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FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Demonstrators in the streets of Peru. Photo by Wilson Montoya/Unsplash

January 2021

The New Competitive Authoritarianism

On Thursday, January 21, the Free Enterprise & Democracy Network organized a roundtable with Professor Lucan Way, co-author of two influential *Journal of Democracy* articles on competitive authoritarianism.

[The New Competitive Authoritarianism \(2020\)](#)

[Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism \(2002\)](#)

During the roundtable, participants heard about recent trends that are shaping the competitive landscape and explored what practitioners can do to resist illiberalism, encourage pluralistic competition, and shore up democratic institutions. **Click below to read the event summary.**



FEDN Member News

Jaroslav Romanchuk contributed to an [article](#) discussing the political situation in Belarus. Jaroslav noted that a new wave of protests in early 2021 could play a role in Belarus's deteriorating political and business climate.

Laith Al Qasem, CEO of Innovative Startups & SMEs Fund (ISSF) [announced](#) that ISSF would be investing in Abjjad, a Jordan-based e-book subscription service. For a monthly fee of \$5.99, the Abjjad service offers users unlimited access to some 6,000 Arabic e-books and novels. The investment demonstrates the increasing importance of e-marketplaces in the post-COVID economy.

Kwame Owino contributed to an [article](#) tying Kenya's potential economic rebound to COVID-19 vaccine access and successful distribution. Kwame noted that the ability

for public infrastructure to distribute the vaccine effectively would play an important role in strengthening the economy.

Cynthia Gabriel highlighted Malaysian's lack of trust in political institutions in a recent [article](#) about the Malaysian economy. Cynthia noted that there was a lack of leadership, leading to a failure to guide the country through the COVID-19 pandemic and to get the country out of an “economic crunch.”

CIPE News

- CIPE's Kim Bettcher published a recent blog, [*Reflecting on Public-Private Dialogue: During a Pandemic and Beyond*](#) to explore the renewed importance of public-private dialogue (PPD). The blog highlights examples of PPD, including initiatives from CIPE and its private sector partners.
- CIPE's Jennifer Assily published a new blog for CIPE, titled [*CIPE Launches Civic Engagement Hub Website in Ethiopia*](#), highlighting the CIPE Civic Engagement Hub. The hub is an “incubator, co-working space, resource center, and community for civil society groups, associations, and social entrepreneurs working on new approaches to civic participation and advocacy in Ethiopia.”



[*CIPE Civic Engagement Hub in Ethiopia*](#)

Announcements

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network

Bringing private sector voices into global discourse on democracy.



Latest Features

Stay up to date on the latest news, insights, and resources from our experts.

The FEDN Secretariat at CIPE is launching a website dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of the Free Enterprise & Democracy Network. It highlights expertise within the network, and shares resources that support democratic and market reform. On this new site, you will find the latest news, insights, and accomplishments of members, a membership directory, and a dedicated space for members to provide key updates and suggestions to the Secretariat. Keep a look out for the official launch next month.

Good Reads & Resources



Beijing, China. Photo by Ling Tang/Unsplash

- In [*The Party That Failed, An Insider Breaks with Beijing*](#), Cai Xia describes her disillusionment with the Chinese Communist Party. Xia explains how her

experiences with stagnation, intellectual censorship, corruption, and failure to respond fairly to COVID-19 drove her to leave China for the United States.

- In a brief for the Brookings Institute, Chuyu Liu and Johannes Urpelainen explain [*Why the United States should compete with China on global clean energy finance*](#). The authors explain that the United States could counter Chinese investment in fossil fuels “by leveraging its financial and technological resources” to move global energy finance in a greener direction.
- In [*The Arab Spring Changed Everything – in Europe*](#), Anchal Vohra explains that “a decade after Arabs started a regional revolution” it is Europe that will be permanently changed. The Arab Spring has caused Europe to become more deeply integrated in MENA through huge investments in aid and security infrastructure, this is not likely to change in the future.
- In [*Coronavirus Hasn't Killed Belt and Road*](#), Alice Han and Eyck Freymann argue that despite the Belt and Road initiative’s criticisms and failures recently, Xi and other Chinese officials still champion the initiative. Han and Freymann describe a new formula of vaccine distribution and digitalization will give new life to Chinese investment.

Free Enterprise and Democracy Network news informs network members about events, opportunities, and resources related to free enterprise and democracy. Please send suggestions for the newsletter, announcements, and requests to the secretariat (kbettcher@cipe.org; agoldstein@cipe.org)

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