

FREEDOM'S *Phoenix*



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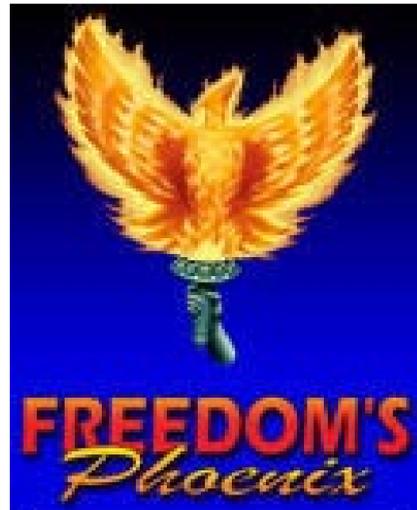
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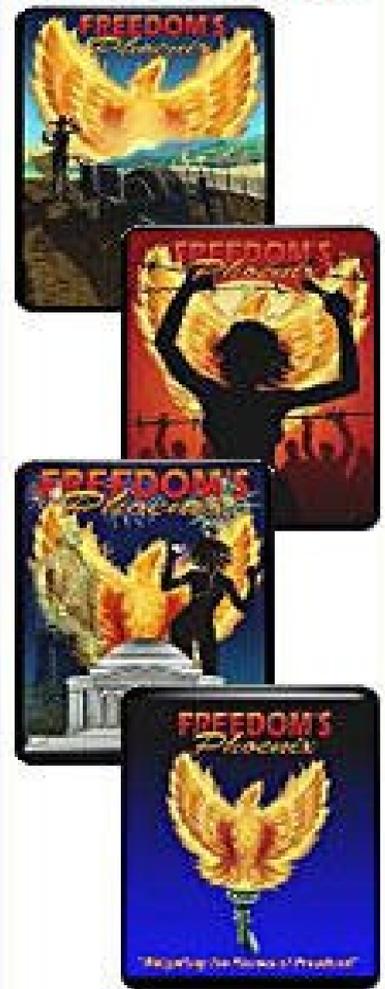
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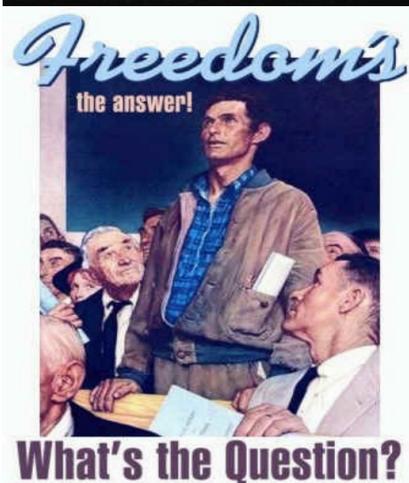
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Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine viewing tips

By Nick Barnett

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"WHERE THE GREAT MINDS OF THE MODERN FREEDOM MOVEMENT COME TOGETHER"

5 Predictions for 2012

By Charles Goyette

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“IT’S tough to make predictions,” Yogi Berra is supposed to have said, “especially about the future.”

It is tough. I would like to predict Ron Paul’s presidential election in 2012, in

which case I could easily predict that America will set out on the return road to being a republic of peace and prosperity. But the American people have made so many bad political decisions lately, that it is much easier to make predictions about the unfolding of the global debt crisis. So here are 5 safe predictions for 2012 that can help you protect yourself and your family in 2012 in the event Americans don’t wake up in time and elect Congressman Paul.

#1: The U.S. and global debt problems will prove to be bigger than the conventional wisdom acknowledges.

In one of the most boneheaded calls since Ben Bernanke claimed the subprime mortgage crisis was contained in 2007, Moody’s Investor Services asserted two years ago that “investors’ fears that the Greek government may be exposed to a liquidity crisis” were “misplaced.” Frankly, it’s no surprise when Moody’s misses something, but the conventional wisdom has joined in on underestimating the sovereign debt crisis – which explains why so many banks are holding bad European debt.

Similarly, prolonged Washington debates about raising the ceiling on the visible portion of the U.S. national debt, now \$15 trillion, only succeed in diverting attention from the enormity of the hidden debt, which includes a staggering \$116 in unfunded liabilities. Meanwhile a downturn in China will impact that country’s willingness to keep funding U.S. debt.

#2: The solutions advanced by the governing classes will continue to be inadequate to the problem.

Just as the scope of the debt crisis is downplayed, the fixes offered are always inadequate for the true scope of the problem.

Having ineffectively tried to hold the line on the Greek crisis, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund are up to their eyeballs in Greek debt.

Kyle Bass of Hayman Capital notes the ECB has been buying Greek debt since rates were 6.34%; 10-year Greek rates are now an astonishing 32 percent. “If the ECB can’t hold back Greek rates, what makes anyone believe that they can do anything for Italian rates (where Italy’s debts are \$3 trillion while Greece was a paltry \$500 billion)?”

The governing classes have responded to the compounding U.S. debt inadequately as well. The automatic provisions triggered by the failure of the congressional deficit reduction super committee target \$1 trillion in budget cuts over nine years.

That represents cuts of just over \$100 billion a year, while the federal debt grows by that amount each month. And as if to say, “Crisis? What crisis?” the politicians saw to it that those cuts don’t begin until 2013, coincidentally after the presidential election. To add insult to injury, the plan counts on highly unlikely savings of \$169 billion from lower interest costs going forward.

#3: With each new state initiative on the debt crisis, the media will breathlessly report that the problem has been solved. The equity markets will try to take a ride on those reports.

On October 27, European leaders in Brussels announced “a blockbuster package” to stem the debt crisis. At the same time, there was euphoric talk that China would somehow ride to the rescue. The Dow jumped 340 points, almost 3%, only to give it all back in a couple of days.

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A month later, action taken by the Fed and other central banks – once again aimed at providing liquidity instead of the addressing underlying problem of debtor solvency – was good for 490 points.

It is little different than the giddy announcement three years earlier when 15 Eurozone nations agreed to provide their banks with more liquidity and fresh guarantees. As we have learned, the move did nothing to solve the debt issues that have only grown since then. But the news spiked the Dow 936 points that day – a gain that was also soon given up.

There are always some investors who are taken in by the latest in an unending string of breathless announcements that the debt crisis has been fixed. Wall Street gladly separates them from their money. Remember, the problem was years in the making. Its solution will demand a long process of costly adjustments and debt liquidation. Real solutions will not be greeted with euphoria.

#4: It will become increasingly difficult to delay a systemic global monetary breakdown.

So far, some of the worst consequences of the global debt and monetary breakdown have been papered over and delayed. But they cannot be avoided. That is because the debt is too big to be backstopped forever. Despite knowing that Greece lied about its deficits to gain admission to the Eurozone, naïve ratings analysts, state officials, regulators, bankers and investors all believed that Greece would be forever backstopped.

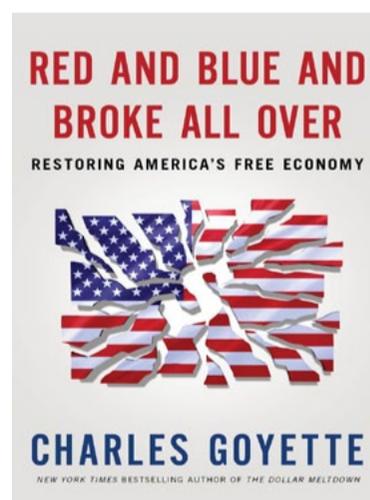
Maybe Germany could backstop Greece, but who is left to backstop Italy? China? But a third of China's reserves are already backstopping the U.S. Treasury, more backing Freddie and Fannie.

