



AEI announces plans to acquire the National Trust for Historic Preservation's property at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, in downtown Washington, DC, with occupancy expected in late 2015.

Former Sen. Jon Kyl joins AEI as a visiting fellow, and with former Sen. Joe Lieberman, launches the American Internationalism Project.

2013

Arthur Brooks, Danielle Pletka, and Sadanand Dhume are invited to visit with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, in Dharamsala, India.

AEI launches a four-part speaker series with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, focusing on America's military transformation. General James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, commences the series.

National Review senior editor Ramesh Ponnuru is one of several key additions to AEI's team of scholars. He is joined by Jim Capretta, Tim Carney, Ed Conard, and Jeff Eisenach.

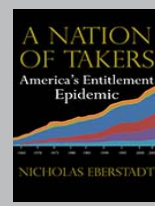
AEI merges the Program on Advanced Strategic Studies with the Center for Defense Studies to create the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies, which is directed by Gary Schmitt and Tom Donnelly. Mackenzie Eaglen joins the center to focus on defense spending and military resource requirements.



AEI begins a substantive effort to engage college students, hosting 30 events on 28 campuses across the country.

AEI's education policy studies program marks its 10th anniversary under the leadership of Rick Hess.

2012



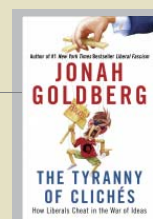
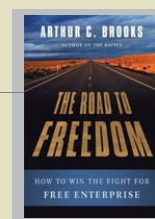
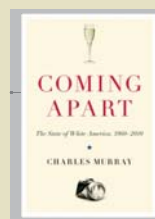
Nick Eberstadt publishes "A Nation of Takers," which describes the growth of entitlement spending and the effects on American civic culture. President Obama indirectly references the monograph during his January 2013 inaugural address.

Alan Viard proposes a significant reformation of the tax code in his book, "Progressive Consumption Taxation," drawing heavily from the work of late AEI scholar David Bradford.

AEI scholars testify a record 106 times during the 112th Congress, more than scholars from any other think tank.



AEI scholars publish four New York Times bestsellers:



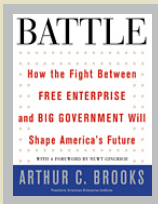
2011

AEI cohosts a debate with the Republican presidential candidates on foreign policy and national security issues. The debate is broadcast live on CNN.



AEI's Road to Freedom Project expands the institute's communications and government relations departments, helping to solidify AEI's influence in Washington and leadership role within the free enterprise movement.

AEI begins publishing its Values & Capitalism monographs, which are designed to introduce college students to public policy concepts from a free-market perspective.



Arthur Brooks releases "The Battle," in which he describes two competing visions of America: European-style statism versus a healthy free enterprise system.

Peter Wallison is named to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, which is tasked with determining what triggered the 2008 financial crisis and proposing steps for reform.

Christopher DeMuth steps down as AEI president and is succeeded by Arthur Brooks.



2008

AEI scholars publish 100 op-eds in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post, exceeding scholars from any other think tank.

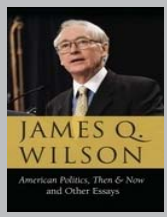
Rep. Paul Ryan unveils the 2012 House Republican Budget at AEI. One year later, Rep. Ryan returns to AEI to release the 2013 House Republican Budget.

Jim Capretta, Tom Miller and others release the book "Why Obamacare is Wrong for America," which assesses the impact of the Affordable Care Act on individuals and businesses.



2010

AEI publishes James Q. Wilson's "American Politics: Then and Now," which includes a selection of essays spanning Wilson's career.



AEI launches its Summer Institute academic program with an inaugural class of 25.

2009

Sen. Joseph Lieberman delivers a keynote address marking the launch of AEI's Critical Threats Project. The unique initiative tracks, monitors, and assesses threats to America's security interests.

The Washington Post devotes a full page to an AEI-Brookings event on the changing demography of the electorate, calling the participants "a stellar cast."

Michelle Rhee, the chancellor of DC Public Schools, speaks at an AEI event on urban school reform. In the second event in this series, New York City Public Schools Chancellor Joel Klein defends his aggressive empowerment and accountability strategies.

