

Atlas Network's semi-annual review of the worldwide freedom movement

FREEDOM'S CHAMPION

Lights,
Camera,
Liberty 2021

SUMMER 2021

MAKING THE
MOST OF BREXIT

How the IEA Remade British Trade

By Mark Littlewood

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Dan Grossman

The New Frontier of Liberalism

A Week of Regional Liberty Forums



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Cover: Ram Chandra Mahato, his wife Sangita Devi, and two daughters Radhika and Shree Kumari live in Biratnagar, Nepal. Ram works as an e-rickshaw driver thanks to the successful advocacy work of Bikalpa—An Alternative. His story demonstrates how people can secure their own dignity when their agency and enterprise are respected (read more on page 7). Photo / AtlasNetwork.org / Ratna Jyoti Shakya

MISSION


Atlas Network increases global prosperity by strengthening a network of independent partner organizations that promote individual freedom and are committed to identifying and removing barriers to human flourishing.

VISION

Our vision is of a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where the principles of individual liberty, property rights, limited government, and free markets are secured by the rule of law.


STRATEGY

Atlas Network cultivates a network of partners that share this vision. To accelerate the pace of achievement by our partners in their local communities, Atlas Network's unique Coach, Compete, Celebrate™ strategic model inspires our partners to improve performance and achieve extraordinary outcomes.




Coach

Atlas Network provides world-class seminars, workshops, mentoring, and other learning opportunities that inspire professionalism and build community among our independent partners.




Compete

Atlas Network offers grant and prize competitions that fuel our partners' efforts to develop, innovate, and succeed.




Celebrate


Atlas Network fosters camaraderie and stokes ambitions among our partners by celebrating their greatest accomplishments through events and media outreach.



Atlas Network has been a four-star Charity Navigator member since 2008.



Atlas Network is a GuideStar Exchange Platinum-Level Participant.



Atlas Network's donation payment processor is certified to PCI Service Provider Level 1, the most stringent level of certification available.

FREEDOM'S CHAMPION

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ATLAS NETWORK

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ATLAS NETWORK

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Atlas Network at 40

Over the past forty days, Atlas Network engaged 870 live participants on six continents for our online Liberty Forums and saw recordings of our sessions reach tens of thousands more. We awarded 43 grants for partner projects in 25 countries. We held in-person trainings for top marketing and communications professionals in the freedom movement and launched an online Think Tank 360 course.

Not only that, inaugurated a new in-house video studio, convened our first Clubhouse talks, and published my book on *Liberalism and the Free Society* in 2021.

Of course, the progress of the past forty days is only possible because of what has been accomplished over forty years, by those who contributed to Atlas Network's growth since its founding in the Summer of 1981.

The late John Blundell used to say, "There are no short cuts" when working in the arena of ideas. Atlas Network is able to play an essential role for a worldwide community of organizations striving to implement freedom because of the goodwill and trust we have cultivated over decades.

Earning this trust, over and over, remains the principal focus of our Atlas Network team as we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2021.

What is undoubtedly new is how much attention we are garnering for our ideas in influential places. We hosted the presidents of Ecuador and Uruguay at #ForoLibertad21 (page 17), the former of which previously served as the chairman of our partner Fundación Ecuador Libre. Former Smith Fellow Besart Kadia is now minister of finance and economy in Albania (page 9), and former intern Mark Boris Andrijanič was recently named minister for digital transformation in

Slovenia. Beyond the butterfly effect of engaging with our programming, Atlas Network is charting our own course to be more active in asserting our voice and our values, not only in the United States but also in premier outlets around the world.


So far this year our internal thought leaders have been published in *Wall Street Journal*, *RealClearPolitics*,

RealClearPolicy, *Eurasia Review*, and the Atlantic Council. Our Center for Latin America team (page 22) has been making the rounds in dozens of print, web, radio, and TV outlets throughout Latin America and Spain.

A major theme of my new book examines whether liberalism in its classical sense is in good or poor health around the world. The results are mixed, and

we at Atlas Network have a front row seat to many of the success and horror stories where the principles of individual freedom, limited government, open trade, and the rule of law are either respected and enforced or trampled and discarded. This includes many stories that are now in flux, including the one in Cuba that, as we go to press, has us inspired by the bravery of citizens facing difficult odds in agitating against a ruthless regime.

It is fitting that this year's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner will be held in Miami, Florida. Less than 250 miles from Havana, it is a city that offers a glimpse of how free societies can innovate and prosper. I hope you will join me there on December 13–14 as Atlas Network celebrates 40 years of advancing freedom.


Brad Lips
CEO, Atlas Network

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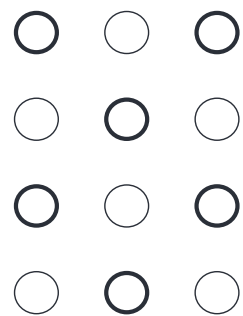
The New Frontier of Liberalism

Conversations with Atlas Network leadership on the future of the movement to advance human freedom and flourishing



AJ Skiera, Editor-In-Chief:

The team at Atlas Network has been busier than ever. On many fronts we've been preparing for new breakthroughs in our work, from increasing the capacity of think tanks in our network to helping shape global conversations on liberty, human agency, poverty, and the future of economic development thinking. As Atlas Network continues to grow our impact, I wanted to interview a few members of the leadership team to give our readers a sneak peek at our latest initiatives and some exciting plans for the rest of 2021. Let's start with the CEO!



Brad Lips, CEO:
We've endured, evolved, and been a catalyst to at times historic progress

AJ: Brad, during the pandemic you've invested in speaking to diverse audiences about new opportunities to advance our mission in 2021 and beyond. Given that Atlas Network is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, what are some of the new pivots you're advocating to better champion our ideas going forward?



Brad Lips, CEO: Our 40th anniversary offers us the chance to not only celebrate and honor the past but to be thoughtful about the future. While the challenges to freedom in 2021 are huge, we can remember how

our cause was tested in the past too. I find it inspiring to reflect on how we've endured, evolved, and been a catalyst to at times historic progress. I see new opportunities on the horizon, precisely because politics has become so polarized in many countries. Our community is well positioned to be an honest broker among people who actually want to solve problems in ways that honor the dignity of each person and that keep government living within its means. We've had something close to the opposite for long enough!

I am proud to see many partners of Atlas Network leaning into the tasks of, number one, proving that our principles are commonsense; and, number two, finding creative ways to reach audiences that haven't been receptive to our ideas in the past.

I am proud to see many partners of Atlas Network leaning into the tasks of, number one, proving that our principles are commonsense; and, number two, finding creative ways to reach audiences that haven't been receptive to our ideas in the past, which I've outlined in my newly released book, *Liberalism and the Free Society in 2021*.

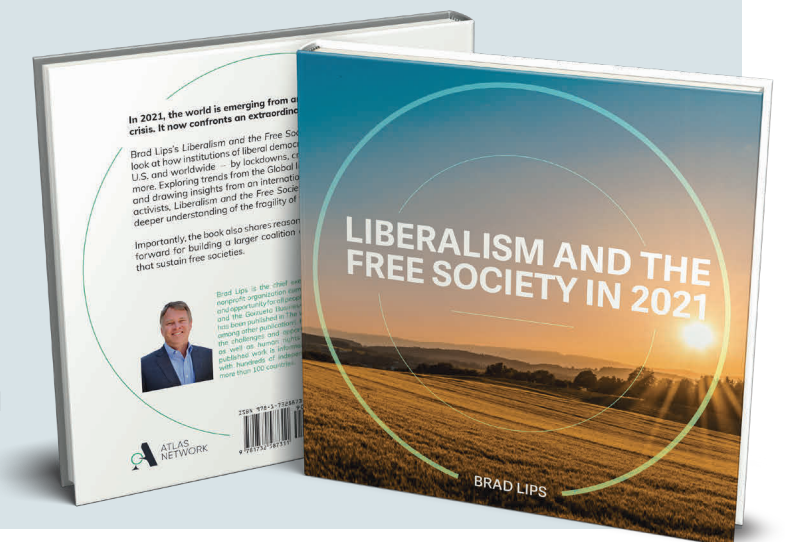
Liberalism and the Free Society in 2021

In 2021, the world is emerging from an extraordinary health crisis. It now confronts an extraordinary freedom crisis.

