



COLUMNS

Libertarianism is rooted in some basic beliefs

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Libertarianism is rooted in the consistent belief that government force should only be used when justified, and government force, like individual force, is only justified to defend the individual inalienable rights of life, liberty and property. In other words, government cannot have any more rights than what the individual possesses since individuals cannot grant powers to government which the individual does not possess.

For instance, an individual cannot arbitrarily take money from another without his personal consent to pay his medical bills, therefore it is unjust for government to do the same. Yet, that is exactly what takes place when government finances Medicare and the whole host of other medical benefit programs.

A libertarian believes that military service is to be voluntary and that no draft ought to exist. In other words an individual should never be forced to fight or do anything against his will. A libertarian also believes that there should be no laws regarding sexual relations between consenting adults, that individuals should not be prohibited from possessing and using any drugs, and that there should be no national identification card.

All of these beliefs are consistent with the idea that government has no right to use its force to interfere with an individual's personal life unless that individual has committed a crime against another human being. Even then, government force is to be corralled. It is the reason for requiring search warrants, trial by jury, habeas corpus, and the like. An individual must be proven guilty of a crime not have to prove his innocence.

Similarly, a libertarian supports no government interference in a person's economic life. A libertarian advocates no corporate welfare, no handouts or government support of businesses as well as no government support of the individual. All government welfare is replaced by private charity.

Libertarianism supports the end to all international trade barriers, both regulations and tariffs.

It also advocates allowing individuals to control their own retirement by being able to save in whatever amounts and manner they wish. By cutting both taxes and government spending, the individual is set free to achieve whatever he can set his mind to as long as force is not used to achieve those ends.

That is where government's function comes into play in the libertarian world. When one individual uses force on another, then government force is justified to counteract that force. This was the promise of the founders when they established the United States of America. That legacy ought to continue instead of giving in to those who wish to use government force to control and interfere with others, when if they did so themselves it would be considered criminal.

Libertarianism reflects organized civil society. By government solely acting like a referee in a football game, being seen only when a foul is committed and not dictating how many steps a player can take or shackling the player with handcuffs to prevent holding others, the game of life, like football, is played in a very orderly and peaceful manner.

The Freedom Library Education and Scholarship Program begins again Aug. 16 at two locations, The Freedom Library in Yuma and Antelope High School in Wellton. The Freedom Library now offers two adult scholarships in addition to the one academic and two instructional seminar scholarships for those in 8th grade through sophomore in college. Contact The Freedom Library at 726-8050 or go to the Web site (www.freedomlibrary.org) for more information and registration procedures.

The People for the USA Yuma Group is sponsoring a forum for the mayoral candidates of Yuma Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Yuma County Board of Supervisors auditorium, 198 S. Main Street. All individuals are welcome to listen to the views of the individuals seeking the position of mayor of Yuma.

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