

On Labor Unions

There's nothing wrong with collective bargaining from the voluntaryist perspective. Where labor unions go wrong is in their use of coercion. When collective bargaining breaks down and employers wish to hire competing labor, that is well within their liberty to do so. When labor unions employ threats and violence against so-called "scabs" (those who break away from the union or come from outside the union to work), they are engaging in criminal behavior. When governments protect unions from liability for this, they are aiding and abetting criminals. (But what's new?) Nobody has the right to use coercion against their competition, not businesses and not workers. If you can't collective bargain without coercion, then you aren't collective bargaining. You're bullying, and you're a criminal. And that's today's two cents.