

Youth Liberty Prize 2026

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

START HERE

The Accessible Entry Points

- **Henry Hazlitt, Economics in One Lesson**
The clearest introduction to economic reasoning. One principle, applied relentlessly. No prerequisites.
- **Friedrich Hayek, "The Use of Knowledge in Society" (1945)** Essay
Fifteen pages that redefined economics. Why dispersed knowledge defeats central planning — the intellectual foundation of the Prize theme.
- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, "The Essence of the Austrian School"** Essay
A concise overview of what distinguishes the Austrian tradition: subjectivism, entrepreneurship, spontaneous order, and the limits of intervention.
- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, "The Theory of Dynamic Efficiency"** Essay
Why the Austrian concept of efficiency is fundamentally different from the static neoclassical version, and why it matters for understanding how markets create and coordinate knowledge that no central planner can replicate.
- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, Lectures on Austrian Economics, Volume I**
A guided walk through the key concepts: value, capital, money, cycles, and entrepreneurship, delivered with the clarity of a master teacher. Ideal preparation for applying the framework to contemporary problems.

THE CORE FRAMEWORK

Austrian Theory Applied

- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, The Austrian School: Market Order and Entrepreneurial Creativity**
The definitive survey of Austrian thought, its origins, key contributions, and continuing relevance. Essential orientation before deeper study.
- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, "The Culture War in Economic Science"** Essay
Why the dispute between Austrian and mainstream economics is not merely technical but civilisational. A sharp account of the methodological and ideological fault lines that shape how interventionism is justified or challenged.
- **Ludwig von Mises, Interventionism: An Economic Analysis**
Mises dissects the logic of state intervention itself: why each intervention generates the conditions for the next, producing an interventionist spiral. Directly applicable to digital governance.
- **Murray Rothbard, For a New Liberty: The Libertarian Manifesto**
A systematic case for a free society, applying Austrian principles to law, defence, education, and welfare. Bold, provocative, and approachable.
- **Philipp Bagus, The Tragedy of the Euro**
Austrian monetary theory applied to a real institutional failure. How shared currency without shared discipline produces crisis by design. A model for how entrants might analyse CBDCs and programmable money.
- **Jesús Huerta de Soto, Socialism, Economic Calculation and Entrepreneurship**
The impossibility theorem in its fullest modern treatment. Why centralised systems cannot access the knowledge they need to coordinate — the theoretical core of this year's theme.

THE DEEPER CHALLENGE

For Ambitious Scholars

- **Ludwig von Mises, Human Action: A Treatise on Economics**
The magnum opus. Mises builds the entire edifice of economics from first principles: praxeology, the theory of action, money, cycles, and the case against intervention. The mountain. Worth the climb.
- **Murray Rothbard, Man, Economy, and State**
Rothbard's systematic reconstruction of economic theory from the ground up. Rigorous, comprehensive, and uncompromising in its logical consistency.
- **Hans-Hermann Hoppe, A Theory of Socialism and Capitalism**
The sharp philosophical edge of the Austrian argument. A rigorous classification of intervention types and their consequences.