



ATTACK ON  
AMERICAN  
FREE-MARKET  
SYSTEM

Defeat the forces threatening our republic.

Brandon Henry



BRANDON HENRY

MEMO: ATTACK ON AMERICAN  
FREE MARKET SYSTEM

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Every American Patriot

**DATE:** March 12, 2025

This memorandum is written at no request but as a basis for the discussion to save the American free-market system. The purpose is to identify the problem, and suggest possible avenues of action for further consideration by *the American consumer*.

## Dimensions of the Attack

No thoughtful person can question that the American economic system is under broad attack.\* This varies in scope, intensity, in the techniques employed, and in the level of visibility.

There always have been some who opposed the American system, and preferred fascism or some form of state-ism (communism or plutocracy). Also, there always have been critics of the system, whose criticism has been wholesome and constructive so long as the objective was to improve rather than to subvert or destroy.

But what now concerns us is quite new in the history of America. We are not dealing with episodic or isolated attacks from a relatively few extremists or even from the minority socialist cadre. Rather, the assault on the free-market system is broadly based and consistently pursued. It is gaining momentum and converts.

**\*Variously called:** the “free market system”, “capitalism”, and the “profit system”. The American political system of



democracy under the rule of law (constitution) is also under attack, often by the same individuals and organizations who seek to undermine the enterprise system.

## Sources of the Attack

*The sources are varied and widespread.*

They include, not unexpectedly, the Communists, Far Rightists, and other revolutionaries who would destroy the entire system, both political and economic. However, one might find it unsurprising to discover similar sources from the Far Left and Liberal Parties. These extremists are far more numerous, better financed, and increasingly welcomed and encouraged by other elements of society than ever before in our history. They no longer make up a small minority — which should cause increased concern.

The most disquieting voices joining the chorus of criticism come from perfectly respectable elements of society: from the board meetings, the congressional departments, the pulpit, the media, the intellectual and literary journals, the arts and sciences, and from politicians.

In most of these groups, the movement against the system involves just a small percentage that some refer to as — the

oligarchy. Yet these critics are often the most articulate, vocal, and prolific in their writing and speaking.

Moreover, much of the media—for varying motives and in varying degrees—either voluntarily provide unique publicity to these “attackers” or at least allows them to exploit the media for their purposes. This is especially true of social media, which now plays such a central role in shaping the thinking, attitudes, and emotions of our people.

One of the bewildering paradoxes of our time is the extent to which the enterprise system tolerates, if not participates in, its own destruction.

The American consumer from which much of the criticism radiates are supported by (1) tax funds generated largely from American consumers and (2) contributions from capital funds controlled or generated by American investors.

The Boards of Trustees of our universities overwhelmingly comprise men and women who are leaders in the system. Most of the media — including the national TV systems — are owned and theoretically controlled by corporations. Such corporations depend upon profits driven by the consumer and the free enterprise system to survive.

## Tone of the Attack

This memorandum will not detail the exact tone, character, or intensity of the attack. The following quotations and events provide a general idea for your interpretation and expansion.

During President Trump's first term from 2016 to 2020 — bold initiatives such as the sweeping Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and an aggressive rollback of federal regulations were hailed by many as a new golden age of the American enterprise.

Yet these very measures became lightning rods for a malicious counteroffensive. Critics in academic forums, mainstream media outlets, and on social platforms declared these policies “a reckless experiment in corporate favoritism” and “an assault on the working man's future.”

In heated televised debates and aggressive op-eds, commentators warned that the deregulation and economic nationalism of the “America First” era were sowing the seeds of a **plutocratic** system\*, despite the record of growth and job creation that

followed.

Fast forward to 2025—the ideological assault has evolved but its intent remains unchanged. A new cadre of pundits and intellectuals, mimicking the strongman rhetoric of Trump-era detractors, now speak out about the lingering effects of those transformative policies.

In boardrooms and college lecture halls alike, pundits warn that the deregulation measures and tax reforms once enacted with patriotic optimism have been distorted into symbols of unchecked corporate power. A prominent analyst, speaking at a major economic symposium in early 2025, declared:

“What was once a revival of American ingenuity has been hijacked by forces intent on eroding the very freedoms that built our economy.”

A striking illustration of this ideological siege was seen on March 8, 2025, when federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stormed a university-owned apartment to arrest *Mahmoud Khalil*—a green card holder and prominent pro-Palestinian activist known for his role in campus protests.