2007

George W. Bush delivers a major address at AEI about the war on terror. Additional members of the Bush administration to address AEI include Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt.

Fred Kagan releases "Choosing Victory: A Plan for Success in Iraq," which serves as an intellectual roadmap for the successful Iraq "surge" strategy.

Michael Barone joins AEI as a resident fellow focusing on US electoral politics.

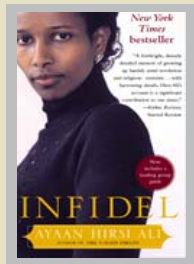
Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to serve as prime minister of Pakistan, speaks at AEI months before her assassination.

Arthur Brooks becomes a visiting scholar in July after promoting his latest book, "Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism"

The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism

2006

Ayaan Hirsi Ali joins AEI to study religion, culture, and women's rights. One year later she publishes "Infidel," a memoir describing her escape from an arranged marriage to her election to the Dutch parliament.



Henry Olsen joins AEI as a vice president and director of the institute's National Research Initiative.



Charles Murray publishes "In Our Hands: A Plan to Replace the Welfare State," which outlines steps to increase individual autonomy by minimizing the level of government bureaucracy.

Norm Ornstein and John Fortier launch a four-year AEI-Brookings project evaluating the way elections in the the United States are conducted. Then-Senator Barack Obama delivers the keynote address inaugurating the initiative.

Gary Schmitt launches AEI's Program on Advanced Strategic Studies to promote a serious and comprehensive analysis of US security needs in a post-September 11 world.

2005

US Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad speaks at AEI on US-Afghan relations.

2004

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks before a private gathering at AEI on democratic institutions and political stability in his nation.

AEI holds a series of regular briefings on the war in Iraq, as well as a major conference with Rend al-Rahim, Iraq's ambassador-designate to the United States.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses AEI on the state of US-Turkish relations.



President George W. Bush speaks at AEI's Annual Dinner.

2003

AEI trustee and former adjunct scholar John Snow is named secretary of the Treasury.

2002

AEI expands its foreign and defense policy scholarship in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Danielle Pletka joins AEI, becoming its vice president for foreign and defense policy. Tom Donnelly joins as a resident fellow, later becoming codirector of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies.

AEI launches the National Research Initiative. The program supports, publishes, and disseminates research by university-based academics and policy experts. NRI also brings younger scholars — such as then-Syracuse University professor Arthur Brooks — to AEI at the start of their public policy careers.

Rick Hess and Scott Gottlieb join AEI, greatly bolstering the institute's work on education and health policy, respectively.



Irving Kristol receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

2001

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, AEI hosts a major conference with Israeli Minister Natan Sharansky, CIA Director James Woolsey, and Newt Gingrich on the principles that should guide the war on terror.

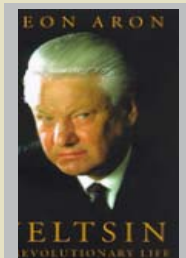
President George W. Bush appoints more than a dozen AEI scholars and fellows to senior positions in his administration, including: Vice President Dick Cheney, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Undersecretary of State for International Security John Bolton, Chairman of the Defense Policy Board Richard Perle, and Chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics Leon Kass.

2000

Nick Eberstadt is named to the new Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy.

Michael Greve joins AEI as the John G. Searle scholar, studying constitutional law and federalism.

Leon Aron publishes "Yeltsin: A Revolutionary Life," the definitive account of the Russian leader.



1999

Peter Wallison joins AEI to codirect the institute's Financial Market Deregulation Project. Wallison organizes his first AEI seminar on government-sponsored enterprises, focusing on the financial risk posed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.



1998

Margaret Thatcher speaks at AEI's World Forum.

1997

John Bolton joins AEI as the senior vice president for finance and program oversight. That same year, Federal Reserve senior economist Kevin Hassett becomes a resident scholar.

AEI launches its website.

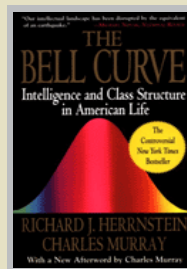


1996

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan delivers the Francis Boyer Lecture (established in 1977) at AEI's Annual Dinner. Greenspan, who gave his first speech at AEI in 1974, warns about "irrational exuberance" on Wall Street, foreshadowing the 2000 dot-com bubble.

