

DISCOVER LIBERTY

PUBLISHED BY THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

How to **think** like a libertarian

Why libertarians answer the **Quiz questions** the way they do

You've take the World's Smallest Political Quiz and discovered your true ideological identity.

Now, you may be wondering about those libertarians who inhabit the upper corner of the "Diamond Chart" political map. (You may even be one yourself!)

How do libertarians answer the World's Smallest Political Quiz's 10 questions? And, more importantly, *why* do they answer them that way?

Wonder no more. Here's a quick explanation of where a typical libertarian stands on the issues.

(If you haven't taken the World's Smallest Political Quiz yet, you may want to see page 3 before you read this article.)

1. Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Free speech is the cornerstone of liberty. It's so important that the Founding Fathers put it #1 in the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment says Congress shall make no law "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

"No law" seems pretty clear, right? Not to politicians. They ignore the First Amendment and imprison Americans for engaging in non-government-approved speech. Politicians make it illegal for adults to buy "obscene" DVDs. In the name of campaign finance reform, they prohibit groups

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



■ Every year, millions of people take the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Some score libertarian, and others wonder how libertarians would answer the Quiz's 10 questions.

The **gentle** hand of liberty

Why freedom promotes harmony—and why government doesn't

BY SHARON HARRIS
President, Advocates
for Self-Government

Here's a question for you: Would you rather visit Wal-Mart or the Department of Motor Vehicles?

At Wal-Mart, you'll find a vast array of consumer products, an army of sales clerks to assist you, and jaw-



droppingly low prices. Wal-Mart stores open early and close late.

At the DMV, you'll gener-

ally find surly government employees, long lines, rigid rules, and inconvenient business hours. Don't look for low prices: The cost of a driver's license or a car registration is sky-high, and goes up every year.

Hate Wal-Mart?

Wait a second, you might say: *I don't like Wal-Mart.* You object to their low pay rates,

or you don't like their environmental policies, or you think their merchandise is crummy.

No problem. You've got plenty of other options. You can go to Target, K-Mart, Costco, JCPenney, or many others. You can even shop online — and have the products you need delivered right to your door.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



POP QUIZ:

What do these **celebs** have in common?

Answer: They all say they're **libertarians**

Hear that song blasting on your iPod? The singer may be a libertarian. That best-selling book you're reading? The author could very well be a libertarian.

That celebrity chef on TV, chopping shallots? That's right — he might be a libertarian, too.

The fact is, a remarkable number of famous people call themselves libertarians.

There are libertarian movie stars, musicians, Academy Award-winning directors, comedians, CEOs, romance novelists, TV personalities, and parenting experts — to name just a few. Here are some of the most *interesting* libertarian celebrities:

Clint Eastwood **Actor & Director**



Clint Eastwood is famous for the tough, straight-talking characters he plays in movies. He's the same when he talks politics, saying simply that he's a "libertarian... Everyone leaves everyone else alone." He also says, "I've always considered myself too individualistic to be either right-wing or left-wing." Eastwood, one of the world's biggest stars, is best known for his .44 Magnum-wielding roles in movies like *Dirty Harry* and *Magnum Force*. He also won Best Director Oscars for *Unforgiven* (1992) and *Million Dollar Baby* (2004).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FROM THE
PRESIDENTLiberty
holds the
answers

Welcome! This newspaper is designed to help you “Discover Liberty” and learn more about the World’s Smallest Political Quiz.

If you’re new to the Quiz, or to libertarian ideas, Discover Liberty will give you answers to questions you may have. We’ve also provided reliable sources for more information.

As you read, you’ll learn that libertarianism is a large, fast-growing and exciting part of America’s political spectrum — with deep roots that go all the way back to America’s Founding Fathers.

You’ll learn more about your own political viewpoints, as well as what others believe.

And you’ll discover that libertarians are on your side whenever you want more freedom on any issue!

The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization that helps the public encounter and evaluate libertarian ideas.

I truly believe that liberty holds the answers to all of America’s political concerns. It is an honor and a pleasure to provide you this information.

I hope you enjoy *Discover Liberty*. And I hope you will further explore the other resources we’ve provided for you.

Yours in Liberty,

Sharon Harris

President, Advocates for Self-Government

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Do libertarians just take liberties?

Dr. Mary J. Ruwart is author of *Healing Our World*. She writes the popular column “Ask Dr. Ruwart” for *The Liberator Online* email newsletter, in which she tackles questions frequently asked of libertarians.

QUESTION: *What the heck is a libertarian? Is a libertarian someone who constantly takes liberties?*

ANSWER: Libertarians are people who want to make their own choices, rather than having government make them, and who take responsibility for those choices.

Libertarians recognize that liberty is something that you cannot have unless you give it to others. You might say, therefore, that libertarians are people who *give* liberty rather than take it.

QUESTION: *I have been told that libertarianism is a combination of liberal and conservative. I just don’t understand what that person meant. I was wondering if you could explain this.*

ANSWER: Conservatives tend to prefer individual choice over government choice in economic issues most (but not all) of the time. Liberals tend to prefer individual choice over government choice

“Has there ever been a fully libertarian society? Are there any that exist in the world today?”



in personal issues most (but not all) of the time.

Libertarians believe that individuals should *always* make their own choices as long as they don’t assault others, steal from them, defraud them, or harm their property. Libertarians want you to be free to choose; conservatives and liberals want to control you in some areas and give you limited freedom in others. Libertarians honor their neighbor’s choice; conservatives and liberals want to take some

of those choices away.

QUESTION: *Libertarianism is all very well, but what about our collective responsibility to those less fortunate? Is there not a danger that libertarianism will degenerate into individual greed and selfishness, and a disregard for others and the environment?*

ANSWER: The libertarian principle of non-aggression shows profound respect for our neighbors. We tolerate behavior that might even be repugnant to us by refusing to forcibly bend our neighbors to our will — even through government. Why would you think that such extraordinary respect would degenerate into greed and selfishness?

Societies that practice this respect, tolerance, and high regard for their neighbors (and their property) have the cleanest environments. When everything is individually owned and respected, damage to the environment is minimal. In contrast, where people or governments don’t respect others’ property, the environment (property) suffers.

