

NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY



دور حقوق الملكية كمؤسسة: الآثار المترتبة على السياسة التنموية iea iea

ما کامی بازاره اصطلاحی است که سیاستنداران روزنامه نگاران، دانتجویان و استادان رشته قاصله به گزارت از آن استفاده می کنند. اما کنایی که این اصطلاح دایه کار می برند اغلب نسبت به توانایی دولت در تصحیح کا کامی های بازار هیچ درک درستی ندارند. این اجاماعی حاجدی ناشی از قلدان دانش عمومی و نیز قلدان پوشش رئوس مطالب افتحاد ماتخاب عمومی است.

Public Choice

- A Primer Author: Eamonn Butler Translator: Bardia Garshasbi

ظریة اقتمادی «انتخاب عموم» بینتره و دریافتهای والع تراباته پرامود رفتان بیامت عمومی علاقه دارند، با در این زیب کار می کنند بی نهام تمالی که به بیامت عمومی علاقه دارند، با در این زیب کار می کنند بی نهامت علیه خواهد بوده اگر باید خوش را بیزیر به که دجلاقی بوخی از دستاندرکاران فرایند سیاسی- از باید باید باید کردن کا دچوانسالاران، انتظیم کنندگان عفران، کار کان بخش براید با در انتخابی باید که در در انتخابات به به واقایی دولت در نصحیح، ناکامی بی کنند تا به دولت کمت عمومی، آن کاه نسب به توانایی دولت در نصحیح، ناکامی تصاد را در مقدمای با وضوع بیار خلاصه کرده است. نویسند به خواننده کمک از مختبین به توضیح دران در نصحی ناکامی بازار را به درنی درک کند. بی همچین به توضیح دراندهای خشیم اقتماد انتخاب عمومی برای دارامی بینه همچین به توضیح دولوری که عمیناً با باحث بیاسی معامر نوزند است.

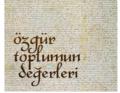
ور حاض افاضة ارزشمند و مهمر است راي همه كنائي كه در در فهم به ي هستند از











Network for a Free Society

Progress Report – Summer 2013

We thought that 2012 was a busy and exciting year and could not have imagined that 2013 would see even more innovation and activity with our network partners in their efforts to engage people in the quest for freedom. But we were wrong. With the support of our wonderful donors and the help and enthusiasm of our partners not only has there been more activity but it has taken us in some unforeseen and productive directions.

We know that without freedom there can be no escape from poverty for the millions who live without opportunity and hope. Our aim, therefore, is to shift the climate of opinion in favour of freedom, by increasing access to the texts that explore and explain the principles and foundations of a free society. Such texts are currently inaccessible to a majority of people in less developed regions.

Because of where they live, or the language they speak, most people in the world have no idea why they are poor while others are rich. The concepts of individual freedom, limited government, rule of law and protection of private property will likely be unknown to or misconceived by them and there will be very few or no books in their library that touch on these ideas even if there were a library they could reach. Where internet access is available, unreliable and expensive connections prevent finding answers to their questions online.

Initially our colleagues who promote freedom in these regions were desperate for resources such as books but trials showed these were both expensive to ship or publish locally. So in 2009 we created a treasury of over 100 classical liberal texts and put them on a CD which is much cheaper and easier to send than books. We made 5,000 of the first edition which were quickly taken up by our early partners in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, India and Pakistan.

In 2009 we followed this up with a second edition of 100,000 copies and due to the demand from partners in over 70 countries about 99,500 have now been distributed. In addition to the English versions we arranged versions in Portuguese, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Chinese and Russian with a special version in English for Pakistan. This year CDs are planned in both Arabic and French and the 3rd edition of the CD in English is now on the drawing board to be ready to launch at the end of this year.

This 2nd edition of the CD was initially the main activity in 2009 but it has become a vehicle around which a much broader and richer programme for dissemination and networking has developed in a highly synergistic way encompassing multiple programmes and people.

The Development of Self Sustaining Initiatives

Apart from being more popular than we ever expected, the CD has led to unintended but very welcome consequences. It introduced our partners to texts that they may not have read before, and which with our support were translated for their local audiences. This enabled local publishers to understand the importance of the ideas and concepts they contained and has led to their commercial publication in a number of key countries. So we have gone full circle and now have some of the books being produced, marketed and distributed in hard copies in the local language with little or no financial input from us other than the cost of the translation.

