

Authors' Note

This book should read like a “duh, no-s**t” manifesto to our kids (raised in our house, as they were). It is not intended as a substitute for actual research and investigation. Any reader should listen, read and carefully consider a variety of sources of news and opinion before adopting a position. Study history, research the back-story. Look for bias. Come to your own conclusions, and know that we accept you regardless of how wrong you are. Our worldview allows for coexistence with – not the eradication of – stupid opinions.

Mom & Dad 101: Our Radical Worldview

by

Mae Bee & I.M. Wright

Written by Mae Bee & I.M.Wright
Published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
Cover Image by Nate Shepard (public domain)
<https://pixabay.com>



Table of Contents

Free to Speak your mind	4
Words Worth Knowing	5
Parties Kinda Suck	9
Left/Right Bullshit	11
What's the Difference?	15
Class Dismissed!	19

To our children,

Believe it or not, your parents have a logical worldview. While you've literally known us forever (and have a pretty good idea how we think), we've never really tried to explain our political perspective to you in a coherent fashion. We should, so here goes...

THESE ARE WACKY TIMES – anger, despair, threats, misinformation, protests, panic, media-bias and outright lies – politics-as-usual but exaggerated in the digital age. Everyone demands your support. Our advice boils down to this: always be skeptical, always be tolerant, and always be a champion of the unique liberty you have in this country.

“Political correctness is America’s newest form of intolerance, and it is especially pernicious because it comes disguised as tolerance. It presents itself as fairness, yet attempts to restrict and control people’s language with strict codes and rigid rules.”

George Carlin

REGARDING DISCOURSE

It's easy to take for granted the fact that we can express our opinions without fear of reprisal. Ours is the only country that constitutionally protects an individual's right to free speech. Without this right, we're not truly free. So, watch out.

- * ***Beware of anyone who shouts-down, censors, or mandates the end of debate.*** If debate and disagreement are silenced (through rules, legislation, political-correctness, shame, or intimidation), someone or some organization gains power. Don't allow it. If you don't like what someone is saying, ignore it, change the channel, or walk away. Or engage and debate... exchange ideas, change minds, learn, reconsider – but most importantly – be ready to agree-to-disagree. That's real tolerance. Do not seek to shutdown an opposing point-of-view, or you invite the same to be done to you and your ideas.
- * ***Don't mistake angry protests and civil-unrest for debate.*** In our free society, we have the ability to do and say what we want as long as we respect the safety, privacy and property of others. Everybody needs to just behave like their mom is watching.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

1st Amendment to the United States Constitution

A FEW KEY WORDS WORTH DEFINING

skeptic¹:

- A. a person who questions the validity, authenticity, or truth of something purporting to be factual.*
- B. a person who maintains a doubting attitude, as toward values, plans, or the character of others.*

It's dangerous to take sides on any issue before you know the full-story or the validity of the supporting data. Until we do a deeper review of a subject, we regard every headline we read, every sound-bite we hear (on radio, TV or the web), any speech or conversation – any report at all – as biased propaganda.

propaganda: *ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause.*²

To detect it, we also consider the source. We look for connections, conflicts of interest – any reason for bias. We dismiss short, simple or inflammatory reports that elicit emotion or a quick and visceral response. Propaganda is used to push us into one outraged camp or another.

So, your parents don't easily accept the narratives or popular conclusions presented by the media or in casual conversation. We might get around to agreeing once we know the real backstory. We might not. We're always skeptical.

