

**What do these public policies *really* have in common? *N. B.: Really* is shorthand for does this actually happen in the real world today?**

“Liberals” today favor expanded government. “Liberal”, the classical (Lockean), label meant individual freedom and limited government. Mr. Reagan: I think they hijacked the label.” Really?

Philosophers from Plato, Kant, Marx & Engels, Rawls to virtually every tenured philosophy professor on a public university faculty have taught that the world is to be experienced by imagining the way it should be—out of the cave and into the light of pure reason—the world as it ought to be. The alternative philosophical school—Aristotle to Hume to Smith (*Moral Sentiments*) to Rand to Hayek to Nozick—teaches that the world is to be experienced by examining real world events and evidence. Thus the polity today is divided into two groups: those who see the world as they want it to be (Platocrats) and those who see the world as it is (Aristotelians). This divide is win/lose politics versus win/win economics. Really?

Obamacare focus on health insurance when the actual need is health. Really?

Speech codes on university campuses that violate all Bill of Rights Amendments (except 3rd—quartering troops). Really?

Tax “inversions” labeled unpatriotic and call for legislation outlawing this legal tax avoidance practice. Really?

Literal War on Business—EPA on coal, DOJ on banks, IRS on conservatives, SWAT teams invading barbershops and guitar manufacturers. Really?

Macro-Economic theorists—Malthus, Marx, Bismarck, Keynes, Piketty, Krugman—worship the Platonic world as they assume to be—favor government diktats--totalitarianism. Really?

One-sided declarations of ends of war. Really?

**Answer: These and many other public policies today promote totalitarianism (favored group action by government) at the expense of individual freedom—policies promulgated by those who want to diktat the world as they wish it to be (Platocrats) over those who live in the real world (Aristotelians). Really?**

Ronald Reagan (*A Time for Choosing* 1964) explained this difference most graphically: “it’s not left or right, but up to man’s age old dream, maximum individual freedom, consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism”. Let’s use Reagan’s Choice to analyze some more Really?s:

Obamacare mandates complex regulations for healthcare coverage. But each individual wants health, a product of genetics, lifestyle, health treatment choices, budget allocations, and only then health insurance coverage: DNA and age; exercise, diet and rest decisions; self -procrastination and home remedies; friends and family ministrations; emergency room and VA(!) visits; medical versus food and rent allocations; and only then heal insurance purchase decisions. But Obamacare mandates group favoritism (if you like your health care, you can keep it. Period.)—totalitarianism writ large. Mr. Reagan: “Heaven help us if the government ever gets in the business of protecting us from ourselves.”

Universities used to be bastions of free speech, including obscene anti-government *cri de coeur*—but all too many campuses today ban speech that offends any designated groups, especially speech by political conservatives and Christians—politically correct totalitarianism. Reagan: “I had a nightmare last night; I dreamed I owned a Laundromat in Berkeley.” Really?

Former Interior Secretary Salazar phrased it best—my job is to keep my boot on the neck of BP. Could there be a more graphic statement of the present administration’s fundamental attitude toward business? Regulations strangle entrepreneurs, Obamacare limits small business, cronies profit from big business, and the heavy hands of bureaucrats expanding their budgets and hiding their activities increasingly engulf all Americans. Reagan: “The nine most dreaded words in the English language—I’m from the government and I’m here to help you.” Really?

Micro (Price-theory) economists—Smith, Marshall, von Mises, Friedman, Sowell, Bender, Levitt—endeavor to explain individual responses to incentives. What

clearer expression of the desire for totalitarianism versus individual freedom could any textbook present? Reagan: “Economists have theories in search of practical applications.”

It takes one to start a war, but it takes two to stop one. President Obama can wish and decree all his Platonic heart desires, but the Aristotelian real world requires a verified cease fire on both sides. Reagan: “Trust but verify”—Eve asked Adam if she were his one and only woman; Adam assured her she was indeed. She trusted Adam, but when he slept, she counted his ribs.

Illustrations of Reagan’s Choice are virtually endless—peruse any news report, or visit my website. I’m an old professor, not a pundit, so I leave further analysis to you the reader. Use Reagan’s Choice as the beginning of your analysis. If I have piqued your interest, call it the Enis Analytical Framework (EAF). Do please let me know how you evaluate the EAF.