This surpasses our original aim to supply our partners with books because not only does it help our partners get the books they want at a relatively low price but it makes the books available to many people who our partners do not know and could not otherwise have reached. These small beginnings offer hope that it may be possible to make libraries of these texts available in hard copy in even the most challenging countries.

China

In China the Cathay Institute for Public Affairs created two books from the texts they translated for the Chinese CD, which have just been published by the Chongquin Publishing House. One is for students and laymen called The Basic Idea of Property right, Market and Competition and one for academics called The Rules of the Economy, Legal System and Public Policy. The publishers were interested in the texts because they were "quite different from the orthodox Economics (named Western Economics) they were accustomed to"!



Professor Dr. Xinyuan Feng, Director of CIPA at the book launch, July 2013

Iran

Although we never expected books of this nature to be published commercially in China we expected it even less in Iran. Our innovative translator, Bardia Garshasbi, having translated *The Morality of Capitalism* edited by Tom Palmer, thought it should be available to his compatriots in Iran and searched out an Iranian publisher who shared this view. It was passed by the Iranian censors and appeared in the Tehran bookshops about a year ago, just in time to be mentioned in our 2012 Report. Subsequently it received some 15 reviews in major Iranian publications and a half page interview of Bardia in a weekly magazine run by the Ministry of Culture called *Book of the Week* which has the biggest weekly circulation in Iran. Next was *Public Choice – A Primer* by Eamonn Butler, published by the <u>Institute of Economic Affairs</u>, which appeared a few months later and is still receiving media coverage, most recently in a full page interview with Bardia by the same editor from the Ministry of Culture in *Book of the Week*. Although the Ministry of Culture did change some of the wording in the first interview they published it verbatim in the second.



Full-page interview on Public Choice in Book of the Week

Literally just published in Iran is *The Condensed Wealth* of Nations from the Adam Smith Institute, written by Eamonn Butler who has a talent for explaining complex issues in a clear and easily understandable way and so making Adam Smith's game-changing insights about specialisation, cooperation, trade and commerce available to a much wider audience. All three books are now available on Amazon website. Bardia has even managed to publish his translation of Ayn Rand's The **Nature of Government** in 4 instalments in the widely circulated and popular daily Bahar newspapers. Additionally, he is responsible for 30 pages in a bimonthly magazine for management called *Excellent* <u>Organisation</u>. Articles have included *Free Trade* by Daniel Griswold, Property Rights by Armen Alchian, I Pencil by Leonard Read and an interview by American entrepreneur/philanthropist Ed Bachrach discussing his views on management and markets.

Books in Arabic

The Arab Center for Scientific and Social Research in Morocco has been very active filling the void of classical liberal texts in Arabic and we are proud to work with them on this project. It seems hard to believe but up to now if you only spoke or read Arabic you had no means of exploring the benefits and foundations of a free society. No wonder 'Arab spring' countries are finding it difficult to create the free societies for which so many have struggled, although there are many other languages for which the situation is the same.

Dr Nouh El Harmouzi and his team at the Arab Center have set up a web page with <u>over 70 texts</u> on it as well as a number of <u>downloadable documents</u> and they are continually adding to them. At the time of writing this website had been open for about 8 weeks and already there have been over 13,000 reads including Timur Kuran's great book *Islam and Mammon* for which there have already been 1,200 reads.



Encyclopedia of Human Sciences in Arabic

8 of these books will have been published commercially by firms in Egypt and Jordan by the end of the year, one of which is a 2nd Edition of JF Mill's *On Liberty*, the first edition having sold out. 5 of the 8 were on the CD and we funded their translations.

The jewel in the crown is an *Encyclopedia of Human Sciences* which was arranged by the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies under the supervision of Dr Mohammad Sabila and Dr Nouh Harmouzi. It will cover economic and philosophical concepts from a liberal perspective that is largely unknown to a Muslim audience and so will make classical liberal texts more easily understood. This will be published by The Arab Thought Center, after keen competition for the contract. They are a well-respected, top academic publisher.

Nepal and Afghanistan

Through our efforts books have been published in these countries although not commercially. However the costs are comparatively low and have shown us that new opportunities exist wherever the texts have been translated.

