

SHEMITAH

TRENDS



**The plot to enslave humanity,
and how to find freedom.**

by **Jeff Berwick**

[Founder, TheDollarVigilante.com]



*Includes a significant article on Jeff Berwick's market call
predicting the late-August market downturn.*

Foreword by Tom Conrad – Founder, World Opportunity Master
Fund and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the
United States Air Force for the Reagan Administration.

**[See also: www.SurviveShemitah.com
for a special newsletter subscription offer]**

[back cover]

FROM THE FOREWORD

As I write this foreword, the US stock market has just lost some seven percent and securities have been selling off globally. Jeff Berwick predicted this plunge in his video, “Shemitah Exposed,” posted in mid-July 2015 – and now in this book by the same name.

Jeff’s initial call was for market havoc in September, but as he writes in his late August article, “Markets Crack, as Predicted,” the debacle came a bit early:

I warned people in mid-July that something big was going to happen: a massive market sell-off, a declaration of war, etc. And now, just a little earlier than expected, we’ve seen a market crash develop. If you listened to me, you’d have trimmed your exposure. Perhaps you’d be out completely.

Of course markets can recover and there is no certainty that the current unraveling continues. However, the general direction of the markets is certainly down over time, either in 2015 or 2016 – or both. Trouble is coming.

-Tom Conrad, World Opportunity Master Fund

ABOUT JEFF BERWICK

Jeff Berwick’s entrepreneurial career began in his early 20s when he founded Stockhouse.com, Canada’s largest financial website in 1994. He served as CEO and on the board of directors up until 2006. Today, he is Chief Editor of a successful financial publishing company, The Dollar Vigilante, which includes both a well-regarded newsletter and financial services with an emphasis on privacy and asset-protection.

SHEMITAH *TRENDS*

by Jeff Berwick



T.D.V.

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T.D.V

To my wife and kids ...
the best family in the world.

*“What rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?”*

William Butler Yeats

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ARTICLE [CONDENSED] BY JEFF BERWICK

*Following the market crash of August 21, 2015,
as it was posted at the TDV blog.*

On July 14th we released our viral video, “SHEMITAH EXPOSED: Financial Crisis Planned For September 2015.” Via various channels it has views in the millions and has been the talk of the internet.



At the time of release there were a lot of naysayers. Since then we’ve been joined in our analysis by some of the most respected names in the industry. Perhaps they saw our initial forecast and decided we were correct. For a while we stood alone, assaulted by the cynics and professional optimists. Not anymore. The johnny-come-latelys don’t mention us, of course. But we set the pace.

What’s been going on? Begin with an unexpected and strange NYSE exchange shut-down, then add exceptional volatility worldwide and an unprecedented Chinese market collapse with a knock-off effect on at least 20 other major stock markets

worldwide. Markets collapsed in Singapore, South Korea, Brazil, Malaysia and Taiwan.

This week the US stock markets finally cracked, as we had predicted.

The Dow Jones fell 358 points on Thursday and followed up with a 530 point drop today. The **Nasdaq** fell even harder in percentage terms and now the S&P, Dow and **Nasdaq** are in the red for 2015. The selloff wiped out some \$1.3 trillion in U.S. market value since Tuesday morning, according to a calculation by Yahoo Finance using the Dow Jones U.S. Total Market Index. The world's wealthiest people reportedly lost a total of some \$140 billion in just a few hours.

This is a massive amount in just a few days and had people across the internet panicking. Those who watched our video are surely asking, "Did Shemitah come early this year?"

Probably it did.

Don't say I didn't warn you - and definitively so. Now markets have sold off and there is more to come. It's not a matter of "if" but "when." This is why people read TDV – and take us seriously. It's why millionaires and even billionaires subscribe. I have the courage of my convictions. I'm not afraid to take a stand. And usually – as we were this time – we're first. And often we're right.

We were right about bitcoin when we suggested a buy at US\$3.00. Bitcoin later traveled up to around US\$1,000, certainly making some of our subscribers millionaires. Months into that run other analysts finally joined us. But we were first.

And here we are again. We predicted this collapse in mid-July. And we stood alone. Finally others began to join us.

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Here are just a few:

-John Hussman, a very well respected analyst who called the last two major stock market collapses stated that “Stocks show 4 signs of major decline ahead” - *July 27*

-Noted short seller Bill Fleckenstein, who correctly predicted the financial crisis in 2007, says he is one step closer to opening up a short-focused fund for the first time since 2009. In the meantime, Fleckenstein says the entire market could be heading for calamity in the coming months. - *July 27*

-Richard Russell of the highly respected Dow Theory Letters said the following, ““I expect a brief period of higher prices which will draw in the amateurish retail public. This brief breather will be followed by an historic bear market that will tear apart the current economic system. It will eliminate the Federal Reserve and result in a new workable economic system based on the old standards. The new system will eliminate fiat money while silver and gold will recapture the basis of tangible money.”” - *August 5*

-David Stockman, who was the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (1981–1985) under President Ronald Reagan said we are in a “debt supernova” and proclaimed that “it’s pretty obvious that the top is in,” and continued, “The US, is heading into what is clearly going to be an epochal deflation to the likes of what we have never experienced in modern time.” - *August 7*

-Gerald Celente, often called “the top trends forecaster in the world” is now predicting a global stock market crash and a worldwide panic by the end of the year. - *August 7*

There are many, many more all saying the same thing now. Perhaps you are aware of some of them yourself. The thing is ... it’s already happened. Sure it could get worse and over time it probably will.

But yesterday the market cracked. Just as we warned.

Yes ... our fall crisis has obviously begun early. Why? One reason seems obvious: The market is front running the Shemitah end-day. We were the first to launch a market-crisis video, and it's one that went viral and has nearly one million views already.

First they launch, then they scoff, then they believe. And in this case, panic.

Now what do elites do? If they were planning some orchestrated crisis in September how do they implement something like that when almost everybody already knows about it? Do they continue? If so, it will be obvious...

We know we've been noticed. Hell, our servers have been under almost constant attack since the video was launched in mid-July.

This is becoming a major, high stakes game. For once the market and the "little guy" may have front-run the Powers That Shouldn't Be (PTSB). A massive win for the internet! As John Kerry stated, "This little thing called the Internet ... makes it much harder to govern."

Yes, it also makes it harder to fool people with manufactured crises! What if they had planned a major destabilizing event in September? What do they do now that everyone is aware of the possibility?

Perhaps timeframes get changed. Perhaps they "head-fake" and drop a massive new Quantitative Easing that takes the market much higher in nominal terms prior to instigating the collapse/crisis. Or perhaps they raise rates and plunge markets into additional ruinous confusion.

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But one way or another, the game is on – only a little earlier than we expected. Now we'll be adjusting our speculations in real-time based on what we see.

Already, however, our subscribers have benefited from our correct analysis of the situation. In a recommendation in July we said to buy December put options well outside of the money on the S&P index. Today, alone, that investment rose over 300%.

Shemitah may have started early but Shemitah is just the beginning of the end-game. The trends are in place and every experienced trader knows better than to fight the trend.

This market plunge was a proverbial shot across the bow. Certainly it's not the end itself, in our opinion. Hell, markets may go up in September and even beyond. They may go back up on Monday. But one thing we know: Sooner or later – even if the market runs back up through 2016 – the real trend is down and down hard.

We'll be very active in the coming months covering all aspects of this crisis, which we predicted ahead of the rest.

Jeff Berwick

SHEMITAH
TRENDS

the book

FOREWORD

As I write this foreword, the US stock market has just lost some seven percent and securities have been selling off globally. Jeff Berwick predicted this plunge in his video, “Shemitah Exposed,” posted in mid-July 2015 – and now in this book *Shemitah Trends*.

Jeff’s initial call was for market havoc in September, but as he writes in his late-August article, “Markets Crack, as Predicted,” the debacle came a bit early:

I warned people in mid-July that something big was going to happen: a massive market sell-off, a declaration of war, etc. And now, just a little earlier than expected, we’ve seen a market crash develop. If you listened to me, you’d have trimmed your exposure. Perhaps you’d be out completely.

Of course markets can recover and there is no certainty that the current unraveling continues. However, the general direction of the markets is certainly down over time, either in 2015 or 2016 – or both. Trouble is coming.

The trends are clear in my view and we ought to deal with them for our own sake’s and that of our family and friends. In fact, I have a feeling if you’re reading this book you’re on your way to confronting fairly complex and disturbing issues.

The economic news is only symptomatic of a larger problem. There is no doubt for instance that the US is getting a good deal more authoritarian, and this is aggravating other socio-economic and political problems. The Patriot Act and other legislation have stripped US citizens of constitutional rights to privacy and even to unimpeded movement inside and outside the country, just to mention two areas of concern.

Power is increasingly concentrated and often abused. The justification for this is that the US is at war with terrorism and terrorists. During a war, various rights are inevitably reduced or abrogated. That is what is happening now. As Randolph Bourne famously wrote, “War is the health of the state.” During a time of war, the state acquires more power and its representatives tend to enable such trends.

Jeff has done us a service by explaining how we got to this point and much of this book is a clarification of our current status, one that resembles indentured servitude – and even slavery. These are some of the “trends” Jeff refers to. It is true, for instance, if you don’t pay your taxes or perform other duties as demanded, that your possessions – your estate, your house – are possibly or even probably forfeit. You “own” what you have at the discretion of authorities. If you don’t like the outcome, you may “plead” at the bar.

The Shemitah end-day upcoming in a few weeks is only more evidence of this state of affairs. There are certainly forces in society that have gathered an enormous amount of power and are not at all reluctant, on occasion, to demonstrate it in repetitive ways.

Jeff writes at the beginning of this book that his analysis has little to do with ethnicity and religion and that his concern is based on historical facts. I like this approach. Why expand on tribal ties or rehash old grievances or prejudices? For Jeff – and I concur – the issue is really one of centralization of power. Without such centralization no single group could choose to create disasters (potentially anyway) on or near a given day with surprising but observable repetition.

We do live in unsettled times and using Shemitah as a jumping-off point, Jeff does a great job in this book of showing the way things are organized and what kind of ramifications we can expect as a result – the trends to come, in other words. The

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analysis is clear-headed, the history seems accurate to me and Jeff's remedies are worthwhile as well.

I'm grateful that Jeff has provided us with this unusual – but credible – analysis. And even more grateful that he has not flinched from its ramifications. Jeff also mentions his newsletter toward the end of the book and the solutions he is offering to some of the Shemitah trends this book presents are to be found in that publication on a real-time basis.

Even if nothing further happens on or around the Shemitah end-day (September 13-15, as I understand it), the trends put in play by Shemitah will likely persist. These may include additional financial instability, socioeconomic tensions and expanding military actions. These trends will persist, according to Jeff into foreseeable future, beyond 2015, into 2016 and further still.

The problem, as he explains, is not a particular day but an entire history of troublesome events that have led us to this point. I'm grateful for your warning, Jeff. Thanks for allowing me to comment on it.

Tom Conrad

United States, Uruguay, Panama

August 21, 2015

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Jeff Berwick

PREFACE

Composed prior to the August 21st downturn.

This book is about Shemitah, or more specifically about Shemitah TRENDS. We may also know them as Jubilee trends, because the Jubilee comes after Shemitah.

In a video and White Paper I have examined Shemitah and its end-day, paying special attention to what could occur in and around September. In this book, we're expanding that analysis by focusing on trends that extend beyond Shemitah.

Shemitah is a Hebrew term for the Sabbath year or seventh year. During Shemitah all debts are supposed to be negated, whether personal or related to industry or government.

But Shemitah is more than that. The last day of Shemitah every seven years (and the days and weeks surrounding the end-day) turns out to be, well ... destructive. Events on or surrounding that day include military massacres, stock market disasters and political crises.

This Shemitah end-day in 2015, around September 15, may prove no different. I've researched it, and what I've found is alarming.

Of course as of this writing in mid-summer, markets have already proven volatile and one might expect volatility to persist and possibly turn into a major downturn. A scenario consistent with October 1987, another Shemitah year, is not out of the question.

Moreover, just as importantly as Shemitah and its end-day are the trends that Shemitah inevitably seems to unleash. These trends reverberate for months and even years and feature socioeconomic, political and military instability. There is no

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reason to believe this time may any different. In fact, it may be worse.

In researching Shemitah, I began to struggle with why a single day, or in the weeks and months surrounding it, could result in so much chaos, not just at the time but in the months and years go come. This question came to preoccupy me. In fact, I don't intend to speculate at length on WHY Shemitah has become a kind of "ground zero" for financial and sociopolitical disasters. I'm far more interested in the HOW.

This book is not interested in ascertaining blame. Knowing who is responsible, assuming we could, is not nearly so important in my view as understanding and implementing solutions that can help you protect yourself, your family and your portfolio and even using this knowledge to your own personal gain.

As the founder of The Dollar Vigilante I've put together market-based, alternative investment strategies that can help secure your wealth and safety in difficult or even disastrous times. Ways to position precious metals, find alternative domiciles and even second passports are all important as Shemitah nears and its trends are established and extended. You'll find such solutions toward the back of this book.

They've often been featured in our newsletter, one that has been published for more than five years with increasing success and has attracted billionaires and professional investors among its subscribers. That's because we have been predicting a collapse of the US dollar since 2010. In 2010 we stated that we likely had 5-10 years left before outright collapse. We are now five years in and things are looking increasingly tenuous.

But, because this has been our focus, even before decoding Shemitah, we have already been warning people to prepare for a collapse. The only thing that has changed with the Shemitah

is that we think the beginning of a collapse could start in earnest as early as this fall, 2015.

At the end of this book, you'll find information on an exclusive Survive Shemitah special offer that will allow you to get TDV's critical real-time information at a very low price. I hope you'll consider it. Time is short and taking "human action" is increasingly critical.

That's the practical part. What I've written here also has a theoretical component, one I believe is equally important.

Part One examines the history of Shemitah, especially its end day, along with Shemitah trends that are apt to persist. You'll recognize many of these trends and will be familiar with their coverage in the mainstream media.

Part Two of this book examines WHY our financial, monetary, economic and political systems have been designed in such a way that a phenomenon like Shemitah can so easily lead to crisis. These are TRENDS as well – trends that extend into modern history from pre-history. A good deal of this book is taken up with tracking their evolution.

By seeing how our current destructive trends have been planted, we can better figure out ways to uproot them.

The antidote to the destructive trends we are observing is freedom and decentralization, the ability for people to have the opportunity to use self-generated solutions. Putting the power back in the hands of the individual, in other words. Ideally a prosperous society involves myriad actors all seeking their own goals and objectives via self-actualization.

It is this antidote that can defuse the current destructive trends emanating from Shemitah. Just because a completely free

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market isn't totally feasible at this moment doesn't mean it's not the right answer.

Certainly in my view it's preferable to a system such as the one we have right now that is vulnerable to massive manipulations that can take place on a single day – such as Shemitah – and influence events in the months and years to come.

I hope you enjoy this book, or at least find its analysis and suggestions useful. If you do, perhaps you will investigate our website as well and take advantage of our **SurviveShemitah.com** special newsletter offer. Please consider joining us and participating in our real-time examinations of Shemitah and its ramifications. Thanks for reading. Don't be discouraged. Take action!

Jeff Berwick

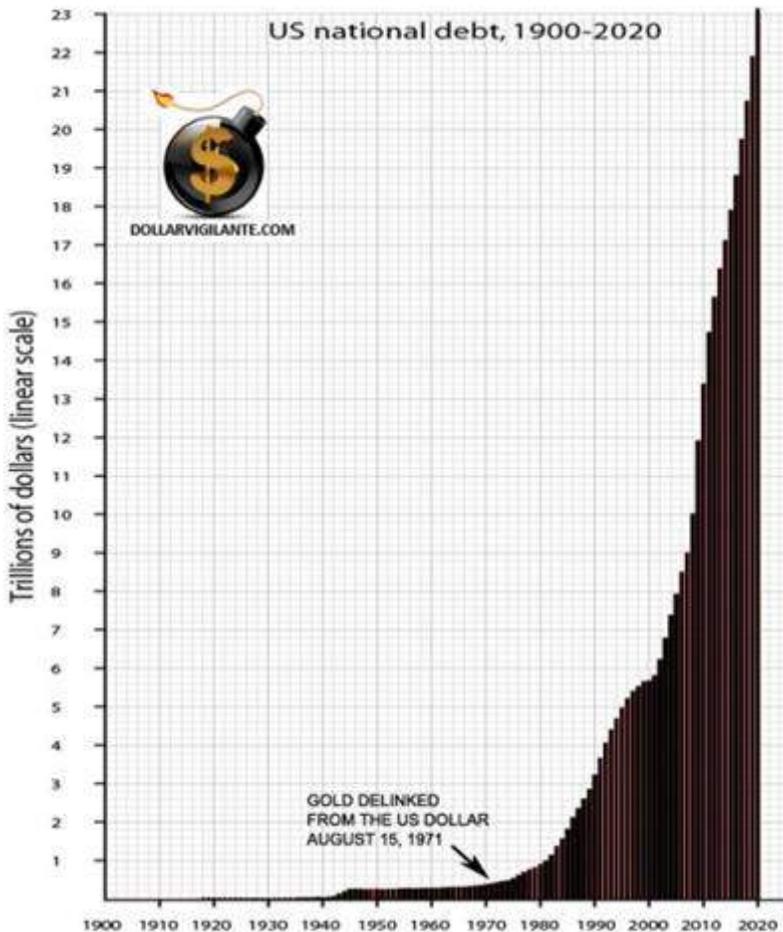
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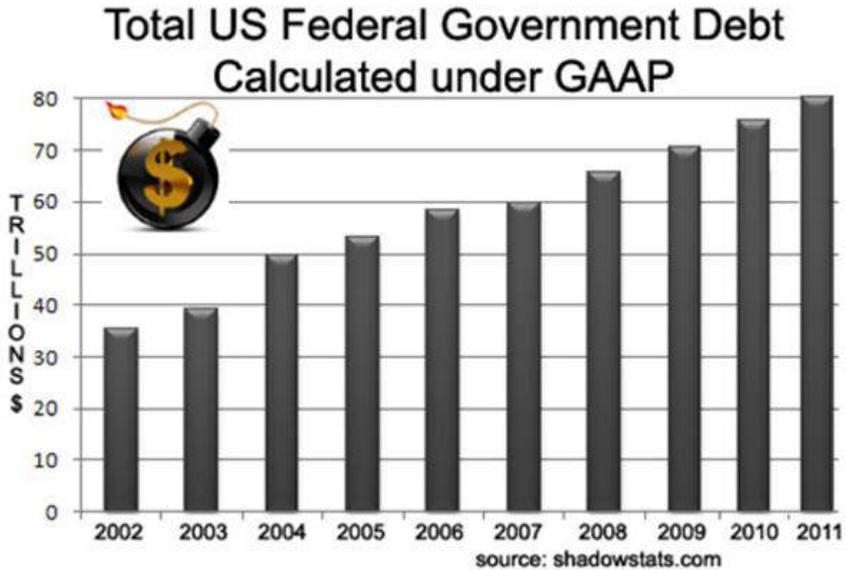
1.

MYTH AND REALITY

Shemitah's fearful chronology

The potential for a disastrous Shemitah did not occur overnight. It took a lot of hard work – of the wrong kind – to get to this place. We'll get into how this has evolved over decades and centuries further in the book. In the meantime, let's take a look at how with or without Shemitah things are already headed for collapse. Just look at the total debt of the US government, now at \$18 trillion, and its growth and you can see where this is headed.





