



The New **Financial Crisis Report II**

Written and Edited by **David Masao Miyoshi**



Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World

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“The primary aim of modern warfare is to use up the products of the machine without raising the general standard of living.”
George Orwell

Month at a Glance

A Daily Timeline of Major Events

By D. Miyoshi

variety of trusted sources.

Key Takeaways

Gas prices range from \$0.09 per gallon in Libya to \$15.65 in Hong Kong.

A \$10 fill-up can take you 3,885 miles or just 22 miles, depending on where you are.

Oil-rich nations keep prices low through subsidies, while taxes drive higher costs in wealthier economies.

Gas prices vary dramatically across the globe, with some drivers paying over 170x more per gallon than others.

This map shows gasoline prices in 170 countries as of April 2026, based on data from GlobalPetrolPrices. The global average sits at \$5.58 per gallon, in the middle of a massive range from \$0.09 in Libya to \$15.65 in Hong Kong.

In oil-rich countries like Libya and Iran, fuel is heavily subsidized, making it cheaper than bottled water in some cases. Meanwhile, dense, import-dependent regions like Hong Kong face the highest prices in the world.

The Cheapest Gasoline Is in Oil-Rich Nations

Libya tops the list at just \$0.09 per gallon, followed by Iran and Venezuela, all below \$0.15.



Mapped: Gas Prices Worldwide, From \$0.09 to \$15.65

See visuals like this from many other data creators on our Voronoi app. Download it for free on iOS or Android and discover data-driven charts from a

We are in the most economically unstable and socially tumultuous period in the history of the modern world. The period covered by the previous Financial Crisis Report was marked by extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodities, and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions, including historic pandemics, conflicts, riots, and even regime-changing coups. This new Financial Crisis Report II covers the period that begins with the advent of the 47th president of the United States, who augured in the hope of a new America that promises justice for all through strength and the elimination of corruption. This is symbolized by the crest with the scales of justice balanced on a sword that replaces the photo of the writer. The writer believes this is an unprecedented opportunity for the financially astute investor, given the extreme global trade imbalances and distortions in the stock, commodity, and currency markets that will occur as America strengthens economically and militarily. The Financial Crisis Report II is a free compilation of the opinions of David M. Miyoshi, and of those advisors, he subscribes to (with appropriate credits given) on how to benefit during this historic crisis. The writer receives no compensation from advisors whose articles or ideas may appear in this Report II which is issued primarily for CRITICISM, COMMENTARY AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. The reader is welcome to check on all sources of information mentioned herein. Because this writer's and other advisors' opinions and observations are provided herein without charge, the reader is asked to make his/her judgment on the contents. The writer believes the articles presented are honest and sincere empirical observations of what he believes to be the truth. The writer is not perfect, but his north star is the belief that there is truth.

Month at a Glance

In these countries, governments often subsidize fuel to maintain political stability and support domestic consumption. In Libya, gasoline is even cheaper than bottled water.

Rank

Country

Price (USD/gal)

1	LY Libya	\$0.09
2	IR Iran	\$0.11
3	VE Venezuela	\$0.13
4	AO Angola	\$1.24
5	KW Kuwait	\$1.28
6	DZ Algeria	\$1.34
7	TM Turkmenistan	\$1.62
8	EG Egypt	\$1.66
9	KZ Kazakhstan	\$1.99
10	QA Qatar	\$2.13
11	SA Saudi Arabia	\$2.35
12	OM Oman	\$2.35
13	IQ Iraq	\$2.46
14	BH Bahrain	\$2.54
15	AZ Azerbaijan \$	2.56
--		
	World Average	5.58

In the United States, gasoline prices sit close to the global average at about \$4.45 per gallon in 2026. This relatively moderate pricing reflects a balance between domestic oil production and comparatively low fuel taxes versus Europe. While the U.S. is one of the world's largest oil producers, prices still fluctuate with global crude markets and refining capacity.

High Taxes Drive Prices in Wealthy Economies

In contrast, the most expensive gasoline is found in high-income, import-dependent regions. Hong Kong leads globally at \$15.65 per gallon, followed by European countries like the Netherlands and Denmark, as well as countries such as Malawi and Israel.

How Far Can \$10 Take You?

One of the clearest ways to understand global price gaps is purchasing power at the pump—how far the same amount of money takes you.

In Libya, \$10 can buy enough gasoline to travel roughly 3,885 miles. In Hong Kong, that same amount covers just 22 miles.

April 2026 Month-at-a-Glance

April 1 — NASA launched the first crewed lunar fly-by mission of the modern era under Artemis II, marking the strongest symbolic scientific event of the month and reintroducing human deep-space flight to public attention.

Month at a Glance



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April 2 — Financial markets opened under renewed caution as energy traders priced continued Middle East instability into crude futures.

April 3 — Russian drone attacks intensified against southern Ukrainian infrastructure, particularly around Odesa, keeping Black Sea security concerns elevated.

April 4 — International Atomic Energy Agency warned that renewed military activity near Iranian nuclear-linked sites increased the danger of regional escalation.

April 5 — War-risk insurance premiums rose sharply for Gulf maritime carriers.

April 6 — Artificial intelligence-linked semiconductor firms again led global equity gains.

April 7 — European defense ministers accelerated procurement talks as concerns grew over long-term ammunition and drone production.

April 8 — Iranian retaliatory activity continued against regional logistics-linked targets, reinforcing fears that the conflict could widen.



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April 9 — Gold rose as investors moved toward safe-haven assets.

April 10 — Freight carriers adjusted Gulf shipping routes amid heightened naval monitoring.

April 11 — Chinese industrial data showed softer export momentum despite strong AI-related investment.

April 12 — Quiet diplomatic efforts intensified between Washington and Gulf governments.



Month at a Glance

April 13 — U.S. Treasury yields softened as markets anticipated caution from the Federal Reserve.

April 14 — Military alert conditions increased across parts of the Eastern Mediterranean.

April 15 — Agricultural commodity prices firmed as energy transport costs filtered into supply chains.

April 16 — European analysts highlighted drone warfare as the defining battlefield innovation of 2026.

April 17 — Corporate earnings guidance increasingly reflected fuel-cost pressure.

April 18 — Weekend diplomacy failed to produce a breakthrough in Iran-related talks.

April 19 — Fresh Russian aerial strikes again targeted southern Ukrainian infrastructure.



April 20 — Technology stocks regained momentum as AI spending forecasts strengthened.

April 21 — NATO planners emphasized drone production capacity as a strategic industrial priority.

April 22 — Earth Day was marked globally, with the most striking image coming from Artemis astronauts photographing Earth from lunar trajectory.



Month at a Glance



April 23 — Regional governments pursued new economic-security understandings as geopolitical fragmentation widened.

April 24 — Markets turned cautious ahead of major earnings releases.

April 25 — Indirect ceasefire contacts involving Iran were delayed after diplomatic schedule changes.

April 26 — Brent crude approached new stress levels as traders watched Strait of Hormuz security.

April 27 — Oil surged again while investors awaited major U.S. earnings and central bank signals; Russian attacks on Odesa reinforced that both Europe and the Middle East remain simultaneous pressure points.



Conspiracies Theories

April 27 — Diplomatic and military attention remained fixed on the Middle East as Washington weighed an Iranian proposal tied to reopening the Strait of Hormuz, while energy markets stayed tense under the continuing disruption of Gulf shipping. At the same time, security concerns expanded beyond the region as allied governments openly discussed the economic consequences of a prolonged conflict.

April 28 — Oil prices climbed further as the Strait of Hormuz remained effectively constrained, intensifying concerns over fuel supply and inflation worldwide. In Washington, King Charles III addressed a joint session of Congress during his state visit, emphasizing democratic solidarity and trans-Atlantic cooperation at a moment of geopolitical strain.

April 29 — Financial markets focused on the Federal Reserve, which held interest rates steady while signaling caution amid energy-driven inflation pressures and uncertainty surrounding leadership transition at the central bank. In Europe, officials warned that the Iran conflict may continue to affect fuel prices, transport costs, and industrial output for months ahead.



This publication features articles written by authors who have been vetted for their expertise in the subject they cover. The author’s name appears under the title of their article. The authors claim that what they write about are facts the government does not want you to know. We should note that the term “conspiracy theory” was originally employed by the CIA to describe alternate explanations that diverged from official accounts of the government. Recently, RFK Jr. said the term is now used to discredit individuals or discourage critical thinking. Or, in other words, to prevent one from seeking the facts.

From time to time, I will provide selected articles from the Conspiracy Report that I believe are true. Some articles have been shortened for brevity. I hope you find them interesting, if not edifying.

D. Miyoshi



Dictionary Definition of a Conspiracy Theory: A theory that seeks to explain a disputed case or matter as a plot by a secret group or alliance, rather than an individual or isolated act. “

In my attempt to uncover and publish the truth, as I see it, I am often labeled a “conspiracy theorist.” So, I decided to subscribe to a publication that covers conspiracy theories called



judges commit crimes too, more often than one would suspect...



Conspiracies Theories

By Egon E. Mosum

They sit higher than anyone else in the courtroom.

They look down (at least physically), upon the parties and their attorneys. They lecture the jurors.

They state law, they impose sentences.

They are distributors of money and property in divorce cases; they award compensation in civil cases, and can order the cessation of certain behaviors, while mandating the performance of others.

They are powerful people in society, the members of our judiciary.

Whether it's the local judge in the traffic court, or the Supremes in Washington D.C., by their very position, they are entitled to respect, and the presumption of rectitude.

But it turns out that presumption is a rebuttable one.

Because judges commit crimes too, more often than one would suspect.

There is no need for all to rise when it comes to the black robes with black hearts and black hats that we will survey in this article, so remain seated.

When someone is in a position of power, they are also in a position to abuse it, to accept bribes, to grant inappropriate favors.

When those in such a position violate the law they interpret and are supposed to uphold, it is a testament to arrogance, hubris, and hypocrisy.

Exhibit A, to be put into evidence, is the 'kids for cash' scandal that took place in Pennsylvania in 2007.

Judges in Luzerne county Pennsylvania 'accepted nearly \$2.6 million in alleged kickbacks from two private for-profit juvenile facilities.' They would quickly plead and bleed juvenile defendants guilty and send them off to the private jails which of course, would profit from it.[1]

One could envision a judicial bench with an American Flag on one end, and a cash register on the other. It was the best injustice money could buy.

Now while presiding over a calendar of United States District Court cases can be a taxing responsibility, nobody sent a memo to Federal Judge Harry Claiborne.

Because in 1984 he was convicted of tax fraud and sentenced to two years' incarceration. While in prison, he still received his seventy-eight thousand dollar plus per annum salary.

Claiborne entered prison in March of 1986, and it wasn't until October of 1986 that he was finally impeached and his salary terminated.[2]

Some of the readers may be old enough to remember that when Nixon was President, he resigned before being impeached. However, Federal Judge Walter Nixon Jr. didn't get such a bailout.

