



PUBLISHED BY **MIYOSHI LAW**
ESTATE & INTERNATIONAL LAW PRACTICE

February 2023
Volume 2, Issue 38

Financial Crisis Report

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Advancing in a Time of Crisis

Inside this issue:

1. Why Russia Winning Ukraine War
2. Why Russia Failed to Immediately Win Ukraine War
3. Why American Soldiers Become Homeless
4. What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three
5. Japan Rearms
6. Why Japan Gearing Up for War with China
7. Does the FBI control Big Tech?
8. Digital Currency Coming Soon
9. Japan: Women Catching Up
10. Did the Fed Fail?
11. Does the Majority Rule in America?
12. Who in Social Media working for Corrupt Purposes
13. Why One Should Not Move to Japan
14. Biblical Lessons of Rome for America

We are experiencing the most economically unstable period and socially erratic period in the history of the modern world. This period is being marked with extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodity and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions including historic pandemics, conflicts, wars, riots and even regime changing coups. As is typical of such times, many fortunes will be both 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 imbalances and distortions in the commodity and currency markets that exists. 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 survive and even benefit during this historic time of crisis in the world. 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.

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Why Russia is Winning the Ukraine War



It is now coming up on the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine. Many people believe that the Ukrainians, with financial and weapons aid from the U.S. and other NATO countries, are winning the war.

I believe Ukraine can win the war as long as:

1 It doesn't run out of trained war-fighters.

2 The West (America and the other NATO countries) keeps sending essential materials—artillery (howitzers/long-range cannons, rocket launchers), ammunition/rockets, armored tanks, uniforms, food, etc.

But if either of those runs out, Russia CAN win. But who really knows how many people Ukraine or Russia has lost or have left? They both lie.

Anyway, Jim Rickards, a *New York Times* best-selling author and editor of the newsletter *Strategic Intelligence* who advises the Department of Defense and the US intelligence community, be-

lieves Russia has the advantage and apparently for good reason. Rickards released an article in January reporting on his thoughts and findings on why Russia is actually winning the war. I am a subscriber to Rickards publications and I present his report for your serious reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi



Jim Rickards

Portsmouth, New Hampshire
January 4, 2023

The Truth About the Ukraine War

The war in Ukraine remains the most important story in the world today.

Don't believe the incessant U.S. government and media propaganda about Ukraine. Ukraine is not winning the war; they are losing badly.

But wait, hasn't the news been talking up Ukrainian gains in recent months, while Russia is retreating and being badly beaten? That's the mainstream, pro-Ukrainian narrative. Here's the reality:



Why Russia Winning Ukraine War

Most of the Ukrainian gains were against lightly defended positions that the Russians quickly abandoned because they were not worth fighting to defend.

Those Russian troops (really Donbas militias) were ordered to retreat to fortified Russian lines while Ukrainian forces rushing to fill the void were slaughtered by Russian artillery bombardments.

Most people think of war in terms of territory. If you lose territory, it must mean you're losing the war.

But it's not always that simple.

The Russian Strategy

The Russians will willingly cede territory in order to fight again at a later time under more favorable circumstances. They'll simply re-take it when the terms favor them. They're not primarily concerned about the territory per se. The primary Russian objective is to grind down and destroy the Ukrainian armed forces.

And if the Ukrainians want to keep hurling themselves against Russian positions in order to recapture land and score a propaganda coup, that's fine with the Russians. They'll just grind the attacking forces down with heavy artillery fire (artillery kills far more people in war than bullets or bombs).

And despite Ukrainian government claims, the best intelligence says Russia is presently enjoying an 8–10:1 casualty rate. In other words, Russia is inflicting eight–10 casualties on Ukraine for every casualty it's suffering.

That kind of ratio isn't sustainable for Ukraine.

Russia Prepares to Lower the Boom on Ukraine

Meanwhile, Russia has reinforced its positions with 300,000 or more fresh troops (about 30 divisions) who are rested and resupplied. That's in addition to the number of troops already in Ukraine.

Evidence indicates they're backed by at least 1,500 tanks, 5,000 armored fighting vehicles, 1,000 rocket artillery systems, hundreds of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters plus thousands of tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

At the same time, all indications are that Russia is changing its strategy.

The initial Russian invasion was ill-conceived and took place in a piecemeal fashion. Contrary to mainstream opinion, Putin never intended to conquer Kyiv and occupy Ukraine. The invasion force

was far too small to accomplish those objectives.

Also contrary to mainstream opinion, Putin didn't target Ukraine's civilian population. He wanted to avoid civilian casualties to the greatest possible extent. Of course some civilian targets were hit, but that's going to happen in war.

Putin instead believed that the "special military operation" would tell Kyiv and Washington that Russia was serious about enforcing its red lines in Ukraine, that it was willing to use force. But he thought his show of force would bring them to the negotiating table.

He badly miscalculated. Rather than bring Kyiv and Washington to the negotiating table, they resolved to aggressively defend Ukraine. Russia's ill-prepared forces were pushed back and routed in many instances.

"Russia Means Business This Time"

But now Russia is taking the gloves off. It's already launched heavy, sustained attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, including the power grid and energy nodes. Its army is also regrouping and preparing for massive counteroffensives.

It won't make the same mistakes it made during last February's ill-planned attacks. Russia means business this time.

It's not interested in bringing Ukraine to the negotiating table anymore. It's focused instead on destroying Ukraine's military forces and imposing a settlement on Kyiv.

A major winter offensive will begin soon, likely when the ground in southern Ukraine is fully frozen (muddy ground will bog down Russian forces). A successful counteroffensive will consolidate Russian control of Donbas (the heartland of Ukrainian industry and natural resources), give Russia control of Zaporizhzhya (the largest nuclear power plant in Europe) and possibly include the conquest of Odessa, the most important Ukrainian Black Sea port.

The cost on the rest of Ukraine from Kyiv to Lviv will be horrendous, including the near-complete degradation of its power-generating capacity, transportation lines and food supplies. U.S. and U.K. weapons supplies won't mean much because they are too little, too late and the Ukrainians are scarcely trained to use them.

But these prospects make no impact at all on the anti-Russian war-hawks, both Democrat and Republican, who are determined to prolong the war at all costs — even if it means fighting Russia to the last Ukrainian.

A Great Deal for the Military-Industrial Complex





Why Russia Failed to Immediately Win Ukraine War

It seems that every week or so the U.S. announces a new multibillion-dollar package of aid for Ukraine. These aid packages fall into two categories: Some are simple financial transfers to keep the oligarchs in Ukraine supplied with funds to keep their government going.

Others consist of weapons including drones, anti-missile batteries like the Patriot, long-range artillery and most recently an announcement that the U.S. may supply Ukraine with Bradley Fighting Vehicles, or BFVs.

The total of such Ukraine aid, including the \$1.7 trillion budget boondoggle passed by the U.S. Congress two weeks ago, is now approaching \$100 billion.

When it comes to weapons, there's a lot less than meets the eye in terms of helping Ukraine. It appears that Ukraine is getting billions of dollars in equipment, but in fact, Ukraine is getting castoffs from U.S. inventories.

What's really going on is the U.S. is dumping old or obsolete systems on Ukraine (the original BFV was built in 1981, over forty years ago) and then using the appropriations to order new weapons for itself.

Meanwhile, the U.S. will likely send Ukraine an older version of the Patriot air defense system — and only one battery at that, consisting of eight missile launchers. It's not the game-changer many seem to think it is. The Russians will simply overwhelm the system with numbers, and then take it out. It probably won't last long whenever it's deployed, which could be several months from now.

The real winners of these weapons transfers will be U.S. defense contractors like Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, who are getting the money to build new advanced systems for the U.S.

The real losers will be the Ukrainian people, who will continue to die needlessly in the absence of a negotiated settlement that recognizes the reality on the ground.

How Much Western Military Aid Actually Makes It Into the Field?

To make this racket even more absurd, much of the equipment that does make it to Ukraine is quickly blown up by Russia.

Russia has very good intelligence on the whereabouts of these weapons systems once they reach Ukraine. Using global satellite imaging, laser guidance and a blend of drones and cruise missiles, Putin has had success preventing these weapons from reaching the battlefield or destroying them if they do.

But the U.S. has already spent so much money on Ukraine and committed itself so strongly to a complete Russian defeat, a Russian victory would represent another strategic defeat for the U.S., still smarting from the debacle in Afghanistan.

What remains of U.S. credibility is on the line.

Brinksmanship

What happens if Russia brings Ukraine to the verge of defeat? Will Biden and his strongly anti-Russian administration simply throw up their hands and concede victory to Russia? Based on their maximalist rhetoric and commitment to Ukrainian victory, that appears unlikely.

Biden has shown no signs of relenting and recently said he will supply Ukraine with weapons as long as it takes. On the other hand, Putin will also not back down and seems determined to secure the entire seacoast of Ukraine, including the critical port of Odessa.

The great danger could arise if the U.S. foolishly continues escalation to the bitter end in order to stave off a Ukrainian defeat. I'm not predicting it'll happen, but things could escalate to the point where tactical nuclear weapons are employed out of desperation. From that point, it's a short step toward the broader use of strategic nuclear weapons.

Again, I'm not specifically predicting that will happen. But it is a realistic possibility based on the logic of escalation, and we seem to be sleepwalking into a nuclear confrontation unless we wake up.

Will we?

End of Article

Why Russia Failed to Immediately Win the Ukraine War

Most people expected that once Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, it would promptly prevail and control the country. That did not happen. In an article presented before by analyst Jim Rickards, however, he explains why Russia is now prevailing in the conflict and if things do not change, will lead to Russia eventually winning in Ukraine.

But here is a revealing article by reporter Claire Moses of the *New York Times* that appeared before on Dec 18, 2022, that answers the question why Russia did not immediately win the Ukraine War against the expectation it would. I present this article for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi





Why Russia Failed to Immediately Win Ukraine War



Claire Moses is a writer for *The Morning* based in London. Before joining *The New York Times* in 2017, she worked at *BuzzFeed News* and other news outlets. She is originally from the Netherlands.

What Russia Got Wrong

A cascade of military failures started with Vladimir Putin



Vladimir Putin, Russia's leader. Credit...Efrem Lukatsky/Associated Press

Nearly 10 months into its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has suffered great losses. Its military has faltered against a foe that, before the war, appeared much weaker. A team of Times journalists published an account this weekend of how Russia so badly mismanaged its invasion, based on interviews, intercepted phone calls, documents and secret battle plans. At the center of it is Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, who has been in power for more than two decades.

I spoke to Anton Troianovski, the Moscow bureau chief and one of the lead reporters on the story, about how Putin came to decide to go to war.

Claire: When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, experts believed that Russia would quickly conquer Ukraine. That didn't happen. What is the main reason that the war went so badly for Russia?

Anton: It was a cascade of failures, and at the top is Putin's own misguidedness, his own isolation and his own conviction that he

knew what was best. The Russian military was unprepared all the way down to a tactical level, like using Soviet-era maps. Like using their cellphones to call home, which gave away their positions and allowed them to be ambushed or attacked. There wasn't enough food to feed the soldiers.

We got hold of actual copies of some of the invasion plans that some of the Russian military units had, which showed them expecting to race toward Kyiv within hours of invading. Russian military leaders didn't think they'd need any reinforcements.

I talked to many people who knew Putin personally, and they told me that the decision to go to war was based on his gut feeling. Putin didn't seem to think he needed advice on the wisdom of this invasion. Putin was convinced that he knew best, that he understood Ukraine and its place in history as well as his own.

You report in the story that, partly because of the pandemic, Putin didn't meet face to face with a Western leader for more than a year. How did that affect his decision to go to war?

We don't have perfect insight into what's going on inside Putin's inner circle; it's still one of the world's most secretive ruling establishments. But everyone I talked to said they didn't believe that Putin had a single meeting before the invasion where people talked openly about the wisdom of going to war. Putin doesn't like group discussions, he likes one-on-one discussions.

One person I spoke to compared it to a social media algorithm. Putin's aides and friends would see what got a rise out of him emotionally, and they'd bring him information that further intensified his views.

Why were the predictions about the war so wrong?

It's because this war was something that nobody could really imagine. It wasn't just Putin who miscalculated. The Russian elite largely thought there'd be no way that Putin would actually go to war. Many Ukrainians also didn't think Putin was actually going to invade, nor did the Europeans. The U.S. did expect Russia to invade, but thought it could win in days. The war was so different from anything that has happened in recent decades that it was impossible to make informed predictions.

There was a ton of miscalculation from all sides. Putin also didn't expect the West to unite behind Ukraine the way it did, nor does he appear to have expected Europe to reorient away from Russian fossil fuels so quickly.

We've talked a lot about what went wrong for Russia, and of course the war isn't over. Is there anything that is going well?

Putin recognizes that things haven't gone to plan, but that doesn't





Why American Soldiers Become Homeless

mean he's going to fold. He is willing to accept a lot of casualties — up to 300,000, according to what one NATO member is now telling allies. The way Putin looks at it is that the Soviet Union lost 27 million people in World War II, and he's convinced that the Russian people are prepared to suffer — more than people in the West.

Something else that has gone well from the Kremlin's point of view is the country's propaganda machine. It helped convince many Russians that the war was not going disastrously wrong, and that it was the West that was forcing Russia to fight. In addition, sanctions haven't derailed the Russian economy the way the West had hoped, and much of the world hasn't turned its back on Russia the way some expected.

Telling the inside history of an ongoing war is an ambitious goal. How did you all pursue this story?

It was a very intense reporting effort. I was trying to get beyond what we already know about Putin and get to some of the nuances surrounding him and his decision to go to war. It is really hard, because it's something that so few people know for sure. It took a long time and a lot of conversations.

I spoke on the record to two rich Russians, one who turned against Putin and another who didn't. It was fascinating to see how people made their decisions. There were a good amount of people who were willing to speak publicly. Often these people were prepared to talk because they want their side of the story out there.

Anton Troianovski is *The Times's* Moscow bureau chief. His first journalism job was as a photographer with local papers in the St. Louis area, where he grew up, and he first reported in Russia as an intern for The Associated Press in 2006.

[End of Article](#)

Why American Soldiers Become Homeless



This question that appeared on Quora really hit home for me. To some degree I suffered the stresses explained in this article but fortunately through the Grace of God I made it through. However, for many others they unfortunately did not. This article was written by Stephen Johnson and it appeared on Jon's Political Corner Blog. While it's a bit direct and profane in its expression, I believe it's accurate in its denouncement of where responsibility truly lies. I recreate it here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

Why do so many US Soldiers end up in the streets?

Out of respect for people I know, I will keep this brief and honest:

The largest share of homeless Vets are homeless combat Vets. Most non-combatant service members only lose their home if they become careless or criminal. Rare. The very core of serving is to be honorable.

So this is why: most of the homeless Vets have seen, done, or suffered shit that is humanly insufferable, and they just can't deal with it in any way that lets them come back home and re-insert into a civilian life that is nothing like the one they left...because when they left, they didn't have the 4K-Ultra HD Dolby 9.2 full surround memories they made over there of unimaginable carnage, violence, terror, and grief. According to a study by the National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health (govt agencies), fifty percent of homeless Vets are Vietnam Vets.

