

# IN PRAISE OF JAVIER MILEI\*

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Today we pay tribute to a man who has no fear, a man who does not hesitate to sacrifice himself in his thirst to change the world. A man whose heart beats strongly at the mere sound of the word “liberty.” For Javier Milei pursues and fights for liberty, his great dream, tirelessly, without compromise, and with an energy and passion that can be found in history only among the great heroes of liberty.

Javier Milei has become a real role model. First, for those who practice economic science. As a consummate economist well versed in his subject, he has managed to humbly realize that the world around us can be understood only through the dynamic, entrepreneurial, and creative lens of the Austrian School of economics (which should be known as the “Spanish School,” since it originated with the scholastics of the Spanish Golden Age).

To use his own words, Javier Milei has been able to spot the “neoclassical trap” of the mainstream, due to the unreality of its assumptions, its formal and methodological reductionism, and, above all, the fact that it rests on phantasmagorical equilibrium models. At worst, these models foster social engineering and statism. And, at best, they have led to the grave error of defending the market for erroneous reasons — for instance, for being “perfect,” when the free market is never in equilibrium, much less “perfect.” On the contrary, as the Austrian School teaches, the market is a marvelous and spontaneous human process of voluntary cooperation which drives creativity and coordination, and this process cannot be improved, let alone replaced, by statism, which the Austrian School has also shown to be scientifically impossible.

Javier Milei has also become a role model for today’s politicians. His sound grasp of the scientific basis for the ideas he expresses is,

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\* Praise intervention at Casino de Madrid, Cena de la Libertad of the Instituto Juan de Mariana, Friday, June 21, 2024.

alone, what enables him to defend liberty with the conviction and intellectual honesty with which he defends it. Just as no doctor should practice medicine without a thorough knowledge of it, no political or parliamentary leader and no ambassador or senior official of any ministry should be authorized to conduct their work without first understanding the basic theory of liberty and ethics taught by the Austrian School.

Furthermore, in the face of the current drift in democracy, which has become a perverse system based on lies and the buying of votes with money stolen via taxes, Javier Milei has shown that it is possible to always tell the truth and explain harsh reality to citizens and, yet, receive their votes and see them massively support the ideas of liberty, with the assurance that, regardless of the inevitable, devious conditioning of daily petty politics, their leader will never lose his way nor relent his efforts to increasingly promote liberty. Therefore, all of those who seek to become the much-sought-after Milei of each country, now have a road map and know what they must do: follow, to the letter, the model provided by Milei.

Moreover, Javier Milei has become a role model for everyone, especially young people. In the presence of the deadliest virus infecting the human soul — statism — Javier Milei has the extraordinary merit of having popularized, like no one else, the ideas of liberty by teaching thousands and thousands of people in streets and plazas and through the media and intellectually and morally demolishing the statist ideas that have, up to now, gripped “good people,” to use his words.

In particular, Javier Milei is a role model for young people, whose minds have not yet become completely corrupted or hooked on the drug of statism. When young people begin to study and follow the ideas of the Austrian School, they quickly become the most ardent defenders of liberty and the most die-hard enemies of the systematic violence and coercion the state embodies. In the age-old struggle between good, represented by life, liberty, and property, and evil, embodied by state violence and coercion, today we can say that statism has, intellectually, morally, and historically speaking, received a fatal wound, and that it is our mission in this century to finish it off. Thanks to Javier Milei and to those who will,

undoubtedly, come after him, the future is ours; it belongs to those of us who love and believe in liberty. It comes as no surprise that politicians and statists of all stripes, or, as Milei would say, the global “left” [zurderío] (though I would add, to paraphrase Hayek, the “zurderío of all parties,” whether left or right wing), are now in a true state of shock, terrified, and on the defensive.

Fourth, and finally, Javier Milei is a model of generosity — and not only generosity toward his former adversaries, from whatever quarter, who, with frankness and loyalty, ultimately have the moral courage and intellectual honesty to take the step of acknowledging their errors, converting, and embracing the ideal of liberty. Incidentally, an ever-increasing number of people are saying, “I didn’t know, but after listening to Milei, I understand that what I have always been, or wanted to be, is an anarcho-capitalist.”

Above all, Milei is a model of intellectual generosity, because he has never become conceited, and, at every opportunity, he mentions his great mentors — including those who, like myself, do not deserve to be placed alongside giants like Mises, Hayek, Rothbard, Kirzner, and Hoppe.

Javier Milei has given me immense personal happiness at this time in my life, especially since the day his sister Karina told us, right here in the Casino de Madrid, exactly one year ago, that the decision had been made to run for office, when none of us could even have imagined how popular and far-reaching the ideas of the Austrian School and of freedom would become worldwide, thanks to Milei. Thus, I owe this man a sincere debt of gratitude for his intellectual generosity and for the happiness he has given me. And here, fortunately, the Cuban artist Richard Somonte has come to my aid. Somonte arrived in Spain escaping socialism, and he has specialized in enormous portraits of famous figures, particularly bullfighters like Juan Belmonte (for whom, as it happens, my grandfather acted as *banderillero*). I immediately got the idea of commissioning a large portrait of this true political *matador* of the twenty-first century, Javier Milei. (And, in this case, the bull he is fighting and trying to kill is obviously the state.) Today we have the portrait here to present to him at this event. It is dedicated to him with the following inscription, which you will all be able to read yourselves when I conclude in a moment: “To President Javier

Milei, the titan of liberty, from his professor Jesús Huerta de Soto, on this day."

And now, I would like to conclude with the words of Martin Luther King, "I have a dream." I have a dream. I dream of the day when the state has finally been dismantled and is remembered only as a dark and gloomy historical relic. I dream of a world in which the logic and reason of state, together with the endless social conflicts and violence they generate, have completely disappeared forever. I dream of a world without states that seek to enlarge their territory as much as possible and maximize the number of human beings they can exploit and fiscally plunder. I dream of a world in which bureaucrats no longer brainwash our children nor view them as state property. I dream of a world in which that great lie that is the "welfare state" has been replaced by true welfare without a state, especially for the most needy and vulnerable, and in which coercive and corrupt "social justice" has been replaced by the limitless prosperity of the free market and voluntary human solidarity based on love, which is true only when it is free, but not when it is imposed with coercion or violence. I dream, therefore, of a world that is voluntary, self-regulated, and, indeed, anarcho-capitalist, a world in which all the public services now poorly and immorally provided by the state, including Justice (with a capital 'J' and no modifiers), law and order, and the prevention, suppression, and punishment of crime, are provided in a fully moral, efficient, and private manner, as prescribed by the Austrian School. In short, I dream of a world in which humanity is finally freed from the chains of statism and can choose God, if it so desires, with complete freedom.

With Javier Milei, and thanks to the forces of Heaven that accompany us always, today the history of the future has begun, and my dream has started to come true.

And I conclude with four cheers:

Long live the Austrian School of economics!

Long live the great nation of Argentina!

Long live its president, Javier Milei!

And, by all means: Long live liberty, damn it!