

HIGHLIGHTS



Atlas Economic
Research Foundation

Fall 1999

Where the Mind is Without Fear: The Liberty Institute

"You would be amazed if you saw the meager working conditions Barun Mitra faces on a daily basis," Linda Whetstone (Atlas-UK, London) recently commented. Her words launched a soul-searching conversation among the Atlas staff -- just how much would we personally endure for the cause of liberty?

As we saw at the Atlas Workshop held in Dallas earlier this year, there are many "heroes" in the free-market movement who sacrifice their lives to keep the freedom ideal alive. Barun Mitra, president of the **Liberty Institute** in New Delhi, comes immediately to mind as one who works tirelessly to teach the principles of a free society to his fellow Indians.

Linda Whetstone also brought new meaning to the Liberty Institute's motto: "Where the Mind is Without Fear," as she tied it to the visions of her father, Atlas's founder Sir Antony Fisher. Fisher realized that much of the world's population lives with constant fear - fear of war or revolution, fear from unstable governments, fear from institutional uncertainty. He also recognized that a certain set of circumstances, including rule of law, private property and free markets, could minimize the uncertainty and instability that brings about this fear. Fisher sought to bring these conditions to as much of the world as he could. Without doubt, he would be greatly rewarded to see the progress of the Liberty Institute as it works to secure a place where "the mind is without fear."

With financial support from Atlas, Barun Mitra recently embarked on a month-long free-market think tank excursion. His travels took him to London to visit the **Institute of**

Economic Affairs; to the U.S. to visit institutes in the Washington, DC area as well as the wilds of Montana; to Costa Rica where he attended a workshop cosponsored by Atlas and the **Mackinac Center** (Midland, Michigan) and lastly, to Germany to attend a Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Konigswinter, Germany) conference. On each leg of the trip, Mitra focused on enhancing the effectiveness of the Liberty Institute to bring down the walls of "fear, uncertainty, and misunderstanding."

As an engineer turned science writer, Mitra contacted Atlas nearly ten years ago at the urging of Julian Simon, with questions about environmentalism. The more he learned about markets and the environment, the more he questioned current environmental policy. One query after another eventually led to the establishment of the Liberty Institute in 1995. He has since dedicated himself to educating his countrymen about the benefits of free markets in aspects well beyond environmentalism.

Intellectual Property Rights, Hayek, Mises and More

Liberty's recent newsletters provide a good synopsis of recent activities at the institute. One 1999 feature article, "Intellectual Property



Barun Mitra (left) with Atlas executive vice president, Leonard Liggio, near the Atlas offices in downtown Fairfax, Virginia

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INSTITUTE NEWS

The **Acton Institute's Center for Economic Personalism** (Grand Rapids, MI) has been working diligently to promote economic personalism through programs that emphasize human dignity, individual rights, and the Christian worldview. In September, CEP's Gregory Gronbacher conducted a minicourse titled, "An Introduction to Economics" for the Legionaries of Christ in Thornwood, NY. In October, he spoke on "Just War Theory" at Central Michigan University. The center also held its conference for religious leaders, "Toward a Free and Virtuous Society," in North Bend, Washington.

Cascade Policy Institute (Portland, OR) bid farewell to former executive director, Tracie Sharp. Tracie, who has been with Cascade for eight years, moved to San Francisco with her family to pursue opportunities with their church. She will be missed, not only by Cascade staff, but by other free-market institutes as well.

Cascade's environmental policy director, John Charles, is in high demand as a speaker and writer on "smart growth." Recent highlights include presentations before the Pennsylvania State Legislature; the Wise Use Leadership Conference in Reno, NV; and the Northwest Hazardous Waste Conference in Port Townsend, WA.

The Washington Education Association stepped up its efforts to derail the **Evergreen Freedom Foundation's** (Olympia, WA) citizen-action lawsuit. The WEA, which is defending its practice of using required collective bargaining dues to affect elections, filed a countersuit against EFF. "...the WEA officials must justify to their members why they spent \$1 million to defend the union's 'right' to take money from teachers without first asking permission or telling them how the money was spent," said Lynn Harsh, Evergreen Freedom Foundation.

The **Great Plains Public Policy Institute** (Sioux City, SD) is the newest member of the Atlas "family" of institutes. Under the watch of Ron

Williamson, the GPPPI recently received its 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service blessing, allowing it to accept tax-deductible contributions from friends and supporters. Welcome, Ron, and good luck!