Can the Federal Reserve backstop everybody? It's been desperately trying to keep the American people from finding out just how much it has been backstopping the rest of the world. And what backstops the Federal Reserve?

Only the printing press. Therefore:

#5: For astute investors the allure of gold will grow.

Gold, which is nobody's liability and doesn't need to be backstopped by anyone, will increasingly serve in a monetary capacity in 2012, despite the best efforts of the fiat money of nation states to compete with it. 



Charles Goyette's new book, [RED AND BLUE AND BROKE ALL OVER: Restoring America's Free Economy](#), comes out in March. And coming in February 2012, Charles Goyette's Freedom & Prosperity Letter.

Webpages: [Charles Goyette](#) , [The Dollar Meltdown](#) , [Amazon - Red and Blue and Broke All Over](#)

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How to Survive Predictions on a Budget

By Freed Radical

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AS social philosopher Eric Hoffer once said: “The unpredictability inherent in human affairs is due largely to the fact that the by-products of a human process are more fateful than the product.” Hoffer’s quote points to the law of unintended consequences as being the driving force behind the unpredictability of human events. No matter how hard the corporate state control freaks try to enforce the doctrine of “portion controlled servings” of everything (including freedom) on humanity, the human animal is by nature incredibly adaptable and in the end oozes out of the tyrant’s clenched fist (although unfortunately not before millions of individual humans are squeezed to death).

Prehistoric humans could generally figure out that flowers bloomed in the spring and died in the fall, but predicting human behavior and its effects has proven to be an elusive task for almost anyone who has tried. Philosophers, mystics, and economists have been making predictions for thousands of years, and most of these predictions are bunk. Yet we all like to make them because it feels good to be right about something of such great importance like THE FUTURE! It boosts the ego to think that we may know more than the next guy.

Many economists have long believed that it is impossible for governments to print money indefinitely without creating hyperinflation and causing an economic collapse. Although there has certainly been a considerable amount of price inflation in the United States during my lifetime, the economic collapse predicted by many has not happened—at least not yet. And predicting WHEN something will happen is really the crux of any prediction. Any fool can predict that paper money will become worthless at some point in history or that an empire will eventually crumble. But if the prediction is inaccurate by 50 or 100 years, it isn’t really of much value in the span of a human lifetime.

Because of the fiscal insanity of the world’s governments (and to a lesser extent my human ego, I hope), I have believed that an economic meltdown was a likely possibility nearly every year during the past 30 years. Now I like to think I’m a pretty smart guy—I’ve been reading Rothbard, Mises, and Rand for decades, and I keep up with all the current wisdom on Freedom’s Phoenix and Lew Rockwell. I know more about philosophy and economics than 98% of Americans, but the fact is that I have been WRONG in my predictions EVERY SINGLE YEAR! I’m beginning to feel like Charlie Brown flat on his back after Lucy pulls the football out from under him every year. We have surely experienced some minor economic dislocations in my lifetime, but the pendulum always seems to swing back the other way. For example, interest rates were in the 15%-20% range during the late 1970s and the price of gold spiked up to \$850 an ounce in 1980. By the 1990s, interest rates were in the 5%-10% range and gold prices were a very modest \$300-\$400 an ounce. Currently, interest rates run between 0%-5%, and gold sells for around \$1,600 an ounce. These price fluctuations for paper (now largely electronic) money and gold are simply reflections of the unpredictability of human economic behavior as billions of individuals adjust to the ever-changing conditions of life. Even the control freaks running the corporate state are mere mortals who do stupid and short-sighted things whose unintended consequences undermine their efforts to control

everybody and everything on the planet (smile). No wonder I can’t yet seem to get a prediction right!

Several months ago, I was a guest at an economic discussion group where the topic was preparedness and survival in times of crisis. As various individuals voiced their opinions about surviving a crisis, it became quite clear to me that everyone had a different prediction about the nature, severity and timing of the potential crisis. There was certainly a faction who believed hyperinflation was the real threat to our economic way of life (and it may be), but I pointed out that the last depression in the United States had been deflationary. Rather than choosing to create money by printing it, the bankers chose to destroy it by simply closing their doors (with the sanction and help of the state, of course!) There is nothing to stop governments and bankers from simply wiping out the digital money in everyone’s accounts and making gold possession a crime as it was in the United States from 1933 to 1974. Or they can add zeros to the digital money and achieve a similar result, as the Germans did in the 1930s.

Other members of the group thought the greatest threats to humanity were related to nuclear war or terrorism which would disrupt the power and utility infrastructure and create food shortages, mayhem and rioting in the streets. Although this possibility certainly exists, how can one predict what some control freak state leader might or might not do (and where and when he might do it), not to mention predict what any one of the millions of potential freelance “terrorists” might do on a planet of six billion people? Even with satellite cameras mapping every square inch of the earth and government computers gobbling up every last byte of data on the Internet, the corporate state’s control freaks can’t predict future violent attacks (unless they initiate them, but that’s a topic for another day). And even if they could predict future violence and crises, one can be certain that they wouldn’t be sharing any information with we the peons.

Although most predictions about the future of humanity tend to be rather grim, I find a great deal of humor in watching the intense emotional attachment people feel towards their predictions. If you want to generate a lot of heat on a cold day, lock a bunch of libertarians in a room and challenge them to reach a consensus about how the American Empire is going to end and how one should best prepare for it. The hard core “survivalists” will insist on heading for the hills and preparing to fight the “enemy” (the government, the terrorists, the Chinese, the golden horde, etc...), while the more “mainstream” types will either insist that the American “Republic” (bwahahahaha!) will thrive for another 100 years if we vote their guys into office or lament the fact that the state has the individual so hopelessly outgunned that it is futile to resist. How many times have we heard one of our fellow libertarians proffer some version of either the “fight to the death” worldview or the “you can’t fight the army with your Glock and your AR-15” argument? To both the survivalists and the mainstreamers, I have only one thing to say—SOVIET EMPIRE. Of course, that’s the prediction I am emotionally invested in on my more optimistic days, particularly if I’ve been reading Butler Shaffer.

Since the premise of my article is that predictions are bunk, one might ask whether I believe there

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is any value at all in trying to prepare for the future, whatever one's view of it, and the answer is a qualified "yes," but only to the point that preparing makes you more free rather than less free. Since most or all predictions are bunk, let's assume that a variety of bad things MIGHT happen during one's lifetime while always remaining aware that a great catastrophe may NEVER occur in one's lifetime. I'm almost 50 years old, and I have certainly not been victimized by any great catastrophe (other than the constant oppression by the state), and with 20 or 30 years left to go (if I am lucky), I may never (other than the constant oppression by the state) have to live with any of the war, economic collapse, famine, rioting or other doomsday predictions in which millions of people have become emotionally invested. My philosophy on survival can best be summed up by the phrase: "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst without compromising your happiness very much if the worst never comes true." To that end, here are my brief (but effective and realistic, I hope) recommendations for surviving many of the ugly crises that may befall you should anyone's nasty predictions actually come true.

