

“Freedom and Jihad:” The Middle East and Europe

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The Lamp of Liberty: An
Initiative of the Byrne Project on
Middle East Liberty



Some Problems of the Middle East

- Rentier States: Oil and Foreign Aid
 - Low Development of the Private Sector
 - States Financed Through Resource Rents
 - Taxation Effect (the State Is Not Dependent on a Wide Base of Taxpayers)
 - Spending Effect (Patronage)
 - Group Formation Effect (Groups Require Permission to Form and are State-Dominated When Formed)
 - Repression Effect (Ability to pay for “security” services)

Some More Problems

- Statism
- Protectionism
- Bureaucracy
- The “Choice” Between Violent Authoritarian Nationalist or Dynastic Rulers or Violent Islamist Movements
- Intellectual Isolation

Where We Can Have an Impact

- By breaking the intellectual isolation and providing an Alternative to the Ideologies of Intolerance, Statism, Socialism, Nationalism, and Violence that Plague the Middle East and Threaten the Wider World

How Isolated is the Arab World?

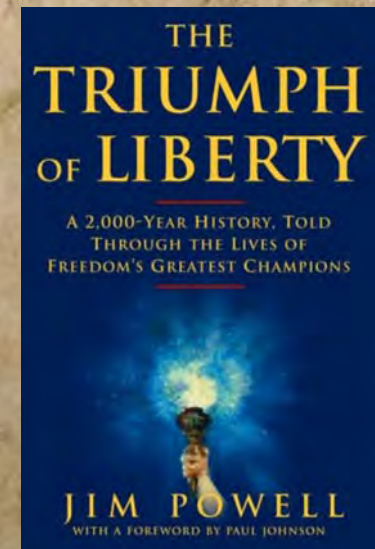
“The number of books translated in the Arab world is one fifth of the number translated in Greece. The aggregate total of translated books from the Al-Ma'moon era to the present day amounts to 10,000 books - equivalent to what Spain translates in a single year. This disparity was revealed in the first half of the 1980s when the average number of books translated per 1 million people in the Arab world during the 5-year period was 4.4 (less than one book for every million Arabs), while in Hungary it was 519, and in Spain 920.”



Which is Likely to Have the
Longer-Term Impact?

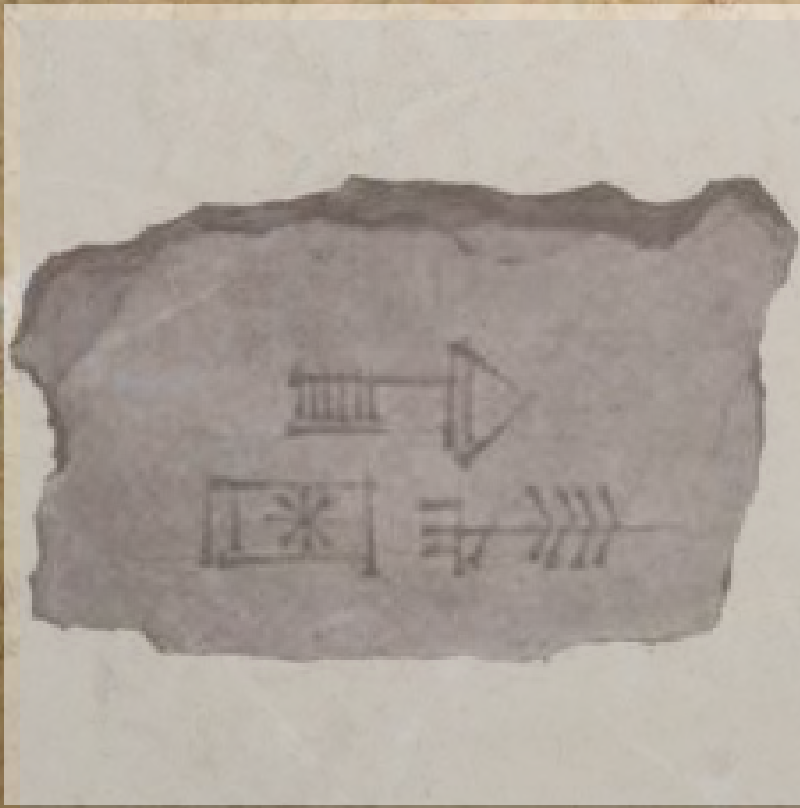


OR



How Can We Have an Impact?

Creating a Middle Eastern Narrative of Freedom



The first written word for liberty -- "ama-gi" -- from a tablet from the ancient city of Lagash, Telloh in contemporary Iraq

Resurrecting an Islamic Narrative of Liberty



- Ibn Rushd (1126-1198, Latin: Averroes) an important predecessor of the theory of rights
 - Ibn Rushd argued in his essay on justice and jihad that all are entitled to life, to liberty, and to property and forfeit those rights by using force in an unjust cause.

