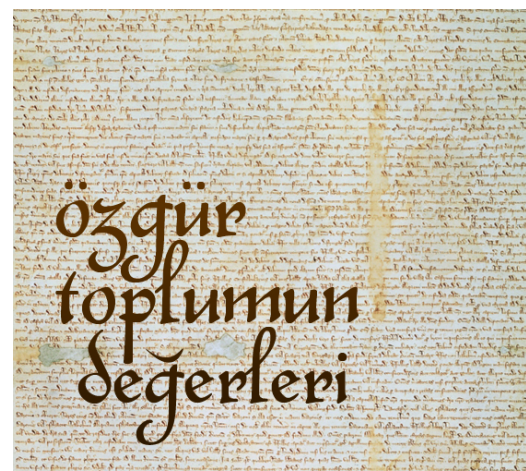
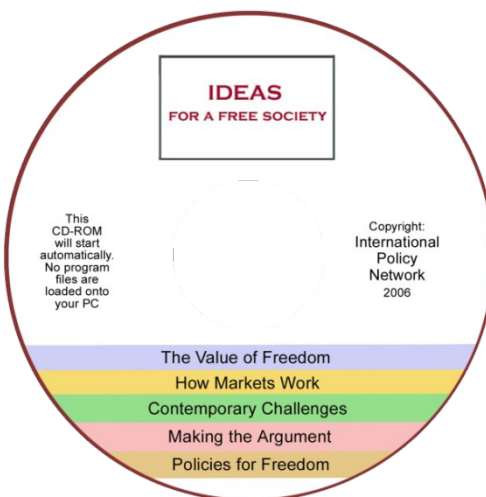




NETWORK
FOR A
**FREE
SOCIETY**





Network for a Free Society

Progress Report – Summer 2012

We believe in the creative power of freedom and want those facing poverty and oppression to be able join the debate and influence events in their countries in that direction, but to do this they need to understand the principles and practice of a free society and the prosperity that it alone can bring.

It is hard to understand why for so long Western advocates of the free society failed to realise that access to the great exponents of freedom was almost non-existent in so many of those parts of the world where freedom is so much needed but often poorly understood.

For those who have been able to read about these issues all their lives it may be difficult to imagine how they would think had that not been the case.

Our mission is therefore to increase access to these ideas.

Because books were too expensive to ship a mini-library of classical liberal texts was created on a CD called Ideas for a Free Society, and collaborating with inspirational local partners 5000 copies of the first edition were distributed in 2007/8. Since then around 95,000 copies of the second edition have been distributed in some 60 countries, mostly to students in seminars, camps and essay competitions where there was an opportunity to explore the concepts and texts with them.

The demand for the CDs seems to be endless and as the 100,000 copies of the second English edition run out plans are in hand for a third edition if we can raise the funding.

But, if those who speak English or another major European language have limited access to the ideas, those who do not have absolutely no access at all and we are told by our Arabic and Farsi speaking friends that not only are the texts not available but the words and concepts may either not exist or be difficult to translate.

If it seemed important to provide access in countries where the texts are not available it is every bit as important to provide access in languages in which they do not exist.

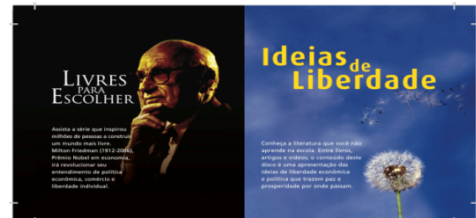
Everything undertaken by Network for a Free Society is only possible because of the belief of our donors in the creative power of freedom and their generosity to our programmes. We are enormously grateful to them for their support and hope they feel their investments are justified.

Access in other languages

From 2009 we have worked with network partners to produce translations and put them on CDs. The content of the translated versions may vary from the English CD depending on availability and copyright issues.

Portuguese DVD

Diogo Costa of www.ordemlivre.org, the Atlas web based Portuguese platform worked with us to produce a DVD which also has four sections of Milton Friedman's "Free to Choose" with Portuguese sub-titles. These have been distributed in Brazil and Portugal by OrdemLivre.org and in Mozambique by Henriques Viola of CEMO, the Centre of Mozambican & International Studies, (<http://cemo-mozambique.org/>)



A three-way collaboration between Network for a Free Society, Henriques Viola and Glenn Cripe of Language of Liberty (languageoflibertyinstitute.org/) based the student events they organised in **Mozambique** on the texts on both the English and Portuguese versions.

