

up front

We Read You, REASON Readers

Well, we tried it, and we didn't like it. Back in mid-'85 when we redesigned the inside of the magazine, we decided to drop our Editors' Notes department as such and append any missives to our readers to Editorials. But it just hasn't felt right. No longer a department, notes from the editor about the magazine itself and the editors and whatnot have been neglected in the last-minute rush to put together each issue.

So we've decided to resurrect the department and have it lead off each issue—hence the heading, Up Front. We'll try to keep you posted on interesting behind-the-scenes info—how we decided to cover a certain issue, for example, or difficulties encountered along the way; achievements recognized by our media colleagues; puzzling or amusing things that come across our desks as editors.

Let us know what you think of it—and of other features in the magazine. We like to hear from you readers out there, even if we're too busy to take phone calls. (Please, no chats! Drop us a line; that, we can pay attention to as our schedule allows.)

And speaking of hearing from you readers: As some of you know, we from time to time conduct a survey of a random sample of REASON subscribers. All magazines do it, partly to assemble up-to-date information about readers for potential advertisers. And of course, editors being what they are, we always throw in some questions about how you like features of the magazine and so on, so that we can have some idea how we're doing with the product we labor over.

Counting subscribers, you're some 30,000 strong. On average, you share your issue with 1.6 other people. Then there are 2,000 or so newsstand buyers each month now. So, we figure REASON gets into about 80,000 pairs of hands each month, leaving libraries, doctors' offices, and so on out of the picture.

Judging by the survey respondents, over half of you (55 percent) fall into the 25-to-44 age group. Almost all of you—or at least those who grab the REASON survey out of the mail and fill it out—are



RICHARD DOWNS

male (89 percent). Three-quarters of you have an undergraduate degree or more. Nearly two-thirds, and about 40 percent of spouses, have professional/managerial jobs. And here's an interesting number: a full 33 percent of you own your own company, either as sole owner or partner. Entrepreneurs, anyone?

You and your spouses are well represented in the fields of engineering, health services, data processing, teaching, manufacturing, and sales. Over half of you use a computer at work. Your average household income is \$52,000. More than half of you own your own home, invest in stocks and money market funds, or have IRAs. Another interesting bit of data: 40 percent own gold or silver. Do we know something the Fed doesn't?

Asked to check the category that best describes one's political/social views, 62 percent went for that growing category the pollsters are even noticing: libertarian. Another 23 percent are more comfortable with the "conservative" description, and the rest of you are "liberal," "moderate," or "other."

Looking for a little more information, we listed several issues and asked for a position. Here's how it came out:

	Support	Oppose	Undecided
Nuclear freeze	19%	64%	17%
High Frontier/ Star Wars	71	13	16
Ban on all abortions	14	73	12
Balanced-budget amendment	79	10	12
Ban on "adult movies" on cable TV	10	80	11

This probably won't surprise a lot of you, given that you read a magazine of ideas like REASON, but you tend to be quite involved in the world around you—much more involved than the average American. As you can see from the following, you're leaders in your communities:

	REASON	National
Actively worked for civic or social cause	32%	5%
Actively worked for political party or candidate	27	3
Addressed a public meeting	29	6
Wrote to a public official	54	7
Wrote letter to editor	34	4

In addition, it seems that REASON readers contribute to a charity at the rate of 81 percent and to an environmental group at 15 percent. And 30 percent do volunteer work. So much for the "hard-hearted or heartless" rumors about individualists.

In large numbers (75 percent or more), you like to read Trends (apparently REASON's most popular feature, "often read" by 80 percent, "never read" by 0 percent); Brickbats; Editorials; and investigative and cover stories. Still-popular ("often read" by 50 to 74 percent) are our one-page columns, public-policy articles and think pieces, Life & Liberty essays, and letters to the editor.

That leaves book reviews (it sounds like a school assignment, doesn't it?—that's why we've changed the department name to The Book Case), which 41 percent "often read" and 51 percent "sometimes read." That's still not bad; after all, not everyone needs to like everything in every issue of a multifaceted magazine. Besides, we bet readers like the section more now that it's laid out more appealingly. Say it's so!

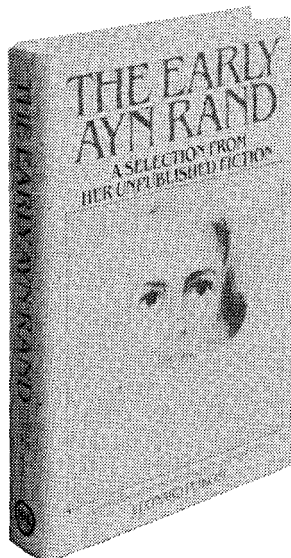
But never let it be said that we're not Up Front about who our readers are.

