

Essays on Liberty

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The first volume (37 selections, 308 pages) was published in 1952. Subsequent volumes, of 448 pages each, have appeared at the rate of one a year since 1954. Volume VIII, released in October 1961, includes selections from *The Freeman* and other Foundation releases during the year ended June 30, 1961. Each volume is thoroughly indexed.

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The Law

By FREDERIC BASTIAT

Frederic Bastiat (1801-1850) was opposed to public waste and government interference. Both by his writings and by his action as a politician, he waged unceasing war against bureaucracy, protectionism, and socialism. His view was that the various human impulses and activities would, under free competition and an honest and peaceful government, result in steady progress and increasing prosperity and happiness. He was the opponent of socialism, having in this respect no equal among the economic journalists and politicians of France.

Bastiat's small classic, *The Law*, written in 1850, has been translated into modern English by Dean Russell. This remarkable analysis of the relation between the state and the people reads as though it had been written only yesterday instead of more than a century ago. "Law," Bastiat maintains, "is solely the organization of the individual right of self-defense which existed before law was formalized. Law is justice." But the law has been perverted, and applied to annihilating the justice it was supposed to maintain. Protectionism, socialism, and communism are all forms of legalized plunder.



76 pages, 1950. \$1.00 paper, \$1.75 cloth.