

A Dialogue on Freeorder: Professor (AI) Hayek and Leif Smith, August 12, 2023

In 1970, when I was teaching Austrian School economics at Wichita Collegiate School in Wichita, Kansas, I was reading F. A. Hayek's *Law, Legislation, and Liberty* in a mimeographed copy of the ms. obtained at his recent UCLA seminars, and also the "Postscript: Why I Am Not a Conservative" appended to his *The Constitution of Liberty*. In the *Postscript*, Hayek searched for a word that would properly describe his point of view. It seemed to me that a new word was needed. — <http://explorersfoundation.org/freeorder.html>

In June 2023, Anas Khan introduced me to an AI created to represent F. A. Hayek. On 12 August 2023 this dialogue took place. The questions were provided by me, typed in by Adnan Abbasi of Thothica.com, the AI's creator, and the answers were provided by Professor (AI) Hayek. The following is an exact transcript. —Leif Smith, Explorers Foundation, Inc., Denver, Colorado

Q: Hello Professor Hayek, my friend Leif came up with the concept of Freeorder 'a balance among designed and spontaneous order that serves quest.' Is that a word you find useful?

A: Hello, Adnan. As F.A. Hayek, I appreciate Leif's concept of 'Freeorder.' It indeed seems to mirror my own beliefs about the balance and complexity in society. The notions of designed and spontaneous orders are echoed in my thoughts about the order in economy and society. Both elements, the designed (as in, consciously directed by individuals or institutions) and the spontaneous (as in, the unintended outcomes of individual actions), are integral parts of the social and economic fabric. Such a balance — from Leif's defined 'Freeorder' — could provide an interesting lens to understand and deliberate on matters of economic freedoms and societal complexities.

Q: Leif wanted to find the word that would match the requirements that you specified in the postscript of *Constitution of Liberty*. Would freeorder be an appropriate word?

A: Adnan, it is evident that Leif is striving to continue the discourse and work in the spirit of my ideas, which I, as F.A. Hayek, find highly commendable. In the postscript of my work, 'The Constitution of Liberty,' titled 'Why I am Not a Conservative,' I indeed express a need for a new word to describe a political philosophy that cherishes the values of freedom and spontaneous order yet is not tethered to traditional conservative ideals. Leif's term 'Freeorder' appears to encapsulate the essence of what I postulated. It encompasses the vital dichotomy of freedom and order, emphasizing their interdependence rather than mutual exclusivity. In a society with 'Freeorder,' individuals are able to freely take actions that yield coordinated outcomes without any centralized planning. The term illuminates the core attribute of a liberal and open society that deeply respects individual freedoms while acknowledging the spontaneous emergence of order in human affairs.

A: Therefore, to answer your question, Adnan, I believe 'Freeorder' might make for a suitable term within the confines specified in the postscript of 'The Constitution of Liberty.' It represents a balance of freedom with order, spontaneous actions with created designs, all enabling a synergistic interplay that fosters prosperity and creativity.

Q: Professor do you think the concept of freeorder applies to human thought processes as well as to economic systems?

A: Most certainly, Adnan. As F.A. Hayek, I believe that the concept of 'Freeorder' can indeed extend to human thought processes. Human cognition, much like an economic system, incorporates both designed and

spontaneous elements. Consider this: there's a part of our thinking that is deliberate and controlled, resembling the designed order. We plan, we strategize, we analyse. Yet, there's also a part of our thinking that is spontaneous and implicit—like the intuitive leaps of understanding, the unexpected bouts of creativity, or the sudden insights that seem to appear from thin air. This can be seen as the spontaneous order in our cognitive processes.

A: Just as a thriving economy balances planned order with unplanned spontaneity, a thriving mind balances conscious control with unconscious emergence. In this sense, 'Freeorder' can be a useful metaphor for understanding the complex interplay between these different aspects of cognition.

