



NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY

AUGUST 2021

<https://www.networkforafreesociety.org>



Network for a Free Society

Our Annual Report from August 2020 to July 2021

Everything that Network for a Free Society has done is only possible because of the dedication of our partners and the generous support of our donors.

Thank you all so very much.

“Entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in boosting progress, productivity and prosperity. They drive economic growth and create new opportunities. Their innovations transform people’s lives and yet their enormous contribution is not widely understood.” Eamonn Butler, in his new book *An Introduction to Entrepreneurship* explains the pivotal role of entrepreneurship, exploring its economic and social significance, and the conditions needed for it to thrive. He discusses barriers to it, and often misguided attempts by governments to foster it.

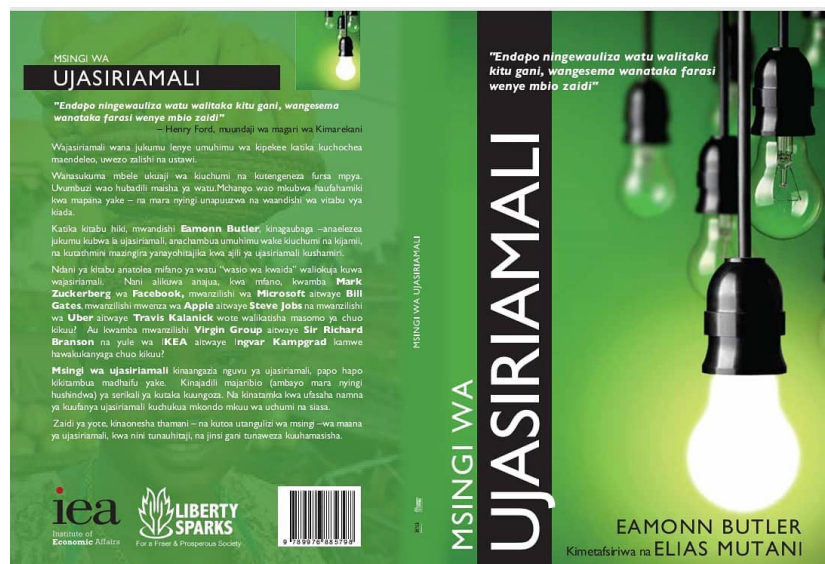
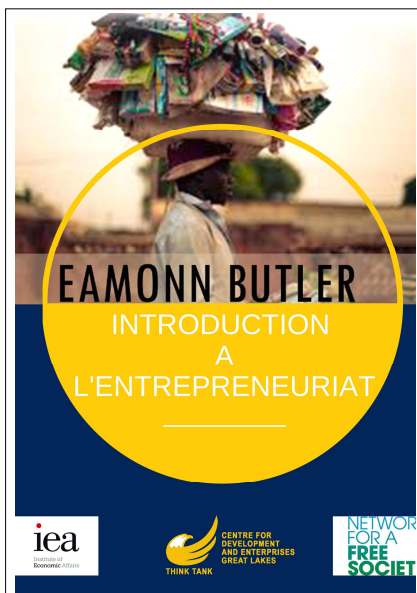
Such insights would have the most potential value to the poorest in lower income countries, yet they would be the least likely to have access to them. This book and others would not be available to them, few if any in their countries would understand them or be promoting them, and they would likely only be in a language they could not understand.

The NFS mission is to make the texts that explore and explain the principles and values of a free society available in countries and languages where they are currently not accessible so that more people can understand the relationship between freedom and human flourishing, and promote and defend these concepts in their countries.

This report shows how our partners in lower income countries make these concepts more widely available in their countries and languages so that people can understand the changes needed for greatly increased opportunities and enterprise, and work to implement them.

French for Francophone Africa.

Swahili for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda & South Sudan.



Titles on this list are being translated, published or actively disseminated by partner organisations with our support during 2021.