Despite his legal status, Khalil was detained under claims that his residency was being revoked, an act that many critics decry as a blatant abuse of executive power.

The nature of the attack is sophisticated, incendiary, and sometimes — physical. Social media channels have transformed into modern public squares where fiery slogans and oversimplified

catchphrases abound—accusing the pro-market movement of enabling inequality and endorsing a new form of economic authoritarianism. Today’s critics leverage every misstep and every nuanced policy shift as evidence that the enterprise system is on life support.

This constant verbal attack, echoing the familiar chants of the past, is not merely a series of isolated grievances but a coordinated, broad-based ideological warfare. Just as the “America First” policies faced unified, sometimes inflammatory, opposition that exploited every headline and soundbite, the current attack relentlessly targets the pillars of our free market system.

It is a campaign that, under the guise of conservative reform, seeks to redefine our economic liberties and erode the very foundations of American prosperity. The tone is unmistakable: what began as a partisan dispute in the Reagan era has now matured into an all-out ideological siege.

The rhetoric—once dismissed as partisan hyperbole—is now bolstered by new evidence and amplified by modern enforcement and communication channels, leaving no doubt that the battle for the soul of American values is getting dire.

\*A **plutocratic** system or society is one in which the wealthy have significant control or influence over political decisions and power. It is derived from the word “plutocracy,” which describes a government or society dominated by a small, rich elite. A plutocratic system often leads to inequality, where the

interests of the wealthy are prioritized over those of the general population.

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# The Government

The assault on the enterprise system by the government was not launched overnight. Over the past five decades— particularly benefiting from significant successes in the last two decades — a slow and deliberate campaign took hold within the halls of power. This gradual, almost invisible shift in policy and ideology, dressed in calls for reform and accountability, has steadily eroded the core principles of free-market enterprise.

Within the governmental apparatus, the origins and evolution of this attack are complex and intertwined with broader political currents. Numerous influential figures—ranging from high-ranking regulatory administrators to ideological operatives embedded in key policy-making bodies—have promoted measures that tilt economic governance toward increased state intervention.

Whether driven by a conviction in conservative reform or a more radical rethinking of traditional capitalism, these officials have shifted the balance away from the neutral, market-driven



policies that once defined American governance.

Government agencies traditionally charged with upholding fair competition and safeguarding consumer interests now serve as battlegrounds for ideological conflict.

Departments responsible for commerce, labor, and environmental oversight have, over time, adopted an interventionist stance that echoes the ideological leanings of their leadership. This trend, which began to take root during the Trump era and blossomed during the Biden era, has resulted in a systematic bias that undermines the very freedoms that fuel entrepreneurial innovation.

The consequences of this governmental transformation are profound. As young policymakers and career bureaucrats—often nurtured in environments steeped in extremist thought (*social media*)—ascend to positions of power, they bring with them a doctrinaire approach that is opposed to the free enterprise system. Their collective influence has reshaped regulatory policies in ways that demote market freedoms, prioritizing state control over the shifting entrepreneurial dynamics that once propelled American prosperity.

In light of this reality, it is imperative for the American consumer—local leaders, entrepreneurs, and organizations, to confront this governmental origin of hostility head-on. Restoring balance within government is essential for safeguarding the principles of **openness**, **fairness**, and **objectivity**.

By advocating for reforms that reassert these values, the free en-

terprise system can be defended— and ultimately, the promise of American prosperity can be preserved for future generations.

## The Neglected Political Arena

In the final analysis, the ultimate payoff of a free society is enacted through government—its policies, its actions, and its laws. Yet the average American consumer, despite being the engine of the American economy, has long been treated as the perennial scapegoat in the political arena.

Today, in 2025, we see that anti-constitutional sentiment is not confined to abstract theory but is voiced by a growing number of political leaders and candidates, who champion policies that marginalize enterprise and favor short-term populist fixes over long-term prosperity.

## Disconnect Between American Consumers and Political Power

A common refrain in ideological discourse is the Extremist claim that “capitalist” societies are ruled by elites, yet the truth is more nuanced. The American consumer—comprising small business owners, local leaders, government employees, white-collar workers, blue-collar workers and independent entrepreneurs—forms the backbone of our economy. Despite their vital contributions, these everyday Americans remain largely disconnected from the corridors of political power.

In legislative halls from federal committees to local councils, the voices of lower and middle-class citizens are conspicuously absent. Their insights and experiences, forged through years of hard work and innovation, are seldom reflected in policy debates. Instead, political decisions often favor populist sentiments and special interests, leaving the practical wisdom of the American consumer unheard.

