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FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Protesters during an August 16th demonstration in Minsk, Belarus. Photo credit: [Getty Images](#)

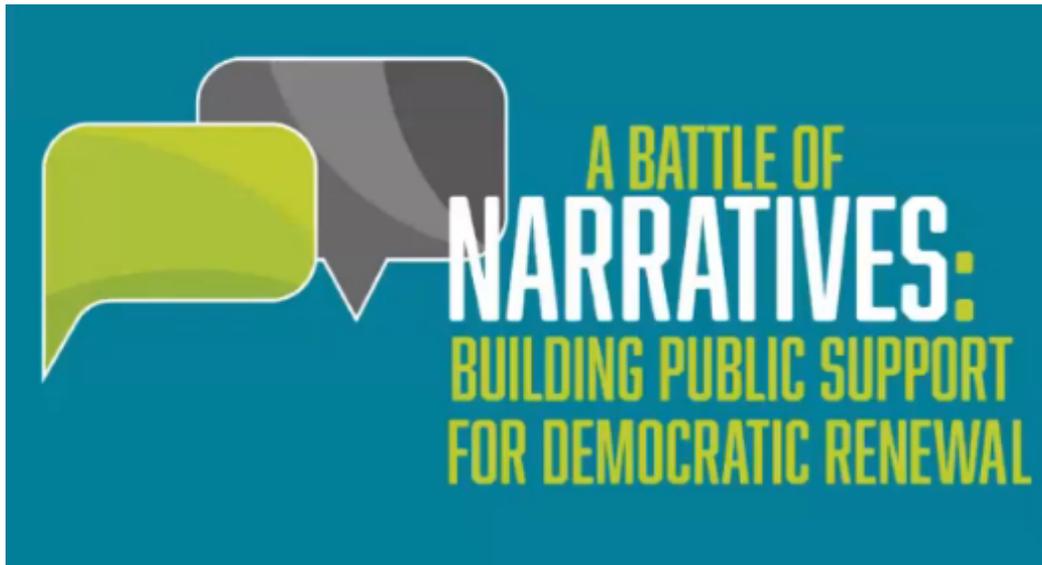
September 2020

International Day of Democracy

On September 15th, Anne Applebaum, Larry Diamond, Garry Kasparov, Bobi Wine, Annouchka Wijeshinghe, Omaid Sharifi, and Cynthia Mbamalu participated in A Battle of Narratives, a global conversation hosted by the [World Movement for Democracy](#) and [International IDEA](#). The event takes place on the International Day of Democracy and will address three questions:

1) How do we understand the appeal of anti-democratic narratives? What are the actors and factors that influence such narratives?

- 2) Instead of playing defense, how can we more effectively make the case for democracy and rebuild the public's confidence in democracy?
- 3) In what way can we leverage expertise and pedagogies of other sectors, such as creative industries, tech companies, and educational institutions?



The conversation adds to the [World Movement for Democracy](#) and [International IDEA's Call to Defend Democracy](#). The COVID crisis has intensified the battle between democracy and authoritarianism. As actors around the world question and undermine democracy, we must do our part to "fight the battle of narratives and to defend democracy."

The event is available to [watch](#) on Facebook.

FEDN Member News

Martin Burt (Paraguay) - has developed a toolkit called [Poverty Stoplight](#), which is a process allowing survey respondents to self-assess their well-being through six dimensions. This type of toolkit is especially helpful during this time because it provides information to policymakers as they formulate continued economic responses to COVID-19. To learn more about Fundacion Paraguay's work, visit their website [here](#).

Guray Karacar (Turkey) - worked on a "Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on Enterprises in Turkey," leading to a comprehensive set of findings including: "Half of enterprises have difficulty in procurement"; a majority of businesses have lost more than half of their business; only 41 percent of enterprises had more than half of their

workforce able to telework; and 68 percent of enterprises believe their sectors are permanently changed due to the pandemic. For the full report, click [here](#).

Jaroslav Romanchuk (Belarus) - recently participated in an interview with Nino Gelashvili of RFE/RL, discussing the threats to liberal democracy in Belarus since the election. Romanchuk also highlights opportunities and positive moments coming out of the popular responses to the election. To view the entire interview, click [here](#).