Language	Title	Countries or Regions
Arabic	An Introduction to Democracy (a) H S	Arabic speaking countries
“	An Introduction to Entrepreneurship (a) H S	“
Armenian	Common Sense Economics (b) H	Armenia
Chichewa	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H S	Malawi
Dari	Islamic Foundations of a Free Society © Audio	Afghanistan
“	An Introduction to Democracy (a) H S	“
“	An Introduction to Entrepreneurship (a) H S	“
“	Youth Narrative for Peace Prosperity & Tolerance (d) H S	“
English	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H	Ghana
“	Public Choice: A Primer (a) H	“
“	A Beginners Guide to Liberty (e) H	Nigeria
“	Classical Liberalism (a) H	“
“	An Introduction to Entrepreneurship (a) H	Uganda
“	Entrepreneurship and Economics (f) H S	“
“	A Teacher’s Guide to Entrepreneurship & Economics. (f) HS	“
Farsi	101 Great Liberal Thinkers (a) H	Iran
“	An Introduction to Democracy (a) H	“
French	An introduction to Entrepreneurship (a) HS	Burundi
“	An Introduction to Democracy. (a) H S	& DL Congo
“		& Rwanda
Hausa	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H,S & Audio	Nigeria
North Macedonian	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H S	North Macedonia
Swahili	Adam Smith – A Primer (a) H S	Kenya
“	An Introduction to Capitalism (a) H S	& Tanzania
“	An Introduction to Entrepreneurship (a) S	& Uganda
“	An Introduction to Democracy (a) S	& South Sudan
Portuguese	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H S	& Brazil
Russian	Foundations of a Free Society (a) H S	Russia
“		& Tajikistan
Urdu	Foundations of a Free Society. (a) HS	Pakistan

Our support is allocated according to 1) need for such texts, 2) our partners’ energy, efficiency and breadth and success in the promotion of them and their ideas, and 3) the funding that NFS has available for the work.

(a) Published by the Institute of Economic Affairs & written by Eamonn Butler. (b) Published by Economic Fundamentals Initiative & written by James Gwartney, Richard Stroup, Dwight Lee, Tawni Ferrarini, Joseph Calhoun, Randall Filer. (c) Published by the Institute of Economic Affairs & written by Nouh el Harmouzi & Linda Whetstone. (d) Published by the National Youth Conference. (e) edited by Richard Welling & published by the Adam Smith Trust. (f) Published by Lithuanian Free Market Institute. H hard copy. S Soft copy.

Front cover

Upper: Conference in Burundi to explore An Introduction to Entrepreneurship. 2021

Lower: Youth Conference in Balkh, Afghanistan on Human rights, Democracy, Liberty and Prosperity.

Supporting Freedom in Afghanistan

NFS has been supporting the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation in its promotion of the values of tolerance and individual freedom as the foundation for peace since it was founded in 2009. Principally this has been through their translation and dissemination of classical liberal texts in hard and soft copies, on CDs, and recently in an audio book. Also by supporting their educational programs where the books are used.

NFS fully funded the Dari translations of both *An Introduction to Entrepreneurship* and *An Introduction to Democracy* and their production in hard and soft copies. Both will be launched shortly. Also in 2020 NFS funded the printing of 2,300 copies of the 4th edition of the mini library of classical liberal texts on CD in Dari, *Ideas for Peace and Prosperity* following requests from a number of universities for more copies.



Also as a result of feedback AELSO created an audio version of *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society* in Dari. It will reach new audiences by radio, particularly their Silk Road Radio Station, in areas where internet connections are expensive, weak or non-existent as well as the many people whose sight has been damaged during the years of war. NFS funded the original translation, publishing and promotion of this book but AELSO produced the audio book from their own resources.

In addition NFS co-funded AELSO's major educational programs in 2020. 5,100 young people learned about democratic and free society values at Symposiums for Peace and Tolerance in 8 provinces as part of their Liberty Clubs. 7,100 individuals from all parts of the country have benefited from the AELSO Academy project which organised Think Big conferences in Samangan, Laghman, Logar and Kapisa provinces for students and civil rights activists.

In 2021 AELSO offered 930 internships for young people to learn the skills needed to run such an organisation and to get a deeper understanding of the benefits of limited government and individual freedom.

Youth Symposium in Badajlsam



Improving the Environment for Enterprise in Burundi.

