

Libertarianism: From Laissez-Faire Capitalism to Radical Individualism

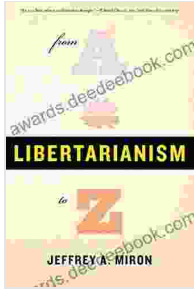
Libertarianism is a political philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty and limited government intervention. Libertarians believe that individuals should be free to make their own choices, pursue their own goals, and live their lives as they see fit, so long as they do not harm others. This philosophy is rooted in the idea that individuals are the best judges of their own interests and that the government should not interfere in their lives unless it is absolutely necessary to protect the rights of others.

The roots of libertarianism can be traced back to the classical liberalism of the 18th and 19th centuries. Adam Smith, David Ricardo, and John Stuart Mill were among the early proponents of this philosophy, which emphasized the importance of individual liberty, free markets, and limited government. In the United States, the libertarian tradition was carried on by Thomas Jefferson, who argued that the government should be "limited to the few essential powers necessary to preserve peace and administer justice."

In the 20th century, libertarianism emerged as a distinct political philosophy with its own set of principles and adherents. Murray Rothbard, Ludwig von Mises, and Robert Nozick were among the most influential thinkers in the development of modern libertarianism. Rothbard founded the anarcho-capitalist movement, which advocates for the complete abolition of the state. Von Mises and Nozick were proponents of minarchism, which advocates for a minimal state that is limited to protecting individual rights.

Libertarianism, from A to Z by Jeffrey A. Miron

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5



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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 222 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



The core tenets of libertarianism include:

- **Individual liberty:** Libertarians believe that individuals should be free to make their own choices, pursue their own goals, and live their lives as they see fit, so long as they do not harm others.
- **Limited government:** Libertarians believe that the government should be limited to the few essential powers necessary to protect individual rights. They oppose government intervention in the economy, social affairs, and personal life.
- **Free markets:** Libertarians believe that free markets are the most efficient and effective way to allocate resources and create wealth. They support free trade, deregulation, and the elimination of government subsidies.
- **Property rights:** Libertarians believe that individuals have the right to own and control their property. They oppose government eminent domain, taxation, and other forms of government interference with property rights.
- **Non-aggression principle:** Libertarians believe that it is wrong to initiate force or violence against another person. This principle is the

foundation of libertarian opposition to war, aggression, and government coercion.

There are a variety of strands within the libertarian movement, each with its own unique emphases and perspectives. These strands include:

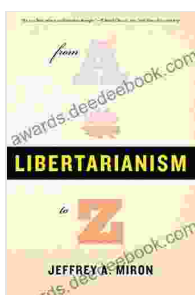
- **Classical liberalism:** Classical liberalism is the traditional form of libertarianism that emphasizes the importance of individual liberty, free markets, and limited government.
- **Minarchism:** Minarchism is a strand of libertarianism that advocates for a minimal state that is limited to protecting individual rights.
- **Anarchism:** Anarchism is a strand of libertarianism that advocates for the abolition of the state.
- **Libertarian socialism:** Libertarian socialism is a strand of libertarianism that combines libertarian principles with socialist ideas, such as the belief in collective ownership of the means of production.

Libertarianism has been applied to a wide range of policy issues, including:

- **Economics:** Libertarians support free markets, deregulation, and the elimination of government subsidies. They believe that these policies will lead to greater economic growth and prosperity.
- **Social issues:** Libertarians generally support individual liberty and oppose government intervention in social affairs. They support the legalization of drugs, prostitution, and same-sex marriage.
- **Foreign policy:** Libertarians generally oppose war and aggression. They believe that the government should only use force to protect

individual rights.

Libertarianism is a complex and diverse political philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty and limited government intervention. There are a variety of strands within the libertarian movement, each with its own unique emphases and perspectives. Libertarianism has been applied to a wide range of policy issues, from economics to social issues to foreign policy.



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