



LPDC Newsletter

The Voice of Freedom in Dallas, Texas



2016: Our Year?

by Eugene J. Flynn



There has been much written about how Libertarian Candidates are better positioned this year with our presidential candidate Gary Johnson polling at around 9% in Texas and our candidate for Railroad commissioner having been endorsed by the [Dallas Morning News](#), the [Houston Chronicle](#), the [San Antonio Express-News](#),

and the [Corpus Christi Caller-Times](#). It should be a slam dunk for LPTexas to get the 5% needed to maintain ballot access. Well, maybe not.

First, no one is sure if the Texas Secretary of State (and the Courts) will recognize a presidential candidate as a "statewide" candidate under the election law. So if Gary Johnson gets 5% or more, we may still have to obtain 5% in another race, and there aren't too many this year: just the Railroad Commissioner race and six judicial races. But if Gary Johnson did get 9% or more, then surely Mark Miller would get at least 5%. Well, maybe not.

Clearly this is a year that people will be pulled off their straight-party voting (roughly 60% in Texas these days) and that is good for our down ballot candidates. In 1992 Ross Perot got 22.01% in Texas in his race for President. Libertarian Andre Marrou got 0.32%. Richard N. Draheim, Jr., the LP candidate for Railroad Commissioner that year, got 6.99%, the

only time an LP candidate received more than 5% in a statewide race where there was a D and an R also in the race.

Draheim clearly benefited from the Perot vote even though he was not on the same ticket. Surely here, in a situation where the top of our ticket that is the beneficiary of people not voting straight-party, more people should stay with us and vote for Mark Miller. Well, maybe not.

Mark Miller is eminently qualified for the office he seeks. But who knows that? There could very well be 8 million votes cast in Texas. That would be 400,000 votes for 5%. If every person who subscribes to the newspapers that have endorsed Mark Miller actually read the endorsements, agreed with them (as well they should), and voted then Mark would be over 5%. But not everyone reads the editorials. So what can be done?



What needs to be done is already being done. In counties throughout the state of Texas supporters of Mark Miller are out block walking introducing voters to Mark Miller and Gary Johnson. Please join them. The Miller campaign doesn't have millions of dollars to blanket the state with ads. If you know anyone who would like to donate, direct them to the [campaign website](#). Your help is still needed. Contact the Miller campaign and get out there any make sure everyone knows who Mark Miller is. If you do that, not only will we get the 5% needed, but Mark Miller, the most qualified candidate, could actually win. It is up to you.

Editor's Note: If you'd like to block walk for Dr. Mark Miller, please contact his DFW campaign coordinator [here!](#)



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Almost time to vote! Support our candidates through Election Day!

JOHNSON
WELD 2016

MARK MILLER
OIL & GAS
FOR TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

 **Ed Rankin for Congress**



[David Morris for Dallas Sheriff](#)



participate in Texas Decides. The participants are the state-wide program The Texas Standard (90.1 FM in Dallas, 10-11 AM, Monday-Friday), and stations KERA 90.1 FM in Dallas, KUT in Austin, Houston Public Media, Texas Public Radio in San Antonio, and Marfa Public Radio. They asked listeners to send in questions they wanted these broadcasters to cover about the election, and then the listeners voted on the questions to choose five that would actually be covered. Among the questions that will actually be covered by the participating broadcasters are (paraphrasing): “What will be the effect of third parties in this election?” and “Why don’t media organizations cover the third party candidates more often?” One response to this is that the Dallas area NPR show “Think” recently devoted an hour of time to third parties .