Judge Nixon, like all judges had administered the oath to parties many times, making them swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

One would have thought that he understood the meaning of that mandate, but it turned out no.





Conspiracies Theories

He was convicted of perjury in 1986 and sentenced to five years imprisonment. He had lied when questioned by authorities about his intervention in a state case involving the drug prosecution of a son of his business partner.

Three years later, he was impeached.[3]

Now, judges are people, at least theoretically. They have the emotions of people, and like some people, some of them can have their good sense overruled by their emotions. Such as happened with former Chief Justice of the New York Court of Appeals, Sol Wachtler.

As an interesting side note, it was Wachtler who coined the phrase that *“a district attorney could get a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich.”*

It turns out, that a district attorney got to indict Justice Wachtler, when his Honor was arrested in 1992 for extortion, racketeering and blackmail, with respect to a former mistress and her daughter.

Wachtler copped a plea to harassment and threatening to kidnap the daughter in 1993 and received a fifteen-month sentence. Apparently, someone in the Federal Prison in which he served his time was not a fan, and stabbed Wachtler in the shoulder while he slept the sleep of the not-so-innocent.

After serving his sentence, Wachtler became an author, and an adjunct professor of law(!) at Touro, a Long Island New York law school.

He wasn't teaching ethics.

Ohio Judge Tracie Hunter was of course, a law school graduate, and a lawyer before ascending to the bench. One

would presume she knew her stuff when it came to evidence. Perhaps she knew too much, because she was indicted in 2014 on two counts of tampering with it, along with theft, unlawful interest in a public contract, and forgery.

To give her credit, she was also charged with misusing a credit card, issued by and for the court.

She exercised her right to a jury trial, and in this case, it proved that exercise can be very beneficial because she was only convicted of the unlawful interest charge.

She was sentenced to six months in jail, and a year of community service.

Not good enough for our (former) Judge Hunter, and she made a variety of motions to vacate the sentence.

When all of her maneuverings failed, she had to be physically dragged out of the courtroom to serve the seventy-five days she would wind up getting.

Her law license was suspended, and in 2023, when she tried to get it back, because of the time in which it had been suspended, she was allowed to apply for reinstatement.[4]

There is no evidence found as to whether or not that happened, but, as they say, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence — with respect to whether she is once again a member of a bar somewhere.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Whether it's a traffic ticket, a lawsuit, a divorce, or perhaps even some sort of criminal charge, a significant portion of the population, sooner or later will find themselves in





Interesting Facts

court, sitting and standing (depending upon which part of the procedures is being conducted) in front of a judge, who has the high chair in the room.

Often, they also take the high moral tone.

It is not a comfortable position to be in when you are in that room, for that man in the black robe can issue orders which can affect your wealth, your freedom, or even more potentially devastating, your care insurance premium.

Your author, under his real name, spent thirty-five years in the courtrooms in the state of New York, and he has seen the entire spectrum of judicial behavior. From the good guys who treated the public like the citizens with constitutional rights that they are, to the bums who brought a mixture of arrogance and ignorance to the bench.

And also the ones who got caught doing naughty things and were thrown off of their benches.

Judges are in a position of public trust. There are those who honor that position, and those that defile it.

When the law breaks the law, what does that say about our legal system?

[1] LUZERNE KIDS FOR CASH SCANDAL Juvenile Law Center 2007 <https://jlc.org/luzerne-kids-cash-scandal>

[2] IMPEACHMENT TRIAL HARRY E. CLAIBORNE US SENATE <https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/impeachment/impeachment-claiborne.htm>

[3] WALTER NIXON, Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Nixon

[4] TRACIE HUNTER Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tracie_Hunter



Here are some interesting facts taken from the Publications' Interesting Facts and History Facts

6 Popular Foods That Came From the Military



Besides being interesting, I found them thought-provoking and wanted to share them with you.

D. Miyoshi



Interesting Facts



MRE

War is full of logistical challenges, one of the major concerns — in conflicts both ancient and modern — being how to feed the armies doing the fighting. Whether it's Roman legionaries, British Redcoats, or modern infantry, soldiers have always needed a reliable supply of food to maintain both their energy levels and morale. As the old saying goes, “An army marches on its stomach.”

Military rations have existed since at least the time of ancient Rome, when soldiers received 2 pounds of bread a day, sometimes with meat, olive oil, and wine. Today, U.S. troops are provided with MREs — “Meals, Ready-to-Eat” — which are carefully tested, formulated, and packaged rations designed to sustain soldiers during training and military operations. These MREs have a shelf life of three years and can survive being dropped from an aircraft. But not every soldier is a fan of these pouches of food, which they sometimes refer to as “Meals, Rarely Edible” or “Meals Rejected by the Enemy.” While modern MREs don't often come with glowing reviews, some foods created specifically for soldiers — or adopted and popularized by the military — have become beloved by the civilian population. Here are six foods that managed to find their way from the ration pack to supermarket shelves across America.



Credit: Kristoffer Tripplaar/ Alamy Stock Photo

M&Ms

In the 1930s, Forrest Mars Sr. (the son of Mars founder Franklin Clarence Mars) was traveling in Europe. According to confectionary legend, it was during this time that Forrest Mars observed soldiers eating chocolate pellets surrounded by a sugar shell during the Spanish Civil War. Inspired, he took the concept back to the United States where, in 1941, M&Ms were born. With World War II already underway, M&Ms were initially made specifically for the U.S. military, providing an ideal way for soldiers to carry energy-rich chocolate in tropical climates without it melting. In 1947, the candy was made available to the public, and its popularity has never waned since.



Credit: Juanmonino/ iStock via Getty Images Plus

Cheetos

Cheesy puff snacks and the chaos of warfare may seem diametrically opposed, but it's the military we must thank

Interesting Facts

for the former's existence — including the top-selling brand, Cheetos. Their origin can be traced back to the Natick Soldier Systems Center, a U.S. Army research complex responsible for the development of the U.S. military's food, clothing, and shelters. One of the items to come out of the research complex was processed and powdered cheese, which was created for military use in World War II. According to Anastacia Marx de Salcedo, author of *Combat-Ready Kitchen: How the U.S. Military Shapes the Way You Eat*, by the end of the war “a whole little industry had sprung up to support this dehydrated cheese.” And one of the very first products to use the cheesy powder was the now-ubiquitous Cheetos.



Credit: Underwood Archives/ Archive Photos via Getty Images

Instant Coffee

Instant coffee isn't a modern invention — it was created and patented as a “coffee compound” by an Englishman named John Dring in 1771. It later appeared in cake form during the American Civil War, before being refined by Japanese chemist Satori Kato, whose soluble coffee was introduced to the public at the Pan-American Exposition of 1901.

Instant coffee as we know it today became commonplace during World War I, providing a quick and easy taste of home for soldiers on the front lines. The Department of Defense began buying as much as 37,000 pounds of coffee powder each day, at which point the instant coffee industry skyrocketed. Then, in 1938, Nestlé introduced its new product, Nescafé. With the outbreak of World War II, Nescafé was included in the emergency rations of every U.S. soldier, further cementing the popularity of the instant brew.



Credit: Justin Sullivan via Getty Images News

Minute Maid

In 1942, the U.S. Army offered a lucrative contract to any company that could figure out a process for producing palatable frozen orange juice — deemed necessary for keeping vitamin C levels at acceptable levels among the troops. It wasn't until 1945 that a viable process was created, at which point the Florida Foods Corporation won the contract to produce 500,000 pounds of orange juice concentrate. However, the war ended before the product was shipped. Finding itself sitting on a giant mound of oranges, Florida Foods changed its name to the Vacuum Foods Corporation a year later and began selling the nation's first concentrated frozen orange juice, which it called Minute Maid (in reference to the product's quick and easy preparation). Despite initially slow sales, Minute Maid eventually took off — with the help of a catchy jingle from Bing Crosby — paving the way for similar frozen products.



Credit: Steven Gottlieb/ Corbis Historical via Getty Images

Winds of War

TV Dinners

The first successful frozen prepackaged meal — what was later dubbed the “TV dinner” — hit supermarket shelves in 1953. Produced by Swanson, it was a Thanksgiving meal of turkey, cornbread stuffing, and peas. But while Swanson took TV dinners to the masses, the concept was originally developed for the military.

In 1945, Maxson Food Systems manufactured the first complete frozen meal — known as “Strato-Plates” — specifically to be reheated for troops and other passengers on long military flights. A typical meal was a basic three-part combo of meat, vegetable, and potato, each housed in its own compartment on a plastic plate. Maxson’s frozen meals never made it to the civilian retail market, but they were the precursors of the TV dinner, despite no TVs being involved.



Credit: Torontonion/ Alamy Stock Photo

Spam

Though Spam wasn’t invented specifically for the military, war rations certainly helped popularize it. When Spam was created in 1937 by Hormel Foods Corporation, it was seen as a way to increase sales of unprofitable pork shoulder, which was then considered an undesirable cut. Initially, sales of Spam were poor, partly because people had doubts about canned meat being safe for consumption. Then World War II began, and the U.S. military saw Spam as a perfect addition to its soldiers’ rations, being affordable, filling, easily portable, and shelf stable. Spam accompanied U.S. troops all over the world, with 100 million cans shipped out to the Pacific theater alone. It became something of a culinary icon during the war, and went on to become an enduring supermarket staple — today, more than 9 million cans of Spam have been sold. The people in Hawaii certainly have made it a staple.

Financial Crisis Report



Military pressure points, strategic signaling, and conflict developments shaping the global balance

April 2026

Tagline: *Strategic pressure points shaping the global security climate.*

The defining military fact of April was that the Iran conflict did not end after the initial February strike but instead hardened into a prolonged regional confrontation. By mid-April, limited ceasefire efforts briefly slowed direct exchanges, yet neither side altered its strategic posture. Washington extended naval pressure while Tehran preserved asymmetric leverage through continued control over maritime passage in the Gulf.

A major consequence has been the transformation of the Strait of Hormuz into a sustained pressure point rather than a temporary crisis. Iranian restrictions on shipping, combined with U.S. naval enforcement measures, kept insurance costs elevated and oil movement unstable even during negotiation windows. Brent crude remained elevated near levels not seen in several years, reinforcing how quickly maritime insecurity now transmits into global pricing.

The Israel-Lebanon front also became more fluid during April. A U.S.-brokered ten-day ceasefire reduced direct exchange temporarily, but field reports indicated neither Hezbollah nor Israeli forces withdrew from core positions. The truce therefore functioned more as a tactical pause than strategic de-escalation.

