

A 10-point manifesto for INDIVIDUALISM

Inspired by Friedrich A. Hayek

We all want social order.

No one wants to feel like we are fighting with others for our place in society. At the same time, we all want the opportunity to improve, to succeed, to better ourselves.



But the way we try to achieve it is wrong.

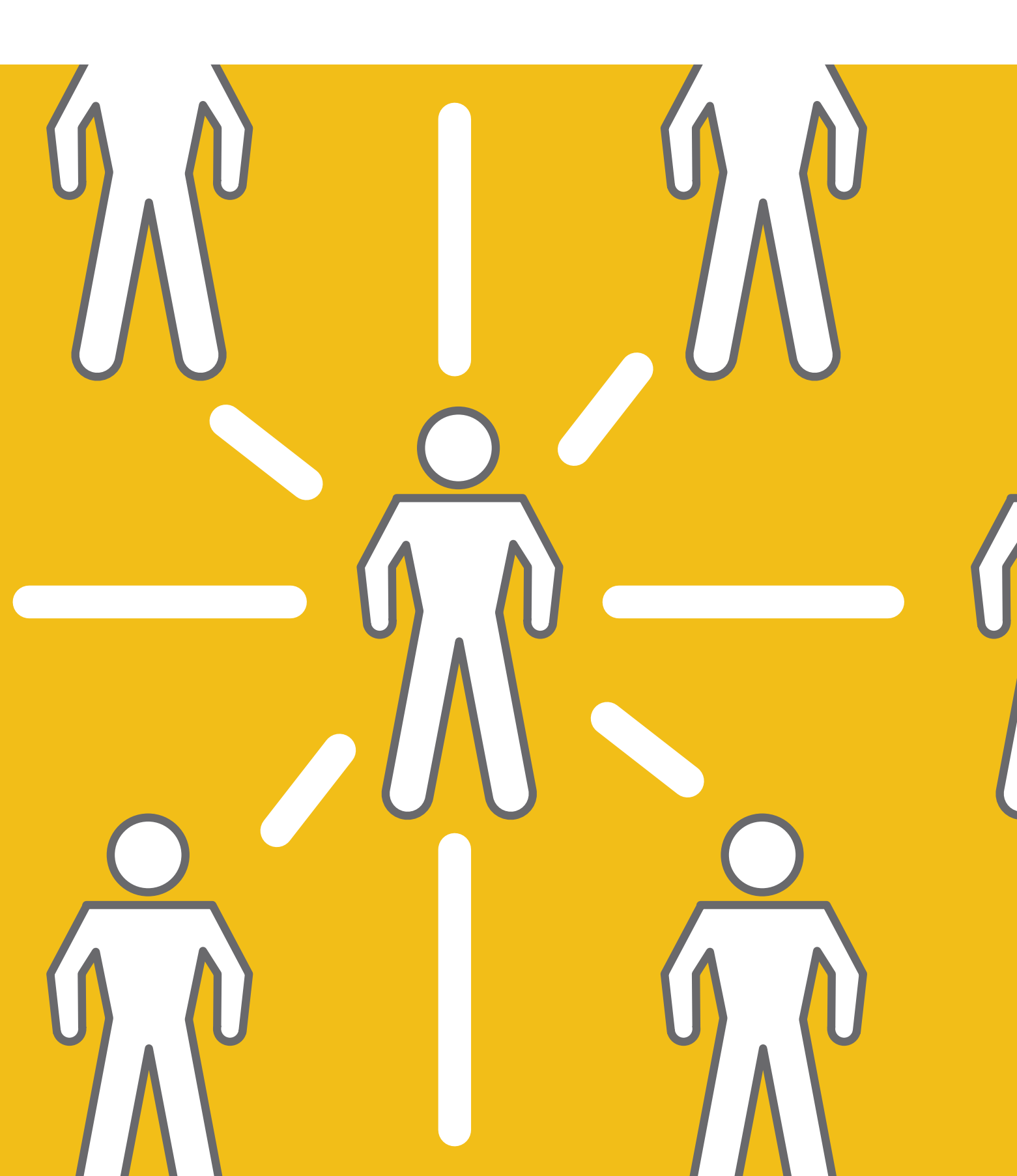
Law and order is the current way: command-and-control by the state, based on the laws the state manufactures through the political process. Unfortunately, under these conditions, a society tends to drift towards the worst forms of state control.



Let's try Individualism:

A set of general rules that everyone observes without government coercion.

Hayek favored general rules, equally applicable to all people; they can be revised as our knowledge grows. Within this institutional framework, decisions as to what to do and how to earn a living are left up to the individuals. Individual initiative is given the widest possible scope.



We already know the general rules of Individualism.

The rules are not prescriptive; they emerge over time as individuals in society collaborate in the marketplace. Hayek set out a few.



- Everyone follows their own individual conscience.
- All property is private property, so I know what's mine and respect what's yours. None of it belongs to the state.
- Everyone is free to try their best, to see what they can achieve.

- Each individual contribution is tested and corrected by others.
- No-one is qualified to pass final judgment on others' capacities or what they can do.

The remunerations of the efforts of the individual correspond to the utility of the result of his effort to others.

An effective competitive market satisfies these conditions.

In the market, the individual takes the risk to find out if the results of their efforts create value for others. Everyone does their best, and the preferences of consumers tell producers what to produce more of and less of.



If freedom is granted to all individuals, they'll contribute as much as possible to the needs of all others.

Individuals are collaborative and giving. They focus their efforts on that part of society that they know— family, community, small groups. This spontaneous collaboration of free people results in great institutions on which civilization arises.

The system of Individualism does not require wise or powerful men to run it.

Individualism does not defer to other individuals or groups who tell us they know better than us. And Individualism has no belief in majority decisions. No one knows what's best. Everybody is allowed to try and see what they can do.



The political conclusion is that we must limit all coercive and restrictive power.

In order to ensure the benefits of voluntary and spontaneous collaboration, it is important not to place political or governmental restrictions on individuals. The individual should not be subjected to force or coercion by someone who claims to be acting for society as a whole.



Individualism treats people equally, but does not try to make them equal.

Individualism is opposed to limitation on the position an individual may achieve. No one should have the power to decide another's status.



The spirit of Individualism is humility.

It is hubris to believe that some people or institutions can "run the country" or "plan the economy." Every individual does their best. We are all awed by the result: mankind has achieved great things that have not been designed or understood by any individual.

