

AEI Enterprise Report

Restoring Liberty, Opportunity, and Enterprise in America



Responding to Our Country's— and the World's—Challenges

By Robert Doar

Over the past few months, we have witnessed the heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people, who are risking everything in the name of freedom and self-determination. Around the United States and the rest of the Western world, their fortitude is renewing appreciation for freedom and liberty—the great strengths of our liberal democratic order.

Here at AEI, we are proud to play a part in supplying policymakers and the public with essential, actionable information on Russia's assault on Ukraine. Maps generated by AEI's Critical Threats Project (led by **Frederick W. Kagan**) and the Institute for the Study of War are leading the news coverage in top outlets, providing policymakers and military leaders with real-time information, and informing the public with unmatched analysis.

The invasion of Ukraine has brought into relief the threat great-power competition poses to the American-led world order. Here, too, AEI scholars are providing the



Robert Doar
AEI President and
Morgridge Scholar

“AEI scholars are offering coherent and empirical explanations and solutions for the problems our country and world face. This task is formidable; our job is to respond to the country’s challenges at an especially difficult time.”

analysis and insight that will shape foreign policy decision-making. In his widely praised new book, *The Twilight Struggle: What the Cold War Teaches Us About Great-Power Rivalry Today* (Yale University Press, 2022), **Hal Brands** brings incisive historical analysis to explore how America can prevail in great-power competition today.

While scholars like Kagan and Brands focus on foreign policy analysis and strategy, AEI defense policy scholars are doing the difficult—and distinctive—work of ensuring that America’s foreign policy ambitions and defense requirements are supported by our military’s budget. In March, **Kori Schake** and **Mackenzie Eaglen** hosted House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) for a discussion on the National Defense Strategy. Schake, Eaglen, **Elaine McCusker**, and **John G. Ferrari** have described the dire consequences that inadequate defense funding, increased domestic spending, and inflation have on our military’s ability to respond to the threats we are facing in this uncertain environment.

AEI scholars are making vital contributions on domestic issues too. **Matt Weidinger** and **Angela Rachidi** are blowing the whistle on fraud in some of our country’s largest taxpayer-funded social support programs. Weidinger testified before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the scale of fraud in pandemic unemployment benefits programs, and Rachidi has explained how the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is failing to reduce payment errors.

And as key issues are under consideration by the Supreme Court, AEI scholars are producing accessible and durable scholarship that can inform and shape a new generation of judges. **Yuval Levin** and **Adam J. White** hosted a major conference in March on the jurisprudence of Justice Samuel Alito, placing AEI’s constitutional work in the center of key debates happening today. A new volume from **Peter J. Wallison** and **John Yoo** containing essays from top legal minds will help today’s judges tackle the power of administrative agencies and restore the separation of powers.

All of this is happening at a time when Americans are experiencing inflation’s effect on their household budgets. AEI’s **Desmond Lachman** has been at the forefront of identifying bad monetary policies and out-of-control government spending that are driving inflation in the United States.

Across all these issues, AEI scholars are offering coherent and empirical explanations and solutions for the problems our country and world face. This task is formidable; our job is to respond to the country’s challenges at an especially difficult time. By hiring the best writers and thinkers and offering them the latitude to pursue their ideas and follow the evidence wherever it leads, we enhance our ability to nimbly respond to today’s challenges and advance the cause of freedom.

