



# Financial Crisis Report



## Advancing in a Time of Crisis

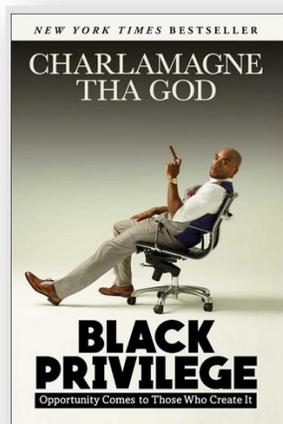
**Words of Wisdom** "The main vice of capitalism is the uneven distribution of prosperity. The main vice of socialism is the even distribution of misery." Winston Churchill

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We are experiencing the most economically unstable and socially erratic period in the history of the modern world. This period is marked with extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodity and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions including historic pandemics, riots and wars. As is typical of such times, many fortunes will be made and lost during this period. After talking with many business owners, executives, professionals, scholars and government officials from around the world, the writer believes that for the financially astute investor, this is a time of unprecedented opportunity given the global trade unbalances and distortions in the stock, commodity and currency markets. *The Financial Crisis Report* is a free compilation of the opinions of David Miyoshi as well as of those advisors he himself subscribes to (with appropriate credits given) on how to benefit during this historic time of crisis. The writer receives no compensation of any kind from any advisors whose articles or ideas may appear in this report. The reader is welcomed to check on all sources of information mentioned herein. Because the opinions and observations of this writer and other advisors are provided herein without charge, the reader is asked to make his/her own judgment on the contents.

### Black Privilege in America



Race is the central issue that now commands center stage on all political, social and entertainment arenas in America. And it's beginning to tear apart the fabric of social discourse in our land pitting family, friends, acquaintances, associates and colleagues against one another.

All of us have heard the expression "White Privilege in America." But what about the expression Black Privilege in America? Is there such a thing?

For your consideration, I have compiled some rather fervent comments about "Black Privilege" by some well-known individuals on both the left and right. Why we agree or disagree can indicate a lot about our upbringing and past experiences. I know it does in my case. D. Miyoshi

Black Privilege in America, from the Left (by John Blake, CNN)

Black privilege may be new, but some of the rhetoric defending it is at least two centuries old. As far back as the late 19th century, whites were saying

that blacks weren't so much victims of racism as they were victims of special treatment.

The 19th century U.S. Supreme Court echoed that thinking in one of its most infamous decisions. Congress had passed a sweeping Civil Rights Act in 1875 that banned discrimination against former slaves in public places. But the Supreme Court declared that act unconstitutional in 1883, a decision that sanctioned the rise of Jim Crow segregation and mob violence against blacks that would last a century.

In the high court's 1883 decision, Justice Joseph Bradley wrote in the majority opinion that there must come a time when blacks cease "to be the special favorite of the laws."

Over the years, that sentiment bubbled to the surface at various times as debates over "reverse racism" and affirmative action erupted. Yet something new is now happening. More whites have begun talking about themselves as a racially oppressed majority. In a widely publicized 2011 survey, white Americans said they suffer from racial discrimination more than blacks.

Peggy McIntosh, an activist who helped popularize the term "white privilege," says those who believe in black privilege are whiners.

Where does this belief come from? The numbers don't appear to support it. Numerous studies and surveys show that blacks lag behind whites and other racial groups in many socioeconomic categories.

The wealth of white households is 13 times the median wealth of black households. Black children represent 18% of the nation's preschool enrollment but make up nearly half of all children with multi-



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ple suspensions. Job applicants with white-sounding names are 50% more likely to get called back for an interview than similarly qualified applicants with black-sounding names. And prison sentences for black men are nearly 20% longer than those of white men convicted for similar crimes.

Some say you don't even need numbers to dismiss black privilege. Use your eyes. If being black is such an asset, why do many whites consistently move out of communities -- neighborhoods, churches, schools -- when too many blacks move in? It's a phenomenon that sociologists have long documented and that some call "racial tipping."

Those who argue for the existence of black privilege, however, don't deny these grim numbers. They just don't blame racism for those racial disparities.

David Horowitz, author of the book, "Black Skin Privilege and the American Dream," says blacks are still more privileged, though they lag behind other racial groups in varying categories. It's not white privilege that's preventing them from doing better, he says; it's their behavior, such as their inability to build more intact families.

"The fact that white people are better off is not a privilege; it's earned," says Horowitz, founder of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, a think tank in Los Angeles created to combat "the efforts of the radical left and its Islamist allies to destroy American values."

"If racial disparities prove discrimination, then the National Basketball Association is racist," Horowitz says. "Probably 90 percent of its players are black."

Black privilege is so pervasive that it's hard to miss, he says. College professors practicing "affirmative grading" hold black students to lower standards than others. Corporations offer programs and internships to black workers but not to whites.

Black privilege even extends to the White House, he says. Barack Obama was an inexperienced presidential candidate who was elected because Americans wanted to experience a post-racial sugar high, he says. "He wouldn't be elected dogcatcher if he wasn't black," Horowitz says of Obama.

Some who invoke "black privilege" also make another argument: Who says all unearned advantages are wrong?

In fact, some are unavoidable, says Benjamin Shapiro, a political commentator and author of an essay titled "Why White People Seek Black Privilege."

"Birth to a two-parent family is an unearned advantage. Birth into wealth is an unearned advantage. Being born smart or tall or athletic is an unearned advantage," Shapiro says. "But being born white in a

rural backwater in West Virginia is not an advantage over being born the son of Colin Powell."

Blackness, though, has become a "tremendous asset" in contemporary America, he writes in his column. Despite the "horrific and evil history of racism against black people," being black today gives its recipients privileges ranging from landing coveted college scholarships to becoming activists who can build careers on racial grievances, he says.

There are even whites now who try to pass themselves off as black activists because it's a career booster, Shapiro says. He cites Rachel Dolezal, the former head of an NAACP chapter, who said "I identify as black" but was called white by her family members.

"Being black confers the advantage of rhetorical victimhood," says Shapiro, host of "The Morning Answer" radio show in Los Angeles. "Accusing others of racism is a convenient way of avoiding discussion on uncomfortable topics ranging from murder rates to poverty rates to single motherhood rates."

Arguments for black privilege may face a hostile audience as acceptance of the idea of white privilege grows.

The white rapper Macklemore recently released a song titled "White Privilege." The term "check your privilege," a reference to white privilege, has gone mainstream.

The comedian Louis C.K. even built one of his most popular routines around the concept of white privilege.

"Here's how great it is to be white," he says. "I can get in a time machine and go to any time, and it would be awesome when I get there. ... A black guy in a time machine is like, hey, any time before 1980, no thank you." No one appears to have asked C.K. about black privilege, but others who have explored white privilege in books and essays reject the existence of such a privilege.

Some suggest that people who believe in black privilege still do not understand what white privilege is all about.

Being black is such a privilege that some white people, like Rachel Dolezal, a former NAACP leader, have tried to pass as black, some say.

Consider a popular argument against white privilege: I grew up poor, and nobody gave me anything. How can you say I'm privileged?

That argument is why Deborah Foster wrote an essay titled "A Guide to White Privilege for White People Who Think They've Never Had Any."





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Foster says she grew up in an impoverished white family in Iowa where her parents were so poor, she was placed in foster care as a child because they couldn't afford to feed her.

Still, Foster says she experienced white privilege. She says she only knew that because she happened to live around poor black people. She still had advantages that they did not, she says.

Her black friends would get accused of stealing from stores; she wouldn't, even though she was with them. They would be suspended for missing too many classes or being late; she was placed in a gifted program, even though she also had attendance problems. They were called lazy blacks behind their backs if they missed work at a fast-food restaurant; her behavior was never seen as a reflection on her race.

"We swim in white supremacy, which makes it harder to point out unless you start looking for it," she says.

Then there is affirmative action. Don't blacks get plenty of perks from affirmative action programs? That's a privilege that whites don't enjoy.

Only if you ignore much of U.S. history, some say. Whites have been the biggest affirmative action beneficiaries in U.S. history -- they've routinely been given advantages in jobs and other economic opportunities that were kept from blacks, says the Rev. Jim Wallis, one of the country's best-known commentators on race.

Wallis, who grew up in a white working-class family in Detroit, says they received special help from a massive government program that was largely denied to black families. It was called the GI Bill, he writes in his new book, "America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America."

The GI Bill was created for U.S. veterans returning from World War II. The government paid for the college education of white veterans and provided other types of financial aid to them, but black veterans were unable to reap many of the same rewards.

The exclusionary racial nature of the GI Bill was repeated throughout U.S. history. The financial help and land grants that the U.S. government gave to 19th century homesteaders; the New Deal policies that lifted the nation out of the Great Depression but were kept from many blacks -- that has been the norm, according to historians and books such as "When Affirmative Action Was White," by Ira Katznelson.

"I'm the beneficiary of the biggest affirmative action program in American history," Wallis says. "A free education, a loan for a house. But black veterans didn't get it. We got made middle-class by our government program. It was good. That's privilege."

He says some whites resist the term "white privilege" because they think they're being blamed for something wrong.

"Every white person isn't guilty for every bad thing that's been done to every black person," Wallis says. "But if we benefit from cooperating with white supremacy, then we are responsible for changing it. To tolerate racism in our social system is to be complicit."

### Black Privilege in America from the Right (by Mike Adams, the Natural Ranger)

The liberals are totally disingenuous when they wail about white privilege in America yet consciously ignore the black privilege running rampant in the country. It's this black privilege that demeans the blacks the most and is the height of hypocrisy.

The intolerant Left wants to push a world of "black privilege" while absurdly claiming all people should be treated equally. You can't have equality when the entire left-wing sector of society demands we judge people by the color of their skin.

Everyone now expects that when a cop kills a black man, the whole world riots. But when a cop kills a white man, it doesn't even make the evening news. "Black privilege" allows black people to carry out serious crimes of destruction and looting that white-labeled groups could never get away with.

Black Lives Matter groups are free to carry out riots, arson, looting and even assault on innocent civilians without being stopped or arrested by police. When black groups march toward a police precinct as it did in Minneapolis, the police evacuate and surrendered the entire building to be burned down by rioters. What's the message there.

By comparison, no white-inspired protest group would ever be allowed to burn down buildings, loot retailers to their heart's delight and take over police precinct buildings. These privileges are only reserved for Black Lives Matter. White-looking conservative groups would be immediately labeled terrorists and condemned as "racist" by the media, which would emphasize their criminal looting and property damage behaviors, instead of celebrating them like we see with black-inspired groups.

When black rioters commit crimes of arson, assault and violence, it's all characterized by the media as "peaceful" demonstrations. But if a group of white people did the exact same thing, they would be immediately labeled "violent extremists" or "terrorists," or even "white supremacists."

"Progressive" left-wing society demands unqualified people be placed into positions of power based on the color of their skin rather than merit.





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Black privilege allows black people to be granted extra consideration on corporate board positions, advances in law enforcement positions and, at times, a relaxation of standards in professional careers that essentially allow many black people to attain professional positions for which they weren't yet qualified. It's demeaning, of course, for an all-white corporate board to seek out and recruit a token black person to join their board just so they can all lie to themselves and claim to be in favor of "diversity." Yet this is what the Left demands: Token black representation across corporate America, demanding that black people be used as human props to achieve the correct ratios of melanin in positions of power or even in professions of science, medicine and engineering.

On hundred sixty years ago this turned into a big problem when the Democrats insisted on retaining their power over enslaving people of black color. Now the Democrats want to continue to retain their power by using people of black color as pawns to destroy the social institutions of the country.

Black privilege is also evident in academia and finance. As a mechanism that claims to help make up for centuries of oppression, when black people apply for loans or grant money, they get extra special consideration because of the color of their skin — black privilege. When they apply for college admissions, they get extra points for black privilege, even while Asian-Americans are punished by those same colleges and universities for being too academically gifted. (Yes, nearly all the universities in America routinely discriminate against Asians, assigning "Asian penalty points" to their college admission scores.)

Black privilege allows black people to be granted extra consideration on corporate board positions, advances in law enforcement positions and, at times, a relaxation of standards in professional careers that essentially allow many black people to attain professional positions for which they weren't yet qualified. It's demeaning and insulting, of course, for an all-white corporate board to seek out and recruit a token black person to join their board just so they can all lie to themselves and claim to be in favor of "diversity." Yet this is what the Left demands: Token black representation across corporate America, demanding that black people be used as human props to achieve the correct ratios of melanin in positions of power or even in professions of science, medicine and engineering.

The entire process is demeaning and insulting to every one of the very capable black Americans who have rightfully earned their positions of influence or entrepreneurship or talent. There are a great many capable and even brilliant African-American doctors in America today, but thanks to the black privilege demands of the progressive Left, a spell of doubt is cast across all black doctors, effectively labeling them all with question marks that cause patients to quietly ask whether their particular doctor earned his position or was granted it due to black privilege.

This is not helped when we see news of black university students demanding free grades — unearned high marks — because they are black. And universities are agreeing with the demands, awarding black students extra high grades they never earned. This teaches black students that they really don't need to earn grades at all. They

merely need to protest and demand black privilege to get what they want.

That's partly why the process of selecting black people for high positions merely because they're black continues. How many police chiefs in cities across America were advanced to that position largely because of the color of their skin? There are no white police chiefs in America's large cities who became Chief of Police because they were white, but there are plenty who were awarded that same position because of their color. Mayors of large cities tell themselves that if the police chief is black, he or she can talk to the black rioters in a way that doesn't seem condescending. Yet choosing a police chief because he's black rather than selecting the right person on merit is, itself, incredibly demeaning and condescending to black Americans. It's telling them that their only contribution to this society is the color of their skin, not the content of their character or the brilliance of their mind. Dr. King would be appalled.

