

# James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions



## The Free Society: Foundations and Challenges

A Public Conference Presented by James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University and the Association for the Study of Free Institutions, University of Nebraska

May 14-15, 2007

Bowen Hall 222, Princeton University

Freedom is the unifying theme of modern civilization. For the last two centuries, almost all important movements of thought and action in the nations of the developed west have looked to freedom as their aim and justification. Today, the aspiration to freedom seems to dominate political discourse in all corners of the world. Nevertheless, freedom is not simply a creed but also a question. For many disputes persist concerning the character of a truly free society, the conditions that allow freedom to flourish, and the challenges that free societies must confront. Moreover, the very progress of human freedom tends to raise questions about its compatibility with other cherished principles such as equality, virtue, community, and tradition.

The conference addresses some of the questions that arise in connection with the quest for freedom. Scholars in the social sciences and humanities will address a variety of issues including:

- What is the relationship between liberal education and the free society?
- How is freedom to be reconciled with and supported by the discipline imposed by the rule of law?
- Does a capitalist economy foster a society that is just as well as free?
- How can freedom be preserved when a society is under threat of terrorist attack?
- How does the aspiration to freedom appear in light of claims of divine revelation?
- What historical conditions are necessary for free societies to emerge?

### Monday, May 14, 2007

10:00-11:45 a.m.

#### The Closing of the American Mind Revisited

Stanley Kurtz, *Ethics and Public Policy Center*

Peter Augustine Lawler, *Berry College*

Alan M. Levine, *American University*

Michael Zuckert, *University of Notre Dame*

Moderator: Carson L. Holloway, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*

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# The Free Society: Foundations and Challenges (continued)

**1:30-3:15 p.m.**

## **The Rule of Law**

Gerard V. Bradley, *University of Notre Dame Law School*

Michael I. Krauss, *George Mason University School of Law*

Jack Wade Nowlin, *University of Mississippi School of Law*

Amy Wax, *University of Pennsylvania Law School*

*Moderator: George W. Dent, Jr., Case Western Reserve University School of Law*

**3:45-5:30 p.m.**

## **The Moral Claims of Capitalism**

Benjamin Barber, *University of Maryland*

Stanley C. Brubaker, *Colgate University*

Charles Griswold, *Boston University*

*Moderator: John D. Mueller, Ethics and Public Policy Center*

**5:45-7:15 p.m.**

## **Keynote Address**

John Agresto, *former Higher Education Senior Advisor to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq*

**Tuesday, May 15**

**9:15-11:00 a.m.**

## **Security, Liberty, and Terror**

William B. Allen, *Michigan State University*

Angelo Codevilla, *Boston University*

Matthew Franck, *Radford University*

Alan R. Gibson, *California State University at Chico*

John Lenczowski, *Institute of World Politics*

*Moderator: Bradley C.S. Watson, St. Vincent College*

**11:15-1:00 p.m.**

## **Reason, Revelation, and Freedom: Benedict XVI's Regensburg Speech**

Hadley Arkes, *Amherst College*

Charles Butterworth, *University of Maryland at College Park*

David Novak, *University of Toronto*

James R. Stoner, Jr., *Louisiana State University*

*Moderator: Robert P. George, Princeton University*

**2:45-4:30 p.m.**

## **Panel 6: The Historical Conditions of Free Institutions**

Herman Belz, *University of Maryland*

Joyce Lee Malcolm, *George Mason University School of Law*

Paul D. Moreno, *Hillsdale College*

Darren M. Staloff, *City College of New York*

*Moderator: Steven Bullock, University of Nebraska at Omaha*