



# Financial Crisis Report



Written and Edited by David M. Miyoshi

## Advancing in a Time of Crisis

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**“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.” Leo Tolstoy**

### Will Biden Step Down for a Replacement Candidate?



**T**he following prediction is made by former advisor to the White House, Congress, the CIA, the Pentagon and the Department of Defense, attorney and investment banker Jim Rickards. The scenario he paints is indeed dire but I am inclined to agree to his prognostication.



**Rickards is noted for his having predicted against all odds that Donald Trump would be the next president. He was right while most people were wrong.**

The following is an abbreviated version of Rickards complete claims in his latest report.

Rickards believes as follows:

Joe Biden is a decoy. He will not face Trump in the 2024 election.

On June 13 Joe Biden will hold a surprise press conference and announce he is withdrawing from the 2024 election (Let’s see if Rickards is accurate on this).

Two months later...

At the Democratic National Committee convention in Chicago...

A “shadow” candidate – hand-selected by the Democrats to defeat Trump...

Will be crowned (let’s make a note of this and see if this happens in Chicago).

But the Democrats know Biden would be soundly defeated by Trump so they have already selected the shadow candidate. The country knows Biden’s mental faculties are declining every day and along with his other undeniable liabilities, everyone knows Biden does not have a chance against Trump.

But while it is assumed Trump would beat Biden in a fair election, polls show that a “generic Democrat” would beat Trump (as well as Biden) by 6 points. That is to say Trump and Biden would get 40% of the votes but a generic Democrat would get 46% of the votes.

In a national election, a 6% margin is a huge margin to overcome.

But if a shadow candidate (who will not have entered the race or won a single primary) is crowned at the DNC Convention in Chicago on August 19, this would cause the country to enter into an economic meltdown, leading to rampant unrest, chaos, and violence.

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.



## Will Biden Step Down for a Replacement Candidate?

Understand that this last-minute replacement template in Democratic candidates happened before when Bernie Sanders was kicked out for Hillary Clinton. And while this tactic didn't work that well for the Democrats in 2016, they have high hopes for it in 2024.

Rickards calls this Democratic plan Operation Stalking Horse.

### Here's how from his own perspective Rickards sees the plan working...

Biden will stay in the race through the primaries...

Of course, he'll have the Democratic nomination sewn up relatively early...

But that won't matter.

To see Operation Stalking Horse through...

He'll need to collect as many delegates as possible.

That way, his co-conspirators will have maximum leverage at the DNC Convention in Chicago.

If Biden drops out too early...

There will be a mad scramble for delegates in the remaining primaries.

The Democrat Swamp doesn't want that.

They want to rig the process on their terms

The last presidential primary is June 4.

At that point, Biden will have almost all the delegates.

I predict he'll wait a week or so...

Then, on June 13...

He'll call a news conference.

To the surprise of everyone...

(Except Rickards and his readers)

Biden will announce he's dropping out of the race.

He might give a medical excuse...

Which will be easy for people to believe...

After all, he's failing physically and mentally in front of our eyes...

Or he'll say he's doing it for the good of the country...

Whatever bogus excuse Biden goes with...

He'll drop out of the race in June.

Now, he won't resign the presidency at that point...

Not yet.

(I'll explain more in a moment.)

Biden will announce he's going to finish out his term...

But he will no longer seek reelection.

Why June 13?

Because the Democratic National Convention is August 19...

The Democrat's presidential nominee will be officially announced there.

A June 13 withdrawal would give the credentials committee, convention organizers, and political fixers...

Enough time to make it a peaceful coronation of the selected replacement.

When he makes his announcement on June 13...

Biden will release all the delegates he won in the primaries.

He's allowed to do that under law.

At the same time...

He'll endorse his replacement "shadow" candidate

Who Rickards reveals below...

The Democrat elite "super delegates" will already be on board with the plan...

It will be a clean handoff...

The Dems already have the template.

Because they've done it before.

In 1968, Lyndon B. Johnson was an unpopular Democratic president...

Then on Sunday, March 31, 1968...

Americans' primetime programming was interrupted...

With a message from the President.

In a shock to everyone...

President Johnson announced he was dropping out of the race.

Instead, at the Democratic convention...

Replacement candidate Humbert Humphrey was handed the Democratic nomination...

Despite having not competed in or won a single primary.

This is exactly what I'm talking about happening again.

And I'm not alone in my prediction...

Former Obama senior advisor David Axelrod has publicly encouraged Biden to withdraw from the race...

Political activist billionaire Bill Ackman also publicly pushed Biden to drop out...

Independent presidential candidate Cornel West recently announced...

"I'm not even sure whether I'll be running against Biden. I think he's going to have an LBJ moment [and] pull back."

In January, JPMorgan Asset Management strategist Michael Cembalest predicted Biden would withdraw...

"Sometime between Super Tuesday and the November elec-





## Will Biden Step Down for a Replacement Candidate?

tion, citing health reasons."

According to Cembalest, Biden will then be replaced by a "candidate named by the Democratic National Committee."

The Operation Stalking Horse plot is picking up steam.

The Democrat Swamp already has their Biden replacement I've heard Michelle Obama's name thrown about...

And, believe it or not...

Even the criminal Hunter Biden...

But neither of them are likely...

Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer...

Or Governor JB Pritzker of Illinois...

Are possible suspects in my mind.

But I think the Democrat Swamp already has its candidate...

After all, he's been hiding in plain sight...

Running a shadow presidential campaign for the past 12 months...

I'm talking about California governor Gavin Newsom.

Newsom is slick and he looks the part.

But this guy is an idiot.

I think he's even dumber than Biden...

And he's more dangerous than Biden.

Because he's easily manipulated...

But the Left loves him.

And he's been running a shadow campaign for months.

At the end of last year...

Newsom debated Ron DeSantis...

Five million people watched it on TV.

Next thing you know...

Newsom is meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping...

He's traveling to China...

He's traveling to Israel...

Does this sound like someone who isn't running for President?

If you ask me (Rickards)...

Biden's been setting the stage for dropping out since late last year...

When his abysmal polling numbers showed Trump will destroy him...

On November 16, Biden even tipped his hand...

Praising Newsom and saying he could have the presidency...

Then, on December 5...

Less than one week after Newsom's "coming out party" debate with DeSantis...

Biden announced he didn't necessarily want to be president

again...

Saying he wouldn't even be running if it weren't for Trump...

The next day Biden took it up a notch...

Saying there were other Democrats out there who could beat Trump...

But why is Biden so willing to step down?

Well, besides avoiding the embarrassment of a bad defeat to Trump...

There's one final little piece of the plot...

You see...

I believe the Biden crime family have engaged in numerous criminal acts...

And Biden himself will be in grave danger of prosecution after he leaves office.

I think part of his deal with the Democrat Swamp...

Is to escape justice for his crimes.

So here's what I'm predicting...

After Biden withdraws from the race, he'll continue to serve through the election...

Then, after the election...

But before his term is up...

He'll resign from the presidency.

And Kamala will step in.

I think she'll agree to this plot so she can go down in history as the first ever female president...

Even if it's only for a month or so.

Then, as soon as she's president...

Kamala will pardon Calamity Joe for his crimes...

And probably Hunter too.

The Biden crime family will get away scot-free with their crimes

The Dems have no shame.

This is the kind of stuff you expect to see in third world banana republics...

Criminal leaders making backroom deals for pardons...

A candidate who skipped over the democratic nomination process...

And who's as unqualified and dangerous as anyone who's ever held the position.

Want to see what I believe...

A Newsom administration would mean for our country?

I'm talking about the "Californication" of America.

It took Newsom just a couple years to destroy a great state like California...