Brad Lips' *Liberalism and the Free Society in 2021* takes a sober look at how institutions of liberal democracy are now tested—in the US and worldwide—by lockdowns, cronyism, cancel culture, and more.

Exploring trends from the Global Index of Economic Mentality and drawing insights from an international network of experts and activists, *Liberalism and the Free Society in 2021* offers readers a deeper understanding of the fragility of freedom's future. Importantly, the book also shares reasons for hope as well as a path forward for building a larger coalition around the timeless values that sustain free societies.

Liberalism and the Free Society in 2021 is available for purchase at Amazon (print and e-book), Barnes & Noble, and Target.



Matt Warner, President: Sober, rigorous, nonpartisan analysis combined with cutting- edge communications is the right strategy

AJ: Now, Matt, I understand you've been collaborating with the analytics team at Foreign Policy magazine as they undertake a major new study on the role of local think tank NGOs. What can you tell us about this initiative?

Matt Warner, President:

For many of us who have spent our careers in the think tank world, we tend to think of ourselves as the underdogs in the world of social change—always punching above our weight. This sentiment isn't entirely wrong, but the fact is, just tracking our own network over the last 20 years, the number of think tanks has tripled and, more importantly, their impact is becoming undeniable. We aren't the only ones who have noticed this trend.

We tend to think of ourselves as the underdogs in the world of social change ... but the number of think tanks [in the network] has tripled in the last 20 years and, more importantly, their impact is becoming undeniable.

A recent study for the Royal Society argued that think tanks are perhaps the most “undervalued resource” in the complex network of social change today. We think that deserves more attention, and I have been advising Foreign Policy on their research model and connected them to our partners as they prepared to release an in-depth look at think tanks around the world and the outsized role they play in strengthening the institutions of liberal democracy. The FP team interviewed 50 of the CEOs in our network and surveyed hundreds of others, both in and outside our network. The findings are an



incredibly validating testament to the foresight of our supporters who have long understood that sober, rigorous, nonpartisan analysis combined with cutting-edge communications is the right strategy for achieving enduring change as we all work to see more and more of the world's people enjoy the benefits of a more peaceful and prosperous world.

AJ: And Foreign Policy hosted an online launch event for the report as part of their Virtual Dialogue Series, which all our supporters can watch on YouTube. You can read through the report at NavigatingThroughTurbulence.com.

Amanda Ashworth, Vice President of Marketing and Communications: Challenges we've experienced didn't stop us from innovating

AJ: Now, Amanda, you represent one of the newest additions to Atlas Network's team, but that hasn't stopped you from already making a big splash as you've tackled an impressive branding and website refresh to better serve our supporter and partner networks. What can you tell us about the future look and communications strategy at Atlas Network?

Amanda Ashworth, Vice President of Marketing and Communications: It's truly an exciting time to be in my role at Atlas Network. While we've experienced a plethora of challenges in the market in 2020—including marketing and communicating fully remotely—it didn't stop us from innovating and taking advantage of new opportunities in 2021, such as hosting virtual conferences and webinars, launching two new podcasts, updating our website technology and branding to engage with new audiences, publishing in major media outlets like the WSJ, and most importantly, continuing to capture stories despite travel restrictions.

More people have attended our conferences, webinars, and trainings globally than ever before, and at the tenth-



year anniversary of Lights, Camera, Liberty in May, we celebrated our partner films that captured the heroes in our global communities who rose to the occasion during the pandemic, whether that was Reverend Lee in *First Week Out*, tackling the dignity around re-entry in Georgia, or John Wood in *Rushing In*, showcasing the power of entrepreneurship in the food service industry. As we focus our marketing strategy on engaging with new audiences—whether that's pro-market educators and students, academics or professionals writing about or working in development aid, or more artsy film festival fans—we feel prepared with a full in-house marketing team and our new in-house studio to take Atlas Network into 2022 and move the needle on our mission to strengthen our global network.

AJ: We'll be launching our new website in September. Once up, we invite our supporters and partners to go check out the new AtlasNetwork.org and let us know what you think about the look, functionality, and new opportunities available to better serve our partners and tell the stories of their success.

Tom Palmer, Executive Vice President of International Programs: We're humanizing economic development by focusing on dignity

AJ: Tom, I know it would take more than a pandemic to slow you down. In addition to the relentless schedule you've kept—speaking, advising, and otherwise helping think tank leaders and scholars achieve new heights in their work—you're also working on a new book. What can you tell us about the book and the broader themes you are seeing around the globe that inspired it?

Tom Palmer, Executive Vice President of International Programs and George M. Yeager Chair for Advancing Liberty: It's a book Matt Warner and I are writing together. We show not only that the foreign aid model doesn't work, but why it doesn't work. It's not all negative, though, because there's good news—well-intentioned people really can help to make poverty



history. We're humanizing economic development by focusing not on efficient capital allocation, but on dignity, which Deirdre McCloskey has shown to be the key to—her term—the “Great Enrichment.” And dignity is the key to poverty reduction today.

You can't “develop” other people. It's patronizing and a failure because those thinking that they're developing others lack the relevant knowledge, and because they override the agency of the poor. People can secure their own dignity—and the presumption of “permissionless innovation”—on their own. Networking, management training, education, and the like amplify their own agency while respecting it. They know the problems poor people face in ways outsiders never really could. They can identify the barriers to improving their own lives and can reduce or eliminate those obstacles. Outsiders should respect their dignity and their agency and their enterprise, because only they can fix their problems. Freeing the enterprise of the poor—and not state interventionism and “development plans”—will make poverty history. For example, in Biratnagar, Nepal an arbitrary cap on e-rickshaws kept drivers like Ram Chandra Mahato operating illegally when they had everything they needed—except the legal permission—to make an honest living. Thankfully, Atlas Network partner Bikalpa—An Alternative successfully worked to get the quota removed. Bikalpa knew better than Atlas Network what needed to change to support the local community's development.

Outsiders should respect their dignity and their agency and their enterprise, because only they can fix their problems. Freeing the enterprise of the poor—and not state interventionism and “development plans”—will make poverty history.

We're also pleased that the book will come out from an academic press, because that moves the research agenda from think tanks to universities and to a wider circle of policymakers, who will be more likely to listen to the wisdom of on-the-ground practitioners.

AJ: We hope to see all of our partners and supporters this year when we gather for our annual Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in Miami Beach, Florida, December 13–14, where inspiring stories of people freeing enterprise and escaping poverty, as Tom mentioned, will be highlighted, and the most compelling will be recognized as finalists for the Templeton Freedom Award at the gala dinner.

Until then, we invite all our supporters and partners to stay in touch with us with feedback, new ideas, and shared commitment to our cause which, in 2021, is more important than ever before!

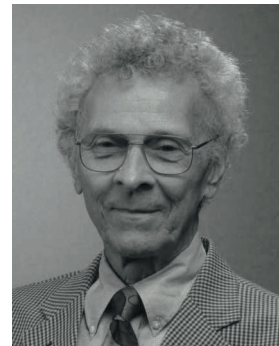


WORLD 10

A roundup of the last six months' most popular World10 stories.
Subscribe for the monthly report here: www.AtlasNetwork.org/world10

01 | In Memoriam: Bob Chitester

The movement to advance human freedom and flourishing lost one of its most effective communicators in May. Bob Chitester (1937–2021), a kind and gentle, persistent and persuasive advocate for liberty, passed away after a seven-year battle with cancer. A recipient of the 2016 Sir Antony Fisher Lifetime Achievement Award, Chitester brought the insights and clear economic logic of Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman to millions of television viewers around the world before founding Atlas Network partner Free To Choose Network to further convey the beauty of liberty in sophisticated visual documentaries. Read Atlas Network's celebration of his life at AtlasNetwork.org/news.