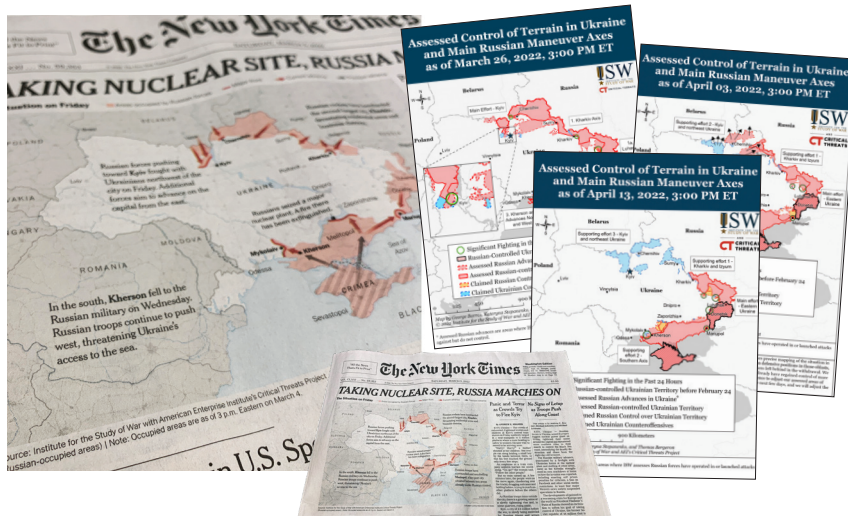
Finally, we were pleased to honor distinguished AEI scholar **Karlyn Bowman** with the Harlan Crow Award in March. Since she joined AEI as the junior editor of *Public Opinion* in 1979, no one has better exemplified devotion to AEI’s scholarship, history, and community than Bowman. Through her mentorship of young people at AEI and her role as our resident historian (not to mention her own stellar scholarship), Bowman’s contributions to the AEI community are unparalleled.

I’m tremendously grateful to you for being a part of our community. Thank you for your support.

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

AEI Scholars Inform Ukraine Policy

AEI scholars have been front and center in informing and guiding policymakers in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



AEI's Critical Threats Projects and partners at the Institute for the Study of War are using open-source technology to map troop movements in real time. Their maps have been featured in outlets including the *New York Times* (where it appeared on the front page of the print edition and web home page), *Washington Post*, *Associated Press*, and *Axios*.

Frederick W. Kagan also appeared on *The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast*, the video of which has more than 800,000 views to date.

New Podcast

In February, **Giselle Donnelly**, **Dalibor Rohac**, and the Middle East Institute's Iulia Joja launched a new weekly podcast titled: *The Eastern Front*. Featuring prominent guests, the podcast addresses the challenges to European peace emerging from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Recent episodes include:

- **Ivana Stradner** on Serbian elections and the Russia-Ukraine war,
- **Frederick W. Kagan** on Russian military options in Ukraine, and

AEI scholars have published more than 80 op-eds on the crisis in outlets including the *Atlantic*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Fox Business*, and *Bloomberg*, and they have been mentioned or quoted nearly 50 times in a host of media outlets.

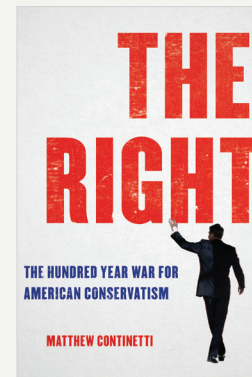
You can follow all of CTP's work at www.criticalthreats.org.



- **Chris Miller** on sanctions and their effect on the American and global economy.

Visit www.aei.org/podcast/the-eastern-front to find all episodes of the podcast.

New Book Is Essential Reading to Understand American Conservatism



"Matthew Continetti has earned his luminous reputation as the foremost contemporary chronicler of American conservatism's path to today's problematic condition. He traces conservatism's rich intellectual pedigree, from the founders' classical liberalism through twentieth-century conservatives' responses to the challenges of progressivism. The result is a thinking person's map for the road ahead."

—George Will

In April, **Matthew Continetti** released *The Right: The Hundred-Year War for American Conservatism* (Basic Books, 2022). The book offers an account of the conservative movement's history, from the Progressive Era through the present, and offers a path forward that grounds conservatism in America's founding documents.

To learn more or order the book, visit www.aei.org/theright.



AEI National Council

A Community of Philanthropists

AEI relies on a community of generous and engaged supporters to carry out our mission and conduct policy work that is of the highest quality and undertaken with scholarly independence. AEI's National Council—comprised of business and civic leaders from all over the country—acts as a sounding board for AEI's leadership on programmatic developments and new initiatives. Like all our donors, National Council members share a commitment to AEI's values, but they also take a special interest in helping the Institute expand its reach and build its constituencies. AEI's scholars and staff are grateful to have the support of more than 200 National Council members, who support AEI with annual gifts of \$25,000 or more.

