

Independent institute

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The Power of Independent Thinking

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Remembering David J. Theroux

David Theroux, founder of the Independent Institute, was a serious intellectual, an enterprising organizer, and an old-fashioned gentleman of the first order. His life was centered on the idea that mankind is made for



self-government. He passed away, tragically and suddenly, on April 23rd in the company of his loving family.

David launched the Independent Institute—an academic, non-profit, public policy research and educational organization—in 1986, as the first "garage think tank." After starting Independent in his Oakland home, David subsequently established Independent's offices in San Francisco until the Loma Prieta earthquake precipitated their relocation back across the bay to Oakland.

With the launch of Independent, David realized his dream of an organization that would simultaneously adhere to the highest standards of independent scholarly inquiry and transform the day's most pressing social and economic challenges into opportunities for innovative thinking and bold, cooperative action. He authored dozens of scholarly and commentary articles and served as the publisher of more than 140 scholarly books. He also created and published the influential quarterly journal *The Independent Review*.

Constantly identifying and leading the pursuit of opportunities to advance the principles of liberty and allow for the greatest impact in the public square, David was the consummate social entrepreneur. He also founded and led the C. S. Lewis Society of California.

Passionate though he was about his life's work, David always put his family first, counting his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren as his greatest joy. He is survived by his wife Mary Theroux (who worked alongside him from the time of Independent's founding), his two sons Paul (Sherlice) and Drake (Lai) Theroux, and three—soon to be four—grandchildren.

Through his many publications and media creations, the ongoing dynamism of the Independent Institute, and the vitality of his beloved family, David will remain a living presence. We give thanks for his life, the legacy he has bequeathed us, and his enduring example.

CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LETTER

Letter from Mary L. G. Theroux



To boldly advance peaceful, prosperous, and free societies, grounded in a commitment to human worth and dignity.

- Mission of the Independent Institute

We recently kicked off strategic planning for our new fiscal year, and started by considering the current environment. For more than two years, the world has been subjected to classic reconditioning techniques: kept in a state of perpetual fear and uncertainty, subjected to arbitrary, totalitarian authority, isolated, and with access to our civil institutions severely restricted. It's not hyperbolic to say that the state of liberty has not been so precarious since the end of World War IIwhen F. A. Hayek warned against The Road to Serfdom and the dangers which motivated many to enter the fray and to counter ideas bent on destroying our very humanity.

Yet rather than be paralyzed into feelings of helplessness or inaction, our Founder and my late husband David Theroux always viewed such challenges as opportunities—and so we are proceeding.

We start from our core values. vision, and mission, and recognize the need, more than ever, to be bold in casting a vision of what a world rooted in the principles and practices of liberty would look like. We do so by following David's founding strategy of pursuing the creation of transformational ideas while addressing the most pressing social and economic challenges of the day.

Our lighthouse logo reminds us that our challenges are better and more equitably met in a world of unbridled opportunity. Everybody "knew" that lighthouses must be provided by the government until Ronald Coase showed that they were actually a product of enterprise-casting a vision that literally anything anyone wants or needs can—and will—be

provided by entrepreneurs.

With trust in government at all levels at new lows, we believe the time is prime to offer this opportunity-based alternative worldview. And our initiatives in our year ahead do just that, including **Homelessness**: inspiring communities to come together to restore civil society and human dignity; Peace: with bold new ideas for better providing national defense while protecting liberties at home; **Health**: including a new podcast with Scott Atlas providing a rational voice against the degradation of reason and science in our public square; Next generations: Season 3 of Love Gov casts a compelling vision for young people of greater opportunities without Big Government's overbearing interference; and more across the issues of housing, education, monetary policy, and transportation.

Throughout, we affirm our commitment to initiatives that confer not only economic benefit, but also advance and uphold human worth and dignity.

We are grateful for a Founder who so clearly laid out Independent's differentiated vision and purpose, and we are energized to carry on boldly forward in meeting today's challenges. Thank you for joining us in doing so.

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HOMELESSNESS REPORT

Beyond Homeless

Haven't yet seen our new documentary film, Beyond Homeless? Now is the time.

The Independent Institute recently submitted its documentary, *Beyond Homeless: Finding Hope* to a number of film festivals across the country. A hard-hitting, challenging film that explores the root causes of street homelessness—and presents transformational, proven solutions—*Beyond Homeless* was named Best Short Documentary of the year at the Anthem Film Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada this summer, as well as being selected (so far) for film festivals in California, Texas, Florida, Virginia, New York, Chicago, and more!

