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# Slaves of New York

## State is dead last in liberties

By CARL CAMPANILE  
Last Updated: 10:32 AM, June 14, 2011  
Posted: 1:16 AM, June 14, 2011

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Unshackle New York!

New York's notoriously high taxes and public spending, combined with restrictive "nanny" policies, make it the "least free" state in the country, a new study has found.

The Empire State ranked 50th in George Mason University's biannual "Freedom in the States" rankings.

"New York has by far the highest taxes in the country," the study reads, citing steep levies on property, income and corporations compared to other states.

The high taxes, in turn, fuel massive spending, according to the analysis by George Mason's Mercatus Center, a libertarian think tank.

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"Spending on public welfare, hospitals, electric power, transit, employee retirement . . . are well above national norms," concludes the report, which covers the 2007-through-2009 period.

Ranking worst in the categories of economic freedom and fiscal policy, New York also landed near the bottom for the categories of personal freedom (48th) and regulatory policy (40th).

The study cites New York's restrictive gun-control and anti-smoking laws and sky-high cigarette taxes and the Big Apple's ban on trans fats.

The researchers also slam New York's "excessive" home-schooling regulations and its strictest-in-the-nation health-insurance rules.

The authors rap New York for curbing the rights of individual property owners. "Eminent domain abuse," the report says, "is rampant and unchecked."

On the plus side, the report praises New York for relaxing its marijuana laws.

Co-author Jason Sorens said New York has the opportunity to improve its freedom rating, thanks to actions taken this year by Gov. Cuomo and the state Legislature.

"Cuomo insisted on balancing the budget through spending cuts rather than tax increases. It will help New York's rating down the road," said Sorens, a political-science professor at the University of Buffalo.

Sorens also said New York could move out of the cellar with across-the-board tax cuts and additional trims in spending and by reining in home-school regulations.

And he said New York will score significant points if Albany passes a law to legalize gay marriage, which he considers an advancement of personal freedoms.

"The most liberal state in the country can surely find the political will to legalize same-sex partnerships of some kind," he said.

But for now, Sorens said, New York is a "nanny state" and "the least free state"

Joining New York near the bottom of the list are Massachusetts, Hawaii, California, and New Jersey.

The top five "freedom" states are New Hampshire, whose motto is fittingly "Live Free or Die," South Carolina, Indiana, Idaho and Missouri.

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**Will Bree** · New York, New York

Taxes, tolls and fines for everything. \$13 to drive across a bridge, \$14 for a pack of smokes, \$50 if you light one up outdoors in times square, getting shot dead on the boardwalk in Brighton Beach is still a freebie though.

23 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Subscribe](#) · June 14 at 7:10am

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**Frank Mingione** · Hanover Collage

People who use the term tea baggers are morally and intellectually vacant. They have no idea who the tea party is. They repeat the vile, stupid, and uninformed opinions of people with an agenda that does not match the great experiment that our fore fathers began. They are petty, lazy and selfish. They don't want to work hard to succeed. They would rather demonize the people that work hard, accuse them of bigotry and hatred and then use those very same people as a piggy bank because they are to lazy or they never learned how to fend for themselves.

It is easy to attack a moral hardworking person by making them feel like they have to much, or that they should give away all that they have struggled for because, for the most part, all hardworking successful people have a conscience.

People who have no conscience have no problem with L...ies, attacking innocent hard working people who, for now in this country, have the right to be successful. Who have the right of self determination, and who have the right to be free of the idiots who, planned or unplanned, are bringing down the last bastion of freedom and morality on the planet.

I am a tea party member. I have a collage degree from a liberal arts collage. I own and operate three businesses that employ 70 people. I am a pilot, a scuba diver and a martial artist. I am a regular person. I am not a racist. I have taught my three children that racism is a sin. All men are created equal in the beginning. Where they become unequal is in thier decisions in life. When you decide to do for yourself. To take responsibility for you own actions. Not blame others ( its not my fault I was left this mess by the last administration) then you become a better person than the one who decides to let others take care of the needs that they should provide for themselves.[See More](#)

22 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Subscribe](#) · June 14 at 10:36am

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**Mitch Alatorre** · Top Commenter · San Martin, California

The last sanctuary for a moron and Chris, attack his spelling and grammar...

1 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · June 14 at 12:27pm

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**pwoznic91** (signed in using Yahoo)

I wouldn't worry, Mitch. Liberalism and progressivism are DEAD. These are failed ideologies that will not resurface for decades, thanks to the change we all stepped in.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · June 14 at 1:14pm

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**Ed Kollin** (signed in using Hotmail)

A lot of progressives have a spelling issue also. They spell "party" as "bagger"

2 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · June 14 at 1:38pm

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**John Gulino** · Top Commenter · Super 8 Monsters

What nanny state is this? With rampant drugs, crime, murder and illegal gun users, aliens roaming the streets, this is the wild, wild West.

Screw Bloomberg and screw the Liberals - who are clearly the National Socialists of today. The same idiots gearing up to reelect the Worst President in recent history.

What next? More whimpy White bloggers making idiotic claims "Rev. Wright can't be a racist" rhetoric?

...

Fck The Democrats, Affirmative Action, pedophiles and all! Lock them all up in "the projects" and microwave the entire dirty plantation![See More](#)

13 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Subscribe](#) · June 14 at 6:47am

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**William Lopez** · Miami, Florida

get over it , you don't even have to guts to put your real face to your comments , Just like Tea bagers and KKK that hide behind a mask , so you can express your inner a Holiness.. NYC is the best city in the world ... and thanks to the immigrants it is what is ...

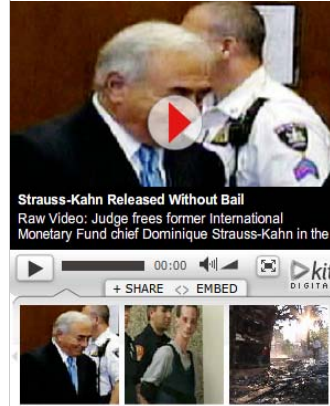
2 · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · June 14 at 8:57am

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**Anthony Altadonna** · Top Commenter

if the all normal people you know the ones who no longer what to fund the liberal utopian dream of governmnet control from cradle to grave are tea bagees then all others are tea bagee so lay down!

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