Wilson's. Today, the government can just print money out of existence, which is exactly what has been done! Inflation has been rampant in recent years and the U.S. dollar has lost its purchasing power at an alarming rate; not to mention the heinous practice of fractional-reserve lending.

It appears that Bernanke, SEC chairman Chris Cox, and Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson can't seem to resist the temptation to "shore up" all of the structural financial problems by spending more and more money developed out of thin air! And why not? It's politically expedient: you delay the problems until the next crisis, and so on. Painkillers, what was I thinking? Band-Aids are a more appropriate analogy to the proposed solutions put forth. Perhaps enough will suffocate our dear patient if the cancer doesn't get to him first. In 2002, Bernanke gave a now oft-referenced speech entitled, "Deflation: Making Sure It Doesn't Happen Here." It would be wise to believe him, as Bernanke's grand theory about the Great Depression is that it could have been averted had the Fed flooded the market with liquidity at the right time. Hmm. We know that power breeds arrogance, but does arrogance breed power?

All kidding aside, the situation is devastatingly grave and there is no way to avoid the fallout. The strength of the dollar is rapidly eroding, there is a huge gap between rich and poor, the housing market is crashing, stocks are still inflated well beyond their long-term historical averages, price/earnings ratios are impossibly high, corporate profits are plummeting, banking institutions are failing every week, and there isn't enough money lying around to fix all these problems!

Update (4 weeks later): As a corollary to the dire financial situation, the stock market has been near full-scale panic mode, with wild swings in excess of 5% becoming the norm. The week of October 6th was the worst week in history for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, as over the course of five days, the market plummeted a record 18%. The following Monday, the market rocketed 11%, the 5th single day rise in history. The top 4? Occurred in 1933, 1931, 1929, and 1932. [-R.]

The national debt and government obligations

are exceedingly large and impossible to pay off via conventional means. Hyperinflation, as opposed to deflation, is a serious possibility due to the fact that it's irresistible to the clowns up top.

But I've been saying this since 2004, and the reality was as plain back then as it is today. Apparently the human race cannot recognize a crisis until it crashes upon them in full force. As late as mid-September, we kept hearing that the underlying fundamentals of the economy are sound. Not so today! Even the "fear of a recession" moniker has been replaced with the dreaded 'D' word, but soon the word "fear" will be eliminated as well, and America will have to face what it has wrought. The reality is unavoidable, it cannot be contained, and it cannot be reckoned with. The only way to rebuild the financial system is to have the old one destroyed.

The center cannot hold.

RASKOLNIK

Our Right To Fail

The principles established by the Founding Fathers were derived from the basis that every person had a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For citizens and immigrants alike, this has been the American Dream. So from the ratification of the Constitution through the 19th century, the federal government maintained a relatively non-interventionist policy on issues ranging from international affairs to moral issues, reflecting a philosophy I like to call, "I won't scratch your back if you don't scratch mine." However, in recent decades, (especially since FDR's New Deal reforms) egalitarianism has been adopted by the state as justification for exponential growth in the power of the federal government. It is our obligation as citizens, the final "check" in the system, to act as the bulwark against such concentrations.

It is important to understand the difference between forced egalitarianism and "equality through natural interaction." Egalitarianism, as applied, is the doctrine that every person has the right to equal opportunity. This may sound like a good idea in theory, but in practice this is a poisonous system that can only lead to internal destruction. A modern example of coercive egalitarianism would be heterogeneous grouping, where public school students are forced to learn at the level and speed of the slowest students in the class, creating an environment discouraging the proliferation of knowledge. In addition, egalitarianism has been applied in the financial sector: government-protected lenders are pressured to give out bad loans through artificial securities. Furthermore, in recent years, state intervention caused bankers to issue credit to high-risk individuals, directly causing the housing market crisis while creating the possibility of a complete economic meltdown. An astute analysis of both egalitarian (re: planned) and free market economies would show that even though the former may have noble intentions, the natural financial gradient is the true driver of growth.

Unrestricted free exchange is the closest economic ideal to a liberal analysis of natural selection. (Perhaps it is the world's clinging belief in God that is killing our economy?) In addition, equality through an unfettered market was the intent of the Founding Fathers. America was to be a meritocracy: a society where any citizen had the freedom to achieve their goals. However, the opposite has been the case recently.

It is time to recast the role of the federal government. While social egalitarianism may work on a local level, federal intervention to promote equal opportunity does nothing but drive us further away from the free market, causing repercussions that are both unnecessary and detrimental to the American people.

A. BERNIER

