



Johnny Munkhammar, RIP

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Johnny Munkhammar, an advocate for freedom and free markets and member of the Swedish Parliament, [died on Monday](#) after a three-year battle with cancer. Before getting elected to Parliament, Munkhammar was a frequent lecturer and author with the Swedish free market think tank, Timbro.

One of his favorite themes was that political observers had learned the wrong lessons about socialism and the “Swedish Model.” He wrote in the Wall Street Journal last year:

The simple truth is that Sweden is not socialist. According to the World Values Survey and other similar studies, Sweden combines one of the highest degrees of individualism in the world, solid trust in well-functioning institutions, and a high degree of social cohesion. [...] It’s true that Sweden wasn’t always so free. But Sweden’s socialism lasted only for a couple of decades, roughly during the 1970s and 1980s. And as it happens, these decades mark the only break in the modern Swedish success story. [[Wall Street Journal, January 26, 2011](#)]

Munkhammar frequently brought his free market message directly to the United States, working with think tanks such as the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and The Heritage Foundation. At the Cato Institute, one can find a [video of Munkhammar](#) telling an audience in 2007 that the right lessons to learn from the Scandinavian countries is that free markets work. Munkhammar wrote a [chapter](#) on the need for labor freedom for The Heritage Foundation/Wall Street Journal *2007 Index of Economic Freedom*. In a 2012 [paper](#) for the American Enterprise Institute, where he was a visiting fellow, Munkhammar argued that European governments had sacrificed future growth by responding to the financial crisis with increased spending. We were fortunate to be able to publish an article by Johnny in the Spring 2008 issue of *The Insider*: “[What the West Can Learn from Eastern Europe About Reform](#).”

Munkhammar friend of colleague Fredrik Segerfeldt writes:

During his (almost) 38 years, Johnny accomplished at least twice as much as most people do in twice as long life spans. Not only did he write numerous books, give lectures to top decision makers around the world, and win a seat in the Swedish Riksdag. He also started a lovely family, leaving his wife, Linda, and two wonderful daughters, Rebecka and Paulina, behind. Johnny will be dearly missed by thousands of fans of liberty, by hundreds of friends and most of all by his family. [Munkhammar.org, August 14]