



ISSUE #2 *FREE! — UNLIKE THE “FREE” POLITICIAN PROMISE* APRIL, 2017

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US ESCALATES ROLE IN SYRIAN WAR, *ARTICLE BY WILL PORTER*

For the first time since the conflict began in 2011, US Army and Marine units were [deployed](#) to fight in Syria, joining at least several hundred American and British special operations troops already stationed there.

The escalation is ostensibly part of a push to expel the Islamic State from Raqqa, the militant group's base of operations and the capital city of its so-called Caliphate. That, however, may not be the true goal.

US intervention began not long after the Syrian conflict got underway, [arming](#), [training](#) and otherwise assisting the rebel opposition and looking the other way while [Saudi Arabia](#), [Turkey](#), and [other US allies](#) did the same.

Who are the rebels? A declassified Defense Intelligence Agency [memo](#) from 2012 describes the Syrian opposition as heavily supported by al-Qaeda, and even acknowledges "the possibility of establishing a declared or undeclared Salafist principality in eastern Syria..."

Incredibly, the document continues: "...and *this is exactly what the supporting powers to the opposition want*, in order to isolate the Syrian regime." [Emphasis added] The document lists "The West, Gulf countries, and Turkey" as the supporting powers.

Make no mistake, "Salafist principality" is a synonym for Islamic State, and the memo says in no uncertain terms that such an entity could be useful to help "isolate" the Assad regime.

Last September the New York Times obtained a [leaked recording](#) of a closed-door discussion between then-Secretary of State John Kerry and Syrian opposition activists that again reveals American thinking on the Islamic State.

"[ISIS] was threatening the possibility of going to Damascus and so forth. We were watching. We saw

that [ISIS] was growing in strength, and we thought Assad was threatened," Kerry told the activists. He "thought we could probably manage."

In the same recording Kerry explained that the United States was "putting an extraordinary amount of arms in," and an aide added that the situation is tricky, because "when you pump more weapons into a place like Syria, it doesn't end well for Syria. Because there's always someone willing to put in arms from the other side."

They did it anyway. So far, over 400,000 human beings have perished in this conflict, and imperialists like Kerry feign shock at the carnage.

While all of this took place under president Obama, it is not yet clear that Trump will alter the on-again off-again policy of regime change favored by the prior administration.

"[I]f this 'race to Raqqa' is won by the US military rather than by Syrian government forces, the chance that the US will hand the territory back to the Assad government is virtually nil," writes Daniel McAdams, Executive Director of the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity.

"In other words, this is an operation far less about wiping ISIS out from eastern Syria and much more about the United States carving out eastern Syria as a permanent outpost from where it can, for example, continue the original neocon/Israeli/Saudi plan for 'regime change' in Syria."

Both options are extremely undesirable—regime change, or merely a fight against ISIS—because both entail yet another years-long American occupation of a Muslim country, billions of tax dollars dumped into a black hole, and a mountain of new material for Islamist recruitment propaganda.

Uncle Sam would do well to keep his paws off Syria.

— TAXIS HATE UBER - WHAT'S NEW? —

ARTICLE BY MIKE MORRIS

Taxi drivers are whining again, of course, to the government [city council]. They're losing money to their digital rivals who provide a better service than them; this needs to be prevented; it's not "fair"; there needs to be a "level playing field."

While they're right, the playing field indeed should be leveled, they're taking the wrong approach and asking for Uber to be *more* regulated rather for themselves – having to undergo background checks, fees to the city, etc. – to be less so. Instead of making everyone equal in liberty, all too many would suggest that, rather than to cut down everyone's taxes to zero, that those who pay less taxes need to "pay their fair share." (*CONT. PG. 3*)

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For example, many people hate that churches are tax *exempt* because others are forced to pay taxes. But I think this is a great thing; why can't *everyone* be tax exempt? It is not being subsidized to not pay taxes; it's being stolen from less; and no one should be stolen from. A leveling of the playing field would not be to tax churches, but to un-tax, and thereby unburden, everyone else. Likewise with transportation services of taxis and ride-sharing applications.

Uber shouldn't have to pay the city money for a license *too*; the taxis shouldn't have to pay or obtain a special license to operate *either*. Occupational and business licensure is used to create effective monopolies by handing out special privileges from the government. The taxis don't like that Uber has found a work-around, and one that provides value to consumers. Since an increase in supply, demand remaining unchanged, will tend to cause a fall in prices, the taxi companies wish to restrict the supply of ride services so that they can charge higher prices.

Unfortunately, most are unable to see the simple economic effects because of their shortsightedness. As the French classical liberal Frederic Bastiat would have pointed out in his economic analysis and emphasis on the seen *and* the unseen, people are limited to seeing the effect on only *Party A* (the seen taxi-driver who loses money) without consideration of *Party B* (the unseen consumer who benefits).

So, when taxi-driver Chuck Peahl "*estimates that competition from the companies has cost him \$20,000...of income annually,*" I would say *good*; what this really means is it *saved* consumers—savings, that is, which can be used for investment elsewhere into forming businesses, creating other jobs, and raising real wages.

Just as in the case with Trump having his followers believe tariffs (or, a "big, big border tax" in Trump's words) are good for domestic American producers (and that their unemployment is caused by free trade which could be remedied with more protectionist policies), without seeing that they're bad for American consumers who now pay higher prices all while the inefficient domestic producer stays in business at the cost of what those resources could be used for were they allowed to fail, the taxis appeal to the government for protectionism, however mild. This is how government is corrupted: the "regulated" become the regulators.

People cheer when politicians "save jobs" or when it's reported that "X amount of jobs are being created by *ABC Company*", but there's an outcry when "*Company XYZ* lays off workers." But this is also a false notion that companies shouldn't fail. Indeed, they should when they fail to provide customers a better service than the competition. The market economy is a profit *and* a loss economy. If taxi companies fail, then so be it.

The story of the taxi-Uber antagonism is no different between hotels and Airbnb and other game-changers either. Same story: one provides something cheaper, and more accommodating, and the other doesn't like that and seeks to destroy it, often claiming "public safety" as the need and reason to do it.

As an Uber-user when it snows in Colorado, my own experience is that it's at least *half* the price of Yellow Cab; and this is my decision for using it: I pay around \$10 to go 6 miles with Uber vs. \$20 to go the same distance with the local taxi services. For the longest time Yellow Cab had virtually no competitors aside from people on Craigslist offering \$10 rides anywhere in town. Now they're disgruntled.

Rather than point out the issues here, the *Gazette* gives us a largely sympathetic view of this problem in its article "*A bumpy road for taxi-drivers*", and so to add emotion to the issue, names of the cabbies are included and it's framed as "losing their livelihood."

But what's the problem? We cannot stop advancing and halt innovation because industries are being shaken up by technology and some people are hurt because of it. It would be akin to banning the internet so that I can print this paper with less competitors.