Daphne Kenyon, a professor of economics at Simmons College in Boston, has been named president of **The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy** (Concord, NH). Kenyon, a public finance specialist, has been affiliated with the center since its founding in 1993 and has served on the organization's advisory board.

The Josiah Bartlett Center also announced finalists for its 1999 Better Government Contest. Each of the finalists is currently in the process of preparing a full proposal to detail ideas for streamlining New Hampshire government.

The **Kansas Public Policy Institute** (Topeka, KS) held a seminar on "Free Market Options for State Pension Reform" in June. Speakers focused on policy alternatives to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, an eight billion-dollar pension fund invested on behalf of state and local government workers across Kansas.

The **Lithuanian Free Market Institute** (Vilnius, Lithuania), under the direction of Elena Leontijeva, and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Konigswinter, Germany), sponsored a conference on "The Business Environment, Deregulation, and Human Welfare." The program, in which LFMI presented proposals for removing regulatory constraints to business growth and competition, attracted over 80 participants from government, business, academia, and the media. Atlas also recently learned that earlier this year, the institute developed proposals for revising social policy in the country. The results of its analytical research were presented in a seminar to the Ministry of Social Security and



(left to right): Atlas's Jo Kwong, Ron Williamson (Great Plains Public Policy Institute, Sioux City, SD), and Gene Aldridge (NM Independence Research Institute, Las Cruces, NM) at the 1999 annual meeting of the State Policy Network in Dallas

Labour.

National Wilderness Institute (Washington, DC) president, Rob Gordon, reports that its tenacious coverage of political mismanagement at the Environmental Protection Agency "sparked an article in *Reader's Digest*." Though the article does not mention NWI, it brings the NWI message – that so-called science at the EPA is highly politicized – to a tremendous new audience.

The Sutherland Institute (Murray, UT) announced its move to new, larger offices. Seeing this move as a stepping stone to bigger endeavors, Sutherland president, David Salisbury writes, "We look at our new offices as a launch site, not as a final destination. In order to become as influential as we need to be, we will eventually need to expand even more."

Unirule Institute (Beijing) held its 154th Biweekly Symposium, entitled "Taiwan's Relationship with the Mainland: One United Country with Two Systems or One Integrated Country with Two Systems?" The program featured keynote speaker, Professor Wu Qongen at Central University of Politics and Law, Taiwan. The program examined the last "100 years of separation" of Taiwan from the Mainland and examined alternatives for the future. ❖

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Allegheny Institute for Public Policy (Pittsburgh, PA) has an extensive list of new publications. *21 Steps Public Officials can Take to Support Pittsburgh's Police* offers ways to improve local police departments; *The Dismal Record of Public Housing in Pittsburgh* contrasts current public housing problems with those of the 1930s and 1940s; *The Economic Freedom in the 50 States: How Pennsylvania Ranks* examines why Pennsylvania came out 45th in the State Policy Network's economic freedom index; *Prison Privatization in Pennsylvania: The Case of Delaware County* examines state laws affecting privatization, and *Markets Or Monopolies in Local Telephone? and Hung Up: Three Years is Too Long for Pennsylvania to Wait for Local Phone Competition* offers two analyses of telephone monopolies.

In Praise of the Free Economy, published by **The Centre for Independent Studies** (St. Leonards, Australia), features a collection of essays by Christian theologian, Michael Novak. His writings illustrate that, contrary to popular myth, it is entirely possible to be a Christian and in favor of private enterprise and free markets.

CIS also published *State of the Nation 1999: Indicators of a Changing Australia* which expands and updates a comprehensive overview of key indicators of Australian life in terms of social, economic, cultural, and recreational measures.

The Evergreen Freedom Foundation (Olympia, WA), published *No Taxation Through Litigation* by Peter Ferrara and EFF president, Bob Williams. They cite the tobacco lawsuits as examples of a dangerous new trend in which government is turning to more hidden means of raising taxes as a means around voter opposition to higher taxes. In so doing, the government is willing to ensure its victory "by stripping businesses of their substantive legal rights and defenses."

In *How to Use the Fiscal Surplus: What is the Optimal Size of Government*, **The Fraser Institute** (Vancouver, BC)

examined the three alternatives for dealing with the current surplus — increase spending, reduce taxes, or pay off the debt — and the implications of each alternative for the comparative size of the government and private sectors.

Fraser also published the Canadian edition of *Facts, Not Fear: Teaching Children about the Environment*. The original book, authored by Michael Sanera and Jane Shaw, was adapted for Canadian readers by Fraser Institute's Liv Fredricksen and Laura Jones.



