

## Who Cares?

### **You already believe in voluntary interactions.**

I'd be willing to bet that 95% of your life, or more, is made of purely voluntary interactions. You probably talk with other people peacefully, you trade voluntarily, and you get whatever it is you want from life without forcing other people to obey you, or without being forced to obey others. It's only when the State is concerned that this changes. Democracy makes us fight each other to get our laws passed before the "other side" does the same thing. Democracy divides society and makes for bad neighbours. Voluntary action makes for good neighbours who share interests instead of fighting for them.

### **What's the point of being a Voluntaryist?**

1. Voluntaryism is the only moral position, and the only way to free society. You should be a Voluntaryist, first and foremost, because you find these goals desirable.
2. Voluntaryism presents a model of morality, society, and the state which can help you make sense of what's happening around you.
3. Putting an emphasis on voluntaryism helps you understand your relationships with others (your parents, friends, loved ones), make sense of your own life, and take steps to make it better.

### **But we can't possibly eliminate the State!**

Any mass movement had to start somewhere. People must have said the same thing to those who tried to curtail the rights of kings, or tried to stop modern slavery. Both were long, arduous processes, spanning multiple generations. We are realists and do not expect the state to fall within our lifetime and be replaced by a voluntary Utopia. But we are also realist enough to seek to explain our ideal to others and build a community of like-minded individuals. We hope you will be one of them.

### **Major Voluntaryist sites on the Internet:**

[simplyanarchy.com](http://simplyanarchy.com) - A directory of Market Anarchist studies, papers and articles on a wide variety of topics.  
[marketanarchy.com](http://marketanarchy.com) - Links to Voluntaryism related sites.  
[strike-the-root.com](http://strike-the-root.com) - The biggest daily collection of news and articles about Market Anarchy on the Internet.  
[mises.org](http://mises.org) - A truly voluntary market explained.  
[thefreedomchannel.blogspot.com](http://thefreedomchannel.blogspot.com) - A large collection of freedom related Youtube videos and talks.



## Voluntaryism for Everyone

*Created as a voluntary, coordinated effort between Francois Tremblay, David Pearson, Andrew Greve, and Edward Greve.*

### **Have you ever noticed...**

...that the best experiences in your life come from voluntary interactions, like your personal relationships, buying things that you want, or participating in hobby groups? Have you also noticed that some of the worst experiences in your life come from things you are forced to do, generally by the government? What can be worse than going to the DMV, or paying your taxes, or getting sued?

Okay, I can think of a few things, but they're pretty exceptional.



## Some things that people believe (and maybe you do too)

### **"America is good"**

What exactly does it mean to say "America"? The piece of land? Land cannot be "good." Does it mean the people that live on it? Is everyone that lives on a piece of land "good"? Does it mean the government? Is that small group of elected incompetents "good"? Do their actions reflect justice or morality in any way, or do they reflect their own interests as rulers with all the guns?

### **"Everyone has a right to health care"**

Very true, but does that include the right to free health care? If so, then who pays for it? Should they be forced, at the point of a gun, to pay for that health care if they think their money should be used for other ends, or if they believe that the health care provided is inefficient or lacking? Does the government monopoly have any incentive in providing better solutions? Does any monopoly ever serve its customers right?

### **"Illegal immigration," "Undocumented migrants"**

An "immigrant" is someone who crosses a border. Isn't a border an arbitrary line? Why should it be illegal to cross one arbitrary line but not another? Whatever goal you believe is fulfilled by making "immigration" illegal, were borders made for that goal, or were they made to fulfill entirely different goals? What does it mean for someone to be "undocumented"? Is a person inferior to another, or has less rights than another, because he does not have proper "documents"? Who benefits from the enforcement of these "documents"?

I leave these questions open to you. Think about them for a minute before we continue.



## The Desert Island

### **Imagine this for a second...**

Imagine you have three people on a desert island, Joe, Steve and Mario. Their main activity is catching fish to eat. One day, because they are fed up of fishing, Joe and Steve decide to beat up Mario and take all his fish. Is that moral? What if they all take a vote, and Joe and Steve out-vote Mario? Is it moral, then, for Joe and Steve to beat him up and steal his fish? Or are Joe and Steve thieves?

### **A bigger island**

Now suppose that there are ten people on the island. One of the people on the island is handicapped and has a lot of trouble fishing. Instead of all pitching in

to help him, or perhaps giving him something else to do, they decide to beat up Mario and give the handi-capped guy all his fish. Is that moral?