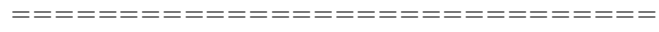
Another important development is that war damage



Iran War Watch

inside Iran has now begun affecting industrial output directly. Steel production losses, refinery disruption, and infrastructure strain suggest that April marked the month when military pressure began translating into measurable domestic economic attrition inside Iran itself.

One-line teaser: *April confirmed that the conflict is no longer a short campaign but an evolving war of endurance.*



Financial Crisis Report

Iran War Watch

Escalation patterns, regional reactions, and emerging risks surrounding the Iran conflict



April 2026

Tagline: *Tracking the expanding military, economic, and geopolitical dimensions of the Iran conflict.* April showed that Iran’s strategic objective is no longer simply retaliation but controlled endurance. Tehran continued missile signaling while preserving enough calibrated restraint to avoid triggering full uncontrolled escalation.

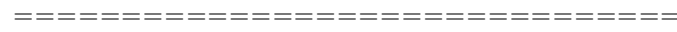
The most consequential event was the continued deadlock over Hormuz. Even during brief diplomatic openings, Iran maintained the ability to reopen or restrict passage selectively, proving that maritime leverage remains its strongest surviving pressure instrument. The United States responded by reinforcing naval interdiction rather than direct large-scale ground escalation.

Inside Iran, industrial disruption became visible. Steel exports were suspended after war damage forced significant output losses. This matters because steel is one of Iran’s major non-oil foreign currency generators; April therefore marks the first month where war damage visibly reduced export earning capacity beyond oil itself.

At the diplomatic level, Pakistan remained one of the few active intermediaries, but no durable framework emerged. Tehran’s proposals remained tactical rather than strategic, aimed largely at buying time while preserving domestic control.

The central reality now is that Iran appears committed to surviving pressure rather than quickly negotiating surrender.

One-line teaser: *April revealed Iran’s strategy clearly: absorb damage, preserve leverage, and prolong the contest.*



VETERANS CORNER

A monthly review of the most pressing issues affecting America’s veterans



Civil Unrest Watch



April 2026

Tagline: *A monthly review of the most pressing issues affecting America's veterans.*

April's strongest veteran issue remained delayed access rather than benefit denial. Across multiple VA regions, appointment backlogs persisted in specialty care—especially cardiology, mental health follow-up, and community referral scheduling.

A second issue drawing increasing concern is aging Vietnam-era veteran care coordination. Many older veterans now present overlapping chronic conditions requiring both VA and Medicare navigation, yet coordination remains uneven in many areas.

Mental health demand also remains elevated, particularly among veterans who are fully functional but experiencing intermittent autonomic stress symptoms—lightheadedness, tension, bowel urgency, and sleep-preserved stress physiology. This pattern increasingly appears among aging veterans under cumulative life stress rather than classic acute psychiatric presentation.

April also saw renewed discussion of toxic exposure implementation under expanded PACT Act review systems, with many veterans still seeking clearer timelines for presumptive condition adjudication.

A broader concern emerging this month is whether future budget pressure from wartime spending may eventually affect VA staffing priorities. No formal reduction exists yet, but concern is growing among vet-

eran organizations.

One-line teaser: *For many veterans in April, the problem was not eligibility—but how long care still takes to reach them.*

Financial Crisis Report Civil Unrest Watch

Domestic instability, protest movements, and state responses with wider political consequences



April 2026

Tagline: *Domestic and international instability signals worth watching.*

April did not produce nationwide U.S. civil unrest on the scale of prior crisis periods, but localized tensions increased around fuel costs, migration pressure, and public demonstrations linked to Middle East policy.

The strongest pattern internationally remains that war-related inflation is again becoming politically combustible. Energy-sensitive countries in Europe and South Asia saw renewed protest pressure as oil prices rose sharply.

In the United States, the most important domestic factor is not organized unrest yet, but latent volatility:

AI Watch

elevated fuel sensitivity, polarized election-year rhetoric, and rapid information spread through social platforms create unusually low thresholds for sudden localized disruption.

Internationally, fragile governments remain most exposed where food imports and fuel costs combine. April therefore fits a pattern of **contained instability rather than broad eruption**—but the underlying triggers remain active.

One-line teaser: *April stayed relatively contained, but the ingredients for sharper unrest remain in place.*

Financial Crisis Report

AI Watch

Artificial intelligence developments with strategic, economic, and institutional impact



Keeping an eye on the world of AI: what really happened this month, why it matters for everyday people and businesses, and what steps you can take to use the good while guarding against the bad.

April 2026

Tagline: *Artificial intelligence developments with strategic significance.*

April confirmed that AI infrastructure—not consumer novelty—is now driving the market.

The strongest signal came from semiconductor de-

mand. Major chipmakers continued rising because AI server demand remains exceptionally strong ahead of earnings from the largest technology firms. Intel and other hardware-linked firms benefited directly from infrastructure expectations rather than software speculation.

A second important event was China’s intervention against a major AI acquisition involving Meta, showing that AI is now treated not merely as technology competition but as strategic industrial sovereignty. The larger pattern is increasingly clear: AI valuation now depends on energy, chips, and compute capacity more than model novelty.

April therefore strengthened one major conclusion: whoever controls compute infrastructure controls practical AI expansion.

One-line teaser: *April showed that chips and power—not chatbots—remain the true AI battlefield.*

Financial Crisis Report

Market Winners and Losers

Month’s Best and Worst Returns Through the 27th



April 2026

Tagline: *Where capital moved strongest this month—*

Elephants in Rooms

and where it retreated.

Winners

- NASDAQ Composite technology remained strongest, driven by AI earnings expectations and semiconductor demand.
 - Intel benefited sharply from infrastructure optimism tied to AI server demand.
- Bitcoin remained firm as geopolitical uncertainty sustained alternative asset interest.

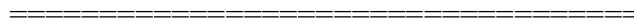
Losers

- European transport-sensitive sectors weakened under higher fuel assumptions.
 - Retail sectors exposed to energy costs underperformed in several markets.
- Gulf shipping-linked insurers faced renewed pricing pressure because of Hormuz instability.

Broad Conclusion

April rewarded sectors linked to strategic scarcity: energy, chips, and hard logistics resilience.

One-line teaser: *In April, markets rewarded infrastructure and punished exposure to fragile supply chains.*



Here are presentations about uncomfortable truths and awkward questions.

Former news reporter for Fox News, Ken LaCorte, dives into the topics that others either dodge or dismiss – especially when they're true.

LaCorte spent 20 years behind-the-scenes at Fox News and now hosts the “Elephants in Rooms” YouTube channel.

I present here a synopsis of LaCorte's video presentations for your edification. I know you will find them very interesting.

D. Miyoshi

HOW DID COLLEGES GET THAT MUCH LEFT WING?



Colleges became overwhelmingly left-wing due to a historical shift influenced by social movements, the self-selection of liberals into academia, active discrimination against conservatives in hiring, and the





Elephants in Rooms

institutions' insulation from market pressures.

This Elephants in Rooms video effectively explains the complex historical and structural factors that led to the overwhelming left-wing ideological shift in US colleges. It highlights the role of social movements, the self-selection of liberals into academia, and active discrimination in hiring, supported by compelling data on faculty political affiliations and donations. The analysis of institutional insulation from market pressures and the future outlook for different tiers of colleges provides a comprehensive understanding of this significant phenomenon.

Synopsis of video

A study of Yale professors shows 82% are registered Democrats and only 2.3% Republican, a 36:1 ratio, with over half of undergraduate departments having zero registered Republican professors.

Harvard exhibits similar numbers, with less than 3% of its faculty identifying as conservative.

A 2020 national study of over 12,000 faculty at top universities found more than eight registered Democrats for every registered Republican.

Political donor data is even more skewed, with a 95:1 ratio nationally in favor of Democrats, and Yale faculty giving 98% of partisan contributions to Democrats.

Even registered Republican faculty donate to Democrats by a 4:1 ratio.

While elite institutions are off the charts, liberal arts colleges skew hard left, community colleges show a 2:1 liberal-to-conservative ratio, and business schools are the most balanced.

Humanities and social sciences exhibit the largest imbalances towards Democrats, while STEM fields are

less so but still left-leaning.

Historically, early colonial colleges instilled religious piety and trained civic leaders, remaining relatively conservative until the mid-1900s.

The civil rights movement, the backlash to McCarthyism, and the 1960s counterculture and anti-war movement initiated a leftward shift on campuses.

By 1969, a major survey found 46% of professors described themselves as liberal, establishing academia as a solidly liberal institution.

A dramatic shift occurred in the late 80s and 90s as World War II-era professors retired and were replaced by baby boomers from the counterculture generation and a large influx of women, who tend to be more liberal.

This ideological shift was internal to academia, as the political views of students and the general public remained largely stable during the 80s and 90s.

The emergence of Black, ethnic, and women's studies departments, often described as academic arms of activist movements, further contributed to locking in the ideological imbalance.

Major Insight: The most widely accepted reason for the continued leftward slide, cited by academics, is self-selection, where academia's reputation for liberalism attracted more liberals and deterred conservatives from pursuing academic careers.

Conservative academics argue against self-selection, citing active discrimination in hiring and promotions, with surveys showing 30% of sociologists and 24% of philosophers admitting they would discriminate against Republican job applicants.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) statements are used as a screening device, with some universities



Elephants in Rooms

eliminating up to 75% of job applicants based solely on these statements, effectively functioning as a political litmus test.

Multiple surveys indicate that conservative professors are at least twice as likely to feel unable to express their opinions, while liberal faculty are more likely to approve of tactics like shouting down speakers.

Colleges, particularly elite ones, were able to achieve ideological purity without repercussions because they are insulated from market pressures, as few students would reject a top school due to political bias.

The future of colleges will vary: elite universities are unlikely to change due to vast endowments and high demand, while state universities may shift under political pressure in Republican states.

Mid and lower-tier private colleges face significant disruption due to declining enrollment and increasing public skepticism about the value of a four-year degree, especially with rising tuition and massive student debt.

An NBC News poll revealed that 63% of registered voters now believe a four-year degree isn't worth the cost, a complete reversal from 12 years prior, with Republican support collapsing from 55% to 22%.

The "ivory tower" model is cracking for most schools, as degrees are no longer scarce, costs are unmanageable, and the return on investment is less obvious, except for the very elite institutions.

Main Arguments

Overwhelming Liberal Skew in Academia: Colleges, especially elite institutions, are overwhelmingly liberal, with faculty ratios of Democrats to Republicans as high as 36:1 at Yale and 95:1 in political donations.

Historical Shift, Not Always the Case: American universities were relatively conservative until the mid-

1900s, with a significant leftward shift accelerating in the 1960s and 70s, and a dramatic acceleration in the 80s and 90s.

Multiple Contributing Factors: The shift is attributed to self-selection of liberals into academia, active discrimination in hiring and promotion, the institutionalization of DEI statements, and a lack of market pressure on elite schools.