Burundi is 166th out of 190 in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business 2020 and improving that ranking is high on the agenda of the Center for Development & Enterprise: Burundi. They are second to none in promoting a better understanding of the problems that beset would-be entrepreneurs in so many African countries and this year they excelled in their translation into French of *An Introduction to Entrepreneurship* and its publication and dissemination.

First was a seminar launch event for journalists from 16 media outlets, then one with 25 representatives of students from the 10 main universities, the next attracted 57 members of Students for Liberty and a fourth for the Economic News Association in Burundi bought together another 37 participants. Everyone at these events is involved in spreading ideas and the book received a great deal of traditional and social media coverage with 16 listed media hits in the first weeks.



In March a workshop attracted 18 business leaders & staff of regulatory agencies, a conference drew 511 students and a second attracted 311 entrepreneurs and civil society actors.

Radio debate about the book on CCIB FM

Copies were given to libraries in Burundi and to Students for Liberty groups in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of

Congo during retreats with local coordinators. An article for op-eds and a podcast allowed its promotion in other Francophone African countries reaching 17,273 people in 7 French speaking countries who accessed the book through the CDE site.

This process is now being repeated for *Introduction to Democracy* while simultaneously the 6th Annual Burundi/Rwanda/DRC Inter Country Quiz takes place. 1,200 first year university students will learn about the *Foundations of a Free Society*, many will become members of Students for Liberty and over time they themselves will promote freedom as the solution to poverty.

The three think tanks in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC are now driving policy changes that improve the environment for enterprise in their countries. CEO Aimable Manirakiza says that access to texts in French that explore and promote greater freedom has been crucial in getting

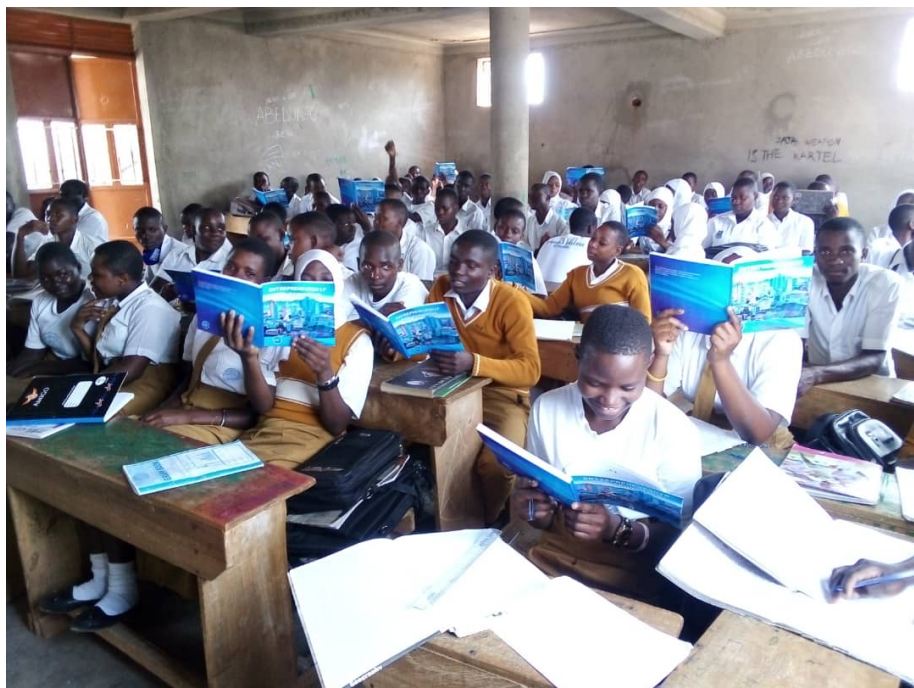
these improvements including reducing the costs of registering a business in Burundi and allowing local registration of businesses in Rwanda rather than only in Kigali.

Courses in Entrepreneurship and Economics for Ugandan High Schools

After months of planning in 2020 it was not until March 1st 2021 that students were introduced to their new book, Entrepreneurship & Economics. The purpose of the project was to replace what had been a non-existent or even incorrect teaching of these subjects with lessons that develop an understanding of free enterprise as the key to advancing prosperity,

innovation and human fulfillment and shape the way both students and teachers understand economics.

