

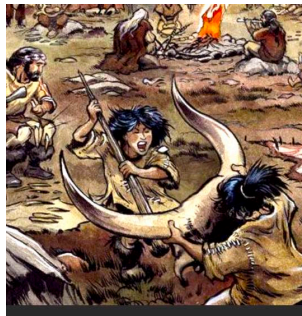
Loss of Liberties in the US - did we really have any?

Liberty

This is one word that has ruled the print media since man has learned to write. But what is liberty, really?

- Merriam-Webster defines it as “the quality or state of being free.”
- Dictionary.com defines it as “Freedom from arbitrary or despotic government or control.”
- Wikipedia defines it as “Liberty is the ability to do as one pleases, or a right or immunity enjoyed by prescription or by grant (i.e. privilege).”
- Cambridge Dictionary states, “For most citizens, liberty means the freedom to practice their religious or political beliefs.”

If these are the definitions, then it would seem that liberty varies in definition by era. For example, many eons ago, mankind was divided in gatherers and hunters or farmers. They depended on territory to feed and clothe their families and would fight ‘tooth and nail’ to keep the amount of land that they needed to do so. But they did not worry about who owned it. They were interested in the land and air rights — so to speak.



So the land or territory belonged to the ones who could hold onto the land. Man first wrestled with the inhabitants of the time... animals, birds, and or other men. Then they found that they were stronger in groups or expanded family groups and thus villages and eventually towns were born.



Family groups (or tribes if you like) required larger amounts of territory to sustain their food and shelter needs and so the circumference of land claimed became much larger.

But humans, being what they are, needed to setup some sort of rules and have a pronounced leader. Thus the **birth of government**. The family elders would setup rules that would prohibit bad or detrimental behavior that might affect the rest of the tribe. So that limits some of the liberty according to Wikipedia. They could not go and kill someone or steal something from them or claim their home — just because they wanted it. **Loss of liberty #1** - Behavior restrictions — a necessary restriction due to the nature of man.

As governments grew, they decided to parcel out property as if they owned it. They decided that if they fought for it or told others to go fight for it, it was theirs to control. Territory for the largest groups became the central focus.

LAND. At this point, the government started to control who could and could not claim the rights to the land. They also needed to maintain armies and their own buildings, so they sold the land or made grants to it for exchange of service. **Loss of liberty #2** — Land ownership — buying rights to keep man from taking someone else’s property rights.

The governments wished to control what they felt was theirs, which often was a hefty parcel. They also were expanding their territorial boundaries. Wars and treaties, packs and promises were made to expand the area the governments ruled. Militarily strong countries charged and claimed for their own other countries. The Persians, Medes, Romans, Spanish, French, and Great Britain, all expanded their borders through military might.

Loss of liberty #4 — territorial subjugation and all the rules that the new governmental control required.

By this time, the council heads or kings — now the established governmental leaders — decided more than just where to live. They often told you what religion you needed to follow, what political views were safe, restricted gatherings, forced military service, required taxes, prevented ‘ney-saying’ and disallowed bad mouthing the king.

Loss of liberty #5 - Loss of religious Freedom

Loss of liberty #6 - Loss of free speech.

By now if you lived back then, you were under the rule of the family unit, tribe or council or town, country in which all these belong and possibly another governmental controller like Rome or one of the big groups mentioned before - still think you had liberty??

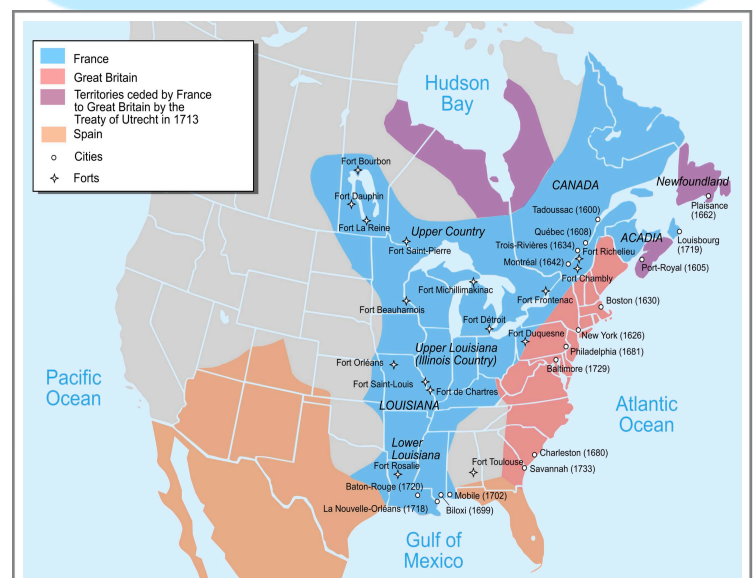


Vengeance of serfs (geoffroy, 1845)