Patricia Morgan, an IEA expert on family policy

Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research (Hong Kong) considered immigration issues, which have recently launched to the top of the region's public agenda, in the March-May *HKCER Letters*. The articles examine the broader economic impact of Mainland Chinese immigration to Hong Kong.

In its Occasional Paper series, the **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London) reprinted Professor Jonathan Sacks' 1998 Hayek Memorial Lecture, "Morals and Markets" with commentaries from three distinguished economic scholars. The monograph presents a discussion that, in Sack's words, leads "beyond naïve economics on the one hand, simplistic theology on the other to a point where we can genuinely share our concerns for a more gracious social order." The series also produced *Regulation Without the State* by IEA

general director John Blundell and editorial director Colin Robinson. They argue that, in the absence of government regulation, voluntary rules would be set which could achieve the objectives of regulation at modest cost. The IEA also published *Keeping Patients in the Dark: Should Prescription Medicines be Advertised Direct to Consumers?* and *Should Pharmaceutical Prices be Regulated?*

The IEA Health and Welfare Unit (London) published a revised and updated version of Patricia Morgan's *Farewell to the Family?* This expanded version provides additional analysis and data on the institution of the family. It examines how public policies that focus on the single parent negatively impacts both traditional families (who are forced to subsidize single parents) and the single parent family. The unit also published *Involuntary Action: How Voluntary is the 'Voluntary' Sector?* by assistant director Robert Whelan.

The Institute of Economic Affairs-Ghana (Accra, Ghana) analyzed budgetary issues in recent issues of *Legislative Alert*. "The 1999 Budget: Where is the Vision?" examined discrepancies between the current and prior development plans. "The 1999 Budget and the Private Sector" describes how the budget impacts private sector development. The series also published "Return Schools to Local Communities: Agenda for Decentralisation," which examines the roles of the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service in facilitating local community control of schooling.

The Lithuanian Free Market Institute (Vilnius, Lithuania) delivers another hard-hitting set of "economic liberal" perspectives in Volume 6 of its newsletter, *The Free Market*. The articles examine labor policy, taxes and social policy, social security, and other issues recently analyzed by the institute in its series on social policy reform for Lithuania.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy (Midland, MI) addressed labor

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India

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Rights Promote Knowledge and Economic Development” describes the advantages offered by a good intellectual property rights (IPR) regime. It describes how “An effective IPR, along with open competition and free trade (including exchange of ideas), are the only ways of ensuring an expanding knowledge base so essential to sustaining economic progress.” The institute is preparing a report on the impact of IPR on India and other developing countries.

The newsletter’s back page provides a glimpse of current works. These include a reprint of *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat, which features an essay by Atlas colleague Detmar Doering (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Königswinter, Germany); *Democracy: Markets and Human Rights: Ideas of Amartya Sen* by Tibor Machan and Barun Mitra; and *Corporate India: In the Age of Globalisation*, an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of corporate India. It also mentions upcoming publications including *Bureaucracy* by Ludwig von Mises, with an introduction by

Professor Deepak Lal; *Lessons from History* by Aslam Effendi; *The Minimum Wage* by Deepak Lal; *Issues in Liberalism* by Shard Joshi; and several monographs on population and rent control.

The page also mentions Liberty’s Fountainhead Essay Contest, its second program for high school students, that solicits essays on topics from Ayn Rand’s classic novel.

Liberty is pursuing ongoing research in the areas of intellectual property rights, commercializing wildlife, global warming, ecolabels, corruption, constitutionalism, electoral reform and other issues. It mentions “Resources,” which offers links to other institutes. Atlas is pleased to see its name mentioned, alongside the **Foundation for Economic Education** (Irvington, NY), **Science and Environmental Policy Project** (Fairfax, VA) and **Heartland Institute** (Chicago, IL).

Perhaps then, it is no mere coincidence that Mitra’s travels took him to these very four institutes, along with the **Political Economy Research Center** (Bozeman, MT), the **Competitive**

Enterprise Institute and the **Cato Institute** in Washington, DC, and the **Institute of Economic Affairs** (London). With his easy-going nature and innate love of learning, Mitra has been well received at each of these places. Possible joint projects for the future between Liberty and these institutes include programs on child labor, trade, water and fisheries management, and other environmental issues.