On the whole, *owners* take better care of their little piece of the environment than bureaucrats do.

Libertarian societies also

create immense wealth, primarily because their poor are not excluded from the labor market. Studies show that the closer a country is to the libertarian ideal, the more even is its distribution of wealth (i.e., the poor are better off). Thus, a libertarian society would do very well by its poor.

QUESTION: *Has there ever been a fully libertarian society? Are there any that exist anywhere in the world today?*

ANSWER: No society has ever been fully libertarian. However, some countries have been remarkably free in some aspects, but not others.

Hong Kong, for example, prospered as a free-trade zone. Switzerland has a part-time national government and few, if any, entangling alliances. Holland has effectively decriminalized the use of many drugs, yet its rate of drug usage is lower than that of the United States. Ireland cut its corporate tax rates and its prosperity soared — turning a historically sluggish economy into the so-called Celtic Tiger.

The early U.S. was extremely libertarian — and quickly rose to become the most prosperous and free society in history.

All over the globe, different aspects of liberty have worked in the real world. Even though we can’t move immediately to a libertarian country, we do know the positive, real-world impact that more liberty can have on our overall well-being.

Do You Dream of a Better World?

Then find out how libertarianism can create a more compassionate society!

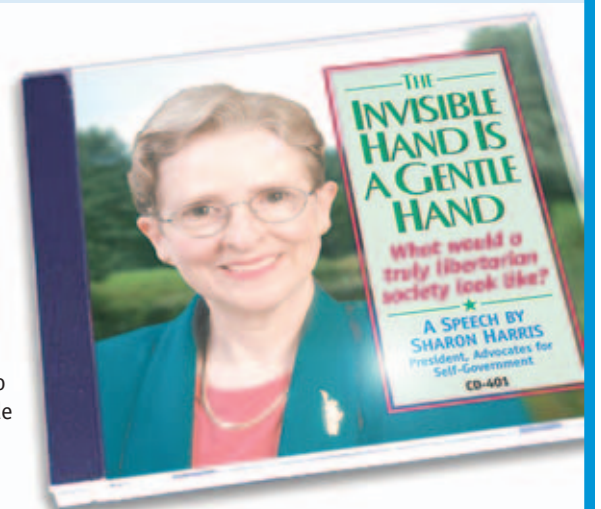
How can we achieve a better society? In this compelling speech, Advocates for Self-Government President Sharon Harris answers that question.

Sharon explores a too-often neglected aspect of liberty — its compassionate side. She dispels the myth of “benevolent” government, and makes the case that only freedom can give us what we want: a tolerant, humane, and abundant society.

Along the way, she also dispels the “dog-eat-dog” myth of ruthless free-market competition, explains why you can’t be “too consistent” about freedom, and reveals why history is on the side of liberty.

The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand is the perfect speech for introducing yourself to the promise and benefits of liberty.

The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand, by Sharon Harris • 39 Minutes, Audio CD • Code: CD-401 • Price: \$12.00
To order, call toll-free: 800-932-1776. Or visit: www.TheAdvocates.org (and click on “Store”).



The world's most **popular** political quiz

How the World's Smallest Political Quiz redefined politics, took over the Internet, impressed the experts, and made politics fun for 18 million people

After taking the World's Smallest Political Quiz, the famous test that instantly pinpoints your political ideology, no two people have exactly the same reaction.

Consider Jennifer, a Wisconsin librarian. She took the Quiz and landed smack-dab in the Centrist quadrant. That's *perfect*, she says. "I believe government has no business in certain areas, and all the business in the world in others," she explains. "Call me a compassionate centrist. I can think of worse things to be called."

When Courtney, a self-described "young Republican" from Texas, took the Quiz, she was intrigued. "I [scored] Libertarian Centrist," she says, a bit surprised. "I really think I lean to the right, but apparently some aspect of my social liberalism has centered me. Interesting."

For blogger Jessie, the Quiz merely confirmed what she already knew. The avowed liberal was identified as...an avowed liberal. That "really comes as no surprise to me," she says. "I could not agree more."

Then there's Krzysztof — nicknamed "Critto" — from Poland. For him, the Quiz was just plain exciting. "I've acknowledged myself that I am a libertarian, after taking the Quiz!" he says enthusiastically. "I love the World's Smallest Political Quiz, for it is cute, small, and very useful."

Tidal wave

Cute? Well, OK; let's not argue with a guy named Critto. Small? You bet. It's not called the "World's Smallest Political

Quiz" for nothing. It takes less than two minutes to zip through. Useful? Absolutely, if the tidal wave of people who have taken the Quiz is any indication.

Every day, thousands of people flock to the Advocates for Self-Government's Web site to take the online version of the Quiz. In fact, since 1996, when the Advocates first started tracking results, more

people flock to the Advocates for Self-Government's Web site to take the online version of the Quiz. In fact, since 1996, when the Advocates first started tracking results, more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



WHERE DO YOU STAND?

WHERE DO YOU STAND POLITICALLY? To find out, take the world-famous World's Smallest Political Quiz. For each statement, circle A for Agree, M for Maybe, or D for Disagree.

How do you stand on **PERSONAL** issues? **20 10 0**

- ◆ Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet. A M D
- ◆ Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. A M D
- ◆ There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. A M D
- ◆ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. A M D
- ◆ There should be no National ID card. A M D

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D:

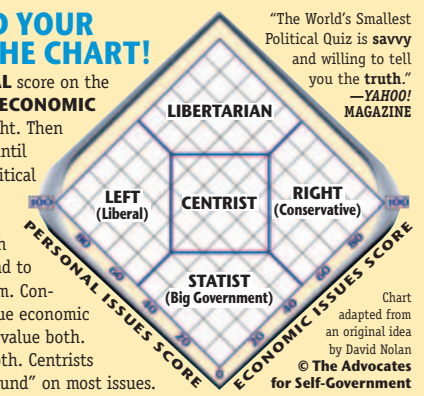
How do you stand on **ECONOMIC** issues? **20 10 0**

- ◆ End "corporate welfare." No government handouts to business. A M D
- ◆ End government barriers to international free trade. A M D
- ◆ Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security. A M D
- ◆ Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- ◆ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. A M D

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D:

▶ NOW FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE CHART!

Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The Chart shows the political group that agrees with you most. Liberals tend to value personal freedom. Conservatives tend to value economic freedom. Libertarians value both. Statists are against both. Centrists espouse a "middle ground" on most issues.



OK TO REPRINT QUIZ WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS WITH CREDIT TO THE ADVOCATES

Don't toss that dwarf! America's four **dumbest** laws

If a cop in Delcambre, Louisiana says to you, "I see England, I see France" — *watch out*. The next thing you'll see is the inside of a jail cell.

That's because the town council made it a crime to expose your underpants. Boxers or briefs? It doesn't matter. The mere sight of your skivvies peeping over low-rider pants is worth six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Wait a second: Has Delcambre declared war on peekaboo panties while ignoring that felony of flash, plumber's crack? Not to worry. The mayor says anyone showing the "crack of your behind" will be prosecuted, too.

Prudish utopia

Plumbers beware! Delcambre's effort to legislate a prudish utopia where old-maid librarians won't be offended by any glimpse of southern exposure is moving forward on all fronts (and rears). The Puritans would be proud.

We're not. That's why this

comical crusade against undergarments starts our list of the Four Dumbest Laws in America.

These laws are the sorriest specimens of legislative idiocracy. They solve "problems" that aren't problems and treat citizens like misbehaving children.

In addition, they waste police time and clog the courts. Instead of targeting murderers and robbers, these laws keep cops busy *CSI*-ing BVDs. Or worse.

Otto von Bismarck once said — we're paraphrasing here — that watching laws being made is like watching *Fear Factor* bug-eating on HDTV. You'll agree after seeing the other three laws in our Political Hall of Fame:

#3: Laws against pumping your own gas. Folks in New Jersey and Oregon are dumber than other Americans. How else do you explain why it's illegal for them to pump their own gas?

When New Jersey and Oregon legislators passed the



How's this for a dumb law? In Delcambre, Louisiana, the mere sight of your skivvies peeping over low-rider pants will cost you six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

self-service ban 50 years ago, they said it was dangerous for untrained people to handle flammable liquids. However, people in 48 other states managed to pump gas for decades without turning into human Zippo lighters.

But politicians still worry. What about inexperienced motorists? What about old folks? What about circus performers who juggle flaming torches while gassing up?

Okay, we made up that last one. But whenever someone proposes abolishing the law, N.J. and Oregon politicians fret about the "danger."

Never mind that motorists waste uncounted hours waiting for service. Never mind that gas stations could continue to offer a full-service option if customers wanted it. The politicians won't budge.

Gee, maybe folks in New Jersey and Oregon aren't

dumber than everybody else. Maybe their *politicians* are.

#2: Laws against dwarf tossing. What's small and flies through the air? If you live in New York or Florida and answered "dwarfs," you'd be wrong. That's because those states passed laws banning the horizontal propulsion of the vertically challenged.

Sounds like an urban myth? It's not. The "sport" takes place in bars, and tipsy guys compete to see who can toss a dwarf the furthest. The high-flying half-pints wear safety pads and land on mattresses.

What's in it for the dwarfs? A lucrative career. Some little people earned big bucks performing as pee-wee projectiles.

Politicians in New York or Florida were outraged. Declaring that tossing little people was "undignified," they banned it in, ahem, short order.

Who could object to such a benevolent law? Well, dwarfs. Little person Dave Flood chal-

lenged the Florida law in court, saying, "I'm a dwarf and I want to be tossed."

He lost, and now little people earn their living by biting Mike Myers in the crotch in Austin Powers movies. That's much more dignified.

#1. Laws making it illegal to feed the hungry. There are 38 million Americans "at risk for hunger," according to estimates. In a valiant effort to solve this problem, five cities made it a crime to feed hungry people.

That's not a typo. Politicians in Las Vegas, Orlando, San Francisco, Dallas, and Wilmington (NC) passed laws that prohibit (or strictly regulate) the distribution of food to the poor and homeless. When compassionate people — and by that we mean *criminals* — try to feed the hungry, they face arrest and \$2,000 fines.

This raises an obvious question: Are politicians crazy or evil? (Hint: Yes and yes.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

What do these celebrities have in common?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Drew Carey Comedian & TV Star



TV funnyman Drew Carey isn't laughing when he talks about the government. "You should never depend on the government for your retirement, your financial security, for anything," he says. "If you do, you're screwed." His basic attitude toward government? "The less the better." Carey became America's most famous "tubby dork in a crew cut and thick-rimmed glasses" in 1995, thanks to his top-rated sitcom, *The Drew Carey Show*, which ran for nine years.

Kennedy TV Personality

Former MTV personality Kennedy tells *Politically Incorrect*, "I'm a registered Republican; I'm an ideological libertarian." (That explains the pink GOP elephant tattooed on her left thigh.) Kennedy (born Lisa Kennedy Montgomery) made a big splash as host of MTV's *Alternative Nation* (1992-1996). Wearing funky horn-rimmed glasses, she introduced videos and interviewed actors and musicians. In 2006, she became the host of the Fox TV show, *Reality Remix*.



John Stossel Co-Host, 20/20



When it comes to big government, John Stossel says, "Give me a break!" He explains: "I am a libertarian in that I believe in limited government and as much individual freedom as possible." That's not a typical TV viewpoint, but it's won over millions of fans who tune in to see him co-host *20/20*, and buy his latest bestseller, *Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity*. Stossel also attracts big audiences for his prime-time specials, including *Sex, Drugs, and Consenting Adults* and *Are We Scaring Ourselves To Death?*



Dwight Yoakam Musician & Actor



This country music outlaw usually doesn't talk politics. But when he does, Dwight Yoakam says, "I believe in liberty. I'm a libertarian." That's why, he says, the USA should "consider taking that road less traveled with less government." Yoakam took the road less traveled musically — combining a modern sensibility with an older honky-style to create a fresh sound that sold millions of albums. He also appeared in movies like *Sling Blade* (1996) and *Wedding Crashers* (2005).

