



Financial Crisis Report

2024

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Advancing in a Time of Crisis

“Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the US. was too strong.”- Ronald Reagan

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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 unbalances 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.

The Plight of the Asian Vietnam Veteran



I recently had the opportunity to view a moving documentary titled “*The Volunteer*,” a very intense and powerful short film about a Japanese American (Bruce Nakashima) who volunteered for service and fought in the Vietnam War. The film chronicles Bruce’s friendship with an African American soldier from Alabama (LV Hendking) and depicts the very difficult issue of his “looking like the enemy” while operating in an elite combat unit in the war. Equally compelling is the story of Bruce’s re-entry into civilian life and the myriad of issues he faced as well. The film has been shown at several film festivals with well-deserved accolades for filmmaker David Brodie who feels the film should be

seen by Vietnam Veterans because we as fellow veterans all share the issues and challenges addressed in the film. I cannot agree with Mr. Brodie more.

The film will likely evoke different feelings and emotions and arouse different sentiments in each veteran who views the film. This is normal. But I believe the benefit is, it can serve as a catharsis to release and provide relief from the strongly repressed emotions that many veterans struggle with that can lead to welcomed healing and the purging of emotional imbalances and the dysfunctional habits that combat veterans including myself have suffered from.

Because of this, I highly recommend fellow Asian American veterans to see this film, if they can. It will be shown to the public on Saturday April 20, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the VFW Hall located at 1822 W. 162nd Street, Gardena California 90247. Tickets are free and can be reserved on the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance Website at www.memorialcouralliance.org

The film depicts Bruce born in a relocation camp in Rohrer Arkansas and raised by a traditional Japanese American family. Bruce’s father served in Europe in WWII as part of the famed Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

As a Japanese American myself, I know that being raised in a traditional Japanese American family meant you were taught the

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critical importance of owing duty and obligation to the community. But we know in such duty-based relationships, what other people believe or think has a more powerful impact on behavior than what the individual themselves believes. Shame (haji) occurs through others' negative feelings towards you or through your feelings of having failed to live up to your obligations. In contrast to that, I learned in growing up in the U.S. that the culture of the West is based on guilt (yuuzai), where truth, justice, and the preservation of individual rights are more important components of the belief system.

In America (and western culture), guilt can be relieved through confession, self-righteousness, or the justice system. But in a strict Japanese culture, shame cannot be removed until a person does what society expects, which may even include drastic measures such as committing suicide. For example, if you are falsely accused of a crime, your guilt will be removed when you are proven innocent in court, but shame will stay as long as other people are suspicious of your actions or think negatively of you.

On Dec 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the intense racism and discrimination against Japanese Americans that resulted brought shame upon the Japanese Americans. Despite being innocent of causing the attack, the broader American community still suspected and reviled the Japanese Americans. This brought shame upon them. Yet, despite this prejudice, young Nisei (second generation Japanese in the U.S.) were eager to fight against Japan because they wanted to remove the shame caused by Pearl Harbor, and they were determined to prove their loyalty to their country, thereby restoring honor to their Japanese community in the U.S.

This is the milieu in which Japanese Americans have lived in modern America. At the end of WWI, America became one of the world powers alongside Britain. And from the beginning of WWII, America emerged as the undisputed superpower of the world. From that inception, Asian Americans and especially Japanese Americans, have been depicted in military combat as looking like the enemy. This is by no fault of American society. It's just a matter of existential fact.

And when you look like the enemy, there is naturally some suspicion cast your way. This can lead to some

shame which is yet another existential fact for Asians.

In my own life as a Japanese American growing up in America, I faced the challenge of navigating my identity and felt the pressure to assimilate into American culture while at the same time preserving my Japanese heritage. But when I believed I fell short of either culture, I felt feelings of shame, which I and Japanese Americans in general have been taught is the ultimate transgression.

Now, I would like to take the opportunity to express what I believe Bruce Nakashima endured through his experience in the military and Vietnam. Others may have a different opinion and I completely respect their views.

It's my opinion, and only my opinion that Bruce, as a typical sansei (third generation) Japanese American born in a relocation camp who, in the aftermath of a world war fought against his ancestors, grew up in a lower middle class neighborhood without the opportunities afforded more endowed communities and combined with his struggles in Vietnam of having to participate in what he envisioned as vile and revolting actions which lead to his traumatic experience of almost being murdered by his own men, led to his deep and intense feelings of guilt, shame and resentment that he suffered. Shame that he looked like the enemy and for that was held in contempt, shame from guilt that he did not stop the American soldier from throwing the young Vietnamese enemy combatants out of the helicopter to their death, shame that he was part of military operations that killed and maimed people who looked like him and his family and finally shame that he was a member of the military forces that lost the only war America would ever lose in its history. Others may differ from my opinion on why Bruce suffered the way he did. And I duly respect their opinions.

In WWII, 1st Lt. Sakai Takahashi said: "We're fighting two wars. One for American democracy and one against the prejudice toward us in America."

But perhaps when a Japanese American soldier like Bruce is placed into combat to fight an enemy that looks like him, maybe it's more like three wars with the added internal psychological war fought against the shame the soldier experiences in looking like the enemy for which his comrades hold him in disrepute.

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For whatever its worth, I would like to describe my own feelings of shame that I experienced in the military, in combat operations in Vietnam and the struggles I endured thereafter.

On October 10, 1966, I checked into Marine Corps Officers Candidate School Quantico Virginia to begin Officer's Candidate School. Seventy percent of the candidates who made the cut were scheduled to graduate on Dec 16, 1966, as 2nd Lieutenants. On Dec 7, 1966, the 25th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, I was made to stand before the platoon on a platform in black pajamas and coolie hat while the platoon sergeant, a survivor of Guadalcanal WWII shouted to the platoon "This is what the enemy looks like. When you get to Nam, kill it before it kills you." At this disparage, I was angry, resentful, and felt ashamed. But I did not say anything and later discovered it was a test to see if I could mentally take it. I graduated on December 16, 1966.

On January 13, 1969, I arrived in Danang Vietnam and checked in at Headquarters 1st Marine Air Wing. Thereupon I was immediately assigned as platoon commander of a Marine Corps Hawk Missile unit near Monkey Mountain. But on the first night, January 14, while I was taking a shower in the officer's shower, I was physically attacked by a staff sergeant who thought I was a Vietnamese surreptitiously stealing a shower. I was pretty beaten up. The following morning the sergeant apologized but I felt the aftermath of his beating for a long time thereafter. After a few weeks, I was reassigned to lead a Combined Action Platoon in a small village outside of Danang called Dog Patch. The commanding officer told me since I was not Caucasian, I did not have to take out night patrols. He believed in the dead of night, in the heat of combat, I could be mistaken for the enemy and killed. I appreciated that.

A Combined Action Platoon is a U.S. Marine Corps counterinsurgency tool consisting of a 13-member Marine rifle squad bolstered by a Vietnamese militia platoon of older youth or elderly men who are residents of the surrounding hamlet. In Vietnam, the general strategy of the Marine Corps was to first clear and hold the area in enclaves and then expand the territory. Once an area was cleared of Viet Cong, a Combined Action Platoon was emplaced to prevent the enemy from re-infiltrating the area. When I came aboard, apparently the thinking of the brass was since I resembled a Vietnamese, perhaps the village chief and the elders would give me more attention

than my fellow Caucasian Marine officers. As it turned out, I don't think the elders gave me any more particular attention than other Marines, but they did think I was an oddity of sorts being Asian and looking like them in a U.S. military combat uniform.

I spent 12 months in Vietnam, one month less than the obligatory standard 13-month tour because my 3 and 1/2 year commitment ended in December 1969 and I had to be rotated out of Vietnam by that deadline.

During my time living in the "Bush" I saw my share of firefights, attacks and sniper attacks. Later, I found out from my doctors that these traumas were likely the basis of my PTSD that began about 14 years after I left Vietnam. But for some reason I will never know, God saw me through my 12 months in Vietnam and I was able to come home with all my limbs. The day after I came home, my mother told me she prayed every day for my safety while I was in Vietnam. Her revelation that she relied on God to protect me stuck with me all the years since.

In 1970 I began law school but while there I recall several parties in Berkeley being chided for having been in the military. I graduated from law school and got my first job as an attorney in Tokyo. After a few years practicing in Tokyo, I attended graduate business school, then got married and started my law practice in international business in Los Angeles. Then in 1984 I began to have frequent nightmares of being chased by a hideous gray blob in a jungle accompanied by physical symptoms akin to serious flu. This went on for a few years and in November 1989 on my way to a Rams football game, I collapsed. The doctors couldn't find anything physically wrong with me but after a few sessions they diagnosed that I had a nervous breakdown and was suffering from PTSD. Thereupon, I was put on many medications which led me to gradually becoming depressed. During all of this, my work output declined which resulted in me becoming even more depressed. It wasn't until I started to attend a Christian church that I began to feel there was a power beyond me that could help me recover. In my youth my mother made me attend a Baptist church. I now deeply thank her for that. Before the Marine Corps, in college I grew away from the Christian faith. But in Vietnam, I admit I reverted to becoming a "foxhole" Christian and amidst the firefights and attacks, I would fervently pray to God for help. However, after having survived the "Bush" and returning home, I reverted to my old secular ways and habits.



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But after my PTSD attacks began, I started attending church again. And although I harbored some resentment for the shame and discrimination I experienced in the military and civilian world, I felt God telling me he loved me, that I needed to forgive and I that had a mission to accomplish for him. This made a huge difference for me, both mentally and physically. Over time the nightmares subsided, and I was able to get off the drugs and began to regain my mental, emotional and physical strength. I thank God for that.

What Causes PTSD?

But I asked myself, after all the years following Vietnam, what could have caused me to suffer PTSD? And while my PTSD was nothing compared to what Bruce suffered, were the same forces and factors that gave him PTSD the ones that caused me and other veterans to suffer the malady?

Over the years, I have read articles by doctors and psychologists that explain post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and illnesses caused by toxic exposure and other injuries can show up years later and affect any stage of life.

Those same articles say Vietnam veterans exhibit more severe PTSD symptoms, higher Hamilton depression scores, and higher scores on the hostility, psychoticism, and exhibit additional symptoms over those of the veterans of WWII and Korea.

More precisely, the psychological evaluations found that certain psychological problems were more common among the Vietnam veterans than among non-Vietnam veterans. These problems specifically included depression, anxiety, and combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder.

Also, the nature of the Vietnam War intensified the trauma inflicted on those who fought in it. Unlike previous wars, Vietnam was highly controversial, and many soldiers faced hostility and lack of support upon their return. I can definitely attest to that. For Asian and Japanese American veterans like Bruce Nakashima, you can say they faced hostility from their own troops even before they returned home.

In Vietnam the Marine Corps is a close-knit group mainly because it is comprised of a smaller number of troops. So, when I came across other Marines who I did not know, I didn't sense any apprehension by them when they saw I was Asian. But on occasion when I came across Caucasian soldiers in other branches of the service who were not used to fraternizing with Asians, I did feel some uneasiness on their part. Perhaps much of this can be explained by the fact that I looked like those who were trying to kill them.