First, understand that the average person of average means cannot survive an all-out nuclear war or an asteroid the size of the moon colliding with the earth. So don't even try. Completely ignore anyone who makes this prediction. Yes, a few members of the corporo-statist elite may live out their lives five miles under the earth in a bunker you paid for, but who cares? Take comfort in the fact that they will eventually die a miserable death in the stagnant air when their power source runs dry.

Second, understand that a person of any means cannot prepare and survive any predicted crisis if he spends 110% of his money on frivolous things. If you are overly consumed with consumerism, you will not have a chance. You cannot eat your 60-inch TV and your luxury car. And I will kill you if you try to take my food. If you choose to do nothing and one of the bad predictions becomes reality, I pity the fool.

Third, the average person can and should rely on the time-honored principle of DIVERSIFICATION to survive a variety of predicted crises that may or may not occur. Diversification is an investment principle based on the idea that human behavior is unpredictable and that the best economic "predictions" are often wrong. In the traditional sense, an investor diversifies his

investment holdings into various asset classes such as stocks, bonds, money market accounts, precious metals, real estate, etc. The assets in these investment classes typically move in different directions as market conditions change, thereby reducing risk to the investor and ensuring that you will at least have something of value left in your portfolio when you hope to retire (although the state will do its best to make sure you keep slaving away until you draw your last breath).

The same principle of diversification should be applied to your life in surviving the effects of any potential economic or other crisis. Since the exact nature and timing of the crisis is always unknown (if a crisis ever occurs in one's lifetime), it's best to cover as much ground as possible without spending your life's savings or all your free time planning for survival. Even I am not going to spend much time on it here in the article. If you want to know everything about surviving every potential crisis that could possibly be predicted, please visit SurvivalBlog.com. Seriously. It has everything you ever wanted to know about surviving anything, anytime, and anywhere.

For the average American living in a city or a suburb, surviving means being prepared to get through most of life's uncertainties with a minimum of effort and expense. To that end, here is my brief list of what I would have in my home in case of economic disruptions, famine, natural disasters, local rioting, etc. Let's consider a hypothetical family of four and you can adjust your list up or down as appropriate. Many people will criticize my list as being inadequate ("You need at least two years' worth of food and 10,000 rounds of ammo per gun, man!"), while others will object to the fact that they can't adequately prepare themselves overnight with the \$50,000 in debt they have accumulated after decades of profligate spending on toys and entertainment. It sucks to be both of you, although for different reasons. For those in between these two extremes, my advice is to start small and work your way down the list in pretty much the following order:

Water: 500 gallons in storage and a portable water purifier. This really needs no explanation. Without water, we would all die rather quickly. Without power (or if the bad guys decide to turn off the drink at the city source), the water won't flow out of your tap.

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First Aid & Medical Supplies: Keep at least a six-month supply of all the prescription and over-the-counter drugs your family uses regularly. Have a well-stocked first aid kit including a guide with emergency first aid instructions.

Guns & Ammo: Two semi-auto rifles and two handguns. A few thousand rounds of ammo. A little training and practice. If you want to obsess over which guns to get, consult a book called "Boston's Gun Bible." It is an excellent source that will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about firearms. If you don't have the time to read it or the money to invest in a .308 battle rifle, just get yourself a couple of SKS or AK-style rifles and a couple of Glocks in the caliber of your choice. There—I just saved you \$25 and countless hours of time, freeing your mind for other things. You can thank me by sending me anything on this list (except water).

Food: A 3-month supply of dried and canned food is a good start. You can build this gradually if you want. Costco has a 200-serving bucket of dried food for about \$70 that lasts 10 years. Start with that and add your favorite canned goods, rice, beans, and other dried foods. Consult SurvivalBlog for storage tips.

Cash: I can hear the goldbugs howling already, but keep \$500 or \$1,000 cash hidden somewhere in case of an unexpected crisis. People at cash machines will be targets in a crisis, and ATMs won't spit out cash if the power fails.

Silver: Pre-1965 90% US silver coins. Get as many as you can afford. Start with a few hundred dollars' worth and gradually accumulate more.

Gold: Coins, not jewelry. American Eagles, Canadian Maple Leafs, and South African Krugers are all good choices because people recognize these coins and the value they hold.

Generator: Honda EU 1000 or 2000. They are quiet enough to stand next to and have a conversation, and they literally sip gas. Store 50-100 gallons of gas if you want to keep your fridge and freezer running for months without power.

Store some gas anyway so you can get out of Dodge in your SUV if necessary.

Extra Barter Items: If you have the means, save extra items for bartering with others in a crisis. Such items include guns, ammo, food, water, liquor, fuel, medical supplies, etc.

Retreat Property in a Rural Area: If you can afford it, have a place you can go in case things get ugly in the city. Store supplies there. If you can't afford it, don't worry about it. Worrying about what you cannot change will not make you free. The control freaks may not let the rich people out of the city in a crisis anyway, so console yourself with that thought.

For about \$5,000, one can accumulate everything on the list down to and including about \$1,000 worth of silver. For an additional \$5,000, one can get a couple of gold coins, a generator, and some fuel. Or skip the gold coins, and get more food, silver, and guns. Most of you reading this article probably have at least some of the items on the list already, so your task in dealing with doomsday predictions is rendered somewhat less daunting. Although I certainly would encourage people to do more than just the bare minimum, I am trying to make the point that in my nearly 50 years on earth, nothing very dire has actually happened, and the stuff on this list would have gotten me through about 90% of the dire (and mostly incorrect) predictions I have heard in my lifetime. Get the basic stuff covered and get on with the business of living.

Don't put the enjoyment of your real life on hold based on anyone's dire predictions about the end of the world as we know it (that's TEOTWAWKI to you survivalists). Perhaps the most important part of being free is understanding that you can't predict the future and learning how to live and love in the now. The only predication I can make is that if you put the past, the present, and the future in proper perspective, you just might free your mind a little bit more. Long live the LOVE-o-lution! 

REVOLUTION

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2012 Wishes for We Won't Fly

By James Babb

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WE WON'T FLY

Act Now. Travel with Dignity.

STOP FLYING UNTIL
THE SCANNERS AND
GROPEERS ARE GONE.

IN our first year, We Won't Fly (www.WeWontFly.com) enjoyed some unexpected success. Our campaign to demand dignified air travel with a boycott received worldwide media attention.

We can be proud of our efforts to expose the health and privacy dangers of commercial air travel. Evidently, our message resonates with a large segment of the population.

The US Travel Association discovered in a survey that two-out-of-five travelers are saying they will skip the plane and invasive checkpoints in favor of more dignified methods of transportation.

The association's CEO, Roger Dow, told US News & World Report *"Our research shows that reducing hassle without compromising security will encourage more Americans to fly — as many as two to three additional trips a year — leading to an additional \$85 billion in spending."*

That's a lot of money.

The TSA's scope and grope operation is keeping foreign visitor's away too. Tourism leaders have said *"the decline in foreign visitors during the past decade was costing the American travel industry \$859 billion!"*

These are huge losses!

