

# AEI Enterprise Report

Restoring Liberty, Opportunity, and Enterprise in America



## Setting a New Course

By Robert Doar

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall,” F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, and it is true that September offers us a time to reset and renew our focus on the challenges and opportunities before us.

For AEI scholars, a new academic year brings a bevy of new books and activity. AEI scholars have or will soon release a number of important new titles, including *Broken News* (**Chris Stirewalt**), *Defending Taiwan* (Foreign and Defense Policy scholars), *US Health Policy and Market Reforms* (**James C. Capretta**), *Chip War* (**Chris Miller**), *Beyond Unity* (**Dalibor Rohac**), *Empire Imagined* (**Giselle Donnelly**), *Danger Zone* (**Hal Brands** and **Michael Beckley**), *American Renewal* (a consortium of AEI scholars), and a new edition of *Men Without Work* (**Nicholas Eberstadt**). These scholars are providing guidance on issues of great importance to our country, and I hope you take the time to read many of these books.

This November’s midterm elections are also an opportunity for voters to make themselves heard and reset our country’s direction. Of the many issues and policies at stake in November, none is more crucial to our nation’s future than the



Robert Doar  
AEI President

**“AEI is committed to promoting reverence for the Constitution and rule of law and defending the values that continue to make our country exceptional.”**

importance of the rule of law. In cities like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, we see district attorneys and city leaders deciding which laws they will and won’t enforce, with the predictable result of rising crime and chaotic public spaces. Nationally, leaders of both political parties too often cast doubt, without evidence, on the integrity of our most important institutions.

President Abraham Lincoln worried that this kind of destructive rhetoric would cause law-abiding citizens to lose trust in our government. In his Lyceum Address, President Lincoln said,

Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate in the least particular, the laws of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and Laws, let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor;—let every man remember that to violate the law, is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the character of his own, and his children’s liberty.

Confronted by the disorder of his times, Lincoln’s “solution is absolute law-abidingness,” as AEI’s **Diana Schaub** writes of the Lyceum Address in her book *His Greatest Speeches: How Lincoln Moved the Nation* (St. Martin’s Press, 2021). Schaub recalls a key lesson from the speech: “Reverence” toward the law “uproots disrespect and thereby negates both the direct and indirect consequences of mob rule.” Reverence for the rule of law and the Constitution is necessary for the health of our republic, but reverence is something that has to be cultivated.

Scholars in AEI’s Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies department have continued to mount a spirited defense of the Constitution and the rule of law. In addition to Schaub’s work on Lincoln, historians **Jay Cost** and **Lynne V. Cheney** have worked to keep the legacy of America’s founding generation alive through books on George Washington, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson. Our legal scholars have helped enrich the public debate on the Supreme Court’s role in our constitutional order and pressing issues like electoral count reform. **John Yoo** and **Peter J. Wallison** brought two centuries of jurisprudence to bear to help shape the Supreme Court’s understanding of the administrative state, and in the case of *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, this work informed a justice’s opinion. And in his next book, **Yuval Levin** will explain how the Constitution enables us to form “a more perfect union” by enabling us not just to agree but to disagree constructively.

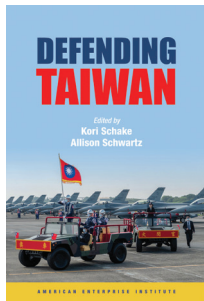
AEI is committed to promoting reverence for the Constitution and rule of law and defending the values that continue to make our country exceptional. Thank you for joining us in this endeavor and for making all our work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "R. Doar".

## New Books

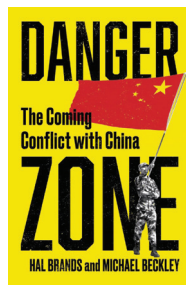
# US Foreign Policy and Threats from Abroad

AEI's Foreign and Defense Policy scholars released major new books this summer assessing developments abroad and shifting US foreign policy priorities.



In June, AEI released a timely new volume, *Defending Taiwan* edited by **Kori Schake** and **Allison Schwartz**. Contributing scholars offer an explanation for why the US should care about Taiwan's sovereignty and what it would take to successfully protect Taiwan—and the international order more broadly—from Chinese predation. Each chapter lays out how US policy toward Taiwan should develop and why it should develop that way.

To learn more or access the book, visit [www.defendingtaiwan.com](http://www.defendingtaiwan.com).



**Michael Beckley** and **Hal Brands's** *Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China* (W. W. Norton & Co., August 2022) makes the case that the Sino-American rivalry will reach its moment of maximum danger in the 2020s and encourages the US to adopt a near-term strategy for navigating the danger zone ahead.