And admitting they can't fucking take it is the hardest thing on earth besides reliving the fucking suck every fucking day.

So they withdraw, shut down, suffer in silence while everything around them evaporates including the woman keeping him warm and the pillow they shared. My own favorite Uncle Mike died indigent in a hospital at 57, having suffered nearly 40 years of unbearable memories and regrets. I still have his graduation picture from the military school he graduated from at 17 in 1967. Of course, his number came up and off he went and when he came back he was not the same person. He took 20 years of steady failure to finally end up on the streets. That's the brief part. The rest is personal.





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three



And a great many of them take their own lives. That we send billions to terrorists while we have even a single homeless Vet pisses me off royally.

End of Article

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Final Part Three



One of the burdens of writing a newsletter is that you get called all kinds of names including being a “Racist” and a “Conspiracy Theorist.” For the record, I believe the great majority of “conspiracy theories” are just that, mere theories. But I also believe that a select few contain the substance of truth and must be acknowledged and appropriately dealt with, depending upon one's political and economic stance.

In my search for a clear definition of Conspiracy Theorist I came across a comprehensive report on the subject entitled “Why Society Needs Conspiracy Theories & Conspiracy Theorists” It is written by Tyler Durden.

The report provides a comprehensive discussion on the definition of Conspiracy Theorist and I would like to share it with you here. Its lengthy and I have provided it in three parts. The first two parts appeared in two previous newsletters. I hope you find this third and

final part on conspiracies as informative as I found the first two parts were. It is somewhat lengthy so you can read it in separate parts, as time permits.

D. Miyoshi

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.”

– Matthew 10:26

WHY SOCIETY NEEDS CONSPIRACY THEORIES & CONSPIRACY THEORISTS

Part Three

Part Three

Conspiracies to Watch

Mini-Guide to Investigating Conspiracies

Conclusion

Conspiracies to Watch

As practically all of the conspiracies stated below are highly controversial and subjective in nature, I will merely provide a short summary of each along with key links that provide some initial background information – selected specifically to exhibit why they are considered conspiratorial. Ultimately, it is really up to the readers to investigate them and draw their own conclusions as to the authenticity and legitimacy of their respective stated claims.

Climate Change

Though the very hot and contentious issue of ‘Climate Change’, formerly known as ‘Global Warming,’ is complex and controversial, we must begin by examining its *origins*.

Where did this really originate from? When was it first mentioned and put forward as an existential threat?

Former Australian politician Ann Bressington shed a





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

bit of light on the issue in a candid speech about Agenda 21 and the Club of Rome a few years ago. In the speech she stated the following [**emphasis added**]:

“Ladies and gentlemen, the origins of the environmental movement as we see it began back in 1968 when the **Club of Rome** was formed. The Club of Rome has been described as a **crisis think tank** which specializes in **crisis creation**. The **main purpose of this think tank was to formulate a crisis that would unite the world and condition us to the idea of global solutions to local problems**. In a document called **The First Global Revolution**, ... it stated: ‘**In searching for a new enemy to unite us, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill.**’ ... that’s the origin of global warming ladies and gentlemen.”

Her statement does indeed check out. On page 115 of the 1991 book entitled The First Global Revolution: A Report by the Council of Rome, you can clearly read the passage under the header ‘The Common Enemy of Humanity is Man’ [**emphasis added in red**]:

THE COMMON ENEMY OF HUMANITY IS MAN

In searching for a new enemy to unite us, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill. In their totality and in their interactions these phenomena do constitute a common threat which demands the solidarity of all peoples. But in designating them as the enemy, we fall into the trap about which we have already warned, namely mistaking symptoms for causes. All these dangers are caused by human intervention and it is only through changed attitudes and behaviour that they can be overcome. The real enemy, then, is humanity itself.

Excerpt from page 115 of the book The First Global Revolution: A Report by the Council of Rome

The Club of Rome is still actively involved in activities related to Climate Change. And at first glance it all seems quite legitimate. But the power and influence wielded by its well-connected membership leaves much to be scrutinized.

Moreover, while the above information doesn’t serve as a smoking gun with regards to an alleged conspiracy, it does demonstrate that powerful and deeply connected think tanks (like with the Council on Foreign Relations mentioned earlier in this article) can influence many key players, including heads of state (even former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, father of the current Prime Minister).

Credible scientific evidence contrary to the current climate change narrative does exist, yet very seldom appears in the mainstream press, for it goes against the ascribed (and undebatable) “the science is settled” mantra.

One of these includes the recent (August, 2022) article entitled 1,200 Scientists and Professionals Declare: “There is No Climate Emergency” by The Daily Sceptic which challenges the ‘political fiction’ that humans cause most or all of climate change.

The article also states that the scale to the opposition to the modern-day belief that the ‘science is settled’ [on Climate Change] is remarkable, even amidst the backdrop of academia which barely ever issues grants for climate research that departs from the political orthodoxy. On a side note, a blunt revelation by the co-founder of The Weather Channel John Coleman offered a rather scathing (and highly entertaining) lecture towards Brian Stelter from CNN a few years back in which he stated that there was no real science behind climate change. Now, back to the article of interest from The Daily Sceptic. It makes reference to a declaration by over 1,200 scientists from all around the world who assert that there is no climate emergency. This declaration is formally known as the ‘World Climate Declaration (WCD)’. Here are a few key excerpts:

“Climate policy relies on inadequate models

Climate models have many shortcomings and are not remotely plausible as policy tools. They do not only exaggerate the effect of greenhouse gases, they also ignore the fact that enriching the atmosphere with CO2 is beneficial.”





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

“CO2 is plant food, the basis of all life on Earth

CO2 is not a pollutant. It is essential to all life on Earth. More CO2 is favorable for nature, greening our planet. Additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also profitable for agriculture, increasing the yields of crops worldwide.”

“Global warming has not increased natural disasters

There is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and suchlike natural disasters, or making them more frequent. However, there is ample evidence that CO2 mitigation measures are as damaging as they are costly.”

“Climate policy must respect scientific and economic realities

There is no climate emergency. Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm. We strongly oppose the harmful and unrealistic net-zero CO2 policy proposed for 2050. Go for adaptation instead of mitigation; adaptation works whatever the causes are.”

It *should* be obvious – even to a grade school student – that CO2 is essential for life on earth and for the healthy functioning of our biological ecosystems. But our mainstream media and academia have been bamboozled and overtaken by powerful interest groups (as is the case in many other institutions such as those of finance and government) to pervert reality and propagate absurdities day in and day out. These compromised media outlets prefer to push the half-baked narratives from the likes of Bill Gates rather than invite real scientists that will challenge the ‘settled’ narratives and pundit talking heads.

To be fairer and more objective though, the onus really is on each and every one of us to properly inform ourselves about issues such as climate change. We should be open to listening to those with opposing views and seek the opinions of independents who are not subsidized or funded by special interest groups or who will somehow benefit in spewing pre-packaged, one-size fits all, narratives.

The origins of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19)

No other matter has consumed the collective thought of people from around the world over the last 2+ years than the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Early on during the pandemic, many had contended that the virus was not of natural origin but was rather one that was altered in a lab setting; and after things had gone awoul, the virus was somehow spread out of the biosafety level 4 lab known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology into the public of the Chinese metropolis, and eventually to the entire world. This was in contrast with the original claim that the virus had originated in a wet market in Wuhan whereby the virus had crossed-over to humans from bats.

Those who made the contention that the virus could have been engineered in a lab were immediately dismissed as conspiracy theorists.

But as more evidence has surfaced regarding a massive coverup by the Chinese government and apparent pre-pandemic linkages between US-funded labs and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the theory gained traction.

Anthony Fauci who is the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the leader in the United States regarding the handling of the Covid-19 Pandemic has repeatedly lied (to US Congress) about and denied that any gain-of-function research (specifically, a bat coronavirus research project by EcoHealth Alliance) had taken place under his US government-funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) lab in Wuhan.

Surfaced letters have shone additional light on the matter demonstrating that funding from NIH to EcoHealth Alliance did indeed occur.

In addition, a report from The Intercept following a FOIA request produced 900 pages of materials relating to coronavirus research in China.





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

Furthermore, an email letter from Peter Daszak from EcoHealth Alliance dated April 18, 2020, surfaced whereby Daszak thanked Anthony Fauci, the head of the Covid-19 response team, for his [false] public comments regarding the origins of Covid-19.

News aggregator ZeroHedge ran an article on August 6, 2021 whereby virologist Shi Zhengli (also known as "Bat Lady") of the Wuhan Institute of Virology – whose lab received US funding to make coronaviruses more infectious to humans – warned that the virus will continue to mutate producing new strains.



Virologist Shi Zhengli (left), also known as "bat lady" photographed with Peter Daszak (right) from EcoHealth Alliance, source: ZeroHedge and DailyMail

China expert Matthew Tye who is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and goes by the YouTube handle Laowhy86 produced a very compelling piece (dated April 1, 2020, now with over 2.4 million views) on the source origins of SARS-CoV-2, even hypothesizing about who *patient zero* for this virus was; namely, Huang Yan Ling an employee of the infamous lab who went missing, along with her profile from the lab's website.

The World Health Organization (WHO) who is generously funded by Bill Gates – apart from sovereign nations, he is by far its top donor – is well known to have kowtowed to the Chinese government early on in the pandemic, was eventually compelled to conduct a formal investigation about the origins of the virus.

Using relevant sources, Summit News reported that the WHO's chief investigator, Ben Embarek (who al-

so surmised that patient zero was likely a lab worker at the Wuhan Institute of Virology) essentially found nothing of material substance in the probe and was only permitted [by the Chinese government] to *mention* the possibility of a lab leak without being allowed to probe further. All of this, too, after having visited the lab for a period of only 3 hours.

In addition, one might find it particularly inappropriate that Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance was chosen as part of the WHO's investigatory team since he had previously worked in this same lab and given his obvious conflicts of interest in the matter at hand.

In their defense, it is highly likely that the Chinese government had adequate time to remove any incriminating evidence that could have pointed to the gain of function research about coronaviruses and the inherent lab leak of the virus.

As a substantial amount of time has elapsed since the Covid-19 pandemic began coupled with the concealment (deliberate or indeliberate) of critical direct and physical evidence regarding the real nature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, we may never know the true story surrounding its origins.



Screenshot of John Hopkins University of Medicine's Worldwide Covid-19 Dashboard, taken Sept. 27, 2022 (Total Cases: 615,673,638; Total Deaths: 6,538,656, Total Vaccine Doses Administered: 12,255,133,258)

What remains, however, is that it is certainly worthwhile to not let this one drain down the funnel of forgotten history.

The World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Great Reset
Though founded in 1971, it is really in the last couple





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

of years that this elitist organization, commonly referred to as the WEF, started to gain attention by the general public (rather than business leaders, politicians, and state leaders) around the world. This is in large part attributable to the increase in the influence and power they have gradually exerted on nations over the years, and particularly since the Covid-19 Pandemic came about.

In 2020, the WEF embraced the opportunity that this global crisis presented and not let it “go to waste.” And thus, seized it through a series of recommendations and actions which they stated as an opportune moment to “redefine” the world – particularly the traditional economic model into one of what they call ‘stakeholder capitalism’. Hence was born their proposed ambitious action plan known as the ‘Great Reset’.

Two books accompany this endeavor, namely, the manifesto entitled COVID-19: The Great Reset (2020) written by WEF founder Klaus Schwab, as well as the The Fourth Industrial Revolution (2016). Both serve as blueprints for what the well-connected elitist and quasi-supranational organization wish to impose on global citizens.

The WEF’s founder Klaus Schwab has been characterized as kind of a Bond villain in the last few years – particularly over social media. A well-researched introduction about Klaus Schwab and the WEF was produced by YouTuber Sorelle Amore.

While registered as a non-profit organization, the WEF does appear, at prima facie, to be one with benevolent intentions fostering public-private partnerships, that is not entirely the case. Many controversies have surrounded a lot of what has come out of their famous annual meetings referred to as ‘Davos’ which usually take place in the ski-resort town of Davos in Switzerland.

For instance, many rich elites who’ve paid a hefty membership fee to join the WEF, make it to the annual event in their private jets while they call upon the masses and nation states to curve energy emissions

and reduce their carbon footprints. In this year’s Davos meeting, one of their ilk, J. Michael Evans, president of the Alibaba Group, even proposed a new technology to measure one’s carbon footprint, stating **[emphasis added]**:

“We’re developing, through technology, an ability for consumers to measure their own carbon footprint. What does that mean? That’s, where are they traveling, how are they traveling, what are they eating, what are they consuming on the platform? ... stay tuned, we don’t have it operational yet - but this is something we’re working on.”

While we all love the environment and want to do our part to protect it, this kind of scheme appears to be nothing less than a proposed taxation scheme targeted to partner governments eager and willing to implement it.

Other controversial, some would say absurd, proposals have come out of their forums. Promoting the masses to eat bugs (as a high source of protein and great substitute for meat) is actually a thing now with celebrities such as Nicole Kidman helping to spark the trend stating how delicious they are. Insect processing plants, such as the cricket facility from Aspire Food Group in Ontario, are also starting to bolster this nascent industry.

You would be stunned at witnessing the extent to which this is becoming widespread.

Some, however, have expressed concerns about how insect-based ingredients are stealthily being added to the food we purchase and how they are not fit for human consumption and possibly even cancerous.



What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three



***Tweet** indicating that President's Choice (a leading food provider in Canada) is including insect components in this product, as per the label, purchased at a store in Saskatchewan.*

I suppose we are all going to have to more carefully read the ingredients lists of the foods we purchase.

Another major concern with regards to the WEF is the amount of power and influence they hold over political officials, including heads of state.

This became apparent in the recent riots that have occurred in the **Netherlands** where Dutch farmers have protested in masse against government diktats regarding reducing nitrogen (used in fertilizer) levels and possible farm land appropriation.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also received criticism regarding the coziness of his ties with the WEF's boss, Klaus Schwab, and his agendas. In fact, Rutte was blasted in the Dutch legislature by Gideon van Meijeren (MP) for this relationship and complicity in the WEF's Great Reset (link includes the related video). Rutte responded to the young MP that he didn't

know about the book (COVID-19: The Great Reset) and ridiculed the young MP to "not look too much into these conspiracy theories."

In turns out, though, that a close relationship did exist between the Netherlands Mark Rutte and the WEF. Independent information outlet LeLibrePenseur.org (French for 'The Free thinker'), published secret letters between the two. In a report titled Fuites de Klaus Schwab : lettres secrètes entre le WEF et des membres du gouvernement hollandais dévoilées ! (Klaus Schwab leaks: secret letters between the WEF and members of the Dutch government exposed!), they showcased (what many mainstream Dutch journalists had described as conjecture) how the Rutte government had indeed been subservient to the interests and agendas of the WEF. Following a request from deputy FVD Pepijn van Houwelingen to make public the letters addressed to Dutch cabinet members, it was confirmed that their contributions had helped in the realization of the Great Reset, essentially bypassing the will of the people through their elected officials.