For the first time students learn about Entrepreneurship and Economics.



Mugabi Socrates, CEO of ALED. (Action for Liberty & Economic Development) an independent think tank in Uganda, first had to persuade the local

authority in Entebbe to agree the project in state schools and then the teachers too. Next to identify a suitable book and teachers' guide and get them appropriately amended for a Ugandan setting, and funds had to be raised, specific schools identified and enrolled, the teachers trained, and the 1,000 books printed and delivered.

17 schools and 1,306 students took part in the 31 hours of allocated class time with some students sadly having to share books. Other schools begged to be included after the closing date.

The course got a warm welcome from teachers, heads and students who requested that: -

- ALED continue to support this course in their schools in future,
- ALED organize a conference on Entrepreneurship and Economics for High Schools so other teachers can learn of the benefits of the book and the course.
- Students who were not in the target class can also benefit from this learning.
- That there be a test for those who took part & accreditation for their achievements.
- Textbooks and teachers' guide will be kept in the library for reference, more lessons to come and students' personal reading.
- Teachers have asked to start entrepreneurship and economics clubs for students.

A Break Through into the Universities in Tanzania

In 2020 free market think tank Liberty Sparks first published classical liberal books in Swahili which is widely spoken in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

The books were *Adam Smith: A Primer* and an *Introduction to Capitalism* by Eamonn Butler, both published by the IEA. Dissemination was mostly through their Caravan of Ideas which visits universities to disseminate them at seminars or other events, and also through webinars and an essay competition to find the best students to man the Caravan of Ideas next year.

Late in 2020 they translated and published *An Introduction to Entrepreneurship* with exciting



results from their campaign to distribute and promote the three books plus, from July onwards, *An Introduction to Democracy*.

In June 2021 they repeated an earlier visit to St Mary's Teacher's College

The hall was packed with 150 plus.

Similarly successful events took place at the University of Social Welfare (STAWI), the College of Trade, the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the Muslim University of Morogoro, and the Mwalimu Nyerere Academy amongst others.

The book was launched on ITV and has been discussed and promoted more widely on TV and Radio since.

Now the books are in Swahili interest from radio and television stations has increased and particularly from universities who were hostile previously.



CEO Evans Exaud wrote “We had a very successful presentation of the book to 14 heads of faculty of entrepreneurship, College representatives and University principles. they promise to assign their students to read the book and write something about it. Again they request similar seminars for all faculty of entrepreneurship in the country and they asked for a short video for the book and also a seminar to all their students about the book.”

Promoting Freedom & Peace in South Sudan

Students for Liberty & Entrepreneurship is in South Sudan which is 185th out of 190 in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index. Poor security there makes travel very dangerous.

In 2020 SOLE had to abandon face to face activities due to covid and online activities are limited by poor connections. However, in 2021 they were able to run their Inter University Liberty Caravan, albeit with limited numbers, and also their weekly radio messaging and quizzes.

Weekly show on local FM

During February their Liberty Caravan visited two universities weekly to introduce students to concepts such as democracy, tolerance, market economy, individual liberty, entrepreneurship and the rule of law. 203 students and lecturers took part and a club was formed at the



Catholic University of South Sudan to continue this interaction.

These seminars were based on Tom Palmer’s books *Peace, Love and Liberty* and *Why Liberty?* and Eamonn Butler’s book *Foundations of a Free Society* which were also used for a weekly show on the local FM Radio supported by NFS. The underlying theme was to embrace the spirit of peace, love and liberty which are foundational for human flourishing and at the end of each program there was a quiz with 12 prizes for those who got the answers right. This proved hugely successful in keeping the attention of the audience with no less than 1,213 people calling in with answers to the questions. It was broadcast in both Arabic and English to reach as many as possible.

For 1,213 to respond the audience will have been significantly higher.

Towards a better Understanding of Economics in Pakistan.