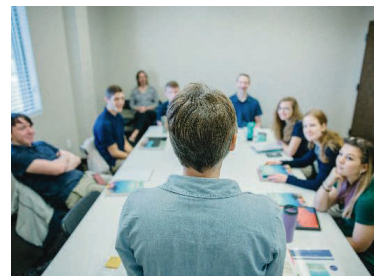
02 | Swiss-Indonesian free-trade deal has roots in networking at Liberty Forum

Years ago at a “speed networking” session of Atlas Network’s Liberty Forum, a Swiss free-trade advocate met the founder of the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS), a long-standing Atlas Network partner. The connection became especially important when Switzerland held a national referendum on a free-trade agreement with Indonesia. Our friends in Switzerland were involved in the campaign in favor of the trade deal, emphasizing all the good that free trade would deliver to the people of both Indonesia and Switzerland. They realized that the public debate would be enhanced by hearing directly from Indonesians—like those at CIPS—who took on a central role in emphasizing the benefits of free trade. In fact, CIPS’ head of research, Felippa Amanta, spoke directly and publicly to Swiss President Guy Parmelin in a television interview.

Photo: FOKUS KNU



03 | Pursuing the West Virginia “miracle”



The Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy has promoted education reform in the state for years, as profiled in Atlas Network’s short film *Education Reimagined*. In March, the state passed a law establishing education savings accounts—known as the Hope Scholarship Program—to put money in an account controlled by families that can fund a customized education for their child. “The Hope Scholarship program will give \$4,600 to parents per child currently in the public education system who want to access it for alternative educational opportunities,” according to the think tank’s press release.

04 | Making the most of Brexit: Trade deals worth £885 billion with 63 countries

In June 2016, the British public voted to leave the European Union (EU). Since then, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) has been at the forefront of making the intellectual case for the United Kingdom to adopt a comprehensive free-trade agreement with the

EU, as well as expounding the wider benefits of uninhibited global commerce. Despite frivolous intimidation tactics by state regulators, the IEA helped shape a new national outlook on trade and helped inspire over 60 post-Brexit trade agreements accounting for over £885 billion (US\$1.23 trillion), equal to almost one-third of the British GDP.



05 | Governor Gianforte embraces the Frontier Institute’s Montana Recovery Agenda

When Governor Gianforte was elected last November, one of the first meetings that his team hosted was with the Frontier Institute (FI) to discuss ways to put campaign promises into policy. FI presented the Montana Recovery Agenda—an extensive report of proposals aimed at limiting government growth that aligned with the governor-elect’s campaign platform. The first executive order issued by Governor Gianforte cited FI’s agenda as he ordered the creation of a task force to address the growing burden of red-tape and overregulation in the state.



06 | Liberalizing the fishing industry in Senegal

The Senegalese Constitution reserves the right to explore natural resources for state-owned companies and affiliate foreign joint ventures. Libre Afrique Senegal engaged key stakeholders and lawmakers to allow more competition in the fishing industry in the government’s latest strategic plan for the sector. The new policy establishes a credit line worth two billion West African CFA francs (US\$3.67 million) for those operating in the fishing industry, and Libre Afrique Senegal believes more than 10,500 Senegalese have benefited from this reform through food security, job creation, and sustainable income.

07 | The power of motion picture: Pro-freedom documentary results in policy changes in Serbia

A deal signed by the Serbian national government in 2008 has given Gazprom Neft (a Russian oil company) the right to exploit oil under Serbian land. The agreement has relegated farmers to second-class citizens, who are given no choice but to allow Gazprom Neft to seize their farmland for compensation of about US\$50 per year. The Center for Anti-Authoritarian Studies produced a documentary, *Under the Ground*, that premiered in primetime on regional cable and quickly brought the issue to the forefront of public debate. Earlier this year, the Serbian minister of mining and energy announced her intentions to amend the Law on Mining and Geological Research and increase compensation for farmers beginning in 2023.



08 | The real cost of protectionism on Indian farmers

Like many government responses to the pandemic, India’s state and central governments inserted themselves in the agricultural sector with relief-oriented trade practices. The adverse effects emanating from such policies, however, have included price manipulation and produce going to waste. The Centre for Civil Society has actively engaged on the issue, helping to bring about several important reforms to liberalize the sector, reducing restrictive trade practices in India and ensuring produce does not go to waste by removing barriers to the agricultural market in India.

09 | A newsletter for our Latin American partners: *Mirada Sur*

In partnership with the editor-in-chief of *El País* in Uruguay, Martín Aguirre, Atlas Network’s Center for Latin America has launched *Mirada Sur*, a weekly newsletter covering all the news you need to know about what happens between the Rio Grande and Tierra del Fuego. You can subscribe to the Spanish-language newsletter at AtlasNetwork.org.

10 | Former Atlas Network Smith Fellow named deputy minister of finance and economy in Albania

The executive director of the Albanian Institute of Entrepreneurship and a lecturer at the European University of Tirana, Besart Kadia was appointed to the position of deputy minister of finance and economy late last year. He was one of the earliest participants in Atlas Network’s Smith Fellowship in 2016.



Pictured, from left to right: Tom Palmer, Besart Kadia, and KEFIM President Alexander Skouras.

Dan Grossman

Dan Grossman is board chair emeritus and a current member of the Atlas Network Board of Directors. His leadership has helped to steer the evolution of Atlas Network for well over a decade. Our strategic partnerships advisor, Vale Sloane, recently spoke with Grossman about his reflections on his tenure of service to Atlas Network.

Vale Sloane: Thanks for joining me, Dan. I'm curious—what was your introduction to Atlas Network?

Dan Grossman: I learned of Atlas Network from David Boaz of Cato Institute. I had become impressed with an organization in Turkey that was promoting liberty and asked David if he knew a tax-efficient way to support them. I came to find they were affiliated with Atlas Network.

Vale: Why do you give to Atlas Network?

Dan: Atlas Network successfully leverages my support in a very substantial way. It is unique in its ability to effectively spread ideas and practices among close to 500 partners in around 100 countries. No other organization in the liberty movement has such a capacity to impact billions of lives.

While it may seem mundane, I know that Atlas Network spends money efficiently. Part of this is the organization itself, but additionally—I recognize that a dollar spent in some parts of the world goes much further than the same dollar in other parts of the world. Because Atlas has such a large network, I can be more sure that resources will get more bang for the buck with Atlas Network than might be the case with other fine organizations.

Vale: You bring a background and perspective grounded in entrepreneurship and success in business to Atlas Network. How does that shape your view of our work and mission?

Dan: Decades ago, I recognized that nonprofit organizations did not have the same market signals as profit-making companies. I knew in my business that I was

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- Dan:** When I first became involved, Atlas Network was almost entirely a grant-giving entity. It would raise money from donors and then give most of it to other nonprofits. The focus was largely on Latin America. Today, Atlas Network continues to give grants, but the grantees are part of a genuine network, and through the Coach, Compete, Celebrate™ model, the grants have much more impact than they would otherwise.
- Further, grant-making—while still a very significant part of Atlas Network—is only a part. The majority of part-

doing something wrong if my customers did not buy from me. If I was doing something well, customers did buy from me. No nonprofit had this advantage.

Unlike a business, they may not even be able to define their customer. Is it the donor or is it the beneficiary of their mission? Then they could be doing a fine job of raising money but a lousy job of spending it, or vice versa, and not be able to make the connection.