Maybe we'll see a day soon enough when driverless cars provide a service *even cheaper than Uber drivers can*, and we'll hear them [Uber] exclaim "force the driverless cars to get a license to make it fair for us!" Probably not; Uber drivers are more hip and cool—and drive for the service to supplement their income with their spare time and resources rather than to make a career out of it—than the old, fat, established taxi-drivers who can't get with modern technological times. Sucks for them.

But I suggest: Don't cut down Uber; free up everyone. Limiting competition by imposing extra costs on new entrants will cost the people. Competition is only bad for stagnant competitors, or monopolists like government. Consumers always benefit from more choices. [*Mike Morris makes The Voluntaryist happen*]

HOW AUTHORITARIAN TROLLS PROVED THE CIA ISN'T NEEDED, ARTICLE BY RYAN SULLIVANT

For those who haven't been paying attention to Shia Labeouf's *He Will Not Divide Us* (HWNDU) livestream, after being shut down (twice) by Trump supporters, in a fit of rage/defeat he put up a flag at an undisclosed location, and said he'd livestream it until the end of Trump's presidency. With all this talk of the CIA hacking our devices, I think it's important to point out that authoritarian trolls (many of which approve of CIA/NSA style mass surveillance) managed to unintentionally prove that the CIA isn't needed.

On March 8th, the flag pictured above went up on livestream at an undisclosed location. In only 36 hours, anons from 8chan's /HWNDU/ board had managed to track it down and replace it with a MAGA hat and helicopter ride T-shirt (some argue it was a Pepe T-shirt in praise of Kek). Individuals (of varying levels of autism) managed to locate the flag by figuring out the timezone based on sunset in the livestream, listen to local wildlife on the livestream's audio to approximate location, observe flight patterns of airplanes over head, make some educated guesses based on social media, and then proceed to play marco polo with the livestream by honking horns at 1 in the morning. Through their creativity and a little stealth, they snuck past people guarding the flag and managed to complete their deed. It took the

organizers about 10 minutes to realize what had happened and take down the MAGA hat.

The fact of the matter is, it took anonymous authoritarian trolls about 36 hours to scour 3 million square miles of land to locate a flagpole. All they had was publicly available data like bird migration patterns/flight schedules, and a 24/7 livestream of a flagpole at an undisclosed location. Assuming the CIA didn't have access to the livestream's geo-data, it would have taken them weeks to locate the same flagpole if they could have even located it at all, yet a bunch of anons with too much time on their hands were able to locate it in less than two days *and* complete their mission of taking it down.

One has to question, when private actors can complete a task for shits and giggles in such a short amount of time, for free one might add, then what justification can be made for the millions (billions?) spent on mass surveillance organizations every year? Even if one refuses to look at the ethical and moral costs of running a mass surveillance state, private actors still manage to prove that such organizations are not needed, or at least can be severely reduced.

[Ryan Sullivant is an electrical technician in training and a pragmatic "Christian Agorist/AnCap." He spends his days working or going to school, and knows very little about politics/economics past the barebones basics.]

— THE STATE CAN'T FIX ANYTHING —

ARTICLE BY MIKE MORRIS

Have you ever noticed how everything that has become an issue – infrastructure, education, police – is socialized, i.e., in government hands? Have you ever noticed how everything no one worries about – clothing, food, cars, televisions – is, while not totally free itself, relatively private and capitalist?

Each election season we are continuously asked to raise ever more taxes to support X [the roads] than the previous year. The process seemingly never ends. There is endless construction as they are in perpetual need of repair; something that isn't observed on, say, people's homes throughout the year. This time around, it is with HB 1242 that the state of Colorado wants millions of more dollars for road projects.

While the tendency of the private market is to drive down prices as more competitors bid for money by offering..

..more of their goods and services at a better quality, the tendency under socialization is rising prices and a decreasing quality. One only needs to look at the prices of what is relatively privatized – electronics, clothing, etc. – versus what is relatively socialized – tuition rates, health care, housing, etc., and their skyrocketing prices – to see that this is true: the former experiences cheaper prices and the latter rising prices.

In a free market, with a free price system, and with a money freely chosen by the people, i.e., gold, prices would tend to be falling. Rather, what we see of the deliberate inflation by the central bank and their fiat currency that we've now all accepted as a normal way of life. But inflation and business cycles are not normal; they're government and central-bank created and not endemic of the market economy.

No workable solutions exist within the current system; it can't be reformed or fixed, so the solution is it must step out of the way. *(CONTINUED PG. 5)*

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 4) The inherent economic problems created by government cannot be solved by government. The most determined, “right” people in power couldn’t make it work. The goods and services which the government has intervened upon need to be turned back over to the market economy to succeed.

The real solution to all these problems, thus, is to privatize the property government has stolen from the people (since all government property is stolen), and return it to individual owners. While it would be tedious to list the possible ways in which to proceed with privatization here, suffice it to say that it needs to be done, and furthermore the property should be returned to the people it was stolen from or those who have the best claim to it now whenever possible.

This does not have to mean no one will have access to what is now private. Roads, for instance, could be returned with easements and right-of-ways; shares could be distributed to those who actually use, and pay for, the roads. How many more hundreds of billions of dollars of “stimulus money”, under the Keynesian “economic” logic that government spending can really “boost the economy” by increasing government expenditures, can be tolerated before we call their plans crazy, such as the lunacy of the current one trillion dollar proposal by socialist Donald Trump in the name of “creating jobs” that threatens to dwarf Obama’s spending?

We are asked every election season to raise ever more money for the projects they claimed could be completed last year. The police always claim to have budget shortfalls; taxpayers never “give” them enough. And if cuts to the budget are threatened, government officials always threaten to cut police funding first.

But if the taxpayers resisted these hollow bribes, perhaps that would allow the police to prioritize their actions to starve their funding, which could mean less cruising around harassing people in traffic, less drug raids, less tickets for “driving without a license”, and less involvement in enforcing the many non-crimes on the books for which they’ve signed up to shoot and cage people. Maybe then they could increase their falling response times for real crimes against people and property; a number that has over the past few years increased by critical minutes.

In the column “Between the Lines” by Ralph Routon of the Colorado Springs *Independent*, the recent bi-partisan support of raising taxes from the Colorado legislature is cheered as a solution. But eventually, one would think, the taxpayers are going to reason that it is ridiculous they are being asked for more money while the monopolized product being offered to them in return is deteriorating in quality. What gives? Such would never be acceptable from a private business for a product to get worse, yet if you don’t keep purchasing it you have to get thrown in a cage. Such would be clearly criminal, and contrary to what we know now: walk into a business, and if you don’t like what they offer, you take your business elsewhere and abstain or boycott.

And eventually, maybe they will see through the bad economics of it all, too. The basic economics behind what government has socialized is that (1) prices ration a scarce supply of goods, and they reach a level which is appropriate for the current supply and demand for those resources, and such prices are removed when they are no longer goods or services of the market; and (2) that anything which is “free” to consume, though we know it is not without costs as many socialists would like you to assume, will be now be over-consumed; hence potholes, traffic congestion, endless construction, teacher shortages, police shortages, and an overall inability to allocate resources effectively.