### **Let's keep going...**

What if there are a hundred people on the island? Would any of the actions above still be moral? What if there are a thousand people on the island? Is it okay to beat up some of them and steal their fish? What if there are a million people on the island? Is there a point at which beating up people and stealing from them is moral?

### **What about today?**

Well, that's what the state does today with millions of people. Just because there are more people around does not make it right for politicians to steal from people and jail people for refusing to follow the laws they made up without anyone's consent.

### **Morality v Tastes**

For a moral principle to be true, it has to apply to everyone equally. Otherwise it's just a personal opinion or a preference. If I prefer chocolate ice cream, and you prefer strawberry ice cream, that's no biggie. We can disagree on tastes. But I'm immoral if I kill you, and you are immoral if you kill me. That's just a fact. We have to all work under the same rules. We're all equal, all human beings with the same rights.

### **What about the state?**

The state doesn't follow its own rules. The police and army are allowed to have guns, but they're allowed to tell us we can't have guns. But anyone can have need to defend himself or herself. We're not allowed to steal, but the state is allowed to steal from us with taxes. They don't call it stealing, obviously, but that's what it is. You would never agree to pay taxes if you could choose, at least not to finance the state as it is.

### **Then what?**

The state is immoral at its core. It's a system where some people make up the rules and others have to follow them at the point of a gun. We vote, but voting doesn't change the system, just who gets to exploit us. Voluntaryism is the only moral option we have.

### **Some questions?**

At this point, you may have some questions about what you've read so far. You're probably wondering how we could have all the things we have today without a state. But all the things we have today were made by people, not the state. Like, say, roads.

### **People make roads, not the state**

To make a road, they have to make a nice flat rock path, they have to lay down asphalt, and they have to roll it all out. People do this; people like you and me. And people who have customers to serve can manage them better than the state. We already have private roads right now and they are in better shape, and give better service, than state roads. The state took over and now people believe that we need the state to have roads. But we don't need the state, all we need is the resources we need and the people to use them. It's up to the person who believes in the state to prove that we need the state to do anything.



## **What is Voluntaryism?**

**Voluntaryism, or Market Anarchy, lets everyone live the way they want, according to their own values.**

Everyone has different value systems, and all that the state does is impose a monopolizing law on everyone, making everyone fight to try to be able to live a certain way. In a Voluntary society, everyone would be free to live the way they want. If you want to live in a commune, that's fine. If you want to be protected by a big corporation because it's cheaper, that's fine. If you want to live in a close-knit community, then do it.

### **We can solve our differences like adults.**

In statism, we delegate the state to pass laws (a.k.a. threaten) and arrest (a.k.a. kidnap) people for us. In a Voluntary society, we solve our differences like adults, by settling differences in advance, through arbitration or contract.

### **We can live in incredible prosperity.**

The state always crushes the poor, the least powerful, the small businesses (that generate 90% of jobs), in favour of the wealthy, the powerful, the big businesses. State violence is win-lose, and it's us, the "common people", who always lose. Prosperity is win-win, especially for us. The least powerful always have the most to win from freedom.

### **We can stop crime better**

Whatever agency you are part of would have an incentive to give you a real service, to prevent and solve crimes. People would get arrested because they break the agreements between us and our agencies, not because they go against the ruling class. We would have the power to decide what kind of laws we are ready to spend our resources on. Wasteful and destructive laws (like the War on Drugs or gun control) would fall by the wayside, and the important laws that protect us would still be supported, since people always want security.



## **Have some questions for us?**

### **Aren't you too optimistic about people?**

On the contrary, it is the statist who is too optimistic about people. He believes that you can give some guys all the guns and the power to make laws, and those guys will just serve "the people's" interests like good saps. As we can see, it does not and cannot work!

### **Has anarchy ever existed in history?**

Yes, there have been many anarchic societies, especially primitive ones. Remember that we started without states! Anarchy is the default. More modern examples include medieval Iceland and Ireland (which both lasted for more than 300 years with success), modern Somalia (for approximately 15 years, during which the infrastructure and wealth grew rapidly), the Old West (which was actually a pretty peaceful place, relatively speaking), Labrador, and others.

### **Wouldn't we just get another state eventually?**

If everyone still believes in the state, sure. That is why we need to make people understand that Market Anarchy is our only long-term chance for freedom. But if the ideal of freedom dominates, no. Only the state can create and maintain monopolies, and the state is the biggest monopoly of all.