In January 2012 they attracted much larger audiences than expected in Quelimane, Mozambique where Manuel Araujo, the newly elected mayor and Andy Eyschen joined them to discuss aspects of liberty with the enthusiastic students leaving them with CDs in either English or Portuguese.



Kyrgyz CD

Mirsuljan Namazaliev of the Central Asian Free Market Institute (CAMFI www.freemarket.kg/en/) in Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan** not only masterminded a version in Kyrgyz which, contains 17 excellent texts but also produced *Twenty Myths about Markets* by Tom Palmer and Ayn Rand's *What is Capitalism?* and *The Nature of Government* as books.



All were widely distributed in **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan** and **Kazakhstan** by CAMFI. In one of their 30 day Freedom Tours they estimated interacting with around 15,000 students

Pakistan CD

Dr Khalil Ahmad taught philosophy and believed in communism until reading Karl Popper's *Open Society*. He then founded the Alternate Solutions Institute (www.asinstitute.org/) in **Pakistan** and produced a special version of both the First and Second Editions of the CD, for a Pakistan audience - Ideas for a Free and Responsible Society.

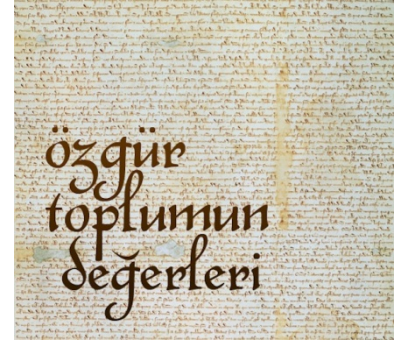
ASI have been particularly active and successful in arranging seminars and meetings mostly in universities, including those in Peshawar, where opportunities to discuss free societies are rather limited.

They recently ran a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Lahore where, despite power riots and violent protests against excessive electricity black-outs, over 70 people registered (see below) for a lively debate about freedom and then took away a CD so they could study the issues in more depth.



Turkish CD

There has been a thoughtful and well directed effort to explain and promote free societies in Turkey for over 20 years. The CDs in English were first distributed by the Association for Liberal Thinking (www.liberal.org.tr/), co-founded by Professor Atilla Yayla, one of the inspirations for this project, and later by the 3H Movement of young liberal Turks.



It was the 3H Movement who produced the **Turkish** CD with Volkan Ertit as editor. 2000 were distributed in 27 universities in 18 cities, and another 2000 are being distributed in monthly seminars at universities the length and breadth of Turkey with average audiences of about 150.

Students below queue to get their copy of the CD at Gediz University, Izmir.



Russian CD

Alexander Kouryaev, head of the Moscow publishing house Sotsium, produced the CD in Russian. It is being used not only at meetings in many parts of Russia but also in **Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan** and **Tajikistan** where Russian is the second language. All of these texts can be copied and/or put up on websites so they are more flexible in their use than the English version.



The **Tajikistan** Free Market Centre and the **Kazakhstan** Institute for Public Policy, where Pavel Koktyshev has been active with this young organisation, use both English and Russian versions depending on the preference of the individual student. Apart from working directly with students Pavel donates CDs and books to university libraries in Kazakhstan to ensure access to as many young intellectuals as possible.



Maria Semykoz of the Mamay Institute in **Ukraine** (www.mamay.net) ran an essay contest, supported by NFS and based on the CD “in order to encourage young Ukrainians to read and think about the texts on the CD”. There were three prizes with cash and attendance at the Free Market Road Show in Kiev but Maria said the quality of the work was so high they gave a 4th prize as well. “It was just too good not to acknowledge”

Chinese CD

The Cathay Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA) in Beijing finalised the **Chinese** CD in March 2012 under the direction of Professor Xingyuan Feng. It contains 27 texts, some in both English and Chinese and some only in Chinese. All of the texts can be put up on websites and the CDs can be copied. Two books of the texts will be published by the Chongqing

University Press later in 2012, *The Basic idea of Property Rights, Market and Competition* and *The Rules of the Economy, Legal System and Public Policy*.



CDs are used and distributed at the CIPA events and have also been requested by many other organisations in China who want to increase their students' access to different viewpoints. These include the Unirule Institute, The Shanghai Institute of Law & Economics, Governance & Community Institute, the Workshop in Institutional Analysis and Public Policy, Transition Institute and I Pencil Institute.