National Council members have the opportunity for deep engagement with the Institute through regular briefings and conference calls, annual events and conferences, and regional gatherings.

To learn more about this community of supporters or support AEI at any level, visit www.aei.org/donate or contact AEI Executive Vice President Jason Bertsch at jbertsch@aei.org.

Q&A with Frank and Liz Blake

"AEI supports some of the smartest public policy thinkers in the world. That alone makes it worth supporting." —Frank and Liz Blake, National Council Co-Chairs



Frank and Liz Blake of Atlanta have been members of AEI's National Council since 2019, but they began their affiliation with AEI many years prior. Mr. Blake was the chairman and CEO of the Home Depot from 2007 to 2014 and served as deputy secretary for the US Department of Energy, general counsel to the US

Environmental Protection Agency, and deputy counsel to Vice President George H. W. Bush. Mrs. Blake was senior vice president of advocacy, government affairs, and general counsel for Habitat for Humanity International.

How did you first hear about and get involved with AEI?

Frank: I first heard about AEI when I was working in Washington, DC, in the early 1980s, first on the staff of Vice President George H. W. Bush and then as a political appointee in the Reagan administration. One of the people with whom I worked was Chris DeMuth, who was highly regarded by all who worked with him and who became president of AEI in 1986.

What is the value in supporting a public policy think tank like AEI? What would

be your elevator pitch to encourage others to invest in AEI?

Frank: AEI supports some of the smartest public policy thinkers in the world. That alone makes it worth supporting. On top of that, AEI scholars improve the quality of public debate by being thoughtful and thorough in their work. AEI is substantively focused on important issues that matter for the future of the country. It takes effort to be intellectually rigorous, interesting, and impactful. Now more than ever, it is important to support that effort.

Irving Kristol Award and Annual Dinner

AEI will honor former AEI President **Arthur C. Brooks** with the Irving Kristol Award at the AEI Annual Dinner on November 15, 2022, at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. Please contact Alex Swope (alexander.swope@aei.org) for information about purchasing tickets or tables.

The Irving Kristol Award is the highest honor conferred by AEI. AEI annually recognizes an individual who has made exceptional intellectual and practical contributions to improve government policy, social welfare, or political understanding. Visit www.aei.org/irving-kristol-award to learn more about past Irving Kristol Award recipients.

What do you enjoy about being part of AEI's National Council? Is there a memorable experience you have had as part of the AEI community?

Frank: Many aspects of the AEI community are energizing. The AEI World Forum is always a terrific event that identifies interesting and challenging thinkers and topics. The Irving Kristol Award dinner—particularly the recipient's remarks and conversation with an AEI scholar—is also an annual highlight.

Is there an AEI podcast or book you have particularly enjoyed?

Frank: I listen to various AEI podcasts. One of the most interesting of late was Klon Kitchen's "Kitchen Sync" podcast interview with Jared Cohen, the CEO of Jigsaw (part of Google), a person of amazing intelligence and thoughtfulness who has a broad perspective on China and the challenges it will present over the coming decades.

Liz: I have enjoyed many podcasts as well and appreciate, though do not always agree with, scholarship relating to education.

Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies

AEI Advances Work on Conservative Jurisprudence

AEI's Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies (SCCS) research division is committed to advancing a proper understanding of America's three branches of government. SCCS scholars' work emphasizes the proper role of each branch based on the Constitution's separation of powers and explores possible reforms to ensure that each branch is functioning properly. Through major events and original scholarship, SCCS is advancing reforms and spurring new thinking on today's key constitutional issues.

AEI Conference

In March, **J. Joel Alicea**, **Yuval Levin**, and **Adam J. White** convened top legal minds for a major daylong conference examining the jurisprudence of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Hosted in collaboration with Princeton University's James Madison Program, the conference featured **Robert P. George**, Jack Goldsmith (Harvard Law School), Judge Steven J. Menashi (US Court of Appeals), Kate Stith (Yale Law School), and Keith E. Whittington (Princeton University). Panels and discussions considered the themes and implications of Justice Alito's jurisprudence on issues such as free speech, conscience protections, criminal law, the separation of powers, and the significance of judicial precedent.