While it is not necessarily conspiratorial to create linkages with the WEF, the secretive manner in which it was done is what proves alarming.

Regarding **Canada**, Klaus Schwab has repeatedly boasted on how proud he was proud of his army of Young Global Leaders, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Schwab even bragged about how his lieutenants had "penetrated" the Canadian cabinet stating **[emphasis added]**:

"What we are very proud of now [is] the young generation **like Prime Minister Trudeau, ..., that we penetrate the cabinets**. So, yesterday I was at a reception for Prime Minister Trudeau and **I know that half of his cabinet, or even more than half of his cabinet are actually young global leaders of the world.**"

That is a stunning admission from the leader of the WEF. Canadian opposition MP even inquired about this outside interference on behalf of a constituent of his during a parliamentary session, only to see the Speaker dismiss the question from the MP regarding



What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

this claim by provided a ridiculous excuse that the audio and video were “really really bad”. This was swiftly followed by an MP of the ruling party dismissing the question stating that the opposition MP was “promoting disinformation”. Really? I presume he didn’t hear the video in question that clearly stated otherwise. Regardless of the veracity of the claim itself, when an extremely powerful individual from an extremely powerful global organization such as the WEF makes a vivid assertion about who is controlling the Canadian cabinet, it should be taken seriously and further investigated.

At the very least, according to True North News, the Trudeau Government gave nearly \$3 million to the WEF which raises a cause for suspicion regarding the relationship and its inherent motivations.

Rigging of the Gold & Silver Markets

At this point/stage, this is really no longer a conspiracy theory, but more of a conspiracy fact. As a financial author, I have followed the gold and silver markets on a daily basis for the past ten years and have witnessed and documented numerous cases of blatant price fixing – almost exclusively to the down side.

The main reason for the suppression of gold and silver prices is to maintain the illusion of a strong US dollar; for, if prices of these metals get too elevated it raises alarm bells as to the weakness of an exponentially increasing money supply.

Here is what I’m talking about:



Gold smashed down more than \$85 during London trading hours on November 9, 2020. Source: Kitco

It is very typical for the price fixers (see below) to smash the gold price down (they do this by shorting large amounts of *paper* gold futures contracts) before the open of U.S. markets – either during Asian (Hong Kong) or London trading sessions.

Former industry insider and highly credible Peter Hambro forthrightly explains how the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the LBMA (London Bullion Market Association) in London, and the COMEX (the largest American commodities and futures exchange) in New York are complicit in the price fixing (almost exclusively to the down side) of gold.

Over the past several years, precious metals analyst Roman Manly has also conducted extensive and thorough investigative work about the manipulation of gold and silver prices as has the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee (GATA).

Regarding silver, an article entitled A Silver Price Manipulation Primer by Sprott Money and precious metals writer Craig Hemke offers a good introduction about the fixing of silver prices.

Lastly, we cannot forget the unabashedly, unfiltered, and outspoken Canadian derivatives expert Rob Kirby who passed away earlier this year (a tribute to his work can be seen via YouTube’s Liberty and Finance channel) who has extensively reported on these illegal price fixing activities on various YouTube channels such as Liberty and Finance.

Mass Censorship & Search Manipulation

In 2021, Twitter completely banned and censored the sitting U.S. President, Donald J. Trump – who had over 88 million followers on the platform.

If a Big Tech outfit like Twitter can outlaw a sitting U.S. President, you can rest assured that they can basically ban and memory-hole anyone. And that, they





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

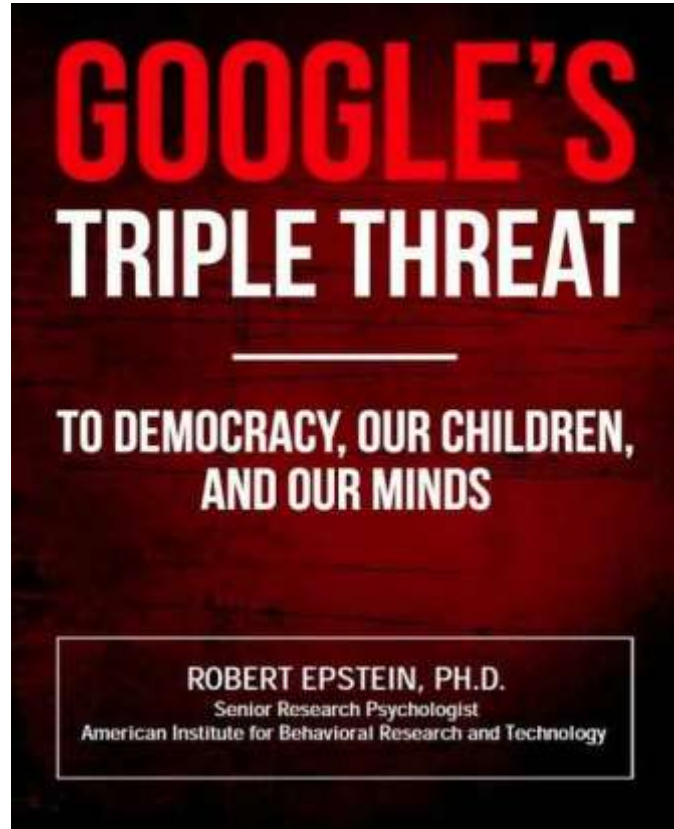
have done so unabatedly in the past several years.

Google (the largest search engine in the world by far) who owns a slew of other extremely popular applications used by hundreds of millions of people and media platforms such as YouTube, has been known to employ very deceptive practices over the past several years.

Many of these involve either directly or indirectly censoring websites and completely banning countless channels – particularly conservative and alternative ones – from their YouTube platform, not to mention shadow-banning. In regards to the later, whistleblower Zack Vorhies, a former Senior Software Engineer at Google, stated that the tech giant was a “highly biased political machine”. The former insider took a cache of documents that provided rather revealing information about the inner workings of their search algorithms, establishing a “single point of truth” for news, and preventing another “Trump situation” in 2020, from ever happening again.

More recently – and quite convincingly, Dr. Robert Epstein, a Senior Research Psychologist from the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology gave an in-depth interview with The Epoch Times’ Jan Jekielek (Robert Epstein: Inside Big Tech’s Manipulation Machine and How to Stop It) revealing in a meticulously documented fashion how Google is indeed politically aligned to the left and how it manipulates the thoughts and minds of their users via “ephemeral experiences”.

The April 2022 broadcast and podcast for this interview are definitely worth listening to. By listening to it, you will learn a lot about what exactly happens behind the scenes when you use Google search and its various products and services. Alternatively, you can read or consult Dr. Epstein’s full research paper entitled 'GOOGLE'S TRIPLE THREAT, To Democracy, Our Children, and Our Minds' (51-page PDF) published earlier this year.



Full research report by Dr. Epstein's entitled 'GOOGLE'S TRIPLE THREAT, To Democracy, Our Children, and Our Minds' (PDF)

Slightly after the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, Dr. Epstein had surmised that search engine bias shifted 2-3 million votes in Hillary Clinton’s favor and warned that the number could increase fivefold in the 2020 contest.

Also back in 2016, it was revealed how Google had censored information about Hillary Clinton’s wrongdoings in their search results compared to other major search engines.

Whether the call for censoring and shielding Big Tech from scrutiny and legal action comes under the guise of cracking down on misinformation or preserving their censorship power, it nonetheless remains clear that these media behemoths hold tremendous power on the levers of public discourse and the availability of information.





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

The Biden Administration has been accused of employing an “army” of officials from multiple government agencies (specifically, the HHS, DHS, CISA, the CDC, NIAID, the Office of the Surgeon General, the Census Bureau, the FDA, the FBI, the State Department, the Treasury Department, and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission) to censor information using their contacts in social media. A recent lawsuit – handled by the New Civil Rights Alliance – alleges that very claim. The lawsuit’s plaintiffs’ position begins with their claim and what it seeks [**emphasis added**]:

“the Plaintiffs served interrogatories and document requests upon the Government Defendants **seeking the identity of federal officials who have been and are communicating with social-media platforms about disinformation, misinformation, malinformation, and/or any censorship or suppression of speech on social media**, including the nature and content of those communications.”

In a recent interview with Joe Rogan, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg also openly revealed that he followed the censorship orders from the FBI to suppress information related to Hunter Biden’s laptop ahead of the 2020 election; all this was under the guise of “Russian Disinformation” and the net effect was that Facebook ended up ranking the information further down their newsfeed which could certainly be seen as election interference and/or political partisanship.

I have mentioned in my initial post on Substack, that I espouse the notion that, in essence, there really is no such thing as misinformation, disinformation, or malinformation (or even ‘fake news’ for that matter) – for, it is ALL INFORMATION. If the public is not able to firstly *access* information and then *analyze* and *discern* it for themselves (even with regards to the complex issues of our day), then perhaps we have a bigger problem. Namely, that of a dumbed-down populous unable to critically think for themselves without been spoon fed pre-determined, unquestionable, narratives by “authority” figures.

In a recent interview, author, journalist, senior editor for The New American, and Epoch Times contributor Alex Newman offers a rather insightful view of

not just the current state of censorship, but also the worrying trend of the dumbing-down of population through our degrading school system. As one who has worked in the education sector for 35 years, I can certainly agree with his concern that our youth are not adequately being taught critical-thinking skills in our public school system.

In **Canada**, the controversial Bill C-11 (an Act to amend the Broadcasting Act) has been passed by Parliament and is awaiting a second reading in the Senate. Though Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that it would help “oppressed communities” and “strengthen trusted news sources in Canada”, many others contend that if passed as law, it will favor government-approved news organizations who are already (and will continue to) receive nearly hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money, with the CBC reportedly receiving 1.4 billion in 2021 according to the National Post. Dr. Michael Geist, a law professor and Research Chair (in Internet and E-commerce Law) at the University of Ottawa categorized the government’s defense of the bill as “cartoonishly misleading”. The main concern is that this bill could silence freedom-loving content creators, reports mrcTV. Canadian journalist Dan Dicks from Pressfortruth.ca and social media personality Viva Frei (David Freiheit) have criticized the bill (and even its predecessor bill C-10). It remains to be seen if the bill will pass the Senate to become law.

2020 Election in the United States

The 2020 Election was one of the most controversial elections in American history. Coverage about the election varied greatly among major networks and news outlets in the country.

In my opinion, I have found The Epoch Times coverage of the election to be most accurate and independent.

All publications have bias in their reporting; that is inevitable due also, in large part, to opinion pieces which in today’s polarized society carry a lot of weight. That being said, I still believe that articles from The Epoch Times have been more objective than





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

many others.

One of their seasoned contributors, Sharyl Atkinson – an investigative journalist who has reported nationally for CBS News, PBS, CNN – ran an viewpoint article on Dec. 22, 2020 titled 2020 Election Screaming Red Flags That Deserved Criminal Inquiry. Though it was an opinion piece, she provided a fair analysis whereby she pointed out the many claims of election irregularities and fraud and how they should have been taken more seriously and investigated upon by government officials and law enforcement agencies. And since they haven't been taken seriously, the integrity of the election results comes under great scrutiny. Her piece then lists eight examples of “screaming red flags” that should have prompted thorough criminal inquiries.

Prior to the election, The Epoch Times had unveiled a very comprehensive exposé titled Spygate: The Inside Story Behind the Alleged Plot to Take Down Trump that was very well sourced and referenced. The investigatory work outlined in great detail the concerted plot whereby key members of the CIA, FBI, Department of Justice (DOJ), and officials from the U.S. State Department set up and accused President Trump of colluding with the Russians.

Various official inquiries such as the very long and costly Special Counsel investigation of 2017-2019 (headed by the very corrupt and compromised Robert Mueller, former Director of the FBI) proved that no foul play had ever occurred between Trump and the Russians.

What is stated in the previous paragraph is important, for it adds veracity to the claims made about election fraud to the detriment of the incumbent Trump. Why? Because it affirms the *motivation* by those in power to use the same type of unlawful activities (and collusive partners) to falsify and skew election data.

Such manipulation of the data, demonstrable by statistical anomalies, (particularly with mail-in ballots) certainly became obvious and apparent during the morning hours following election day when, miraculously, Joe Biden's numbers soared in key states

where Trump was leading. Many outlets had cried afoul to this apparent fraud. Even the head of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) Trey Trai-nor at the time said he believed there was widespread election fraud.

In addition, the manner in which Big Tech platforms have shown favoritism – before, during, and after the election – is also to be considered in the disputed election results. It is no secret that Google has not been shy about supporting Democratic candidates such as Hilary Clinton and Joe Biden in the past several years; this has been highly documented – with some examples detailed in this work (above). Twitter has also blatantly censored and terminated accounts belonging to conservatives; a case in point here includes them suspending 2020 election audit accounts for multiple states.

Dominion Voting Systems were used in many states for the election. And much controversy arose surrounding their reliability and accuracy in counting votes, along with hacking (including foreign) vulnerabilities. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) has pointed out that these could affect voting in multiple states. The state of Pennsylvania is suing Dominion Voting Systems alleging “severe issues” with voting data discovered after the 2020 election. And, more recently, the Biden administration is urging a court not to release a sealed report on Dominion Voting Systems.

Lastly, the fact that Joe Biden supposedly received 80 million votes – the most votes won by any presidential candidate in US history (which shatters the 69.5 million votes Barack Obama had received in 2008) – remains highly questionable. Even prior to election night, Biden himself was nowhere nearly as popular as his predecessor, Barack Obama. Perhaps there was a larger portion of the population that went out to vote and wanted to vote for the Democratic party regardless of its leader.

While there still are ongoing investigations at the state level regarding these voting irregularities, it is highly doubtful that much will come out of them. The whole affair has been greatly politicized which taints the ju-





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

dicial review process and proper accounting of votes for the highly-disputed 2020 election.

Aerosol Spraying (Geoengineering)

Of the many alleged conspiracies worth keeping an eye on, Aerosol Spraying (sometimes referred to as ‘Aerial Discharges’ or ‘chemtrails’) – which fits under the larger umbrella of geoengineering – is one of the most troubling and worrisome ones.

For those not familiar with the subject, geoengineering generally involves modifying the weather for various purposes such as in climate engineering (e.g., cloud seeding to induce rain over drought-stricken areas) or as weather warfare for military purposes – which dates all the way back to the Eisenhower administration in the United States.

For at least the past two decades, Dane Wigington has been on a crusade to alert the world about this troubling phenomenon due to its extensive use of harmful chemicals. His web-site GeoengineeringWatch.org contains a substantial amount of credible evidence regarding the dangerous effects that geoengineering practices have on our climate, environment, and populations. Whistleblower testimonies, government reports, and other evidence presented on the site – including numerous photographs and videos – prove that a lot of activities surrounding geoengineering is intended for nefarious and harmful purposes.

This is not conspiracy theory, but rather indications of a conspiracy to harm populations through weather modification and jet sprayings – sometimes inadequately referred to as ‘chemtrails’.

I myself have witnessed this phenomenon of jet sprayings over my region in the province of Quebec since my return to Canada in November of 2021. I never saw these spraying prior to the year 2008 before my departure from the country. Since my return, I’ve been witnessing massive spraying occurring over the skies of my region to the tune of three to five times a week, on average. And each day of spraying emanates from

around a dozen or more flight by high-altitude aircraft.

