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“When Ronald Reagan urged ‘Tear down this wall!’ at the Brandenburg Gate 30 years ago this summer, no one predicted his wish would be realized within 29 months,” writes Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips. He uses this example to help others see what he believes is an “inescapable conclusion”: that limiting the power of government will unlock unprecedented peace and prosperity in our century.

Staying the Course: Brexit Uncertainties and the Fight for Free Trade
By Eric D. Dixon

With British politics thrown into confusion after June’s snap election, the future of Brexit remains unclear. In our featured narrative, six think tank leaders from across Europe weigh in on the pros and cons of Brexit, but one thing is clear to both sides: now is the time to double down on free trade.

Impact Case Study: New Delhi-based Centre for Civil Society’s Jeevika Livelihood Campaign

Since 2009, the New Delhi-based Centre for Civil Society (CCS) has pursued its Jeevika Livelihood Campaign to reduce the barriers that stand in the way of prosperity and opportunity for the more than 1 billion people of India. In this case study, learn how CCS works to solve these problems and bring about more economic freedom and liberty to the world’s largest democracy.

Alumni in Focus: Ayesha Bilal Navigates Pakistan’s Opaque Maze of Bureaucracy

“There is a general left-leaning attitude in Pakistan where many look to the government to fix all problems,” said Ayesha Bilal, COO at Islamabad-based Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME). “As I grew up, I saw so many things wrong in this country, from infrastructure to education to accountability, that I felt an obligation to do something about it.” Bilal is Atlas Network’s latest Alumni in Focus.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK
What do you think of the new Freedom’s Champion? If you have any feedback, comments, or ideas, feel free to send them to the publication’s editor-in-chief, Daniel Anthony, at Daniel.Anthony@AtlasNetwork.org. We look forward to hearing from you as we continue to fine-tune our new publication.

Cover photo credit: ZHyzner / Shutterstock.com
I'm excited to bring you this latest issue of Freedom's Champion. In my article on page 6, I evoke Ronald Reagan’s speech from the Brandenburg Gate, which was delivered 30 years ago this summer, to share what I believe is an “inescapable conclusion”: Limiting the power of government will unlock unprecedented peace and prosperity in our century. Our featured story, on page 20, could not be more timely. With British politics thrown into confusion after June’s snap election, Atlas Network’s partners focus on staying the course to advocate for free trade. In this issue’s Alumni in Focus, on page 14, Ayesha Bilal helps us understand what it’s like to navigate the opaque maze of bureaucracy in Pakistan. I hope you enjoy reading these stories and everything else in this issue. Thank you once again for your support of Atlas Network. Our generous donors and engaged partners make all the work in this Freedom’s Champion come to life.

Vision: Atlas Network’s vision is a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where limited governments defend the rule of law, private property, and free markets.

Mission: Atlas Network is the only global organization that supports and empowers a professional association of more than 450 independent organizations in over 90 countries to achieve victories for liberty.

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INESCAPABLE CONCLUSIONS
By Brad Lips, CEO of Atlas Network

In my lifetime, I want to see the benefits of free trade as broadly appreciated as gravity. I want to see civil society replace much of what exists today as the welfare state, so government’s role is reduced to a simple safety net for those who need it most. I want a sound monetary system that’s immune from the tampering of government officials. I want to see absolute poverty eliminated from the Earth, and our ancient hatreds washed away by a growing culture of tolerance and respect.

Conventional wisdom tells us that none of these wishes will be fully realized anytime in the near future, but I don’t find that discouraging.

When Ronald Reagan urged “Tear down this wall!” 30 years ago this summer at the Brandenburg Gate, no one predicted his wish would be realized within 29 months. But, in part because he dared to envision it, that wall did get torn down — and, with it, the inevitability of Communism. The world came to see what Reagan had long understood.

“We have met the enemy and he is us.”

“Tear down this wall!”

The Wall came down, and so did the idea that Communism was inevitable — that the world was a zero-sum game — that we were fated to be governed by a small elite of technocrats and have little to no say in the running of our own lives.

“Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatred among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.”

This was not the conventional wisdom of the time.

What Reagan described as an “inescapable conclusion” had, in fact, escaped many who were presumed to be the brightest minds of the era. Look no further than Paul Samuelson’s widely used Economics text. Even its 1989 edition asserted that “the Soviet economy is proof that, contrary to what many skeptics had earlier believed, a socialist command economy can function and even thrive.”

I see a future where today’s Keynesian texts — which remain confident that the market economy is enhanced, rather than undermined, by the tinkering of government officials — will appear just as absurd as the above passage. This future may be some years away, but I am convinced it will come.

Think back to Reagan for a moment. He first suggested that “if the Berlin Wall should disappear, I think that this would be a step toward peace,” a full 20 years before his presidential speech in Berlin. At the time, he was just a first-term governor in California.

What do we need to do to accelerate progress toward a future of liberty? We need to capture the moral high ground — a difficult task for reasons explained eloquently in a piece Professor Michael Munger wrote for FEE titled “Unicorn Governance.” He says that people who are primarily interested in consequences (e.g., better health care for everyone) will be sympathetic to arguments that those consequences can be achieved by “the State.” After all, they can imagine a wise and benevolent entity simply creating...
We do not need to peddle a disingenuous theory of “unicorn markets” that solves everything. We can be honest about the trade-offs foregone and the imperfections that result in any human society. Yet we need to be unabashed in describing a better future that is built not by government, but by those dynamic and creative parts of our society that welcome accountability.

