

Additional Resources

Read

“Free Speech” in *The Ayn Rand Lexicon*

Ayn Rand: Freedom of Speech, published in *The Ayn Rand Column*.

This short article, published in the *Los Angeles Times* when Rand was a regular columnist there, addresses the crucial importance of property rights to freedom of speech.

Ayn Rand: Have Gun, Will Nudge, published in *The Objectivist Newsletter*.

Ayn Rand argued throughout her career that intellectual freedom requires both political *and* economic freedom. She eloquently illustrates that principle in this essay, which focuses on the FCC’s efforts in the early 1960s to pressure broadcasters to “improve” the quality of their programming.

Ayn Rand: The Establishing of an Establishment, published in *Philosophy: Who Needs It*.

The threat to free speech from censorship is clear, but what happens when government *encourages* certain ideas? Rand’s answer is that it produces the same result as censorship. “[A]ny intrusion into the field of ideas, for or against anyone,” she writes in this timely essay, “withers intellectual freedom and creates an official orthodoxy, a privileged elite.” Today we can see an example of that “privileged elite” among scientists and foundations who scramble to produce “scholarship” that confirms the orthodox position on climate change. And we can see the ominous consequences in the calls to investigate and prosecute dissenters.

Ayn Rand: Fairness Doctrine for Education, published in *Philosophy: Who Needs It*.

“The most ominously crucial question now hanging over this country’s future,” Rand writes in this essay, is “what will our universities teach at our expense and without our consent? What ideas will be propagated or excluded?” We are seeing the answer today, and government involvement in education—which, Rand argues, can only produce intellectual staleness and conformity, is a crucial cause. This essay is an important

companion piece to her essay “The Establishing of an Establishment.”

Ayn Rand: To Dream the Noncommercial Dream, published in *The Voice of Reason*.

Another powerful essay on what happens when government finances intellectual pursuits, this piece focuses on government funding of the arts. Rand illustrates that artists who wish to “free” themselves from the “shackles” of the free market and the need to earn their own living only end up binding the arts with the real shackles that only government can impose.

Ayn Rand: “Political” Crimes, published in *Return of the Primitive*.

In the 1970s, many argued that protesters who resorted to violence should be treated as “political dissenters” rather than the criminals they were. In this essay, Ayn Rand explains that the logical result of this idea will be to enshrine the notion of “political crimes” into law—for, if one can be excused of a crime because of the allegedly political nature of his act, one can be prosecuted on the same grounds. This essay is especially timely in light of the IRS investigations of Tea Party groups, constant calls for increased regulations of political speech, and criminal investigations of oil companies for challenging climate change orthodoxy.

Ayn Rand: The Cashing-In: The Student “Rebellion,” published in *Return of the Primitive*.

The “free speech movement” which started at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, is widely hailed today as a seminal and positive event in the history of free speech. Ayn Rand saw it as a grave *threat* to freedom. In this essay, she analyses the movement and its philosophical causes. Required reading for anyone who wants to understand what is happening on America’s campuses today.

Ayn Rand: The Left: Old and New, published in *The Objectivist*.

In this essay, Rand points out that no matter what policies the American left has claimed to support through the 20th century—whether political equality, free speech, or a healthy environment—its dominant philosophy of mysticism, altruism, and collectivism will achieve the opposite. As proof, she traces the various incarnations of the left to show that it has steadily rejected all the ideals it claimed to support. At a time in which the left is rejecting free speech, this essay is particularly trenchant.

Ayn Rand: Racism, published in *The Objectivist Newsletter*.

Racism, according to Ayn Rand, is “the lowest, most crudely primitive form of collectivism.” Holding that an individual’s identity and character is defined by his genetic code or his skin color, racism, in her memorable words, “is a doctrine of, by, and for brutes.” Yet the way to combat this vicious idea is not to practice a version of the same thing in reverse—by granting special privileges to certain groups based on race. It is to recognize the supreme importance of the individual. Affirmative action laws, Rand predicted in this 1963 essay, will inevitably lead to quotas and a race consciousness that can only exacerbate the problem. The hyper-race consciousness that surrounds us today confirms that Rand was right.

Ayn Rand: The Comprachicos, published in *Return of the Primitive*.

Why do today’s college students seek safety from controversial ideas, demand trigger warnings and rage against Western ideals? Rand points to the dominant trend in education, which is not to teach young people how to think, but to disable their minds, leaving them unable to understand or face the challenges life holds. This tour de force critique of progressive education is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand young people today.

