

Libertarians, what do you most wish progressives/statists would understand?



Dennis Pratt, 40 years studying peaceful, voluntary cooperation
Answered Apr 29

I have a few things I wish progressives realized, but this asks for “the most”, so I’ll just link to the others below.

I most wish that progressives would realize that using violence to impose their preferences on the unwilling is unethical, counterproductive, and bound to backfire.

Unethical

Many progressives try very hard to deny that rulers use the threat of violence to impose their laws, that ruler violence is no more righteous than interpersonal violence, and that interpersonal violence to impose one’s preferences is a terrible violation of your victim’s humanity.

- *Why do some people get so angry at libertarians?*



In a way, their resistance and cognitive dissonance is reassuring; it would be a far greater condemnation of humanity if progressives realized that they were doing something evil, and continued to do so simply because it was easier to get what they want.

- *Are libertarians or authoritarians more sociopathic?*

Counterproductive

When one spans a child, it stops the immediate behavior, and the spanker thinks, “How effective is my spanking!” However, the violence on the child causes larger short-term^[1] and long-term^[2] problems.



And so it is when progressives “spank” their neighbors with laws.

Sure, you might get your way on a specific issue, but you are only beating people to obey; you have not captured their hearts. You are getting at best grudging compliance to the letter of the law, but the negative impacts are far greater and more wide-ranging than you can imagine.

Progressives see this with War on Drugs, or War on Terror, but they don’t recognize this with their own Wars.

- *Why should scientific inquiry of IQ across ethnicities be permitted?*

Bound to Backfire

The election of Trump should have given progressives notice.

The more they centralize violent power over others, the more attractive that power is to people who mean harm, and the easier it is to capture that power.

Sure, it seems like a great idea while your team is controlling the violence. Everyone has to obey your every command or else your rulers will hurt them.

And the great part is that you don’t even have to use that violence that much. Most people just submit instead of being fined, beaten, caged, maimed or murdered. And so this seems like the perfect way to Rule the World and to make everything right and good and fine, as you’ve always dreamed it could be.

But in just one election cycle, that power that you centralized can be captured by someone whom you don’t like, or worse, who hates you.

Now all of a sudden, you will be the one who either obeys or dies.

The history of the 1900s shows that rulers kill twice as many of their own people than they'll kill foreign peoples in war. (250M killed by [democide](#) versus 125M killed by war.)



So why are you loading a gun that can so easily be pointed back at *you*?

- [What is the best lesson we take away from electing Trump as president?](#)

Our world will be a much more peaceful place when progressives join us to embrace *peaceful* methods to reach our goals.

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