Dave Lieber, the Watchdog columnist of the Dallas Morning News, who does an outstanding job, reported the following. HB 283 (author, Pat Fallon, R-Frisco), passed in the 2015 session of the Legislature, requires the following local governments to post online videos of their regular public meetings: home rule cities of over 50,000 population, independent school districts with more than 10,000 students, commissioners’ courts in counties with more than 125,000 population, and some others. Fallon wants to lower the population limits in the 2017 sessions. His staff (he’s classy enough to give credit to his high school intern Sakshi Vankatraman) found that all the governments that were required to, and some that weren’t required to, had complied. FYI, here are some of the jurisdictions in the Dallas area posting videos:

[Cities:](#) Allen; Arlington; Carrollton; Dallas; Denton; DeSoto; Euless; Flower Mound; Fort Worth; Frisco; Garland; Grand Prairie; Grapevine; Irving; Lewisville; Mansfield; McKinney; Mesquite; North Richland Hills; Plano; Richardson; Rowlett.

[Counties:](#) Dallas; Denton; Collin; Tarrant.

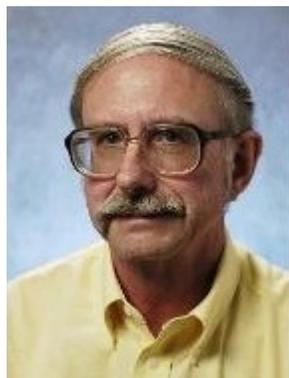
[School districts:](#) Allen; Argyle; Arlington; Birdville; Carroll; Coppell; Dallas; Denton; DeSoto; Flower Mound; Fort Worth; Frisco; Garland; Grand Prairie; Grapevine-Colleyville; Irving; Keller; Lewisville; Mansfield; McKinney; Mesquite; Northwest; Plano; Richardson; Rockwall; Wylie.

[Transit agencies:](#) Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Fort Worth Transportation Authority.

Quick Snippets: Dirty Tricks, Texas Radio Attention, Monitoring City Government

by Barry V. Smith

I’m sure many of you have already thought of it, but I’ll mention it just in case. In this election when everyone is so desperate, and we are doing so well, we are likely to be a target for dirty tricks. I don’t know the appropriate legalities and tactics here, but I hope someone will be planning precautions and responses. For example, should we use poll watchers (something I don’t know much about)?



Something I noticed once, and regrettably, didn’t do anything about, was that the results for my precinct showed no votes for Libertarians, when I had voted straight Libertarian. If there are known Libertarians in a precinct and the returns don’t reflect that, we clearly need to do something.

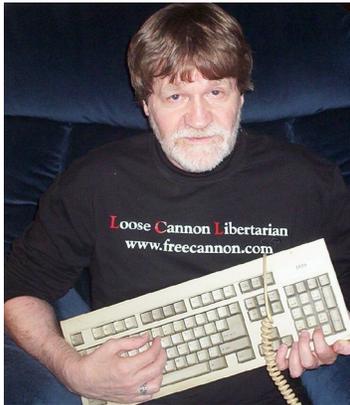
A number of Texas public radio stations have combined to

LPDC Membership Program!

Want to help out the LPDC and at the same time get some cool libertarian swag? Check out our [contributor membership program!](#)

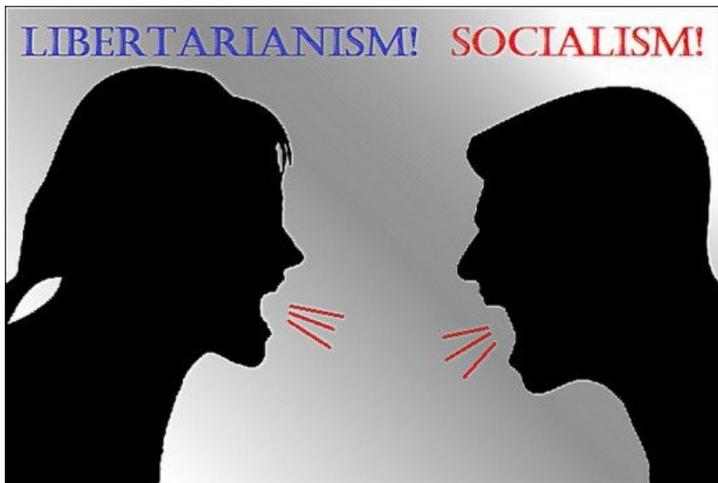
Five Mistakes: A Socialist Lectures a Libertarian on Libertarianism

