

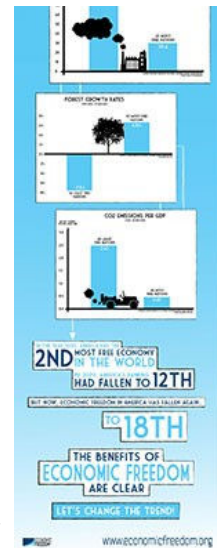
Income inequality was lower in the most free states than in the least free states. Interstate migration data shows that people voted with their feet, moving from the least free to the most free states. This made population growth in the most free states 60 percent greater. Economic growth is a full percentage point greater in the most free states, and state and local debt as a fraction of GDP is significantly lower in the most free states.

The conclusion is simple: Economic freedom yields beneficial results. If politicians really wanted the results they claim, they would fight for economic freedom. That they do not suggests that they have other goals. Meanwhile, the data bears out what Americans know intuitively: The United States is less free than it once was, and our lives are the worse for it. The way to improve our lives as citizens is to return to our birthright as citizens: liberty. As strange as it may seem, the government that has been "protecting" us has been the problem all along.

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