And when you look further, you can see that even with a monstrous \$18 trillion debt it was only a small part of the story as so much of the debt and liabilities of the US aren't properly accounted for. Today the amount of debt and liabilities of the US government is over \$95 trillion. That's \$300,000 per person in the US or \$1.2 million in federal government debt and liabilities for every family of four.

I'm sure you remember the "great recession" or the financial crisis of 2008. It was very bad. George Soros was quoted as saying, "We witnessed the collapse of the financial system" in 2008, and all they did, and all they're still doing, is printing money to act like it didn't die.

The proof is in the numbers. In 2008, the Federal Reserve announced something they had never done before. They called it "Quantitative Easing"... but that's just a fancy term for printing obscene amounts of money.

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That money has been sloshing around and has mostly ended up in places like the stock market which, even as we speak, continues to hit all time highs. At some point, though, this money printing game has to stop and the rest of the world knows this is a certainty.

In response countries around the world have begun to move away from the dollar. China has begun their own bank transfer system which is the first international payment system to compete with the US dollar based SWIFT system.

Russia, as well, has been purchasing gold at record levels and trade agreements around the world are for the first time in decades being done outside of the US dollar.

For this, and many other reasons, I've been expecting a collapse in the US dollar. It's baked in the cake. And I've been telling my subscribers to prepare for this since 2010.

Back in 2010 I said that we probably had five and no more than 10 years left before the collapse. We are now five years in and I am seeing the first sign of a major collapse coming this fall and part of my reason for this has come with my discovery of the Shemitah.

I first heard of the Shemitah after reading Jonathan Cahn's book, *The Harbinger*. That book mostly talked about eerie events related to 9/11 and the Shemitah. While I found all the events related to 9/11 to be incredibly interesting the thing that really got my interest was in what he said about the Shemitah.

Every seven years is a Shemitah year. Because it is based on the Hebrew calendar, it doesn't fall on the same dates every year as our Western calendar but it does follow quite closely. The Shemitah is also known as a time where "all debts are settled", every seven years. It also can be interpreted as the "washing away" of things.

But, what caught my attention was that the last day of the Shemitah for the past two Shemitahs in 2001 and 2008 fell on days with a major market collapse.

The last day of Shemitah in 2001 fell on September 17th and that was the first day the US stock markets opened after 9/11. That day had the greatest one day stock market point crash in US history up to that time. The Dow fell almost 700 points, or 7 percent, and it was a record that held for precisely seven years until the end of the next Shemitah year.

Then, in 2008, On September 29th, the exact final day of the Shemitah, the Dow plummeted 777 points, which still today remains the greatest one day stock market crash of all time. You may be noticing quite a few 7s in all this. As well, on that day, it was the only known day on the New York Stock Exchange where the Opening Bell wouldn't ring!

I then decided to go back to Shemitah years since 1900 and was very surprised at what I found.

1917 was a Shemitah year. 1917 marked the year that the US entered into World War I and, soon after, the Russian, German, Austrian and Turkish empires had collapsed. Remember, the Shemitah is a time of "washing away."

1930-1931 was a Shemitah year and certainly wasn't a good time to be in the markets.

From the beginning of the Shemitah year until the end of the Shemitah, the market dropped 50 percent from 200 to 100, and then after the final day of the Shemitah the market dropped another 50 percent to below 50.

The next major Shemitah was in 1937 to 1938 and if you were in the market that year you'd have lost nearly 50 percent.

Shemith Trends

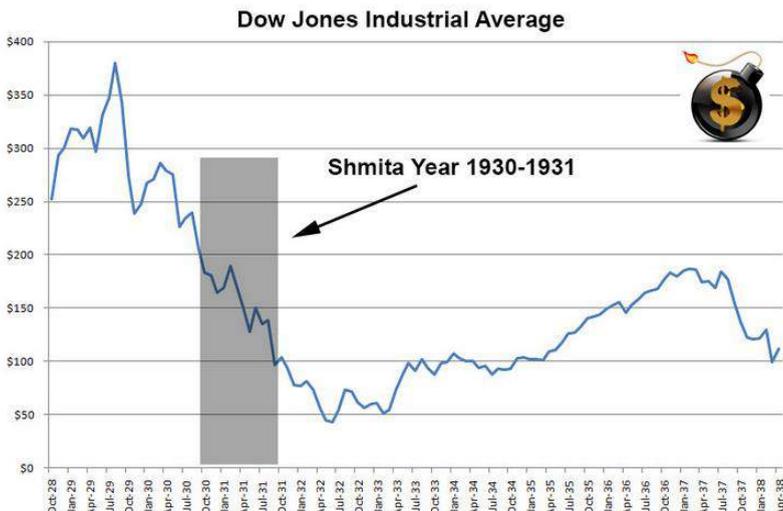
During the Shemith year in 1938, Hitler's Germany seized Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The World War that began in 1938 finally ended in September of 1945, nearly on the exact same day as the final day of the Shemith. Countless empires and countries were left devastated by that date, again a "washing away" if you will.

The next major Shemith was in 1973. In 1973 the Bretton Woods worldwide monetary system collapsed. The following Shemith was in 1980, seen by most gold bugs and market historians as marking the end of the massively inflationary 1970s.

Then the next Shemith year ended in 1987. During that time "Black Monday" occurred, the biggest one day percentage drop in history on the Dow. That same week, the London stock market closed due to an extremely rare hurricane having hit London. Again, a sort-of "washing away."

During the next Shemith, the 1994 bond market massacre caused financial strife worldwide. And we already mentioned the incredibly bizarre things that happened during the next two Shemiths in 2001 and 2008.



Of course you can say that if you look for patterns you can always find them in one way or another. And, to an extent that is true, but this Shemitah turning is so eerily correct that it is well known on Wall Street as “the seven year cycle”.

For this reason I have been keeping my eye on the end of the next Shemitah year on September 13, 2015.

And because of this I began doing some research on what events may be happening on or around that time... and the amount of bizarre things scheduled for this coming September is what convinced me something could well happen this fall.

I decided to begin looking up the days on or around September 13th of this year to see if I could find any interesting events and it didn't take long before I found numerous events all happening on or around that date of major significance.

The first thing I found was that the United Nations opens its 70th session of the UN General Assembly on September 15th in New York City. Countless world leaders will be attending. They call it their “Jubilee session.”

I didn't mention this yet, but every 7th Shemitah, or in other words, every seventh, seven year period – or after every 49 years – comes a Jubilee year. In the Jubilee, according to Jewish religion, it is the year when God, supposedly, gives back land taken away from their ancestors to them.

Of note, in the last Jubilee, in 1967, Israel won the seven-day war when Israel defeated Jordan and captured the West Bank, defeated Egypt and captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, and defeated Syria and captured the Golan Heights. Looking even further back to the prior Jubilee year in 1918, the British Empire took back Jerusalem from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. And so, in both prior Jubilee years there was a major development in Israel.

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The next Jubilee year starts on September 14th of this year and one of the items to be tabled in September is recognizing Palestine as a sovereign country.

As well, in September, the UN plans to launch a new plan for managing the entire globe, called the Sustainable Development Summit from September 25th to 27th. Some of the biggest names on the planet, including Pope Francis, will be speaking at this summit. The focus of this plan is to expand the scope of “global governance.” Global governance can also be defined as a one-world government. Or a new world order.

The pope, interestingly enough, will be busy in the US all of September as on September 15th the Pope will also be speaking at the UN and then on September 24th he’ll be speaking at the US Congress.

The next thing I noticed is that Jade Helm, a massive, unprecedented roll-out of the US military inside of the US runs from July 15th until September 15th!

This is particularly interesting in that there always seems to be a drill being run by the government when an actual crisis occurs. On 9/11 NORAD was running drills for numerous hijacked aircraft, as one example. During the Boston Marathon bombing there was a drill planned for that day for a bomb scare. There are numerous others we could add.

Jade Helm is currently in process and the amount of military equipment being amassed in the US is mind boggling. There is a lot of speculation that this amount of military build-up in the American south is in preparation for some sort of civil unrest.

That speculation built when a number of Walmart stores recently closed on the same day across the southern US, with no notice, due to “plumbing problems” and are said to remain

closed for six months. This fueled speculation that they're to be used as detention centers or for military logistics. They said they wouldn't re-open for six months... which just happens to be after September.

It Gets Stranger and Stranger

Recently the New York based Federal Reserve announced its moving its operations outside of New York to Chicago because of "concerns about a natural disaster." One might ask what natural disaster they are expecting in New York that they aren't expecting in Chicago.

Then, after the Fed's recent Federal Open Market Committee meeting it took the highly unusual act of removing all calendar references from its post-meeting statement (as reported by CNBC). Normally, in the post-meeting statement they include calendar events for upcoming important dates like the next meeting.

This time they didn't and just alluded that a date range for their long awaited 0.25 percent rate hike would "likely be" be in the fall.

But while they didn't put any dates of future meetings in their post-meeting notes they do have dates on their website of upcoming FOMC meetings. According to their site, the next meeting will be held on September 16th and 17th.

Meanwhile, the US federal government is buying another 62 million rounds of ammunition commonly used in AR-15s for "training" purposes. NORAD announced that it is moving back into Cheyenne Mountain because it is "EMP-hardened," leaving one to ask just what is NORAD expecting?

The list of strangeness goes on and on. There was the strange seven-minute speech by Christine Lagarde of the IMF talking

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about numerology and the number seven that she made in January of last year. She started the speech by saying, “As you can tell, I do what I am told,” and she went on to say, “I want to test your numerology skills on the magic number seven. Most of you know that is quite a number.”

2016 and Beyond

Something is going on. Only the timing is in question in my view. Even if nothing happens now, the trends are in place that make both military and economic actions feasible and perhaps inevitable. If these trends do not mature in 2105, chances are they will in 2016 or soon thereafter.

I’ve been advising people to get into hard assets, keep cash, precious metals, food, water and guns on hand to last for a number of months and move yourself and your wealth outside of the US if possible. I think there will be trouble all over the Western world but the US seems to be ground zero for this coming crisis.

2.

SHEMITAH TRENDS GOING FORWARD

Cracking the code of an elite time schedule

In this book, we're making the argument that the events clustered around Shemitah don't end with Shemitah. In fact while these events may present what a kind of "hyperactive" expression around the Shemitah end-day, most are part of longer term trends that are probably only going to get worse in the future.

By examining their presentation around Shemitah end-day we can possibly gain an understanding of their further expression in the months and years to come.

Tensions in the Middle East, climate change presentations, economic dysfunction and bank closures... all of these are finding increased traction around the Shemitah end-day. Observe their presentation to gain a sense of what will continue to haunt the world and cause increasingly chaotic conditions.

Many Shemitah-oriented crises may be scarcity related. According to the mainstream media we are running out of water, food, land – even air. The solution always seems to be more government involvement, more government solutions of the biggest kinds. In fact, it is the UN that is obviously supposed to take center stage. In the upcoming Jubilee year, the UN Security Council is likely to be voting on a UN resolution that will establish a Palestinian state. It is being reported that France will submit this resolution for a vote after the 70th session of the UN General Assembly begins on the 15th of September.

Yes, this very obviously constitutes a trend – call it a Shemitah trend. We notice Middle East difficulties clustering around

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Shemitah, the endless tensions associated with Palestinian-Jewish problems.

Speculation swirls around Shemitah end-day itself. These include reports that the International Monetary Fund will announce a new world currency, an alternative to the US dollar immediately sending foreign currency markets into chaos.

The speculations are lunar too. A lunar tetrad of four consecutive lunar eclipses or blood moons will be completed on September 28th. These eclipses are also said to be involved with seminal moments in Jewish history.

In 1493 and 1494 Jews were expelled from Spain. And the blood moons in 1949 and 1950 came right after the nation of Israel was assembled, giving the Jews a homeland for the first time in thousands of years. In 1967 and 1968, the phenomenon was linked to the Six-Day War.”

We can see such episodes have greater reverberation. They are not merely isolated incidents but tend to change history. Another such trend – brought into focus by Shemitah and its end-day – may involve the military exercise Jade Helm.

September 15th, is supposed to be the end of the military exercise Jade Helm which began on July 15th. Jade Helm’s operation has so far been very quiet and, in fact, has been the subject of a media blackout. Unfortunately, it is perfectly possible that the formal end of Jade Helm will not terminate a variety of informal but still considerable military activities. This would constitute a grave constitutional realignment for the US’s sociopolitical system, and one from which the country might never recover.

Then there are the abysmal financial trends. These may find expression in or around the Shemitah end-day, but they will likely extend far beyond it. The eyes of the financial world will

be focused on the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee meeting on September 16th and 17th. This is an especially important date if the Fed actually decides to move rates up by at least a quarter point.

While many in the financial community expect the market has already discounted the effect of such a rate hike, there are others who believe even a small hike could prove devastating to market averages. And such a hike would likely set a different market tone as well – a trend to the upside when it comes to interest rates that would have a significant ripple effect on markets, commodities, real estate, etc.

The coming closure of Shemitah has been marked by market turmoil even without adding rate hikes to the mix. The Chinese stock markets have been in freefall collapse and that has had a knock-off effect on markets around the world. The Chinese economy simply cannot continue to operate in the kind of revved-up fashion that has occurred over the past 30 years. But once the Chinese “economic miracle” subsides, where will the world's growth come from?

It certainly won't come from Europe. Europe's markets have been fairly decimated by the controversy and behavior of the euro and the constraints it places on monetary policy. This has found its most destructive presentation in the ongoing Greek banking crisis. While the Greek crisis seems cyclically to subside, it is in no sense resolved and further episodes of financial instability can break out at any moment.

The Greek episode is merely part of a larger banking problem faced by Europe. The banks over-lent but countries are not able to pay without taking extraordinary measures that would likely be seen as punitive by the citizenship that would have to bear the additional burdens.

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Who is to say that the political consensus to bail out a massively indebted banking system will be there this time round – in the US or the West, generally? Politics and finance are getting more unpredictable as the Greeks are finding out. There are even talks of “bail-ins” in Greece, where savers will suddenly find that as part-owners of the bank by virtue of their deposits, they are subject to “haircuts” in which their bank arbitrarily removes a percentage of funds to meet larger obligations.

These days when you keep your money in a bank you are truly providing “a hostage to fortune,” putting your assets in the hands of others who have little reason to care for you or your family. For Western – and especially US – citizens, this is ironic as governments made great efforts in the 20th century to convince savers that their funds were safe because of deposit insurance.

Do YOU believe in the assurances of your government and “highly placed officials?” This would seem to be yet another trend, one of many clustered around the Shemitah end-day that will continue and perhaps worsen for months or years to come.

Do you believe the US is in a recovery? Do you believe the government can continue to fund its out-of-control borrowing? Are you positive the thousand trillion dollar derivatives market won't crash under the severe pressure of a critical market event? It CAN happen here. It is a trend that is not going away.

Emerging markets are suffering from a variety of difficulties. Brazil is in recession; Russia is suffering from a European boycott and India seems to be facing a long-term recessionary downturn as well. None of these issues are simply going to vanish once Shemitah-day comes and goes.

Racism, Too

Racial turmoil has continued around the globe with violence marking Islamic-European relationships in numerous cities and countries. In the US, the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown created a protest movement (Black Lives Matter) that has continued to gain strength as additional police shootings occur.

A Washington Post investigation has found that police officers killed at least 500 people in the United States in 2015, and the toll shows no sign of diminishing. Instead, police in numerous states are “digging in.” In Dallas, police are evidently engaged in a service slowdown that is aggravating an already tense community relationship.

Perhaps the police are not to be blamed for such a slowdown as it has been reported that top globalists such as George Soros are actually funding community dissatisfaction and even violence aimed at police and police actions. This was said to be the case in Ferguson where Soros funds evidently found their way into protests against the Michael Brown shooting.

The major Hollywood biopic, “Straight Outta Compton,” is a \$25 million film about the famous California hip hop group N.W.A. The timing of this just-released movie combined with intensive media coverage of police shootings of minorities certainly adds to an already tense situation.

Global Warming

In September Pope Frances and President Barack Obama will be meeting to discuss global warming and “climate change” – another divisive subject that continues to have significant economic ramifications.

In fact, Obama recently unveiled what he called the “biggest, most important step we’ve ever taken to fight climate change.”

The President passed a rule that coal-fired power plants must reduce the production of carbon to 2005 levels. This will certainly further depress an already stressed US economy.

The President's new initiatives are apparently part of a larger orchestration of activism. This activism is to culminate in December in Paris where the world's leaders will gather for climate negotiations that some hope will ban or reduce certain kinds of energy "pollution" in favor of wind power and solar energy.

Once again, we see the Shemitah end-day magnifying certain questionable political and economic agendas. These may have severely negative consequences for those who believe freedom is preferable to political coercion and marketplace solutions are preferable to legislative force.

Issues Examined in the Rest of this Book

TDV covers the negative trends of modernity on a regular basis. However, the rest of this book is somewhat historical in nature. It seeks to analyze the weaknesses in our present system that have allowed people – seemingly a small and powerful group – to so easily take advantage of our sociopolitical and economic environment.

Throughout history, people have understood that centralization of power is not healthy on a variety of levels. In extreme circumstances such centralized control leads to genocide when, for one reason or another, those able to exercise power on a massive scale implement murderous policies that wipe out whole populations.

But leaving aside genocide, institutionalized power is simply brutal and unwieldy. And, worst case, it affords opportunities for unscrupulous people to manipulate gigantic public and private entities for their own personal gain.

Large entities have a unique ability to force people to act in a certain way. However, this process can be likened to “price fixing.” When society is pushed in a certain direction, inevitably people push back. Gray and black markets (which are just free markets operating under duress) evolve and wealth is redistributed in wasteful and even destructive ways. Prosperity leaks away.

Part Two, upcoming, examines this leakage. Only by understanding how we got here can we begin to undo the damage. Those who do not understand history are often, unfortunately, doomed to repeat it.

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PART TWO

3.

MY STORY

How I got here

Before we get into too much more detail perhaps we should stop for a moment and talk about how I came to the understanding I have today.

I started off like many people, blissfully unaware of how the monetary, financial and political systems really work and it cost me tens of millions of dollars.

But I've learned, since then. In this chapter, I want to share two profound realizations I've had in my life, both of which are pertinent to this book's main thesis regarding my beliefs on the benefits to humanity of free markets and human action.

The first one involves technology itself. I realized early on that I had an attraction to computers and was what they called back then a "computer nerd" or "whiz kid". I even developed what I believe to be the earliest version of Photoshop on an Apple II+ at 13 years old. Later on, as the internet evolved, I became aware of its power to change the way we work, live and generally absorb information.

The second realization came to me via the internet itself. It was through the internet that I was introduced to free-market, Austrian economics that ultimately determined the direction of my life.

Austrian economics is filled with wonderful laissez-faire thinkers, and one of them is F.A. Hayek who introduced the term "spontaneous order." It was Hayek's contention that society didn't need much organizing from above and that many inventions, services and social organizations evolve spontaneously.

In fact, the internet is a good example of that. It is well known that DARPA invented the concept of the internet to enable top US universities to share their military research with the Pentagon electronically.

However, what is less well known is that it was the popularization of the personal computer via Apple and the two “Steves” that expanded DARPA’s ‘net out of all proportion to what its founders had visualized.

Once the PC came along, people began attaching themselves to the internet and thus to the evolving world wide web. As smart people came “online” they began to invent new technologies to exploit this fascinating technology.