In Europe, the wild game that ran loose, sometimes was prohibited to the common individual if it did its ‘running’ on the king’s lands — whatever that might have been. This was often punishable by death. Tough times. This was another type of liberty lost - we will call it #3 — restriction on hunting areas. Now we are getting into the true Ownership of air and land rights. Occasionally, the common man rebelled as history has clearly shown.

Enter the great hope - New lands discovered across the Atlantic

When our country was first being formed, Spain, France, and Great Britain all had interest in various portions of the country. The French Canadians to our north and Spanish rule to the West and down to Florida. Great Britain had the largest population territory, and was determined to keep it. After the French and Indian war in which the British became victorious, the settlers felt that they would be able to safely spread west beyond the Appalachian Mountains. No one doubted that the America that they were now exploring would ever leave the British hands.



But all that changed very very quickly. Although the individual colonies, of which there were 13, had very little to do with each other 'officially' all of them were under British rule, which was their common element. The British constitution is what they thought they would all be living under and we're happy to do so.

They were very disappointed in a lot of the bribery and corruption that was within the British politics, but they still loved being under British rule. They thought that they were to be treated equally with the people living in Britain. But much to their surprise, they discovered that that was not the reality.

The colonies paid taxes, but were not allowed to have representation in the British Parliament - thus the famous cry, "No taxation without representation!"

After the French and Indian war, Great Britain was struggling financially. They had to maintain an army in America because of Indian uprisings and others that would attempt to encroach on their territories.

The first schism they took place between the American colonies and Great Britain was when Britain started to levy heavier taxes on them. The stamp tax, sugar tax, tea tax were an additional burden on the populous.



There was also a second big problem — the British issued something called the **Royal Proclamation Act of 1763**. This act excluded settlers from land that was west of the Appalachian mountains. The act was set to appease the Native Americans by preventing settlers from encroaching on their land. It was part of the treaty signed at the end of the French and Indian war and thus protected the settlers from Native American attacks.

This made the settlers angry. King George wanted to control these rather independent colonies. This was the first act that truly affected all of the 13 colonies.



Declaration of Independence

This, amongst many other fractures that developed, created enough of a problem that the Revolutionary War took place. The colonists, once in love with British rule, had had enough of their liberties and funds being taken away. They started to slowly rebel and finally broke away from Great Britain when it was finished. They were still 13 independent little colonies, and if they had learned nothing else, they knew they would need protection.

Enter the need for a Federal Government

The need for a centralized government came shortly after the Declaration of Independence. Once it was decided on, the Founding fathers issued the Constitution, and additional constitutional amendments which created the framework for our government and our way of life. We were set up as a republic and each state was its own little sovereign territory, with certain restrictions. Our Federal government was established in order to keep possession of its newly won territory. It established who was allowed to issue taxes and it claimed the rights to issue land ownership very early on in its official life.

The Continental Congress issues its first Land Act in 1776

One of its first official land acts was on September 16, 1776 — the Congressional Act. It setup the guidelines for granting lands of 100 to 500 acres, to those who enlisted in the Continental Army to fight Great Britain. This was called 'bounty land' and was very effective in getting enlistees. On May 20, 1785, the congress enacted the first law to manage the public lands. The 1785 Ordinance for the public lands northwest of the Ohio provided for their survey and sale in tracts of no less than 640 acres. This began the **cash-entry** system for federal lands.

As the country expanded, the Federal Government continued to pass laws and acts to give and take rights regarding the lands. In 1807, they issued the Intrusion Act of 1807 to discourage squatters or settlers taking up land the government had not authorized. However, if they were on unoccupied land, they would be allowed to claim it as 'tenants of will' if they registered with the local land office by the end of 1807.

So, the ability to live and hunt and farm where you wanted was not at liberty. The government controlled it from very early on and continues to do so. You could not go to a parcel of land and just live on it. Someone had to give you permission.

Imagine what some of the early settlers would have thought if they saw and heard of some of the regulations and laws we have today.