by Garry Reed

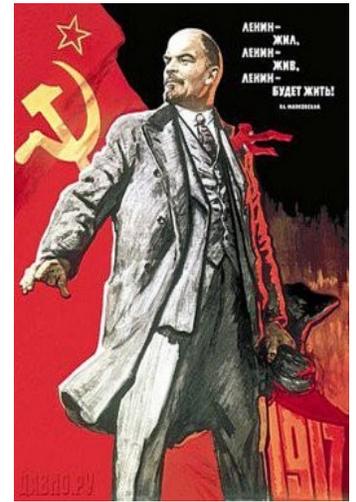


How many libertarians have encountered a socialist online who disdainfully presumes to know more about libertarianism than libertarians know about libertarianism? The author of these “Five Mistakes” is not just a socialist but a self-identified Marxist with a Facebook page that proudly displays Vladimir Lenin, thereby presumably making him a Marxist-Leninist socialist.

First, note that [according to Wikipedia](#) “Marxism has since developed into different branches and schools of thought, and there is now no single definitive Marxist theory.” (Much like libertarianism.)



Then note [per Wikipedia](#) that “Marxism–Leninism is a political philosophy or worldview founded on ideas of Marxism and Leninism, and seeks to establish socialist states...” In short, our “Five Mistakes” author is a statist authoritarian.



Dictator of the Proletariat

Why would someone opposed to America's One-Percenters idolize Vladimir Lenin, the elitist dictatorial One-Percenter of his place and time?

The single biggest problem that people of different ideologies have when they debate is that they continually – sometimes unknowingly and often uncaringly – use different definitions for the same words. The result is forever talking past rather than to each other.

Therefore, a definition: Many people use “[government](#)” and “[state](#)” interchangeably even though they are different: A state is a geographic entity while a government is a state’s political administration. Because they’re virtually interchangeable in the real world this article will use both terms interchangeably.

Following are the “Five Mistakes” and the responses to them are directed primarily to the author’s brand of socialism.

Property

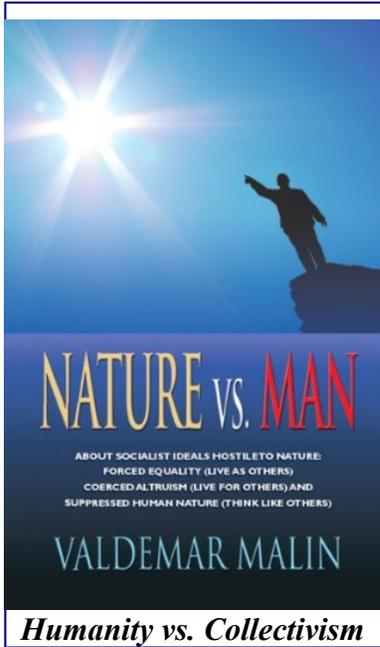
First mistake: you don't know the difference between personal and private property.

Apparently socialists don’t know the difference either. Try Googling "difference between personal and private property" and you’re likely to get “About 11,800 results” and as many complicated, convoluted and contradictory definitions as well.

Socialists tie themselves into pretzel knots attempting to parse the definitional distinctions between two types of property in order to sustain their position that private property is evil by definition while personal property – “possessions” – is okay. But libertarians invoke Occam’s razor which holds that the simplest definition is the best definition: Both “property” and “possessions” refer to things that belong to someone. The more definitional hair-splitting the socialists come up with the more unlikely their explanations.

Some-socialists’ biggest gripe against private property ownership is that such ownership must be identified by laws enforced by governments. Since governments are social

collectives, and socialists love social collectives, they choose to solve this conflict by keeping governments and rejecting private property.