Dave Barry Columnist & Author

Is Dave Barry ever serious? He is when he talks about government. "I'm sort of a soft-core libertarian in that my compass is generally pointing away from 'Let's let the government do this,'" he says. His cynicism about politics, interspersed with jokes about low-flush toilets and exploding Pop-Tarts, made Barry America's favorite humor writer. His column ran in 500 newspapers, and his best-selling books include *Dave Barry Is Not Making This Up*. In 1988, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.



Kurt Russell Actor



Kurt Russell is passionate about freedom. "Being a libertarian, I do believe that limited government is good," he says. "Freedom, freedom, freedom!" Russell brings that same intensity to his movie roles — from Snake Plissken in *Escape from L.A.* (1996) to Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks in *Miracle* (2004). In the movie business since he was twelve, he's starred in *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* (1969), *Swing Shift* (1984), *Vanilla Sky* (2001), and *Grindhouse* (2007).

Melanie Musician

Melanie sings a different song than many of her Woodstock-era contemporaries when it comes to politics. "I'm a total Libertarian," she says in the liner notes to her 1999 greatest-hits CD, *Ring the Living Bell: A Collection*.



Melanie (born Melanie Safka) is best known for a string of quirky pop/folk hits in the early 1970s. Among them: "Brand New Key" (which reached #1) and "The Nickel Song." The Emmy-winning singer/songwriter has released 25 albums.

Russell Means Activist & Actor

His journey from Indian-rights activist to movie star gave Russell Means a unique perspective on politics. "Freedom is for everyone, whatever lifestyle they choose, as long as it's peaceful and honest," he says. Means has been successful in many lifestyles: as founder of the American Indian Movement; as an actor (in *Last of the Mohicans* and *Natural Born Killers*), and as author of his acclaimed 1997 autobiography, *Where White Men Fear To Tread*.



Lauren Royal Romance Novelist



In her romance novels, Lauren Royal writes about love and broken hearts. But her politics are levelheaded and practical. "I am very much a libertarian," she says. "I believe we have the right to do whatever we wish with ourselves, so long as we don't affect other people against their will." Royal wrote the popular "Jewel" trilogy: *Amethyst* (2000), *Emerald* (2000), and *Amber* (2001); and the "Flower" trilogy: *Violet* (2002), *Lily* (2003), and *Rose* (2003).

Jimmie Vaughan Musician

It's not often that a "virtual deity" says he's a libertarian, but that's the case with Jimmie Vaughan. The blues guitarist says, "I'm not a Republican. I'm not a Democrat. If I'm anything, I am Libertarian." Vaughan is a founding member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, brother of Stevie Ray Vaughan, and purveyor of classic blues riffs. *Guitar Player* magazine called him "a virtual deity — a living legend." He's won four Grammy Awards, most recently for *Do You Get The Blues?* (Best Traditional Blues Album).



Charlie Trotter Celebrity Chef



When the Chicago City Council banned the sale of foie gras, chef Charlie Trotter spoke out against the decision — even though he'd stopped serving the delicacy in his restaurant years before. "I am very much a libertarian," he says. "Pretty soon we won't need to think because the government will think for us." Trotter runs the five-star restaurant Charlie Trotter's in Chicago. In 2000, it was named the Best Restaurant in the USA by *Wine Spectator* magazine. Trotter has written 11 books, and his television show, *Kitchen Sessions with Charlie Trotter*, airs regularly on PBS.

Trey Parker Co-Creator, South Park

South Park, the hilariously offensive Comedy Central show that Trey Parker created with Matt Stone, is rife with libertarian themes. It has mocked anti-smoking activists, the BATF, and government-mandated diversity — to name just a few of its targets. So it makes sense that Parker says, "We find just as many things to rip on the left as we do on the right" — and notes that he's "a registered Libertarian." With Stone, Parker also wrote and directed the movies *BASEketball* (1998), *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut* (1999) and *Team America: World Police* (2004).



This amazing book can help change the world!

Healing Our World in an Age of Aggression

BY DR. MARY RUWART

For over a decade, Mary Ruwart's *Healing Our World* has been hailed worldwide as a classic.

This remarkable book explains why liberty provides the most practical solutions to the world's woes. Hundreds of real-life examples make *Healing Our World* a definitive work on how liberty stops crime, creates prosperity, promotes racial equality, saves the environment, relieves Third World poverty, and thwarts terrorists.

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Healing Our World In An Age of Aggression by Mary Ruwart. 456 pages, large paperback. \$24.95. Order code: OPP2. To order, call toll-free: 800-932-1776. Or visit: www.TheAdvocates.org (and click on "Store").



Think like a libertarian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from airing certain advertisements before elections.

Libertarians reject censorship. We believe adults should be able to choose what they watch or listen to. We don't need politicians to protect us from "bad" speech. What we need is protection from politicians who violate the First Amendment.

2. Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Americans will step forward to defend our nation in times of real danger. We don't need politicians to force us to do so. The Revolutionary War — the war that won our independence — was fought by volunteers. Only unnecessary wars require a draft to force Americans to fight.

Further, America's all-volunteer army is the best in the world. Every man and woman in the U.S. military freely chose to be there. A draft would replace them with people who don't want to serve. How would that make America safer?

Finally, if politicians only

used the military to defend the United States, then military manpower needs would be significantly reduced, and there would be no need to consider a draft.

3. There should be no laws regarding sex for consenting adults. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Nothing is more personal than love and intimate relationships. That's why politicians and police have no business intruding into adult Americans' bedrooms.

Unfortunately, politicians love to pass laws that regulate people's private behavior. In the past, the government criminalized intimacy between gay people and made it illegal for people of different races to marry. Today, states still make it illegal for adults to engage in some consensual sexual relationships.

Putting the "sex police" out of business doesn't mean we approve of other people's choices. It simply means that



as long as the participants are consenting adults, we shouldn't use the power of government to punish them.

4. Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. Agree or disagree?

AGREE: A free society respects the right of adults to make decisions about their own bodies, as long as they don't harm others. That includes the right to use drugs, even if it's not a choice you personally would make.

Besides, Drug Prohibition

doesn't work. Before 1914, drugs were legal. After they were outlawed, gangs sprang up to supply users. The result? Criminals became rich, police became corrupt, and prisons filled with drug law offenders. Crime rates soared.

Meanwhile, drugs are still available everywhere — even in maximum-security prisons. After a century of Drug Prohibition, it's clear: the War on Drugs is a disastrous failure.