<u>Samriddhi</u>, the Prosperity Foundation in Nepal published 1 text on profits from the CD in a book in 2009; this year they published 10 texts in an introductory primer including the *Nature of Government* by Ayn Rand, *Seven Principles of Sound Public Policy* by Lawrence Reed and *Property Rights* by Armen Alchian. Brave choices in a country where freedom is so limited.

We were also pleased to support the translation and publication of *The Morality of Capitalism* in Dari by the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation. It has subsequently been used in discussion with students and young professionals in Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar.



Students discussing The Morality of Capitalism in Afghanistan

The future of the CD

The CD has enabled thousands to explore the creative power of freedom and inspired translations into Kurdish, Dari, Urdu, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Nepalese, Portuguese, French, Farsi, Bulgarian, Turkish, Kyrgyz and probably more we don't know about. But we need so many more than this if we are to change the climate in favour of freedom amongst peoples where it is little understood.

Although we are delighted that the CD project and the translations which developed from it have been the catalyst for the commercial publication of books making a coherent case for freedom available anywhere in the world, this does not mean CDs have become redundant. They can still provide a small library to every student who has access to a computer even if they don't have the funding to access the texts online. And despite the fact they have been overtaken technologically in the West, CDs are still very much in demand from our partners in the least developed countries. They need and are waiting for the 3rd edition which will continue to provide texts for translation and publication.

For the first and second editions we paid for the copyright of the texts as required but it was expensive and restricted the number of copies we could make. This time we are only going to include texts which are outside copyright or for which the copyright holder will allow us unlimited use for free. Then anyone who has a copy can make another for a friend, and a teacher could provide his entire class with their own mini-library. The other advantage is that all or much of the treasury can be put on websites for those who can access them.

The texts will also be downloadable onto a memory stick or a computer, and we will promote them world-wide as they will be a useful resource for teachers and think-tanks in the West. Previously we had concentrated on distributing them in less developed countries because of the copyright limit on the numbers we could produce despite requests from Western colleagues.

The CDs continue to be used at seminars and liberty camps in too many countries to mention and the demand for them tells its own story. Promoting these ideas in Ethiopia has been impossible until recently but with support from the Atlas Network Kidus Mahulu has set up TEAM (Teaching **Entrepreneurship Antipoverty** Movement) and also is working with Students for Liberty to increase the understanding of the concepts of liberty amongst students. The CD is very much part of that effort.



Tom Palmer of <u>Atlas Network</u> speaking on Markets during the first ever liberty event in Addis Ababa

Also in Ethiopia, and to prove our point, a young lawyer has set up a library in the university district of Addis Ababa so that students can read the great books that explain the principles of a free society. NFS and Atlas have managed to supply several hundred books and the library has plenty of customers but is in desperate need of many, many more books and shipping them is so expensive.

Along with the constant demand for the CDs we get encouraging feed-back as well.

Franklin Cudjoe from Imani, Ghana wrote on his <u>Facebook page</u>, "...my assistant tells me over 120 persons and counting requested the Ideas for a Free Society CD I suggested yesterday. That is hugely encouraging."

Deman Yusuf, a university teacher from Tanzania, first started using the CD for her classes in 2009 and recently wrote, "I am happy that I am still using that CD in another class I teach this year on international trade".



Participants of Jacek's Milton Friedman Legacy Day in Poland with the CDs

Jacek Spendel from Freedom & Entrepreneurship Foundation requested more CDs. "I have distributed all the CDs I got from you so far but there are coming big liberty events in Poland at which I would love to give students the CDs and empower them with a great tool to advance the ideas of liberty."

Now that the 2^{nd} edition has run out, creating the 3^{rd} edition is our most important task for the rest of the year.

Traditional and innovative ways to engage students

We are supporting student seminars in Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Malaysia, 3 Central Asian countries, Pakistan, Turkey, and Morocco. Each partner has a different approach and the most successful ones can be promoted through our network so others can learn from them. In Turkey the <u>Association for Liberal Thinking</u> selected intellectually talented graduate students for further mentoring on classical liberal themes. They received many applicants for the 'school' which was 8 weekly two hour sessions moderated by a senior academic. 10 students were selected and given readings beforehand for moderated discussions.

