THE LIBERTARIAN FUTURE

What it might be like and how to get there

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About the author

Perry Willis has been the National Director of the Libertarian Party twice and a member of the Libertarian National Committee multiple times. He has been a staff member on five LP presidential campaigns, managed two of them, and created the strategy for a third. He was the architect of the Libertarian Party's Project Archimedes outreach program, which took the LP to record levels of membership and fundraising in the late 1990s. He was an expert witness in a case before the Supreme Court. He has co-written and co-produced award-winning TV and radio ads. He has also written direct mail for the signatures of such libertarian luminaries as Ed Clark, David Bergland, Ron Paul, Karl Hess, Milton Friedman, and notable non-libertarians, such as Charlton Heston. Perry and his partner Jim Babka are cofounders of Downsize DC and the Zero Aggression Project. They are also the co-creators of three bills—the One Subject at a Time Act, the Read the Bills Act, and the Write the Laws Act—all of which have been introduced in Congress. Perry has designed and is working with Libertarian Party leaders to execute, **The Parity Project**, which aims to equalize the LP with the Democrats and Republicans within the next ten years. If successful, some version of the libertarian future described here may become a reality.

A story in reverse

I'm going to describe what a libertarian future might be like. I will do so by telling you a story in reverse. I will start at the end, with you living in a completely libertarian America, and then work backward to show how you got there and what things were like along the way.

The basic libertarian idea

Everything that follows[1] is a consequence of the libertarian Zero Aggression Principle (the ZAP).[2] The principle can be stated in many ways, but I like this version...

Don't aggress against others, personally or politically.[3]

The word aggression does not refer to mere assertiveness, but rather to initiated force. You do not initiate force (throw the first punch) against others in your personal life. Neither should you do so when voting. You should reject candidates, parties, or legislative proposals that threaten to aggress against any individual, no matter how good the intentions.

The libertarian view of legitimate governance

In the libertarian view, legitimate governance can only use violence defensively, to counter threats or acts of aggression by others, or to punish or attempt to compensate for such acts after they have occurred.

Violence must never be used to impose things on peaceful people against their will.

Most people, except for a few sociopaths, live this way in their personal lives, but libertarians, ***uniquely***, extend this same principle to politics and government.

What would it be like to live in a world based on these ideas? My story-in-reverse will try to show you, but please understand that this is just *my view* of how things might be. Other libertarians would paint a slightly different picture. For instance...

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[1] You will eventually encounter a libertarian pedant or academic philosopher who will assertively inform you that the ZAP is not the whole of libertarianism, nor does it effectively deal with all situations. They are probably technically correct, but you will rarely encounter the edge cases they have in mind. You will also learn many other libertarian ideas, in addition to the ZAP, as you continue your libertarian journey. There's no need to get hung up on those issues now. While there are many other libertarian ideas, the ZAP is the Big Kahuna.

[2] Many libertarians also refer to it as the Non-Aggression Principle, or NAP, but I prefer the less lazy sounding acronym first suggested by the science fiction writer, L. Neil Smith.

[3] This particular form of the principle comes from the libertarian activist Jo Ann Vaccarino, who suggested it to Jim Babka and I when we were creating the Zero Aggression Project. The Libertarian Party membership pledge puts it this way: *I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.*

Nearly all libertarians agree with the ZAP as an ideal but disagree on its practical implementation. This means a libertarian America could yield a range of outcomes. Those possibilities fall into three general categories that also describe various aspects of the libertarian movement[4] and the Libertarian Party.

Possibility #1 - Small-government libertarianism/classical liberalism[5]

In this version of a libertarian America, most laws and institutions are more libertarian than not. The libertarians who favor this approach sometimes call themselves **classical liberals**, and describe their views as socially liberal and fiscally conservative. They advocate for a smaller government than the Left and the Right want, and dramatically increased personal liberties. This usually means low taxes, balanced budgets, increased federalism, decreased bureaucratic regulation, and no victimless crime laws. Former New Mexico Governor and two-time Libertarian Party presidential candidate, Gary Johnson, is an example of this kind of libertarian.

