

HIGHLIGHTS

Atlas Economic
Research Foundation



Fall 1996

Atlas 28th International Workshop in Istanbul

The ancient city of Istanbul played host to Atlas's 28th International Workshop from September 15 -17, 1996. With fabulous input and assistance from co-sponsors, **Association for Liberal Thinking** (Ankara, Turkey) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Konigswinter, Germany), the program provided a cultural blend of participants and ideas.

As with other international workshops, local participation held the key to exploring and advancing new ideas. Our Turkish hosts attracted a diverse range of influential opinion leaders from the Istanbul environs, including professors, business leaders, public officials, and public policy analysts.

The historic city offered a venue for fostering professional friendships and exchanges. As the program formally opened with dinner on Sunday evening, the afternoon before provided ample opportunity for introductions as participants settled in at the Armada Hotel, walked the streets of the Old City, or visited the world famous Blue Mosque, St. Sophia Church, and Topkapi Palace.

At the dinner program, Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen, Cüneyt Ülsever (**Association for Liberal Thinking**), and Wilhelm Humman (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Turkey) welcomed the participants and encouraged them to explore new links between the cultures and areas of mutual concern, expertise, and focus.

The first session on Monday opened under the chairmanship of Vural Fuat Savas, a professor at Marmara University who studied public choice economics with Nobel Laureate James Buchanan. Political philosopher Hardy

Bouillon (Universitat Trier, Germany) and political scientist Eser Karakas (Istanbul University, Turkey) addressed issues of "theory and economic policy."

Dan Peters, a trustee of **The Buckeye Institute** (Dayton, OH) and manager of the Environmental & Regulatory Public Policy section at Procter & Gamble, explored the relationship between business and think tanks. Peters pushed beyond the traditional funding role of corporations and offered an alternative model for public policy think tank and business cooperation. Think tanks are vital for their ability to communicate new ideas to the public; businesses are instrumental in generating, analyzing, and storing new information. Together, the roles can be mutually reinforcing in advancing and influencing new public policy ideas. Peters received many accolades and kudos for his outstanding presentation.

Other presentations included: Dr. S. Fred Singer (**Science & Environmental Policy Project**, Fairfax, VA) on barriers to production via energy policy; Osman Okyar (**Association for Liberal Thinking**, Ankara) on economic freedom in Turkey; Mehmet Aydm (Ege University,

Turkey), Imad Ahmad (**Minaret of Freedom**, Bethesda, MD) and Antony Sullivan (Earhart Foundation, Ann Arbor, MI) on "Islam and a Free Society;" Judge Ricardo Rojas (Argentina) and Serdar Aktan (Turkish-Arabic Bank, Turkey) on "Law and Economics;" Burhan Ghalioun (Paris, France) and Hüseyin Sak (The Office of the Prime Minister, Turkey) on "Religion and Market Economy;" and Detmar Doering (Friedrich Naumann Foundation and Liberales Institute, Germany), Orphan Morgil (Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Turkey) and C.G. Holmes (Procter & Gamble - Europe) on "Business, Policy and Ideas."

In his luncheon address, "Regulation: The New Dirigisme," Deepak Lal (University of California, Los Angeles, CA) declared that "the

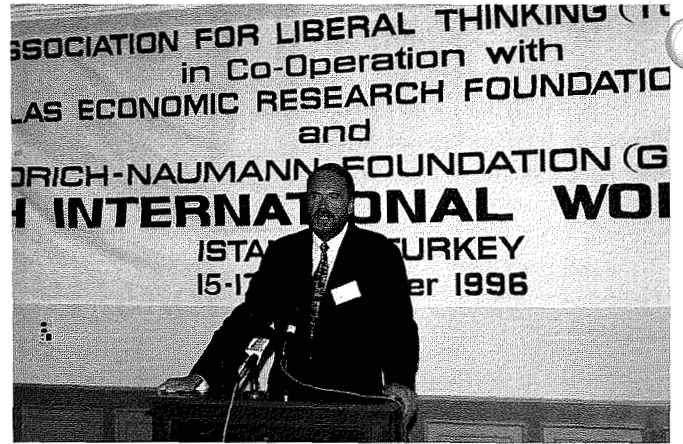
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At the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul -- Front Row from left to right: Imad Ahmad (US), Alejandro Chafuen (US), Ricardo Rojas (Argentina), Deroy Murdock (US), Roger Bate (UK). Back Row: Hannes Gissurarson (Iceland), Francisco Capella (Spain), Carol Coulter (USA), and Detmar Doering (Germany)



