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where orders emerge

Some Links

by Don Boudreaux on [April 8, 2010](#)

in [Food and Drink](#), [History](#), [Immigration](#), [Taxes](#)

[Tonight's Stossel \(Fox Business, 8pm EDT\) explores libertarianism.](#) Guests include the [Cato Institute](#)'s David Boaz, writer P.J. O'Rourke, feminist Wendy McElroy, and economist Jeff Miron.

[Richard Rahn questions the IRS's morality.](#)

[Shikha Dalmia is pessimistic about Pres. Obama's approach to immigration reform.](#)

[David Harsanyi is fed up with Michelle Obama's anti-obesity campaign:](#)

No offense, but the next time I hear Michelle Obama lecture me about feeding kids locally farmed kumquats, I'll be forced to pile my family into an SUV and hit the Burger King drive-thru just to snap my psyche back into proper equilibrium.

[\(When I hear romantic foolishness gush forth from the mouths of Pious Leaders, I often want to react like John Belushi's character in *Animal House*. \[HT Lyle Albaugh\]\)](#)

[David Boaz writes wisely about the course of freedom over the past two centuries.](#)

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A rarer sight in America than an ivory-billed woodpecker is an individual in a saloon wearing an IRS softball team T-shirt. This is because IRS employees know that they are rightly detested and abhorred by the rest of the population. With good wages, benefits and job security, as well as infinite capacity for rationalization, they can say, just as the Nuremberg defendants did, that they were "only doing our job". The fact is that they are a federal secret police.

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**vidyohs** 4 days ago

2 people liked this.

Morality resides in a different universe from the IRS. Lying, fraud, and abuse are as common as expelled breath; and by extension the court system is equally guilty because they are fully aware of what goes on, and the court system chooses to aid and abet the IRS in any way it can. As for the individuals who are employed by the IRS, all are equally guilty of the immorality of theft. In a theft, the bagman and the get-away driver are as guilty as the gunman.

David Boaz makes valid points, but I think he errs when he assumes that those of us today who yearn for the economic, civil, and legal freedom of frontier America do so by ignoring the fact of slavery. We are fully aware, and rather than yearning exclusively for the conditions that existed (the ability to move and escape government for a long time) for most anglos, what we yearn for is those conditions applied to all, no slaves, just free people able to deny arbitrary power.

We all know what kind of government we want, but none of us have even a government we can comfortably work with. We acquiesce and call it approval because most of us have never been educated to a choice, much less offered one.

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**theorlonater** 3 days ago [in reply to vidyohs](#)

Exactly, the reason we don't expend so much energy attacking slavery is because no one supports slavery. Why not just spend your academic career or hobby denouncing rape, murder, and necrophilia? You'll get a lot of support.

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**vikingvista** 3 days ago [in reply to vidyohs](#)

"We all know what kind of government we want"

With government, as with crime, it is always a matter of how much you can tolerate. As far as what I want, I know only the kind of human interactions I want--and ALL of them are voluntary.

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vidyohs 3 days ago [in reply to vikingvista](#)

VV

You notice that I did not say that we all agree on the government we want, just that we all know what kind of government we want. Plenty of intellectual room to roam in that statement.

And, when tied down and water-boarded I could be made to confess that I think there is a tiny minority that has no clue what they want.

You and I happen to agree that all associations should be voluntary, including participation in a government.

I think we can agree that assumption is not choice, especially if you are unaware of the assumption or enculturated in ignorance of the assumption.

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JohnK 4 days ago

3 people liked this.

Combine THE with IRS and you get THEIRS.

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theorlonater 3 days ago

1 person liked this.

That David Boaz attacks Jacob Hornberger on the some of the stupidest arguments around. It's as if Mr. Boaz is alluding to the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln as good things to happen to the U.S. Secondly, I would like to point to Mr. Boaz that white-straight males aren't the only ones in the libertarian movement and opinions expressed by people like Mr. Hornberger aren't only held by such people. Lastly, I think libertarians should probably stop alluding to the Civil Rights movement as a good thing, for it brought much worse hardship to most blacks and other minorities than what the trend was at the time.

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sandre 3 days ago [in reply to theorlonater](#)

Some time back, I used to believe that the less "civilized" Alabama Taliban were the first to launch such attacks. Now I know better.

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Andrew 3 days ago [in reply to theorlonater](#)

Please note that David Boaz did not "attack" Jacob Hornberger. He criticized Hornberg's writings in a very charitable manner. Read his article. Since when did a civil criticism, with no ad hominem elements at all, constitute an "attack"?

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theorlonater 3 days ago [in reply to Andrew](#)

You're arguing semantics here, and perhaps you're right. My apologies.

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Gil 3 days ago

16th Amendment? What 16th Amendment

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Reactions



dpundit 3 days ago

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Some links on libertarianism from Don Boudreaux at @CafeHayek, so, yeah, you should read them ASAP. <http://j.mp/baBCD1> #tcot #tlot #econ

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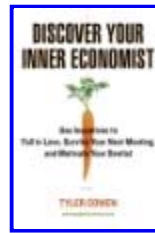
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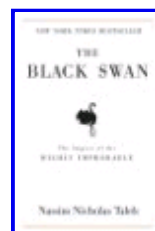


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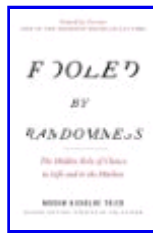
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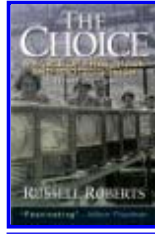
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