

The familiar Left—Right political spectrum does not describe politics well. Libertarians imagine a second vertical axis indicating how much authority government should have to use force to compel people to behave in certain ways.

Fundamentally, government *is* the authority to use *force* because without *enforcement*, laws are meaningless.

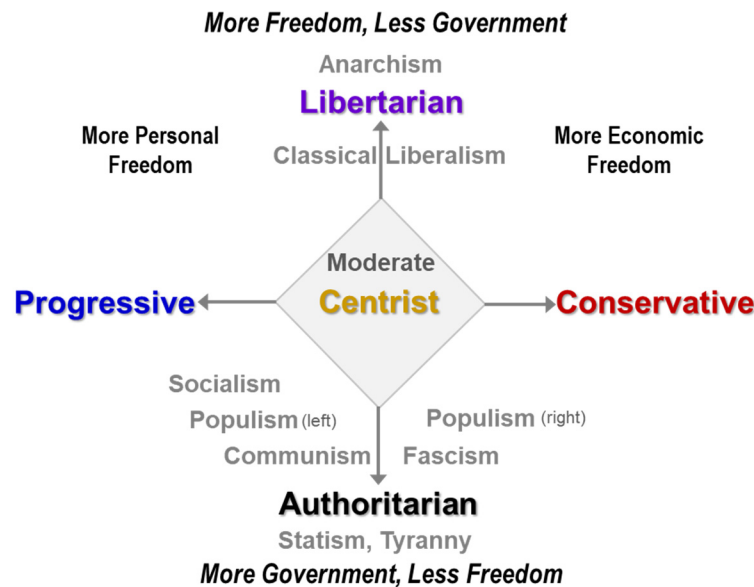
Libertarians believe that use of force should be limited to: 1) military and personal defense against actual harm or attack, 2) apprehending criminals* and holding them accountable.

*Crime: physical, financial or material harm to people or property.



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The Libertarian Party members' pledge:
I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate initiation of force for political or social purposes.



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Left/Democrat

Right/Republican

DISAGREE

- More government regulation of the economy.
- More government deficit spending, debt and unfunded liabilities.
- Tax funding of many government programs with dubious benefits and/or unintended consequences.
- Military use for political/humanitarian purposes, not for *defense*.
- Use of eminent domain for private entities.
- More gun restrictions.

AGREE

- **Personal freedom.**
- Non-interventionist foreign and defense policy.
- Tolerance of others' behavior and beliefs.
- End corporate welfare.
- Support civil liberties.
- Separation of church and state.
- Strong protection for civil rights and privacy.
- Pro gay marriage since 1972.
- Comprehensive immigration reform.

LIBERTARIAN

- Government's primary role: defend our rights and preserve our freedom.
- Follow The Constitution.
- Prefer limited authority for government to pass laws and to use force.
- Let people who do not harm others pursue happiness and prosperity.
- No nation building or policing the world.
- Peace through trade and diplomacy.
- "Harm reduction," not "war on drugs."
- Support free enterprise, entrepreneurialism, free markets and competition.
- Government spending is mostly wasteful and/or ineffective.
- Science & data, not beliefs & anecdotes.

AGREE

- **Economic freedom**
- Strong military for *defense*.
- Fiscal responsibility, balanced budget (*pre 2016*).
- Respect for private property rights.
- Giving generously and voluntarily to those in need.
- Advancement based on merit.
- Right to own guns.

DISAGREE

- Military use not related to defense.
- More government deficit spending, debt and unfunded liabilities.
- Laws based on religion, not civil liberties.
- War on drugs.
- Surveillance state.
- Tax-funding of faith-based charities.
- Crony capitalism and corporate welfare (subsidies, tax breaks).
- Anti-choice.

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