I’ve personally written to my city, the local airport authority in the city, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Transport Canada and none of them have provided concrete answers to my inquiries and to the nature of this phenomenon in general.

Both my city and Environment and Climate Change Canada have replied to me that these sprayings are merely commercial passenger aircraft exhaust trails, i.e., condensation trails. Anyone who has taken a high-school level physics course will be able to debunk this ludicrous claim that these sprayings – that stretch over kilometers far and wide and that last hours – are due to condensation vapor trails.

I had asked Environment and Climate Change Canada if these sprayings could be attributed to weather modification programs, and they replied me that none were in effect in the province of Quebec, but that there was one in effect in the province of Alberta. So, if these are not intended for weather modification purposes, then what are they for?

My subsequent (and very polite, respectful) email inquiries to these Canadian agencies have been mostly ignored. This leaves me to conclude that they are not being forthcoming about the origins of these sprayings and thus appear to be hiding the facts surrounding them.



Aerosol sprayings over the greater City of Sherbrooke (Quebec) area on January 30, 2022





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

In addition, for this year alone, I have seen many photographs and videos shared online of these sprayings posted by many Canadians located in different provinces.

In **Canada** there have been court cases filed regarding aerosol sprayings. Mass sprayings in the Calgary, Alberta region have lead to a mass-tort case that was filed in Federal Court (see related court documents) in 2016 along with a related appeal in 2018 also at the federal level. The appeal further alleges:

“the ongoing dispersal into Canadian airspace of aerosols that are harmful to the Canadian public and that is polluting to the Canadian environment, and in respect of which aspects of the scientific community have only relatively recently evaluated in the scientific peer-reviewed literature.”

The court case mentioned above appears to still be ongoing.

What is particularly worrisome about these aerosol sprayings is that we don't know exactly what chemicals are being used and dispersed over our skies.

The team at GeoengineeringWatch.org has produced many excellent explanatory videos and documentaries, along with a cache of documents to inform the public of what these sprayings are really about and what chemicals are found in them. I highly recommend their introductory video Hacking The Planet: The Climate Engineering Reality.

Evidence collected by GeoengineeringWatch.org has shown that chemicals and metals used in aerosol sprayings have included aluminum, barium, strontium, graphene, among others.



Home page for GeoengineeringWatch.org

What is also particularly troubling is that many of these metals and chemicals make their way to ground level from high altitude in the form of nanoparticles – which if breathed in, are tiny enough to penetrate the blood-brain barrier. They are especially harmful to elderly and infant populations whose brains are still in development. In this respect, I highly recommend the work of neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock who describes the harmful effects these chemicals have on the brain.

There is also a lot of evidence that suggests that geoengineering is used to modify the climate and could thus be a significant contributor to climate change, increasingly unstable weather systems, and droughts.

Lastly, what I find particularly disappointing as a Canadian is the position, albeit one from several years ago, whereby our very famous David Suzuki – one who I admired very much growing up and watching his show The Nature of Things – pretty much described the phenomenon as conspiracy theory posited by “wacky science deniers” in an article entitled David Suzuki on Chemtrails, Conspiracies fuel climate change denial and belief in chemtrails. There are many false assertions in this poorly formulated article, but here are the key ones [**emphasis added**]:

“I recently wrote about geoengineering as a strategy to deal with climate change and carbon dioxide emissions. That drew comments from people who confuse this scientific process with the unscientific theory





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

of “chemtrails”.”

Suzuki’s statement bolded above makes no sense. A theory is a theory. There is nothing unscientific about a theory. A theory is a hypothesis assumed for the sake of investigation which is formulated *before* science is conducted to verify it.

He continues with the following later in his article:

“I’m a scientist, so I look at credible science – and there is none for the existence of chemtrails.”

“They’re condensation trails, formed when hot, humid air from jet exhaust mixes with colder low-vapour-pressure air.”

Condensation trails? Condensation trails do *not* drag on over several kilometers and remain suspended for hours at a time; rather, they usually dissolve within several seconds, or a few minutes at the most.

As for “credible evidence”, these aerosol sprayings have been highly documented over the past several years.

So, these are the main arguments and explanations from one of Canada’s most renowned scientists?

Really?

Sorry Mr. Suzuki, I respectfully disagree with this very perplexing assertion, for it doesn’t hold water! (pun intended)

And many of the 297 comments generated from this article are in disagreement with Mr. Suzuki’s assessment.

Author note: I have contacted Mr. Suzuki by email to provide him with an opportunity to re-assert or update his assertions (especially since several years have elapsed since the article was written) but have not received a reply from him as of publishing time.

Back to the condensation trails, I have personally filmed and photographed many instances of real condensation trails from commercial airliners including those at high altitude; and for these, the trails completely disappear within no more than a minute or so.

I even have some that show these alongside other – likely non-commercial – aircraft which produce aerosol sprayings that last for kilometers and persist for much longer periods. And this, of course, under the exact same weather conditions.

Also, I would invite the skeptics to try to find *any* photographs or videos *prior to the 1960s* that have these kinds of criss-cross patterns and lengthy and abnormal cloud dispersions over several kilometers in the sky. There are none that I know of; but if any are found, let me know. The oldest ones that I’ve been able to find appeared in a few episodes of the TV series *Little House on the Prairie* which began in 1974.

Wouldn’t a scientist who is *genuinely* concerned about climate change such as David Suzuki (and all others, for that matter) want to consider *all* factors (including aerosol dispersions) which may contribute to the degradation of our natural environment?

Questions that remain regarding this inadequately addressed phenomenon include:

- What is the *purpose* of these aerosol sprayings?
- *Who* is authorizing them?
- Who is *paying* for them?
- What *substances* (including chemicals) are they spraying?

Why aren’t Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada providing answers to these questions?

Mini-Guide to Investigating Conspiracies

“An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people.” – Thomas Jefferson

Actually, the header for this section is a bit of a misnomer, for it will comprise a broader range of tools and techniques that will enable individuals to do a better job at discerning and validating information.

The internet is a vast ocean of information and knowledge. There is a lot to take in and it can all be





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

quite overwhelming – especially when social media is included in the mix.

Many labels such as ‘fake news’, misinformation, and disinformation have been thrown left and right to hastily characterize the validity of information provided by certain parties.

Of course, this is very subjective and is influenced by many factors such as different kinds of biases, political affiliations, financial interests, and the like. **One must judge what one reads based on its own merits without relying on these labels.** In other words, begin by removing any of these labels or preconceived assumptions and tackle the information itself.

I would recommend reading news and information from **different sources** – whether it be from mainstream media, alternative media, and everywhere in between. **Each article or piece of information is unique, was written by an individual (or a few individuals) and should be treated and evaluated as such.** Put another way, each article is like an antique. An antique collector will inspect and examine each piece on its own characteristics and merits. Depending on the qualities and flaws observed, the collector will be able to make an objective evaluation for authentication purposes (i.e., Is it real or fake?) We should use the *same* approach when encountering a piece of information – particularly if it is of a complex, controversial, or disputable nature.

Another thing we can do is **be wary of buzzwords**. By buzzwords, I mean words or phrases like ‘right-wing’, ‘left-wing’, ‘conspiracy theorist’, ‘conservative’, ‘liberal’, ‘MAGA Republican’, ‘anti-vaxxer’, ‘so-called’, ‘quasi’, and ‘pseudo’. Buzzwords are similar to labels and are often used by writers or TV personalities to *indirectly* (or *subliminally*) convey a preconceived notion about the subject matter of the information piece. Also be aware that buzzwords’ meanings can vary from one geographical region to another, similar to slang. The idea here is to **detect their usage** and become cognizant that they may be used to sway the reader’s opinion in a certain direction. So, look out for these – especially when reading headlines to articles or social media posts.

In today’s very polarized and divided society filled with identity politics, blame and labels will be readily cast upon those who don’t “toe the line” (i.e., go along with a certain narrative, or accept the authority or views of a particular group, sometimes under pressure from that group). We’ve seen a heck of a lot of this in the past couple of years with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Prime examples include the likes of “trust the science”, or “he’s an anti-vaxxer”. For the later, the danger here is that such condescending comments or labels assigned to specific people or groups can not only be harmful, but will too often lead to incorrect assumptions about the target. For instance, if someone refuses to take the Covid-19 vaccine, that doesn’t necessarily mean she’s an anti-vaxxer; perhaps, she is willing to take other vaccines, but just not the Covid-19 one.

In another prime example we often hear the label “climate change denier” (as with the David Suzuki article referenced earlier) when someone doesn’t (either fully or in part) adhere to the notion of climate change. As this particular topic is very broad and complex, labelling one in such a derogatory fashion proves itself as quite foolish. **Writers, TV personalities, news pundits, and social media figures may often attack a person when they cannot invalidate or counter the substance or merits of their claims.** Some are very adept at it too which takes the victim by surprise and makes them appear stupid or weak. The trick here, is to **not take it personal** and let it get to you. Rather, either ignore them, or **turn the situation around and ask them to elaborate on the merits of why they disagree with your claim or stance, pressing for facts and evidence to substantiate their assertions.**

A great question to ask is ‘**Cui bono?**’ which is Latin for ‘**who benefits?**’ The phrase originates from the very famous Roman statesman Cicero. Cicero was a brilliant orator, lawyer, philosopher, and politician who lived during the boisterous early years of the Roman Empire when wars, politics, greed, and power dominated the social and political landscapes (as they still do today). One needed to be quite astute in assessing others’ motives based solely on their words and actions. Cicero would often ask this question, *cui bono*, to better understand the *real* motivation behind





What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Three

individuals' or groups' true intentions. We should do the same, as it seems everyone is out for something to gain. Put simply, we should take some time to question the possible motivations behind what we see, hear, or read.



The Death of Caesar, 1874 steel engraving by J.C. Armytage after J.L. Gérôme

In similar fashion, we should also **follow the money**. This is particularly useful when looking at information related to the financial markets as well as political and geopolitical happenings. Similar to the previous tool, it guides us towards the underlying motivation(s) – most often of a financial nature – behind what someone is saying or doing. They may be saying one thing, but doing another through their actions, whether they are investments, supporting political candidates or causes, donating to charity, etc.

Individuals who have received a **classical education** often fare much better in how they *process* information and *interact* with other people. There are key reasons for this. The first is that in this type of education system, students go through a three-step learning process, or system, which stretches from elementary school to middle-school to high-school. These three learning anchors are: **grammar, logic, and rhetoric**. The grammar part is not of the 'spelling & grammar' kind; rather, it relates to how one *inputs* information from the outside world. The logic part refers to how one *processes* the information obtained. And the rhetoric part is the culmination – being able to *communicate and express oneself persuasively*. This third part is quite important. Many of the ills and divisions we see in society today is due to the lack of this particular ability. People are

far more likely to *debate* with one another than to have a *civil* discussion about it.

In classical education, which has its roots from the ancient Greek philosophers, students communicate using discourse (dialectic/Socratic method). In other words, they have a conversation and use logic and reason to arrive at truth. This is a much more constructive means than to debate or argue in a back-and-forth manner whereby each party wants to be right and win. If people in today's society would be more respectful towards one another and accept differences in views and opinion, then we could find areas of common agreement and would thus have more peace and unity, as opposed to hatred and division.

So, the moral of the story here is that **we should make an effort to be polite and respectful towards the views and opinions of others, even if they vary from our own or sound crazy**. In doing this, we have a much better chance of making allies and gaining the trust of others. Disagreeing with a *person* is much different than disagreeing with the *contents* of what they are saying.

Lastly, here is one more tool that almost all those who receive a classical education learn about – **logical fallacies**. A logical fallacy, in its simplest form, is a flawed or weak argument or assertion. They are deceptive or false arguments that may seem stronger than they actually are due to psychological persuasion, but are proven wrong with reasoning and further examination. (source) There are many different types of logical fallacies. An example includes **Blind Loyalty**:

“The dangerous fallacy **that an argument or action is right simply and solely because a respected leader or source** (an expert, parents, one's own "side," team or country, one's boss or commanding officers) **say it is right**. This is over-reliance on authority, a corrupted argument from ethos that puts loyalty above truth or above one's own reason and conscience. In this case, a person attempts to justify incorrect, stupid or criminal behavior by whining "That's what I was told to do," or "I was just following orders.”





Japan Rearms

We've seen the Blind Loyalty fallacy a lot during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We've been told to 'trust the science', certain experts in the medical field, health organizations, and so on. Just because something comes from a given expert or an authoritative organization doesn't necessarily mean it is correct. I remember when I came back to Quebec, Canada last November, the health pamphlets from the provincial health authority listed *zero* possible side-effect or risks associated with the Covid-19 vaccines. As *all* vaccines have inherent risks, this information provided by this respective authoritative source was *not* right, or completely accurate. Critical information was omitted.

Guilt by Association is another common logical fallacy. Here, one tries to refute or condemn someone's standpoint, arguments, or actions by evoking negative sentiments of those with whom they associate with. A classic example of this one came about during President Biden's controversial speech he gave on Sept. 1, 2022 whereby he rendered a large portion of Americans as dangerous 'MAGA Republicans'; in other words, he positioned many who consider themselves as Republicans to be Trump supporters and some kind of insurrectionists. In Canada, the mainstream media often associated and labelled those who supported the Freedom Convoy protest movement as far-right extremists.

Many other logical fallacies are employed by those in the media and across social media. These are flawed arguments or assertions that you need to look out for. You need to be able to first recognize them and then you will be in a better position to defend yourself by addressing them for what they are.

Conclusion

So, why does society need conspiracy theories and conspiracy theorists? Well, it's no secret that we've been lied to. We've been lied to about a lot. And we are still being lied to on a daily basis. This makes it much harder to get to the truth.

Knowing more about how conspiracies actually work and how past ones have played out can help us to be more vigilant and question more about our perceived

reality. Everything happens in the mind. The better we train our minds, the better we can sift through the rubbish and keep what's real and authentic while discarding what is not.

Conspiracy theorists are often labelled and demonized – usually because they have demonstrated the courage to speak out, to point out inconvenient or uncomfortable truths. They may lose the support of friends, family, and employers in the process. But they remain true to themselves and who they are at their very core. Therefore, we should encourage them and even strive to duplicate their courage and assertiveness.

End of Report Final Part Three

I hope you have found this rather long report on conspiracies informative

D. Miyoshi

Japan Rearms



At the end of World War II, the United States forced Japan into adopting a new constitution that explicitly forbade Japan from "the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes." Japan never wholeheartedly embraced this part of the Constitution. Over the years it has evaded its strict enforcement, quietly rebuilding security measures. But by and large, Japan has been married to the title of pacifist.

But on December 16, 2022, that marriage came to an end.





Why Japan Gearing Up for War with China

Japan announced it would double its defense spending to 2 percent of its gross domestic product by 2027. A 2 percent defense budget might seem negligible, but Japan is the world's third-largest economy. This new budget would automatically make it the world's third-highest spender on defense, after the U.S. and China, allowing it to completely reshape its entire defense strategy.