This disconnect has tangible consequences. Policies affecting

healthcare, retirement, environmental regulation, and inflation (hidden taxation\*) are frequently developed with little input from those who understand market dynamics from living through them. As a result, legislation is sometimes enacted that inadvertently places undue burdens on free enterprise—the very system that has long lifted millions into prosperity.

The problem does not lie with capitalism itself; it lies in the failure of our political institutions to channel the perspective of the lower and middle-class. If these citizens could be more effectively organized and mobilized, their common-sense, experience-driven insights would lead to policies that genuinely promote opportunity and growth.

Reconnecting the middle class with political power is essential to ensuring that our government serves the interests of the very people who drive our economy every day.

**\*Hidden taxation:** Inflation is often described as a “hidden tax” because it erodes the purchasing power of your money over time. When prices rise (inflation is high), the same amount of money buys less than before, effectively reducing the real value of your earnings and savings without an explicit tax rate being applied. This indirect reduction in wealth functions much like a tax—diminishing your disposable income and savings—yet it occurs through monetary policy and market forces rather than a government-imposed levy.

## Need for Direct Political Engagement

While educational programs and public debates are essential in the long run, the immediate remedy lies in more assertive political action. The American consumer must learn—if it has not already—that political power is not an accidental byproduct of market success; it is a critical, actively cultivated tool.

Historically, self-interest groups like labor have long recognized that their influence is sustained through vigorous political organization and advocacy. Today, the average American consumer community must embrace the same lesson with urgency.

### **Create a Dedicated Political Force**

Local leaders must develop a dedicated political wing, one that works as aggressively as any interest group. This could involve forming a town caucus that collaborates with sympathetic lawmakers to draft policies that protect and promote free enterprise values. Think of it as a modern countermeasure to

current lobbying efforts—but more dynamic, more digitally savvy, and less reactive.

### **Invest in Political Outreach and Coordination**

Direct investment in coordination and political campaign support is essential. If the American consumer interests allocated even a modest portion of their time, income, or investment budgets to political advocacy, the resulting influence could reshape legislative agendas. Our goal is simple: ensure that policies are rooted in an accurate understanding of economic principles rather than populist rhetoric. This can be achieved by focusing on direct communication with lawmakers, providing research and data, organizing grassroots campaigns, and leveraging media to shape public opinion.

### **Leverage Digital Platforms for Grassroots Mobilization**

The political arena has expanded well beyond the traditional corridors of power. Digital platforms offer unprecedented opportunities to mobilize supporters and articulate a clear, consistent narrative about the benefits of free markets. From targeted social media campaigns to interactive webinars and online town halls, business advocates should harness the power of the internet to engage with voters, educate them on the merits of free enterprise, and counter anti-capitalist narratives in real-time.

### **Build Alliances with Like-Minded Organizations**

The lower, middle, and upper-class community should form

alliances with organizations that share the commitment to economic freedom—ranging from industry groups to civic organizations. A united front that speaks with one coherent voice will be far more effective in political coordination than isolated efforts. Regular conferences, joint policy briefings, and coordinated media appearances can amplify the message that free-market principles are essential for national prosperity. There are many Americans already fighting for the same values needed to protect free enterprise.

### **Encourage Political Participation Among Local Leaders**

Beyond investing in coordination, local leaders and small business executives must be willing to enter the political fray themselves—whether by serving in advisory capacities, running for public office, or actively supporting candidates who advocate for free enterprise. Political participation should be seen as a duty, not a detraction from the core consumer mission. When consumer voices are present in decision-making forums, they can help steer policy away from reactionary measures and toward long-term strategies that bolster innovation, job creation, and overall economic well-being.



## A Call to Action

The current state of the political arena is a clarion call: the free enterprise system is too important to be left at the mercy of shifting public opinion and transient political winds.

While ideological battles on campuses and in the media are critical, they must be complemented by a robust, well-organized political response. The American consumer must abandon the long-held practice of remaining a silent bystander in legislative debates and step into the arena with confidence and determination.

The time has come for lower and middle-class leaders to reclaim their rightful place in the political discourse. This is not an invitation to adopt partisan tactics, but a call to ensure that policies affecting the nation's economic future are informed by the wisdom of those who have built and sustained the very system under attack.

As we move further into 2025 and beyond, let it be remembered

that protecting the free market is not just a matter of economic interest—it is a matter of national survival and the enduring promise of opportunity for all.