Divergent Futures for College Tiers: Elite universities are expected to maintain their ideological stance due to financial insulation, while state and lower-tier private colleges will face increasing pressure to adapt due to political mandates and market forces.

Unique Perspectives

Major Insight 1: Academia's Insulation from Reality: Elite colleges can maintain ideological purity without significant repercussions because they are insulated from market pressures due to massive endowments and high demand, allowing them to forward theories untested by real-world consequences.

Major Insight 2: DEI Statements as a Political Litmus Test: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statements function as a screening device in hiring, effectively requiring candidates to express progressive views on diversity, with some universities eliminating up to 75% of applicants based solely on these statements.

Self-Selection vs. Active Discrimination: While academics often cite self-selection (liberals choosing academia) as the primary reason for the leftward shift, conservative academics argue that active discrimination in hiring and promotion, openly admitted by some professors, is a significant, accelerating factor.

Supporting Evidence

Extreme Faculty Ratios at Elite Schools: Yale professors show an 82% Democrat to 2.3% Republican ratio (36:1), with over half of undergraduate departments

YouTube Summaries

having zero registered Republican professors. Harvard shows similar numbers, with less than 3% conservative faculty.

Lopsided Political Donations: Political donor data reveals an even more extreme imbalance, with a 95:1 ratio nationally in favor of Democrats, and Yale faculty contributing 98% of partisan donations to Democrats and literally zero to Republicans in 2025.

Admitted Discrimination in Hiring: Surveys show that 30% of sociologists and 24% of philosophers openly admit they would discriminate against Republican job applicants, and about four in ten academics wouldn't hire a known Trump supporter.

Public Skepticism on College Value: An NBC News poll indicates 63% of registered voters now believe a 4-year degree isn't worth the cost, a complete reversal from 12 years prior, with Republican support collapsing from 55% to 22%.

Thought-Provoking Questions

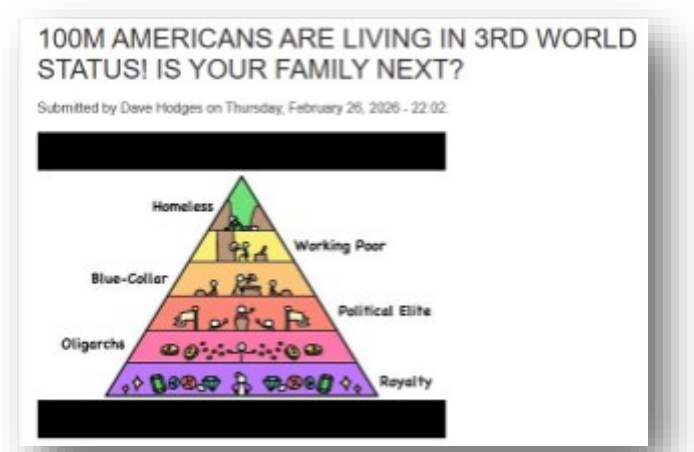
Future of Mid- and Lower-Tier Colleges: How will mid- and lower-tier private colleges adapt to declining enrollment, increasing public skepticism about degree value, and the rise of alternative education like trade schools and free online resources?

Impact of AI on Education Value: What will be the long-term impact of Artificial Intelligence on the perceived value of a four-year degree and the skills humans should acquire, especially given the high cost and potential for knowledge obsolescence?

Sustainability of Ideological Purity: Can elite institutions indefinitely maintain their ideological purity and insulation from market forces, or will external pressures eventually force a re-evaluation of their structures and values?



100 MILLION AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY



100 million Americans are living in "third world status" due to a corrupt system that has led to widespread low income, inability to afford emergencies, and a growing wealth disparity, with the situation exacerbated by potential job losses from AI and government actions.

Summary

The summary questions the goals of central bank digital currency and 15-minute cities, linking them to the World Economic Forum's agenda of "owning nothing."

The speaker asserts that the financial struggles of many Americans are due to a "corrupt system" rather than individual failure.

Insight: 100 million Americans, or 30% of the population, are categorized as low-income, with most living 200% or more below the poverty level, a situation worse than the Great Depression.

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70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, and 60% cannot afford a \$500 emergency.

The average age for a first-time homeowner has risen from 28 in the late 1980s to 39 today, with 30% of new homes being built as rentals by large corporations like Blackstone and BlackRock.

The income ratio of CEOs to workers has drastically increased from 42:1 in 1980 to 352:1 today, representing over a 700% increase for CEOs.

The top 1% of America controls 33% of the wealth, while the bottom 50% saw their share of wealth decrease from 3.5% to 2.3% in the last decade.

The speaker warns that AI will cause millions of jobs to disappear, further worsening the economic situation.

The current immigration policies are leading to labor shortages in critical sectors like farming, which will increase supply shortages and inflation.

The government's inflation figures are misleading as they exclude the cost of food and gas.

Kids in low-income families are skipping an average of one meal per day, which the speaker defines as "third world" conditions.

The speaker claims that Democrats are intentionally trying to collapse the government to take advantage of chaos, making the problem worse.

Main Arguments

America's Descent into Third World Status: The core argument is that 100 million Americans (33% of the population) are living in "third world status," with many living 200% or more below federal poverty levels, and children skipping meals daily.

Systemic Corruption and Oligarchic Control: The speaker argues that the current economic hardship is not due to individual failure but a "corrupt system" orchestrated by "oligarchs" and entities like the World Economic Forum, aiming for a future where people "own nothing."

Exacerbated Inequality: The video highlights a drastic increase in wealth disparity, where CEO income ratios have surged by over 700% since 1980, while the bottom 50% of Americans have seen their share of wealth decrease by more than a third in the last dec-

ade.

Unique Perspectives

Inflation Figures are Deceptive: The government's core inflation figures are criticized for intentionally excluding the price of food and gas, presenting a misleading picture of economic reality for average citizens, as if they "don't have to eat or drive to work."

Political Sabotage for Chaos: The speaker posits that the Democratic party is actively trying to collapse the government to exploit the resulting chaos, believing they cannot win elections otherwise, thus worsening the economic crisis.

Supporting Evidence

Widespread Financial Precarity: Data shows 30% of Americans are categorized as low income (more than during the Great Depression), 70% live paycheck to paycheck, and 60% cannot afford a \$500 emergency.

Declining Homeownership Accessibility: The average age for a first-time homeowner has increased from 28 in the late 1980s to 39 today, with 30% of new homes being built as rentals by large corporations like Blackstone and Blackrock.

Extreme Wealth Concentration: The top 1% of America controls 33% of the nation's wealth, while the bottom 50% saw their share of wealth drop from 3.5% in 2015 to 2.3% today.

Thought-Provoking Questions

Insight: The True Goal of CBDCs and 15-Minute Cities: The video opens by questioning the underlying goal of central bank digital currencies and 15-minute cities, suggesting they are tools for control by the "elite" rather than for public benefit.

Impact of AI on Future Employment: The speaker raises concerns about the impending disappearance of millions of jobs due to AI, questioning how society will cope with mass unemployment given current economic struggles.

Unintended Consequences of Immigration Policies: The video questions the wisdom of current deportation policies, arguing they create labor shortages in



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- The automation of human labor is presented as a fact, leading to a time when humans won't need to work.

The economy will collapse as robotics takes over production, requiring a new post-labor economic model.

Addressing Difficulty in Understanding the Concepts

- Julia addresses viewers who find the concepts difficult to grasp.
- She introduces the concept of "**TikTok brain**," caused by excessive social media consumption, leading to decreased focus and cognitive abilities.
- She suggests a solution: consciously choosing to be a **creator** rather than a **consumer**.

Spending time in sunlight increases neurotransmitters related to learning and memory.

Government Actions and Legislation

- Governments are already implementing AI acts and legislation.
- The **European Parliament** adopted the **AI Act**, the world's first comprehensive legal framework for AI.
- The **Biden administration** proposed a 2025 budget with billions allocated to federal AI application development.

Senator Bernie Sanders suggested a 32-hour work-week due to AI advancements.

Universal Basic Income (UBI)

- The concept of UBI is not new; it dates back to figures like Thomas Paine and Thomas Spence.
- Historical examples of UBI implementation in countries like Finland, Kenya, and Brazil showed positive outcomes, including improved health, increased job opportunities, and reduced stress.

- UBI can empower women and children to leave abusive situations.

The speaker believes UBI could work if funded by taxes on companies benefiting from AI and robotics.

Preparing for the Future

- The video advises against stopping work altogether but encourages focusing on **efficiency** rather than just putting in hours.
 - Individuals should accelerate their efforts to make more money and profits by leveraging AI.
 - Those in 9-to-5 jobs should consider what they truly want to do when robots handle all jobs.
 - The speaker encourages viewers to practice being good humans, driven by morals and values.
 - She suggests that the two industries with the most potential in a post-AGI world are **robotics** and **longevity of life**.
- Sam Altman's advice on what kids should be learning: resilience, adaptability, a high rate of learning, creativity, and familiarity with the tools.

Opportunities in AI

- The speaker wants to help viewers build a roadmap to a career in AI.
 - She shares her experience of transitioning from a human writer to working full-time in AI.
 - She plans to create a video on how to turn talents and passions into a job in AI.
- She advises businesses to implement AI into their processes to become more efficient.

Conclusion

- The speaker emphasizes the historical significance of the current era due to the transformative potential of AI.



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She encourages viewers to subscribe for future videos.

End of Summary.

I hope this summary of Julia McCoy's YouTube video on AI was helpful in understanding how AI will soon make UBI an integral part of our society and way of life, and in helping you understand and prepare for it.

D. Miyoshi

AMERICA, THE REAL ECONOMIC FACTS



This video by Finance Economist provides an insightful but foreboding analysis of the current state of the U.S., arguing that the nation is experiencing a fundamental breakdown across economic and social sectors. The presenter effectively uses data and personal anecdotes to illustrate how pervasive issues like unaffordability, declining trust in institutions, and the erosion of the "American dream" are not temporary setbacks. The core message is a compelling call to action, urging viewers to accept that the old "normal" is gone and to proactively adapt their financial and life strategies to this challenging new reality.

The following is a breakdown of what the Finance Economist is saying to the American People. In tough times, we need not only to survive but also to advance through them. I hope you find this informative and helpful.

D. Miyoshi

The Great American Exodus: Negative Net Migration

- For the first time since the Great Depression, more people left the United States last year than moved in .
- The U.S. experienced a net negative migration of approximately 150,000 people in 2025, with projections for 2026 indicating a worsening trend .
- This trend is not solely due to deportations; American citizens are leaving in record numbers .
- A Wall Street Journal investigation found Americans are "voting with their feet" more than ever before .
- Record numbers applied for British (6,600) and Irish (40,000) passports last year .
- More Americans moved to Germany than vice versa for the first time .
- Luxury housing prices in Paris are surging due to wealthy American relocation .
- Mexico is seeing a large influx of American seniors seeking low-cost nursing homes and affordable retirement .
- In 2008, 1 in 10 Americans considered leaving; last year, it was 1 in 5 (20%) .
- Reasons for leaving include economics, cost of living, healthcare, violent crime, and housing costs, with paychecks not keeping pace with rising expenses .
- Even those with limited means are relocating; one consultant helped 15 clients move to Albania, where \$1,000 a month is survivable on social security or disability .

