

OLLAUTHORGUIDES

Liberty Fund, Inc.



The Online Library of
Liberty
<oll.libertyfund.org>

FREDERIC BASTIAT (1801-1850): <<http://oll.libertyfund.org/person/25>>

About the OLL

The *Online Library of Liberty* (OLL) is a project of Liberty Fund, Inc., a private educational foundation established in 1960 to encourage the study of the ideal of a society of free and responsible individuals. The OLL website has a large collection of books and study guides about individual liberty, limited constitutional government, the free market, and peace. The collection is organized into subject areas, schools of thought, topics, and historical periods.

Frédéric Bastiat (1801-1850)

Bastiat was the leading advocate of free trade in France during the 1840s. He made a name for himself as a brilliant economic journalist, debunking the myths and misconceptions people held on protectionism in particular and government intervention in general. When revolution broke out in February 1848 Bastiat was elected twice to the Chamber of Deputies where he served on the Finance Committee and struggled to bring government expenditure under control. Knowing he was dying from a serious throat condition (possibly cancer), Bastiat attempted to complete his magnum opus on economic theory, his *Economic Harmonies*.

“Like you I love all forms of freedom; and among these, the one that is the most universally useful to mankind, the one you enjoy at each moment of the day and in all of life’s circumstances, is the freedom to work and to trade. I know that making things one’s own is the fulcrum of society and even of human life. I know that trade is intrinsic to property and that to restrict the one is to shake the foundations of the other. I approve of your devoting yourself to the defense of this freedom whose triumph will inevitably usher in the reign of international justice and consequently the extinction of hatred, prejudices between one people and another, and the wars that come in their wake...”

Bastiat, “Draft Preface for the *Harmonies*” (1847)
<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/332>>

OLL Author Guides

Frédéric Bastiat (1801-1850)

Resources on Bastiat

[URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/person/123>]

- **Main Bastiat page:** <person/25>
- **School of Thought:** 19th Century French Liberalism <collection/28>
- **Timeline** of the Life and Work of Frédéric Bastiat
- **Essays** on and by Bastiat in The Forum
- A **Chronological Listing** of Bastiat's writings
- **Images of Liberty:** Monuments to Two 19th Century Free Traders: Frédéric Bastiat (1801-1850) & Richard Cobden (1804-1865)
- **Liberty Matters:** Robert Leroux, "Bastiat and Political Economy" (July 2013)

Works by Bastiat online

LF editions:

- *The Collected Works of Frédéric Bastiat*, 6 vols. <title/2393>.
- *Vol. 1: The Man and the Statesman. The Correspondence and Articles on Politics* (2011) <title/2393>
- *Vol. 2: "The Law," "The State," and Other Political Writings, 1843-1850* (2012) <title/2450>
- *Vol. 3: Economic Sophisms and "What is Seen and What is Not Seen"* (forthcoming)
- *Vol. 4: Miscellaneous Works on Economics: From Jacques-Bonhomme to Le Journal des Économistes* (forthcoming)
- *Vol. 5: Economic Harmonies* (forthcoming)
- *Vol. 6: The Struggle Against Protectionism: The English and French Free-Trade Movements* (forthcoming)
- *The Best of Bastiat* from LF's Collected Works <title/2477>

FEE editions:

- *Economic Harmonies*, trans. by W. Hayden Boyers <title/79>.
- *Economic Sophisms*, trans. Arthur Goddard <title/276>.
- *The Law*, trans. Dean Russell <title/78>.
- *Selected Essays on Political Economy*, trans. Seymour Cain <title/956>.

Quotations by Bastiat

"I want not so much free trade itself as the spirit of free trade for my country. Free trade means a little more wealth; the spirit of free trade is a reform of the mind itself, that is to say, the source of all reform."

Bastiat, Letter to Cobden (march 1847)
<<http://oll.libertyfund.org/quote/318>>

Here is a selection of the quotations by abc which have appeared on the front page of the OLL [URL format: <oll.libertyfund.org/quote/123>]:

- Bastiat, while pondering the nature of war, concluded that society had always been divided into two classes - those who engaged in productive work and those who lived off their backs (1850) <quote/83>
- Bastiat on the state as the great fiction by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of everyone else (1848) <quote/196>
- Bastiat asks the fundamental question of political economy: what should be the size of the state? (1850) <quote/295>
- Bastiat on the fact that even in revolution there is an indestructible principle of order in the human heart (1848) <quote/335>
- Bastiat on the scramble for political office (1848) <quote/336>
- Bastiat on the many freedoms that make up liberty (1848) <quote/333>
- Bastiat on the state vs. laissez-faire (1848) <quote/337>
- Bastiat on the spirit of free trade as a reform of the mind itself (1847) <quote/318>
- Bastiat on the most universally useful freedom, namely to work and to trade (1847) <quote/332>
- Bastiat on trade as a the mutual exchange of "a service for another service" (1848) <quote/402>