¹ *Dictionary.com*, s.v. "skeptic," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/skeptic>

² *Merriam-Webster* s.v. "propaganda," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/propaganda>

activism: *a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue.*³

Activism is intolerance manifested. Intolerance of reasoned debate. Intolerance of the status quo. Intolerance of anyone who doesn't agree with the current cause célèbre or agenda. Activists are outraged, demand action, and are perfectly fine shutting-down debate and forcing their opinion. Whether activist or politician, it's the same... and it ain't the way this unique country is supposed to work. What is tolerance if you don't allow for divergent opinion?

tolerance: *A willingness to accept that others have feelings, habits, or beliefs that are different from your own.*⁴

The word tolerance is being hijacked to mean something beyond accepting: it now means *agreeing* and *adopting*. Even renouncing your beliefs and ridiculing any opposing viewpoint is expected. These are the guys that want to shutdown debate, disrupt traffic, interrupt meetings, and riot — they are trying to force outcomes that align with their beliefs. They want your tolerance of their POV, but have zero tolerance for yours.

Your mom and dad are extremely tolerant, open and liberal in the true sense. In the same way the word “tolerant” is currently being redefined, the word liberal was absconded years ago to suit a particular political agenda.

³ Merriam-Webster s.v. “activism” accessed June 11, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/activist>

⁴ Merriam-Webster s.v. “tolerance,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tolerance>

liberal (classical definition): believes protecting and enhancing the freedom of the individual to be the central problem of politics... they also recognize that government itself can pose a threat to liberty... government is at best “a necessary evil.” Laws, judges, and police are needed to secure the individual’s life and liberty, but their coercive power may also be turned against him.⁵

liberal (modern definition): believes the legitimate role of the government includes addressing economic and social issues. Under social liberalism, the good of the community is viewed as harmonious with the freedom of the individual.⁶

The two philosophies produce radically different economic policies. Classical liberals favor reduced regulatory burdens, even-taxation, low tax burdens, low (or no) tariffs, resulting in less government spending and smaller government. Modern liberals push for progressive taxation (the more you make, the larger percentage of your income they want), high taxes on the wealthy, heavy regulations on business, high minimum wage laws, and putting-up barriers on international trade. Classical liberal values are what we champion.

conservative: a political and social philosophy that promotes retaining traditional social institutions in the context of culture and civilization. Some conservatives seek to preserve things as they are, emphasizing stability and continuity, while others, called reactionaries, oppose modernism and seek a return to “the way things were.”⁷

We personally have more in common with conservatives than we do with modern liberals, because – as a radical young country based upon the classical liberal ideal of individual liberty – the conservative-drive to return to “the way things were” means dialing-back government and respecting individual liberty.

Regarding conservatism: it means something different in other countries, sometimes the exact opposite of what it means here. If the history of a particular country is communist or socialist, right-wing/conservatism means reactionary and promoting a return to, or strengthening of, that original

⁵ *Encyclopedia Britannica* s.v. “liberalism,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.britannica.com/topic/liberalism>

⁶ *Wikipedia* s.v. “social liberalism,” accessed May 30, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_liberalism

⁷ *Wikipedia* s.v. “conservatism,” accessed May 30, 2016, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservatism>

system. If you're talking US politics, right-wing means leaning to the original founding documents and ideals of our country (liberty). Context is everything, so beware textbooks and news-reports that use these words to describe politics around the world.

Finally, ponder this question. Which of the above philosophies believes people are inherently good: one that supports individual liberty, or the one that favors rules and regulations? This distinction drives us.

REGARDING OUR (LACK OF) POLITICAL AFFILIATION

We are not Republicans. While we like much of their platform, their actions over the years prove them to be disingenuous.

We are definitely not Democrats. They are divisive and champion an agenda that tramples the individual rights that we hold dear.

We vote for the candidates that are most likely to protect liberty and individual freedom, regardless of party affiliation. And we vote against any laws that 1) restrict individual choice or infringe on property-rights, 2) expand government in any way, or 3) seek funding for pet-projects or to further a particular group's agenda.

If you need to label us, we're "small L" libertarians, meaning we align with the ideals – but are not tied to – the Libertarian Party. We look for libertarian qualities in every candidate or law up for consideration.

