



# Independent

NEWSLETTER OF THE INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE

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## George Gilder speaks at David Theroux memorial event in Oakland

To usher in the new year, Independent Institute welcomed the future by honoring the past.

In January, the Theroux family hosted a celebration of the life of our founder, David J. Theroux, as well as the legacy and future of liberty.

In his opening invocation, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone declared, “It is for freedom that your son Jesus Christ came to set us free.” David’s wife, Mary, presented highlights of David’s exceptional life with accompanying photos. From his pivotal discovery of Friedrich Hayek’s essay “Why I Am Not a Conservative,” through his formative college years at the height of the Vietnam War confronting the pervasive New Left culture, through studies at Chicago, his founding roles with Cato and PRI, and culminating with his founding and leadership of the Independent Institute, David stayed true to deeply held convictions that he advanced across both his professional and his personal lives. In the process, he advanced the work of countless others in important ways, as the many tributes following his passing attest.

Acclaimed author George Gilder, a longtime Independent Institute advisor, presented a stirring keynote, illuminating Independent’s goals for the years ahead. Gilder’s career has run parallel to Theroux’s in many ways. Both have been champions of freedom, admirers of Friedrich Hayek, and deeply respected leaders in the think tank world. Most importantly, Gilder and Theroux both rejected the soulless materialism that pervaded the intellectual circles in which they worked. Man’s capacity for creativity, dignity, and liberty was not merely an academic thesis for either Theroux or Gilder. Rather, it was, and remains, a fundamental truth about the way we ought to live in a free society. As Gilder summarized:

*“Human beings are creative in the image of their creator, and David Theroux is a supreme example of this wonderful truth that prevails in a world beyond the flat universe theory.”*

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GEORGE GILDER SPEAKS AT DAVID THEROUX’S MEMORIAL IN OAKLAND.



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## CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LETTER

## Letter from Mary L. G. Theroux



Over the past three years, we have experienced a significantly ratcheted-up assault on the foundational principle that each of us is endowed with inalienable rights, as well as reason. It used to be a given that individual adults are to assess risks and decide on the most appropriate course of action for ourselves, our families, and communities. Yet after decades of centralized governments at all levels crowding out far more functional civil institutions and relationships, unprecedented and previously inconceivable wholesale controls were imposed and generally accepted in the name of “crisis.”

Is the growing loss of liberty and personal agency simply inevitable—or are there concrete ways that we can restore thriving communities and institutions?

We believe the answer to the latter question is a resounding Yes and, toward that end, are pursuing the following initiatives:

- Ensuring that lessons from the corona crisis—from universal mandates, the suppression of information, and the vicious targeting of those speaking truth to authority—are taken to heart, with safeguards to prevent any return to the wrongs committed during the pandemic period, and to stymie Leviathan’s further growth. We are thus very pleased to have launched a new program aimed at doing just this: *Independent Truths with Dr. Scott Atlas*, available on our multimedia site, YouTube, and most podcast platforms.
- Encouraging local initiatives and community-building: Our *Beyond Homeless* initiative with its high-impact documentary spotlights the city of San Francisco’s centralized planning, which results in spiraling housing, homelessness,

and related crises. It contrasts this with the Tocquevillian approach taken by San Antonio, which has resulted in the opposite. In the process, we cast a vision for others to emulate. We are continuing to build on the initiative to provide information, examples, and ideas that can inspire and equip individuals to take action in their own communities.

- Advancing decentralized solutions to issues of common concern: We likely all agree that decentralized solutions better fit areas such as education, with choice affording students of every age access to the options that best serve their individual needs. But can the same concept be applied to defense? Our new book, *In Search of Monsters to Destroy*, boldly advances a polycentric approach to better achieve national security—acknowledging that central planning works no better in global engagement than in managing an economy. In the process, we see that security is possible without a worldwide military-industrial complex, and without the surveillance state and other domestic fallouts from foreign adventuring.

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THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Education, economics, and world affairs

*The Independent Review* confronts the most pressing issues of our time with intelligence, courage, and candor. In increasingly partisan times, our winter issue, which includes a symposium on the future of higher education, presents a refreshingly unbiased perspective on the most urgent challenges facing the academy, the economy, world affairs, and more.

There is no doubt that American higher education is at a crossroads. Increasingly expensive and inefficient, our colleges and universities have turned into rigid bureaucracies that stifle academic freedom and limit intellectual diversity. In this issue, our authors answer the question: Will higher education correct these and other problems? Authors **Phillip W. Magness** (American Institute for Economic Research and Independent Institute) and **David Waugh** (American Institute for Economic Research) argue that the left-leaning supermajority in higher education has led to rampant discrimination against nonleft job seekers—and it will only get worse. This discrimination, they argue, will lead to the eventual delegitimization of higher education in the public eye. Be warned, hard-left faculty: embrace this orthodoxy at your own peril.



THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW WINTER 2022/23

And what of the economy? Drawing on the ideas of economist Frank Knight, authors **Juan Ramón Rallo** (Universidad Francisco Marroquín), **Philipp Bagus**, and **Miguel Ángel Alonso Neira** (both at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) show what really happens within the institutional framework of socialism. Despite the rosy claims of those who promise peace and security under central economic planning, our authors show that socialism forces economic agents to face a treacherous uncertainty that, under healthy capitalism, is either absent or significantly reduced by profit-seeking entrepreneurs.

Finally, over a year has passed since Russia invaded Ukraine. Authors **Leonid A. Krasnozhon**

(Loyola University New Orleans) and **Yuliya Yehorova** (Kharkiv National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture) trace the development of Ukrainian liberalism from the nineteenth century to modern times, beginning with intellectuals such as Mykhailo Drahomanov, Ivan Franko, Bohdan Kistyakivsky, and Mikhail Tugan-Baranovsky, who opposed imperialism, rejected Marxism, and promulgated ideas of freedom and democracy grounded in the Western system of beliefs. It describes how and why liberalism as a social arrangement has driven recent democratization and market-oriented reforms in Ukraine.

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Check out the Fall issue of *The Independent Review*, featuring the politics of the federal reserve, why millennials will eventually give up socialism, free speech on campus, and more!

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## Independent Institute in the news

### Love Gov

*Love Gov* Season 3 lampoons public school craziness. As the new season garners 4 million views, the whole *Love Gov* collection is approaching **50 million views!**

### Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation

“The federal government is competing against the private sector. Until we quit paying people not to work, the Fed’s approach of trying to kill demand is going to keep proving fruitless.”

—**Judy Shelton** on *Kudlow* on the Fox Business Network, 12/9/22



JUDY SHELTON ON “KUDLOW” ON THE FOX BUSINESS NETWORK, 12/9/22

### Beyond Homeless

“We need to be bringing together everyone who is working on addressing homelessness in one room and start making a strategic plan for what would meet the needs of the community. Then identify metrics that would define success and constantly measure those metrics to learn and adjust. We’d then be deploying our resources in a far more meaningful and effective manner.”

—**Mary L. G. Theroux** on *KCBS Radio*, 10/15/22

### Center on Health Choices

“America uniquely sacrificed its children by closing in-person schools in 2020 and 2021, forcing testing and quarantining of asymptomatic, healthy students and requiring injection of experimental drugs in schoolchildren with no clear benefit to them.”

—**Scott Atlas** in *The New Criterion*, 1/4/23

### Center on Educational Excellence

“Higher education itself has become a prime provider of money, ideas, and the training of many—

largely progressive—governmental leaders, and it is thus now an almost sacrosanct ward of the state.”

—**Richard Vedder** in *The American Spectator*, 1/31/23

### Center on Peace and Liberty

“The US government is the largest arms dealer in the world, used for defense as well as offense, but some of those weapons go to the worst governments in the world. You can make the argument that in the name of promoting a liberal order, you are actually contributing to illiberalism. You are giving weapons of force and control of other human beings to illiberal governments.”

—**Christopher Coyne** on *Free the People* podcast, 2/9/23

“The United States now only accounts for 13.6 percent of global GDP but a whopping 38 percent of the world’s defense spending, which has created a competitive drag on the US economy that must be reduced. Washington can do so by refusing to serve as the unilateral global policeman or pursue a zero-sum competition with China for military, political, and economic dominance.”

—**Ivan Eland** in *The National Interest*, 1/12/23



CHRISTOPHER COYNE (LEFT) ON THE *FREE THE PEOPLE* PODCAST, 2/9/23

### Center on Law and Justice

“We teach gun safety. We have our detractors who are against gun safety, and in fact they try to change the meaning of the term *gun safety* to mean ‘anti-gun laws.’ This is such a poor example of how you can have these Hollywood types, who hate gun owners and guns. And then they pick them up, because the rules don’t apply to them, and they kill people, so there is definitely going to be a change in the [movie] industry.”

—**Stephen P. Halbrook** on *The Dana Loesch Radio Show*, 1/19/23

## Recommended reading: Economics to fight inflation

2022 was a tough year ...

... not only because petty political partisanship reached all-time highs, pitting neighbor against neighbor ...

... but also because inflation mercilessly ravaged Americans' savings, reaching historic heights.

Gas prices, grocery bills, and interest rates seemed to get higher and higher by the day.