## Will Biden Step Down for a Replacement Candidate?

And if he does the same thing to America, we can expect...  
 Lawless homeless encampments turning cities into “no go” zones...  
 Streets littered with garbage and human feces...  
 Stores permanently shuttered by shoplifting gangs...  
 Mandatory electric vehicles...  
 Trillions of dollars wasted on useless windmills and solar module farms...  
 Gas stoves banned...  
 More mandatory masks...  
 More mandatory vaccines...  
 “Diversity” initiatives meaning more incompetent academics, pilots, engineers, doctors, equipment operators, air traffic controllers, etc.  
 Illegal aliens handed work permits, photo IDs, free healthcare...  
 Fast-tracked naturalization, and voting rights...  
 The Supreme Court packed with more dopes like Ketanji Brown Jackson...  
 Puerto Rico and DC made into states – to get 4 more Dem senators...  
 Repealing the Electoral College...  
 This list goes on and on.  
 And it only gets worse...  
 If Newsom is president...  
 There will be nothing left of Constitutional rule of law, real democracy...  
 Or our republican form of government.  
 Our enemies will have a field day  
 Taking advantage of Newsom’s weakness...  
 Consolidating their power against our nation...  
 While we retreat further and further from our former glory...  
 Bye, bye, Miss American Pie.  
 Domestically, I believe our market economy will be done.  
 Socialism with a fascist face will be our new economic reality.  
 And our economy will crater like we haven’t seen in a century...  
 Your retirement accounts will be drained...  
 And everything you’ve worked so hard for will be lost.  
 You see, Democrats don’t care about a strong American economy...  
 In fact...  
 They might even prefer it if our economy tanked...  
 Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt famously used the

Great Depression...  
 To force through his socialist dream: The New Deal.  
 Could the Democrat Swamp be planning the same strategy?  
 When their shameful scheme goes through...  
 Making a mockery of the electoral process...  
 Anointing a hand-selected candidate...  
 It will plunge our nation into chaos  
 Expect loyal Americans to fight back against the Dem’s treachery...  
 Bringing the worst turmoil to hit our country in decades.  
 I predict the violence will come in two waves:  
 The first wave will be at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, August 19-22.  
 This will be a much uglier replay of the 1968 Democratic Convention...  
 When protestors took to the streets and were beaten down by Chicago Police.  
 That's the blueprint, but this summer will be far worse.  
 Then the second wave will follow after the election...  
 Coronating President Newsom will generate nationwide fury and outrage that will make the January 6 protests look like a pep rally...  
 But what if Trump manages to win?  
 I’m afraid I still have bad news...  
 Antifa will set out to burn down the country.  
 The George Floyd riots of 2020 were just spring training compared to what's coming if Trump wins.  
 Most good Americans will watch it play out from home...  
 Their firearms at the ready.  
 But no one will escape the aftermath.  
 Because the turmoil will have major, far-reaching impacts on our economy...  
 I’m talking about a meltdown.  
 For those who don’t know exactly what to do...  
 Their investments and life savings could be in danger.  
 But that won’t happen to you.  
 Because you were smart enough to watch this presentation...  
 And your eyes are wide open about the danger of the Dems’ plot...  
 They’re fueling the fire right now. Please be prepared.

**The remaining portion of Rickards article presents his program on how investors should invest their assets to protect against as well as profit from the coming financial crisis he forecasts. Should you be interested in Rickards investment programs, you may search Jim Rickards on the web. While I**



## About The Korean War

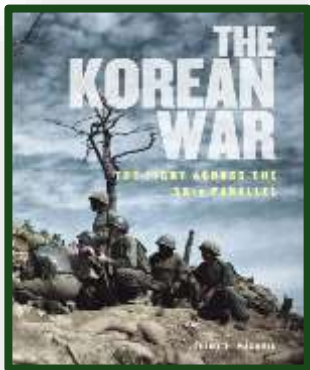
**agree with Rickards predictions of the coming financial (and social) crisis, I leave the reader to make his/her own decisions on the manner of investing their assets to weather this financial crisis as I don't want or intend to economically benefit from any advice given by authors cited in this newsletter. My main mission is to make readers aware of the coming financial crisis and to prepare for it in their own way. Depending on your risk profile, there are both conservative and ambitious investment programs to deal with the coming financial crisis and they can be sourced by paying the subscription fee for the respective service selected by the reader.**

**But whatever you do please prepare in the way you feel is comfortable for you.**

We will see if Mr. Rickards prediction concerning Joe Biden withdrawing from the election comes true or not (in June or whenever).

D. Miyoshi

## About The Korean War



**S**eventy-Four years ago on June 25, 1950, the Korean War began.

As we all know, this war was the conflict between North Korea (aided by China), and South Korea, (aided by the UN with the U.S.) as principal participants. At least 2.5 million people lost their lives in the fighting, which ended in July 1953 with Korea still divided into two hostile states separated by the 38th parallel.

As a Vietnam War veteran my direct mentors were veterans of the Korean War. They taught me a lot about life as a war veteran.

And here are some little-known facts about the Korean War that I found interesting. They are taken from *History Facts* and I present them for your reading pleasure.

D. Miyoshi

## Little Known Facts About the Korean War



May 2024



In the United States, the Korean War (1950-1953) is sometimes referred to as the “Forgotten War.” It started shortly after World War II and ended just before the Vietnam War, yet received a small amount of press coverage in the U.S. compared to either of those conflicts, and continues to receive relatively little attention to this day. Yet the Korean War was one of the most significant wars of the 20th century. It permanently altered the geopolitical landscape of Asia, set the stage for future Cold War conflicts such as the Vietnam War, and heightened tensions between the United States and Soviet Union that lasted for decades. As the first “hot” conflict of the Cold War, it pitted South Korea, backed by the U.S. and a coalition of capitalist nations, against communist North Korea, backed by China and the Soviet Union. For a more complete picture of this pivotal moment in world history, here are six facts about the Korean War.

## About The Korean War



Photo credit: Interim Archives/ Archive Photos via Getty Images

### The Boundary Between North and South Korea Was Created From a National Geographic Map

While many borders are drawn with great deliberation and diplomatic care, this cannot be said about the boundary between North and South Korea. The division of the Korean Peninsula occurred in 1945 in the final months of World War II, when the United States and Soviet Union agreed to divide Korea in half, with the U.S. controlling the south and the Soviet Union controlling the north. The decision on where to place the dividing line fell to two young U.S. Army officers, who were told that time was of the essence. In a rush, they used a map of Korea they found a National Geographic map, and chose the 38th parallel as the mid-way boundary. The rushed decision was made in roughly 30 minutes, with no consideration given to the real-life geography of Korea or the lives of the people who lived there. As a result, the dividing line cut roads and railway lines in half, and arbitrarily sorted the Korean people onto two different sides of the escalating Cold War. The haphazard division of the Korean Peninsula was a prelude to the conflict that soon followed, when North Korean soldiers crossed the 38th parallel in 1950, marking the start of the Korean War.



Photo credit: Bettmann via Getty Images

### President Truman Mobilized Troops Without Congressional Approval

When the North Korean military invaded South Korea in 1950, U.S. President Harry S. Truman felt he needed to deploy American troops to curtail the spread of communism in the region, hoping to quell criticism at home that he was “soft on communism.” While the U.S. Constitution states that the President must receive approval from Congress before declaring war, Truman circumvented this obstacle by classifying the U.S. military presence in Korea as a “police action” to keep the peace in the region, instead of officially referring to it as a war. This made the Korean War the first time a U.S. President had unilaterally instigated military hostilities without congressional approval.



Photo credit: FPG/ Archive Photos via Getty Images

### Baseball Legend Ted Williams Flew Fighter Jets With Astronaut John Glenn

The Korean War saw the unlikely collaboration of two icons of American history: Ted Williams, one of the greatest hitters in baseball history, and John Glenn, the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. In 1952, while Williams was still in the middle of his baseball career and before Glenn’s historic space flight, the two men were paired together in the same fighter jet in Korea. Williams was Glenn’s wingman for roughly half of the 39 missions Williams flew. Both men praised each other’s piloting skills, and Glenn, not yet the famous astronaut he would become, even admitted to being a little starstruck to be serving with a living major league legend — though he also said that Williams always remained humble about his baseball stardom.

