

ACTON notes

Acton Institute Newsletter

June 2007, Volume 17, Number 6



“Connecting good intentions with sound economics”

In This Issue

- ACTON PREMIERES ITS FIRST DOCUMENTARY FILM • AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS GETS BACK TO ITS ROOTS
- WORLD WAR II SPY LECTURES AT ACTON

President's Message

Dear Friends,

When Benedict XVI spoke in Latin America recently, he criticized the very essence of socialism: its inherent materialism. The socialist ideology imagines that the logic of history is driven by what whole classes of people possess and control. It suffers from a plethora of failures, including a complete mischaracterization of the labor-capital contract, positing a collective and class-based consciousness, and a false view of history. And the effects of socialism on human rights and dignity? Unspeakable.

The pope also has some firm words for those living under capitalistic conditions. They too can imbibe the materialist ethic. How true this is! If people live to produce and consume as ends in themselves, they are denying the reality of the human soul, and this is dangerous to the culture and salvation.

Examples of this surround us. Shopping is a form of therapy for many. People sometimes seek professional advancement over family obligations. They use leisure time for self indulgence rather than charitable works and worship. Any political or social system that is constructed to tend to material needs only ends in cruelty that is contrary to morality.

Let us be clear on one important distinction however. The materialism in a capitalistic system is a problem of individual sin and cultural corruption. The materialism of socialism is integral to the philosophy itself. It cannot be redeemed by adding a religious gloss or refashioning class analysis in pseudo-Biblical terms. The burden of the critique of liberation theology, offered in many articles and books published by the Acton Institute, is to show just that.

The free economy provides opportunities to people that can be used wisely or squandered. The command economy denies opportunity and breeds suffering and corruption by its very nature. Our choice concerning economic systems, then, should be clear. The choice concerning how we use human freedom is dictated by the moral foundation of a culture and the exercise of virtue by individuals.

At the Acton Institute, we work hard to keep such distinctions before the public eye. Thank you for making our work possible!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Robert A. Sirico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Robert A. Sirico, President

Any political and social systems that is constructed to tend to material needs only ends in cruelty that is contrary to morality.

The mission of the Acton Institute is to promote a free and virtuous society characterized by individual liberty and sustained by religious principles.

ACTONINSTITUTE

Acton Premieres Its First Documentary Film

The Call of the Entrepreneur, Acton's first-ever documentary film production, premiered at a sold-out Grand Rapids theater on May 17. Longtime Acton supporters made up a large number of the 400+ attendees, but many who came discovered Acton for the first time through the film. Brad Morgan, a Michigan dairy farmer and one of the three businessmen whose story is charted in *The Call*

“Acton will follow up its successful Grand Rapids premiere with openings in eight more cities over the next several months.”

of the Entrepreneur, was able to attend the premiere. A sizable group of young international students was also present, visiting America to study business, economics, philosophy, and related fields. Acton will follow up its successful Grand Rapids premiere with openings in eight more cities over the next several months. For more about this film and its premiere dates visit www.calloftheentrepreneur.com



MBA students from Punjabi University, India



Father Sirico with guests at the premiere

From Our Conference Participants

My conference experience provided a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of economics, theology and law, while also offering important insights into public policy and politics.

—Janice Chik
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

In thinking about how subsidiarity applies to economics, it was great to see that entrepreneurship is supported by scripture... I learned a great deal at the conference and the experience is already helping shape my future plans for the better.

—Jason Deng
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

ACTON MEDIA

P R E S E N T S

THE CALL OF THE ENTREPRENEUR

PREMIERES
NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

FOR TICKETS, DATES, AND LOCATIONS VISIT www.calloftheentrepreneur.com

A merchant banker. A failing dairy farmer. A refugee
from Communist China. One risked his savings.
One risked his farm. One risked his life.

Why do their stories matter? Because how we view
entrepreneurs—as greedy or altruistic, as virtuous or
vicious—shapes the destinies of individuals and nations.




COLDWATER ACTON MEDIA
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Austrian Economics Gets Back to Its Roots

Four Austrian students who attended last year's Acton University recently debuted a short video highlighting their conference experiences on the popular website YouTube. The clip, amusingly set to Queen's "I Want to Break Free," features Acton University

The clip, amusingly set to Queen's "I Want to Break Free," features Acton University attendees...

attendees and speakers from around the world as they weigh in on the value of the economic heritage left by "Austrians who loved liberty and understood it." The video can be viewed by visiting youtube.com and typing "Acton University" into the search field.

Schedule Change to Acton Lecture Series

Originally set to be held on July 18, Michael Miller's talk, "Truth, Relativism, and the Free Society" has been rescheduled for the earlier date of **Wednesday, July 11**. The time and place, 12:00pm – 1:30pm in

the David Cassard Conference Room, will remain the same. Miller will address the question of why objective, absolute truth is necessary to the preservation of a free democracy.