We know from accounts, that some Asian veterans felt hostility in Vietnam from friendly factions. And when we returned to the U.S. almost all of us, no matter our ethnicity, felt hostility from friendly factions. After I returned in 1970, I can attest I felt hostility. I believe the felt hostility in Vietnam and the perceived lack of recognition and appreciation in the U.S. added to the psychological toll we veterans suffered, especially Asian veterans. The casualties of this long war, from both sides, were extensive and brutal due to guerilla warfare and the use of chemical weapons. Moreover, this was the first war where information was televised in detail, sparking many anti-war movements at home which only served to weaken the morale of the veterans who were fighting in Vietnam.

But over and above this, I believe the central reason the Vietnam veterans were so badly treated upon their return is because they were blamed for the loss of the war. Because of this, we veterans all felt shame.

Those who strongly supported the war (including the politicians, military industrial complex business leaders and civilians) resented that the war was lost and blamed the veterans for losing it (the first major war in history that America lost), which left Vietnam veterans feeling like outsiders to the veterans of other wars. There were no parades welcoming the veterans because you don't have parades for soldiers coming home from a war they lost.

But those in charge of administrating the war did not want to admit to or acknowledge their contributions in losing it and so they allowed the focus of blame to be placed on the veterans. This divided our society. Consequently, the veterans who served were often treated as traitors instead of heroes. This added to the difficulty of their readily adjusting to life at home.



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As it ended up, many of the veterans felt shame that they served and were not honored the way they expected to be. This led to resentment and anger on the part of many veterans. I personally know some veterans today who feel this way. Perhaps this contributed to Bruce's resentment as well.

Over and above that, when the veterans came back, they discovered the "GI benefits" available for Vietnam veterans were almost nonexistent. Part of the reason was economic. While the economy after World War II was one of the most robust in American history, during and after Vietnam the nation was in a death spiral of stagflation and economic malaise. And as more and more wartime atrocities came to light, there was a national implication of guilt and shame placed on Vietnam veterans as participants in and avatars of a brutal, unsuccessful war. In popular culture, the stereotype of the broken, homeless Vietnam vet began to take hold thanks to movies like *The Deer Hunter*, *Coming Home* and *First Blood*.

It would take almost 20 years from the end of the Vietnam war for America to get right with its Vietnam veterans. The dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982 began the process, but many identify the Gulf War of 1990-91—with its national flag-waving, yellow-ribbon cultural mobilization and the grand celebrations of a successful campaign—as ending the "Vietnam Syndrome."

Since 9/11, patriotic gestures, like wearing flag pins and saying, "Thank you for your service," have become common, as more troops were sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. But I am afraid that to some the specter of Vietnam still lingers, and some Vietnam veterans still view such acts with a wary glance. I think Bruce was one of them.

I believe these are the stigmas many Vietnam veterans including Bruce Nakashima, I and others have suffered to this day. For Japanese Americans and Asians, in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, they seem to have fought two wars, one for American democracy and another against discrimination.

Before I end this article, I would like to make one point very clear to everyone, especially to the Vietnam veterans. I previously made this point in an article that appeared in my September 2023 newsletter entitled "What

Really Happened in the Vietnam War." That point is the U.S., and its military veterans did NOT lose the Vietnam War. Instead, it was the U.S. politicians and specifically the 94th Congress who were the cause of America losing the Vietnam war.

Basically, the war was lost not because of the U.S. military forces but was in spite of the military forces.

I don't know if this will assuage the guilt and shame of Vietnam veterans who have felt they failed the country. But the facts are there that with the 1973 Paris Peace Accords the U.S. officially won the Vietnam war only to later lose it because it failed to politically uphold its promise in those Accords.

The U.S. Really Did NOT Lose the Vietnam War

It's a known fact that the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong never won a battle in Vietnam, the U.S. always won the battles. In time, the Viet Cong largely disappeared and the NVA suffered major casualties, with many of their fighting units being annihilated. By September of 1968, the Viet Cong were not an effective fighting force.

And therefore, it should be another known fact that the American forces didn't lose, because we weren't there. Basically, the U.S. Congress and the administration capitulated, breaking faith with over 58,300 young Americans who had gone there at their country's behest and given their lives to accomplish its stated goals.

In 1972 South Vietnam and the United States were winning the Vietnam War decisively by every conceivable measure. This was even the view of the enemy, the North Vietnamese government officials. Victory was apparent in December 1972 when Pres. Nixon ordered the U.S. Air Force to bomb industrial and military targets in Hanoi, North Vietnam's capital, and Haiphong, the major port city. The U.S. would stop the bombing if the North Vietnamese would attend the Paris peace talks that they had left earlier. The North Vietnamese did go back to the Paris peace talks and the U.S. did stop the bombing as promised. On January 23, 1973, Pres. Nixon gave a speech to the nation on prime-time television announcing that the Paris Peace Accords had been initiated by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, the Vietcong, and

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the accords would be signed on the 27th of January 1973. What the United States and South Vietnam received in those accords was victory. At the White House, it was called VV day (Victory in Vietnam Day). The U.S. backed up that victory with a simple pledge within the Paris Peace Accords saying should the South require any military hardware to defend itself against any North Vietnam aggression, the U.S. would provide replacement aid to the south, on a piece by piece, one-to-one replacement basis, meaning a bullet for a bullet, followed by a helicopter for a helicopter. For all things lost, there would be replacement. The advance of communist tyranny had been halted by those accords.

Then, it all came apart. In August of 1974, Pres. Nixon resigned his office because of Watergate. Three months after his resignation came the November congressional elections and within them the Democrats won a landslide victory for the new 94th Congress. And many of the new members who were a decade earlier protesting the Vietnam War used their new majority to defund the military aid that the United States had promised peace for peace, breaking the commitment that the U.S. made to the South Vietnamese in Paris to provide whatever military hardware the South Vietnamese needed in case of aggression from the North. Put simply and accurately, a majority of Democrats of the 94th Congress did not keep the word of the United States.

On April 10, 1975, Pres. Gerald Ford appealed directly to those members of the Congress in an evening joint session televised to the nation. In that speech he literally begged the Congress to keep the word of the United States, but as President Ford delivered his speech, many of the members of the Congress walked out of the chamber. Many of them had an investment in America's failure in Vietnam. They had participated in demonstrations against the war for many years (i.e., Berkeley and New York student protests, etc.) and they wouldn't give the promised aid. On April 30, 1975, South Vietnam surrendered, and reeducation camps were constructed and the phenomenon of the "Boat People" began.

I think if the South Vietnamese had received the arms the United States had promised, the result would have been different. It already had been different. The North Vietnamese leaders admitted that they were testing the new president Gerald Ford when in 1975 they began attacking the villages in South Vietnam taking them one by one. Then they took city after city, then province after province. The U.S.'s only response was to go back on its word. The U.S. did not resupply the South Vietnamese as it had promised. It was then that the North Vietnamese

knew they were on the road to South Vietnam's capital city Saigon, that would soon be renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Former Arkansas Sen. William Fulbright, who had been the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee made a public statement about the surrender of South Vietnam. He said, "I am no more distressed than I would be about Arkansas losing a football game to Texas."

The U.S. administration knew that North Vietnam would violate the accords and so we planned for it. But what the administration did not know was that its own U.S. Congress would violate the accords and violate them, of all things on behalf of the North Vietnamese. And now we know the rest of the story.

Perhaps, just perhaps, if the Paris Peace accords promises were kept by the U.S. and South Vietnam was supplied with the military armament promised in those accords, perhaps the fall of Vietnam that happened in April 1975 would have never happened. Then, perhaps, just perhaps, the Vietnam veterans would not have been subjected to the hostility, anger, and shame they experienced when they came home. Then perhaps, just perhaps, veterans like Bruce Nakashima who faced the myriad issues of depression and insecurity caused by the shame they felt after they returned from Vietnam would have fared differently. Perhaps the lives of most of the Vietnam veterans would have been different. Only God knows the answer to that.

In the end, the Vietnam veterans must never forget the motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." And we must welcome home our veterans from all wars and conflicts that our country has asked them to fight and remember, while America, like other countries, has its share of problems. It's still the best country in the world.

In closing, may I again invite you to see the film *The Volunteer*. Free reservations to see the film can be made on the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance Website at www.memorialcouralliance.org

Welcome Home Veterans!

D. Miyoshi

A Color Revolution to Overturn 2024 Election?



The scheme was called the Transition Integrity Project (TIP) and involved high-level DC operatives including Donna Brazil, the former head of the DNC and Michael Steel, the former head of the RNC, along with top 'predators' from US national security agencies (NSA, DOD, FBI and more). **Mike Benz, the Executive director of the Foundation for Freedom Online revealed this past scheme and its related plot and warned that the same plan will be used in 2024 if Trump wins the election.**

This plan seems very far-fetched but the intelligence sources I have accessed support this and similar plans being primed into readiness to both cancel the 2024 election as well as to cause Mr. Trump to step down if he is elected. While these revelations are more akin to a science fiction story-line, they are in fact being planned.

Here is Benz's article that was released on December 18, 2023.

D. Miyoshi

Former State Dept. Official Warns of Color Revolution Plot to Shut Down 2024 Election



Mike Benz, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Freedom Online and former State Department diplomat, revealed that there was a bipartisan plot in 2020 to kick off a color revolution using Black Lives Matter to cause havoc in the streets of America if President Trump had refused to step down from office. The scheme was called the Transition Integrity Project (TIP) and involved high-level DC operatives including Donna Brazil, the former head of the DNC and Michael Steel, the former head of the RNC and top 'predators' from US national security agencies (NSA, DOD, FBI and more). Benz warned that the same plan will be used in 2024 if Trump wins the election.

In June 2020, TIP designed a simulation plan to force Trump out of office. John Podesta played the role of Joe Biden and a Republican played the role of Trump. Rosa Brooks led the TIP exercises; she served in the CIA and was an official with the Pentagon. Benz says she now teaches courses at Georgetown on how to overthrow governments.

Part of the plan was for the western states of California, Oregon and Washington to secede from the United States into a new alliance called Cascadia. Benz said that TIP planned to redefine democracy by declaring the electoral college vote invalid if Trump had a clear win and they would have claimed that only the popular vote would be valid. They contemplated rousing tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter supporters to take to the streets and shut down federal government buildings to make the country ungovernable. This is a clear-cut color revolution tactic, and they bragged about in a Time magazine article published shortly after the 2020 election.

The AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce were involved; the Chamber of Commerce companies pay union muscle to bust up dictatorships that interfere with the bottom-line cost and profits of blue chip multi-national companies. Benz said that this is the game played by the National Endowment for Democracy; union muscle takes to the streets to shut the country down using 'rent-a-riot' destabilization teams. He said that the same program is being set up right now for the 2024 election.

