

An interesting scenario might be playing out in the current election cycle. I am not sure how to refer to this scenario other than as a democratic revolutionary cycle. This scenario has played out over the ages in many places but perhaps the French revolutions are the best and most familiar example. The pendulum swung back and forth, the “rabble” won the day and overwhelmed the government only to enrich themselves at the expenses of the masses they had promised to redistribute the wealth to. The “rabble” rose up again and toppled another government, with pitchforks and swords rather than with votes, and the pendulum continued to swing. Ultimately war was used to distract the “rabble” and actually pacify and reduce both the number and power of those unfortunate souls that fell into the “rabble” category. Today’s “rabble” as well as the powerful and elite ought to consider history carefully. [Posted 5/3/16](#)

I recently posted a paper of mine on property rights and liberty. Perhaps a broader lesson here is that a theory of all rights must be grounded in property rights and interests. Rothbard warns rights can become fuzzy and self-contradictory if we are not careful in our logic. By comprehending all rights as deriving from property rights and contracts, we can avoid the frequent clashes between contradictory “rights” and “freedoms” of today, such as the battle between “religious freedom” and “employee rights” or “LGBT rights.” “This is not to say that these rights and freedoms do not exist, but that they only exist and are compatible with one another as an exercise of underlying property rights.”

[JLM Posted on OICS 4-13-16](#)