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**"A HISTORY OF CLASSICAL LIBERALISM: KEY CONCEPTS AND
MOVEMENTS"
BY DAVID M. HART**

Director of the Online Library of Liberty Project
Liberty Fund, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana email: dmhart@mac.com
website: <http://www.davidmhart.com>



Eugène Delacroix, "Liberty leading the People" (1830)

A HISTORY OF CLASSICAL LIBERALISM I: TWELVE KEY CONCEPTS OF LIBERTY

BY DR. DAVID M. HART

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The following is a list of 12 key concepts of liberty which have been developed over several hundred years by many authors in the classical liberal, free market and conservative traditions. There is probably no single thinker who would agree with every aspect of these key concepts. Rather, they are an amalgam taken from the various streams of thinking about individual liberty which have emerged in Western Europe and North America since the early modern period. It is designed to summarize visually a complex way of thinking about the nature of individual liberty:

1. Natural Law and Natural Rights
2. Individual Liberty
3. Private Property
4. Free Markets
5. Free Trade
6. Limited Government
7. Rule of Law
8. Freedom of Speech & Religion
9. Right of Exit
10. Progress
11. Peace
12. Idea of Spontaneous Order

Readings

The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism, ed. Ronald Hamowy (Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. A Project of the Cato Institute).

Other recommended books:

- *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*, ed. David R. Henderson (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2008). Also available online at Econlib <<http://www.econlib.org/library/CEE.html>>.
- *The Libertarian Reader: Classic and Contemporary Readings from Lao-Tzu to Milton Friedman*, ed. David Boaz (New York: The Free Press, 1997).
- *Western Liberalism: A History in Documents from Locke to Croce*, ed. E.K. Bramstead and K.J. Melhuish (London: Longman, 1978).
- Jim Powell, *The Triumph of Liberty: A 2,000-Year History, told through the Lives of Freedom's greatest Champions* (New York: The Free Press, 2000).
- Brian Doherty, *Radicals for Capitalism: A Freewheeling History of the Modern American Libertarian Movement* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2007).
- Murray N. Rothbard, *An Austrian Perspective on the History of Economic Thought: Vol. I Economic Thought before Adam Smith* (Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute, 2006).
- Murray N. Rothbard, *An Austrian Perspective on the History of Economic Thought: Vol. II Classical Economics* (Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute, 2006).

Table Of Key Concepts Of Liberty

1. Natural Law and Natural Rights - the world is governed by natural laws which are discoverable by human reason - Tom Paine's "imprescriptible rights": the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness - rights are not created by government but exist anterior to it [alternative view of utilitarianism - maximization of happiness or utility]	2. Individual Liberty - an individual, private sphere which is protected from outside interference - the dignity of the individual, individual autonomy, sanctity of life - right of voluntary association among individuals - civil society	3. Private Property - the right of self-proprietorship or self-ownership - the right to exchange property titles with others - private contracts - the right to enjoy one's property so long as no aggression is initiated against others
4. Free Markets - complete freedom of movement of people and goods (laissez-faire, laissez-passer) - domestic free markets, competition - division of labour - low taxes - little or no regulation	5. Free Trade - complete freedom of movement of people and goods (laissez-faire, laissez-passer) - international free trade - natural harmony of interests leads to peace	6. Limited Government - governmental power limited by means of a constitution and/or bill of rights - elections to periodically remove bad governments - checks and balances between the branches of government - federalism and decentralization of power - how limited should government be? - classical Smithian view, nightwatchman state, anarcho-capitalism
7. Rule of Law - rule of laws not of men - law applies equally to all (including agents of the state) - common law - independent courts - trial by jury - right to habeas corpus	8. Freedom of Speech & Religion - freedom of the press - the right of assembly and right to engage in peaceful protest - no state-enforced religion - right to practice the religion of one's choice - toleration of all unorthodox thought and (non injurious) behaviour	9. Right of "Exit" - the right to rebel against unjust government, tyranny - the right to secede - freedom of movement across political borders - immigration, emigration
10. Progress - through hard work and initiative both individuals and society can be improved indefinitely - wealth creation is a product of the free market and trade	11. Peace - non-interference in the affairs of other nations - international arbitration to solve disputes - free trade between all nations	12. Idea of Spontaneous Order - institutions emerge spontaneously and evolve over time - by pursuing their own selfish interests in a voluntary manner they are led as if by an "invisible hand" (Adam Smith) to promote the welfare of others

Articles from *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism* (EoL) which are most pertinent to my list of key concepts include the following. The items in **bold** are included in this booklet of readings. One should begin with Steve Davies' "General Introduction," *EoL*, pp. xxv-xxxvii, which is a good survey of the ideas, movements, and key events in the development of liberty, then read as many of the following articles as you can:

1. Natural Law and Natural Rights
 1. "Natural Law" & **"Natural Rights"**
 2. "Theories of Rights"
 3. "Utilitarianism"
2. Individual Liberty
 1. "Civil Society"
 2. "Individual Rights" & **"Equality" (of rights)**
 3. "Freedom" & "Political and Ethical Individualism"
 4. "Presumption of Liberty"
3. Private Property
 1. **"Private Property"**
 2. **"Nonaggression Axiom"**
4. Free Markets
 1. "Capitalism"
 2. "Laissez-Faire Policy" & "Competition"
 3. "Division of Labor"
 4. "Entrepreneurship" & **"Free-Market Economy"**
5. Free Trade
 1. **"Free Trade"**
 2. **"Natural Harmony of Interests"**
6. Limited Government
 1. **"Constitutionalism" & "Limited Government"**
 2. "Bill of Rights, U.S." & "Federalism"
 3. "Minimal State" & "State"
 4. **"Anarchism" & "Anarcho-Capitalism"**
7. Rule of Law - **"Rule of Law"**
 1. "Coercion" & "Constitutionalism"
 2. "Common Law" & "Law Merchant"
8. Freedom of Speech & Religion, Toleration
 1. "Conscience" (liberty of)
 2. "Cosmopolitanism"
 3. **"Freedom of Speech" & "Freedom of Thought"**
 4. "Religion and Liberty" & "Separation of Church and State"
9. Right of Exit
 1. **"Right of Revolution"** & "Secessionism"
 2. Freedom of Movement - Emigration & "Immigration"
10. Progress
 1. **"Economic Development"**
 2. "Material Progress"
 3. **"Progress"**
11. Peace
 1. **"Peace and Pacifism"**
12. Idea of Spontaneous Order
 1. **"Spontaneous Order"**

A HISTORY OF CLASSICAL LIBERALISM II: IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS & KEY POLITICAL EVENTS

BY DR. DAVID M. HART

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The following is a list of some significant movements and events which were fundamental in creating free societies.

Readings: *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism*, ed. Ronald Hamowy (Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. A Project of the Cato Institute).

One should begin with Steve Davies' "General Introduction," EoL, pp. xxv-xxxvii, which is a good survey of the ideas, movements, and key events in the development of liberty, then read some of the articles on specific historical periods, movements, schools of thought, and individuals. Items in quotes are articles in *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism*.

1. The Ancient World
 1. "Liberty in the Ancient World"
 2. "Epicurianism"
 3. "Stoicism"
2. Medieval Period
 1. "Magna Carta"
 2. "Scholastics - School of Salamanca"
3. Reformation & Renaissance
 1. "Classical Republicanism"
 2. "Dutch Republic"
4. The 17th Century
 1. "English Civil Wars"
 1. "The Levellers"
 2. "John Milton" & "Puritanism"
 2. "Glorious Revolution"
 1. "John Locke" & "Algernon Sidney"
 2. "Whiggism"
5. The 18th Century
 1. 18thC Commonwealthmen - "Cato's Letters"
 2. The Scottish Enlightenment
 1. "Enlightenment"
 2. "Adam Smith", "Adam Ferguson" & "David Hume"
 3. The French Enlightenment
 1. "Physiocracy" - "Turgot"
 2. "Montesquieu" & "Voltaire"
 4. "French Revolution"
 1. "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen"
 5. "American Revolution"
 1. "Declaration of Independence" - "Thomas Jefferson" & "Thomas Paine"
 2. "Constitution, U.S." - "James Madison"
 3. "Bill of Rights, U.S."
6. The 19th Century
 1. "Classical Liberalism" - the English School
 1. "Philosophic Radicals"
 2. "Utilitarianism" - "Jeremy Bentham"
 3. "Classical Economics" - "John Stuart Mill"
 2. "Classical Liberalism" - the French School
 1. "Jean-Baptiste Say" & "Benjamin Constant"
 2. "Charles Comte" & "Charles Dunoyer"
 3. "Frédéric Bastiat"
 4. "Gustave de Molinari"
 3. Free Trade Movement
 1. "Anti-Corn Law League" - "John Bright" & "Richard Cobden"

4. "Feminism and Women's Rights"
 1. "Mary Wollstonecraft"
 2. "Condorcet"
5. Abolition of Slavery - "Abolitionism"
 1. "William Wilberforce"
 2. "William Lloyd Garrison" & "John Brown"
 3. "Frederick Douglass" & "Lysander Spooner"
6. [The Radical Individualists]
 1. "Thomas Hodgskin", "Herbert Spencer", & "Auberon Herbert"
7. The "Austrian School of Economics" I
 1. 1st generation - "Carl Menger", "Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk"
 2. interwar years - "Ludwig von Mises", "Friedrich Hayek"
7. Post-World War 2 Renaissance
 1. "Mont Pelerin Society" - "Friedrich Hayek", "Milton Friedman", "Karl Popper", "James Buchanan"
 2. Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) & "Antony Fisher"
 3. Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) & "Leonard Read"
 4. Institute for Humane Studies & "F.A. Harper"
 5. The Austrian School of Economics II
 1. post-WW2 2nd generation - "Ludwig von Mises", "Friedrich Hayek", "Murray N. Rothbard", "Israel Kirzner"
 6. "Chicago School of Economics" & "Milton Friedman"
 7. "Objectivism" & "Ayn Rand"
 8. "Public Choice Economics" & "James Buchanan"

Events And Movements Which Hampered Or Set Back The Development Of Free Societies

1. Mercantilism - "Mercantilism"
2. Slavery
 1. "World Slavery"
 2. "Slavery in America"
3. Napoleonic Wars
4. "Imperialism"
5. Economic Nationalism & Protectionism
 1. "Nationalism"
6. Wars of Nation Building
 1. "Civil War, U.S."
 2. German Wars of Unification
7. Socialism/Marxism
 1. "Socialism"
 2. "Marxism"
 3. "Socialist Calculation Debate"
8. World War 1 - War Socialism
9. Inflation & Depression
 1. "Interventionism"
10. "Fascism" & Bolshevism
11. "Economics, Keynesian" & "Welfare State"
 1. "New Deal"
 2. "Welfare State"
12. World War 2
 1. "Military-Industrial Complex"

In general, the growth of the modern state:

1. "State"
2. "Taxation"
3. "War"