I looked back at other famous Reagan speeches recently to see how he did it. I took note of the following line from 1982, part of his effort to upend the diplomatic status quo of accommodating the Soviet Union. Reagan had a knack for pointing out things that many people wanted to ignore:

“[O]ne of the simple but overwhelming facts of our time is this: Of all the millions of refugees we’ve seen in the modern world, their flight is always away from, not toward the Communist world…[O]ur military forces face east to prevent a possible invasion. On the other side of the line, the Soviet forces face east to prevent their people from leaving.”

He also had what Hayek called “the courage to be Utopian.” Reagan closed his last speech as president by painting a verbal picture:

“I’ve spoken of [John Winthrop’s ‘City upon a Hill’] all my political life, but I don’t know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace — a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity, and if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors, and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here.”

Can we do the same in 2017? One overwhelming fact of our time is that extreme poverty is slowly but surely being conquered and, above all, global trade is to be thanked. Another is that the sectors of our society where innovation is slowest and access to quality service is most unequal are education and health care — precisely where governments have intervened the most.

Let’s envision many shining cities on many hills throughout the world — alive with people who celebrate the happy moments life brings, who engage in trade, and who find meaning in taking responsibility for their societies’ less fortunate members.

Let’s help others see what I believe is an “inescapable conclusion”: that limiting the power of government will unlock unprecedented peace and prosperity in our century.
[1] GROUPTHINK OVERLOAD ON CANADA CAMPUSES
Canadian campuses are shifting from sanctuaries of critical inquiry to over-policed spaces of political correctness and groupthink. That’s why the Calgary-based Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF) is fighting back. With a free-speech video series, the Campus Freedom Index, and a strong legal team, JCCF is quickly becoming a leader of campus free speech across Canada.

[2] SPOTLIGHT ON MESSAGING AND STORYTELLING DURING LIGHTS, CAMERA, LIBERTY!
For three inspiring days in Los Angeles, Atlas Network’s Lights, Camera, Liberty! program brought 56 of the liberty movement’s top think tank leaders and professionals together with Hollywood insiders to focus on narrative art. Atlas Network partnered with Taliesin Nexus to present this program of strategic marketing essentials and industry-leading video production techniques. “[It] will have a concrete impact on our organization’s visual media and marketing programs going forward,” said Ames Brown, chairman and executive vice president of FREOPP.

[3] EXPOSING ARGENTINA’S RAPIDLY GROWING GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY
Argentina’s current government leadership promised to reduce the size and scope of government, but has increased the government’s bureaucratic structure by 25 percent in only a year and a half, reveals a recent study from Buenos Aires-based Libertad y Progreso. There are now 1,124 administrative units in the Argentinian government, and Libertad y Progreso works intensely on holding each and everyone of them accountable to the people.

Goldwater Institute President Darcy Olsen recently lived through a campaign of harassment and intimidation. Although she has been involved in complex public policy issues for decades, it was only after opposing hundreds of millions in taxpayer subsidies for the hockey team in Glendale, Ariz., that she found out how violent and threatening opponents could be. People United for Privacy, a project by State Policy Network, uses Olsen’s story as a stark reminder why it’s so crucial to maintain the privacy of donors to nonprofit organizations.

[5] SLASHING BUSINESS REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS IN NEPAL
Economies can’t flourish when it’s difficult to start a business, so policy work that eliminates barriers to entry is crucial. The Samriddhi Foundation, based in Nepal, recently was victorious reforming business registration procedures with the country’s Office of Company Registrar, reducing the time it takes to register a new domestic business from several days down to a maximum of 30 hours.

[6] DEFEATING PROPOSED PHARMACEUTICAL STRANGLEHOLD IN POLAND
Is it the government’s job to decide who can receive a license to operate a pharmacy, how many pharmacies can be operated by one proprietor, or the allowable distance between pharmacies? Poland considered passing these burdensome regulations, and many more, until KoLiber Association, based in Warsaw, produced research that was instrumental in halting the legislation.

[7] GREEKS EMBRACE ECONOMIC LESSONS, BEGIN TURNING AWAY FROM BIG GOVERNMENT
The Greek economy has been in crisis for years, so Liberty Forum of Greece (KEFiM) sought to educate people about economic principles through a Greek translation of Henry Hazlitt’s classic Economics in One Lesson, which sold out 1,500 copies in less than two months. Attitudes toward big government seem to be changing in Greece, with a recent in-depth survey revealing clearer support than ever for economic freedom, markets, competition, denationalization, and reform.
The nearly 2 million taxpayers in Honduras are burdened by a tax regime that violates due process rights, uses excessive military force to carry out tax raids, and disproportionately penalizes entrepreneurs in the middle and working classes. Fundación Eléutera is working to change that, and its ambitious tax reform campaign has led to 14 of its proposals being woven into the recently overhauled tax code.

HONDURAS OVERHAULS TAX CODE, WORKS TOWARD FLAT TAX APPROVAL

The values of a free society can coexist with Islamic rule in the long-troubled Afghanistan, and the Silk Road Station online TV and radio platform aims to explain how. The Kabul-based Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization debuted Silk Road Station in late 2015, and the station is steadily growing — with almost 1,000 listeners daily and more than 300,000 listeners in the past year.

AFGHANISTAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT EXPANDS THROUGH SILK ROAD STATION

As Congress debated whether to pass the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP) released its second edition of Transcending Obamacare, by Avik S. A. Roy, which explained the need to expand economic opportunity for the most underprivileged populations of the United States to ensure “Near-universal coverage and permanent fiscal solvency.”