Burhan Ghalioun (Paris), Kâzım Berzeg (Association for Liberal Thinking board member), Gözde Ergözen (Association for Liberal Thinking, Turkey), Leonard Liggio (Atlas, USA), Melih Yürüsen (ALT board member), Deepak Lal (University of California, Los Angeles), and Antony Sullivan (Earhart Foundation, USA)



Wilhelm Humman (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Turkey)



Left: At St. Sophia Church -- Pedro Isern Munne (Argentina), Carol Coulter (Atlas, USA), Ricardo Rojas (Argentina), Alejandro Chafuen (Atlas, USA), John Goodman (National Center for Policy Analysis, USA), and Jo Kwong (Atlas, USA)

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intellectual battle is being won." He offered a model of liberalism from a historical perspective which traces the rise and fall of the state: as the state exerts greater control, people find ways to escape. As states scramble to reverse the situation (for example, by printing more money), they eventually reach crisis levels and begin to liberalize.

Most governments now realize, says Lal, they can restore their tax bases by liberalizing.

John Goodman (National Center for Policy Analysis, Dallas, TX) presented the dinner address on "The North American Political Economic Scene." He discussed the presidential race, welfare reform, and other issues related to the upcoming elections.

The Institute Reports session, a consistent feature of each Atlas workshop, offers the opportunity for participants to learn of new institute programs, ideas, and establishments. Zef Preci (Albanian Center for

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Hardy Bouillon (Universitat Trier, Germany), Vural Fuat Savas (Marmara University, Turkey), and Eser Karakas (Istanbul University)



Byeong-Ho Gong (Korea Economic Research Institute, Seoul)

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Economic Research, Tirana, Albania), Claudiu Doltu (**Romanian Institute for Humane Studies**, Bucharest, Romania), Barun Mitra (**Liberty Institute**, New Delhi), Beyond-Ho Gong (**Korea Economic Research Institute**, Seoul, Korea), and Maria Ghersi (**CITEL**, Lima, Peru) shared their insights and experiences.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the program came from the enthusiasm of the **Association for Liberal Thinking's** staff.

Approximately a dozen young intellectuals and students worked for months preparing for the workshop. Many are studying under Professor Atilla Yayla, the founder of the association who is currently a Fullbright scholar at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Under his guidance, these young people -- Özlem Çalar, Sibel Yaman, Güzde Ergözen, and Ataç

Association for Liberal Thinking staff: Nevral Genç, Özlem Çalar, Mehmet Öyen, Engin Özülgün, Milin Yürüsen, Ataç Ünlü (seated), Cennet Usla, and Güzde Ergözen



Ünlü -- to name a few, have embraced classical liberalism and its public policy applications. The opportunity for the Atlas staff and foreign colleagues to meet these students, along with the dozens of other Turkish professionals, helped make this program a success.

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Atlas Sponsors Dinner Program for Latin American Mont Pelerin Society Members

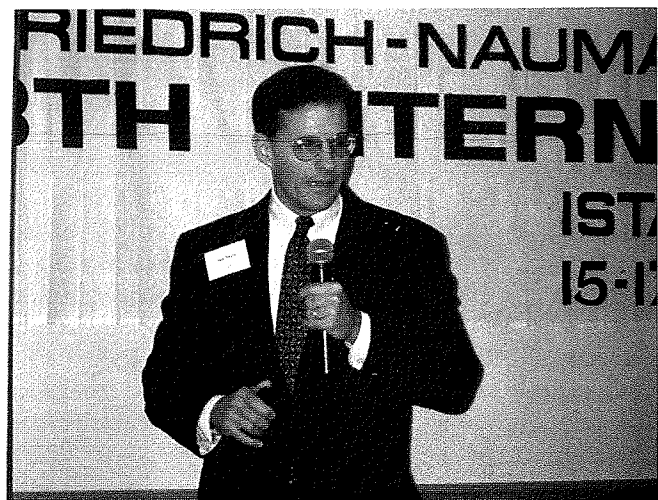
The warm reception received by Dan Peters at the Istanbul workshop is no accident. Peters works hard at helping public policy institutes boost their positive influence. To leverage his important ideas, Peters was also the featured speaker at a dinner meeting in Vienna, Austria, for Atlas colleagues who attended the Mont Pelerin Society meetings in the European city.

Speaking to a primarily Latin American audience, Peters talked about the environmental and economic benefits of unhindered corporate product innovation. He used the example of disposable diapers. Weighing 20 grams less than they did ten years ago, today's diaper is more absorbent and costs less than its older counterpart, offering obvious environmental and economic benefits. Such product innovations, however,

are threatened by various environmental policies such as ecolabelling.