We should decriminalize drugs, so we can make it easier for those who need help to receive it, and so police can protect us from violent criminals, instead of wasting their time arresting 700,000+ non-violent marijuana users every year.

5. There should be no National ID card. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. "Your papers, please." For years, that chilling request has been associated with totalitarian governments in foreign nations.

Now many U.S. politicians are calling for National ID cards to fight crime and terrorism. However, criminals can always

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CHECK THIS OUT

Who owns you? Find the answer!

BY JAMES W. HARRIS

Editor, *Liberator Online*

Want to know more about libertarianism? This book has been hailed as "the best short introduction to libertarianism available."

Libertarianism In One Lesson answers all the common questions about the freedom philosophy: What exactly is libertarianism? What are its historic roots? Are libertarians conservative or liberal? What would libertarians do to solve America's most vexing problems? And does libertarianism work in the "real world"?

The book lays out the central

premise of libertarianism

— "You own yourself" —

and reveals how that deceptively simple statement has a wide-ranging impact on the relationship between government and individuals.

You'll be intrigued and enlightened as Bergland discusses:

■ **National defense and terrorism.** Find out why Big Macs and hip hop music may be America's most powerful weapons against foreign dictators.

■ **Education.** Find out why government per-pupil spending has doubled over the last 30 years — and yet 47 million Americans are "borderline illiterates."

■ **The War on**

Drugs. Find out the 15

most compelling arguments against drug prohibition.

■ **Poverty.** Find out why government welfare programs perpetuate poverty — instead of curing it. And where the \$33,700 that the federal government supposedly spends on welfare for each four-person poor family really goes.

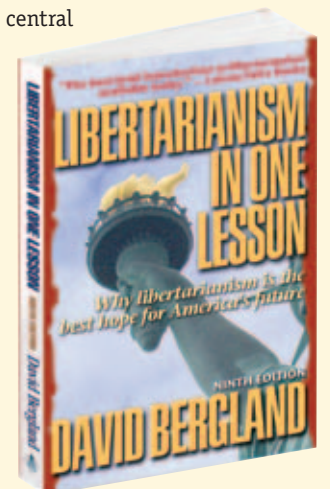
■ **The environment.** Find out how fishermen in Great Britain stop water pollution (and why we should follow their example).

■ **Guns and crime.** Find out how guns make you safer — even if you don't own one.

But there's more. Bergland demolishes the fuzzy thinking that encourages people to turn to government and politicians to solve problems. You'll never again fall victim to the Free Lunch Fallacy. This section alone is worth the price of the book!

In a fast-moving Q&A chapter, Bergland quickly and clearly contrasts the conservative, liberal, and libertarian positions on major issues. He suggests practical policy proposals to help America move in a more libertarian direction — starting today.

If you're a newcomer to libertarianism — or just curious — this book will answer your questions (in just 192 brisk pages!). *Libertarianism In One Lesson* will change the way you look at government, laws, politics — and liberty. And it will give you hope for a better tomorrow in America.



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BY DAVID BERGLAND

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Making liberty fun to read about

David Bergland has a unique talent for explaining libertarian principles and how they apply to real-world problems.

He put that skill to use in his book, *Libertarianism In One Lesson*, and as the Libertarian Party candidate for president in 1984. Bergland traveled the country, learning the concerns of the American people and conducting hundreds of media interviews.

The lessons he learned from that campaign have been incorporated into *Libertarianism In One Lesson*. Here, he answers questions about the book.

Q: What will readers find in this book?

A: I tried to give readers the foundations of libertarian thought. Because government is so pervasive, and because most readers are new to libertarianism, I tried to lead them



■ Author David Bergland: "Everyone can get something from this book."

gently from where we are now to envisioning a world of much smaller, much less intrusive, much less costly government.

Q: You write that the central theme of libertarianism is "you own yourself." How

did you settle on that?

A: I am certainly not the first to write that the self-ownership principle is the foundation of libertarianism, but it is clear to me that it is. Everything flows from it. Once you grasp the self-ownership principle, libertarianism becomes much easier to understand.

Q: The most famous line in the book is: "Utopia is not one of the options." How did you come up with that?

A: Of all the obstacles to clear thinking about politics, I have found that the "Utopian Fallacy" is the worst. It comes up all the time.

At some point, I realized that when people argued against liberty, they often did so by testing it against a Utopian standard. Their argument is that since liberty doesn't guarantee that everything will be perfect, it must be rejected.

They rattle off a list of problems that might still exist in a libertarian society — and then assert that this proves liberty is fatally flawed. What they forget is that no system can create Utopia. Utopia is not one of the options. Liberty is simply the best of the available options.

Q: Who is the ideal reader of this book?

A: Any sensible person who wants to know more about libertarianism and how the American political scene really works will find it an enlightening and entertaining read.

Everyone can get something from this book. Liberty is enjoyable. Reading about it should be as well.

NOTE: For a review of *Libertarianism In One Lesson*, and for ordering information, see column to the right.

ANOTHER VIEW

Why government isn't the answer

It's easy to think that a new government program or regulation could cure a pressing social problem.

Whether it's a desire to make health care less expensive, keep the wrong people out of the country, make your city drug-free, or stop corporate frauds, you can imagine how the right new law could make everything okay.

But when you get that kind of thought, I hope you'll remember five principles that apply to all government programs — not just the ones you oppose.

1. Government is force. Every government program, law, or regulation is a demand that someone do what he doesn't want to do, refrain from doing what he does want to do, or pay for something he doesn't want to pay for. And those demands are backed up by police with guns.

You expect that force to be used only against the guilty. But the Drug War, asset forfeiture, and the Patriot Act have used force just as often against the innocent.

2. Government is politics. Whenever you turn over to the government a financial, social, medical, or commercial matter, it's transformed into a *political* issue — to be decided by those with the most political influence. And that will never be you or me.

3. You don't control government. It's easy to think of the perfect law that will stop the bad guys while leaving the good guys unhindered. But no law will be written the way you have in mind; nor administered the way you have in mind; nor adjudicated the way you have in mind.

