

Libertarians at the Gate

17 Jan 08

I recently heard a Libertarian dancing around the fact that they are philosophically opposed to borders. I have always felt that that stance was questionable. But it was just in this interview that I saw where the basic lie is.

It is generally accepted that a Group can not self-generate any Rights or Powers that the Individuals making up the Group do not have. Libertarians and I agree. But in this case it is ignored that all Rights and Powers that Individuals *do* possess, *do* flow to the Group. No Libertarian would argue that an Individual doesn't have the right to exclude others from his property, but oddly enough they argue that an association of Individuals – a Nation – does not have the right to exclude others from the Group's Property. I always found the position odd, but I did not spot the error in Logic until recently.

Now I am interested in why it is so easy for otherwise intelligent people to make that error – and why I uneasily accepted it for so long. Perhaps it is that we are so enraged that the State uses Force on Individuals in areas that no Individual has any Right to use Force, that we go blind philosophically any time the State uses any Force at all.