That's black privilege, and it dominates law enforcement and many other professions across America, including medicine, science and engineering.

Black privilege sows doubt in the minds of the public, harming the reputations of black achievers who legitimately earned their positions.

The assertion of black privilege across many professions naturally causes people to wonder how public projects like bridges were awarded. Was that bridge awarded to the most qualified engineering firm? Or was it given to the firm with the highest percentage of black engineers, regardless of whether they have the experience and qualifications to design a bridge that will be safe for the public?

Thanks to the demands of black privilege across the cultural landscape, in many professions now, "progressive" decision makers no longer demand the most qualified person do the job. Merit has been replaced with skin color selection, which is simultaneously discriminatory and demeaning to all human beings. It also harms the reputations of the truly brilliant, highly-qualified black doctors, engineers and scientists across America because it trains many people across society to legitimately wonder whether that black doctor, for example, actually earned his medical degree or was given a pass because of his color. In this way, black privilege harms legitimately high-achieving black Americans whose achievements are suspected of being unfairly ascribed to them.

That's how the progressive Left creates more racism in society, sowing the seeds of distrust that only lead to more suspicions of black privilege being the determining factors in many politically-motivated decisions. And that's sad, because one of the most brilliant persons I've ever encountered is a black man. I refer to him as having a "beautiful mind." His name is Alan Keyes, by the way, and he's one of the America's great treasures in terms of human beings. Anyone who would question the merit of Keyes' mind is a fool, and his intellect is that of a giant compared to most people of any race that I've ever encountered.





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Progressive Leftists think black people are sub-human and incapable of interacting in a rational, civil way... asserting that they "speak through violence" like animals.

Even the attitude that black people can only speak through violence is wildly insulting, as if the progressive Left believes modern blacks are some sort of sub-human animals who can only grunt and thrash their way across an urban landscape rather than engage in meaningful, rational conversations about the structure of society. The very idea that blacks must be allowed to "communicate" through arson and looting is demeaning and anti-humanitarian, yet it encapsulates the ideology of the progressive Left which treats blacks as sub-human animals who must be "allowed to riot" because that's the only way they know to communicate.

The very idea is insulting beyond belief. Yet it now dominates the cultural landscape. How many times have we now heard that we must "let them riot" because that's their "speech?" The message being broadcast to the rest of society, according to the bigoted Left, is that they think black people have not even attained the degree of domestication necessary to participate in a modern society founded upon the rule of law. Black groups, say the progressives, are exempt from the rule of law because they are incapable of the level of rational thought necessary to even operate in the realm of civility. Can you think of a more racist, demeaning insult to human beings?

In essence, Leftists think of black Americans as zoo animals, not capable participants in modern society. And sometimes, they seem to be saying, the zoo animals need to be let loose to run around the zoo and destroy everything because the Democrats think they're animals. That's all their capable of, according to the bigoted Left. That's true "systemic racism," and it's perpetuated by the progressive Left.

Further underscoring that twisted, bigoted belief, the progressive Left chooses cultural heroes who are violent felons and thugs, essentially proclaiming that black America can't find any upstanding, law-abiding heroes to celebrate, as Candace Owens explains in her videos. Instead, they resort to criminal felons, drug abusers and low-life thugs as their chosen heroes.

George Floyd, for example, was a drug-abusing felon and violent criminal who once held a gun to the torso of a pregnant woman during a home robbery. That doesn't mean he deserved to die at the hands of police, but the fact that the entire left-wing narrative glosses over his own criminal acts and felony prison stint only demonstrates how the left-wing media "blackwashes" black cultural heroes to lie to their own followers about the reality of the situation.

Thanks to the twisted narratives of the Left, even a violent criminal felon can be celebrated as a Christ-like cultural hero, while the entire FBI kneels before him to surrender to the lawlessness of the Left. This particular department of the FBI is a lunchtime fast response team known as Meal Team Six:

Yes, I just fat-shamed the FBI. If you're going to wear a tactical vest and pretend to be a field agent so you can take part in the brainwashing political theater of kneeling down to left-wing domestic terrorism, don't have the fitness level of a donut-hoarding desk jockey.

As Candace Owens explains, informed black Americans do not support a multiple-felon thug being celebrated as a cultural hero. Candace Owens has been branded a racist and race traitor for speaking the obvious:

White babies are born into sin, while black babies are celebrated and loved for being born the right color.

Black privilege is so powerful in America today that black babies are born the "right" color, to be celebrated as promising citizens who will later lead a progressive society to peace and prosperity. White children, on the other hand, are condemned as being born in sin, full of systemic racism and needing to be guilt-tripped in their early years to make sure they are properly condemned and berated by society. That's the conclusion of a recent expert on CNN who insisted that the proper role of society is to psychologically terrorize white children because of the way they were born. "White kids don't deserve innocence," he says, summarizing the black privilege insanity that has now transformed into a kind of societal mass mental abuse of white children.

Similarly, when black people use social media to organize acts of terrorism or call for the murder of the president, it's tolerated by the tech giants. But if a white person were to engage in similar behavior, they would be immediately shut down and probably arrested for conspiracy to commit terrorism. This demonstrates how even the tech giants overwhelmingly embrace black privilege, but never similar freedoms to speak for those who society labels as "white" or "conservative." The oppression of conservative and Christian speech on the big tech platforms, in fact, has reached an all-time high, even as the radical left-wing fascists who run the tech giants claim to be acting out of "inclusiveness" and "tolerance."

We can never achieve a society based on equality if the progressive Left refuses to treat people with equal merit.

The Left's stated goal of achieving "equality" is a farce. Equality cannot be achieved when one group is granted privilege based on the color of their skin (black privilege) while another group is condemned and punished at the same time (white guilt). These discriminatory, anti-human actions by Democrats and the progressive Left only serve to worsen bigotry and racism across America.

But of course, that's the whole point. Democrats actively seek division, hatred and violence. Those are their tools of cultural revolutions, and Black Lives Matter has become the left-wing equivalent of the American ISIS — the militant terrorism wing of the Democrat party.

End of article



## 15 Reasons Trump Has Been Overthrown

This is an article by Dave Hodges, host of the popular *The Common Sense Show*, a no-nonsense running commentary on the status of American social and political issues through the eyes of conservatives. The article appeared in YouTube on June 9, 2020. While I disagree with some of the points made in it, the overall thrust is accurate. From a Republican's perspective, it's very sobering and I present it here for your consideration. D. Miyoshi



In December of 2018, Trump said that if he was removed from office, there would be a revolution, an armed insurrection. In late 2018, Trump may have been right, however, Trump has been overthrown but the silence from the silent majority has been deafening! Please spare us the bravado and put away your M-16 as you will soon be outnumbered and outgunned by the blue helmets who are speaking Russian and Chinese. Trump's reign is over, the Republic has been overthrown, the rule of law has been abandoned and very soon, nobody will be there to answer your 911 call. Trump has been overthrown and you are now living in an emerging communist country.

How can we be sure that Trump has been overthrown?

1. After making unprecedented gains in the economy in his first three years in office, Trump allowed his traitorous son-in-law, Jared Kushner, business partner of George Soros, to construct the COVID-19 team. Every member of this team had distinct and illegal financial conflicts of interest, mostly with the Bill Gates deadly vaccine team and others with major pharmaceuticals.
2. Once it was understood the COVID-19 primarily attacked only the elderly with compromised immune systems, Trump should have acted to end the COVID-19 façade and yet, the nonsense continues today. He has remained silent on the biggest fraud ever perpetrated upon a nation.
3. Trump permitted the CDC to advocate for “presumptive diagnoses” in which no real medical confirmation had to exist, only the “opinion” of the doctor in order to fraudulently report an imaginary COVID death. This greatly inflated the number of fake cases and was used to justify the continual shutdown of the economy based on fake diagnoses and unrelated restriction. We certainly flattened the curve. We flattened the curve of the economy. The number of confirmed fake cases with regard to COVID-19 diagnoses was stunning! Democratic hypocrisy is off the charts! Just two days ago, Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, while continuing the destruction of her state through an unnecessary lockdown, went out and marched with Black Lives Matter and violated social distancing every step of the way. Where was Trump? He was nowhere to be found!!!
4. Trump allowed his federal government to pay out federal money to cities and states that had CV-19 cases. The cities and states were incentivized to lie to get federal money while Trump's three-year-economic-gains evaporated in 60 days.
5. Around mid-May, Trump unsuccessfully tried to reassert control over the re-opening of a devastated America and Democratic mayors and governors gave the President the big middle finger. And what did Trump do? Do you hear the crickets chirping?
6. Any President has the authority to federalize the National Guard, take control, and end any insurrection. Despite overwhelming precedent to the contrary, Trump allowed the Democratic governors to tell him to butt out and he could not intervene in their continual and unconstitutional lockdowns of the country.
7. While the Democratic mayors and governors ordered police and the National Guard to stand down during the looting, burning and murders associated with the contrived riots designed, to not really protest George Floyd, but to create national instability as a prelude to regime change, Trump acquiesced while his country was being burned down to the ground.
8. The Democratic mayors and governors are encouraging, through willful neglect, to allow the violence that is consuming the country to continue. Trump could use the DOJ to prosecute these mayors and governors under the Insurrection Act as an accomplice which is aiding and abetting the violence in their jurisdiction. Again, crickets chirping.
9. Trump is the Commander-In-Chief, and as such, he is in charge of the military. Except Trump is not in charge of the military. Mattis and Allen have told the military to not obey Trump. Mattis and Allen could be brought back into active duty and sentenced for treason and insubordination. Yet, Trump has done nothing but to allow this treason to spread amongst the ranks, particularly in the Pentagon.
10. Speaking of the Pentagon, Trump allowed the Pentagon to disarm the National Guard in Washington DC and put the troops in dangers while allowing the murderous mayhem to continue in Washington DC.
11. Trump allowed Defense Secretary Esper to criticize him in public in regard to federalizing the National Guard. Trump should have fired Esper that same day. Instead, he allows disrespect and treason to walk hand in hand.
12. Trump has the ability to fire anyone in the military, including the traitors who disarmed the National Guard and he has done nothing about the treason.



### Get A Job, Gen Z

13. Although the illegal unmasking was exposed, Trump allowed his Deep State-serving Attorney General to turn a blind eye to Obama and Biden’s complicity in the event by announcing that there would not even be an investigation. The unmasking was directed at Trump, his campaign and even his own family! Yet, Trump refuses to even act in his own self-interest.

14. Trump issued an executive order against social media which would have prevented censorship of conservative opinion. The day after his EO, Candace Owens Twitter account was deleted. This was another big middle finger to Trump. He has done nothing to enforce this order and he never will. This gives Google, Facebook and Twitter et al, the ability to win over the ignorant 70% of America with unopposed leftist political opinion leading up the election. Meanwhile conservative opinion is completely silenced. This is political suicide with regard to Trump’s chances to get re-elected. As a result, Trump has two chances to be re-elected under the present circumstances. These two chances are called “slim” and “none”.

15. Trump has not made one Deep State arrest.

President Donald Trump (January 21, 2017-March 13, 2020) Rest In Peace!

Oh, we can look for signs of life in Trump, but in the meantime, Americans better turn their attention to adaptation and survival rather than activism.

The only ones who can save you now is you and Jesus with an emphasis on Jesus!

End of article

Here is an article by a successful Japanese American businessman about our current younger generation. It is written by Tony Sagami and is entitled:

### Get A Job, Gen Z

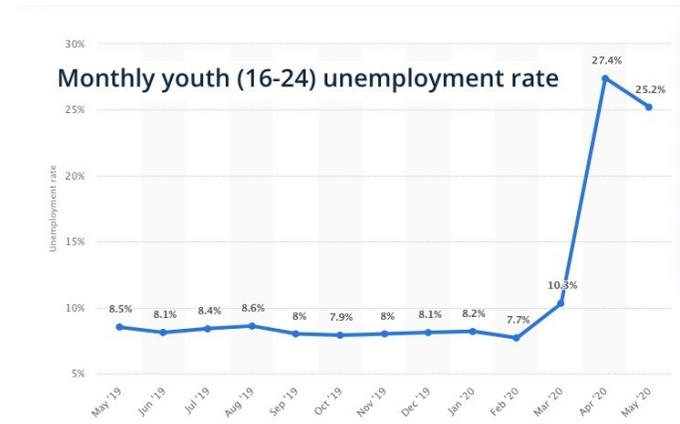


That’s what I think when I see the hundreds of twenty-something millennials and Gen. Z-ers camped out in Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ) in Seattle.

The honest truth is that many of them don’t have jobs.

The latest unemployment numbers show that 7.7 million Americans

under the age of 30 are unemployed. Plus, more than 3 million more young Americans have dropped out of the labor force in just the last month.



The result is an unemployment rate of 25.2% of Americans aged 16-24, which shockingly increases to one out of every three if you include the 3 million youths that have dropped out of the labor force, which is the highest rate since jobs stats started to be tracked in 1948.

In short: The labor force participation rate shows that high school and college students are simply choosing NOT to work.

The idea of not working just astounds me.

Longtime readers know that I was born in Japan. My father was an Army private stationed in Japan and my mother was a waitress at a noodle shop near the Army base in Tokyo.

My father was transferred back to the U.S. and my mother and I journeyed to the States from Japan in 1957.

Our long, two-month trip on a slow naval transport ship must have been frightening to my then-20-year-old mother. But she was eager to start a new life in America ... a place she was told where anyone who studied hard and worked hard could be successful.

Unfortunately, my parents divorced shortly after we arrived in the U.S. and my mother suddenly found herself living in a strange country with no money, no family, no friends and no place to live.

Life was very hard.

My mother really wanted to return to Japan, but she knew that a half-Japanese, half-American child would have very limited opportunities in Japan. It wasn’t like it is today; the wounds from World War II were too fresh and I would have never been admitted to a top university or have landed a top job.