According to reporter Rufaro Manyepa, in Dec 16's official announcement, Japan said the reason for the defense increase is the "challenge" posed by China. The world is in "the most severe and complex security environment" since the end of World War II, it said, thus Japan is preparing "for the worst-case scenario."

The reasoning is sound. As Japan has been relatively stagnant, China overtook it as the world's second-largest economy and military. China has been building artificial islands throughout the Pacific, and its undying interest in acquiring Taiwan poses a direct threat to Japan. In addition, China's ally North Korea has recently resumed lobbying missiles in and around Japanese waters.

So Japan is taking action. The new move will push Japanese spending well over \$100 billion. It plans to bolster existing munitions, equipment, naval vessels and fighter aircraft. It also wants to overhaul its cyber systems. But most significantly, it plans on acquiring new counterstrike missile capabilities for long-range targets in the event of a direct enemy attack.

The U.S. has welcomed the news. "The new strategy anchors Japan firmly in the U.S. alliance," the Wall Street Journal wrote. "Tokyo is America's most important ally, and a militarily stronger Japan will enhance deterrence in the Pacific."

According to the *National Review*, "Americans can be heartened by Japan's rearmament." But it also warned that the main reason Japan is rearming is because it has realized that U.S. security guarantees aren't as convincing as they once were.

That's exactly what *the Plain Truth* magazine wrote in April 1968: "Japan tolerates her present form of government as long as it is economically expedient. If the time were ever to come—and it will come—that the Japanese could not feed off of American aid, we would witness a remarkable change in attitude toward the United States."

Three years later, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about the potential of the Samurai awakening: "Japan today has no military establishment. Some United States forces are still there. But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so powerful economically that it could build a military force of very great power very rapidly."

On December 16, 2022 Japan took the first steps to doing just that.

Japan Preparing for Possible War



On Dec 16, 2022 Japan unveiled a new national security plan that signals the country's biggest military buildup since World War II, doubling defense spending and veering from its pacifist constitution in the face of growing threats from regional rivals. After all these years, why is Japan now building up its military force. It appears they are preparing for a possible war with China. For the particulars, I present the following report written by Hal Brands that appeared in *Bloomberg* on November 6, 2022.

D. Miyoshi

Why Japan Is Gearing Up for Possible War with China



The threat of Chinese aggression is producing a quiet revolution in Tokyo's statecraft — and officials are pushing the nation to get ready for a fight.





Why Japan Gearing Up for War with China

If China were to attack Taiwan, it wouldn't just have to face a hostile superpower. It would also likely have to confront its longstanding regional rival, Japan. For centuries, Japan and China have vied for hegemony in East Asia; at times, they have threatened each other's survival. Today, as I found from three days of meetings with Japanese officials and analysts in Tokyo, the threat of Chinese aggression is producing a quiet revolution in Japanese statecraft — and pushing the nation to get ready for a fight.

For the US, China is a dangerous but distant challenge. For Japan, China is the existential danger next door. Years before American leaders were proclaiming the return of great-power rivalry, Japanese officials were warning that Beijing was up to no good. As China's capabilities become more formidable and its conduct in the Taiwan Strait more menacing, Tokyo's concerns grew more acute.

The weather may have been beautiful when I visited the capital, but there is very much a sense that storms are on the horizon. "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow," warned Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in June. The same month, some 90% of the Japanese public believed the country should prepare for a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. That was before Chinese leader Xi Jinping ratcheted tensions by firing ballistic missiles into Japan's exclusive economic zone following House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei.

In Tokyo, as in Washington, opinions differ regarding when the risk of war will be greatest, and even whether Xi would hazard everything in a high-stakes military gamble. Some officials told me that Xi's recent personnel reforms — which included placing a veteran of China's last foreign conflict, against Vietnam in 1979, and a former commander of Chinese military forces opposite Taiwan in the two top spots on the Central Military Commission — amount to a creation of a "war council." Others counter that the People's Liberation Army will lack key capabilities necessary to invade Taiwan, such as sufficient amphibious landing craft, for years to come.

But there is little debate the country must brace for trouble, because China taking Taiwan by force would be disastrous for Japan.

If Taiwan fell, the islands at the far southwestern end of the Japanese archipelago might become indefensible. China could constrict Japan's vital trade routes, increase the pressure around the disputed Senkaku Islands, and otherwise coerce its historic rival.

This is why the Tokyo government has stated — as strongly as it can, given Japan's post-1945 aversion to the use of force — that it would not stand by while Taiwan was subjugated. Already a serious regional military power, Japan is moving rapidly to strengthen its capabilities for deterrence and defense.

Japan plans to nearly double defense spending by 2027. It is turning some of the southwestern islands into strongpoints studded with anti-ship missiles and air defenses; it reportedly has plans to use its high-quality submarine fleet to bottle up the Chinese navy. Tokyo is also moving to acquire American Tomahawk cruise missiles and other "counterstrike" capabilities that could target the Chinese mainland.

Some of these moves are publicly justified as measures to deal with a very real threat from North Korea, which livened my arrival in Tokyo by launching ballistic missiles that triggered alerts for residents of north and central Japan to seek cover. But Japanese officials acknowledged privately to me that every crisis with Pyongyang strengthens their argument for acquiring weapons that can blunt aggression by Beijing.

Meanwhile, cooperation with the US is getting deeper, with American and Japanese forces stepping up training together — including large-scale exercises off several southern islands this month — and preparing joint-operational plans in case conflict over Taiwan breaks out.

These measures are part of a larger shift, as Tokyo — which in the 1930s and 40s ravaged its neighbors — becomes a pillar of Indo-Pacific security. When the US withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement under President Donald Trump, Japan salvaged a pared-down version of that accord, to act as a counterweight to Chinese influence.

Japanese officials are weaving a web of security partnerships, with countries from Australia to India, meant to strengthen checks against Chinese expansion. Tokyo even coined the idea of preserving a "free and open Indo-Pacific," a phrase Washington has now appropriated.

To be sure, it's a halfway revolution. Doubling defense spending would take Japan's military outlays to just 2% of GDP. The country's constitution still imposes serious constraints on foreign and defense policy. But the overall trend is clear and, most likely, durable. Kishida, once considered a dove, is carrying out the policies that his more hawkish predecessor, Shinzo Abe, envisioned — without provoking nearly as much blowback as the more polarizing Abe.

This is good news for Washington. Access to Japanese bases and the involvement of Japanese forces would make the odds in a war over Taiwan far more favorable for the US. An alliance that began as a one-way security guarantee after World War II is steadily evolving into a more authentic partnership.

That's not to say that the two countries are in lockstep. The volatility of US politics and the legacy of the Trump years have led to lingering concerns about America's long-term reliability. As I learned in Tokyo, Japanese think-tanks are quietly studying geopolitical "plan B's" (or "plan A's") in case Trump returns to power. Military and diplomatic investments that make Japan a better ally of the US today serve as insurance against a future in which America retreats into isolationism or angry unilateralism.

Japanese and American diplomats I spoke to also worried that Washington sometimes elevates the symbolic aspects of support for Taiwan, such as the Pelosi visit or calls to recognize that island as an independent country, over concrete action to strengthen its defenses. Whereas Tokyo prefers deterrence without provocation, the US periodically practices provocation without deterrence. That's not a good way to handle a dangerous rival — or to keep America's single most



Does the FBI control Big Tech?

crucial ally in the fold.

End of Report

Does the FBI control Big Tech?



According to Stephen Flurry editor of the *Trumpet* publication, the latest “Twitter Files” have revealed even more about how government agents collect, analyze, flag and censor your social media posts. On December 16, Flurry reported that *Substack* writer Matt Taibbi published more than 150 internal e-mails from Twitter, provided by owner and CEO Elon Musk. The e-mails were between Yoel Roth, the former head of Twitter’s Trust and Safety department, and agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These e-mails were sent between January 2020 and November 2022, and, according to Taibbi, “a surprisingly high number are requests by the FBI for Twitter to take action on election misinformation, even involving joke tweets from low-follower accounts.” One thing is certain, you will not see any of this reported by the main stream media.

“Twitter’s contact with the FBI was constant and pervasive, as if it were a subsidiary,” Taibbi wrote.

That is quite an accusation, and FBI leaders have admitted that the e-mails are legitimate. At the same time, they argue that they are unimportant, stating: “The FBI regularly engages with private sector entities to provide information specific to identified foreign malign influence actors’ subversive, undeclared, covert or criminal activities. Private sector entities independently make decisions about what, if any, action they take on their platforms and for their customers after the FBI has notified them.”

In other words, the FBI is trying to make it look like its collusion with Twitter does not violate the First Amendment protection of free speech because Twitter leaders make the final decision on whether to obey the FBI. But that is a terribly weak argument. Millions of

Americans never found out about the Hunter Biden laptop scandal because the FBI instructed Facebook and Twitter to censor it and these Big Tech companies willingly complied. The FBI maintains an 80-agent social media task force, created when Barack Obama was still in office. Before Elon Musk took over in October, Twitter’s top ranks were filled with dozens of ex-FBI agents. Taibbi’s claim that Twitter operated as an FBI subsidiary is perfectly accurate.

You know things are getting serious by the fact that the FBI is responding to the “Twitter Files” revelations. The bureau tried to ignore Musk’s takeover of Twitter at first, but now its leaders are getting nervous and trying to cover their tracks.

Twitter Files 6.0 also revealed that Twitter received content-related flags and action requests not only from the FBI but also from a tangled web of state agencies, private contractors and government-affiliated organizations.

“What most people think of as the ‘deep state’ is really a tangled collaboration of state agencies, private contractors, and (sometimes state-funded) NGOS,” Taibbi said. “The lines become so blurred as to be meaningless.” The deep state goes deeper than you probably think.

Despite what the FBI claims, its “master-canine” relationship with Twitter is not just about flagging misinformation. On December 16, Musk and journalist Michael Shellenberger released Twitter Files 7.0, which reveals how the intelligence community “discredited factual information about Hunter Biden’s foreign business dealings.” Discrediting factual information has been a major assignment for FBI agents, especially surrounding the 2020 election.

“In Twitter Files #6, we saw the FBI relentlessly seek to exercise influence over Twitter, including over its content, its users and its data,” wrote Shellenberger. “In Twitter Files #7, we present evidence pointing to an organized effort by representatives of the intelligence community (IC), aimed at senior executives at news and social media companies, to discredit leaked information about Hunter Biden before and after it was published. ... It’s important to understand that Hunter Biden earned tens of millions of dollars in contracts with foreign businesses, including ones linked to China’s government, for which Hunter offered no real work. During all of 2020, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies repeatedly primed Yoel Roth to dismiss reports of Hunter Biden’s laptop as a Russian ‘hack and leak’ operation.”

This is an astounding revelation! Twitter executives censored posts about Hunter Biden contracts with foreign businesses not because they were liberals who wanted a Democrat in office, but because they were operating under orders from a deep state network that wanted to replace President Donald Trump with someone loyal to Barack Obama. In fact, Twitter Files 7.0 shows that the FBI paid Twitter more than \$3.4 million to censor certain posts.

This is shocking if not disappointing! After the FBI raided President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home on August 8, military historian Victor



Digital Currency Coming Soon

Davis Hanson told Fox News host Mark Levin that he believes America is no longer a republic. Instead, it is a radical democracy where politicians circumvent and destroy constitutional checks and balances with impunity through unelected “deep state” bureaucrats. The “Twitter Files” show he is right. The FBI has been using Twitter as a subsidiary, and Obama has been using the FBI and other agencies throughout that “tangled collaboration” to exert dictatorial rule over Americans.

“Of all the intel agencies, the one Obama wanted control over most was the FBI,” Gerald Flurry writes in his book *America Under Attack*. “The FBI does the domestic investigative work on anyone who needs or holds a security clearance, so control over the FBI put him in charge of who can access what information. ... The intelligence branch has full control over what is considered classified information. That is why this ‘fourth branch’ has control over the three actual, constitutional branches: executive, legislative and judicial. When other branches ask for intelligence information, often the agencies will provide it with key parts redacted to hide what is really going on. They control that, without oversight. The only ones who see the whole picture are Barack Obama and his top men. This gives these people unparalleled control!”

Obama took control of the FBI during his two presidential terms. Now he is using that control to control elections by broadcasting negative information about conservatives and discrediting factual information about liberals. Musk is exposing the “master-canine” relationship at Twitter, but we can be confident the same types of things are going on at Alphabet, Apple, Discord, Facebook, Google, Instagram, Meta, Pinterest, Reddit, Shopify, Snapchat, Stripe, TikTok, Twitch, YouTube and beyond. Obama’s dictatorial campaign of censorship and disinformation will continue until..... well, it is stopped or America turns into a Socialist Marxist Oligarchy.

D. Miyoshi

Digital Currency Coming Soon



The Fed, in cooperation with giant global banks, recently conducted a pilot project to test the message systems and payment processes on central bank digital currency (CBDC).

A pilot project is not research and development. That’s already been done. The pilot means CBDC is here, and the backers just want to test the plumbing before they roll the system out on the entire population.

It means digital currency is coming to the U.S. faster than most expect, perhaps as early as mid-2023.

And the following article written by Josh Lipsky and Ananya Kumar that appeared in the *New Atlanticist* on Dec 15, 2022 confirms it. The U.S. is moving forward with plans to enact digital currency. Once the CBDC is rolled out, it will allow the government to take much greater control over the population.

Which we all know is the primary purpose.

D. Miyoshi



While the world was busy watching the collapse of crypto exchange FTX, the US Federal Reserve system made an important move. Speaking at the Singapore FinTech Festival on November 4, a senior official from the New York Federal Reserve surprised many in the audience by announcing that for the past several months, the New York Fed has been developing a “wholesale” central bank digital currency (CBDC) designed to speed up transfers between banks around the world.

For those who thought the United States was behind in the digital-currency “space race,” the news was welcome. In a subsequent white paper on the project—named Project Cedar—the New York Fed explained that it has already completed stage one of testing and proved that international currency transactions could be done both





Japan: Women Catching Up

quickly and safely through the blockchain. But buried in the technical details was a revealing line on the ambitions of the project: The goal of the new network is “to reduce settlement risk in cross-border, cross-currency transactions.” The message? We see what the world is doing on CBDCs, and the United States is not going to be left behind.

According to new *Atlantic Council* research, the United States, thanks to Project Cedar, has moved into development of a central bank digital currency and joined its colleagues at the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, and the Bank of England in making the leap forward. All of these jurisdictions have different projects (some, such as the United States, are focused on wholesale, while others, such as the eurozone, are hard at work on a “retail” digital currency that could be used to buy an espresso). Many of these central banks, including the Fed, have not actually decided to issue a CBDC—for that, most of the central banks will need legislative approval. And there are major privacy and cybersecurity challenges to address before most Americans open up their phones and use the digital dollar.

But over a span of two years, the world’s leading central banks have gone from skeptical to serious about a government form of digital currency. When the *Atlantic Council*’s GeoEconomics Center began this project in 2020, thirty-five central banks were exploring a CBDC; as of today, that number is 114. The motivations vary in each economy, but there are some common themes. The first is the pandemic, or more specifically, the lessons learned from it. At the height of COVID-19, many countries—including the United States—discovered how antiquated their financial plumbing was. The distribution of stimulus checks that could have taken hours sometimes took weeks. As the global economy likely heads into a recession in 2023, the need to improve delivery of money to citizens is paramount for policymakers.