Two months later than usual because of the virus the Alternate Solutions Institute held its 12th five-day residential workshop, the 10th to be supported by NFS. This event always attracts a large number of very well qualified potential participants with 40 being accepted, 10 more than usual because of the high demand. They included lawyers, journalists, teachers, undergraduate students, entrepreneurs, political activists, and human rights defenders. All pay a subsidised fee to attend.

Topics included the current economic problems of Pakistan and their causes, such as Inflation, unemployment, poverty, bases of freedom, philosophy of rights; the concept of natural and inalienable rights, fundamental rights in Pakistan, economic and political freedom, the definition of economic freedom; elements of economic freedom; implications of economic freedom, how economic freedom relates to political freedom? The nature of the relationship; can one survive without the other? These topics have also been documented in a manual that includes writings of well-known economists, political scientists, and liberty champions.

Covid precautions on arrival

Tayyeba Zulfiqar a participant and lecturer from the Department of English at Bahria University Islamabad commented: "In five days I became 40 friends richer, and met some amazing scholarly mentors. Thank you ASI for giving me a lifetime experience. Everyone must strive to be a part of this formidable workshop."



The Compatibility of Islam and Liberty



Islam and Liberty Network's 3rd residential workshop on Islam & Liberty in Muree, Pakistan, was attended by 18 religious scholars, social scientists, teachers and members of civil society who were selected from 85 applications based on their demonstrated interest, intellectual capacity, understanding of free society principles and potential to contribute to this

debate. The main themes of the discussion were the religious, economic and political dimensions of freedom within the context of Islam and Muslim societies. It was facilitated by Ali Salman, CEO of Islam and Liberty Network, Malaysia. Islam and Liberty Network, which NFS has supported since its inception, won the Atlas Asia Liberty Award for 2020 which recognizes the most exceptional and innovative contributions to the understanding of free enterprise, and the public policies that encourage prosperity, innovation and human flourishing in the Asia region.

Longer Term Outcomes in Ghana



Peter Bismark was a teacher looking for a better future for Ghana. In 2016 he was given a copy of the CD *Ideas for a Free Society* at an Africa Liberty Camp. He said he was naïve about the ideas even after the camp until he read *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat and the *Road to Serfdom* on the CD which opened his eyes.

He has since worked to promote freedom in Ghana and was involved in nurturing Young Africans for Opportunity, YAFO, which grew out of his earlier work and here is their Opportunity Summit at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Technology in October 2021 with 341 signed up for it. There was literally a race for the CDs because Peter did not bring enough of them.

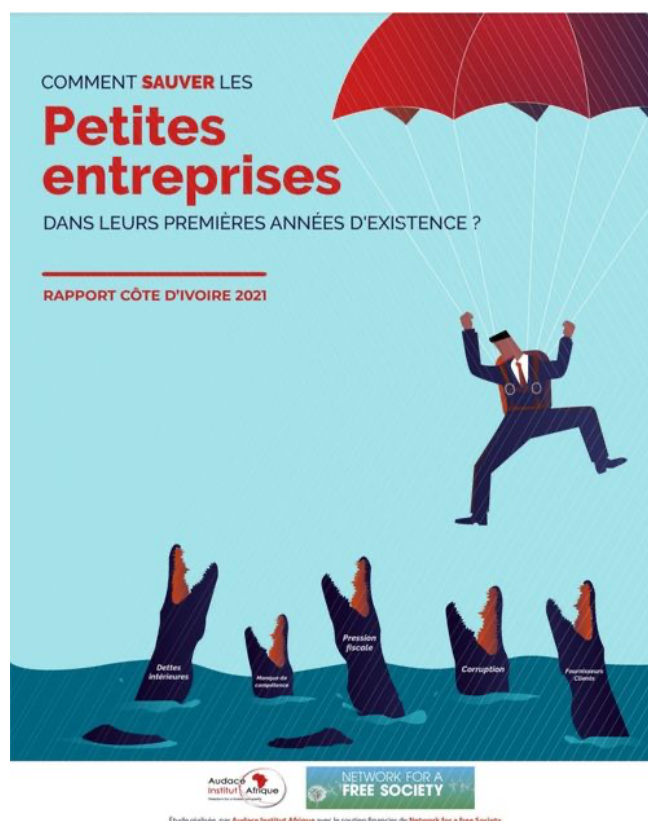
Improving the Chances for Start Ups in the Ivory Coast

Poverty rates here are 46%, rates of business bankruptcy and unemployment very high, the informal sector represents most of the economy and young people desperately look to public jobs for illusory security. Independent think tank Audace Institut Afrique (AIA), understands that it is the private sector which allows the public sector to there.