Mitra returned to India by way of Costa Rica where he attended a workshop that Atlas co-sponsored with the **Mackinac Institute** (Midland, MI). There he learned about non-profit management from the Mackinac gurus. His last stop was to Gummersbach, near Cologne, Germany, where Mitra participated in a workshop on corruption organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

If your travels ever take you to the New Delhi area, you have a friend at the Liberty Institute. Please visit, either virtually <www.angelfire.com/mi/libertyinstitute> or in person, and become an acquaintance of India’s first free-market institute. ❖

New Publications

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reform in several of its recent publications. *Michigan’s Prevailing Wage Law and Its Effects on Government Spending and Construction Employment* shows “once and for all that the Prevailing Wage Act of 1965 is bad and costly public policy.” Its comprehensive report, *Michigan Labor law: What Every Citizen Should Know* is available from its web site at www.mackinac.org. Additionally, its September *Viewpoint* commentary dealt with the wage issue, as well as Michigan’s relative economic freedom.

Making Our Economy Right (Dhaka, Bangladesh) published a collection of twenty-four essays in Bengali, each selected to enhance understanding of the free market.

Nearly half of the articles are translations of essays by Geoffrey Wood’s *Economic Fallacies Exposed* (published by the **Institute of Economic Affairs**, London).

The **Political Economy Research Center** (Bozeman, MT) examines state-landowner wildlife partnerships in *Hunting for Habitat*. Ranching for wildlife programs provide incentives for landowners to manage free-roaming, wild animal populations.

The **Sutherland Institute** (Murray, UT) examines a particularly contentious topic for those who value individual freedom in “Asset Forfeiture: An Unbroken Line of Broken Constitutional Promises.” Another Sutherland report finds the state’s public schools are

losing enrollment to private and home schools. *Utah Schools: An In-Depth Look* uses data from the Governor’s Office and the State Office of Education to analyze spending, achievement, and enrollment in the three categories of schools. ❖

Most of the organizations mentioned in these pages are listed in the virtual phonebooks on the Atlas web page:

www.atlas-fdn.org/fonebook

Fraser Institute Pays Tribute to Atlas and its Founder

The Fraser Institute (Vancouver, BC) recently honored Sir Antony Fisher and Atlas at its 25th Anniversary Dinner Celebration. Michael Walker, Fraser's executive director, attributed this honor to Sir Antony's "inspiration in the early years of the Institute."

Fisher's first attempt at public policy development resulted in the creation of the **Institute of Economic Affairs** in London in 1955. In the two decades that followed, he also helped establish the **Manhattan Institute** in

New York (1978), the **Pacific Research Institute** in California (1979), the **National Center for Policy Analysis** in Texas, and in 1974, **The Fraser Institute**. In 1981, Fisher "institutionalized" the process by creating Atlas Economic Research Foundation to carry on his efforts. By the time of his death in 1988, Fisher left behind a legacy of approximately 50 institutes in over 20 countries — informally referred to today as the "Atlas network."

The Fraser Institute has been a

highly-influential leader in the world of public policy and a generous mentor to younger institutes in the Atlas family of institutes. Under the direction of Michael Walker, Fraser has flourished for twenty-five years, contributing to Fisher's vision of enhancing the free society. ❖

Announcements and Opportunities

Job Opportunity: Assistant to Atlas Executive Vice President

The Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Fairfax, Virginia is seeking a motivated, highly-organized individual to assume the role of Assistant to its Executive Vice President, Leonard P. Liggio. Primary job responsibilities include assisting with correspondence and appointment and travel schedules; assisting with fellowship applications, academic conferences, and research for articles; and organizing volumes of articles into files. Please fax your resume to the attention of Brad Lips at (703) 352-7530, or call (703) 934-6969, to learn more about this full-time opportunity.

Manhattan Institute Fellowship Program

The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, a market-oriented think tank, is offering \$10,000 grants to rising academics or promising graduate students for original research in policy areas including welfare, education, crime, tax policy, regulation, tort reform, privatization, and environment.

The Institute is interested in identifying academics who combine solid scholarship with the ability to communicate to a broader audience. For details, consult the institute web site at www.manhattan-institute.org.

Liberty Institute Seeks Book Donations

The Liberty Institute (New Dehli) is seeking book donations to help rebuild its library. A major fire at the Calcutta Book Fair wiped out the bulk of its collection in 1997. President Barun Mitra writes, "In the next year we intend to participate in various book fairs in India (our single most important public contact event) with the theme that *The coming century belongs to the classical liberals*. Any material that would make our collection more powerful will be most helpful. The material will also substantially improve our collection in the Julian Simon Centre library. The popularity of the library is growing continuously." Please consider a book donation to the institute next time you go through your own collection or receive duplicate books from friends.

