

# Freeorder Bridge

from here to there

Through centuries of strife and misery, in the midst of which small sunlit islands appear, we have tried to move from places of distress to places of peace, productivity, and well being, as if to cross a wide body of water between a “here” and a long sought “there.” The strait is wide and no bridge has crossed it.

Once built, the bridge will assure that every person may manifest their full capacity for curiosity, imagination, wonder, thought, action, exchange, and collaboration to seek a rich life for themselves and for those they love, and never find themselves made an unwilling tool for the purposes of others. This implies that every producer of goods shall be free of burdens imposed by predators, and may consume, give, or exchange their work as they please.

Whatever is without name tends to non-existence. Therefore, if something important is newly understood, and has no name, we should find a word for it. In this case the new word is *freeorder* ([link](#)).

*freeorder* is meant to draw attention to the search for balances among designed and spontaneous orders that best support quest, through conjecture, exploration, trial and error correction.

*freeorder* welds together the words *free* & *order* to ensure that never again shall they be thought to be in opposition to one another.

Recently, it has been understood that in complex adaptive systems of matter, theory, and social design the rigorous application of limits can lead to the emergence of spontaneous orders more beneficial than anything that might result from unfalsifiable dogmas or comprehensively designed solutions maintainable in social affairs only by force.

*freeorder* expresses the idea that orders arising from freedom (a kind of limit) work best for all of us who wish to use our full powers of imagination, reason, action, and collaboration in pursuit of happiness and in service to people, places, and things we love.

*freeorder* can be of value to explorers in all fields, in art, industry, science, philosophy, enterprise, and governance.

Over time, endeavors to improve complex systems will find systemic deficiencies of freeorder, and will adjust balances among designed and spontaneous orders to better support quest and ensure error correction. Cumbersome spontaneously generated patterns will be identified and trimmed. Untestable theories will be discarded or made testable and will be challenged. The limits of logic, fact, experimental failure, and financial loss will again be respected, not only in theory, but also in practice.

The idea of freeorder will inspire and enable the completion of a bridge at last able to carry millions from here, the near shore, to there, a far shore. The story can be told using the image of a suspension bridge consisting of anchors, piers, towers, catenary cables, vertical cables, and roadway.

Let us continue to initiate conversations that will advance work on this bridge. I seek fellow bridge builders.

## **Anchors**

On the near shore, one anchor of the suspension bridge represents community, tradition, solidarity, concern for the collective. On the far shore the other anchor represents radical engagement in subjectively rewarding patterns of explorations, constituting extreme individualism.

For millennia, the human race has increased the holding power of these two anchors. The tension between them is inevitable, and it is needed. They grip the earth to support cables that will bear the final weight of the completed bridge.

## **Piers**

Over centuries two massive piers have been gathered and set in place. Much of what has been said has failed critical tests of logic and coherence, does not fit non-verbal reality, and

has been rejected. Tests able to limit and refute conjecture will continue to advance knowledge of the physical and social worlds.

We have seen two great markers of these advances: in 1687 the publication of Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, and in 1949 the publication of Mises' *Human Action*.

## Towers

The effects of emergent barely restrained individualism will lead to unprecedented productivity. Amid growing prosperity and peace, distressing problems certainly will be found. In the past, groups such as the Fabian Society responded to the challenge. Much of their work will be found in the near tower and remains of value.

Eventually, alternative responses based on a revolutionary methodological subjectivism applied to social sciences, integrated with the understanding that physical sciences advance by conjecture and refutation, will lead to the formation of ventures inspired by the idea that markets are discovery processes leading to the fullest use of human knowledge. These ventures will collect and spread ideas and inspire generations of students to think differently. They are the second tower.

## Catenaries

Bound by tribalism on the near shore and radical individualism on the far shore, the massive supporting catenary cables will carry enormous tension.

A material strong enough to make the wire to weave the catenaries is needed. Freeorder generators can do the job. These ventures are the social equivalent of steel and are philosophical analogs to venture capital firms.

Each freeorder generator, or *forge*, will make an individual strand of the cable and will serve as a listening post on the edge of an emerging way of thinking and doing. Each will be a gathering place, physical and virtual, for people participating in the emergence. Integrating forges bring together groups of learner-investors who provide resources to catalyze and amplify work contributing to the emergence of freeorder.

We will learn to use the power of networks and network generators to weave the strands of wire closely together into a cable stronger than could be guessed from knowledge of the separate strands. Consequent binding together of venture philosophy, art, and capital will lead to gains, spiritual and material, of unprecedented magnitude.

## **Verticals**

Each investment by an integrating forge makes a vertical cable intended to support a bit of roadway. Up and down these verticals flows information about the interaction of theory and reality. Each investment is a guess, a test of an idea about what to do next. Each failure will begin a new cycle of learning.

Investors will be eager to learn from people into whose visions and work they have placed capital, and in turn, those people will be intrigued and inspired by the idea that a hidden abstract unity among thousands of diverse ventures is leading to the worldwide emergence of something magnificent.

The portfolio of each integrating forge —  $\phi$  forge — is intended to scatter elements of a pattern, as if the forge was a pointillist artist painting parts of a large canvas. As these forges work everywhere in the world, a pattern of patterns will gradually become visible, combining stories from thousands of weavers of freeorder.

As artists and storytellers work with these emergent patterns, a generalized awareness will pervade the world, an awareness that something beautiful and good is happening, and that we are finding an exit from the recurrent distress that plagues humanity. Challenges remain forever inescapable, but they will be met with hope and accepted as the essential fabric of life.

## **Roadway**

Millions once without hope will find tools at hand and paths open from apprentice explorer to master. Among travelers on the bridge it will become a commitment to craft patterns of

subjectively rewarding explorations into lives wherein expectation of joy and shared delight may endure.

Frameworks of law will evolve as governments, formerly acting as owners and masters of their citizens, progressively divest themselves of portions of sovereignty to become minimally armed competitors in the provision of governance services. The peace at the heart of freeorder will calm the seas of war.

It is expected that integrating forges will evolve into social gyroscopes, sources of stability, preserving working patterns and institutions in times of challenge.

The bridge from community to individuality and back will bear growing traffic as we master authentic individualization, acquire habits of cosmopolitan tolerance, and learn the ways of distributed compassion. From here to there, back again, and everywhere, journeys of repeated crossings will never end. They are a shared quest of all humanity.

## Prospect

A wide and deep pattern of change, perhaps someday to be known as the Emergence, will come from commitment to shared quest, requiring, now and always, from every forge, repeated cycles of learning and investment.

Widely distributed and independent integrating forges, persistent in venture, will accumulate knowledge, theoretical and practical, sufficient to complete the bridge.

It may be that *freeorder* will come to convey the hope and assurance carried by the word *spring* spoken in midst of hard winter. When summer comes that hope will be seen to have been soundly justified.

A full account of the history of *Freeorder*, and its projected future, is told in story, picture, and song available through the Library of Perinel. Fellow bridge builders — let's meet there in person, or by conference, and ask, what now?

Thanks to Marcy Ayanian, editor, and to many friends, whose insights have contributed substantially to this article.