We could use any example to make the point. Take public utilities. Any arbitrary price above the would-be market price is an effective monopoly price because it would be cheaper if left to the competitive market, and any price below the would-be market price is going to cause a shortage because it’s being consumed at a rate higher than would be permitted otherwise for whatever level of scarcity exists for that product. It makes it impossible for the government to allocate the proper number of teachers, policeman, roads—everything. They simply don’t know.

The problem applies to anything socialized. How do they know what price to charge? How much should the officers be paid? How many of them are needed? Where should they be placed, and what should they be doing? Why can they never budget? Everything the government does is purely arbitrary. Unless these things are determined by voluntary demand in accordance with consumers’ subjective preferences (and this, too, is important, for the one-size-fits-all package of government is not what everyone desires), then they’re not genuine market prices, and therefore a costly misallocation in resources that makes us poorer will result.

Another economic view is that it is an increase in the supply of any product which drives down its price, and government being inherently monopolistic suppresses competition. Its taxation discourages production; licensing or other restrictions to entry into the market can be used to protect the established firms and punish the new entrants; etc. The effect is to reduce competition. This is evident in the field of healthcare where people are not free to practice medicine without state approval, and so the prices of the services will rise upon the artificially shortened supply of providers.

A quick Google search reveals that the average cost of schooling across the U.S. in the government’s schools is \$10,000 per student! I’d think it would be difficult to defend that the cost of supposedly “educating” a child would be *higher* without the government. Indeed, it would be much less of a burden to the taxpayers were they free to choose themselves between various educators competing for the business of providing their children’s education. In addition, compulsory attendance laws must be considered a morally indefensible kidnapping of children, and there’s an ethical dilemma altogether in forcing anyone into funding such things *they* [socialists] value. *(CONTINUED ON PG. 6)*

Parents and children should be free; school administrators and parents should stop bickering about how to fix it all and suggest instead an ending of the government monopoly on education once and for all.

We must ask by what criteria is it exactly that decides what should be a public good and provided by government and what should be a private good and left to the market? My guess is that there isn't one. They are based in emotion. If it is the supposed non-excludability of use, then there is a weak argument for why this might apply to the military, with which I would still not agree, but road use, libraries, schools, etc., can all obviously be funded by the people who use them and have their benefits contained to those users. For that matter, many presently private goods under this criterion could fit the role of public good and vice versa.

It is an absurdity of socialist logic that since I supposedly "benefit from a more educated society" that I should be forced to fund public schooling. When I read a book, do my neighbors owe me money? When one enjoys the sights of good-looking good-smelling people for the day, should they be compelled to pay up?

All of this is a part of the great conflation of government and society that assumes if the government does not provide the service or product, said service or product will not be provided whatever. Government itself has become synonymous with the supposed "essential services" of which it has taken control.

There is no reason "the roads", a seemingly built-in response which has become an instant talking point when proposing to someone that we do away with government, cannot be privatized like any other good or service that currently is. That is the solution. Rather than what the *Independent* proposes, that "we should be kicking and screaming for our [county's] fair share [of the state's tax revenue]", we should be kicking and screaming to end the expropriation of our resources for government plundering and waste which knows no end.

[The following is the first of a series, to be continued in subsequent issues, which will reprint segments of an essay entitled "Anatomy of the State," penned by libertarian author and theorist Murray Rothbard. In Part 1, Rothbard offers a definition of the State, and makes the strong distinction between the State and the people it rules.]

— WHAT THE STATE IS NOT —

The State is almost universally considered an institution of social service. Some theorists venerate the State as the apotheosis of society; others regard it as an amiable, though often inefficient, organization for achieving social ends; but almost all regard it as a necessary means for achieving the goals of mankind, a means to be ranged against the "private sector" and often winning in this competition of resources.

With the rise of democracy, the identification of the State with society has been redoubled, until it is common to hear sentiments expressed which violate virtually every tenet of reason and commonsense such as, "we are the government." The useful collective term "we" has enabled an ideological camouflage to be thrown over the reality of political life. If "we are the government," then anything a government does to an individual is not only just and untyrannical but also "voluntary" on the part of the individual concerned. If the government has incurred a huge public debt which must be paid by taxing one group for the benefit of another, this reality of burden is obscured by saying that "we owe it to ourselves"; if the government conscripts a man, or throws him into jail for dissident opinion, then he is "doing it to himself" and, therefore, nothing untoward has occurred. Under this reasoning, any Jews murdered by the Nazi government were not murdered; instead, they must have "committed suicide," since they were the government (which was democratically chosen), and, therefore, anything the government did to them was voluntary on their part. One would not think it necessary to belabor this point, and yet the overwhelming bulk of the people hold this fallacy to a greater or lesser degree.

If, then, the State is not "us," if it is not "the human family" getting together to decide mutual problems, if it is not a lodge meeting or country club, what is it? Briefly, the State is that organization in society which attempts to maintain a monopoly of the use of force and violence in a given territorial area; in particular, it is the only organization in society that obtains its revenue not by voluntary contribution or payment for services rendered but by coercion. While other individuals or institutions obtain their income by production of goods and services and by the peaceful and voluntary sale of these goods and services to others, the State obtains its revenue by the use of compulsion; that is, by the use and the threat of the jailhouse and the bayonet. Having used force and violence to obtain its revenue, the State generally goes on to regulate and dictate the other actions of its individual subjects. One would think that simple observation of all States through history and over the globe would be proof enough of this assertion; but the miasma of myth has lain so long over State activity that elaboration is necessary.

We must, therefore, emphasize that "we" are not the government; the government is not "us." The government does not in any accurate sense "represent" the majority of the people. But, even if it did, even if 70 percent of the people decided to murder the remaining 30 percent, this would still be murder and would not be voluntary suicide on the part of the slaughtered minority. No organicist metaphor, no irrelevant bromide that "we are all part of one another," must be permitted to obscure this basic fact.

[To be continued in the next segment: "What the State Is." The whole essay can be downloaded online for free by searching "Anatomy of the State."]

— WHAT IS VOLUNTARISM? —

[Voluntaryism is a political philosophy which states that the initiation of violence against people or property, i.e. aggression, is never morally justified, and recognizes that such aggression is the very foundation of the State. In each issue we will look to the philosophy's adherents to answer the question "What is Voluntaryism?"]

JIM DAVIDSON GIVES US THIS:

"If we are self-owners (and it is absurd, it is doing violence to reason, to suppose that we are not), neither an individual, nor a majority, nor a government can have rights of ownership in other men." ~ Auberon Edward William Molyneux Herbert, 1885

One of the originators of the concept of voluntaryism was Auberon Herbert who lived from 1838 to 1906, and saw what I believe to be one of the major peaks of contemporary civilisation. Herbert believed that each one of us is the owner of himself or herself. Self-ownership is the basis for a propertarian philosophy that I have always found agreeable. Simply stated, because you own yourself, you have no obligation to be compelled by anyone else. You don't have to obey anyone unless you yourself choose to obey, for whatever reasons.