Giving A Forum to Contemporary Arab and Muslim Liberals



Zainab al-Suwaij



Rola Dashti



Fadi
Haddadin



Shafeeq Ghabra

The Lamp of Liberty: Freedom's Presence in the Arab World



- www.misbahalhurriyya.org
- www.lampofliberty.org
 - An Initiative of the Cato Institute's Byrne Project on Middle East Liberty

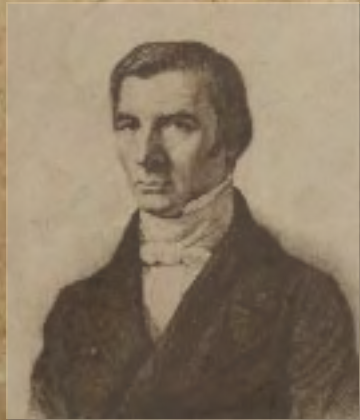
An Online Library of Freedom



- Classics of Liberty
- Policies of Liberty
- Short Commentaries
- Books Online
- Lighthouse of Liberty
- Streaming Video
- Essay Contests
- More....

Classics:

Frederic Bastiat, Voltaire, Adam Smith, Ibn Khaldun



Classics:

John Locke, John Stuart Mill, James Madison,
J.-B. Say



20th Century Giants of Freedom:

Ludwig von Mises, Karl Popper, F. A. Hayek, Rose
Wilder Lane



Contemporary Voices for Freedom:
Milton Friedman, William Easterly, Raja Kamal, Mario
Vargas Llosa



Online Video



- Full Version of Milton Friedman's "Free to Choose" TV Series Now Online for Video Streaming
 - More to come....

Understanding Institutions: Constitutions and Legal Systems,



- Bi-Lingual English-Arabic Edition of America's Founding Documents Available in a Pocket Edition
 - They Will Be Posted with Constitutions of Japan, Germany, South Korea, Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Others, as well as Essays on Constitutionalism, Constitutional Economics, Public Choice, Etc.

English-Language Books for University Libraries



- Thousands of Classics of Liberty Have Been Sent to Libraries
 - Mises, Rand, Hayek, North, Montesquieu, Smith, Coase, Acton, Epstein, Friedman, Kirzner, Hume, Madison, Jefferson, Norberg, Popper, Nozick, Sowell, Buchanan, Boaz, Barrow, Vargas Llosa, Zakaria...and many, many more....



Op-Eds in Arabic Newspapers on Philosophy, Economics, Public Policy, and Controversies in the Arab World

“Rights and Responsibilities,” by David Boaz



“Why Foreign Aid Doesn’t Work,” by William Easterly

“The Egyptian Judiciary Blazing the Path to Democracy and Economic Development,” by Tom G. Palmer



“The Meaning of Competition,” by F. A. Hayek

Each Article Carries the URL for the “Lamp of Liberty”: www.misbahalhurriyya.org

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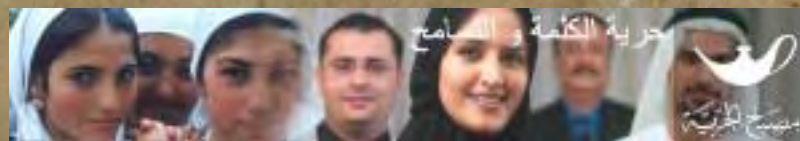
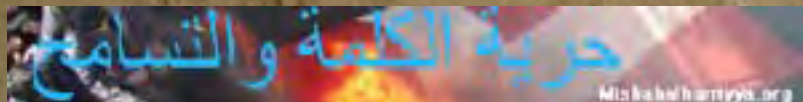
Al Bawaba



Al Jazeera



Al Ghad



Introducing the Ideas of Freedom: Lectures, Seminars, and Meetings



Teaching About Liberty



Fadi Haddadin and Johan Norberg answer questions

- Cairo, August 15-20, 2006: The first Lamp of Liberty Conference for 40 Middle Eastern Journalists and Bloggers



Tom G. Palmer speaking on Principles of Individual Rights

- Participants Attended from throughout the Middle East

Books, Original and in Translation

- A series of interviews on “Voices of Arabic Liberalism” is in production
 - The interviews will be available online in audio and in transcript and available as book
- A Series of “Primers” on Important Topics
- A Series of Illustrated Novels on Free Speech, Free Trade, etc.
- Books ready for publication include:
 - *In Defense of Global Capitalism*, J. Norberg
 - *Libertarianism: A Primer*, D. Boaz
 - *Liberalism*, L. v. Mises
 - *The Economic Way of Thinking*, P. heyne, et al
 - *The Road to Serfdom*, F. A. Hayek
 - *Economic Policies*, L. v. Mises
 - *The Law and Selected Essays*, F. Bastiat
 - *Common Sense Economics*, by J. Gwartney, R. Stroup, D. Lee
- Books Being Translated Include:
 - *On Liberty*, J. S. Mill
 - *The Constitution of Liberty*, F. A. Hayek
 - *Selected Essays of F. A. Hayek*
 - *Much More....*