## About The Korean War



Photo credit: Underwood Archives/ Archive Photos via Getty Images

### The War Saw the First Dogfight Between Two Fighter Jets

The Korean War saw the advent of one of the icons of modern warfare: the fighter jet. Jet-powered fighter planes had started to appear in small numbers at the end of World War II, but it wasn't until the Korean War that they became widely used. The world's first jet-powered "dogfight," in which skilled pilots try to outmaneuver each other in a close-range aerial battle, took place during the conflict. Soviet fighter jets became such a common sight during the Korean War that an entire region of North Korea earned the name "MiG Alley," after the huge number of dogfights between Soviet MiG-15 and American F-86 Sabre fighter jets. This powerful new technology made the Korean War quite unlike any that had come before it.



Photo credit: Bettmann via Getty Images

### The United Nations Assembled a Military Force to Fight in the War

Although the United States led the war effort in South Korea, it

was supported by a multinational military force of 22 countries from the United Nations. This coalition, known as the United Nations Command, was established in 1950 in order to aid South Korea in its war against North Korea. The force participated in all parts of the war, from ground combat and air strikes to logistical planning and the eventual armistice negotiations. The United Nations Command still exists, and maintains a presence in the Korean Demilitarized Zone to help maintain the armistice between North and South Korea.



Photo credit: Keystone/ Hulton Archive via Getty Images

### The War Technically Hasn't Ended Yet

Armistice negotiations to end the Korean War began in 1951 and lasted for two years, the longest such negotiations in history. While the Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953 ended active military conflict on the Korean Peninsula, it was not an official peace treaty. The agreement was adopted by the United Nations Command, the North Korean army, and the Chinese army, but South Korea leaders refused to sign. To this day, no official peace treaty has been signed between North and South Korea, and the two nations still technically remain at war. A tense cease-fire is maintained by the Demilitarized Zone that runs across the Korean Peninsula and divides the two nations, but both sides maintain a heavy military presence there, and the area still sees occasional outbreaks of violence. Despite continued negotiations, North and South Korea have been unable to reach an official peace agreement 70 years after the Armistice Agreement.

### End of Article

## AI - Artificial Intelligence or Alternate Integrity



**T**he ultimate question is does AI help us find the truth or alter it. It appears it's both.

I subscribe to a newsletter (Rodney's Take) by Rodney Johnson, a noted technology columnist. In a recent edition Johnson reported that someone had recorded a few minutes of his son's voice and used it to simulate his son further on audio. The fraudster then called Johnson on the phone and, using the audio to pose as his son, said he'd been in accident and needed cash. The deception would have worked, had Johnson not called his son's wife to verify his son's whereabouts before sending the money. It was a really good fake.

Johnson reports that now, the people who make such things, for good or ill, are getting better. They can steal someone's identity not only on audio but also on video, and they will do this... for a fee.

Johnson tells of a Jonathan Yang who paid \$1,350 to have an AI company replicate his deceased uncle on video calls. Yang's family gave the AI company some pictures and video of Yang's uncle to use for training the computer. Now, Yang's grandmother gets video calls three times a year on Chinese holidays in which the simulated "uncle" lets her know he won't make it home. Yang's grandmother is 93. The family thinks news of her son's death would devastate her.

It's easy to see how such technology could be the next big thing in fraud, just as audio fraud was for Johnson. The problem lies in recreating natural movements and conversations. To do that, you need a lot of material with which to work. Yang paid \$1,350 to get a quick video call three times a year. Getting a longer call would require a massive dump of raw material and computer resources to get it right... at least it would today.

But what about tomorrow? Computers steadily get cheaper, and it seems someone has a phone out at every family gathering, taking pictures and video. As computers learn more, all someone would need to mimic a person successfully is enough video and audio, and employers and stores are generating just that. Johnson's youngest daughter graduated college in 2021, during the "COVID year." She took her last 10 classes online. During exams, she and her classmates were required to have their cameras on. The college used a software package to track eye movements and facial features to try to ferret out cheating. The software now is commonly used for online courses. We have to wonder if (or, rather, where) a person or group with bad intentions has breached such databases, to match hours of facial expressions with names and audio files.

We have read so much about what bad things are possible with AI. Where are the good people to protect us from the ravages of this new technology? Unless they can spend a lot of money—and can find lots of video footage of the target (be careful you politicians and social influencers)—bad guys can't create seamless video fakes..... yet. So far, fraudulent videos are easy to spot, much like AI-written articles. But costs fall and expertise improves. While some companies are working to spot fakes, who is going to help individuals? The problem is by the time we have such defenses, fraud will be even more rampant.

The government of India, a nation of 1.4 billion people, created a biometric database of almost everyone in the country to fight corruption in aid distribution. In the Western world, we use our faces to open or close our phones. The problem is not in protecting our devices or accounts, it's when bad guys use personal data to pretend that they are people we trust.

Some people have a security word each family member knows that they use to detect fraud. It's a low-tech solution to a high-tech problem. But if we become overburdened with security questions, like, "What was the first name of your grandmother on your maternal side?" if will be quite frustrating to say the least.

Johnson believes the answer may be using biometrics to verify whether callers (on audio or video) are who they say they are, but who would maintain the database? Do you want that group, (whomever they are), to have your data?

But then again, after talking to Alexa and Siri all these years, who knows how much others know about us.

D. Miyoshi



## Colleges are in Trouble



If mom and dad told you to go college and then you'd be set for life...you're not alone. With traditional models pushing everyone towards white-collar jobs and university degrees, we've created a massive oversupply of finance hotshots and marketers but left those blue-collar industries begging for workers.

As the US faces a demographic shift and shrinking population, the educational system is struggling to adapt to the changing demands. With a need for more blue-collar workers, higher education in the US is dropping the ball.

Employers are already seeing these worker shortages play out and are struggling to find a solution. As more and more graduates enter the workforce and struggle to land that 'dream job', those lucrative and accessible blue-collar fields might start poking holes in the higher education system in America.

To explain this, here is the transcript of a very recent YouTube video by famed geopolitician and strategist Peter Zeihan entitled "Things I (Do) Worry About: Higher Education in the US"

I think you will find it very informative.

D. Miyoshi



Hi everybody, Peter Zeihan here, coming to you from a beach. I love a good beach. Today we're going to dip into one of the "ask Peter questions." I'm going to drop that into our open-ended series on things that I worry or don't worry about. This is definitely something I do worry about.

The question is in this demographic shift that we're experiencing as populations age and shrink, What do I think is the future of higher education in the United States? The short version is it doesn't look very good and things are going to have to change. So let me give you a little bit of backdrop and then we'll talk about the concerns.

When the baby boomers started entering the workforce in the late 60s, they discovered that their numbers were so many that they pushed down the cost of Labor. This is one of the reasons why the baby boomers have a reputation for being very mobile. Because they would move wherever there's a job, they could get better pay. This is also one of the reasons why women tend to enter the workforce in this period because they had to do so to make ends meet. But that only put more pressure on the labor market. Which is why the baby boomers have the record for the highest divorce rate in our country's history.

Anyway, the point is that from a financial point of view life was kind of rough. So, the belief back in the 60s, 70s and especially early 80s was that if you wanted to get ahead, you didn't want a blue collar job because that's where all the baby boomers were.



## Colleges are in Trouble

You wanted a white-collar job where you didn't have to be in a factory. You didn't have to be in construction or farming, where you could work in an office, you know a doctor, be a lawyer or whatnot.

And so the baby boomers ruthlessly pushed their children, the millennials to go to university and get a four year degree, get a white-collar job. And so now we have the opposite problem. We have an oversupply of white-collar workers and not enough blue collar workers. So that's the baseline.