Toki Mabogunje (Nigeria) contributed to an [interview](#) concerning how Nigeria can unlock \$900 billion in “dead capital” to address the lack of economic stimulus. Mabogunje mentions that the impact of COVID-19 was most harmful to developing economies with weak healthcare systems and fragile economic systems, both of which undermined the national economic response.

Jorge Botti (Venezuela) led the virtual seminar “[Challenges of the business sector as an agent of change in Venezuela.](#)” Botti used his experience as a leader of multiple chambers and industries to discuss business activism and how they may disseminate new ideas about economic freedom.

CIPE News

- On September 8, CIPE hosted a seminar called [Business for Peace](#). Business for Peace features a panel discussion about the evolution of insecurity in the G5 Sahel, the impact on economic development, and opportunities for the private sector to support economic resilience across the region. On September 16, CIPE will host a new event under its COVID-19 and Corruption Series on The Role of Organized Business and CSO in Cleaning-Up Procurement and Monitoring COVID-19 Emergency Spending in Africa’s Hardest Hit Economies.
- CIPE Global and CIPE Africa collaborated to support the COMESA Business Council (CBC) as it hosted an [online training](#) for business member organizations on Anti-Corruption Compliance and launched the Regional Model Code on Anti-Corruption Compliance for Enterprises in the COMESA region. 71 participants attended.
- CIPE partner CARE worked with the Algerian government to integrate its recommendations to its recent [Inter-ministerial Committee Report to Mitigate the](#)

[Coronavirus Pandemic's Impact](#). The report led to a national meeting in mid-August between over 100 representatives from the public sector, private sector, civil society, and labor organizations. CARE is also working on a CIPE project to [push the Algerian government toward saving SMEs](#), which are failing at a high rate. The conference attendees decided to create a new committee to evaluate and potentially implement the report recommendations.

- CIPE and Stanford University's Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) launched the first online-only [Leadership Academy for Development](#) (LAD) in Iraq. LAD works to improve the decision-making, consensus-building, and teamwork skills of participants, mainly comprised of mid-level government officials, private sector leaders, academics, and leaders in civil society.

Announcements

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is accepting applicants to the [Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows](#) program for democracy activists, scholars and journalists. The fellowship offers applicants the opportunity to work for five months in residence at the NED to conduct independent research on democracy in a country or region. This work also provides an opportunity for practitioners to improve strategies and techniques for democracy building and for scholars to conduct independent research for publication. The NED also announced its new Penn Kemble Democracy Forum Fellows for 2020-21, you can view their bios [here](#).



Photo credit: National Endowment for Democracy

- On September 16th 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada), National Democratic Institute (NDI) Chair Madeleine Albright and U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) will lead a discussion on Democracy, Technology and China: U.S. Strategy for

Innovation in the 21st Century. NDI works to “promote openness and accountability in government” through civic participation and free and fair elections. You can register for the Zoom event [here](#).

Good Reads & Resources

- Ivan Krastev of the *New York Times* investigates why authoritarian governments tend to struggle during severe crisis in his opinion piece [“The Pandemic Was Supposed to Be Great for Strongmen. What Happened?”](#)
- The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) analyzes how to prevent [“government corruption in crisis.”](#) In the fifth paper of the IFES [COVID-19 Briefing Series](#), IFES asks how COVID-19 entrenches state and elite capture and threatens democracies. The report concludes with a series of actionable policy recommendations.
- Karen Rollins Jackson published [“Toward a Rural Renaissance in the Post-Pandemic Era”](#) in the *Diplomatic Courier*. The article analyzes how our models of work, education, and living are changing as a result of COVID. As our relationships and needs change, Jackson posits, non-urban areas will experience a new wave of attention and migration.
- A new *Brookings Institution* blog for its Africa in Focus series argues that [“Young Africans need more and better jobs, not more training.”](#) The authors contest that small scale [supply-side](#) interventions: micro-loans; job trainings; or startup incubators, are offering diminishing return—instead, it would be more efficient and tailored to current challenges to encourage [comprehensive policymaking](#).

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
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