The Gig Economy Safety Net Snapped

- The gig economy (Uber, DoorDash, Instacart)

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served as a safety net for many, offering quick income .

- By 2026, the gig economy is saturated, with waiting lists to start driving in some cities .
- The cost of doing gig work has surged, especially with gas prices jumping a dollar a gallon in the last month .
- Drivers like Leslie Sherman Schaefer now pay \$40 to fill up her Toyota Corolla, up from \$25, and relies on tips, which are often absent .
- DoorDash drivers like Sarah Noel refuse deliveries not averaging at least \$1 per mile, as base pay is only \$2.50 per order, with half her income from tips .
- Diesel prices climbed 44% in the past month, impacting independent truckers and increasing costs for all consumer goods .
- Food delivery companies have lowered base pay for years, relying more on tips .
- After accounting for vehicle expenses (gas, insurance, tires, depreciation, maintenance), the effective hourly wage for most gig drivers falls below the local minimum wage .
- Temporary gas relief programs from platforms like DoorDash and Uber are insufficient .
- The gig economy, once a safety net, has become a treadmill, potentially imploding if gas prices continue to rise, leaving millions without a plan B .

Everything is Becoming a Scam: Insurance

- Car insurance premiums surged 46% between 2022 and 2024, with the average American paying \$2,256 annually .
 - 32% of Americans find their car insurance unaffordable, and 27% cannot afford their deductible, rendering their insurance unusable .
 - Insurance companies are banking on consumer exhaustion, raising prices hoping people are too tired to fight back .
 - Home insurance has increased 33% since 2020, driven by 27 billion-dollar weather disasters in 2024 .
 - Insurers are pulling out of entire states (Florida, California, Louisiana), forcing residents into state-backed, less comprehensive "last resort" plans .
- Health insurance, utilities, and subscriptions are also steadily increasing, designed to extract money quietly .

ly .

Your Grocery Bill is a Lie: Food Prices & Shrinkflation

- Food prices in the U.S. are up approximately 25% since 2020 and are not expected to come back down .
 - The USDA projects overall food prices to rise another 3.6% in 2026, with grocery store food up 3.1% and restaurant food up 3.9% .
 - Beef and veal prices in February 2026 were 14.4% higher than the previous year .
 - **Shrinkflation:** Companies are reducing product size while maintaining or increasing prices, a tactic noticed by 75% of consumers .
 - War in the Middle East is causing new supply chain disruptions, surging fuel costs for shipping, and squeezing fertilizer costs .
 - Food companies have exhausted price management levers, meaning future cost increases will lead to higher prices or further shrinkflation .
- The slowing rate of inflation does not mean prices are decreasing; they are simply increasing at a slower pace .

The Great American Migration is Breaking the Map: Internal Migration

- The long-standing trend of Americans moving south (Sun Belt) is reversing rapidly .
- Major metro areas like Los Angeles (lost 131,000 people) and Miami (lost 114,000) are losing population .
- New York City's population declined 2% since 2020, with negative immigration for six consecutive years .
- People are moving back to "flyover country" (Midwest cities like Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Grand Rapids) due to affordability .
- Average home prices in places like Rockford, IL (\$170,000) and Cleveland, OH (\$200,000) are half the national median .
- These Midwest areas, often economically struggling, attract two groups: remote workers with coastal salaries and those who are financially broke .
- Remote workers with higher salaries are pricing

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out long-time local residents, creating a "cascading displacement" effect across the country .

- Eventually, there will be no affordable places left within the country, pushing more people to leave entirely .

One Job is Not Enough Anymore

- In 2026, having one job is often insufficient, even for those in "real careers" (teachers, nurses, office workers) .
 - A record 8.9 million Americans are working more than one job .
 - The economy is creating fewer jobs, yet the number of people working two jobs grew by 10% in the past year .
 - 39% of working Americans (80 million people) have a side hustle; among millennials, it's nearly 50% .
 - 47% of U.S. workers are "polyworking" (holding multiple jobs/roles), and nearly 60% are open to taking on multiple full-time jobs simultaneously .
 - 65% of side hustlers prefer a single primary income, doing it out of necessity for basic expenses (68%) and cost of living (over half) .
 - Americans with more than one job average a 50-hour work week across two employers for an average salary of \$57,865, barely above the national median .
 - Examples include a teacher working 10-20 hours woodworking and 7 hours farming, and a woman working 40 hours for a medical supply company and 20-25 hours at Pizza Hut .
- The pervasive sentiment is "I'm tired" because the financial math no longer works .

Nobody Trusts Anything Anymore: Erosion of Trust

- People are questioning everything, sensing "something is not right" with food, jobs, bills, and news .
- A Pew Research poll found only 17% of Americans trust the federal government to do what is right, down from 77% in 1964 .
- Trust has cratered across institutions: Supreme Court (25%), Congress (7%), criminal justice (14%),

television news (11%), public schools (28%), organized religion (31%), and the presidency (23%) .

- The 2026 Edelman Trust Barometer found only 21% of Americans believe the next generation will be better off .
 - Satisfaction with democracy is falling, and belief in government responsiveness (external political efficacy) is dropping .
 - Effective polarization (despising the other political side) has surged 30 points since 2000 .
 - Americans maintain a personal sense that their own life is manageable while believing the collective system is completely broken .
- This gap is dangerous, indicating people have given up expecting the country to function, mentally checking out of the social contract .

The Life You Thought You Had is Gone: Mourning a Past Reality

- Many are mourning a version of life before 2020 that no longer exists .
- The previous rhythm included jobs covering bills, affordable groceries, reasonable restaurant prices, and accessible healthcare .
- There was a basic sense that playing by the rules and working hard would ensure the system held together .
- This feeling has eroded slowly through rising costs, increasing difficulty to get ahead, and declining trust .
- People are reacting with anger, depression, or by checking out (moving to vans, Midwest, or leaving the country) .
- The sentiment "2019 was the last good year" reflects a fundamental shift in the relationship between Americans and the American system .
- The "normal" that people are thinking of will never exist again due to irreversible changes:
 - Prices up 25% in five years, not coming down .
 - Wages not keeping up .
 - Housing doubled in many markets .
 - Credit card debt hit \$1.3 trillion .
 - Social Security trust fund 6 years from running dry .
 - National debt interest eating \$1 trillion/year .
 - Job market lost 92,000 jobs in a month, with AI replacing entry-level positions .



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- The old scaffolding of American life (affordable housing, reliable employment, functional healthcare, trust in institutions, belief in a better tomorrow) has been dismantled .

They Pulled the Ladder Up Behind Them: Housing & Generational Wealth

- The median home price in 1980 was \$47,000 with a median household income of \$21,000 (ratio 2.2:1) .
 - Today, the median home price is over \$430,000 with a median household income of \$80,000 (ratio 5.4:1) .
 - An American family now needs \$114,000 a year to afford the median-priced home, a 37% increase (\$47,000 jump) from 2019 .
 - The median age of a first-time home buyer has hit a record 40 years old, compared to 23 for grandparents and 28 for parents .
 - Only 1 out of 8 30-year-olds today has both a family and a home, a 70% drop since 1990 .
 - Gen Z carries an average of \$94,000 in personal debt, with only 26% owning a home .
 - 61% of baby boomers state they will *never* sell their homes, hoarding wealth-building assets (homes bought for \$75,000 now worth \$500,000 with 3% mortgage rates) .
 - The systems that built wealth for older generations (cheap housing, strong wages, pensions, affordable education, functional healthcare) were systematically dismantled over the last 40 years .
 - o Pensions replaced with 401ks, tuition became predatory, healthcare a profit machine, housing an investment vehicle .
- The American dream was "killed by the people who benefited from it the most and then closed the door so nobody else could get in" .

A Country Deciding What It Wants to Be: The New Baseline

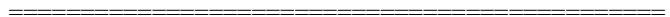
- The current situation is not a temporary recession or rough patch; it's a country in the middle of deciding its future .
- The chaos and disorientation stem from this unde-

ecided state .

- All the discussed problems (negative migration, collapsing gig economy, insurance rackets, rising grocery costs, internal migration, multiple jobs, eroded trust, loss of past life, housing unaffordability) are symptoms of one system failing in multiple directions .
- The terrifying question is: What if this is the new baseline? What if \$4 bread, \$2,200 car insurance, 40-year-old first-time home buyers, record credit card debt, AI replacing jobs, and 17% trust in government is the new normal? .
Pretending it will magically reverse is more dangerous than facing it head-on .

Actionable Steps for the New Reality

- Accept that the old "normal" is gone and start building something that works in the new reality .
- Get out of high-interest debt right now .
- Build a skill that cannot be automated .
- Establish an emergency fund, even if it's \$25 a week .
- Have hard conversations with family about money, housing, and a plan if things worsen .
- The country is changing, and those who refuse to look at the present will be blindsided by the future . Pay attention, understand what is happening, and make smart moves before being forced into desperate ones .



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CORRUPTION IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION



Dave Hodges

This video synopsis of Dave Hodges is quite unusual because Hodges is usually very supportive of the Trump administration. However, in this latest YouTube video that aired on Feb 23, 2026, Hodges is highly critical, providing a detailed argument that the Trump administration is rife with "off the charts corruption" and conflicts of interest. In the video, Hodges compellingly alleges that figures like Howard Lutnik are exploiting deregulation for personal gain in crypto, and Eric Trump is positioned to profit from a potential war with Iran through an Israeli drone company. The core thesis that Trump is a "captured entity" (blackmailed or threatened) forced into actions that benefit external interests, particularly Israel, is consistently supported with specific examples and predictions, making a strong case from Hodges' perspective.

Trump's associates, including his son Eric Trump and friend Howard Lutnik, are allegedly positioned to financially benefit from a war with Iran and crypto deregulation, indicating widespread corruption and a "hijacked" presidency.

Here is a Synopsis of the video. I hope you find it informative. D. Miyoshi

SYNOPSIS

Hodges alleges widespread corruption within the Trump administration, highlighting Eric Trump and Howard Lutnik as key examples.

Howard Lutnik, a non-government official, oversees crypto deregulation despite holding a \$600 million investment in stablecoin.

To obscure Lutnik's conflict of interest, a shell corporation was allegedly created, placing his 26-year-old son in charge of stablecoin control while Lutnik retains deregulation oversight.

