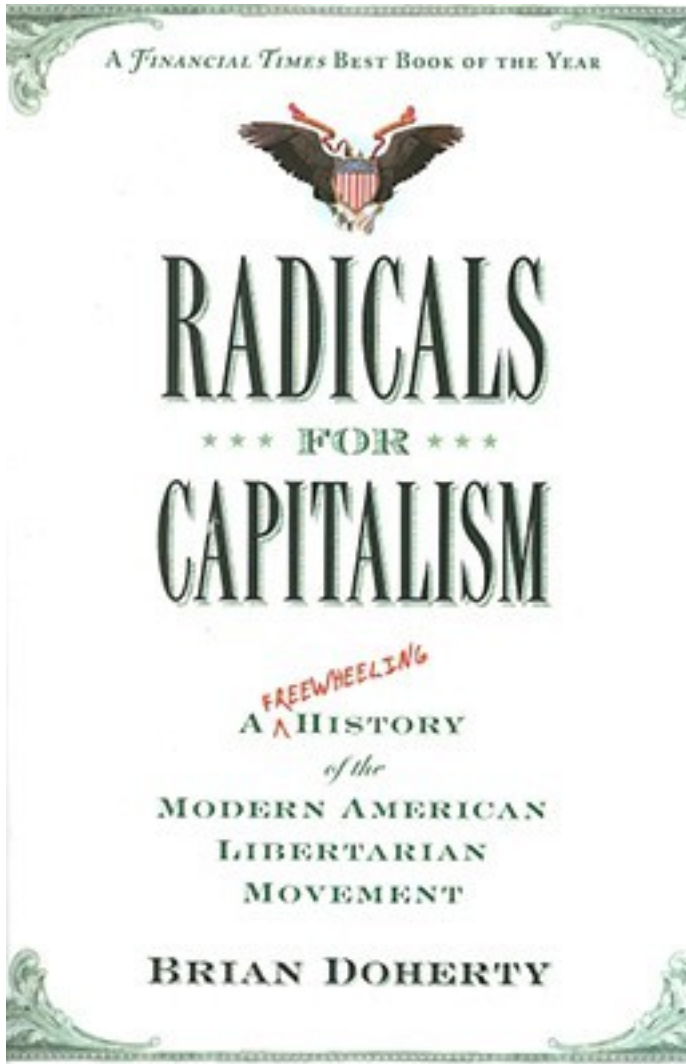

Brian Doherty

Radicals for Capitalism: A Freewheeling History of the Modern American Libertarian Movement



Title: Radicals for Capitalism: A Freewheeling History of the Modern American Libertarian Movement

Author: Brian Doherty

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Description

On Wall Street, in the culture of high tech, in American government: Libertarianism—the simple but radical idea that the only purpose of government is to protect its citizens and their property against direct violence and threat— has become an extremely influential strain of thought. But while many books talk about libertarian ideas, none until now has explored the history of this uniquely American movement—where and who it came from, how it evolved, and what impact it has had on our country. In this revelatory book, based on original research and interviews with more than 100 key sources, Brian Doherty traces the evolution of the movement through the unconventional life stories of its most influential leaders— Ludwig von Mises, F.A. Hayek, Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard, and Milton Friedman—and through the personal battles, character flaws, love affairs, and historical events that altered its course. And by doing so, he provides a fascinating new perspective on American history—from the New Deal through the culture wars of the 1960s to today's most divisive political issues. Neither an exposé nor a political polemic, this entertaining historical narrative will enlighten anyone interested in American politics.

Insightful reviews

G. Branden: Saw this at Borders last year and got sucked in. I must have read 30 pages (from various chapters) before deciding I'd wait for the paperback but that it was otherwise a must-read. My political roots lie in "right-libertarianism" (i.e., get the government, and only the government, off our backs and everything else will work itself out), though that's not exactly where I am now. I am already familiar with many of the big names in the U.S. libertarian movement, though sometimes it's *only* the name I'm really familiar with, and no more. Time to correct that ignorance.

I will be reading this as a companion/counterpart to [White Protestant Nation](#) , which chronicles the conservative movement over roughly the same period (~1920s to the present). That book is more sober in tone but no less interesting. Conservatives and right-libertarians are the groups I always lock horns with in political arguments, so I reckon it pays to know them better.

I might have also placed this on my "know-your-enemy" shelf but I decided against it. If I made the walk from right- to left-libertarianism, I reckon others can be swayed to do the same.

Fred R: It is tempting to suggest that libertarianism is a philosophy only possible in a world where everyone has the personality and cultural values of a libertarian, but on second thought, a society of adolescent ectomorphic ideologues does not sound very attractive. That said, the world is a better place for having libertarians around.

This history is not really what I wanted. It was too close-up in focus, too interested in personality and anecdote. As libertarians tend to have unattractive (Ayn Rand) or superficial (Milton Friedman) personalities, this doesn't make for great reading. I would prefer a more serious discussion of libertarianism's cultural (as opposed to ideological) roots in Manchester liberalism and the American frontier, etc. The modern libertarian movement was born after the New Deal, and a discussion of how the New Deal and the Depression set the conditions for, and gave birth

to, this new libertarianism would also be appreciated. Possibly this other book I've described exists, so maybe I should just go read that.

Kathleen O'Neal: With this book, Brian Doherty has written the definitive history of the libertarian movement and doesn't shy away from exposing its excesses (although Doherty also remains obviously wedded to the movement's ideas). Anyone that truly wants to understand the libertarian movement in all of its diversity and complexity needs to read this book.

Non: A chronological background of the fashionable libertarian movement, noting key parts together with Ludwig Von Mises, Ayn Rand, Milton Friedman, Friedrich A. Hayek and Murray Rothbard.

Emilie: it is a thick tome in regards to the sunrise of Libertarianism and what the social gathering really stands for. it truly is tricky to learn much in a single sitting since it is dry and entire of facts, yet i locate it very informative. i am comfortable my dad has permit me borrow it!

Sam: in case you are in any respect drawn to "the historical past of the trendy American libertarian movement," this is often the booklet to read.

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