FREEDOM AND GOVERNMENT

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This is a graphic presentation of a controversial idea in politics. It shows the relationship between the size and scope of a government, and the corresponding degree of freedom for that size of government. This chart is based upon the capitalist, or laissez-faire, view of politics.

To understand the chart, you should view it from left to right. On the left, the government is of size 0%. This means, obviously, that there is no government. This region corresponds to anarchy. Since the most potentially powerful destroyer of freedom is a corrupt government, and since there is no government under anarchy, there is a small degree of freedom in anarchy, albeit not very much. It is greater than 0% freedom (the equivalent of slavery) so I call it 0%.

This is a very unstable region, since there is, by definition, no government around. With no government, there is nothing to prevent the formation of a government. Thus if Anarchy is reached, it cannot last very long, and it is hard to predict which type of government will rise to fill the vacuum of anarchy: Utopia, a Mixed Economy, or a form of Totalitarianism.

The best place on the chart is the narrow region from M- to M+. This is Utopia, 100% freedom -- the place where the minimalist government has been reached, where laissez-faire Capitalism exists. Anarchists believe that there is simply an inverse relation between government, and freedom -- the less government, the more freedom (see Figure 2). Capitalists believe that a minimalist state is necessary. As much as the anarchists are to be credited for their faith in freedom and free markets, they are mistaken when they claim that there should be no government. Who would implement it? And, as explained above, under anarchy there is no government to prevent a totalitarian or any other type of state from forming.

The relative size of government for Utopia is 1% (for Minimalism). There is a small range over which the government can vary and still perform its proper Utopia-maintaining function, hence the "-" and "+": next to the "%".

Then there is the sloping region of the chart in Figure 1, the area of Mixed Economies, which includes 19th Century America, Modern Day America, and Modern Day Europe (England, France, West Germany, etc.). This region is unstable too, because it is not based upon absolute principles, and also because the Mixed Economy puts different factions of people at odds with one another. In other words, when the Mixed Economy/Welfare State steals money from A and gives it to B, or protects B's business by preventing A from engaging in it, A will always be looking for legislation to get back. And vice versa. And so on and so on.

Finally there is the Totalitarian stage of government. When the size of government reaches a certain point, called % (for Totalitarian), each citizen is virtually a slave; his freedom is 0%. The advocate of Totalitarianism seems to feel that, the more government, the better (see Figure 3). This is because he has a mistrust or hatred for the individual will and spirit; he feels man is either too evil or incompetent to successfully handle his life; and so he needs the state so that he can be truly "free".

Now the average American is neither an Anarchist nor advocate of a Totalitarian state. Most men fear too much government and too little government (see Figure 4). In fact most men's common-sense view of government and freedom is very close to the capitalist view of freedom and government (Figure 1). But there are some fundamental...
The next best thing to have, since it offers more freedom than Anarchy and Totalitarianism, and also has the chance to make it to Capitalism. The next most preferable is Anarchy, but Anarchy is always very temporary. Note that even the worst form of Mixed Economy is better than Anarchy, mainly because the imminent successor to Anarchy could be much worse than the worst Mixed Economy. Finally, the least desirable is the Totalitarian State. Even Anarchy is preferable to Totalitarianism, since Anarchy is only temporary anyway, and also because one has, in general, more freedom under Anarchy than under Totalitarianism.

The Chart has been drawn. America's current place has been identified. The goal (Utopia) has been identified. Any true advocate of freedom should work towards raising America higher, higher, even higher, until the plateau of the Minimalist State, laissez-faire capitalism, is reached.

**FUSE BLUES**

Hermaphroditus was fused with a water nymph,
Which was normally a pleasant experience.

But this time, the act was as permanent

As if they had used superglue instead of vaseline.

You might consider this tale funny and obscene.

It took a chain saw to separate the two,

But you wouldn't laugh if it happened to you.

-- Seth Pun Northsam