- We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live. We want a system that encourages all people to choose what they want from life; that lets them live, love, work, play, and dream their own way.
- We believe each individual is unique. We want a system that respects the individual and encourages us to discover the best within ourselves and develop our full potential.
- Our approach to politics is based on the principle of self-ownership. Every individual has the right to control his or her own body, action, speech, and property. Government's only role is to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.
- We are tolerant. Live and let live. Agree to disagree.
- Regarding government, we believe strongly that less-is-more. Protect the country. Ensure freedom of commerce and movement. Provide

roads, water. Punish those who steal, cheat, harm people or break things (via trial by peers). Prevent business monopolies.

- ☑ We believe economic freedom = innovation. The government cannot mandate progress. It can only protect established industry from “unfair” competition through regulation, thus stifling innovation (cronyism).

We are 100% against crony-capitalism (where lawmakers and business collude to craft legislation that creates unfair advantage and profits for specific entities). Both Republicans and Democrats are practitioners of crony-capitalism, often for personal gain, but *always* corrupting our free-market economy. They use preference and penalty. They coerce. They use the tools of authoritarian control.

In America, power is supposed to flow *up*: local communities instructing their counties, counties informing their state, and each state with a voice in the decisions made at the federal level. It was never supposed to be a top-down system, with power coming *down* on us from Washington DC. So, we’re obviously big supporters of states’ rights.

What else turns our crank? Term-limits. Legal immigration. Voter-ID laws. We are supporters of honest equal rights (meaning zero favoritism for any group). We hope someday to have the chance to vote to make every lawmaker (and their family) subject to every law they pass before they try them on us. That would be awesome.

To us, the rights of the individual are paramount. The idea that a “common good” out-weighs the rights of an individual is a false premise. Think about it. Rich or poor, black or white, gay or straight. Same rules, *no* favoritism. If you support and empower all individuals equally, you’ve supported the common good. There are plenty of laws that keep us from hurting or taking advantage of each other. Respect for the individual is the true basis of our unique freedom.

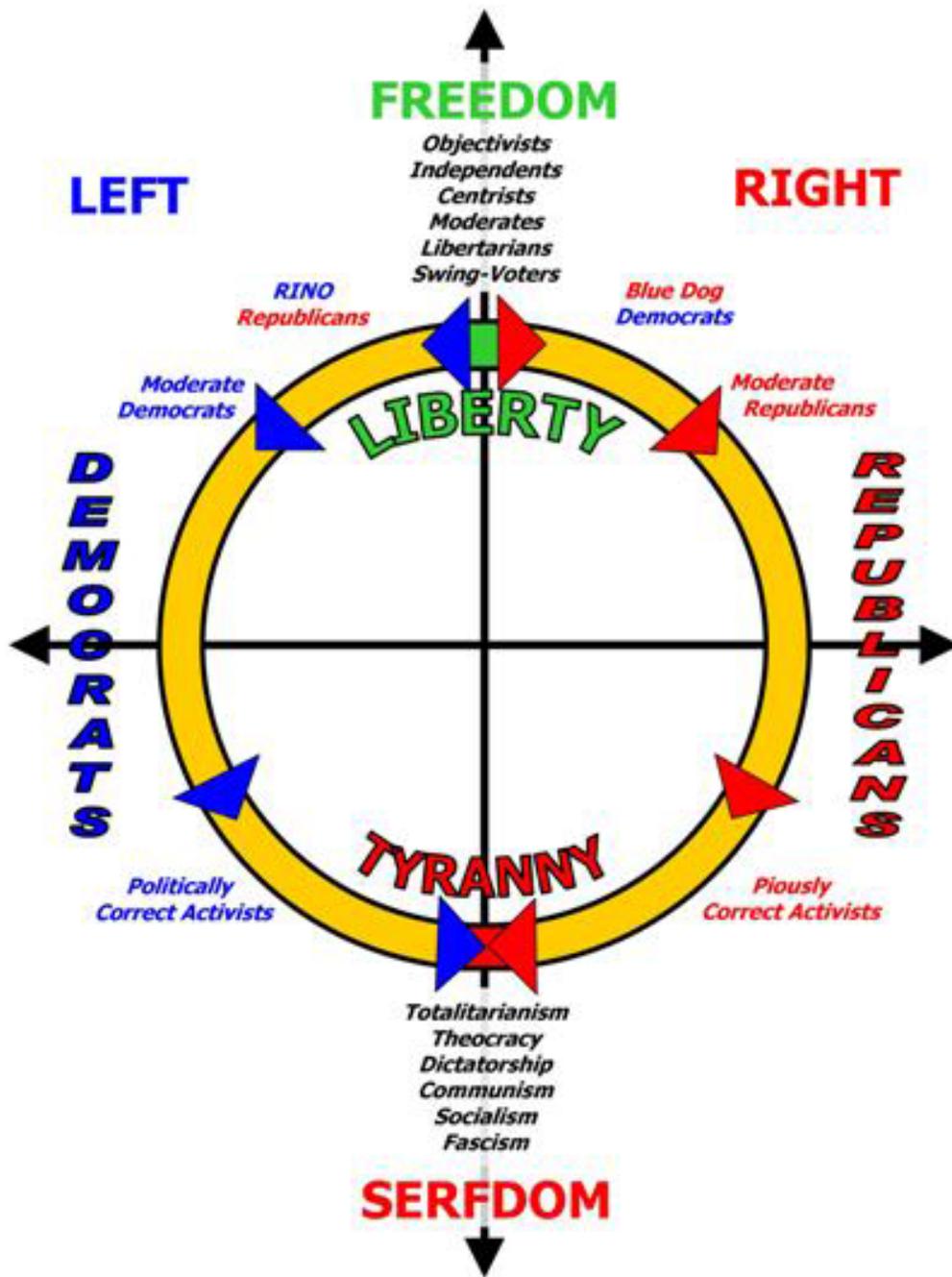
THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

