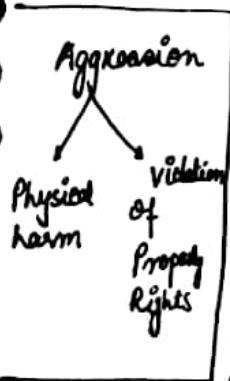




R. Reagan  
 M. Thatcher  
 ↓  
 politicians  
 who practised  
 libertarianism

According to the libertarians, every individual should have an absolute & fundamental right of liberty to do whatever he wants unless & until he does not aggress against someone else. They define aggression as the use of or a threat of the use of violence/force against the person or property of someone else.



For them, liberty is important not as a means to achieve some other ends but rather it is important as an end in itself. Liberty is the absolute end of moral argument.

Self-Ownership  
 ↓  
 Right to Express  
 Right to Work  
 " " Movement  
 • Conscience / Religion

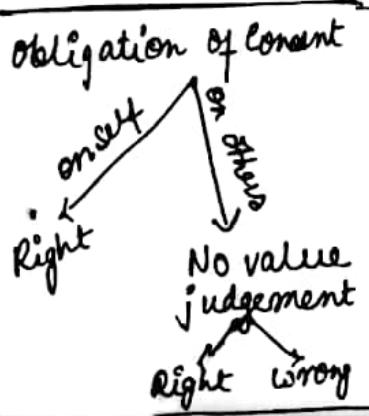
They support liberty on the basis of their most fundamental principle of "Self-Ownership". An individual has a right of liberty because he is the owner of himself & he alone has a property right over himself. Nobody else including the state or the family or the community etc. own an individual.

e.g. Aadhaar Bill  
Case  
Debate on  
the Question of  
Self-Ownership

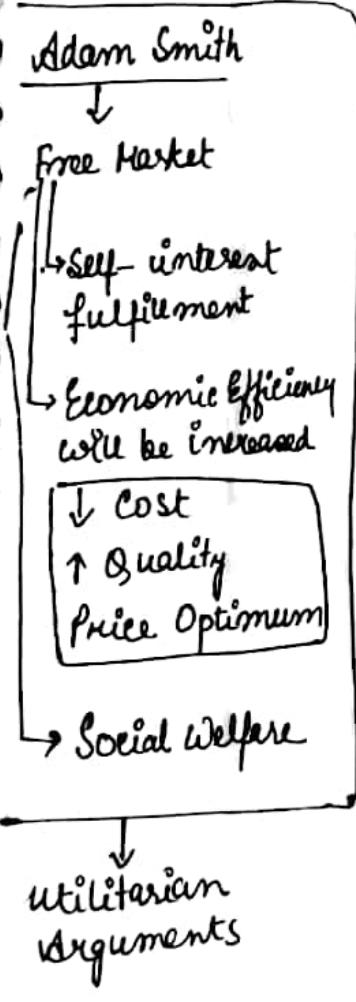
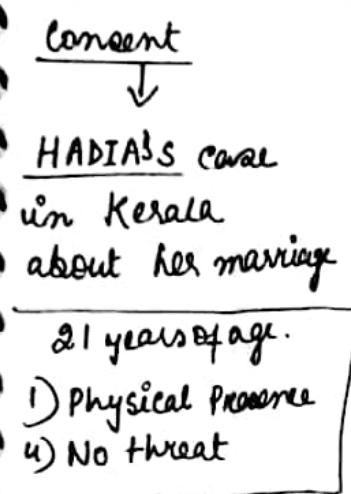
According to them, apart from Non-aggression the only other ethical obligation on an individual is the Obligation of Consent. An individual can limit his own liberty through his own consent. The individual consent is the only legitimate ground of limiting the liberty of an individual. Any other limitation on individual liberty should be considered as an act of Aggression.

libertarians are  
against the idea  
of Paternalism

According to them, every individual knows what is right or wrong for him or her, so, if an individual decides something as right & gives his consent to it, then it becomes right for him & he is ethically obligated to do that act.



