

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 A%.

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 M% (for "Minimalist"). 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 "M%".

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 at B. 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 T% (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

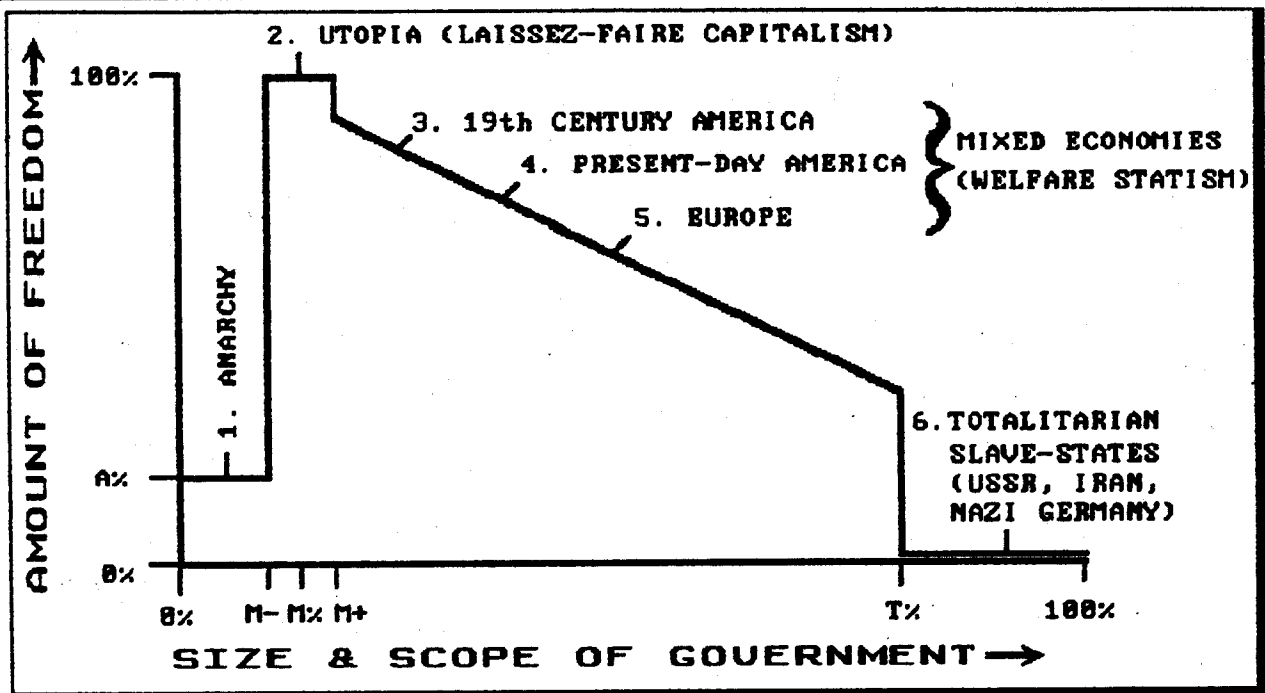


Figure 1 — Freedom vs. Government Chart

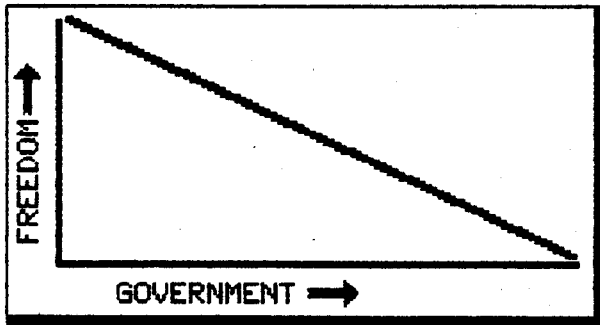


Figure 2 — Anarchist view of Freedom and Government

differences between the two.