Your ideal law will be written by politicians for political purposes, administered by bureaucrats for political purposes, and adjudicated by judges appointed for political purposes. So don't be surprised if the new law turns out to do exactly the *opposite* of what you thought you were supporting.

4. Every government program will be more expensive than you had in mind. When Medicare was initially passed in 1965, the politicians projected its cost in 1992 to be \$3 billion — which is equivalent to \$12 billion when adjusted for inflation to 1992 dollars. The actual cost in 1992 was \$110 billion — nine times as much. The new program you support will eventually cost more than you ever dreamed of.

5. Power will always be misused. Give good people the power to do good and that power eventually will be in the hands of *bad* people to do *bad*. As author Michael Cloud has pointed out, "The problem isn't the abuse of power; it's the power to abuse." Give politicians power and it certainly *will* be abused eventually — if not by today's politicians, then by their successors.

For all these reasons, it is inevitable that no government program will deliver on the promises made for it.

It doesn't matter whether a program is supposed to do something you want or something you don't want, whether the program is something you consider a proper function of government or something beyond its limits.

It won't work. Government programs *always* wind up disappointing you.

■ Harry Browne was a bestselling author and presidential candidate. Find more of his works at www.HarryBrowne.org.



BY HARRY BROWNE

It's the most popular political quiz in the world

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

than 10 million people have clicked, moused, and surfed their way to the Quiz. Another 8 million printed copies of the Quiz have been distributed.

Why the enormous popularity? Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates, has a theory. "The Quiz offers a more diverse way of looking at politics," she says. "And it gives people a fast, accurate way of determining who politically agrees with them most."

Bingo. That "more diverse" insight may be the key to the Quiz's success. Before it came along, politics was a two-way street. You were either liberal or conservative. That was that.

Enter David Nolan. In 1969, Nolan decided that traditional political definitions just didn't make sense.

Nolan, who graduated from M.I.T. after studying architecture and political science, observed that liberals traditionally supported personal liberty (they defended free speech), but opposed economic liberty (they favored high taxes). Conservatives were the exact opposite. They supported economic liberty (low taxes), but opposed personal liberty (they applauded laws against pornography).

They didn't fit

So far, so good. But what about people who consistently supported *both* personal and economic liberty? They didn't fit anywhere. Neither did people who consistently *opposed* both personal and economic liberty.

The matter was especially vexing to Nolan because he was one of those pro-personal liberty and pro-economic liberty mavericks.

"I kept scratching my head and wondering why people like us agreed with conservatives on a lot of things, but obviously had fundamental disagreements with conservatives on a lot of other issues," he told *The Liberator* magazine in 1996. "And why were there areas where we could see that liberals made sense."

Nolan finally resolved the paradox by merging his architectural background with his political science interests. "I

THE QUIZ BY THE BOOK

The Quiz has not only been used in more than 500 schools around the USA — it's also been featured by more than a dozen major textbooks, including *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* and *Political Science: An Introduction*.



began trying to reduce the political universe to a graphical depiction," he said. "I thought, 'Maybe we can delineate this on some kind of map, using a two-axis graph.'"

That was the breakthrough. Instead of looking at politics as a two-way line, Nolan designed a chart that went in four directions. People could rank high or low on economic liberty issues, and high or low on personal liberty issues.

Every viewpoint

Conservatives and liberals fit comfortably in his new spectrum. So did libertarians and statists, who Nolan added to the mix. Libertarians scored high/high on liberty; statists scored low/low. Centrists, who scored in the middle, were added later. Every political viewpoint was now included, and a new way of looking at politics was born. It became known as the Nolan Chart.

The Quiz, however, did not appear until 1987. That's when Marshall Fritz, the founder of

the Advocates for Self-Government, decided to make the Nolan Chart more useful.

Sure, he said, the chart was great for showing people a map of politics that included libertarians. But it didn't tell people where *they* stood.

Adding questions

Fritz hit upon the idea of adding *questions* to the chart. Your answers would give you a score, and your score could be pinpointed on the chart. He wanted to keep it simple, so he asked just five questions about personal issues and five about economic issues.

The rest is history. The non-profit, nonpartisan Advocates began to publicize the Quiz as part of their mission to spread the word about libertarianism. In 1995, the World's Smallest Political Quiz made the jump to cyberspace. It is the *original* online political quiz — and the most popular, with over 13,000 Web sites linked to it.

But is the Quiz *accurate*? Yes, say the experts. W. Phillips

Shively, professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, says, "While there are many sites on the Web that profess to tell you your political views, this one actually does a fairly good job."

That may be why instructors around the country have incorporated the Quiz into their lesson plans. If you peeked into classrooms at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government or Texas A&M University (to name just a few) over the past few years, you'd find students answering the Quiz's questions.

Even cynical reporters — always eager to expose a phony — have been impressed by the Quiz's insight and honesty. *The Washington Post* reported, "The Quiz has gained respect as a valid measure of a person's political leanings." *USA Today* said the Quiz "stands ready to help you determine your political identity."

The Quiz is fun

But don't let all the credentials and scholarly recommendations fool you. The Quiz isn't a boring political science project — it's *fun*. In fact, that may be the one reaction that just about everybody who takes the Quiz does have in common.

Professional astrologer Adze Mixxe said it best. No matter what your political identity turns out to be, he said, "You will get 100 percent enjoyment from the World's Smallest Political Quiz."

And isn't that a political score *everyone* can agree on?

Libertarianism.com

Got questions? Libertarianism.com has short, straight-to-the-point answers!

At Libertarianism.com, you'll find a concise explanation of libertarianism; speculations about what a free society will be like; libertarian positions on issues; libertarian FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions); a list of suggested books; and much more. Libertarianism.com is your one-stop source for exploring the world of libertarianism.



Gentle hand or **visible fist**?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Don't like the DMV? Sorry. There's no alternative. You must go there to get a driver's license or to register your car — or you'll be ticketed.

No wonder DMV clerks can be surly! They don't need to work hard to retain you as a "customer." Thanks to the government, you have no choice.

That, in a nutshell, is the difference between the free market and the government. A private company must work to keep you as a customer. The government doesn't.