So instead of returning to Japan where her family and friends were, she scratched, rummaged and scavenged enough to make a new life for us in the U.S.

Later, she married a wonderfully kind but poor vegetable farmer named Ken Sagami who adopted me when I was three years old.

Like most farmers, my father worked like a dog, but our family seldom had more than two nickels to rub together. Despite our meager finances, my mother fiercely held to the idea of the American dream. “In America, anybody can get rich if they work hard,” she told me.



## COVID MORTALITY IS AFFECTED BY RACE

And she was determined to have me prove her right. On the first day of first grade, my mother marched me to school and asked (more like ordered) the teacher to require me to sit in the front row directly in front of her desk.

My mother gave me almost daily lectures on the importance of education. And as a big believer in corporal punishment, she gave me the spankings of my life for anything less than straight A's.

The summers weren't easy, either. My father worked me seven days a week — just like him — all summer long. That was especially frustrating in high school because my friends were joyriding around town, swimming, chasing girls and otherwise having tons of fun ... and I was working in the hot summer sun.

I hated it at the time, but those back-breaking summers on the farm are the reason for my successful career. Work ethics are something that you learn, not something that you are born with. And I fear that most young Americans are not being taught what it means to put in a hard day's work.

My parents would have blown their stacks if I told them I wanted to take a couple weeks off to join a protest.

Our county is far from perfect, and I don't blame our nation's youth for demanding change. But like I told my children, do your protesting before or after you put in a honest day's work.

Best wishes,  
Tony Sagami

## COVID MORTALITY IS AFFECTED BY RACE

This is an article by Sharon Begley, senior writer in *Science and Discovery* that appeared in STAT newsletter on June 15, 2020. I think it is well researched and so present it here for your consideration. D. Miyoshi



Mortician and funeral director Bryan Clayton inspects names on a row of cardboard caskets, one reading "COVID+," at Maryland Cremation Services in Millersville, Md.

While early studies of who was dying of Covid-19 identified risks such as obesity and having diabetes, there is a growing realization that those initial conclusions might have been misleading, obscuring a more significant explanation.

As researchers pull back their lens from individuals to population-level risk factors, they're finding that, in the U.S., race may be as important as age in gauging a person's likelihood of dying from the disease.

The higher the percentage of Black residents in a county, the higher its death rate from Covid-19 — even after accounting for income, health insurance coverage, rates of diabetes and obesity, and public transit use, finds a new study by researchers at the MIT Sloan School of Management. With those plausible explanations ruled out, "the causal mechanism has to be something else," said applied economist Chris Knittel, the study's senior author. "If I were a public official, I'd be looking at differences in the quality of insurance, conditions such as chronic stress, and systemic discrimination."

The county-by-county analysis of Covid-19 death rates in the U.S. comes as more and more studies shift from the initial focus on individual-level factors that seem to increase people's risk of dying to population-level ones, too, said experts in public health, demographics, and infectious disease.

One reason for the new focus is that "we're not learning much more beyond what's been observed from the start of the pandemic: that sex, age, and preexisting conditions put you at greater risk of dying" from Covid-19, said Aaron Glatt, an infectious disease physician at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. In almost every country, for instance, more men than women are dying of Covid-19, an imbalance that likely reflects both biology — women have stronger immune systems — and socialization: They seem to be following social distancing guidelines more than men, which could decrease the viral load they're exposed to.

Also driving the shift in focus is that society-level influences are potentially more "actionable" than individual risk factors; you can't change your blood type. A study posted to the preprint site medRxiv this month reported that type O is associated with lower risk of respiratory failure from Covid-19 and type A with a higher risk, but the paper hasn't been peer-reviewed and it's not clear how much difference blood type might make. "I wouldn't tell one patient, thank God you have type O, but another, start preparing your will because you're type A," Glatt said.

To investigate population-level factors, MIT's Knittel and graduate student Bora Ozaltun analyzed county-by-county mortality rates — the number of deaths from Covid-19 as a percentage of population, from April 4 to May 27. The mortality rate is more precise than the infection rate or the case fatality rate (the percent of diagnosed cases who die), which are imprecise because of inadequate testing. In contrast, although some Covid-19 deaths were incorrectly attributed to other causes, especially early in the U.S. outbreak, "deaths, sadly, are an absolute," Knittel said.

They then used standard statistical tools to tease out which factors are most strongly correlated with mortality rates. Race stood out. Nationwide, the average county-level death rate from Covid-19 is 12 per 100,000 people. Counties with a Black population above 85% had a death rate up to 10 times higher. For every 10 percentage point increase in a county's Black population, its Covid-19 death rate roughly doubles, Knittel said.

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That meshes with other research. A study last month of 1,052 Covid-19 patients treated at Sutter Health hospitals in California, for instance, found that Black patients had 2.7 times the odds of hospitalization as non-Hispanic white patients, indicating more severe disease. And an analysis by scientists at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that the death rate in predominantly non-white areas is six times that in non-Hispanic white areas.

“Black people are dying of Covid-19 at a rate more than twice our share of the population,” said Malika Fair, an emergency medicine physician in Washington, D.C., and senior director of health equity programs at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The MIT researchers’ key finding is that the underlying reasons for the link between race and death rate are not the usual suspects.

“Policymakers’ natural instinct is to think this correlation is because of income disparities, or having health insurance, or diabetes, obesity rates, smoking rates, or even use of public transit,” Knittel said. “It’s not. We controlled for all of those. The reason why [Black people] face higher death rates is not because they have higher rates of uninsured, poverty, diabetes, or these other factors.”

The Sutter study, too, adjusted for age, sex, comorbidities, and income; the higher hospitalization rate for Black patients wasn’t explained by any of those.

That leaves other factors. “If I were a policymaker,” Knittel said, “I’d be looking at things like the systemic racism that affects the quality of insurance African Americans have and the quality of the health care they receive.”

People with Medicaid or high-deductible plans, for instance, are less likely to have a primary care physician; 34% of Black people and 15% of white individuals are covered by Medicaid and therefore less likely than people with employer-sponsored insurance to have a regular physician.

“People who didn’t have a relationship with a primary care provider were much less likely to get tested,” said Georges Benjamin, a physician and executive director of the American Public Health Association. “Testing sites were put in affluent communities, or required a car, and testing kits were in short supply. Any time there is a shortage of something, minorities are less likely to get it.”

Without a primary care provider, Black people who thought they were infected were also likely to be turned away from hospitals, Benjamin said. “Someone without a primary care doctor doesn’t get into the ER as fast as someone whose doctor calls ahead,” he said. “At what point were your symptoms severe enough that you got into the health care system?” For people of color, it was likely later, he suggests.

“Black patients presenting with fever and cough were less likely to receive a referral for a Covid-19 test,” Fair said. That delayed appropriate care.

And once they do get into the system, research has found, the quality of care Black people receive for a variety of conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, is likely to be lower. Racism “is apparent in how we treat patients,” Fair said. “We still see differences in the care [for many conditions] given to Blacks and whites.”

Another possible factor in the high death rate among Black Americans is the well-documented health effects, including on the immune system, of chronic stress such as that caused by a lifetime of discrimination.

In the MIT study, the correlation between a county’s Covid-19 death

rate and its proportion of Black residents was stronger within any given state than between states. “That tells me that there are important state-level differences that drive these deaths,” Knittel said. “African Americans are more likely to live in states with poor health care systems.”

Commuting via public transportation, relative to telecommuting, is also linked to a higher death rate. When public transit use is 20.6 percentage points higher in one county than another, its death rate is about tenfold higher.

Driving to work was also linked to a higher death rate. Many people working at their place of employment rather than home were in public-facing and therefore risky occupations such as health care, grocery stores, and public safety. “The correlation between death rate and driving to work suggests that just being at work, no matter how you get there, increases your risk of dying,” Knittel said.

Those positions are also filled disproportionately with people of color, likely contributing to the correlation between race and death rates. “Clearly, people who have jobs where they come into contact with others, from health care workers to bus drivers, are more likely to become infected,” the APHA’s Benjamin said. Although much about the pathology of the new coronavirus remains a mystery, the chance of becoming infected is partly a function of how much virus one is exposed to; the more infected people someone encounters, the higher that viral load can be.

The new population-level approach to understanding risk has prompted a rethinking of the role of conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

“Obesity is a marker of poverty and therefore of access to high-quality health care,” said Nina Schwalbe of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Although the physiological consequences of obesity, notably high rates of inflammation, might contribute to Covid-19 severity, “obesity is a signal for so many of the social determinants of health, and we have to ask what this signal is telling us about vulnerabilities,” Schwalbe said.

That holds for type 2 diabetes as well. An analysis of 13 separate studies found that the disease is associated with 3.7 times the risk of having severe Covid-19 or dying from it compared to not having any underlying illness. This, too, is a disease of poverty, which means those who have it are more likely to live in crowded homes where “social distancing” is impossible, more likely not to have a primary care physician, and more likely to have jobs that increase their exposure to infected people.

The Sutter and MIT studies cast doubt on whether individual risk factors are as important as social determinants of health in affecting someone’s chances of contracting severe and even fatal Covid-19. “It should cause us to ask a different set of questions about what puts you at risk of hospitalization or death,” Schwalbe said.

More and more evidence is pointing to social determinants of risk, which puts the role of underlying health conditions in a new light. “Comorbidities are still used to blame people for how hard they are hit by Covid-19,” said Philip Alberti, senior director for health equity research at the AAMC. To reduce the U.S. death toll now that many states are seeing a new surge in cases, he said, “our response to this disease” must look beyond the strictly medical.

In America, liberal politicians have demanded that you stay home to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Yet when the situation merited it, they suggest you join the crowds in the streets to protest systemic racism. At first blush, that seems contradictory. How does the same mind harbor these two seemingly contradictory convictions? How

## Leftists Love Both Anarchy and Authoritarianism

can the left in America and Britain simultaneously believe in tyranny and rebellion, in totalitarianism and revolution?

This is an important question, because what happened recently in America actually reveals a lot about the nature of American leftists. What seems like a paradox is actually quite consistent.

[End of article](#)

Here is an article by Joel Hilliker that appeared in the June 24 edition of *the Trumpet* to explain this paradox from a conservative Christian perspective. I present it here for your reading consideration. D. Miyoshi

## Leftists Love Both Anarchy and Authoritarianism



**H**ow can a leftist believe the fundamental principles of leftism—without contradicting other fundamental principles of leftism? For example: Should you stay locked down at home to prevent the spread of coronavirus? Or should you join the crowds in the streets to protest systemic racism?

Recent weeks have exposed a stunning paradox.

First was an unprecedented exercise in authoritarianism. With covid-19 as a justification, governments implemented unprecedented authoritarian oppression, closing businesses, restricting travel, shutting down schools and churches, enforcing empty streets and public places, mandating social distancing and mask-wearing, imposing massive fines, and arresting people for such crimes as going to the beach. They invaded people's privacy; they followed them with drones; they tracked their movements through cell-phone data. They said this was needed for society to heal. Governors and other officials flexed their muscles, talked like dictators, and showed people who was boss. They spoke the language of law and order; they directed that all people do exactly as they were told. They replaced constitutional rights with their own directives. Their word was the law. Anyone who violated it was ignorant, irresponsible, anti-science, lawless and dangerous.

Then suddenly came an unprecedented exercise in anarchy. These

same people turned on a dime. They told us that since George Floyd was killed, it was imperative not to respect the law, but to defy the law. It was not time to comply with every detail of every absurd, confusing, conflicting government directive. It was time to rise up in protest, in anger, in violence against even the most basic, fair, uncontroversial laws. Mobs moved in great throngs to smash windows, loot businesses, burn cars, attack police, destroy cities and create mayhem, and law enforcement was ordered to back down. The same police who had been told to stringently enforce quarantine measures against citizens who committed crimes of walking down the street or failing to wear facemasks or visiting family members—were now told to stand down and watch as citizens committed crimes of vandalism, arson, robbery and assault. For weeks people have been permitted to hold a miniature insurrection controlling several city blocks in Seattle. As anarchy has reigned, government officials are explaining to us how this is all justified, appropriate and necessary. They say this is what is needed for society to heal. They actually say the need for violent protest outweighs the need for containing covid-19.

Just days before, containing this virus was worth shutting down entire sections of the national economy. But overnight, the opposite was true: Containing this virus was not worth shutting down these destructive, lawless protests. Peaceful economic activity had to stop—violent subversive activity could proceed.

At the snap of a finger, the authoritarians turned into anarchists.

It makes your head spin. How is this possible? How does the same mind harbor these two seemingly contradictory convictions? How can the left in America and Britain simultaneously believe in tyranny and rebellion, in totalitarianism and revolution?

This is an important question, because what has happened here actually reveals a lot about the nature of American leftists. What seems like a paradox is actually quite consistent.

In some ways, authoritarianism and anarchy are two sides of the same coin.

To truly grasp what is happening and what a threat our nation is under, you have to understand a few things about God.

### A God of Freedom

God created human beings. He created us for a marvelous purpose, with an incredible potential. He gave us intellectual ability and creative capacity that He did not give to animals. He gave us emotion, relationships with others, love, a sense of morality, of right and wrong. He created us to learn to think, plan, design, produce and even create as He does! And He has thrilling, exciting plans for our future.



## Leftists Love Both Anarchy and Authoritarianism

To help us grow in our capacity, our capability, our responsibility, our character, He gave us dominion over the material world. This gives us opportunity to learn how to build and care for things. He created marriage and family to teach us how to care for others, to develop teamwork and unity, selflessness and sacrifice. He also gave His law, governing our relationships within family and in society, and even how we take care of the Earth and material things. He created an economic system based around private property ownership to teach us opportunity and accountability, stewardship and hard work, industry and creativity, and voluntary charity toward our neighbors.