Visit www.aei.org/alito to view a recording of the event.

New Edited Volume

This winter, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*. This case offers the Court the opportunity to invoke the nondelegation doctrine, which holds that Congress is not allowed to delegate its authority to other governmental branches.

This issue is the subject of a new edited volume from **Peter J. Wallison** and **John Yoo**, *The Administrative State Before the Supreme Court: Perspectives on the Nondelegation Doctrine* (AEI Press, 2022). In advance of the arguments, on February 4, Wallison and Yoo hosted a book conference to discuss the application of the doctrine and what this could mean for the future of our constitutional order.

To learn more or watch the event video, visit www.aei.org/nondelegation-doctrine.



AEI's Yuval Levin; Adam J. White; and J. Joel Alicea



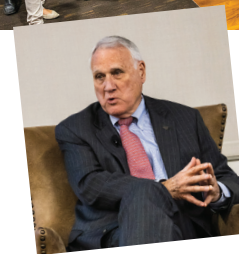
AEI's Robert P. George; panelists discussing Justice Samuel Alito's thoughts on the separation of powers; John O. McGinnis (Northwestern University)

Academic Programs

Academic Programs Hosts the Spring Policy Summit at Arizona State University

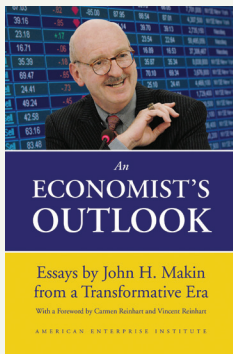
On February 18–19, AEI Academic Programs held its annual Spring Policy Summit at Arizona State University (ASU) on "The Futures of Democracy, Liberalism, and Capitalism." More than 100 students from nearly 50 universities participated in professional development seminars, networking sessions, and panel discussions. Topics and speakers included:

- Liberalism, Islam, and US policy toward the Middle East with Karen Taliaferro (ASU) and **Michael Rubin**;
- Governance in an era of performative politics with former Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and **Robert Doar**; and
- The relevance of the founders on democracy today with **Jay Cost** and Colleen Sheehan (ASU).



Sen. Jon Kyl; Spring Policy Summit participants; Robert Doar

New Scholarship from AEI



The economist **John H. Makin** (1943–2015) became a permanent member of the AEI family in 1984 when he was named a resident scholar and director of the Institute’s fiscal policy studies program. In 1992, Makin launched his widely read monthly series, *Economic Outlook*, from which the essays in the new volume *An Economist’s Outlook: Essays by John H. Makin from a Transformative Era* (AEI Press, 2022) are drawn. The book covers economic events and policy

decisions from 1992 to 2014. “Part I: Economics 101, Applied” takes the reader through some basic economic concepts and how each applied to events of the day. “Part II: Booms and Busts: A Journey Through Recent Economic History” revisits the prosperous 1990s, the Asian crisis, the tech and housing bubbles, and the financial crisis.

Before his death, Makin thought about a book-length collection of these essays. Gwendolyn van Paasschen, Makin’s widow, made it a reality. The volume could not have been completed without her impressive guidance. This new collection provides invaluable lessons in economic history, and it gives us a way to think critically about contemporary economic events.

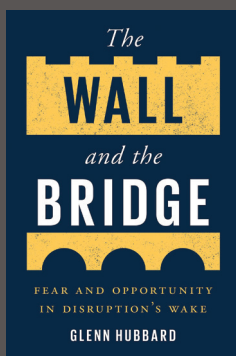
To learn more or order the book, visit www.aei.org/makin-essays.



Michael R. Strain and the Brookings Institution’s Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach released a new bipartisan consensus report titled *Rebalancing: Children First*, on the challenges facing children in America. More than three years in the making, the report lays out actionable, budget-neutral policies for a wide range of areas designed to improve the lives of American children. It covers facts, research, and policy priorities in domains that are crucial to children’s well-being and future: household resources, family structure and stability, early development, health, education, and the teenage years. Contributors to the volume include **Ryan Streeter** and **W. Bradford Wilcox** and the Brookings Institution’s Ron Haskins, Richard Reeves, and Isabel Sawhill.

