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## The end of the libertarian Democrats

Submitted by Jon Henke on Tue, 07/07/2009 - 19:50

Three years ago, **Markos Moulitsas floated the idea** (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/6/7/1315507297>) of an emerging brand of "libertarian Democrats." At **Cato Unbound** (<http://www.cato-unbound.org/2006/10/02/markos-moulitsas/the-case-for-the-libertarian-democrat/>), Kos argued that the Democratic Party was "growing increasingly comfortable with moving in a new direction, one in which restrained government, fiscal responsibility, and—most important of all—*individual freedoms* are paramount."

And in fact, libertarians did swing from voting overwhelmingly from Bush in 2000 to overwhelmingly for Obama in 2008.

Recently, though, the people Kos once sympathetically and invitingly described as "traditionally Republican voters [who] simply want to live their lives in peace, without undue meddling..." have been protesting policies and politicians, both Republicans and Democrats. The Democratic response to this widespread public concern has been...**ridicule** (<http://www.dailykos.com/tag/Tea%20Party>) . *Thanks for the votes, now get lost.*

The Democratic/libertarian alliance won't last long.

### Average:

Your rating: None

## Comments

### [If you're equating the Teabagger nonsense with libertarians..](#) (/jon-henke/the-end-of-the-libertarian-democrats#comment-32991)

Submitted by Vern Rutter on Tue, 07/07/2009 - 22:05.

then you're not nearly as smart as I thought you were, Jon.

In terms of individual freedoms, leaving aside the some Randian economic utopia BS, the R party abandoned that when they made common cause with the christianists and the southern racists decades ago. Right now, they are effectively your base -- as well as an impenetrable barrier to a broader coalition.

### [It's not difficult](#) (/jon-henke/the-end-of-the-libertarian-democrats#comment-32996)

Submitted by NoMoreBlatherDotCom on Wed, 07/08/2009 - 00:47.

The [tea parties](http://24ahead.com/s/tea-parties) (much more about them at the link) are more or less a libertarian movement. Their leaders are libertarians/Randroids (Eric Odom, Instapundit, etc.), they play dress-up games like Ron Paul supporters, they ignore (or are on the wrong side of) more important and more salient issues such as immigration, they think that cheap stunts and shouting slogans will save the day, **they think children's burn hospitals should go out of business unless they're making a profit** ([link](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2009/07/genesee_tea_party_holds_indepe.html)), and on and on. And, the sponsors of some of their events include a Randroid group and at least one linked to the Kochtopus (example: 912dc.org). All they're lacking is the Ron Paul blimp with a "T.E.A. PARTY" sign tacked on. The tea partiers are a libertarian movement, with some non-libertarian useful idiots thrown in. They can and should be ignored.

### [Vern, You don't know what](#) (/jon-henke/the-end-of-the-libertarian-democrats#comment-33010)

Submitted by mk on Wed, 07/08/2009 - 07:00.

Vern,

You don't know what you're talking about. You are also a bigot (christianists, southern racists) and completely ignorant about the history of our two political parties. It is the Democratic party that was the racist party and advocated eugenics from the early part of the 20th through the 1930s. Does the name Margaret Sanger or Robert Byrd mean anything to you? Moreover, it is the Democratic party that is racist now as any scotus wise latina or Al Sharpton can tell you.

You also know nothing about the tea party movement because obviously you haven't been to one. This goes too for all the other ignorant posters here. The reason people didn't protest Bush is because of scale. We didn't like it, but we didn't see his spending policies as breaking the country as Obama's will.

If you're going to comment publicly, have the integrity to leave your bigotry at home and bring