One of the first inventions was email, and another was the idea of a website, a destination that could promote a concept or a company. The early days of the internet, and pre-internet (called Bulletin Board Systems) were also filled with chat rooms that served as destinations for like-minded individuals.

All this happened spontaneously, without any real organization. It is a good example of market-driven innovation that had little or nothing to do with direct government intervention.

Understand, please, the miraculous convergence of modern electronic communications and Austrian free market economics – it is so important! One made the truth of such economics available. The other actually described how this availability came to take place, via people working independently of each other and yet sharing a common goal.

The combination of these occurrences has given us the ability to understand our world in ways we probably couldn’t otherwise. It has also given us the opportunity to re-imagine

society and economics based on an entirely different set of assumptions.

20th century assumptions rested on the nation-state and top-down organization of society, like a triangle or pyramid. 21st century assumptions are much different for a growing number of people. These individuals (count me among them) envision societies that are horizontally rather than vertically controlled.

Seen this way, Shemitah is organized around a 20th century environment while a freer, less controlling society is more easily envisioned in the 21st century. Without top-down control of society, the rigidities that Shemitah exploits would not be available, as these rigidities are based on a kind of sociopolitical gigantism.

To bring it back to our argument, the internet is naturally adversarial to the implementation of an event like Shemitah that can be used by financial and power elites to cause pre-planned chaos and destruction for profit.

Of course, I didn't know this at age 10, when my grandfather bought me an Apple II+ clone that I had to build myself from Vietnam, called a Unitron. I had no idea of where it would take me, in fact, but I spent practically my entire youth working on it and learning the ins and outs of computing and programming.

High finance was certainly not on my mind at the time, but that would come soon enough. Mundanely, I was caught up in a struggle to avoid public school (aka. government indoctrination camps) in order to continue my self-taught computer studies.

Eschewing school, I missed a lot of the heavy statist/collectivist indoctrination from public schools and private schools that are regulated by government. I'd like to think that's helped me later in life. I've had less intellectual

baggage and misinformation to shed than most and I never allowed myself to be forced to conform.

As a computer hacker/nerd, I always had the outlook that any problem was fixable. I learned this through programming. If you have a problem in your code it is always fixable... you may need to upgrade to new hardware or work very hard to find the solution, but there was a solution to every problem.

Fast-forward to 1994. I continued my computer studies, but now – a young man – I was facing the reality of trying to find a career that would provide me both stimulation and monetary rewards. I'd become interested in the financial sector and began work in the banking industry, hoping my computer skills and interest in finance/investing might find purchase there.

In 1994, someone at the bank said, "Have you heard about this internet thing?" I said, no, I hadn't. He told me about it and I said to him, "I've been waiting my whole life for this!"

Running home, I took my computer out of the closet (because I had finally become bored of it being so limited), logged on to the internet and within minutes I thought, "This is going to change the world... I need to do something here."

Interested in the stock market at the time, I decided to start up a financial website where you could get stock quotes. Back then there were no such websites, so I started one and focused it originally on Canadian stocks as I lived in Canada.

I ran it out of my house for about a year and continued to work at the bank in the meantime. It grew rapidly. I remember going to a job interview with one of the biggest stock brokerages in Canada, Wood Gundy, and the interviewer asked me what I could offer the firm. I told him that I had a financial website with over 10,000 regular users and that I could surely leverage that as a stockbroker. His response was, "What's a website?"

Quitting my bank job, I decided to focus on building the site. By 1999 it had over a million users and we had received a tremendous amount of financing during the good old “tech bubble” days.

We received about \$40 million in financing and we expanded to 250 staff in eight countries around the world. We were getting close to doing a billion dollar NASDAQ IPO when the tech bubble burst and people like Lehman Bros stopped returning my calls... As we now know, they soon would stop returning anyone’s calls!

Within days it became clear that no more financing was coming and we had a burn rate of \$1.5 million per month with about \$15 million in the bank. So as quickly as we had grown, we had to dismantle the whole thing and at one point we were down to just eight people.

Everyone told me we had to go into bankruptcy but I negotiated and fought with all of our creditors and managed to salvage the company and later sold it in 2002.

I was exhausted and stressed out to the point of not even being able to walk up a flight of stairs without feeling like I was having a heart attack.

For eight years of my life I had spent 18 hours per day, seven days a week on Stockhouse. It went from starting in my house to becoming nearly a billion dollar global company to being almost totally destroyed again.

It was at that point that I decided I needed to take a break, travel the world – to see the world through my own eyes and not through the lens of the media – and try to figure out what exactly happened!

Plotting the Free-Market

Computers were one huge influence in my life. The other was reading articles by Doug Casey around 2002. I immediately put Doug Casey's writings up on Stockhouse. Later on I had the pleasure to meet Doug for dinner and after listening to me for a while, he explained my views were "libertarian." I'd never heard the word!

I spent weeks researching "libertarian" and figuring out what it meant. Eventually, I decided I was something even more extreme, an anarchist. Or to use another term, anarcho-capitalist. That simply means, by the way, someone who believes a market-based society is better than one run by government and who doesn't want to use force/violence nor be forced to do anything.

As I explored these terms, I read the great book, *The Creature From Jekyll Island*, by G. Edward Griffin... someone who has now become a friend. It told of how the Federal Reserve was founded in 1913 and how it was essentially just a nefarious take-over of the US by the banks.

Not only was I shocked to hear that we had been so lied to... but it also explained why my internet company rose so fast and then imploded even faster. Money printing by the central banks.

This knowledge led me to become very interested in Austrian economics.

I'd never much been interested in economics. It sounded incredibly boring and overly complicated... something I could never really understand. I took an economics class once, out of curiosity, when I was younger at a community college, "Economics 101." Half of what they said sounded totally wrong to me and I walked out.

But the Austrian School of economics made a lot of sense to me. I ended up investing about eight years in studying the Austrian School. I'm still learning new things every day.

After spending eight years giving myself an education in how the world really works, it had become very clear to me that the entire global financial and monetary system was an artificial, extra-market construct. It used force to generate price discovery instead of competition and thus was getting more and more distorted. It could not be sustained and was headed for collapse.

I also realized that not 1 person in 100 was aware of this and so I decided to try to do something to help educate and inform people. I decided to start a libertarian/anarchist, Austrian economics grounded newsletter, The Dollar Vigilante, to help spread the word about what was going on because the more prepared people for the collapse the easier it will be.

What I especially liked about the Austrian School is that it isn't really a school of thought so much as a "value-free" theoretical discipline. A lot of the good in modern economic theory, like the subjective theory of value, came from this school. It was labeled "Austrian" by its rivals in the German Historical School, and has been marginalized by mainstream economists ever since – mainly because bona fide economics demolishes the grand (economically illiterate) schemes of the economic planners.

I discovered the Austrian School because all of its scholars preach the free market ethic and more consistently than their peers too. But, it is important to note that this ethic is not the basis of its body of economic theories. The economics of the Austrian School has a very firm scientific methodology as a foundation.

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All the laws of economics are derived from the ultimate cause of all economic phenomena: purposeful action. The entire body of economics lay on this knowledge, that a human acts because he/she is trying to either improve his/her circumstances or remove some discomfort, and they choose among whatever available means they have at their disposal to achieve their ends.

The fields of political theory and psychology – even history – are concerned with such values. The “ends” people want to attain. But economics is only concerned with the fact that they act purposefully to attain ends.

It is utilitarian that way. It doesn't care what those ends are. It only cares about the universal laws that govern human interactions amongst themselves and with their environment. What I want to say by all of this is that the political theory of liberty is an ethical doctrine.

The fact that the Austrian School scholars unanimously support relatively libertarian ideas only proves that there is a utilitarian or scientific/logical foundation for the ethic. In other words, they reach those conclusions because logic and knowledge of economic laws takes them there.

The foundation for the Austrian School of Economics is not political – it is scientific. Austrian economist Murray Rothbard did in fact establish a moral foundation for libertarianism, but economics is a scientific discipline first; it merely enables us to undress the world around us.

Basically, if I had to summarize the Austrian School, it would revolve around two main issues: Marginal utility and, as I have pointed out, human action. Marginal utility is the dividing line between classical – static – economics and modern economics.

What marginal utility really explains to us is that prices are dynamic, especially at the margin and that only the market can determine the current value, which can shift from day-to-day, hour-to-hour or even minute-to-minute.

Human action was most eloquently explained (to begin with) by the great Austrian economic philosopher Ludwig von Mises. He tells us that people react to laws and regulations imposed upon them. They are not, in other words, automatons, that do what they are told.

This is of course a great grief to bureaucrats that never tire of “fixing” the “failures” of the marketplace with new legislation based on econometric predictions of social and economic needs.

Econometrics is the religion of the modern state and combines technocracies worst characteristics – numerical analysis and social engineering. The idea is that skilled economic mathematicians can take available sociopolitical and economic inputs and through the use of sophisticated equations can determine what the future might hold.

From my point of view, this is an entirely wrongheaded approach to “human engineering,” and is for the most part responsible for the state our world is in.

Econometrics, wielded by the “wisest among us” are supposed to alleviate human misery and anticipate and reduce potential suffering. But I’d argue in fact it does just the reverse!

Enter Malthus

One of the original economists, Thomas Malthus, was a man who made such gloomy predictions that the entire field of

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economics was soon nicknamed the Dismal Science due to his influence.

Malthus used rudimentary charts and graphs to determine that the population of his home country of England was growing more quickly than its food supply. He calculated when the population would exceed the food supply, sometime in the later 1700s and predicted there would be mass starvation at that time.

Of course, it didn't happen. Faced with a potential food shortage, people did what they always do – they took human action by planting more food, starting backyard gardens and creating innovative ways to get more from less. In other words, the problems that Malthus foresaw were also seen by average people who didn't need any five-year state-run plan to tell them they needed to grow food, or catch it, in order not to starve.

We can see from this Malthusian mix-up that combining numerical analysis with supply and demand projections didn't work very well for Malthus. And it works no better today.

Despite an almost never-ending supply of intelligent, numerically gifted graduated students and an almost infinite array of statistics available to the modern bureaucrat, the process developed by Malthus has really never changed. It's as flawed and unworkable today as yesterday. Even with all the computer power we have and technology advancing by leaps and bounds, the Malthusian, econometric approach is destined to be a failure.

Unfortunately, it gets even worse for those of us who study and apply Austrian economics. That's because around the world,

increasingly large and authoritarian governments refuse to recognize the basic failure of the government model.

They seem convinced that if they can only pass enough laws and put enough people in jail, the problems that are occurring will be alleviated. Alternatively, they simply don't care.

Austrian economics shows us clearly that arbitrary laws and regulations don't work and can't work because their predictive value is nullified by human action. And worse than that, every law and regulation "fixes" prices and creates an inefficient wealth transfer and destruction.

After a certain point, so many laws and regulations don't merely make an economy inefficient – they virtually freeze it in place, thus basically shutting it down. That's where we are now, I'd argue. Probably the only parts of Western economies that are working at all are involved with what economists call the "gray market" or even the "black market" but is actually a "free market" – where laws and regulations are ignored altogether.

The wrongheaded way we approach economics and attempt to manipulate fundamental building blocks of society only leads to economic difficulties and, increasingly, economic chaos.

Once More, Thanks for the Internet

Slowly, thanks in large part to the internet, people are getting access to real information (like Austrian economics) and finally beginning to question a lot of government propaganda about the way things "need" to work (from the top down). The political and financial elites have taken notice with John Kerry recently stating, "This internet is making it hard to govern."

Government, and governing, of course has the roots of the word in Latin from the words "governo", which means "to

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control” and “mentis”, meaning “mind”. Government is a form of mind control and once those invested in government lose their ability to control what most people think they will lose their power.

And it couldn't happen at a better time because the US government and almost all Western governments are bankrupt and failing and the first real boot to drop may be coming this fall. The more that people are aware of this, the easier the collapse and transition will be.

4.

MODERN SLAVERY

How subjugation enables events like Shemitah

We're now entering the portion of this book where we examine the historical trends that have brought us to our current fix. Upcoming chapters will examine how these trends played out with a special emphasis on Western and US evolutions. Toward the end of this book, I'll extrapolate on how these may evolve in the next few years – and how you can protect yourself from them.

If people weren't forced to act in much the same way professionally and personally, the implementation of serial disasters could not exist in such a repetitive manner. It is antithetical to most people's mindset, but this forcing resembles a kind of slavery. Of course, nobody calls you a slave. You don't LOOK like a slave. You don't wear a collar or a brand. But in a number of ways you are a slave.

Try not paying income taxes, property taxes or any of the literally hundreds of other taxes imposed upon you. You'll lose what you own and you may end up in a cage called prison. They even have a tax for dying, called the Estate Tax. Smoke a plant the government has decided isn't good for you – again, you stand a good chance of being thrown in jail. Collecting rain water? Feeding the homeless? Not getting a permit (permission) to open a child's lemonade stand? Ditto. And those just occur off the top of the head.

And if you try to avoid being kidnapped (arrested) and put in a cage (jail) they will do whatever it takes, including killing you, to do so.

There are literally millions of rules and regulations – and if the government (especially the US government) decides to “get”

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one of its citizens, it surely can. There are federal courts that have a conviction rate of almost 100 percent. And the sentences are routinely long – twenty or thirty years at a time for offences that weren't even considered criminal 50 years ago.

The society that the modern US state is most often compared to is Rome. But Roman slaves had numerous options. They could buy their way out of slavery, or could be freed by a master. Debt slavery, especially, is a thoroughly modern US dilemma. Whether its taxes, alimony or credit card payments, people who miss payments often are haunted by it for years or decades. Divorce, imprisonment or even suicide can result.

Rome had debt slavery as well, called *nexum*, but did away with it. That's probably not going to happen so easily in the US.

Here's how Wikipedia describes the system and how it ended.

Nexum was a debt bondage contract in the early Roman Republic. Though the terms of the contract would vary, essentially a free man pledged himself as a bond slave (nexus) as surety for a loan. He might also hand over his son as collateral ... Nexum was abolished by the Lex Poetelia Papiria in 326 BC, in part to prevent abuses to the physical integrity of citizens who had fallen into debt bondage ...

What does Rome have to teach us? Here's something from The Observer on this issue:

To medieval and Renaissance historians it was a morality tale of hubris and nemesis, testifying to the unrelenting cycle of history. What rose had to fall. [But] it was the ambition of the Enlightenment historian Edward Gibbon to provide a more scientific answer.

Gibbon, we learn, was a rationalist who worked hard to analyze what had doomed Rome. He decided that “unhealthy prosperity” had doomed Rome along with the use of mercenaries, incorrect analysis of enemies and the rise of Christianity.

The Observer concludes that there is much parallelism between Rome and modern states, especially the US. It asks if the US will go the way of Rome and if we “stand on the precipice of a new Dark Age.”

Actually, we can answer this last question with some certainty. We are surely living at end-times for the current system. Empires fortunately only seem to move in one direction ... toward decay.

The Guardian analysis, however, is flawed in two ways. First, the so-called Dark Ages were an epoch of decentralization with a variety of local power centers. Today’s court historians characterize that era as “dark” because of the lack of federal authority. But in fact, the Dark Ages may have been a time of less oppression and more individual freedom.

Competing power centers are important. What is often forgotten about Rome’s ascension is that it began as seven hills – seven disparate communities that were brought together by location and by shared games of physical strength and skill.

Here, according to Wikipedia: “Tradition holds that the seven hills were first occupied by small settlements and not grouped or recognized as a city called Rome. The denizens of the seven hills began to participate in a series of religious games, which started to bond the groups. The city of Rome, thus, came into being as these separate settlements acted as a group, draining the marshy valleys between them and turning them into markets (fora in Latin).”

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We see in this description everything that makes sense regarding how civilizations evolve, especially great ones. Small communities located in advantageous physical regions gradually evolve separately before coming together. A shared language and cultural proximity makes it easy for individuals and family groups to move from one locale to another should any individual government become overbearing.

The reality of people's ability to move from one place to another without disrupting their lives generates what might be called "government competition" in order to attract and keep talented, hard-working citizens. Over time, government instincts tend toward a lighter rather than heavier rule.

This light-handed government culture may eventually result in calls for further centralization as local governments are not seen as oppressive. But once a culture has merged into a single political entity the damage is done: Inevitably once competition is lacking between governments, the unified political entity generates a higher profile and eventually begins to pass more laws for purposes of "efficiency" and of course national security.

The course of empire seems always the same. And it is one reason why so many empires are established not via merger but through the force of arms. One could certainly make the argument that because Rome was established voluntarily, it became more powerful and longer-lasting than it might have otherwise. It was the culture of voluntarism – of freemen – that informed the republic and then, even, the empire for a short time.

Various Western societies that have been deemed "great" often undergo this process. It was competition between Greek city states that may have led to the Greek Golden Age centered around Athens.

Even the great free-market economist Murray Rothbard confessed that he didn't understand the circumstances of the Golden Age, but it may have been as simple as competition between regions creating cultures that valued wealth and individual initiative. AHistoryofGreece.com informs us of how this came about:

The Classical Period or Golden Age of Greece, from around 500 to 300 BC, has given us the great monuments, art, philosophy, architecture and literature which are the building blocks of our own civilization ... The seeds of the classical period were sown in the 8th century with the committing of Homer to writing which in a way created a code of conduct and an ethnic identity for the Greeks.



Leonidas I of Sparta. Public domain.

AHistoryofGreece.com also reminds us that the greatest or most powerful city states were Athens and Sparta but that these two cultures evolved in different ways. Sparta's culture, in fact, ran parallel to Athens until the Spartans had the misfortune of fighting a war with their neighbors in Messinia to the West. The result was so successful that the Spartans "subjugated the entire population of Messinia, reducing them to slaves or helots."

History is replete with examples of how individuals and cultures reap the unexpected from violence and war. In this case, the "success" of a violent enterprise apparently changed the texture of Spartan society as much as it did the defeated one. "The boys learned to read and write but their primary educational goal was to learn to be brave and strong."

Sparta – Driven by the State

While there were certainly admirable elements to Spartan society, the concentration on martial arts and subservience of the individual to the state meant that a relative few enjoyed the full gamut of privileges associated with their nationality while many oppressed and brutalized. If the greatness of a society is defined by its ability to lift up the population into some measure of prosperity and security and to inspire members to live create and insightful lives, then certainly Athens succeeded in ways that Sparta did not.

Athenians created great poetry and art; their philosophers helped discover what today is called the "scientific method" and their healers developed an approach to medicine that would not be equaled for centuries. The Athenian culture benefitted from inter-state competition in ways that the Spartans did not. However, both cultures were certainly stimulated by their rivalry and developed in ways they would not have absent the proximity of the other.

In Italy, during the Renaissance, we find the same sort of methodology in operation. As individual city-states increased in prosperity, rivalries increased but so did trade and even specialization. The ItalianRenaissance.com points out that “Milan produced metal goods and armor. Genoa was a trading center for ivory and gold. Venice had hundreds of ships that controlled the trade routes in the Mediterranean sea, and silk, spices, and perfume flowed into Venice.”

Renaissance ideas, like those of the Greeks, emphasized the scientific method and welcomed individual achievement within the ambit of the larger society. Rival power centers encouraged this sort of freedom. Even great artists like Michelangelo took advantage of inter-city rivalries. In 1527, for instance, Michelangelo returned to Florence to help install a republic there, but when the city fell in 1530 to the Medicis, he departed from Florence and left assistants to complete the Medici chapel.