The second is crypto. The FTX debacle is just the latest and largest in a string of prominent crypto failures. Finance ministries and legislatures around the world are trying to figure out rules that can help rein in the worst actors in the field. But while the regulators get to work, central bankers don’t want to sit on the sidelines. Cryptocurrencies and stablecoins are being used all over the world. In India, for example, nearly 10 percent of the population now owns or is planning to invest in cryptocurrency. In the United States, it’s closer to 13 percent. Central bankers are concerned about losing monetary sovereignty and becoming blind to what is happening inside their own economies. They see a central bank digital currency as a way to evolve and compete in this changing landscape.

The final motivation is geopolitical: Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. In the ten months since Russia’s invasion, the GeoEconomics Center’s research has shown that interest in wholesale central bank digital currency has nearly doubled. A range of countries including China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Brazil are pursuing this new technology. So what does a land war in Europe have to do with the future of finance?

When the United States and Group of Seven (G7) responded to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion, they did so not with direct military engagement but with the most sweeping set of financial

sanctions ever levied against a major economy. The West froze Russian reserves, cut Russian banks off the SWIFT payment messaging system, and slapped over 6,500 individuals with sanctions—and the rest of the world took notice. In conversations we have had with central bankers, it was clear that financial sanctions made several countries think differently about the dollar. Suddenly, the possibility that any country on the G7’s bad side could be cut off from the ability to transfer funds between banks became very real. The logical move, for many countries, was to develop a back-up plan. That’s where central bank digital currencies come in.

The dollar is involved in approximately 88 percent of all foreign exchange transactions. That dominance comes in part from the fact that the dollar is a stable liquid asset in demand by nearly every central bank and financial institution. But only 60 percent of official cross-border contracts are actually denominated in dollars. That’s because even when countries aren’t settling in dollars, they still use it as a trusted intermediary between other currencies. Sometimes international transactions can take days to finalize, so having the dollar as the agreed-upon conversion helps both parties manage risks and reduce costs. Technologies such as CBDCs that allow countries and their commercial banks to settle currency across borders almost instantly are changing the nature of cross-border flows of money. Last month, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates showed what settlements may look like in the future when they completed twenty-two million dollars in cross-border transactions on the blockchain in the first successful test of its kind.

Suddenly the United States could see the future arriving faster than it previously anticipated. If countries could settle currencies between themselves without touching the dollar, they could significantly soften the bite of sanctions. While debates about crypto legislation and central bank digital currencies have been playing out on Capitol Hill for years, up until now little concrete action has been taken. The speed of finance is faster than the legislative imagination of Congress. With Project Cedar, the New York Fed is showing what is possible when the world’s largest financial market uses state-of-the-art technology to try to improve financial flows across the world.

The announcement, of course, was just the first step. More testing will be done over the next six months, and it will likely be a year before any real money is settled on a US central bank digital currency network. But the signal from the New York Fed was clear: If you are a country considering developing a CBDC, you have a new model to pay attention to. The United States has entered the chat.

End of Article

Japan: Women Catching Up

This article by Kathy Matsui that appeared in *Nikkei Asia* is about women in Japan and their success and failures in their quest to become a viable force in the Japanese workforce.

Matsui is a general partner at Japan's first ESG-focused global ven-



Japan: Women Catching Up

ture capital fund, and the former vice chair of Goldman Sachs Japan who coined the term "womenomics" that was later employed by the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to bring more women into the Japanese workforce.

Matsui examines where Japan succeeded and where it failed, and lessons for the region at large. Combined with data, she makes a forceful argument. I present her article for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi



Most people understand why diversity is nice to have. Yet many remain skeptical that diversity is a “must have” or an imperative for growth. This is despite the existence of numerous empirical studies demonstrating the link between greater diversity and improved corporate and economic performance.

A report published by Credit Suisse last year said companies with at least one woman director received a better return on their investments compared with companies with all-male boardrooms.

Catalyst in 2011 demonstrated that Fortune 500 companies with three or more women board directors generated 50% higher average returns on equity than those with no female directors.

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs research showed that among 297 companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange which disclosed figures about their female managers in 2018-19, those with the highest percentage of women in management boasted the highest average sales growth and returns on equity.

The notion behind “womenomics” -- a phrase I coined in 1999 while working for Goldman Sachs in Tokyo -- was that well-educated yet underemployed Japanese women could solve the nation’s twin problems of economic stagnation and demographic decline.

We estimated that Japan could grow its economy by as much as 10% if the female employment ratio, then at just 56%, rose to match the male rate of 80%.

First, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration required

companies with over 300 employees to publicly disclose gender statistics on their workforce and produce action plans to further women’s participation and advancement. This mandate was later expanded to include companies with over 100 employees. Such transparency was a critical first step to pushing workplace diversity because a company cannot manage what it does not measure.

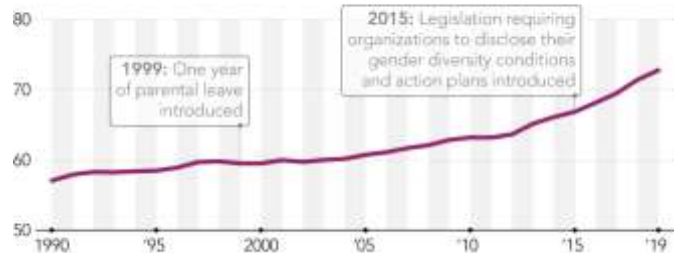
Second, Japan created one of the developed world’s most generous parental leave systems: 12 months paid time off for new mothers and new fathers. For the first six months, pay is set at about two-thirds of the worker’s pre-leave level, falling to half pay for the remainder.

The country also expanded child care capacity by 27% in the years through 2019, reducing waitlists for day care centers and improving the ability of women to return to work after giving birth.

Following these changes, the percentage of women who returned to the workforce after their first child increased to 53% in 2019 from 38% in 2010.

Women’s labor force participation in Japan

(Percentage of total female population older than 15)



Source: World Bank Gender Data Portal

Third, Japan’s Government Pension Investment Fund, the world’s largest public pension fund, in 2017 began to make investments tied to environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. As part of this effort, it began referencing an index that evaluates companies based on their creation of an environment to promote the success of women. This prompted other Japanese institutional investors to start incorporating ESG factors, including diversity, into their investment criteria.

A record number of women entered the Japanese workforce before the COVID-19 pandemic as local leaders finally began to embrace much-needed reforms to help narrow the nation’s gender employment gap.

By 2019, the country’s female labor participation rate had climbed to 71%, surpassing those of both the U.S. (66%) and Europe (62%).

In the early days of the pandemic, nearly twice as many women left the Japanese workforce as men. In Southeast Asia, women also bore the brunt of job losses, with their share in Thailand estimated by the



Japan: Women Catching Up

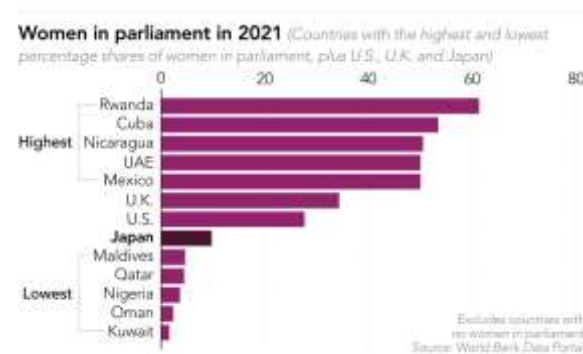
Asian Development Bank at 60%.

Many women who have since reentered the labor market took up lower quality and lower-paying part-time jobs than they held before the crisis.

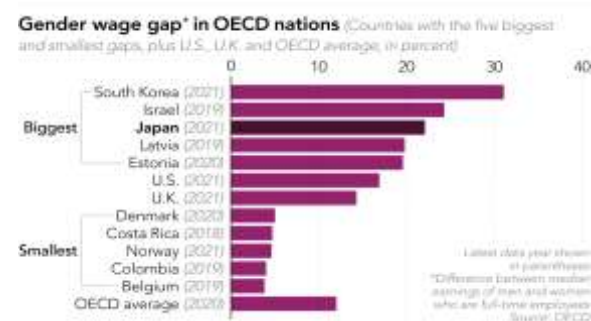
Now more than ever, governments and companies must realize that helping women thrive will be key to the post-COVID economic recovery.

Thanks to greater transparency from the private sector and progressive policies from the government, Japanese women have gained much-needed ground in recent decades. But there is still a long way to go.

Japan still faces a dearth of women in leadership positions. Fewer than 24% of the Diet, Japan's parliament, are women; a quota system could help ensure that the nation's highest policymaking body represents the views of all citizens.



At 22.5%, Japan's gender pay gap remains one of the widest among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development members. Moreover, the country's tax code incentivizes many married women to work only part-time as longer hours reduce tax write-offs.



Across Asia, countries should offer more flexible labor contracts,

enforce parliamentary gender quotas, require gender pay gap disclosures and mandate the presence of at least one woman on every corporate board. Immigration policies should be reformed to allow foreign caregivers to provide support for both child- and elder-care as is the case in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Corporations should proactively manage women's careers, promote more flexible work environments, shift away from seniority-based evaluations to performance-based systems, set gender diversity targets and engage male diversity champions.

Countries should also encourage corporations to inform their male employees about parental leave and encourage uptake. More than 85% of women in Japan take child care leave, most for at least 10 months.

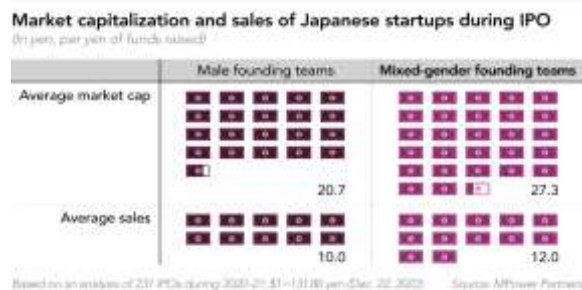
Only about 14% of Japanese men take any parental leave; many take fewer than five days. The government wants to get that up to 30% by 2025.

While strong positive linkages have been identified between diversity and large corporations, what about diversity and startups?

MPOWER Partners conducted an analysis of 231 initial public offerings held in Japan in 2020-21.

Of this group of companies, only eight, or 3%, had female founders. These companies had on average raised 403 million yen (\$3.1 million) since their founding, 44% below the average for their male-founded counterparts.

Despite this funding gap, relative to their pre-IPO fundraising, female-founded companies had a market capitalization 32% higher than their male-founded peers at the time of listing while revenues during their IPO year were 20% higher.



Diversity supports innovation, recruitment, and risk management.

How exactly does diversity drive better corporate performance?





Did the Fed Fail?

First, diverse perspectives help drive innovation by introducing new ideas and market opportunities to mainstream thought. While diverse opinions might initially result in friction, it is precisely this friction that fuels innovations which challenge the status quo.

Second, if an organization does not embrace gender diversity, it is forgoing half of its community's potential talent pool, a shrinking one in Japan's case.

Importantly, startups will need to pay attention to board diversity since it can impact their ability to raise capital. For instance, the Nasdaq Stock Market has mandated that by 2023, companies must have at least one diverse board director. By 2025, this threshold will increase to at least two diverse directors.

Goldman Sachs, meanwhile, has said since 2020 that it will underwrite IPOs in the U.S. and Europe only for private companies with at least one diverse board member. In 2021, this target rose to two diverse directors.

This movement to increase board diversity is rooted in empirical evidence showing that companies with diverse leadership perform better. Since 2016, the shares of U.S. companies that went public with at least one female board director have outperformed those that did not in their first year after listing.

Japanese public companies are already being scrutinized by foreign and local institutional investors due to insufficient board diversity.

Some governments are making gender equality a priority as we move forward from the COVID pandemic. Research has shown that prioritizing women's participation and advancement in the workplace can have revolutionary effects on economies battered by COVID-19, and arguably are more effective than any other economic plan.

According to calculations by S&P Global economists in 2019, if the U.S. female labor participation rate matched that of Norway, the world's leader in this area, this would create \$511 billion in additional economic output over a decade.

It is important that data be shared widely. Empirical evidence is the only way to convince the skeptics.

Representation is also impactful. It is important to showcase women in professions long associated with men, and to provide role models in those industries. Venture capital, for example, is still a mostly-male industry, but studies show that greater diversity in venture capital firms can enhance investment performance.

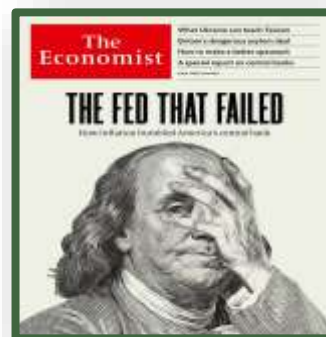
In sum, promoting gender diversity should be regarded as a growth strategy and investment rather than an obligation or cost. Diversity is imperative not only to accelerate innovation, but to create a brighter

outlook for the economy overall. There is ample evidence to prove this globally and specifically in Asia, so the time for action is now.



End of Article

Did the Fed Fail?



Financial experts have recently observed that the Fed will be technically insolvent within weeks. It comes up with a kind of magic accounting trick to fill the gap in the balance sheet with so-called "Deferred Assets," an IOU for future profits, booking future profits now as if they already exist, making it seem to the public that it is not insolvent.

The Fed now has more than \$13 billion USD in these deferred assets (booked as "earnings remittances due to the U.S. Treasury"). That's after two or three months or so of quantitative easing. On the other side of the balance, they only have \$35 billion USD in capital and equities. Going forward like this, in a matter of weeks it will be insolvent. And printing more money would make things even worse (with even more negative equity). So, the question is wouldn't this lead to a loss of confidence by public in the Fed?

To answer that question, I present Harry Dent who is a best-selling author and one of the most outspoken financial editors in America. Using proprietary research, Dent developed a unique method for studying economies around the world, and uses his analysis to provide insights on what to expect in the future.

Instead of focusing on endless graphs that assume people behave





Did the Fed Fail?

rationally, Dent instead looks at real people, making real economic decisions for themselves and their families. He combines demographics with actual spending to inform his research.

Dent received his MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was a Baker Scholar and was elected to the Century Club for leadership excellence. He then joined Bain & Company as a Fortune 100 business consultant and now heads the independent research firm HS Dent Publishing.

For your reading consideration I present Dent's reply on the public losing confidence in the Fed and what is in store for the future of American prosperity.

D. Miyoshi

Loss of Confidence in the Fed



Harry S. Dent Jr.

Frankly, I don't think the public is that sophisticated. It doesn't really matter what the Fed's balance sheet is, as it is an artificial entity that creates money out of thin air. We have to work to create GDP. What matters is the Fed's impact, and that has been to keep a slowing economy growing for 13 years by printing massive amounts of money that created a massive financial asset bubble—and not CPI inflation as feared, until recently after the overreaction to COVID. Many were worried about inflation from such money printing. But the inflation came mostly in financial assets. It is the collapse of that bubble that the Fed largely created by overstimulating our economy for 13 years, especially after COVID, that will kill the Fed and all central banks, along with their credibility.