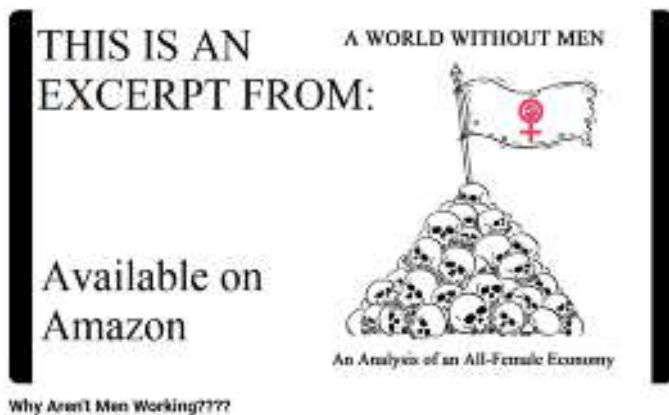
End of Article

A World Without Men



This is an excerpt written by Aaron Clarey that appeared on YouTube in February 2024. It's a straightforward and clear expose of why men today are turning away from their traditional roles in society. Do you agree with its accusations and implications?

D. Miyoshi



The words do not exist in the English language to accurately and fully describe just how unfathomably stupid Americans have been in their treatment of men these past 50 years.

The entirety of society is hopelessly dependent upon the existence and hard work of men. We would quite literally all die without them. And yet we mock them, ridicule them, accuse them of all sorts of social sins. And purposely make it harder for them to succeed in life through discrimination. It is literally committing, while celebrating societal suicide.

Doubly stupid, however, is how a warped sick ideology has evolved in which some women and some men derive purpose, popularity and profit by villainizing men and making them the enemy, be it the media mocking men in movies, marketing departments accusing them of domestic violence, colleges accusing them of misogyny, or women just hating men on the Internet. It would be akin to the women of World War 2 cheering against the American GI's fighting the Nazis in Europe. But instead of fighting Nazis in 1943, today's men are fighting the very real and deadly threats posed to us by nature and reality.

Every day, farmers fight off starvation, electricians fight off the dark, doctors fight off disease, cops fight off crime and carpenters fight off the cold. And in return, society thanks these men by telling them they're not needed, mostly not wanted and maybe throwing in a divorce or two just for good measure.

But what really takes the cake in incomprehensible American stupidity is how people literally don't know why men are dropping out of society. After insulting men for half a century, they literally don't know why men are tapping out, which is like sh*tting in someone's face for 50 years and then being surprised they don't want to grab a beer with you later that evening. Do any Internet news search for men not working and you'll be hit with scores of articles about men leaving the labor force or otherwise not participating in society. But what's really fascinating is they're all confused as to why. The male non-working class. Why aren't men working? Young men work



A World Without Men

less and are not as financially independent. Why have so many men given up on work? Disturbing rise of the nilf's (not in labor force). Millions of men have dropped out of the workforce. The male college crisis. A lack of economically attractive men. Why are middle-aged men missing from the labor force? It's a Scooby-Doo mystery that these intellectual Titans just can't figure out.

But if you want to add some icing to this already rich cake, it's the solutions these journalists, academics, politicians and faux intellectuals provide. They're like Christian pastors in the 80s trying to relate to teenagers by inventing Christian rock, or worse, rap. They're not only hopelessly out of touch, but their ideology/religion prevents them from accurately assessing the problem and therefore providing a real solution. Their solutions range from everything from more government programs to raising awareness in the schools, to men just need to man up to PSA campaigns to just shaming men for not working. Meanwhile, anyone with half a brain would recommend hey, how about you stop sh*tting in their face? But what is truly telling is how their politics, much like an 80's pastor's religion, prevents them, even blinds them to any real solution. They and society simply cannot ask what men want, what men desire, or what's in men's best interests because their politics prevent it.

And so, with their political right arm tied behind their back, a warped Orwellian solution has evolved that many of us are familiar with today. Don't give, let alone ask men what they want. Convince men that what they want, and even their entire male nature is wrong. This delusional and ultimately misandrist view manifests itself in the new idea that men are toxic and being masculine somehow hurts men, that the state of being a man is somehow a mental disorder and men need to be cured of it.

Absurdly, all of this is based on the ludicrous premise that

these geniuses figured out, that there's an optimal way for men to be. And it isn't being the men we've been for eons, but rather an untested Neo obedient male female hybrid where we're in touch with our feelings. Don't act out, cry and uniquely abandon our male sex desires and nature. It's as stupid as Christian rap, but in their minds, it's still provides a solution without them having to sacrifice their precious and all important politics.

It won't work on two counts. One, you're not going to change men's nature, let alone what they want. Lizzo will never be f*ckable. We don't want to support another man's children and we need recess, not Ritalin. There's nothing wrong with men's nature. Stop trying to fix it.

And two, it simply ignores men's interests. They simply refuse to view men as sentient human beings who have their own desires or demands. And in ignoring men's interests, you simply guarantee your solutions will fail. And so, until society acknowledges, accounts for and ultimately delivers what men want, and you stop sh*tting in their faces, the trend of men dropping out of society will continue as you offer them no reason to stay.

Consequently, society is going to, and is currently in the process of, getting their science fiction feminist fantasy come true. A society where the men are dropping out of society or at least participating a fraction of what they normally would. And so, we are no longer in a theoretical world of the future. We are in the real world where this is very much happening today.

End of message



DRUGS IN WAR



In America we have all heard the term the War on Drugs. Most of us can agree it's a war that has failed. This article will cover a different topic that uses those same nouns. It is about war and the use of drugs in war.

The use of mind-altering substances in warfare has included drugs used for relaxation and stimulation. Historically, drug use was often sanctioned and encouraged by militaries through including alcohol and tobacco in troop rations. Stimulants like cocaine and amphetamines (Pervitin by the Nazis) were widely used in both World Wars to increase alertness and suppress appetite. But drug use can negatively affect combat readiness and reduce the performance of troops. Drug use also poses additional expenses to the health care systems of militaries.

What about drug use in war now, such as in the mid-east?

Here is an article by writer Rufaro Manyepa that appeared in the Trumpet Brief magazine about Hamas and their use of drugs when they attacked Israel in early October.

I think you will find it informative.

D. Miyoshi



Hamas, Drugs and Warfare

Why have so many evil arms used drugs?

By Rufaro Manyepa • November 20, 2023

Hamas activists were drugged up as they launched the horrific attack on Israel last month. According to the Jerusalem Post, Israeli forces found Captagon pills on several Hamas terrorists after they were killed.

Captagon is an amphetamine, widely called “cocaine for the poor.” It gained notoriety when Islamic State terrorists used it in 2015 to suppress fear and gain “courage” to carry out their heinous acts. Today, it is a popular export around the Middle East, commonly used by the Syrian Army, Hezbollah and Hamas.

Hamas terrorists were high on Captagon as they invaded people’s homes, raped and killed civilians, and brutally butchered Israeli babies.

As Rep. French Hill told the Washington Post: “Captagon is supporting terrorism financially, providing the money to expand the reach of terrorists and also fueling the terrorists themselves to go out and commit brutal atrocities like we witnessed in Israel.”

The History of War and Drugs

The use of drugs and stimulants in war is common but not widely known. From ancient Greece to Nazi Germany, drugs have been behind some of the most heinous activities in man’s history.

During World War ii, the German company Temmler produced and sold Pervitin as an over-the-counter pick-me-up. This drug is basically crystal meth. For the Nazi army, it



DRUGS IN WAR

was the ideal drug to combat fatigue.

Just as Greek hoplites and Roman legionnaires ran into battle fueled by alcohol, so was the Nazis' blitzkrieg warfare inflamed by the use of methamphetamines.

Drugs played a crucial part in both of Israel's most recent holocausts.

Pervitin was "issued to German troops and airmen like candy," says Geoffrey Warri, professor of military history at the University of North Texas. The effects were dramatic.

"For the first time in military history, an army did not have to rest at night, but could go on for three days and three nights," writes Norman Ohler, author of *Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany*. "It really helps a person to become a fighting robot. Imagine this on the scale of a couple of hundred thousand people, heavily armed, storming into an enemy territory," he continues. "It just becomes a completely crazy situation."

The Two Holocausts

That's what happened on October 7. Not only do amphetamines curb appetite and allow people to stay awake for days on end, they also dull feelings of empathy and can make people feel invincible.

That's exactly what a genocidal regime would want for their soldiers who invade and commit brutal crimes against civilians, women and children.

Some soldiers would rather take Pervitin or Captagon than admit failure or face the fear of being killed in action.

"There are many reports that just before [Germany attacked France], there were a lot of soldiers who were depressed, who didn't want to fight, who remembered the First World War. So the morale of the Germans was quite low. But once you take methamphetamines, your morale actually becomes quite high," Ohler writes.

Soldiers experience some of the greatest degrees of stress imaginable. They have to fight for their country and cope with death all around them, while mobilizing their own

obligation to kill the enemy.

In those circumstances, popping a pill to quiet those fears and letting the drugs take the wheel is almost irresistible—especially when one's mind is conditioned to romanticize the horrific.

It's the same situation with violence on a smaller scale. According to specialists at Finland's Kylmäkoski prison, drugs or alcohol are "almost always behind violent criminal offenders."

One inmate serving a life sentence for murdering two people believes he did so because he "used to use many heavy drugs in the past." Only when he got clean did he desire reform and make progress with the prison's violence counselor.

Drugs play an irrefutable part in stimulating acts of violence. But the problem goes much deeper than most realize.

The Real Danger

The way society depicts them, drugs facilitate harmless fun in a dream-like state at best or cause the user to enter into a self-destructive binge at worst.

This is a society that disregards and even mocks the idea that the spirit world is real. Even among Christians, around half don't believe Satan and the demons are real.

Yet the Bible says Satan the devil is real and he is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). It says his demons are real and they can possess human beings (Matthew 8:28; Luke 8:30). Jesus Christ Himself battled Satan and his demons (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:32).

Satan and the demons are real. Their influence on human beings is real. It is perhaps strongest on those who addle their minds with drug use.

"Under normal circumstance," wrote Herbert W. Armstrong, "no one need fear a demon may take possession" of their minds, unless "you open your mind by letting it be blank, or under control of another, or you lose your mind in



Evidence of CIA involved in JFK Assassination

an emotional angry rage.”

In the April 2023 Trumpet, we wrote:

[F]ar more common today are mind-altering drugs that break down the mind's defenses and can allow in demons. In 2021, over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States. The 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 20 million Americans age 12 and over had a substance disorder. There have been some well-publicized examples of addicts having their whole personality change—and they have gone on to violently attack others. One such individual videoed himself attacking and then eating his homosexual partner. “There is such things as monsters, demons and ghosts,” he wrote on his Facebook page. “They live inside of us, and sometimes they win.”

The footage of Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7 is horrific. The fact that the terrorists themselves filmed the atrocities as they committed them is even more disturbing.

But the fact that they were under the influence of drugs, just as Nazi soldiers were in World War ii when they killed 6 million Jews, shows there is a spiritual dimension at play.

The same Bible that proves Satan and his demons are real also says he is determined to “blot out the name of Israel from under heaven” (2 Kings 14:27).

What is going to happen in World War III? Will nations suddenly abandon the use of amphetamines? Will they suddenly want their soldiers to have consciences and fight with integrity? Or will they use even more drugs and commit the worst atrocities mankind has ever seen?