One of my aspirations was to find an answer. I am still searching and do not expect to succeed. But I believe Atlas Network has a better understanding than many others that the issue exists, and it makes a continuing effort to overcome the problem.

Vale: How do you think Atlas Network differs from other organizations in the U.S. liberty movement?

Dan: In two significant ways. First, it is run more efficiently than some other organizations. Second, it is international. The second is apparent to anyone who casually pays attention. The first is something that only an intense effort can reveal.

Vale: How has Atlas Network evolved during your involvement?



↓ Grossman (left) with the late Leonard Liggio (right), then the executive vice president of academics at Atlas Network.



↑ Grossman (left), with Ron Manners (right), 2020 Sir Antony Fisher Achievement Award honoree and founder of Mannkal Economic Education Foundation.

ners do not receive grants but are nonetheless an active part of the network. There are programs from the basic online introductions to nonprofit management to sophisticated international leadership councils.

Vale: You've been involved in charting and supporting the growth of Atlas Network in your time on our board. What does the future look like?

Dan: It is obviously impossible to know. There is a forward-looking strategic plan with clear objectives, but the world is unpredictable, and the best response to that unpredictability is to have management and a board that is equipped to deal with the world as it is.

Donations given to Atlas Network are one of the most effective ways to leverage investment to increase human flourishing.

Vale: Is there a particular partner organization or partner success story that inspires you?

Dan: There are hundreds. Inspiration comes from seeing lives improved and liberty expanded. One of the most impactful has been the Centre for Civil Society in India. They have, year after year, been innovating to effectively expand liberty.

But true inspiration comes from the very large number of success stories—some tiny, some huge, but each making lives and the future better for real people.

Vale: What is something about Atlas Network that you wish the world knew?

Dan: I wish the world knew that our mission and purpose is to increase human flourishing.

Vale: What about would-be donors hearing about us for the first time?

Dan: Donations given to Atlas Network are one of the most effective ways to leverage investment to increase human flourishing.

MAKING THE MOST OF BREXIT

How the Institute of Economic Affairs Remade British Trade

By Mark Littlewood

Nearly five years ago, the British people voted in a referendum for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union. The decision in favor of Brexit—involving the highest number of votes ever cast in a UK election—didn’t, however, mark the end of an intense national debate.

Instead, it triggered the start of a new one. Should we seriously proceed with ending our EU membership or should a second referendum be held to reconsider the matter? If we pressed ahead with Brexit, what form exactly should it take? Should we remain closely aligned with the EU to minimize trade frictions or would that tie our hands in terms of improving our trade relations with the 95% of human beings who don’t live in the European Union?

The issue of Brexit had divided opinion amongst classical liberals in the UK generally and also at my own Institute of Economic Affairs. A poll of our staff at the time of the referendum suggested a clear, but not overwhelming, majority favored “Leave.” But even that left open the question of what exactly Brexit should look like—and here there were a bewildering plethora of different options to choose from.

The easy decision for the IEA to take would have been to remain wholly silent on the entire Brexit issue. The topic had been fraught with turmoil and highly politicized. Much of the debate around the Brexit issue had become hysterical, often even poisonous. Many think tanks and policy institutes decided to steer clear of the issue altogether, rather than launch themselves head-first into a discussion that was extremely controversial and frequently toxic.

The Institute of Economic Affairs took a different view. Whatever each of us at the IEA thought about the upsides and downsides of Brexit itself, we all knew it was a major historic event. Crucially, we believed it presented a chance—although certainly not a guarantee—to re-forge the United Kingdom as a pioneer of open, free trade. We felt it was our obligation as a free-market think tank to contribute to and engage in the battle of ideas and seek to reset the terms of debate.

To this end, in June 2017 we established a Brexit Unit to produce briefing papers and analyses on the impact of the UK’s departure from the European Union—which, at that stage, appeared likely but far from certain. Our key focus was trade. Leaving the world’s largest single market and customs union was bound to lead to at least some friction in trade between the UK and the EU. How could this friction be minimized? How could the opportunities to trade more freely with the non-EU world be maximized?

To supercharge this area of our work, in March 2018 we set up an International Trade & Competition Unit (ITCU), bringing into the IEA four policy experts: Shanker Singham, Victoria Hewson, Radomir Tylecote, and Catherine McBride. Their aim was clear: to ensure that the precise form Brexit finally took was such that opportunities for liberalizing trade were substantially enhanced.



The formal launch of Plan A+ at a press conference in September 2018 became a media and policy sensation. In its 65 years of history, the IEA had never received such media attention.

Immediately, they found themselves in the eye of a political storm. The then prime minister, Theresa May, had called a snap election in June 2017 with the hope of substantially increasing her Conservative majority in Parliament. The move backfired; although Mrs. May remained as prime minister, she lost her overall majority altogether and was only sustained in office thanks to the tacit support of the cohort of Democratic Unionist Party MPs from Northern Ireland. Far from finding herself with an unassailable position in the legislature, the situation was one of total gridlock. There was no majority for any single course of action—and there were always majorities against any specific Brexit proposal.

To make achieving a resolution even tougher, opinions on both sides were hardening. More and more of those who had supported “Remain” were beginning to feel confident that Brexit could be cancelled altogether. More and more of those who had voted “Leave” began to entertain the prospect of leaving the EU without any formal arrangements in place governing our future relationship—not something that many of them had contemplated at the time of the 2016 referendum.

Faced with what seemed to be a binary question, Theresa May came up with the answer “0.5.” Her Chequers plan—named after the prime minister’s country retreat

at which her Cabinet endorsed the proposals—satisfied neither those who wanted to stay in (or very close to) the European Union nor those who wanted a full repatriation of powers over vast swathes of policy, crucially including trade policy. The Chequers plan would have involved the UK formally leaving the EU, but essentially staying in its regulatory and legislative orbit, amounting to an unappealing mix of having no seat at the EU table but also tying the UK’s hands in negotiating trade deals with other jurisdictions.

At the IEA, ITCU’s mission became immediately clear. Could they devise an alternative plan and help sensibly inform the public debate that would allow good trading relationships with the remaining 27 countries in the EU, while also allowing Britain to reduce trade barriers with the USA, Commonwealth nations, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the rest of the world?

Far from wishing to cobble together a politically acceptable compromise—some sort of Plan B—ITCU sought to educate policymakers and the wider public about a possible “Plan A+.” Under the proposals produced by ITCU, the UK’s relationship with the EU would be similar in some ways to the Canada–European Union arrangement. The aim would be for the UK to minimize any disruptions to the flow of trade with the EU, while

↓ Littlewood speaks with Liz Truss, secretary of state for international trade of the U.K.



↓ Littlewood speaks at the European Parliament.





↑ Littlewood appears on Fox Business to discuss Brexit.



↑ Liz Truss (secretary of state for international trade of the UK), Kwasi Kwarteng (secretary of state for business, energy, and industrial strategy of the UK), and Rishi Sunak (chancellor of the exchequer) visit the IEA headquarters in 2019.

simultaneously allowing the United Kingdom to strike deals improving the terms of trade with other nations. The key educational insight of the Plan A+ document was that this required the UK to regain control of both its tariff schedule and its regulatory rulebook. If these were still largely controlled by the EU, trade negotiations with other countries simply couldn't get off the ground. Shanker Singham, co-author of the report, described a nation engaging in trade talks as akin to playing multi-dimensional, interconnected chess. Not only did you need to play several games simultaneously, but a move on one chessboard affected your position on other boards. Plan A+ was a media and policy sensation. In its six and half decades of history, the IEA has never received such media attention. The press conference launching the research paper was screened live on national news channels. All national newspapers carried coverage and analysis of the plan.