Arabic Translations

Very few classical liberal texts have been translated into **Arabic** which is unfortunate because it means that few Arabic speakers understand the fundamentals of the freedom that so many of them seek. The concepts involved are not easy to translate and the right words do not always exist. www.MinbaralHurriya.org, the Atlas web based Arabic platform has been working on this for some years and NFS is collaborating with them and their director Dr Nouh El Harmouzi identifying texts and funding their translation. When enough texts are available in Arabic a CD will be made for distribution in the region.

The translations are posted on the Minbar website for others to read or copy onto their own websites and some are now being published commercially in hard copy for distribution throughout the Arabic speaking world. The first will be *Austrian Economics* by Dr Eamonn Butler and the second *Principles of a Free Society* by Dr Nigel Ashford. We are hoping that this will become routine.

To help overcome the challenges of explaining the concepts of a free society in Arabic where they may not currently exist, NFS is funding the creation of an Arabic encyclopedia, which will include some 400 sections of about half a page each. It will cover the concepts and authors who influenced the evolution of economic and political thought. The texts will be written by a team of doctors in the social sciences headed by Professor Mohammad Sabila, who has written over 30 books, in coordination with Dr Nouh El Marmouzi. The goal is to introduce our vision of a free society to a sceptical audience of students, researchers and translators in the Arabic speaking world and to enrich the very poor selection of translations.

Farsi translations

As with Arabic very few classical liberal texts have been translated into **Farsi** until recently because of the similar challenges involved.

In Western cultures, there are words, phrases and concepts—especially in the sphere of the law and the philosophy of rights and liberty—that may be unknown in many Middle Eastern cultures and languages, or the philosophical and semantic connotations maybe different from those used and understood in the West.

These cultural and linguistic characteristics play a significant role in impeding the flow of classical Liberal ideas in societies in the Middle East. To get round this problem it is necessary to explain what we actually mean by liberty, rule of law, toleration etc. and we must first establish the crucial importance of the Individual, their life, liberty and happiness and the moral right of the individual to live for him- or her- self.

Bardia Garshasbi is currently translating texts into Farsi and also collaborating with the Atlas web based Farsi platform CheraagheAzadi.org, where they are posted, as well as some being published in Iranian magazines.

When enough texts have been translated a CD will be made but already the first one has been published by a commercial publisher for general distribution in Iran and it will also go to university libraries.



We hope that further publications will follow *The Morality of Capitalism*, edited by Tom Palmer, which appeared in the Tehran bookshops in July. The following week notification of its publication appeared on the marketing page of the biggest Iranian economic newspaper and it has had 6 further reviews in national papers.

The same publisher has plans to set up a cultural centre and publication house in Kurdistan in which case they would want to translate and distribute the texts there too.

Programmes in Africa and Asia

Much work continues to be done by our partners in Africa and Asia who reach thousands of students every year.

Adedayo Thomas of AfricanLiberty.org is as tireless as ever in promoting liberty to each new generation of students arranging seminars, student groups and essay competitions. 207 entries were received from **Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ethiopia** and **Mozambique** for our 2012 essay competition 'From Poverty & Serfdom to Prosperity and Freedom' based on CD texts. The winners will attend the Students and Young Professionals Liberty Academy in Mozambique in August.



Adedayo is a master at using colourful advertising to publicise his many seminars. This one is in **Nigeria** in April 2012.

However he is by no means the only one using CDs to help promote liberty in Africa. Temba Nolutshungu of the **South African Free Market Foundation** was hosted by the **Zambian Institute for Public Policy** for a tour of Zambian Universities in late 2011 .
(www.freemarketfoundation.com/)

This is the Zambia Catholic University at Kalulishi.



Many organisations in Asia use the CDs for their work with students, including the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation (AELSO) in **Kabul** and in **Malaya** and **Indonesia** the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (<http://ideas.org.my/>) give them to students at all their many events.

Providing Fellowships

In addition to our main work Network for a Free Society provides fellowships for academics and other intellectuals from less developed countries, who have an understanding of and belief in classical liberal ideas, to attend meetings where they can listen to distinguished international speakers and contribute to the debates.



About 90 fellows were accordingly able to attend the Mont Pelerin Society Meeting in **Istanbul** in September 2011, "Nation, State and Liberty".

