

David Corzo - 20190432 - 2021/05/03

Socratic Discussion #5 – Government: Unnecessary but inevitable.

Synthesis:

The article presents how an anarcho-libertarian society would be controlled and how order would emerge without the coercive power of the state. The author states that the public sector is incredibly inefficient and thus wastes resources that would otherwise not be wasted if the private sector were to pitch in and do it. The logical extreme by these standards would be to get rid entirely of government, this proposition is made by several anarcho-libertarian authors, however some see government as a necessary evil while others see it is something that must be removed at all costs. While government is not good many times for economics and politics, it is something that serves a vital role in the order of society, predatory groups have always existed, ever since the childhood of the human species, and letting these groups roam free unmolested would render society into a survival-of-the-fittest type of society that no one in their sane mind would like to live in. The author states that the private sector could do everything, from national defense to providing food, etcetera. The author also states that the risk of invasion is lower if there was no government and market forces would pitch in to defend if invasion does occur. The author also states that government was created to exploit people and extract resources from them, and thus grant no benefit for them, this is in my opinion an extremely radical position to make but these claims can be disputed. Towards the end of the article the author states that government is not necessary for anything, anarcho-libertarianism taking over would be better, but for that to happen people would need to agree and thus the author renders government to be unnecessary but inevitable.

New concepts (30 c/u):

- **Predatory groups:** "A group of predators that cooperate to kill prey. This makes it possible to kill creatures larger than those they could overpower singly; for example, hyenas, and wolves collaborate to catch and kill herbivores as large as buffalo, and lions even hunt elephants."

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predation#:~:text=In%20social%20predation%2C%20a%20group.and%20lions%20even%20hunt%20elephants.>

- **Anarcho-libertarian:** "A libertarian who views the abolition of the state as necessary for a free society. Unlike anarcho-capitalists, an anarcho-libertarian does not seek anarchy as the ultimate goal, but rather as just one facet of a free society."

Source: <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=anarcho-libertarianism>

Author description (50):

- Randal Holcombe is an American economist, and the DeVoe Moore Professor of Economics at Florida State University, and is a Research Fellow at The Independent Institute, a Senior Fellow and member of the Research Advisory Council at The James Madison Institute, and past president of the Public Choice Society. He also served on governor Jeb Bush's Council of Economic Advisors. Holcombe has written several books on economics and politics. He is also a musician and a licensed pilot.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Randall_G._Holcombe

Context description (50):

This article was published in 2004, a presidential election had just taken place, George W. Bush had just won a second term in office and his views are on the right wing. The Christian-right wing

tends to hold pro-radical conservatism and thus this article was written in the midst of all these events to justify, or at least attempt to do so, why it was a smart idea to shift to radical anarcho-libertarianism and why people should want to think the anarcho-libertarian way.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_presidential_election

Questions to the author:

1. What if predatory groups get together and make a coalition to exploit people, the article justifies the emergence of these sort of predatory orders but criticizes government, how is it different to have a coalition of free market predatory groups and having a government?
2. Does these propositions lead to a society that is a survival-of-the-fittest type society?

Sources of information:

Source in the reading (50): "The Welfare Costs of Tariffs, Monopolies, and Theft,"

This article explores on what are the effects of tariffs, monopolies and theft to the degree in which they affect society by imposing tariffs based on special interests and donors, pressured to subsidize enterprises thus creating monopolies and how this cronyism produces welfare loss thus creating a dire situation for all.

Source: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1465-7295.1967.tb01923.x>

External sources (75):

Libertarian anarchism is a concept advocated in many ways by many different authors. A sort of anarcho-libertarianism is tried to be justified in Ayn Rand's novel Atlas Shrugged, not in the same way the article is portrayed but with very similar justification. Calling for the abolition or extreme limitation of government because it oppresses the individual, also calling the actions of government 'aggression' in very much the same way Rothbard and Block do. As many concepts talked about in the reading the anarcho-libertarian and anarcho-capitalist propositions find a place in the libertarian right wing, along side Rand's objectivism and other such philosophies that have influenced libertarian thinking as the centuries have passed.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objectivism_and_libertarianism