

We Need a Substitute for the Word 'Support'

I support good things because I'm good!

Almost every time someone uses the word 'support' it sounds nice but means something nasty.

When people say they support something, it usually means they want governments to make laws that will advance that thing. Legislation is not like business, or family, or society. Those institutions require persuasion and value creation to get the thing you support to win. Legislation is a different beast. The single feature that distinguishes governments from every other institution is that they initiate violence to back everything they do.

So when someone supports something by wishing there were government action, 'support' has a very different meaning from the nice one we give it. The nice kind of support might mean you invest your money in or say nice things about something. 'Support' as most often used, however, means desire for government action.

To bring clarity and prudence, we should use a more accurate phrase. Try this out with yourself and others, and see if it changes the way you think about things.

Every time you see the word 'support', replace it with the phrase, 'advocate violence on behalf of'. That's what it usually means.

That's why supporters of things tend to be regressive and uncivilized. To advocate violence on behalf of something is the approach of very bad children and animals. Humans can do better in 99 out of 100 situations.

In fact, if you modified the statement to 'advocate the initiation of violence on behalf of', you could do better 100 times out of 100. Violence sucks, but as a defense against violence may be the least bad approach. Initiating violence never is.

It's also interesting when you consider the fact that most 'supporters' – of wars, drug bans, wage mandates, border walls, land use restrictions, etc. – would find it unthinkable to initiate violence directly on behalf of these things. How many, when they say they support bans on fossil fuels, head to their neighbor's house with a gun and promise to cage or kill them if they don't destroy their car and buy a Prius?

But those same people happily vote for people to vote for bills to fund other people to hire

others to order others to send threats to their neighbors, the ultimate end of which is the same should they refuse to comply.

The state is that great obfuscating abstraction where we hide our violence in a fog of procedure and collectivism.

It is the most dangerous institution in human history.