It didn't just lead to a shift in the parameters of public debate, but to dramatic policy change. Boris Johnson, who had resigned as foreign secretary in protest at the Chequers proposal, warmly welcomed Plan A+ on the day of its release. Within a year, he had replaced Theresa May as prime minister and, for all intents and purposes, implemented its proposals.

The results have confounded skeptics and perhaps even exceeded the expectations of optimists. The UK has only been fully out of the EU for just a few months, but we have already completed 65 trade deals covering a total of more than £200bn (US\$277bn) of trade—or nearly £900bn (US\$1.25bn) if you also include our deal with the EU.

Trade deals, including with Canada, Kenya, Singapore, Vietnam, Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland, were all announced in a single week.

It is true that some of the deals represent simply rolling over pre-existing arrangements that we had as a part of our EU membership. But the UK–Japan deal, in particular, goes considerably beyond this. The UK has also applied to join the Common Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership. Were the USA persuaded to rejoin, that Partnership would become the largest free trade bloc on Earth. Separately, the British government is committed to a new bilateral trade deal with the USA and has recently underscored its desire for an enhanced trade partnership with India, which will surpass China as the most populous nation on the planet by the middle of this decade.

Since leaving the EU, the number of products now subject to zero import tariffs has nearly doubled here in Britain—from around 25% to nearly 50%. All of this has become achievable—and much more has become possible—thanks to the IEA helping to reset the agenda on what sort of Brexit would work from a free-market perspective.

A clear sign that the IEA's educational efforts had shifted the parameters of the trade debate came in February 2020, shortly before all our lives were turned upside down by the pandemic. Along with the authors of Plan A+, I was invited to attend a speech by Prime Minister Johnson in which he pledged to make the United Kingdom “the global champion of free trade” and cited David Ricardo and Adam Smith. This was a world away from the depressing introspection of the previous four years. I haven't heard a politician give such a resounding endorsement of the case for free trade in decades.

With the generous support of Atlas Network, we will be launching a new Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity in the coming weeks.

Of course, there are no final victories in the battle of ideas. An encouraging start to Britain's new approach to free trade cannot lead to us resting on our laurels. So, in September of last year, the IEA, alongside Americans for Tax Reform, launched the “Global Coalition for Free Trade,” which brings together think tanks, campaigners, and policymakers with an interest in the issue from across the globe for a monthly summit meeting.

In October, I was appointed to the Department for International Trade's strategic advisory group, where I see my role as pushing the government to go further and faster in removing both the tariff and non-tariff barriers

to trade, which impoverish both producers and consumers at home and abroad.

In attempting to encourage the removal of unnecessary trade restrictions between India and the UK, we have published a research paper scoping out the opportunities that liberalization could bring. A webinar we held on the topic attracted over 70,000 viewers.

If the purpose of a free-market think tank is to use reasoned arguments and rigorous research to shift the terms of debate and allow liberalizing policies to flourish, the IEA can justifiably claim considerable credit in bringing about a bold new era in British trade policy.

With the generous support of Atlas Network, we will be launching a new Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity in the coming weeks. The convergence of Brexit and the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area provides a major opportunity to remove protectionist barriers and raise economic successes for millions.

If the purpose of a free-market think tank is to use reasoned arguments and rigorous research to shift the terms of debate and allow liberalizing policies to flourish, the IEA can justifiably claim considerable credit in bringing about a bold new era in British trade policy.

Much has been done. But there is, of course, also much left to do.

Mark Littlewood is director general of the Institute of Economic Affairs.



Celebrate 40 years of advancing freedom around the world at Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in Miami, Florida!

Liberty Forum

Monday-Tuesday,
December 13-14, 2021
at Loews Miami Beach

Freedom Dinner

Tuesday,
December 14, 2021
at loanDepot park
(Miami Marlins)

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- > Announcement of the \$100,000 Templeton Freedom Award
- > 8th Annual Liggio Lecture given by Lenore Ealy
- > \$25,000 Think Tank Shark Tank Competition
- > Toast to Freedom by the Sir Antony Fisher Award Recipient Dr. Tom G. Palmer
- > Lights, Camera, Liberty Film Festival
- > John Blundell Elevator Pitch Competition

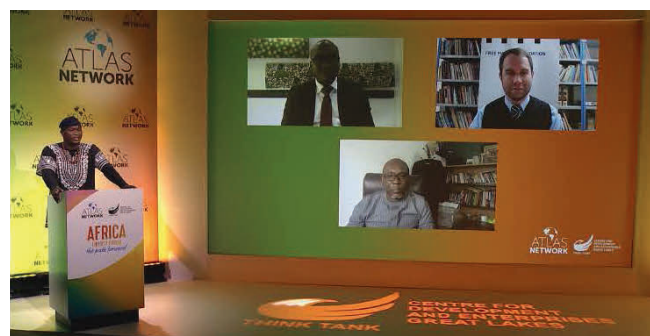
To reserve your room at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel at a rate of **\$259** per night, call **615-340-5778** and request the **Atlas Network rate**.

To learn more or register, visit AtlasNetwork.org/LFFD21

2021 Regional Liberty Forums a Resounding Success

A total of 870 attendees from around the world joined the four Regional Liberty Forums live this year—but now well over 1,000 have visited the legacy websites for on-demand viewing.

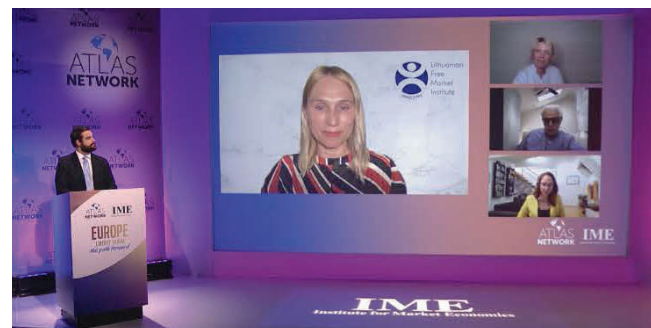
Travel restrictions led Atlas Network to hold each of the events on an online platform, but that did not deter us from facilitating high-end productions featuring the Think Tank Shark Tank competitions and Regional Liberty Awards. Aided by the virtual nature of this year's forums, liberty lovers were able to take part in other regions' events as well, contributing to the spirit of collaboration and global camaraderie that Atlas Network fosters as the center-of-gravity for the world-wide freedom movement. Recordings of individual sessions are available on YouTube.



Africa

The week of events kicked off with the #AfricaLF21, where speakers touched on topics like government responses to COVID-19, entrepreneurship, and constitutionalism. One of the big problems of the last year, speakers noted, was that African governments largely copied other nations' COVID-19 responses, without accounting for differences in risk factors. This led to government overreach and economic devastation. "Big Ideas" panelists from around the continent discussed how to make Africa a world player—standing up for its own people among powers like the United States, the European Union, and China—by expanding its trade potential and improving deal-making. Magatte Wade interviewed William Kamkwamba of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" on African entrepreneurship, and he explained that overregulation hinders business and creates many of the continent's cyclical problems. Rejoice Ngwenya of Coalition for Market and Liberal Solutions in Zimbabwe won the \$10,000 Think Tank Shark Tank prize for his #MyTitle4Life project to help inner-city Zimbabweans break the cycle of poverty through property rights. Tanzania's Liberty Sparks won the Africa Liberty Award and its \$7,000 prize for their Wezesha Biashara ("Improving Business") campaign to cut red tape and reform business regulations. "Participation in the forum has been a learning and

networking opportunity," said one attendee. "I never thought that this forum would have such an impact on the organization of my think tank and its management."



Europe

Leaders from around Europe convened virtually at #EuropeLF21 to exchange analysis and strategies to confront government overreach during the pandemic, the rise of the authoritarian left and right, and declining trust in the media. COVID-19 was a central topic, with speakers discussing how government lockdowns and bailouts have distorted the market and individuals' lives, how populists and leftists have exploited the crisis to push their agendas, how the European Union failed to effectively procure vaccines, and how Atlas Network partners can take the initiative to move the Overton Window back toward liberty.