NATURE VS. MAN:
Socialist Ideals Foreign to Nature - Enforced Equality (live as others), Coerced Altruism (live for others) and Suppressed Human Nature (think like others)

Francis Bacon understood that "Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed." This book applies the principles of physical nature to human nature and bashes all those authoritarian ideologies (socialism, communism, fascism) that demand people must live unnaturally.

All ideologies based on anti-nature are anti-humanity; libertarianism addresses who we are, not "what we ought to be made into."

[Buy Now](#)

Free market libertarians don't like their laws being enforced by governments either but because they understand that without private property rights no other rights are possible they choose to keep property and throw out governments.

Governments meet the criteria of criminal enterprises since they openly, obviously and actively subjugate individuals, and that includes the statist socialist's chosen means of "social existence" (see Second Mistake) due to the fact that states are run by small elitist groups who use coercion, intimidation and fraud against all others for the elitists' own enrichment.

When statist socialists talk of "exploitation" it's curious why they don't place "government" at the very top of their list of exploiters.

So how would society protect people's rights to personal and/or private property without government force? Even socialists conclude that it would be done in ways that society would develop itself, such as "peer pressure etc" as [proposed by one socialist website](#). Libertarians contend that when people are free from government constraints and able to think and act imaginatively there are an endless variety of answers

to this question.

Individualism

Second Mistake: assuming individuals exist outside of social existence.

This is a false issue. Aside from a vanishingly few hermits, recluses, exiles, lone shipwreck survivors and solitary Buddhist monks perched on mountaintops contemplating their navels the vast majority of people most certainly are social creatures.

The issue between libertarians and authoritarians is whether people interact in society on a voluntary basis or if some authority forces their interactions. Socialists who do not accept the non-aggression principle like to force people into collectives while libertarians respect people's right to choose with whom they associate.

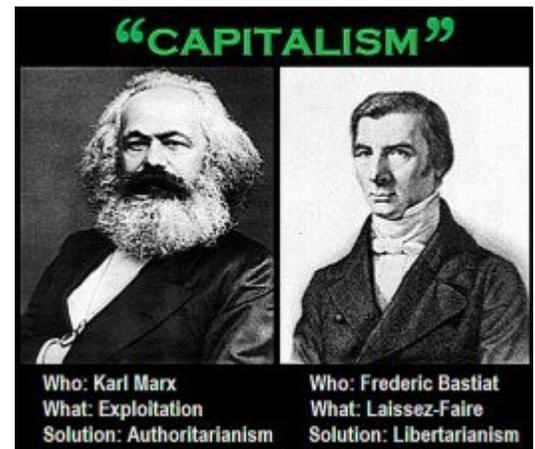
Relationships

Third Mistake: society is not a collection of individuals but rather the relationships between those individuals

This is more Occam razor hair-splitting in an attempt to make something that's simple into something that's complicated. Yes it's certainly true that people's relationships define how, where, when, why, in what way and with whom people interact with one another, but it doesn't change the fact that without individuals there are no societies, no relationships and therefore no collectives.

Libertarians have no disagreement with socialists or anyone else with this, they only insist that "the relationships between those individuals" be – once again – voluntary rather than based on physical coercion, intimidation or fraud in all forms, whether from governments, states, or otherwise.

At this point libertarians should just give up on words like "capitalism" and "laissez-faire" because "Free Market" encompasses everyone who accepts the NAP.



Whose Capitalism is Whose?

Capitalism

Fourth Mistake: assuming capitalism which inherently is competitive and requires growth can coexist with other systems peacefully for any period of time.

This isn't a Mistake but several Mistakes. First, it's a perfect example of using different definitions for the same word.

When socialists say "capitalism" they mean the Marxist theory based on private ownership of the means of production and the exploitation of workers enforced by big government, big bosses and big banking cartels. Libertarians call this "crony capitalism" or "corporatism" and also reject it.