The Central Asian Free Market Institute in Kyrgyzstan found a new way to stimulate students to read more libertarian books and learn about free markets scholars and their works. They expect to involve about 300 students in 5 university quiz night games on the topics of the free market and classical liberalism and another 300 in the three essay contests they will run on various free market topics.



Advert for Kyrgyz Quiz night Competition due to start in late September



Adedayo Thomas continues to get large university audiences for his introduction to liberty seminars in African universities under the auspices of AfricanLiberty.Org. Over 250 students welcomed him at Uganda's Martyrs University in April and all went away with a CD.

Essay Competitions

Essay competitions are a way in which students are encouraged to focus on the concepts of a free society covered by the CD.

Results have just been announced for the fourth annual Pan African essay competition inspired and run by Adedayo Thomas of <u>AfricanLiberty.org</u>. The topic this year was "Nations which are economically free outperform non-free nations in all indicators of wellbeing." Adedayo publicizes the competition and the ideas it promotes, by running it in conjunction with the student section of 'The Nation' newspaper in Nigeria and Blantyre Newspapers in Malawi. Further details with regard to this are up on our website here.



The winners get a place on the very popular SYPALA (Students and Young Professionals Liberty Academy) run by AfricanLiberty.Org in Kenya this year, where they spend several days with like-minded students and excellent teachers learning more about liberty.

The Tajikistan Free Market Institute also ran an essay competition which was won by a young journalist. The topic was "The Recipe for Tajikistan's Economic Miracle" and the results determined attendance at their 5 day summer liberty camp where they had 25 selected participants and sessions included "What are the economic, social and institutional reforms necessary for the country to go from poverty to sustainable prosperity?" and "What has been done in those countries where there is an economic miracle now?". You can see a PDF version of their brilliant report here.

The essay winners received books and everyone got a copy of the CD. The organizers also did a great job leveraging the event by getting coverage in at least 10 media articles and postings.

In addition we are supporting essay competitions in <u>Turkey</u>, <u>Armenia</u>, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, <u>Kazakhstan</u> and China this year. A group in Beijing is running a nationwide essay contest with a choice of 5 topics: *Property Right and Individual Freedom*; *Free Competition and Gap of Wealth*; *Rule of Law and Constitutionalism*; *The Morality in Market Economy*; *Population, Environment and Free Market*. It will be judged by about ten of their top liberal scholars.



传知行社会经济研究所 2013年7月11日

Online advertisement of the Chinese Essay Contest.

In depth seminars for academics and other intellectuals

Then there are a series of in depth seminars for academics and other intellectuals planned later in 2013 and early in 2014 in Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan and Morocco. The Arab Liberal Forum will run the Moroccan event with additional partners and expects to have the biggest attendance of any liberal event so far in an Arab speaking country with speakers coming from all over the world.

In contrast the <u>Istanbul Network for Liberty</u> will run a smaller and more intimate event in Pakistan which will provide a platform for a candid and open debate on the religious arguments that confront Muslim majority nations across the globe. This will be for 15 to 20 expert academics who hope to produce a paper that will make the case for an increase in the level of intellectual, personal, political and economic freedoms for Muslims.



Dr Azhar Aslam welcoming participants to the Istanbul Network for Liberty in Islamabad



Participants looking at and selecting books and other resources available to them

In March this year NFS supported the attendance of a number of our Muslim partners, or those from mainly Muslim countries, at an Istanbul Network for Liberty conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, where the discussion was 'Islam and the Institutions of a Free Society'.

The programme included interesting papers like 'Islam, the Individual and Liberty' by Dr Prof Bilal Sambur, 'Improving the Position of Women in Muslim Countries' by Souad Adnane, 'The Individual as Addressee of God and Consequent Freedom of Choice' by Dr Azhar Aslam, 'Islam and Free Market Economy, Friend or Foe?' by Dr Mustafa Acar, and 'The Challenges of Building Liberal Democracies in Muslim Countries' by Dr Raza Ullah.

Are We Effective?

We share John Maynard Keynes' view that 'The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else'.

We see ample proof that people are only able to escape from poverty when they are free, so we believe that promoting the understanding of freedom is the best thing we can do to reduce poverty and repression in the long run.