While the TSA boycott is having an effect, our opponents are doubling down. Congress just awarded the TSA even MORE money that they asked for. Their perverted operation is expanding rapidly on to highways and trains. Congress is likely to increase the TSA's dole by \$153,000,000. In 2012, the TSA will consume \$7,800,000,000 in tax plunder.

We need to step up our action. The boycott is a great start and must continue, but we need more.

Here is my wish list for 2012.

Disobedience

They expect our total cooperation, in exchange for a "privilege" to travel. We will NOT comply. We will never consent to warrantless searches. We will not speak to "Behavior Detection Officers." They demand obedience, so we give them disobedience. We will not cooperate with a "VIPR" team on any road, train or subway.

Political (in)Action

Congress and the state legislatures are voting away our freedoms every day. We don't have to help them. We will never support any candidate who votes to fund the TSA. No compromises. No exceptions. Tough sounding talk is irrelevant. If they vote away our freedom, withhold all support. It's better to not vote at all, than to enable a corrupt system. Your vote for a TSA supporter is your consent.

Starve the beast

A tax revolt is certainly warranted, however this tactic comes with obvious risks. At a minimum, make sure your tax payments are minimized using all means available.

Expand Boycott: We Won't Fly 2012

A year long boycott of TSA infested air travel.

Can you do without commercial air travel for one year? It might mean some long drives or train rides. Perhaps your company can choose to have a virtual company meeting this year, using video conferencing technology instead of airplanes. Would you be willing to skip a trip to Disney this year to keep your kids safe from blue shirted predators?

While many have chosen to avoid all unnecessary commercial air travel, we are asking folks to avoid ALL TSA encounters for one year and then reevaluate.

Rewarding Entrepreneurs

Hundreds of billions of dollars are on the table for the creative entrepreneurs that can provide TSA free travel options. We need to encourage companies like Socialflights.com that are making private air travel possible.

Airport Demonstrations

Local airport demonstrations are a great way to expand awareness. If you need help organizing something, just ask. The creativity of our movement is unlimited. We've seen some great sidewalk theater and even anti-TSA cookie giveaways. Use your imagination.

In-airport Advertising

This is where we can reach the traveling public as well as send a strong message to airport administrators, airline executives, politicians and the traveling public.

Rolling Letter and Phone Campaigns

Concentrating consumer action at specific companies is a proven method of generating change. We need the big travel industry companies on our side. Each month, we will target a different travel industry company, starting with the most egregious TSA collaborators.

Offer your own solutions.

What tactics can you suggest? All suggestions are welcome. The TSA has virtually unlimited resources and a government imposed monopoly. They use violence, deceit and intimidation to impose their will. We have principle, truth and creativity on our side. They are bureaucratic and centralized, we are diverse and decentralized. How can we leverage these strengths to break their monopoly?



James Babb is a Co-founder of [We Won't Fly](http://WeWontFly.com).

From YouTube: Jesse Venture Endorses We Won't Fly 2012 (Video):



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PROFILING THE FUTURE

By L. Neil Smith

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that can be startlingly accurate, but just as often ludicrously inaccurate.

Thanks to the Internet and Skype, for example, we finally got the videophones we were supposed to have back in the 1970s. But for the most part, in everyday life, people don't like them, because who wants to shave, change his t-shirt, take her hair out of curlers (do women still use curlers?) and straighten up the living room just to order a pizza?

Being a duly-certified science fiction writer myself, I guess I could predict an alternative: an interactive cartoon version of you, woven from your real CCTV image and fancy software, that nods and shrugs and moves its mouth when you do. People would see that instead of you (while you look at interactive cartoons of them), tidied up and smartly dressed, sitting in a cartoon room straight out of *House Beautiful*.

That's pretty much the way it works, at least for this science fiction writer. Keep in mind, none of us are oracles, soothsayers, or prophets. I seldom start out deliberately to make predictions. Armed with whatever knowledge of history and human nature I have managed to collect, I look at the world around me. People need things; people want things; people do things. They succeed or fail. If I were more cynical, my predictions might be gloomier, or I could go the other way.

I'm probably best known for three predictions I've made in my novels, the first being the then-imminent collapse of the Soviet empire. I made it because, as the son of a Cold War military man, I knew Marxist civilization was essentially a fraud. During the Berlin Airlift (look it up) they'd lined the corridor to West Berlin with tanks that bobbed in the prop-wash of aircraft passing overhead. They counted parts in storage (tanks again, and other things) as completed war machinery, and untrained men to whom they'd issued military overcoats as soldiers. Interestingly, Robert Heinlein reported at the same time that Moscow only had about one tenth of its advertised population.

The last nail was driven into the Marxist coffin when I learned that Soviet scientists were forbidden, for reasons of security, to communicate freely with one another. They could only find out what was going on by visiting with one another during scientific conferences in other countries. Science, for civilizations if not for individuals, consists of little else besides communication. I knew the Reds were doomed.

Since U.S. science has been subject to increasingly severe limits of the same kind since 9/11, unless we change things, we've had it, too.

My first novel, *The Probability Broach* (which I began writing on a typewriter -- how quaint! -- in 1977), predicted the Internet as we now know it, and associated technology such as the device *Star Trek* later called the PADD, the wireless keyboard, wall-sized monitors, and computer-aided forensics that we didn't begin to see elsewhere until the advent of *CSI*. I was able to do it, not because I'm Karnak the Magnificent, but because my characters needed stuff like that to solve their problems -- and I thought it would be nifty to redecorate a room at the touch of a button. Today, on your screen, they even *call* it "wallpaper".

One regret is that, in the late 60s, in a series of short stories rejected by every SF magazine of the day until the manuscripts were destroyed in a flood in 1997, I predicted the rise of .40 caliber handguns. It was easy: ballistically, I knew "the lines all crossed" at that point, where a handgun would offer optimal stopping power in exchange for pressure and recoil. Today, most cops and many civilians carry auto pistols (something else I predicted) and most of them are .40s.

Another regret: in *Forge of the Elders*, I predicted that, just As the rest of the world was shrugging Marxism off, intellectuals and politicians in America would embrace it and pull the rest of the world down the communist rat-hole again. I was right -- that's what the entire Obama regime is about -- but I may have been wrong about its tenacity. Events in the year 2012 will probably settle the question forever.

Now, as Holmes observed to Watson, instead of being astounded by my wonderful powers of prognostication, you may just yawn and say, "How elementary". But let's risk it, and together see what we can see looming ahead in the murky future. The principal feature of our age -- unprecedented in over eight thousand years of human history -- is the end of the Age of Authority, brought about by the rise of lateral communications.

At one time -- for most of the period that humans have been around -- the communications that brought order to society, and made history actually happen, were imperatives, strictly vertical and operating in only one direction, downward. The perfect example is the church bell, institutional, cumbersome, expensive, and extremely low bandwidth, capable only of saying, "Come now! Do what you've been conditioned to do!"

Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson identified the phenomenon guaranteeing that vertical communications only go in one direction. They

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called it the "SNAFU Principle", which mandates that bad news never travels upward in a bureaucracy, and that excrement only travels downstream.

Although they didn't say "excrement".

The history of communications in general has been one of greater bandwidth, falling costs, increasing portability, and passage from the hands of power into the hands of the people. Think of feature motion pictures, which began as silent black-and-white presentations which could only be seen in an auditorium, and can now be watched in the palm of your hand in full color, stereo, and, more and more, in three dimensions.