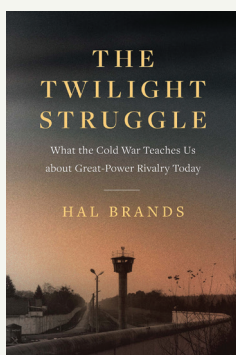
In February, Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Cecilia Rouse (Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers) joined a public event hosted by AEI and Brookings to discuss the report’s recommendations.

To read the report, visit www.aei.org/childrenfirst.



In January, **R. Glenn Hubbard** released *The Wall and the Bridge: Fear and Opportunity in Disruption’s Wake* (Yale University Press, 2022). Hubbard takes Adam Smith’s logic to Youngstown, Ohio, as a case study in economic disruption. He demonstrates the benefits of maintaining an open economy and creating bridges to support people in turbulent times so they remain engaged and prepared to participate in a new economic landscape.

To learn more or order the book, visit www.aei.org/wall-and-bridge/.

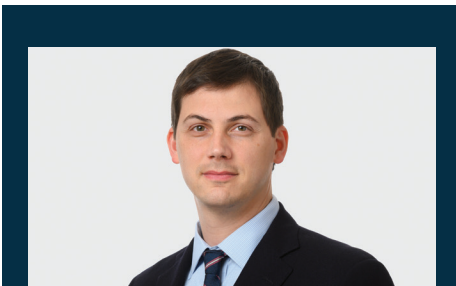
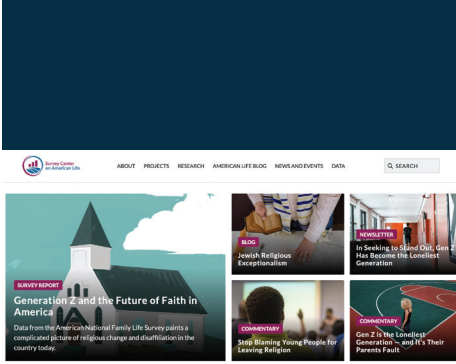


“This is a must-read for those seeking to illuminate the way forward with insights gleaned from the past.”

—Gen. David Petraeus, US Army (ret.)

In *The Twilight Struggle: What the Cold War Teaches Us About Great-Power Rivalry Today* (Yale University Press, 2022), **Hal Brands** argues that the West should look to the history of the Cold War for lessons in how to succeed in great-power rivalry today. While the parallels are not exact—Brands points out that China is far more economically dynamic and technologically sophisticated than the Soviet Union—the lessons of containment remain as important as ever. Our leaders, he argues, should prepare for a lengthy campaign to ensure that our nation’s adversaries do not overturn the global balance of power and create a world where authoritarian regimes dominate.

To learn more or order the book, visit www.aei.org/twilight.



The Survey Center on American Life

On one day in January, data from AEI’s Survey Center on American Life were cited in two different *New York Times* pieces—including an op-ed authored by former President Jimmy Carter. Survey Center data are frequently cited in other top outlets including the *Atlantic*, the *Economist*, the *Hill*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

Launched in 2020 by **Daniel A. Cox**, the Survey Center on American Life conducts original survey research focusing on significant issues in American public and private life that are not often featured in public polling, including the way cultural, political, and technological changes are shaping the lives of ordinary Americans. The center’s goal is to produce impartial research and offer nuanced analysis to inform honest public debate and encourage more thoughtful dialogue and constructive interactions among political leaders.

To learn more, visit www.americansurveycenter.org.

Conservative Education Reform Network Celebrates One Year with More Than 500 Members in All 50 States

In January, AEI’s Conservative Education Reform Network (CERN) celebrated its one-year anniversary. The network already has more than 500 members in all 50 states and Washington, DC. CERN provides a forum for members to devise, discuss, and promote solutions for students and families in early childhood, K–12, and higher education. A searchable online member directory allows members to network and collaborate to bring about positive change for students and families.