Put it the other way around: nobody else owns you. And, from your ownership of yourself, you can see that what are termed "rights" are actually characteristics of you in your normal state of being. You say what you please, not because you are granted a "right" or a "privilege" of free speech, but because it is natural for you to speak your mind as you see fit. You keep and bear arms to defend yourself - whatever arms are available to you from knives to high powered rifles to flame throwers to whatever you see fit - because your ability to defend your interests is inherent in your ownership of yourself. A property you cannot defend does not remain yours for long.

To me, voluntaryism is about a society based on agreement, on consent, not by some few who signed a document a couple centuries ago, but on universal consent. I've read and signed L. Neil Smith's covenant of Unanimous consent: www.lneilsmith.org/new-cov.html

There is no "social contract," and the liar, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who came up with this fiction was known as the "enemy of mankind" by Voltaire, who was quite the judge of character. **(CONTINUED - OVER)**

The only contract that can exist is one you enter knowingly, willingly, competently, and with exchange between the parties. As Lysander Spooner once noted, you have to get a copy, so you know what you are obligated to do. Neither the constitution nor this imaginary social contract are in any way obligations on you.

Most of all, for me, voluntaryism is about abolishing slavery. Abolishing it in all its forms, and for all time. As John Brown once said, "I acknowledge no master in human form." God made mankind free, and created us equal, endowed with capacities to think, feel, speak, act, defend, create, and make our world better. What we do with ourselves is, individually, up to each one of us. *[See extensive bio in article below]*

MAMAS DON'T LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO BE SOCIALISTS, NON-AGGRESSIVE

PARENTING COLUMN BY MELISSA RAJKOVICH

I never force my kids to share their property, e.g., toys, clothes, etc., because I believe that there is a value to sharing if it's voluntary. When I teach children lessons about interacting and socializing with others I allow them the autonomy to learn from their experience. When my children understand that they have control over their property they learn that they are respected and this builds their self-confidence. It also encourages them to understand that respect is a two-way street.

Often my son or daughter will want the other's toy, sometimes it's freely given, other times the request is denied. While there can be disappointment with the latter reaction, it's a lesson to be learned for them. Because one of the principles that I live and teach by is that stealing is wrong. To implement this experience early on and to remain consistent with this as I guide them to the best I know how. And often my children do choose to share, because they know it makes their sibling happy and that at another time the favor will be returned.

To dispel the idea of authority as early as possible, it's important that I teach my children that they can make decisions for themselves when the situation allows it. (I am speaking of their voluntary interactions, not of situations that are possibly life threatening to their well-being.)

(CONTINUED ON PG. 9)

— WHEN THE NEWS IS THE NEW NEWS — ARTICLE BY PAOTIE DAWSON

In the Pikes Peak region over the last couple weeks, public angst over local media outlets reached a crescendo when John Weiss, owner and publisher of the *Colorado Springs Independent*, led a public protest against the *Gazette*, the city's only daily newspaper. Blog posts from the Independent reflect a deep-seated animus towards the conservative daily. Reading both newspapers' social media accounts suggests public opinion regarding either news outlet varies by the hour, though it is common to see folks cheer one outlet while jeering the other.

Unfortunately, the reality of the media wars in the Pikes Peak region is a bit different than what the Indy would have you believe. While it is true the *Gazette* uses its media presence to influence public support for its political ideals, the Independent's owners do the same in Manitou Springs, albeit in a different format with profound consequences for the city, its public officials and the public they serve.

A lack of a true, journalist-based outlet has led to widespread political apathy and extreme political polarization within the city. While a majority of folks in the city are active in terms of state and national politics, they don't go to local meetings or city council sessions, nor do they particularly have any form of objective news to depend on to make informed decisions. Only the Manitou Marquee has produced quality journalism regarding a single bridge (a story the Bulletin ignored, too.) Meanwhile, the city websites provide difficult-to-access information, and city officials have adopted the tactic of demanding folks sign up for "interviews" to discuss anything related to city government, further compounding the lack of information available to the public.

For years, the Pikes Peak Bulletin printed mainly pro-government articles friendly to the whims and plans of bureaucrats. That hasn't changed; but what has changed in the last couple years is the Bulletin's expansion of its already pro-government views, a direct result of Weiss' purchase of the Bulletin. This is in sharp contrast to how the Independent, the Bulletin's sister newspaper, operates in Colorado Springs as a single reporter provides comprehensive, critical and sometimes challenging coverage of most city council and governmental activities.

Rather than face potential transparency and accountability measures, Manitou Springs politicians know they can depend on the Bulletin to play defense, protect their plans, and attack (and even ignore) those who challenge city officials. A terrible consequence of this has been total indifference by too many bureaucrats and city officials, including the mayor, towards the general public. Conversely, this reinforces the general public apathy and frustrations towards the local government.

For too long, the *Gazette* has dominated politics in the Pikes Peak region. It favors cronyism and boondoggle projects that reward their political friends. They print what would otherwise be known as fake news stories regarding recreational marijuana and frequently cater to the Reefer Madness crowd in holy pursuit of outlawing the harmless plant. And this is to say nothing of the outrageously bad idea called the City for Champions project in Colorado Springs the *Gazette* continues to push.

But I live in Manitou Springs, and my focus today is on my city. The *Gazette* rarely publishes anything regarding city government in Manitou Springs, as do many of the other Colorado Springs television and radio outlets. I have no real beef with the *Gazette* with regards to Manitou Springs, other than not doing enough reporting. But the Bulletin is a different story altogether, especially since it concerns its owners and editors are part of their own news stories.

In 2015, I ran for City Council in Manitou Springs and was invited to a candidate forum at a local and private inn. As part of accepting the invitation, I requested signed language interpreters (I am deaf) to assist me during the forum. For weeks leading up to the forum, Ralph Routon published columns in the Bulletin, bragging about how he would "help a candidate" by providing signed language interpreters to the forum.

What he didn't tell his audience was the fact the Bulletin sent an underling to Manitou Springs City Council to plead poverty and request city funds to pay for the signed language interpreters. In fact, at the conclusion of the meeting, I approached City Attorney Jeff Parker and asked him how he could support funding the interpreters for what was essentially a private event held on private property (*CONT. PG. 14*)

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 13) (he expressed surprise and acknowledged I made a great point; when he asked why I didn't tell the Council the same thing, I replied, "Nobody asked me.")

But it should be noted the Independent routinely projects an image of helping marginalized and poor communities, and Mr. Routon's attempt at doing the same for me presents a problem: there were no signed language interpreters at the forum, which put me into a rather difficult spot. More striking, it seems Mr. Routon is incapable of understanding the position I found myself in without any signed language interpreters. Compassion and empathy may not be Mr. Routon's strong points.

In fact, when it was pointed out there were no interpreters at the forum, Bulletin staffers, including Mr. Routon, did nothing. They continued eating their meals. While Mr. Routon would later give me a handwritten list of questions to be asked of all the candidates, only a Citizen's Project (which co-hosted the forum) employee went to the Bulletin staff and informed them they needed to provide the interpreters or face legal consequences. Long story short: I opted to stay at the forum and participated as best I could. (In hindsight, I should have left but that's another story for another day.) I will forever be grateful to the Citizen's Project for advocating on my behalf that night at the candidate forum.

