



WHY NATIONS PROSPER

A PERSONAL EXPLORATION BY
HENRIK EKELOUND

THOMAS SKINNER
Senior Executive Producer

Thomas Skinner is an award-winning television and film program executive with more than 50 years of experience in public and commercial broadcasting. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including four national Emmy Awards, three George Foster Peabody Awards, a Columbia/DuPont Award, and was the director of the Academy Award-winning film *Journey Into Self*.

As senior executive producer at Free to Choose® Media (FTCM), Skinner, along with Rob Chatfield, was executive producer of [Why Nations Prosper](#).

More recently, Skinner served as executive producer for [We Hold These Truths](#), [Free To Speak](#), the three-part series hosted by Nadine Strossen, a past president of the ACLU, [A More or Less Perfect Union](#), and [Thomas Sowell: Common Sense in a Senseless World](#), a one-hour program hosted by *The Wall Street Journal's* Jason Riley in 2021. He also served as senior executive producer and co-writer for [The Power of Choice: The Life and Ideas of Milton Friedman](#); developed, co-wrote, and executive produced [Work and Happiness: The Human Cost of Welfare](#), [The Real Adam Smith: A Personal Exploration by Johan Norberg](#), [Free or Equal](#), [Is America in Retreat?](#), [The Price of Peace](#), [The Ultimate Resource](#), [The Power of the Poor](#) and [Globalization at the Crossroads with Hernando de Soto](#), [Turmoil and Triumph: The George Shultz Years](#), [Testing Milton Friedman](#), [Unlikely Heroes of the Arab Spring](#), [Economic Freedom In Action: Changing Lives](#), [India Awakes](#), and [Power to the People](#).

These programs and series were distributed by PBS, APT, and NETA to public television stations nationwide. From 1970 through 1993, Skinner served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of QED Communications in Pittsburgh, PA. During his 23 years at QED Communications, Skinner served as executive producer of more than 150 programs and series broadcast nationally on PBS, among them the ten highest-rated programs in the history of PBS. In addition, he served as co-executive producer of 16 seasons of *National Geographic Specials*, the Emmy award-winning *Planet Earth*, *The Infinite Voyage* (both with the National Academy of Sciences), and many other specials and series.

Beginning in 1993, Skinner joined Resolution Productions, Inc. in Burlington, VT, as vice president for programming, creating, writing, and executive producing several series for TBS, A&E, and Discovery, including *Pirate Tales*, *Floating Palaces*, *California and the Dream Seekers*, *The Story of Money*, *Battleship*, and *The Secret World of Air Freight*. With a master's and PhD from the University of Michigan, Skinner also served as assistant manager at WITF-TV in Hershey, PA, associate professor of radio and television, and executive producer at San Diego State University.

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