Our Creator wants to help us grow up. By being accountable for our own choices, we learn to strive for excellence, to grow in duty, authority and capacity to help others. He wants us to live productive, noble lives, where we build strong families, prosperity, right ambition, strong moral fiber and solid character. As we do that, we are preparing for the wonderful future He has in store for us. You can read what the Bible reveals about that by reading our free book by Herbert W. Armstrong *The Incredible Human Potential*.

God is a God of freedom. He wants people to be free to fulfill our fullest potential.

This truth about God is beautifully expressed in America’s Declaration of Independence: “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

In modern times, God has used America (and Britain) to give more freedom and prosperity to more people than anyplace else in history—people of every race, color and creed, it should be noted. This is something that all of us in these nations should be extremely grateful for.

With the Creator’s goals and purposes in mind, turn your attention again to the two seemingly contradictory trends at work right now in this country. Do you see the common denominator? Both strip people of the freedoms God gave us. Both prevent people from fulfilling their God-given potential.

### Anarchy

First let’s talk about anarchy. It is clear how the people running around destroying everything are enemies of civilization. They indiscriminately tear down what others have painstakingly built. They do not know how to build—only how to destroy. There is nothing positive or uplifting or godly about this force. It plays to the worst in human beings: It is antithetical to reason; it is fueled by anger and hatred. To whatever degree this force actually succeeds in toppling the existing order, it is incapable of replacing it with anything better and will leave only ruin in its wake.

History shows that civilization is actually a fragile thing. It is always

threatened by the forces of barbarism. God wants to keep these forces in check in order to guarantee people’s rights and to help us attain our potential. One tool He uses to do that is the national governments He has allowed human beings to form. These governments keep the barbarians at bay. We should be thankful for that—and pay heed to those authorities.

The Apostle Paul writes about this in Romans 13. He says, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (verse 1). That is an extraordinary statement. “[T]he most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will” (Daniel 4:32). The Bible shows that this is not God’s world—it is actually governed by Satan the devil. But even though God does not directly govern, He does rule! He is involved in choosing who rules over other men.

“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:2; New King James Version). Paul calls the authority of human governments “the ordinance of God”! This is what holds society together.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. ... For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” (verses 3-4). God wants these governments in place! Society without government is chaos. If there were no government, this world would look like Lord of the Flies.

Anarchy seems like the ultimate freedom. But in reality, it is the opposite, because there is no structure in place to protect freedom—to secure it and defend it. The strong do what they will at the expense of the weak.

“So the prime task of government is to establish order,” wrote Will and Ariel Durant; “organized central force is the sole alternative to incalculable and disruptive force in private hands” (*The Lessons of History*).

Thus, this passage in Romans 13 tells us to be subject to those authorities, “for they are God’s ministers .... Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor” (verses 6-7). God’s Church and true Christians set an example in this, even in response to the covid-19 massive government overreach. We proclaim the truth about what is actually behind those directives, but we also submit to them as long as they do not conflict with obeying God.

Have you thought about government officials being God’s ministers? Obviously they govern quite imperfectly. But imperfect government is better than no government.



## Telemedicine is Not Catching On

The forces of anarchy aim to undermine God's plan and debase human beings, denying them the blessings of an ordered society that enables all people—of every color, old and young, strong and weak, great and small—to thrive. It is fundamentally an anti-God movement and force.

### Authoritarianism

Authoritarianism looks like the opposite of anarchy, but its fundamental goals are the same. And in most cases, authoritarians use anarchy and chaos as a tool to impose their authority.

Everything God seeks to accomplish in the lives of human beings, authoritarians work to dismantle. God encourages freedom within His moral law—true liberty that comes from strong individual character. Authoritarians often encourage moral license, permitting all sorts of immorality that debase individuals, fragment families and destroy lives. But such behavior destroys true freedom. As Jesus Christ said, “[W]hoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34; nkjv).

The weaker the families are, the more they need to rely on the government for support. Authoritarians encourage dependency. They always tend toward socialistic and communistic practices, taking decision-making power away from individuals and families and transferring it to government officials. As governments take people's wealth and redistribute it as they please, this inevitably suppresses people's personal motivation and ambition. It strips people of responsibility and makes them shiftless and idle. Rather than striving for excellence, people settle into self-satisfaction and mediocrity.

And the bureaucratic process of redistributing wealth always costs a lot of wealth, which causes the overall standard of living to drop. It also kills off the opportunity and desire to demonstrate individual charity. The government takes care of the poor—and it's taking your money to do it. There is nothing voluntary about it. And when the poor receive such charity, rather than feeling gratitude, they feel entitled, and get very agitated and angry if anything interrupts the flow of those benefits.

By contrast, God encourages private property ownership and thereby industry and stewardship. This prepares man for ever greater capacity, duty and authority. It also obliges people to be accountable for their choices. But socialist government insulates people from the consequences of bad decisions. It robs people of their individual dignity and turns them into wards of the state.

At heart, authoritarians aim to put themselves in place of God. They want people looking to them instead of to God. The more authoritarian the leader, the more he creates a kind of religion of the state.

On top of that, the greater the role the government plays in people's lives, the more power it has to trample economic and social freedoms. Which is exactly what it inevitably does.

This is all exactly the opposite of what God wants for us.

And that exposes the true nature of this two-headed monster—this movement that is somehow simultaneously anarchic and authoritarian. Leftists embrace both tendencies because both express the same satanic impulse to destroy people, strip them of freedom, and prevent them from growing, building and creating as God intends. Satan always comes as an angel of light and couches everything he does in marvelous language about social justice, equality and compassion. But at its core, this movement is anti-God. It is against God and destructive of God's plan for human beings.

The better you come to know God, the easier it is to recognize a counterfeit like the one taking over our nations.

### End of article

## Telemedicine is Not Catching On



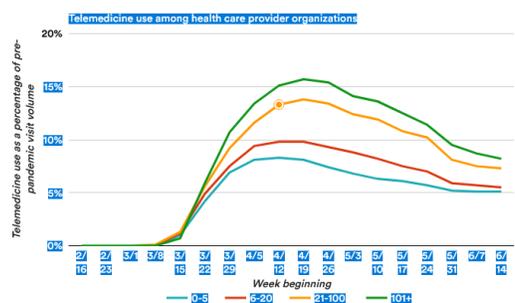
**D**uring the COVID lockdown many of us consulted our doctors through our computer. In fact, we began to think there was no alternative and that this would be the new normal. But an article on June 25 published by Stat and written by doctors Ateev Mehrotra, David Linetsky and Hilary Hatch show this may not be the case.

Telemedicine, which is the delivery of care by a clinician in one location to a patient in another is seen as a vital component of the nation's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have urged physicians and other health care providers to use telemedicine, and both the federal government and private health plans have implemented numerous temporary regulatory and payment changes to facilitate its use.

The surveys in the Stat article show that physicians initially responded to these changes. Based on a sample of more than 50,000 clinicians who are clients of Phreesia, a health care technology company where doctors Linetsky and Hatch work, Stat saw a sudden and dramatic rise in telemedicine (see the chart below). From almost no

## Telemedicine is Not Catching On

telemedicine visits before the pandemic struck in the U.S., by early April almost 14% of the usual weekly number of pre-pandemic visits were being conducted via telemedicine. The assumption among many was that, after witnessing the benefits of telemedicine, physicians and patients would embrace it and growth would continue



PATRICK SKERRETT / STAT  
SOURCE: PHREESIA, INC. PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS WERE BROKEN INTO FOUR GROUPS (0-5, 6-20, 21-100, 100+) BASED ON THE NUMBER OF CLINICIANS IN THE ORGANIZATION. PERCENTAGES REPRESENT THE NUMBER OF TELEMEDICINE VISITS IN A GIVEN WEEK DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF ALL VISITS (TELEMEDICINE AND IN-PERSON) IN THE BASELINE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 1.

STAT

But that hasn't happened. In fact, the use of telemedicine is now steadily declining and during the week of June 14 was used for only 8% of the usual pre-pandemic number of visits.

What happened? Did telemedicine fail to deliver? Or is something else going on?

According to the writers, implementing telemedicine isn't easy. To do it well, a physician practice must buy appropriate technology and train staff and patients to use it. It takes time to help an 80-year-old unfamiliar with technology do a video visit. New workflows must be introduced. If a patient needs a laboratory test, for example, where do you send them? Clinical schedules need to be changed. Documentation protocols must be updated. And on and on.

This type of implementation takes both resources and expertise. Not surprisingly, bigger organizations with dedicated information technology, procurement, and implementation teams were able to do it more successfully. Bigger organizations (100-plus clinicians) were able to shift almost 16% of their pre-pandemic visit volume to telemedicine (see chart above). Smaller provider organizations (five or fewer clinicians) were using it at approximately half that rate.

In the midst of a lockdown and stay-at-home orders, physicians did what they could and switched to telemedicine visits as their only option. Because of technology problems with video visits, many reverted to phone calls. But as we are getting into a new normal and communities are reopening, making in-person visits an option, many physicians are deciding the investment in telemedicine is not worth it and are abandoning it.

The writers believe that physicians are doing this because of uncertainty regarding its financial sustainability. A physician or physician

group will invest in telemedicine only if it has long-term viability. While health plans and the government gave providers more flexibility to implement telemedicine and get reimbursed for virtual visits at the beginning of the pandemic, they explicitly stated that those changes were temporary. Physicians need to know now what telemedicine payment and regulations are going to be look like in the post-pandemic world.

For example, if Medicare and private health plans announce that the expansions of telemedicine are permanent, then physicians may begin investing resources into telemedicine. But if there is continued uncertainty, then practices will decide against those investments and accelerate their switch back to in-person care.

In interviews, physicians have told the writers there is also uncertainty in other aspects of telemedicine. They are confused by state Medicaid programs' coverage of telemedicine or frustrated by the low payment. Physicians who mostly care for patients with Medicaid, such as many pediatricians, are particularly leery about whether to take the plunge. This is not limited to Medicaid: physicians said that when they submit their bills to private health plans they are not paid or are being paid less than what they expected. It is easy for any insurer to say it has a "policy," but that policy must be reflected in reality.

All of this is occurring in the context of a huge drop in revenue for physician practices. They are struggling financially, especially smaller ones. When you are struggling to keep the lights on, there is no appetite for uncertainty. You do what you know will allow you to you survive.

The virus continues to circulate in communities throughout the United States and there remains some risk to patients going to their doctors' offices to be seen. Patients with the highest risk of dying from Covid-19 — the elderly and those with chronic illness — also account for most physician visits. So, to protect patients, telemedicine should be a key component of care for months or even years to come. But momentum will be lost unless government payers and private health plans clarify their long-term plans now.

And of course, telemedicine is still laden with some physical constraints. Just last week, I had my annual physical exam at my doctor's office. I elected to go to his office because he could draw my blood there. Telemedicine still has some limitations.

D. Miyoshi

## The Tradeoffs of COVID-19



**W**e're now going in to the fourth month of the national lockdown. Did it work? Probably not. The lockdown did slow the spread of the virus and did save some lives. But the gains may be temporary.

"Flattening the curve" does not mean reducing total infections and deaths. It just means stretching them out over a longer period so the hospital system is not overwhelmed. The biggest problem with the lockdown was that everyone counted the benefits but not the costs.

Well, besides the hit to stocks, bonds, gold, silver, crypto currencies and money supply, there is another cost to be suffered in the coronavirus pandemic which is up 1,000% in the last three months.

According to Brian Hicks of the *Wealth Daily* publication, recent data shows a surge in depression, anxiety, suicides, and alcohol and drug abuse... all hitting the U.S. like a tsunami. Anti-anxiety prescriptions are up 34% since late-February.

According to the *Washington Post*:

Nearly half of all Americans report the coronavirus crisis is harming their mental health, according to polls. A federal emergency hotline for people in emotional distress registered a more than 1,000% increase in April compared with the same time last year. Roughly 20,000 people texted that hotline, run by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, last month.

With this stress, Americans are turning to alcohol and drugs in record numbers.

Alcoholic beverage sales increased by 55% in March, when states urged residents to stay home, compared to sales in 2019. While the increase in sales could represent stockpiling for the sheltered weeks ahead, it also signaled the potential for alcohol abuse.

In states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, New York, etc., there's been a surge in opioid overdoses and deaths.

Suicides have also spiked, with some states reporting more suicides and drug overdoses than COVID-19 deaths. And let's be clear about this: America was already fighting an opioid and suicide epidemic well before this virus landed on our shores.

I bring this up because I've been in a running debate with colleagues and people I don't even know about opening up the economy.

They level the typical liberal shots at me and others who agree with

me:

"You're putting profits over people."

"You're willing to risk lives for the economy."

Actually I'm not. I'm looking at the math and historical events for guidance.

To put it bluntly: 30 million Americans out of work isn't a solution. It's a highway to hell.

I'm in the camp that thinks we need to get the economy moving lest you are ready to face much bigger problems in the months and years ahead.

The economy promotes life. The economy enhances life. The economy is life!

The opposite is also true. When the economy is in the crapper and unemployment is sky-high, premature deaths rise dramatically.

And there's science to back this up.

In 2015, two Princeton professors released their conclusions to research they conducted looking for a direct link between deaths from suicides, alcohol abuse, and opioid overdoses and the upticks in unemployment and a downturn in economic opportunities.

They conducted this research because they noticed that the U.S. was experiencing a drug and suicide epidemic in certain parts of the nation, even though, overall, America's economy was pretty good.

What they discovered was that parts of the nation were in economic depressions and unemployment was very high. These were parts of the nation where manufacturing industries and good-paying jobs had disappeared, shipped overseas.

With the lack of economic opportunities, people in these parts of the U.S. started turning to opioids and alcohol in shocking numbers. Suicides spiked, too.