What about the idea of Left and Right? Isn't that just liberal and conservative? For simpletons, yes. But we've already put liberals in multiple camps, so how can this even work?

<—**Left** | **Right**—>

<—**Liberal**—**Moderate**—**Conservative**—>

Don't buy it. Few things in life are as simple as that. Instead of a single straight-line, consider this circle:



⁸ Image source: <http://www.thoughtsaloud.com/essays/the-political-spectrum>. Used by permission.

Your parents are pro-liberty and anti-tyranny. We believe that, in their hearts, most people are like us, but they are mesmerized by the concept of a “common good” and anxious for quick, feel-good solutions. They actually think that there are instances when good-intentions should trump individual freedom and autonomy. Limiting choice – in order to force an approved behavior or outcome – is reasonable to people with this collectivist mind-set. Their tools are rules, regulations, laws and penalties, and they use them to force people to align with their point-of-view. They think they are “doing good,” but they’re not. They are installing an elite class of bureaucratic overlord. Incremental tyranny.

Now, if someone assumes a role of oversight or enforcement of their do-gooder initiatives, they are not like us at all. They are activists. They will use familiar feel-good language to get support of a confused populous, but don’t consider them benign when they take an active(ist) role. By our estimation, activists are self-important, overzealous nut-jobs. They employ the authoritarian control-tactics of censorship and coercion to force their beliefs on the un-washed masses whenever possible. They have made a morality-call and have decided what “good” is. Activists typically believe that “the ends justify the means” when forwarding their agenda. They don’t give up because they are certain they are right. They’re loud and strident. They are bullies. And activists absolutely love to go “pro” by joining councils, boards, and agencies, becoming rule-makers and politicians. Don’t buy their bullshit or elect them. Activist tactics are antithetical to freedom. Pay attention to their proposed rules, and recognize the intended erosion of your individual liberties. Activists are harmless *only* if we first guarantee every individual’s unalienable right to Life, Liberty and pursuit of Happiness.

I guess we’re full-on anti-activists. Our mantra is “live and let live” – convince people of your perspective if you can, but don’t force it. We expect the same courtesy in return from folks pushing their own crappy ideas. Tolerance doesn’t work if it’s only a one-way street.

