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FOREWORD

The problem confronting America and the world today is: Statism vs. Man—Individual Man. This, of course, is not a new problem. It is as old as man himself. History is but a record of attempts by men to find solutions to this very problem: What economic and political practices are best?

Henry Grady Weaver in his book, *The Mainspring of Human Progress,* has traced the course of these attempts from earliest times among the ancient Greeks, Romans, Hebrews, Christians, and Moslems to present-day America. He explains why America has come close to finding an enduring solution to this problem—a solution based on the moral worth and, therefore, the dignity of each individual person.

Mr. Weaver's valuable contribution to the literature of freedom has already provoked wide discussion. The purpose of this Study Guide is to facilitate such discussion and to encourage participation by others.

The guide is designed particularly for use by high school and college students, but generally for all who are concerned with economic and political action. Anyone who would study and discuss such matters is constantly being called upon to activate his knowledge of ancient, medieval, modern, and American history. I have drawn upon many years of experience in the teaching of history in high school to suggest the historical setting appropriate for the study of this book.

I believe that, with this guide, the study of *The Mainspring of Human Progress* will help teachers, adult discussion groups, and students discover why the free market, limited government, political economy is best for America.

September 28, 1955 Thomas J. Shelly