The city of Huntington, West Virginia, for example, had seen 20% of its entire population addicted to opioids. Twenty percent!!!

The two Princeton professors wrapped their thesis in the sobering phrase "Deaths of Despair."

Simply put, when people are unemployed indefinitely and don't see any economic opportunities, substance abuse and suicides rise exponentially.

Again, we have 30 million Americans out of work. And that number is growing.

A couple of years after the Princeton study, the National Bureau of Economic Research released a paper that put the country's opioid crisis under a microscope. Its authors, a group of researchers from Indiana University and the University of Virginia, found evidence that declining economic fundamentals walk hand in hand with increasing drug abuse and deaths.

According to the report:

We find that as the county unemployment rate increases by 1 percentage point, the opioid death rate [per 100,000 people] rises by 0.19 (3.6 percent) and the [emergency department] visit rate for opioid overdoses [per 100,000 people] increases by 0.95 (7.0 percent).

Those results are even more stark at the state level. A one-percentage-point increase in the unemployment rate across an entire state was found to coincide with a 0.33-percentage-point jump in the area's opioid death rate. Per the report, that's "over one and a half

## The Silver Lining of an Economic Depression

times the size of the county-level estimates, corresponding to growth of 6.2 percent."

In an average year, there are 80,000 deaths due to alcohol abuse and 50,000 suicides in the U.S, alone. We can almost guarantee those numbers are going to increase dramatically if something isn't done right now.

On the bright side, last weekend, Americans went out to enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Americans want to live life again. Americans want to get back to work and go on vacations as summer is just weeks away.

States are beginning to open up, much to the chagrin of the professional catastrophists. And, yes, there is now a big uptick in confirmed cases, especially in states in the South and West. Of course the media attribute this rise to the resumption of business and not to the recent protests and demonstrations.

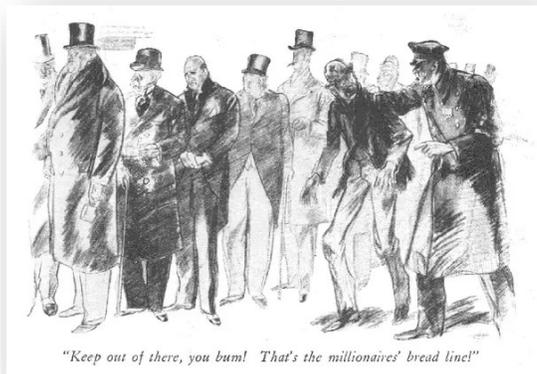
We can only guess at the number of lives we will have ultimately saved with the extended lockdown we endured.

Also, we can only guess at the number of lives that could have been spared if the lockdown was limited in scope.

This is the ultimate tradeoff we face, the results of which we also will only be able to ultimately guess.

D. Miyoshi

## The Silver Lining of an Economic Depression



As the economic data begins to emerge, more and more are now becoming resigned to the possibility that the current economic downturn may rival if not exceed the devastation that was wrought during the Great Depression of the 1930's. This is unnerving to say the least.

But in every tribulation, there is a silver lining. And that is, many will reap the inevitable opportunities that will be presented during this financial crisis and emerge from it very wealthy.

We have all heard the stories supporting the claim that more people became millionaires during the Great Depression than in any other

time in American history. Opportunities, that were not present during the 1920s economic boom times, suddenly became available. It is a fact that an economic downturn is a good time to start a business. Start-up costs are much lower in a recession than in boom periods. Savvy entrepreneurs edged in and positioned themselves for when the economic climate improved. Many poorly run businesses closed during the Depression years and their equipment and assets could be bought at fireside sales for next to nothing. Commercial rents were cheap and wages were low. There was also time to get the business fundamentals right before increased orders made it too hectic for the entrepreneur to build and test his business model. It was these 'if you can dream it, you can do it' Great Depression entrepreneurs that made the best of the crisis to provide a service, or product, for new markets.

Who were some of these maverick entrepreneurs? Some very famous names made their money during the Depression era. In Kentucky, a grandfather, called Colonel Sanders, started serving fried chicken at his gas station. By 1937 he had expanded to a 142 seat restaurant due to popular demand. Two young electrical engineering graduates started an electrical machine business in a rented garage during the 1930s. Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard officially became business partners in 1939 with only \$538 in investment money.

Many people with small amounts of liquid cash were able to buy bankrupt businesses at bargain prices. Towards the end of the 1930s some business people watched the upsurge in military spending by some countries. The world was preparing for war and those that invested in companies that made in-demand products for the government stood to make lots of money. Companies dealing with shipping, military vehicles, textiles (for uniforms, tents, etc.), metals (copper, steel, aluminum and iron), shipping and petroleum products made a fortune. Well-known companies that were bought at this time were John Deere, Reynolds Metals and Douglas Aircraft.

Another huge opportunity was real estate. During the Depression years, demand was low and thus prices were low as well. Visionary business people knew that real estate values would go up in the future and when they did they used the equity to leverage their business growth and expansions. Those wise folk that were not caught up in the stock market frenzy in the 1920s, and saved their cash, were well positioned to snap up bargain businesses and became millionaires as a result.

Shirley Temple was a great young acting star during the Great Depression. She and a lot of other people made a lot of money in the film industry. It was at this time pop corn in movie theaters came into being and could spell the difference between profit and lost. Mae West was knocking down \$5,000 a week, still good pay, 90 years later.

Many funeral directors before the Great Depression worked their magic in people houses. As the people lost their homes, funeral directors took advantage of large houses or mansions on the market at substantially reduced prices to offer their services "in house."

Henry Ford continued to put out cars that people could afford. Clyde

## The Technocracy Chasm in our Society

Barrow of the infamous couple simply known as Bonnie and Clyde, always liked to steal Ford eight cylinder cars as they were some of the fastest reliable cars at that time.

Babe Ruth made a fortune during the Depression. People wanted entertainment, and even the bleacher seats were affordable to the underemployed. When asked by a reporter how Ruth could make more money than the President (\$80,000 - Ruth \$75,000 President Hoover), the Babe answered, "Well I guess I had a better year."

Charles Darrow is a name not familiar to most Americans, but he was unemployed and came up with the number one board game, Monopoly, who he sold to Parker Brothers, which sold 20,000 games the first year. Darrow would go on to become the first million dollar board game designer.

J P Getty would inherit \$500,000 in 1930, and invested it in the greatly depressed oil stock market. In time his oil empire would grow to over billions of dollars.

### The Benefit of Cash in a Depression

In a depression, cash is the only asset that increases in value compared to all other asset classes save that of fixed-income investments such as bonds. This is because all asset classes are denominated in cash, and they all decline in value during a depression. When depressions occur, output declines, and the economy produces at less than full capacity, causing prices and interest rates to fall. Depressions are deflationary by nature: they cause prices, including asset prices, to fall. People start hoarding cash, as they did in 1930. Sadly, most people sell their assets when the depression hits rock bottom instead of buying assets; this is partly due to behavior and sometimes due to liquidity needs (i.e. you lose your job during the depression, so you are forced to liquidate all your investments at fire-sale prices). Prices of equities (stocks) fall, as do commodities such as oil. With the economy not growing as quickly, and corporate profits decreasing, stocks fall, and there is less demand for oil and steel.

**BUT WHEN HYPERINFLATION BEGINS (AS IT EVENTUALLY WILL), ONLY CASH THAT IS REQUIRED FOR DAILY NEEDS SHOULD BE HELD. WITH THE TRILLION DOLLAR BAILOUTS AND QUANTITATIVE EASING NOW COMING ON STREAM, SOON AFTER THE DEPRESSION HYPERINFLATION IS ALL BUT GUARANTEED. SO, LETS BE VIGILANT.**

D. Miyoshi

## The Technocracy Chasm in our Society



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**T**he other day I created a trust for a client and provided it to him at his home from my desk. If I had to fill a cavity in his tooth, I couldn't have done it that easily. For that I have to thank technology and the nature of my work.

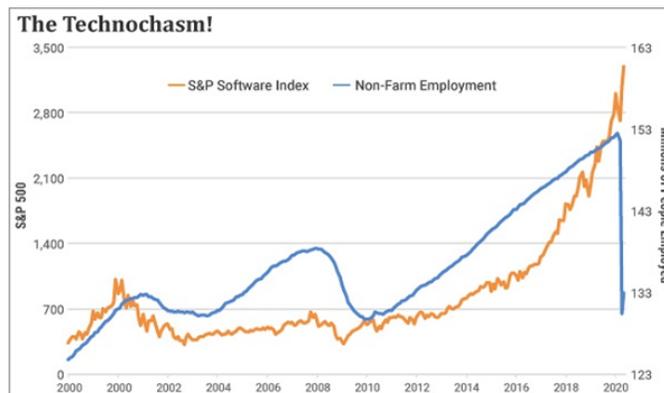
But after COVID-19, it made me think about the technocracy chasm that we face in our society today.

Eric Fry of *Smart Money* calls it the "Technochasm" that has happened to us in 2020.

In his recent newsletter Fry describes the thriving technology-powered businesses and professions that are on the winning side of this new "Technochasm" and compares it to the other side where there is everything else.

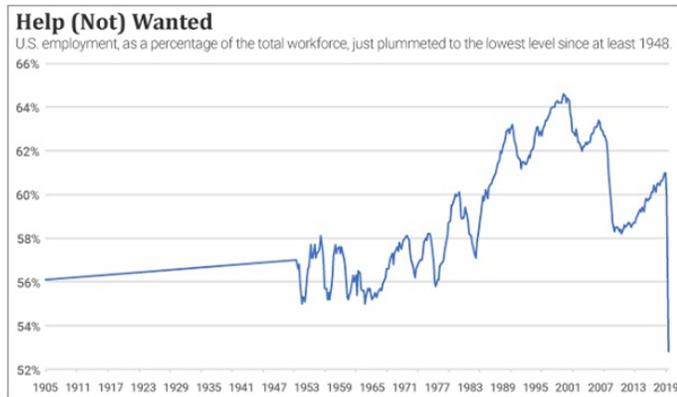
Fry explains that the COVID-19 pandemic has driven a massive wedge between these two sides to force them even farther apart than they've ever been.

The chart below tells the tale. The S&P 500 Software Index recently hit a new all-time high, while U.S. employment plummeted from an all-time high to a 24-year low.



## The Technocracy Chasm in our Society

And the true employment picture is even uglier than the one above. As the chart below shows, the percentage of the U.S. labor force that is currently employed has tumbled to its lowest level in at least 70 years.



Generally speaking, the 42 million newly unemployed Americans possess no techno-centric safety net. They cannot simply convert their bartending job, for example, into telecommute mode and serve virtual drinks until cyber-closing time.

Once the COVID-19 epidemic struck, nearly every industry or profession that involved direct human interaction found itself face to face with a shutdown order... and zero revenues.

From hairstylists to dentists, from cable installers to bowling coaches, the inability to transition from the normal, physical mode of business to a virtual mode caused a complete loss of livelihood.

Meanwhile, every individual who could shift to some sort of work-from-home lifestyle did so. Quite obviously, the types of businesses and professions that can operate out of a home office tend to be more technology-based than those that can't.

Our economy will always feature a wide array of enterprises – some of which require intense human interaction, and some of which require no interaction whatsoever.

A restaurant will always be a restaurant. It can't ever be a video game. A music festival will always be a music festival – never an iPhone app.

In other words, the Technochasm does not imply that any one profession or industry is better than another.

It merely highlights the vulnerability of non-tech-based professions and industries, relative to their tech-enabled counterparts.

### The Technology Advantage

As a group, low-tech professions and industries are not as adaptable to economic shocks. Additionally, they cannot establish and fortify their competitive advantages as quickly or efficiently as their high-tech counterparts.

A low-tech company operating in the midst of rapid technologic innovation is like a human being swimming in the open ocean.

No matter how well that human might be able to muscle through the giant swells, a cruise ship can do it better... and faster... and more securely – while also serving up chardonnay and sushi.

The “cruise ships” of this metaphor are the companies that either

develop new technologies or effectively integrate those technologies into their existing processes.

But integrating new technology is hard work, especially if you're a big, fat, happy U.S. corporation that has enjoyed decades of success. Often, the stewards of such corporations fail to recognize the competitive perils they face... and, therefore, fail to adapt quickly enough to save themselves.

Many great success stories later become infamous failure stories because they failed to innovate. As a result, they shuffled off into irrelevance and bankruptcy.

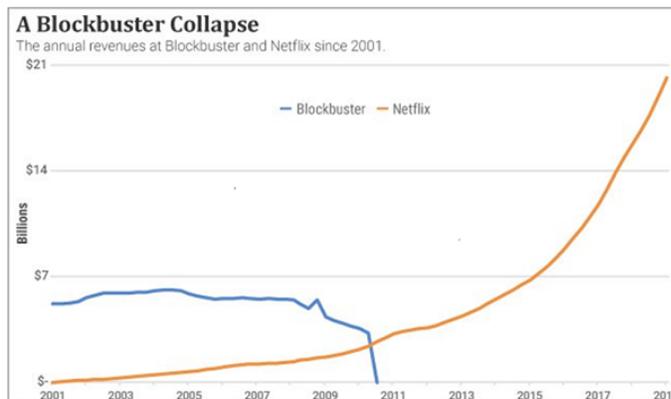
That ignominious list of companies would include names like:

- Sears, Roebuck and Co. (1893-2018)
- Eastman Kodak (1884-2012)
- Neiman-Marcus (1907-2020)
- Hertz (1923-2020)
- Pan American World Airways (1927-1991)
- Hostess (1930-2012)
- Polaroid (1937-2001)
- Tower Records (1960-2004)
- Compaq (1982-2002)
- Blockbuster (1985-2010)

Blockbuster, the titan of home movie and video game rental services, is one of the most spectacular – and ironic – of American success-to-failure stories. At its peak in 2004, Blockbuster employed 84,300 people worldwide and operated more than 9,000 stores.