Now we've got three things going on in the labor market and the educational system right now. With China approaching its end, we need to massively expand the size of the industrial plant in this country, even if you ignore all the national security concerns. That means we need to expand industrial construction spending and do a lot more manufacturing. And almost all of those jobs are blue collar, and we haven't been training up enough people to fill them.

So, we're already in a situation where you can get a six week welding or, excuse me, electrical degree and earn more money in your first month than a white collar worker can after four years of college in five years in the workforce. That's just where we are until such time as the educational system transforms to adjust to this new reality. And it's only gonna get more intense as we go.

And so, if you're looking at a four-year university that's doing traditional things, especially in the liberal arts, we already have an oversupply of labor in that space. We are just desperate for blue collar workers. That's number one.

Your traditional liberal arts college, especially the smaller ones, are not gonna have nearly the level of demand that they used to. Two-year universities that focus on white collar jobs, same thing. Two-year universities that work on more technical skills, they're going to be in very high demand and in between you've got the

legacy universities. You know your Harvard, your University of Texas, who either have a very large endowment or a lot of notoriety, or both and will always be able to attract folks. So that's number one.

No 2 is numbers. The incoming generation is no longer the millennials. The older millennials turn 45 this year. They're way out of college age now. The new kids on the block are generation Z or the Zoomers and they are the smallest generation we've ever had. So, the number of potential students that university systems can attract is simply lower than it's been at any time in recent American history. And that means we probably have about 15% fewer students that can potentially enroll that we had before. So, the competition among universities is going to be fierce for them. And a lot of universities are simply not geared for the jobs of the next 15 years. That's number two.

No. 3 is candidate quality. The Zoomers are loners. They don't like to be around other people. The idea of the social experience of university is not something like ooh, I can't wait to do that. They want to code in a closet, and that's a different sort of job experience in a different sort of educational experience. Now it usually takes about five years for universities to meaningfully change their curriculum because, you know, students are going through a four year process right there. If you're talking about a state school, it can be as much as 10 years because you first have to get it through a review. And oftentimes, the state legislature likes to weigh in and certainly tenured faculty does. So, by the time we have re-tooled our educational system to deal with the influx of blue-collar job demand that we're now already seen, we are already going to be most of the way through this transition and it'll be time to switch again.

So, if you are an employer, you're basically gonna have to raise your own. Bring in kids who are younger than you normally would, train them up within the system in order to convince them that there's a job with a good paycheck and doing interesting things that they want to do. And the more successful companies



## How the Election will Affect the Markets

that I have seen have been engaging in that process. They aren't starting in college or even high school, but middle school to make sure that their community is part of their success story.

[End of transcript](#)

## How the Election will Affect the Markets



Although the Presidential primary season won't finish until this month of June, the presumptive nominees for the Democratic and Republican parties are set. Democratic President Joe Biden, after facing minimal opposition, will seek re-election in November as his party's standard bearer. Republican former President Donald Trump significantly outpaced several candidates in early primaries to quickly secure enough delegates to win his party's nomination. There are still big issues remaining with Trump's legal challenges, but it is likely they will end up being pushed off until after the election. If that is the case, the stage will be set for a rematch of 2020's race for the White House. The candidates are expected to be named official nominees following party conventions this summer. The Republican convention takes place in mid-July. The Democratic convention occurs in mid-August.

So this begs the question on the minds of most investors "How will the looming White House vote impact the markets?"

Some may wonder if they should tweak their portfolio or sit tight with the uncertainty ahead. It's a difficult question to answer.

The following is taken from an article on March 27, 2024, titled "Does a Presidential Election Affect the Markets?" that appeared in a publication by SFE Investment Counsel Inc.

I present the article here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

## Does a Presidential Election Affect the Markets

From 1928 to 2020, the Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 has posted positive results in 20 of the 24 election years. The chart below gives us a bit of a history lesson. But it should also serve as a reminder that past performance doesn't guarantee future results.

Stock performance outside of election years.

Although election years have typically been positive for stocks, interestingly, the best year in a four-year presidential cycle has usually been the third year, followed by year four, then year two, and finally, year one.

Economists have theories about the reasons for this. They say the first year of a term sees a recently elected president working to fulfill campaign promises, whereas the final two years are all about campaigning and trying to strengthen the economy before voters go to the polls.

Do the markets care who wins the presidency?

If the past is a prologue, it won't matter much to the stock market whether the next president has an (R) or a (D) after their name.

What generally matters more to the markets in the three months after a new president and Congress have taken office is the makeup of the government, how it is divided between the two major parties, and the extent of that division.

As the table below shows, Democratic control of the White House and either Republican or split control of Congress has corresponded with the most positive returns above the market's long-term average. Conversely, Republican control of the White House and Democratic or split control of Congress has resulted in returns below the market's long-term average.

As mentioned above, it's important to remember that past performance doesn't guarantee future results. The 2024 election may mirror historical averages, or it may deviate from the trends.

Economic and inflation trends matter more than elections.

How election results have affected the stock market over time is interesting. Still, data suggests that economic and inflation trends tend to have a more consistent relationship with market performance than who wins in November.

## How the Election will Affect the Markets

While it might be tempting to use events like an election to influence an investment strategy, this may not be the best approach. So, don't let short-term occurrences like elections distract you.

The best strategy is to have a well-thought-out approach to investing, a diversified portfolio, and a mix of asset classes that reflect your goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance. Keep in mind, however, that asset allocation and diversification are approaches to manage investment risk and not a guarantee against investment loss.

As always, we are here for you and are committed to developing a financial strategy to help you pursue your short- and long-term goals. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our team for any reason.

There are many factors that impact stock market returns, but one common concern of investors is how the stock market will be impacted by a change in America's President. In past election years, the S&P 500 Index has seen more positive performance than negative. Below we take a look at S&P 500 Index performance during presidential election years, which have historically provided positive gains for stocks.

S&P 500 Index Total Returns During Presidential Election Years (1928-2016)	
U.S. Presidential Election Results	Average Return
A Republican was Elected	15.3%
A Democrat was Elected	7.6%
All Election Years	11.28%

### Observations

There have been 23 elections since the S&P 500 Index began. In these election years:

- 19 of the 23 years (83%) provided positive performance
- When a Democrat was in office and a new Democrat was elected, the total return for the year averaged 11.0%
- When a Democrat was in office and a Republican was elected, the total return for the year averaged 12.9%

Historical U.S. Presidential Election Results		
Election Year	President Elected	S&P 500 Index Total Returns
2016	Trump	12.0%
2012	Obama	16.0%
2008	Obama	-37.0%
2004	Bush W.	10.9%
2000	Bush W.	-9.1%
1996	Clinton	23.1%
1992	Clinton	7.7%
1988	Bush H.W.	16.8%
1984	Reagan	6.3%
1980	Reagan	32.4%
1976	Carter	23.8%
1972	Nixon	19.0%
1968	Nixon	11.1%
1964	Johnson	16.5%
1960	Kennedy	0.5%
1956	Eisenhower	6.6%
1952	Eisenhower	18.4%
1948	Truman	5.5%
1944	Roosevelt	19.8%
1940	Roosevelt	-9.8%
1936	Roosevelt	33.9%
1932	Roosevelt	-8.2%
1928	Hoover	43.6%

End of Article

## Parenting, Mom is Overworked, Dad is Fine



**M**oms and dads still struggle to get on the same page when it comes to household work, according to findings published in January by Pew Research Center. Moms more than dads say that parenting is harder than they thought it would be. When asked about division of labor, moms say they do more than their partner — and they're right. Women carry more of the workload at home, a burden that only increased during the pandemic. But when dads were asked the same question, they said they shared the work equally. Why the disconnect?