Although prices are not back to normal, the rate of increase seems to have slowed ... for now. But after an economically chaotic year, many rightly wonder: *What's next?*

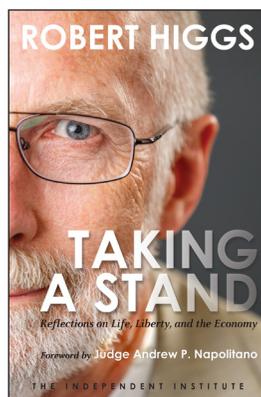
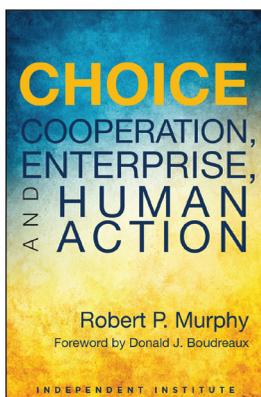
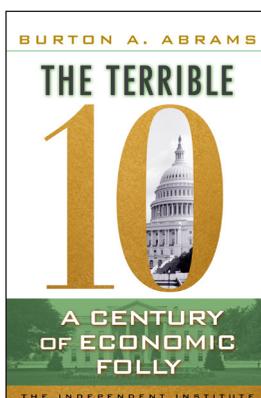
At Independent Institute, we don't claim to know the future. But we are persuaded that those who refuse the lessons of history are doomed to repeat its failures.

To that end, we offer *three book recommendations* for those seeking to understand *how we got here, how classic economic principles remain fresh, and how to flourish in the face of it all.* We hope you enjoy!

***The Terrible 10: A Century of Economic Folly***, by **Burton A. Abrams**. Independent Institute, 2013.

*The Terrible 10* takes both political parties to task and shows the causes and consequences of the worst policy mistakes of the twentieth century. What do they all have in common? Government decision makers, regardless of party, tend to favor short-run benefits for friends—especially major campaign contributors and special-interest groups—while imposing costs on the rest of us, or future generations.

Burton A. Abrams, University of Delaware economics professor, divides the ten worst blunders equally among Democrats and Republicans. Thankfully, Abrams also provides vital lessons to help us avoid repeating such blunders, as well as a thorough history leading up to the present era.



***Choice: Cooperation, Enterprise, and Human Action***, by **Robert P. Murphy**. Independent Institute, 2015.

*Choice* is an engaging and intriguing book that provides a guidebook to economics that both instructs *and* entertains economists and general readers. Drawing on *Human Action*, the seminal volume by the Austrian School economist Ludwig von Mises, and comparing classical and neoclassical approaches, *Choice* is a creative, comprehensive, and unusually lucid explanation of economic science and market processes.

The book illuminates free economies as underpinning civilization, exposes the folly of government central planning, emphasizes the primacy of entrepreneurship and innovation, and explains the nature of money and banking, the causes of the business cycle, and most relevantly of all, the failures of government intervention.

***Taking a Stand: Reflections on Life, Liberty, and the Economy***, by **Robert Higgs**. Independent Institute, 2015.

In his earlier and most well-known work, *Crisis and Leviathan*, Robert Higgs dissected the government's shrewd excesses that have led to the welfare state, the warfare state, and the administrative

state. In this book, however, are essays that show a whimsical, introspective, and personal side of this world-renowned scholar.

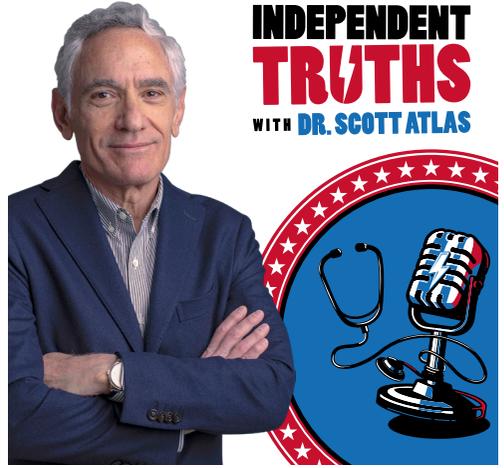
From the myth that the government has derived its powers from the consent of the governed to the role of independent experts in formulating monetary and fiscal policy; from the government's duplicity in announcing the unemployment rate in a given month to how the state entraps us—if you want to see a true polymath at work, then these lofty, serious, and illuminating essays will educate you beyond what you thought possible about life, liberty, and the economy.

## Independent Truths podcast with Dr. Scott Atlas

Independent Institute is proud to announce the launch of its new podcast, *Independent Truths*, featuring Dr. Scott Atlas in conversation with high-profile news makers in public health policy, science, civil liberties, censorship and free speech, higher education, the media, and more!

Dr. Scott Atlas is a world-renowned expert in health care policy and frequent policy advisor to policy makers and government officials. He investigates the roles of government and the private sector in health care quality and access, global trends in health care innovation, and the key economic and civil liberty issues related to health policy.