Possibility #2 - Limited state libertarianism

In this version of a libertarian world, **The State**[6] has been confined to constitutional limits. This usually means a tax-funded military, police, and courts. I call this **limited-state libertarianism**. This is another form of classical liberalism, as it was the most common conception of what The State should do for most of the 19th century. Former Representative Ron Paul and Representative Thomas Massie are probably limited-state libertarians.

Possibility #3 - Voluntaryist libertarianism

In this version of a libertarian world, no institution of governance threatens or initiates violence for any purpose. Violence is only used defensively. We call this **voluntaryism** because all human relationships would be voluntary. It can also be called **post-statism**[7], because all aspects of governance would be provided by institutions other than The State. Many libertarians also call it **anarchism** in the ancient Greek sense, meaning no ruler. Institutions of

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[4] The libertarian movement is comprised of many organizations, in addition to the Libertarian Party. Among them are the Reason Foundation, Cato Institute, Independent Institute, Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), Mises Intitute, Liberty Fund, Freedom Fest, Mercatus Institute, Institute for Humane Studies, Heartland, the Ron Paul Institute, and many more. You will get to know these organizations as you continue your libertarian journey.

[5] Thomas Jefferson and the other Founders were classical liberals. When socialists and other Leftists took over the word liberal in the early 20th Century, classical liberals migrated to the word libertarian.

[6] I use the upper case name, **The State**, to differentiate the philosophical concept of the state, from all the little states we have in America, like Texas and California.

[7] My friend Jim Babka coined the term post-statist, which I quite like.

governance would be voluntarily funded and consumer-controlled, like service providers. They would not rule in any traditional sense, though they would provide order. Legislators would have little or no importance in such a system, whereas juries would be extremely important. I subscribe to this flavor of libertarianism.

When thinking about these possibilities, it's important to understand...

What libertarians mean by the terms The State, statism, and statists.

The State

The State is a monopoly that initiates force under the pretense of governing. The State compels obedience on matters far beyond the scope of legitimate governance. It uses threats of violence to extort submission and actual violence to harm people who don't submit.

If you refuse to obey or fund something The State wants, then you will be fined (at the very least). If you refuse to pay the fine, you will eventually be arrested. If you resist arrest, you will be killed.

The threat of violence and death lies behind every State dictate. This can be appropriate as a response to aggression, but it is wholly inappropriate for any other reason. Such aggression is not problem-solving, it's not governance, it's crime disguised as legality.

Statists and statism

Some people seek to use The State to impose their personal preferences on others. Libertarians call such people statists, and their philosophy is statism (no matter what other disguises it attempts to wear, such as progressivism, conservatism, populism, socialism, communism, etc.). I tend to call people on the Left, left-statists, and people on the Right, right-statists, rather than use deceptive marketing terms like progressive and conservative.

Statists believe it’s moral for The State to threaten or initiate force against individual conscience, and that agents of The State (politicians, bureaucrats, police, etc.) can legally do things that would be criminal for others to do

By comparison, libertarians believe governments must obey the Zero Aggression Principle, just like individuals and non-state institutions do. Legitimate governance must not initiate force. Governance must only use force defensively. In other words...

Institutions of governance must only pursue good ends using good means.

You can choose your own destination

My story in reverse will show you all three possibilities - voluntaryist, limited state, and small government. Should you decide to join the Libertarian Party, you can travel along the path to whichever version of a libertarian America you prefer, and then rest your efforts at that point. So don't view this story as a prophecy; instead, consider it the beginning of an intellectual journey to explore what a libertarian future might entail. I think you'll find the possibilities invigorating, starting here...

