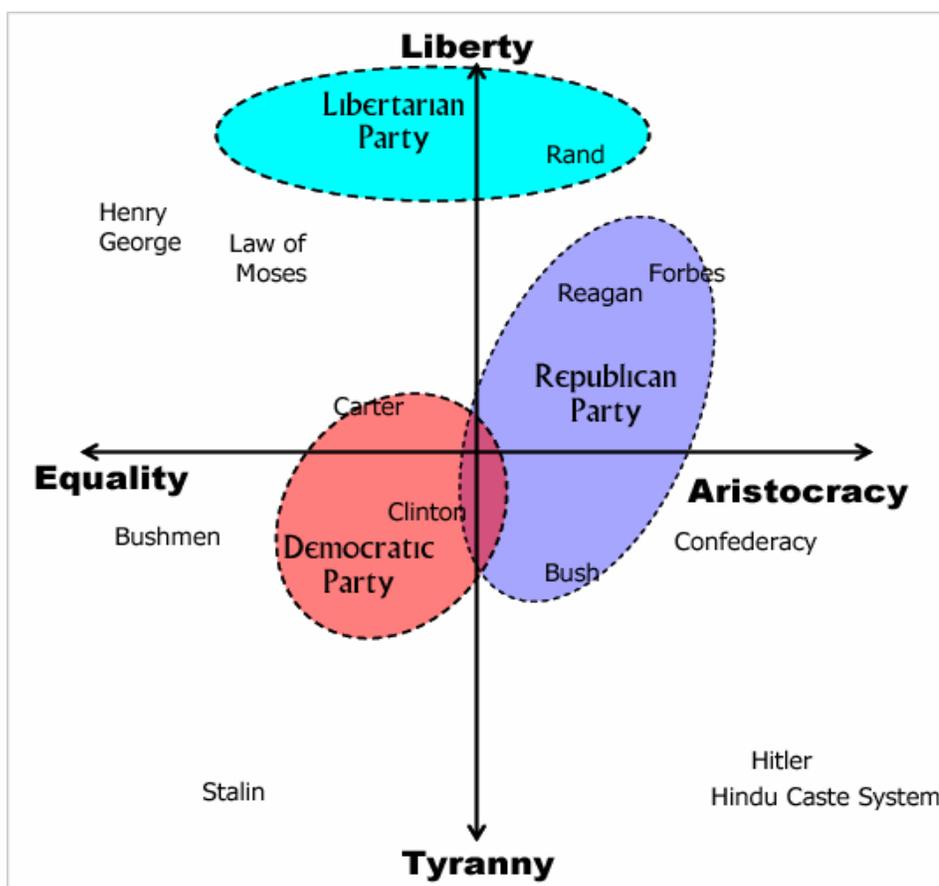


A New Political Paradigm

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Which is better: a big cuddly government taking care of people from cradle to grave, or a lean just government that allows rampant capitalism to produce so much wealth that some trickles down to the masses? The answer: **this is a false dichotomy!**

For too long, capitalism and socialism have been viewed as extremes of a left-right political spectrum. There are other possibilities. Consider the chart below:



A two-dimensional political map. Left and Right do not fully describe the political positions taken by various politicians and movements.

Note that the shaded areas represent the *politicians* of the respective parties. There are *members* of the three parties pictured who are in the upper left area that is empty.

The Untapped Opportunity: once we get out of the trap of one-dimensional thinking, we see the possibility of being in favor of more freedom *and* more equality! It is simply a matter of applying solid economics to the problems of poverty and figuring out why the wealth gap is so wide. (Hint: the super rich are heavily subsidized by the government.)

Is an upper left agenda possible? Is it possible to move in the direction of more freedom *and* more equality? The answer is a screaming **YES!** For more information, see the other side.

Freedom and **Equality**

They Go Together!

Equality Requires *Freedom*

It is better to be the commissar than the comrade. You cannot get much more unequal than the relationship between guard and prisoner in the re-education camp. The countries that tried to attain equality while scrapping freedom as “bourgeois” ended up with leaders with god-emperor like power – hardly the model of equality.

Power relationships are inherently unequal. To have true equality means spreading the power as well as the wealth. Individual liberty is the maximum dispersion of power, it is power over self and no one else.

Freedom Requires **Equality**

“Do what you are told or I will shoot you.” “Do what you are told or you starve.” What is the difference between these two statements? Not much. Extreme differences in wealth form a power relationship. To be desperate to provide food for oneself and family is to be unfree.

Huge inequalities in wealth require a powerful police force to protect the wealth. This causes attacks on freedom from the Right. If only a few people are capitalists, then there is little support for capitalism. This causes attacks on freedom from the Left.

Freedom is best served when there are more business owners and free agents, and fewer mega corporations and wage slaves.

Just What Is Freedom?

Freedom from the State	Freedom from the Boss	Freedom from Everyone Else
The policeman’s gun and the bureaucrat’s forms can be easily abused to rob the people of their rights. Keeping the State small is critical to maintaining freedom.	Many people receive more “do it or else” orders from their boss than they get directly from the State. To have the economy taken over by a few conglomerates is to lose freedom. The Left has a freedom component.	To be out in the wilderness with no one else in sight is to truly experience freedom. The environmental movement has a freedom component.

To find out more about how to fulfill all three visions of freedom, go to www.holisticpolitics.org. You will find detailed proposals and explanations there.