**"Unflinching and historically grounded, provocative and richly researched, this refreshing, pioneering work delivers a necessary corrective to narrow thinking and relaxed timelines in dealing with China. Beckley and Brands' ideas need to be embraced if we are to effectively manage differences emerging in the increasingly volatile relationship between our two nations."**

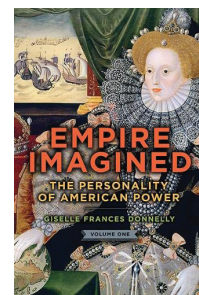
—**Gen. Jim Mattis**, US Marines (ret.)  
and 26th Secretary of Defense

To learn more or order the book, visit [www.aei.org/danger-zone](http://www.aei.org/danger-zone).



*In From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of Modern Asia* (Princeton University Press, September 2022), **Dan Slater** and the University of Toronto's Joseph Wong demonstrate that Asia defies the conventional expectation that authoritarian regimes concede democratization only as a last resort during times of weakness. The authors offer a comprehensive regional history that assesses important new insights about when and how democratic transitions happen—and what the future of Asia might be.

To learn more or order the book, visit [www.aei.org/development-to-democracy](http://www.aei.org/development-to-democracy).



*Empire Imagined: The Personality of American Power* (SUNY Press, August 2022) offers a unique perspective for understanding the current debate about America's role in the world.

**Giselle Donnelly** reveals the strategic unconscious of the American mind and, through rigorous historical work, recalls the original design and purpose of the American experiment—a helpful guide as we chart a course for the future.

To learn more or order the book, visit [www.aei.org/research-products/book/empire-imagined](http://www.aei.org/research-products/book/empire-imagined).

## Brands Informing State Department's Priorities



In June, Secretary of State Antony Blinken appointed AEI Senior Fellow **Hal Brands** to the US Department of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board. The board's 19 members, possessing a range of experiences and backgrounds, provide independent counsel on US foreign policy and diplomacy including issues related to cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and strategic competition with the People's Republic of China.



# Q&A with Frederick M. Hess



**Frederick M. Hess** is a senior fellow and the director of education policy studies at AEI. He works on K-12 and higher education issues and authors Education Week's popular blog *Rick Hess Straight Up*. He is also the founder of AEI's Conservative Education Reform Network. A prolific writer, Hess has written more than 10 books and edited dozens of influential volumes. His most recent book, *A Search for Common Ground: Conversations About the Toughest Questions in K-12 Education* (Teachers College Press, 2021), won

the Association of American Publishers' 2022 Prose Award in Education Practice and Theory. Hess is a generous mentor to young people who launch their careers at AEI, many of whom have gone on to impressive endeavors.

To follow all of Hess's work, visit [www.aei.org/profile/frederick-m-hess](http://www.aei.org/profile/frederick-m-hess).

## **You launched AEI Education Policy Studies 20 years ago. What was the goal at the department's inception and the key issues shaping education policy discussions at the time?**

How I came to AEI played a big role in shaping our mission. I came from the University of Virginia's School of Education, where I was something of a pariah for wanting to abolish teacher licensure and speaking frankly about choice-induced market dynamics. Back in 2002, there were few academic homes where one could challenge school districts, federal education programs, education schools, or the college cartel. We needed a home where scholars could forthrightly champion opportunity, personal responsibility, and excellence. We built AEI Education to be a place where we could do that in a serious and influential way.

## **How has the education policy landscape changed in the past two decades? What role has AEI played in education policy debates?**

When we launched AEI Education, the education reform community was remarkably purple. Right and left broadly agreed on the problems with intransigent unions and lethargic bureaucracies. In recent years, education reform has become more ideologically polarized, due largely to progressive culture

warriors at foundations and education schools. Our work has evolved as the world changed. During the Bush and Obama years, we focused on policy issues like student loans, teacher pay, and school choice. As the landscape shifted, around 2015, we started focusing more on the dangers of runaway wokeism and ways to protect free inquiry in higher education.

## **What are a few AEI Education accomplishments of which you are especially proud?**

When the landmark No Child Left Behind legislation was overhauled in 2015, AEI education scholars were instrumental in helping refashion the Every Student Succeeds Act to maintain transparency while jettisoning federal overreach. Books like *Cage-Busting Leadership* (Harvard Education Press, 2013) and *Letters to a Young Education Reformer* (Harvard Education Press, 2017) have become foundational to the school reform canon. In 2006, we launched AEI's celebrated K-12 Working Group, a semiannual gathering of education policymakers, practitioners, and researchers that has made AEI a key reform hub. Adapting that blueprint, we've more recently built the Conservative Education Reform Network into the kind of vibrant big-tent community that the right has long needed.