Voluntaryist America

You wake up in a world governed by the libertarian Zero Aggression Principle. Three things are missing from this reality…

- Agents backed by guns and prisons no longer coerce you to pay for government services.
- No government service is provided by a monopoly.
- No institution of governance initiates force against anyone (force is reserved for defensive purposes only, such as criminal justice).

Instead…

- All governmental services are voluntarily funded. This means…
- You now live in a world with **consumer-controlled governance**![8]
- The politicians are secondary. You are primary!

You soon realize something startling about this approach...

You have far more power as a consumer than you ever had as a voter!

You get to decide whether to fund…

- The U.S. federal government,
- State or local governments,
- Or other institutions that provide some particular governmental service (see below).

[8] Consumer-controlled governance is my term for the unique set of institutions and processes that a no-tax vountaryist society would create.

Even better, if you do decide to fund the old legacy forms of governance, you can choose how much — or how little — to allocate to each item in their budget. This has completely changed the incentives that control government behavior!

In the old days, our so-called government had no incentive to do a good job. It got paid no matter how poorly it performed! In fact…

The more tax-funded governance failed, the more it PROSPERED!

Politicians constantly used poor results as an excuse to grab more power and spend more money!

Think how upside down that was! Incompetence was rewarded, NOT punished! But the advent of consumer-controlled governance reversed those bad incentives. Now…

All institutions of governance have to do a good job or lose customers!

Do you remember how…

- People told you it was impractical to abolish violence-based funding (taxes)?
- They said voluntary funding wouldn't work because no one would give enough money.

Now, most people think…

- The concept of "enough money" is defined by what people are willing to pay, NOT by what politicians want to spend.
- People now believe it's completely impractical to give politicians the power to extort money from people. They recognize that it's silly to disconnect funding from performance.

People learned that the moral and the pragmatic are connected!

- Bad means tend to achieve bad results
- Good means tend to achieve good results

And look how great the results are…

You get to live the way you want, provided you don't commit force or fraud against others.

You can…

- Participate in Social Security and Medicare, or opt out
- Buy any type of health insurance you prefer, free from "cronyistic" dictates that once compelled you to purchase coverage you didn't need or want
- Use FDA-approved drugs, or opt out. Now you can seek guidance from other sources, like Underwriters Laboratory or the Life Extension Foundation, or a dozen others that have sprung up to fill the need.

Other kinds of product regulation work the same way. Consumer choice — your choice — rules in all things!

You no longer need The State's permission to do anything!

You can...

- Enter or exit the country whenever you want without a passport
- Associate with foreigners, or not
- Buy a weapon without a permit
- Marry the person you love without The State being a party to the relationship
- Open a business without a license
- Have consensual sex however you want, including for pay
- Ingest what you want
- Grow what you want

It's nobody's damned business but your own, ***so long as you don't hurt anyone else***. Instead of top-down dictates enforced by threats of violence…

Decentralized institutions have become the basic units of governance

These institutions include free-market regulatory bodies like Underwriters Laboratories, insurance underwriting in general, consumer-controlled security firms, arbitration services, ad hoc jury societies, and intentional communities. For instance...

The police are now under you instead of over you!

- The police are no longer tax-funded, so they must perform well or lose customers. They work for you, not the politicians.
- You can buy police protection by subscription, or pay a premium if you call for help without a subscription.
- You can also make a contribution to help those who can't afford the premium, and most security services offer *pro bono* protection for indigents.

This means the police now focus on different things:

- NOT victimless crimes — there are none
- NOT asset forfeiture opportunities — there are none
- NOT traffic fines — there are none (see below for how this might work)

Instead…

- The police actually patrol neighborhoods to intimidate would-be burglars.
- No victimless crimes means no black markets for drugs and prostitution. Criminal gangs are no longer profitable!

These factors have combined to create a fantastic result…

- Violent crime has dwindled to almost nothing!
- The prison population has shrunk to just a few murderers, rapists, and repeat burglars (of which there are now few because of police patrols and ubiquitous, cheap, high-tech security systems).

