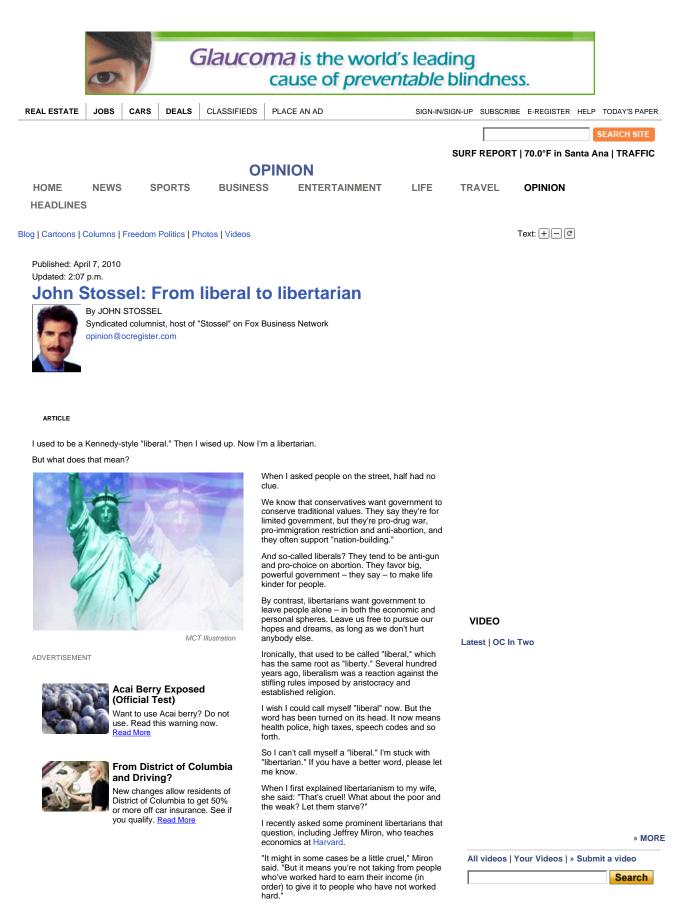
From liberal to libertarian | people, government, poor - Opinion - The Orange County Reg... Page 1 of 3



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- Byron York: What's Obamacare really about?
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 The number of people who will suffer is likely to
 be very small. Private charity ... will provide
 support for the vast majority who would be poor in
 the absence of some kind of support. When
 government does it, it creates an air of entitlement
 that leads to more demand for redistribution, till

everyone becomes a ward of the state."

Besides, says Wendy McElroy, the founder of ifeminists.com, "government aid doesn't enrich the poor. Government makes them dependent. And the biggest hindrance to the poor ... right now is the government. Government should get out of the way. It should allow people to open cottage industries without making them jump through hoops and licenses and taxing them to death. It should open up public lands and do a 20thcentury equivalent of 40 acres and a mule. It should get out of the way of people and let them achieve and rise."

David Boaz, executive vice president of the libertarian Cato Institute, took the discussion to a deeper level.

"Instead of asking, 'What should we do about people who are poor in a rich country?' The first question is, 'Why is this a rich country?'

"Five hundred years ago, there weren't rich countries in the world. There are rich countries now because part of the world is following basically libertarian rules: private property, free markets, individualism."

Boaz makes an important distinction between equality and absolute living standards.

"The most important way that people get out of poverty is economic growth that free markets allow. The second-most important way – maybe it's the first – is family. There are lots of income transfers within families. Third would be self-help and mutual-aid organizations. This was very big before the rise of the welfare state."

This is an important but unappreciated point: Before the New Deal, people of modest means banded together to help themselves. The of the second strain terms of terms

Boaz indicts the welfare state for the untold harm it's done in the name of the poor.

Steve Chapman: 'Unilateral disarmament' is neither
 "What we find is a system that traps people into dependency. ... You should be asking advocates of that
 system, 'Why don't you care about the bone of the bone

I agree. It appears that when government sets out to solve a problem, not only does it violate our freedom, it also accomplishes the opposite of what it set out to do.

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