Just four years prior to this peak of prosperity, an up-and-coming company called Netflix Inc. (NFLX) offered to sell itself to Blockbuster for \$50 million. But then-Blockbuster CEO John Antioco dismissed Netflix as a “very small niche business” and rejected the offer.

Two decades later, Blockbuster is an extinct B-school case study in corporate hubris and managerial myopia. Netflix is a \$184 billion juggernaut.



Since Blockbuster's demise in 2010, the retailing landscape has become even more treacherous. In 2019 alone, an estimated 12,000 retail stores closed. And the tally of store closures continues growing by the day. Investment bank UBS estimates retailers will shutter another 75,000 physical stores across the United States by 2026.

## Who Really Controls California?

And yet, even while thousands of U.S. retailing operations are pushing up daisies, a few tech-savvy retailers are growing like redwoods. And their share prices are performing even better than many of the stock market's leading tech stocks.

### Brick and Byte Retail

For example, even though the coronavirus pandemic dealt a setback to the physical retail operations of Nike Inc. (NKE), Lowe's Cos. Inc. (LOW), and Lululemon Athletica Inc. (LULU), the shares of all three retailers are now trading at or near all-time highs.

That's because each of these companies has developed robust direct-to-consumer (DTC) sales channels that generated strong sales through the worst of the COVID-19 crisis.

Nike's DTC division, Nike Direct, produced almost a third of the company's global sales last year. And Nike expects to boost DTC sales by at least 50% over the next two years. Its stock has soared more than 15% over the last 12 months (albeit it did suffer a \$790 million loss this quarter).

Lowe's is another success story. Although the hardware retailer was late to the game, its DTC channel is now flourishing and contributing a rapidly growing percentage of the company's overall sales.

Lowe's stock has soared more than 30% over the last 12 months and reached a new all-time high earlier this month.

Lululemon may be the poster child of DTC know-how. It was one of the first major retailers to emphasize online sales in conjunction with a network of physical stores. The company is now reaping the rewards of that forward-looking strategy.

DTC sales account for more than one-quarter of the company's revenue and more than one-third of its operating income. Its stock has soared more than 70% over the last year and recently reached a new all-time high.

You see, no matter how "old school" an industry might be, companies within that industry can still put themselves on the winning side of the TechnoChasm, simply by applying technology intelligently.

For instance, no industry is more old-school than copper mining. And yet, Freeport-McMoRan has been developing a sophisticated artificial intelligence (AI) process at its Bagdad copper mine in Arizona.

This AI model uses data from sensors around the mine to "tailor" the ore processing method to each of the seven distinct types of ore that come from the Bagdad mine.

This innovation has been "a remarkable success," Freeport CEO Richard Adkerson says. So the company is now planning to roll out this new technology across all of its operations in the Americas.

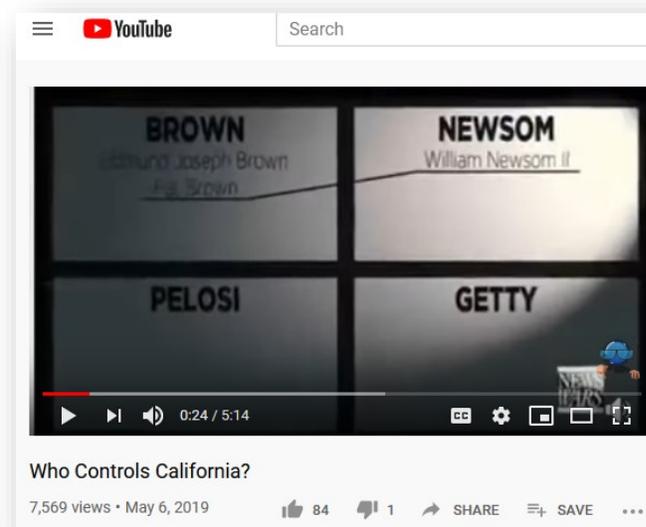
The stock has staged a nice recovery from its March lows, and Fry expects it to continue moving much higher over the coming months.

We are seeing firsthand just how essential technological prowess has become for most companies. The TechnoChasm is gaining strength, and as it sweeps through the global economy, it will continue to reward technologically savvy companies.

And unfortunately it will visit destruction on those that are slow to adapt.

D. Miyoshi

## Who Really Controls California?



On May 6, 2019, more than one year ago, a video was released on YouTube by *Infographics Show* entitled "Who Controls California?". The video is about the relationship between four prominent families in California, the Brown family, the Pelosi family, the Newsom family and the Getty family. After the video was released, very little comment regarding it has been made or recorded by anyone including the main stream media.

That indicates either the information is incorrect or its distribution is not welcome. There has been no denial of it so I thought I would take the liberty to reproduce it here for your consideration.

As of this writing it's still on YouTube and the link to watch it is:

<https://youtu.be/t97snxPsSnQ>

The video is narrated by historian Greg Reese. For those interested in the message, here is the transcript of the narration. D. Miyoshi

### Beginning of narration

"Pat Brown's father, Edmund Joseph Brown was known for running scams and gambling operations in San Francisco. With the help of businessman William Newsom II, Pat Brown became governor of California for two terms. During his governorship he awarded the Squaw Valley concession contract to William Newsom III and his partner John Pelosi. The deal was criticized for the state of California paying for everything and getting nothing. William Newsom III

## The Death of Happy Hour

grew up with the governor's son Jerry who was training to be a Jesuit priest. John Pelosi's son Paul married Nancy D'Alessandro, daughter of Thomas D'Alessandro Jr who was known for smuggling heroin into the U.S. with Lucky Luciano and the Baltimore Mafia. John Pelosi's son Ron married William Newsom's daughter Barbara. Over ongoing disputes about the Squaw Valley concession, William Newsom Senior threatened to hurt the governor politically just as Gov. Brown was running for a third term against Ronald Reagan. He lost. But eight years later, the former governors Jesuit son Jerry reclaimed the governorship in 1974. He appointed William Newsom III to a Placer County judgeship 1975. And three years later to the State Court of Appeal. William Newsom was an attorney for oil magnate J Paul Getty named in the 1966 Guinness Book of World Records as the world's richest private citizen.

And while serving on the appellate bench in the 1980s he helped Getty's son Gordon secure a change in state trust law that allowed him to claim his share of a multi heir trust. After Newsom retired from the bench, he became administrator of the Getty trust and provided seed money for his son Gavin Newsom, Nancy Pelosi's nephew, to start a plump jack business that led to a career in San Francisco politics as mayor of San Francisco and Lt. Gov. of the state of California. Gavin Newsom was informally adopted by the Getty's after his parents divorced and recently succeeded family friend Jerry Brown to be the current governor of California. For eight years these four families have ruled over the state of California politically. And with the help of Kamala Harris, Maxine Waters, Adam Schiff and Diane Feinstein, California's uncontrollable state government spending has amounted to over \$2 trillion in debt and the highest tax rates in the country. The homelessness population is on the rise so much that a typhus outbreak has reached epidemic levels. Thousands of needles from illicit drugs litter the streets. They have made Califor-

nia a sanctuary state. They have been steadily chiseling away at the Second Amendment. They have passed laws for mandatory vaccinations and they continue to aggressively oppose our president on every front. On October 1, 2016 right before Donald Trump won the election Pres. Obama transferred full control of the Internet from the U.S. government to an independent California nonprofit organization. In a cyber war scenario, the U.S. government may not have control over the internet. Even if it secures military and government domains and IP addresses, the targets in cyber warfare are likely to be civilian and the U.S. government requires private sector infrastructure to operate. Since the Internet underpins our computer systems, electrical grids, communication systems and other critical infrastructure our entire civilian society could be at risk. Who controls California? Who controls the four families? What is a Republic?

For Newswars.com this is Greg Reese"

End of Narration

## The Death of Happy Hour



**H**appy hours seem like a distant memory these days. And they might stay that way... Here in Baltimore at 5 p.m., you'd find restaurants and bars packed wall-to-wall with folks. But for months, these once busy places sat empty. It was only yesterday that the stay-at-home order lifted in the city. And even now, bars are only allowed outdoor seating.

As states around the country reopen, people are excited to get back

## Why Our Statues are Under Attack

to business as usual. But that won't be the normal we're used to...

That's because we've learned that nearly all COVID-19 infections happen in crowded, close-contact, indoor settings just like happy hour spots.

In fact, scientists have traced outbreaks to events including:

- Choir practice
- Zumba class
- Dinner at a crowded restaurant
- A cruise
- A wedding

Activities like these where one person infects many in attendance are called "superspreader events."

According to a study out of The University of Hong Kong late last month, these events account for a vast majority of infections. In fact, just 20% of people with COVID-19 accounted for 80% of total transmissions. Another 10% of those infected spread it to just a few people, like family members.

This 80-20 rule applies to other diseases, too. It even has a name – the Pareto principle. To make it simpler, it states "80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes."

So 30 people infected all 100 people in this example group. That leaves 70% of folks who didn't infect anyone else.

Read that again: 70% of people infected with the virus didn't pass it on to anyone else.

Does this mean we can jump back into business as usual and head back to that cramped, stuffy bar? Of course not. We still need to exercise common sense. Handwashing and avoiding crowded places are still good practices.

We also know from the Hong Kong study that all of the superspreading events happened indoors.

Japan has seen a relatively low number of transmissions. Many folks credit that to a "3Cs" rule the government implemented. It told citizens to avoid:

- Closed spaces
- Crowded places
- Close-contact settings

In my weekly COVID-19 briefings with my senior analyst Matt Weinschenk, I covered some of these events already. The choir practice in Washington is a good example – 61 people went into a closed space to practice. Even though they followed the guidance at the time, one person was sick and not showing symptoms yet.

From those 61 folks, there were 32 confirmed cases and 20 suspected. So it almost got everybody... 88% if you count the probable ones.

Matt also covered the case of the restaurant in China where one infected person spread the virus to many other diners. It was likely the result of an air conditioning unit that spread the particles around.

So I'd add another C to this list: Constricted air flow. If you're indoors for anything, you want to make sure the air flow is good and that there are high-grade air filters in place. That's why I'm not as

worried about airplanes, since they have medical-grade HEPA air filters in most planes now.

We still don't know if those 20% of folks doing the most spreading are superspreaders themselves or if they're just in environmental situations where they can infect a lot more folks. So, there might not be anything different about the strain of the virus or a person's immune system that makes them more likely to infect a bunch of people. It could just be bad luck that they, say, attended a wedding the day before they showed symptoms and infected a ton of the attendees.

That's why I think it's absurd that folks have stayed inside for so long. Fresh air and sunshine are necessary for our physical health. And now we know that you're much less likely to get sick if you're outdoors.

So don't let the overwhelming fear of COVID-19 consume your whole life. Given this information from Hong Kong and similar studies from modelers in the U.K., we know that we're not nearly in as much danger if we're outdoors. That's good timing for the summer.

Do what I do and get outside as much as possible. Go for walks. Work in your garden. Meet up with a friend and visit on each other's porches. Practice some yoga in the sunshine. And most of all, stay educated and take control of your own

## Why Our Statues are Under Attack

The pat answer is because of slavery. This seems logical. But on June 17 in the *Trumpet*, a Christian publication, I came across a well-reasoned and in-depth theological evaluation of what the author Richard Palmer believes to be the real reason why our statues in America are now coming down. It's a very interesting and intriguing theory so I present it here for your consideration.

D. Miyoshi



Why are statues coming down across Britain and America? We're told it's because of slavery. Slavery was racist and abhorrent, so statues of anyone that profited from it must come down.

But is that the real reason?

## Why Our Statutes are Under Attack

Slavery has certainly been one of the great evils of world history. But it has also been one of the most common. Just about every major civilization in the history of the world has had slavery.

The oldest known law tablet, from ancient Sumer, has laws on slavery. The ancient Greeks boasted about their love of freedom, while owning slaves. The Roman Empire was built upon the backs of millions of them.

In the Dark Ages, slave trade was rife. At the turn of the millennium a.d. 1000, about half a million slaves were being traded between Europe and Asia each year.

Slavery started to die out in Europe, but then received a massive boost with the discovery of the Americas. Growing sugar in the tropical islands became big business. So was mining in South America. But it was hard work in a climate few could survive in for long. It soon became hard to find enough laborers.

And so, the Atlantic slave trade developed. Britain became a major participant, transporting around 3 million Africans.

But it wasn't the only nation involved in the slave trade. Portugal is estimated to have transported about 5.8 million slaves. The French transported around 2 million. The Dutch and the Spanish each transported about half a million.

And those sailing the boats weren't the only ones involved.

The slaves were usually bought from African rulers. One, King Gezo, who reigned from 1818 to 1858, said, "The slave trade has been the ruling principle of my people. It is the source of their glory and wealth. Their songs celebrate their victories and the mother lulls the child to sleep with notes of triumph over an enemy reduced to slavery."

And these slaves didn't travel only to America and British Caribbean colonies. Brazil, for example, received more slaves than any other nation.

Something doesn't become less evil because everybody's doing it. But the mass participation does raise the question: Why are only Britain's and America's statues under attack?

The truth is that Britain and America do have a unique relationship with slavery—and it has everything to do with the reason these statues are coming down.

The slave trade was incredibly profitable. A slave in the Americas would sell for about eight times the price he cost in Africa. And in 1805, Britain became the undisputed master of the world's oceans after winning the Battle of Trafalgar. The stage seemed set for it to profit more than ever from this evil trade.

Instead, the opposite happened. In March 1807, Britain outlawed the slave trade. In his book *Empire*, Niall Ferguson called it "an astonishing volte-face."