In the old days, police corruption was rampant. Some Americans even came to view the cops as America's largest criminal gang. But now, whenever a security firm does something wrong, they lose customers. *That* is the most potent form of regulation possible.

Courts have changed too

- Now the prosecutors work for the victim, not The State
- Convicted perpetrators have to compensate their victims, not The State

The result?

- Victims are made whole, so far as possible!
- There are fewer wrongful prosecutions by grandstanding prosecutors looking to pad their record, gain attention, and run for higher office!

Plus...

Juries, not legislatures, decide what qualifies as criminal aggression in voluntaryist America

In the old statist days, legislatures codified every little detail in complex legislation, written mainly by lobbyists for their own interests, but now things are much simpler and less prone to legislative corruption. Ad hoc juries run by jury services and arbitration firms decide when someone has aggressed against someone else, and what the compensation or punishment should be. And consumers fund prisons out of the fees they pay to security and arbitration firms, but here's the key point...

Fewer people go to prison[9] because many of them compensate their victims instead! You marvel that we ever did it any other way. In the old statist days, victims and/or their families got nothing! But the improvements don't stop there...

Even traffic safety is handled differently

Bad driving used to cost you both fines and higher insurance premiums. Now, only your insurance premiums go up. That means…

You’re no longer double-fined for making a mistake! But beware…

You’ll still be taken out of your car if you drive erratically. But it’s the bad driving that gets you stopped, NOT sobriety checkpoints.

Banks, insurance companies, and police services are also put on alert about repeat offenders. It’s like having the ultimate bad credit rating. It can become hard to get a car loan or insurance, and whole neighborhoods can ban you from their roads! (Get out and walk, buddy! Or rent one of those new self-driving cars.) Even better...

There's no Department of Motor Vehicles!

If someone is willing to sell you insurance, that represents both your license and your car registration. Forcing people to have a license, a car registration, and car insurance was

[9] Yes, serial killers will still spend their lives behind bars, though increasing numbers of them are likely to be shot by their intended victims. There would be no gun prohibition in any form of libertarian society, so criminals would live in fear, including serial killers.

needless duplication and expense. It gave politicians state jobs to hand out, but it did nothing for you, except consume your time and money. Bye-bye DMV!

And speaking of roads!

You now laugh at that question libertarians once heard all the time: "Who will build the roads without taxation?" The answer was easy...

"The roads will be built by the same people who built them in the past - private developers!"

Most people didn't realize that most roads, except highways, were always built *without* tax money. Developers needed to create roads for people to get to the houses, offices, and commercial centers they constructed. Roads made their properties more valuable, because they were valueless if people couldn't reach them. It was only after those roads were deeded to cities and counties for maintenance that things fell apart. Then the potholes always grew faster than the repairs.

And prior to The State getting involved even highways were built by for-profit companies, both for tolls and to enhance property values in the places the roads traversed. But now...

In voluntaryist America, the roads always remain in private hands, maintained by property management companies or other institutions created for that narrow purpose. As a result...

- Roads get repaved on a regular schedule (no more potholes)
- Alleys and other commons areas are constantly maintained
- Legal monopolies no longer control who can bring you power, water, gas, and cable using alleys and other easements

Indeed, some of these functions are now handled by...

Intentional communities

Think of them as HSAs without the aggravation. For instance...

Some neighborhoods have strict property use codes. Others have none at all. That means…

You no longer have to move to another county, state, or country to get what you want. The kind of community you prefer is usually just miles away. Libertarians call these **intentional communities**. People come together to pursue specific intentions, values, and lifestyles without imposing on or constraining those with different views and aesthetic preferences. Anyone who wants to can live in their own intentional community. All of this is based on property rights and contractual commitments rather than legislative dictates.

But local communities aren't the only areas of libertarian transformation!

National defense has changed too

Consumers rule here, also!