I have never received an apology from Mr. Routon, nor has he ever printed an apology or taken accountability for his failure to live up to his own promises. More importantly, his failure constituted news, but because he was part and parcel of that failure, the Bulletin (and the Independent) did not report news created by its own editorialist.

So I read with interest a recent Independent article in which Mr. Routon states, writing about errors and biases at the Gazette, "... reflects on every editor on the staff, especially when we've still not seen any kind of correction in print."

Right. So, where's your correction, Mr. Routon? You know, it is a bit of interesting news when a newspaper columnist brags about doing something for weeks and then fails to deliver, and even more striking, fails to be compassionate or empathetic about the person(s) impacted by his failure, and this is a guy who claims to help marginalized and poor communities. I am of those communities, too. **(CONTINUED OVER)**

So, while Colorado Springs rages into the night over which newspaper is worst, the *Gazette* or the *Independent*, in Manitou Springs, we do not have such a wonderful luxury. We constantly fight to have our city government be more transparent, accountable, and provide a true service for the community. What does the Bulletin do in that regard? It refuses to bite the hand that feeds it.

I have hope, though: through the years, there have been numerous attempts at citizen journalism and blogging, and as previously mentioned, the relatively new *Manitou Marquee*, in addition to the *Front Range Voluntaryist*, are signs that the existing media power structure, as it were, is being challenged across the Pikes Peak region.

And that's a great thing because voters, residents and stakeholders in the Pikes Peak region deserve information from different viewpoints and not just those from the two major newspaper outlets who seem content to manipulate the public to serve the publishers' political goals. No real shocking news here.

But someone should remind the Independent they are the weekly version of the *Gazette*. *[Paotie Dawson is our libertarian contributor from Manitou Springs]*

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 7 - NON-AGGRESSIVE PARENTING)

What I notice is that this empowerment gives them a chance to learn respect for others and themselves. They become more aware of how they interact with others, the concept of setting boundaries, and teaches them responsibility. The more I can give my children these opportunities, the more independent and self-reliant they become. If I am consistent with my actions while my children are learning, then I am confident they will live their lives, taking responsibility for themselves and creating a peaceful world.

[Melissa Rajkovich, Enemy of the State, is a parent of two children. She is involved the Non Aggression Parenting Podcast, Anarchy Among Friends Roundtable Podcast, and is a contributor to the Voluntary Agrarian and Anarchista Musings facebook pages.]

**WHAT IS THE IMMIGRATION
“SOLUTION?”**, *OPINION PIECE*

BY *STEVE LONG*

Americans from all walks of life argue on the various sides on how to “solve the problem” with illegal immigration.

Those that have been elected to serve in Washington DC do not seem to have any valid solutions to immigration reform. Our elected king seems to think that the best solutions are to build walls, deport immigrants and ban people from entering the country in the first place.

But before you can solve a problem, any problem, you need to determine what the problem is.

In this case, what exactly is the problem with illegal immigration?

The first problem with it is the word illegal. Why is it illegal to enter the United States to try to make a better life for yourself and your family? Why is it a crime to cross some ages old imaginary line? Why is it that because a person happens to live on one side of an arbitrary boundary that they are second class individual and don't deserve to seek out a better life?

Some might refer to the immigration policies of other countries, which in some cases are even more stringent than our own here in the United States. But this is the United States. Aren't we supposed to be better than everyone else? Where is that American exceptionalism in regards to whether we allow people from all walks of life into our country and enjoy the benefits of being an American?

Why doesn't America have open borders?

The other problem with the idea of illegal immigration is that argument against the immigrants themselves. Many people have the idea that people who cross the border “illegally” are only “jumping the border” so that they can start getting their welfare checks.

First off, that is not a problem that should be blamed on the immigrants themselves. Most immigrants have no desire to be dependent on somebody else. Most immigrants are hardworking people who do the sorts of jobs that most Americans would dare lower themselves to do. Most immigrants want to support themselves and their families by the sweat of their brow. Most immigrants are not here to collect a welfare check and food stamps.

But maybe there are some immigrants that might be coming to America to take care of the social safety net. That also is not the fault of the immigrants themselves. That is the fault of a bloated social welfare system. Contrary to the belief of many, it is not the federal government's job to provide a social safety net for its citizens. We can argue for or against whether it is the duty of a state but it is not the job of the federal government. The problem with a small portion of immigrants coming to America to work the system is not a problem with the immigrants, it is a problem with the system itself. Fix the entitlement system in America and you fix the problem of immigrants coming to the country for a handout.

The immigration “problem” can be easily solved. Open the borders. Imagine the millions, maybe even billions of dollars the country can..

..save on border security and the time and energy that can be saved in Congress arguing over the issue.

And economically speaking, imagine the huge boost in the economy by allowing thousands of new people into the country to spend on the goods and services that the free market provides.

The debate over illegal immigration needs to end. It is an issue that has gone on for far too long that has an easy solution. *[Steve Long is a musician and contributor from Oklahoma whose band Get Fired just released an EP.]*

**“ANARCHISM CAN ONLY BE
ACHIEVED WHEN PEOPLE STOP
BELIEVING IN THE MYTH OF
AUTHORITY. THIS MYTH KEEPS
THE STATE GOING—IT IS FUEL FOR
ITS VIOLENT FIRES. WHEN PEOPLE
STOP BELIEVING IN THE MOST
DANGEROUS SUPERSTITION
(STATISM), THAT IS WHEN THE
WORLD WILL FINALLY BE FREE.
WHEN WE ALL REALIZE THAT WE
SHOULDN'T HAVE BOSSES, BUT
PARTNERS. WHEN WE ACCEPT
THAT VOLUNTARY INTERACTION
BETWEEN PEACEFUL PEOPLE IS
THE ONLY WAY AND ALL COERCION
AGAINST INNOCENTS SHOULD BE
REJECTED. TRYING TO VIOLENTLY
IMPOSE YOUR IDEAS ON OTHERS IS
HEART OF STATISM. WHEN
STATISM IS FINALLY REJECTED,
THE STATE WILL COLLAPSE. TO
BORROW FROM T.S. ELIOT, THE
STATE WILL GO OUT NOT WITH A
BANG, BUT WITH A WHIMPER.” -
DOUG FREEMAN**

— **DO YOU SMELL SMOKE?** — BY *JOEL AIGNER*

Do you ever feel like you're in a movie theater that's one fire and you're yelling "FIRE!!!" to warn everyone but instead of people reacting sanely and looking for an exit of way to extinguish the flames they instead turn around and "SHHH!!!" us with disdain for us disturbing their theater experience? I know that I have.

