

Liberty goes to the movies

New Libertarianism.org Podcast Explores Pop Culture

Popular movies and television shows might seem an odd place to go searching for libertarian insights, but themes of freedom and individualism are more widespread than you might think. That's the premise behind *Pop & Locke*, the new podcast from Libertarianism.org. Hosted by senior producer Landry Ayres and Natalie Dowzicky, manager of Libertarianism.org, *Pop & Locke* features Cato scholars and other notable libertarians for an in-depth exploration of pop culture hits from a libertarian perspective.

Each episode focuses on a single movie, TV show, or franchise, with Dowzicky and Ayres discussing such topics as the dystopian themes of *Black Mirror*,



the politics of HBO's *Watchmen* revival, or the dysfunctional government subtexts of *Parks and Recreation*. Guests have included Haley Victory Smith, editorial writer for *USA Today*, who helped the hosts explore the pros and cons of Disney princesses, and *Reason*'s Elizabeth Nolan Brown and Peter Suderman.

"Popular culture heavily influences our lives, and we

want to delve into why that is," explains Dowzicky. "By talking about popular culture and media, we are also able to have engaging and meaningful discussions with those with whom we may disagree."

Pop culture can be a fun distraction, but the policy implications can be serious when entertainment shapes people's opinions on important issues. Sometimes, as with *Parks and Recreation*'s Ron Swanson or the bizarre story of Joe Exotic's political campaigns in Netflix's smash hit *Tiger King*, libertarians make a central appearance and are identified as such. In other cases, deeper philosophical questions are explored—such as the nature of free will in HBO's *Westworld* or the struggle for women's emancipation in *Little Women*. Themes of individualism and triumph over authoritarianism are common, but do those necessarily translate into more concretely libertarian political insights? And what about portrayals of big, bad companies and capitalists as the villain?

Pop & Locke adds a new angle to Libertarianism.org's mission of exploring the history, theory, and impact of libertarian ideas and the libertarian movement. ■

NEW EPISODES OF POP & LOCKE CAN BE FOUND ON LIBERTARIANISM.ORG AS WELL AS THROUGH FREE SUBSCRIPTION ON ITUNES, GOOGLE, SPOTIFY, AND OTHER PODCAST DISTRIBUTORS.

Cato News Notes

DEREGULATING ARIZONA



Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies, and Jeffrey A. Singer, MD, senior fellow, briefed Arizona governor Doug Ducey's team about suggested

policy responses to the pandemic. Several of these suggestions were then incorporated into an executive order, including allowing refills of prescriptions without in-person doctor visits and the complete deregulation of alcohol distillation for hand sanitizer use.

CATO EVENTS GO ONLINE

While in-person events have been shut down, many Cato policy forums and other events are being streamed live online at cato.org and through social media. Recent online events featured homeschooling experts answering questions about education during a lockdown and a panel of economists discussing the economic impact of lockdowns. Visit cato.org/events to find out more.

CITED AT SUPREME COURT

In *Kansas v. Glover*, Justice Elena Kagan, joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, wrote a concurring opinion to the 8-1 ruling in which she cited an amicus brief filed by the Cato Institute together with several other organizations. Kagan summarized the brief's argument as "most license suspensions do not relate to driving at all; what they most relate to is being poor."