Ecolabelling is an effort by consumer and environmental groups to create a scheme for consumers to compare the environmental impacts of comparable products. Peters described the unintended consequences of ecolabelling, drawing from empirical evidence in Sweden, where ecolabels have been implemented.

A lively discussion followed



Dan Peters (The Procter & Gamble Company)

Peters's remarks as the various institute directors shared experiences and ideas relevant to their home countries.

Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (Grand Rapids, MI) published *The Cross and the Rain Forest: A Critique of Radical Green Spirituality* by Robert Whelan, Joseph Kirwan and Paul Haffner. Responding to Christian concerns to "save the earth," the authors warn of the pitfalls of an unqualified embrace of environmentalism. They offer a critique of the origins and implications of radical environmentalism and its views of God, human beings, and animals.

The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions' (Dayton, OH) focus on education includes "School Vouchers Serve Low-Income Families" and "15% of Eligible Cleveland Public School Children Apply for Vouchers." Buckeye has widespread media coverage and publishes *Selected Media Clips*. The latest edition covers the period between April 1995 and April 1996.

"Unintended Consequences: How Government Policies Hurt Oregon's Poor" published by **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR) describes four major barriers imposed upon the poor by government. Taxes, barriers to employment, forced purchases of services (such as Social Security), and tariffs and quotas have helped create an economy that is "unfriendly" to the poor.

The Centre for Independent Studies' (St. Leonards, Australia) *Home Repairs: Building Stronger Families to Resist Social Decay*, offers a collection of essays by noted authors who examine the state of the family from a variety of perspectives, from the changing status of middle class women to the economics of marriage to liberalized divorce law. It suggests offering fault to divorce settlements as one way of improving incentives to meet the obligations of marriage and to publicly emphasize the importance of the marriage commitment.

In the **Competitive Enterprise Institute's** (Washington, DC) new publication, "Pricing God, and Other

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Heresies," author Robert Nelson examines the methodological failings of surveys which measure existence values of environmental goods. Nelson concludes that "a fundamental problem with existence value is that in many cases it attempts to answer a religious question with an economic method."

CEI also published "Property Rights, Regulatory Takings, and Environmental Protection," by Jonathan Adler. It challenges environmental opposition to pending property rights legislation and supports compensating landowners who are denied reasonable use of their land by federal regulations.

The Commonwealth Foundation (Harrisburg, PA) examines the loss of fundamental values in "Character Education in America." Several states, including Georgia and New Hampshire, have implemented programs of character education, suggesting a possible revival of these elements as a response to growing social pathologies among American youth.

Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales (Madrid, Spain) adds "*Qué Unión Europea?* (What European Union?), *Cultura y Política* (Culture and Politics), *Tiempo libre, educación y prevención en drogodependencias* (Free time, Education, and Prevention in Drug Addiction) to its extensive publication list.

Goldwater Institute's (Phoenix, AZ) *Perspective on Public Policy* topics include "Financing Higher Education: What is the Role of the State?," "ASAP's Foibles" which examines the state Student Assessment Program, and "Raising Arizona: Does More State Spending Ensure a Better Environment for Kids?"

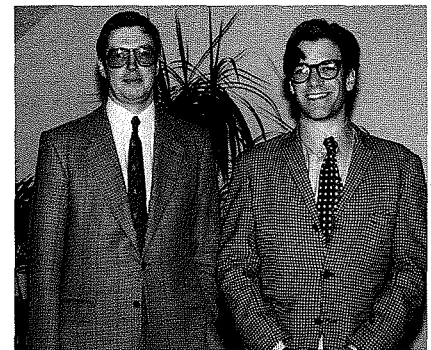
The proceedings from Goldwater Institute's November 1995 Conference on Federalism and Judicial Mandates, co-sponsored with the Federalist Society, were published in the Spring 1996 *Arizona State University Law Journal*.

In *Unequal But Fair? A Study of Class Barriers in Britain*, published by **The Institute of Economic Affairs** (London), author Peter Saunders rebuts claims that "life chances" are

determined by social background. Instead, Saunders argues that the most important factors shaping individual success or failure in Britain are academic ability and personal ambition.

On the heels of his book, *Down to Earth: A Contrarian View of Environmental Problems*, author Matt Ridley offers an IEA sequel, *Down to Earth II: Combating Environmental Myths*. Ridley shows how conventional wisdom about the environment is wrong by using illustrations, including England's National Lottery, the Environment Agency, and English Heritage. He concludes that "those who love nature should recognize heavy government as the problem, not the solution."

