

Preface

Political pragmatists like to base their arguments on principles. They proclaim the preservation and promotion of freedom and human dignity, of general welfare and social justice. They champion market economy, sustainable growth, education, and culture. Yet few politicians take the time to probe the meaning and importance of these axioms. Often their reference to such principles remains vague; a thorough discussion of fundamental issues does not take place.

The *Liberales Institut* in Zurich was founded in 1979 as a foundation under private law. It provides a platform where – away from the hustle and bustle of daily life – the basic values and concepts of our political culture can be debated and questioned in light of the liberal tradition. The Institute furnishes a meeting place for practitioners and theoreticians from different walks of life and professions. The aim is to examine issues in an open atmosphere of inquiry and experimentation. Our think tank is not associated with any political party. Its purpose is to foster the development and dissemination of liberal ideas in the classical European sense – ideas about personal freedom, limited government, and free markets.

The Institute's primary activity is the sponsorship of various lectures and seminars. A group of patrons support these activities through contributions and donations. Membership is not contemplated, so as to preserve the character of an open forum. Interested individuals, institutions, and companies are invited to participate in all activities free of charge and without any obligations or commitments.

The essays in this volume are the result of a Colloquium that was held in Zurich in the Fall of 1992. Under the auspices of the Institute, thirteen well-qualified experts from around the world were invited to contend with F.A. Hayek – to re-examine critically the main tenets of his social and political philosophy, and to discuss the continuing pertinence of his ideas. All essays were written for the Colloquium; most of them have been revised and updated in light of the discussions. I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of the contributors; they have given generously of their time and expertise. I also thank all those who were involved in the careful preparation of the manuscripts for publication.

Dr. Peter Forstmoser
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Liberales Institut

Zurich, September 1994

Christoph Frei
Robert Nef (eds.)

Contending with Hayek

On Liberalism,
Spontaneous Order and
the Post-Communist Societies
in Transition



PETER LANG

Bern · Berlin · Frankfurt am Main · New York · Paris · Wien

Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Contending with Hayek : on liberalism, spontaneous order and
the post-communist societies in transition /Christoph Frei ;
Robert Nef (ed.). - Bern ; Berlin ; Frankfurt am Main ; New York ;
Paris ; Wien : Lang, 1994
ISBN 3-906752-69-0
NE: Frei, Christoph [Hrsg.]

© Peter Lang AG, Europäischer Verlag der Wissenschaften, Bern 1994

Alle Rechte vorbehalten.

Das Werk einschließlich aller seiner Teile ist urheberrechtlich geschützt.
Jede Verwertung außerhalb der engen Grenzen des Urheberrechtsgesetzes
ist ohne Zustimmung des Verlages unzulässig und strafbar. Das gilt
insbesondere für Vervielfältigung, Übersetzungen, Mikroverfilmungen und
die Einspeicherung und Verarbeitung in elektronischen Systemen.

Druck: Weihert-Druck GmbH, Darmstadt

Christoph Frei/Robert Nef (eds.)

Contending with Hayek

Peter Lang Peter Lang Peter Lang Peter Lang Peter Lang

On Liberalism,
Spontaneous Order and
the Post-Communist Societies
in Transition

Contending with Hayek

Peter Lang

The essays presented in this volume are the result of a Friedrich A. Hayek Colloquium that was held in Zurich. Under the auspices of the 'Liberales Institut', a small group of experts were invited to contend with Hayek – to re-examine the main tenets of his philosophy, and to discuss the enduring relevance of his ideas and precepts after the revolutions of 1989. Does Hayek's thought contain guidance for coping with the social, political, and economic challenges of the 1990s?

Christoph Frei, born 1960, is a research associate at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. His education entailed the study of International Law, International Economic Relations, and Political Science in Switzerland and the United States.

Robert Nef, born 1944, studied Jurisprudence at the Universities of Zurich and Vienna. He has been head of the 'Liberales Institut' in Zurich since 1979, and editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine 'Schweizer Monatshefte' since 1994.