One major factor is the invisible work, physical and mental, done by women, says Eve Rodsky, author of *"Fair Play: A Game-Changing Solution for When You Have Too Much to Do (and More Life to Live)."* It's an idea shaped by research but also personal experience. A 2002 graduate of Harvard Law School, Rodsky envisioned a professional life of endless ambition: smashing the glass ceiling, solving all the world's problems. Ten years later, she felt like the only things she was smashing were peas for her toddler. She might have just swallowed her frustration, but instead she worked to become an expert in the gendered division of labor. The Harvard Gazette asked her about inequity in the home and what couples can do to change it. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

I present it here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

## Dad's clueless, Mom's fried. Maybe there's a better way.

Law School grad who wrote 'Fair Play' explains to Gazette the perception gap highlighted by new Pew study

Q&A by Gazette and Eve Rodsky



**GAZETTE:** I'm curious if you were surprised by the Pew findings, especially in how men and women have such different views of how they share parenting responsibilities.

**RODSKY:** I definitely wasn't surprised at all. With studies around time use — and how we divide up childcare and housework in our country — the questions have been flawed. We know that men overreport what they do, and women underreport what they do. We're not asking the right questions, because if you ask who does the childcare or who does the groceries, of course couples will answer "both." But what you're not going to pick up is that the invisible work, the conception and planning behind each of these tasks, is done by women.

**GAZETTE:** Tell me more about invisible work.

**RODSKY:** This is all about the conception and planning of a task. For example, noticing that your second son, Johnny, only likes yellow mustard with his protein (conception) and then keeping track of when you're going to get that mustard when it

## Parenting, Mom is Overworked, Dad is Fine

runs low (planning). It's much harder than just executing a task that someone else tells you to do, like buying the mustard at the grocery store. Then there's something called "emotional labor": things like middle-of-the-night comfort for your child or managing your in-laws. "Invisible work" was coined in 1986 by a sociologist named Arlene Kaplan Daniels. I love that term because she argued that this is the work that has to stay invisible. If you valued an act like holding a child's hand in the doctor's office as much as you valued an hour in the boardroom, then a capitalist, patriarchal society would collapse.



Many couples told me they don't communicate about home life because it's too triggering. But the truth is that you are communicating, in some way, already."

Photo by Avia Rosen, courtesy of Hello Sunshine

GAZETTE: Many fathers report that they're sharing the load equally with their partner, whereas mothers accurately say they do more. Why are perceptions so different?

RODSKY: Because men and society focus on execution, whereas conception and planning are truly invisible. For example, my dearly loved husband, though he legitimately thought he was handling extracurricular sports by bringing our kids to the Little League field — he wasn't. What he didn't understand was that there were six hours of preparation just to get them there, like managing an 85-person carpool chain, coordinating three different practices, copying the kids' birth certificates, signing consent forms, making group snacks. It's very similar to a couple I spoke to in "Fair Play," who told me they both cook dinner. But then the woman said that her husband asks, "What do you want me to cook?" and she has to choose the recipe, have all the groceries in the refrigerator, and remind him when to start cooking. Essentially, she was still doing all the conception and planning. In my research, one of the No. 1 things women said was that they felt that they had a helper and not a partner. And a lot of men told me that the thing they hated about home life was that they couldn't get anything right, and they had to wait until their partner told them what to do. That's just a terrible dynamic.

GAZETTE: As couples are trying to navigate this imbalance, I imagine some of the conversations might trigger defensiveness

and frustration. Do you have any tips on how to navigate that?

RODSKY: We have to start treating our home as our most important organization, where we value accountability and trust. Because I've been working in organizational management, behavior design, law, and governance for 15 years, I have a secret formula: boundaries, systems, and communication. My advice is to tackle whatever of those things feels easiest for you. For example, the boundaries issue: Ask yourself, "Do I have as much time-choice over how I use my day as my partner?" Sit down and talk about how you both value each other's time, and work together to create a more efficient home. If systems are easier — that's where a lot of coaches and military spouses like to start because this is something they're used to — start thinking about ownership. What tasks can each partner own in totality, from conception to planning to execution? As opposed to decision fatigue, where no one knows who's cooking dinner tomorrow night or who's taking the dog out or who's in charge of dishes. Then the third piece is communication. Many couples told me they don't communicate about home life because it's too triggering. But the truth is that you are communicating, in some way, already. I spoke to a woman who said she doesn't communicate about domestic life. And then 20 minutes later, she told me that every time her partner forgets to put the laundry in the dryer, she dumps it on his pillow. That's absolutely communicating. What I'm asking for is a shift, not a start. These are really hard conversations to have. But when you start them intentionally, then you can move to a better communication model.

GAZETTE: Having worked in this space, what gives you hope that we might actually crack the problem at some point?

RODSKY: The fact that I'm seeing Google searches for "invisible work" and "mental load" in a way that I never saw in 2011. Or that I'm seeing coverage, like in the Wall Street Journal recently, that showed that professional men are cutting back on their work hours. It's the first time, I believe, where people are starting to understand that unpaid labor is labor. I feel like we're at a tipping point where people are realizing that these tasks at home have value.

End of Article

## The Epidemic of Online Gambling



**O**nline and other sports betting, unshackled by recent court decisions, has gotten out of control in the past few years. You may know someone under its spell. Will it ruin millions of lives—and deal a body blow to professional sports?

After Shohei Otani's interpreter was caught gambling with Otani's money, the issue of gambling's destructive influence has come to the forefront of the news. Here is an article from National Geographic that appeared on April 25, 2024, exploring the exploding world (and cost to society) of online gambling.

I think you will find it interesting and informative.

D. Miyoshi



Today's high-rollers no longer need to trek to a casino to play the odds—

they just need a smartphone. In the past six years, the gambling landscape has transformed to make it easier than ever to start and continue making bets online.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE ROSE /GETTY

Gambling trends have exploded periodically throughout history, but its latest peak may be now, in the period following the 2018 Supreme Court decision to overturn the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA). The federal law barred most states from authorizing gambling on competitive sporting events.

Seemingly overnight, advertisements for sports betting companies became unavoidable. Viewers can now expect to see them not only in sports broadcasts, but also other programming, and any place ads are found online. By the five year anniversary of the decision, Americans had bet over \$220 billion on sports, and 2023 was also the third-straight year commercial betting revenue broke records. Today, 38 states, including D.C., allow sports betting in some shape or form.

With an explosion in sports betting, high profile cases have hit the headlines. Last week, the NBA banned Toronto Raptors player Jontay Porter for life after an internal investigation found he had bet on basketball games. Last month, the MLB's Los Angeles Dodgers abruptly fired the star player Shohei Ohtani's translator for gambling; U.S. officials have accused the translator of stealing more than \$16 million to fund an illegal sports gambling habit. Celebrated broadcaster Craig Carton returned to the air after jail time—and has started a show discussing the realities of problem gambling.

Once considered to be a symbol of immorality, gambling has become significantly less stigmatized over the last decades, says Jeff Derevensky, director of McGill University's International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-risk Behaviours. "They turned gambling from sin and vice into a socially acceptable recreational form of entertainment," he says. "As a result of that social acceptability, you don't have to hide."

Gambling is more accessible than ever. This makes it easier for individuals, including youth who have difficulty setting and maintaining limits, to fall into severe addiction. Since 2018, there have been more high-profile reports of teens falling into severe gambling addiction, and experts have reportedly noticed a number of adolescents migrating to gambling through the medium of video games, likely because they satisfy similar psychological needs.

Between 2018 and 2021, the risk of problem gambling grew by 30 percent, according to the National Council on Problem Gaming, a non-profit that aims to minimize the economic and social costs associated with gambling addiction.



## The Epidemic of Online Gambling

The industry is only poised to grow from here, not only in revenue, but also likely expanding legal gambling legislation to still-untouched areas of the country as well.

“When people ask me who's most addicted to gambling, I usually say it's the government,” says Derevensky. “They're addicted to the revenues that are being brought in by the gambling industry.”

