

Rawls on libertarianism

1 The “first statement” of Rawls’s principles

1. each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty compatible with a similar liberty for others.
2. social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both (a) reasonably expected to be to *everyone’s advantage*, and (b) attached to positions and offices *open to all*.¹

2 The table in §12

1. Principle of efficiency: a distribution of goods meets this principle if there is no way of redistributing goods that will leave some better off and none worse off (p. 67).
2. Careers open to talents: “positions are open to those willing and able to strive for them” (p. 66).
3. Equality of fair opportunity: excessive accumulations of wealth and property prevented, school system designed to even out class barriers (p. 73).
4. Difference principle: social and economic inequalities are arranged so that they are to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged (p. 83).

¹ Emphasis added. *A Theory of Justice*, §11, p. 60.