Hodges asserts that Trump has been "hijacked" (blackmailed or threatened) by an unnamed country and leader, leading him to abandon his original campaign promises.

Eric Trump has reportedly been put in charge of an Israeli drone company, positioning the Trump family to profit from a potential war with Iran, as drones would be crucial for defense against ballistic missiles.

Hodges suggests Israel is coercing Trump into war while making it financially beneficial for his family.

Major Insight: Hodges quotes George Carlin, stating, "It's a big club and you ain't effing in it," and applies it to Trump, describing him as a "captured entity" who, unable to free himself, has joined the system.

Hodges predicts Trump's impeachment due to mishandling of the administration, leading to JD Vance becoming president in 2028, a scenario allegedly anticipated by TPUSA.

Hodges claims JD Vance will be "more of a Zionist" than Trump, embracing the interests that Trump was allegedly forced into.

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Hodges expresses concern that America, a Christian nation, is being told "Jesus doesn't matter" by those prioritizing a specific interpretation of Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you Israel and curse those who curse you and the entire world will be blessed because of you").

The video concludes by stating that "satanic figures" are dominating American presidencies and government, framing the conflict as a spiritual war against "principalities of darkness" as per Ephesians 6:12.

HERE ARE THE HODGES' MAIN ARGUMENTS

Widespread Corruption in the Trump Administration: Hodges asserts that corruption is rampant within the Trump administration, specifically citing instances involving Eric Trump and Howard Lutnik, which he describes as "off the charts."

Financial Gain from War and Deregulation: The core argument is that Trump's associates and family are positioned to profit significantly from a potential war with Iran (Eric Trump via an Israeli drone company) and from crypto deregulation (Howard Lutnik due to his stablecoin investments).

Trump's "Hijacking" and Impeachment: Hodges claims that Trump has been "hijacked" and is no longer the leader he was, predicting his impeachment and the subsequent rise of JD Vance, facilitated by political maneuvering from groups like TPUSA.

Betrayal of America by Zionist Interests: A strong contention is that America, primarily a Christian nation, has been betrayed by Zionist interests that have infiltrated and now dominate the presidency and government, challenging fundamental Christian beliefs.

Unique Perspectives

Major Insight: Trump as a "Captured Entity": Hodges posits that Donald Trump is not willingly engaging in corruption but is a "captured entity" who fears for his life, implying external forces are dictating his actions and policy reversals.

TPUSA's Role in Political Succession: Hodges presents a theory that TPUSA is actively working to in-

stall JD Vance as president by 2028, anticipating Trump's impeachment, and allegedly violating their 501c3 non-profit status by engaging directly in political campaigns.

The "Big Club" Analogy: Drawing on George Carlin, Hodges suggests that a powerful, corrupt "big club" controls political outcomes, and Trump, despite his position, is merely a part of this system, unable to truly break free.

Supporting Evidence

Howard Lutnik's Crypto Conflict of Interest: Howard Lutnik, a non-government official, oversees crypto deregulation despite holding a \$600 million investment in stablecoin, a conflict allegedly masked by creating a shell corporation and placing his 26-year-old son in charge.

Eric Trump's Israeli Drone Company Role: Eric Trump has reportedly been put in charge of an Israeli drone company, which is expected to generate "tens of millions of dollars" from the anticipated war with Iran, directly linking the Trump family to war profiteering.

TPUSA's Alleged Political Endorsement: Hodges cites Erica Kirk's statement at an Amfest event under the TPUSA banner, explicitly endorsing JD Vance for election in 2028, as evidence of their political agenda and anticipation of Trump's impeachment.

Thought-Provoking Questions

Conditional Presidential Safety: Hodges raises the question of whether presidential safety in the U.S. is conditional upon subservient behavior to Israel, linking Trump's alleged "hijacking" to a potential assassination attempt.

Efficacy of Voting in a "Mythical Democracy": Hodges challenges the fundamental belief in a functional republic or democracy, questioning whether voting can truly resolve the deep-seated corruption and betrayal described.

The Nature of Modern Warfare: Hodges concludes by reframing the current political and societal struggles not as a conventional war against flesh and blood, but as a spiritual battle against "principalities of darkness," drawing parallels to ancient Israel.

YouTube Summaries

Let us see whether Hodges' prediction that Trump will be impeached by the next Congress comes to pass.

DID THE SAUDI PRINCE MBS START THE IRAN WAR?



This video by *Money Lines Exposed* provides an exceptionally detailed and compelling analysis of how Saudi Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS)'s extensive financial investment in the U.S. has profoundly influenced American foreign policy, leading to the war in Iran with devastating global economic consequences. The creator meticulously connects the dots between a trillion-dollar financial architecture and the decision for military action, highlighting the strategic miscalculation by MBS that has ironically left Saudi Arabia more vulnerable. The analysis of the "ring of fire" strategy and its ripple effects on global markets, coupled with the internal power struggles in Iran and the geopolitical implications for major powers like Russia and China, makes this an insightful analysis of a complex and critical situation.

The video lays out a detailed expose of how Muhammad bin Salman effectively bought the US military's commitment through a trillion-dollar financial architecture, leading to the Iran regional war that has destabilized the global economy and ironically made Saudi Arabia more vulnerable.

Here is the Synopsis of the video

The video posits that the United States armed forces are not acting solely on their own interests but are influenced by external powers, specifically Saudi Arabia.

The current Middle East crisis involves oil trading at over \$114 a barrel, the Strait of Hormuz practically shut down, Saudi oil fields burning, and Iran's new supreme leader vowing no peace until American bases are gone.

Muhammad bin Salman (MBS), the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, is identified as pulling strings through a deep and dangerous financial relationship with the United States.

In 2017, Donald Trump signed a \$350 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia, which was then the largest in American history.

Analysts estimate that total Saudi military investment in American defense contractors, weapon systems, lobbying, and political influence networks has now crossed the \$1 trillion threshold.

This massive investment bought **dependency**, making American defense contractors so **financially entangled with Saudi Arabia** that a war in the Gulf became an opportunity for profit.

MBS strategically used financial leverage, understanding it to be the most powerful weapon, to construct an architecture that made American and Saudi interests appear to be the same.

Despite the CIA concluding MBS approved the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, there was no significant accountability due to the deep financial entanglement.

Major Insight: The answer to what a trillion dollars could buy in Washington, as we are now discovering, is a war.

The current Iran conflict was reportedly triggered by MBS's direct calls to the White House, pressuring President Trump for military action against Iran, coinciding with new economic agreements worth hundreds of billions.

American B2 bombers and Israeli F-35s launched coordinated, precise, and devastating strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities and military infrastructure.

Iran retaliated with a "ring of fire strategy," targeting Gulf States like Saudi Arabia with over 50 drones,

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aiming to make the cost of victory unbearable.

Drone strikes on Saudi oil infrastructure, including the Abqaiq processing facility, destroyed confidence in the security of Saudi oil fields despite American-made defenses.

Iran also targeted Dubai, with a drone detonating near the Fairmont Hotel, forcing a brief closure of Dubai International Airport and impacting global confidence.

Iranian strikes forced Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG), to suspend production, causing shockwaves in European energy markets.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway through which approximately 20% of the world's oil flows, was mined by Iranian forces, making it economically irrational for tankers to sail due to soaring insurance premiums.

Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz dropped by 60-70%, severely disrupting global oil supply and impacting economies worldwide.

Saudi Arabia faces a loss of roughly half its oil export capacity if the Strait remains closed, as bypass pipelines lack sufficient capacity.

MBS's trillion-dollar strategy to purchase American military protection has ironically resulted in his own country's economy being held hostage by the very enemy he prompted America to bomb.

Oil at \$114 a barrel is causing a global inflationary shock, increasing costs for food, medicine, and transportation, hitting the poorest populations hardest.

Global equity markets have entered freefall, shedding trillions in market capitalization, impacting pension funds and retirement accounts globally.

A significant power struggle is unfolding within Iran between President Pzeskian, who seeks to halt strikes, and the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), who are determined to continue fighting.

Russia actively benefits from the conflict, as rising oil prices bolster its war economy and the crisis diverts NATO's attention from Ukraine.

China, the largest importer of Gulf oil, faces a strategic contradiction between its ideological alignment with Iran and its urgent need for an open Strait of Hormuz for economic stability.

Bahrain, hosting the US Fifth Fleet, has intercepted

over 114 missiles and nearly 200 drones, depleting its defensive arsenal against an enemy that manufactures drones faster than they can be fired upon.

The decision for the US to launch kinetic military strikes against Iran was made in a specific timeframe, following private conversations between MBS and President Trump, heavily influenced by the financial context.

The trillion-dollar financial architecture built by MBS created incentives and dependencies that made American decision-makers structurally more receptive to Saudi arguments, tilting the playing field towards military action.

Money shapes power by building relationships, gradually shaping incentives, and creating dependencies, making certain outcomes seem like common sense.

The "trillion dollar mistake" lies in the strategic misunderstanding that purchasing American military willingness to act would ensure Saudi security, when it instead imposed massive and immediate costs on Saudi Arabia.

The conflict exposes critical structural questions about American foreign policy, the **relationship between financial influence and military commitment**, and the accountability gap in decisions affecting billions.

The video concludes that the greatest threat to American power is the erosion of the principle that it should serve American people and values, rather than the financial interests of foreign princes.

Main Arguments of the Video

US Military as a Weapon for Hire: The video argues that the American military has become effectively a weapon for hire, influenced by Saudi Arabia's financial leverage rather than solely US national interests. This relationship is described as a "strategic miscalculation" in American history.

Financial Leverage as the Ultimate Weapon: Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) systematically accumulated financial leverage, understanding it to be more powerful than conventional military assets. This leverage allowed Saudi Arabia to purchase not just weapons, but also impunity for actions like the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, and ultimately, a war.

The "Transaction" for War: The decision for the



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US to launch kinetic military strikes against Iran was made following specific private conversations between MBS and President Trump, coinciding with new multi-billion dollar economic agreements, effectively turning a military request into a financial transaction.

The Trillion-Dollar Mistake: The core strategic error was the belief that purchasing American military willingness to act would cleanly translate into Saudi security. Instead, it triggered a conflict that made Saudi Arabia more economically vulnerable, with its own economy held hostage by the very enemy it asked America to bomb.

Unique Perspectives

Major Insight: Financial Leverage Over Conventional Power: The most powerful weapon in the modern world is not a missile or a drone, but financial leverage, which MBS systematically accumulated to shape American interests and policy.

Iran's "Ring of Fire" Strategy: Iran's military doctrine, developed over a decade, aims to make the cost of victory unbearable for its adversaries by targeting Gulf States' economic infrastructure, rather than directly engaging superior conventional forces.

Economic Closure of the Strait of Hormuz: Iran's strategy to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz doesn't rely on physical blockage but on making insurance costs for shipping so astronomically high (20-30 times peacetime rates) that it becomes economically irrational for tankers to sail through, effectively halting oil flow.