In an interview with Dr. Tom Palmer, Dr. Anders Åslund of Atlantic Council said that Vladimir Putin's increasing authoritarianism has weakened the Russian economy, setting it back from the growth it achieved after the fall of the Soviet Union. Experts at the closing panel talked about why media quality has declined, and what we can do to reverse that trend. They agreed that an important part of rebuilding the media is making sure that it does not become simply a mouthpiece for those in power.

Aneta Vaine of Lithuanian Free Market Institute won the Think Tank Shark Tank competition for the "Better Laws for Better Lives" campaign to encourage Lithuanian lawmakers to improve the lawmaking process and ensure that new laws are constitutional and do not impose a severe burden on hardworking people. The Europe Liberty Award went to Students For Liberty Belarus for their "Free Belarus" project to build momentum for liberty and draw international attention to the Lukashenko regime's tyranny. After the event, one attendee said, "It was my first Atlas Network event, and it left me hungry for more—this experience exceeded my expectations to a great extent. Afterwards I feel motivated and inspired due to the professionalism regarding the organizational aspects and the topical content. Most importantly, I appreciate the sense of community regardless [of] the event being held online. Thank you and congrats on the successful event!"

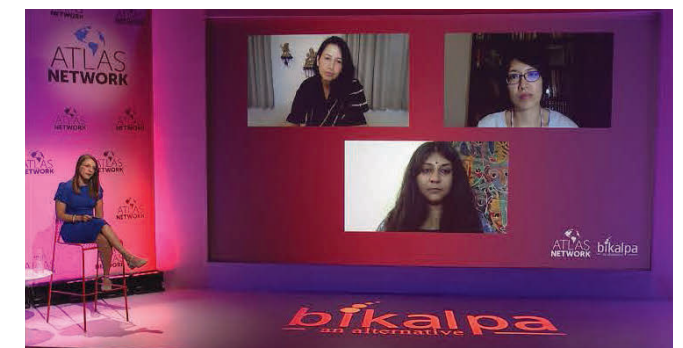


Latin America

Perhaps the most news-making session of the entire week was the exclusive interview at #ForoLibertad21 of the Hon. Luis Lacalle Pou, president of Uruguay, which was covered by over half a dozen national news outlets in Uruguay and has amassed over 36,000 YouTube views since being posted. Facilitated by Martín Aguirre—editor of the weekly Spanish-language briefing on all things liberty, *Mirada Sur*—the thirty-minute interview examined Uruguay's measured approach to COVID-19, China's role in Latin America and President Biden's lack of response, among much more. The Hon. Guillermo Lasso—president of Ecuador—opened the forum with a welcome message, where he invigorated attendees to not tire in their work to advance liberty in Latin America.

Dr. Roberto Salinas León and Álvaro Vargas Llosa—son of the Nobel Laureate for Literature Mario Vargas Llosa—announced a new partnership between Atlas Network and Cátedra Vargas Llosa. The new initiative—the Atlas Network–Cátedra Vargas Llosa Young Journalism Prize 2021—will offer a \$10,000 prize to the young writer promoting, with excellence, ethics,

and informative rigor, liberty in the profession of journalism. Fundacion Eléutera won the \$7,000 top prize of the Latin America Liberty Award for their "Opening the Electricity Market in Honduras" project to break the government monopoly and involve the private sector in energy production. Bernardo Vidigal and Students For Liberty Brasil won the Think Tank Shark Tank prize for "Property Rights in the Favelas," their multimedia education campaign to promote property rights as a solution to problems in Brazil's slums.



Asia

The Asia Liberty Forum capped the week of events with a focus on how to come out of the pandemic with a renewed commitment to human rights, reforming government, and economic vitality. With many governments taking drastic—even military—responses to fighting COVID-19, opening session panelists discussed how these measures have disrupted lives and economies. "Big Ideas" speakers presented strategies for improving government in Asia, such as strengthening rule of law, privatizing government services, and taking advantage of opportunities presented by the internet. Tarun Vats interviewed Gurcharan Das on liberal responses to crises and inequality, and Das also touched on the roots of Indian democracy in the country's history and philosophy. A closing panel analyzed the state of women's rights in Asia and how they can be expanded.

Sathya Karunaratne of Advocata Institute won Asia Think Tank Shark Tank and its \$10,000 prize for "Economic Freedom for Her," the organization's project to advance women's individual and property rights in Sri Lanka. Centre for Civil Society in India won the Asia Liberty Award for their work to improve the lives and livelihoods of street vendors. In the words of one forum participant, "It would be easy to characterize the regional liberty forums as relevant only to those in those particular regions, but nothing could be further from the truth. Learning how others across the globe are fighting for the very same principles that I fight for is incredibly [inspirational] and exciting."

Greg Brooks and John C. Mozena

Reflections of Two Executives of Nascent Think Tanks

Greg Brooks
President,
Better Cities
Project (BCP)



The best way I can characterize Executive Accelerator's impact is to think of BCP as two organizations: who we were before the 2019 training and who we are today. That's a big statement but, if anything, it underplays the role Executive Accelerator had on our start-up organization.

BCP's co-founders weren't first-time entrepreneurs or new to management—I myself have led projects and teams for more than 30 years. Against that backdrop, spinning up a new public-policy non-profit seemed pretty straightforward.

And, for the most part, it was. But becoming a focused and effective policy organization? Well, that's where Executive Accelerator came in.

We had a strategic plan; after the training, it got better. We had a vision of how we fit into the policy ecosystem; it got sharper and became more focused. And we had an idea of who we wanted to work with, but came away with a new, powerful family of partners, advisors, and friends.

It's hard to imagine a higher return on investment than giving tomorrow's movement leaders a foundation of training and relationships that will pay benefits for years or even decades.

I went into Executive Accelerator leading an early-stage organization that had a pretty good idea. I came out with a defensible, scalable plan to help change the world, and peer relationships to help get the job done.

As someone who's written a few five-figure checks for training over the years, I struggle to think of any time I've gotten more value out of a program. And if I put on my donor hat? It's hard to imagine a higher return on investment than giving tomorrow's movement leaders a foundation of training and relationships that will pay benefits for years or even decades.

At the time, it was surprisingly intense and even a little uncomfortable. But today? I wouldn't trade my Executive Accelerator experience if I could, because without it, BCP wouldn't be on the path that it's on.



Greg Brooks, president of Better Cities Project, attended Atlas Network's Executive Accelerator program in 2019. John C. Mozena, president of The Center for Economic Accountability, attended the same program the following year.

Executive Accelerator couldn't have come at a better time, which is something that didn't get said much in 2020.

Starting and running a think tank is already hard enough without throwing in a global pandemic to disrupt our plans. The Center for Economic Accountability (CEA) was poised to hit the ground running last year—we'd been selected as a "Smart Bet" organization for 2020 by Atlas Network for our plans to take on corporate welfare subsidies in America's states and cities, and we'd been fortunate to receive grants from Atlas Network and generous affiliated donors to give us the resources we needed to execute our plans.

Then COVID threw a joker into the deck.

That made the Executive Accelerator's focus on strategic planning even more valuable than it was already going to be, as 2020 saw our plans and strategies constantly evolving as the conditions changed around us. For instance, we'd planned to launch a 2020 campaign focused on building opposition to stadium subsidies—and then professional sports shut down for the year. (So much for all those "Pay For Your Own Damn Stadium" stickers we had printed in team colors.)

Executive Accelerator couldn't have come at a better time, which is something that didn't get said much in 2020.