By taking decisive, coordinated political action, the American consumer community can transform itself from the perennial “whipping boy” of political rhetoric into a formidable force for constructive change. In doing so, it will not only safeguard the system that provides goods, services, and jobs to millions but also ensure that the principles of freedom and enterprise continue to light the path to a prosperous future.

*Now is the moment for the American consumer to assert its influence, harness its collective power, and boldly shape the policies that will determine the future of our nation. The neglected political arena awaits a new champion—one who stands for free markets, opportunity, and the promise of progress for every American.*

## Neglected Opportunity in the Courts

American consumers and the enterprise system have long been the engines of innovation, job creation, and prosperity. Yet while our courts have shaped society in profound ways, they have too often been leveraged by groups that champion expansive government power at the expense of individual liberty and free enterprise. In a system built on the protection of private property and voluntary exchange, the judiciary stands as one of the most potent instruments for preserving our free-market values—and it is time for the American consumer to reclaim that opportunity.

## A Judicial Battlefield Favoring Free Enterprise

In today's legal arena, conservative organizations have long exploited judicial activism to push narratives that undermine the very foundations of free enterprise. Groups ranging from global lobbyist to nationalist and corporate law firms have successfully used the courts to champion policies that restrict the liberty of consumers and impede economic growth. These actions, often celebrated in right-leaning circles, sideline the core belief that individual initiative and private property are the bedrock of a thriving society.

Yet, the truth remains that the American consumer—and the millions of workers and entrepreneurs who drive our economy—have little direct influence in shaping judicial outcomes. Far too often, legal decisions are swayed by arguments that favor regulation and state intervention over the simple, time-tested principles of voluntary exchange and innovation. This judicial bias not only stifles the creativity of free markets but also threatens to destroy the very legal protections that have enabled

capitalism to lift millions out of poverty.

## Seizing the Free-Market Advantage in the Courts

For champions of free enterprise, the judicial arena is not merely a battleground for abstract legal principles—it is a direct opportunity to defend and promote the values that have made America prosperous. To harness this potential, local leaders must become active, vocal participants in the legal process. Here are several strategic actions that can help ensure that our courts reflect the true spirit of free-market ideals:

### **Build a Dedicated Legal Task Force**

Establish a specialized team of top-tier lawyers dedicated to promoting free-market principles in the courts. This task force should monitor key cases, prepare persuasive amicus curiae briefs, and, when necessary, initiate litigation to defend property rights and economic freedom. By pooling legal expertise and resources, this team can present a unified and powerful counter-narrative to those who seek to impose undue regulatory burdens on the American consumer.

### **Select Cases That Set the Standard**

Not every legal battle will move the needle in favor of free enterprise. Focus on cases with the potential to set lasting precedents—cases that clarify and reinforce the sanctity of private property, uphold contractual freedom, and limit government overreach. By carefully choosing which battles to fight, the people can ensure that each victory fortifies the legal framework that underpins our economic system.

### **Partner with Independent Legal Scholars**

Collaboration with respected legal academics and independent scholars who share a commitment to free-market values will lend additional weight to your legal arguments. Their rigorous research and thoughtful analysis can help construct compelling briefs and public arguments that resonate with both the judiciary and the broader public. Such partnerships underscore the intellectual foundation of free enterprise, making it clear that this is not a narrow, self-serving crusade but a principled defense of liberty.

### **Amplify Legal Victories with Public Outreach**

A win in the courtroom is not complete unless it reaches the public consciousness. Pair judicial successes with robust public relations campaigns that explain, in clear and relatable terms, how these decisions protect individual freedoms and fuel economic progress. Use multimedia storytelling—videos, infographics, op-eds, and social media—to translate legal jargon into everyday language. Emphasize the tangible benefits:

progressive wage growth, more job opportunities, and a dynamic market that actually rewards hard work and innovation.

### **Invest Strategically in Legal Advocacy**

Adequate funding is essential. Lower, middle, and upper-class leaders must recognize that investing in legal advocacy is an investment in the future of our economic system. By allocating a portion of their resources to support strategic litigation, free-market advocates can ensure that every dollar spent strengthens the legal shield protecting free enterprise and prosperity. This is not about partisan politics—it is about safeguarding a system that has made America the most productive society in the world.

The courts represent a vast, neglected opportunity for those who believe in the power of free markets. When the judiciary champions individual liberty and protects private property, it creates a foundation upon which innovation and prosperity flourish. Conversely, when it leans toward executive defense, excessive regulation, and state control, it undermines the very engine of our economic success.