Life and Liberties today in good old USA

But what else is controlled by the government today? Let's look at a typical household. You are born (and are assigned a social security number by the government), you are 'doctor - treated' (doctors have medical licenses issued by government and boards), you are given food (if bottle fed, it is a regulated formula — if naturally fed - not regulated), you are clothed (regulations on clothing: non allergenic, fire retardant, washable, safety dies, etc.), you are brought home from the hospital (heavy regulation on the automobile, road safety, car seat, etc.).

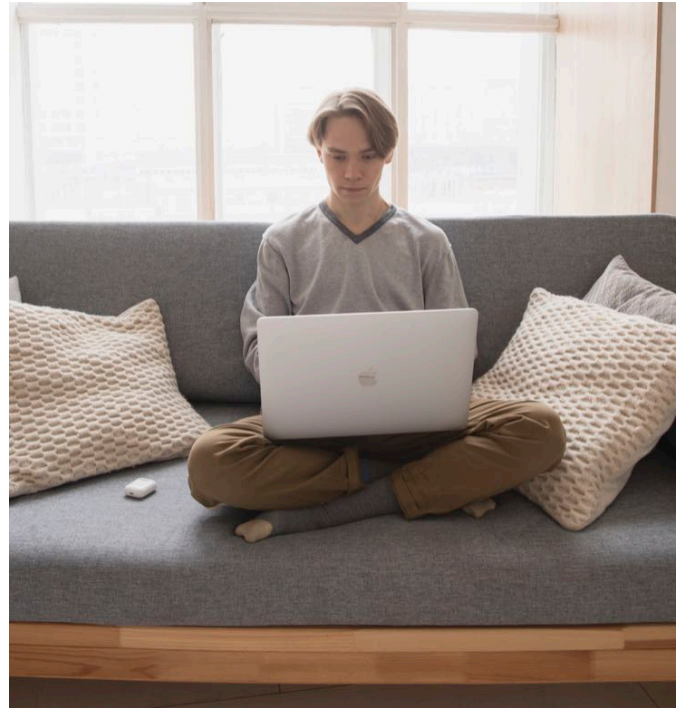
Wow, now you have been born and come home in the first day or two of your life and people have made many concentric efforts to insure your safety and comfort — thanks to government regulations. As you grow, everything you touch has a government regulation on it: size, material, safety, etc. The home you live in, whether rented or owned, is regulated, taxed, and inspected. Your parent's mode of transportation is heavily regulated - from the parts it is made of, to the roads that it travels.



When you enter school, your teachers are certified, school buildings are regulated, and classes are governmentally

determined; health, education and safety must be maintained at a certain level. Once you graduate, you seek employment. The company that hires you are regulated for safety and service. Their products are regulated, their environment is regulated, the taxes they pay and extract from your check is regulated.

You go home to relax on your sofa, made to regulated specs, and eat your supper, and relax to watch TV, all of which is regulated and standardized by government. You work on your computer, play a game, or stream a show — all of which has some sort of regulation either in the manufacture of the item, behavior of the game, or streaming regulations and taxes.



Just for kicks — reach out and touch something in your household or go to the 'frig' and pull out something to eat...is there anything that was not touched by some regulation, tax, or requirement? You say, "Well, I grew that tomato." Yes, but the seed company has regulations it has to follow to get you that seed to grow your tomato. Plus, the soil you planted it in had to be purchased, either your property or the pot and soil you bought. And those are taxed.

No, even the air you breathe and the water you drink is regulated. And it is a good thing too or we would find ourselves very sick. Industry, to make money, did not know boundaries (or did not care). Food safety to prevent salmonella, cleaner manufacturing practices, safer working conditions, rules to govern social behavior, and health certifications — all of these needed to be regulated.

So we as a people cried out for all these regulations. We wanted someone to protect us from ourselves. Thankfully, the Constitution and the Amendments setup boundaries on just how much regulation and rule the centralized and state governments have the power to enact.

We wanted all these regulations, but **we draw the line** when the government starts to affect these particular amendments - freedoms regarding religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, keeping and bearing arms, improper search and seizure, and the right for all citizens over the age of 18 to vote and others guaranteed by the Constitution.



Amendment I “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.

Amendment II “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Amendment IV “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Amendment XIII - No slavery

Amendment XV - The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—

Additional Amendments were added later amended to include sex, age over 18 years old, or ability to pay taxes.



