

What You Can Do

Read

“Man’s Rights” by Ayn Rand

“If one wishes to advocate a free society,” writes Ayn Rand, “one must realize that its indispensable foundation is the principle of individual rights.” This essay defines and explains the principle of individual rights.

“Nature of Government” by Ayn Rand

This is a presentation of the Objectivist view of the nature and proper role of government in a free society. The proper purpose of a government, Rand shows, is to protect individual rights from the initiation of physical force.

“The Lessons of Vietnam” in *The Voice of Reason: Essays in Objectivist Thought* by Ayn Rand

“The Vietnam war is one of the most disastrous foreign-policy failures in U.S. history,” wrote Ayn Rand. In this essay, she analyzes the intellectual bankruptcy behind the Vietnam war, and draws wider, enduring lessons from it.

“The Roots of War” by Ayn Rand

By the nature of its basic principles and interests, laissez-faire capitalism “is the only system that is fundamentally opposed to war,” Ayn Rand observes. “If men want to oppose war,” she argues, “it is statism that they must oppose.”

The Foreign Policy of Self-Interest: A Moral Ideal for America

by Peter Schwartz

This book advocates an approach to foreign policy based on Ayn Rand’s morality of rational self-interest, under which our nation’s self-interests are measured by only one standard: the individual liberty of its citizens.

Winning the Unwinnable War: America’s Self-Crippled Response to Islamic Terrorism, edited by Elan Journo

This book shows how our own policy ideas led to 9/11 and then crippled our response in the Middle East. Only by radically rethinking

our foreign policy can we achieve victory over the enemy that attacked us on 9/11; we need a foreign policy based on Ayn Rand's morality of rational self-interest.

Defending Free Speech, edited by Steve Simpson

This hard-hitting collection reveals how the attacks on free speech are the product of destructive ideas—ideas that are eroding Western culture at its foundation. The book exposes those ideas and the individuals who hold them, and, importantly, it identifies the only ideas on which Western civilization can be sustained: reason, egoism and individual rights.

Watch

America vs. Americans by Leonard Peikoff (April 21, 2003)

In this talk Leonard Peikoff analyzes and rejects—as appeasement-ridden and ineffectual—the entire George W. Bush administration response to the terrorist attacks on the United States, from 9/11 through early 2003. America should have reacted to 9/11 as it did to Pearl Harbor, by waging a real war—a merciless war—not on Afghanistan or Iraq, but on Iran: the ideological fountainhead of Islamic totalitarianism.

The Failure of the Homeland Defense: The Lessons from History by John David Lewis. (Recorded March 23, 2005)

With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, America has accepted a permanent, institutionalized state of siege on its own soil. In this lecture, John David Lewis examines examples from history and argues that such a policy is suicidal. Rather than bracing against further attacks at home, America should destroy her enemies.

Free Speech and the Danish Cartoons: A Panel Discussion with Yaron Brook (April 11, 2006)

The Danish cartoons depicting Muhammad have sparked a worldwide controversy. Death threats and violent protests have sent the cartoonists into hiding and have had the intended effect of stifling freedom of expression. This unflinching discussion—which includes an unveiling of the cartoons—addresses key questions, including: Why is it so important to hold events like this? What is freedom of speech? Does it include the right to offend? What is the significance of the worldwide Islamic reaction to the cartoons? How should Western governments have responded to this incident? How should the Western media have responded?

9/11—A Decade Later—Lessons for the Future (September 8, 2011)

This conference featured three wide-ranging panel discussions:

- Panel 1:** “Upheavals in the Middle East: Assessing the Political Landscape”
- Panel 2:** “The Islamist Threat: From AfPak to *Jyllands-Posten* and Times Square”
- Panel 3:** “Iran, Israel, and the West”

Freedom of Speech or Tyranny of Silence? (January 21, 2015)

Following the massacre of journalists at *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris and a growing climate of self-censorship, this panel opens up a conversation on the future of the freedom of speech. In the discussion, Onkar Ghate talks about the meaning of the right to free speech, the “exceptions” to free speech, the relation between faith and force, and the need for the separation of church and state. The panel includes Flemming Rose, Harvey Silverglate, Jeff Jacoby and Gregory Salmieri.