It is time for the consumer to step out of the shadows and assert its rightful place in the judicial arena. By building dedicated legal teams, choosing battles wisely, collaborating with like-minded scholars, and pairing legal victories with effective public outreach, the proponents of free enterprise can reshape the judicial landscape in favor of liberty and innovation.



In doing so, they not only defend the legal rights of American individuals but also ensure that our courts remain true to the spirit of a free society—one where opportunity, creativity, and hard work are the keys to progress.

This is the moment to transform the courts from a battleground dominated by regulatory zeal into a fortress for free-market ideals. Let us seize this opportunity to ensure that the legal system upholds the principles that have driven American success for generations and that will continue to secure a prosperous future for all.

## Neglected Stockholder Power

American business is too often characterized as a monolithic entity—a faceless machine controlled by a handful of overpaid executives and the ultra-wealthy. In reality, the true power of free enterprise lies with its most widespread participants: the consumer.

These roughly 100 million Americans—many of modest means—are the real owners of our economic engine, the genuine capitalists who provide the capital that fuels innovation and prosperity. Despite this, the American consumer has been largely overlooked in discourse on political influence and public education about free markets.

## The Misunderstanding of Consumer Ownership

The prevailing narrative paints business as distant and impersonal, a domain reserved for corporate elites. This misconception not only alienates ordinary citizens from understanding their own economic interests but also undermines the vibrant democratic potential inherent in stock ownership.

In truth, when you look closely, business touches nearly every American life. Millions depend on it for jobs, and countless others have a personal stake as shareholders. These individuals are not passive observers; they are the real entrepreneurs and capitalists who drive our economy forward.

Yet, while business executives often make headlines for their decisions, the collective power of the capitalists driving the engine remains a largely untapped resource in advocating for free-market principles. Their potential to shape public opinion and influence policy is immense—if only their voices were mobilized and their true role understood.

## Mobilizing Stockholder Power Through Education

One of the most promising avenues for leveraging consumer influence is through education. Every year, individual consumers passionately create detailed reports to their supporters, and many publish glossy, well-produced videos and blogs aimed at Americans in all walks of life.

These channels are underutilized assets for disseminating clear, compelling messages about the benefits of free enterprise. By transforming these routine communications into platforms for free-market education, consumers can enlighten their fellow Americans about the pivotal role they play in sustaining economic liberty.

Imagine emails and ad segments that not only promote local business but also explain in plain language how free-market policies guarantee economic success. Bringing awareness to local events and movements will add up overtime.

By making these materials more engaging and informative, local leaders can help workers see themselves not merely as investors, but as active participants in a system that rewards initiative and fosters opportunity.

## A Blueprint for Political Action

But education alone is not enough. To harness the full potential of stockholder power, there must also be a concerted political action program. With millions of voters embedded within the consumer base, this is an enormous, untapped constituency that can influence policy when organized effectively. The challenge is to transform this dispersed group into a cohesive force that supports policies upholding the free-market system.

### **Develop a National Consumer Alliance**

Establish an organization—possibly as an affiliate of existing free-market advocacy groups—that unites American consumers under a common banner. This alliance would serve as a platform for political mobilization, providing a forum for discussion, education, and coordinated action. By giving consumers a dedicated voice, the alliance can work to counteract the narrative that business is solely the domain of corporate insiders.

## **Integrate Political Education into Consumer Communications**

Encourage consumers to incorporate discussions of economic freedom and the benefits of free markets into their daily banter and investor communications. This can be achieved through dedicated involvement in political avenues that explain how free-market policies translate into improved business performance, job creation, and personal prosperity. Such initiatives can help demystify the political process and empower consumers to advocate for policies that protect their interests.

## **Foster Grassroots Political Participation**

Organize regular webinars, town hall meetings, and online forums that bring together consumers to discuss current policy issues. These events can be spearheaded by respected figures in the free-market movement—scholars, business leaders, and experienced political activists—who can provide guidance on how consumers can influence legislative and regulatory decisions. The goal is to build a network of informed, engaged citizens who understand that their votes and voices matter.

## **Leverage Digital Tools for Mobilization**

Utilize modern digital platforms to create a robust online community of consumers. Social media groups, dedicated websites, and email newsletters can disseminate timely information about policy debates, legislative developments, and opportunities for action. By harnessing these tools, consumers can be mobilized quickly to support or oppose policy initiatives that affect the free enterprise system. This digital mobilization should be

paired with traditional grassroots outreach to ensure a broad and inclusive reach.