Professor Peter Boettke of George Mason University speaking on "Is State Intervention in the Economy Inevitable?"

The fellows then attended the following workshop run by the Association for Liberal Thinking, "Spreading the Word of Freedom and Liberal Democracy in the Region". Here Dr Hicham El Mousaoui is speaking on "How to Spread Economic Freedom in the Arab World"



In April 2012 NFS provided fellowships for about 25 academics and other intellectuals to attend the Mont Pelerin Meeting in **Fez** and the meeting of the Istanbul Network for Liberty (istanbulnetwork.org/) that followed. The topic for this second meeting was "Exploring the Principles and Values of a Free Society within a Muslim World" and the speakers were Muslim or from mainly Muslim countries.



Assessing the Project.

All of our wonderful international partners share our view that greater individual freedom is the only long term solution to the problems of poverty and repression that surround them, and that for this to happen the climate of opinion must change in favour of the principles and foundations on which a free society is based.

We get many approaches for the texts that will help them in their endeavour and the CD and related books have no doubt reached an audience numbering tens of thousands over the last three years. Many send us appreciative emails, or encouraging stories, of which these are the most recent.

Inessa from Armenia wrote in May 2012 “I will be very grateful for the CDs you can provide; unfortunately Armenian students have almost no access to materials covering classical liberal ideas, which makes it really difficult to spread these ideas among them.”

Oniwide from Nigeria had been at an African Liberty Students Organisation meeting in May 2012 and wrote the following day “I am on my PC right now going through the CD-Ideas for a free society. Whao! It is a fountain of knowledge and illumination.”

Oluwamayowa, also from Nigeria, was introduced to these ideas by Adedayo Thomas during a student seminar when he received a CD. As a result he is now Adedayo’s student outreach assistant.

It is impossible to prove that our efforts will be effective in actually changing the climate of opinion in favour of the institutions of a free society although we can look at the earlier proof that ‘ideas have consequences’.

Dr Parth Shah, Sir Antony Fisher and Dr Khalil Ahmad are amongst very many people who read one book or writer which changed their thinking and the direction of their lives. Their subsequent dedication to promoting the principles of freedom have, directly or indirectly, contributed to millions enjoying greater freedom and choice.

Bardia Garshasbi, an Iranian currently working for NFS began translating the CD texts for the Farsi version. He finds them so compelling that he is arranging for them to be published commercially in Iran and probably also in Kurdistan as well.

There is a strong likelihood that an increase in access to these texts for intellectuals will also increase the chances a change in the climate of opinion. Conversely we can know for sure that if people do not have the opportunity to learn about the creative power and foundations of a free society the chances of opinion changing in favour of freedom will be greatly reduced.

But it is something that needs doing again and again and again, for every generation, every new student intake, for all those who as yet have no idea what benefits freedom can bring, what it really means and how it can be achieved.

The Future

Everyone deserves to be able to make informed choices about the circumstances under which they live their one life and to do this they need access to literature which explores freedom, regardless of where they live or the language they speak.

CDs continue to be popular, cost effective and flexible with our partners and are now in addition providing ready prepared texts for translations and their commercial publication in countries and languages which we had not anticipated.

So the CDs are making the books we originally wanted possible and getting them distributed to a broader audience than we could have imaged or arranged.!

Eventually the CDs will be superseded by new technology. But for the moment they still have an important role to play, particularly where download speeds are slow or too expensive for most people, and in conjunction with a strong translation program.

Our hopes for the next 12 months:-

- Production of a Third Edition of the English CD with no copyrighted material so it can be endlessly reproduced.
- A continuing strong translation program into Arabic and Farsi, and hopefully Urdu and the creation of CDs in those languages
- Provision of these translations to commercial publishers to produce low priced books for much wider distribution.
- The creation of a CD in French for Francophone countries in Africa.
- Regular study groups and seminars to introduce ever more students to the concept of freedom and the texts on the CDs.
- Essay contests based on the CD to identify the most talented students.
- Annual week long Liberty Camps for further exploration and discussion of the texts with those identified through the essay competition with a view to shaping the opinions of future teachers, journalists, politicians etc.

Support for this important work can be made on our website or by contacting us directly.

Network for a Free Society is a registered UK Charity No 262982. Previously known as International Policy Network UK it is still working closely with International Policy Network US which has 501c3 status in the US.

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