Courtesy

That's why there are built-in incentives in the marketplace for service, selection, courtesy, and respect. As John Stossel pointed out in his ABC special, *Greed*, notice how — when you purchase something at a store — the clerk says, "Thank you," and you say "Thank you" as well? It's a mutually beneficial exchange.

You get to buy the things you need, at the price you want to pay, at a store that treats you well. In turn, the store gets a loyal customer, and gets to make a profit.

In the free market we see, not a survival of the fittest, but a survival of the *kindest*. Survival of the most cooperative. A gentle Darwinism.

The great economist Adam Smith wrote that a free society operates as if "an invisible hand" directs people's actions



to serve the interest of the whole society.

That invisible hand is a *gentle* one. A free market is a gentle market. A free society is a gentle society. A cooperative, compassionate, and generous society.

Let's look more closely at that gentle invisible hand. And let's compare it to "the visible fist of government."

Government's "fist"? Isn't that language a bit strong?

Pick up a gun

Not really. Well-intentioned or not, government is violence. As Buckminster Fuller said, "The end move in politics is to pick up a gun." Laws are laws because government can use coercion against anyone who violates them.

Take the War on Drugs, for example. Every year, over 700,000 people are arrested on marijuana charges — over 85%

of them for mere possession. There are hundreds of people serving life sentences with no possible parole for marijuana offenses.

That's coercion. That's violence.

The government shows its "visible fist" in other ways.

How about the FDA? That's right — the FDA, which supposedly works to protect your health.

A while back, I saw a TV news show about a new drug the FDA was considering for approval. There were people, some in wheelchairs, literally *begging* for the drug, which had helped many of them. For some, this drug was their last chance. Tears were streaming down their faces. They were willing to risk an untested drug to try to save their lives.

The pious committee of doctors, appointed by the government, voted not to give the

drug to these people because the FDA had not yet proven its effectiveness. "It's for your own good," one of them said to the sick people.

These medical bureaucrats are so sure they know what's best for you that they'll allow you to die before they'll let you make a decision for yourself.

That's "the visible fist of government" at work.

Those are just two quick examples of government coercion at work. There are hundreds more. Every time you deal with the IRS, read about another corporate welfare giveaway, or learn that a nearby town seized private property to turn it over to big business, that's the visible fist of government in action.

Is there an alternative? Yes, there is. It's called freedom.

It's taking power away from government and giving it back to individuals.

But is freedom possible? I believe it is.

History is on our side. Whenever power has been taken away from the government, society benefits.

Flourishing

Consider the economy. In those countries where the government runs the economy, people live in perpetual poverty. By contrast, separation of economy and state — to the extent that it's been done — has produced flourishing economies with prosperity beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

Freedom *won't* bring a utopia. That's not possible on earth. But in a free society we can get a heck of a lot closer to it than we are now.

I envision a free society of kindness and cooperation. A safer, nonviolent society. A generous and giving society, where poverty is unusual and temporary, and where those who are in need are taken care of with dignity and respect.

I envision an abundant society. Where all can keep the fruits of their labor. Where every family can afford the necessities — and some luxuries. Where technology continues to bring about breathtaking improvements in lifestyles.

I envision a society where the gentle hand of freedom has replaced the visible fist of government.

That's my vision of a free society. What is yours?



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THE NEXT STEP

Get the scoop about liberty

The libertarian movement has grown explosively over the past few decades. Today there are literally hundreds of libertarian organizations, think-tanks, political groups, publications, and online resources.

You've already encountered at least one: The Advocates for Self-Government, which created this newspaper and the World's Smallest Political Quiz. Our mission is to help the public encounter and understand the ideas of liberty, and to help libertarians successfully take the ideas of liberty to the world.

Find out more about the Advocates at: www.TheAdvocates.org.

Here are some other highly-respected libertarian institutions:

■ **The Cato Institute**, one of America's most widely-cited think tanks. It publishes books, magazines, briefing papers, and more. www.Cato.org.



■ **The Institute for Justice**. This "merry band of litigators" fights in court for the civil and economic liberties of all Americans. www.IJ.org.

■ **The Foundation for Economic Education**, America's first free-market think tank. Publishes the thought-provoking magazine, *The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty*. www.FEE.org.

■ **Reason magazine**, the award-winning monthly libertarian review of politics, culture, and more. It's an entertaining and provocative publication. www.Reason.com.

■ **The International Society for Individual Liberty**, which spreads the ideas of liberty around the world. www.ISIL.org.

■ **The Libertarian Party**. By most measures, America's third-largest and most successful political party. www.LP.org.

■ **The Republican Liberty Caucus**, which works to spread libertarian ideas throughout the Republican Party. www.RLC.org.

■ **Individualist Feminists** is an organization for libertarian feminists. It believes that women, like men, "have a moral and legal claim to their own persons and property." www.ifeminists.com.

■ **The Heartland Institute**, a great source of free-market information. Focuses primarily on parental choice in education, health care reform, market-based approaches to environmental protection, privatization of public services, and deregulation. www.Heartland.org.



■ **Laissez Faire Books**. The world's largest selection of libertarian novels, nonfiction books, CDs, and DVDs. www.LFB.com.

■ **Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty**. Promotes a free, virtuous society based on liberty, sustained by religious principles. www.Acton.org.

DISCOVER MORE!

We have links to these organizations and many more — as well as answers to your questions about libertarianism — at the starting place for libertarianism on the Web:

www.Libertarianism.com

Answering the Quiz questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

forge or steal documents. So can terrorists. Remember, two of the 9/11 terrorists had valid driver's licenses under fake names.

It's law-abiding citizens who will suffer from National ID cards. The government will compile vast amounts of information into secret databases. You'll be ordered to show your card on demand. Lost or stolen cards will cause trouble for millions each year.

Do you trust politicians to use this enormous new power without discrimination, mistakes, or corruption? Libertarians don't. We know that a National ID card is another misguided step towards an authoritarian government.

6. End corporate welfare. No government handouts to business. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Do you think politicians should take money from poor and middle-class taxpayers and give it to wealthy corporations like Dow Chemical and General Electric? That's what they do. The government also hands out cash to "agribusiness" corporations, sports teams, wine makers, and more. This corporate welfare costs taxpayers \$90 billion a year.