### **Advocate for Pro-Free-Market Legislation:**

With a strong, unified consumer base, direct efforts toward lobbying for policies that protect and expand free-market freedoms. This might include tax policies that reward wage growth, deregulation initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, or reforms that enhance consumer rights. A concerted political action program, driven by an organized group of consumers, can serve as a formidable counterweight to the influence of interest groups that advocate for greater corporate and state intervention.

The power of the consumer remains a neglected asset in our collective defense of free enterprise. These millions of Americans, who are the true owners of our economic system, hold the key to transforming the lower, middle, and upper-class into a vibrant, politically influential force. By reorienting consumer communications to educate and empower the middle class and by mobilizing this vast constituency for political action, we can reshape public discourse around consumer and economic freedom.

Embracing the neglected power of consumers is not merely a strategic imperative—it is a fundamental expression of the free-market belief that economic success and individual liberty go hand in hand. It is time for consumers to step forward as the true entrepreneurs of our political system, mobilizing to secure



a future where free enterprise thrives and every American has a stake in the prosperity of our nation.

## The Cost

A program that integrates comprehensive educational outreach with robust political action demands a level of investment that far exceeds traditional funding. To successfully champion free-market principles in today's complex landscape, American consumers must be prepared to commit resources on an unprecedented scale.

This initiative calls for deep, long-term financial support from the lower and middle-class —a commitment that will likely surpass the contributions historically funneled to the political parties. It requires active participation from management across industries, not merely as donors but as strategic partners fully engaged in advancing the free-enterprise cause.

To achieve its goals, the program must recruit and maintain a top-tier staff. The caliber of professionals—ranging from seasoned advertisers and media experts to accomplished speakers, lawyers, and policy specialists—must be on par with the best in corporate and academic circles.

Compensation packages should reflect the critical nature of their work, ensuring that only the most qualified individuals are attracted and retained. Moreover, to maximize effectiveness and ensure continuity, a structural evolution within the organization may be necessary. Drawing inspiration from successful union models, the role of leadership should become a full-time career position.

The chief executive officer must be a stable, long-term presence—free from the disruptions of annual changes—while a separately elected Chairman of the Board can assume the ceremonial and policy oversight functions. This arrangement not only aligns with modern corporate governance standards but also ensures that the organization's strategic vision remains consistent and powerful.

In essence, the cost of defending and advancing free-market principles is not a burden but an essential investment—a commitment that pays dividends by safeguarding the economic freedoms that have generated the highest standard of living in history. It is an investment in the very foundation of American prosperity, one that demands both financial generosity and unwavering dedication from the lower and middle-class community.

## Quality Control is Essential

Quality control and responsibility are essential ingredients of this entire program. All elements—publications, articles, speeches, media programs, advertising, court briefs, and legislative committee appearances—must meet the most exacting standards of accuracy and professional excellence.

They must command respect for their level of public responsibility and scholarship, regardless of one's agreement with the viewpoints expressed.

## Relationship to Freedom

The threat to the free-market system is not merely a matter of economics—it is also a threat to individual freedom. This great truth, now obscured by the rhetoric of the New Right and many conservatives, must be reaffirmed if this program is to be meaningful.

There seems to be little awareness that the only alternatives to free enterprise are varying degrees of bureaucratic regulation of individual freedom—ranging from moderate fascism to the iron heel of communist or rightist dictatorship.

We in America have already moved far toward some aspects of state socialism, as the needs and complexities of a vast urban society require types of regulation and control that were unnecessary in earlier times. In some areas, such regulation and control have greatly improved the freedom of consumers, labor, and the public generally.

Yet most essential freedoms remain out of reach: genuine market choice, data privacy, transparent pricing, fair competition, freedom from digital surveillance, and a healthy market economy.

In addition to the ideological attack on the system itself (discussed in this memorandum), its essentials are also threatened by inequitable taxation and, more recently, by seemingly uncontrollable inflation. But whatever the causes of diminishing economic freedom may be, the truth is that freedom as a concept is indivisible.

As the experience of fascism and authoritarian states demonstrates, the contraction and denial of economic freedom is inevitably followed by governmental restrictions on other cherished rights. It is this message, above all others, that must be carried home to the American people.

## Conclusion

The views expressed in this book are tentative and suggestive. The first step should be a thorough study. However, such a study would be futile unless the lower, middle, and upper-class American accepts this movement's fundamental premise: consumers and the free-market system are in deep trouble, and time is running out.