That’s what the Bible says will happen. The demonic influence on mankind is going to get much worse. Only God’s protection will keep anyone safe. Read America Under Attack to learn how to receive this protection.

End of Article

Evidence indicates CIA involved in JFK Assassination



The CIA Kennedy assassination is a prominent John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy theory. According to ABC News, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is represented in nearly every theory that involves American conspirators. The secretive nature of the CIA, and the conjecture surrounding the high-profile political assassinations in the United States during the 1960s, has made the CIA a plausible suspect for some who believe in a conspiracy. Conspiracy theorists have ascribed various motives for CIA involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy, including Kennedy's firing of CIA director Allen Dulles, Kennedy's refusal to provide air support to the Bay of Pigs invasion, Kennedy's plan to cut the agency's budget by 20 percent, and the belief that the president was weak on communism.

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) concluded that the CIA was not involved in the assassination of Kennedy.

But here is a compelling report by an established investigative writer that adroitly involves the CIA in America’s most investigated presidential assassination. I hope you find it informative.

D. Miyoshi

The Evidence that Convicts the CIA of the JFK Assassination

By Jacob G. Hornberger

Reproduced from The Future of Freedom Foundation

August 12, 2023

Evidence of CIA involved in JFK Assassination

Longtime readers of my work on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy know that I point to the evidence establishing the fraudulent autopsy that was conducted on JFK's body to convict the U.S. military establishment of criminal complicity in the assassination itself. That's because there is no innocent explanation for a fraudulent autopsy. Once one concludes that the autopsy that the military conducted on JFK's body was fraudulent, one has automatically concluded that the military establishment was criminally complicit in the assassination itself. There is no way around that.

The evidence of autopsy fraud is set forth in my books *The Kennedy Autopsy*, *The Kennedy Autopsy 2*, and *An Encounter with Evil: The Abraham Zapruder Story*. It is detailed to a much greater extent in Douglas Horne's watershed five-volume book on the Kennedy assassination *Inside the Assassination Records Review Board*.

But what about the CIA? Is there evidence that convicts the CIA beyond a reasonable doubt of criminal complicity in the JFK assassination? Yes, there is. That evidence consists of the altered, fraudulent copy of the famous Zapruder film that the CIA secretly produced at its top-secret Hawkeyeworks photographic operation in Rochester, New York, on the weekend of the assassination.

Just as there is no innocent explanation for a fraudulent autopsy, there is also no innocent explanation for an altered, fraudulent copy of the film of the assassination. Once one concludes that the famous Zapruder film is an altered, fraudulent copy of the original Zapruder film, one has automatically concluded that the CIA was criminally complicit in the assassination of President Kennedy. There is no way around that.

Yes, I am thoroughly familiar with the CIA's standard response: "Conspiracy theory, Jacob! Conspiracy theory!"

Some readers may not know that I began my professional career as a civil and criminal trial attorney in Texas. I was trained to think like a lawyer. During the twelve years of my law career, I tried both jury and non-jury cases, in both state and federal courts. Given such, I naturally think in terms of evidence, not theories. No criminal-defense trial lawyer goes into court and tells a jury that he has a theory of the case. He tells the jury that the evidence will establish (or fail to establish) the defendant's guilt.

I detail the evidence of what the CIA did to produce a fraudulent, altered copy of the original Zapruder film in my

book *An Encounter with Evil: The Abraham Zapruder Story*.

Essentially, what the CIA did was secretly transport the original Zapruder film on November 23, 1963 (the day after the assassination) to the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) in Washington, D.C.

The next day, November 24, it then transported the original film to its top-secret photographic operation called Hawkeyeworks, which was secretly located within Kodak's research and development section of its corporate headquarters in Rochester, where it was copied and altered.

The altered, fraudulent copy of the Zapruder film was then shipped back to NPIC in Washington, where it was presented as the original film. (Note: While Kodak had secretly partnered with the CIA to establish Hawkeyeworks within its Rochester facility, there is no evidence that Kodak was part of the CIA's criminal activity with respect to the Zapruder film.)

Among the things that the CIA did with its altered copy was to delete frames that tended to establish the criminal culpability of the national-security establishment, including elements of the Secret Service, in the assassination.

For example, consider the route of the presidential limousine as it approached Dealey Plaza. The presidential motorcade comes down Main Street in downtown Dallas, proceeding in a westerly direction. It then turns right onto Houston Street. It then makes an extremely wide turn onto Elm Street — so wide, in fact, that it violated Secret Service protocols on making turns. Some witnesses said that the limousine had so much difficulty making the turn that it actually went onto the sidewalk or almost onto the sidewalk to navigate the turn.

Obviously, such a turn would slow JFK's limousine to a crawl, which would make it easier for an assassin to shoot the president. Thus, that wide turn onto Elm Street is naturally something that the CIA would want to eliminate in its altered, fraudulent copy of the Zapruder film.

The extant film (that is, the film that purports to be an original) shows something highly unusual. It shows motorcycle cops making the turn onto Elm Street but then suddenly jumps to show JFK's limousine already coming down Elm



Evidence of CIA involved in JFK Assassination

Street. In other words, it doesn't show the presidential limousine making that extremely wide turn onto Elm Street.

In her book *Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film*, Abraham Zapruder's granddaughter Alexandria Zapruder wrote that Zapruder didn't film the president's turn onto Elm Street because, she said, Zapruder wanted to be sure that he didn't run out of film before the president was approaching where Zapruder was standing.

But how logical is that? Zapruder was about as professional a home movie-maker as an amateur could be. He had been taking home movies for many years. He knew exactly what he was doing.

If he had decided to wait until the presidential limousine was near him on Elm Street, then why would he have filmed the motorcycle cops making the turn onto Elm Street? If he was concerned about running out of film, why waste film on the motorcycle cops?

Moreover, Dealey Plaza was the end of the motorcade. Zapruder's partner Irwin Schwartz had told him that the motorcade would likely be exiting Dealey Plaza at a high rate of speed. Given such, how likely is it that Zapruder would have waited until the president was already on Elm Street to begin filming, rather than begin filming the motorcade as it made the turn onto Elm Street and then continue filming as the limousine approached him until he ran out of film? After all, Zapruder would have had little interest in filming the back of the president after he had already passed him by.

But that's all logic and common sense. I can already hear the "Conspiracy theory, Jacob!" crowd crying, "Where is the evidence, Jacob, to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the CIA produced an altered, fraudulent copy of the original Zapruder film?"

Fair enough. I detail that evidence in my book *An Encounter with Evil*. But let's examine just a small part of that evidence in this article.

1. Consider, first, this short film of television news reporter Dan Rather. Rather saw Zapruder's copy of the original Zapruder film on Monday morning, November 25, in Zapruder's office. He immediately left Zapruder's office and rushed out to make this filmed report

about what he had just seen a few minutes before. In this film, Rather states: "The film shows President Kennedy's open black limousine making a left turn off Houston Street onto Elm Street on the fringe of downtown Dallas."

2.

2. Consider, second, this film of LIFE magazine reporter Richard Stolley, who viewed the original film multiple times on the weekend of the assassination. In fact, it was Stolley who negotiated the sale of the Zapruder film to LIFE magazine. Go to 6:40 of the film, where Stolley describes what the original Zapruder film showed: "And you see the motorcade snaking around Dealey Plaza...."

The extant Zapruder film shows the presidential limousine coming down Elm Street in a straight line — that is, there is no "snaking around." Stolley's statement establishes that the original film included the wide turn onto Elm Street because that is the only way that the presidential limousine could be described as "snaking around."

3. Consider, third, this filmed interview of Marilyn Sitzman, Zapruder's trusted assistant, who was with him when he filmed the assassination.

The interviewer states: "When ... there is part of something that's been uncovered that he tried out a little bit of the film ahead of time to be sure the camera was working all right and caught some of the motorcycle policemen. Do you remember — do you recall that — kind of testing the first few feet of film?"

Sitzman responds: "No. I know he took a picture of me as I walked up. Then we stood up there. He may have taken the shots to see what his view was. I only remember that when they started to make their first turn, turning into the street, and he says 'Okay, here we go' or something to that effect. That's when I remember we started actually doing the filming."

4. Consider, fourth, this other filmed interview with Sitzman. Go to 27:25. Sitzman states: "And he started filming about, oh, just before they came around the corner...."

5. Consider, fifth, another interview that Sitzman gave to an interviewer named Wes Wise, where she stated, "I only remember when they started to make their first turn ... turning into the street, he said, 'OK, here we go....' or



GM to Stop Making EV's

something to that effect. That's when I remember he started actually doing the filming."

6. Consider, sixth, this filmed interview of Abraham Zapruder himself shortly after the assassination. Go to 00:30, where Zapruder states, "As I was shooting, as the President was coming down from Houston Street making his turn, it was about a half-way down there, I heard a shot...."

7. Consider, seventh, an interview that Zapruder gave to an interviewer named Marvin Scott, where Zapruder stated, "And then I watched for the arrival of the, uh, cars, I saw the motorcycles, and then the car approached. As they turned I started shooting the pictures, that turned from Houston Street to Elm Street, and I was shooting as they were coming along...."

8. Consider, eighth, the sworn testimony that Zapruder gave at the Clay Shaw trial in 1969, where he stated under oath, "I started shooting — when the motorcade started coming in, I believe I started and wanted to get it coming in from Houston Street."

What does the CIA say about all this evidence that unquestionably proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the CIA secretly produced an altered, fraudulent copy of the Zapruder film on the weekend of the assassination at its top-secret Hawkeye facility at Kodak's headquarters in Rochester, New York?

We all know what the CIA's response is. It's their standard response. "Conspiracy theory, Jacob! Conspiracy theory!"

I rest my case. The CIA's production of an altered, fraudulent copy of the famous Zapruder film establishes beyond a reasonable doubt the CIA's criminal culpability in the assassination of President Kennedy.

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Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

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End of Article

GM to Stop Making EV's



From a Youtube video on Nov 10, 2023

The Chief Executive Officer of GM, Mary Barra just shut down EV production and abandoned most of her electric vehicles plans for good. GM's decision to suddenly ditch EV's is sending shock waves through the industry, the reasons for which shockingly nobody is buying them. Nearly 92,000 EV's are piling up at dealer lots with no customers to buy them. The situation is so bad that GM is even selling EV's at massive losses. CEO Mary Barra just went against EV's and announced that GM will now cut EV production and focus on what the common man loves, affordable combustion engine cars.

Why did Mary Barra suddenly shut down EV production? Are they giving up on electric cars completely? And why is Ford also shutting down their production? Let us look into the story of what could possibly be the biggest disaster in the car industry to date.