Per the circle-diagram, the Democrats and Republicans are shown as equidistant on the journey away from freedom towards tyranny. (Where they actually sit on the arc is up for debate, but the concept is solid.). Both parties selectively champion and claim ownership of causes that energize the largest voting-contingent possible. It's strategic, and it's a lowest common denominator game they're playing: highlighting differences, provoking fear, igniting passion and villainizing opposition. Both parties are also notorious for steam-rolling their constituency. They translate any win into a mandate to implement their agenda unilaterally, without ever achieving a solid consensus. As a politician, the current trend is to only represent the people who vote for them, when in fact they represent *ALL* of their constituents once in office. This cliquey mentality is core to the team sport of party politics. Groups kinda suck like that – they are driven to overpower other groups, to win at any cost. Mindless team loyalty is not required, but certainly cultivated by the political parties. Go, team, go!

This brings us to an interesting place. Do you have to join a group and adopt everything that group believes? Are there really only Republicans and Democrats? Are all Republicans conservative? Are all Democrats liberal? Of course not, but these assumptions are intentionally perpetuated in order to rally the intellectually lazy. Dialog is inconvenient and time-consuming. Common ground should be avoided if you want to set yourself apart from the other team, right? We think the Republican and Democrat parties are imploding because they cannot relate to an electorate that is more complex than the two arbitrary types of voter their research told them to chase 40+ years ago. A lot of people are fed-up with being spoon-fed, pre-packaged, party-branded pabulum by elitists.

So party-wise, unless it's a kegger with a killer band, we suggest you simply avoid.

“Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy.”

Winston Churchill

REGARDING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Surprise! We are not a simple democracy. We are a constitutional republic. (*“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands...”*)

constitution: *the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.*⁹ The U.S Constitution and its amendments define the limited power of government and the protected rights of its citizenry.

republic: *a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law.*¹⁰

The concept of constitutional republic is lost (ignored) in conversation today. Democracy is a great word. It sounds like freedom, but it means a simple-majority rules. Should 51% be able to force their opinions on 49%? If so, how is the individual represented? How are minority groups or opinions protected if the majority want to take advantage? Simple democracy sounds great until you're in the minority. (Three guys and a girl – “let's vote to decide if rape is ok!”) It's mob rules.

Individuals and groups need *equal* representation; they need protection from mob-override. By nature, mobs are bullies, and their unfocused passion is easy for the powerful to inflame and manipulate. But if you advocate for

⁹ Merriam-Webster s.v. “constitution,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/constitution>

¹⁰ Merriam-Webster s.v. “republic,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/republic>

the individual, you protect him from the group. By extension, if you protect the “small,” the “big” can’t force their advantage. If you advocate for the state, the federal government is held in check. We abhor any push by one group to overpower another. We are sickened by bullying or favoritism of groups large or small.

Our country is the first (and only one) founded upon the concept of putting the “small” in charge of the “big”, the individual over the group, and the state on equal footing with the federal government. Being a republic helps diffuse mob rule tendencies.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

10th Amendment to the United States Constitution

democracy: *a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.*¹¹ *Rule of the majority.*

socialism: *a way of organizing a society in which major industries are owned and controlled by the government rather than by individual people and companies.*¹²

Democratic-Socialism *It’s New & Improved!* Ugh. Same old same old. It’s just word-games – socialism re-branded. At least some democrats are finally admitting they’ve become socialists. Socialism been tried and failed many times throughout history (and is what the majority of all immigrants are fleeing today). Shifting all power to government creates a huge, omnipotent machine staffed with thousands of unelected bureaucrats who decide who should receive administrative favor. Socialism puts in place arbitrary rules and an elite hierarchy to control commerce, price, occupation, and income.

¹¹ Merriam-Webster s.v. “democracy,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/democracy>

¹² Merriam-Webster s.v. “socialism,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socialism>

Democratic-Socialists powered Russia's communist revolution in the early 1900s. You'll recognize their techniques: Villainize success. Foment unrest. Occupy. Riot. They just had a different label back then.