But there's more than entertainment involved. At this point -- in a startling variety of ways -- I can speak personally with virtually any individual on the planet, and even to a small handful in orbit. The material, technical barriers are all gone. All that remain are the "gatekeepers".

Because, more and more, all of the truly important communications are lateral, between everyday, ordinary individuals (and vertical communications are increasingly disregarded as annoying and pointless) more and more of those everyday, ordinary individuals understand what their rights are and where they come from; more and more of those everyday, ordinary individuals understand how the political system actually works (or consistently fails to); more and more of those everyday, ordinary individuals understand how the financial system works, and whom it was designed to enrich and at whose involuntary expense.

What were once regarded as great and august public figures are now seen clearly as what they've been all along, petty, grasping, crooked, and perverted little men and women, little more than moral and mental midgets.

Those who have derived their wealth and power from institutions of authority are going to have to learn -- for the sake of their own survival -- that you can't make hamburger back into a steer, you can't uncook the soup, and you can't cram the genie back into the bottle. Human civilization is undergoing what might be termed a "quantum change".

What does all of this tell us about the future? The first thing, in the light of history and human nature -- what Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe called our "intelligence guided by experience" -- is that some fools will attempt to hold onto what they've got and resist the change.

A perfect example is Arizona Senator John McCain, whose tiny mind and shriveled soul force

him to protect the old, vertical way of doing things. His latest folly is a law that -- blatantly violating the Bill of Rights -- will declare all of America a battlefield, and give the military the power to arrest and molest civilians pretty much as it likes.

The lateral way will find a way to fight back. It will be revealed that McCain's record as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam is less heroic and exemplary than was previously advertised. The men he served with are growing older now, closer to death, and have less reason every day to keep their secrets from the Internet. Ultimately, McCain will be exposed -- and hauled from his office in a straitjacket, gibbering and screaming.

A good friend just suggested today that neither party really wants the Presidency, along with the blame for what they think the nation will have to go through to survive and recover. Accordingly, they're likely to let someone like Ron Paul have the White House. They believe he'll be destroyed by their mishandling of the economy he'll inherit. (Newt Gingrich would probably suit them better, but the more the public sees of him the more obvious it becomes what a fascist idiot he is.)

The bad guys won't realize their mistake until it's too late. Elvis Costello will play "Peace, Love, and Understanding" at the Inaugural Ball.

Meanwhile, Barack and Michelle Obama will seek a kind of stylish exile in Europe -- where they'll be celebrated everywhere as martyrs -- the way that New York mayor Jimmy Walker and his girlfriend did, back in the 1930s, and if we're lucky, Bill and Hillary will go with them.

America's historically unprecedented degrees of peace, freedom, progress, and prosperity are all rooted inextricably in individual liberty, an outlook on life and society that the rest of the world still doesn't comprehend. A quarter of a century ago, I declared that Japan -- with no tradition of individualism -- offered no real threat to our economy or sovereignty. For exactly the same reason, neither does China today. And already, the rapidly-rising world of Islamic fundamentalism has reached the top of its historic curve and begun to decline.

To those who worry that the Soviets didn't really collapse, or that Putin's somehow going to put it back together, I say that all the fundamentals that spelled their demise are still in place, unlikely to change.

Don't save your Marxie Cups, boys, the USSR isn't going to rise again. 

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The 2012 Iowa Republican Circus & My Predictions for the Upcoming Elections

By Ryan Mott

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WATCH out, the elephants have escaped the tent and are now running the streets of Iowa leaving behind steaming piles of Santorum!!! If you haven't already noticed, Iowa was quite the focus of attention in the political world as of late. Living here in the state's capital, Des Moines has felt like being in Washington, DC or New York. Everywhere I went I saw trucks from CNN, NBC, FOX, local news stations from across the country, and even the occasional Russian and Japan TV. Heck, I wouldn't be surprised to find out Antarctica TV had been here. Well, it's all over now and time to figure out what all that "caucy" talk was about. I'm here to present a perspective from someone who was active here in Iowa, putting in hours on the phones and streets rallying voters to get to their precincts and vote.



I'm not planning on giving you a detailed explanation of the caucus process, only my observations of what I experienced in '07 and '08, along with the differences this time around. Hopefully I can even give you some ideas to help make your precincts successful.

Flashback to '07-'08. My first experience at a Republican caucus. Up to that point I just thought I was a Democrat because I had never gotten much exposure to politics as a kid. Nearly everyone else around me had identified themselves as a Democrat, so it made sense to me. It didn't matter that I knew nothing of the issues, and hadn't really formed any opinions myself. I was a Democrat. That all changed the day I heard Dr. Paul on an internet radio station. After listening to him speak, I found myself wondering, "Where has this guy been all my life...and why isn't anyone else talking about these important topics?" I was immediately hooked and by June '08 I was off to my first RP rally held here in Des Moines. There I met enthusiastic supporters from all over the country. Let's just say it was everything I expected, and everything I needed to fuel my activism and campaign work for the rest of the year. I placed phone calls, sent letters, did data entry, attended gun show booths, high school speeches, sent Myspace billboards and messages, stood on corners with signs, put up signs, went door-2-door, wore Paul apparel everywhere I went, and even got the chance to join Ernie in NH to help fuel that Lovelution. If anyone came up with a good idea back then, we were willing to give it a shot, no matter what. Those were the days of the spontaneous meet-up

groups that popped up all over the country. We met frequently, and had the freedom to spread the message whatever direction our money and imagination took us. I wish I had time to mention all the wonderful ideas and events Ron Paul supporters came up with, but time is short. All I know is, we were on a mission and nobody was going to stop us. I'm not sure what would have happened if the thought ever came across our minds that he might not win in Iowa. I figured all I had to do was get people to listen to this man on a Youtube clip and that's all it would take...or so I thought.

Months and months of this volunteer work went on all across the state until it was finally time for that night we had all been waiting for. Caucus night. I was a newbie at this point, and didn't know what to expect. All I knew is that I needed to be prepared in case a speech was allowed, and that I had to stay after to try to become a delegate. I may have been one of the only younger people there, but I came prepared with a sharp shirt and tie to go along with my speech. Once my 2 minute speech was over, I took a few deep breaths and tried to get rid of the shaky hand syndrome. My expectations of the outcome of the election were almost as high as my nerves. I was doing it, this was it. People were coming up to me afterwards, shaking my hand and thanking me for giving the speech. This must be how it is all over the state, I thought. Then it came time to count the vote after the rest of the candidate's representatives got done "not" speaking on their behalf. I must admit, I came in to the process kind of worried about the whole vote fraud issue. Much to my surprise, it went down pretty smoothly and in front of our eyes. There were no computers to hack, just a pile of ballots with a candidate's name written on it. Next was the counting process. We went old school this time and used our brains to count by 1's. It took a whole couple of minutes to count all 200 or so ballots without computers. Much to my surprise, Ron Paul got only a hand full of votes. I couldn't let that get me down though; there was still this whole delegate thing that I had to check out. So as 9/10ths of the people instantly left the gymnasium, I was left with the real 1/10th of 1 percent in my precinct...the real troopers. The ones who stay after 10 extra minutes, not a big deal...right? Long story short, I got nominated and gave a short speech. By the end of the evening I went home as my local precinct delegate and also got a seat on the Polk County Rep Party Platform Committee. PCRPPC for short.

