

# Statist Ethics 101

*Guest post by Chris Dates.*

When using the Socratic jackhammer against statist, it's usually not more than a couple blows of the anvil before we arrive at what the state actually is—a group of individuals exercising the use of force against other individuals. Ultimately, this is the core of the state's power; the use of force to maintain its order. This is a trait shared by all governments, from republics and liberal democracies, to totalitarian dictatorships and oppressive oligarchies. At their cores, that is, at the foundations of these differing political systems, the use of force is the fundamental premise upon which their theories are built. Only the degree of aggression, intrusion, and violence is varied from the total state to the minimal state; they are identical twins spawned from the same egg. The nurture may differ, but the nature does not.

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