U.S. HEALTH CARE REFORMS COULD SERVE TRULY NEEDY POPULATIONS

Imagine if private businesses marketed their products like many liberty minded think tanks market their ideas... It would look like this:

You wouldn’t buy this shampoo because it contains pyrithione zinc; you would buy this shampoo because it stops dandruff. So why then do many think tanks in our movement still try to sell our ideas using the wonky features instead of the benefits and meaning to individuals?

Explore this question and more like it in Atlas Leadership Academy’s robust 4-week course, ‘A Strategic MarCom Rethink,’ with Daniel Anthony, vice president of marketing and communications at Atlas Network. The course is designed specifically for think tank professionals working at any of Atlas Network’s partner organizations.

We have the right ideas; now it’s time for our movement to learn the right marketing and messaging to create long-term lasting success.

To learn more and enroll for free, visit: AtlasNetwork.org/MarComRethink
**ALUMNI IN FOCUS**

**AYESHA BILAL**

**NAVIGATING PAKISTAN’S OPAQUE MAZE OF BUREAUCRACY**

Founded in 2013, Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) conducts research analysis and advocacy campaigns to influence economic policy toward free markets and limited government. PRIME’s Ayesha Bilal, a graduate of Atlas Leadership Academy and a former Atlas Network Smith Fellow, spoke with Daniel Anthony, Atlas Network’s vice president of marketing and communications, to share more of her personal story and some highlights from PRIME’s work in Pakistan.

Daniel Anthony: The tax code and import/export laws have historically been nearly impossible to navigate in Pakistan, what are you and your team doing to improve the situation?

Ayesha Bilal: One of our major focuses is our “One Tax, Fair Tax” campaign (#AikTax #FairTax), which demands lower taxation and a flat rate. It’s primarily a social media awareness campaign that’s petitioning for tax reforms. Our suggested reforms recently have led the Federal Board of Revenue to formulate the Tax Reform Implementation Commission with the mandate of tax simplification.

We also have been advocating for Pakistan’s accession to the Information Technology Agreement so we can import and export IT items free of duties. Our efforts led the government to form a special committee to deliberate this critical issue, using our analysis on the subject. PRIME’s President (Hon.) Dr. Manzoor Ahmad is a part of this committee.

From what you’ve shared with me before, simple interactions with the government, like getting a new electricity connection or filing a complaint, for example, can be a nightmare ordeal. Can you share more with our readers about some of the real problems people in Pakistan face everyday when dealing with the government?

There is a lack of “systems” in place that should facilitate both the business community, and the common people. Rather, the role of the government has created more hurdles — so much so that simple things such as getting a gas connection, registering the name of your company, paying taxes, etc., become huge tasks with multiple levels of ad hoc bureaucratic procedures. Basic service provision for things such as water, gas, and electricity are in the hands of the government with the promise of low-cost provision to all, but the government’s bad resource management has failed the people.

When we complain about electricity or gas provision, there is no proper procedure and no one knows whether the complaint has been properly registered or when the issue will be resolved. Our landlords requested a sub-meter for electricity when we moved here a year ago, but there is still no sign of when we can get the meter or why there is a delay.

Another major problem is the lack of transparency. Proper systems help ensure that there will be transparency. However, there are vested interests in preserving the status quo, so there is less focus on ensuring that there is a proper system. The government picks winners in the business community, mostly amongst those who are influential, and provides relief in different ways.

View of Islamabad capital of Pakistan and Margalla Hills.
How are you and the team at PRIME confronting these challenges?

Our basic aim is to foster more market freedom and limit government. The government should not be in the business of doing business. For example, we advocate for privatization of electricity distribution, which can make the process much more efficient and transparent. This has been successful in Karachi, where the problem of load shedding is now negligible. Our taxation reform campaign is focused on making it easier for common people and ensuring a predictable system of taxation.

We are part of a group that recently has been successful in advocating the establishment of the Open Government Partnership. We also track the government’s performance every six months, taking their own targets set in the economic manifesto prepared during the 2013 elections. We regularly present the findings of these reports through infographics, newspaper articles, and electronic media interviews.

Do you feel like the work you and your team at PRIME are doing is having an impact on people and policy in Pakistan?

Before I got to know PRIME’s work, I was among many who wanted to do something for their country but had no direction. This is exactly why I am a strong believer in influencing more minds, which we are successfully doing through the young fellows program. We train a group of select individuals from different interests — such as journalists, researchers, social activists, and innovators — and link them to the perspective of market economy. For example, one fellow is a young boy interested in making a new model of water provision, possibly through introducing water meters. We plan to connect him with one of PRIME’s friends, Malik Nazir Watto, who has successfully introduced a public-private partnership system in the city of Bhalwal, Punjab.

Dr. Ikramul Haq and Huzaima Bukhari, who are both well-known advocates and experts on taxation, previously were inclined toward progressive taxation as being more “fair.” After discussions about Dr. Arthur Laffer’s theory on taxation with Ali Salman, executive director of PRIME, and others in our network, they were persuaded that flat taxation is the way to go. They are now championing flat taxation in Pakistan and are the main mobilizers of our tax campaign. The government is now seriously considering revising the structure as a result of our hard work.

You had an interesting transformation before joining the team at PRIME; can you share more with me about your ideological U-turn?

There is a general left-leaning attitude in Pakistan where many look to the government to fix all problems. Unfortunately, I also subscribed to this ideology. Thankfully though, during a casual lunch conversation, Ali recognized that deep down I had tendencies toward a free-market economy. This was during a time when the government’s health department was randomly raiding restaurants and closing them down for one issue or another, and actually boasting about it. I passionately argued with my colleagues that this practice was very demotivating. And that there should be a proper system of keeping hygiene in check, instead of labeling these critical service providers as criminals and shutting down their livelihood. Based on this and many other conversations with Ali and the team, I joined PRIME in 2015.