1995

Vaclav Klaus, prime minister of the Czech Republic, describes the economic and political progress his country has made after the fall of the Soviet Union in a major AEI address.



1994

Charles Murray, who joined AEI in 1990, publishes "The Bell Curve" with Richard Herrnstein.

Lynne and Dick Cheney join AEI as fellows.

1993

1990

Ten former chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisers — spanning the terms of Presidents Eisenhower through Bush — speak at AEI's annual policy conference in a session entitled "Presidents and Economics."

1989

With a generous grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, AEI inaugurates the Bradley Lecture Series, which examines the intersection of political philosophy and policy. Lecturers in the first year included such luminaries as Allan Bloom, Michael Novak, Robert Bork, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Allan Meltzer, and Harvey Mansfield.

Christopher DeMuth announces plans to devote greater resources to government regulation, health policy, and legal and constitutional studies.

1987

Christopher DeMuth marks his first full year as AEI president. He is joined by executive vice president David Gerson.

DeMuth announces a major reorganization of the institute's research divisions, naming Marvin Kosters as director of economic policy studies, Jeane Kirkpatrick as counselor to the president for foreign policy studies, and Michael Novak as director of social and political studies.

AEI publishes "The New Consensus on Family and Welfare." The report's recommendations, which include a work requirement for those on welfare, drew on Charles Murray's 1984 book "Losing Ground" and helped move welfare reform ahead.

1985

AEI's weekly radio program, "National Policy Forum," is carried by 800 stations nationwide.

1983

Norm Ornstein hosts off-the-record dinners with new congressional members Dick Cheney, Geraldine Ferraro, Newt Gingrich, and others. Ornstein later publishes "Congress off the Record: The Candid Analyses of Seven Members," which becomes a highly influential volume offering a behind-the-scenes look at Congress.

1982

AEI inaugurates its Election Watch conference series, featuring political analysis on key national elections from Ben Wattenberg, William Schneider, Norm Ornstein, and Karlyn Bowman. The series marked its 30th anniversary in 2012.



AEI holds its first annual World Forum in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

1981

Ronald Reagan appoints a number of AEI scholars to positions to his administration, including Jeane Kirkpatrick, Murray Weidenbaum, Robert Helms, and Michael Novak.

AEI publishes the first edition of its Bible of congressional statistics: "Vital Statistics on Congress."

1979

In his first appearance at AEI, Leon Kass, M.D., speaks on in-vitro fertilization.

Distinguished historian Paul Johnson becomes a fellow at AEI and writes his influential "Modern Times" while in residence.

Arthur Burns joins AEI as a distinguished scholar. He is pictured here with Paul McCracken, longtime AEI adviser and interim institute president.



1978

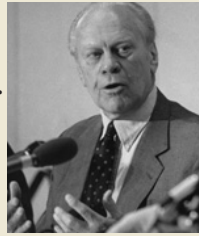
George H.W. Bush is named to head the advisory council for a new AEI project, the Future Conduct of American Foreign Policy.

1977

AEI launches Regulation magazine, naming Antonin Scalia and Murray Weidenbaum as coeditors. The AEI Economist, written largely by Herbert Stein, also makes its debut. A year later the institute launches Public Opinion magazine, edited by Ben J. Wattenberg and Seymour Martin Lipset. These three lively niche publications were widely popular.

AEI publishes "To Empower People: The Role of Mediating Structures in Public Policy," by Peter Berger and Richard John Neuhaus. Twenty years later, AEI celebrates the anniversary of this highly influential publication.

Former President Gerald Ford joins AEI as a distinguished fellow and delivers the first Francis Boyer Lecture.



The November 7 issue of Newsweek says that AEI "has begun to match the Brookings Institution brain-for-brain as the most influential think tank in Washington."



1975

Ronald Reagan makes his first appearance at an AEI conference on regulatory reform, with, among others, Ralph Nader and Hubert Humphrey. AEI's work on government regulation that began in the 1960s was gaining critical mass and resulted in significant changes in government policy.

Nobel laureate Friedrich A. Hayek speaks at AEI on inflation and the recession.