He writes: "[T]owards the end of the 18th century, something changed dramatically; it was almost as if a switch was flicked in the British psyche."

"It is not easy to explain so profound a change in the ethics of a people," he continues. "It used to be argued that slavery was abolished simply because it had ceased to be profitable, but all the evidence points the other way: in fact, it was abolished despite the fact that it was still profitable." Instead, Britain had a "collective change of heart."

But making sure Britain no longer participated in this trade was not enough. Britain used its diplomatic clout to ensure other nations

ended slavery. The British Army was protecting Portugal from Napoleonic invasion, at the time, so Portugal was convinced to sign a treaty limiting the slave trade in 1810. In 1813, Sweden signed. The 1814 Treaty of Paris that ended the Napoleonic Wars (until Napoleon Bonaparte's escape one year later) forced France to renounce it. The Netherlands soon signed its own treaty, followed by Spain in 1817.

No other nation was going around the world cajoling other nations to end the slave trade. But America was moving in the same direction. The United States adopted its Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves on March 2, 1807, at almost the same time Britain outlawed the trade.

But abolishing the slave trade didn't free the slaves already at work. Britain's anti-slavery campaigners pushed on. In 1833, the United Kingdom passed the Slavery Abolition Act, abolishing slavery in British colonies: 800,000 slaves were freed once the law came into effect.

To get it through Parliament, it had to be "compensated emancipation," meaning slave owners were paid for the slaves they had to free. Many on the left criticize that today. But the fact is, uncompensated emancipation would have taken much longer. The reformers chose to be pragmatic and freed the slaves as soon as they could. Britain paid a huge price for this: £20 million. Britain had to take out a loan so big that it just finished paying it off in 2015.

But that wasn't the only cost. The economic effects of emancipation were "devastating" wrote Jan Morris in her book *Heaven's Command*. "Planters were ruined from Antigua to Mauritius. Middlemen of Ashanti, slave captains of Merseyside, overseers of Nassau, found themselves without an occupation. ... Most of the sugar colonies never really recovered." One Jamaican estate that had been making £11,000 a year in the 1820s was sold in the 1840s for just £1,650.

But for Britain, it wasn't enough to outlaw the slave trade. It wanted to make sure it actually stopped.

The UK, alone in all nations of the world, put forth a huge effort to shut this trade down. In 1808, during the Napoleonic War, with the nation still fighting for survival, Britain set up the West Africa Squadron. It patrolled the seas of Africa's west coast, looking for slave ships.

Britain's naval dominance was now assured, and so "for the first 30 years of Victoria's reign, the Royal Navy's chief task was the interception of slavers."

In theory, Britain was leading a multinational effort; but in practice, no one else made any significant contributions.

It was a tough job. Slaver ships were often built for speed and could outrun the slower Navy warships. Even when they did overrun them, stopping and searching ships belonging to other nations was a legal and bureaucratic nightmare. But Britain persevered, pouring a lot of money into the endeavor. The Navy captured 1,600 slave ships between 1808 and 1870, with 150,000 Africans freed.

But still this was not enough.

It was clear that overhauling boats on the high seas would not end the trade. So, Navy commanders looked for ways to go on shore and shut them down.

This took men with what the left today calls "toxic masculinity." One such man was Cmdr. Joseph Denman.

Denman commanded the HMS Wanderer. They had been trying to capture slave ships off the coast of the Gallinas. But the Gallinas

## Why Our Statues are Under Attack

were an independent territory, and Britain was not at war with it. He could blockade its estuary but couldn't land.

Then the leader of Gallinas kidnapped a British subject from Sierra Leone. Denman was ordered to sort it out. This was the excuse he needed.

He freed the kidnapped subject and much more. He took over the largest island in the Gallinas estuary, freed over a thousand slaves, and burned the slavers' warehouses. The chief of the Gallinas was forced to sign a treaty renouncing the slave trade and promising to expel all traders.

The commander of a single boat forced an entire tribe to renounce the slave trade.

This pursuit of abolition led Britain to become more active around the world.

With America out of the slave trade—officially, at least—Brazil was the top destination for African slaves. Brazil had signed a treaty with Britain agreeing to outlaw the slave trade in 1826. But it didn't enforce it. By 1850, Britain decided to enforce it for Brazil. The Royal Navy entered Brazil's inland waters and ports and shut the trade down.

Meanwhile, the issue of slavery was heating up in the U.S. The American Civil War was about more than slavery, but slavery was at its heart. Thousands upon thousands of Americans fought and died because they believed that all men—including black—were created equal and “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” That war ended with about 4 million slaves freed.

That war also unified America against the slave trade and led it to help Britain in the international effort against slavery. The Atlantic slave trade was dead.

But it still wasn't enough.

The renowned Victorian explorer, Dr. David Livingstone, shone a light on another slave trade—the East African-Arab slave trade. His dramatic disappearance, discovery and then death gave a huge amount of publicity to the Eastern slave trade.

The Royal Navy got to work. In 1890, Britain did a deal with Germany, swapping Heligoland in the North Sea for Zanzibar. What used to be a major slave trading station became the center of Britain's anti-slavery work in East Africa.

Jan Morris writes, “The first monuments of Queen Victoria's empire were monuments of liberty. The fight against slavery at its source would continue throughout the Victorian era, being a prime motive as we shall see of the great mid-century explorations.”

No other powers have this kind of history, which makes Black Lives Matters' (and others') targeting of them so crazy.

One of the first casualties of their attack has been the Elizabethan naval commander Sir John Hawkins. Plymouth had a square dedicated to Hawkins, which it has now decided to rename.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica calls Hawkins “the chief architect of the Elizabethan navy.” He, along with men like Sir Francis Drake, were instrumental in establishing England as a naval power.

Adm. Horatio Nelson has also come under attack, with activists throwing paint at his statue. He led the Royal Navy to victory in the Napoleonic Wars.

Yes, Drake and Hawkins challenged the Spanish monopoly on the

slave trade by making a few voyages in slave ships. But these men also helped defeat empires that engaged in slavery and tyranny on a far larger scale. Drake and Hawkins confronted the Spanish Armada, Nelson the French and its allies. What if these men had been wiped from history? The Spanish or French empires would have dominated the world. There's no evidence either would have had any interest in eliminating slavery.

If it weren't for these men, and others, slavery would probably still be around as an institution today.

Of course, slavery in practice still exists today. Thanks to the British Empire, it is almost universally outlawed. But according to the International Labor Organization, around 45 million people are enslaved today.

To the Victorians, outlawing slavery wasn't enough. They had to follow it up, with military force if necessary, to ensure people were actually free. Out of sight wasn't out of mind; they traveled to the ends of the Earth to wipe it out.

Not so today. The 45 million slaves don't weigh heavily on the world's conscience. We denounce the Victorians as slave traders—yet they cared far more about ending slavery than we do today.

If slavery isn't the real reason for the attack on our history, what is? Why is the world so stirred up against these figures from the past?

To understand, we have to understand why Britain and America rose to dominance so suddenly around the year 1800.

In his book *The Offshore Islanders*, Paul Johnson writes, “The English Industrial Revolution of 1780–1820 is the great watershed in the history of mankind.” He describes how “all the economic indices took a sudden and sharply upward turn” at this time.

“England's situation was unique,” he writes. “Some of the elements required for an economic transformation were present in other parts of the world, but only England possessed them all in combination. The ‘miracle’ had been brewing for 150 years” (emphasis added throughout).

Why this sudden transformation? What is the source of this “miracle”? As Winston Churchill, a great historian as well as a great leader, said, “He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below.”

As Herbert W. Armstrong explained in his free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Britain and America are descended from two of the ancient tribes of Israel. God promised, unconditionally, to bless these nations. But because of their sins, these blessings were delayed until the 19th century. Mr. Armstrong's book fully explains the “miracle” that happened around 1800.

But God didn't supply these blessing for Britain's and America's benefit only. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in his book *Mystery of the Ages*, all God's work with Israel was for “a special purpose preparatory to the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God!”

Joshua 4:24 bears this out. This records a miracle God performed for Israel: drying up the Jordan so Israel could walk across. But He didn't want only Israel to benefit. Nor was it simply for the benefit of the surrounding tribes. Instead, He did it “that all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.” When God performs these huge miracles, He has the whole world in mind.

God gave Britain and America a chance to lead the world to Him. “God chose them not because they were better or because He wanted to give them special favor, but to use them as an example to other

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nations,” wrote Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry in his latest Trumpet article. “Their failure and our failure to be a shining city on a hill to lead people to God and to happiness hurt not just ourselves but all other nations!”

By wiping out slavery, these powers did some good for the world. But it could have been so much more. What would the world be like today if they had led the world to God? Instead, despite all their efforts, 45 million are still enslaved.

But these end-time nations of Israel have played a role in God’s plan despite themselves. Their history shows the world that if you want blessings and material greatness, God is the source. He can promise specific blessings, state exactly when those blessing will appear, and carry it out. God rules in the kingdom of men! (Daniel 4:32).

Mr. Armstrong said these blessings given to Britain and America were “the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!”

They teach another critical lesson: Britain and America had all these massive blessings, but without obedience to God, it counts for nothing. It all flows away. Britain has lost all those blessings and is beset by problems. America is rapidly losing its wealth. None of these blessings can create a stable, lasting, prosperous nation if you don’t obey God. Even with all those massive resources, Britain and America cannot solve the problems of the world.

But if you believe the Bible, you have to believe in an evil spirit being who hates God’s plan. He hates what God is doing through Israel. He works through human beings to “blot out the name of Israel” (2 Kings 14:27). He wants to wipe it out so thoroughly the name isn’t even mentioned.

You see this in the self-hatred among the radical left in Britain and America. You see it in that hatred for Britain and America in nations around the world. And you see it today in the hatred for this history.

That is what the attacks on Nelson, Drake, Jefferson and more are all about—blotting out the name of Israel.

Britain and America’s history is a massive signpost that points people to God. So Satan the devil hates it and works to blot it out, pushing a new message: God didn’t make Britain and America great. Slavery did! They only became wealthy because they stole it from everybody else.

This agenda underscores the importance of understanding this history. And not just the Victorian era—but the history that reaches back to Abraham. It’s a history that points you to God and what He is doing in the world today—a history that contains a hope absent from the news today.

### End of article

The following is an article by Dan Ferris, editor, *Extreme Value*. It was published by *Stansberry Research* on June 7. It’s both concise in its message and elegant in its lesson and so I would like to share it with you. D. Miyoshi.

## The No. 1 Secret of Investing (and Living a Good Life)



If a single secret to investing and living a good life exists, this is it...

I have mentioned it before in my 20-plus years of writing in this business. But I need to make sure I give a great idea its due... And I'll try to do just that today.

This is one of the most important ideas you'll ever learn... And it's definitely the most important investing idea you'll ever learn.

Without this one concept, you'll never make a dime in the stock market. Without mastering it, you'll flounder in your career... And even worse, you'll live a wasteful, frustrating life.

This idea separates the best investors from the rest...

As I'll explain today, it's the one thing such different investors and thinkers like Warren Buffett, Charlie Munger, George Soros, Ray Dalio, and even Albert Einstein all have in common.

Master this idea and you'll easily outperform the vast majority of investors... most of whom won't or can't practice it... whether out of ignorance, hubris, or institutional inertia.

At the end of every interview on the Stansberry Investor Hour podcast, I ask my guest a simple question: "If you could leave our listeners with one thought, what would it be?"

If you asked me that question, the idea I'll discuss today would be my response.

So here it is, one of the most important life secrets I've ever learned, and by far the No. 1 most important investing principle I know and practice...

Author and trader Nassim Taleb summed it up best in his must-read book, *Antifragile*, when he wrote...

The learning of life is about what to avoid.

Taleb calls this idea "via negativa," which is Latin for the "negative way." Among other benefits, via negativa can help you assess my value to you. More from Taleb in *Antifragile* (bold added for emphasis)...

Charlatans are recognizable in that they will give you positive advice, and only positive advice, exploiting our gullibility and sucker-proneness... Yet in practice it is the negative that's used by the pros, those selected by evolution... people become rich by not going bust (particularly when others do).

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It's easy to keep investors engaged with positive advice... Anyone can see a connection between buying a stock, a bond, or an option and making money.

It's much harder to keep investors engaged with "negative advice"... foundational guidance like don't lose money, don't take too much risk, or don't blow yourself up.

It's just not sexy – even though it's more valuable.

It's more valuable because you can't make any money unless you first avoid losing what you have. You must avoid loss with every stock, bond, and option you buy.

No matter what asset you buy... if you fail to avoid losses as a primary part of your strategy, one day, you'll blow up and lose everything.

Only a deep understanding of *via negativa* can prevent that from happening...

That's why *via negativa* is the primary secret of the wealthiest investors. Ask any of them, and that's exactly what they'll tell you...

Warren Buffett once said, "The first rule of investment is don't lose and the second rule of investment is don't forget the first rule, and that's all the rules there are."

A single edict, don't lose, is all the rules there are.

For Buffett, perhaps the greatest investor of all time, avoiding loss is a valuable, low-hanging fruit. His longtime business partner, Berkshire Hathaway (BRK-B) Vice Chairman Charlie Munger, said it a little differently...

It is remarkable how much long-term advantage people like us have gotten by trying to be consistently not stupid, instead of trying to be very intelligent.

Consistently not stupid.

For one example of what Buffett and Munger might be talking about, ask yourself... would you ever want to own a stock if the business had little or no hope of ever becoming profitable?

That seems like something you would want to avoid. Unprofitable companies' stock prices can soar sometimes. But reality always catches up with them... Eventually, investors realize they're not making any money. And in turn, the unprofitable company's stock blows up.

When too many people fail to avoid a mistake, it can look like a success... until reality catches up with them. Ask anybody who bought Pets.com, Webvan.com, eToys.com, or numerous other companies that never earned a dime during the dot-com boom.