Libertarians want to stop this nonsense. Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize corporations with handouts, low-cost loans, and research programs. Subsidies are harmful and unfair. Why should you pay higher taxes to support government-favored businesses? And shouldn't companies make money by of-

fering consumers a better product — instead of by bribing politicians for handouts?

It's time to abolish corporate welfare, and put the "free" back into free enterprise.

7. End government barriers to international free trade. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Free trade provides consumers with an enormous variety of goods at every price level. It gives Americans the choice to buy German beer or Japanese cars, and allows foreigners to buy American wheat or mp3 players. Everyone benefits.

With free trade, consumers pay lower prices, so they have more money left to spend on other goods, domestic as well as foreign. This creates prosperity and jobs — in the United States and abroad.

Free trade also promotes peace and builds strong relationships between countries. If goods don't cross borders, armies will.

Finally, people have the right to do as they wish with their labor and property. Politicians shouldn't be allowed to deny people the ability to improve their lives by trading with others and buying the products they want.

8. Let people control their own retirement; privatize Social Security. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Americans are smart enough to make their own retirement plans. We don't need politicians to force us to "invest" in Social Security for our own good.

This is especially true be-



■ Do you wonder how a typical libertarian would answer the 10 questions on the World's Smallest Political Quiz? And why?

cause Social Security is hurtling towards bankruptcy. The program has a \$15.6 trillion unfunded liability. That's the amount of money the government has promised in benefits but won't have available to pay. Politicians will be forced to slash benefits or dramatically raise taxes on future generations. Neither alternative is fair.

A private retirement system makes more sense. If ordinary Americans could safely invest what they now pay into Social Security, they could amass small fortunes over a lifetime. Without Social Security taxes, most workers could retire wealthy — and pass more money on to their children. Why not phase out Social Security and give us that opportunity?

9. Replace government welfare with private charity. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. Libertarians want a society where the less fortunate can get all the assistance they need. Community and church-based charities are vastly more efficient at this than government welfare programs.

But there's another way to help the poor: by eliminating laws that cause poverty. For example, licensing laws and regulations keep low-income entrepreneurs from starting businesses. High taxes drive out jobs. Minimum wage laws destroy millions of crucial entry-level jobs.

If such bad laws were elimi-

nated, poverty in America would be less of a problem. Our private charity system — fueled by kindhearted Americans who contribute \$300 billion a year — could handle the rest. Americans are the most generous people on earth. We'll prove we don't need to be forced by the government to help our fellow citizens.

10. Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. Agree or disagree?

AGREE. All over the world, governments are privatizing programs and services — including housing, post offices, and retirement accounts.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government keeps getting bigger. It makes loans, operates trains, builds houses, and much more. Because the inefficient bureaucracy does so many things, Americans pay staggering tax bills. Most families spend more on taxes than on food, clothing, or housing.

No wonder most Americans want lower taxes. According to a poll taken for the Tax Foundation, Americans think, on average, only 14.7% of their income should go to pay local, state, and federal taxes. That's less than half of what they currently pay.

Libertarians agree. Like most Americans, we know it's possible to cut the size and cost of government by more than 50%. Shouldn't we begin right now?

Want more information? For expanded answers, with added facts and reference sources, see our online Quiz FAQ at: www.theadvocates.org/quiz-faq.html

YOU CAN QUOTE ME

Great definitions of libertarianism

Lots of people have tried to put the essence of the libertarian philosophy into just a few sentences. Here are some of our favorites:

■ Libertarianism is the belief in liberty. Libertarians believe that each person owns his own life and property, and has the right to make his own choices as to how he lives his life — as long as he simply respects the same right of others to do the same. — **Sharon Harris**, President, Advocates for Self-Government

■ Libertarianism is what your mom taught you: behave yourself and don't hit your sister. — **Dr. Kenneth Bisson**, Advocates Board of Directors

■ Libertarianism is a vision of how people should be able to live their lives — as individuals, striving to realize the best they have within them; together, cooperating for the common good without compulsion. — **Charles Murray**, *What It Means to Be a Libertarian*

■ lib·er·tar·i·an: One who advocates maximizing individual rights and minimizing the role of the state. — **The American Heritage® Dictionary**

■ In the libertarian view, all human relationships should be voluntary; the only actions that should be forbidden by law are those that involve the initiation of force — actions like murder, rape, robbery, kidnapping, and fraud. — **David Boaz**, author, *Libertarianism: A Primer*

■ Libertarians are self-governors in both personal and economic matters. — **Carole Ann Rand**, Advocates' Board of Directors

■ Libertarianism is what you probably already believe. Libertarianism is America's heritage of liberty, patriotism and honest work to build a future for your family. It's the idea that being free and independent is a great way to live. That you own yourself, and that you have the right to decide what's best for you.

— **David Bergland**, author, *Libertarianism in One Lesson*



Really dumb laws

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Of course, the bills' sponsors deny having attended the Voldemort School for Diabolical Politicians. Instead, they say such laws help poor people. How? By reducing the risk they'll eat "unsafe" food prepared by amateurs. Apparently, it's much safer to just let poor people starve.

We suspect the real reason for such laws is the risk that Americans might start committing non-government-financed acts of charity. If people

started helping other people... what would we need "compassionate" politicians for?

* * *

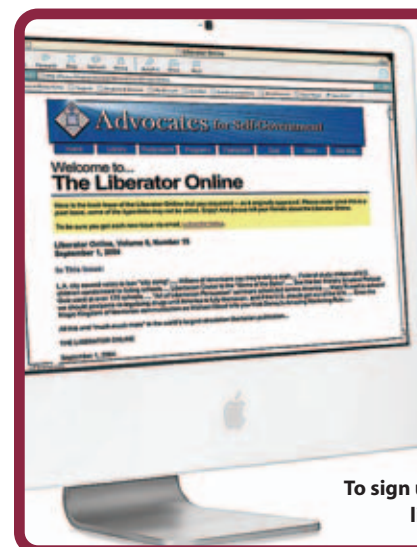
There you have it: the Four Dumbest Laws in America.

What can we learn from them? Well...

Just because something's the law, doesn't make it right.

As a general rule, politicians aren't very bright.

And if you're ever in Delcambre, Louisiana, for goodness sakes, pull up your britches.



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