The health of a society lies in its fragmentation. There is plenty of evidence that societies flourish when they are young and not well-organized from a political standpoint. It is the bigness of the modern state that allows most abuses of citizenry to expand and continue. Bigness was a prime attribute of Rome as well, and an important reason why Roman society ultimately fell apart and the “barbarians” triumphed.

Contrary to popular understanding, it is not centralization that is a mark of greatness but a warning that social consolidation is probably out-of-control and that the society now teeters at the edge of an abyss of authoritarianism and even fascism. As the world’s sole superpower, the US seems well-advanced down this road, unfortunately.

5.

A SLAVE-JOURNEY BEGINS

How we were gradually stripped of rights

The US is very important in the world today not only because of its military and economic power but because it was organized as a republic and despite its many difficulties remains one to this day, at least on paper.

By understanding the evolution of the US from a fairly free environment into the increasingly authoritarian environment it is today, we can better understand how something like Shemitah's serial disasters (past and presumably present) could be generated and implemented.

The trend, in other words, is clear. We simply need to track it and analyze it to understand it better.

Right from the beginning, slavery was a problem in the United States, though initially "white" people were exempted more than blacks or Native Americans. Today, however, US slavery is an equal opportunity affliction. Slavery and empire tend to travel together. Here's an illuminating statistic: The New York Times tells us that, "The United States has less than five percent of the world's population. But it has almost a quarter of the world's prisoners." The article continues as follows:

Indeed, the United States leads the world in producing prisoners, a reflection of a relatively recent and now entirely distinctive American approach to crime and punishment. Americans are locked up for crimes — from writing bad checks to using drugs — that would rarely produce prison sentences in other countries. And in particular they are kept incarcerated far longer than prisoners in other nations. Criminologists and legal scholars in other industrialized nations say they are

mystified and appalled by the number and length of American prison sentences.

There is not much mystery about what's going on in the United States. Powerful forces right from the beginning undermined the "exceptionalism" of the US and conspired to turn a republic into an empire.

To appreciate the full sweep of the history of the New World one really needs to consider the totality of the European occupation that took place after Columbus "discovered" it. There is no doubt that the "new world's" birth was bloody and evolved in conjunction with the eradication or imprisonment of so-called Native Americans that had populated the continent for thousands of years.

Let us not gloss over slavery that occurred prior to the arrival of European explorers (first the Vikings and then the Spanish, etc.) American natives (native "Indians") practices slavery of a sort both in North and South American, though it seems the practice was far more violent and deadly in the South than in the North.

Human sacrifice was especially common in South America. The Spanish helped institutionalize slavery in the Caribbean and then in the North America proper via African slaves that were brought in to replace the native population that was dying off for various reasons. Jewish merchants were active in the slave trade as well according to Rabbi Marc Raphael's book, "Jews and Judaism in the United States: A Documentary History."

In Curacao in the seventeenth century, as well as in the British colonies of Barbados and Jamaica in the eighteenth century, Jewish merchants played a major role in the slave trade. In fact, in all the American colonies, whether French

(Martinique), British, or Dutch, Jewish merchants frequently dominated.

In addition to slaves that were transported to the Americas, others arrived with restraints on their freedom. These were indentured servants that may have constituted as many as three-quarters of immigrants in certain regions, especially in Virginia and environs.

Of course, commercial and religious reasons motivated many settlers of the New World. New York had been settled by the Dutch and expanded as a financial force as European and British banks used the state as a beachhead for commercial interests. Massachusetts thrived based on trade from abroad and also had a cohesive population of British Protestants; Pennsylvania was a haven for various churches of the Reformation including most prominently the Quakers.

The various migration patterns provided individual states with their own cultural profile, customs and laws, but the nascent nation might never have forcibly separated itself from Europe without the unfortunate reign of King George III who suffered from the royal affliction of porphyria from insufficient production of hemoglobin. Progressing from occasional paralysis of the limbs to convulsions and then to general insanity, George III lived until 1820 but spent most of his last years locked up and straight-jacketed in several of his private apartments.

George father, King George II, was considered something of an ineffective buffoon, but he had restrained his politicians and his court from bleeding Britain's US settlements. His death in 1760 and George III's assumption of the throne put an end to this passivity. King George III was both militant and arrogant. After the French and Indian War settled the Crown with large debts, he looked to colonies for funds.

Conventional history tells us that the colonies generally objected to various taxes King George levied including the infamous Stamp Act. After the Stamp Act was repealed, King George responded by backing the Townshend Acts, in 1766, that levied taxes on various commodities and was partially responsible for the infamous Boston Tea Party that protested the Act.

The Boston Tea Party was organized by Samuel Adams, whose cousin John Adams would eventually become President of the United States. Often, the Tea Party is portrayed as a straight-forward tax protest, but the story may actually be considerably murkier and has to do as much with the man who helped fund Adams as Adams himself. That man was John Hancock, then governor of Massachusetts.

Hancock had one over-riding reason to hire Adams, which had to do with the Hancock family's considerable fortune. While it is little known and less reported is that the Hancock family apparently held various contracts to ferry goods from British boats off shore to Boston warehouses. It was these contracts that came into jeopardy – among other items – that convinced Hancock to act.

The relationship between Adams and Hancock is often portrayed as one of mentor and apprentice, but it is difficult to see how Adams maintained this role, given Hancock's wealth and Adams' general ineptitude. What does seem clear is that Adams remained in the forefront of agitation against various British acts of economic coercion and was also instrumental in organizing the inter-colonial Congress that would lead to the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence and finally the Constitution. Wikipedia:

The Articles of Confederation, formally the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, was an agreement among the 13 founding states that established the United States of

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America as a confederation of sovereign states and served as its first constitution. Its drafting by the Continental Congress began in mid-1776, and an approved version was sent to the states for ratification in late 1777. The formal ratification by all 13 states was completed in early 1781.

Even when not yet ratified, the Articles provided domestic and international legitimacy for the Continental Congress to direct the American Revolutionary War, conduct diplomacy with Europe and deal with territorial issues and Native American relations. Nevertheless, the weakness of the government created by the Articles became a matter of concern for key nationalists. On March 4, 1789, the Articles were replaced with the U.S. Constitution. The new Constitution provided for a much stronger national government with a chief executive (the president), courts, and taxing powers.

At this point, we encounter Alexander Hamilton, a founding father who had perhaps the most powerful influence on the nascent US Republic. He wrote a good deal of the material in the Federalist Papers that would later be used to construct the Constitution.

Hamilton was also instrumental in setting up the Philadelphia conference that first constructed the Constitution and then ratified it. At the time, those in attendance were under strict instructions from the participating states to redraft the Federation not to create an entirely new document. Nonetheless, a new document was written and passed, one that Benjamin Franklin supposedly warned created ... “A Republic – if you can keep it.”

There is a good deal of controversy surround Hamilton, and while history shows that he fought against the British, he also seems to have had a good deal of sympathy for certain elements of European-style political and economic systems.

Wikipedia relates the following about his actions after the end of the war and his departure from federal politics following allegations of marital impropriety:

Hamilton resigned from Congress, and in July 1783 was authorized to practice law in New York after several months of self-directed education. He practiced law in New York City in partnership with Richard Harison. He specialized in defending Tories and British subjects, as in Rutgers v. Waddington, in which he defeated a claim for damages done to a brewery by the Englishmen who held it during the military occupation of New York. He pleaded for the Mayor's Court to interpret state law consistent with the 1783 Treaty of Paris which had ended the Revolutionary War.

Hamilton founded the Bank of New York and helped restore King's College partially destroyed during the war. His biggest impact probably had to do with replacing the Articles of Confederation – which he considered weak – with the Constitution and a far stronger federal government.

In fact, Hamilton on a regular basis promoted a strong centralized government. Serving as the first Treasury Secretary, he promoted his vision of a “public debt as a blessing.” A public debt entangles various constituencies in government programs and thus creates support for activist politics.

In the early 21st century there has been a good deal of commentary that the US conforms to Hamilton's vision of sociopolitical and economic organization rather than Thomas Jefferson's more agrarian and free-market perspective.

The history of the US has in fact been presented as a choice between these two men and their outcomes. And there is no doubt that in the 21st century the United States with its US\$4 trillion government, mighty military and vast penal-gulag

system conforms to Hamilton's ideology rather than Jefferson's.

Jefferson's Mixed Example

It has also emerged that Jefferson himself, despite convictions concerning freedom that he enunciated in the Declaration of Independence – “all men are created equal” – was an active and surreptitiously forceful slaveholder throughout this life. A Smithsonian article entitled “The Dark Side of Thomas Jefferson” explored Jefferson's disciplining of his slaves via whipping and regular use of slave children for various industrial occupations including a nail making shop that helped fund the great architectural love of his life, the vast manse, Monticello.

There is of course no way of knowing for sure whether the Smithsonian article is correct; certain US and European forces have been waging war against Jefferson's reputation and are not above distorting Jefferson's personal reputation so as to undermine his credibility. Jefferson's sin of course was the brilliance of his stated beliefs in freedom and human action. It is most unfortunate, if the allegations are true, that he could think of no other way to fund Monticello but through the enterprise of hundreds of slaves.

In fact, the article goes beyond the ordinary perspective that Jefferson went along with the practice reluctantly and promotes the argument that Jefferson became a private proponent of what he publicly condemned. According to the Smithsonian:

He writes that an acquaintance who had suffered financial reverses “should have been invested in negroes.” He advises that if the friend's family had any cash left, “every farthing of it [should be] laid out in land and negroes, which besides a present support bring a silent profit of from 5. to 10. per cent in this country by the increase in their value.”

This shows how the vision of even the most insightful and passionate of men when it comes to the perpetuation of civil society can be distorted by the prospect of monetary gain. What is evidently true of the Modern Age is that citizens generally are seen as chattel by those running the Western world. Fiat money is not based “on nothing” as some maintain but on a peculiar and unstated pact between nations that the citizens of a given country can be made to “stand behind” a currency.

This is one reason in fact for the creation and maintenance of nation-states and for the increasing insistence of US powers-that-be on taxing “citizens” around the world. The wealth of a country is indeed in large part based on a population willing to live and working within the framework of the nation-state and taxes in particular – whether necessary or not – provide surety that the individual acknowledges his fealty to the state and to its continued dominance of the individual.

Jefferson, a proponent of natural law – laws that conformed to human nature – knew of course that slavery was by no means “natural” and that it could not be justified within the parameters of the kind of free society that he backed in public. This was not the only contradiction that we see in Jefferson’s behavior. A believer in a minimalist state, he did not hesitate to run for president when the time was right, nor to open the pocketbook of the federal treasury to make the Louisiana Purchase that doubled the size of the modest republic.

Despite Jefferson’s contradictions, he was an eloquent proponent of freedom – certainly from a theoretical standpoint – and the statement in the Declaration of Independence, never before made in any important political document, that “all men are created equal,” has resounded through the history of the United States and influenced the formation of other political documents ever since.

Interestingly, the Declaration of Independence was edited by such Founding Fathers as Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, later a US president. Adams more than George Washington or Thomas Jefferson did much to undermine the cause of US freedom by enforcing the “alien extradition act” that began the process of criminalizing free speech in the US. But even before the Act, freedoms in the US were tested by the so-called Whiskey Rebellion. Wikipedia:

The Whiskey Rebellion, or Whiskey Insurrection, was a tax protest in the United States beginning in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington. Farmers who used their leftover grain and corn in the form of whiskey as a medium of exchange were forced to pay a new tax. The tax was a part of treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton’s program to increase central government power, in particular to fund his policy of assuming the war debt of those states which had failed to pay.

Adams’ Authoritarian Tendencies

If the Whiskey Rebellion and subsequent suppression solidified federal powers, the Alien and Sedition Act promulgated under the presidency of John Adams shows how quickly a Republican form of government could degrade and threaten to turn toward tyranny. USHistory.org explains the creation of the Act and its outcome in some detail, as follows under the presidency of John Adams, cousin of Samuel Adams:

The strong steps that Adams took in response to the French foreign threat also included severe repression of domestic protest. A series of laws known collectively as the ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS were passed by the Federalist Congress in 1798 and signed into law by President Adams. These laws included new powers to DEPORT foreigners as well as making it harder for new IMMIGRANTS to vote. Previously a new immigrant would have to reside in the United States for five

years before becoming eligible to vote, but a new law raised this to 14 years.

Thomas Jefferson in particular was incensed by the Acts and spoke out against them along with other Founding Fathers. The result was at least one state secession movement and the longer-lasting theory that states had a right to secede in the face of obviously tyrannical federal actions. This states-rights perspective reverberated and would eventually provide the foundation for the state secessions that preceded the Civil War.

The Alien and Sedition Acts were only one example of how a stronger union enshrined by the new Constitution was changing the sociopolitical fabric of the young nation. Not long after the controversy surrounding the Acts the US Supreme Court asserted itself as the final arbitrator of what was “constitutional” and what was not.

The power of Supreme Court increased exponentially under Chief Justice John Marshall, beginning in 1801. The Court established the principle of judicial review and under *Marbury vs. Madison* asserted its primacy as legal interpreter of the Constitution. Under Marshall, the Court asserted “judicial independence” and began issuing a single majority opinion that clarified the law of the land via serial decisions.

But even though the Court had asserted its power, the outcome was not always to be “just” as a powerful court would almost immediately begin issuing decisions that contravened and would eventually undermine the rule of law as presented in the Constitution.

The idea of “natural law” – law that modestly hewed to reality of the human condition – was the chief victim of the Supreme Court’s over-reach. Decisions, for instance, that asserted various kinds of legal immunity for individuals running corporations helped change the fabric of society and gave rise

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to the abusively large corporate entities that exist today. Decisions that increasingly ratified expanding federal power and its taxing ability eventually gave rise to conditions that led to state secession and ultimately the Civil War.

The Civil War, also called The War Between the States, solidified the further expansion of the US federal government and greatly expanded the role of the US president. It also gave rise to an expanded and proactive military that went on to complete the eradication of Native Americans and then greatly expanded the size of the Union by removing large portions of the West from Mexico.

The seeds of the eventual American Empire had been planted with the formation and adoption of the centralizing US Constitution and starting in the mid-1800s gave rise to exceptionally bloody fruit. Consolidations of power are always accompanied by soothing rhetoric regarding “efficiency” and “fairness” but history shows that such sentiments are almost invariably optimistic.

6.

THE MODERN SLAVE STATE

Lincoln didn't expand freedom, he reduced it

We've examined the evolution of slavery and how it makes society more vulnerable to the kinds of trends that culminate in an event like Shemitah.

In this chapter, we want to take a look at how the modern chains of slavery were forged in the US. Surprisingly, for many, it began with one of the individuals usually considered to be one of the US's greatest presidents: Abraham Lincoln.

People often portray US President Abraham Lincoln as the "savior of the nation." Not so fast. By now it has surely become evident that by preserving the union, Lincoln created a sociopolitical monopoly that has result in a system of virtual slavery for ever-expanding millions throughout the West.

By fighting and winning the Civil War, Lincoln created an increasingly mighty federal government, what libertarians often call "Leviathan." Dominant and unchallengeable, this US Leviathan now bestrides the world, demanding its citizens pay tribute (taxes) no matter where they are and spying on friend and foe alike. In the US alone, some 40 million are on food stamps and throughout the West, up to 50 percent of young people cannot find employment – even with years of "higher education." The outlook for older citizens is not much better, as their earning power erodes with age.

Where is there to go? When citizens have no alternative power centers, those in power can easily abuse the system and justify what would not otherwise be justifiable. Even those with jobs often cannot claim more than the rudiments of survival. Increasingly, couples work two jobs to support their families and the hours are impossibly long. Decent health care is often

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hard to come by and the pensions and benefits that Western “capitalism” was supposed to provide increasingly do not seem viable.

Primitive cultures do not offer much in the way of security, but often men and women work only a few hours a day and provide for their modest wants via hunting and gathering. The modern paradigm of an 80-hour work-week with little or no job security hardly seems a step forward. In fact, one can argue that such a system for many people provides little more than a kind of modern slavery.

Lincoln’s decisions to “save the union” laid the groundwork for this modern system. And while his historical supporters portray him as a “man of the people,” a closer look reveals a politician whose foundational support came in part from the New York banking community, the same group that had supported Hamilton’s centralizing actions and statist sympathies.

Lincoln hadn’t grown up in the North but he was a creature of it. In fact, it was the Lincoln administration’s determination to impose tariffs on various Southern goods, especially cotton, that created a financial impetus that led to leaders of various Southern states to urge secession.

One has to read between the lines to get a sense of the politics of the day. One can, of course, go along with the perspective of modern historians regarding the Great Man theory that Lincoln decided to salvage the Union. But this doesn’t make much sense given the way political structures work. Lincoln was a lawyer and politician, someone working within the system and beholden to various moneyed interests for the resources he needed to mount his campaigns.

Here's how anti-Lincoln historian Thomas DiLorenzo explains Lincoln's politics in an article entitled, "Lincoln, Gold, and Greenbacks."

When Abraham Lincoln first entered politics in 1832 he announced to Illinois voters that "My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank . . . in favor of the internal improvements system and a high protective tariff." These three things — central banking, protectionism, and what we today call corporate welfare (for the railroad and road-building industries) are what Lincoln would devote the next twenty-eight years to achieving, working tirelessly in the political trenches of the Whig and Republican parties. In doing so he became a master politician, a designation that the founding fathers warned all citizens to be fearful of.

... In Monetary Policy of the United States Richard Timberlake clearly explained the paramount importance of central banking to the political ambitions of Lincoln and his fellow Whigs: "To the Whigs . . . a national bank was their life — the vital principle — without which they could not live as a party — the power which was to give them power To lose it, was to lose the fruits of the election, with the prospect of losing the party itself." In other words, the Whigs always intended to use a central bank, and the printing of paper money not backed by gold or silver, as the means of financing massive patronage schemes ("internal improvements") that they hoped would keep them in power indefinitely ...

Lincoln has been called the "great emancipator" but the record of the time makes it clear that "freeing the slaves" was neither the purpose of the war nor a political goal of Lincoln's until it occurred to him that the action could divide the South while providing an additional – laudable – justification for the North's aggressive action.

Lincoln – Federal Apologist

Ultimately, however, it is not any individual action that Lincoln took to defend the union that was damaging to freedom; rather it was the totality of what was accomplished as a result. No state could ever again claim that secession was a justifiable reaction to federal intrusions. Before the war, federal politicians needed to take heed of Southern reactions regarding various federal statutes; after the war no such caution was necessary.

It is no surprise that political corruption expanded in both the North and South after the war. The governor of political competition had been removed with the demise of the South as a rival to the North. The two administrations following Lincoln's were subject to intense corruption and in time this corruption extended to states such as New York that struggled with the institutionalized corruption of Tammany Hall.

Lincoln created the foundation not only for the American Empire but also for the inevitable fascism that accompanies such expansions. While this may not be a "mainstream" view of Lincoln and his legacy, history seems to be showing us that the Civil War provides us with a dividing line between the previous republic and something else, just as one can easily discern a dividing line between the Roman republic and its further establishment as an empire.

Perhaps some may think the word "fascism" is over-strong when describing what came after Lincoln, but please note that the reference is to be found in the Lincoln memorial itself, as Wikipedia informs us: "Lincoln's arms rest on representations of Roman fasces, a subtle touch that associates the statue with the Augustan (and imperial) theme."