As I grew up, I saw so many things wrong in this country from infrastructure, to education to accountability, that I felt an obligation to do something about it given that I am amongst the few people having the privilege to get higher education. When I joined PRIME and became part of the global liberty movement, I learned that sustainable solutions can only come through policy change, which should be enabling instead of intrusive. Atlas Network’s training courses played a significant role in understanding these ideas.

You’ve been one of Atlas Network’s most engaged Atlas Leadership Academy graduates. How have the trainings helped further the work you are doing?

The first time I heard Tom Palmer at the Asia Liberty Forum 2016 in Malaysia was when I truly understood what this movement was all about. The training I have enjoyed has been integral in assisting me to more accurately define PRIME’s mission and operate the think tank more efficiently. During my recent Smith Fellowship at Atlas Network in Washington, D.C., I witnessed how think tanks encourage public debate on economic and political issues. I also formulated tools to improve strategy, and for monitoring and evaluating my think tank. I now have a better understanding in how to effectively operate PRIME and bolster its influence in Pakistan’s economic environment.
“For a time, I didn’t comprehend just how extensive the global freedom movement was,” remarked Johanna Chase. “If there was no Atlas Network, you would still have only a handful of people working for liberty in various countries. It’s really fascinating how connecting the liberty movement can make it stronger and make it grow.”

Derwood and Johanna Chase have been supporting the mission of Atlas Network since they founded the Chase Foundation of Virginia in 1995. Derwood credits his father with instilling him with a sense of self-reliance and a skepticism of FDR’s activist government. His appreciation of the market order was heightened further while studying economics at the University of Virginia under Professor David McCord Wright, an early member of The Mont Pelerin Society.

After decades of success leading Chase Investment Counsel Corporation – concentrating on high-quality growth companies that combine long-term growth prospects with downside protection – Derwood put his love of liberty at the center of his philanthropy. “When I established the foundation, I decided the giving would be directed toward promoting ideas. There are worthwhile and tangible causes, like supporting the Boy Scouts or your alma mater, but preserving and enhancing liberty is even more important a cause. I especially like organizations that are positioned to translate ideas into real action,” Derwood said.

Derwood and Johanna Chase frequently attend Atlas Network events, where they find ideas, camaraderie, and inspiration. They participated in a memorable one in 2001, near the Pentagon, one week after the September 11 attacks. Atlas Network’s 20th anniversary dinner featured a discussion with Sir John Templeton and Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto. The event closed with Johanna singing a stirring – and quite moving – rendition of “America the Beautiful.”

“We take a lot for granted in this country about the institutions of a free society,” said Derwood. “It’s remarkable that Atlas Network not only works for liberty in the U.S., but it has started, encouraged, and nurtured pro-liberty partners in nearly 100 other countries.”

“We just feel privileged to be involved in this movement,” said Johanna. “Once you study these ideas, you appreciate liberty’s importance and you become aware of when it’s being chipped away. Our giving is intended to make sure liberty survives for the long-term.”

To register or to view full agenda and speakers, visit AtlasNetwork.org/LibertyForum
STAYING THE COURSE
BREXIT UNCERTAINTIES AND THE FIGHT FOR FREE TRADE

Recent election results in the U.K. have made it even harder to predict how Brexit negotiations will impact the future of free trade in Europe. Of course, there are endless perspectives on whether Brexit was a good idea in the first place, even among free trade enthusiasts who typically see eye to eye. While the media covers the big political stories, the important question for free trade advocates is how do we stay focused on a post-Brexit strategy that stands the best chance of ushering in a new era of increased free trade where everybody wins.

Matthew Elliott served as CEO of the "Vote Leave" campaign, which the U.K.'s Electoral Commission designated as the official pro-Brexit campaign. Elliott, who also earlier founded both the TaxPayers' Alliance and Big Brother Watch, and now serves as a senior fellow for the Legatum Institute, pointed out that "Vote Leave" explicitly called for more free trade and migration from all over the world.

"There were some people who saw Brexit as being a closed-Brexit," Elliott said. "They saw it as pulling up the drawbridge and retreating back into ourselves, and perhaps becoming more protectionist and having zero migration to the U.K. But there's this other group of people who want to see an open-Brexit — those people who campaigned to leave. They wanted Britain to become more free-trading, to play a bigger role on the international stage, to have more free-trade deals, and to have controlled migration but migration across the world rather than just within the EU. And, thankfully, in the nine months since the referendum result, the people who were advocating the open Brexit have won out the day."

Prior to the recent snap election, U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May had advanced this open-Brexit idea in speeches, Elliott pointed out, voicing support for continued trade and migration between Britain and EU members, as well as forging new agreements with other countries. Rather than an insular retreat into protectionism, Elliott explains, this opens new possibilities for the U.K. to become more of a global player.

Details of future arrangements are still uncertain, however, and it remains to be seen whether rhetoric can match reality, particularly as the new coalition government enters negotiations somewhat weakened. This, on top of the fact that prior to the election the European Court of Justice ruled that each individual EU parliament must agree to new international trade and investment deals, which creates a tremendous logistical hurdle for the U.K.'s post-Brexit ties to EU member nations.
AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

As people try to plan for the future, this regime uncertainty limits their options.

