

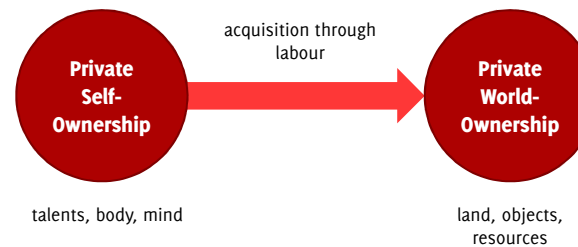
LEFT-LIBERTARIANISM

Session 1: Introduction

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Standard Libertarianism



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Left-Libertarianism



talents, body, mind

Common or collective world ownership

land, objects, resources

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Types of Ownership

- **Private** ownership (s.th. belongs to a particular person)
 - Your pen, laptop, ...
- **Collective** ownership (s.th. belongs to a group)
 - The family car, the kitchen in the flatshare, ...
 - Using requires **everyone's** consent
- **Common** ownership (s.th. belongs to everyone)
 - Parks, roads, ...
 - Using **does not require everyone's consent**, but you cannot destroy the resource, or make other people use of the resource worse, etc.

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Ways to Formulate a Proviso

- **Sufficiency libertarianism**—if you acquire external resources, you must ensure that “enough” is left for others
- **Equal share libertarianism**—if you acquire external resources, you must ensure that everyone has an equally valuable set of holdings left (at market rates)
- **Equal-opportunity libertarianism**—if you acquire external resources, you must ensure that everyone has an equal chance to lead a fulfilling life

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A Possible System

1. You own your own body, talents, etc.
2. You can acquire external possessions—e.g., land, wealth, power—which affects other people, but only if you fulfil the proviso that **everyone continues to have equal opportunities to have a fulfilling life**
3. Specifically, if you acquire external resources, you pay some tax T . T is chosen to maximize T .

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Left-Libertarianism

The diagram illustrates the spectrum of Left-Libertarianism. It is divided into two main sections by a vertical line. On the left, under 'INDIVIDUALIST MOTIVATION', there is a red circle labeled 'Private Self-Ownership' with 'talents, body, mind' listed below it. On the right, under 'EGALITARIAN MOTIVATION', there is a red box labeled 'Common or collective world ownership' with 'land, objects, resources' listed below it. A double-headed red arrow connects the two sections, indicating a relationship or tension between them.

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Is Left-Libertarianism Coherent?

- Left-libertarians draw a dividing line between “internal” and “external” resources
- Individualism applies to the former, egalitarianism to the latter
- Can this line be drawn in a convincing way?
- Even if it can be drawn, why approach the two issues in such a fundamentally different way?

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UTOPIANISM AND LIBERTARIANISM

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Problems

- Hayek: the State should only be engaged in setting a general framework for competition
 - Actual states do much more than that
 - „Crony capitalism“
- Nozick's Entitlement Theory: a distribution is just if it came about in a just way
 - The current distribution of holdings is clearly unjust
 - We would need to make radical changes
- Anarchism/Minarchism: most or all of the functions of the modern state are illegitimate
 - We would need to make radical changes to current states

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Reality vs Utopia

- Libertarianism in any form describes an ideally just society, but our actual societies are **very far away** from the ideal

1. Is this a problem for libertarianism?
2. How can libertarians have preferences/make political decisions for non-ideal circumstances?
3. If you're a libertarian, how should you try to implement libertarianism?