### Gambling, anywhere and anytime

Casinos have long been the face of the gambling industry, but when it comes to sports betting, today's high-rollers aren't necessarily resigned to having to trek to the nearest gaming hub or rustle up a trustworthy bookie to play the odds—they just need a smartphone.

“It used to be that you had to actually transport yourself to a gambling venue,” says Lia Nower, a professor and director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University. “Now you have gambling 24/7 on your cell phone. You have a sports book or a casino in your pocket, and you can be sitting there eating dinner with your family, gambling away the house.”

Still, while some individuals may choose to never roll the proverbial dice, others may only need to be persuaded to give it a try. Simple online sportsbook services like BetMGM or DraftKings make it easy to sign up and start betting, going so far as to offer an array of payment options through various banking platforms like PayPal to ensure both easy payments and quick withdrawals.

But those unfamiliar with the lay of the land could find themselves losing more than expected. Features like microbetting, which involves playing the odds on specific or smaller aspects of a game, or same game parlays, bets on multiple events within a single game, are attractive incentives to both newcomers and seasoned gamblers, though each risky in their own ways. Same game parlays, for instance, tend to rely heavily on your powers of prediction, and if a single leg in the bet is wrong, the entire wager is lost.

“The overall majority of [the] sports betting handle is taking place online,” says Joe Maloney, the senior vice president of the American Gaming Association (AGA), a national trade group that represents the U.S. casino industry. “Obviously that's reflective of operators in the legal and regulated market meeting consumers where they are increasingly in today's society.”

The ubiquity of virtual betting doesn't mean in-person gambling has gone away—in fact, more than ever, opportunities can be found almost anywhere you spend free time—including bars, bowling alleys, and sports venues. Even restaurants have since

opened their doors to popular kiosk-style gambling machines, all hoping to get in on the action.

### Who is gambling—and when does it become a problem?

The majority of sports bettors tend to be young male adults, but according to the AGA, the market has been quickly diversifying since the repeal of PASPA.

In 2023, according to the association, 6 percent of sports bettors were between 21-24 years old, while 34 percent were between 35-44 years old. The same data suggests that 64 percent of sports bettors in the same year were male.

Gambling has long been considered a male-dominated hobby, and has historically fostered social connection. Today, modern gambling is about entertainment and bringing people together through competition, says Timothy Fong, a clinical professor of psychiatry and the co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program. The uptick in social betting may also pave the way for males to be more likely to develop severe gambling addictions.

“You don't gamble once and become addicted or hooked,” says Derevensky. “It's a progressive disorder. It takes time.”

Now categorized as a chronic mental health condition in the DSM-5, problem gambling can be hard to diagnose because of how easy it is to hide. It's estimated that it affects about 1 percent of Americans, but just like any addiction, long-term gambling can alter the way your brain works, and many problem gamblers have reported feeling stress, anxiety, and depression at the height of it.

“A lot of times people don't want to admit that they have a gambling problem,” says Fong.

Oftentimes, he says, patients have no idea they have an addiction and boil down their losing streaks to merely bad luck. Even if they acknowledge a problem, problem gamblers often contend with shame and avoid asking for help. A lack of research funding makes data on gambling addiction even more hazy.

As the industry continues to skyrocket, experts suggest gamblers be responsible with their decisions and regardless of the outcome, to try learning from the experience.

“Losing is part of the gambling experience, part of life, and figuring out how you respond to losses on things that matter to you are really, really critical,” Fong says.

[End of Article](#)







## Why Japanese are not good at English



Let's ask Shogo | Your Japanese friend in Kyoto

**A**s many of you may know, Japanese people are one of the worst English speakers in the world. Even though Japan is supposed to have a relatively high level of education, their level of English proficiency is quite low. Why is that?

The following is a transcript of a recent YouTube program called "Let's Ask Shogo". The commentator Shogo Yamaguchi, a Japanese person whose English by most standards is perfect, gives a very interesting and perceptive analysis of why the average Japanese person is not good in English. I present his commentary for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

As many of you probably know, Japanese people are one of the worst English speakers in the world. Even though Japan is supposed to have a relatively high level of education why is it so difficult for the people to learn English? So today, I will first explain how low the level of Japanese people's English is. Then I will talk about the reasons why Japanese are so bad at English. Finally, I will talk about the harmful effects caused by Japanese people's poor English skills.

As I will also explain the characteristics of Japanese people and cultural aspects in order to understand their difficulties person English proficiency, this video will be a great way to deepen your understanding of the Japanese. if you ever had any awkward moments with Japanese people regarding English this video may possibly clear it up.

First let's talk about how bad Japanese are at English. However, is not easy to talk about the language proficiency of a single country, so let's take a look at the result of two tests to try to grasp an image. The first example is the EF English Proficiency Index which is called the world's largest English language proficiency ranking. The report shows that Japan ranks 78<sup>th</sup> out of 112 countries whose native language is not English. This is classified as low, the second from the bottom of the five levels of proficiency. Among the 24 countries of Asia Japan ranked 13<sup>th</sup> which is the lower half. It appears that Japan used to be classified in the





## Why Japanese are not good at English

“standard” level from 2011 to 2015, but unfortunately our English level has been declining since 2016. Solely looking at the first exam, you might think Japan’s English skills are not that bad.

So, let’s take a look at the results from another test called TOEFL iBT, which is an English language proficiency test required for admission to universities and graduate schools mainly in the United States and the United Kingdom. The data here shows the Japan ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 29 countries in terms of average points per country in Asia. In the seven countries from Singapore ranking 1<sup>st</sup> to Bangladesh ranking 7<sup>th</sup> English is the official or semiofficial language. So, it is understandable that their English proficiency is higher than in Japan. However, it’s clear that Japan’s English skills are significantly lower than countries whose native language is not English such as in Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam, China, Thailand and Cambodia. Among the four English language skills, reading, listening, speaking and writing Japan speaking level is at the bottom of the list. Anyone who has visited Japan will probably agree with this data, considering the fact that most people in Japan hardly speak any English. In fact when tourism in Japan was booming before the covert pandemic, the biggest complaint from tourists was that they could not communicate with the locals.

Then, let’s get into today’s main topic. Why are the English skills of Japanese so low despite having compulsory education and English classes for at least six years? There are numerous possible factors, but I would like to discuss three that I believe are the most important.

1. Japanese and English are the most different language combinations
2. Insufficient English Education
3. Lack of environment where English is required

1. Japanese and English are the most difficult language combina-

tions. The US Department of State studied how much native English speakers must study each language from their own knowledge before they can reach professional working levels. Japanese is classified in the fourth category “very difficult language” which requires more than 2200 hours study. By the way, it is said that French and Spanish, which belonged to the first category can be obtained in about 600 to 750 hours. From this you can understand how different English and Japanese are. This naturally indicates that the difficulty for Japanese to learn English is equally high and this is the main reason for the low English ability of the Japanese.

A study conducted in Japan also concluded that a minimum of about 3000 hours of study would be required. The three basic elements of language are vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, but English and Japanese differ greatly all three of these elements. First of all English uses the alphabet whereas Japanese uses three characters: hiragana, katakana and kanji. Next, English is grammatically constructed in the SVO (subject, verb, object) order in principle, while Japanese is constructed in the SOV (subject, object, verb) order. For example, “Shogo used to live in Michigan when he was in elementary school” would be “Shogo when he was in elementary school, used to live in Michigan” in Japanese. Japanese people who are used to bringing verbs at the end of a sentence, get confused when trying to construct English sentences. Finally, Japanese has 5 vowel sounds and 16 consonants, whereas English has 24 vowel sounds and 24 consonants. In other words, there are many sounds in English that Japanese people cannot hear and pronounce.

I hope you now understand how difficult English is for Japanese people. However, there is one thing we must not ignore. It is the fact that English is just as difficult for Chinese and Koreans, yet the people of these two countries have much higher English proficiency than Japan. Which means Japanese people should never use this as an excuse for low English skills.

