

ATLAS LIBERTY FORUM, NYC – Nov. 2013

Well, the Atlas Network excelled again this year by staging an even ‘bigger and better’ Liberty Forum event for 2013.

Their method of continuous improvement and fine-tuning of an already excellent event has made this a ‘must attend’ event on the international libertarian calendar.

At two full days, followed by the great Freedom Dinner, they have pitched it just right for the busy and vibrant audience they attract.

So mark your calendar for next year’s event in New York City, November 12 – 13, 2014.

Lots of audience participation too!



LHS: Working session with Kenli Schooland, Director of Development ISIL, San Francisco with Ron Manners & Andrew Pickford from Mannkal Foundation.



RHS: “Think Tank Shark Tank” competition judging.

View the YouTube on Unintended Consequences of Regulation

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_wkcp7wIDk

Also, for fun, check out the light-hearted 3 minute comedy video put together by one of the Atlas Think Tank MBA groups - <http://vimeo.com/79058958>

Enjoy the Mannkal team’s comments on the following three pages.

Ron Manners,
Mannkal Economic Education Foundation - Australia

Mannkal's Team

Andrew Pickford - Mannkal Research Fellow – Canada Thoughts from a Transplanted Australian

Right - Cassandra Howard from the Liberty Foundation of America, based in Oklahoma & Andrew Pickford



It is hard to describe the Atlas Liberty Forum or the “Atlas Network” if you have never been to an event or worked with its people. Ron would talk about this network as if it was a family. After moving to Canada and leaving Mannkal after five enjoyable years, I now understand why. Upon arrival at the New York Atlas Liberty Forum I met a number of colleagues, friends and associates who were all working to defend freedom. Some I had known for years, others had just been via email; the time or length of acquaintance did not matter.

For Australians, the American terminology of defending freedom and protecting liberty can seem a little “in your face”. Yet when you hear about the rise of neo-Nazis in Hungary and the difficulty delegates from Venezuela had physically getting to the forum, you start to appreciate why this work is critical. We may not use the same language as our American friends, but the ideas and philosophy are the same.

A benefit of being at this conference was meeting a number of think-tank leaders who were interested in hosting future Mannkal interns. From North America to Lithuania, discussions continue for new opportunities for students. Through these internships bright young Western Australians can learn more about defending and promoting liberty (or whatever the language of the host think-tank and country).

If you plan to be in New York in November 12 – 13, 2014, make sure Atlas Liberty Forum is in your diary.

Benjamin Marks - Economics.org.au - Sydney

I am very thankful to Mannkal for sponsoring my attendance at the Atlas events in New York. When freedom advocates meet in Australia, it is often a meeting of martyrs rather than success stories, so this was a great eye-opener and smile-inducer, and a great opportunity to learn from something other than mistakes. Ron says that the big difference is one of attitude to regulation, with Australians too laid back to bother to risk possibly violating this-or-that legislation.

It was amazing to see how different government is in the northern hemisphere. North of the equator, government spending goes down the drain counter-clockwise. So their think tanks do everything very differently to our think tanks. But the principles are the same, and Atlas brilliantly brought together the leading think tank figures from around the world to teach us how to replicate their success. Now all we need to replicate is their talent and their donors.



Left - Benjamin Marks & Nadeem Esmail, director of Health Policy Studies at the Fraser Institute in Canada.

One of the most important Atlas workshops was about measuring influence. Many of the established think tanks seemed to think that counting media mentions is the way to go. In contrast, the representatives from countries without established think tanks said that they must avoid getting media mentions, otherwise their personal safety is threatened. So for them influence would be measured, not in media mentions, but in the number of black eyes (out of 2); or for a more detailed analysis, number of broken ribs (out of 24). This was quite a wake-up call for many of us, who tend to take for granted our freedoms and our homeland's history of free-market advocacy. Apparently, eloquent, outspoken and long-running freedom advocates like Ron Manners are quite special.

Luke McGrath – Mannkal Research Fellow - USA



Luke McGrath, 2nd left, surrounded by some of his admirers.

In November this year, in a grand ballroom in Manhattan's Lower East Side, hundreds of advocates from around the world of a free and open society gathered for the Atlas Network's premier annual event, the Freedom Dinner. The keynote speaker for 2013 was the Swedish economist and renowned champion of liberty, Johan Norberg.

Norberg touched on a variety of topics in his speech, but the overriding message was that, despite the day-to-day black marks that grab our attention in the news, the world is indeed becoming a safer, more prosperous, and more free place in which to live — and so we should be hopeful for the future. It's true, Norberg acknowledged, we *can* look around and find

many examples of things that can cause one to feel frustration and disappointment. Whether it's increasing government surveillance, monetary policy run amok, higher taxes or Nanny State regulations, such trends may elicit the question: does the work that people are doing in the freedom movement *really* have any substantive effect?

Most definitely, said Norberg. Though it's a matter of counterfactual history, he argued that we would be in a much worse shape were it not for the work done by so many on behalf of freedom. We only have to look at the incredible fall in poverty rates over the last couple decades or the overall increase in economic freedom, for instance, to be optimistic. Great progress is being made on so many fronts today that, in Norberg's memorable words, "it's like being beaten over the head with a rainbow."

For the first time, the winner of the Templeton Freedom Award was announced at the Freedom Dinner and this year the grand prize of \$100,000 went to the TaxPayers' Alliance for their *2020 Tax Commission and Single Income Tax Report*. The aim of this UK-based organisation is to reverse Big Government by explaining the benefits of a free economy, and to ensure the interests of taxpayers are heard by those who wield political power.

Yuliya Kocherhan – Kiev School of Economics – Ukraine

Yuliya's report to follow, but she has been busy since arriving back home in Ukraine to be involved in the largest public revolt in the whole of Ukraine's troubled history.

Over 100,000 people are out in the streets of the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

The President has backed away from signing up with the E.U. and moved back toward Russia following intense economic pressure – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25164990>

It seems that the Ukrainian Prime Minister and the Ukrainian people are at odds with the President and generally still have too many bad memories of the Holodomor (Ukrainian famine / genocide of 1932–33) perpetrated by the Soviet regime – <http://www.holodomorct.org/>

At this time the protests continue and there is much swinging on the outcome of this largely youth-led rally. Senator John McCain's 5.54 minute comment in support of the 300,000 Ukrainian protestors – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_6TSv7KvhM#t=232

Government is now resorting to undue force against the generally peaceful protestors. This is vital viewing – <http://www.onenewspage.co.uk/n/World/74w633z0i/Ukraine-government-prepared-to-discuss-elections.htm>

Their situation reminds me of Winston Churchill's words, "One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half. Never run away from anything. Never!"



Above: Following on from her 2010 Graduation from Atlas Think Tank MBA, Yuliya now receives her Leadership Academy certificate from Alex Chafuen(Atlas President) and Brad Lips (Atlas CEO)



Above: "Yuliya (centre) with colleagues at Kiev street protest"



Above: Yuliya, alive and "doing rebellion" in sub-zero temperatures Ukraine Dec .10th, 2013