In one of the first episodes, Dr. Scott Atlas and his guest Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, professor of health policy and economics at Stanford University's School of Medicine, engage in a spirited conversation about Dr. Bhattacharya's experience as a rare voice of reason during the COVID pandemic, and



how we can move forward as a society to restore trust and ethics in science and public health.

Listen to *Independent Truths* on YouTube, Rumble, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon, and Google now!

**“The scientific enterprise relies on trust. It relies on good assumptions of good faith ... the idea that we respect each other, even as we disagree. This is fundamental to the scientific enterprise. And this example is set by scientific leadership. But when scientific leadership essentially sets an environment where hostility toward other colleagues is normalized—is in fact, encouraged which is what happened during the pandemic—that really sets a bad precedent.”**

DR. JAY BHATTACHARYA

### GEORGE GILDER

(continued from page 1)

Independent Institute is dedicated to this vision, as set forth by David Theroux, echoed by George Gilder, and enshrined in our mission: *to boldly advance peaceful, prosperous, and free societies grounded in a commitment to human worth and dignity.*

We are grateful to all who continue to share and join us in advancing this crucial mission. A video of the evening's program is available at [www.independent.org/davidtherouxmemorial/](http://www.independent.org/davidtherouxmemorial/).

### CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

As George Gilder cited at our recent event (p. 1), “‘Creativity always comes as a surprise to us.’ If it didn’t, planning would work.” Independent Institute is dedicated to removing the barriers to the free exercise of human creativity in resolving challenges and in pursuing opportunities.

We seek to inspire and provide support for individuals and communities to discover and create the institutions, enterprises, and relationships that

most effectively meet their every need. As Tocqueville observed, and as we document in works such as *The Voluntary City*, *Entrepreneurial Economics*, *T.R.M. Howard*, and others, this is truly our American tradition.

Thank you for being a key part of our mission helping individuals succeed and humanity thrive!

Thank you!

## Beyond Homeless

What are the root causes of homelessness? What solutions are possible? Are any solutions possible?

Our award-winning documentary *Beyond Homeless: Finding Hope* showcases a timely look at the escalating problem of homelessness in San Francisco, the rising costs of addressing it, and an alternative approach that has transformed San Antonio’s homeless problem.

In 2009, San Antonio and San Francisco had *similar* levels of homelessness. But, over the following decade, the homeless population in San Antonio **decreased by 11%** (with 77% fewer homeless downtown) while the homeless population in San Francisco **surged by nearly 80%**.

We have been hosting screenings of this award-winning film (**Best Short Documentary at the Anthem Film Festival**, for example) with many diverse networks across the country, and the reception has been humbling. And we think for good reason. Our new way forward offers *hope*.

In fact, *Beyond Homeless* was just shown at the Phoenix Film Festival, the 20th film festival it has been featured in. It was screened 3 times—and the final screening sold out. We are working around the clock to become the biggest evangelists of the movement to end homelessness.



MARY L. G. THEROUX STANDS WITH LEMANDA DEL TORO, FORMERLY HOMELESS ALUMNA OF HAVEN FOR HOPE, AT THE SACRAMENTO SCREENING OF *BEYOND HOMELESS*

### Wondering how you can get involved?

To make a difference in the country’s homeless problem, it’s going to take the efforts of a lot of good people to really move the needle. If you’re an individual, you can **volunteer**, or **donate**, or **host a screening**. Perhaps you work for an organization that would like to become part of our alliance.

Add your name to our mailing list and we’ll keep you updated on our efforts and their results. And if you’d like to help out further, we welcome your contribution to the cause.

Visit [beyondhomeless.org](http://beyondhomeless.org) to learn more today!

### *Beyond Homeless* has been featured in...



## Your donation dollars at work!

The Independent Institute was founded to produce rigorous, forward-thinking research into the root causes of seemingly intractable problems. Adhering to the highest standards of independent scholarly inquiry, the resulting studies provide innovative solutions to today's most pressing social and economic challenges.

Today, Independent stays true to both our purpose and our entrepreneurial roots—with an astounding 84¢ of every dollar from our supporters going directly to program services! As the numbers at right show, we deploy contributions both efficiently and effectively—producing results far exceeding organizations many times our size.

Of course, what truly matters is winning the war of ideas for liberty. We remain dedicated to doing so, every day, with every dollar. Current projects include our *Beyond Homeless* initiative; our *Love Gov* series, aimed at turning young people away from socialism and toward liberty; and projects on healthcare, education, the economy, and civil and economic liberties. With your help, we can reach, engage, and empower even more in the future!

For more information on how you can invest in our mission for liberty, please see [www.independent.org/donate](http://www.independent.org/donate).

### 2022 Results

5 Billion Media Impressions

7.6 Million+ YouTube Views

420,000+ Social Media Audience

579 Op-Eds & Articles Placed

274 Media Interviews

20 Book Awards

5 Research Reports Published

4 *The Independent Review* Issues Published

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