“The moral impact is enormous,” said Gaspard Koenig, president of GenerationLibre in France. “Many EU nationals living in London for years and feeling at home there have been shell-shocked and now feel rejected. Many of them are planning to go back to their country of birth. This is a slow process, but anecdotal evidence shows it is taking place for real. The very basic engine of the U.K. economic growth is now at risk. Throughout the centuries, the U.K. made its fortune by leveraging the wealth and brains from the rest of the world. By shutting down, the country is about to let go of its most valuable resources — foreign cash and foreign skills.”

Navigating this uncertain future is also a problem for long-range business planning.

“It is likely that reaching a divorce agreement with the EU could be a long and difficult process,” said Eamonn Butler, co-founder and director of the Adam Smith Institute. “In the meantime, business faces great uncertainty. Costs could be high, as the EU is demanding ongoing payments towards existing programs and civil-service pensions. Universities fear that EU research grants could be cut. Exporters fear that the EU may impose punitive tariffs against the U.K. The financial services sector, one of the U.K.’s largest, fears that it will be kept out of EU markets. And ‘Remainers’ say that the U.K. would have a louder voice on the world stage as part of a bigger region.”

On the other hand, without EU oversight and interference in international trade deals, Butler explained, Britain may be able to open more opportunities than it loses.

“Free trade is the biggest opportunity,” Butler said. “Already, the U.K. is negotiating new trade deals with countries such as India, China, Korea, and America, as well as the British Commonwealth countries of New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and many more in Africa. If the U.K. is brave enough, it should announce that it will remove all tariffs and controls on goods and services from other countries. In the case of the poorer countries, that would cost almost nothing but would create a huge boost to their trade.”

Being brave and staying the course will be important now more than ever. Not least because extracting the U.K. from under the thumb of EU bureaucracy could also carry a wide array of other economic benefits, pointed out Mark Littlewood, director general of the Institute of Economic Affairs, “The risks are that we leave and do not do these things,” Littlewood said. “The risk is that once we leave we keep the worst elements of EU policy, such as replacing inefficient agricultural subsidies with inefficient domestic ones and automatically transposing all EU regulations into U.K. law, while leaving as an opportunity to indulge in the government intervention that the EU prevented — putting added tariffs on Chinese steel, for example, or a major increase in state aid for failing companies.”

A HOUSE DIVIDED

The dangers of increased homegrown British regulation are very real, Koenig argued, and are too quickly brushed aside by Brexit supporters.

“The free marketers who thought the U.K. would become ‘free’ to further liberalize should now acknowledge the extent of their delusion by looking at the various parties’ manifestos,” Koenig said. “The State is back. The complexity of the hard Brexit wrongly chosen by Theresa May, with no mandate from the voters, is beyond any administrative task ever contemplated by a democratic government. From agricultural subsidies to scientific research to airspace regulations — and not even mentioning trade agreements — every single area of public policy has to be entirely rethought.”

Littlewood also worries about the prospects for free-market reform within Britain given the current rhetoric of its political parties. Brexit has ramifications not only for the direction that Britain will take, but also for the EU itself. With the U.K. no longer playing a direct role in shaping EU policy, other member states may find it more difficult to keep the increasing bureaucracy at bay.

“Brexit will likely have a major effect across Europe, on everything from the euro to the contributions each nation makes to EU budgets,” Littlewood said. “There is a risk that once the U.K. leaves the EU, the position of those trying to move the EU away from a big-state regulatory organization and toward a looser free-trading organization will be significantly weakened — although possibly it will lead to a discussion about the future of the EU in which freedom-promoters across Europe might have a major role.”

Not all of those freedom promoters are so hopeful about their prospects after the U.K. leaves, in part because its absence will alter critical alliances of member states within the EU.

Matthew Elliott, former CEO of the “Vote Leave” campaign, founder of the TaxPayers’ Alliance and Big Brother Watch, and currently a senior fellow for The Legatum Institute.

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Gaspard Koenig, president of GenerationLibre in France.
"For Sweden, Brexit is a disaster," said Karin Svanborg-Sjövall, CEO of Timbro. "It dramatically shifts the balance of power within the EU, as the U.K. has always been the key member and spokesperson for the informal Nordic/Baltic alliance, which has stressed the need for structural reform and resistance to protectionist demands. Sweden has always counted on the U.K. to fight for free trade and the Single Market. Now, this group is left without a leader, leaving us in a much weaker bargaining position at the very point when the main direction for the project is being decided."

Clemens Schneider, co-founder of Prometheus – The Liberty Institute in Germany, also worries about the regulatory direction that the EU may take without the U.K. to serve as a voice for deregulation and free trade.

“We deeply regret the Brexit vote because despite all its flaws the European Union still provides many safeguards for liberty, and the more countries that participate in this framework of free trade and free movement the better for everyone," Schneider said. “Also, Britain has been a pivotal corrective in the debates inside the European Union countering the protectionist demands. Sweden has always counted on the U.K. to fight for free trade and the Single Market. Now, this group is left without a leader, leaving us in a much weaker bargaining position at the very point when the main direction for the project is being decided.”

For the CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD Britain’s absence from the EU creates more space for new alliances, such as the announcement from French President Emmanuel Macron that he hopes to work “on a common roadmap for the European Union” with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“The U.K. government has not yet realized how little the Europeans care about their Brexit,” Koenig said. “The Macron-Merkel axis opens new arrays of issues and debates that will absorb all the energy of EU leaders and institutions. As a proponent of classical liberalism, I believe in multilateralism, not in nation-state bravado.”

Brexit sets a precedent, however, that the EU may want to avoid repeating with other countries. Although free-trade alliance countries within the EU may struggle to find their footing post-Brexit, the disruption could serve as incentive for the EU to adopt internal reform to discourage other defections.

