

# Libertarianism in the USA

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# Libertarianism defined

The right to **life, liberty and property** is inherent for all and government's role is to protect individual rights.

- “Liberty means to exercise human rights in any manner a person chooses so long as it does not interfere with the exercise of the rights of others. This means, above all else, keeping government out of our lives. Only this path leads to the unleashing of human energies that build civilization, provide security, generate wealth, and protect the people from systematic rights violations.” *Liberty Defined* by Ron Paul

**Key policy points:** Individualism, laissez-faire capitalism, non-aggression principle, right to bear arms, rule of law, Constitutionalism, free market monetary policy, non-interventionist foreign policy

# Libertarianism in Practice

## The Declaration of Independence and Founding of America

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

Classical Liberalism in the 20th Century: Mises, Friedman, Rothbard, Hayek, Hazlitt etc.

The Coolidge Administration (1923-29)?

The Reagan Administration (1981-89)?

The Tea Party Movement



# The Ron Paul Revolution

Consistent libertarianism fiscally and civilly

Notable anti-interventionist

Influenced the Tea Party movement

Young Americans for Liberty and the  
Campaign for Liberty

His impact on young people is still fueling  
the liberty movement today

**Ron Paul**  
**REVOLUTION**

**Why wasn't Paul accepted by  
all mainstream Republicans?**

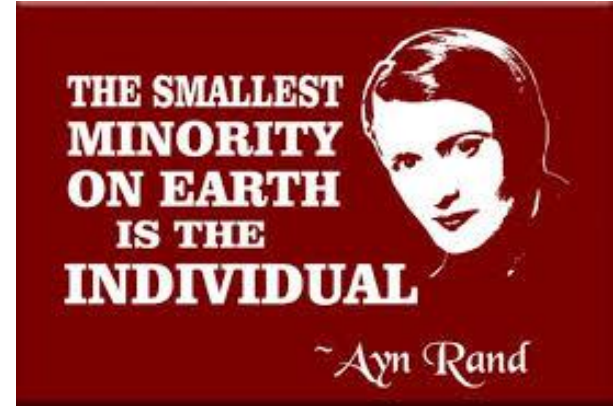
# Ayn Rand's Impact

“... all objectivists are libertarians, but not all libertarians are objectivists.” –John Allison

Rand's influence on the libertarian movement is undeniable.\*

Von Mises called Rand “the most courageous man in America,”

She has influenced many, including Fmr. House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senator Rand Paul, Fmr. Congressman Ron Paul, Justice Clarence Thomas, etc.



Signs referencing *Atlas Shrugged* could be seen at Tea Party rallies

# The Overton Window

Libertarians have variations in their views on

- Immigration
- Abortion
- Foreign Policy
- Nationalism
- Capital Punishment\*

Fringe topics where there is disagreement

- Zionism
- Intellectual Property
- Voluntary Slavery

# The Libertarian Party

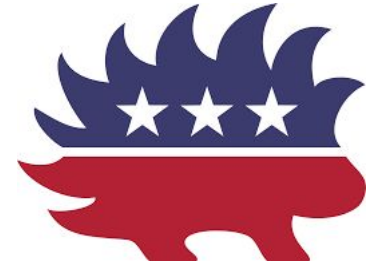
Founded in 1971

1 member in Congress (pictured), some members in state legislatures

Have only received more than 1% of the national vote once. Johnson-Weld in 2016 (3.29%)



Congressman Justin Amash (L-MI)