Fight or Flight - what the law says about deadly force to protect your family and homes

Do you know what your state law says about self protection and property protection vs the use of deadly force? In a bill proposed in November of 2020, a Texas representative authored a bill that said that the circumstances of home invasion dictate your behavior in a response. Discussions around it refer to a Castle doctrine, so I wanted to look that up.



What is the Castle Doctrine?

The “Castle Doctrine” is a concept that comes from the philosophy that every person is the King or Queen of their home. Thus, there is never a need for the monarch of the kingdom to flee the castle before using force against an unlawful intruder.

This is a great definition courtesy of uslawshield.com, a legal defense law group.

There are two components to all of this:

The allowance to use deadly force

The allowance to stand your ground instead of running or hiding.

Pennsylvania's outlook on the Castle Doctrine

In PA, the use of deadly force for self defense is legal when "the actor believes that such force is necessary to protect himself against death, serious bodily injury, kidnapping or sexual intercourse compelled by force or threat." (§ 505(b)(2)). Any force used against the aggressor must be deemed necessary by the person in danger. There is no duty to retreat inside the home or work place when threatened.

So if it is a dark night and you are lying in your bed and you suddenly hear someone invading your home. What should you do? Run, hide, get your weapon, turn on the lights, call the police on your cell (or drat - where did I put that...And more importantly, how much time do you have to decide all this????



According to some states, you should try and get out, if you can safely. Flee. But if you can't, what should you do? Does your state presume that you have the right to defend yourself, others and your property with deadly force?

Many people, more so now than a few years ago, have weapons in their home. But should they use them? This is the question that many new bills being introduced to legislation are trying to decide.

Most people that have weapons do not really expect to have to kill someone - they just feel more secure having the gun, knife, baseball bat, or whatever your weapon of choice is where they can access them. Now most of the time, the people writing the laws are speaking about guns, but any old deadly weapon will do for the purposes of protection vs the Castle Doctrine.

The following 23 states have a castle doctrine:

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Virginia
- Washington

The following 36 states have passed a "Stand Your Ground" law:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- California*
- Colorado*
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois*
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico*
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon*
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont*
- Virginia*
- Washington*
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

These statistics are courtesy of the World Population Review.

**** Please remember, your state is changing the gun laws constantly - make sure to keep abreast of these changes and do not base your home defense on these statistics alone! We are not a legal team.

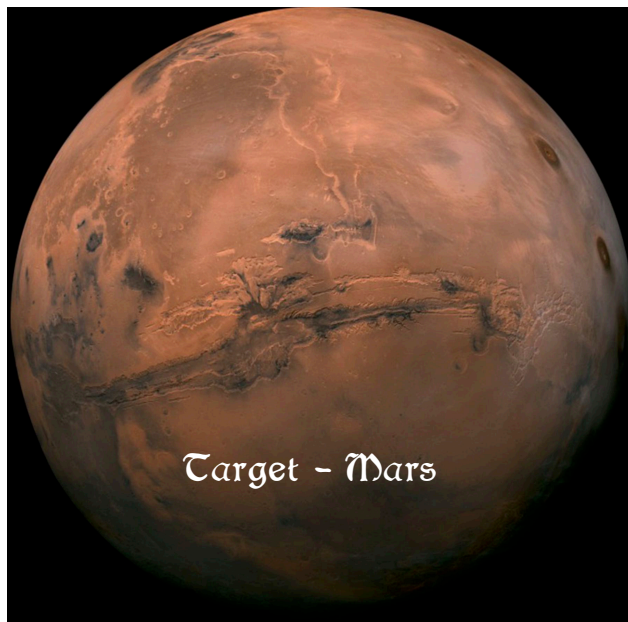


Who builds all our wonderful Space Ships?

Many want to get into the game because, just in case you did not know, there is a lot of money and prestige associated with being asked to develop the next generation of US rockets.

One the other side of this page is a list of the major companies involved with our very active program.

Check them out - next month's newsletter will feature some interesting information about our space programs.



Join us next month for the
Dissection of Critical Race
Theory and its Effects on
Your Life!

[Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems](#)

[United Launch Alliance](#)

[Blue Origin](#)

[SpaceX](#)

Join us at:

www.1776AmericanEmpowered.com

For social media, join our group
1776 American Empowered at



We would love to hear from you. For information about the articles or suggestions for new topics to explore, please contact us.

Email: 1776americanempowered@gmail.com

Or call (844) 925-1776

1776 AMERICAN EMPOWERED
P.O. Box 572
Douglassville, PA 19518

Volume 51821