IAED USA Webinar Report: Toward a reformation in economics

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An *Integral Society* of the future (ie. a sustainable, peaceful world) will be realized when the cultural, political and economic spheres are harmonized to enable individuals to attain personal autonomy and freedom. Since the Renaissance and Reformation, the political sphere has shifted from top-down rule by Kings to political democracy, and the cultural sphere previously ruled by Popes and Bishops to personal accountability in religion. The economic sphere has lagged behind and has not yet experienced a similar reformation. Today centralized economic control by banks, governments, and wealthy elites has limited the full participation in the economy by the general population. The economy is the last social sphere that needs reform for individuals to attain economic and personal autonomy, preserving social cohesion.

This IAED series on Building an Integral Economy expands upon our Headwing Economic Framework paper. The series presents specific policies and reforms to transform the present centralized economy into a decentralized system, in which everyone has an opportunity to prosper from their labor and capital.

Dr Gordon Anderson, author of *Integral Economy*, spoke first on the historical foundations of the economic systems that we have today and argued that they are in need of the equivalent of a 'Protestant Reformation' in the economic sphere that will bring about a new system where people, instead of governments and central banks, have access to the ownership of the money system. He traced economic history from feudalism and mercantilism to today's capitalist system, contrasting it with democratic reforms in the cultural and political spheres that have decentralized power. Broadened ownership of capital is a core principle for building a more democratic economic system, allowing an upward path for each person to achieve economic autonomy

where they receive income from both their labor and ownership of capital. He proposed 5 reforms to the current US economy that could help to move the world in this direction.

Victor Perton, a former Australian (Victoria) politician and barrister, spoke on the importance of optimism, our belief in the future, in building a successful economy. If people lack hope for a better world and the social constructs around them are full of corruption, abuse and legal obstacles, then they will not have the courage and entrepreneurial enthusiasm to start a new business or expand an existing one. There is a difference between optimism on the individual level - which provides unbounded opportunity for success - and on the level of society. If optimism of the economy and political order is itself diminished, then people don't feel as free to take risks and build. Economies can then shrink causing social disruption.

The economics of optimism and the economy of the optimist.

Optimism is itself an economic resource and is the key to personal and national progress. It is central to good strategy, the base sauce of innovation, a foundation for perseverance and resilience, and a powerful ingredient in successful change and transformation. It is what people want and need in today's world.

Optimistic people are more likely to see opportunity, invest, innovate, learn, take reasonable risks, start enterprises and persist when circumstances become difficult. Optimism does not deny reality. It enables us to face reality while believing that better outcomes are possible and acting to create them.

This matters at a time when, across much of the developed world, surveys regularly find people pessimistic about the direction of their countries and concerned about the future of the world.

Victor explored the intersections of our belief systems, especially human dignity, individual agency, economic autonomy, wider participation and institutions that serve people rather than diminish them. Economic freedom gives people room to act. Optimism gives them reason to act.

The respondent, **Jim Edgerly** was unfortunately unable to join the call but had sent in a number of questions that led to a stimulating discussion between the two presenters, moderated by Dr. John Bellavance, the Asia Pacific Coordinator for IAED, and Alan Jessen, the North American coordinator for IAED.

Our next program in November will look at Money and Banking reforms on November 20th or 21st 2026. Please click here if you would like to join our email list

Use the coupon code “IAED” at checkout to receive a 30% discount when purchasing Dr. Anderson’s book, *Integral Economy* from the paragonhouse.com website. An e-book is available outside of the U.S.

View the Recorded Webinar on YouTube

Download a PDF of the speaker Bios

You can download our framework document at the link below.

Headwing Economics Framework

International Association for Peace and Economic Development

We affirm our belief that business leaders have the opportunity and responsibility to work in collaboration with other sectors of society to make the world a better place, addressing its most significant challenges, and promoting world peace, long-term mutual prosperity and truly sustainable development