- Patriots and concerned citizens provide enough funding for a centralized defense, but…
- If politicians misuse the military, the funding dries up.

Plus...

Defense is no longer monopolized by The State

- Some people prefer local militias
- Others argue that any centralized defense creates a single target for potential enemies and gives politicians too much power to abuse.

This latter group favors a completely decentralized guerrilla strategy for both deterrence and defense. They think guerrilla defense makes armies obsolete. And they can point to concrete examples…

- The U.S. in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan
- The Soviet Union in Afghanistan

Advocates of decentralized defense also argue that it's now easy for cheap weapons to destroy expensive weapons, rendering traditional military forces economically inefficient. Putin's fiasco in Ukraine speaks powerfully to this point, as does the American experience in Iraq.

These ideas are spreading. There’s now a worldwide movement to completely demilitarize under the slogan "Countries without armies pose no threat to other countries!"

The Libertarian Revolution affects charity, too.

“Gunpoint compassion” is now considered a contradiction in terms. Instead…

- Choice and competition have caused an explosion of charitable innovation
- The aim is not merely to sustain lives, but to improve them where possible
- Local charities compete hard to show how they can do the best job of providing both sustenance and improvement

As a result, *people are no longer starving in the streets*. The intersection-panhandlers and lumbering drug zombies have disappeared from American cities! Most of the latter have received medical help instead of languishing in prisons or shambling through neighborhoods.

But it isn't only what you can buy or fund that's different…

Even money has changed

There's no more Federal Reserve monopoly, although the Federal Reserve itself still exists. You can use anything for money — dollars, gold, silver, Bitcoin, or something else. As a result…

The Federal Reserve has to keep the dollar stable to avoid losing customers to other forms of currency[10]. That means…

- No more inflation!
- No more booms and busts

Instead…

- Prices are slowly falling as constant innovation increases productivity[11]
- People can now live better with less work!
- Economic outcomes are more equal too, because…
- Cronies can no longer use The State to garner subsidies, bailouts, and bloated contracts, or use rigged regulations to strangle competitors. That means…
- Big business is smaller
- Small businesses are bigger
- No one gains unfair benefits at the expense of others

And here's the most AMAZING part...

Libertarians accomplished all of this without abolishing ANY major institution!

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[10] Most libertarians favor abolishing the Federal Reserve outright, but libertarian principles don't actually require that. F.A. Hayek and other libertarian economists have argued that you simply need to remove the Federal Reserve's monopoly over legal tender. Even the Fed's arch enemy, Ron Paul agrees with that, and he introduced legislation in Congress to do exactly that. This is a key feature of my vision for a libertarian future; you don't need to abolish state institutions if you can simply remove their powers of aggression.

[11] This is exactly what happened under the old gold standard. Prices steadily fell while wages rose. It's important to understand that workers have two ways to benefit from improved productivity - through higher pay and a lower cost of living, and both benefits happen at the same time in a truly free market. Only bad statist economic interventions can retard this beneficial process.

Nearly everything that existed before still exists now…

- The President
- Congress
- Social Security
- Medicare
- The FDA
- The Federal Reserve

It all still exists! Only a few agencies, such as the DEA and BATF, that committed aggression in everything they did, have been abolished. Most of the rest continue to operate, but now...

Every surviving institution of the now-defunct State has to compete with other providers, because the Zero Aggression Principle rules everything. The President and Congress now serve as the managers for a set of institutions that have to compete with other institutions. They no longer have the power to commit aggression to fund and maintain a monopoly. They can only exist by providing good services at a good price.

You think back to the day that marked the dividing line between the old reality and the new.

The revolution to create a Zero Aggression society was fully victorious on the day two Constitutional amendments were ratified…

- **The Zero Aggression Amendment:** No institution of governance may initiate force against anyone for any purpose.
- **The Voluntary Funding Amendment:** All institutions of government must be funded by voluntary donations or payments. Taxation is prohibited.