In a striking revelation, General Motors announced a delay in their production of all electric Silverado trucks at the Orion Assembly plant in Michigan moving it from its original date to 2025, this shocking shift comes amid a significant slowdown in US EV sales, raising concerns about the EV boom. EV's aren't selling as everyone expected. And these overpriced vehicles are definitely not the answer to the needs of middle-class consumers. Despite favorable government incentives to promote electric ve-

GM to Stop Making EV's

hicles, US EV sales growth rate took a downturn declining by over 20% in just the first half of this year. Dealerships, once witnessing electric cars flying off the shelves, are now filled with stockpiles of unsold inventory. As per Cox Automotive, over 92,000 EV's are currently standing a staggering 342% jump from last year when the figure stood at a mere 21,000.

In an official statement, GM explained General Motors today confirmed its decision to retime the conversion of its Orion assembly plant to EV truck production to late 2025. This is to better manage capital investment while synchronizing with the evolving EV demand. This waning EV demand and the pursuit of profitability isn't unique to GM. Other auto behemoths, including Ford and Tesla, are recalibrating their EV strategies to maximize revenue.

Tesla, for instance, has slashed prices on several models by thousands. Responding to apprehensions over dampening consumer expenditure, Ford not to be left behind, also initiated price cuts grappling with a projected loss of \$4.5 billion on its EV's for the year. To break it down, Ford loses a whopping \$32,000 on every EV sold with their Ford Model E division already in the red by about \$1.8 billion as of July.

What about the \$103 million fine that GM had to pay due to making vehicles with faulty quality issues. Jim Farley, Ford CEO, opined the price consumers are willing to pay has decreased. Echoing a similar sentiment, John Lawler, Ford's Motor CFO, remarked the curve isn't growing as anticipated.

The shift to EV's is in progress, but it might be a slower journey than expected. Over the summer, the average selling price for a new EV plummeted by nearly 20% year over year. With purchase incentives surging to almost \$4000, the leadership spearheaded by CEO Mary Barra seems to be navigating through a tough time. At the heart of this fiasco lies Barra's seemingly myopic vision for Chevrolet. Her relentless focus on overpriced EV's appears to be less of an evolution and more of a personal

gain agenda while she earned over millions in salary, GM has refused to even pay fair wages to their workers, let alone price their cars right.

Things took a grim turn with the allegations of GM peddling faulty trucks and SUV's. This isn't some minor oversight or forgivable blunder. GM was also slapped with a staggering \$103 million in fines owing to the deteriorating quality for 2023. Their losses are now cascading around the \$1 billion mark.

GM was among the first few legacy carmakers to transition into EV's. GM also announced recently that it will no longer chase the previously stated goal of producing 400,000 EV's from 2022 through mid-2024. This surprising revelation came just months after GM CEO Mary Barra had strongly reaffirmed the target in July over the persistent United Auto worker strikes played a major role in this decision. Having already drained the automaker of a staggering \$800 million. With the strike costing the company an additional \$200 million per week, GM's projections had to change. GM's altered trajectory does not signify a total abandonment of its electric vision. CFO Paul Jacobson stressed that the company remains focused on reaching the production of 1,000,000 EV's by the end of 2025. In Barra's Q3 letter to shareholders, she articulated the company strategy we are moderating the acceleration of EV production in North America to protect our pricing, adjust to slower near-term growth in demand and implement engineering efficiency and other improvements to make our vehicles less expensive to produce and more profitable.

The challenges just aren't limited to GM's strategy adjustments. Several eagerly awaited EV models, including the Chevy Equinox EV, Chevy Silverado EV RST and GMC Sierra EV will face delays, albeit for just a few months. According to Barra, furthermore, to optimize its financial footing, GM chose to redesign and relaunch the Chevy Bolt EV with more cost-effective lithium ion batteries. This strategic shift means scrapping an ambitious \$5 billion spending plan for several new entry level EV's.

GM to Stop Making EV's

GM's Q3 financial results also revealed a concerning 7.3% decline in third quarter net income dropping to \$3.1 billion. Adjusted earnings saw a decline of 17%, leading to \$3.6 billion, which includes the detrimental effects of the strikes that began in mid-September. Production losses in Q4 amounted to a significant \$600 million. As per Jacobson, another piece of the puzzle is GM's recent struggles with the production of its Silverado EV's from its Detroit facility. Also dubbed Factory, 0GM managed to deliver only 18 Silverado EV's in Q3. This was contrary to plans to escalate production by 2024 at Orion Assembly where the Bolt EV was produced. Interestingly, this push back to late 2025 was not due to supply shortages or even the UAW strike. Instead, GM cited evolving EV demands and imperative engineering improvements as primary reasons.

Despite the worldwide shift towards EV's, GM recently announced a significant investment in its ICE vehicles especially in its heavy-duty pickups. This decision offers a comprehensive look into GM's multifaceted strategy that seems to cater to current demands, fund its EV transition and appease its workforce.

Here's exactly what they are doing. GM plans to invest over \$1 billion in upgrading 2 factories in Flint Michigan for the manufacturing of new heavy duty ICE pickup trucks. The substantial expenditure is expected to fortify GM's leading position in the full-size truck business. Even though GM committed to an all-electric fleet by 2035. The company acknowledges the profitability of its ICE vehicles, the heavy-duty pickup saw a sales increase of 38% in 2022. With nearly 288,000 units sold, the revenue from these ICE vehicles will fund GM's conversion to EV's.

Analysts and suppliers predict that GM could continue its production of its most profitable combustion trucks and SUVs for another 10 to 12 years. This extended timeline could bring in 10s of billions in additional profit which would bolster the company's resources for its planned complete shift to EV's by 2035. The profitability of GM's ICE vehicles can't be understated. Benchmark Auto analyst Michael Ward revealed that last year GM's

average earnings before interest and taxes on its trucks and SUVs was \$10,678 per vehicle. By these estimates, GM could earn up to \$7.5 billion annually in pretax profit on its full-size combustion trucks and SUV's.

Notably the Arlington plant, producing GM's full size combustion SUV's, is touted as the most profitable auto plant in the world. GM CFO Paul Jacobson highlighted the company's approach, mentioning that while they are strategically transitioning to EV's, they are also leveraging their prominent ICE portfolio. The profitability of vehicles like the Chevy Silverado and Cadillac Escalade are unmatched by the company's new EV's, at least for now. The crux of the matter is that the promise of EV's, while golden may have been miscalculated, or at least misjudged in terms of timing and market preparedness. The scenario now emerging from this electric fog is a confused strategy, lost opportunities, and a tainted brand image. And in a world increasingly driven by perceptions and narratives the ripples of GM's blunders could lead to a long-lasting damage to its reputation. Competitors are likely to seize on this moment, painting GM as a giant that lost its way. If GM continues to misunderstand the market, then the day is not far when we could see Mary Barra leading GM to a complete collapse.

So, to Mary Barra and all the other fat cat CEO's out there, listen up. The middle class has had enough. It's time to share the pie before the whole thing crumbles. Because let me tell you, if GM thinks they've got problems now just wait until their workforce and loyal customers turn against them. That's not just a problem, that's a full-scale disaster. And it's one that could bring down the entire company. Whose side are you on in this battle of middle class versus automotive giants?

End of narration

Insider Trading, the Big Obstacle to Representative Government



In Business Graduate School, I learned that Insider Trading is illegal and can land the perpetrator in serious trouble.

But what Is Insider Trading?

Insider trading involves trading in a public company's stock or other securities by someone with non-public, material information about the company. Insider transactions (as opposed to insider trading) are legal if the insider makes a trade and reports it to the Securities and Exchange Commission, but "insider trading" is illegal when the material information is still non-public.

Those who commit insider trading face harsh consequences, so it's important to know what it is and how to avoid it if you own publicly traded company shares and have information that can affect other investors.

So, what does this have to do with representative government?

Plenty.

When the late Dianne Feinstein became a Senator, she had \$1,000,000 of assets in her estate. By the time of her death, she had about \$1,000,000,000. That's about one thousand times more than what she had when she went into the Senate. How does that happen?

Why do these people run for office? They spend much more on their election than they will ever make while in office. They receive an annual salary of \$173,000. They get free medical insurance and they get retirement benefits. Is this enough to make it worthwhile to spend tens of thousands (or even millions) on election campaign expenses to earn a \$173,000 annual salary and receive medical and retirement benefits? Or are they joining congress to gain something more substantial? Can it be because they

want to benefit from insider trading?

If you or I discovered information about a publicly traded company, and we benefited in the stock market by trading on this information we would go to jail. But when Congress does it, it's legal. These are rules for thee, but not for me.

You see if a Congress person trades on insider information, its absolutely legal. Nancy Pelosi did not become a billionaire from a \$173,000 salary living to live in one of the biggest mansions in California.

She got this wealth through insider trading. Just as most of the other congress people do.

If you as a congress person find out about a new medication that requires FDA approval and that Congress needs to approve it, you know you can buy the stock of that pharmaceutical company in advance.

In the case of the defense industry companies, they have more lobbyists than there are members of congress. These lobbyists say to the congress persons, "Hey, if you play along with us here and give us a benefit, we can then be able to donate to your campaign. OK?" This process happens in medicine, military technology, farming, and every other critical industry controlled by congress.

Every time the companies get a new order for 100 military tanks, the congress person's dividends go up. If they are able to build a couple more nuclear bombers, their dividends go up. The addition of a fleet of F35 fighters, their dividends go up. The longer a war goes on, their dividends go up.

If the congresspersons are owned by the corporate interests and they can use insider trading to benefit themselves, they will never represent us and our interests. It is as simple as that.

These congress persons are part of the United States of Corporate America and the Fortune 500 Confederate States of America. That's what we have working in our capital and if we want to have any chance of a real representative government, we will need to get rid of insider trading.

But will the American people act on this?

I don't know. I learned about insider trading in business graduate school, but I didn't learn if it would be easy to eradicate it.

D. Miyoshi

Effects of Artificial Intelligence



Google states that “the goal of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is to provide software that can reason on input and explain on output. Supposedly AI will provide human-like interactions with software and offer decision support for specific tasks, but it's not a replacement for humans – and won't be anytime soon.”

That's simple enough. But Dave Hodges of the *Common Sense Show* believes the effects of AI are more numerous than one and are likely more sinister to boot. He gives a Christian perspective based on the teachings of the Bible of what he believes are the ultimate effects of AI. The following is a paraphrased transcript of a broadcast of his Sept 5, 2023 *Common Sense Show* entitled “The 7 Goals of Artificial Intelligence.” I found part of his message to be somewhat disturbing. In any case, I hope you find it enlightening and informative. Incidentally, although the title to the show is “The 7 Goals of Artificial Intelligence” in the show Hodges mentions a total of 6 effects.

D. Miyoshi

THE EFFECTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



THE 7 GOALS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

There are 6 Effects set by the powers to be for Artificial Intelligence. These effects will have an impact upon our society like no other new development has ever done. I will outline these effects for your edification and for the sake of ourselves and our posterity. We need to be made aware of these effects as soon as possible.

There were 1,000 scientists that recently signed a petition that went to President Biden to implore him to stop the development of sentient capabilities of robots. We have had many prominent scientists say this. And what did Biden do? He did absolutely nothing.