2. Insufficient English Education Despite the fact that English is a very challenging language for Japanese people, education in





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Japan teaches English only as a subject for examinations. You will never be able to use English as a tool of communication just from English classes taught in compulsory education in Japan.

The list of problems is endless, but I would like to highlight three that are especially concerning.

1 Mainly Practices Decoding

2 Little or No Pronunciation Practice

3 Study Time is Far Too Little

As explained earlier, English education in Japan is intended to be an examination subject. So, it only teaches in a way that makes it easy to produce questions on a paper. In other words, they make them memorize a lot of English vocabulary and only analyze the grammar of sentences. This would be like an archaeologist deciphering ancient literature, and there is no way that he or she will be able to speak the language. Also, nobody passes pronunciation which is crucial in communications to the point where almost it doesn't exist.

And then there is the problem of the absolute lack of learning time in the first place. There are some people who sometimes ask why can't Japanese people speak English despite them studying for more than six years. However, it is said that the average study time during the six years of junior high to high school is only 790 hours. The amount of textbooks used is only about 73 paperback pages for all six years combined. As explained earlier Japanese people need at least 2200 hours of study time to use English in the international community. Not only are they studying what is not really necessary for the time spent on it is only about one third of the required time.

3. Lack of an Environment Where English is Required. Even though it's obvious that Japanese people are so poor at English why don't they quickly change their educational policy and teach English that can be used properly? Japan still continues to have an outdated academic society, and anything that cannot be judged by grades does not qualify as education. But furthermore, most Japanese did not have a sense of urgency to study English des-

perately. Many people have the image that "Japan is a small island nation," but in fact its population is quite big compared to other countries. Even though its population has been declining in recent years Japan's population still ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 190 countries in 2021, which is bigger than any other European country. In other words, because the country was an island with most people of its own nationality, they could survive on their own economy using only their native language.

However, this is something of the past. Since around 2010, Japan's population has been declining significantly, and with it its economic power has continued to weaken. I have explained in my past video that Japan is the only country in the world that is experienced more than 30 years economic stagnation as a result of that population decline. The days of being able to live without speaking English are coming to an end. Younger people today will face the future where if they could not speak English, they could not get a job.

Finally, I would like to discuss the negative effects of Japanese people's low English skills. These three points are not something I have studied but are my unique opinions and the Japanese person who lives in Japan and usually shares information in English.

1 Narrows our thinking

2 Lowers our IT level.

3 Younger people's lives become poorer

I feel that because Japanese people hardly speak English, they lack the chance to understand the values outside of Japan. There are still many young people in Japan who believe that what their bosses and superiors tell them is everything of the world. Also, because there is little understanding of the problems that are occurring around the world Japanese people are often criticized for being environmentally destructive, racist, not LGBTQ friendly and not respectful of adults. However, Japanese people don't



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even know that such things are currently topics that are discussed in the world in the first place.

Second, Japan is incredibly behind IT due to lack of English skills. This is because everything such as coding is done in English and the newest information about technology is also in English. There are still stores in the city that only accept cash and even during the pandemic some company executives were sending employees to work on packed trains because they did not know how to have them work from home.

During Japan's period of rapid economic growth (and era of mass production and mass consumption) from the 1950s through 1970s, Japan had great success in the automobile and other industries and grew to become one of the world's top economic powers. However, due to lack of English language skills they completely missed the next wave IT and now have only few world-class companies or brands in both hardware and software. As the economy continues to decline, still not been able to expand the IT industry is critical.

Finally, young people are made socially vulnerable because of their low English skills. Japan currently has the lowest birthrate and the most aged society in the world. Therefore, most of those who are eligible to vote are elderly. Politicians will always prioritize the elderly. That's a reason why about one out of every 6 to 7 children are living in poverty. But they continue to spend more money on medical and social welfare expenses for the elderly and not on child raising and education.

However, no matter how much they suffer, young people do not have the option of moving abroad to live a more affluent life because of their lack of English skills. If Japanese youth could go overseas politicians would have no choice but to listen to them a little more.

However, the government has done little to change English edu-

cation and will probably continue to not do so much. Therefore, parents who understand this current situation have no choice but to make their own effort to buy their children with necessary education. Because I have two daughters myself, this is something that I'm thinking of very seriously too.

And lastly, today's Conclusion

According to the EF English Proficiency Index Japan's English level is classified as "low," and among the 24 Asian countries Japan ranks 13<sup>th</sup> which is below half. Also, the TOEFL iBT shows that Japan ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 29 countries in terms of average points per country in Asia and that the nation has especially low ability in speaking.

There are mainly three reasons why Japanese are so terrible at English.

- 1 Japanese and English are the most different language combinations.
- 2 Insufficient English education.
- 3 Lack of environment where English is required.

English is very difficult for Japanese people to learn, and it requires a lot of time but the education doesn't provide either the right education nor the necessary amount of study time.

From my opinion, these are three negative effects due to Japan's lack of English ability. 1. Narrows our thinking 2. Lowers our IT level 3. Young people's lives become poorer.

That's it for today. Thank you for reading.

End of Shogo Commentary

## Classical Films about Vietnam



The month of May was a very active month for military veterans. I am Vietnam veteran, and I had my share of things to do this past month. These activities brought to mind the many war movies I have seen over the years including those on Vietnam. This inspired me to write this article about classic Vietnam War movies.

We all know war movies have existed for as long as cinema itself. And while World War II has likely inspired more films than any other conflict, the latter half of the Vietnam War took place during an especially fruitful period in the movie industry: the director-driven New Hollywood era, a time when young, ambitious filmmakers were given unprecedented control over their work. As this era was largely youth-driven, it follows that some of its most important movies were about this watershed event in American history (the Vietnam War), that younger audiences had on their mind whether at the movies or elsewhere — especially those who had to register for the draft.

Having experienced the draft and the war myself, I remain somewhat uncomfortable viewing a movie about the Vietnam War. But in spite of this, I think a good Vietnam war movie should be both compelling and authentic. The setting should be believable and should follow history as closely as possible. And the message should be clear (i.e. war is hell or politicians corrupt or an amalgam of both).

The filmmakers who responded to the growing sense of disenchantment in that era such as Michael Cimino, Francis Ford Coppola, and Stanley Kubrick, all contributed to the catalogue of great movies about the Vietnam War. Here are five of the very best films from recent a *History Facts* article.

D. Miyoshi



Credit: Archive Photos/ Moviepix via Getty Images

### The Deer Hunter (1978)

The first thing to know about *The Deer Hunter* is its cast, led by Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep, Christopher Walken, and John Cazale — who only appeared in five films throughout his too-short career, all five of which were nominated for Best Picture. The second is how heartbreaking it is. As personal as it is political, *The Deer Hunter* begins in a small Pennsylvania town before shifting the action to Vietnam, where three close friends from that tight-knit community meet tragically different fates. Not all the tragedy takes place onscreen: Cazale's scenes were shot first, as he was dying of cancer when production began; the studio wanted to replace the actor, but both Cimino and Steep (who was in a relationship with Cazale) threatened to leave if they did. He didn't live to see the completed film. He likely would have been proud if he had, as *The Deer Hunter* is a powerful reminder that war doesn't always end on the battlefield. It won five of the nine Academy Awards it was nominated for — including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Supporting Actor for Walken — and was added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress in 1996.

