

*Cato scholars lay out their policy visions*

## Imagining a Free Society

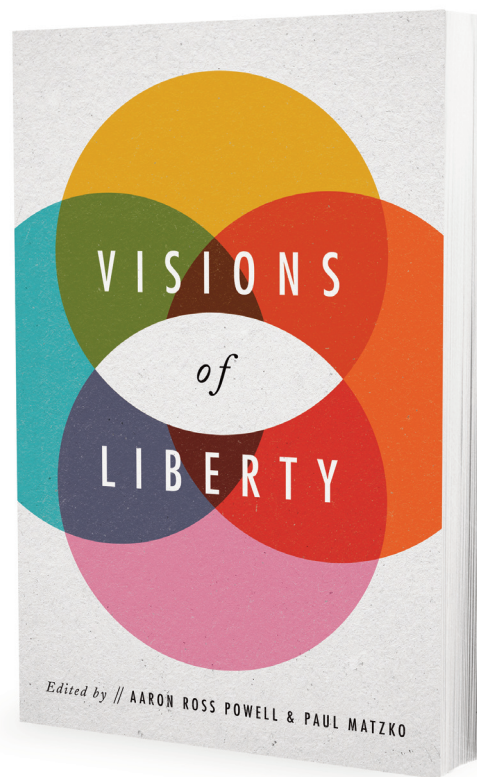
Cato scholars are typically involved in the details of current policy debates, trying to nudge the needle toward more freedom. Less often do they get to step back and articulate the broader vision animating their work, the principles that underscore their view of a better society.

In their new book *Visions of Liberty*, editors Aaron Ross Powell and Paul Matzko of Cato's [Libertarianism.org](http://Libertarianism.org) set out to remedy that. They invited Cato scholars to explain, unbound by current political realities, how they conceive of liberty in their respective fields, ranging from education to executive power to health care to technology.

In one chapter, Cato's director of immigration studies, Alex Nowrasteh, lays out an alternate history of how an America with fewer immigration restrictions could have thrived and prospered throughout the 20th century. Gene Healy, Cato vice president whose work has focused on the presidency, explains the benefits of a radi-

cally downsized chief executive office for the federal government. Other contributors include Michael F. Cannon on health care, Trevor Burrus on the war on drugs, Clark Neily on criminal justice, and Daniel J. Ikenson on free trade. In a pair of chapters, George Selgin and Diego Zuluaga address money and banking and the potential for cryptocurrencies, respectively.

Libertarian principles call for radical changes but also acknowledge our own imperfect ability to predict the future. As F. A. Hayek explained, the benefits of freedom are often unknowable until they are actually manifested in individual actions. But that doesn't prevent us from having some idea of what to expect. A more limited government and a freer society would lead to greater prosperity and human flourishing in ways that are sure to surprise us. ■



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There is no aspect of our lives that has not been touched by the epidemic, and so the broad range of Cato scholars' expertise has come to bear even on unexpected topics. David Boaz, executive vice president, urged policymakers to keep their eye on the immediate problem in "Keep Emergency Legislation Narrow and Focused." Senior Fellow Walter Olson has also written about the need to protect freedom of speech and civil liberties during an emergency, recommending a piece by Greg Lukianoff of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) to make the point that "free speech helps bolster resilience to threats like the virus."

These are just some of the timely re-

sponses from Cato scholars, and for daily updates, continue to check [Cato.org](http://Cato.org). In addition to written work, Cato also continues to produce the Cato Daily Podcast, hosted by Director of Multimedia Caleb O. Brown. Since transitioning to remote recording, Brown has interviewed William Yeatman, research fellow, about the suspension of regulations that were never needed; Clark Neily, vice president for criminal justice, about how courts are reacting and in many cases suspending or delaying cases; Simon Lester, associate director of Cato's Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, about the urgent need for international trade and cooperation; Alex Nowrasteh, director of immigration studies, about the

flood of pandemic travel bans and what they mean for long-term immigration policy; and Diego Zuluaga, policy analyst in the Center for Monetary and Financial Alternatives, about solvency and liquidity in the markets during the pandemic.

The principles of free markets, limited government, civil liberties, and peace are needed more than ever in a time of emergency. The Cato Institute remains fully committed to providing sound public policy analysis at a time when Americans need it most. We thank you for your support that makes this mission possible and look forward to making it through this together. Until then, Cato wishes everyone good health and a fast return to better days. ■