Lincoln memorial: by Daniel Chester French. Public domain.

Romans were well aware of fasces and what they represented – the authority of the state. The Encyclopedia Britannica describes them this way:

Fasces, (plural form of Latin fascis: “bundle”) in ancient Rome, insignia of official authority. It was carried by the lictors, or attendants, and was characterized by an ax head projecting from a bundle of elm or birch rods about 5 feet (1.5 meters) long and tied together with a red strap; it symbolized penal power.... Benito Mussolini’s Fascist Party of Italy was named for the fasces, which the members adopted in 1919 as their emblem. The Winged Liberty dime, minted in the United States from 1916 to 1945, depicts the fasces on its obverse side.

Those who constructed the Lincoln Memorial were in no doubt about what Lincoln had accomplished, and the placement of fasces beneath his hands confirms the reality of those accomplishments rather than the myth. The Civil War ushered in an expansion of the power of the state, an aggressive growth

that would result in the United States becoming the most dominant – and perhaps most dangerous – power in history.

Another element of state power that grew rapidly after the Civil War was the corporation. In fact, the corporation is an artificial construct that would not exist as it does in the modern day without judicial enabling acts that limit the liability of shareholders and management. A series of judicial decisions have enabled the modern-day corporation, as sprawling, inept conglomeration of individuals whose sum is often less than their parts.

Corporations Are Not Capitalism

Corporations could exist without judicial mandates backed by the power of the state, but they would look very different, as free-market economist Murray Rothbard makes clear in the following explanation:

*Corporations are not at all monopolistic privileges; they are free associations of individuals pooling their capital. On the purely free market, such men would simply announce to their creditors that their liability is limited to the capital specifically invested in the corporation, and that beyond this their personal funds are not liable for debts, as they would be under a partnership arrangement. It then rests with the sellers and lenders to this corporation to decide whether or not they will transact business with it. If they do, then they proceed at their own risk. Thus, the government does not grant corporations a privilege of limited liability; anything announced and freely contracted for in advance is a right of a free individual, not a special privilege. It is not necessary that governments grant charters to corporations. – Murray Rothbard, in *Man, Economy & State**

This sound simple enough, but it is not what happens now. Today's corporations began to come of age after the Civil War

when great wealth was ever-more concentrated and the larger US paradigm emerged that placed vast corporate enterprises at the heart of the US socio-economic system. Today, corporations are bolstered by intellectual property rights, corporate personhood and central bank money printing. This is what enables them to grow to such a great size.

All of the above constitute artificial supports for the corporate entity that would be far more modest without state support. Why for instance, must the awesome power of the state be brought to bear on behalf of intellectual property? Why can't the individual corporation enforce its own rights if it were to wish to do so? Why must these rights be codified into "law?"

Such interferences with the marketplace has generated increasingly clumsy behemoths. Leviathan no longer is a property of the state but can be seen in the "free market" as well. This trend is by now long established. It began after the war with the rise of a powerful few – Robber Barons – that were the beneficiaries of what was about to become a "regulatory democracy."

Of course, the outward show of regulations designed to restrain corporate power did little or nothing to stop wealth concentration. At its peak, for instance, financier JP Morgan's business empire was said to control up to one third of the nation's gross national product.

The modern securities industry began to be developed at this time and contributed a good deal to centralization of finance. Banks grew in size without corresponding clearinghouse security facilities. By the end of the 19th century, the intricate, interlocking system of securities finance was so complex and calcified that it didn't take much to create the Panic of 1907 that JP Morgan himself famously staunches after pledging large sums of his own money to buttress the banking system.

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Seen from this vantage point, the North's victory over the South was not so much a victory for freedom as an event that ushered in an ever-more aggressive regulatory state that would be emulated throughout the world.

The results would include the advent of two world wars, great recessions and depressions and an ongoing concentration of wealth throughout the West that would further empower a casino economy while stripping average working men and women of assets and prospects. The results of the Civil War actually reduced the quality of life for many and the world and especially the US still struggle with its ramifications today.

7.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE WARFARE STATE

An endless cycle of military violence further erodes freedom

The trend in the 20th century toward slavery was unmistakable. One way that elites perpetuate the unspoken slavery of the masses is via what has come to be known as the “warfare state.”

By creating a perpetual state of war with mostly imaginary enemies, the West and especially the US manipulates and polarizes its population into military stances that they would not otherwise take.

A militarized society, of course, is a society amenable to authoritarian solutions. People who are already mobilized in a disciplined fashion against an “enemy” are far more apt to accept restrictions on freedom than a population that is not similarly organized.

The US is already well down the path of such a militarized society, though much of the militarization is disguised as a necessary reaction to shadowy enemies.

In fact modern wars are fraught with misinformation. The enemy is seldom described in a full and honest fashion and much of what happens on the battlefield is never properly reported.

This sort of evasiveness may be a historical reality or it may be a modern occurrence. Certainly, modern wars – those occurring after the invention of central banking some 500 years ago – have multiplied even as their rationales have grown murkier.

20th century wars in particular – and as we have already pointed out – seem confused in terms of how they evolved and

the reason for their multi-year prosecution and the scope of their destruction.

World Wars

Germany was ultimately blamed for the vast carnage of World War One and the nation was destroyed by the Treaty of Versailles, which ordered Germany to pay all war costs of all nations, which amount to three times the entire value of Germany itself.

Under the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) Germany's private bank began printing money, causing massive inflation (thanks to currency speculators). The German people were buried in debt. Soon after the Weimar Republic collapsed. Hitler would take power about ten years later thanks to the conditions created by the international community.

Under Hitler, Germany's economy boomed. People were able to take state-sponsored vacations, something that simply was not a reality under the Weimar Republic. This was dubbed "The German Miracle." TIME Magazine celebrated the Miracle, featuring Hitler as its Man of The Year In 1938. But it was not to last.

Winston Churchill has made clear the original intentions of the WWI Allies:

"We will force this war upon Hitler, if he wants it or not." – Winston Churchill (1936 broadcast)

"Germany becomes too powerful. We have to crush it." - Winston Churchill (November 1936 speaking to US –General Robert E. Wood)

"This war is an English war and its goal is the destruction of Germany." –Winston Churchill (Autumn 1939 broadcast)

These quotes are little noticed today but they conform to a larger disturbing pattern of Anglosphere provocation that actually dates back to World War One when not one but two assassinations were orchestrated.

It is well known that World War One supposedly started after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. This set off hostilities among an entangled group of nation states that had created a variety of self-protective alliances. If one was attacked, another was to come to its aid. Germany had a pact with Austria on one side. France, England and Russia were pledged on the other. Eventually the US would also join on the side of the “allies.”

Of course, this could only be accomplished if the state itself, a kind of fiction, were recognized as a kind of individual much as corporations are today. The creation and expansion of the nation-state as an entity with something approaching physical consciousness is one of the great – and unfortunate – occurrences of the past millennia and especially of the modern era.

Historians are fond of blaming these interlocking alliances for the conflagration that was World War One. And thousands of books have been written about the war’s evolution. Today these treaties are seen as a kind of hideous mistake.

Yet available information has expanded since the scholarship of the 20th century embedded enshrined this common wisdom. Today we know that the assassination of the Archduke was accompanied by ANOTHER attempt, one that failed.

The second assassination was aimed at the Russian mystic Rasputin. The salient – and most important – fact about these two was that both were staunchly anti-war and in a position

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politically to significantly retard or halt any movement toward an inter-European war.

Rasputin and Ferdinand both believed that war would be a disaster for Europe and their respective countries. Interestingly, the violence done on that day may have taken place at approximately the same time, allowing for differences having to do with longitude.

In hindsight, it seems fairly obvious that someone was trying to send a message to those who would fight the onslaught of war. Rasputin was never the same man after the attempt – he was stabbed but lived – and Ferdinand, of course, was dead.

The war's outbreak and prosecution was a terrible shock throughout Europe, though many seemed to have anticipated its advent. What was more horrifying still was what happened on the battle field. Here the generals were somehow absolved.

We are supposed to believe for some reason, that generals on both side were taken by surprise by the massacres that occurred when battle was finally joined. Tens of thousands dropped in a single day in a kind of ritual bloodletting that had never been seen before.

Men were sent “over the top” into a blaze of machine gun fire that raked the ground and left nothing living behind. How it was that the military technologists that had presided over the development and emplacement of the machine gun did not anticipate its deadly power is hard to fathom.

We are told that no one really expected the kind of outcome that was surely to be expected when a weapon capable of firing hundreds of rounds in a sustained burst was trained on an open field teeming with upright human beings. It was simply an execution, played out over and over.

But was this all it was? One way or another, the mass of male humanity on both sides was extinguished by the endless, merciless killings. Before it was over, Europe reeled and the culture itself shifted. Gone was the confidence of the 1800s and the belief in a certain kind of military nobility ... The “white man’s burden.” In its place came Kafkaesque absurdity and Sartre’s nihilism.

The same thing happened in World War Two. Japan, Italy and Germany – again – were exposed to the harshest kind of military retaliation. And it was the culture itself that broke throughout the Axis. Post-war all of Europe was convulsed by horror and depression, both psychological and economic.

The sense of certainty about ones’ life and times – and one’s place in an orderly universe – was erased by slaughter. Cultural self-confidence was shattered. Within this context, the European Union and other regional entities took root with understandable speed.

The point of the above analysis should be obvious: There were shadowy forces that sought war in the 20th century to initiate cultural change. The bigger the war, the better.

Smedley Butler

To postulate that World War One and then World War Two were both intentional – and that in neither case did the world “stumble into war” is to suggest a significant conspiracy indeed.

Yet before readers discount this as a kind of historical paranoia, it would be good to examine at least one documented conspiracy that took place at a high level indeed and has in the past been subject to considerable scrutiny.

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The story of Smedley Butler is a very important part of US history, though it is not one you'll hear in your public school history class.

It is controversial of course and begins with the equally controversial observation that many top Wall Street bankers and affiliated interests funded political chaos in Europe and Russia that ended with the establishment of both fascism and communism.

It is simply a fact – as unpalatable as it seems today – that Western financiers helped Hitler gain power and financed him up to the day war was declared with Germany – and in the case of the Bush family, well beyond.



Major Smedley Butler. Marine Photo. Public domain.

The intention apparently was fascist dictatorship for the United States to accompany those forming in Europe. Roosevelt's 'New Deal' was not radical enough in terms of redistributing wealth and gathering power for the state. And thus a further push was determined, one that was to be headed by General Butler, the most decorated general in US history up to that point.

It was Butler who was to lead the overthrow of the US government and the establishment of a dictatorship. General Butler signed up for the scheme, but he had ulterior motives. He wished to spy on this criminal element which had hired him. He never intended to carry out the plot.

In fact, he later exposed the plot to Congress and the media. Unsurprisingly, a cowardly Congress did nothing; and though Roosevelt demanded arrest, the ringleaders were neither publicly exposed nor prosecuted.

The Congressional minutes were released in 1967 on this incident, and a movie appeared called "Seven Days In May." (The movie hid the identity of the Wall Street bankers who plotted the overthrow) Butler wrote of his "service:"

"I spent 33 years and four months in active military service as a member of our country's most agile military force -- the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to Major General. And during that period I spent more of my time being a high--class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just a part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the

orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

... During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals and promotion. Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. I operated on three continents.”

Butler helped expose a conspiracy but there is considerable evidence that other US conspiracies of the 20th and 21st century were not fully exposed.

The lack of exposure and general misinformation about these conspiracies create yet more centralization and abuse of power. After two world wars in the 20th century, there are identifiable intel-gambits that continue the polarization that the wars had started.

In other words, society was militarized by war and then further militarized by the “peace” that was ultimately named the Cold War.

Various Western strategies contributed to the evolution of this Cold War including Operation Paperclip. This involved settling German rocket scientists in either the US or the Soviet Union. Now perhaps this doesn’t sound odd, but given the tension between the USSR and the US, the fraternal divvying up of rocket scientists is surprising to say the least.

What is even more surprising, according to some sources, is that the best of the scientists ended up in the USSR. Why would the US acquiesce to such a thing? The obvious answer is that on both sides the goal was to create or enhance the growing Cold War competition in rocket technology.

The rivalry enhanced by Operation Paperclip was extended by numerous smaller wars between “communism” and “capitalism.” These wars were enhanced by what was called at the time the “domino theory.” The idea was that if the USSR’s merciless ideology was not opposed by a more noble political philosophy – regulatory democracy – then the bad ideology would spread until it potentially took over the world.

No one much talks about the domino theory today, perhaps because in retrospect it was a pretty silly theorem. It has also become clear that the US and its allies lied to perpetuate tensions and even to create the wars that were then presented as evidence of the growing aggressiveness of the communist enemy.

There is no doubt anymore that the Johnson Administration, for instance, manufactured a deeper Vietnamese war by subterfuge. It has been shown clearly that the attack by the North Vietnamese on a US naval vessel in the Gulf of Tonkin was manufactured by the US to justify further involvement.

But move beyond the wars in Asia and scrutinize wars that have taken place nearer the current day. Such wars may appear equally puzzling. Iraq was not responsible for 9/11, nor was the Afghan government and yet the US invaded those two countries but not Saudi Arabia. It was Saudi Arabia, of course, that supplied most of the supposed 9/11 terrorists. And the most likely culprits exist within the US government itself.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were not the last. Once the wars had begun and been perpetuated, it was discovered that the “terrorism” had spread. Suddenly there were other military problems in the Middle East and Africa for the West. These included Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria.

Did all of this happen as a result of logical progression of radicalization? No. There are plenty of reports especially in the

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alternative media about a disciplined program of Middle East destabilization run by elements of the CIA and other Western intel agencies and also the US State Dept.

The program focused on “youth” and actually brought young people from Tunisia and Egypt and elsewhere and put them through training on how to destabilize the regimes of their countries using the internet and social media.

One after the other, various African and Middle Eastern countries fell to this destabilization. Al Qaeda was said to be involved in these actions as well. Yet this is not surprising as the CIA has long-admitted to helping fund and create Al Qaeda, supposedly as a counterweight to the invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR.

Today, Al Qaeda has suddenly vanished as a force to be reckoned in the Middle East. In its place with the shadowy IS – Islamic State – and once more reports surface that Western intel agencies had a hand in IS’s promulgation.

None of this is surprising with the context of the welfare/warfare state. Warfare impoverishes the state; welfare saps people’s ambitions and ability to cope with life’s larger challenges.

The creation of the welfare state is obvious; the creation of the warfare state, less so. But both are surely deliberate creations, spawned by Western leaders that want to make the bulk of the population evermore helpless.

The idea is always to polarize. This would be the reason for IS and for ISIS – the Islamic State in Syria. ISIS has been accused of horrible atrocities but where is the evidence? Perhaps the evidence is not necessary because the accusations are repeated over and over in the Western media to ensure polarization continues and expands.

In the case of the Middle East, the idea seems to be to generate tensions between East and West – between Islam and Christianity. This sort of strategy seems to emanate from an old playbook but who is to say it won't ultimately be effective especially if enough lies are told.

There is plenty of evidence for instance that Bin Laden who suffered from Marfan Syndrome died in the early 2000s, perhaps in a French hospital. Supposedly at the time he was being treated for kidney disease and was regularly attached to a dialysis machine. It is very doubtful a Bin Laden in such a condition could have survived the rigors of Afghanistan nor could he likely have survived another decade in his condition.

Yet we are asked to believe in his death in 2012. The US released no evidence in the beginning to substantiate the claim of his death. No DNA. No photos. No body. Later on, a SEAL helicopter containing servicemen from the SEAL unit that led the Bin Laden attack crashed amidst murky circumstances. Some have claimed this was a clear message being sent to the SEALs to stay silent regarding the Bin Laden operation and its deep falsifications.

America was a great idea. That idea died decades, if not centuries ago. What has slithered in, in its place, is the worst parts of some of the worst forms of government. Some believe it can be fixed. I don't. It will get much worse before it gets better.

8.

CENTRAL BANKING AND THE FEDERAL RESERVE

Evolution of Economic Slavery

The control of money by a handful of elites is certainly a trend of the past several hundred years. It is a major contributor to modern enslavement.

How did we get to a place where a handful of men create monetary policy and can influence the fortunes and thus the lives of billions?

The absurdity of using data from the past to project future demand is well known. The reality of what central bankers do is known as “price fixing” as there is no recourse once bankers have set a price. The full weight of the state and its penal remedies falls behind the bankers’ edicts.

Somehow all this has become legitimized and is seen in the mainstream media anyway as logical and necessary. Defenders of the current system come from all walks of life and include educators, politicians, economists and even religious leaders.

There is a good deal of dishonesty in their support of a system that increasingly has shown that it is not a viable one. The price-fixing performed by central banks has resulted in endless cyclical disasters, starting with the Great Depression of the 1930s and ending (for the moment) with the Great Recession of 2008.

Many have fought the monopoly money printing power that underlies central banking. But to begin with, it was welcomed by the Crown and the King of England, for the treasury was exhausted from constant warring.

It was a group of goldsmiths that contracted with the Crown to create the first central bank – and to fund England’s wars in return for a monetary monopoly. Over decades and then centuries, central banking was refined into today’s system of fiat money printing.

But almost from the beginning there were those who recognized the system’s troublesome aspect, specifically its monopoly tendencies. Over time, the relationship between currency and precious metals was entirely severed, giving those in control of central banks additional power.

In Europe, the system spread across the continent and eventually came to include Russia. In the US, President Andrew Jackson managed to vanquish the US central bank in the 1800s, only to have it sprout up once more in the early 20th century.

Between Jackson’s destruction of the third US central bank and eventual adoption in 1913, those who supported central banking took a methodical approach.

After the Civil War, came the National Banking Act of 1863 that built a series of national banks including a national currency. Gone were the nation’s anarchical “wildcat” banks. And even most state banks didn’t survive as they were converted to national banks.

Supporters of a centralized bank were emphatic that additional steps would have to be taken. In the Panic of 1907 they found evidence to support their insistence. The Panic of 1907 was initially set off by reports about the insolvency of two large banks. The question for those who are apt to research such things is WHO set off what were initially baseless rumors.

Some have pointed the finger at the JP Morgan since it was Morgan who eventually took a leading role in solving the crisis

by gathering top men in his mansion in New York. These wealthy Wall Street bankers guaranteed liquidity to the market and banks, thus stemming the panic. Morgan even handed a good deal of gold over to the US federal government.

But Morgan then used the Panic to argue that jury-rigged methods of shoring up liquidity were not appropriate in an increasingly expansive market. What was needed was an institutional response. Morgan's argument gave plausibility once more to the creation of some sort of government sponsored clearing house – a monopoly central bank in other words.

From Panic to Worse

The Panic led directly to the creation of the Federal Reserve system in 1913. Morgan and his colleagues played a significant part in developing the plans that eventually led to Fed, which in a famous phrase, was neither “federal” nor a “reserve.”

The creation of the Fed and the suspicions regarding its operation have not been helped by the secrecy surrounding it. From the very beginning, there was a great deal of caution. Bankers who made the trip down Jekyll Island to plot its iterations wore masks and did not reveal their participation for many years.

Today, perhaps, people are more aware of the problems involved with central banking and the bankers' caution becomes more understandable. Though even then, there was a goodly portion of the populace and its legislators who abhorred the concept, some quite verbally.

It is all predictable. Austrian business cycle analysis shows us clearly what is surely evident and obvious: A central bank's price fixing merely increases the amount of money circulating

through the economy until there is an artificial boom and then a terrible bust.