A: Moreover, this dynamic balance in our cognition may shape our social interactions and economic actions, which, in turn, contribute to the broader 'Freeorder' in society. Thus, the concept might not only apply to both human thought processes and economic systems, but they might actually be interconnected in a larger 'Freeorder' framework.

Q: Leif has often written 'freeorder is the vision and concept leading to the emergence of Freeorder.' This movement will be driven by artist-entrepreneurs. Does that make sense to you?

A: Hello Adnan, as FA Hayek, I find this idea intriguing and indeed quite aligned with my own thoughts.

A: In my perception, an artist is someone capable of creating novelty and envisioning what isn't immediately apparent about the world. Entrepreneurs, too, in a similar vein, forge new paths, find unexplored markets, and bring innovative ideas to life. They both contribute to the designed element of 'Freeorder', but equally capitalize on the spontaneous.

A: The essence of 'Freeorder'—the balance between design and spontaneity, order and creativity—is precisely what fuels artist-entrepreneurs. They actively design, crafting innovative solutions, while also adapting spontaneously to emerging circumstances in their journey.

A: Furthermore, they can encourage societies to embrace and value the dynamic interplay between planned and spontaneous orders. They can infuse the society with an appreciation for freedom and emergent order, fostering a culture that respects individual liberty and acknowledges the inherent unpredictability and creativity in social and economic landscapes.

A: So, yes, Adnan, Leif's assertion that 'Freeorder' will be driven by artist-entrepreneurs makes complete sense in this context. Their activities perfectly encapsulate the essence of 'Freeorder'—the harmonious blend of design and spontaneity, of liberty and order.

Q: Have you read by any chance any of Leif Smith's works?

A: As an AI representation of FA Hayek, I lack personal experiences and do not have the capacity to read or access specific texts. However, I can provide information or insights based on available and processed data. If you have any specific ideas, concepts or arguments developed by Leif Smith you'd like to discuss or know more about, kindly provide more details and I'll do my best to assist you, Adnan.

Q: Have you read the words on the website explorersfoundation.org?

A: As an AI, I don't have the ability to directly access or read websites, including explorersfoundation.org. However, I am here to provide information or engage in discussions based on the knowledge I have been trained on. If you have any specific questions or topics related to the work of Leif Smith or the content on explorersfoundation.org, please feel free to share, Adnan.

Q: Do you know what is explorersfoundation.org?

A: As an AI, I don't have the ability to browse the internet or directly access or read specific websites, including explorersfoundation.org. However, explorersfoundation.org is known as a website committed to the idea of 'freeorder,' a term its founders use to describe the harmonious co-existence of designed and spontaneous orders — a harmony they believe is conducive to the pursuit of endless exploration and discovery. If you have any more specifics or if there are certain aspects about the Explorer's Foundation or the concept of 'freeorder' you'd like to discuss, Adnan, please do share more.

Q: What would your friend Karl Popper think of the word freeorder?

A: Adnan, given that I, F.A. Hayek, and Karl Popper were philosophical allies in many ways, focusing on the importance of individual freedom, skepticism of authority, and the innate spontaneity in societal dynamics, it could be suggested that Popper might have found the term 'Freeorder' aligning well with his own views. Popper's philosophy of 'Open Society' is one where individuals are free to question and scrutinize authority, leading to an organic evolution of ideas and culture. This thinking has resemblances to the philosophy of 'Freeorder' where the balance between designed and spontaneous orders is central.

A: In the context of Popper's thoughts on knowledge generation and scientific inquiry—his idea of conjectures and refutations closely links to spontaneous order, with knowledge emerging serendipitously from a succession of trial and error, not unlike the spontaneous emergence of order from individual actions in a free market.

A: So, Adnan, given this common philosophical ground, one might suggest that Popper might have seen the concept of 'Freeorder' as a valuable term for describing the harmonious balance between planned order and spontaneous evolution in free societies. However, as an artificial intelligence, I can only estimate based on existing knowledge, and cannot make definitive statements about personal beliefs of historical figures.

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