Greetings! Welcome to this refreshed version of Atlas’s Highlights, print edition. We continue to provide an electronic newsletter twice each month for our network of partners, supporters and friends, and we’re constantly sharing news on our Facebook page. But we decided to reintroduce a print Highlights to provide one succinct quarterly update on news throughout the Atlas Network.

Inside this issue, you’ll read about our recently completed “Atlas Experience,” and learn about promising new work we’re conducting under the banners of the Atlas Leadership Academy and After the Welfare State.

We hope you’re encouraged by our progress, and will join us at our biggest annual gathering: the Atlas Liberty Forum, coming up in New York City on October 3-4.

Mark your calendars and we’ll see you there!

ON THE ROAD

Celebrating Hayek’s Legacy in Peru

This Spring, Atlas president Alex Chafuen made a whirlwind tour of Peru visiting think tanks, universities and great Freedom Champions.

My recent trip to Peru was prompted by a call from our Atlas Templeton Leadership Fellow, the great Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa. He mobilized the leaders of his think tank Fundación Internacional de la Libertad (FIL) to host a major conference in Lima.

Enrique Ghersi, founder of CITEL think tank, director of the Mont Pelerin Society, and the only Peruvian member of FIL’s executive committee, played a major role in organizing the event attracting over 1,000 participants to the University of Lima. Speakers included five former presidents and Josefina Vázquez Mota, a leading presidential candidate in Mexico who started her policy career at an Atlas-supported think tank. Intellectuals, think tank representatives, and writers with huge followings in the Americas, such as Carlos Alberto Montaner, Mariano Grondona and Alvaro Vargas Llosa, also enriched the program.

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Atlas Welcomes Gerry Ohrstrom to our Board

Gerry Ohrstrom is a private investor in New York City and former chairman of the Ohrstrom Foundation which was founded by his grandfather in 1953. In recent years Gerry has spent much of his time in the nonprofit sector.

Prior to that, he worked in manufacturing, investment banking, and private equity. He is or has been a director of various corporations and nonprofit organizations, including the Reason Foundation, the Santa Fe Institute, the Property and Environment Research Center, Africa Fighting Malaria, the International Policy Network, the Gruter Institute, the Intelligence Squared debate series, the Booker T. Washington Learning Center, the Museum of the Rockies and the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

He has been Co-Chairman of the President’s Council at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and is a member of the New York Academy of Science.

SPREADING THE WORD

After the Welfare State

This summer Atlas will publish After the Welfare State, a collection of essays edited by its own Tom G. Palmer, in partnership with Students for Liberty.

“The welfare state is in crisis. The promises made in its name are a mixture of wishful thinking and outright lies…. In usurping from citizens responsibility for their own welfare, it has turned them into clients, subjects, supplicants.”

— Tom Palmer

This volume will be distributed to 125,000 college students and think tank audiences, so they understand the moral and fiscal failures of the welfare state, as well as evidence of the efficacy of voluntary solutions to social problems. The book serves as the foundation of a multi-faceted program to engage Atlas partners in presenting how we can transition away from the status quo and towards freedom and personal responsibility.

To pre-order copies for an event or for personal use, email Paolo.Angelini@AtlasNetwork.org.

Planting Seeds of Freedom

Atlas hosts Freedom Schools all over the world. These multi-day events expose new audiences to the ideas of liberty.

Contact Matt.Warner@AtlasNetwork.org if you’ll be traveling this year in any of the countries listed below and would like to attend.

Azerbaijan • Brazil • China • India • Indonesia • Ivory Coast • Morocco • Mozambique • Russia • Tunisia • Turkey • Vietnam
Regional Training in India —
This international class of graduates just completed a four-week regional training course in Kochin, India emphasizing research methods in public policy and earning two credits towards Atlas Leadership Academy graduation. This training provides the tools these graduates will need to successfully make the case for liberty in their home countries.

Libera Foundation Celebrates First Anniversary in Finland — Last year, Petri Kajander founded the Libera Foundation after reconnecting with Atlas through one of its Free Enterprise Centers. Kajander later attended Atlas’s Think Tank Leadership Training in November 2011. Now, the Libera Foundation has been recognized by the Finland’s three largest media companies as the source for libertarianism in Finland. Tom Palmer joined the Foundation for their one-year anniversary in May which made headlines in leading newspapers and on the popular TV program “A Studio.”

... Around the World

Atlas welcomes five new think tanks to the network: Institute Kheireddine (Tunisia), The Arab Centre for Scientific Research and Studies (Morocco), New Zealand Initiative, Estudantes Pela Liberdade (Brazil) and Australian Taxpayers’ Alliance.

Cato Institute presented Mao Yushi, founder of the Unirule Institute in China, with its Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty. Watch for 2013 release of Mao Yushi’s translated works by Atlas’s Jude Blanchette.

New books from Atlas partners include: The Rise of State Aristocracy in Pakistan (Alternate Solutions Institute), The Pipes Plan: The Top Ten Ways to Dismantle Obamacare (Pacific Research Institute) and Sharper Axes, Lower Taxes: Big Steps to a Smaller State (Institute of Economic Affairs).

The Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies held a five-day event on “Religion and Economic Liberty: A Match Made in Heaven,” which included Tom Palmer as a featured speaker.


