

## DW#1 - What is Liberty?

We believe in Liberty because it is the most moral and effective form of social organization, as well as the most realistic road to political success. The idea is simple: don't hurt people, don't take their things, and don't lock them in a cage for disagreeing with you. These principles are embraced by the modern liberty movement and have been built through generations of political and philosophical development. The American Revolutionaries and Enlightenment philosophers are the foundation of the liberty movement in the United States. The adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights allowed for the most prosperous and free periods in human history before tyranny, once again, established its grip on our society.

The Old Right of 1920-1940s America was also critically important to the modern liberty movement. They were fierce non-interventionists, fought against prohibition, and opposed the New Deal. Their ideas would eventually converge with those of The Mont Pelerin Society, which would lead to the creation of the Austrian and Chicago schools of economic thought. These economists embraced the free-market and redefined how people would think about economics.

In hindsight, we can see that these ideals: free markets, free association, respect for individual rights, and restrained foreign policy have consistently been proven to be the most effective ways to achieve peace and prosperity. The moral argument is centered around the fact that coercion is inherently evil because it eliminates the thinking nature of man and subjects him to being a tool in the achievement of the ends of another. When the power to tell others how to live is up for grabs, it creates conflict between us. The philosophy of liberty provides moral justification for repealing the policies that we can all see to be destructive: government indoctrination in schools, endless wars, endless money printing and debt, the war on small business and favoritism for big business, and the overcrowding of jails with the victims of addiction while violent criminals are released to roam freely.

Liberty is not a complete worldview, but a political philosophy. It is an incomplete system that does not have the answer to every question. Libertarian political philosophy cannot tell a person whether they should or should not believe in a god, or how they ought to act in their personal lives. This is a huge benefit. Liberty gives us the ability to build a coalition of many different backgrounds without compromising on our own individual beliefs. Social conservatives and liberals, religious and atheist, people with different moral foundations, should all come together to advocate for liberty, as any world in which there is centralized control of their lives by a state will result in the degradation of their value systems.

Those that believe in liberty will always have disagreements on questions outside of liberty philosophy. This is perfectly acceptable and reinforces the idea that we should not steal from or coerce each other in order to achieve our personal worldview. Liberty policies ensure that we can be prosperous, peaceful, and live according to our deeply held beliefs. We believe that the government is not a God. We are here to end the tyranny that has tightened its grip on our society. It is our duty to bear the torch and restore liberty across the country.

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1. What ideas are integral to the philosophy of liberty?
2. What is something you don't trust the government with?
3. Why is it wrong to let the government tell you how to live?
4. What conditions are necessary for people of different beliefs to live together in peace?
5. How does the government create conflict between us?
6. What is a problem that you care about in our society that could be solved by restoring liberty?