



FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Government vs Market Solutions to Social and Economic Problems?

A big thank you to our partners for their dedicated innovative work making the case for freedom and the prosperity it brings.

Also a huge thank you to our donors without whom none of this would be possible.

The debate between the merits of government vs market solutions to social and economic problems seems to be intensifying despite convincing evidence that countries which are economically free significantly out perform in terms of human flourishing.

As shown in the [2018 Human Progress Index](#) average per capita income in the top quartile of economic freedom was \$40,376 and that in the lowest \$5,649. The average income of the poorest 10% in the top quartile was \$10,660, or almost double the average income in the bottom quartile where the average income of the lowest quartile was only \$1,345. Life expectancy is 79.5 years in the top quartile compared to 64.4 years in the bottom. Political and civil liberties and gender equality are also higher in the top quartile as are happiness levels.

The only conclusion you can draw from these figures is that millions of people could lift themselves from miserable poverty if economic freedom in their countries were to be increased.

The Network for a Free Society Solution

It is inconceivable that things can change for the better in these lower income countries unless people understand the reasons for their poverty but for many of them there is literally no information available. Neither teachers nor books that explore and explain the concept of a free society, and limited access on the internet even if you knew what you were looking for. Indeed it is not in the interest of elites that this information becomes widespread because they benefit from the status quo.

Our mission is to make the ideas that explore and explain the principles and values of a free society accessible in countries and languages where they are currently not available. We do this working with independent in-country partners who understand the local needs and cultures. We support the distribution of CDs which contain many relevant texts and are available in Chinese, Russian, Kyrgyz, Portuguese, Arabic, Turkish, French for Francophone Africa, and Dari/Farsi. They may seem old-tech but are still often the only solution where connections to the Internet are non-existent, too intermittent or too expensive.

We also fund translations of relevant texts and their publication as well as events where our partners can explore and explain these concepts to broader audiences. In 2018 we supplied 5,600 CDs to our partners in Africa and Asia. We funded their larger audience events which were attended by over 5,000 students and more intensive small audience seminars events in which 667 students took part. 9 books have been translated and published. 2,438 copies have been distributed and many more read on-line. There have been dozens of relevant media hits.

The 2019 Doorway to Discovery Translations project



This year we have an ambitious program of translation and distribution of four new publications from the Institute of Economic Affairs in London. All four will be translated into Turkish and Persian some will be translated into Indonesian, Nepalese, French, Armenian, Bosnian, Serbian and Sinhali. All will be widely promoted in those countries, available on our partner's websites and on the IEA website.

[*An Introduction to Capitalism*](#) by Dr Eamonn Butler
[*Socialism: The Idea that Never Dies*](#) by Dr Kristian Niemietz

[Free Trade and how it enriches us](#) by Professor Donald J Boudreaux
[101 Classical Liberal Thinkers](#) by Dr Eamonn Butler to be released shortly.

Introducing the Ideas to Larger Audiences

In 2018 we supported large audience events in [Afghanistan](#), [Burundi](#), [Congo](#), [Rwanda](#), [Uganda](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Tanzania](#), the purpose being to introduce people to the concepts of a free society, probably for the first time. This helps our partners identify those who will be interested to learn more in the future. Sometimes, however, these events include conferences on specific topics.

Democratic Republic of Congo team wins the Great Lakes Annual International Quiz Contest



Exploring the Concept of a Free Society in Smaller Focussed Groups

When students have become interested in the ideas then we support smaller more focussed peer groups, often two-day events, where the ideas can be explored and discussed with an experienced leader. The expectation is that those who take part will be the future influencers in their country as they become journalists, teachers, academics, bureaucrats, politicians and think tankers.

In 2018 we supported such events in [Afghanistan](#), Armenia, [Ghana](#), [Ivory Coast](#), [Iran](#), [Indonesia](#), [Nepal](#) and [Pakistan](#).

Economic Growth and Wealth Creation was the topic for this two day discussion in Nepal



Books and CDs Translated & Distributed

The much translated IEA book *Foundations of a Free Society* is being translated and published in Nepal by [Samridhi Foundation](#) for use by the 100s of students with whom they interact. The same book will be translated and published in Afghanistan by the [Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation](#) and they will be printing and distributing many of the CDs in Dari and Pashto.

Liberty Sparks gave a CD to the hundreds of students who attended their Great Free Market Debate which they took to universities all over Tanzania. Here they were rewarded with a big crowd when they arrived at Hombolo which is a 9 hour journey down dirt tracks



Center for Development and Economics Great Lakes will be distributing several thousand CDs in English in Burundi, Congo and Rwanda and also translating, printing and distributing some of the IEA books into French. This will also make them available to other groups in Francophone countries including Senegal and Ivory Coast Institute for Liberty and Policy Innovation (ILAPI) in Ghana will again be using the CDs for their journalist seminar. Action for Liberty and Economic Development (ALED) in Uganda will be getting CDs to replace those confiscated by their customs in 2018. Islam and Liberty Network, (ILN) will continue to promote *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society* in a number of languages. Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) is going to translate and adapt the IEA book *Free Trade and how it enriches us* as part of their spring offensive in favour of free trade particularly in food stuffs.

The demand for relevant books in Armenia seems to be bottomless. *Foundations of a Free Society* in Armenian has been hugely popular and we never seem to be able to supply enough. Then just last week we discovered that there is already an Armenian version of the wonderful book Common Sense Economics by Jim Gwartney so we will be funding the printing of more copies of that too.

Suara Kebebasan in Indonesia translated *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society* last year and will be promoting it this year and also translating, publishing and promoting *An Introduction to Capitalism*.

In 2018 we helped Association Multi in Bosnia translate and publish Friedman's *Capitalism and Freedom* and this year it will be Eamonn Butler's An Introduction to Capitalism.

In 2018 we helped the Center for Anti-Authoritarian Studies in Serbia get copyright permission to translate a number of books on our CD for inclusion in the reading list

for students in Serbia we will fund their translation and publication of Kristian Niemitz's *Socialism: the failed idea that never dies*.

In 2018 we sent English CDs to Students Organisation for Liberty & Entrepreneurship (SOLE) South Sudan where the average income is below \$200 a year and in 2019 we will be funding their work in schools promoting the concepts of a free society. Our CDs in Chinese were used at the 9th North Eastern University Summer Camp in 2018.

Once again a **huge** thank you to our **wonderful donors**, our **inspirational partners** and other friends for all their work and support during 2018 to increase understanding of the power of freedom in places where it is so much needed.

If you have not already done so please support this important work in 2019. There are still millions of people who have no idea that there is a solution to the misery and poverty in which they live and no way to find out unless we can help our partners reach them.

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