

A trio of new books from *Libertarianism.org*

The Essays of George H. Smith

How are intellectual and religious liberty related? What should libertarians think about the American Revolution? And is libertarianism really any more than “atomized individualism,” as its critics pejoratively name it? A trio of new books from *Libertarianism.org*, featuring selected essays by George H. Smith, tackle these three extraordinarily important topics. The essays are adapted from Smith’s weekly column at *Libertarianism.org*.

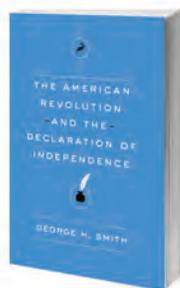
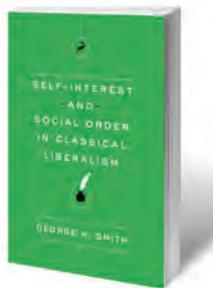
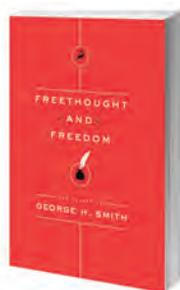
Freethought and Freedom traces the history of religious liberty and its impact, from St. Augustine’s defense of righteous persecution to Luther and Calvin’s persecution of heretics, to the development of libertarian deism, to how debates over original sin affected debates over private property. It illustrates the complex development of religious toleration and freedom of speech throughout history, and highlights the many philosophers whose ideas—for good or for ill—influenced their development.

In *Self-Interest and Social Order in Classical Liberalism*, Smith tackles the notion that libertarianism rests on a selfish individualism that does not allow for social harmony. To refute this claim, he delves into the most important philosophical arguments over the nature of self-interest, from authors such as Hume, Adam Smith, Hobbes, Butler, Mandeville, and Hutcheson.

The American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, meanwhile, examines the history of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence through a libertarian lens. Its essays consider the significance of important moments in the Revolution and ask what lessons a libertarian ought to take. “There was much in colonial America (slavery in particular) that was ugly—but there was also the ideal of freedom that, however compromised in practice, was sincerely believed, felt, and acted upon by a significant portion of the population,” writes Smith. “This tells us, at the very least, that the ideal of individual freedom is more than a will-o’-the-wisp, that it was widely appreciated in the past and so may become widely appreciated in the future.”

All three books feature concise and readable essays to expand your understanding of libertarian ideas and the most famous philosophical, political, and religious debates that led to their development. ■

THE THREE COLLECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AS FREE EBOOKS AT LIBERTARIANISM.ORG, OR FOR PURCHASE IN PAPERBACK AT AMAZON.COM.



CATO THANKS THE ACADEMY

The 2017 Anthem Film Festival, an annual libertarian film festival partnered with FreedomFest, gave awards to two films directed by Cato scholars. *School Inc.*, former Cato senior fellow Andrew Coulson’s documentary that explores the history of schooling and the importance of freedom and choice in education, won Anthem’s “Excellence in Filmmaking, Documentary Feature” award. (See more on *School Inc.*’s impact and critics on page 13.) And *Freedom on Trial*, *Libertarianism.org*’s courtroom drama about an employer prosecuted for violating minimum wage laws, won “Best Libertarian Ideals, Short Narrative.” Visit Cato’s website to watch both films online.

VICTORY FOR THE SLANTS

In a unanimous decision in June, the Supreme Court held that the “disparagement clause” of the Lanham Act, which banned the trademarking of terms deemed “disparaging” or taboo, is unconstitutional. The case was brought by an Asian American band, The Slants, who were denied a trademark for their name on the grounds that it was an ethnic slur. The Slants argued that they should have the right to reclaim a term once used to stereotype Asian Americans. In the case Cato filed a humorous amicus brief, whose profuse documentation of boundary-pushing and potentially offensive rock band and other brand names may not be safe for work. But as Cato argued, and the Court agreed, the government has no business deciding what is and is not a slur.

NEW BOOKS FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Two new Spanish-language books feature contributions from Cato’s Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. Ian Vásquez, the Center’s director, authored a chapter on Trump’s harmful anti-immigration policies in *No, no te equivoques, Trump no es liberal: Por qué Trump es populista, proteccionista, machista, autoritario y nacionalista, pero en ningún caso liberal* (*No, make no mistake, Trump is no liberal: Why Trump is populist, protectionist, chauvinist, authoritarian, and nationalist, but in no way a liberal*), a collection edited by John Müller. Gabriela Calderón de Burgos, the editor of Cato’s Spanish-language website *ElCato.org*, wrote a chapter on Ecuador for *El estallido del populismo* (*The explosion of populism*), a book edited by Álvaro Vargas Llosa that warns against the dire consequences that populism has had in numerous Spanish-speaking countries.