When one finally grasps the concept of self ownership it is sometimes difficult to not fall into the pattern of being a zealot. What I mean by that is when you get so passionate about the concept of self ownership and the inherent simple morality of it all (Observe the Gold Rule even if you wear a uniform, black robe or a silly hat) of it all that we tend to sometimes yell from the rooftops our newfound revelations and assume that it's so fucking obvious that of course everyone should 'get it.' It sometimes feels akin to shouting "FIRE" in the movie theater when there genuinely is a fire, only to have the rest of the crowd turn around and "SHHH" you. Of course often our first reaction at this is to shout even louder from the top and jump up and down while pointing, "fire". But alas we live in such an insane world that pointing out obvious through this somehow failed to get the reaction that functioning survival instinct might suggest. That being said as I get older and therefore more conservative with my own personal energy I have discovered that the wisdom of asking my fellow theatergoers if they smell smoke, as opposed to yelling at them "FIRE".

I first experimented with this to some success at a election results viewing party that was held in Colorado Springs at the Antlers Doubletree hotel. At this event they had three rooms, a Libertarian/Johnson room, a Democrat/Clinton room, and a Republican/Trump room.

While spending some time in the Democrat room, which was the largest of the three, because he did have the most robust buffet of all three rooms, I was approached by a couple of attractive democrat females decked out head to toe in Hillary Clinton gear. While exchanging banter with these young ladies I experimented with finding commonalities instead of focusing on differences and we discussed things such as the reality of the failed drug war, the parasitic reality of the military-industrial complex and Wall Street, the prison industrial complex and for-profit-prisons being modern day slave labor, I got them to agree that..

wiretapping and spying on American citizens was wrong, and at the end of the conversation I got them to agree on roughly about five different libertarian/anarchistic principles while decked head to toe in statist propaganda.

All in all it was a very successful exchange, and the keys seem to have been not labeling said ideals as being libertarian or anarchist, nor did I beat them over the head with "I declare I'm right and you're wrong". I merely asked them if something sounded like it was right or wrong to them, and let them reach their own conclusions. I found this to be perhaps a prototype for the kind of exchanges that we has libertarians and anarchists can have with those that are agnostic about self ownership to get them to embrace the ideals of the NonAggression Principle.

So all in all let us learn from my dumb lessons and observe that trying to stuff liberty and anarchy down people's throats just doesn't work, but that what does perhaps work is getting them to ask themselves questions and letting themselves come up with the answers. The end result being, perhaps more often than not, them finding that it is very difficult to argue against Self-Ownership of the Non-Aggression Principle. In this day and age of leftists declaring potential tax boycotts and purchasing firearms I think that it's wise to not approach the left as adversaries, but just "yet to be initiated". I once was an ardent democrat and fledgling socialist, and if I saw the light so can they!

Look for the commonality in your fellow man and you will find it, embrace the commonalities while being ambassadors for Self-Ownership of the NonAggression Principle, and I think we will all find this to be a more successful with spreading the message.

Ponder on this and share your feedback if so inclined. One Love to You All.

[YOUR AD HERE]

TRUMP, YOU'RE FIRED!, *COLUMN BY JESSE
WROE*

— HEALTHCARE SUCKS —

On March 24, 2017, the American Health Care Act (AHCA) was pulled out of consideration for a vote by House Republicans of the 115th Congress. Donald Trump, the Dealmaker-in-chief, doesn't seem skilled to deliberate with the various factions in a Congress led by his own party. Everybody but him knows that healthcare is "unbelievably" complicated.

It isn't just healthcare. Representative democracy adds a layer of political complexity. As Trump warned his fellow Republicans, particularly the members of the House Freedom Caucus, many of them could "lose their seats in 2018" if the bill doesn't pass. Republicans have constituents to consider. But those constituents, according to these politicians, actually like much of Affordable Care Act (ACA), specifically the ten essential benefits covered by policies in the individual insurance marketplace. The balance of antagonism to Obamacare, which has entailed much of the discourse among mainstream conservatives since Obama's presidency, and appealing to the voters that endorsed that rhetoric, yet fail to practice its conclusions, seems to have tilted toward that latter concern.

Additionally, the AHCA wasn't just another healthcare repeal, but an early step toward tax reform. The ACHA was designed to affect the budget proposal for the fiscal year of 2018. This would be undertaken in a legislative process known as reconciliation, whereby the House can make provisions on debt limits, revenue, and spending with less conflict from the Senate. This phase would allow changes in taxing and spending by reducing federal Medicaid payments for the ACA through the AHCA. Wiggle room would be created for tax breaks among individuals and businesses if this occurred. You thought price signals were tricky? The private-public hybrid political economy of the US democratic-republic isn't quite central-planning, at least in the traditional sense. But it reflects a similar problem facing rule by competing committees: the vast array of variables with consequences beyond the redistribution of wealth. One bill can't be passed without future bills in mind. *(CONTINUED - OVER)*

Legislation won't be effective without procedural considerations. Sound economics must appeal to voter bias. Action cannot occur without interlaced intentions coming from multiple directions, often at odds with each other.

What could one man possibly do to affect change on such a wide scale? A contract between firms, or buyers and sellers, is feasible for the art of smaller deals. Only an impulse toward authoritarianism could simplify the deliberations that design public policy.

So, why have some libertarians been hopeful of Trump? They're sympathetic to Trump's crusade against "the Left" — for them, an enemy of their enemy may also be a friend. But how's the monolithic Left doing since the AHCA was pulled from legislation? Obamacare remains intact. The single-payer solution is dominating discussions of health care reform, not the removal of government inhibitions on the supply and demand curve. Bernie Sanders is back on the interview circuit. Worst of all, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan made a gift of a gaffe that'll be quoted by Democrats and anti-market types for eternity: "[...] we're not going to give up on destroying the health care system for the American people."

All Trump and Republicans have done is discredit free market proposals for healthcare services. No perks from politics as usual will aid these wounds that keep on bleeding.

— PETE'S CORNER — *WITTY REMARKS BY PETE*

The conversation about the failure of Trumpcare has morphed into a discussion of the best and worst "first hundred days" of various U.S. Presidents; unsurprisingly, the list has been dominated by such candidates as Reagan, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and so on.

But they're all wrong. When it comes to the best "first hundred days" of any U.S. Presidency — if maintaining liberty and serving the people are the metric by which such is judged — the unsurpassed winner is the great William Henry Harrison.

After taking the White House, he proposed calling a Special Session of Congress. And when a few members of his Cabinet balked, he cancelled (vetoed) it.

Then, 30 days in - he died.