First of all, notice the sharp, vertical lines on the Freedom vs. Government Chart. These lines on the graph represent a mathematical discontinuity. In political terms, they represent *fundamental* political differences between the different regions.

For example, there is a vertical line between Anarchy and Utopia, the minimalist state. Either there is government, or there isn't.

Although, looking at the graph, one can see that 19th Century America came close to Utopia in the amount of freedom guaranteed to its citizens, there is still a fundamental difference between the Minimalist State, and between any Mixed Economy. There is a fundamental difference because, no matter how free a Mixed Economy is, it is still Mixed, so by definition some people's rights are still being violated; there exist individuals that are still not 100% free.

And there is a fundamental difference between even the worst Mixed Economy and the Totalitarian state. There are certain signs which indicate that the government is Totalitarian, such as: Censorship, non-objective laws, government ownership or control

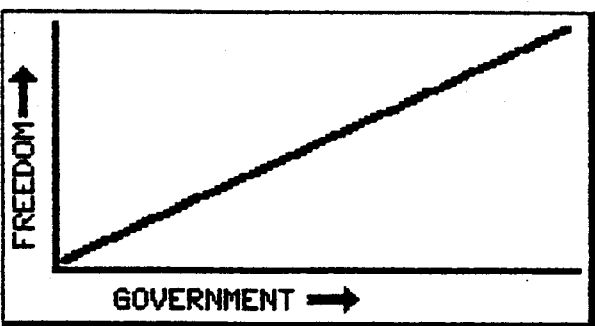


Figure 3 — The Totalitarian view of Freedom and Government

of property and industry, etc. But the most tell-tale sign of the Totalitarian state is: an Iron Curtain, a Berlin Wall -- closed borders. Closed borders show that the citizens are prisoners within their own country. What's more, the closed borders show that conditions are so bad in the Totalitarian Slave-State that *but for the closed borders, citizens would be leaving.*

The most stable areas on the Chart are the Utopia and Totalitarian State areas. Utopia is stable because people are free to pursue their own goals. Since man is basically good and competent to survive in reality, when he is free he is generally prosperous and so there is no outcry for change (most non-capitalist philosophies do not hold such a noble view of man). And Totalitarianism is fairly stable since the state is so strong and can hack down dissension. Finally, it must be emphasized that neither the liberal nor conservative "ideal" would be the Utopian minimalist state. Both would fall onto the Mixed Economy Totalitarian Slave-State region).

This is because both camps -- conservatives and liberals -- are not true minimalists; but only "half-minimalists." (Actually, they are not even half-minimalists, but I'll give them the benefit of the doubt here.) The conservatives ostensibly champion freedom -- and thus the minimalist state -- economically, but not in the realm of personal rights. And the liberals champion personal rights, and, again, a minimalist state in that region, but favor state control (and hence a non-minimalist state) in the area of economics. Thus both types of governments, such as America and France, fall into exactly the same classifications: a Mixed economy/welfare state.

Finally, it is important to note that: Utopia (Capitalism) is always best (and, if ever achieved, probably permanently stable). Any form of Mixed Economy is

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,

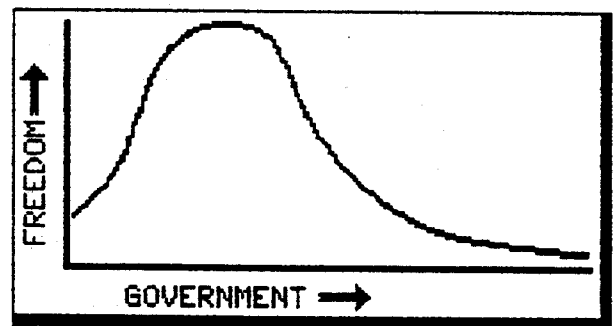


Figure 4 — Common view of Freedom and Government

until the plateau of the Minimalist State, *laissez-faire* capitalism, is reached.

FUSE BLUES

Hermaphroditos 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 Northsum