A few months later and I was off to the county convention as a delegate to my precinct. Once again, I was thrown in with the "elderly" lions to go to battle. Again, I won over some votes and made it to the state convention. From there, it was a pretty easy task. Vote for Ron Paul supporters were everywhere. Even though he only got around 10% of the vote in the state, somehow it seemed he had a larger presence at the

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state level. As a matter of fact, that night 5 of the 16 members voted in to the GOP State Central Committee were RP supporters. 1/10th of the votes, but nearly 1/3 of the representatives at the top. That's the secret weapon most people never heard about. The Ron Paul Revolution was a brewin'.



Fast forward 4 years, and you can imagine the growth in support. The Campaign For Liberty was alive and progressing this whole time. Now back to the recent vote. I'll skip the details on my caucus and get right to the differences and observations I made that night. In order to vote, you do not need to be registered Rep. You only have to have a state ID along with proof of residency, which could be as simple as a phone or utility bill. I made it clear to all my friends and family that is all they needed. The 2nd most important part is finding your caucus location. That's where I encountered all the problems. Up to this point, the Romney-endorsing Des Moines Register has always released the caucus locations in a full page ad prior to the caucus. Apparently, this time around the Republican Party had to pay for the ad, whereas the Register normally covered that. It came last minute, and it came tiny. I guess this 1 day local newspaper ad cost too much cashola this time around for the Rep Party to purchase. Inflation? Lack of funds? Not a bigger blank spot in that failing newspaper? I'm guessing not. Every friend/family member I knew that lived in an apartment/duplex had problems finding their location. I was getting calls all the way up to my speech about this. Feverously texting, I tried to help my friends. Finally I gave up and called HQ myself. Whoever answered the phone was no help at all. They were unwilling to help and told me to run the addresses through ronpaul2012.com. Obviously I had done that, along with the GOP and Secretary of State's websites. My cousin got the same result. They even told him not to bother going because it was 6:30 and too late to vote. That's after telling him his polling location was on the other side of town far away from his zip code. So while I was supposed to be identifying RP supporters in my precinct to get them to stick around and be delegates, I was instead trying to help others with the easiest part of this whole process. Where do I vote? Apparently the news was no help either. My cousin and his RP supporting roommate flipped news channels for an

hour hoping to get any help. There goes 2 potential delegates down the hole. Luckily, last minute another one of my friends found a helpline on the internet somewhere and got a straight answer right away and rushed to his location to make it just in time. Ron Paul won that friend's precinct, by the way, along with most of the others I'm hearing about from friends and family and fellow Ron Paul supporters in Des Moines. Finding voter locations was my main obstacle, but others were experiencing their own. I mostly heard reports of precincts winning, but then RP supporters not staying around to be nominated for or to vote for delegates. That's another problem I had. 35 votes and only 3 of the Ron Paul supporters I recognized stuck around. With that being said, there were still plenty of others getting those delegate positions. Just log into the DM for Ron Paul Facebook page. There were multiple reports of victories and delegate positions obtained everywhere I looked. I felt I had not accomplished my goal since I was only an alternate delegate. Thankfully, my girlfriend had a similar experience as I did in 2008, and won over a handful of people with her speech. She landed not only a delegate position, but also a spot on the platform committee. To read more about her experience you can read her blog, [My Thorns Have Roses](#), where she has highlighted the recent political events here in Iowa in her last couple of posts.



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Overall, I have to say the night was an absolute success. There are always things that can be done better, but I believe we achieved our goals. In 2008, only 1 county chose Ron Paul as their president, and that was Jefferson County. If you want to know how they did it, [click here](#). They'll always get to hold that title of the first victory in the nation for Ron Paul. That's where the snowball started rolling downhill. This time, Ron Paul easily won Jefferson County again, but as you can see by the orange counties on the top of the DM Register's article, he also won 14 others. That's not counting the 26 counties he got 2nd place in. A vast improvement from the last election cycle.

With a strong third place showing for Ron Paul in the caucuses here in Iowa, and with the security of plenty of delegates in support of him, I'm enthusiastic about where this campaign is headed in the following months. I can't deny that I was rather taken aback at how many supporters showed up on behalf of Rick Santorum (didn't see that one coming), but my prediction is that his extreme right wing family values positions and his impending lack of funds will halt his unexpected current momentum. While I don't see New Hampshire (the Live Free or Die state) as backing Santorum in any sort of upset, I do recognize that Ron Paul will be competing against Mitt Romney, who still remains the media darling, thus probably gaining him plenty of votes and support at this point in the election process. Newt Gingrich, I feel, is still in this until he'll be basically forced out. It's my general feeling that the people of this nation, while acknowledging

his experience, will not be able to trust him and his sketchy past and/or positions. Regardless of whether he "did it for his country" or not.

Beyond my predictions about where this specific election is headed, I also want to note that the thunderous grumblings of grassroots revolutionaries ready to finally take a stand has only just begun. Everywhere I go, I get the general consensus that Americans are ready for an ACTUAL change, one which champions of Ron Paul recognize will last long after Dr. Paul has either secured or lost the GOP Presidential Nomination. I predict that the face of American politics will be changed with this election. Constituents both young and old are ready to secure the freedom and liberty that we are promised in our Constitution.



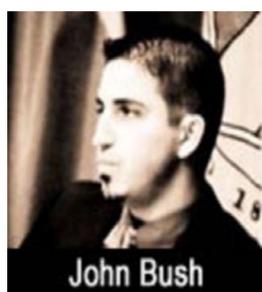
Rather than showing our ability to lead the world through a policy of policing the world, I believe that Americans are ready to prove that we can lead by setting an example that will resonate to all humankind.

By making sure the world knows that a President Ron Paul will guarantee that freedom and liberty are virtually synonymous with peace and prosperity. 

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End the Fed: A Strategic Analysis - Politics vs. Agorism By John Bush

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THANKS largely to the work of Dr. Ron Paul, the issue of whether or not we ought to audit or end the fed has broken through to the mainstream. Led by a coalition of die hard liberty activists, Austrian economists, and sound money enthusiasts, more and more people are convinced that the Fed should be abolished as it is not only unnecessary and unconstitutional, it is also detrimental to prosperity and economic liberty. The question naturally arises amongst those crazy enough to want to work towards achieving the goal of ending the Fed, how do we do it?

A Tale of Two Tactics

While there is more than one way to skin a cat, for our purposes we will only be focusing on two strategies for ending the Fed, the political strategy and the agorist strategy. The political strategy is reactive and seeks to compete within the system in order to end the fed from the inside. The agorist strategy is proactive and seeks to create alternative institutions which will end the fed by competing with it. As we shall see, while both strategies compliment one another, only one method will bring about the change necessary to truly end the Fed and ensure it is not merely replaced by something worse.