The Voluntary Funding amendment merely underscored the intent of the Zero Aggression Amendment. But the real point *wasn't* to actually prohibit anything. By this time, everyone understood that the Constitution[12] and the Bill of Rights had no enforcement mechanism. The President, the Congress, and the Courts could simply ignore these new amendments whenever they wanted, just as they had with so many others in the past. The real point was something far more significant...

[12] As the great libertarian thinker Lysander Spooner argued in the 19th Century, the Constitution either gave us the bad government we have, or had no power to prevent it. In either case, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are both just words on paper that can only be enforced by a cultural determination to do so.

The culture had changed!

Most Americans now rejected the arguments for statism, and they elected politicians who reflected that repudiation. The laws that those politicians repealed and the Amendments they passed expressed the new anti-statist American ethic. It was the cultural ethic that mattered. But the two new Constitutional amendments that enshrined this new consensus were just the icing on the cake. The cake itself was...

A subtle but powerful mutation to the way Americans paid for governance

In biological evolution, nature does not make leaps. Instead, tiny mutations to previous mechanisms create new mechanisms that function differently. Much the same is true with social transformation. Small mutations to existing structures, methods, and institutions can transform entire societies. And so it was with the libertarian revolution.

Removing the power to aggress, rather than abolishing institutions in their entirety, was one example of a small libertarian mutation that had a profound impact. People no longer feared losing all the institutions they had become accustomed to. The institutions weren't gone. They were still there. They had simply transformed into defensive rather than aggressive entities. They were voluntary, not mandatory. Likewise...

A small change to how income tax withholding was done was even more dramatic. There was no longer any mandatory amount that had to be withheld. The payer chose the amount. It could even be zero. And the withholding system even allowed the payer to allocate some or all of it to specific agencies or projects. Thus, Congress no longer had the power to demand and allocate money, but instead had to use the money it received wisely to retain support. This approach was also adopted at the state level.

This was revolution through evolution!

The passage of the two non-aggression amendments and the transformation of the tax withholding system did not come as a surprise to you. You had seen it coming for a long time. Congress had been passing bills pointing in that direction for several years. Some of those bills repealed things like…

- Victimless crime laws
- Immigration laws (while retaining naturalization requirements)
- The legal tender law (thereby ending the Federal Reserve monopoly in favor of competing currencies)

You also watched with excitement as Congress passed numerous opt-out bills. These bills allowed you, and everyone else, to opt out of things like…

- Social Security
- Medicare
- The FDA

Eventually, only three things were still mandatory and tax-funded. This was the time when America achieved...

Limited State libertarianism

Just before the advent of voluntaryist America, police, courts, and national defense became the last major functions to remain tax-funded monopolies. Leftists predicted that limited-state libertarianism would bring doom, but doom never came. Right-statists worried about moral decay if politicians no longer controlled what people do with their bodies, and some of them mourned as the federal state's military tentacles receded from around the world. But most people luxuriated in the benefits...

- Budgets were balanced
- The national debt shrank
- Taxation shriveled
- The cost of living trended constantly downward
- Wages were higher
- Employment was full for all who wanted jobs
- Innovation and economic growth were both booming
- Work days and work weeks became shorter as productivity gains allowed people to live better with less work
- Politics and the strife it brings became less important
- People concentrated on art, science, and elegant living, and got their drama fix from books, videos, and sports, instead of political combat
- There was peace and rumors of more peace

These incredible benefits, along with the failure of the nay-saying predictions, paved the way for voluntaryist America. However, something else had set the stage for a limited state America. That something was...

Small-government libertarianism

Nature does not make leaps. Neither do societies. Babies crawl before they walk, and toddlers walk before they run. So it was with the birth and development of libertarian America.

The changes were small at first. A growing libertarian movement put increasing pressure on Congress to regulate itself with strong legislation that could not be waved away, as Congress had always done with its own internal rules. These reform bills included[13]...

