Libertarianism

# Libertarianism: political philosophy stemming from liberalism. It advocates individualism as a natural right and as the supreme value.



**Main ideologies :**

* Indivudalism
* Natural right to property
* Free education
* Limitation of government powers
* No use of force (except for self-defense)
* Remove taxes

**Historical background** :

* Developed in the mid-20th thanks to Locke and Hayek
* Libertarian Party founded in Colorado (1971)
* Ranked as the 3rd largest political party in the USA (huge place of this ideologie in the USA)

Slogan: “The Party of principles”

**Historical importance of libertarianism in the US:**

* 18th century: wave of libertarianism in North America and Europe
* US Declaration of Independence (1976): inspired by libertarianism
* “It is the right of people alter or abolish” the government
* US Constitution inspired by libertarianism too in terms of:
* Limitation of government’s power
* Rule of law
* Limitation of economic intervention …
* Evolution of the Constitution in another way ?

**Debate and criticism :**

* Under-regulated markets lead to a host of socially undesirable outcomes (increasing [poverty](https://www.britannica.com/topic/poverty) and [disparities of wealth and income](https://www.britannica.com/topic/distribution-of-wealth-and-income))
* Libertarian conception of individual freedom is unrealistic: it fails to recognize forms of nonviolent coercion

**The importance of libertarianism today:**

* libertarianism as rejection of the "big state"
* big state:
* a State that exercises significant control over the privacy and individual freedoms of its citizens
* a State whose government is interfering excessively in individuals’ lives and businesses.
* libertarianism as a growing distrust of the "deep state"
* deep state: political theory that suggests that there is a permanent and hidden power structure within a government (senior officials, military, elites) that exerts significant influence on government policy and decisions.