Watch

Unveiling the Danish Cartoons: A Discussion of Free Speech and World Reaction

The Danish cartoons depicting Muhammad sparked a worldwide controversy, the reaction to which raises urgent questions about free speech whose significance goes far beyond a set of drawings. This panel discussion featured Daniel Pipes of the Middle East Forum and Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute. Recorded on April 11, 2006, at the University of Southern California.

Freedom of Speech or Tyranny of Silence?

Following the attack on *Charlie Hebdo*, the intimidation of Sony Pictures over *The Interview*, and a growing climate of self-censorship, these panel discussions explore the future free speech.

The first, held in Boston on January 21, 2015, features Flemming Rose, foreign editor of the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* and author of *The Tyranny of Silence: How One Cartoon Ignited a Global Debate on the Future of Free Speech*; Onkar Ghate, senior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute; Harvey Silverglate, co-founder and chairman of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education; and *Boston Globe* syndicated columnist Jeff Jacoby. The moderator is Gregory Salmieri, a philosophy fellow at the Anthem Foundation for Objectivist Scholarship who teaches at Rutgers University.

The second, held the next day at Rutgers University and also moderated by Salmieri, features Flemming Rose, Onkar Ghate, and Robert Shibley, executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. ([Audio only](#))

Free Speech and the Battle for Western Culture

After the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in Paris, many Western intellectuals questioned whether we are abusing our right to free speech. In this talk, Yaron Brook explains why it is imperative to defend this precious freedom. Recorded on January 21, 2015, in Irvine, California.

Free Speech Under Siege

After the attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, many began questioning whether the right to free speech includes the right to offend. In this talk, Steve Simpson, director of Legal Studies at ARI, explains

why our “culture of sensitivity” reveals a troubling ignorance about the nature and value of free speech. Recorded on March 25, 2015, at Clemson University.

Charlie Hebdo, the West and the Need to Ridicule Religion

In this talk, Onkar Ghate argues that the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks revealed the price of the West’s ongoing appeasement of religion. He urges Americans to criticize and even ridicule religion and offers advice on how to do that. Recorded on July 4, 2015, at Objectivist Summer Conference 2015 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Attacks on Free Speech

In this talk for the Harvard Federalist Society, Steve Simpson discusses the link between the appeasing attitude toward Islamists among many Western intellectual and the culture of political correctness on campuses today. Recorded on September 30, 2015, at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Morality of Freedom

This lecture by Onkar Ghate surveys the philosophical foundations of freedom as a moral and political ideal and analyzes the rise and decline of liberty in the West.

Listen

[The Yaron Brook Show: What Happened to Free Speech?](#)

In this episode, originally aired shortly after the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks, Yaron discusses the philosophical cause of the attacks and what they mean for the future of free speech in the West.

[Freedom of Speech, “Islamophobia,” and the Cartoons Crisis](#)

ARI Fellow Elan Journo interviews Flemming Rose, the journalist at the center of the Danish cartoons crisis, about his book *The Tyranny of Silence: How One Cartoon Ignited a Global Debate on the Future of Free Speech*.

[The Yaron Brook Show: Freedom of Speech and the Muhammad Cartoons](#)

In this special episode, guest host Onkar Ghate analyzes the appeasing, victim-blaming attitude among many intellectuals toward the Islamist attack on a cartoon contest in Garland, Texas.

[The Yaron Brook Show: The Climate Change Inquisition](#)

In this episode, guest host Steve Simpson discusses the investigations by state attorneys general of Exxon Mobil and the Competitive Enterprise Institute for allegedly committing fraud in connection with their opposition to climate change orthodoxy. Guests include Sam Kazman, general counsel of CEI, Alex Epstein, author of *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels*, and Walter Olson, senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

[Ayn Rand: Censorship: Local and Express](#)

In this 1973 talk, Rand analyzes the ideas that led to the Supreme Court’s decisions in five “obscenity” cases and warns that those decisions “establish[ed] the legal and intellectual base of censorship” in America.

[Ayn Rand: The Student “Rebellion” at Columbia University](#)

In this radio program, Rand examines the 1968 student “rebellion” at Columbia University and the courageous opposition to it by a student group called the “Committee for Defense of Property Rights.”

[Ayn Rand: The Press in a Free Society](#)

This recording combines two radio interviews in which Ayn Rand responds to questions from students about the role of the press in a free society.

Ayn Rand: Faith and Force: The Destroyers of the Modern World

So long as men accept faith over reason, Rand argues in this talk, they will eventually embrace force as the means of achieving their goals. This talk (and the essay from which it was derived) is crucial for understanding both the religious and secular mystics who oppose free speech today.

Ayn Rand: Issues in Education

In this 1964 radio program, Rand addresses the state of education in America, why students are fleeing from reason, and how to educate them properly.