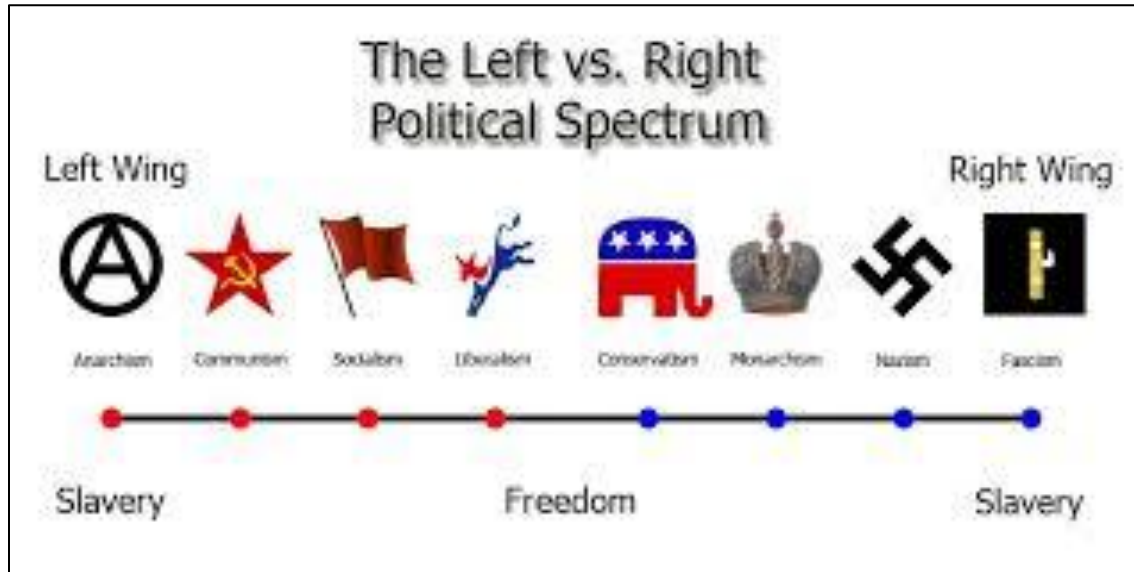
Why do they fail to win elections? » Duverger's Law

Only third party to be on the presidential ballots of all 50 states in 2016

**On-going debate:** Anarchy or minarchy?

# Political Spectrum

The typical political spectrum...