The political approach to ending the Fed involves politicians and activists working within the system to pass legislation and enact policies in order to bring about an audit of the Fed, potentially ending it indirectly. Politicians and activists are also working to directly end the Fed by repealing the Federal Reserve Act or by other similar means. While this approach has much educational value as many Americans are actively watching and learning from the political process, it seems to be doomed to failure from the onset. As G. Edward Griffin points out in his book, *The Creature from Jekyll Island*, the Federal Reserve System is a mutually beneficial partnership between the banking cartel and the U.S. Congress. The Federal Reserve Act was passed not only for the benefit of the banks, but for the benefit of Congress and the rest of the Federal Government as well. Thanks to the Fed, the United States Government now has access to the printing press and with it the ability to fund their pet projects and bailout their buddies without having to raise taxes (except for the inflation tax, but nobody knows about that one anyways). Why would the political powers that be want to take away their own access to the magic money machine? Whether they sign on to an Audit the Fed Bill only to bail on the effort later, in the end, those in power never voluntarily give up their own power, especially if that power helps them stay in office.

Also worth mentioning are political efforts at the state level with the goal of establishing state banks and currencies. It is certainly preferable to have multiple competing state-run banks issuing currency to the people, however, as often occurs when governments operate banks, the few benefit at the expense of the many. This strategy also fails to strike at the root of the matter (the issuance of a single currency by a coercive monopoly run institution) as it advocates

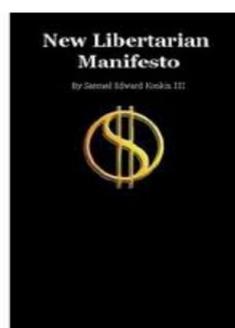
for the creation of the same thing it is fighting against, only on a smaller scale. While the political approach at both the state and federal level does well to educate the public about the ills of the Federal Reserve and multiple competing government run banks are preferable to one government run bank, ultimately this strategy to end the Fed leaves much to be desired.

The second and more viable strategy to end the Fed is through agorism (AKA revolutionary market anarchism). Agorism is a libertarian strategy that focuses not on competing within the state to change it, but competing with the state to ultimately replace it's coercive hierarchical systems with a system based on mutually beneficial voluntary associations. In order to accomplish this goal, Samuel Edward Konkin, the father of agorism and author the *New Libertarian Manifesto*, encourages activists to participate in and grow what he called the counter economy. The counter economy consists of those market transactions, goods, or services prohibited by law (the black market) and those market transactions, goods, or services that are only deemed legal if you first ask government for permission (the gray market). The idea is to grow the wholly voluntary counter economy, including competing institutions of defense meant to protect agorists from state intervention, to the point where one day the freed market of the counter economy rises in favor in the minds of the masses and competes the state out of existence.

Rather than waiting for the Congress to end their own access to the magic money machine, an agorist approach to ending the fed would have activists immediately taking steps to end the fed themselves by limiting their use of Federal Reserve Notes (FRNs) and by creating and participating in competing currencies and parallel institutions. Take note that the strategy of agorism does not require activists to wait for legal tender laws to be repealed before they begin competing with the Fed, it only recommends that they take necessary precautions to shield themselves from state abuse should the iron fist of government come crashing down upon them. While the prospect of state retaliation may be a major factor in preventing activists from taking the agorist path, remember, if you have to ask permission or wait for legislation to be passed before you can exercise your natural right to voluntary exchange, you are only cementing the state's authority over you and ultimately proving how unfree you truly are.

Consistency is Key!

In the *New Libertarian Manifesto*, Samuel Edward Konkin wrote, "the consistent application of the theory of libertarianism to every action the individual libertarian takes creates the libertarian society." This maxim could not be more true when it comes to ending the Fed here in America.



It is often said in libertarian circles that FRNs have no value as the FRN is a fiat currency. While this notion may hold some water, I would argue that FRNs carry with them the value ascribed to them by those using the FRNs as a

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medium of exchange. However manipulated or inflated the FRNs may be, they are nonetheless worth something to the individual receiving the FRNs. If FRNs were totally worthless, no rational actor would trade goods or services for them unless they believed their goods or services to be worth less than nothing.



If the only value as a medium of exchange FRNs have is the value attributed to them by those using FRNs in market transactions and as a means of storing

value, then why do those seeking to end the Fed continue to empower the Fed by saving and exchanging the currency of the Fed? Those seeking to end the Fed often fail to take in to account the fact that every time they use FRNs in a market transaction they are in fact empowering the Fed by continuing to give value to it's currency. In a way, those using FRNs are indirectly and partially responsible for perpetuating the existence of the Fed, allowing it to be further used to fund wars of aggression abroad and the creation of a police state at home. It is difficult, but if we are to reach our goal of ending the Fed, we must live our lives in a manner more consistent with our stated ends.

Problem-Reaction-Solution

The development of alternative mediums of exchange becomes all the more crucial when one is aware of the Establishment's perpetual use of the Problem-Reaction-Solution tactic. This tactic occurs when individuals or groups create a problem, expecting a negative reaction from the public, with the intention of offering a pre-determined solution that serves the ends of the manipulators rather than the ends of the people.

It is entirely possible that many banking elites would be perfectly content to witness the end of the Fed. They are well aware that without a viable alternative already in place, America would be in a state of total chaos should a currency crisis ensue. A dramatic decline in the value of the medium of exchange used by the people would be quite the problem to which the reaction would not be pretty. And to whom do you think most will look to for the solution? None other than

the same crooks who caused the problem in the first place. The global banking elite are already spreading the use of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights and floating the idea of a North American currency. It is not out of the realm of possibilities for them to be sitting and waiting for the right crises to ensue in order to make their push for the further centralization of power. As Rahm Emmanuel, ex-Chief of Staff to President Obama said, "you can never let a good crisis go to waste."

The banking elite are like the mafia. They come in, occupy a restaurant, in this case USA Cafe, run up the credit on the place knowing they won't be able to cover the bill, and when the chickens come home to roost, they burn the mother fucker down. We are at that stage with the FRN. The banking cartel took root in this country, ran up the credit while fattening their pockets and building a police state at home and a military and economic empire abroad, and now they are lighting the match. Rather than wait for the establishment to offer another centralized statist solution like an IMF SDR or a currency backed by the U.S. Treasury Department, why not begin creating competing currencies and alternative institutions now? That way, when bottom drops out, people will have multiple fully functional free market currencies to turn to, instead being forced to rely on the next big statist monopoly boondoggle.

Applying the Philosophy

It is understandably difficult to fathom the possibility of living without the use of FRNs. After all, most of us are paid with FRNs, we buy groceries with FRNs, we buy gas with FRNs, how can we possibly avoid the use FRNs!?! While it takes a dramatic change



in one's lifestyle in order to fully wean oneself off the FRN, It can be done. For those not interested in making that large change over night, in the short term, do what you can to limit your dependency on the use of FRNs. Contribute less and less to the evil that is the Federal Reserve System and not only will you make the possibility of ending it more feasible, you also won't be contributing to it's existence!

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Five things you can do to limit your use of FRNs in 2012

1. Barter - One of the easiest things you can do to limit your use of FRNs is to engage in barter. If you have a good or service to offer, find someone willing to trade what you have for what you need. This method allows you to skip the need for a medium of exchange all together and assists you in reducing your cost of living and need for more income (FRNs), which also helps when the IRS comes a knockin. For example, I have a barter relationship with a local farmers market where I exchange marketing and promotional services for frozen meals and vegetables. My lady and I also have participated in labor share programs at local farms where you put in a days worth of labor and get out a big box of fresh veggies. In order to find people looking to barter in your area, perform an internet search with your city's name and "barter network" in the search bar. You will find that in most cities there are already thriving barter networks. If your area does not have a barter network, be the first to start one!