Despite changes and an average of 26% of new businesses being created annually, available jobs continue to fall and AIA has just finished a study to assess the challenges to young businesses in their first year and suggest solutions. These include the tax burden and lack of transparency in collecting it and other costs that push them back into the informal sector, burdensome regulations, corruption, incoherence of SME policies, irregularity of state contracts and a general lack of awareness of the role and value of entrepreneurs.

The study will be promoted through campaigns, a presentation, press conferences, dissemination to strategic people from the appropriate ministries, students and other influencers.

The first presentation was to 139 young people at the School of Liberty, supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. More will follow.



Each of the reported projects were completely or significantly funded by NFS. The great majority were well executed but unfortunately in the last 36 months two have not been completed due to the war in Ngorno-Karabakh or partners failing to complete their agreements.

Outputs achieved by NFS in 2020

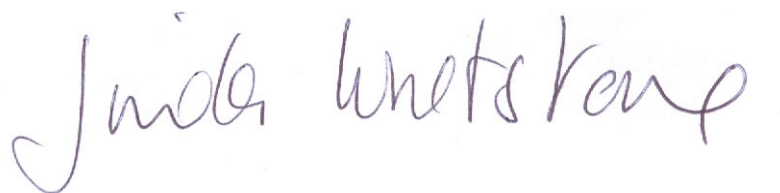
17,192 copies of **9** different titles were published and promoted in **13** languages and disseminated in at least **16** countries. **10,245** CDs *Ideas for a Free Society*, were distributed in many countries in at least 5 languages. **2,483** people took part in seminars or other more intensive learning events. **2,197** took part in conferences and **15,126** in webinars. **2.8m** plus engaged on social media. There have been at least **97** press interviews and the numbers learning about these ideas as a result of NFS support on radio and television is immeasurable. Some of our partners have regular programs on these media and most are well connected with them with a strong presence on radio & TV.

Impacts achieved by NFS in this report year

- The Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation (AELSO) won the 2020 Smith Student Award. NFS is a joint sponsor of their student programs.
- The Islam and Liberty Network won the 2020 Atlas Asia Liberty NFS award.
- In August 2020 the 2nd edition of *Socialism the Failed Idea that Never Dies* was printed commercially in Iran. NFS funded its original translation, publication and promotion.
- CDE Great Lakes has been successful in reducing business regulation in Burundi and CEO Aimable Manirakiza frequently says that the NFS CDs and books were critical to influencing public opinion in favour of a free society.
- Rainer Haufers, CEO of Center for Indonesian Policy studies wrote "*Free Trade and How it Enriches Us*", was downloaded 6,743 times and underpinned their successful campaign to persuade the Indonesian government to end their policy of food self-sufficiency.
- Mugabi Socrates said that the gift of *Road to Serfdom* and a copy of the CD *Ideas for a Free Society* in 2014 had been his own most important teachers and guides as he began his journey of building the libertarian movement in Uganda. He first founded Students for Liberty in Uganda and then Action for Liberty and Economic Development.
- Evans Exaud, CEO of Liberty Sparks in Tanzania said the translation of books into Swahili and their distribution has encouraged universities to host seminars on them and to promote them to all universities in Tanzania for dissemination.
- River State University in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has adopted *Classical Liberalism* as a text for postgraduate studies and undergraduate research programs. They are considering how NFS can be part of their academic resource network.

We want to thank everyone who has supported us in any way most sincerely for making this possible and we urge you to continue to do so because without you it cannot continue to happen. Also if you have ideas or advice please do get in touch.

Very best wishes to you all in your efforts to increase opportunities by promoting freedom.



Chairman, Network for a Free Society

Please support our work if you can by contacting linda@freesocieties.org.

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