



About the Murray Rothbard Institute

In Brief

What does a just society look like? How do we achieve enduring prosperity? These questions have occupied the brightest minds and mass movements alike. The Rothbard Institute contributes to this debate with both accessible and advanced publications and seminars. We approach these questions from the perspective of the Austrian school of economics and natural law theory.

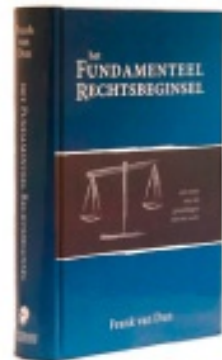
The institute was founded in 2007 in Antwerp, Belgium, and is named after the economist and political theorist Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995), an extraordinarily productive scholar and intellectual who made important contributions in the fields of economic science and political philosophy.

Like most businesses and organisations we only work with the voluntary contributions of people who consider this project worthwhile investing in.

Work

Frank van Dun: *Het Fundamenteel Rechtsbeginsel [The Fundamental Principle of Law]* (April 2008)

This treatise centres on the essential question "what is law?" Building upon the time-honoured tradition of natural law, the author provides a modern foundation of law with illuminating and far-reaching implications for the role of the state, judges and the law in guaranteeing a peaceful society.



Murray N. Rothbard: *Wat Heeft de Overheid met Ons Geld Gedaan? [What Has Government Done to Our Money?]* (December 2008)

In a time of unseen economic insecurity we published a little book that lucidly explains the nature of money and the role of banks, thereby pointing to the fundamental causes of the recurring economic crises.



Seminars Philosophy of Law with Frank Van Dun (February 2008 – April 2009)

For two consecutive years, we organised a series of seminars on philosophy of law with Professor Frank van Dun. In its essence, philosophy of law deals with the question what the difference is between justice and injustice, and, related to that, under what conditions a peaceful, prosperous society can manifest itself. Questions as what a "rechtsstaat" is, and about the role of the law, judges, and the state, were thoroughly analysed.



Summer University 2008 (August 9-10 2008)

The first summer university of the Rothbard Institute took place in Bruges. The two days were dedicated to lectures and discussions on economic theory, philosophy of law and political theory.

Summer University 2009 (September 10-13)

The 2009 edition of the Summer University took place in the Old Abbey Kortenberg, in Kortenberg. Local and international scholars, together with some 30 international students, investigated the fundamental causes of the current crisis, as well as broader matters in the fields of philosophy of law and economic theory.



Seminars on Economics: From Crusoe to Crisis (Oktober-December 2008)

In the fall of 2008 we organised a series of eight seminars in which Koen Deconinck unrooted the causes of the current financial crisis. Deconinck started from the basic economic insights and expanded them step by step towards a comprehensive explanation of the current crisis. The seminars were a full-fledged mini-course in economics and the recordings are still available on rothbard.be.



Seminars on Free Will and Political Theory with Jos Verhulst (February 14 and 21 2009)

Political and economical freedom ultimately boil down to human freedom. In two particularly advanced seminars, dr. Jos Verhulst investigated the fundamental question of what human freedom really is, starting from the current debate in philosophy and the natural sciences.



Advanced seminars in Antwerp (April-May 2009)

On April 16 we focused on the concepts of 'money', 'possession', and 'property'; on April 27 we discussed the social and economical theories of Friedrich von Hayek; May 14 was used to investigate the methodology of the social sciences, and on May 18 Professor Marc Cools gave a presentation on the question whether security and justice can be organized in a decentralized way.



Hayek Seminar in Leuven (April 10-11 2010)

An intensive two-day seminar on the work of Nobel Laureate Friedrich von Hayek. His economic thinking, as well as his writings on legal philosophy, political theory and methodology were rigorously studied through lectures and discussions.



Introduction Austrian School in Leuven (December 4 2010)

This thorough introduction in the Austrian school of economics dealt with the history and methodology of the school, as well as its views on entrepreneurship and the business cycle.



Frédéric Bastiat: Rechtvaardigheid en solidariteit [Justice and solidarity] (February 2011)

This book combines two texts by the French 19th century journalist, economist and politician Frédéric Bastiat: “Justice and Fraternity” and “What is seen and what is not seen”. In a new Dutch translation, these texts combine Bastiat’s central insights in economic and political theory.





Jos Verhulst: Het Verschijnsel Vrijheid [The phenomenon of freedom] (March 2011)

Modern science is without any doubt one of the greatest accomplishments of mankind. The extent and the degree by which we can accurately understand, measure, predict and manipulate nature is remarkable. But is the world-view that science gives us still compatible with our cherished human notions of free will, consciousness and moral responsibility?



Jesús Huerta de Soto: Geld, krediet en crisis [Money, Bank Credit and Economic Cycles] (March 2011)

Can the monetary sphere operate in a decentralised way, without central banks, without recurring crises? In this monumental treatise, Jesús Huerta de Soto demonstrates how this has already happened in the past, and that it can happen again — without inflation, without business cycles.

The book was published by Acco, in cooperation with the Rothbard Institute.



Film screening: the call of the entrepreneur (April 5 2011)

This one hour documentary from the Acton Institute shows the human, economical, social and moral aspects of entrepreneurs for our society, based on three life stories of entrepreneurs.





Seminar: Culture and Freedom (May 1 2011)

Even if we agree on what political and economic freedom could mean, and why they are important, the question remains what the wider conditions or stumbling blocks are for their establishment. What are the cultural, historical or sociological conditions for achieving freedom? The film “The birth of freedom” was screened, and followed by presentations on the work of Hayek and De Tocqueville on this subject.

