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## DAVID HACKETT FISCHER TO RECEIVE 2006 IRVING KRISTOL AWARD

Washington, D.C.—Historian David Hackett Fischer, who has played a pivotal role in reviving popular and academic interest in American history and its lessons for the present, has been selected to receive the American Enterprise Institute’s Irving Kristol Award for 2006. He will receive the award and deliver the Irving Kristol Lecture at the Institute’s annual dinner on March 8, 2006, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Professor Fischer is a pioneer among historians who are combining modern methods of research and interpretation with renewed appreciation for the importance of contingency, choice, and character in the unfolding of the American drama. His bestselling books *Washington’s Crossing* (Oxford, 2004), which received the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in History, and *Paul Revere’s Ride* (Oxford, 1994) are more than meticulous retellings of great revolutionary events: they provide readers with a vivid sense of how the events were experienced in the immediate moment and of how they affected choices and decisions yet to come.

Although he describes himself as “primarily a storyteller and old-fashioned history teacher,” Professor Fischer’s historical narratives are also notable for their deep illumination of social and cultural circumstance. And two of his most important works are path-breaking studies of the roots of essential American character traits. *Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (Oxford, 1989) shows how the differing cultures of the British immigrant groups that settled Massachusetts, Virginia, the Delaware Valley, and the Western frontier produced distinctive habits, beliefs, and styles of individualism in those regions persisting far into the future. *Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America’s Founding Ideas* (Oxford, 2005) portrays American notions of liberty and freedom as arising not from abstract political theories or historical forces but from lived experience. Among Professor Fischer’s other major books are *The Great Wave: Price Movements in Modern History* (Oxford, 1996); *Growing Old in America* (Oxford, 1977); and *Historians’ Fallacies* (Harper & Row, 1970).

David Hackett Fischer was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where his father was superintendent of schools. He earned his A.B. from Princeton University (1958) and his Ph.D. in history from the Johns Hopkins University (1962). He has been teaching

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history at Brandeis University since 1962, where he has received numerous teaching awards and was appointed the Earl Warren Professor of History in 1971 and University Professor in 2003. He has held visiting professorships at Harvard University, Oxford University, the University of Washington (Seattle), and several universities in New Zealand. Professor Fischer and his wife, Judith Hummel Fischer, have two children and two grandchildren.

The Irving Kristol Award, AEI's highest award, recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary intellectual or practical contributions to improved government policy or social welfare. The award was established in 2002 in honor of AEI senior fellow Irving Kristol, replacing the Institute's Francis Boyer Award, which had been awarded annually for the previous twenty-five years. The Irving Kristol Award is selected by AEI's Council of Academic Advisers (information about the Council is posted at [www.aei.org/caa](http://www.aei.org/caa)).

Following is a list of Irving Kristol Award and Francis Boyer Award recipients. Many of their lectures are posted on the AEI website and are available through [www.aei.org/AnnualDinner/](http://www.aei.org/AnnualDinner/).

### **The Irving Kristol Award and Lecture**

2006 David Hackett Fischer	2004 Charles Krauthammer
2005 Mario Vargas Llosa	2003 Allan H. Meltzer

### **The Francis Boyer Award and Lecture**

2002 Norman Podhoretz	1988 Ronald W. Reagan
2001 Clarence Thomas	1987 Paul A. Volcker
2000 Christopher DeMuth	1986 David Packard
1999 Michael Novak	1985 Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
1997 James Q. Wilson	1984 Robert H. Bork
1996 Alan Greenspan	1983 Sir Alan Walters
1995 George F. Will	1982 Hanna Holborn Gray
1994 Carlos Salinas de Gortari	1981 Henry A. Kissinger
1993 Richard B. Cheney	1980 William J. Baroody Sr.
1991 Irving Kristol	1979 Paul Johnson
1990 Thomas Sowell	1978 Arthur F. Burns
1989 Antonin Scalia	1977 Gerald R. Ford

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