- **The One Subject at a Time Act:** It prohibited congressional leaders from enacting unpopular measures by combining them with sure-to-pass proposals that were completely unrelated. This powerful legislation slowed the growth of The State. It also made bills shorter. Then came...

- **The Read the Bills Act**: This law required each member of Congress to read every word of every bill for which they intended to vote yes. There also had to be a complete reading of each bill before a quorum of both chambers, and a fourteen-day waiting period so the public could read them too, and comment. This law also tended to make bills shorter, so politicians could endure reading them. This, too, slowed the growth of The State. Then came...

- **The Write the Laws Act:** This bill required all regulations Americans were forced to obey to be written, read, and passed by Congress. Unelected bureaucrats could help Congress craft such rules, but they could no longer enforce them without specific Congressional approval. And each such rule also had to obey the One Subject at a Time Act and the Read the Bills Act. This slowed the growth of The State even more.

All of these bills had the same enforcement mechanism. They prohibited the courts from enforcing any law or rule promulgated in violation of the one subject, reading, and writing requirements.

As Congress became more bound by common-sense regulations, rank-and-file members gained power, while congressional leaders had less. This meant lobbyists and special interests found it harder to control legislation. A mere handful of Representatives and Senators were able to block legislation and win major concessions, time after time. You remembered seeing the first signs of this back in the 2020s, when the Freedom Caucus was able to thwart the Speaker of the House by withholding just a few votes. This became even more common as the reform acts robbed Congressional leaders of power. The result was less reckless spending and more fiscal prudence. These simple kernels of change set the stage for everything that followed. But...

What made Congress regulate itself?

You think back to the trends that preceded these legislative changes…

[13] The first bills libertarian pressure passes may not be these bills, but these bills do have four advantages. 1. They were created by libertarians. 2. They are high leverage ideas. 3. They already exist. 4. They have already been introduced in Congress.

- American society began to have more and more self-aware libertarians.
- These libertarians exerted intense pressure on their representatives
- Libertarian candidates also began to win more votes, forcing incumbents to move in a more libertarian direction.
- And some libertarians began winning elections to Congress, creating a bloc of votes that could secure major concessions. (Eventually, the number of Libertarians in Congress would grow to a plurality and then a majority.)

But you know that those changes had been foreshadowed by events at a lower level. You remember when citizens in towns across the country passed initiatives that…

- Prohibited local police from enforcing any state and federal laws that initiated force against individual conscience
- Removed tax funding from the police, forcing them to fund their work through voluntary subscriptions

You know that those changes were the real beginnings of consumer-controlled governance. Even before that…

Jury nullification took hold!

Juries stopped convicting based on any statute that initiated force! This made it obvious to politicians everywhere that it was now pointless to pass any bill that attempted to control peaceful behavior.

But what made juries and local voters take those actions? Here was the key turning point…

Universal Visibility

The day arrived when libertarian ideas and candidates were seen and heard by everyone, everywhere, every day[14]. Arguments in favor of Zero Aggression saturated…

- TV
- Radio
- Billboards
- Books
- Magazines
- Bumper stickers

[14] I call the effort to attain this universal visibility "Operation Everywhere." It is a key part of the Parity Project, by which the Libertarian Party seeks to gain equality with the Democrats and Republicans in size, visibility, and electoral success, within the next ten years.

- T-shirts
- The internet
- University campuses
- Conversation

At the same time, traditional media and academia continued to lose influence. These former bastions of statist power could no longer control the American mind. The playing field was now level. The contest was even. And when that happened, the superiority of libertarian ideas prevailed.

This universal visibility was what sparked…

- The revolt by juries
- The changes in local governance
- The increased votes for libertarian candidates
- The intense pressure that forced Congress to pass common-sense reforms, followed by Zero Aggression bills and amendments

But how was this universal visibility achieved?

