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**Libertarianism: a New 'Dictionary' Explains It**

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 :: Staff infoZine

By **Juan Diasgranados** - Libertarians are sometimes understood, and a new book aims to explain how they view the world, from A to Z.

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Washington, D.C. - infoZine - Scripps Howard Foundation Wire - There are conservatives, and there are liberals. But wait, there are also libertarians.

And they feel misunderstood.

The Cato Institute, a libertarian policy institute, hosted a forum Tuesday to discuss the book **Libertarianism, from A to Z**

The book's author, Jeffrey Miron, started off by discussing how he came became a libertarian.

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"Well, it started with my father. He switched over to be libertarian, because of two words: Richard Nixon. And then I have been one all my life."

The book is a dictionary of libertarian views, touching on subjects from central banks to government funding for science to the sale of human body parts.

According to the Cato Institute, libertarians believe in individual conscience and individual choice and in helping people to take more control of their own lives. They believe in having as much freedom as possible and in a government with the least amount of control over them.

Miron, a senior lecturer in economics at Harvard University, explained why he wrote the book.

"I wanted to give people a taste of libertarian views because, to some people, they think of it as a world view, but it's really giving a set of opinions. Far less government, and in most cases, little to no government."

The book discussions the war in Iraq as an example. Miron said the war costs hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and that it's far from clear that it's doing anything to prevent terrorist attacks against the U.S.

"If terrorists really wanted to, they can attack buses, Metro stations, schools and so on, so us being in the Middle East gives people in the Muslim world a reason to be angry with U.S. policy," he said. "So in my opinion, I would withdraw in the quickest manner consistent with the safety of the troops."

Dale Brown, a policy analyst from Washington who declined to give her age, said she attended the discussion because she is concerned about how the



Jeffrey Miron talks about his new book, **Libertarianism, from A to Z**

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economy is functioning, and as a consumer, she needs to learn more about libertarianism.

Brown, who is not a libertarian, said she learned a lot about the concept but was concerned that libertarian views seemed to be "out of touch."

"The views seemed to be far more concerned about the possibilities of government threats to liberty, and I'm nervous about the corporate threats to liberty," Brown said.

Miron said he wanted people to leave with one message: "Policies have a lot of unintended consequences that are usually worse than disease."

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