Bolshevik: *a member of the extremist wing of the Russian Social Democratic party that seized power in Russia by the Revolution of November 1917¹³ with a doctrine of advocating violent overthrow of capitalism. Russian communism.*¹⁴

Isn't this what's being proposed and acted-out by the leftists and protesters today? Mob-rules, tear-the-house-down, give all control to a socialist-state to take care of us... let's be poor together and hope there aren't any bad-guys in power when we're done. Sheesh. History is trying its darndest to repeat itself. People forget, especially when they're warm and fat – comfortable espousing failed economic theories that they're sure will work this time, because their intentions are so good. Stupid. Or evil. Not sure the delineation matters.

fascism: *a way of organizing a society in which a government, ruled by a dictator, controls the lives of the people and in which people are not allowed to disagree with the government.*¹⁵ *As an economic system, fascism is **socialism** with a capitalist veneer. The word derives from fasces, the Roman symbol of collectivism and power: a tied bundle of rods with a protruding ax. In its day (the 1920s and 1930s), fascism was seen as the happy medium between boom-and-bust-prone liberal capitalism, and revolutionary Marxism with its violent and socially divisive persecution of the bourgeoisie.*¹⁶ (Nazi)

communism: *a way of organizing a society in which the government owns the things that are used to make and transport products (such as land, oil, factories, ships, etc.) and there is no privately owned property.*¹⁷ *Communism was built upon MARXISM, the political, economic, and social theories of Karl Marx including the belief that the struggle between social classes is a major force in history and that there*

¹³ Merriam-Webster s.v. "Bolshevik," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Bolshevik>

¹⁴ Merriam-Webster s.v. "bolshevism," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bolshevism>

¹⁵ Merriam-Webster s.v. "fascism," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fascism>

¹⁶ Sheldon Richmond, ed., "Fascism," *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*, accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Fascism.html>

¹⁷ Merriam-Webster s.v. "communism," accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/communism>

should eventually be a society in which there are no classes.¹⁸ (China's cultural revolution).

progressivism: *a movement against the individualism of the Founding [principles]. Instead of a government that protects natural rights through limited, decentralized powers, they envision an expansive government, a “living” and evolving Constitution, and the rule of “experts” in nationally centralized administrative agencies.¹⁹ In the early 1900s, progressives paved the way for modern liberalism and politics, and their ideas are the mainstay of today’s liberalism.*

capitalism: *an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market.²⁰*

*“The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings.
The inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.”*

Winston Churchill

¹⁸ Merriam-Webster s.v. “Marxism,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Marxism>

¹⁹ Heritage Foundation, “*Progressivism and Liberalism: Who Were the Progressives? What Did they Believe?*” accessed June 4, 2016, <http://www.heritage.org/initiatives/first-principles/progressivism-and-liberalism>

²⁰ Merriam-Webster s.v. “capitalism,” accessed May 30, 2016, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/capitalism>

IN CONCLUSION

That's a good start. None of this is meant to tell you what to think, but we do feel that with insights into our worldview, you're better equipped to decode pop culture and resist groupthink. We hope to make you skeptical of everyone, us included. Do your own research; come to your own conclusions. Be miserly with your support of anyone's agenda. And don't be lazy and get duped.

Love,

Dad & Mom

Mae Bee I.M. Wright, maybe I'm not. Regardless, I think we make a pretty solid case for our libertarian worldview. We live and breathe it in rural southwest Washington where we're raising three whip-smart, clear-headed kids who currently have the challenge of aligning what they learned at school with what they hear at home.

As kids become young adults, they look for answers. Libertarianism makes a lot of sense and can be an excellent political chaos decoder. It's fair, logical, radical... even cool. 'Should be an easy sell, right?

We hope this letter to our children is useful to other liberty-minded parents wanting to have similar conversations with their kids.

Visit us on the web:

<http://rationalnoise.com/eBook>

<http://www.facebook.com/libertariandad>