## Classical Films about Vietnam



Credit: Silver Screen Collection/ Moviepix via Getty Images



Credit: Sunset Boulevard/ Corbis Historical via Getty Images

### Apocalypse Now (1979)

“My film is not about Vietnam,” Francis Ford Coppola famously said of his long-in-the-making *Apocalypse Now*. “It is Vietnam.” As quite possibly the most acclaimed filmmaker of the 1970s, having previously directed the first two *Godfather* movies as well as *The Conversation*, Coppola had a commitment to the project that led to astronomically high expectations. Production nearly spiraled out of control, and Coppola later remarked that “we were in the jungle, there were too many of us, we had access to too much money, too much equipment, and little by little we went insane.” A loose adaptation of Joseph Conrad’s novella *Heart of Darkness*, *Apocalypse Now* follows a disenchanted Army captain (Martin Sheen) who’s been given the unenviable task of assassinating a rogue colonel (Marlon Brando) whose fanatically loyal troops concur with his assessment that he’s become a kind of god. What follows is strange, harrowing, and unforgettable. Though initial reviews were divided, *Apocalypse Now* won the prestigious Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Its reputation has only grown with time, and the film is now regarded as one of the greatest war movies ever made.

### Good Morning, Vietnam (1987)

War comedies are few and far between for self-evident reasons — the subject matter doesn’t exactly lend itself to laughter — but there are some exceptions. *Good Morning, Vietnam* is among the most notable, not least because of Robin Williams’ performance as a DJ for the Armed Forces Radio Service. He raises the morale of troops just as he raises the ire of higher-ups, making him both a folk hero and a problem to be solved. Williams, playing the real-life Adrian Cronauer, improvised many of the radio broadcasts that serve as the film’s centerpiece, earning him a Golden Globe and his first Oscar nomination.



Credit: Sunset Boulevard/ Corbis Historical via Getty Images

### Full Metal Jacket (1987)

The poster says it all: a helmet with “born to kill” written next to a peace sign. Only Stanley Kubrick could make a movie like *Full Metal Jacket*, a Vietnam epic that begins with the most disturbing

## A Civil War in the U.S. How, Where, Who

portrayal of boot camp you'll ever see and ends with traumatized soldiers singing the "Mickey Mouse March." Kubrick, whose nonpareil filmography includes everything from 2001: A Space Odyssey and The Shining to Dr. Strangelove and A Clockwork Orange, read Gustav Hasford's 1979 novel *The Short-Timers* twice in 1982 before deciding to adapt it — a process that included just the sort of extensive research for which the meticulous filmmaker was known.

Divided into two sections — the first at basic training, the second in Vietnam — *Full Metal Jacket* introduced the world to R. Lee Ermey, a former drill sergeant whose haunting performance became the measuring stick for all such characters past and present.



Credit: BFA/ Alamy Stock Photo

## Da 5 Bloods (2020)

Movies about the Vietnam War aren't as common today as they were in the 1970s and '80s, when the conflict was either still ongoing or fresh in the memory. But Spike Lee has never cared what was en vogue, and *Da 5 Bloods* — about a group of Black soldiers who return to Vietnam to exhume the treasure they buried there during the war — is a highlight of his uniquely impressive filmography. That's thanks in large part to standout performances from Delroy Lindo and Chadwick Boseman (in one of the Black Panther star's final roles before his untimely passing), who bring the director's vision to vibrant life.

[End of Article](#)

## A Civil War in the U.S. How, Where, Who



The dystopian movie *Civil War* recently released in movie theaters is about a modern-day civil war that breaks out between the US government and the regional factions depicted in the diagram below.



Considering this is a war movie, having sides clearly drawn by regions is conceptually more dramatic.

### A Civil War in the U.S. How, Where, Who

But what if a real civil war were to erupt in America today. Where would the battle lines be realistically drawn?

Likely, it would not look anything like the North and South clashing on the fields of Manassas. Those days are long gone and the differences that divided the sides.

However, based on current available demographic data, here is an informed account by Chris Thomas of the University of Virginia on what a second civil war in America would really look like.

I think you will find it informative.

D. Miyoshi



**Chris Thomas**

Journalist, Computer Scientist, Historian, and Giant Nerd

1,164 followers · 56 following

If a civil war started in the US, where is the most likely place the shooting would start?

If the United States has “another civil war” it won’t look like North and South clashing on the fields of Manassas. Those days are long gone and the differences that divide us as a nation are not broken out along clean geographic lines like they were in the 1860s.



Here’s a map of the United States in 1858. The difference between the “states where it was legal to own people” and “states that seceded from the Union” is pretty minimal. No, not everyone who lived in Virginia (for example) agreed with the Southern cause: that’s where we get that “brother against brother” cliché. But support for secession was very, very high in the slave states.

You might think that we could draw similar lines today:



But this map obscures a lot of complexity because it hides the deep divisions within the states. If we break it out at the county rather than state level that becomes both clearer and more confusing:





### A Civil War in the U.S. How, Where, Who



Here we're showing the 2020 Presidential winner at the county level. Looking at this map you'd be forgiven for wondering how President Biden ever thought he had a shot.

But if we graph by margin of victory it's less clear cut:



Still, it does seem like you could draw some lines between Red-Land and Blue-Land there. But everything is all muddy and mixed up.

The problem is that any map that shades LAND as if it VOTES is trading in a falsehood. What we really need to understand the physical geography of the

United States in a map with one dot per vote: a map that faithfully represents population density and how those populations vote.



The above map does just that, but it's not the best resolution. If you want the ultra-high-resolution version, [click here](#).

The first thing that's clear from this map is that, in any future American civil war, there are no borders to defend or frontiers to guard. Americans are all mixed together. What we have is an urban/rural divide, not a North/South or East/West divide. But this means that most Americans live near or around other Americans who disagree with them. While we tend to think of cities as the huge urban hives, even famously-liberal Chicago has a fair number of red dots



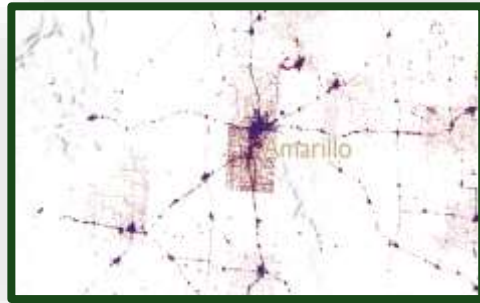
Likewise, even Amarillo, Texas has a cluster of blue-votes in its downtown area



**A Civil War in the U.S. How, Where, Who**



Advancing in a Time of Crisis



But what that means for the United States is that a civil war would probably look a lot more like a series of riots and lynchings than anything else. There would be no glorious last stand by the Target in Dothan, Alabama. Instead, there would be explosions of violence in which simmering hatreds boil over and communities descend into butchery and barbarism. Alternatively, a slow burn is also possible in which like-minded radicals carry out bombings, arson, and other terror attacks to “politically cleanse” their region of “undesirables.”

So where would the shooting start? Everywhere. There are no battle lines here. An American Civil War would be the worst kind of fighting imaginable. House to house, street by street, neighbors killing neighbors in the name of whatever vicious, violent, and xenophobic ideology they subscribe to.

Some imagine that it would be an action movie. Far from it; it would be a horror show.

End of Article



Financial Crisis Report



David M. Miyoshi is a California attorney at law with a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating for Attorneys. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern California, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, an MBA degree from Harvard University and an International Graduate degree from Waseda University in Tokyo.

He is Managing Attorney of Miyoshi Law, an International Law Firm where he approaches legal issues through a commercial lens and is a trusted legal and business advisor to his corporate and estate clients. In military service in Vietnam, he led a Combined Action Platoon as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and received the Naval Commendation Medal with “Combat V”.

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

**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](http://www.miyoshilaw.com)

**If you die without a will, state law determines who gets your assets.**

**That may not be whom you would like to receive your assets. Estate planning is especially important for unmarried couples and blended families, as state law will award assets to biological relatives if there is no will.**



**Miyoshi Law**

Phone/Fax: +1-310-378-0000

Mobile: +1-310-920-4872

E-mail: [david-miyoshi@us.mcmillanwoods.com](mailto:david-miyoshi@us.mcmillanwoods.com)

[www.mcmillanwoods.com](http://www.mcmillanwoods.com)

<http://about.me/dmiyoshi>

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