At this point, central bankers begin printing again and a good deal of centralization occurs as those with access to the money pigot purchase valuable but failing companies.

While this has proven to be a very effective formula for certain interests that have enriched themselves as a result of central banking activities, more and more have begun to question the entire process in this era of the internet. A good deal of the additional pushback is likely the result of electronic communications that have disseminated the rudiments of central bank operation.

What is also true is that despite the increased knowledge about the way the system operates and its destructiveness, the “industry” of central banking continues and even expands. Few questioned the central bank’s role in US society until the advent of the internet and its ability to explain relatively complex topics to large audiences. Before then, the Fed and those who represented it accumulated more and more power.



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In 1978 Congress handed the Fed the responsibility of maintaining full employment and stable prices. Coupled with the “Nixon Shock” – the closing of the gold window – this spelled an unprecedentedly broad sphere of influence for the “independent” institution. It did not do well.

The Fed’s official mission statement reads: “To provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system.” Over the years, its role in banking and the economy has expanded even as the US dollar’s purchasing power has shrunk.

“Expanded” is probably an understatement. The Federal Reserve directly handled the biggest transfer of wealth in US history in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. According to an official government report, the Federal Reserve made \$16.1 trillion dollars in loans to international banks. (Much of which were never repaid apparently.)

Every chart pertaining to money or the price of things, whether they be commodities, homes or stocks, all changed on that date. The money supply went from being on a mild incline to near vertical by 2008. And, although the Consumer Price Index is not a good way to gauge the effects of monetary inflation on prices, it does provide some basis for understanding of its effects over the long term:

Prices haven’t skyrocketed since 1971 – not in real terms. Only in terms of the constantly depreciating dollar, a collapse that has only increased since its gold backing was removed.

Will the fiat dollar live to see 50? Highly unlikely – at least not in its current form. More importantly, the creation of central banking has concentrated enormous power in the hands of a few.

Jeff Berwick

The control of money has allowed a relative handful of individuals and families the power to reshape society almost at will. Education, politics, war, science – even art, have all been harnessed to the overriding goals of the apparent world's controllers.

9.

COLLAPSING ECONOMY

To advance slavery, the tool of ruin is employed

Shemitah is merely a nomenclature for a process. The process is one that seeks to intimidate, to depress and ultimately to inflict ruin. The chaos that comes from the application of such gambits as Shemitah is useful to those who know how to harness it and have the means to do so.

The idea is to create so many socioeconomic problems that people finally surrender to the difficulties they face and are willing to accept almost any solution from those in power. Invariably the poisoned chalice enabled by this surrender involves a further concentration of money and wealth by those who already have too much.

This process has doubtless been practiced from time immemorial. But the ruinous business cycle created via central banking adds strength and immediacy to the process. Every few years the social order is upended. The wealthy become poor and the middle class is gradually extinguished. Only a very few close to the central bank monetary spigot benefit. Gradually society itself is undermined as is representative government.

The business cycle attack on government is part of the larger process of creating chaos throughout society. Throughout the West now, there seems to be a kind of “end game,” in which more and more countries are facing ruinous burdens that they simply can’t afford.

The definition of insolvency is having liabilities or debts in excess of their assets and being unable to service payments on the debt with existing income. The US Government – the world’s most powerful financial engine – is no exception. It

certainly qualifies in terms of having much more debt than assets. As for being able to service the debt, the time when it cannot is now drawing clear.

The numbers are pretty simple. The US government had total real tax receipts of \$1.44 trillion in 2010. This only pays for 66 percent of the Mandatory Spending, even if you got rid of 100 percent of the “Non-Mandatory” spending.

In other words, in order to balance the budget, the government would have to cut 100 percent of discretionary spending and 34 percent of mandatory spending. To do this, officials would have to close every military base and lay off every serviceman in the Armed Forces; shut down the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security and every other government agency; as well, it would have to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid spending by 34 percent.

And that is just to balance the government deficit. To actually start to pay off the government debt, US officials would have to cut 100 percent of the government and 100 percent of Social Security and Medicaid spending. To summarize: In order for the US government to even have any chance of paying off any of its debt it would have to completely disappear!

And even that doesn't even take into account the possibility of greatly increasing interest expense. In 2010, the US government paid \$414 billion in interest expenses. But that was at historically low interest rates. Considering the US had approximately \$13 trillion in “official” debt in 2010 that implies a 3.1 percent interest rate. At what interest rate would interest payments on current debt outstrip the current government income (minus social security taxes) of \$1.44 trillion? 11.1 percent.

When we were young many of us were told by practically all of our friends, family, acquaintances, “public servants” (what “the

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authorities” were once called) and so on and so forth that our government was a tool of the people in order to help humanity create prosperity.

Singing songs to flags, while our parents gave nearly half of their income to the government was all for “the greater good” and if you didn’t like it then you wished ill will unto others. You were a troublemaker, somebody to keep an eye on.

Most were taught these things no matter our geographic region on the planet and its social contract. Despite tomes and libraries of information to the contrary, billions have long-believed the government line.

It is one supposes human instinct to believe government is benevolent. Governments however murder millions of people all over the planet and throw many in jail. Watching all aspects of the US economy from outside of the propaganda zone sometimes feels like you are watching the Truman Show.

The Truman Show, for those who haven’t seen the 1998 Jim Carrey film, centered around a completely false town. In the movie everything about the town was fake except for one person, Truman Burbank, who wasn’t in on the plot. In a sense your average person in the US, particularly when it comes to the economy, is akin to Truman. They have grown up inside this completely false environment and don’t even know it is fake.

Virtually everything in the Truman Show-esque US economy is misinformation and completely skewed. The US government, the Federal Reserve and the mainstream media constantly propagate blatantly false information and the American public, like Truman, have no idea that anything is even amiss.

GDP Is a Fallacy

I wrote over three years ago about how the “GDP Is A Fallacy” ... a fallacy being defined as an argument that uses poor reasoning.

For starters, to completely negate the entire concept, the total amounts of all goods consumed (which is what GDP really tries to track) in an economy can simply not be reliably calculated.

The GDP fallacy gives the impression that it is not the activities of individuals that produce goods and services, but something else outside these activities called the “economy.” However, at no stage does the so-called “economy” have a life of its own independent of individuals.

By lumping the values of all final goods and services together, government statisticians concretize the fiction of an economy by means of the GDP statistic. By regarding the economy as something that exists in the real world, mainstream economists reach a bizarre conclusion that what is good for individuals might not be good for the economy, and vice versa. Since the economy cannot have a life of its own without individuals, obviously what is good for individuals cannot be bad for the economy.

In the end it is just a bunch of numbers on a chalkboard that really signifies nothing of importance.

Furthermore, since GDP tracks consumption it is ridiculous to say that an economy grows when people consume more. This makes sense to even small children who understand that you “grow” or get richer by saving not spending.

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Of course, the mainstream media loves these numbers, as it gives them something to drone on about and put their own spin on.

Even if you are so economically retarded as to think GDP is an important statistic then you would think that a negative GDP number would be a negative in terms of the “recovery” meme that mainstream media continues to peddle. Not so fast!

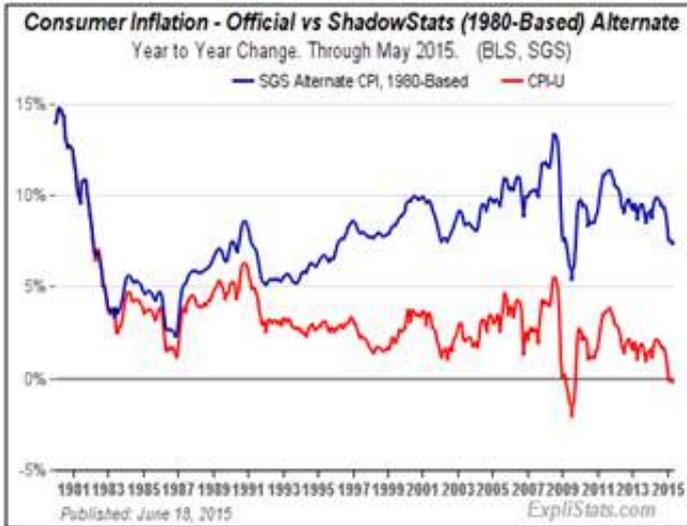
Here is what Bloomberg had to say in their article, “The GDP Drop Is Good For The US Economy”:

Most of the decline in gross domestic product occurred because companies slowed the pace of inventory accumulation, according to data released on Thursday by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In other words, output slowed because they weren't producing as much stuff to go on shelves. Now companies have an incentive to speed up production to rebuild those inventories.

So, there you have it, in the Truman Show-esque world of US economics even a drop in the GDP is a good thing for the US economy!

The government and media in the US continue to pound the table about a US recovery for which there is no evidence. In the past they used to call it the Goldilocks Recovery, which was very apt, since it was never anything but a fairy tale.

Here's something else. The GDP figure does not adequately take into account monetary inflation. Inflation is the increase in the money supply. An inflation in the money supply leads to an increase in prices. However, the US government likes to fallaciously state that their statistic, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is highly manipulated, is true inflation.



Currently the official CPI sits near two percent but if it were calculated solely the way it was calculated in the 1980s, before they learned to remove all of the inflation out of the CPI number, it is closer to 10 percent as shown here by this chart from ShadowStats.

This corresponds quite well with the actual true increase in the money supply itself which currently sits near 10 percent annualized as well.

Given that the CPI as it was calculated in the 1980s is near 10 percent and the true money supply growth is also currently near 10 percent we can confidently say that current monetary inflation is in the area of 10 percent.

Since the GDP figures are adjusted to the heavily manipulated CPI (currently near two percent) we can say that the GDP figures, when adjusted for true inflation, is approximately -9 percent annualized.

In other words, the US is already deep into a depression that will become known in the next few years as the Greatest Depression.

The Show Is Ending

This is why, for us, watching the US today is like watching the Truman Show. The average person is told all manner of things that are incorrect, wrong and fallacious via the media and the government and think it is real.

One day soon, though, like in the movie, as everything comes crashing down, your average person in the US is going to realize that everything they believed about the US economy was a lie. By then the US economy will be a smoldering crater, the US dollar will have collapsed and capital and travel controls will be fully in place.

Every day that gold rises and the US dollar falls is an indication that the US dollar and US Government debt are not being seen as “safe havens” anymore. The world is slowly realizing it is quite the opposite.

The last time gold stocks traded at this low of a valuation compared to gold was during the 2008 crisis. This time around the money supply is much more inflationary than in 2008 and gold stock valuations are much lower than in 2008.

In a book published in 1912, called “Fiat Money Inflation in France,” Andrew White recounts how the government changed the rules and stated that all debts increased along with the issuance of further currency, so that for every so many additional assignats printed, one’s debts increased by 25 percent.

Jeff Berwick

It would not be beyond US officials to state that all debts held in dollars are now held in the New Dollar. Or, what they will likely name, the “Patriot dollar.”

As Congressman Pete Stark stated, “The Federal government can do most anything in this country.”

Too many people believe that the dollar can never hyperinflate. They believe that because of the boom-bust cycle, the US will be forced to stop printing money before entering hyperinflation.

But today, an interest rate of only 11.1 percent will effectively take all real income of the US Government just to pay for the interest alone.

Historical evidence, common sense and the amount of current US debt makes stopping this train towards hyperinflation a lot tougher job than it looks.

I’m not counting on it stopping. But I’ve taken steps to protect my portfolio. Even if all we have is “mass inflation” (rather than hyperinflation) our portfolios, heavily laden with hard assets will do very well.

If we do get US hyperinflation, it is my hope you are prepared for that as well, having left or in the process of moving assets outside of the US, getting a second passport or expatriating.

10.

BUSINESS CYCLE TIME BOMB

Slavery via cyclical collapse

We've discussed the enslavement of the many is maintained by the few over the economy via war and economic ruin. And we've reviewed the history of central banking – which has imposed a kind of new slavery.

Let's spend a little time examining how things are changing. The world is ejecting the sinking ship of the dollar. This means the biggest employer in the US will soon go bankrupt: The US government.

BRICs Now an Anti-Dollar Alliance

There are other challenges to the dollar and the US. China and Russia are increasingly working together to undermine the dollar as the world's main reserve currency.

Russian academics have for a long time signaled that it was time to put an end to dollar hegemony, so recent actions – especially in the face of US sanctions, some of which are being carried out unilaterally by US banks – are unsurprising.

In recent history (post-internet) much discussion has centered around the fact that de-dollarization is inevitable. This is now coming to pass more quickly than ever. We may be living in the last days of the dollar system.

Today the discussion does not revolve around whether de-dollarization is inevitable, but the technicalities of such a change. In a discussion with Vladimir Putin about a year ago, the head of the Russian central bank reportedly proposed evolving methodologies:

“We’ve done a lot of work on the ruble-yuan swap deal in order to facilitate trade financing. I have a meeting next week in Beijing... We are discussing with China and our BRICS partners the establishment of a system of multilateral swaps that will allow to transfer resources to one or another country, if needed. A part of the currency reserves can be directed to [the new system].”

The ruble-yuan axis has strengthened over the past year as neither Russia nor China have any intention of pulling back. A new basket of currencies is being created as we speak and the US is nowhere near the discussion table.

Currently over 50 percent of cross-border loans and deposits are done in US dollars. In a recent global survey \$5 trillion daily traded in foreign exchange markets, and the dollar was on one side of 87 percent of all trades. However, both China and Russia seek to displace the dollar.

Once demand for dollars drops, a tidal wave of dollars could flow back to the US as large debt holders such as China and Japan seek to significantly lighten their US dollar debt. It is perfectly possible that a form of hyperinflation could ensue

Most of the people in the US have no idea that a collapse of their way of life is even possible. So few are buying precious metals like gold and silver that their exposure to paper markets will bankrupt them and cast their families into poverty.

Even fewer have begun to move their wealth into alternative currencies such as bitcoin or place remaining assets outside of the US. This will be a painful transition, but there are steps any informed individual can take for protection.

Things are changing on Planet Earth. I can tell because the dinosaurs are getting desperate. When I read that Senator Joe

Manchin (D-W.Va.) called for a ban on bitcoin, I laughed out loud.

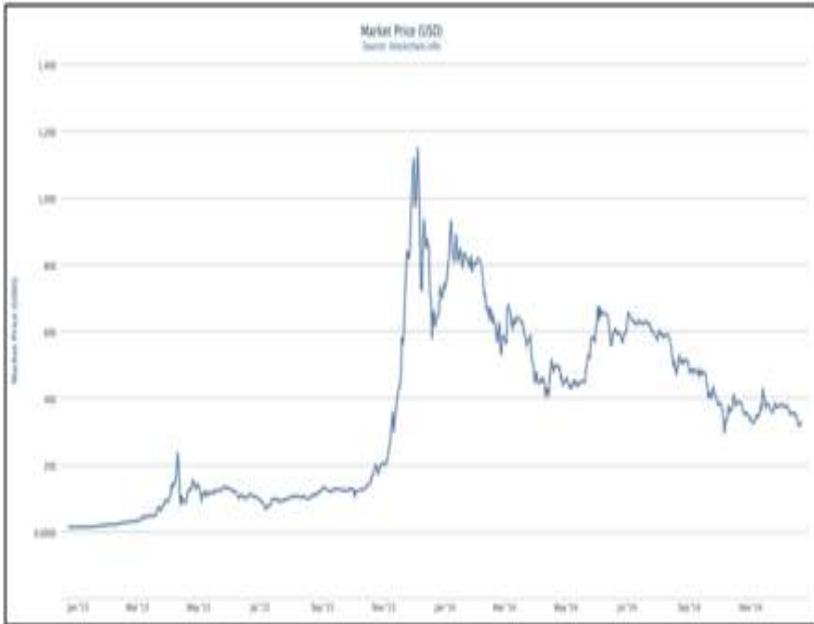
He wrote a letter to the Treasury, Federal Reserve, and multiple financial regulatory agencies, saying that bitcoin and digital currencies are “disruptive to our economy.” If he had to direct this anywhere, he really should have directed this at Congress, since that is where the power is supposed to lie in Washington, D.C.

Ultimately, there is one thing to take away from Manchin’s letter: Uncreative control freaks are in control of governments. This means the only true way to protect oneself is not just through bitcoin, but via diversification into various assets: foreign real estate, gold, silver and bitcoins, too.

The 21st century is not the time to be an ideologue (like Manchin). Solutions abound for us to free ourselves economically. At this point, if the United States banned bitcoin, then bitcoiners would leave the US en masse, voting not only with their private and public keys, but with their feet as well. That’s a right, Mr. Manchin, you will have to be very creative and ruthless to make even a dent into bitcoins’ usefulness around the world.

Central bank officials from several countries have expressed their view that digital currencies like bitcoin represent risks to the dominant banking system – and they may be right. It is not difficult to see how digital currencies undermine the current money and banking system along with the sovereignty of the nation-state.

Senior Central Bank of Ireland official Gareth Murphy sees it. He remarked that bitcoin posed a threat to the system at a conference in Dublin called BitFin 2014. He suggested that as



Bitcoin prices in dollars. DaltonCadwell.

more consumers use digital currencies for transactions, governments will likely receive less tax revenue.

He also said digital currencies could undermine a bank’s ability to influence the economy’s price of credit, stripping the power of central banks to manipulate the price of money in the economy.

“At the outset, I think that it is important for me to state my belief that developments in mobile and information technology are very likely to change the landscape of financial services in the coming years,” said Murphy.

Murphy’s warning is not the only one. Officials at the Bank of Canada expressed a similar view. According to the Bank of Canada, bitcoin could pose this threat if it ever became “a significant means of payment.”

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The official went on: "Governments may become concerned about legal security and law enforcement issues associated with bitcoins. For example, the private nature of bitcoin transactions; bitcoins could easily be used to facilitate criminal transactions and to evade taxes."

In a May 9, 2014 meeting the Federal Advisory Council (FAC) of the Federal Reserve discussed bitcoin, and the question was posed, "Does Bitcoin pose a threat to the banking system, economic activity, or financial stability?"

Conclusion: "There is the potential for Bitcoin to act as a 'contagion' of instability because of its volatility and lack of connection with the rest of the financial networks already in place."

Other central bank officials have less alarmist perspectives and have stated that bitcoin does not pose a risk to the financial system. These wise men may be less alarmed, but that does not mean they are correct.

In fact, it seems to me that Gareth Murphy of the Bank of Ireland is correct. Bitcoin has the potential to eradicate the current system of monopoly central banking that has spread around the world to virtually every nation-state.

The technology will continue to metastasize and grow and gradually destabilize the current system.

Here is where I want to add a point that may surprise the reader. I don't necessarily believe that the powers-that-be anticipated bitcoin, though some believe they did or are even behind the crypto-currency. However, I do believe that chaos serves the purposes of our rulers, even chaos that they did not predict or trigger.

When empires experience profound shifts, the results are neither sanitary nor predictable. The “centralizers” – let’s call them that – are aware that because of the internet they’ve lost a lot of control. I don’t believe they anticipated the results of the ‘net anymore than they may have understood the ramifications of bitcoin assuming they were not in some sense supportive of it.

Yet chaos historically has benefited centralization. Elites have always seized on chaos-creating events and products to generate increased sociopolitical and economic difficulties.

The tool does not matter; its history does not matter. What matters is whether or not the chaos can be controlled and directed in such a way that it undermines the middle classes (the real enemy of change) without endangering elite control.

