



## Rick Santorum: “frighteningly anti-libertarian”

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Taking note of David Boaz’s comment that Rick Santorum is “[frighteningly anti-libertarian](#)“, Jennifer Rubin interviewed the Cato Institute Executive Vice President to get the lowdown on the former Senator:

Being philosophically minded, what scares me most about Rick Santorum is not his specific policy mistakes but his fundamental objection to the American idea of freedom. He criticizes the pursuit of happiness! He says, “This is the mantra of the left: I have a right to do what I want to do” and “We have a whole culture that is focused on immediate gratification and the pursuit of happiness . . . and it is harming America.” And then he says that what the Founders meant by happiness was “to do the morally right thing.” He really doesn’t like the idea of America as a free society, where adults make their own decisions and sometimes make choices that Santorum disapproves. In practice, I worry that he would continue and intensify Bush’s big-government conservatism, a federal government committed to reshaping individuals according to a religious-conservative blueprint.

Read the whole thing. David adds that Republican electoral victories occur in those years when “[Democrats have overreached on their big-government agenda and Republicans campaign on lower taxes and limited government.](#)”

Indeed, even Santorum’s economic policies more closely resemble Obama’s crony capitalism than they do Ronald Reagan’s free market ideals. As Kevin Hassett and Glenn Hubbard put it in [this morning’s Wall Street Journal](#):

And by proposing special tax breaks for manufacturing, Mr. Santorum follows Mr. Obama’s incorrect lead and introduces a significant economic distortion. In a world with highly mobile capital, tax policy needs to be neutral toward different forms of business activity and not succumb to the temptation to pick winners and losers. We are aware of no serious economic argument to support such a policy direction.

Rick Santorum, in short, is very much a George W. Bush Republican with a moralizing streak out of step with the conservatism of Ronald Wilson Reagan.