## **Has your approach to education policy been influenced by the time you spent in the classroom early in your career? What perspective do you share with policymakers who may not have done the same?**

It's a terrific question. For starters, I remind audiences that I haven't taught a K-12 classroom since the last century. Probably more impactful, I'd say, are the years I've spent teaching school leaders and the thousands of interviews I've conducted for my blog, *Rick Hess Straight Up*, or books like *The Cage-Busting Teacher*. The biggest challenge for policymakers, I've found, is the temptation to dismiss teachers' concerns about proposed changes as mere bellyaching and then blame policy failures on "implementation problems." Schools are intensely personal institutions. Successful school improvement is less about Beltway brainstorming than attending to the practical impact on students, families, and educators.

## **In what ways would you like to see AEI Education Policy Studies make an impact in the next two decades?**

We've grown from a feisty startup to one of the nation's most influential sources of frank talk and fearless analysis when it comes to education. During that period, we've seen K-12 stagnate and the college cartel increasingly become a costly reeducation camp. It's little surprise that the public has embraced school choice and is losing faith in higher education. In the years ahead, this will create a signal opportunity for conservative leadership that offers practical solutions and fearlessly defends shared values like opportunity and excellence. I want AEI Education to be in the vanguard of that fight.

# 20th Anniversary of AEI Education

This year marks 20 years since the launch of AEI's Education Policy Studies program. In that time, AEI scholars have published numerous books and reports, offered testimony and counsel to policymakers, and mentored countless aspiring education scholars, practitioners, and reformers. **A consistent theme through the years has been AEI Education's ability to convene education leaders from across the ideological spectrum to engage in thoughtful and productive conversation.**



**"The American Enterprise Institute has and continues to be a laboratory of liberty. Rick's team lives up to that moniker like none other. Each of you put a focus on students and their freedom in everything you do, and more in the 'think tank' world ought to follow your inspiring example. Thank you for putting students first."**

—Betsy DeVos, US Secretary of Education (2017–20)

## Program Spotlight

### Education Policy Academy

The Education Policy Academy gathers 20 of the nation's top education policy PhD students to broaden the range of ideas they encounter in education policy. As higher education—and education schools in particular—skew left, many students get through their entire doctoral career without ever hearing a conservative perspective. This program seeks to open students' minds to new ways of thinking and help students see that reasonable people can have different views on policy. Further, we expose participants to the policymaking process and show how Congress actually writes laws.

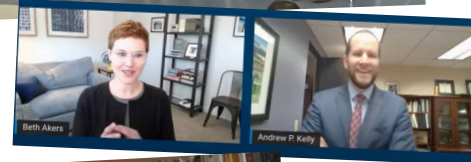
"AEI's Education Policy Academy was a truly unique experience. **Grounded in the reality of policymaking, the academy forces its participants to examine their own assumptions and to make space for arguments that may differ from their own or from those represented at their institutions.** I left with a renewed appreciation for examining alternate viewpoints, a deeper understanding of the politics and realities of policymaking, and a greater sense of how research fits in the policymaking process."

—Education Policy Academy alumnus

## CERN: Connecting Education Leaders

AEI Education's newest initiative is the Conservative Education Reform Network (CERN). Launched in 2021, CERN is a national community of conservative leaders in education, spanning a broad array of issue areas, positions, regions, and viewpoints. CERN seeks to foster meaningful efforts to promote solutions for students and families in the areas of early childhood, K-12, and higher education. Our more than 600 CERN members hail from all 50 states and Washington, DC.

To learn more about CERN, visit [www.aei.org/conservative-education-reform-network](http://www.aei.org/conservative-education-reform-network).



## At a Glance

The numbers below capture AEI education scholars' output in the 2021–22 school year and offer a sense of the breadth and depth of our scholars' work over the past two decades.

**45** reports authored and commissioned

**193** op-eds published

**6** testimonies before Congress

**43** podcasts produced

**96** media mentions

**35** TV, radio, and podcast appearances

**350** participants in AEI Education's six signature programs for education professionals

To learn more about AEI Education Policy, visit [www.aei.org/policy-areas/education](http://www.aei.org/policy-areas/education).

