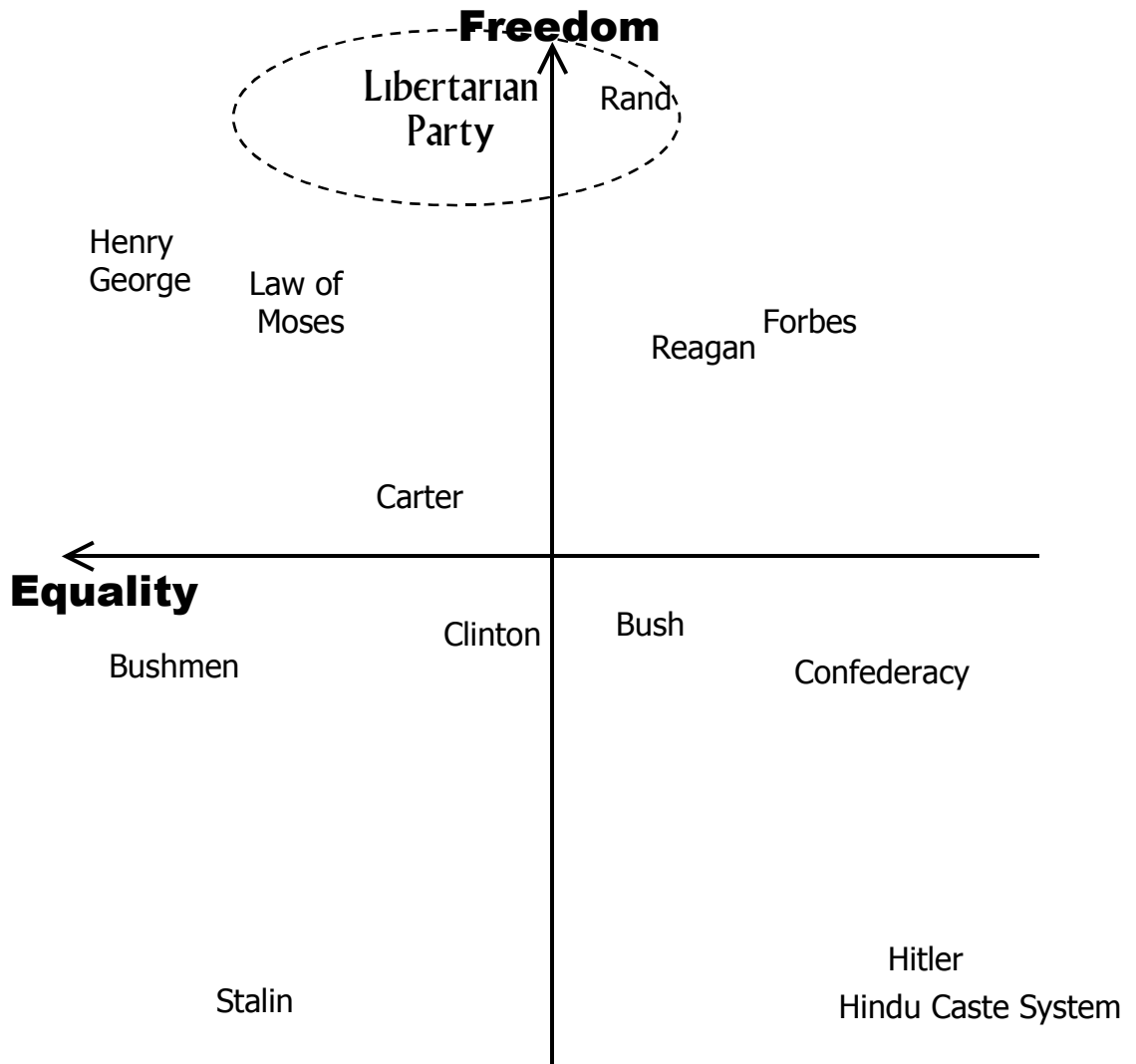


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## Introducing: "The Milsted Chart"

Election Day draws nigh, and like many in this game I am suffering from fatigue and megalomania. So I am going to keep this one short and pretentious.

I present you with:



**The Milsted Chart.** That’s right, I have the temerity to challenge the fundamental paradigm with which we Libertarians have been defining ourselves for that past couple of decades and replace it with one with my name on it. All those offended please flame away and let me know that someone is reading this column.

Besides being an exercise in blatant self-promotion, the Milsted Chart can serve as a powerful tool to build up the Libertarian Party in our quest for world liberation. (Hmmm, “tools for world liberation,” has a nice ring to it...) As mentioned in previous essays, the key to winning votes in a 3-way contest is to differentiate our candidates from both the Democratic and Republican candidates without being too far from the current center; that is, to triangulate and court the votes of those who care little between the Democrat and the Republican.

Triangulating by the Nolan Chart means to emphasize the “personal freedom” aspects of our platform: sex, drugs and foul speech. That is, our economic stances already differentiate us from the authoritarian/liberal Democrats while the personal freedom stances serve to keep us from looking like extra strength Republicans.

And therein lies the problem: the Republicans see us as simply extreme conservatives who want to do drugs. Being for drug legalization is one thing, but make it a core part of our market positioning? (Hmmm, The Libertine Party – “The Party of Pot™ “ Has a nice ring to it.)

With the Milsted Chart, we see opportunities to position ourselves leftward while pushing for economic liberalization. Indeed, it is possible to be well to the left of the Clintons while pushing for measures to reduce the size of government. Consider these possibilities:

- Replace the income taxes with wealth taxes (value of real property, corporate stock, radio bandwidth, old copyrights, old patents,...) Not only would such a shift be very progressive, it would require much less paperwork and government surveillance. Further, such taxes would be closer to user fees, since the protection of property is the primary service provided by government.
- Sell the schools and provide school stamps for the poor only.
- Reduce regulations on IPOs so that we can create more competition for big corporations.
- Replace the social security taxes with consumption taxes and make the payout flat (no SSNs needed!).
- And yes, legalizing marijuana, since it is already nearly legal for the wealthy, this is primarily an egalitarian move.

I could go on. Indeed, I could do an entire book listing and explaining measures that increase freedom and equality at the same time.

***But is the Milsted Chart Better?***

So which is a better reflection of the political map, the Nolan Chart or the Milsted Chart? A political map should reflect the passions of the players. Those close together on a political map should be those who get along while those far apart should dislike each other. Applying the principle of revealed preference, we can objectively measure the emotional impact of political differences by noting who is shooting at whom.

The Nolan Chart places communists and fascists next to each other. Yet these two factions have killed each other by the tens of millions. Ergo, the Nolan Chart is overlooking some important aspect.

The Milsted Chart, on the other hand, places the communists and fascists far apart -- in the left-right direction at that. QED. (That's Latin for nana nana naa naa.)