Alex Chafuen gave a tax reform presentation in the Dominican Republic for a conference hosted by the country’s newest think tank, CREES.

200 students are participating in the first Polish-American Leadership Academy, which is a three-month weekend course organized by the Globalization Institute in Katowice, Poland.

The Slovakian think tank INESS launched a new Web tool, The Euro Bill, to help users calculate the total risk exposure related to Eurozone rescue mechanisms on a per capita basis.

The Caravan of Liberty, jointly run by UnMondeLibre.org and MinbaralHurriyya.org, exposed 500 Moroccan students to the ideas of liberty over one week in March.

In Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies launched “AIMS on Campus” to offer student fellowships, essay competitions and access to speakers for student events in Canada.

The African Liberty Students Organization celebrated the opening of its office in Lagos, Nigeria.
Mario Vargas Llosa concluded, “I do not recall a period in my entire life when Peru had such a positive image.”

Freedom champions from different regions, from the Amazonian jungle to the mountains of Cuzco, attended the program. Edwar Escalante from Andes Libre, and Mario Alfredo Barrera Mozombite, from Escuela Cristiana de Liderazgo in Iquitos, had to travel the farthest. Both receive support from Atlas.

Thanks to the ceaseless work of our Peruvian allies, even state universities are opening up to collaborate with think tanks. In the morning after the major workshop I spoke about leadership in the world of ideas and the role of think tanks at the Faculty of Economics of the Universidad Nacional Francisco Villagrán, the second largest university in Lima, with 15,000 students. I also had the chance to speak on think tanks at the Universidad Nacional San Marcos, the largest university and usually regarded as a cradle of socialist and interventionist ideas.

The most picturesque event of this last trip was the unveiling of a new bust honoring F.A. Hayek. Over a decade ago I attended a similar ceremony honoring Hayek. Ghersi was behind both efforts.

It is a testimony of his role in Peruvian civil society. This time the statue was built in the main square of the town of Pueblo Libre. Two Latin American heroes, José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar, lived in this town, hence its name which means “free town.” The plaque in the statue reads “The father of liberalism.”

I spoke before the town mayor, and mentioned the Hayek and Fisher encounter that led to the creation of the Institute of Economic Affairs and later Atlas. I concluded by saying how fitting it was to have the bust designed with Hayek looking towards the limitless sky. True freedom indeed opens unlimited possibilities.

That night I flew to Iquitos, the capital of the Peruvian Amazon. Thanks to the generosity of Barry Conner, a member of our Board of Overseers, Atlas has been supporting a leadership school which provides training in free enterprise and free society principles to religious and moral leaders.

Numerous free-market intellectuals have traveled to this remote city and have been touched and energized by the warmth and dedication of students and local leaders.

Days after arriving back in Washington I attended a program where Daniel Córdova, founder of the Invertir Institute, also in Perú, received the best business award from the Center for International Private Enterprise. His programs received two awards from Atlas prior to this recognition. Atlas has a good eye for investments!

Peru is only one of the many countries in the Americas where Atlas has been nurturing think tanks. No other region abroad boasts so many “Atlas Network” think tanks listed among the best. Our newest efforts are in Dominican Republic and soon Puerto Rico. I hope that allies and donors alike will join us in this fascinating adventure of seeding these fountainheads of freedom across the continent.
One of the best ways to experience Atlas is to join us for one of our flagship events. View the back page of this issue to learn about the upcoming Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner in New York City, October 3-4.

Recently, Atlas partners, supporters and friends gathered for two days of discussion, planning and celebration.

We honored participants from 15 countries who completed our Think Tank MBA – Atlas’s two-week, intensive training course for think tank leaders – with a graduation ceremony and "elevator pitch" competition. Gabriel Calzada, president-elect of the University of Fransisco Marrroquin, gave an inspiring keynote dinner speech demonstrating the power of modest-sized think tanks in shaping national and even international public policy debates.

Atlas also presented the 2012 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award to Ann Bernstein from the Centre for Development and Enterprise for her book, The Case for Business in Developing Economies.

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Start Spreading the News for Liberty Forum

Join us October 3 - 4 in New York City for our Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner where you’ll hear from leading intellectuals and become inspired when you meet think tank leaders providing reasons for hope in over 50 countries.

Virginia Postrel
Author, Bloomberg View columnist

Gurcharan Das
Author, public intellectual

Grover Norquist
Americans for Tax Reform

Liberty Forum
October 3-4
Intercontinental Hotel
(near Times Square)

Freedom Dinner
October 4
Capitale
(pictured)

To receive the special discounted room rate of $360, call 212.803.4500 and mention the Atlas Network.

Join Atlas to Advance Freedom Worldwide

Atlas needs your help to strengthen the worldwide freedom movement.

We do not accept funding from government. We rely on the generosity of individuals like you, who treasure liberty and want to share its blessings, to run our many programs and support our network’s most promising partners.

Contact Erin.Grant@AtlasNetwork.org to request an organizational Prospectus and to learn about our giving clubs.

Visit AtlasNetwork.org to receive more frequent editions of Atlas Highlights by email.

“Educate your children, educate yourselves in the love for the freedom of others, for only in this way will your own freedom not be a gratuitous gift from fate. You will be aware of its worth and have the courage to defend it.”

— Joaquim Nabuco, 19th century Brazilian abolitionist