



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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The Power of a Book, Foundations of a Free Society

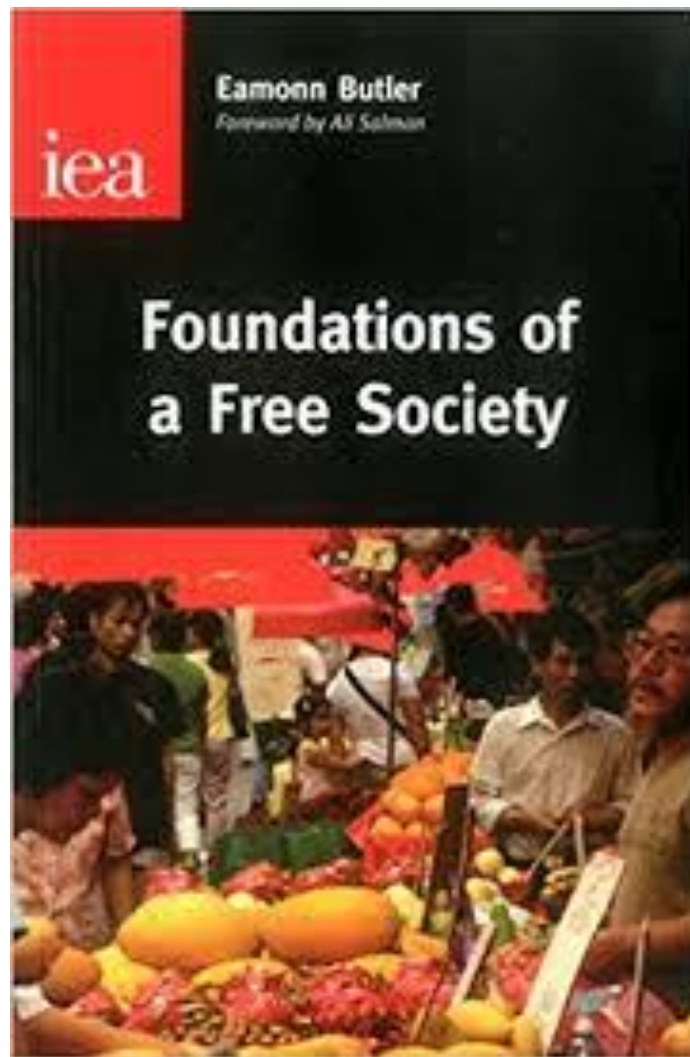
A huge thank you to our donors without whom none of our work would be possible and many thanks also to our partners for their hard innovative work making the case for freedom and the opportunity and prosperity it brings.

To read a more detailed version of this click [here](#).

If we believe in the creative power of freedom and that ideas have consequences we must find the best ways of getting our ideas into the hands of others who will spread them far beyond those we could possibly reach ourselves even with all the new technology. At NFS we think that books are still an essential part of this process and believe the story of Foundations of a Free Society tells us something about why they are still important and how they work their magic.

In 2011 we needed a book that explained the principles and foundations of a free society and the benefits they bring. It had to be easily understood by those who previously knew nothing about the concepts, and were often reading in a second language. When we could not find one we decided a new one was needed.

The result in 2013 was [Foundations of a Free Society](#) thanks to the Institute of Economic Affairs, Eamonn Butler and Alan and Emma Gibbs.



It has now been translated into many languages including Spanish, Korean, Malayalam, Icelandic, Slovenian, Polish, Kiswahili, Farsi, Armenian, Arabic, French, Turkish, Khmer and Amharic and is available both on line and in hard copy in many countries. It is on the mini libraries of classical liberal texts 'Ideas for a Free Society' in English, French and Farsi/Dari that make the ideas accessible to students in countries in Africa and Asia where internet connections are weak or too expensive.

As each chapter more or less stands on its own they can be used as individual seminars which makes it invaluable in countries where there are no such texts and few if any people understand the concepts well enough to teach them to others.

In late November 2014, "Foundations of a Free Society" won the prestigious [Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award](#). Named after the late business and think-tank entrepreneur, this award was given annually to the think tank that published the study that has made the greatest impact on public understanding of a free society.



In 2014 the Student Liberty Club at the University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria started by Adedayo Thomas discussed one chapter a week on their university radio station. This was from a special version he had produced for Africans with an extra forward and different cover. (<https://www.networkforafreesociety.org/2014/07/30/a-new-book-on-the-principles-and-foundations-of-a-free-society/>)



It was translated into French by the Institute Coppet and included on the CD they produced "[Idees pour une Societe Libre](#)" of which thousands of copies have been made available in Francophone Africa. Several thousand have been used by Students for Liberty in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda particularly for the Foundations of a Free Society text which has been the base of their flagship quiz program and involves over 1000 students every year as well as being well covered in the media.

Aimable Manirakaze being interviewed on radio in the Congo in 2017



Being promoted in a bookshop window in Tehran



It is impossible to know how many people have now been informed and inspired by the book but given the number of colleagues who have wanted to make it available in their countries either in English or their own language, on line, on the CD or in hard copy they must think it has value. Already we can see that it encourages people to want to both learn more from it and to promote it more widely and only time will tell how influential it has been. But without it thousands of people would have a less clear understanding of the values we promote so would be less likely to want to promote them further or act on them themselves.

If you believe in the creative power of freedom and want many more people to benefit from it in the future, we hope you will be inspired by this work and support us in 2018. We can't do it without you.

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