The first bubble was more natural, with strong demographic and technology trends boosting spending and productivity. This second bubble, meant to head off the next Great Depression, was 100% artificial, and it will have a bigger collapse than 2000–2002 or 2007–2009 in a now demographically weaker economy. The economy will go through a shorter but more-brutal depression as this bubble bursts. Two hundred and fifty trillion dollars to \$300 trillion will disappear from a \$600-trillion global financial asset bubble that was led by China and the U.S. but occurred everywhere and that included even more money printing by the EU and Japan relative to their economies. China did something worse: They printed condos instead of pure money; now, 22%+ sit empty. That's a deflation crisis all on

its own.

When the crash happens and half of the \$600 trillion in financial assets suddenly disappears, it will create both deflation and deeper bank failures than a normal recession. Debt and mortgages in particular are how we create the most money out of thin air. The artificial Fed and central bank injections and interest rate reductions encourage and make it easier for such asset bubbles to inflate.

Banks largely lend against financial assets and their cash flow. When both collapse, loans fail, and banks only have about 10% or so reserves for that. That creates major bank failures in addition to high unemployment and business failures. As in 1929–1933, these financial asset collapses are called depressions (instead of recessions) because of deflation throughout the whole system and because huge amounts of financial assets and future spending power disappear from the system for a long time. While the whole system deflates, the largest impact is when financial assets come back down to fair value. That takes a lot of money out of the system and causes lower spending by consumers and businesses near term, and longer term to a lesser degree. Would you spend less if your net worth suddenly dropped by half or more?

This crash will be global, and it will be the worst since 1929–1932, but the U.S. will come out as the best house in a very bad neighborhood compared with our biggest competitors: Europe, China, and Japan. Southeast Asia and India will be the biggest winners after the crash, as they have the least debt exposure and will grow the most demographically in the future in Asia, which will be the most-dominant growth area in the next boom and for decades to come. The U.S. will have one last fling of growth with the Millennials into 2037, and then will start looking like Europe and East Asia now do, with much slower long-term growth. Increasingly, the future belongs to the emerging world, most especially the southeastern and southern (India and Pakistan) parts of Asia. North America, Northern Europe, and Australia/New Zealand will be the strongest parts of the developed world in the next global boom from 2025 to 2037. Only "Oz" will continue to grow after that, and only because it will get high levels of immigration from Asia...

My sincere hope is that the Fed and central banks will lose so much credibility from pumping up this insane, artificial bubble that they will lose most of their power in the future. They should be seen as creating more harm than good and should be relegated just to keeping the money supply adequate to facilitate natural spending growth... with NO MORE micromanaging the economy by pretending they are smarter than the markets about setting interest rates and asset prices!

End of Dent Answer





Does the Majority Rule in America?



According to columnist Scott Welch, an American born Canadian, he says no.

Welch explains this is because, the majority, whether factually or statistically is irrelevant.

He says fundamentally, the majority have no political power in America.

You see, political power is held by the U.S. Congress, the President, and to some extent the judiciary.

You may contribute to the choice of who is in Congress by voting, every two years for the House and twice every six years for the Senate.

You may contribute to the choice of who is President by voting in your state who provides the electors who vote on who is selected president. This is called a federal system.

Note that just a word of warning, this voting is at the whim of the state government, and some states are actively engaged in suppressing your voting privileges, so you should also be careful who you vote for at the state level.

Congress and the President are limited in what they can do by the Constitution. If you feel that they have overstepped their bounds and infringed on the rights guaranteed to you, you may sue the government.

Whether you “totally disagree with the direction” or not is irrelevant. There are winners and losers in every election. It is invariably the case that if you voted for a candidate who lost, the candidate who won may be doing things you disagree with.

Of course, this brings up an important point. You might want to think long and hard about making sure to vote for candidates who are interested in compromise and bipartisanship. That position which sounds fair and equitable, is the easiest one for a candidate to as-

sume but may not be very helpful in getting the policies you particularly want.

So, in order to make the best of a bad situation, the most and the least you can do is vote!

By the way, as an aside: There’s a word for a country which is governed by where you (or any other individual) “wants the country to go”, instead of being governed by the elected government: A dictatorship. But that may not be what we really want for the USA.

So, are we comforted in knowing that while the country may not be going the way we want it to go, it is going the way the current politicians, president and high level judges want it to go?

D. Miyoshi

Who in Social Media is working for Corrupt Political Purposes



In his book *America Under Attack* Gerald Flurry wrote “The complicity among the political class, including Democrats, Republicans, the news media and others, is far deeper than Americans realize. The amount of power, money, influence, technology and intimidation they wield is staggering. ... The deep corruption involved here is now being exposed before our eyes. And it was prophesied in the *Bible* in 2 Kings 14:26. This verse gives you an idea of the extent of the corruption in Washington. America’s affliction is very bitter, and nobody with any power is helping.” Flurry wrote this before Elon Musk began releasing the “Twitter Files.” Now we see even more clearly how deep the corruption goes!

On Jan 5, 2023, based on the Twitter Files, Abraham Blondeau published an article exposing the names of some of the main people from government intelligence agencies who were or are working in the major social media companies to affect political discourse. His article is entitled “The Radical Left’s Infiltration of Big Tech” For your edification, I present Blondeau’s article.

D. Miyoshi





Who in Social Media working for Corrupt Purposes

The Radical Left's Infiltration of Big Tech

Twitter, Facebook and Google are “Big Tech.” Combined, their social media platforms have billions of users and generate over a trillion dollars in revenue. They dominate information sharing and search engine requests. The “Twitter Files” have exposed how former intelligence agents infiltrated Big Tech and used this relationship to help pursue a radical-left agenda. Lee Smith at the Tablet wrote, “The resulting behemoth, still being built today, is a public-private consortium made up of [United States] intelligence agencies, Big Tech companies, civil society institutions, and major media organizations that has become the world’s most powerful spy service—one that was powerful enough to disappear the former president of the United States from public life, and that is now powerful enough to do the same or worse to anyone else it chooses.”

Now the pervasive employment of intel agents in Big Tech has been exposed.

Twitter

The biggest name from the “Twitter Files” was James Baker, the former Federal Bureau of Investigation lead counsel who became Twitter’s lead counsel. He was involved in fabricating the fake Steele dossier and the Alfa Bank hoax to target Donald Trump. Baker was fired by Elon Musk for censoring the “Twitter Files” without authorization.

John Levine at the New York Post outlined many of the former intel agents working inside Twitter.

Matthew Williams worked for 15 years at the FBI as a senior intelligence analyst, and worked at Twitter as a senior director of “product trust, revenue policy, counsel systems and analytics”

Dawn Burton was a deputy chief of staff to James Comey at the FBI and became the director of strategy and operations and counsel organization in Twitter in 2019.

Jeff Carlton worked for a broad spectrum of intelligence agencies: the FBI, Central Intelligence Agency and Marine Corps. Carlton led the Twitter Strategic Response Team that resolved high-level escalations.

Kevin Michelena was an FBI intelligence analyst for 12 years before becoming a corporate security analyst at Twitter in July 2021.

Michael Bertrand worked in the FBI for 23 years in counterterrorism and internal investigations, and he was chief of staff to the top leadership. He joined Twitter in January 2022.

Karen Walsh was with the FBI for 20 years as a special agent and focused on public and private sector outreaches. She joined Twitter in March 2020.

Doug Hunt worked for the FBI for 20 years as a supervisory special agent and was a senior director with Twitter.

Vincent Lucero was another supervisory special agent who joined

Twitter in July 2019 as a senior security manager.

Mark Jaroszewski, another supervisory special agent for 20 years, joined Twitter as a director of corporate security. He specialized in creating relationships between the FBI and the private sector.

Facebook

In 2018, Breitbart analyzed the LinkedIn profiles of Facebook leadership and found a number of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton alumni working there. “In total, we found 45 employees who had previously worked or volunteered with the Hillary campaigns, the Obama campaigns, or the Obama White House and are now employed by Facebook, Facebook-owned companies or the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative,” it reported. “This does not include Facebook employees who do not have LinkedIn accounts or neglected to mention past experience on their profiles.”

Benjamin Weingarten at the New York Post wrote that Facebook’s misinformation policy chief, Aaron Berman, helped create the policies and procedures that censored covid “misinformation” and the army of fact checkers the company uses. “As with many Twitter officials involved in content moderation decisions,” wrote Weingarten, “Berman had been a 17-plus-year employee of the CIA, where among other things he wrote and edited the President’s Daily Brief. Ex-intelligence officials from the CIA, FBI, [Department of Homeland Security] and beyond fill Facebook’s Trust and Safety team ranks.”

In another column, Weingarten identified Andy Stone, Meta’s communications director, as a loyal Democrat actor. Stone was the one who officially declared Facebook would suppress the Hunter Biden laptop story.

Google

Weingarten continued at the New York Post: “Public records show Google’s Trust and Safety staff, like that of Twitter and Facebook, is filled with longtime intelligence community officials. Representative among them is Jacqueline Lopour, an ex-CIA analyst who serves as senior manager for intelligence collections, which manages ‘intel operations’ on, among other things, ‘misinformation’ and ‘hate speech,’ according to LinkedIn.”

The Trumpet reported that 165 former intelligence agents worked for Google: 27 from the CIA, 52 from the FBI, 30 from the National Security Agency, 50 from DHS, and 6 from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. This relationship really started with Barack Obama.

In 2016, the Intercept reported that there were 55 cases of Google employees moving into the Obama administration and 197 Obama officials moving into Google positions. “Former employees of 12 of the 15 cabinet agencies (Energy, Justice, Defense, Education, State, Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, HHS, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs) now work at the tech company or its affiliates,





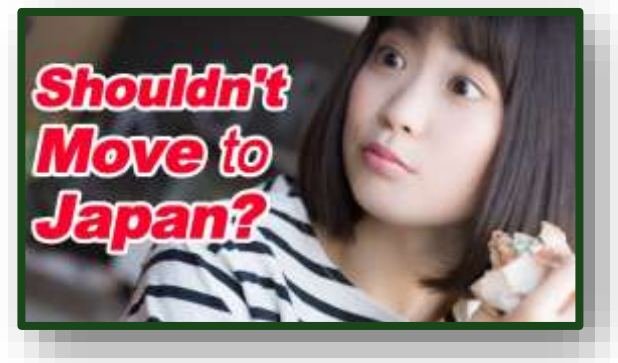
Why One Should Not Move to Japan

led by 16 former Pentagon staffers. The exodus ramped up in the second term, hitting 41 in 2014, compared to just six in 2009.”

Fox News reported another connection: “Another high-profile tech leader with Democratic ties is Eric Schmidt, the former Google CEO and executive chairman of its parent company Alphabet. Schmidt has chaired an advisory committee for the Department of Defense and the National Security Commission on artificial intelligence. In March, Politico reported that Schmidt’s fingerprints “are all over Biden’s science office.”

End of Article

Why One Should Not Move to Japan



As I get closer to retirement, I have been considering spending more time in Japan with the idea of assisting Japanese families who are interested in ways to transfer their US based properties to their Japanese heirs and beneficiaries. So, I looked into YouTube videos on the benefits and burdens of living in Japan and in the course of that research I came across a recent YouTube video by Shogo Yamaguchi who has a running YouTube program entitled “Let’s Ask Shogo.” Shogo often receives comments and messages saying “My dream is to live in Japan.” As he is a Japanese person living in Japan, on the one hand, he says he is happy and honored about it, but on the other hand, he has mixed feelings as well. Shogo says it’s because he actually hopes to leave Japan in the near future. I wondered how and why did a Japanese person like him end up thinking this way?

Well, in mid-December 2022 Shogo produced a YouTube program entitled “Why You Shouldn’t Move to Japan (And Conditions for Those Who Should)” in which he talks about the three main reasons why he personally cannot recommend a person live in Japan. But in the same video he also mentions the kind of people who are suited to

live in Japan which fortunately gave me a little comfort.

Shogo stresses that the purpose of this recent video is not to lessen the number of people living in Japan but to share the information that will be useful for anyone trying to plan their future.

So, with that caveat I want to share with you Shogo’s message on why a person should not move to Japan. The following is a direct transcription of Shogo’s YouTube program Why You Shouldn’t Live in Japan. I hope you find it informative as I did.

D. Miyoshi



Why You Shouldn't Move to Japan (And Conditions for Those Who Should)

Welcome to Let’s Ask Shogo.

As a Japanese person living in Japan, on the one hand I am very happy and very honored about it but on the other hand I have mixed feelings to. It’s actually because I actually hope to leave Japan in the future.

But how did a Japanese man looking like me end up thinking this way? So today I’ll talk about the three main reasons why I personally cannot recommend to you live in Japan. The three reasons will get more and more important as the course proceeds and I hope you stay with me until the end. Lastly, I will also like to list the kind of people who are suited to live in Japan. Before I move on, I need to make it very clear to you that the purpose of this video is not lessen the





Why One Should Not Move to Japan

number of people living in Japan. My life's goal is to try to make as many people happy as possible. So I wish the information I share will be useful for anyone to plan their future. After watching this video, if there's anything else you would like to know about living in Japan, please let me know in the comments.

“Sore de wa mairimasho”



1. Many natural disasters

I'm going to introduce this first because there's nothing we can do about it. As I've explained many times before, Japan is one of the countries in the world with the most amount of natural disasters. Despite the fact that Japan occupies only 0.28% of Earth's land area, we have 7% of all active volcanoes; 10% of all earthquakes; 20% of all earthquakes stronger than magnitude 6.0; Average of 26 typhoons passing near or over every year; Average of 2,000 landslide disasters every year. As a result, 18.3% of the worldwide cost disaster damage is spent in Japan. But if you have been watching my videos, I'm pretty sure this is nothing new. So let's talk about some specific natural disasters that can actually happen in the near future.

1. Nankai Megathrust Earthquake
2. Capital Inland (Epicentral) Earthquake
3. Mt. Fuji Volcanic Eruption

The Nankai Trough is a plate boundary located south of the Shikoku region of Japan. Earthquakes that occur there are called Nankai trough earthquakes. Such earthquakes repeatedly occur at intervals of 100 to 150 year intervals and are very large in the magnitude of 8 to 9 class. More than 70 years have passed since the last one occurred in 1946 so the danger of the next Nankai Trough earthquake

is increasing. It has been noted there is an extremely high 80% chance that it will happen within 30 years. And even if it doesn't, it will certainly happen someday. In the worst case scenario, it is estimated that the next Nankai mega thrust earthquake will be magnitude 9.1, which is about 1.5 times stronger than the great East Japan earthquake in 2011. Thus, the total damage is expected to be around 220 Trillion Yen, which is 10 times the amount of the great East Japan earthquake. And that is not it.

There is also the threat of the capital and land earthquake that can strike the Tokyo area in the next 30 years at a 70% chance. It is estimated to kill more than 100,000 people and the total damage will exceed 100 Trillion Yen. Earthquakes alone are frightening enough. But there is also a risk of the eruption of Mount Fuji.

