

Cato Institute's full-page ad in NY Times shows us how to cut costs

by [gloriasb](#)

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Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 12:18:07 PM PDT

At the conservative "think-tank" Cato Institute, they've got all the answers about limiting government and balancing our national budget. Their full-page ad in the New York Times tells us all we need to know. Oh, really? More...

[gloriasb's diary](#) :: ::

Check out Page A 5 in today's [Sept. 16, 2010] New York Times. It's a full-page ad brought to us by the Cato Institute. The message? You'll be shocked, shocked. Government: bad. Private sector: good. [Thanks, Koch bros.]

Mostly, it's a promo for a new book published by Cato, entitled [what else?] "The Struggle to Limit Government." "With the Constitution as our guide," says the ad, "we've identified scores of agencies to eliminate and programs to zero out, putting America on the path toward fiscal sanity."

Yeah. Let's see: Cato wants to eliminate subsidies for education and give the power back to states. My recollection of how states handled education conjures memories of Governor George Wallace blocking the school-house doors so "Negroes" couldn't integrate.

Continuing on, Cato says, "the federal government has no business" funding activities such as highways," and Cato wants to move air traffic control to the private sector. Right: So, if you live in a town where air traffic isn't particularly profitable, direct your own air traffic, buddy.

And there's more: Cato wants to get the government out of HUD and the housing business. Who needs fair housing practices, anyway?

Predictably, of course, Cato wants government out of health care, too, and proposes moving Medicare to a "consumer-driven health plan through vouchers, which would protect the elderly from government rationing." Let's see, last time I looked, we already had rationing--not by government, but by private health insurers whose business model is to collect claims and deny coverage. Oh yes, and Medicaid should be a "block grant to save money and encourage state innovation."

And let's not forget Social Security. Cato's ad calls for Social Security to be "phased out as a mandatory program and an alternative voluntary system of private accounts, providing for ownership and inheritability, should be offered." That works for me, if the stock market never fluctuates and people act responsibly and plan for their futures.

No mention, BTW, of the billions they want us to hand over to the top 2% of wealthy Americans via extension of the Bush tax cuts. I guess those billions don't figure into the equation.

So, the fight against the New Deal rages on. Comments?

See ad here: [Cato Institute](#)

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Tip Jar (37+ / 0-)

by [gloriasb](#) on Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 12:18:09 PM PDT

Cato wants to privatize everything that moves (11+ / 0-)

What happened to the idea of the "common good?" Or how about the idea that we are to be each other's keeper?" or the idea of having compassion for others?

The Koch brothers and their "think tank" want everyone to fend for themselves in a very brutal, vicious world with the wealthier getting wealthier, living on their yachts and in their gated communities, and the rest of us cleaning up after them. Middle class? What's that?

Have cancer? too bad. Disabled? tough luck. Can't find a job with a living wage? Suck it up and eat two meals a day. Lost your house because of the criminal behavior of your bank? Move into a tent. The Cato institute is downright sociopathic.

Great post. Glad you caught the ad and fired off a great response.

by **MG1** on **Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 01:02:16 PM PDT**
[**Parent**]

Couldn't stop myself... (4+ / 0-)

Saw the ad, wrote the post, took a long shower.

by **gloriasb** on **Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 01:29:09 PM PDT**
[**Parent**]

"The common good" (4+ / 0-)

to folks of this sort simply doesn't exist.

I have never read Adam Smith however I have read a number of things that build from Smith's work. So, with that in mind as somewhat of a caveat, let us go there...

From what I understand, while Smith is all about the free market and accumulation of capital, those who accumulate capital are supposed to have the common good in mind, not simply the bottom line and shareholder profits. It is (and again I may be misreading it) another form of "social contract;" the simple idea that we are all in this together so our decisions, while they may be based upon self-interest, ought also to acknowledge that there is an ultimate responsibility to society as a whole.

To deny that there is a common good and that every individual is--and should be--out for themselves is NOT a good basis for building a society.

My AIDS/LifeCycle homepage: [http://www.tofighthiv.org/...](http://www.tofighthiv.org/)

by **sfbob** on **Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 01:57:47 PM PDT**
[**Parent**]

Very true. That's why the Constitution includes (0+ / 0-)

the aim of providing for the general welfare.

Poor Adam Smith. He used the metaphor of an "invisible hand" to talk about how supply and price can adjust within a market -- something that works pretty well in many circumstances. But the current ideologues have turned The Invisible Hand into a kind of cosmic fairy godmother. If each person just pursues their own self-centered interests, it will all magically come together, and we'll each get to ride off to the ball in our very own pumpkin.

Haven't they noticed it doesn't work that way?

by **Fiona West** on **Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 04:38:17 PM PDT**
[**Parent**]

Koch Borthers (19+ / 0-)

fund the Cato institute

by **stonedoubt** on **Thu Sep 16, 2010 at 12:23:08 PM PDT**

And don't the Kochs build roads/highways? (4+ / 0-)

Gee, they're not trying to make more money again, are they.

Assholes!

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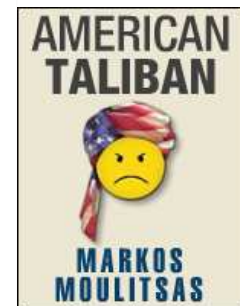
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