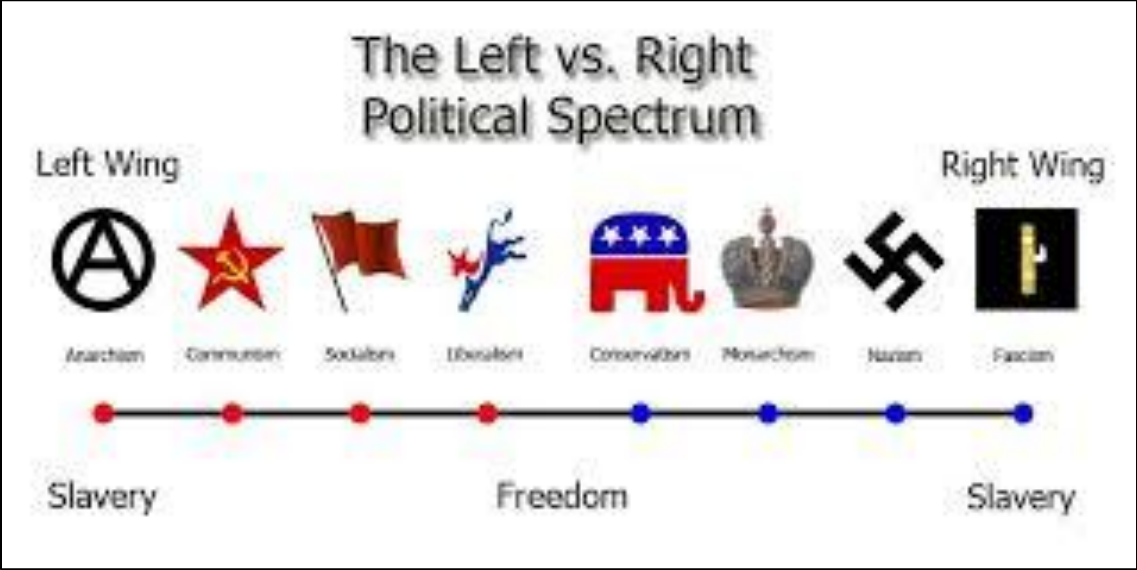




# Political Spectrum

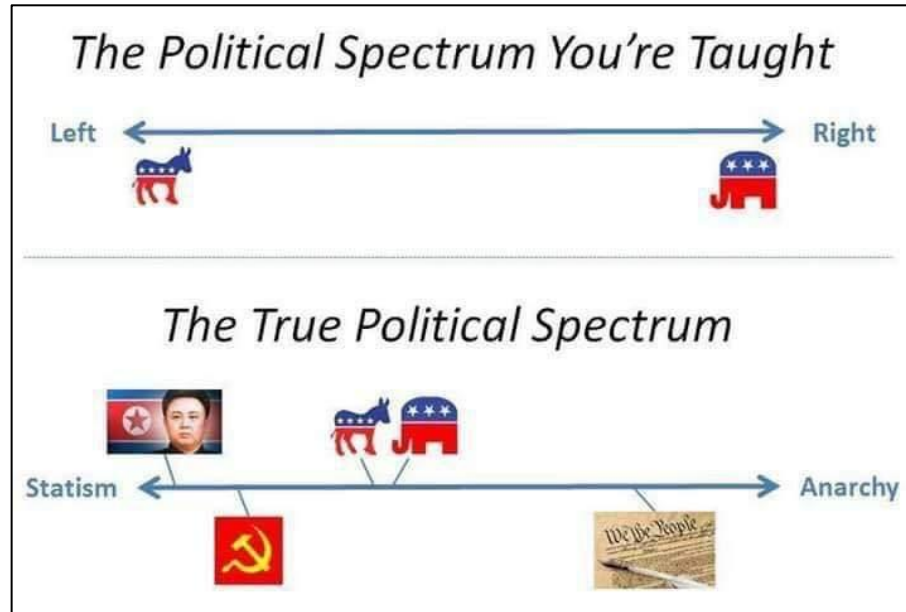
The typical political spectrum... is completely **incorrect!**

This spectrum's premises are wrong



# Political Spectrum

A more-correct political spectrum



Next, a political spectrum that I made...

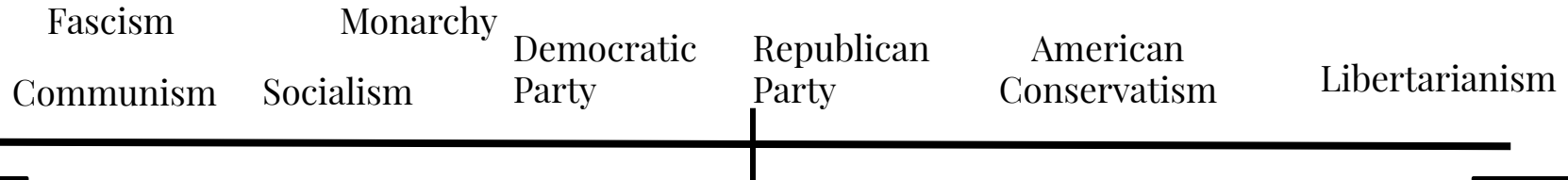
# The Political Spectrum from a Libertarian Perspective

More appropriate paradigms:

Collectivism vs. Individualism

Big government vs. small government

Totalitarianism vs. Classical Liberalism



**Tyranny**

**Liberty**

# リバタリアンが考える政治スペクトラム

より適切なパラダイム:

集団主義 対 個人主義  
大きな政府 対 小さな政府  
全体主義 対 自由主義



全体主義

自由

正しい政治スペクトラム

# Discussion

1. How important/influential is libertarianism in the US?
  - a. any demographic difference - more/less popular among the young/old? rich/poor, etc?
  - b. how will it impact US elections? Is the Libertarian party necessary, or does it help Democrats win?
  - c. Is Trump a libertarian? In what areas is he or is he not?
  - d. Is the right to bear arms a fundamental part of libertarianism?
2. How relevant is libertarianism in Japan?
  - a. do we see any signs of rising interest in libertarianism here?
  - b. how do we position Japanese political parties/politicians in the true political spectrum?
3. Jerusalem and Athens: Does libertarianism have its roots in Greek reason, Judeo-Christianity, both, or neither?
4. Are there any positions in libertarianism that you don't agree with? What parts of libertarianism appeal to you?

# The Political Spectrum from a Libertarian Perspective

Where do you think things fall?

