



Letters to the Editor

Differences in Noninterventionism

In a TNA online article by Steve Byas ("Is Libertarian Gary Johnson a Good Alternative to Trump or Clinton?" posted May 30), he cited Gary Johnson's "non-interventionist foreign policy," stating that "those same views will be appealing to many of the paleo-conservatives." However, while both paleo-conservatives and libertarians hold to an anti-interventionist foreign policy, the two differ significantly in specifically how they would carry it out.

Paleo-conservatives generally believe in the traditional American foreign policy as set forth in George Washington's Farewell Address and later further developed under the Monroe Doctrine. The defense of the United States was seen in defending the Western Hemisphere from outside intervention, and the United States refrained from interfering outside of it. Libertarians, on the other hand, oppose virtually any U.S. defenses outside the borders of the United States. This was starkly seen in the 1980s. During that decade, libertarians were opposed to aiding anti-communist freedom fighters in Central America. Paleo-conservatives saw the communist seizure of Nicaragua and their attempted seizure of El Salvador as Soviet intervention and, thus, something to be opposed.

Libertarians are also for cutting U.S. defenses to the bone, thus seriously weakening the United States. Paleo-conservatives are for maintaining a strong defense, in line with Washington's admonition, "To assure peace, let it be known that you are prepared for war."

Two classic books which advocate an anti-interventionist foreign policy from a paleo-conservative view are *A Foreign Policy for Americans* by Robert A. Taft and *A Republic, Not an Empire* by Patrick J. Buchanan.

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Selfishness and Politics

Our country has a rich and unique history of liberty, independence, opportunity and a continuing search for improvement.

But individual freedom is under attack by self-serving groups such as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderberg Group, various industries and financial institutions, and unfortunately some members of our own Congress and political elite, to name a few. Among these groups and others, to be fair, are individuals truly concerned about the future and welfare of our children and their descendants.

But we are besieged by the influences of powerful and wealthy individuals such as George Soros and Michael Bloomberg who feel that their vision of the future is the correct one, despite how it might infringe on the freedom of individuals. Should we give them kudos or reprimands?

We answer by asking, "What is the true meaning of freedom and how does it affect our well-being?"

How many people have you heard say, "I have freedom, I can do whatever I want. I can go out to dinner, go to a movie," or other such inane statements that really have nothing to do with real personal freedom? The freedoms outlined in our founding documents are the true freedoms of our society. How



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these freedoms are infringed upon should be our true concerns.

When groups try to remove portions of free speech, when government infringes on our ability to start and run a business, when taxes become absurd, when the unintended consequences of government regulation limit our constitutional freedoms, our ability to make a living, and our freedom of religion — under the false belief that this is for our own good — isn't it time to take up a cause and fight back? Can you really say, "This doesn't affect me"? n

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