The work I did at Executive Accelerator ended up informing all our strategic plan revisions over the course of 2020, and we continue to use the lessons and best practices from that training to ensure we're taking advantage of new opportunities in 2021 and beyond. As communities emerge from the pandemic and as companies begin to rethink how and where work gets done, we have a real opportunity to make progress toward our mission of advancing economic opportunity for all by promoting transparency, accountability, and free-market-based reform of state and local economic development initiatives across America.



Brooks speaks with an instructor at Executive Accelerator 2019.

Mozena speaks about the CEA with the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe in Michigan.

John C. Mozena
President, The
Center for Economic
Accountability





↑ Forty-five think tank professionals convened in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 2021 Lights, Camera, Liberty storytelling and film workshop.

Lights, Camera, Liberty 2021

Atlanta, Georgia

Our recent in-person Lights, Camera, Liberty (LCL) workshop in the “Hollywood of the South” hosted 45 partner staff representing 24 organizations from Argentina, Germany, Honduras, United States, and Uruguay. Participants had the opportunity to workshop their film projects with top leaders in the communications and film industries before competing for the opportunity to work directly with film industry professionals to bring their stories to life.

In addition to our in-person program, we held the first-ever virtual Lights, Camera, Liberty workshop for partners unable to travel to Georgia. From our studio in Atlanta, we broadcast an online program for 25 partner staff representing 13 organizations from Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Mexico, Nepal, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States.

The “Film Pitch Competition” was first introduced to the LCL grant program last year, and 2021 was the first

year we were able to facilitate the competition in person. Now, Atlas Network partners are invited to apply with an idea for a film that their organization would like to produce, and our expert faculty work with them before and during sessions at the LCL workshop to refine their concept before they get on stage to give their 60-second pitch. Participants compete for the top prize of a \$5,000 grant toward their film project and end-to-end consulting support for their film’s development from our partner, Just Add Firewater (formerly known as Taliesin Nexus). Semi-finalist organizations that aren’t selected to receive end-to-end consulting support will still receive on-site training with Just Add Firewater and a \$5,000 grant to put towards the production of their film.

Participants had the opportunity to workshop their film projects with top leaders in the communications and film industries before competing for the opportunity to work directly with film industry professionals.

From the in-person and virtual Lights, Camera, Liberty programs, 19 organizations gave their pitch to compete for end-to-end support on their video projects, and in the coming months, the five award-winning pitches from Prometheus (Germany), Center for Anti-Authoritarian Studies (Serbia), John Locke Foundation (United States), Libertas Institute (United States), and Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Económica y Social (CERES, Uruguay) will



↑ To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the flagship LCL program, Atlas Network held a special donor event in connection to the workshop where we hosted a panel of the industry’s leading filmmakers and screened exclusive films.

be developed into compelling media to spread the message of the key role individual agency plays in poverty alleviation around the world.

Our goal is to inspire organizations to think bigger about what is possible and push them to be more creative in their storytelling.

During the last five years, over 100 Atlas Network partner organizations have participated in Lights, Camera, Liberty. Since the inception of the program, these organizations have made tremendous improvements in their video production capabilities. We opted to make this change and add the “Film Pitch Competition” to build on this strong foundation for video production in our movement. Our goal is to inspire organizations to think bigger about what is possible and push them to be more creative in their storytelling. This competition will continue to provide our partners the opportunity to increase the reach and impact of their videos.

The Inaugural Chief Marketing Officer Summit

Atlanta, Georgia

Atlas Network convened our first global Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Summit with 19 of the partner network’s top marketing and communications leaders representing six countries (Australia, Canada, Honduras, Indonesia, United States, and Uruguay). The CMO Summit convened leaders both in-person and remotely for those from countries still unable to travel due to travel restrictions.

“Marketing for public policy nonprofits is a unique space, and there aren’t a lot of resources for knowledge sharing available,” said Keara Vickers, director of communications, Georgia Public Policy Foundation. “The CMO Summit was an absolutely invaluable experience to connect one-on-one with other marketers and share solutions and inspirations. I’m thrilled at the new connections and friends I’ve made and can’t wait to work together again.”

The CMO Summit was patterned after the successful summit model used for Atlas Network’s CEO and Global Influencer Summits where the summit agenda, topics, and key issues discussed are identified by the leaders themselves. Summit topics included improving integration across all marketing and communications functions, growing an organization’s owned audience, improving the way MarCom measures success/impact, and increasing understanding around human psychology to improve the ability to persuade and influence key audiences.

“The CMO Summit introduced me to new tools and ideas to help create greater exposure for the work we do,” said Bryn Weese, director of communications, Fraser Institute, “and it was great to hear from—and learn from—other marketing and communications leaders in the network. I know the ongoing discussions among this cohort will prove invaluable as we continue to share best practices and help each other to advance our shared goals.”

Center for Latin America Hits Stride Amid Regional Challenges to Liberty

In the spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the global economy and enabled autocrats to impose multiple restrictions at will, *The Economist's* Bello column controversially stated that “this should be Latin American liberalism’s hour.” For this to be true, the region requires, now more than ever, the promotion of ideas emphasizing institutions that check power and privilege, equality of opportunity before the law, and tolerance instead of ideological quackery.

Atlas Network’s Center for Latin America (CLA) took this as a call to action and an opportunity to engage in a major reset of our activities. Our team significantly expanded its reach, and now includes major roles for Axel Kaiser as senior fellow, Juan José Daboub as distinguished senior fellow, in addition to Antonella Marty as associate director, Gonzalo Schwarz as director of operations, and Roberto Salinas León as executive director.

Despite a dim outlook for the ideas of liberty between the threat of what Dr. Tom Palmer has called a “rising tide of illiberal populism,” a collapse of economic activity in 2020, and chronic problems with corruption and authoritarian rule, CLA has proposed to advance an agenda of liberalism based on a narrative of adaptability, innovation, social mobility, human progress, inclusive prosperity, and, in particular, individual dignity—all amid a climate of radical uncertainty and volatile change.

This boost to rekindle the flames of liberty in Latin America is the product of a generous set of gifts from committed Atlas Network supporters.

The Strategy

Complementing the bottom-up approach of Atlas Network’s Coach, Compete, Celebrate™ strategy and ambitious suite of programs, CLA works to proactively accelerate policy victories by collaborating more closely with think tank partners in the region, to raise and allocate grant funds to organizations that have identified opportunities and are most able to deliver ambitious outcomes

that align with our core principles, and to give greater visibility to our partners’ achievements through CLA’s communications and events footprint.

The Core Products

We have assembled an Advisory Council—a body of stakeholders and thought leaders from around the region—that helps the Center identify priority goals and means of achieving them. Current members of the council include CLA Distinguished Senior Fellow Juan José Daboub, who was a successful policy reformer and minister in El Salvador as well as the managing director of the World Bank; Venezuelan entrepreneur Marcel Granier; distinguished lawyer and investment advisor Guillermo Cabieses from Peru; and Martín Aguirre, editor-in-chief of *El País* newspaper in Uruguay.

Distinguished Senior Fellow Juan José Daboub will lead a new impact-driven initiative: our Rapid Reform Teams project. This program aims to accelerate the policy impact of Atlas Network partners in the region by connecting them with a network of former policymakers and world-renowned experts who have

successfully conducted or advised on reforms on key structural indicators that directly affect human dignity and freedom. These rapid reform teams will conduct site visits to various countries in the region, working with local think tanks and meeting with key policymakers.

Given the importance and history of macroeconomic mismanagement in Latin America, we have joined forces with Atlas Network partner CERES in Uruguay to develop our Macro Watch Project. The project consists of a bi-monthly dashboard of macroeconomic indicators in the region that partners can use to write reports and contact policy influencers to stay up to date with key trends in the region. There are also two Latin Macrovista Reports that provide an in-depth and longitudinal overview of macroeconomic activity performance at a regional level and contribute to the dialogue among think tanks, multilateral organizations, and policymakers.