IEA Essay Competition

The Institute of Economic Affairs (London) announced its eighth annual John B. Wood International Memorial Essay Competition that offers prize money, ranging from \$750 to \$2,500 for the best essay. By March 31, 2000, competitors 30 years old or younger, are asked to address one of the following quotes in 3000 words or less:

- "It is no longer a question of whether, but of when and how all universities will be privatized."
- "Our obligation to transmit our heritage of culture and learning to the next generation cannot be met by the market alone" Can such an assertion be defended in any sector of education?; or
- Write a book review of *Education Without the State* by James Tooley.
- Write a book review of *The Global Education Industry* by James Tooley.

For additional information, or to request copies of the Tooley books, contact Clare Batty, IEA, 2 Lord North Street, Westminster, London, SW1P, 3LB. ❖

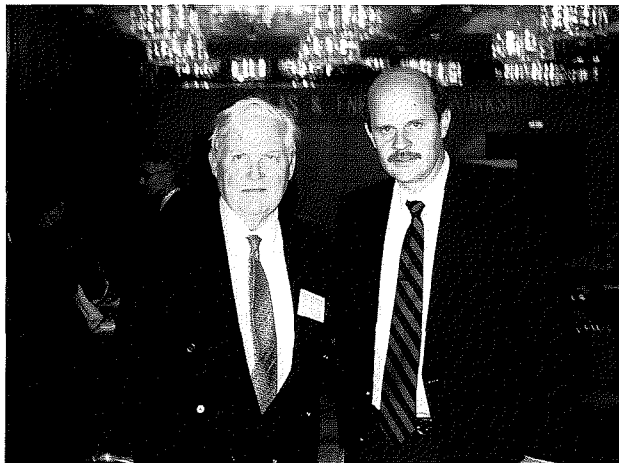
Sound Money Pioneer, Robert A. Mundell, Wins 1999 Nobel Prize

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, 1999, to Professor Robert A. Mundell, Columbia University, New York, USA for his analysis of monetary and fiscal policy under different exchange rate regimes and his analysis of optimum currency areas.

In 1995, the Canadian-born professor delivered the keynote speech at the 24th Atlas International Workshop in Beijing, China. Mundell, who established the foundation of the theory that now dominates monetary and fiscal policy in free-market economies, spoke on "Inflation and Growth - China at a Turning Point."

Drawing from his contributions to monetary theory, Mundell analyzed the impact of sound monetary foundations upon China's economic development.

Mundell, who has been a professor of economics at Columbia since 1974, will receive the \$960,000 prize on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite whose will established the Nobel Prizes. ❖



Nobel Prize winner, Robert A. Mundell, with Atlas president Alejandro Chafuen, at the 1995 Atlas Workshop in Beijing

Atlas's Leonard Liggi Conducts European Programs



Henri Lepage (left) and Leonard Liggi lectured at the Summer University in Aix en Provence

Leonard Liggi, Atlas's executive vice president, spent several weeks in September, participating in programs with European colleagues.

In the early part of the month, Liggi lead the discussions at the Liberty Fund colloquium, "Liberty, Family and

Community," which was directed by Professor Jacques Garello, at Aix-en-Provence. American participants included Nobel Laureate Gary Becker and Allan Carlson, President of the Howard Center. European participants included Professor Christian Watrin (Hayek Society), Digby Anderson (Social Affairs Unit, London), Francisco Cabrillo (Madrid), Jesus Zaratigui (Navarra), and Jose Raga (Madrid).

Becker and Liggi were the speakers at the closing dinner of the 10th anniversary conference of faculty and students of the summer seminars of the Institute for Economic Studies-Europe. Becker and Liggi also lectured at the 22nd Summer University in Aix dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of F. A. Hayek.

Liggi went on to meetings at the University of Navarra in Pamplona with Economics Dean Luis Ravina,

Professors Blanca Sanchez-Robles and Jesus Zaratigui. He concluded this European journey with a conference on the transition from socialism in the work of W. Roepke and F. A. Hayek directed by professors Enrico Colombatto and Kurt Leube at the International Center for Economic Research in Turin, Italy. ❖

Atlas Economic
Research Foundation

4084 University Drive
Suite 103
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812

Tel: 703/934-6969
Fax: 703/352-7530
e-mail: atlas@atlas-fdn.org
<<http://www.atlas-fdn.org>>