He did nothing because the powers that be want to achieve trans-humanism, singularity and have mind/body robots together to reach immortality or near mortality and they can't have a lot of people around to do it because they don't want to share it with everybody. This is what we're racing towards. This is really the end game. This is Satan's revenge against humanity and God's prize creation. This is the lead up to the end. This is why I (Hodges) believes a lot of people who are Biblical scholars, priests and pastors,



Effects of Artificial Intelligence

they are all seeing the same thing when they pray to God. And the top economists are talking about the same stuff.

So, let's go through the 6 concerns about Artificial Intelligence that they are seeing in their messages.

#1 Lack of privacy.

Here you say, well, I am not doing anything wrong. I don't care if they know what I'm doing. I don't have anything to hide. Do you really have nothing to hide? Well, how do you know if what you express doesn't piss off somebody and you didn't know about it. Or better yet, they'll just kick in your door, put the guns to your kid's heads and manhandle your teenage daughter, just like we've seen done by Merrick Garland's goon squads.

Yes, just for saying the wrong thing. Well, you ask how would they ever catch me? You have 7 to 10 listening devices that go directly to the NSA. Our mobile phones and computers operate as such. They know everything you say, everything you do. There will be lack of privacy.

#2. The Deep Fake

This is scary. You recall the great movie, Minority Report where there were pre-crimes. They arrested you for what you might do. Thought crimes. And do you remember how they faked it. Yes, it was an AI deep fake. And we've also seen where you have someone making a statement and you think it's them but it's not them. It's AI making it look like them. If you're a political opponent, do you see how this could be used against you? To frame you for a crime. Or an enemy in the wrong place that doesn't like you. Maybe they want

to marry your wife and get you out of the way. I'm just giving you a hypothetical here, but the deep fake is scary. This is what is triggering a lot of the Hollywood strike. Hollywood likes to do things as cheaply as possible. So, they will just have AI do the writing. They can replace the actors as well. Then they don't have to pay them so much money. Just pay for the robot one time and simply update it in the future. Deep Fake is a big concern.

#3. Job Loss

Today in America. It's estimated that about 158 million Americans are employed. Within the next 18 months to two years AI is projected to replace 85 million jobs. That's around 55% jobs gone. What would happen to wages? They will plummet. And what about the competition for a job. It would climb astronomically. So, what would they have to do to take care of this? That leads to the next goal.

#4. Universal Basic Income

Here is a prescription for de-population. Do you think the people that run society today, those involved in a communist takeover of our nation and the planet, do you think they're really concerned about humanity? No! Why would they go to Universal Basic Income? Because AI has taken so many jobs, they have to support these people. And what do I have to do to receive this money? Just stay home and behave. Don't say bad things about the government. Remember, we're feeding you, so just shut your mouth and enjoy your life. But how long do you think these people that don't like humanity will keep this system? They're demonically possessed in the way they behave. So how long do you think they're going to go on with this generosity? Oh,





Effects of Artificial Intelligence

long enough until the threat of revolution against them subsides. And then they will say bye-bye to you.

These people in control are Fabian socialists. Fabian Socialism is one of the five pillars of modern sociology. It was created by Herbert Spencer, based on the notion that society must be productive to move forward or it fails. And if someone is not putting more into society than they're taking out, then they should be done away with. That was Herbert Spencer who said it directly. It was absolute and this is what these people are. You serve them, you serve the state. If you do well, they have a place for you. If you're a detriment, then you're in the way and to the Gulag you go. We'll just do away with you, either quietly or just outright execution. So, this is really, really bad folks. So, you've got job loss followed by Universal Basic Income leading to the darkest days in history. Well, here's one thing they found in the research on AI for the next goal.

#5. Built in Bias.

When someone constructs AI, and they are giving it sentient qualities, whether they mean to or not, they are transmitting some of themselves into this work. Let me ask you. The people who are in charge of AI, are they nice people? Do they have bias? Of course, they do. Do you think their bias could get reflected in sentient programming? And what is the bias of these people? Look at what Henry Kissinger said about this. He said it perfectly, "They are useless eaters." You're in the way, and when you get in the way of Fabian Socialism, this is what will happen. So, they'll have bias against you. And they will legislate against you. What if (for example), we had a perfectly legal society run by robots. This is not an out of the realm possibility. But we know historically one group or another commits certain

types of crimes with more propensity than other groups. Could this lead to demographic genocide? Well, yes because what will sentient robots lack? Empathy, spirituality and a moral code. It's just that we have to be efficient. These people over here do more bad things so off with their heads and send them to the gas chambers. And this is what you'll see from programmed, independent and sentient robots who retain many of the personality traits of their creators. Another thing they found also was financial volatility. One of the things that makes a good broker is the fact that they can consider other factors that aren't related specifically to the deal, things that could enter in down the road like emotionality, loyalties, things like morals and not wanting to be Woke. We've seen that in the modern time. Sentient robots don't have the humanity to consider things that aren't specifically related to financial situations. So, if they're managing the economy, the research shows us that financial volatility can and will be expected. And then finally, the final goal.

#6. Singularity.

Are you familiar with the term? I have a very good friend Vance Davis. He has been on my TV show many times. We have been friends for almost 32 years. He is a former NSA agent attached to NATO and they were actually tasked with the job of "channeling esoteric demonic beings" through Ouija boards and other such things. And Vance and his group wanted no part of it. But Vance went along with it for a while because it was orders and then finally, Vance said pretty early on that he and his group were not going to do it anymore. The they got threatened so these guys got so scared they ran for their lives. Yes, and eventually they were caught. HW Bush pardoned them rather than kill



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them because they didn't want an investigation. They didn't want a court trial because depositions regarding discovery could have been damaging to the Bush administration at the time. So they just cut them loose. A couple of years after that, I met Vance and I won't go into the details of it, it's an interesting story and I have told it on my show. But Vance and I became fast friends and we remained friends ever since. And Vance told me that as part of his training with the NSA, they were actually taught there were good and bad guys out there in the universe. The bad guys got defeated, but unfortunately for us they got cast down to Earth and this became their planet. Where have we heard this before? Oh, that's right..... in the Bible in Genesis 6. Oh, but the Bible is not supposed to be true, right? If that is not true, then why is the NSA treating it to be true? Yes, the bad forces wanted to capture the soul of the humans as revenge against God because humans were God's prized creation. The soul was the prized element within that creation, and the bad forces wanted to get the soul. But they couldn't figure it out. So, they said, well, we'll just wreck the human being and we'll change it. And this is what transhumanism is about. We see some of the evidence of it today. There's nothing wrong with putting in an artificial heart or a stent or some kind of device that you install in the body that helps the functioning of something. There is nothing wrong with that whatsoever. But that's the first step towards transhumanism. Legitimate medical practice that then becomes the next step towards immortality and this is what transhuman is. And they openly write and talk about it. This isn't a trade secret. It's not like you're going to see it on the nightly news. But there are articles that are presented. Sometimes they get presented by the World Economic Forum. They get repeated publicly. Pretty interesting stuff and they just want to

serve it to a class of a small group of humans to serve them. This is their substitute for not being able to get the soul. You say, Dave, that almost sounds like Revelations, I'll let you be the judge. You may want to look at the Book of Job too. There's a lot in there because Job parallels Revelations.

So, at the end of the day what we're looking at here are people that are working against the interests of humanity. And we already see this influence coming out of globalist organizations like the World Economic Forum, the IMF and the Bank of International Settlements. I believe they're inhabited by inherently evil people. You could even say they're demonic and so they've influenced governments to a huge degree and we see this. Do you think your government cares about you? Of course they don't care about you. And where does this indifference in antagonism towards the people come from? It comes from the buying in of this philosophy. It's a top down filtration. And this is why one of the reasons your government is your enemy.

We're going to get into that a little later about Congress. Congress is your enemy, but we'll get into more specifics. But generally speaking, the attitude from top down is humanity is the enemy. But there's lots of theories on why this is true. And I'm not going to explore them here. Let's just say this. The principle of singularity, Robots control all or robots become all. And then all of a sudden, you're a blight upon the landscape. What will they do with humans who aren't trans humanized.

Hastings said it this way. What will they do when you have as much in common with them as an ant to a hu-



Why iPhones are more popular than Android phones

man. That’s a good question, isn’t it?

The future of your job is a lot more complicated than it seems because it spins off into many different directions, none of which I hate to report is good. But if we indeed are living in the end times then this is the kind of thing that we're not told will happen. Of course, it will happen. Watch for the building of the Third Temple. That's the kickoff point.

End of show transcription

Why iPhones are more popular than Android phones

I use an iPhone. But I bought it not because I thought it was better than other smart phones but because it was simply more popular. But that turns out to be a decent reason to buy an iPhone. Data shows that the good trade-in deals require an iPhone. Carriers value used iPhones above used Android devices, so they’re willing to shell out for your old Apple phone. Of course, there are several reasons for this preference, but it mainly comes down to supply and demand. Here is an article that recently appeared in *Review Geek* explaining why.

D. Miyoshi

Why iPhones Are Worth More Than Android at Trade-In



JUSTIN DUNLOP / Review Geek

By Andrew Heinzman, News Editor

Have you noticed that all the great trade-in deals require an iPhone? Carriers value used iPhones above used Android devices, so they’re willing to shell out for your old Apple phone. Of course, there are several reasons for this preference, but it mainly comes down to supply and demand.

iPhones Dominate the Used Smartphone Market

Research from the IDC indicates that smartphone sales are at a serious low point. Shipments declined by 18.3% during the final months of 2022. This decline is mainly due to our rocky post-pandemic economy, though consumer habits and industry trends are also to blame—smartphones last longer than they used to, and new models rarely offer enticing new features, so consumers aren’t interested in upgrading.

But as new phone sales slow, used phones are ballooning in popularity. Trade-in and recycling programs have created a huge smartphone refurbishing market, which is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10.2% (basically, the refurbished phone market is worth about \$66 billion today, and it may be worth twice as much by the end of the decade).



Counterpoint Research shows that Apple dominates the refurbished market. And in 2022, when smartphone sales slumped, Apple’s share in the refurbished market only grew. Johanna Stern of the Wall Street Journal recently spoke with USMP and Back in the Box, two major players in this industry, and found that they prefer old iPhones over old Android devices.

Clearly, the demand for used iPhones is greater than the



Why iPhones are more popular than Android phones

demand for used Android devices. And this demand is reflected at trade-in. You can trade in an iPhone that's several years old and score a massive trade-in value on a new device. (The only comparable trade-in deals are for Samsung Galaxy devices, which makes sense, as Samsung is the second largest name in the refurbished phone market.)

Admittedly, these crazy trade-in deals are mainly an attempt to lock down consumers and push upsells. But someone always benefits from your old phone—a refurbisher may sell it for a profit (especially if it's an iPhone), and if it goes to recycling, it may be stripped for precious metals and copper (Apple procures tons of metal through its aggressive recycling program, according to the company's annual environmental reports).

Why Is Demand for the iPhone So High?



Hannah Stryker / Review Geek

The iPhone is the king of smartphones. At least, that's what market data portrays—Apple holds nearly 57% of the entire U.S. smartphone market share, more than Samsung, Motorola, and Google combined. Notably, Apple products held 8 slots in the top 10 best-selling phones of 2022.