On the 10th anniversary of William Baroody's arrival at AEI, Richard Nixon sends a message complimenting the institute for introducing competition in the Washington world of ideas dominated by proponents of centralized big government.

1974

Yale Law School professor and AEI adjunct scholar Ralph Winter and his student John Bolton write an AEI study on campaign finance and political freedom, which argues that limits on campaign spending and individual contributions are unconstitutional.

In anticipation of America's bicentennial, AEI commences a televised lecture series, which features scholars speaking from historic sites across the nation.

Irving Kristol, Martin Diamond, Seymour Martin Lipset, Daniel Boorstin, Dean Rusk, and Edward Banfield deliver lectures from locations such as Boston's Old North Church and Independence Hall.

In an indication of AEI's growing importance in Washington, Senators Sam Ervin and Howard Baker of the Watergate Committee ask AEI scholars to address the implications of the evidence unearthed by the committee.

1973

AEI's resident scholar program starts. Harvard University economist Gottfried Haberler is named AEI's first resident scholar, followed shortly by another by another world famous economist, William Fellner.

1972

AEI moves to its current location at 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW, in downtown Washington.

1971

1967

AEI acquires an IBM 1130 to bolster its research on the federal budget.



AEI's televised "Rational Debate" series begins, which is later broadcast to more than 370 stations nationwide. Participants in the first year include Arthur Schlesinger, Milton Friedman, Arthur Burns, and US Supreme Court Justice Charles Whittaker. The debates drew many current and future Nobel laureates.

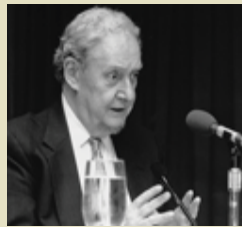
1966

1965

AEI starts its very popular AEI News Digest, a daily press summary for the Hill. Later, the White House starts its own summary, modeled after AEI's.

1964

AEI establishes its Antitrust Center. In 1971, Robert H. Bork becomes an AEI adjunct scholar and later a senior fellow. His 1978 book, "The Antitrust Paradox," revolutionized thinking in this field.



1962

AEI begins to publish High School Debate and College Debate manuals in conjunction with the national committees on debate.

1960

According to a report from AEA's board, 85 percent of the Senate and 73 percent of House members have requested AEA materials.

William J. Baroody Sr. is named AEA's executive director. He is named president in 1962, when AEA becomes the American Enterprise Institute, and marking a key turning point in the institute's rise to national prominence.

1954

1950 • Then-Michigan Rep. Gerald Ford sends a letter to AEI complimenting the institute on a policy brief, writing, "I want you to know that I deeply appreciate the analysis." This is the first record of correspondence between AEA and Ford, who would become an AEI distinguished fellow in 1977 after leaving the White House.

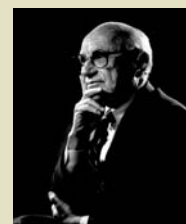
As a mark of its importance, AEA is given its own box in the House document room to get its copies of bills as soon as they are received there.

1949

• More than 30 years before Charles Murray publishes "Losing Ground," AEA releases a pamphlet on the expansion of welfare. It states, "the issue is not more welfare or less welfare, but between governmental management or private and voluntary management of the capital needed for all forms of welfare. If the central government continues to acquire capital for itself ... by promising to provide welfare for more and more groups ... then private voluntary organizations will lose."

1944

• An academic advisory board (a precursor to AEI's Council of Academic Advisers) is established to maintain objectivity and a high standard of scholarship. Members ultimately include — among others — Henry Hazlitt, Roscoe Pound, Paul McCracken, Milton Friedman, Eliot Cohen, Sam Peltzman, George Priest, Gertrude Himmelfarb, and James Q. Wilson. McCracken chaired the council for 24 years, and Wilson did so for 21 years.



• AEA incorporates in Washington, DC, and begins its "Legislative Analyses" series, which produces brief surveys of 50 congressional bills per year.

1943

1938

• The American Enterprise Association (AEA) is founded in New York City. Lewis Brown is its first chairman.

• Longtime AEI economist Herb Stein comes to Washington. At this time, there is no economist in the Cabinet or as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. There is no Council of Economic Advisers. The Chamber of Commerce does not have an economist on staff. The World Bank and the IMF do not exist.