Every year we have more people wanting to work with us and use the resources we provide. People who themselves work tirelessly for very little personal financial return because they have a burning commitment to the vision of a free and responsible society.

We know our work does increase the numbers of those who promote these views. For instance Alex Ndungu from Kenya said "My moment of epiphany came in when I was researching for Africanliberty.org's essay competition...." which is funded by NFS. Since then Alex has set up the East African Policy Institute with Mike Rotich. Later this year they will set off on the Caravan of Liberty visiting 23 East African colleges and universities promoting liberty.



The main prizes for AfricanLiberty.org's essay competition is participation in the annual SYPALA (Students and Young Professionals African Liberty Academy) reported here in Nigeria's The Nation newspaper. This is where their interest is nurtured and networking begins

In 2007 Linda Whetstone was involved in running a Mont Pelerin Society Meeting in Nairobi for which we had raised funding for student fellowships. One fellow was from Ethiopia and she took home a couple of books and the first edition of the CD. In July 2012, five years later, we heard from her brother who had been inspired by the texts on the CD and wanted to start an organization in Ethiopia. He has now started a library of classical liberal books for university students who previously had no access to such texts.

Armenia is an example of how ideas about the concepts and practise of a free society are spread and the number of organisations that might be involved. Only recently has there been any activity promoting free societies in Armenia. Armenia Youth for Liberty and Language of Liberty put on events in 2011 and 2012 and were joined in 2013 by the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung to offer a Liberty Camp in March 2013 which was preceded by the Leadership School in Yerevan. Meanwhile an Armenian chapter of Students for Liberty was being formed and their President Anna Martirosyan approached us for funds for an essay competition which you can see advertised below. It has just finished and Anna wrote to say that it had identified a number of free thinking people which they previously did not know, two of whom are already so well versed in the ideas that they will be teaching at the first ever Students for Liberty conference in Armenia in September.

Armenian Students for Liberty

1ST ASFL Annual Conference and Pre-Conference Essay Contest 14-15 September, 2013 • Vanadzor city

The Freedom Movement's Event of the Year

NFS funded the essay contest and all involved in these activities have asked for the CDs. Inessa Shahnazarova put 175 CDs on the table at the Leadership School and all were immediately taken with another 20 leaving their names for us to send them more.



Participants at the Yerevan Leadership School taking CDs before the meeting

However, spreading the ideas is one thing and knowing that they are having an effect is another. This is very hard to prove and is a challenge faced by all think-tanks because changes as they evolve are rarely clearly apparent at the time neither are the reasons why they took place. We can only hope to play a role in encouraging beneficial changes in opinion and public policy and discouraging damaging ones.

What we do know for sure is that if people cannot access the ideas they are certainly not going to influence opinion and policy. Looking at the situation in places like the Middle East it must surely be a high priority to provide their intellectuals with easy access to these concepts.

Our aims for 2014

- To assess the 2013 programs regarding their impact.
- To organize the widest possible distribution of the 3rd edition of the CD to our partners either by sending CDs as before, or sending the material for them to print themselves or to put on their websites or on memory sticks,
- To arrange the maximum distribution of the French CDs in both France and
 Francophone African countries and the Arabic CDs throughout the Arabic speaking
 world as well as continuing the distribution of the other language CDs.
- To ensure the widest possible dissemination in many languages of a new book that
 covers all aspects of a free society and is aimed at undergraduate audience. It has
 been written by Dr Eamonn Butler and will be published by the Institute of Economic
 Affairs shortly.
- To support the continuation of an energetic translation program into Farsi and Arabic but also expanding it into Urdu and Kurdish with a view to an increasing number of books being published commercially in all these languages.
- To support partners running innovative programs such as essay contests or seminars, based on the texts on the CD, with the aim of educating students and identifying those with a genuine interest in and understanding of the ideas.
- To support projects where intellectuals in less developed countries can explore and debate the principles and foundations of a free society in their country or region.
- To support a pilot project in Namibia where our partners the Chevauchee
 Foundation is teaming up with the NANSO Students Organisation to establish
 reading clubs at 200 schools countrywide. The project needs hundreds of books
 that introduce students to a free market economy and open political system.



We want to thank our marvellous donors most sincerely for the crucial part they played in making all this possible. Further support for this important work is essential if it is to continue and can be given on our website or by contacting us directly.