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## **Tom Palmer Book Event @ Cato:**

Randy Barnett • November 12, 2009 10:31 am

For years Tom Palmer and I have been lecturing in the same summer seminar series in Europe and I have always found his lectures enormously engaging, informative and theoretically insightful. Tom is a personal hero of mine for his efforts to promote liberty behind the Iron Curtain before the fall of the USSR, and he is now the General Director of the Atlas Global Initiative for Free Trade, Peace, and Prosperity. Tom holds a PhD from Oxford and his new book, Realizing Freedom: Libertarian Theory, History, and Practice

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has just been published.

On Tuesday, December 1, at Noon, the Cato Institute will be holding a book forum on Tom's new book with comments by renowned GMU economics professor (and *New York Times* columnist) Tyler Cowen. Attendance is free, but registration is required, so you should register now here if you would like to be there. I am hoping to attend. Here is how Cato describes Tom's book and the event:

For more than 25 years, Tom Palmer has studied the history and theory of liberty and has worked tirelessly to bring liberty to countries around the world. This book ranges from the theory of justice to foreign policy, from the economics of public goods to gay rights in Russia. Palmer addresses the nature of freedom, law, rights, and justice; the morality of markets; and the institutional frameworks of free societies. He considers and

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criticizes the arguments of political theorists such as John Rawls and Cass Sunstein, as well as popular "myths of individualism," which he concisely refutes. But theory doesn't stand alone. Palmer studies and explains ordered liberty and connects abstract liberal rights to their historical roots. Drawing on his activism in countries ranging from eastern Europe in the late 1980s to Russia, China, and the Arab world today, he also takes on current events and concerns, from multiculturalism to struggles for free speech to the war in Iraq. It is hard to find a contemporary scholar with more knowledge of the theory and history of liberty, and at last his major writings are collected in one place. Author, blogger, and New York Times columnist Tyler Cowen will comment.

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