When libertarians say "capitalism" they mean the Frederic Bastiat theory of the laissez-faire free society in which not just the economic marketplace of goods and services but absolutely everything that people care about are exchanged on the libertarian non-aggression principle against coercion, intimidation and fraud.

So, with no government using its coercive powers to create winners and losers there is simply no reason why all people of all peaceful persuasions can't coexist. There have been many examples of communes, commonages, kibbutzim, co-ops and other collective societies existing throughout Europe, America and around the world.

Capitalists may be "inherently competitive" but so are millions of other people in other walks of life. There is no inherent reason, without government's special interest laws, subsidies, protections, grants and aids, why capitalism "requires" growth. Small businesses from donut shops to nail salons to burger franchises to driveway contractors to lawn services make up the vast majority of for-profit non-governmental non-statist commerce.



Evil Self-Exploiter

Marxists insist capitalism exploits workers: Does that mean self-employed owner/workers exploit themselves?

According to the [Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council](#) firms with fewer than 500 workers account for 99.7 percent of

businesses and those with less than 20 workers make up 89.6 percent. These small businesses seldom grow.

(Further, most of these small businesses are owned by self-employed people who do most of the work themselves. According to Marxist orthodoxy since these people are both bosses and workers they're exploiting themselves.)

Libertarians don't ask socialists to exist in a Marxist-defined "capitalist" system but rather in a free libertarian society. With the NAP in place where coercion, intimidation and fraud have no legitimacy there is no reason why non-statist libertarian-socialist businesses and institutions cannot coexist with all other forms of laissez-faire free market style businesses and institutions.

There's simply no reason why a worker-owned-and-run business can't succeed right next door to a laissez-faire free market business. It's sad that The Five Mistakes Author is so negative about his beloved worker-owned businesses he thinks they can't possibly compete against clock-punching employees unless they're protected by a coercive collectivist government ruling class.

Voluntaryism

Fifth mistake: assuming that centralized private authority is somehow essentially better than centralized government authority

Once again the issue here is not about centralized vs. decentralized authority, or government vs. private authority, or even authority vs. non-authority. The issue is about coercion vs. non-coercion.

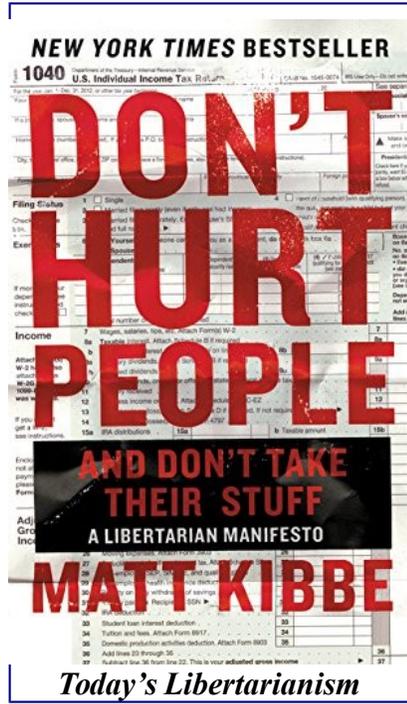
There are many examples in society where people voluntarily accept authority-subordinate relationships for the benefit of both: Parent-child, teacher-student, doctor-patient, lawyer-defendant, coach-player, owner-worker, preacher-flock, and many many others. As long as these relationships are voluntary it's nobody else's business.

While some socialists reject all hierarchical human relationships there are, again depending on definitions, no possible way to avoid them. Otherwise [the very concept of "society"](#) becomes meaningless.

[Don't Hurt People and Don't Take Their Stuff: A Libertarian Manifesto](#)

This is the book that brings the Modern American Libertarian Movement up to date with 6 simple rules: Don't hurt people, Don't take people's stuff, Take responsibility, Work for it, Mind your own business, Fight the power.

