

Who Is a Libertarian? first appeared in the May 1955 issue of *Ideas on Liberty*. At that time Dean Russell was, and had been for several years, a resident member of the senior staff of the Foundation for Economic Education. He continues to serve as a consultant and contributor.

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Who is a *Libertarian*?

DEAN RUSSELL

THOSE OF US who favor individual freedom with personal responsibility have been unable to agree upon a generally acceptable name for ourselves and our philosophy of liberty. This would be relatively unimportant except for the fact that the opposition will call us by some name, even though we might not desire to be identified by any name at all. Since this is so, we might better select a name with some logic instead of permitting the opposition to saddle us with an epithet.

Some of us call ourselves "individualists," but others point out that the opposition often uses that word to describe a heartless person who doesn't care about the problems and aspirations of other people.

Some of us call ourselves "conservatives," but that term describes many persons who base their approval of an institution more on its age than on its inherent worth.