This demand isn't a mistake. Apple makes good stuff, obviously, but it's also an effective advertiser, and it's one of the most recognizable brands in the United States. But more importantly, Apple knows how to attract and lock down its customers.

Apple has an incredible amount of control over its hardware and software. You can buy a Windows PC or Android phone from a dozen different brands, but if you want a Mac or iPhone, you have to buy one that's made by Apple. Hundreds of Android phones might launch in one year, but

there are only a handful of new iPhones to choose from.

Because Apple deals with relatively few products, it can tie these products together into a strong ecosystem. If you use an iPhone, you can receive voice calls, video calls, or text messages on your Mac. An iCloud subscription adds new features to all of your Apple products, and so on. These features are very attractive to customers. But if you leave the Apple family, you lose these perks, so

There's a secondary benefit to Apple's tight-knit ecosystem—it can offer extended support for its products. Some models of the iPhone receive seven years of software updates. This feat is unmatched by any Android device (barring the Fairphone), and it helps the iPhone retain its value on the secondhand and refurbished market.

Should Any of This Matter to You, the User?



Hannah Stryker / Review Geek

It's tempting to think that the iPhone is "better" than Android devices. After all, it's worth more at trade-in, and it dominates the smartphone market. But this is simply a case of supply and demand. Apple is a master of exclusivity and walled gardens—it attracts and locks down customers, ensuring continued popularity for its products.

Maybe you want an iPhone because it holds a good trade-in value. Frankly, I don't believe that this is a real selling point. Carriers don't pay a fair value for your smartphone at trade-in; they either undercut you or give you a ridiculous limited-time offer. The goal, in either case, is to get you on a monthly payment plan that prevents you from switching carriers (and gives you an opportunity to upgrade your phone plan or buy overpriced accessories).

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Preference is preference; you should buy and use whatever phone you want. If money's tight, buy the phone that you can afford. And if you need a phone for business or creative pursuits, buy one that offers the features you want.

If you need to trade in your phone, try to wait for a good limited-time deal to come around. And don't get things twisted—you should never buy something on credit that you can't afford in cash (outside of actual emergencies). Maybe a trade-in saves you 50% on the new iPhone; that's great, but now you're \$600 in debt for a luxury item that you probably didn't need to buy.

[End of Article](#)

10 Biggest World Threats of 2024



Ian Bremmer



The following is taken from a video presented by *Big Think* written and hosted by Ian Bremmer.

Bremmer is the president and founder of Eurasia Group, the leading global political risk research and consulting firm. Once dubbed the "rising guru" in the field of political risk by *The Economist*, he teaches classes on that discipline as a professor at New York University. His latest book *Us vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism* is a New York Times bestseller.

The following are my notes taken from the video presented by *Big Think* and hosted by Ian Bremmer in January 2024.

I hope you find these points informative as I had. If true, we are in for a very bumpy ride sometime soon.

D. Miyoshi

We are now in the teeth of a geo-political recession and there are major wars and confrontations with no prospects for an effective response for containment, for useful diplomacy, and indeed the adversaries in these conflicts don't even share the same basic set of understandings of what they are fighting over or even the same basic facts. They say you are entitled to your own opinions but not to your own set of facts. But this does not apply to the geopolitical order of 2024. Everyone thinks they are entitled to their own facts. And that makes it much harder to address these risks over the course of the year.

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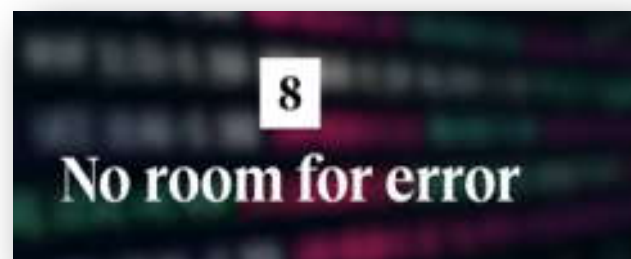
Here are the top 10 Risks in the world for 2024 going from least to most.



The number 10 risk is risky business. It's about culture wars from both the left and right. From cancel culture and from both left and right making it much more difficult for companies that have exposure to the US market to do effective business in both red and blue environments, red and blue states and red and blue constituencies. Corporations do not want to spend a lot of time thinking on their political orientations. They want to work with clients, customers and employees across the political spectrum. They want to hire the best people they can find, and they want to sell into the customer networks who are most interested in buying their products, whatever it is. We are in a political environment in the US where that is becoming increasingly hard to do. Whether you are the CEO of a Fortune 500 corporation or the investor of a major portfolio, or the president of an American university, its just really hard to satisfy these varied constituents. And that is going to get harder, not easier, especially in the election year of 2024.



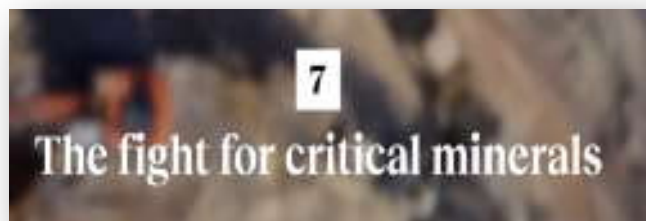
The number 9 risk is El Nino is back. El Nino is a regular occurrence, but now its regularity is occurring against the backdrop of climate change and global warming which makes it more dangerous. The stresses that come, especially for countries and regions that can't afford to respond on the back of massive fiscal outlays and debt with higher interest payments, makes it very difficult to deal with a sudden unexpected climate stress. An El Nino is likely to hit in countries in Latin America, in Southern Sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Indo-Pacific, many of whom are going to have a really hard economic time and therefore political time dealing with those expenses and with that crisis response. And what governments need do is understand that this is not about crisis response. This is about a changing normal. And so therefore, there needs to be money set aside, and infrastructure capacity built. And as we saw in the COP28 Summit in the Emirates, there needs to be set up a damages fund, which finally the world's countries have agreed to but they've put virtually no money into it. It's not just a matter of, "Yeah, we agree, we need one," it has to actually have resources behind it. A little bit like we discussed with water stress in 2023, where people continue to say, "Well, you've got a major drought or you've got massive flooding and we need to respond to that," like after the fact. This is something that is going to be an increasing global phenomenon that is part of our global environment and has to be addressed as such.



The number 8 risk is "No room for error" This fundamentally talks about the global inflation shock that began in 2021.

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There was some optimism in 2023 that it was coming down significantly and indeed, in many countries faster than had been expected as the world was coming out of the COVID lockdowns. 2024 is about that inflation being persistent in part responding to a really challenging geopolitical environment, in part responding to greater dislocations in the marketplace from subsidies and industrial policy and nationalism that makes globalization at its Max, at its peak efficiency, harder to operationalize. Also, central bankers have very little margin for making mistakes. So, their ability to come down in interest rates as fast as the markets are expecting at the beginning of 2024 seems very, very unlikely. Market stocks right now in the United States are priced for perfection. Pretty much everything has to go right in order to meet that soft landing. We don't expect a recession in the United States, but we do expect underperformance. That means that it's going to be a challenge for Biden in 2024 who's kind of counting on "this is going to be a good economic story," it's one of the reasons that he has to pivot towards talking about democracy. In the United Kingdom, it means the Labor Party is much more likely to get an absolute majority in taking out Sunak and the conservatives. But this is also a problem for countries that aren't going to have elections. For example, President Tinubu in Nigeria, who's an economic reformer by orientation, but he is going to have just less room to get that done, given these economic challenges. Lula is going to have a much harder 2024 than he did 2023 for the same reasons in Brazil.



Risk number 7 is the fight for critical minerals. We are

seeing, as the world's transitions away from fossil fuels to post carbon energy and infrastructure and the related supply chain, that there are huge opportunities for the countries that have invested in those technologies like China heavily, as well as have availability of these critical minerals across the global south. And that creates political opportunities for disruption that are going to play out over the course of this year. A couple ways it will have an impact. One is that as the Chinese are facing a hard time from the US and its allies on export controls for semiconductors and cloud computing where they don't have the technology. The response will be licensing regimes and export controls around those technologies that the Chinese dominate, particularly those that involve electric vehicles, batteries and the supply chain where the Chinese are really a global superpower. Secondly, if you are a Sub-Saharan African or a Latin American country with lots and lots of critical minerals that everybody wants access to, you are putting policies in place that are requiring a lot more domestic investment to help your development of new technologies. Getting up the value chain makes a lot of sense for you, but also increases the expense of getting the stuff out of the ground. And that's something that we're going to see for critical minerals across the board, whether it's lithium or graphite, or uranium for that matter. And then of course, you also have the developed countries who are looking at core carbon border adjustment mechanisms and that's going to hurt developing countries who have a hard time stripping carbon out of their supply chains and exports. But the Europeans in particular saying "No, no, no, we want to move faster and faster towards this transition period." Well, easier for them to do. They are wealthy, they can afford those compromises. It's very hard to do if you're a country like India, if you're a country like Brazil, so all of that is playing out in 2024.

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Risk number 6 is No China recovery. A big piece of this is political. The fact that Xi Jinping has consolidated an enormous amount of power, and his personal inclination is to focus on national security and political stability at the expense of economic growth. And that means that as China is facing significant structural slowdown in their economy, his response is incremental, it is at the margins, it is not big, dynamic, fundamental, reform. And so, absent a massive financial crash, which we're not expecting in China 2024, that means that the animal spirits in driving Chinese consumption sentiment is not going to rebound particularly much. It means that real estate is going to look very, very weak in 2024 in China. It means that we're going to continue to have low external demand for Chinese goods. None of that is going to see a breakthrough. And remember, after the 2008 Financial Crisis, it was China's willingness to put massive amounts of money into shovel ready products, that was a big part of the global rebound. We're seeing nothing like that in 2024 coming out of COVID. And while that should mean lower energy prices and commodity prices overall, it also means harder to see a bigger global economic rebound.

