



Libertarianism For Beginners

Todd Seavey , Nathan Smith (Illustrations) , John Stossel (Foreword)

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Libertarianism isn't about winning elections; it is first and foremost a political philosophy--a description of how, in the opinion of libertarians, free people ought to treat one another, at least when they use the law, which they regard as potentially dangerous. If libertarians are correct, the law should intrude into people's lives as little as possible, rarely telling them what to do or how to live.

A political and economic philosophy as old as John Locke and John Stuart Mill, but as alive and timely as Rand Paul, the Tea Party, and the novels of Ayn Rand, libertarianism emphasizes individual rights and calls for a radical reduction in the power and size of government. *Libertarianism For Beginners* lays out the history and principles of this often-misunderstood philosophy in lucid, dispassionate terms that help illuminate today's political dialogue.

Libertarianism For Beginners Details

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From Reader Review Libertarianism For Beginners for online ebook

Gerard Perry says

It's probably best that I preface this review with the caveat that I'm a close friend of the author, whom I've known for years. That said, I like to think of myself as relatively objective when it comes to these things. As a fellow libertarian-who at times strongly differs from Mr. Seavey-I can appreciate the scope of the task he's set before himself with this book. Namely, explaining a (relatively) recent philosophy which seems to contradict what most people have been taught throughout their formative years, i.e. the ministrations of the state and its agents are not only beneficial but perpetual, and extricating the government from human relations would inevitably lead to disaster.

Libertarianism for Beginners deconstructs these two myths while simultaneously explaining why eliminating collectivist distortions of the free market will benefit both individuals and society as a whole. I look at this book as an antidote to the years of misguided public education most Americans have experienced, which emphasize the national greatness model of history, while overlooking the calamitous results of the grand social engineering that's been undertaken in order to "advance" humanity. Seavey lucidly and succinctly explains the historical precedents for libertarianism, how modern libertarian philosophers and economists expanded upon classical liberal theory, and the rationale for embracing liberty and self-governance as an operating philosophy.

He provides the connective tissue between the 'novel' theories of libertarian contemporaries and the revolutionary ideas enunciated by liberal thinkers dating back to the Enlightenment, and demonstrates the continuity between those who have always sought to liberate individuals from the unnecessary and hobbling influence of the state, whether in the form of kings and dukes or modern government bureaucrats. This is a book that is simple without being simplistic-the visual aides are a deft touch-which illuminates seemingly esoteric economic and philosophical concepts in a way that both the novice and diehard libertarian can appreciate.

Angelle says

I wish I could give this book less than a star. It read like a term paper that had to be a certain word count. Poorly written and obviously biased.

Evan Kostelka says

For those wanting to get a quick introduction to Libertarianism, look no further than this book. This is definitely for the lay-person new to political ideas. There is definitely a feeling of 'yeah, but....' for some points raised, but this is an introduction, not a complete thesis. He covers the history of Libertarianism, notable people, basics of Libertarianism, and common questions raised to Libertarians. I loved this book and will definitely recommend to anyone wanting to learn more about this third party option in American politics.

Haley says

I won the book through a giveaway on goodreads. Todd Seavy provides a brief but thorough introduction of Libertarianism through informative methods rather than persuasive methods, yet it is his objective approach towards this political philosophy that is ultimately the most persuasive. The Libertarian Party is unfortunately still widely unappreciated. This small political party manages to remain consistent with its beliefs by holding only three core values: all humans have the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to own property. Every other matter within Libertarianism branches off of these three basic rights. *Libertarianism for Beginners* includes a timeline of the Libertarian school of thought, biographies of several influential members, popular questions and answers directed towards Libertarian values, and descriptions of the 'hows' and 'whys' of the main values of this party. This book gives a satisfactory introduction through the most effective means possible.

Jeanna says

I think it could have been organized a little better (to the point where the organization effected my understanding of the topic), but it was still super helpful.

Paul says

What is Libertarianism all about? This book attempts to give the answer.

Quoting from the book, it is a "political philosophy that emphasizes individual rights, including strong property rights, and the radical shrinking or abolition of government (since government routinely interferes with your use of your body and property)." A person can do what they want with their body or possessions as long as they don't use someone else's body or possessions without their consent.

Victimless crimes, like using drugs (without physically injuring anyone else) or watching pornography are not grounds for arrest. How do we pay for public services without taxes? By imposing voluntary user fees; the people who actually use the service should pay for it. Government has taken over the task of providing aid to the poor, destroying networks run by poor people themselves. In some cases, government has imposed restrictions on private charities, making their job much more difficult.

There are many different types of libertarianism. Objectivists, followers of Ayn Rand, reject anarchism, religion and other parts of conventional morality. Minarchists believe in a minimal, limited state that consists of little more than police, courts and purely defensive military. Left-libertarians advocate the abolition of the state and of other unequal relationships, like between landlords and tenants, bosses and workers and traditional husbands and wives.

This is a pretty painless introduction to libertarianism. It might take more than one reading to understand the whole book; the effort will be well worth it. Yes, this is recommended.

Robert Owens says

Maybe I'm not a beginner.

This was a fine book that briefly explained libertarianism and the different factions of it.

I have been confused, and still am, at how liberal-libertarians support their views. But I suppose to an anarcho-libertarian, a conservative-libertarian is equally confusing.

There was a lot of repetition in the book. Someone would be mentioned and explained and then there was a pull-out that said the same thing in the biographical sketch.

I read the Kindle version of this. I compliment the format. The cartoons were readable. So often, things like that are rendered unreadable on the Kindle. Good job!

Anyone who has developed political thoughts and has looked into libertarianism probably already knows the bulk of this book. It's an easy read and it's nice to hear it formally presented: all stems from property rights, more or less.