The current homelessness epidemic is reaching a crisis point ... and *human lives* are at the heart of this crisis. From 2011 to 2019, the number of people experiencing homelessness *rose by more than 52%* in San Francisco alone. Meanwhile, *spending skyrocketed 132%*.

Beyond Homeless shows how the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policy, called "Housing First," shifted government's funding to a one-size-fits-all program that meets few needs. But besides being extraordinarily expensive, this housing takes a very long time to build. This policy



INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE'S CHAIRMAN AND CEO MARY L. G. THEROUX AT THE ANTHEM FILM FESTIVAL

also diverts money from more important resources for the homeless, such as services addressing the reasons people become homeless in the first place.

That is unacceptable. The time for change is now.

Fortunately, a transformational, proven solution to the homelessness crisis exists ... and our documentary explains how it works.

Watch the full-length film for free today by visiting the *Beyond Homeless* website: BeyondHomeless.org/Documentary.



George F. Gilder Senior Fellow, Discovery Institute Steve H. Hanke Professor of Applied Economics, Johns Hopkins University Victor Davis Hanson

Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University James J. Heckman Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, University of Chicago Wendy Kaminer

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Independent Institute in the news

Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation

"Washington hates to sunset any program, but it's time for a federal government whose competence and prestige are at historic lows to get out of the road building and maintenance business. This should be turned over to states, municipalities and private enterprise ..."

—**James T. Bennett** in the *Washington Times*, 7/25/22

"Let's abandon talk of hawks and doves on the Fed's monetary policy-making committee and listen to the woodpeckers prepared to hammer away [in favor of] the principle that money should provide a dependable store of value."

—**Judy L. Shelton** in *The Wall Street Journal*, 6/15/22



JUDY SHELTON ON CNBC, 7/27/22

Beyond Homeless

"We really need to be providing people with the resources to achieve their potential as human beings. That takes recovery services, workforce training; it takes life skills, it takes individualized nurturing care for the whole person."

—Chairman and CEO Mary L. G. Theroux on NTD Television's Fresh Look America, 7/22/22

Center on Health and the Environment

"The UN and IPCC believe climate change is just the way of getting this great reset, if you will, so that we can get a global socialism enacted."

—**David R. Legates** on WORL Radio in Orlando, FL, 4/27/22

Center on Educational Excellence

"Higher education is a fervent ally of progressive elements within the Democratic Party, providing sizable financial support, ideas, and personnel. So, [student loan forgiveness] is a way for the administration to buy votes while paying off its loyal supporters in the academic and activist communities."

—Richard Vedder on FoxBusiness.com, 6/17/22

Center on Global Prosperity

"... it appears that the economic response to Russia's unprovoked war seems to be taking a greater toll on the rest of the world than on Russia itself."

—**Alvaro Vargas Llosa** in the *National Interest*, 7/24/22

Center on Peace and Liberty

"For decades, Congress has been shirking its legislative duties by writing vague or general laws, thus foisting the public's ire about excessive and burdensome regulations on unelected bureaucrats at executive or independent agencies, who fill in the broad congressional legal outlines by writing the detailed rules. ... In this case, the Court is nudging Congress to actually do its job and take responsibility for legislating on climate change—and likely on other major issues that are now being effectively decided by executive bureaucracies."

— Ivan Eland in Real Clear Policy, 7/18/22



MARY THEROUX ON NTD TELEVISION'S FRESH LOOK AMERICA, 7/22/22

Center on Law and Justice

"Justice Clarence Thomas had been trying to persuade the court to decide the issue for years, and his masterpiece opinion in *Bruen*, invalidating New York's 'proper cause' requirement for a carry permit, spells out how Second Amendment rights are to be understood, which requires strict adherence to the amendment's text and to the original public understanding of its words around the time it was adopted in 1791."

— Stephen P. Halbrook in the Washington Examiner, 7/15/22

THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

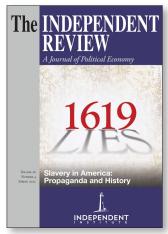
The 1619 Project; Communism's "New Man"; and a look at American correspondence schools

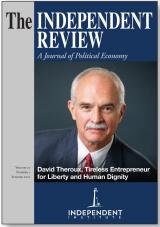
The Independent Review never shies away from the most contentious ideas of the day. With an eye to the truth and deep respect for academic argument and rigor, our contributors boldly address pressing social and economic challenges in our Spring and Summer issues.