ABOLITION 1854: THE ORIGINAL FREE STATE PROJECT, BY JIM DAVIDSON

"You had better — all you people at the South — prepare yourselves for a settlement of this question, that must come up for settlement sooner than you are prepared for it. The sooner you are prepared the better. You may dispose of me very easily, — I am nearly disposed by now; but this question is still to be settled, — this negro question I mean; the end of that is not yet." ~ John Brown, 1859, prison interview

A great many years ago, on a field trip to the capitol rotunda in Topeka, Kansas during my elementary school years, I first made the acquaintance of John Brown. If you've never encountered the mural featuring his image, here is a link to an excerpt of it:

<http://www.kansassampler.org/siteassets/curry1.jpg>

John Brown played an important role in the events that led to the war of secession, also known as "the war between the States," and more commonly referred to as "The American Civil War." In Houston, Texas it is also widely known as "The War of Northern Aggression." Like Lew Rockwell has mentioned on a number of occasions, and as professors of history such as Jeffrey Rogers Hummel and Tom DiLorenzo have done their best to make people aware, that particular war was not a "civil war" in the sense the term is generally used by historians. The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, was a war for the control over the government of Spain, between the Loyalist faction and the Fascists under Franco. The American "Civil War" was about a group of states exercising their sovereign right to exit, and a war of aggression on their territory to force them to remain in the Union.

Be that as it may, the issue of slavery and the corresponding issue of abolition, to which John Brown refers as "this negro question" is one which was embedded in the Constitution of the United States from the time of its ratification. My purpose in this essay is to tell you about a very small part of that historical controversy.

In downtown Lawrence, Kansas, where I grew up, there are historical plaques memorialising a great many events. One in particular is on the Plymouth church and includes a bas-relief sculpture of the Fighting Parson, Richard Cordley. There is also a company, the Free State Brewery, which exists to honour the original Free State Project, the project to bring Kansas into the Union as a free state.

According to the Missouri Compromise of 1850, which brought a bunch of Texas military properties into national control, changed dramatically the borders of the state of Texas, and brought Missouri into the USA as a slave state, a boundary line was drawn indicating where free and slave states would be formed, out to the West Coast. About that time, the 1849 discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill brought about a dramatic migration to the West coast, exceeding the existing activity along the Oregon Trail and the Mormon Trail. By 1854, events were taking a toll on the most recent compromise (of many). The population of California was growing, and much of its territory was far enough South to qualify it for admission as a slave state, or for parts of it to be admitted as more than one state.

To avert the crisis, a new concept, championed by Stephen Douglas, called "popular sovereignty" was introduced. The Kansas-Nebraska act provided that the people of Kansas (and, later, Nebraska) would be allowed to vote for delegates to an annexation convention that would write a constitution, free or slave, and submit it to Congress. Immediately, people in Massachusetts smelled a rat.

They became convinced that bringing Kansas into the USA as a free state was important, vital. Many of them were abolitionists, seeking to abolish slavery. Many people in the voluntarism movement today are also abolitionists, in that we seek to abolish non-consensual or coercive forms of "government" which, to many of us, are slavery.

One of the leaders of that movement, a fellow named Avery Lawrence, lived in Massachusetts and never visited Kansas as far as I recall from my readings on the topic. But he did help found the New England Emigrant Aid Company which sponsored several wagon trains of emigrants from New England who became immigrants to Kansas. They called their efforts, which were joined by many churches and thousands of contributors and hundreds of volunteers, "the Free State Project."

Jason Sorens later used the same name for a most excellent (though rather political, in my experience) project in New Hampshire in the early part of the 21st Century. Some people have agreed to move to New Hampshire to see what they can do about freedom there. I wish them well, although since they did not make 20,000 movers by 2006, I do not regard my contingent pledge from 2004 to go ahead and move to be currently valid.

Meanwhile, now you know about an even earlier effort to have a free state. What a contradiction in terms! And, if you want to know "the rest of the story," check out the Wikipedia page on Bleeding Kansas. The results were not, on the whole, pretty.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleeding_Kansas

By the way, John Brown worked with many black Americans, including former slaves, in his work that included raids on several plantations, visits to various states, and the raid on Harper's Ferry arsenal that led to his capture and execution. I believe he was very clear in his own words believing that black men and women were his brothers and sisters, as loved and as cherished by God as anyone else.

As Nathan Bedford Forrest once noted, a vast effusion of blood failed to settle the core issues of the war. In my direct, personal, experience, having lived in Texas for 20 years, those issues live on in the hearts and minds of millions. Deo vindice. It is what He does.

— WHAT IS LIBERTY? — LIBERTY 101 COLUMN BY J.C. SIMPSON

It has been called the foundation of Western Civilization. Thomas Jefferson famously wrote that its tree “must be watered with the blood of tyrants and patriots.” It is synonymous with the word “freedom.” But what is liberty, and where is it derived? Is it something worth killing and dying for as Jefferson suggested?

Let us start with the first question. What is liberty? Derived from the Latin *libertas*, liberty is usually defined as “freedom from arbitrary or despotic government or control.” Many of us would agree to this definition, especially those of us who espouse the individualist ideal. To us liberty means that we are able to live our lives as we see fit as long as our actions do not infringe upon the liberty others. It is a simple concept, one that on first glance is accepted by most. But if were that simple, the world wouldn’t be the quagmire it is.

Within the field of philosophy, two types of liberty exist: negative liberty and positive liberty. This concept has roots all the way back to Immanuel Kant, but was greatly expounded upon by Isaiah Berlin in his famous 1958 essay “Two Concepts of Liberty.”

Negative liberty is what many in the libertarian tradition would consider as liberty. It is the *absence* of an oppressing force. Negative liberty has its foundation in self-determination, or as we libertarians call it, “self-ownership.” It is the belief that we as the individual are the arbiter of our actions to the extent

that these actions do not infringe upon another’s negative liberty. Common right attributed as negative liberty include freedom of speech, religion, association, and defense. This concept has been put forth by such philosophers as economist F.A. Hayek and political theorist Felix Oppenheim.

Positive liberty, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. It is built out of the collective, and has been pushed in theory by the likes of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Karl Marx. The concept has been used for interventionist policies in order to create a “better man.” To enact policies that are congruent with positive liberty, many negative liberties must be infringed. One such policy is the universal basic income. For the UBI to exist, an entity, usually a government, must infringe upon one’s ability to enjoy the fruits of one’s labor, i.e. take some of their money. Positive liberty is used to justify the welfare state and various other distributionist policies.

Because of these distinctions, one must be wary of the use of the word “liberty” when coming from the collectivist camps. They will use it as a way to infringe upon the negative liberty of an individual, and it is the negative liberty of an individual that makes man free.

[J.C. is a contributor from Arkansas and is certified to teach history, economics, political theory, and other social sciences.]

— TRUMP A KREMLIN PUPPET? — A WORLD AT WAR COLUMN BY WILL PORTER

President Trump has been under increasing pressure to answer accusations that he, or members of his team, maintains murky relations with the Russian Federation and its autocratic president, Vladimir Putin.

The centerpiece of that narrative is the allegation that Russia hacked the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in a bid to turn the US presidential election in Trump’s favor, a claim bandied about on virtually all major media networks. While a heap of “evidence” has been furnished to back these assertions, there are..

..good reasons to doubt their merit.

The American intelligence community released two reports on the matter in December 2016 and January 2017, neither containing much of substance.

Former CIA officer Phil Giraldi described both documents as “a lot of sometimes wild speculation and judgments based on fragmentary information,” and “yet another mish-mash of soft facts combined with plenty of opinion and maybe even a bit of good old Cold War-style politics.” A well-seasoned intelligence veteran, Giraldi is certainly in a position to assess the quality of the claims, and finds them wanting.

