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## Jeff Miron: It's the Spending, Stoopid



I really like these Jeff Miron videos. Miron is a clear and articulate spokesperson for the view that spending is a problem. It seems odd, perhaps, that anyone would need a Harvard professor to explain something that ordinary people learn when they balance their check books and pay credit card bills each month. But such is life in postmodern America. (Non-US readers, thank you for your patience. We're aware that these lessons apply internationally.)

So why is it so hard to cut spending even if some party purportedly committed to smaller government is in power? Well, we talked about this last week in our post "[The Logic of Politics](#)" -- featuring another video put out by LearnLiberty.org. The idea is, more or less, to cut spending is for politicians to break a political exchange-- campaign contributions for resources and -- in some cases -- votes for handouts. To get real reforms (i.e. spending cuts) It may take a courageous group of people prepared to commit collective political suicide. In such a case, the calamity will have already arrived. The tough decision will be painfully obvious to everyone. And yet, currently, there are too many incentives to defect for any group of pols to move forward together to cut spending.

If we're lucky, I'm wrong and the history that gets written will say otherwise.

 Posted by Max Borders on 05/25/2011 at 07:11 AM in [Critical Thinking](#), [Democracy](#), [Education](#), [Public Choice](#) | [Permalink](#)

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