

LIBERTY

Liberty is the capacity for self-determined action: i.e., the ability take initiatives and to/overcome external constraints. Such unqualified liberty is socially undesirable, for it licenses criminal actions such as Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov, who murdered only to prove to himself that he was "capable of stepping over the barriers" erected by society against antisocial actions. What we want in a civilized and progressive society is socially responsible liberty, i.e. liberty constrained by (a) foresight of the possible outcomes of our actions and their effects on others, and (b) respect and even concern for other people's liberties. In short, we want individual self-government limited by the right of self-government of others: liberty to do right, not wrong.

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Fr 245