—Marty Zupan

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UNPUBLISHED WORKS OF A LITERARY LEGEND

THE EARLY AYN RAND



With the publication in the late 1940s and the 1950s of such superlative, mature works of fiction as *THE FOUNTAINHEAD* and *ATLAS SHRUGGED*, author Ayn Rand became a literary legend in her own time. Since then, millions of readers the world over have applauded her uplifted vision of man, admired the luminous clarity of her Objectivist philosophy, and been awed by such universal and idealistic protagonists as Howard Roark, Dagny Taggart, and John Galt. Yet, as late as 1926 Ayn Rand was only a young Russian immigrant in America struggling with her first short story in English. What were the intervening steps in Rand's astonishing development as a thinker and writer? *THE EARLY AYN RAND: A Selection from Her Unpublished Fiction*, edited and with an introduction and notes by Leonard Peikoff, offers unique insights into the beginnings of Rand's ideas and powerful prose style.

Leonard Peikoff, Rand's associate for 30 years, has put together this anthology of works culled from unpublished short stories, novel manuscripts, and plays. *THE EARLY AYN RAND* spans the most critical and formative decade of Rand's career — from her first beginner exercises, to rare excerpts cut from the original manuscripts of such celebrated books as *WE THE LIVING* and *THE FOUNTAINHEAD*.

Also included are:

*From the '20s

— "The Husband I Bought," a

short story on the theme of unrequited love

— "Good Copy," an exuberant adventure story

— "Escort," another early short story

— "Her Second Career," a satire of Hollywood.

*From the early '30s

— "Red Pawn," the dramatized synopsis that was the basis for Rand's first screenplay, set on a Russian prison island.

— "Ideal," a three-act play about a famous and glamorous movie actress tortured by the world hypocrisy.

*And from the late '30s

— "Think Twice," a philosophical murder mystery.

Peikoff, in his extensive introduction and commentary, places each of these within the context of Rand's oeuvre and life.

The New York Times called Ayn Rand, "...A writer of great power. She has a subtle and ingenious mind and the capacity of writing brilliantly, beautifully, bitterly..." With over 15 million copies of her works in print, Rand has captivated generations of readers.

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est photograph of Ayn Rand ever taken (printed on the back of the jacket). It is not to be missed."—Roy A. Childs, Jr.



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It's Totalitarians Who Love a Man In a Uniform

James Payne's "Marxists: They Love a Man in a Uniform" (Oct.) does a service by developing an association that many in the peace movement should be more aware of. Many analysts, including myself, have noted the relation in passing, but as far as I know the point has not previously been developed as fully (although one might look at the work of Prof. Rudolph Rummel at the University of Hawaii). A difficulty with any analysis of this kind is in the definition of variables. I would question, for example, considering Iraq and Syria "Marxist," as Payne does, certainly when he excludes Libya from the Marxist group.

Payne establishes the case that Marxist states have many more people under arms than non-Marxist states. In his terms, Marxist regimes have a much higher force ratio than non-Marxist regimes. The author then compares force ratios with degrees of freedom or dictatorship as defined by the civil liberties rating in the annual Comparative Survey of Freedom that I do for Freedom House. Again he finds a direct relationship between degrees of dictatorship and force levels. But he also finds that non-Marxist dictatorships have much lower force ratios than Marxist regimes. From this "anomaly" Payne concludes that the noncommunist states to which I give low civil liberties ratings are actually "freer" than communist states given similar ratings. He believes that I must be misled because in their international reporting the media tend to ignore denials of "quiet freedoms."

Let me suggest that the "anomaly" he finds is due to rather different definitions of "dictatorship." The Survey ratings for civil liberties are based on a variety of "freedoms," but explicitly emphasize those freedoms that are most closely related to the political process. There are some ways in which many Marxist regimes are less free than other dictatorships, and conscription is one of them; there are also ways in which many non-Marxist regimes are less free than Marxist ones (consider the situation of women

in Saudi Arabia, for example). In spite of many freedoms in Guatemala not enjoyed in most Marxist states, it would be much safer to be a suspected member of the opposition in Poland or Hungary or several other Marxist states in the last few years than in Guatemala—or a few years ago in Argentina and Uruguay.

The Survey of Freedom is not a survey of levels of totalitarianism, although we have pointed out that such a survey would be useful. By relating force ratios to levels of totalitarianism rather than Marxism, Payne could certainly include Libya and Iran along with the Marxist states, and perhaps Iraq and Syria. Since he would find that the less totalitarian Marxist states would tend to have lower force ratios, he should discover a much stronger correlation than he now finds with Marxism.

Raymond D. Gastil
Freedom House
New York, NY

Math and Militarism

James L. Payne's analysis is mathematically fuzzy for two reasons. First, Payne failed to adjust force ratios where countries have invited troops to assist in their defense. Take the case of West Germany, for example. Payne calculates its force ratio (the number of full-time, active-duty military personnel per 1,000 population) as 7.8. But if adjustment is made for the presence of about 120,000 US troops in that country of 60 million, then its force ratio increases to 9.8. Payne has therefore underestimated the force ratio of all countries in Europe and Southeast Asia with US troops present.

Further, considering that US troops in Europe and Southeast Asia are accompanied by additional US dollars spent in those host countries, the adjusted force ratio (and Payne's error) will increase even more. Of course Payne's errors in calculating the force ratios of US allies are also present in his calculations of Soviet allies' force ratios.

Second, Payne failed to weight countries for size. He gives the force ratio of mainland China (4.3) and Nicaragua (27.8) equal weight in calculating the

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