Centralization is the problem. Central banking is the problem. It is the ability to coin monopoly money that gives the current crop of elites such power. They can take even a positive development like bitcoin and use it in ways to their own advantage.

The power to create Shemitah lies in the ability of elites to sustain the breadth and depth of their control mechanisms. They use this same system to create chaos generally – both wars and economic ruin. By exploring the ramifications of centralizing events like Shemitah, we grasp the larger strategy of elite control.

11.

GOVERNMENT PREPARING FOR COLLAPSE

Fruits of paranoia

In the discussion of trends, we have to acknowledge that even patterns that don't seem premeditated may be. In this chapter we will examine what are commonly known as false flags.

As the 21st century has evolved, we've seen increased government intrusion in all sorts of ways. But as we pointed out at the end of the previous chapter, nothing is black and white in times of tumultuous change. While someone like Edward Snowden may be a truth teller, the possibility that he is serving other masters is just as possible.

The BRICS are creating an anti-dollar alliance but who is to say this too may not benefit the world's ruling elite? It is fairly clear that powerful forces WANT a more centralized global economy. In order to create this, the dollar likely has to be undermined. The BRICs are indeed anti-dollar but in fact the same forces that initially created the reserve dollar after World War Two may see BRICs initiatives as performing a valuable service.

A massive spying system has been exposed, thanks to Snowden. Perhaps he is indeed a hero as many believe – and as I would like to believe. But notice, please, not much has changed despite all the breast-beating. What has happened, mainly, is that people are intimidated as a result of Snowden's whistle-blowing. Was this the hoped-for result?

People are now aware, more than ever, that modern governments are adversarial, that the REAL targets of Western intel are not necessarily terrorists but more likely the domestic populace. Many authoritarian actions of the modern state are trumpeted these days. The purchase of millions of rounds of

ammo by Homeland Security is endlessly reported. Invasive military exercises like Jade Helm are advertised as they evolve.

The state-security nexus that emerged after 9/11 shows us the evolution of the relationship between the state and its citizens. Everyone now seems to be a suspect. The traditional idea regarding an individual's innocence seems almost quaint.

For instance, the Transportation Security Agency believes that 75 percent of Americans are suspect. One indicator that you are a "risk" while flying? Owning a passport.

But, don't worry. Before you get too stressed, take a deep breath. After all, you just might be among the 25 percent of travelers the TSA believes won't need extra screening at the airport. Hey, anything is possible. Consider you and your groin lucky!

As for the other 75 percent, the government now assumes greater authority to use travelers' data for domestic airport screenings. The agency insists this is merely to streamline the check-in procedures for millions of passengers.

Whatever the reason given, one thing is for sure: traveling by air from California to Arizona, or New York to Massachusetts, will be like traveling from China into the US. Some of the pre-screening has already begun. The TSA explained the new procedures in documents it had to release to comply with government regulations about the collection and use of individuals' data.

Much has yet to be told. Nobody can be certain exactly what, and how much, information the agency relies upon to assess the general public. It has a stifling amount of data at its fingertips: tax identification numbers, past travel itineraries, property records, physical characteristics, law enforcement,

intelligence information and even credit scores. Surely, the list goes on.

Heretofore, the government has publicly relied upon a security protocol called Secure Flight. This program called for a passenger's name, gender and date of birth to be compared with terrorist watch lists and/or no-fly lists.

The new beefed up version of interstate travel entails traveler's passport numbers, just like at the international borders, as well as other identifiers used to access a web of databases managed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Aside from having a passport, the agency looks into things like an individual's travel itinerary, length of stay abroad and type of travel document, like a passport or visa. The TSA also requires airlines to hand over a traveler's passport number, even on domestic flights.

The TSA knows which passengers belong to frequent-flier miles, as well as past travel reservations, a type of record known as 'passenger name records.'

The new, enhanced screening procedures parallel the TSA's introduction of PreCheck, which, as it turns out, was more a distraction from the true TSA procedures than what it was stated to be: a convenience for travelers.

The TSA has harped on its goal of giving 25 percent of all passengers lighter screening by the end of 2014, meaning 75 percent of passengers are considered, at least, "low-risk" travelers. Are you one of them?

If so, you will enjoy repeated searches from here until your grave. Or until you leave the US. You can have no hopes before boarding of leaving your pants and jackets on, and your

laptops in their bags. Oh, and not to mention your genitalia ungrazed.

Unjust? Well, feel free to appeal. The Department of Homeland Security has instituted a Traveler Redress Inquiry Program. Yours will be among the approximately 13,000 inquiries the program receives every nine months.

Homeland Security Too

Don't just focus on the TSA, however. Homeland Security is at the heart of these changes. The warnings issued out from this agency are endless. Large-scale cyber-attacks are expected as are terrorist "incidents" and maybe even nuclear sabotage.

Generally speaking, what Homeland Security does ought to be the responsibility of private contractors. If there are entities in the US, such as a power station that is connected to the internet, the owners of that power station should work to ensure its internet-connected systems are secure. If it's Amazon.com, employees should ensure all their systems are as secure as possible. The same goes for millions of other Internet-connected businesses.

Where is there this need for a government to provide protection and supervision on every front? This is another case of government trying to puff itself up to look and sound important. Recently it was revealed that there had been a data breach of the US government itself. Some 20 million were identified as pilfered – 20 million!

The official in charge resigned – as if that made a difference. The government cannot protect its own. Why are we to think that government can protect a vast number of businesses in the private sector? Here, from Breitbart.com:

An industry group, the Cloud Security Alliance said ... that 10 percent of its non-US members have cancelled a contract with a US-based cloud provider, and 56 percent said they were less likely to use an American company.

Another report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) said US cloud providers stand to lose \$22-\$35 billion over the next three years because of the publicity surrounding the PRISM program.

The overall distrust among consumers and businesses in other countries will affect US tech industry bottom line as well. “The risk is that a country like Germany will say you have to be a German company to provide data services in Germany,” said Daniel Castro, author of the ITIF report. “I don’t think that helps anyone. We do benefit from free trade and the robust competitiveness in the tech industry.”

According to the report, the US dominates cloud computing market both inside the US and around the globe. US firms could lose between 10-20 percent of the international market over the next few years.

Castro explained that the NSA dragnet, “will likely have an immediate and lasting impact on the competitiveness of the US cloud computing industry if foreign customers decide the risks of storing data with a US company outweigh the benefits.”

Internet business is fleeing the US after the world found out about the NSA’s PRISM program. The government is never here to protect you. And, as the US government yet again proved it is mostly skilled at causing damage.

I will conclude this chapter with two more points. First, as I pointed out previously, government is necessarily a tool of the world’s most powerful people, at least in this day and age. Government incompetence when seen from this perspective is

just as productive as any other kind of troublesome sociopolitical and economic evolution.

Second, whatever creates chaos and makes us poorer also allows the forces of centralization to grow stronger. It is a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy. The same mechanism that created the ability of a group or groups to organize Shemitah, is the mechanism that generally enjoys the benefits of centralization and dysfunctional gigantism.

I do not believe I am an overly pessimistic person. However it is clear to me that the current Leviathan worldwide is not one that will melt away quickly or quietly. This book is analyzing the problems of centralization and its history but that does not mean that the problems being presented are in any sense historical. No, I am afraid they are very much with us.

I suggest to all people, especially Americans to get most of their businesses outside of the US if they can. Work for foreign employers. Also: Move to encrypted email, encrypted chat and try to be as secure as possible. Take common sense precautions and implement common-sense solutions. Begin this process now. Don't wait.

12.

POLICE STATE

How modern slavery becomes ever-more institutionalized

In the last few chapters, I've tried to show even events that seem inimical to the power structure can be used to create chaos leading to further centralization. These are trends, obviously, but they are premeditated ones. Once you have individuals and groups that have grasped and now control the world's economic structure you are inevitably faced with a difficult situation from a social and personal point of view.

Inevitably the power structure seeks to perpetuate itself and in doing so seeks more control. People may ask why such individuals would fight for more power but the answer is simple: Fear and greed. Fear that past acts of cruelty and even genocide would be found out and punished. Greed because refining control over the world can be an enriching and enjoyable experience for those partial to such systemic evolutions.

In this chapter, let's track the continuation of such evolutions. In the end-stages of consolidation we find aspects of a "police state" being implemented. We are seeing this throughout the West in the current decade. There is no reason to believe, unfortunately, that this trend will in any sense dissipate.

First manacles are forged from government regulations and increasingly oppressive laws. Then regular warfare is implemented to further militarize the population and make it amenable to increased authoritarianism. Now all that is left is to accustom people to evermore invasive intrusions from federal – centralized – power.

This evolution is best accomplished by creating a precedent that justifies interference at every level of society. One must

become accustomed to federal civil and military policing as a regular occurrence. Eventually this leads to internal passports and regular intrusions into people's houses and personal effects.

In order to justify this sort of further abusive centralization a powerful precedent is needed. In the US and throughout the Western world one can argue that "terrorism" has provided the key.

In the US, the key initially seems to have taken the form of what is commonly called 9/11. It has now been 13 years since the attack. And there remain plenty of suspicions that the mainstream media's version featuring Osama bin Laden engineering terrorist strikes from a high-tech cave is simply unfeasible.

There are numerous other theories, including one that the attack somehow involved a cabal headed up by Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Pearle, Paul Wolfowitz and a number of others.

The potential plausibility here is that on September 11, 2000, one year before 9/11, members of the "Project for a New America" (including those named above) released a plan, "Rebuilding America's Defenses." This document outlined the need for a "new Pearl Harbor" in order to facilitate the expansion of the military industrial complex and the US empire. The men mentioned above were members of the think tank.

As General Wesley Clark outlined in a video several years ago, within days of 9/11, orders and plans were already laid out to attack Afghanistan and to "take out seven countries in five years." He says, the plans after Afghanistan were, "to start in Iraq and then move to Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran."

Those plans, so far, have been carried out in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. And now Syria is being attacked by “terrorists” backed by the US. The reason for attacking Syria is seemingly just as questionable as it was for Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. This ragtag group of “terrorists” is called ISIS for Islamic State in Syria.

There are plenty of credible reports detailing how ISIS or “IS” is ultimately a creation of Western intelligence just the way al Qaeda was. The idea seems to be to manufacture enemies of the West and specifically of the US in order to justify vast military expenditures. This strategy seems to have been enunciated by PNAC, so far, has worked in that US military spending has grown dramatically since 2001.

Total military expenses of \$1.3 trillion per year means that more than half the tax revenue of the US government goes solely to the military. In fact, total military spending by the US government is nearly more than all other countries in the world combined. And, military spending by the US and its allies accounts for between two-thirds and three-quarters of all global military spending.

Millions of men, women and children have been brutalized and displaced or worse, based on the US government’s official lie of 9/11. Trillions of dollars have been wasted in pursuit of enemies that may not even exist.

Land of the Free?

Sesame Street has helped kids open up about all sorts of serious subjects that are commonplace in the US today. One in 28 children in the United States now has a parent in prison – more than the number of kids with a parent who is sent overseas to fight in a foreign war. Sesame Street even has

episodes to help kids deal with a parent in jail. Just how bad have things gotten?

Police have murdered more than 5,000 Americans since 9/11, many of these killings having taken place during no-knock raids, which have risen by 4,000 percent since the 1980s. Iraqi insurgents, by comparison, have killed approximately 3,500 Americans in Iraq since 9/11 in “Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

The number of Americans murdered by police exceeds the number of Americans killed by Afghan insurgents, which have killed approximately 2,000 Americans in Afghanistan since 9/11 and “Operation Enduring Freedom.”

This behavior of police is no surprise. Domestic violence is two to four times more likely among police families than American families in general, and since 2010 reports of police committing sexual assault was two times higher than the reports in the entire general population. But it goes on.

In a world where officer-involved killings were prosecuted not with paid vacation but with murder charges, the murder rate for law enforcement officers would be higher than the general population murder rate by a frightening 472 percent. In 2011, one in 25 Americans were arrested. That number is almost certainly higher today.

Early in 2014, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia told law students in Hawaii that the Supreme Court does not uphold the Constitution. He indicated that they should anticipate the court to issue more rulings along the same lines as those enabling the internment of US citizens not charged with a crime, just as happened during World War II.

Why? To answer this question, Justice Scalia quotes Marcus Tullius Cicero, who said that “laws are silent in times of war” (*inter arma silent leges*).

Shemitah Trends

Scalia was asked by one law student about his thoughts on the *Korematsu v. United States* case. In this case, two men were convicted of refusing to comply with an order to report to a prison camp even though the men had committed no crime. Scalia said the court was wrong, “but you are kidding yourself if you think the same thing will not happen again.” He went on:

That’s what was going on – the panic about the war and the invasion of the Pacific and whatnot. That’s what happens. It was wrong, but I would not be surprised to see it happen again, in time of war. It’s no justification, but it is the reality.

In the 21st century, with its unending “War On Terror”, this means that, at any time, a similar decree to Executive Order 9066, the executive order which sent thousands of US citizens to concentration camps, could fall from above.



Twin Towers attack. National Park Service. Public domain.

Awakening

The good news is the amount of people speaking out continues to grow. Even some important politicians like Ron Paul have begun publicly questioning the official story of 9/11.

In fact, there is no official 9/11 story though the media often presents the 9/11 Commission Report as a definitive summary. Yet the report was not intended to be conclusive but to present suggestions as to what could be done prevent another such episode. Even these modest goals have proven problematic however as commissioners over the past decade-and-a-half have increasingly distanced themselves from it.

The collapse of Building Seven is one of the puzzles of the current story. It was not damaged directly but collapsed anyway. Bizarrely, the BBC reported on the collapse about a half hour before it happened. The BBC explained that the chaotic reporting conditions were responsible. But any further investigations will be difficult as the BBC destroyed the original tapes.

There are other questions that linger. Specifically the July 2005 terrorist bombings in London that blew up rush-hour civilians. Around 50 died in circumstances that were not entirely clarified by a 2010 hearing on the matter.

The most remarkable coincidence is one that is little commented on. Starkly, on both 9/11 and 7/7 authorities were holding “drills” that replicated the actual attacks. This sort of coincidence is extremely unlikely and gives rise to all sorts of additional questions, though few if any have been asked much less answered.

It is the Internet that gives rise to the persistent questions about the Internet. Arthur Ponsonby wrote in 1928, “When war is

declared, truth is the first casualty.” But with the internet the truth is not so easy to hide.

With the global human populace becoming aware and having access to all human knowledge at their fingertips, John Kerry summed up the result, “This little thing called the internet makes it much harder to govern.”

It is clear that never before in recorded history have humans been able to so quickly transfer information and it is reaching a point where it is going exponential. Quickly after most false flag attacks, within hours, private investigative journalists from around the world are dissecting the info and exposing the lies.

Having provided both optimistic and pessimistic notes in this chapter, I am afraid I must end with some negativity.

Powerful people seek more control – police states – as they begin to approach their goal of consolidating total power. The police state operates to their benefit in two ways. First it increases their overt control because a police state is innately oppressive and in some ways offers efficient control mechanisms.

Second and just as important from the point of view of the elite, a police state inevitably engenders “push back.” It is this resistance of the masses that allows those at the top of the pyramid to justify even MORE repressiveness.

This is, for instance, the reason why the powers-that-be are apparently engaged in inflaming racial tensions in the US. It is the reason a billionaire like George Soros funds groups that are determined to create social chaos. Additional or evolving chaos simply adds to the misery of those living at a time when their elites are energetically expanding Leviathan.

Jeff Berwick

One way to stop this process is the way to stop a cancer: You don't let it get started in the first place. Once a centralized society has been constructed the miserable end-game is unfortunately predictable.

13.

WHAT'S TO BE DONE?

Protect yourself, your family and your portfolio

In this book, I've attempted to explain how a significant concentration of power makes US society – and by extension the West – amenable to dramatic manipulations of money and power.

This book has tracked the trends that have continually condensed the power structure while informally enslaving millions and billions.

As we head into a post-Shemitah era where these trends are in play more than ever, we will want to adopt solutions that will counteract these trends, at least on a personal and family level.

That is where the battle must be fought. The trends inimical to our freedoms involve the surrendering of local power in favor of specially created globalist entities. The mechanism for this evolution is usually the same. A crisis is invented or elevated and the proposed palliative involves increasingly complex and internationalist solutions.

War and economic failure are the biggest tools that elites have when it comes to reshaping society. Both of these are in generous evidence early in the 21st century.

And both inevitably contain the seeds of the next crisis. War creates enemies that then metastasize into additional “hostiles” just as Al Qaeda, along with Dick Cheney helped create the Islamic State.

Central bank money printing designed to stimulate the economy inevitably generates asset bubbles that expand and explode, creating further economic havoc.

Disinformation leads to globalist solutions and the controlled mainstream media does little or nothing to explain the larger forces at work.

Seek Protection

Want to protect yourself and your family? Do your best to sort out the propaganda in order to create solutions that suit your lifestyle and portfolio. Some of these solutions will be generic but some will be highly customized.

It is important to pursue the solutions not only for your financial well being but also to protect yourself against what will likely be an increasingly chaotic future.

The collapse of the dollar is surely one significant outcome of what is taking place today. I've outlined over the years the reasons why there will be a collapse of the US dollar.

The entire monetary and financial system is at risk for an economic depression that could make 1929 look like a day at Disneyland.

The obvious thrust of the powers-that-be is more globalism, more fiat money printing, more internationalist consolidation of power. After more than 40 years unrestrained by a gold standard, governments around the world have reached "peak debt" as they continue to spend more than they take in.

After having come close to collapse in the late 1970s, the US based financial and monetary system managed to hold together until it nearly, again, collapsed in 2008.

It's easy to feel hopeless. But it does NOT have to be that way. You CAN be prepared. You can not only survive, but prosper.

Prepare Now

If you want to make money in a confused and troubled time – or even keep afloat when prices are rising and big-money opportunities are rare, you want the best information available. You need to be able to understand trends BEFORE they develop. If you do, the information can be incredibly valuable.

We are now in the final end game of current global monetary, financial, political and economic systems. Those who are not prepared are going to get hurt in this collapse.

Here are the basics on some of the ways you can prepare.

Gold and Silver

Gold and silver are basic building blocks of a disaster-resistant portfolio. In fact, the gold-silver paradigm probably goes back thousands of years. Wealthy people held their assets in gold while the working man preferred silver because it was easy to get and spend.

A bank safe-deposit box is probably not a good idea because the bank's boxes are subject to federal confiscation. In the event that the government has reason to suspend or close banks, you may risk losing your valuables forever. This happened in July in Greece where the government ruled that people could not withdraw cash or precious metals from their safety deposit box.

Home storage may be a better idea, though there are reasons – especially theft – for why you might wish to forego that option. Also, there is the very real possibility of the government, during collapse, confiscating gold, outlawing it or taxing any purchase/sale at an egregious level.

For this reason having a significant amount of your precious metals internationalized makes a lot of sense.

You may also wish to buy gold or silver stocks that tend to make highs during times of duress and social chaos.

This is a highly speculative investment arena however at the proper time it can be incredibly lucrative. The trick is finding that timely opening and then finding equities that take advantage of it.

Much of the profitability in this sector is leveraged to the larger business cycle. And this has proven confusing in the past decade because of the massive interference that has been launched by the banking community and Wall Street.

There is no doubt that the cycle of the “golden bull” has been suppressed, beginning with the downturn in the price of bullion several years ago. This tricked many into believing that the business cycle was turning – when in fact it was not. We are STILL on the downside of a bear market in equities, even though stock indexes would seem to indicate otherwise.