Or to put it in a simple and straightforward way, this book asks you to choose between libertarianism and authoritarianism.



[Buy Now](#)

One Mistake

And that brings us to the crux of the problem. The Five Mistakes Author is not a libertarian-socialist but a self-identified Marxist with a Facebook cover page that features dictator Vladimir Lenin and the red hammer-and-cycle flag of the brutish but thankfully defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' communist empire.



Youtube: Socialism & Communism vs Free Market (not crony) Capitalism

Again by definition [Marxism–Leninism](#) is a political philosophy or worldview that seeks to “establish socialist states.” “States” always inevitably require “governments” and “governments” inevitably require “centralized authority” and “centralized authority” absolutely means “coercion.”

What’s truly sad is that all people who believe in freedom from coercive institutions, groups and individuals have more in common than not. Creating a [post-statist](#) decentralized laissez-faire free society ought to be the goal of libertarians, libertarian-socialists, libertarian-communists, left-libertarians, anarcho-capitalists, voluntaryists, agorists, Objectivists and others.

Here’s the bottom line: A person has to grow up with an emotional-psychological predisposition toward valuing individualism, independence and responsibility in order to accept libertarianism. Without that basic self-confidence people will naturally seek security and protection in collective groups and willingly trade their individuality for authoritarian social systems. There is no way of converting from one to the other without first overcoming, or losing, that initial predisposition.

Libertarians espouse a laissez-faire society in which individuals move voluntarily into and out of cooperative and individual pursuits whenever they wish with no reprisals for doing so.

Ultimately there are not Five Mistakes but one, and choosing any form of authoritarianism over libertarianism is the only mistake that matters.

Editor's note: Re-published from the [Hubpages Libertarian Opinionizer](#) with permission from the author. Editor's comment: This article was among the half-dozen very good choices from Garry's regular assortment of blog submissions. Check out his blog; you'll become a fan!

Want to write about libertarianism, but aren't ready for major publications? Want to test your articles first among friends? Submit your articles bimonthly to the LPDC newsletter! It's painless, I promise!

Upcoming Meetings

- [Trivia night at Trinity Hall](#)
 - Every Sunday Night, 7:30 PM
 - [Trinity Hall Irish Pub & Restaurant](#)
5321 E Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX

- **Dallas Rally with Governor Bill Weld**

- October 17th, 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM
- Gilly's Dallas
1135 S Lamar St., Dallas, TX

- **Election Night Party**

- November 8th, evening
- Location TBA

Up-to-date meeting announcements and details can always be found on meetup.com. (www.meetup.com/Dallas-Libertarians/)

Libertarian References

- **Books**

- *Good to be King*, Michael Badnarik
- *Why Government Doesn't Work*, Harry Browne
- *Atlas Shrugged*, Ayn Rand
- *The Libertarian Mind*, David Boaz
- *Economics in One Lesson*, Henry Hazlitt
- *Healing Our World*, Dr. Mary Ruwart

- **Videos**

- *Neitzsche and the Nazis*, Stephen Hicks
- *Bullsh*t!*, Penn & Teller
- *Free to Choose*, Milton Friedman
- *America: Freedom to Fascism*, Aaron Russo

- **Websites**

- The Libertarian Party of Dallas County
lpdallas.org
- The Libertarian Party of Texas
lptexas.org
- The National Libertarian Party
www.lp.org
- Students for Liberty
studentsforliberty.org
- Free Talk Live
www.freetalklive.com
- The Cato Institute
www.cato.org
- Molinari Institute
praxeology.net/molinari.htm
- Objectivism In-Brief
mol.redbarn.org/objectivism/writing/InBrief



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The LPDC is a local branch of the Libertarian Party based in Dallas County, Texas. Find out more about the LPDC at <http://lpdallas.org>. The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the United States, and was established in 1971 to promote more freedom and less intrusive government in all aspects of life. Find out more about the LP at <http://www.lp.org>.



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