“The best case scenario is that Brexit provides the wake-up call that the EU desperately needs — that we need to refocus, moving away from the grand plans of a federal union and back to the core: the four freedoms” — the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor — “and developing the Single Market,” said Svanborg-Sjövall. “We don’t need a big welfare state on the national arena, and we certainly don’t need it on a pan-European scale.”

The best way to maintain the benefits of trade between Britain and the EU after the political bond is severed, Schneider argued, is to remember that free trade is beneficial to both sides while tariffs and other punitive measures can bring only harm. A “soft” Brexit would allow Britain to retain access to Europe’s Single Market and customs union, but some argue for more of a “hard” break that would give Britain greater control over its borders and future international trade deals while having to renegotiate access to trade within the EU.

“It is of utmost importance that the Brexit is implemented as soft as possible,” Schneider said. “Especially the remaining countries and the European commission should resist the temptation of ‘punishing’ Britain. Even if the British government should decide in favor of a hard Brexit the EU should not ‘retaliate’ but rather choose to be soft unilaterally. Nobody benefits from a hard Brexit.”

THE FUTURE OF FREE TRADE IN EUROPE

It’s important for classical liberals in Europe to educate people about the benefits of free trade in general, Elliott argued, because protectionist sentiments are cropping up around the world — not only in several European parliaments, but even in both of the two primary political parties in the United States.

“I think we need to start making the case again for free trade,” Elliott said. "As a free-market movement, I think that’s an area we really need to focus on in the coming years.”

In the meantime, he said, it’s critical for the U.K. to negotiate a trade deal that allows its participation in the European Free Trade Association and the Single Market.

“I think the key thing is to make sure we get the EU/U.K. free-trade deal,” Elliott said. “Now, we already have perfect free trade between the U.K. and the rest of the EU — you know, tariff-free, quota-free. We have the same regulations as the Single Market. So there’s no real reason why they shouldn’t just say: Right, let’s just continue as we are now and keep that free trade going.”

For think tanks in the Atlas Network, particularly those in Europe, the Brexit roadmap to freer trade may seem murky, complicated, and uncertain. In the end, the naysayers may turn out to be right. In the meantime, and amidst all the political maneuvering, the opportunity remains for a chorus of voices to focus the Brexit debate on what is certain: freer trade.
LATIN AMERICA LIBERTY FORUM

01 Chilean economist and presidential candidate Felipe Kast, Julio Bratz Lamb from the Instituto de Estudios Empresariais in Brazil (winner of the Juan Carlos Cachanosky Award for Dissemination of the Principles of a Free Society), and Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen.

02 Giannina Raffo of CEDICE in Venezuela, Rocio Guajarro Saucedo of CEDICE, winner of the Giancarlo Ibáñez Freedom Award, and Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen.

03 From left to right: Giannina Raffo of CEDICE, Chilean novelist, journalist, and diplomat Jorge Edwards Valdés, Peruvian Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa, and Rocio Guajarro Saucedo of CEDICE.

04 From left to right: Helio Beltrao of Instituto Ludwig von Mises Brasil, Lucía Vázquez Ger of Fundación para el Progress, and Dora de Ampuero of Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economía Política in Ecuador.

05 From left to right: Enrique Duhau, President of Administración E. Duhau S.A., Jorge Colindres of Fundación Eléutera, and Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen.

06 Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen, Guillermo Peña Panting of Fundación Eléutera in Honduras, and Jorge Colindres of Fundación Eléutera, winner of the Miguel Kast Award for Free-Market Solutions to Poverty.

07 Bottom row, left to right: Nicolás Báez Scott, Rafael Rincón, Carolina Báez Varela, Matt Warner, and Ernesto Selman. Top row, left to right: Lucía Vázquez Ger, Axel Kaiser, Dr. Tom G. Palmer.
AFRICA LIBERTY FORUM

01 Participants and facilitators of Atlas Leadership Academy’s training “Lessons in Effective Fundraising in Africa” posing for a group picture before the start of Africa Liberty Forum.

02 On the hotel deck overlooking Johannesburg, Africa Liberty Forum attendees kick off the event with a fast-paced round of Speed Networking.

03 Linda Kavuka Kiguhi (left) of African Students for Liberty (Kenya) workshops her project ideas with Temba Nolutshungu (right) of Free Market Foundation (South Africa) during the Crowdsource Liberty session.

04 From left to right: Bright Simons of mPedigree (Ghana), John Kane-Berman of Institute of Race Relations (South Africa), Andrew Mweusa, journalist (Uganda), and Brad Lips, CEO of Atlas Network (USA), after the session “Will liberty take root in Africa?”

05 The team of South Africa-based Free Market Foundation accepting the 2017 Africa Liberty Award for its Khaya Lam Land Reform Project.

06 Group selfie after pre-forum training session on effective messaging for donor communications.

07 From left to right: Gareth Cliff of Cliff Central (South Africa), Olumayowa Okediran of African Students for Liberty (Nigeria), David Ansara of EU Chamber of Commerce & Industry (South Africa), Matt Kibbe of Free the People (USA), and Japheth Omojuwa of AfricanLiberty.org (Nigeria) after the session “Mobilizing new audiences for liberty.”

08 Donatien Kouakou Adou (left) of Audace Institut Afrique (Côte d’Ivoire) along with a founding member of his organization Gisèle Dutheuil (right) of Free Market Foundation (South Africa) during the Crowdsourcing Liberty session.

09 Peter Bismark Kwofie (left) of Institute for Liberty & Policy Innovation - ILAPI- (Ghana), wins the 2017 Think Tank Shark Tank – Africa Competition for his pitch of the National Undergraduate Debate and Essay Competitions. Pictured with Brad Lips, CEO of Atlas Network (USA).