Also from the IEA, *The Corrosion of Charity: From Moral*



Robert Whelan, IEA Health & Welfare Unit and Julian Morris, IEA Environment Unit

Renewal to Contract Culture by Robert Whelan, contrasts the modern emergence of a rights-based universal welfare state with the traditional provision of welfare services by private citizens and voluntary agencies.

The Education and Training Unit of the IEA (London) published its first of the Studies in Education series. *Education Without the State*, by the unit's director James Tooley, dismantles traditional justifications for state intervention in education. It offers a "simple proposal, linked to recent discussion of the learning

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INSTITUTE NEWS

Twenty-eight seminarians and religious studies students from across North America participated in "Towards a Free and Virtuous Society" conference of the **Acton Institute for Study of Religion and Liberty** (Grand Rapids, MI). This conference, the flagship of the institute's educational programs for future religious leaders, couples intense seminar sessions with core reading selections to create a comprehensive introduction to the theoretical foundations and practical implications of liberty informed by faith.

Acton also hosted a Liberty Fund conference, entitled "The Moral and Religious Foundation of Liberty," in July. Acton president Father Robert Sirico and George Mason University (Fairfax, VA) Professor Karen Vaughn led seminarian and graduate students in discussions on the importance of liberty in economic, social, political, and moral life.

Acton's 1997 Essay Contest is now accepting submissions. The theme will be based on a quotation from Lord Acton chosen by the institute. First, second, and third place awards will be \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 respectively. Essays between 1750 and 2500 words in length should be

submitted by January 15, 1997. All interested students should contact Gregory M.A. Gronbacher, Ph.D. at 616-454-3080 or e-mail: gbacher@acton.org.

As part of its Parent Information Center, **Independent Institute** (Golden, CO) offers Report Cards on individual schools and other information to help parents compare the quality of schools. The center has compiled data on most of Colorado's public school districts and provides information about curricula, standardized test scores, number of National Merit scholars, and other comparative information. Additionally, the center offers assistance with charter school development, reviews charter school policy, and provides information on other education-related issues.

Forty-two Michigan high school teachers attended the **Mackinac Center for Public Policy's** (Midland, MI) annual teacher seminar in August. Recognizing that "nothing is more important for a free and prosperous nation than a popular understanding of basic political and economic principles," the program is designed to help high school teachers improve their ability to communicate political and economic principles to their

students.

Pioneer Institute For Public Policy Research (Boston, MA) hosted a discussion about the Boston School system. "Competition, Choice, and the Structure of Public Education" featured Pioneer's James Peyser; Felix Arroyo, Boston School Committee; Neil Sullivan, The Boston Private Industry Council; and Kristen McCormack, Charter school parent and founder.

The Sutherland Institute (Murray, Utah) has been busy in its first year with exciting workshops and luncheon programs. Speakers have included TV personalities Michael and Diane Medved, Bill Eggers (**Reason Foundation**, Los Angeles, CA), and Joe Bast (**Heartland Institute**, Palatine, IL).



Bill Eggers speaking at a workshop on local government at The Sutherland Institute

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society and lifelong learning accounts."

New *Viewpoint on Public Issues* from the **Mackinac Center for Public Policy** (Midland, MI) includes "Toward a Civil Society" by Lawrence W. Reed, "Ford Did Indeed Have a Better Idea" and "Would You Like to Buy a Lighthouse?" by Burton Fulsom.

Brief Analyses from the **National Center for Policy Analysis** (Dallas, TX) include "The Medicare Program: The Need for Radical Surgery," "Social Security Privatization," and "Medical Savings Account Legislation: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." *Policy Reports* include "The Economic Effects of a Flat Tax," and "Factories Behind Bars," an examination of

unnecessary legal restrictions which keep prisoners from doing productive work while jailed. Visit NCPA's web page at <http://www.public-policy.org/~ncpa/> for details on these and other studies.

Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy's (San Francisco, CA) *Capital Ideas* features "Global Warming Redux: Watch Your Wallet," which warns of the politics behind recent "findings" of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Another Pacific study examines California's efforts to raise the state minimum wage and concludes that the proposed increase will hurt welfare recipients' chances of securing entry level jobs.

The Social Affairs Unit's (London) list of recent publications include *Gentility Recalled: Mere*

manners and the making of social order; This Will Hurt: The restoration of virtue and civic order; The Death of Humane Medicine & The Rise of Coercive Healthism; Balloon Waiting to Be Burst: Pseudomanagement training; and What has 'Ethical Investment' To Do With Ethics?