It began with the internet. The internet was to the libertarian revolution what the printing press had been to the protestant reformation. The internet broke the establishment's information blockade, starting in the 1990s. It became easier for people to encounter libertarian ideas. The result was that the number of self-aware libertarians and libertarian leaning Americans soared.

Later, in the 2000s, two campaigns by Representative Ron Paul for the Republican presidential nomination brought libertarian ideas to even more people, while libertarian influence on the internet continued to grow. This led to what some people called a "libertarian moment." But it was more than just a moment...

By the 20teens, numerous polls were showing that 30 to 60 million Americans either self-identified as libertarians or held mostly libertarian beliefs. This put the libertarian movement within shooting distance of the Democrats and Republicans. This had been achieved despite the fact that libertarian ideas were rarely heard in the media and academia. This suggested that libertarian views could rise to a dominant position if only they could achieve the same universal visibility that the Left and Right had.

Finally, in 2025, the Libertarian Party, under the leadership of Steven Nekhaila, Paul Darr, and Hannah Kennedy, implemented the **Parity Project**. They aimed to conduct a census to find all the libertarians in America, recruit some of them, and mobilize some of them. The aim was to equalize the Libertarian Party (achieve parity) with the Democrats and Republicans in size, visibility, and electoral success within ten years.

The libertarian census provided the resources to buy universal visibility. And universal visibility, step by step, led to the creation of a libertarian America and a libertarian future.

So now you may wonder, is such a dramatic change really possible? Please consider...

The lessons of history

Once upon a time, humans thought life was impossible without human sacrifice. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, humans thought life was impossible without animal sacrifice. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, humans thought life was impossible without kings. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, humans thought life was impossible without a state religion. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, humans thought life was impossible without slavery. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, humans thought civilization was impossible without legally defined and culturally enforced gender roles. They were wrong.

Once upon a time, people thought the contest between capitalism and communism was a grim, twilight struggle that would either last forever or end in nuclear extinction. They were wrong.

This list could go on for some time. Humans aren't very good at knowing what is and is not possible, but we can know one thing for sure...

The general trend of all the impossible changes described above has been toward freedom, and away from aggression and oppression. The libertarian future we propose here is just an extension of that well-established historical trend. The question is, will you foster that trend, or oppose it? In pondering that question, you may also wonder...

Is such a dramatic change really practical?

Can we really build a society and culture based primarily (though not exclusively) on the Zero Aggression Principle? Can we really go as far as the limited-state or voluntaryist visions propose? I could simply restate all the examples of supposedly impractical but profoundly beneficial social changes I listed in the previous section, but here I want to suggest that the question about practicality is the wrong one. Instead, ask yourself this...

How practical is what we're doing now?

Does statism really render the best possible results, or are we simply used to it because it's all we've ever known? And here's an even better question...

What should our default starting point be?

When someone wants to solve a social problem, should our default starting point be to use state aggression, or should our default starting point be to search for ways to solve the problem without aggression?

I submit to you that our current society has the wrong default starting point!

Remember, when someone says "there ought to be a law to require *x* to address problem *y*," what they are really saying is that their preferred solution is so important that people who refuse to participate should die. Now, if that description of the matter seems hyperbolic, let me remind you of something I explained above...

If you refuse to obey or fund something The State wants then you will be fined (at the very least). If you refuse to pay the fine you will eventually be arrested. If you resist arrest you will be killed. The threat of violence and death lies behind every State dictate.

Is your plan to use The State to solve some problem really so important that people who disagree with you should die for refusing to participate?

This brings us to the final question...

Who do you want to be?

Do you want to be a person who chooses aggression as their default starting point for solving problems, or do you favor human freedom, personal responsibility, peaceful persuasion, and voluntary cooperation?

Do you want to remain stuck in the statist rut, or create a new and more humane future?

If you want a libertarian future, please join the Libertarian Party today.

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“You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?” - George Bernard Shaw, *Back to Methuselah*, 1921

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