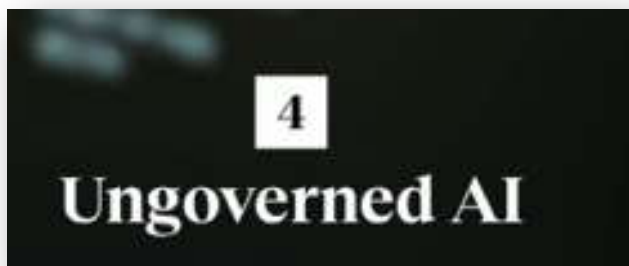


The number 5 risk is the axis of rogues. Since the Russian

invasion of Ukraine, where President Putin is seen as a war criminal by the G7, by the developed countries around the world, Russia has become a rogue state. 6000 nuclear warheads, serious cyber capabilities, and of course massive natural resources that people around the world really need. And yet, it is a country whose assets have been frozen by the US and Japan and Europe, 11 rounds of sanctions and more coming, their oligarchs can't travel anymore. They're not welcomed into any of the major global summits, diplomatic relations have been cut off. So, who are Russia's friends? When you look at that militarily China works pretty closely with Russia as does India economically. But supporting the military efforts of Russia, you're talking about North Korea and Iran, two other rogue states who have also been maximally cut off economically, diplomatically and, from a security perspective by the West. So, 3 rogue states with Russia, the most powerful rogue state we've ever seen in history, all three of them increasingly working together. North Korea provided an enormous amount of artillery and ammunition to the Russians. The Iranians providing a drone industry that they're setting up on the ground in Russia and in return the Russians providing intelligence, sensitive technologies, and economic goods. I don't need to say very much about the fact that when you have three countries like that, all of whom benefit from chaos, working together, all of whom are trying to undermine stability in the international order that we have, that things can go wrong much more easily. So that's the big piece of this risk. But there is another piece that is kind of interesting. We have also talked about America's dangerous friends, and no one mentions this, but the fact is that there are three countries out there that are actually quite important allies and friends of the United States that are led by leaders that aren't particularly trusted, and who are increasingly risk acceptant and they're driving risk globally. I'm talking specifically about BB Netanyahu and Israel, who knows that once the war is over, he probably goes to jail. Number two is Ukraine's president Zelinsky. As he's getting less support

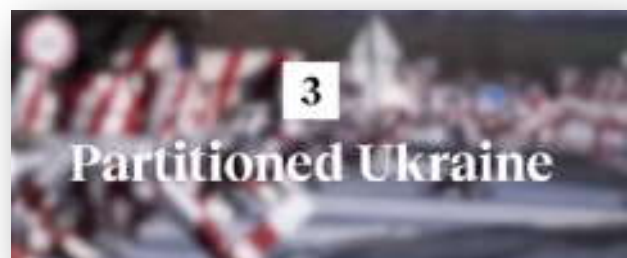
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from the United States and others around the world, he's getting increasingly desperate. So, his alignment with NATO is going down. And then also there is William Lai, who is president of Taiwan, He's much more oriented toward autonomy and even independence than anyone recently in Taiwan and he will drive greater attention between the United States and China. It's absolutely worth talking about these three friends of the United States as a risk factor in 2024.



Risk #4 is Ungoverned AI. I want to be clear that I am an AI optimist. I believe that this is an unprecedented opportunity to unlock human capital all over the world, drive productivity, drive efficiency, potentially even create a new wave of globalization. That's a very big deal, but everyone's focused on that. We've got the money, we've got the talent, we have got the companies. What they're not focusing on are the negative externalities that come from a technology that is moving much, much faster than our ability to govern it. And in 2024, we see that both the politics which have been very ambitious but are also trying to share urgency with things like a US election and a couple of major wars, and US China tensions and global climate, it's going to be hard to maintain that urgency absent major crisis. There's a level of inertia that is aligned with that, and the attention is likely to drift after all of the flurry of near institutions that were created in 2023. There is defection that many of the stakeholders in the private sector who are very happy to be involved in governance when it's not impinging on their business models. But as it starts to affect things that are closer to shareholder val-

ue, they start saying "not so fast," They start either throwing sand in the gears or saying we're out of the process. And then finally, most importantly technological speed that AI is advancing 3 times faster than Moore's law, which doubled every 18 months. GPT-5, which will come out in the coming months makes 4 look like a child's toy. And the reason these things are important is because these tools will be in the hands of a very large number of governments and institutions and individuals. It's not like nuclear weapons where you can limit the proliferation of the most advanced models, that's not going to happen. And some of those people are going to be tinkerers that aren't going to be careful in how they deploy them. Some of those will be corporations that have business models that don't care about the secondary and tertiary effects on populations. Some of them will be bad actors, criminals, and terrorists. So, there's the issue of how one can deploy AI for bad, particularly with malware encoding leading to cyber attacks that are far greater than anything we've seen before. Then you also have AI being used for disinformation at a far greater level and scope than anything we've seen before at a time when many societies, especially the United States are very vulnerable to that disinformation. And we don't have any regulatory government environment on the near horizon in 2024 that would address effectively either of those two tech challenges.



Risk #3 is a Partitioned Ukraine. And this does not mean we want to see a partitioned Ukraine. I personally fully believe that Ukraine should be able to retake all of their territo-

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ry, it is unjust that they will not be able to, but that is the reality and the Top Risk Report deals in reality, not in preferences. And this year the ability for the Ukrainians to get the military support that they would need to retake the 18% of their territory that Russia still illegally occupies seems virtually impossible to imagine. And indeed, the trajectory of the war between Russia and Ukraine is changing. We've already passed peak NATO and a peak transatlantic alliance. The United States has become much more politicized on this issue and will become much more when former president Trump gets the Republican nomination. We are seeing countries inside Europe with a much harder time providing economic support such as Germany because of difficulties in their budgeting environment. Some countries like Hungary and Italy are saying "why are we taking on these costs it's not as relevant to us." All of that is going to make it much harder, and will make president Zelinsky much more vulnerable, much more desperate at a time when Putin feels like all he needs to do is wait for the US 2024 election and for everyone else to just get tired. Putin's strength here is his patience, his ability to ensure that the Russian people can outlast and take the pain that democracies would not. And I also want to say that this does not mean that Russia is going to win. Russia will still be a rogue state. They're dealing with an expanded NATO with a lot more territory that is NATO, like Finland, then they had before they invaded Ukraine either in 2014 or in 2022. Their assets will still be frozen, the sanctions will still be on. So that conflict is still going to be there. But Russia will be able to essentially split Ukrainian in two. And what we will be debating is exactly where those lines of partition are and how much core Ukraine will still be vulnerable to further Russian attack. The only way to avoid the latter is if the West can ensure that Ukraine has hard and fast security guarantees, meaning a relatively short term coming into NATO and EU integration. And there is still a window for that in 2024. But that window is fast narrowing.



Middle East on the brink is risk #2. Not the risk that the world or Eurasia group was expecting back in 2023. This was a world of the Abraham Accords with Israeli normalization and a relations breakthroughs with other countries. That was a world of the Gulf Cooperation Council coming together as opposed to the big fight and the blockade on Qatar by the Saudis and the Emiratis. That was a world where the Chinese were brokering diplomatic breakthroughs between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Everything seemed to be working for the Middle East except nobody cared about the Palestinians. And that blew up very dramatically on October 7th. Helped along by the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was more focused on his own personal survival, avoiding jail, judicial reform, and supporting a very hard-line coalition partner that wanted to expand territorial access in the West Bank illegally taking land away from the Palestinians and therefore taking attention away from Gaza and border security. All of that led to the worst violence that the world has seen against Jews since the Holocaust just three months ago. But in 2024, it's very hard to imagine that the war will be contained to Gaza and there are many ways that it can escalate. For example, through the northern front with Hezbollah, the Israeli seeing themselves isolated all over the world. And even a majority of Democrats in the US more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. The Israeli war cabin is saying "This is our opportunity we have to make sure that we degrade not just Hamas, but also an organization like Hezbollah and push them back from the border in accordance with Security Council resolutions that have never been enacted to date. Also, the Houthis in Yemen who continue to engage in at-

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tacks against shipping and against the United States, despite America's efforts to deter them, likely to lead to the Americans attacking their bases in Yemen itself, which will expand the war. Then you have Iranian proxies, the Shia militants in Syria, in Iraq, who are engaging in more attacks against the United States and allies. As we see American servicemen and women getting killed, the Americans will respond. And then finally, the millions upon millions upon millions of Muslims in the region and around the world, including in the US and Europe, who are becoming radicalized as a consequence of this violence. And some of them will turn to violence themselves. Some of them will be lone wolf attacks, some of them will join terrorist organizations. All of those are avenues of escalation of this war beyond Gaza. Now, the worst that could happen would be a direct war between the United States and Iran, and thankfully we are several steps of escalation away from that. That would mean \$150, \$200 per barrel oil, a global recession and Trump clearly wins the election. But we are not going to stay just at Gaza. And somewhere in between these two extremes is where we are likely to be testing Middle East instability over the course of the coming months.



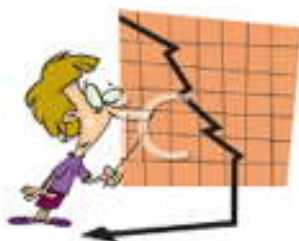
The top risk for 2024 is the United States versus itself. Another major confrontation, in some ways very akin to what we're seeing between Russia and Ukraine, what we're seeing between Israel and Hamas because you have two antagonists that see each other as existential adversaries, and who are not sharing basic understanding of facts and what they're fighting over. And there's no possibility of diplomacy bring-

ing the two groups together. That is playing out, very unfortunately in my own country, the United States right now. The US is the only advanced democracy in the world that is incapable of ensuring a free and fair, peaceful transition of power through an election. Which is fundamental to any well-functioning democracy. But it's not where the Americans are right now. If you look at the level of trust that Americans have for all of its major political institutions, they are decreasing year after year and reaching unsustainable territory happening in the middle of an election with two deeply unpopular leaders, one of whom has said that he is not prepared to accept the free and fair outcomes of an election. Now in any well-functioning democracy that would be the number one issue being discussed. But the United States is not a well-functioning democracy. So, a couple of things are happening here. The first is that when Trump gets the nomination for the Republican Party, it's not 100% insured, but it's very close, and that's going to happen in the next few months, he will become significantly more powerful, immediately. All of the Republicans in leadership will declare loyalty to him. He'll have the Republican media, right wing media, he'll also have a lot of money to be able to run that campaign. And that means that his policies like in cutting off Ukraine, like in threatening and belligerence towards the Iranians, like in how he's going to close the border, treatment of Muslims, all of this will suddenly become not just ideas that are floated by a presidential candidate, but the policies of the Republican Party, of half of the US political spectrum. And that will lead to a lot of risk internationally. That's number one. Number two, there's so much more at stake for these leaders in this election. If Biden loses, he and many of his closest advisors believe they will face legal jeopardy themselves because Trump will work to politicize the IRS, the Department of Justice, the FBI and use them against his opponents, which also will have a chilling effect, a Neo-McCarthyite chilling effect on the airing, the voicing of opposition policies and support for a large strain of the American population. Where

10 Biggest World Threats of 2024



Advancing in a Time of Crisis



Financial Crisis Report



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if Biden wins, Trump faces jail and that means that if he thinks he's going to be close, if he thinks he could lose, he will do everything in his power to rally his supporters to interfere with that election outcome, to undermine it. And that also means, especially with the presence of chaos actors that oppose the United States around the world, that the US election is itself an incredibly attractive, soft Homeland Security target that is hard for the Americans to defend. And when I speak to leaders of the US intelligence community, they tell me they're more worried about that than they are about China or Russia or other major foreign policy national security threats to the United States. All of that together makes it very clear that the United States versus itself is the number one risk in our report for 2024.

End of Ian Bremmer Report

I hope you found the report informative.

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

Consider estate tax portability

If a deceased taxpayer has a sizable estate that is under the filing threshold for the federal estate tax, a surviving spouse should consider filing an estate tax return to take advantage of portability laws. Portability allows the surviving spouse to apply a deceased spouse's unused exemption to their own estate when they pass away. However, an estate tax return must have been filed for the estate of the first spouse to die in order to take advantage of the unused exemption.



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