Investing in unprofitable companies gets stupid quickly. It's best to avoid them.

Ray Dalio is another legendary investor you might recognize...

Dalio founded Bridgewater Associates in 1975. Today, 45 years later, Bridgewater is the world's largest hedge fund... with more than \$100 billion in assets under management.

Dalio, too, has mastered the negative way... Throughout his illustrious career, he has said "At any given time, there's so much you're not seeing," and "My biggest advantage is not what I know. It's that I know that I don't know a lot."

What you're not seeing. What you don't know.

Then there's George Soros. The wealthy philanthropist and speculator who famously "broke the Bank of England" in the 1990s once said...

Well, the secret of my success actually, I can now tell you... I'm always wrong. I'm always wrong and I try to correct my mistakes. That is the secret of my success. The funds are a very successful model, but they all have a flaw in the end. And eventually if you persist then the flaw becomes apparent.

I'm always wrong. Mistakes. Flaws.

Soros' success is, by his own account, based on being wrong and figuring out what not to do... rather than on being right and figuring out what to do.

It's negatively defined... just like the approaches from Buffett, Munger, and Dalio.

These billionaire geniuses all have different investing styles and different backgrounds...

Buffett and Munger are bottom-up value investors raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Dalio runs a diversified hedge fund and is the son of an Italian musician from the New York City borough of Queens. Soros is a macro trader raised in Hungary, who survived the Nazi occupation.

Yet they all converge on one idea... the one way of looking at the world that you must master before you make a penny in financial markets... *via negativa*.

It's the ability to figure out what speculations, businesses, investments, relationships, or just about anything else should be avoided. In *Antifragile*, Taleb explains why the *via negativa* is so powerful...

The greatest – and most robust – contribution to knowledge consists in removing what we think is wrong – subtractive epistemology.

Epistemology is a fancy word for the discipline of figuring out how we know what we know. And the very best way to know anything is to eliminate everything that it is not.

Investors should understand economics well. The power of *via negativa* goes a long way here, too...

I first learned about *via negativa* (before I knew what it was called) in *Economics in One Lesson* by longtime journalist Henry Hazlitt. In the book, Hazlitt describes the "broken window" fallacy frequently embraced by modern economic charlatans like Paul Krugman...

Some economists say it's an economic gain when a hoodlum breaks a baker's window because it creates business for the glassmaker to make a new window. But it's a fallacy because the money spent on the window won't be spent elsewhere... at other shops like the local tailor. As Hazlitt explains in *Economics in One Lesson*...

The [glassmaker's] gain of business... is merely the tailor's loss of business... [People who don't understand the fallacy] had forgotten the potential third party involved, the tailor... because he will not now enter the scene.

Seeing who is not there is the key to understanding this important economic fallacy.

After you're done with Hazlitt, read *The Forgotten Man* by William Graham Sumner. Again, the focus is on the person not present in decisions to create new government programs...

As soon as A observes something which seems to him to be wrong, from which X is suffering, A talks it over with B, and A and B then propose to get a law passed to remedy the evil and help X. Their law

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always proposes to determine what C shall do for X... I call [C] The Forgotten Man... He is the man who is never thought of. He is the victim of the reformer, social speculator and philanthropist.

In *Antifragile*, Taleb amplifies Sumner in terms of positive and negative actions...

Acts of commission are respected and glorified by our primitive minds and lead to, say, naïve government interventions that end in disaster, followed by generalized complaints about naïve government interventions... followed by more naïve government interventions. Acts of omission, not doing something, are not considered acts and do not appear to be part of one's mission.

We all know the sound of someone whining for the government to "do something."

Not doing something is often the better decision. People and businesses should generally get less government help, not more. Stansberry Research founder Porter Stansberry's *COVID-19 Digest* in April is a great example... It was a massive appeal to apply the negative way to the government's response.

Buffett's "first rule of investment"... Soros' "secret"... and every other piece of negative investment advice of the great investors... are all acts of omission.

Omit and correct investment mistakes... and investment profits become more likely.

This is why every editor at Stansberry Research uses some type of risk control...

They all know the *via negativa* from hard-won experience. They wouldn't dream of making a recommendation without an intimate understanding of the risk... of what not to do. All effective investment strategies make risk reduction a primary concern.

It's not just investment and economics, either.

*Via negativa* – the negative way – permeates every facet of human existence...

For example, do you want to understand science better than 99% of your peers?

Check out Albert Einstein, who understood the subtractive nature of knowledge (as every scientist must). He reportedly once said, "No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong."

To strengthen your knowledge, figure out what parts of it are wrong and subtract them. It's usually much easier to see where you're obviously wrong than to know where you're right.

Scientific philosopher Karl Popper did a great job spelling out the power of subtractive knowledge... In his book, Conjectures and Refutations, he shows that we make scientific progress more by falsifying and subtracting what is wrong than by figuring out what is right.

For most of the 19th century, scientists thought light traveled through a "luminiferous aether" that couldn't be seen with the naked eye. But then, in 1887, Albert Michaelson and Edward Morley conducted a famous experiment proving that the aether didn't exist – setting in motion the work that culminated in Einstein's theory of relativity.

Michaelson and Morley enabled great scientific progress by subtracting the notion of an aether from our knowledge. That's how science really works... Real scientists understand that they're constantly engaged in a quest to figure out what's wrong.

But what about art, you might ask?

It's an act of pure creation... of building and adding. There's no subtracting.

Not so fast...

Italian renaissance artist Michelangelo once explained how he created his sculpture of David. As he said, "It's simple. I just remove everything that is not David."

You can draw that way, too. It's called "subtractive drawing"... The artist covers a drawing surface with graphite or coal and then erases it in different spots to create an image.

How about medicine?

Surely every good doctor must take in a giant pile of knowledge, adding more and more knowledge all the time. True enough, but doctors are scientists, too...

They spend plenty of time having patients tested to rule out the possibility of various illnesses, finding out what maladies the patient doesn't have. They proceed by subtracting.

And who hasn't heard the oft-repeated phrase from the ancient physician Hippocrates' famous oath, usually quoted as, "First do no harm." The oath is peppered with negatively defined acts, like... "I will not be ashamed to say I know not," "I must not play at God," and "I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure."

*Via negativa* is everywhere...

You can't escape the need to master it if you wish to live a good life. Think how often you've said "less is more" at least once in your life, acknowledging the power of subtractive knowledge.

Apple (AAPL) founder Steve Jobs understood it. In a 1998 *Businessweek* article, he said...

That's been one of my mantras – focus and simplicity. Simple can be harder than complex: You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple. But it's worth it in the end because once you get there, you can move mountains.

Simplicity is the absence of complexity, the result of the process of subtraction.

Apple products are known for all the complexity that isn't in your way, making them rather addictive for users. To really "wow" your customers, master the negative way.

Every profession and every business needs to understand and master the power of the negative way. A mapmaker once wrote to Taleb and told him...

I learned a long time ago that the key to good mapmaking is precisely the info you choose to leave out... if a map is too literal and precise, it confuses people.

I hope from this day forward that you'll learn to focus your attention on all that shouldn't be there in your life, your portfolio, and your relationships.

It'll increase the gains in your portfolio... And more important, it'll enhance all the days of your life.

Here is to your good investing.

Dan Ferris

## Will America Lose its Super Power Status?

Three years ago, the editor in chief of the Christian based *The Trumpet*, Gerald Flurry wrote in his booklet *Great Again*, “There is no excuse for police brutality. But how many good policemen will fear to do their jobs—jobs that are sure to become even more dangerous as disorder intensifies—knowing the state might side with the criminals, or knowing they could be unjustly prosecuted? The institution that protects and preserves the stability of America’s cities is being undermined and weakened.”

Now, in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, Daniel Di Santo of the same publication *The Trumpet*, is now making a dire forecast that the United States will no longer be a super power. This article which follows is both grim and depressing but I believe it conveys a hard truth about the prospects for America and so I present it here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

## Will America Lose its Super Power Status?



**D**aniel Di Santo writes “What officer Derek Chauvin did was clearly wrong. However, accusing an entire segment of Americans of racism based on one man’s actions only provokes more division. Now, the leaders of oppressive regimes like Iran and China are making the same accusation, seeking to stoke tensions further.

In *Great Again*, Gerald Flurry warns that America’s racial dispute will be turned into a “deadly weapon” to divide and weaken the country. That surely has happened within the country. Now, America’s enemies and rivals, many of which oppress and segregate their own people, are seeking to exploit the racial division on display in America. In his other book *America Under Attack*, Mr. Flurry makes a similar statement, warning that accusations of racism fill the country with “hatred and division that lead to race war, civil war and violence!” This has happened internally, and dictatorial regimes are now following suit.

### Soft Power

A nation cannot be powerful on the world scene when its citizens are fighting each other. Few Americans are thinking about the

long-term effects the riots will have on their nation’s global image, but they should be. Since the end of World War I, Woodrow Wilson’s 14 points and then the League of Nations, the U.S. has played the leading role in forming international organizations, setting international law, and defining norms in international diplomacy.

On May 25, that world order suffered a severe blow. The entire world watched as riots brought death, injury and fire to America’s cities. In the eyes of many, these events have greatly diminished America’s privileged position as the world’s top diplomatic power.

*The Financial Times* addressed this in a June 5 article: “The dividedness of the U.S.—racial, material, political—is aired thoroughly enough as a domestic blight. It is the effect on its foreign policy that can get lost in the anguish. ... And nowhere will it suffer more than in the superpower duel.”

Does this forecast—the U.S. losing its superpower status—sound familiar? If so, it’s because *the Trumpet* has warned for years that riots will intensify, to the point that they render the U.S. unable to compete on a global level. Analysts are now starting to see what will happen when riots intensify. “The effect of responding to lawlessness by handcuffing law enforcement is going to tear our society apart!” writes Mr. Flurry in *Great Again*. Now more than ever, calls to defund the police, even totally abolish them, are growing more common. If followed, this course of action will cause even greater suffering and violence.

How has America’s internal division left it unable to compete with rising powers and vulnerable to societal collapse?

One way to look at a nation’s global influence is by examining its “soft power.” Coined by Joseph Nye, the term describes a country’s control over world affairs through the channels of diplomacy, culture, societal values and business. Nye observed, “If a state can make its power seem legitimate in the eyes of others, it will encounter less resistance to its wishes. If its culture and ideology are attractive, others will more willingly follow.”

Now, nations that formerly trusted the U.S. will grow wary of investing in its economy or participating in American-led trade initiatives. Ascendant nations like China will use the U.S.’s inability to control its own affairs as a justification to further break with the dollar. European leaders will have justification to further crack down on the Silicon Valley-based online world.

Tourism, responsible for \$1.6 trillion in economic output during 2017, has been hit hard by the riots. The industry already faced closures due to coronavirus. Now, many potential visitors will decide against traveling to America, choosing to spend their time and money in cities that aren’t viewed as being so vulnerable to sudden outbreaks of violence. Ultimately, intensifying civil unrest

## Will America Lose its Super Power Status?



Advancing in a Time of Crisis



### Financial Crisis Report



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He appears in 14 Who's Who publications throughout the world and is listed as a specialist in international business, real estate and estate planning.

will lead to the U.S. being shut out of world trade.

In these ways, the riots have damaged America's diplomatic and economic standing for years to come.

#### Facing the Truth

*The Trumpet* has warned for many years that race riots will play a major role in America's departure from the world scene and hasten its eventual collapse. How did we make this forecast before the trend of deadly violence increased to the threat it is today?

A Bible prophecy in *Isaiah 1:7* says, "Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers." America Under Attack says this "is talking about massive race wars swallowing up our cities! Cities in Israel are going to burn. ... Can you even conceive of such violence? God warns that it is coming."

The U.S. is forsaking *the Bible*, from which it derived its Constitution. In *Great Again*, Mr. Flurry explains how America's Founding Fathers said the Constitution would only work "if our people had a certain measure of faith in God and the Bible." Handicapping the police and abandoning these laws is "quickly moving America toward a race war and rule by dictatorship or tyranny," he writes.

*The Bible* describes a time when America's domestic trouble will grow so violent and spread so universally that it will paralyze the country, leaving it unable to respond to external threats. Ezekiel 5:12 describes riots that will kill a third of Americans; the word translated "pestilence" means burning. Consumed by its own problems, America will disappear from the world scene. Its decreasing credibility today is only the beginning of this deadly trend.

"When you look objectively at the facts of these high-profile, racially charged riots, you can see why they are certain to grow much worse," Mr. Flurry writes. "Few people realize how grave this trend is. You need to know where this is leading! In fact, *the Bible* prophesies that this type of racial tension is building toward a time of unparalleled suffering. Race-related violence in our cities is going to play a major role in the unraveling of our society! That is the bitter truth that most of our people refuse to face."

Ultimately, social unrest will get so bad that it will make the nation vulnerable to invasion. "You absolutely need to understand the truth about what is happening to America today!" he writes in *Great Again*. "We have been protected in this country for a couple hundred years. We have not experienced the turmoil that many other nations have. Yes, we were involved in two world wars, but God has given us a lot of peace. As a result, our people have settled into an unreality about what is really happening around us. They don't understand how deadly dangerous this world is! This is not God's world. There is a lot of evil in this world. It is full of tigers waiting to tear people apart. It has always been that way. As Winston Churchill said, the history of man is the history of war. Yet somehow we can't come to grips with that today."

As America begins to unravel, you can choose to face this bitter truth and do something about it before it's too late. Understanding God's perspective on America's racial strife is the only way to end it. We recommend you read our free booklets *Great Again* and *America Under Attack* to gain a perspective, found nowhere else, that will soon lead to real, enduring peace for all races.

#### End of article



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