Youtube.com screenshot of Acton University attendees

Michael Miller's Lecture rescheduled to July 11

ACTON in the News

True liberation cannot be found through the state but only through the exercise of conscience and the freedom to do so.

—Excerpted from Rev. Robert A. Sirico's article in *The Wall Street Journal Europe*

Francis Rocca

Title: Pope's new book reflects personal search for Jesus

Publisher: *USA Today*

Publication Date: 5.14.2007

Rev. Robert A. Sirico

Title: Liberating Christianity

Publisher: *The Wall Street Journal Europe*

Publication Date: 5.18.2007

Dr. Samuel Gregg

Title: What's Wrong With Europe?

Program: *Acton Institute*

Air Date: 5.23.2007

Reminder

Help Acton Promote Freedom and Virtue!

The Acton Institute depends on the generosity of supporters like you. If you have not donated to Acton, but enjoy *Acton Notes*, please consider helping us meet our goals! Your help makes possible our continuing mission to promote a free and virtuous society. You may choose to donate using the envelope provided, or you may visit <https://secure.lexi.net/acton> to make a secure donation online. We send our heartfelt thanks to those who have been so generous in the past with your strategic support as well as your prayers. You have a broad vision and a generous heart.



Ralph Hauenstein with Donald Markle at ALS



A sold out ALS audience on May 17

Acton and You World War II Spy Lectures at Acton

Colonel Ralph Hauenstein, who served as chief of the Intelligence Branch for Europe in World War II, spoke to a sold out Acton Lecture Series audience on May 17.

Interviewed by Father Robert Sirico and members of the audience, Col. Hauenstein and co-author Donald Markle, talked about his history-making espionage experiences as General Dwight Eisenhower's chief of the Intelligence Branch. Documented in his recent book, *Intelligence Was My Line: Inside Eisenhower's Other Command*, Hauenstein was one of the first Americans to

enter Nazi concentration camps and other parts of liberated Europe in 1945. He also told of his horrific firsthand encounter with the Dachau death camp, the crucial codebook he found at the site of a plane crash in Iceland, and various tactics Eisenhower's intelligence operatives employed to win the war.

Today, Hauenstein works as an international businessman to create wealth opportunities for struggling democracies in Europe, the Middle East, Haiti, and elsewhere. His lecture can be heard at www.acton.org.

Save the Date for Our Annual Dinner

October 24

At the JW Marriott
Grand Rapids, Michigan

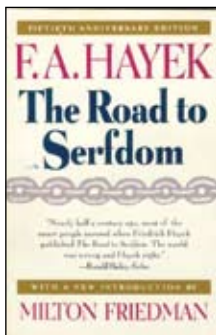
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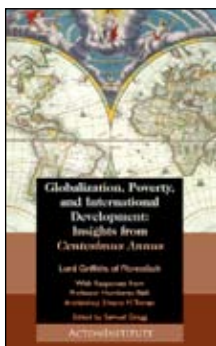


The Road to Serfdom

by F. A. Hayek

A classic work in political philosophy, intellectual and cultural history, and economics, *The Road to Serfdom* has inspired and infuriated politicians, scholars, and general readers for half a century. Originally published in England in the spring of 1944—when Eleanor Roosevelt supported the efforts of Stalin, and Albert Einstein subscribed lock, stock, and barrel to the socialist program—*The Road to Serfdom* was seen as heretical for its passionate warning against the dangers of state control over the means of production.

Paperback 274 pages Price \$11.00



Globalization, Poverty, and International Development: Insights from *Centesimus Annus*

by Lord Griffiths of Forestfach

One subject that never fails to spark debate is globalization. The phrase is used in every possible context, and yet its origins, nature and implications—especially for developing countries—are often misunderstood. In this monograph, Lord Brian Griffiths examines the theory and practice of globalization, and underlines its positive influences on wealth-creation and its success in raising millions out of poverty.

Paperback 65 pages Price \$5.00

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The Road to Serfdom	\$11.00		
Globalization, Poverty, and International Development	\$5.00		

Make checks payable to "Acton Institute." For orders in the United States, Canada, and Mexico: for the first item, add US \$3.75 for shipping; plus US \$1.00 for each additional item. Overseas orders: US \$4.75 for the first item, plus US \$1.75 for each additional item.

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Calendar of Events

ACTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
June 20	The Call of the Entrepreneur Film Premiere Sir John Cass Business School Mr. Michael Miller and Dr. Samuel Gregg to attend	London, England
July 11	Acton Lecture Series "Truth, Relativism, and the Free Society" Michael Miller to speak	Grand Rapids, Michigan
August 23	Acton Lecture Series "Myths Christians Believe about Wealth and Poverty" Dr. Jay Richards to speak	Grand Rapids, Michigan
August 16-19	Toward a Free and Virtuous Society Conference	West Cornwall, Connecticut

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Date	Event	Location
June 21	Book Launch Catholic Social Teaching and the Market Economy Dr. Samuel Gregg to speak	London, England
July 3	Calihan Fellowship and Centesimus Annus Fellowship Application Deadline	

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