LA ENTREVISTA FINAL
ANTONELLA MARTY. Rosario (Argentina), 1992. Políloga, Editora y coautora de *El manual liberal* (Deusto), un nuevo manifiesto antidogmático que incluye textos de Mario Vargas Llosa, Johan Norberg y Deirdre McCloskey, entre otros.

«El liberalismo no tiene nada que ver con la derecha»

LUIS ALEMANY

Pregunta.—Miro mi móvil y veo un chat de amigos con predominio socialdemócrata clásico; otro, con predominio de nueva izquierda; y otro, post progresliberal, que es el de las bromas más divertidas y burras.
Respuesta.—Claro. Eso es porque ser liberal no es sólo defender la libertad económica, tiene algo más subterfugio. Por eso, en el libro tocamos mucho la distinción entre conservadurismo y liberalismo, que se suelen ver como miradas semejantes del mundo cuando, en realidad, tienen muy poco que ver. Muy poco o quizá nada. Los liberales estamos por las libertades individuales: queremos debatir la legalización de las drogas, que en América hemos sufrido mucho por la fallida guerra contra las drogas; debatir el feminismo liberal; la inmigración como un derecho humano; las libertades sexuales.
P.—Lo malo es que en el chat liberal hay bromas tan brutales que a veces me asusto. Si

se publicasen por ahí, me sentiría fatal.
R.—Habría que preguntarse si sus actitudes son liberales de verdad. Hoy vería a los principales enemigos de la libertad hablar en su nombre. Las nuevas derechas lo hacen, nos dicen que hay dictaduras de derechas que no son malas. Defienden a Pinochet o al franquismo en nombre de la libertad y de la democracia. No, un liberal defiende la libertad por completo, no por pedacitos.
P.—Creo que el sentido del chat, en síntesis, es: ‘No dejes que la gente pensada os de la lata’.
R.—Ese tema lo hago mío, tal cual. Yo no quiero imponer mi moral a los demás, ni que nadie me imponga la suya, mucho menos a través del Estado. El liberal te dice que seas quien tomas las decisiones en tu vida, quien elige el marco moral. Los conservadores, los socialistas... Están por todas partes y hacen lo mismo. Un liberal es lo contrario. Te dice: ‘Deja vivir y deja trabajar’.
P.—Pero cada vez hace falta menos trabajo para crear riqueza. ¿Cómo la redistribuiremos para que la sociedad no sea invivible?
R.—Tenemos una concepción equivocada de la riqueza: no entendemos cómo se crea. Pensamos que la riqueza es una cosa ya definida, que es estática y limitada y que pasa de unas manos a otras. La realidad es que el 50% de la riqueza de la humanidad se creó en los últimos 30 años. Mil millones de personas salieron de la pobreza extrema en ese tiempo.
P.—Bueno, pues quitamos la palabra redistribución y hablamos de circulación. ¿Cómo haremos para que la riqueza circule?
R.—Estoy de acuerdo: se habla de igualdad pero nadie es igual a nadie. Por suerte, nadie es igual a nadie, sólo ante la ley lo somos. Prefiero hablar de la movilidad social, de permitir que las personas puedan vivir más, vivir mejor. Y eso se consigue cuando la gente es dueña del fruto de su esfuerzo, no a través de la llamada justicia social, que es profundamente injusta. Lo que hacen los Gobiernos es hacerle creer que eres incapaz, que dependes de una migaja. Te quiebran las piernas, te dan muletas y te dicen que te han salvado.
P.—La nueva izquierda no ha conquistado el poder en Europa, pero ha tenido éxito marcando los temas del debate público.
R.—Sí. Pero la nueva derecha también lo tie-



EL MUNDO

ne. Consegui que hablémos del inmigrante como una amenaza, de una idea de familia que sólo sirve si es mamá, papá, hijos... Es el eje derecha-izquierda el que marca el debate. Y el liberalismo no es eso, no tiene nada que ver; tampoco con la derecha que ha sido enemiga de la vida, que impuso tantas dictaduras.

LA ÚLTIMA PREGUNTA ¿QUÉ PUEDE APORTAR EL PENSAMIENTO LIBERAL A LA EMERGENCIA MEDIOAMBIENTAL?
El planeta se salvará gracias a la investigación científica de las economías abiertas. Ya está pasando. Pienso, ¿cuáles son las economías que más contaminan? Las economías cerradas, basadas en el proteccionismo.

The Latin American Bureaucracy Index, another recent collaboration of the CLA and five influential regional partners, seeks to quantify the amount of bureaucracy in Latin America and how many barriers stand in the way of people earning a living. The project will be led by CED-ICE Senior Advisor Sary Levy-Careciente. The weekly *Mirada Sur* Newsletter (which you can read about on page 9’s World10 spread) has provided a classical liberal perspective on current events.

CLA has been very active on the media and publication fronts. Our *Hablemos Libertad* podcast, led by Antonella Marty, has been a major success. To capitalize on the success, Marty also recently published a book—which has received rave reviews—based on interviews conducted with some of the most influential intellectuals in the liberty movement, such as Mario Vargas Llosa, Johan Norberg, Deirdre McCloskey, and Tom Palmer. Marty is a regular commentator in several prominent news outlets, including *Infobae*, *La Nación*, *El Nacional*, *Forbes*, *France24*, *CNN*, *Globovisión*, *Fox News*, and *El Español*—where she is a columnist.

To position CLA as a key contributor to the policy and intellectual conversation in the region, Axel Kaiser has been an influential voice in the media, with a flurry of publications in outlets such as *The Washington Post*, *Quillete*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, in addition to appearances in major news outlets across the region.

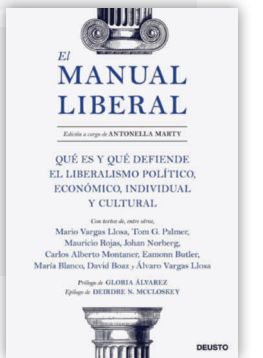
CLA has also become an important organizer of world-class conferences. Our Latin America Liberty Forums assemble the most important thought leaders in the region—and other areas of the world—while opening up new opportunities for promising young voices in the re-



Latin American liberalism’s hour is now, and CLA seeks to become a fundamental actor in rekindling the flame of liberty in the region.

← Antonella Marty has floated from success to success, commentary to commentary, and feature to feature. See here her feature in *El Mundo*.

→ Marty recently edited a collection of essays examining how progress is the consequence of the exercise of freedom.



gion’s freedom movement. In addition, CLA continues to support the annual editions of the highly distinguished Alamos Alliance, through the leadership of Roberto Salinas León.

How does CLA measure success?

The key objectives of the CLA 2.0 strategy are to significantly influence movement toward a more positive perception of the ideas of liberty (and the culture and institutions that sustain them), to be catalysts to accelerate policy changes in the direction of human freedom and flourishing in collaboration with Atlas Network partners in the region, and to foster a greater cohesion among a growing community of high-performing partners in the region.

We seek to measure these objectives through significant improvement in public perception and opinion polls, achieving at least 16 policy changes

annually through our grant-making and programs that aim to support partners in accelerating policy results in the direction of more human freedom, helping more countries in Latin America turn toward an open society and away from the demagoguery of illiberal populism, and helping our partners in the region significantly grow their budgets and become more established and impactful think tanks.

Given these new and exciting projects—and Latin America’s untapped human and economic potential—hope remains. The region has seen darker times, and now is the time for Latin America to value the freedom to choose. Latin American liberalism’s hour is now, and CLA seeks to become a fundamental actor in rekindling the flame of liberty in the region.



Atlas Network successfully leverages my support in a very substantial way. It is unique in its ability to effectively spread ideas and practices among close to 500 partners in around 100 countries. No other organization in the liberty movement has such a capacity to impact billions of lives.

DAN GROSSMAN