This chapter challenges the liberal treatment of security and liberty. Rather than a mythical liberal ‘balance’ between security and liberty, the chapter argues that liberalism has in fact always prioritised security over liberty. It has done so through the logic of ‘emergency’ and ‘prerogative’, which allow for liberties which are supposedly fundamental to be suspended in the name of security. The chapter thus offers a critique of the liberal tradition, by arguing that liberalism's driving principle is security, and that security has been central to liberal order-building.