Global Inflationary Shock: Oil at \$114 a barrel acts as a global tax on every economic activity, leading to a worldwide inflationary shock that disproportionately affects the poorest populations and has erased all previous optimistic economic forecasts.

Supporting Evidence

\$1 Trillion Saudi Investment in US Influence: The initial \$350 billion arms deal in 2017 grew to an estimated \$1 trillion in total Saudi military investment in American defense contractors, lobbying, and political influence networks.

Impunity for Khashoggi's Murder: Despite the CIA

concluding MBS approved Jamal Khashoggi's killing, no significant accountability occurred due to deep financial entanglement with US politicians, media, universities, and real estate.

Coordinated Strikes and Economic Fallout: American and Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities were followed by Iran's "ring of fire" retaliation, including 50+ drone strikes on Saudi oil fields, a drone detonation near Dubai's Fairmont Hotel, and the suspension of Qatari LNG production.

Strait of Hormuz Tanker Traffic Collapse: Iran's mining campaign in the Strait of Hormuz caused tanker traffic to drop by 60-70% within days, due to soaring war risk premiums imposed by maritime insurers like Lloyds of London.

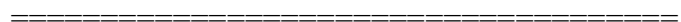
Thought-Provoking Questions

Accountability Gap in Foreign Policy: The conflict exposes a critical accountability gap, where a trillion-dollar influence architecture can shape decisions affecting billions globally who had no voice in them, raising questions about who American power truly serves.

Future of American Foreign Policy: Can America maintain a coherent, principled, interest-based foreign policy accountable to its voters, rather than foreign sovereign wealth funds and arms deals, in a world where financial leverage is the most powerful weapon?

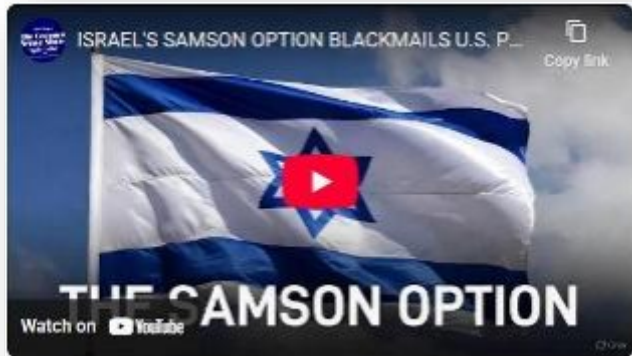
Path to De-escalation: With Iran's civilian government attempting to halt strikes while its military (IRGC) continues, the critical unknown is which voice will prevail, determining whether the world sees a ceasefire or a catastrophic escalation.

Global Power Dynamics: How will China, ideologically aligned with Iran but desperately needing Gulf oil, balance its competing interests, and will its diplomatic efforts constrain IRGC operational planning?



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DOES ISRAEL CONTROL US PRESIDENTS?



This video by Dave Hodges of the *Common Sense Show* presents a compelling argument (which seems to be on the minds of many geopolitical experts), asserting that US presidents are consistently blackmailed by the Israeli government through the "Samson Option." This alleged strategy, involving threats of nuclear self-destruction and regional devastation by Israel if US support is withdrawn, is portrayed as a powerful leverage tool.

Hodges explains that US presidents are allegedly blackmailed by Israel through this "Samson Option," a strategy involving threats to use nuclear weapons against its enemies, and even itself and the entire Middle East, if US aid and support are withdrawn, thereby forcing compliance with Israeli foreign policy.

Against this Sampson Option, Hodges advocates for an "America First" policy, questioning the moral obligation to fund Israel's "wars of foreign imperialism" at the expense of American resources and lives.

Here is a Synopsis of the points presented in the video:

US presidents are allegedly blackmailed by Israel, which uses a specific factor to keep them in line.

Jonathan Pollard, who served time for selling top-secret intel to Israel, reportedly told the Jerusalem Post that the Israeli government employs a consistent

playbook when US presidents attempt to stand up to them.

This alleged playbook was used during the Yom Kippur War and recently with the bombing of Iran.

Israel reportedly threatens to use nuclear weapons against its enemies if the US ceases to supply them with arms, ammunition, and other necessary supplies.

Main Insight: The "Samson Option" is described as an extreme and "insane approach" where Israel threatens to nuke itself and the entire Middle East if it faces an existential threat and US support is cut off.

Presidents have repeatedly been forced to back down due to these threats.

Hodges suggests that the US needs to rethink its allegiance to the Israeli government, distinguishing between protecting Israel if attacked and supporting its "wars of foreign imperialism."

Hodges criticizes the US for funding Israel's defense, which allows Israel to provide universal healthcare and free college for its citizens.

Hodges asserts that it is time to stop sacrificing American youth for a foreign nation's imperialism.

Key Insights of Video

Israel's Blackmail of U.S. Presidents: U.S. presidents are allegedly blackmailed by the Israeli government using a specific factor that keeps them "in line," a claim reported in sources like the Jerusalem Post and social media.

The "Samson Option" Threat: Israel employs the "Samson Option," threatening to use nuclear weapons against its enemies or even to self-destruct and destroy the entire Middle East if facing an existential threat or if U.S. aid is cut off.

Forced Presidential Compliance: This blackmail tactic has been used multiple times, forcing U.S. presidents to repeatedly back down from challenging Israeli government actions.

Risk of False Flags in America: Hodges suggests that if the U.S. were to call Israel's bluff, Israel might retaliate by executing devastating false flag

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operations in America using third-party operatives or proxies, potentially crossing the open border with Canada.

Unique Perspectives

Major Insight: U.S. Aid Funds Israeli Social Programs: Hodges posits that U.S. financial aid for Israel's defense allows the Israeli government to reallocate its own budget towards domestic social programs like universal healthcare and free college, rather than spending on defense.

Rethinking U.S. Allegiance: The U.S. should reconsider its unconditional allegiance to the Israeli government, distinguishing between protecting Israel from attack (which is a moral obligation) and supporting "wars of foreign imperialism" for Israel's national gain.

Netanyahu's Leadership Criticism: Hodges asserts that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's leadership is "as dirty as it comes," even comparing him unfavorably to Barack Obama in terms of leadership integrity.

Supporting Evidence

Jonathan Pollard's Testimony: Jonathan Pollard, who served 30 years in U.S. prison for spying for Israel, reportedly told the Jerusalem Post about Israel's use of blackmail tactics against U.S. presidents.

Nuclear Threat Demonstration: Pollard claimed that the Israeli government once called a U.S. president and instructed them to use "eye in the sky" surveillance to observe a plane at an air base loaded with nuclear weapons, as a direct threat.

Historical Precedent: Hodges cites instances like the Yom Kippur War and the recent bombing of Iran as examples where Israel allegedly used this "playbook" of threats against U.S. presidents.

Thought-Provoking Questions

Should the U.S. Call Israel's Bluff?: Hodges raises the

question of whether the U.S. should call Israel's bluff regarding the "Samson Option," despite the potential for severe retaliation, including false flags.

Is it Time for "America First" in Foreign Policy?: The video implicitly asks if the U.S. should prioritize an "America First" foreign policy, questioning the moral obligation to support Israel's "wars of foreign imperialism" at the expense of American youth and resources.

The ultimate question is how the Trump administration will stand up to this grand strategy of Israel.

HOW IRAN'S FALL HURTS CHINA



What happens to China's Belt and Road Initiative if Iran collapses? In this video, The Capital Anatomy breaks down why Iran is far more than just another Middle Eastern partner for Beijing. We explore how the Strait of Hormuz, China's energy security, the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, and the wider Belt and Road strategy are deeply tied to Iran's geopolitical position.

This analysis looks at the real economic and strategic risks: oil shipments through Hormuz, the role of Iran in China's westward expansion, the 25-year China-Iran partnership, supply chain disruption, rising freight costs, inflation pressure, and whether the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor can realistically replace Iran. We also examine why a collapse in Iran may not destroy the entire Belt and Road Initiative, but could severely damage China's 10-year Middle East strategy and its dream of expanding westward into Eurasia and Europe.



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The video provides an insightful analysis, convincingly arguing that Iran's collapse would not destroy the entire Belt and Road Initiative but would deliver a devastating blow to China's westward expansion strategy. It meticulously details Iran's irreplaceable geographic position as a transit hub, its critical role in China's energy security via the Strait of Hormuz, and its significant political leverage in the Middle East. The analysis effectively highlights that alternative routes, while useful, cannot replicate the multifaceted advantages Iran offers, making its stability paramount for Beijing's long-term geopolitical and economic ambitions.

If Iran collapses, China's Belt and Road Initiative's westward expansion and energy lifeline would face a devastating structural shock, as Iran serves as an irreplaceable geographic, energy, and political pivot point, though the entire initiative might not be wiped out.

D. Miyoshi

Summary

A collapse in Iran, particularly a choke-off of the Strait of Hormuz, would plunge energy prices and global freight rates into chaos, sending inflation through the roof.

While the US would experience a minor impact, Asia, especially China, would bear the full brunt of a deep structural shock, as 83% of oil through Hormuz flows to Asian economies.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is described as a global computer operating system, including a "China, Central Asia, and West Asia Economic Corridor" that has been a core design element from day one.

Trade volume between China and BRI countries ballooned to \$3.1 trillion US in 2024, representing 50.7% of China's total foreign trade, with capital investment flows exceeding \$240 billion US.

Iran is an absolutely critical player, serving as the biggest and toughest "vertebrae" in the West Asia Economic Corridor, connecting Central Asia to the Middle East and Europe.

Iran is uniquely important to China because its surface touches Central Asia, its underbelly opens to the Persian Gulf for energy routes, and its flank opens to Turkey and Europe, making it a vital transit hub.

China's core logic for the BRI is to make continental corridors shorter, faster, and cheaper, a goal for which Iran's transit hub

position is invaluable.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with branches to Afghanistan and Iran, acts as a central artery for China's westward expansion, proving Iran is crucial for the entire network's smooth operation.

China has invested heavily in Iran, including shouldering 90% of a \$6.8 billion US plan to upgrade Pakistan's railway line connecting Istanbul through Tehran to Islamabad, and funding road projects to ease overland routes between Iran and Pakistan.

If Iran becomes unstable, these meticulously planned logistical corridors, despite physical infrastructure, would become "dead assets" due to lack of security, insurance, and funding.

Major Insight: Iran is not just important for lending China land for a corridor; it is "squatting right next to the energy valve that has the power to choke out half of China's import ecosystem."

China imported about half its crude oil and nearly a third of its liquefied natural gas from the Middle East in 2025, with 42% of total oil imports coming from key Gulf suppliers and an additional 12% directly from Iran.