It need hardly be said that the notorious "1619 Project" is the subject of contention, commotion, and consternation. What *is* this project? What claims does it make? How true are they? And if they are false, then what *is* the truth?

The Independent Review's Spring 2022 issue features a masterful critique of the project. Peter A. Coclanis (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) carefully unveils the 1619 Project as a brazen polemical work, explaining how the project takes its cues from Marxist-leaning historians who grossly misrepresent history in order to render the modern capitalist economic system a direct lineal descendant of slavery. His essay systematically dismantles many of the project's errors, relying on the solid empirical research of historians—especially economic historians—to expose methodological missteps and distortions.

The Summer 2022 issue offers readers further analysis of Marxist thinking, which has become all too common in our time. Paul Dragos Aligica (University of Bucharest; Mercatus Center, George Mason University) offers a historical analysis of the ideological commissar's role—namely, enacting mass-scale institutional indoctrination and social engineering. Aligica explores the





THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW SPRING 2022/SUMMER 2022

complex institutional processes and practices of the communists' indoctrination and social control at macro, mezzo, and micro levels.

Finally, in the autumnal spirit of the back-to-school season, our contributors discuss education. It's no secret that American public schools are facing an unprecedented crisis (and have been for quite some time). Trying to pick themselves up after two years of on-and-off remote learning, struggling to navigate the demands of teachers' unions, and confronting the consequences of continually lower standardized test scores, parents are asking

the hard question: are there alternatives?

Jane Shaw Stroup (James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal) answers in the affirmative, writing about little-known American correspondence schools in the same issue. Stroup explains how, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many for-profit correspondence schools offered education by mail to people who were too poor, too isolated, or too busy to go to college or vocational school. These schools were creative and capable of filling a niche in American education. They weren't perfect, and attitudes toward them were mixed, but they earned considerable respect. Perhaps solutions to our current educational malaise aren't quite as remote as we think ...



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Subscriptions and single issues are now available in the newly redesigned app for *The Independent Review* for iOS devices via Apple's App Store, Android devices via the Google Play Store, and in any web browser.

LOVE GOV SEASON 3

Watch for the imminent arrival of Love Gov Season 3!

The Independent Institute's *Love Gov* returns this fall with a third season! Each of the five episodes in the series follows Rose, a young teacher and mother navigating the disastrous implementation of the "new normal" in public schools. Viewers will find Rose's story all too sympathetic—and unfortunately, all too realistic—in the wake of our own current public school crisis. Fortunately, by watching *Love Gov* Season 3, viewers can get a glimpse of the dystopia that awaits our education system ... and be encouraged to change course before it's too late!

Love Gov's villain is the insufferable Scott Govinski, now the new superintendent of Rose's public school. Scott tells parents and teachers they can keep it casual and call him "Gov" ... and embrace critical race theory and radical gender theory, live in the metaverse, and even use his own digital money (which he calls "Gov Bucks"). With each post-pandemic attempt to reopen the school, set curriculum, and respond to parental concerns, Gov bungles his job and infuriates everyone. Unfortunately, Rose's good-faith efforts to bring sanity and common sense back to the job she loves fail time and time again.

But soon enough, Rose learns that Gov is worse than incompetent. In fact, Gov's educational "leadership" turns out to be nothing less than a sinister, woke takeover of Rose's entire community—parents and children included. For Rose, the stakes are especially high, since her own son, Archie, is a student at the mercy of Gov's insane regime.

Will Rose be able to stop Gov's tyrannical takeover of the school that both she and her son call home? Or will Gov's plans to woke-ify and control every aspect of ordinary life succeed? Tune in to find out!



BEHIND-THE-SCENES SHOT OF SCOTT "GOV"
GOVINSKI (PLAYED BY JONATHAN FLANDERS)
ENJOYING HIS NEWLY HELD POWER AS
SUPERINTENDENT OF ROSE'S SCHOOL

Watch Season 1 of *Love Gov*: independent.org/lovegov/season1

Watch Season 2 of *Love Gov*: independent.org/lovegov/season2

Watch Season 3 of Love Gov ... coming Fall 2022!

* * *

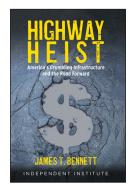
Our *Catalyst* website (<u>catalyst.independent.org</u>) is the companion for *Love Gov*, where young people can go to learn more about the issues addressed in the series. Also, check out the powerful and eye-opening Government Cost Calculator (<u>MyGov-Cost.org</u>) that provides an individualized calculation for a lifetime federal tax burden, where those funds are (mis-) allocated, and how much money you could have had if allowed to keep your earnings and invest privately.



