

ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

Marshall Fritz, October 1985
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The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit educational organization. It was founded in 1985 in Fresno, California by the former executive director of the Libertarian Party of California, Marshall Fritz.

The purpose of the Advocates is to expand the understanding and acceptance of self-government. While other organizations reach academic opinion leaders, the Advocates reach lay opinion leaders by using face-to-face meetings.

Lay opinion leaders include business people, religious leaders, teachers, celebrities, and those who work in the communications industries.

DEFINITION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Self-government has had many labels, including: liberty, freedom, classical liberalism, complete free enterprise, holistic liberation, libertarianism and laissez-faire capitalism.

Whatever the label, self-government is each individual governing his or her own life in keeping with the basic principles of civilization. Writer Richard Maybury succinctly summarizes the basic principles:

1. Do all you have agreed to do
2. Do not encroach on other people or their property

Further, the subtle essence of self-government is that these two basic precepts apply not only when we act as individuals, but also when we associate in commercial and political mechanisms.

That is, if an action is wrong for a person to do as an individual, it is wrong even when done by a group such as a gang, partnership, corporation or government.

BENEFITS OF "SELF-GOVERNMENT"

As self-government replaces political government, there is a big jump in individual choice and individual responsibility. This jump is important because it starts a chain of events which results in greatly improved human well-being.

First, the jump in choice and responsibility brings an increase in tolerance. And only by such an increase of tolerance can we achieve the level of local and international harmony necessary to go beyond war and social injustice.

Second, the jump in choice and responsibility brings an increase in productivity. Only by increasing productivity on a widespread basis can we achieve the abundance necessary to rid the world of privation.

In short, if we want things to get better for ourselves, our families and our fellow human beings, we must increase the understanding and acceptance of self-government among all people.

What do libertarians say about the Advocates ?

Some groups educate libertarians; others organize libertarians; the Advocates create libertarians.
Steve Alexander, California

The Advocates is what the movement needs -- a grass roots organization, enthusiastically promoted, which will DISCOVER and NURTURE new libertarians. Peter Breggin, Maryland

Marshall may ultimately be remembered most as the speaker who synthesized libertarian ideas and made them more coherent to non-libertarians.
Joseph Fuhrig, California