In truth, the business cycle has been frozen in place by massive interference with gold and silver prices. Those who realize that the market for gold and silver has been monumentally manipulated are also in a better position to take advantage of the market as the cycle begins to turn again.

If the price of gold and silver skyrockets, as I expect, many junior mining stocks could go from less than \$0.10 to even as high as \$10 very quickly.

Anti-Shemitah Stock Strategies

Even during times of sustained and dramatic market manipulation you can make money.

Shemitah Trends

For instance, after studying literature regarding Shemitah, I began watching the beginning of the Shemitah year on September 25th, 2014 closely to see if there would be anything unusual on that date from a market standpoint.

As related in a recent newsletter, I shorted the market prior and bought a large amount of VIX (Volatility Index) call options a few days before (as well as advising subscribers to do so). We were happily surprised that the markets turned very volatile for that time period.

I told subscribers that they shouldn't short the market so much as play the volatility through VIX derivatives because all of the central bank printing makes it difficult to short this market. That call paid off very well for that time period.

Often a key to becoming wealthy is simply knowing more than the other guy. If I told you years ago to try to invest in the marijuana business you'd look over your shoulder for cops. Yet, this is just what you should have done. Those that did have already made small fortunes in some cases. If there is any sector that can prove resilient to Shemitah, it's the exploding cannabis opportunity.

In recessions and depressions very few investments go up. Some of the best investments are often alcohol and cigarettes as millions of unemployed pass the time waiting for job opportunities. There's no doubt that a shift of this magnitude is endorsed by the powers-that-be that seek additional global enterprises along with worldwide regulation.

However, to state this does not do justice to the size of the opportunity. Eventually, this new "cannabis" industry will rival the alcoholic beverage industry at US\$1 trillion a year.

Of course, there are caveats to keep in mind. First of all, the industry will eventually be dominated by large corporations in a manner similar to the beverage industry. In the case of cannabis, it is likely that the large cigarette companies that already have acquired the necessary manufacturing and distribution in a related field, will end up dominating cannabis.

For this reason, investors will have to seek out smaller companies that will be ripe for acquisition. And this is where it becomes more complicated. Many companies will look promising to begin with, first in the field of medical cannabis and then in the recreational arena.

Investors will discover too late that in a competitive industry there are certain elements of production that will loom larger as competition evolves. Right now, greenhouse growth of cannabis seems logical, but such growth comes with costs. More likely, as the industry grows and becomes legal around the world, growth will gravitate to companies that are situated where the growing season is year round.

There will be other factors to consider, including the ease-of-production in countries where considerable growing is taking place, the amount of private sector and governmental corruption and of course the quality of the of the end product. All these factors and numerous others are going to color the industry and its opportunities.

Passports and Living Abroad

The news that up to 35 percent (and maybe more) of US citizens want to leave the “homeland” comes as a shock to many.

A recent online poll of more than 2,000 adults by TransferWise, a peer-to-peer money transfer service based in the United Kingdom, revealed that 35 percent of American-

Shemitah Trends

born residents and emigrants would consider leaving the United States to live in another country.

This percentage greatly increases for those age 18 to 34. More than half of millennials, a whopping 55 percent, said that they would consider leaving the U.S. for foreign shores. Among them, 43 percent of men and 38 percent of women noted that a higher salary would be a factor in their relocation decision.

We weren't surprised by these findings. As the Western world continues to fall because of over-regulation, over-taxation and central bank money printing, foreign residency and second citizenships have become topics of significant interest.

One way to gain a second citizenship is to buy your way in. There are only a limited number of countries which offer a direct route to citizenship through investment: Antigua and Barbuda, Cyprus, Dominica, Malta, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Venezuela among others. However, there are changes in status over time as well as emerging opportunities.

This goes for a second home as well. One needs to know not only suitable regions but also the growing number of communities abroad that are the most amenable to expat resettlement. These are located in such places as Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and Ecuador to name a few.

Passports, residency and resettlement opportunities are all increasingly important at a time when significant social and economic chaos threatens.

Self-Directed IRA

Al Gore, when running for president, used to speak of a "lock box" in terms of US social security. This was a lie. There is no "box" associated with US social security. The program has just

been treated as one more year-to-year source of tax revenue. It has been borrowed against and pledged many times over.

If you are in your working/productive years, please make up your mind to forget about ever seeing a social security check. It either won't be there or won't be worth anything in a few years.

And, forget about your company pension plan too. Almost all corporate pension plans are invested in things that are going to be either worth less or worthless in the coming years, including US government bonds.

If you have a significant amount of funds in an IRA or 401k you should either withdraw immediately (before it likely gets nationalized) or, if withdrawal is not an option, move into a Self-Directed IRA.

A Self-Directed IRA allows you to invest your retirement funds into hard assets worldwide (whereas a standard IRA does not allow you). You can even buy foreign real estate.

It also allows you to internationalize your assets so when the situation becomes so dire that officials begin to eye nationalization of your IRAs your assets. Fortunately, you can't nationalize what's not there to grab. And with a little forethought and planning, you can be one of the fortunate ones.

Bullets

“Bullets” is a two-fold suggestion. We mentioned it as an investment opportunity four years ago and the price of ammunition has risen dramatically since then. The only problem is it is hard to find investment opportunities that are easy to purchase that makes sense.

Shemitah Trends

The second, and quite possibly much more important angle to “bullets” is in being prepared to defend yourself. If you are going to live in or around any major population center anywhere in the Western world (US, Canada, Europe, and possibly many others) we suggest you prepare for the worst.

There are plenty of potential nightmare scenarios. During the 2008 crisis food transportation across the US and around many parts of the world came to a standstill as shippers weren't sure if the bank credit they were given as payment was solvent. In today's world of “just-in-time” inventories and the fact that much of our food comes from halfway around the world it would only be a matter of days until the grocery stores are closed and there were riots in the streets.

And, even if that doesn't occur, a major financial crisis could see things like the EBT (welfare) cards shut down. In a town in the US, recently, EBT cards were shut down, accidentally, for eight hours and it was near chaos.

So, in this sense, bullets doesn't just mean guns (which may come in handy if/when the EBT cards get shut off) but also means keeping plenty of food, water and other necessities, including generators/solar to survive a significant period of time.

Sea Travel

We are seeing capital controls coming in, passports being revoked or refused and air travel getting harder and harder. And we don't see this getting better before it gets worse.

One thing to consider is owning a boat.

I tried to sail around the world and made it as far as from Canada to El Salvador before sinking it in a freak tropical storm exactly one year to the day later. But what that

experience taught me is that while most governments have their territory very well locked down the ocean's are still almost completely free.

Even just going down the West Coast of the US, about 10-20 miles offshore, you'd maybe see one or two boats per day, usually a tanker or a fishing boat. And certainly know military except for in key areas like San Diego.

If things were to get bad enough that you couldn't easily travel a boat would be the best solution possible.

Of course, boating isn't easy (as I proved), so if you don't know what you are doing on a sailboat or powerboat (and of course a sailboat is preferred as it gives you a lot more options and is a lot cheaper) then you should put some time into learning now if you intend to own a boat as a "bug out" vehicle.

With the right set-up you could live nearly autonomously for months or years.

Being

"Being" is last on this list, though its position doesn't reflect its importance. "Being" is every aspect of your physical, mental, spiritual and financial health/being. Let's go through each one-by-one.

Physical

This one should be fairly obvious on any given day but if we are about to enter a period of extreme turmoil/crisis you may want to make extra-sure you are in good physical health. After all, if you live in a major population center in the US there is reasonable odds you'll end up being chased down the street by a mob at some point! And, of course, if you don't have your

health, you have nothing. None of our other advice matters if you are too ill to act on it.

Mental

Like, physical, it's never a bad time to learn more about what is really going on in the world. If you aren't learning something new every day then you are missing an opportunity. Thanks to the internet, for the first time in known human history, virtually all information is available.

Weeding out which is right or wrong is the harder part but the truth is out there if you seek. And, of course, if you have mental/emotional issues (and most people don't even know they do) the time is never better than today to deal with it. You'll need to be as clear, unencumbered and focused as possible to get through the coming crisis/collapse and the Greatest Depression.

Spiritual

Whether you are religious, just spiritual or fairly atheistic, you should be taking the time now to make sure you have yourself right in that respect. A strength of spirit will be a valuable ally as we go through a tremendous period of change.

Financial Health/Being

This may sound innocuous. Some of you might be saying, "Sure, we should have money in the bank, that's obvious." But, no, in today's day and age it is not that obvious! First, you shouldn't have a significant portion of your assets in a bank account anywhere. If you have it in a bank account in Europe in euros, you can almost kiss it goodbye now. What happened in Greece will happen throughout Europe and will most likely result in the complete collapse of the euro. If you have a

significant portion of your assets in a bank account in the US in US dollars you are walking an equally fine line.

At the very, very least, if you are going to hold dollars for the time being, have it in a bank account in a country with much less debt and much less bank leverage than Europe or the US. For Americans it is already getting very difficult to do so thanks to things like the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), but it is still possible.

You might wish to contact Paul Seymour (pseymour@tdvoffshore.com) of TDV Offshore to look at much better options for bank accounts and offshore incorporation. He also can help with setting up a self-directed IRA which is the only IRA that will allow Americans to internationalize their IRA investments.

Also, as far as Financial Health/Being is the idea to get a second passport. Especially if you are an American. As noted above, it is getting harder and harder for Americans to open offshore bank accounts, incorporations or even invest in offshore companies due to incredibly strict US government regulations. It is, in fact, a form of nefarious capital controls. If you want to take it one step further you could even renounce your US citizenship.

TDV Global now offers the cheapest available way to get Dominica citizenship. We have a service to help you if you are looking to get residency or a second passport at TDV Global or you can contact Chris Martin (cmartin@tdvpassports.com) directly.

We are also offering, (free to newsletter subscribers) the book “How to Renounce Your US Citizenship in Two Easy Steps.” That book focused on just renouncing and not on getting a second passport but it may give you some good information if you’d like to escape the US’ worldwide income tax.

Expatriating

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, if you live in the Western world you should be considering getting out. Not only does it come with potentially major tax savings to live as a Permanent Tourist/Prior Taxpayer (PT) but there is much more opportunity outside of the Western world than within it today.

14.

WE CAN HELP

*Please take advantage of our special anti-Shemitah,
low-cost information solutions*

In the previous chapter I went over some ways that you can protect yourself in this Shemitah season and even make a lot of money doing so.

Being in the business of providing investment solutions to protect people against the world's number one problem – the decline and fall of the current global system including the dollar – I've come up with a series of solutions that you can implement on a regular basis.

I can't go into the details anymore than I already have because many of these solutions are time-sensitive. In other words, the solution depends on the problem of the moment and how it is manifesting itself.

For this reason I recommend strongly that you consider subscribing to our TDV newsletter.

You may subscribe by visiting our website or by visiting our main blog at www.TheDollarVigilante.com.

The newsletter is our flagship product and well received and read by some of the most informed minds in the investment world including a variety of millionaires and billionaires.

Our new pricing structure introduces you to our newsletter at the lowest possible cost: US\$39.95. This is our lowest price ever – our “Shemitah special” price.

Shemitah Trends



"TDV is one of the few things I read as soon as it hits my inbox. It's very well written, and quite entertaining, but more important, sound and thoughtful. And at once radical and rational. Put me down as a big fan."

- Doug Casey, author NY Times best selling, "Crisis Investing"



"You've got a new fan!"

- Judge Andrew Napolitano, Legal Analyst, Fox News



"Jeff Berwick is an adventurer and a world citizen, a financial expert and a great writer, an anarcho-capitalist and a fearless opponent of the power-elite. If you don't subscribe to his Dollar Vigilante, do it now. You'll thank me."

- Lew Rockwell, founder of the Ludwig von Mises Institute



"Jeff Berwick's Dollar Vigilante is a stalwart newsletter always focused on the primacy of human freedom and the artificiality of any institution that stands in its way. Thinking like this is its own form of liberation."

- Jeffrey Tucker, Foundation For Economic Education (FEE)

In addition to a special low price of \$39.95, as a subscriber you get free access to five years of back issues of The Dollar Vigilante. Nowhere else has this kind of information available so easily and for such value.

As part of your subscription you get access to the worldwide network of TDV subscribers, called TDV Groups. These are hundreds of liberty-minded expats and entrepreneurs who live around the world who can help you with any info you need on visiting, moving or investing in their country or region. The group is incredibly diverse and covers much of the planet. Numerous major business ventures started in these groups.

From time to time TDV delivers Special Reports on items of interest to our subscriber's. Past Special Reports include "Investing in Junior Mining Companies" and "Getting Your Gold Out Of Dodge" and "Bulletproof Shares."

Another bonus for which you are eligible is our recently acquired special edition of Glen Lee Roberts already-legendary book on citizen renunciation.

More and more expats are considering renunciation because of recently implemented US policy that demands foreign banks report to the IRS on US citizen bank accounts. The invasive demands include account income and other pertinent information.

Banks can be blacklisted by the US if they do not cooperate. The result has been a full-scale jettisoning of overseas US bank accounts, thus making it increasingly difficult for US expats to live and work in other countries.

But it is not just overseas account demands that make US citizenship increasingly onerous. There is the precarious situation of US finances that have people increasingly worried that the taxes they are paying will never be paid out in commensurate services. This is especially true when it comes to programs like Social Security.

In fact, citizenship renunciation is up significantly and it would probably be larger by hundreds of thousands if not millions if people had more resources or were less worried about the process itself.

To rectify this last issue – the fear and suspicion regarding renunciation – Roberts has written a book designed to familiarize people with the process of renunciation.

The author writes from a position of unique experience: “That day, June 21, 2013, I had walked into the US Embassy an American Citizen and walked out without any nationality, Stateless ... an Earthling. A real-life 'man without a country.'”

Included are copies of government forms he filed in the process, as well as parts of the US State Department’s Foreign Affairs Manual which express the process from the government’s viewpoint.

Of course, a copy of his “Certificate of Loss of Nationality of the United States (CLN)” is also included, signed, sealed and stamped by U.S government authorities.

Renunciation is a significant step, and some may find it unpatriotic or have other reservations. It is very obviously a sensitive, individual choice and certainly not for everyone. But given the growing invasiveness of US tax policy abroad, it is one that you may already have considered or wish to consider – especially if you are an expat or have plans to go abroad permanently.

We also operate a subscriber’s-only Facebook Group where TDV subscribers can meet and discuss topics amongst themselves. A great way to meet like-minded Dollar Vigilantes! And myself and the rest of the analysts from TDV are often there to answer questions.

With dozens of contributors and product experts placed strategically around the world we’re able to bring you the ability to act on the solutions we suggest at virtually a moment’s notice.

As part of your subscription you get access to the worldwide network of TDV subscribers, called TDV Groups. These are hundreds of liberty-minded expats and entrepreneurs who live around the world who can help you with any info you need on

visiting, moving or investing in their country or region. The group is incredibly diverse and covers much of the planet.

You will also have access to all of our Special Reports including “Getting Your Gold Out Of Dodge” (GYGOOD). GYGOOD is a complete compendium of places around the world where you can easily buy, sell or store precious metals... often without even leaving the comfort of your own home. Getting Your Gold Out Of Dodge took over nine months to research and is comprised of nearly 100 pages packed full of up-to-date insider information on the most intelligent, economic, safe and secure ways of buying, selling, storing and transporting gold (and other precious metals) throughout the world.

If you are able to preserve and accumulate wealth during the pending financial collapse, you will be offered the greatest buying opportunity of our generation. Don't be surprised to see blue-chip companies purchased for pennies on the dollar! Hotels during the hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic were bought for only one or two gold coins!

Disasters Upon Us?

There is plenty of evidence that the disasters of Shemitah are shortly upon us and will strike no later than September or October of this year.

Even if we don't experience immediate difficulties of the most extreme kind, Shemitah may mark the beginning of a far more fragile and disaster-prone world – one that creates extreme suffering throughout 2016.

TDV EXPAT GROUPS – AVAILABLE AS RESOURCES FOR SUBSCRIBERS



- | | | |
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~ Nairobi, Taylor McFall</p> | <p>Germany
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| <p>Argentina
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~ St. Petersburg, Sean Armstrong</p> | |

As a responsible person and concerned family man (or woman), you'll want to have resources that allow you to respond with an appropriate strategy. You will need to subscribe to the newsletter to find out what critical actions we are recommending and when.

Such timeliness is especially critical when it comes to focusing on time-sensitive investments such as gold stocks. These are often thinly traded and the right moves at the correct moments can yield extraordinary value.

Over the next months, receiving the right information at the right time can influence the fate of your entire portfolio. It can mean the difference between significant loss and substantial gains. These critical gains can further strengthen your resources at home and abroad.

We are verging on an era where accurate and insightful information will be absolutely critical.

Please forward this book to others so they too will be alerted to the gravity of the challenges they may face over the next months and into 2016. Your friends and family may not act on the information but after events come true this fall at least you can say you tried to warn them.

So many are without necessary resources through no fault of their own. Let's reach as many as possible with the message of Shemitah and the necessity for counter-measures.

15.

CONCLUSION

Centralization will have its day

In this book, we've investigated how something like Shemitah could take place. In Part One, we analyzed the phenomenon of Shemitah itself and how the Shemitah end-day would likely generate additional destructive trends we'll have to struggle with for months and years to come.

In Part Two, we pointed out that an increasingly centralized power structure is the main culprit when it comes to Shemitah and the ability of its organizers to sustain and expand its influence over centuries.

For one reason or another, certain forces have wanted to use Shemitah or its end-day as a mechanism to create economic and military disasters that will apparently force a further global centralization of money, power and government.

We live in an era of unprecedented bigness, where too many praise centralization of power and resources... as if history does not show us that such arrangements inevitably lead to bloodshed and even genocide.

I am not such a cockeyed optimist to believe that the trends that have created Shemitah can be easily undone. And yet there is hope. It is individual human action that will be the undoing of those behind such shadowy trends as Shemitah. It is human action informed by the internet that is undoing their plans even now.

The hope for humanity is that courageous, informed individuals pursue their individual destinies both separately and together. Such independent and communal actions are beyond the grasp of our would-be controllers.

This is not fabulist thinking but observations based on past communication revolutions such as that of the Gutenberg Press.

The idea is always to control the many via the few and that hasn't changed since the Great Flood ushered in our current contentious era. Shemitah is but a signpost pointing out the direction of history. Fortunately, we have the ability to observe that history and take corrective action if we will.

I hope now that you have read this book you don't dismiss the idea and mechanism of Shemitah outright – nor its upcoming and continued trends. It is many things and – even beyond a signpost – it can serve as a metaphor for what our human condition has become and is subject to.

You don't simply have to submit of course. You can accept the reality of these sorts of anomalous eruptions and DO something about it at the same time.

Please try to visit our website regularly if you are concerned about the subject matter of this book. You can find our presentations at **www.TheDollarVigilante.com**. We are doing our best help you prepare for what is to come. You may also subscribe there to our newsletter and corollary publications or visit **www.SurviveShemitah.com**.

Please understand something IS coming. Even if it does not come on the Shemitah end-day, it will arrive soon enough – most probably this year or next. Leviathan does not sleep and too few people have too much power in this day and age.

That will change someday, of course. In the meantime, please do your best to protect yourself and your family. I hope this book and our corollary publications can help you – and I wish you Godspeed.