New book releases

Highway Heist: America's Crumbling Infrastructure and the Way Forward by James T. Bennett

In this eye-opening book, Professor James Bennett guides readers through centuries of one of the most underrated yet widely used aspects of American life—*roads*. Relying on history and economic data—and with a humorous, often-sharp tongue—



Bennett explains how important America's highways and byways have been to everything from policymaking to everyday life.

Crafting America's roads took persuasion, planning, and more taxes than any politician could have dreamed of. Far too often, their realization—in Bennett's view, the result of flawed interpretations of the power of eminent domain—required the destruction of long-established neighborhoods and important cityscapes (sometimes on a massive scale). Likewise, the upkeep of America's highways has been the center of many a policy battle, waged by Republicans and Democrats alike. Yes, we all want roads in good working condition—but how and who will pay for them remain contentious questions.

Bennett argues persuasively that the road forward just might be a second, more serious, sustained look at (and local experimentation with) private roads and toll roads. Whether or not you agree with him, Bennett has written a significant contribution to America's ongoing debate about how citizens should traverse her "fruited plain" from "sea to shining sea."

"James Bennett's indispensable book *Highway Heist* critically examines the corruption, waste, and runaway costs of government transportation infrastructure ... Instead of such unnecessary problems from government monopolies, *Highway Heist* shows the viability of private, market-based, enterprising systems in directly serving transport needs, with real accountability, innovative benefits, and enormous savings."

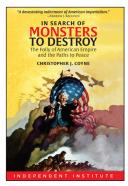
—Rand Paul, US Senator; Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

OUT NOW — Order today!

In Search of Monsters to Destroy: The Folly of American Empire and the Paths to Peace by Christopher J. Coyne

Imperialism and militarism—not liberalism—build empires.

So says Christopher Coyne, Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute and Professor of Economics at George Mason University, in this eye-opening, must-read book on



America's recent foreign policy failures. After 9/11, the United States tried to establish liberal political regimes in the Middle East and the mountains of Afghanistan. But according to Coyne, these efforts were doomed to fail. His logic is simple. Illiberal means can only lead to illiberal ends. How else can we explain the tragedy of hundreds of thousands of dead and mutilated civilians the US left behind in the Middle East and Central Asia? What else would we call the reality of destroyed ancient cultures and nearly obliterated nation-states? Coyne also points out that the illiberal perpetrators can end up nearly bankrupt and humiliated in the process—and profoundly less secure.

But Coyne is no isolationist. He argues that there are workable, proven alternatives to imperialism, militarism, and empire—ones that preserve freedom, promote security, and foster mutually enriching friendship among the earth's nations. These alternatives prove that nonviolent approaches to domestic and international conflicts not only minimize violence, but also promote cultures of peace throughout the world.

"With In Search of Monsters to Destroy,

Christopher Coyne offers readers a crisp, concise, and devastating indictment of American imperialism. His provocative proposal for a nonviolent 'polycentric' approach to national security comes as a welcome bonus."

—Andrew J. Bacevich, President and Chairman of the Board, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft; Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History, Boston University

OUT EARLY DECEMBER — Preorder today!

OUR MISSION

Together, we provide an independent voice

An independent voice—one guided by thorough research and the principles of a free society—is crucial for solving our most pressing social and economic challenges. We thus never accept government funding and rely solely on voluntary, tax-deductible contributions from supporters like you. Your generosity ensures that we remain fully equipped to promote the innovative, robust, and liberty-affirming policy solutions we are known for.

You can support our mission in a variety of taxadvantaged ways:

Cash Gifts. Your charitable donation can be made by credit card or check (see the enclosed envelope) or online at www.independent.org/donate.

Recurring Gifts. Many donors have set up recurring gifts that provide support to Independent at any level on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.

Employee Matching Gifts. Double your impact by using your employer's matching gift program

Stock Gifts. Donate shares of publicly traded stock to Independent to gift appreciated securities without incurring capital gains tax.

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Legacy Giving. Members of our *Safe Harbor Legacy Society* ensure that future generations will learn and benefit from our work. You can leave a bequest to the Independent Institute by adding us to your will or drafting a new one, or receive tax-advantaged income for life with a legacy gift through our Charitable Gift Annuity.

As always, consult your own tax advisor. To learn more about how you can **Invest in Liberty**, call our Development Team at (510) 632-1366, or email Development@Independent.org.



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