# 2022 Summer Honors Program



Throughout June, AEI hosted nearly 200 undergraduates from around the country for the 2022 Summer Honors Program (SHP). Students participated in a weeklong course, and a select group of 12 students in the Summer Honors Academy participated in four courses, one each week of the program. At a time of increasing polarization, especially on college campuses, AEI and SHP fills a void for students by making space for rigorous intellectual inquiry and dialogue, as Summer Honors Academy participant Aron Ravin detailed in an op-ed in *National Review*.

**“The SHP demonstrated that it is simultaneously possible to tolerate wide ranges of discourse while also rejecting ideological neutrality. Nearly every student who studied America’s social-safety-net system under Angela Rachidi left her class in favor of work requirements for welfare. Yuval Levin and Tim Carney offered deeply socially conservative worldviews that struck chords with their students. Using empirical evidence and reasoning, AEI fellows moved students on a broad swath of hot-button issues.**

In many ways, the American Enterprise Institute exceeded my expectations.”

—Aron Ravin, Summer Honors Academy participant, in *National Review*, August 8, 2022

## Post-SHP Survey, out of 10 points

- 8.9** Average overall program rating, with 95 percent of students rating the program an eight or higher
- 8.23** Average rating of SHP’s success in imparting a greater appreciation in participants for the core values of the American Enterprise Institute
- 9.25** Average rating of SHP’s success in leaving participants with a passion for intellectual rigor and the competition of ideas

## Student Spotlight Kaitlan Michels

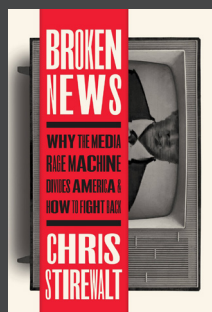


Originally from Orange, California, Kaitlan Michels is a senior at Patrick Henry College studying American politics and policy. She participated in Michael Q. McShane’s SHP class, “K–12 Education: The Foundation of American Democracy, Society, and Economy.”

“I think the best part was connecting with the other students. We came from all over the world to talk about policy issues we were passionate about so I was exposed to a lot of varying perspectives.

**I made friends with people that had different viewpoints than me and I loved listening to and learning from them.”**

—Kaitlan Michels, SHP participant



## New Book from Chris Stirewalt

In *Broken News: Why the Media Rage Machine Divides America & How to Fight Back* (Center Street, August 2022), **Chris Stirewalt** takes a deep look at the history of the news industry to explain how Americans ended up with a media that pits people against each other for profit. He also offers practical advice for how everyday readers, listeners, and viewers can become better consumers of news, for the sake of truth and for the sake of our nation.

To learn more or order the book, visit [www.aei.org/research-products/book/broken-news](http://www.aei.org/research-products/book/broken-news).



## AEI Event

# The Future of Conservative Family Policy

In July, AEI hosted Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) to discuss his recently proposed Family Security Act 2.0, which aims to reduce poverty and encourage upward mobility for low-income families. This proposal follows more than a year of national discussion—sparked by Sen. Romney’s Family Security Act originally proposed in spring 2021—on how to improve policy to better support families with children. Through their commentary and counsel, AEI poverty scholars, including **Robert Doar**, **Scott Winship**, and **Angela Rachidi**, helped Sen. Romney’s staff make improvements that ended up in version 2.0.

At the AEI event, Sen. Romney laid out his plan to reform multiple tax credits into one straightforward pro-family and pro-work policy. He and Doar discussed how to ensure



such changes do not encroach on local or private realms or crowd out civil society. Following, several poverty scholars—including Rachidi and Winship—joined a wide-ranging panel discussion, in which all panelists agreed on the need to condition child-related tax credits on work to encourage upward mobility among families in need.

To learn more or watch the event recording, visit [www.aei.org/future-of-family-policy](http://www.aei.org/future-of-family-policy).

## 2023 Farm Bill Primers

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 is set to expire in 2023, and the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have begun holding hearings to consider the next iteration of this legislation. The farm bill, as it is more commonly known, has evolved from its original focus on commodity price support and relief to farmers into a sprawling omnibus package. To support and inform the reauthorization process, AEI’s Center for Agricultural Policy Studies, led by **Vincent H. Smith**, released 10 primers offering an overview of the history, scope, intent, impact, and cost of various farm bill programs. The primers were featured prominently and circulated in a widely attended AEI briefing for congressional staff previewing the farm bill reauthorization process for the next Congress.

To learn more or read the primers, visit [www.aei.org/farm-bill-primers](http://www.aei.org/farm-bill-primers).