10 Africa Liberty Forum keynote speaker Tim Modise (left), journalist and TV and radio presenter (South Africa), with Temba Nolutshungu (right) of Free Market Foundation (South Africa) after the keynote session “South Africa: From miracle democracy to growing despondency.”
Entrepreneurs are made vulnerable by the lack of property rights and legal licenses. Only 4 percent of them possess legal licenses. Street vendors play a significant economic role. Over the last two-thirds of the nation’s GDP, work outside of the law. Street vendors play a significant economic role. In Rajasthan, for instance, even the 2 percent of people involved in street vending amounts to 10 million people. Only 4 percent of them possess legal licenses. Entrepreneurs are made vulnerable by the lack of property rights and legal protections. Government development plans do little to accommodate the employment needs of migrants who pour into the city as urbanization continues. Vendors often are abused, and corruption thrives as officials demand bribes. The Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is working to solve these problems. CCS is a New Delhi-based public policy think tank founded in 1997 by Parth Shah, who taught economics at the University of Michigan before returning to India to promote more classical liberal and market-based policies. He sought to spur what he called a “Second Freedom Movement.”

The organization’s efforts to achieve social change emphasize four parts: research, community mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and legal action. “We fight for the economic freedom and property rights of the informal sector — street vendors, cycle rickshaw pullers, micro entrepreneurs — that make up 90 percent of India’s workforce,” said Shah. The Jeevika Livelihood Campaign seeks to better the lives of entrepreneurs among the poor and those they serve, through direct action. CCS focused on lowering entry barriers for a range of occupations, including artisans, cycle rickshaw pullers, small shop owners, and street hawkers. The organization pushed to legalize their status, create legal recognition for property rights to structures and equipment, and expand access to the financial system. A related objective is to improve the capabilities of local governments to oversee informal economic activities, manage public spaces, and accommodate street vendors. The objective is to enable more people to engage in more activities while reducing their vulnerability to harassment and extortion. CCS holds that the ability to earn a living is a basic factor in people’s quality of life. Moreover, it maintains that poor people have as much right to economic liberty as those in greater means, and often a greater need for that liberty. Expanding freedom of choice disproportionately benefits those who are in worse financial positions. Increased entrepreneurial opportunity also is an important tool for combating poverty. CCS emphasizes the role of informal entrepreneurs in meeting important consumer needs. CCS has developed a strong international reputation. In 2016, for instance, it was the third highest rated think tank in India and 81st in the world. CCS has also received several Templeton Freedom Awards, and earlier this year it received the Asia Liberty Award.

An Atlas Network partner and recipient of the Leveraging Indices for Free Enterprise Policy Reform grant, CCS emphasizes several policy areas, including good governance, economic liberty, globalization/free trade, environmental protection via property rights, and education. To advance its broad agenda the organization studies issues, analyzes legislation, promotes documentaries, offers seminars, and organizes issue campaigns. It also created CCS Academy to manage training programs for government officials, journalists, businessmen, and young leaders.

India long has been known for its Per- mit Raj, also known as the Licensing Raj, which makes it difficult to establish a legal business and pushes many people into the informal economy. Indeed, more than 90 percent of Indians, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the nation’s GDP, work outside of the law. Street vendors play a significant economic role. In Rajasthan, for instance, even the 2 percent of people involved in street vending amounts to 10 million people. Only 4 percent of them possess legal licenses. Entrepreneurs are made vulnerable by the lack of property rights and legal protections. Government development plans do little to accommodate the employment needs of migrants who pour into the city as urbanization continues. Vendors often are abused, and corruption thrives as officials demand bribes. The Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is working to solve these problems. CCS is a New Delhi-based public policy think tank founded in 1997 by Parth Shah, who taught economics at the University of Michigan before returning to India to promote more classical liberal and market-based policies. He sought to spur what he called a “Second Freedom Movement.” The organization’s efforts to achieve social change emphasize four parts: research, community mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and legal action. “We fight for the economic freedom and property rights of the informal sector — street vendors, cycle rickshaw pullers, micro entrepreneurs — that make up 90 percent of India’s workforce,” said Shah. The Jeevika Livelihood Campaign seeks to better the lives of entrepreneurs among the poor and those they serve, through direct action. CCS focused on lowering entry barriers for a range of occupations, including artisans, cycle rickshaw pullers, small shop owners, and street hawkers. The organization pushed to legalize their status, create legal recognition for property rights to structures and equipment, and expand access to the financial system. A related objective is to improve the capabilities of local governments to oversee informal economic activities, manage public spaces, and accommodate street vendors. The objective is to enable more people to engage in more activities while reducing their vulnerability to harassment and extortion. CCS holds that the ability to earn a living is a basic factor in people’s quality of life. Moreover, it maintains that poor people have as much right to economic liberty as those in greater means, and often a greater need for that liberty. Expanding freedom of choice disproportionately benefits those who are in worse financial positions. Increased entrepreneurial opportunity also is an important tool for combating poverty. CCS emphasizes the role of informal entrepreneurs in meeting important consumer needs. CCS has developed a strong international reputation. In 2016, for instance, it was the third highest rated think tank in India and 81st in the world. CCS has also received several Templeton Freedom Awards, and earlier this year it received the Asia Liberty Award.

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Operating in the world’s largest democracy, CCS faces a unique and daunting set of challenges. In just a few short years, however, it has had a marked impact on two of the most serious problems facing the poor, not only in India but throughout the developing world: unemployment and education. CCS initiatives have directly benefited the lives of those in greatest need, a proud accomplishment. Many poor Indians are living better, and their children are likely to do better still, because of the efforts of CCS and its dedicated staff.

