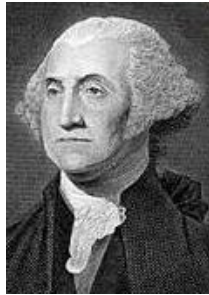


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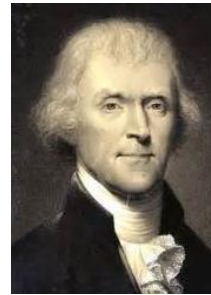
13 Star Flag



Washington



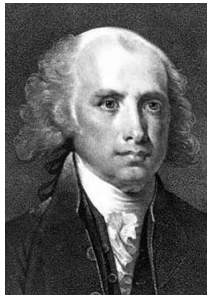
Franklin



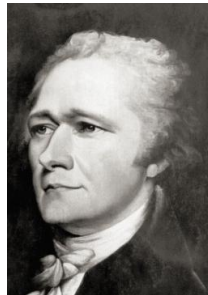
Jefferson



John Adams



Madison



Hamilton



Samuel Adams



De Tocqueville



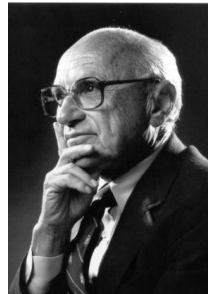
24 Star Flag



48 Star Flag



Hayek



Friedman



Reagan



50 Star Flag

## CONSERVATIVE THINKING THROUGH THE AGES: A Compilation

Stephen L. Bakke 📅 June 14, 2013

Every once in a while I go through my files to “clean house” and usually that results in a couple reports that have been inspired by the process. My report on “Who is Stefano Bachovich?” is an example of that, as is “The Ten Golden Rules of Taxation,” “A Family Conversation about Liberal and Conservative Thought,” and “Dr. Thomas Sowell” (quotes and an article); also fitting this description are speeches or articles by Benjamin Netanyahu, Dennis Prager, Victor Davis Hanson, Marco Rubio, and Paul Ryan. You will find all of these at my website.

This time I came across my bulging file of quotations and as soon as I started to read through some of the material, a report was born! In the interest of full disclosure, this also serves to capably (I hope) fill a “slot” as I spend a lot of time wading through the extensive research that has been done on “guns and violence.”


The images above are of several individuals who are among my favorite sources for quotations. I think they are all represented in the compilation which follows. I have arranged the quotes by general subject matter, and some quotes could fit more than one category. For quick reference, the subjects, in order of presentation, are: 🇺🇸 **Our Form of Government and its Role**; 🇺🇸 **American Exceptionalism**; 🇺🇸 **Individualism and Individual Rights**; 🇺🇸 **Freedom and Liberty**; 🇺🇸 **Equality – What Do Conservatives Mean by That?**; 🇺🇸 **Capitalism and the Free Market**; 🇺🇸 **Tyranny**; 🇺🇸 **Peace through Strength**; 🇺🇸 **The Rule of Law and Accountability**.


### **Our Form of Government and its Role**

- 🇺🇸 *Here, sir, the people govern.* – Alexander Hamilton
- 🇺🇸 *A republic, if you can keep it.”* – Benjamin Franklin – Comments made outside Independence Hall after adjournment of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 – in response to a Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia who asked Franklin, “Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?”
- 🇺🇸 *If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretence of taking care of them, they must become happy.* – Thomas Jefferson
- 🇺🇸 *The Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions.* – Daniel Webster
- 🇺🇸 *If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one, subject to particular exceptions.* – James Madison
- 🇺🇸 *Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread.* – Thomas Jefferson
- 🇺🇸 *It's not tyranny we desire; it's a just, limited, federal government.* – Alexander Hamilton
- 🇺🇸 *A man's admiration for absolute government is proportionate to the contempt he feels for those around him.* – Alexis de Tocqueville
- 🇺🇸 *If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of Sand* – Milton Friedman
- 🇺🇸 *Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem.* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *Protecting the rights of even the least individual among us is basically the only excuse the government has for ever existing* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem.* – Milton Friedman
- 🇺🇸 *Governments tend not to solve problems, only to rearrange them.* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *We should measure welfare's success by how many people leave welfare, not by how many are added* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program.* – Milton Friedman
- 🇺🇸 *Man is not free unless government is limited.* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *The power to do good is also the power to do harm.* – Milton Friedman
- 🇺🇸 *No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!* – Ronald Reagan
- 🇺🇸 *Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.* – Ronald Reagan


### **American Exceptionalism**


- 🇺🇸 *We are a nation that has a government – not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people.* – Ronald Reagan

 *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed .....* – from the Declaration of Independence

 *The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one.* – Alexis de Tocqueville


 *If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.* – Ronald Reagan

 *The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased.* – Alexander Hamilton

 *I say RIGHTS, for such they have, undoubtedly, antecedent to all earthly government; Rights, that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; Rights, derived from the great Legislator of the universe.* – John Adams