The Jihadist Movement by Elan Journo (July 2015)

What motivates the jihadist movement? Pushing back against the dominant perspectives on the issue, Elan Journo shows that the Islamist movement is fundamentally animated by a religious goal of subjugation and conquest.

The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict by Elan Journo (July 2015)

What is at the core of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict? Why has the conflict come to seem intractable? What, if any, is America’s stake in it? By exploring key elements of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, this talk by Elan Journo makes a forbidding, convoluted subject lucid.

Charlie Hebdo, the West and the Need to Ridicule Religion

by Onkar Ghate (July 2015)

Attacks like the one against the newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris are becoming all too common. The Islamic totalitarian threat goes all the way back to 1989 with Ayatollah Khomeini’s fatwa against Salman Rushdie. In this talk, Onkar Ghate explains why and how to defend freedom of speech in the face of religious attacks.

Listen

Faith and Force: The Destroyers of the Modern World by Ayn Rand (1960)

The twentieth century was bloody, with two world wars and dictatorships arising around the globe. What is the deepest cause of this warfare and destruction? In this talk, Ayn Rand identifies the cause in our intellectuals' rejection of reason in favor of faith and the morality of altruism. Only by rejecting faith and altruism and embracing reason and a new morality of rational egoism will freedom and peaceful co-existence be possible.

The Wreckage of the Consensus by Ayn Rand (1967)

In this 1967 lecture delivered at Boston's Ford Hall Forum, Ayn Rand questions the morality of fighting a war in Vietnam that "does not serve any national interest." Rand also explains how the military draft violates the rights of those conscripted.

Global Balkanization by Ayn Rand (1977)

Drawing her title from the Balkan Peninsula, where ethnic groups have splintered and warred against each other for centuries, Ayn Rand argues in this Ford Hall Forum lecture that the global trend toward political organization based on race, language and religion bodes ill for the future of Western civilization.

Freedom of Speech, "Islamophobia," and the Cartoons Crisis [Podcast] by Elan Journo (December 18, 2014)

In this podcast, Elan Journo interviews Flemming Rose about his new book, *The Tyranny of Silence*, which explores the Danish cartoons crisis, the reaction to it, and the future of free speech. The interview covers questions such as: What incidents prompted the commissioning of the cartoons? What lies behind the push to outlaw "defamation of religion"? Why is the invalid term "Islamophobia" so destructive?

The Yaron Brook Show: Freedom of Speech and the Muhammad Drawings

In this special episode, guest host Onkar Ghate analyzes the appeasing, victim-blaming attitude among many intellectuals toward the Islamist attack on a cartoon contest in Garland, Texas.

Speak Up

Three Things You Can Do Right Now . . .

1. Contribute to ARI

The book you are holding—like all the content and projects of the Ayn Rand Institute—was made possible thanks to the many individuals, foundations and corporations whose financial contributions fund our work. Your contribution will multiply ARI's impact and help fuel our mission to make people aware of the philosophy of Objectivism and its crucial value to human life.

To donate online and to learn about convenient ways to sustain ARI's work, please visit AynRand.org/support.

2. Recommend This Book

- Write a review of this book on Amazon.com.
- In conversations, let people know what you found illuminating in this book and encourage them to read it.
- Give away copies of this book (and *Winning the Unwinnable War*) to five of your friends.

3. Tell Three (or 3,000) People

- Engage people in conversation about American foreign policy, correct their misconceptions by pointing to the actual facts of Washington's self-crippled approach, and encourage them to question the basic assumptions shaping U.S. policy.
- Write op-eds, letters to the editor and blog posts to express your view and to indicate the proper ideals that should guide our foreign policy.
- Many of the articles and blog posts in this book are available on ARI's website; share them with your friends on social media.