(CONTINUED ON PG. 15)

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 14) The first of the two reports, entitled "Grizzly Steppe—Russian Malicious Cyber Activity," contains an abundance of accusations, but offers little in the way of supporting evidence. In what amounts to "take our word for it," the report simply operates on the premise that the Russians are behind the DNC hacks, and proceeds to explain how the hacks were accomplished. This is the very definition of "begging the question," assuming precisely what is supposed to be proven.

According to Jeffrey Carr, cyber security consultant and author of "Inside Cyber Warfare," attributing responsibility to specific actors for cyber attacks is well-nigh impossible.

"Once malware is deployed, it is no longer under the control of the hacker who deployed it or the developer who created it," Carr wrote in 2016. "It can be reverse-engineered, copied, modified, shared and redeployed again and again by anyone."

This means that even if a particular malware program originated in Russia, it says nothing about who may use that malware in the future. The insistence that the hackers *must* be Russian because the malware may have been created in Russia is tantamount to the claim that a murderer *must* be Russian because he used a Kalashnikov to commit the crime.

The lengthier second report, equally devoid of evidence, skirts any new proof about the hacking allegation in favor of an assessment of Russian media, to which the report devotes nearly half of its pages. Needless to say, it was no "smoking gun."

It appears that after the intelligence community failed to come up with solid backing for the hack allegation, it broadened its scope to include all manner of attempted Russian influence on the US election. They're throwing us everything but the kitchen sink.

For the sake of argument, however, let us ignore Craig Murray—the WikiLeaks operative and former UK ambassador who said the DNC leaks came from American insiders—and accept that the Russians *did* hack the DNC. What would it mean? The claim, in short, is that Russia stole and released, via WikiLeaks, damning information about the Hillary Clinton campaign, and this in turn got Trump elected.

This is the most bizarre aspect of the story. The problem for the Clintonistas is not that their party ran a

contemptible, lying, war-mongering tyrant, it's that the Russians proved it to American voters. What kind of accusation is that?

Let us also go out on a limb and assume, more broadly, that Trump is actually an agent of the Kremlin, wittingly or otherwise. Given the lack of solid evidence, it's an unlikely worst case scenario, but is it as bad as it sounds?

It would be naïve to think that American politicians never work on behalf of foreign interests, but in the case of Trump and Russia collusion could translate into policy as a reduction in hostilities between our two countries—perhaps rolling back American sanctions or slowing NATO's march eastward. Such developments would be welcome regardless of the motivations behind them.

Detente with Russia is a significant part of Trump's otherwise dismal foreign policy agenda; that is precisely what has the war hawks scrambling. It's likely, in fact, that this policy position is the reason for the "Trump is Putin's puppet" line in the first place. To scuttle such efforts, Russia hawks want to equate a desire for friendlier international relations with treason.

For those interested in combatting the American Empire, peace with the hydrogen-bomb-armed Russians is a top priority. Rapprochement certainly isn't guaranteed given Trump's erratic temperament—he's no friend to liberty or peace—but non-interventionists have every reason to reject the dishonest, conflict-engendering narrative about Russian election-tampering currently making the rounds in American media.

"The Voluntaryist seeks liberty-lovers everywhere to help create a forum for radical ideas and to provide the community a platform to express their viewpoints. We reject the climate of political correctness which so often keeps our ideas from the eyes of the public; with this paper, we intend to change that."

FRAUDS, FAKES, AND SHILLS IN THE LIBERTY MOVEMENT, *PIECE BY JEFF SMITH*

I have been with the liberty movement for 41 years. There have always been ignorant people, with a small amount of fakes and frauds. The fakes and frauds are people who believe and follow one doctrine, but pretend to be with another doctrine with the goal of tricking you to accept and believe in their real doctrine. For decades the political left mostly used this method. In 2013 the Republican Party adopted the method with the goal of gaining votes from the Libertarian Party and movement. They succeeded in "redefining" libertarianism for most Americans, because they have more people and the media. I and others tried our best to keep the political right from taking over libertarianism, even creating a group, "Libertarians Opposing LINOs." Then came the Republican shills, calling themselves "libertarian," creating fake libertarian groups, etc. They actually succeeded in convincing their followers that libertarianism is a right-wing entity. Have you heard people say, "the left has infiltrated the Libertarian Party?" These are right-wingers who get involved in the LP, and then hear real libertarians talking about the libertarian principles of self-ownership and non-aggression. Knowing that these are not right-wing ideas, the right-wingers naturally assume that the libertarians are discussing "left-wing" ideas. Weird, but true!

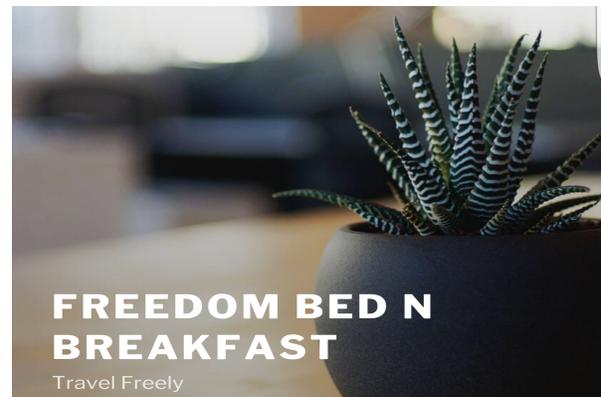
By 2014 it got so bad I dropped out of the Libertarian Party and movement. As my voluntaryist peers know, the principles between the groups in the liberty movement are the same, so although I no longer called myself "libertarian," I still adhered to self-ownership and non-aggression.

The ignorant ones need educating, and the fakes and frauds need exposing.

I have seen people fall for government lies and propaganda all of my life. I obtained a special disdain for the fakes and fakes within the liberty movement. I *love* exposing them. How do I do this? By pushing their envelope. Perhaps one of the most famous, but largely unknown examples of this came from a reporter interviewing the great "orator of liberty," Judge Napolitano. Few questioned his passion for liberty, but working for FOX made this one reporter do just that. It was what Napolitano said that ended his career (*OVER*)

..as a shill, a fake, a fraud. In anger, he admitted, "I strictly support and vote Republican!" Shortly after, Fox let him go. Because Americans have short memories, he is making a comeback.

I have a knack for smelling out the frauds and fakes, So, yes, I do push them so that they admit to supporting Trump, Obama, Rand, and the rest of the aggression based gang. Unfortunately, the ignorants also jump into the fray, but you can see that most of them are not ready to awaken, let alone accept the truth about liberty, government, aggression and their favorite parties.



Travel for work, for pleasure and stay with other freedom enthusiasts in their homes. Or, be a host for traveling freedom lovers. Over 500,000 freedom enthusiasts in America spend hundreds of millions of dollars on travel - why not spend some of that money in the freedom community? Ben Stone conceived of this project to help travellers and hosts find one another. Find our IndieGoGo campaign and preliminary website at:

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