Consent also means that others should not make any value judgement about someone's consented act.



They support a completely free market in which with absolutely no government regulation. But they support freedom of market not for the sake of economic efficiency but in the name of individual freedom & liberty. They support a minimum government in which the government should be ethically permitted to perform only two basic functions →

a) To enforce the contract between the consenting adults. It is not the job of the govt. to judge the fairness of a contract. Any contract, just because of the fact that it has been entered into by consenting adults, it is fair & govt. must enforce it.  
(No cheating)

b) to ensure Non-aggression  
(Law & order).  
(No violence)

protection of individual liberty should be the task of govt

\* American Declaration of Independence  
 ↓  
 emphasises on "Pursuit of Happiness"

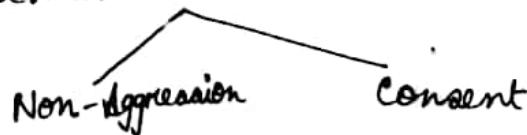
All other govt. actions are wrong because they violate the individual liberty & thus are ethically unjustified.

The following govt. actions are unethical because they violate the individual liberty →

- a) The govt. should not make any attempt to redistribute income & wealth in the society in order to reduce inequality.

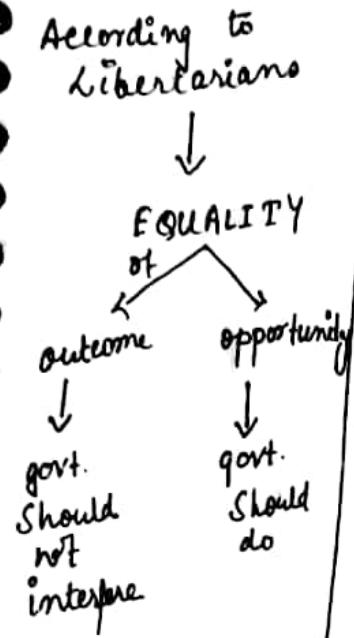
The fairness of income & wealth of a person can be judged only on the basis of following two criterions →

i) Fairness in Initial Acquisition



ii) Fairness in Exchange

If these 2 conditions are fulfilled then whatever is the income & wealth of a person & whatever is the inequality that results from it, it is fair & govt. should



not try to artificially reduce it.

Thus, taxation through which the govt. tries to redistribute the income & wealth in the society is wrong. They find a logical continuity from taxation to forced labour to slavery.

{ govt. claims  
a part of my  
Income (part of  
my labour) }

{ govt claims  
a part of  
my labour }

{ I do not  
own myself }

e.g.  
HarmLaw  
Seatbelt law  
NDPS Act

b) There should not be any Paternalistic laws. These are the laws whose sole purpose is to protect an individual from harming himself.

c) There should not be any moral laws. These are the laws which tries to promote certain notion of virtue & which tries to express the conviction of majority. Thus, any laws against Prostitution, Adultery, & Homosexuality are wrong because they violate the rights of the adults to choose their sexual partners.

Any law against abortion or those related to contraception or family planning are also wrong because they violate the rights of the woman over her own body.

- Moral laws
  - ↓
- Art 51A (Fundamental Duties)
- Many part of DPSPs
- U.C.C
- Triple Talaq Laws
- Ban on Beef

- d) There should not be any occupational licensing  
no minimum wage law  
no anti-employment discrimination  
 law or no govt. run mandatory Provident Fund / Pension Schemes etc.

### Criticism of Libertarianism:-

But the libertarians go to such an extent for the sake of individual liberty & supports even the following which many of us may not agree with —

- I) Case of Suicide: They support suicide on the grounds of the principle of self-ownership.
- ii) Euthanasia: They support Euthanasia but not on the ground of compassion & dignity but in the

name of liberty & consent .

- iii) Surrogacy → only consent is required .
- iv) Sale of organs
- v) consensual cannibalism .
- vi) " Slavery

This theory is also criticised as being pro-Rich / Pro-Capitalist & anti-poor .