Fuji is an iconic Japanese mountain but is also an active volcano. Terrifyingly, it has not erupted over 300 years and the risk of eruption in conjunction with these earthquakes is very high. It is estimated that the cinders and lava flows will force over 800,000 people to evacuate. But imagine this happening after the earthquake that is magnitude 7 or stronger. The damage that can be caused is immeasurable.

There is no way to escape these natural disasters if you choose to live in Japan.



2. Elders Always Have Priority

Elders always have priority. Although this is gradually changing Japan is still a society where hierarchical relationships are very strong. Many of you must know about the relationship between





Why One Should Not Move to Japan

seniors and juniors in Japan from watching animated movies. And if you have studied Japanese also know about the difficulty of “Keigo.” The positional relationship is severely divided after only one year of age or experience or possibly even just a few days. And lower people are taught to be silent and obey those who are above them basically believing that they do not have the authority to express their opinion to those who are higher than them. Even a saying expresses this. “If a superior says ‘crows are white,’ they are white.” There are many cases where you know that something is clearly better from a rational standpoint but you cannot do it unless someone higher up gives permission.

Although in Japan we often discuss eliminating fax machines, paper business cards, seals, and other outdated systems of rules in companies, this is the reason why there is still unresolved issues. If you repeatedly leave the workplace before your boss, express your own opinions clearly, etc., you will often be labeled as uncooperative in Japan and treated as a disturbance in the organization. For me, who likes to do things rationally and efficiently, this is really a painful culture. And unfortunately, young people raised in such a culture often stop thinking and give up, assuming that their opinions will not be heard anyway. This can be confirmed by the data showing the lowest voting rate among all generations are among those in their teens and 20s. I am 28 years old but I have hardly met anyone in my same generation who have high aspirations to change Japan.

What is even worse for Japan today is that it has the worst case in the world of a declining birthrate and aging population. The average age of Japanese people is 48.4 years old and more than 29.8% of the population is older than 65 years old. So there is a big number of elders who believe they have absolute control over the people lower than them and the few amount of young people suffer because of it. Politicians also want the votes from the many elderly people so they are promoting policies that favor the elderly more and more which in turn reduces the amount of money available for childcare and education.

It is said that one in seven Japanese children live in relative poverty on average living on less than 140,000 Yen per month if they live along with a single parent. A 2018 survey also found out that Japan

ranks last among 34 OECD countries in terms of the percentage of money the country spent on education. Even today there is still full of young people who are struggling to repay millions of yen in tuition loans from the time they enter the workplace.

When I talk about these things I’m often asked the question why do the elderly in Japan abandon the young. I think that is undeniable that in any country if the birthrate declines and the population starts to age, priority will be given to the elderly to some extent. But even, so the situation Japan is terrible. I suspect that this may also be influenced by the hierarchical relationship we’ve been discussing. They believe that since they follow their superiors silently when they were in lower position that now they are in a higher position, they should be treated like kings and queens. Many superiors think that the people lower than them should have a hard time just like they did.

I know that there are many proposals to make Japan a better place. However, the current democratic system requires that the elderly become convinced of these proposals so they are not easily implemented.



3. The National Power is Determined to Weaken

Japan has the most rapidly declining population in the world and the government is hardly doing anything to try to solve it. Japan’s population, as of October 1, 2021, was 125,000,000 down by 640,000 from the previous year. It is expected to reach 106,420,000 by 2045 and 88,080,000 by 2065 and 60,000,000 by around 2100. The decline in population means decline in economy because this will result in smaller markets, lower GDP and lower tax revenues. So Japan is a country whose natural strength is starting to weaken in the





Why One Should Not Move to Japan

near future. Due to the aging of the population, about 30 years from now the working age population is expected to be about 50% with only one out of every two people able to work. Solutions such as accepting more immigrants, approving dual citizenship and providing financial assistance to the child raising generation remain unadopted. And the elderly are still only concerned with getting away with their lives happily and keeping things the way they were. Wages will continue to fall, taxes will continue to rise as it has for the past 20 to 30 years. And there are concerns that crime rates will also rise and people's quality of life declines.

Then, is Japan an unsuitable country for anyone to live in?

Of course not. I am sure that my explanation so far may give you the impression Japan is the worst country in the world. However, every country has its problems. And of course, Japan has its good points too.

It's wonderful to live surrounded by unique history and culture, delicious food, beautiful cityscapes, and nature. So, the people I think who are suitable to living in Japan are as follows:



1. People who can earn foreign currency.

People who are wealthy enough to live regardless of their government's intentions and declining wages and people who would rather benefit if the yen continues to weaken.

2. People who are well prepared for natural disasters.

In the worst case scenario people who can temporarily flee abroad

3 People can work freely without belonging to an organization.

If you can live your life only involved with people you choose, you can ignore Japan's annoying rules. In other words, I think that for "YouTubers" living in Japan can live in very good conditions.

But Shogo, don't you fit these conditions too?

It may seem that way just looking at conditions. However, the biggest problem for me is that continuing to live in Japan will interfere with my dream. And my dream is to pass on Japanese social culture to future generations around the world. However, in Japan the risk of natural disasters enforce my activities to be suspended. There are many people who do not feel comfortable with my work like this YouTube channel due to the hierarchical culture. And there are very few young people who are willing to carry on the traditional culture. I will like to move abroad so that I can spread my culture a little more freely and teach the young people there. So please do not misunderstand me. I am not leaving because I hate Japan. I intend to return to Japan frequently for my training even after moving abroad. And I plan to continue some kind of business in Japan too, to help the younger generation of Japan. And lastly, please let me know your recommendations of places or countries I should go to make my dream come true.



Lastly, today's conclusion. I explained the three main reasons why want to leave Japan in the near future.

1. Many natural disasters. Despite the fact that Japan occupies only 0.28% of the world's land area but 18.3% of the world wide cost of disaster damage is spent in Japan. There is also a very high chance





Biblical Lessons of Rome for America

of two huge earthquakes happening within the next 30 years and Mount Fuji may even erupt in conjunction with these earthquakes.

2. Elders always have priority. Japan is still a society where hierarchical relationships are very strict, even when you know that something is clearly better from a rational standpoint, you cannot do it unless someone higher up gives permission. Young people raised in such a culture often stop thinking and give up assuming that their opinions will not be heard anyway. A declining birthrate in an aging population is making the situation worse because politicians are promoting policies that favor the elderly, more and more.

3. The national power is determined to weaken. Japan has the most rapidly declining population in the world and the government is hardly doing anything to try to solve it. Wages will continue to fall, taxes will continue to rise as it has for the past 20 to 30 years and there are concerns that crime rates will rise as people's quality of life declines.

The people I think are suitable for living in Japan are as follows:

- 1 People who can earn foreign currency
- 2 People who are well prepared for natural disasters
- 3 People who can work freely without belonging to an organization

That's it for today Thank you very much for watching.

[End of Video Transcription](#)

The Biblical Lessons of Rome for America



Destruction——part four of Thomas Cole's painting series, *The Course of Empire*——depicts the rapid fall of a once great empire.

Thomas Cole

When I was small, I thought America would reign forever in the world. I believed it would never fall because of its might, its resources, its superb technology and peerless military. I thought it could survive endless abuse, rampant corruption and radical transformation of foundational institutions.

And then I read Edward Gibbon's epic masterpiece *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* in which he outlined five major causes that led to the fall of the Roman Empire. I examined these five causes to see if they applied to present day America and checked them off one by one.

- The breakdown of the family ✓
- Increased taxation ✓
- Insatiable craving for pleasure ✓
- Unsustainable buildup of armaments ✓
- Decay of religion ✓

One of the greatest historians of all time had explained how and why ancient Rome fell. But the parallels of Rome and America are exact.

The following are my comments supported by points made in an article by conservative Biblical commentator





Biblical Lessons of Rome for America

Gerald Flurry entitled *Mighty Rome Fell—America Is on Its Deathbed*.

How Great Was Rome?

There are many arguments about all the factors that caused Rome's fall and how relevant the lessons from that history are. Here is a factor that adds significant weight to this study:

The truth is that the *Bible* prophesied the rise and fall of Rome—and the *Bible* prophesied the rise and fall of America and Britain, as well.

Yes, the *Bible* foretells the Roman Empire's epic ascent centuries in advance. In the closing years of the seventh century B.C., the *Bible* says God gave King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire a prophetic vision that foretold millenniums of events that would follow. Interpreted by the Prophet Daniel and recorded in the second chapter of the *Bible*, the vision was of a statue representing four successive world-ruling Gentile empires: beginning with the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar, followed by Medo-Persia, then Greco-Macedonia, and finally Rome.

The Roman Empire was symbolized by the statue's iron legs. This empire, Daniel explained, "shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (Daniel 2:40). At the time, Rome was a monarchy of little influence, governed by Tarquin the Elder. There was little indication that it would grow to become the military juggernaut spoken of by Daniel, a power that would "break in pieces and subdue all things."

This chilling prophecy was amplified by another that Daniel later spoke, recorded in Daniel 7. Here the same Roman Empire is depicted as "a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it ..." (verse 7). Rome was still in its infancy, waiting in the wings. The Persian and Greek empires would dominate the world before Rome would burst into its full, frightful military vigor.

By the time the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation at the end of the first century A.D., the Roman Em-

pire was fulfilling Daniel's descriptions with stunning accuracy, bestriding the world with imposing force and brutality. John described it in these symbolic terms: "a beast ... having seven heads and ten horns And the beast ... was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion ..." (Revelation 13:1-2). With skilled leadership, brilliant tactics, impressive innovation, well-trained and well-armed soldiers and ruthless efficacy, Rome's military was able to overwhelm its foes and extend the empire's borders wider than any power that preceded it. It has been said that not until some 15 centuries later under Napoleon Bonaparte did the world produce an army rivaling that of Imperial Rome.

Besides its military and territorial achievements, Rome attained staggering wealth, unmatched architecture and technology, and profound and broad cultural influence. And its domination went on for century after century.

Understandably, the Romans thought themselves invincible. "Proud Romans became lulled by the belief in the seeming 'eternity' and superiority of their system, in their long chain of rarely broken military and economic successes, as if fate had determined they should always come out on top despite repeated challenges to their existence," reads *The Modern Romans*, a booklet produced by Ambassador College Press in 1971 under Herbert W. Armstrong's watchful eye.

But as you will read in the articles that follow, there were warning signs. Those with eyes to see could recognize weakness and rot—economically, militarily, culturally, morally. Yet the great majority of Romans were unconcerned, complacent, self-absorbed, distracted, glutted on luxury, blind to what was truly happening (sound familiar).

"When Seneca, the Roman statesman, warned that Rome would fall, the people snickered. 'Rome fall?' It could lose a few battles, but not the empire. 'Rome,' mused the average citizen basking in the height of world power, 'is impregnable.' Rome was the world—and the world was Rome" (ibid).

But then, the unthinkable did happen!

God Raises and Brings Down Empires





Biblical Lessons of Rome for America

As Flurry says often, there is a cause for every effect. The crash of an empire furnishes specific lessons that we can learn from and apply. The errors that weakened the mighty Roman Empire would compromise any great power.

Many analysts have studied the cycles of birth and death of empires, and they all note a similar sequence playing out repeatedly throughout history.

Sir John Glubb, who served in World War I and was awarded the Military Cross, argued that empires pass through six stages, usually within the span of about 250 years: 1) pioneers bear deprivation and overcome tremendous obstacles, then go on to 2) conquests—military victory and expansion, which lead to 3) commerce—great enterprise and wealth building, which creates 4) affluence—an impressive facade, behind which greed begins replacing duty and public service; meanwhile, military readiness is denounced and neglected as attention shifts to 5) intellect—priority is put on debate and argument, thought rather than action, resulting in division and 6) decadence—characterized by materialism, frivolity, government welfare, unrestrained immigration and a weakening of religion. At that point, the empire is victimized and dies at the hands of a new race of pioneers.

This cycle played out on a spectacular scale in ancient Rome and we can today see its latter stages unfolding in America and the English-speaking world today.

“A great civilization is not conquered from without,” wrote historian Will Durant, “until it has destroyed itself within.”

Returning to the prophecy of Revelation 13, John foretold what would become of this Roman “beast”: “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death ...” (verse 3). This prophecy was not fulfilled until nearly four centuries later when, in A.D. 476, the Germanic warlord Odoacer deposed Romulus Augustus, ending the empire.

The heights it had attained were truly staggering—yet the mighty, “impregnable” Rome did fall!

(Notice that this verse goes on to say that “his deadly wound was healed.” This refers to the Imperial Restoration of Justinian less than a century later.

The *Bible* prophesied Rome’s ascent, and the *Bible* prophesied its downfall. In the same way the *Bible* prophesied the rise and fall of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greco-Macedonia and many more powerful nations and empires. Fulfilled prophecy is inspiring proof of God’s power and of His guiding hand in world events.

While pondering Nebuchadnezzar’s vision, Daniel mused, “Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings ...” (Daniel 2:20-21). He foretells and then directs the course of empires!

God Himself says through the Prophet Isaiah, “... I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand ...” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

The Painful Death of Empires

The *Bible* says God does have power over these great movements of history but yet He does not direct the rise and fall of kings, and the establishment and collapse of empires, arbitrarily. God watches and responds to decisions of the people, and He rewards or punishes based on the uprightness or wickedness of their actions.

It is difficult to imagine America collapsing as a world power. But we truly are going the way of Rome. We must have the humility, perspective and vision to recognize our problems for what they are, and awaken to what they are doing to us and how they are leading to our catastrophic downfall.

History shows that the fall of empires has proved not only inevitable but also agonizing. In his 2010 book *Dismantling America*, Thomas Sowell wrote this about the troubles then facing America: “No one issue and no one administration in Washington has been enough to create a perfect storm for a great nation that has weathered many storms in its more than two centuries of existence.





Biblical Lessons of Rome for America



Advancing in a Time of Crisis



Financial Crisis Report



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But the Roman Empire lasted many times longer and weathered many storms in its turbulent times—and yet it ultimately collapsed completely. It has been estimated that a thousand years passed before the standard of living in Europe rose again to the level it had achieved in Roman times. The collapse of a civilization is not just a replacement of rulers or institutions with new rulers and new institutions. It is the destruction of a whole way of life and the painful and sometimes pathetic attempts to begin rebuilding amid the ruins."

But after America there is great hope. The *Bible* foretells that the rebuilding project that will begin after America's collapse is unlike any before it. Read it in Daniel's prophecy about Nebuchadnezzar's image: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

Forever is a long time and it's something to look forward to.

D. Miyoshi

Trust and Estate Corner



Often my clients, friends and associates inquire about trusts, wills and estate planning. Therefore, each publication of *Financial Crisis Report* at the end will feature a simple factoid on Trusts and Estate Planning. For more information you may consult my website at www.miyoshilaw.com

Effective pre-nuptial planning.

Any property placed in a trust before you marry remains the property of that trust. As long as you do not commingle those assets with assets acquired during marriage, a trust can be an effective way for you to keep property separate and control who will receive it.



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