



## Assume our challenge

The challenge was bold, but we had to assume it fully. Illuminating contemporary debates with the light of French economic thought does not mean that we seek to reinforce ourselves of our current ideas, or to settle for applying them to harmless, light and consensual themes. We must not avoid the study of thorny or polemical matters, but despite the misgivings, we must furnish everywhere the ideas of economists.

This requirement has led us in this review to furnish an analysis of the Roma issue, in light of the study by G.-F. Le Trosne on vagrancy and beggars. If it is certain that no consensus will be made easily on these questions, we will have the pleasure at least to contribute to the public debate, and by that to a better understanding of this phenomena.

But assuming our challenge means also to devote ourselves to the wider promotion and spreading of our initiative. Therefore we will release beginning in September, as anticipated, a printed version of this review. It will take the form of a trimestral volume retaking our best articles of our monthly review. It will be the next step to take, and I dare to think that you will be many to take it alongside us.

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## The Seeds of Freedom

What we first considered as an attempt is no longer one. By diffusing the first number of Laissons Faire, we expected critical views with confidence, and we anticipated without any pretension the beginning of a show of gratefulness. The first feedbacks we received after the first number widely validated our expectations and give us today the will to continue.

The ambitious project to which we dedicated our efforts would never have taken the shape it has today without the help of many friends of the Coppet Institute, that joined our initiative, endorsed our approach, and shared their lights with this enterprise. The most elementary duty will be to thank them. I hope they will find in these few words the testimony of a gratitude that will never peter out and that they all perfectly deserve.

By the yardstick of the second issue, we present once again our work by being conscious of the gravity of the French situation. The French have an urgent need of a reformer, even if they ask for him with a smothered voice. We want to help such a salutary coming, by exploring theoretical fields. Let's sow some nutritive seeds into the French intellectual soil, where our collective passions, our political ideals, and even our manners are dawning; this soil that has been made so rich and so productive by the works of thinkers of the past, and where perhaps will flow, as the fruit of a new wisdom, the source of great progress for mankind. Let's prepare these successes by convincing minds: this is a great and useful task. For the rest, let's inspire respect by our actions, and "laissons faire" the time.

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