WANT TO TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO THE CASE STUDIES OF THE WORLDWIDE FREEDOM MOVEMENT?

Atlas Network maintains that some of the best lessons for achieving impact are taught by sharing success stories of similar organizations. The case study highlighted here features the work of the Centre for Civil Society, the winner of the 2017 Asia Liberty Award. If you would like more in-depth inquiry, guidance, and discussion, be sure to participate in Atlas Leadership Academy’s Think Tank Impact online course, which includes case studies about other award-winning projects. This course, run quarterly throughout the year, allows participants to learn, share, and address organizational challenges along with others from the worldwide freedom movement. New case studies are being published regularly, so keep an eye out for future publications and recommend this course to your colleagues. To read the full case study about CCS’s projects, visit: AtlasNetwork.org/CCScasestudy

NEW DELHI-BASED CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY’S JEEVIKA LIVELIHOOD CAMPAIGN
AROUND THE NETWORK

01 Atlas Network supporters and staff at a New York City event about the 2017 French presidential election, featuring Alexandre Pesey of the Institut de Formation Politique. (Left to right: John Kunze, Alexandra Pesey, Erwin Chaloupka, Kristen Kossmann, Chelsea Schick, Dave Shellenberger).

02 Atlas Network’s Dr. Tom G. Palmer (left) and Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) President Larry Reed (right), both authors of books about liberty and personal character, discuss trends in American culture today at a joint Atlas Network and FEE event. The moderator was John Chisholm, an entrepreneur, author, and Atlas Network donor.

03 Wayne Olson, Chris Ruffer, and Todd Ruffer holding Dr. Tom G. Palmer’s and Larry Reed’s most recent books at an event in San Francisco.

04 Rob Schimek (third from top left), a teacher at Queens Vocational and Technical High School, with his students at an event in NYC about advancing freedom in the Muslim world.

05 Ayesha Bilal (left), COO at PRIME Institute in Pakistan, and Dr. Tom G. Palmer, at an event in NYC discussing the challenges associated with promoting freedom in Muslim-majority communities and PRIME’s strategy and activities to promote economic freedom in Pakistan.

06 Atlas Network’s Advisory Council Member Chuck Albers introducing the speaker at a Sarasota event about the 2017 French presidential election.

07 At a Trendsetters NYC event, Matt Brandenburgh and Evelyn Brady-Watters wear St. Patrick’s Day scarves at an event about advancing freedom in Indonesia.

08 Illinois Policy Institute CEO John Tillman introducing Dr. Tom G. Palmer at a joint Atlas Network and Foundation for Economic Education event on June 1 in Chicago.

09 Katerina Dimitrakopoulou of KEFiM learning about different parts of the camera at Lights, Camera, Liberty!, held on April 20–22 in Los Angeles, Calif.

10 Bill Murma, president and chairman of the board for Becket, speaking about religious liberty at an Atlas Network event on June 1 in New York City.

11 On Friday, March 31, the board of the Philadelphia Society elected Atlas Network President Alex Chafuen to serve as president of the society for 2017–18. Pictured here: Alex Chafuen with Lary Arnn, outgoing Philadelphia Society president.
ATLAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY’S 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

COUNTRIES WE’VE HOSTED TRAININGS IN
70

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED
3,487

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY STUDENTS
127

ON-THE-GROUND TRAININGS WE’VE HOSTED
132

ALA GRADUATES
183

ALA CREDITS EARNED
10,380

In 2017, Atlas Network’s training program, Atlas Leadership Academy (ALA), completes it five-year anniversary. In that time, more than 3,000 participants from 127 countries have taken courses that have helped them achieve their missions. Check out more of ALA’s impressive stats and figures on these pages.

“Through my work with Atlas Leadership Academy, I’ve had the immense honor of assisting thousands of people understand the benefits of freedom. The dedication of Atlas Network’s partners to improve people’s lives inspires me every day to create programs and offer opportunities that will accelerate all the good work those partners do around the world.”

Cindy Cerquitella, Director of Atlas Leadership Academy

“As a founder, you need to ensure your presence is needed as little as possible and the team can run the show largely on its own... Achieving this requires two things: personal leadership skills and a high-performing team. Fortunately, both of these requirements are being addressed by the Atlas Leadership Academy and it was our sheer luck that it already existed when we got started.”

Rainer Heufers, Executive Director of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies

“For anyone running a think tank or considering setting one up, Atlas Leadership Academy offers all the knowledge and expertise of those who have gone before them — without costing a dime or requiring participants to leave home.”

Linda Whetstone, Atlas Network’s Chairman of the Board

SUPPORT THE VISION

Your gift will be highly leveraged and will help Atlas Network cultivate a highly effective and expansive global network of independent partners committed to advancing our shared vision. Make your tax-deductible gift at AtlasNetwork.org/donate or email our director of development Clark Ruper at: Clark.Ruper@AtlasNetwork.org
"WE TAKE A LOT FOR GRANTED IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS OF A FREE SOCIETY. IT'S REMARKABLE THAT ATLAS NETWORK NOT ONLY WORKS FOR LIBERTY IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT HAS STARTED, ENCOURAGED, AND NURTURED PRO-LIBERTY PARTNERS IN NEARLY 100 OTHER COUNTRIES." — Derwood Chase

Derwood (left) and Johanna (right) Chase, longtime supporters of Atlas Network and the liberty movement. See page 18 for their story.