

# Daily News-Record

## Dionne Unclear On Libertarianism

By: Joseph Daniel Rudmin – June 21, 2013

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E.J. Dionne equates libertarianism with utopianism ("Libertarianism = Utopianism," June 11).

I expect that Mr. Dionne makes such an extreme claim to attract readers. While some libertarians might have utopian dreams, libertarianism certainly is well grounded in both theory and practice, by numerous organizations such as the Cato Institute, the Foundation for Economic Education, and the Acton Institute, to name a few.

Simply put, libertarianism's main principle is this: Because government depends on military force for its survival, one should not trust a government to achieve anything more than political stability. For example, if the government dominates education, that education eventually will be worthless: Eventually the government will prevent teachers from teaching, and the government will not tolerate any alternative.

In response to Dionne's question, no government we know of is libertarian probably because those who like to pursue political power are rarely if ever libertarian. But, those governments that better reflect libertarianism tend to have stronger and more rapidly growing economies.

Joseph Daniel Rudmin

Harrisonburg