

On Rights

The concept of “rights” can mean different things to different people, but what does it mean etymologically? *Right* comes from *riht* (West Saxon) or *reht* (Anglican), and has several meanings. In the context of voluntaryism, it means “what someone deserves; a just claim, what is due; correctness, truth; a legal entitlement, a privilege,”. It seems reasonable to sum those up as *an entitlement*, which is “to give (someone) ‘title’ to an estate or property.” Therefore we can say that rights are entitlements, and entitlements are claims of ownership, with *to own* meaning “to possess” or “to have, to hold.” A holding, in other words. We hold our bodies, our possessions, our homes, our land, thus each is characterized as “property” of ours. All in all, you can’t separate the concept of “rights” from the concept of “property”. To hold is to own is to be entitled, is to have a right, a right of control (clearly). So I ask, *who controls you?* And that’s today’s two cents.

Skyler.