To get the latest from AEI’s Center for Agricultural Policy Studies, sign up for the *Monthly Harvest*—a newsletter bringing research to bear on farm, food chain, and trade programs. Visit [www.aei.org/tag/the-monthly-harvest](http://www.aei.org/tag/the-monthly-harvest).

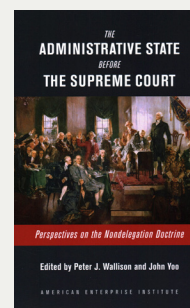


## New Health Care Scholar Joins AEI

**Brian J. Miller** joined AEI in August to bolster our health care policy studies. Miller is a practicing hospitalist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and an assistant professor of medicine and business at the Johns Hopkins University. His research focuses on Medicare payment policy, Food and Drug Administration regulatory policy, health care competition policy, veterans’ health, and public health policy.

To follow Miller’s work at AEI, visit [www.aei.org/profile/brian-j-miller](http://www.aei.org/profile/brian-j-miller).

## AEI Constitutional Scholars Making an Impact



**John Yoo** and **Peter J. Wallison’s** volume *The Administrative State Before the Supreme Court: Perspectives on the Nondelegation Doctrine* (AEI Press, 2022) considers the separation-of-powers principle that bars Congress from transferring its legislative powers to administrative agencies. AEI provided early copies to all Supreme Court justices and their clerks, and the volume was subsequently cited in Justice Neil Gorsuch’s concurring opinion in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*.

# New Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies Scholars

AEI's Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies research division recently added three new scholars to bolster AEI's coverage of electoral politics, technology, and higher education.



In August, **Ruy Teixeira**, who served most recently as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, joined AEI. Teixeira's hiring received extensive media coverage, including in *Politico*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *National Review* and on CNN, CBS, and NPR. Teixeira cited AEI's commitment to free and open inquiry as one of the main reasons he came to AEI. His work as a nonresident senior fellow will focus on the transformation of the party coalitions and the future of American electoral politics.

To follow all of his work at AEI, visit [www.aei.org/profile/ruy-teixeira](http://www.aei.org/profile/ruy-teixeira).



**Christine Rosen** joined AEI as a senior fellow in September and will focus on issues at the intersection of technology and culture. Previously, she was a senior writer at *Commentary* magazine and chair of the Colloquy on Knowledge, Technology, and Culture at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia.

To follow all of her work at AEI, visit [www.aei.org/profile/christine-rosen](http://www.aei.org/profile/christine-rosen).



In July, **Christopher J. Scalia** transitioned from his role as director of AEI's Academic Programs to a Social, Cultural, and Constitutional Studies senior fellow. In his new role, Scalia will focus on the state of American intellectual and literary culture and the future of the university.

To follow all of his work at AEI, visit [www.aei.org/profile/christopher-j-scalia](http://www.aei.org/profile/christopher-j-scalia).

## Building a Movement of Leaders



entrepreneurship (FREE). AEI is launching a series of gatherings across the country to equip leaders with the skills and networks they need to reinvigorate and rebuild core institutions in these four areas. The first FREE Forum will convene 150 leaders on November 2–4 in Birmingham, Alabama, for two days of policy, leadership, and communications training. We plan to host additional FREE Forums in other cities in the months ahead to amplify this transformative message.

To learn more about *Agency* or the FREE Framework, visit [www.thefreeframework.com](http://www.thefreeframework.com).

The centerpiece of Ian Rowe's new book, *Agency: The Four Point Plan (F.R.E.E.) for All Children to Overcome the Victimhood Narrative and Discover Their Pathway to Power* (Templeton Press, 2022), is the FREE framework that offers young people a way to shape their future by engaging four key building blocks: family, religion, education, and



## IRVING KRISTOL AWARD & ANNUAL DINNER

NOVEMBER 15, 2022



At AEI's 2022 Annual Dinner on November 15, we will present **Arthur C. Brooks**, AEI president emeritus and William Henry Bloomberg Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School, with the Irving Kristol Award—awarded annually to an outstanding leader working to improve government policy, social welfare, or political understanding. We hope many in the AEI community will join us in honoring Brooks by attending or sponsoring a table. Tickets are \$1,000 per couple, and table sponsorships start at \$10,000. We would be honored to earn your support of this premier event.

If you would like to purchase tickets or sponsor the dinner, visit [www.aei.org/support-annualdinner2022](http://www.aei.org/support-annualdinner2022) or contact Abigail Nugent ([abigail.nugent@aei.org](mailto:abigail.nugent@aei.org); 202.862.5902).



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