To contact any of the organizations listed on these pages, check the virtual phonebooks on the Atlas web page:

<http://www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook>

New Institute in India Up and Running

The Liberty Institute (New Delhi) is officially off and running. Incorporated in early 1996, the institute made a smooth transition from the devoted personal efforts of one free-market journalist to an independent, public policy institute dedicated to the cause of liberty. Bearing the motto, "Where the mind is without fear..." Liberty seeks to strengthen the four institutional pillars of a free society -- individual rights, rule of law, limited government, and free markets.

The Spring 1995 issue of *Highlights* detailed Atlas's involvement with Barun Mitra, an environmental science writer referred by Professor Julian Simon of the University of Maryland. After many years of informal correspondence and support to Mitra culminated in a great reward for Atlas -- The Liberty Institute. Already, the institute is making vital contributions to the free society.

In April, 1996, Liberty Institute held its inaugural program, "The Philosophy of Freedom Workshop." "For the first time, a conference was organized in this part of the world with the aim of discussing the relevance of the ideas of five classical liberal thinkers -- Adam Smith, Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich von Hayek, Karl Popper, and Ayn Rand," said Mitra.

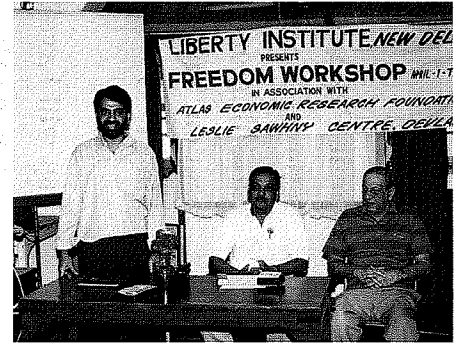
For those of us in the U.S. and other countries where meetings of free-market supporters are increasingly common, the opportunities to pick and choose among programs propels conference sponsors to excellence. Without a big name attraction, attendance can be sparse. Imagine the dedication of the twenty-four Indian participants who took part in a program where most of the presentations were video-tapes of renowned classical liberals!

The participants represented diverse backgrounds, including economists, engineers, environmentalists, educators, research scholars, and other professionals. To take advantage of the diversity, the program offered ample opportunity for

open discussion following each presentation. "Questions that attracted a lot of interest included the nature of government; the role, if any, of government in economic development, particularly in areas such as education, health, roads, communication, etc.; the nature of rights; the politicization of science; property rights approaches to environmental issues; the liberal tradition in India; the current situation in the country; and the role of the Liberty Institute," wrote Mitra.

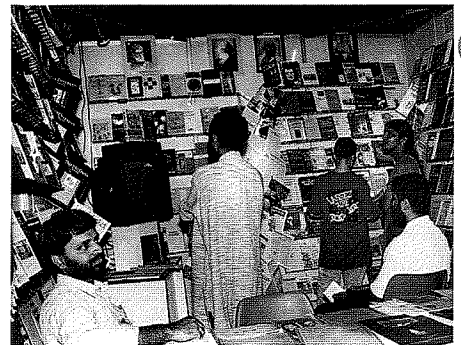
A workshop display of over 200 books and journals provided a rare opportunity for participants to browse through classics such as *The Wealth of Nations*, *Human Action* and works of Hayek, Rand, Thomas Sowell, Milton Friedman, Julian Simon, Dixy Lee Ray, and others. Publications from dozens of organizations and think tanks provided a glimpse of the wide range of activities being undertaken to promote the cause of freedom by public policy institutes worldwide.

The display is just part of a broader effort by Liberty. It is currently compiling a list of classical liberal-free market literature. Additionally, with the help of board member Parth Shah (University of Michigan), the Liberty Institute Book Club is underway. Twenty-four titles are in stock, representing books that are generally unavailable in Indian book shops.



Barun Mitra inaugurating the Freedom Workshop

Donations of books, videotapes, and audiotapes would greatly enhance Liberty's efforts. Check the Atlas web page <<http://www.atlas-fdn.org>> to contact Liberty Institute or any other institute mentioned on these pages.



The Liberty Institute stall at the New Delhi Book Fair

Growing Interest in Free-Market Environmentalism in Bangladesh

Making Our Economy Right (MOER) in Bangladesh has launched a program to advance free-market environmentalism in the Indian sub-continent. "Bangladesh is an ideal country in this region of South Asia with a combined total population of nearly 1 billion. The region is overloaded with the Greenpeace type of environmental intellectualism," writes Executive

Chairman Nizam Ahmad.

As part of its efforts, MOER welcomes Atlas colleagues to offer articles and reprints for publication in daily newspapers. Additionally, MOER could put environmental books and articles to good use in their growing library. If your organization can help, please contact Atlas or MOER for details.