A hallmark initiative of CERN is the “Sketching a New Conservative Education Agenda” series. The brief proposals in this series deepen and expand the sense of what is possible to improve American education.

To learn more, visit www.aei.org/conservative-education-reform-network.

AEI Spotlight

CERN Manager Hayley Sanon



Hayley Sanon is the manager of CERN. She spearheads efforts to grow CERN’s membership and connect members with sound policy ideas and allies in the education field. Previously, Sanon was a Teach for America corps member and taught seventh-grade math in Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a BA in public policy and political science, with a minor in education, from Duke University and a MEd in education policy studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

You taught seventh-grade math through Teach for America. What about this experience inspired you to work in education policy?

I loved teaching. Playing a brief role in the lives of my students was a joy and an honor. However, there were so many problems with the way our schools operated, and I noticed a disconnect between the way policymakers and advocates talked about the problems in our schools and what teachers and students were experiencing. While I enjoyed my time in the classroom, I wanted to put my interests and training to use by addressing these problems in the policy sphere.

Given your own on-the-ground teaching experience and the many conversations you’ve had with CERN members across the country, how does a think tank like AEI help move the needle in education policy debates?

AEI bridges the divides between the research, practice, and policy communities. Since so much of education is, rightfully, handled at the state and local level, it can be easy for folks working on education policy to feel isolated and often end up reinventing the wheel to craft good policy. AEI is able to connect these people, and in doing so, it makes the concept of a “laboratory of democracy” a reality. By fostering discussions and publishing work that allows folks in different settings to compare notes and share ideas that they have found effective, our fellows are helping bridge the disconnect that I observed during my time in the classroom.

New Jeane Kirkpatrick Visiting Fellows and Foreign and Defense Policy Nonresident Fellow



Sheena Chestnut Greitens joined AEI in January as a Jeane Kirkpatrick Visiting Fellow. She is an associate professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

at the University of Texas at Austin, where she directs the Asia Policy Program. While at AEI, she is focusing on the North Korean economy and preventive repression and social control in China. To follow all of Chestnut Greitens's work, visit www.aei.org/chestnut.



Chris Miller joined AEI in December 2021 as a Jeane Kirkpatrick Visiting Fellow. He is concurrently a professor at the Fletcher School at Tufts University and

director of the Eurasia Program and a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research

Institute. While at AEI, he is focusing on Russian foreign policy, politics, and economics; Russia and Ukraine; Russian-European relations; and Eurasia—timely topics on which he has already served as a valuable resource to the media and policymakers. He is also writing a book on the geopolitical history of the computer chip, from the space race to the present. To follow all of Miller's work, visit www.aei.org/cmiller.



Dustin Walker, a former AEI intern, returned to AEI in January as a nonresident fellow to work on defense issues. He previously served on both the

Senate and House Armed Services Committees and was the founding editor of RealClearDefense. To follow all of Walker's work, visit www.aei.org/walker.

AEI Welcomes Interns Back to the Building

This spring semester, 53 talented interns are working at AEI across all research divisions and business and communications departments, and well over half of these interns are coming to work in person at AEI headquarters. The average GPA across this cohort is 3.8.



"Interning at AEI has helped me grow into a young professional in the public policy world. Working with the scholars has given me a unique opportunity to delve into their perspectives on crucial education policy matters in our country. I am beyond grateful for the AEI community as they have given me the chance to immerse myself in their workplace. Starting off my career with this internship has solidified my decision to continue working in policy research."

—Ilana Ovental, Boston University '22, political science major

Make Free Enterprise Your Legacy

For more than 80 years, AEI scholars have been tackling our nation's greatest challenges by producing work that bolsters free enterprise and innovation, strengthens our communities, defends our nation's founding values, and revitalizes America's leadership in the world. One of the best ways you can ensure that AEI can carry out this mission far into the future is by including AEI in your life and estate plans. Planned gifts provide AEI with long-term financial stability, guaranteeing the Institute has the means to continue our important work for years to come. If you would like to learn about making a planned gift, including will or trust provisions, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts, please visit www.aei.org/donate-about/planned-giving or contact Jason Bertsch (jbertsch@aei.org).



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