### Individualism and Individual Rights

 *The more the state “plans,” the more difficult planning becomes for the individual.* – Friedrich Hayek


 *Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: first, a right to life; secondly, to liberty; thirdly to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can.* – Samuel Adams

 *Perhaps the greatest result of this unchaining of individual energies was the marvelous growth of science.* – Friedrich Hayek


 *The world runs on individuals pursuing their self interests.* – Milton Friedman

 *Is there some society you know of that doesn't run on greed?* – Milton Friedman


 *We hold that each man is the best judge of his own interest.* – John Adams

 *In democratic society each citizen is habitually busy with the contemplation of a very petty object, which is himself.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

 *The U.S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself* – Benjamin Franklin

 *Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own. Nobody uses somebody else's resources as carefully as he uses his own. So if you want efficiency and effectiveness, if you want knowledge to be properly utilized, you have to do it through the means of private property.* – Milton Friedman

### Freedom and Liberty

 *They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety* – Benjamin Franklin

 *Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.* – Milton Friedman

 *History suggests that capitalism is a necessary condition for political freedom. Clearly it is not a sufficient condition.* – Milton Friedman

 *Nothing is more wonderful than the art of being free, but nothing is harder to learn how to use than freedom.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

 *Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty.* – Ronald Reagan

 *Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

🦅 *“Emergencies” have always been the pretest on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *The only way that has ever been discovered to have a lot of people cooperate together voluntarily is through the free market. And that’s why it’s so essential to preserving individual freedom.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *Freedom granted only when it is known beforehand that its effects will be beneficial is not freedom* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.* – Ronald Reagan

🦅 *Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have.* – Ronald Reagan

### **Equality – What Do Conservatives Mean by That?**

🦅 *Even the striving for equality by means of a directed economy can result only in an officially enforced inequality.* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *Democracy extends the sphere of individual freedom, socialism restricts it. Democracy attaches all possible value to each man; socialism makes each man a mere agent, a mere number. Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word: equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

🦅 *A claim for equality of material position can be met only by a government with totalitarian powers.* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *The more alike men are, the weaker each feels in the face of all.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

🦅 *We must face the fact that the preservation of individual freedom is incompatible with a full satisfaction of our views of distributive justice.* – Friedrich Hayek

### **Capitalism and the Free Market**

🦅 *If we are not to destroy individual freedom, competition must be left to function unobstructed.* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *So that the record of history is absolutely crystal clear ..... there is no alternative way, so far discovered, of improving the lot of the ordinary people that can hold a candle to the productive activities that are unleashed by a free enterprise system.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *[Socialists] believe that our economic life ..... should substitute “economic planning” for the competitive system.* – Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *The problem of a social organization is how to set up an arrangement under which greed will do the least harm – capitalism is that kind of system.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public’s money.* – Alexis de Tocqueville

🦅 *There’s no such thing as a free lunch.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *The most powerful force we can enlist against the Federal deficit is an ever-expanding American economy, unfettered and free.* – Ronald Reagan

🦅 *I am in favor of cutting taxes under any circumstances and for any excuse, for any reason, whenever it’s possible.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *The most important single central fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit.* – Milton Friedman



🦅 *Most economic fallacies derive from the tendency to assume that there is a fixed pie, that one party can gain only at the expense of another.* – Milton Friedman

🦅 *Inflation is taxation without legislation.* – Milton Friedman

### Tyranny

🦅 *All men having power ought to be distrusted.....* – James Madison

🦅 *If the federal government should overpass the just bounds of its authority and make a tyrannical use of its powers, the people, whose creature it is, must appeal to the standard they have formed, and take such measures to redress the injury done to the Constitution as the exigency may suggest and prudence justify.* – Alexander Hamilton

🦅 *There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.* – James Madison

🦅 *Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God* – Benjamin Franklin

🦅 *Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people* – John Adams

🦅 *The jaws of power are always open to devour, and her arm is always stretched out, if possible, to destroy the freedom of thinking, speaking, and writing.* – John Adams

🦅 *How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!* – Samuel Adams


### Peace through Strength

🦅 *Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.* – Ronald Reagan

🦅 *Peace is not absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.* – Ronald Reagan

🦅 *We cannot play innocents abroad in a world that is not innocent.* – Ronald Reagan

### The Rule of Law and Accountability

🦅 *The rule of law implies that government authority may only be exercised in accordance with written laws, which were adopted through an established procedure, are not arbitrary and which are generally known to the citizens. These laws must be stable, predictable and equally applied.* – A definition created by Stefano Bachovich – obscure, but very wise ... etc...etc. 

🦅 *..... Rule of Law – Stripped of technicalities this means that government in all its actions is bound by rules fixed and announced beforehand – rules that make it possible to foresee with fair certainty how the authority will use its coercive powers .....* - Friedrich Hayek

🦅 *They define a republic to be a government of laws, and not of men.* – John Adams

🦅 *We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.* – Ronald Reagan

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