

LIBERTY & DEMOCRACY: MEANS OR ENDS?

For conservatives and neoconservatives democracy is at best a means for safeguarding "individual freedom", i.e. economic liberty, i.e. free enterprise, i.e. the free market. (See Hayek 1944.) For political liberals and socialists it is rather the other way round: political liberty is a means for attaining or preserving democracy, as well as an aspect of democracy itself. Consequently whereas conservatives are ready to sacrifice democracy at the altar of "individual freedom" , democrats are willing to curtail some liberties if their exercise threatens democracy.

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