Up to 45-50% of China's imported oil is tied to the risks at Hormuz, and thousands of Chinese refineries rely on cheap Iranian oil, supplying up to a quarter of mainland demand.

China holds strategic oil reserves of about 1.39 billion barrels, enough for 120 days of net imports, and 46 million barrels of Iranian oil in floating and bonded storage, providing short-term resilience but not long-term independence.

Iran is also a political missing link, identified by China as a "pivot point" for projecting influence into Africa and Europe, and demonstrated by Beijing's role in brokering ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran in 2023.

The Middle East received about \$39 billion US in BRI funding in 2024, becoming the top recipient region, highlighting its transformation into a main pillar of Beijing's foreign economic strategy.

Iran provides China with a "rock-solid foothold" in the Middle East, offering political leverage and a platform to engage with all regional factions, contrasting with Washington's isolation efforts.

The TransCaspian Middle Corridor, an alternative route bypassing Russia and Iran, is growing rapidly but is still in its "growing pains phase" and cannot replace Iran's unique offering of a Persian Gulf bridge, market access, and political leverage.



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The World Bank warns the Middle Corridor is a "clunky mess" with coordination and logistical issues, serving as a "lifesaver airbag" for Beijing but not a perfect clone of Iran's capabilities.

The collapse of Iran would not kill the entire Belt and Road Initiative, as China's trade and capital flow with other member countries remain substantial.

However, if Tehran collapses, the Middle Eastern flank and westward axis of the BRI blueprint would suffer a "devastating earthquake," robbing China of an irreplaceable geographic node, causing an energy shock, and destroying connectivity plans and political influence.

IS THIS TRUMP'S REAL PLAN FOR THE IRAN WAR



In this video entitled What Happens Next?, Professor Jiang provides an insightful analysis, arguing that a US ground invasion of Iran, despite its apparent risks, could be a calculated move by Trump to strategically collapse the existing global order. The video meticulously details how such an invasion would trigger economic devastation, including the end of the petrodollar and widespread shortages, ultimately positioning a self-sufficient "Fortress America" as the dominant global resource provider. This perspective offers a compelling, albeit controversial, explanation for seemingly chaotic geopolitical actions, **suggesting a deliberate plan to reshape global power dynamics at a significant human cost.**

A US ground invasion of Iran, while causing global economic collapse and the end of the petrodollar system, is analyzed as a deliberate strategy by Trump to dismantle the old American Empire and establish a self-sufficient North American "Technate" that benefits from global resource dependency.

Here are the summary notes on this video. You may find them both informative and intriguing.

D. Miyoshi

Analysis of a Potential US Ground Invasion of Iran

The Core Question and Current Context

- The most important question: What happens if America actually invades Iran on the ground?
 - President Trump's recent speech indicated military objectives are on track, threatening to hit Iran "extremely hard" and bring them "back to the Stone Ages."
 - The speaker suggests that a president saying "we are winning" often implies the opposite.
 - Secretary of War Peter Hegseth announced a "greater North America strategy," aiming for US control from Greenland to the Panama Canal, Alaska to Venezuela.
 - This expansion occurs while the US is already engaged in a difficult war in Iran.
- The video argues that Trump's actions, including the war in Iran, are part of a specific, deliberate plan.

Challenges of a Ground Invasion of Iran

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- **Geography:** Iran is a very large country (four times the size of Iraq) with a population of 90 million.
- **Western Front (from Iraq):** The Zagros Mountains are ideal for guerrilla warfare, allowing Iranians to hide and launch attacks.
- **Eastern Front (from Pakistan):** Massive deserts are extremely difficult to cross and are far from the capital, Tehran.
- **Southern Front (Persian Gulf):** More mountains and a very long distance to Tehran.
- **Troop Requirements:** Conquering and holding Iran would require at least 3-4 million soldiers, far exceeding America's entire active military of 1.3 million.

Signs of Ground Invasion Preparation

- **Military Reserves:** Letters are being sent to military reserves, telling them to prepare for deployment.
 - **PredictIt Market:** Large bets are being placed on a ground invasion, suggesting potential insider information.
- Pentagon Activity:** Exploding pizza deliveries and empty gay bars in Washington indicate military staff working overtime to prepare an operation.

Step-by-Step Consequences of a Ground Invasion

Step One: Military Engagement and Iranian Defense

- **Invasion Begins:** US ground troops enter Iran, potentially from Iraq or near the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Iranian Defense Plan:** Iran has been preparing for a ground invasion for 25 years.
- They possess underground bases deep inside mountain ranges and stockpiles of missiles and drones in unknown locations.
- Weapon systems are specifically designed to destroy helicopters, tanks, and supply convoys in mountainous terrain.
- Many underground bases and significant firepower

remain unused in the ongoing air war.

- **Initial US Progress vs. Reality:** Initial reports of US success will be followed by the reality of difficult terrain, cut supply lines, and constant drone attacks on convoys, helicopters, and supply ships.
- **Historical Parallels:** This pattern of initial success followed by protracted struggle is similar to Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq after the initial invasion.
- **Iranian Strategy:** Iran has specifically studied American military strategy and weaknesses for 25 years, building its defense plan around them.

Step Two: Economic Collapse

- **Strait of Hormuz:** If a ground invasion starts, Iran will mine the Strait, destroy tankers, and simultaneously hit GCC oil installations.
- Their goal is to push oil prices to \$200 a barrel.
- **Beyond Oil:** The Strait of Hormuz is critical for more than just oil and gas.
- **Fertilizer Ingredients:** Phosphate, ammonium, sulfur, and urea, essential for fertilizers, flow through the Strait.
- Disruption would lead to global food shortages, not just expensive gas.
- **Semiconductor Materials:** Helium and sulfuric acid, critical for making semiconductors, also pass through the Strait.
- Disruption would slow global semiconductor production, potentially collapsing the AI industry and the American stock market.
- **Global Impact:** JP Morgan warned the world could run out of oil in weeks.
- Full escalation by Iran would lead to \$200 oil, food shortages, semiconductor shortages, and a global economic depression.
- **Step Three: Collapse of the American Empire's Foundation**
- **Petrodollar System:** Since 1973, all oil in the world has been sold in US dollars, with Saudi Arabia and Gulf states agreeing to this in return for US protection.
- This creates permanent global demand for the American dollar, enabling the US to finance its \$39 trillion debt.
- It functions as a Ponzi scheme as long as the Gulf states are stable and sell oil in dollars.
- **Vulnerability:** Asia and Europe, major holders of American debt, rely heavily on Middle Eastern oil.

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- **Consequences of GCC Collapse:** If a ground invasion destabilizes GCC states (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar), they would stop selling oil in dollars due to destroyed infrastructure.
- Japan, China, South Korea, and Europe would lose trust in the petrodollar system and move away from US dollars.
- They would stop buying American debt, leading to the collapse of America's Ponzi scheme.
- The dollar would lose its value, American interest rates would explode, the stock market would crash, and the AI bubble would pop.
- This would signify the end of the American Empire as we know it.
- **Trump's Adaptation:** Trump is applying this playbook to America, believing the global order and American Empire are already collapsing.
- His goal is to control the collapse and build a new "Fortress America" focused on resources and manufacturing, prioritizing Americans first.
- This aligns with "Make America Great Again."
- **Moving Away from the "Bush World Order" (1991):**
- **Old Order:** Finance-driven economy, offshore manufacturing, secular multiculturalism, and Pax Americana (US pays for global defense).
- **Consequences:** US stopped making things, inequality exploded, debt reached \$39 trillion, system became a Ponzi scheme.
- **Trump World Order:** Shift from finance to resources/manufacturing, from multiculturalism to Christian nationalism, from Pax Americana to "Fortress America."
- The fastest way to achieve this transition is to break the old system through a Middle East war that collapses the oil supply, petrodollar, and global financial system.

The "Trump Plan": Deliberate Collapse and Rebuilding

- **The Argument:** The speaker proposes that this catastrophic scenario might be exactly Trump's plan—to deliberately destroy the old American Empire and replace it with something new.
- **North American Advantage:** When Middle Eastern oil and resources stop flowing, North America benefits.
- The US, Canada, and Venezuela (recently acquired) have vast oil reserves.
- The US and Canada produce massive amounts of food and nitrogen for fertilizer.
- Europe and Asia would become dependent on North America for energy, food, and fertilizer.
- **The "Technate" / "Fortress America":** Trump is building a self-sufficient economic bloc in North America, protected by two oceans.
- This "Technate" would sell its resources to a desperate world at high prices while the rest of the world collapses.
- **Putin's Playbook:** This strategy is not original to Trump; Putin proved it works in Ukraine.
- Russia's economy restructured into a war economy, increasing industrial and military production.
- Alexander Dugin's "Foundations of Geopolitics" (1996) advised Russia to let the Western liberal order collapse and focus on internal unity and alliances.
- Putin adopted this strategy to ensure Russia survives the collapse better than others.

Two Scenarios for the Ground Invasion Outcome

- **Scenario One: America Loses the Ground War:**
- US troops get bogged down, war drags on, casualties mount, political will collapses, and America is forced to withdraw.
- **Result:** American military empire in the Middle East ends, petrodollar collapses, dollar loses global reserve status, global economy enters depression.
- **Twist:** North America, with its resources, becomes the most stable and powerful region, and Trump rebuilds America as a resource-exporting fortress.
- **Scenario Two: America Holds On in Iran for Years:**
- A long war of attrition, similar to Ukraine, with global economic suffering, high oil and food prices.
- **Result:** Slowly, North America builds its Technate, emerging stronger while the old order dies.
- **Common Outcome:** In either scenario, the old global order ends, North America becomes more self-sufficient and powerful, and the world becomes more dependent on American and Russian energy and food.
- **The Price:** The Iranian people, Middle Eastern people, and the global poor pay the heaviest price,

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What's Really Happening in America and the World



Financial Crisis Report II

while the powerful benefit.

Summary of Key Learnings

- A ground invasion of Iran is logistically extremely difficult due to brutal terrain, vast distances, and Iran's 25 years of preparation.

- If the invasion happens, Iran will escalate fully, leading to \$200 oil, and shortages of food, fertilizers, and semiconductors, causing a global economic collapse.

- America may benefit from this collapse in the long run, as the world becomes dependent on North American resources, justifying the building of a self-sufficient "Technate."

- This is a deliberate strategy, proven by Putin in Ukraine and applied by Trump, reflecting Dugin's "Third Rome" vision.

The real question is not Trump's intelligence, but who pays the price for this strategy—ordinary people globally.

We will see, D. Miyoshi

Trust and Estate Corner



My clients are always inquiring about wills, trusts and estates. Each publication of *Financial Crisis Report II* (Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World) will feature a simple factoid on Trusts and Estate Planning. For more information you may consult my website at www.miyoshilaw.com

Effective pre-nuptial planning.

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



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".

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