Publications of the Jack Byrne Project Appear in Four Languages

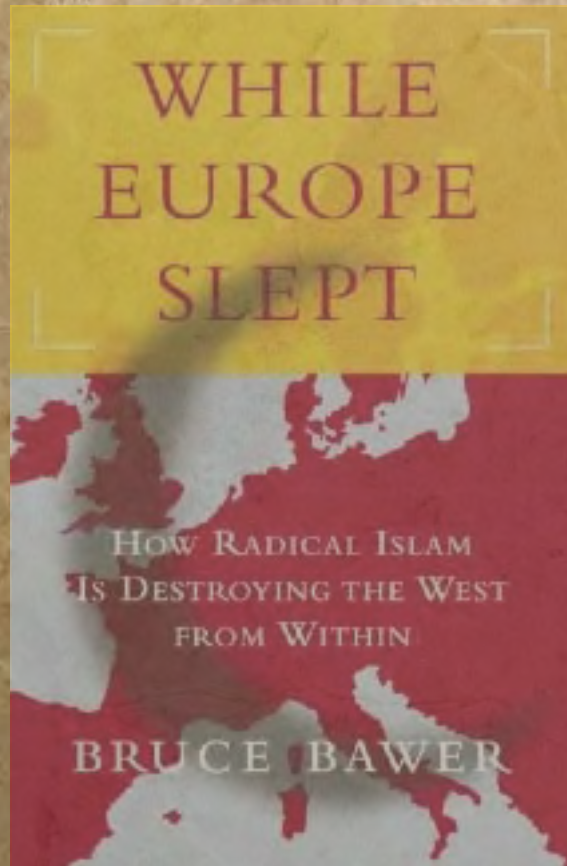
- Arabic (spoken throughout the Arabic world and beyond)
- Kurdish (spoken in Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Etc.)
- Farsi/Persian (Spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, etc.)
- Azeri (spoken in Azerbaijan and Iran)

The People of the Middle East Will Benefit from a Greater Understanding of Liberty



....But What About Europe?

Some Have Raised Alarms About Islam in Europe



- Radical Political Islamists Are Actively Working to Recruit Among Europe's Growing Muslim Minority
- Many European Elites Have Preemptively Surrendered
 - They Lack the Concepts and the Courage to Defend Freedom
 - They See Themselves as Morally Inferior to their Enemies

European Welfare States Bear Part of the Responsibility....



▪ "Europeans ... will allow immigrants into their country; they'll pay high taxes so that their government can dole out (forever, if necessary) rent support, child benefits, and so forth; and they'll refer to these newcomers piously as 'our fellow countrymen.' But they won't *really* think of them as being Norwegian or Dutch. And something deep inside of them rebels mightily against the idea of immigrants living among them as respected, fully equal professionals."

▪ Bruce Bawer, *While Europe Slept*

Treatment of Muslims as a Foreign Minority Has Made the Situation Worse



- “[Western governments] should avoid any sort of religious engineering, but play on the diversity of Islamic religious revivalism by making room for Islam and treating it on an equal footing with other religions. In fact, the management of Islam should be delinked from the issue of immigration and multiculturalism. Islam should be treated merely as a religion, and not as the expression of ethnic minority groups.”
 - Olivier Roy, *Globalised Islam*

Is It True that "Islam Is the Problem?"

- It is presumptuous to tell others what their religion means
 - Don't confuse Islam with Wahhabism or Salafism
 - Remember that not too long ago many said that Catholicism was incompatible with liberalism, citing the examples of Spain, Italy, Portugal, Latin America
- If Religion is "the Problem," It is Also the Solution.
 - It's not enough to complain about the silence of moderate Muslims; if we're serious about combatting terrorism in the name of Islam, we have to give our moderate and liberal friends real support. They are our best allies and the front-line victims of radical political Islamism.

What to Do?

Recommendations to My European Friends

- Change European Labor Regulations and Substitute Freedom to Work for State Entitlements
- Promote an Ideology of Individual Freedom and Equality Before the Law, not “Multi-Culti” Relativism and Group Rights
- Actively Work with Liberal Muslim Organizations in Europe, as I Work with the American Islamic Congress (www.aicongress.org) in the US



American Islamic Congress

building tolerance at home and abroad

THE LAMP OF LIBERTY CAN OPEN DOORS



- YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!
 - WWW.MISBAHALHURRIYYA.ORG
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 - TPALMER@CATO.ORG