2. Silver coins as a medium of exchange - While barter is an excellent way to reduce your dependence on FRNs, in some instances it is difficult to find a match of wants and needs within a barter network. People often need a sound medium of exchange in order to engage in some market transactions. Most will instinctively turn to the good ol FRN to fulfill this purpose. Others however are using a more dependable medium of exchange - enter the silver coin! Liberty communities across the country are actively exchanging goods and services using silver as a medium of exchange. Down in Austin we launched the Black and Yellow Pages (<http://blackandyellowpages.biz>) which is a business listing of like minded businesses and services that accept silver and/or barter. In New Hampshire they have the Shire Exchange (<http://www.shireexchange.com/>) which is fulfilling the needs



of activists and other New Hampshire residents without the need of the FRN.

To help facilitate the trade of silver, liberty entrepreneurs are even creating their own silver currencies. The folks at Shire Silver (<http://shiresilver.com/>) up in New Hampshire are producing



laminated cards with strips of silver and gold in them that are useable at outlets across the country. The guys out at Freedom's Phoenix

(<http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/>) in Phoenix, AZ are taking pre-1964 dimes (which are comprised of 90% silver) and other "junk" silver and putting them in laminated cards with catchy and flashy logos. On the backside of the card you will find a chart explaining the real value of the older silver American minted coins. They are currently being spread and used all across the country. Visit DontTreadOnMeme.com to get a hold of some of the dime cards to share and trade with your community (<http://donttreadonmeme.com/>).



3. Competing currencies – Already in existence thanks to many lefty and anarcho-socialist efforts are thousands of local competing currencies. Some are based on labor hours, others on commodities like vegetables or land, and some are even based on promises to redeem certain goods or services in the future. In order to find such a currency in your area, hit the Internet and enter your city along with key words such as "competing currency", "labor dollar", or "local currency". If you cannot find one in your area, get to researching and start one of your own!

4. Reduce your cost of living – Still another way to reduce your dependency on FRNs is to lower your cost of living. One way to accomplish this task is to engage in barter whereby no money or income is needed, only your labor or goods you already have. One may also consider getting rid of their smart phone with its \$100 monthly bill and picking up a pay as you go phone, starting a garden and reduce your monthly grocery bill while benefiting your family's health, buying a mint condition used car instead of getting on another bank note, and/or no longer buying coffee at Starbucks everyday and instead making it at home. There are a countless number of things you can do to reduce your cost of living so as to limit your future use of FRNs. I believe most of the reductions can be chosen so as to actually increase your standard of living by allowing you to enjoy a more simple and easy life. For more on this strategy as it pertains to avoiding the income tax, check out the DON (Don't Owe Nothing) Method: (<http://sniggle.net/Experiment/index5.php?entry=howto>)

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5. *Build Community* - Most important of all is the need to build community. Not only should we be looking to like minded liberty lovers first when we have a job that needs to be done or a service that needs to be performed, but we must also commit to aiding each other should one of us fall victim to the evil hand of the state. While peacefully trading amongst one another may seem as natural as the blue sky, in some cases it poses a threat to the authority and power of those pulling the strings of the monopoly institutions. We must exercise caution when engaging in agorism and participating in the counter economy. However, we cannot allow the specter of state abuse to prevent us from ceasing the empowerment of the very system that seeks to enslave us and our posterity. Find comfort in the fact that there is strength in numbers, there is strength in unity, and there is strength in truth. We have all three of these things and as long as we act in a manner consistent with our inherent freedom, we will find liberty in our lifetime.

Living the Dream in 2012

As we enter 2012, it is all the more evident that the veil of legitimacy has been lifted from the ugly face of the Federal Reserve System. As you go forward this year, every time you are about to hand over a crumpled and green value

losing Federal Reserve Note, ask yourself - is it absolutely necessary that I use FRNs as a medium of exchange in this particular instance? Is the convenience worth my participation in perpetuating a system that has done more harm to humankind than most known to man? Is there a way to obtain this good or service without using FRNs? Take the time to reconsider your purchase and research the alternatives. You just may find another person like you who is ready to take that next step towards agorism and willing to fix your leaky toilet for you in exchange for piano lessons. You may just find the counter economy is already alive and well in your community.

If you really want to end the Fed, rather than asking your Congressman to sponsor a bill, ask a local farmer if he needs a hand on the farm and can spare some extra veggies or ask the local hardware store manager if he's willing to accept silver coins in exchange for the goods he has for sale. Take proactive steps to limit your use of the Federal Reserve Note while building and participating in competing currencies and alternative institutions and soon you will find that the Federal Reserve has ended itself! 🌸

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More of the Same in 2012

By Powell Gammill

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MY predictions for a glorious new year:

Somewhere in America an American will be assassinated under secret presidential order.

Failing to stand for the national anthem will be a crime.

Inflation, inflation, inflation.

A no-fly zone will be established by the US proxy NATO over Syria. Syrian freedom fighters will be well funded and trained by the CIA.

Peaceful protesters will be arrested and convicted as terrorists.

Law enforcement will use tanks to burn down a commune of peaceful Americans.

Banks will close.

China and Russia will be militarily threatened.

The Internet will go dark in America. "It's only a test of the Emergency Internet Broadcast Systems."

Producing your own food will be a crime.

On December 20, groups of people will kill themselves rather than witness the end of the world. On December 22, it will widely be acknowledged the human gene pool improved almost overnight.

IRS enforcement will increase and show trials become a featured monthly event.

Poor jobless people will be seized and detained in FEMA camps . . . for their own safety

Being a surveillance technician will be a growing government job description.

1984 has past. 1985 begins.

Iraq will fall apart into three "nations."

Voting will be mandated.

Show trials will feature "hoarders."

Advocating self-reliance will be an act of terror.

A drone will fire a missile into a car on US highway killing a "terrorist" and 14 other unlucky people ("associates") driving nearby.

The Prison Industrial Complex will grow.

There will be mysterious explosions in Iran.

An American will be disappear and turn up several months later held in a military prison by the United States' government.

Drugs will (still) be illegal.

States will increasingly go bankrupt and be bailed out with printed and not so printed cash . . . and a federal overseer.

Writers, photographers and videographers will increasingly be hauled away as terrorists.

Bicycles will increasingly supplant cars.

Protesting prices and shortages will be an act of terror.

Only jobs with licensed businesses will be legal.

A government jobs program rivaling the CCC/WPA of the depression will swing into force.

Freedom's Phoenix staff will be lined up and shot by ... ah, take your pick.

Judges will become automated drones.

Failing to stand for and recite the Pledge of Allegiance will be a crime.

2012 will not be a good year to get sick.

War in Europe.

College drops in enrollment followed by layoffs and tuition decreases.

The US government will make it clear with examples that once an American always an American no matter where on the globe you go.

Cash will be banned. Only credit/debit cards will be allowed.

Permits will be required to leave any city in a vehicle not licensed for commercial use.

All laptops and monitors will be required to have cameras.

A new false flag operation will occur in San Francisco. I hope it is not nuclear.

Price fixers will be sentenced to years in prison.

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The Federal Reserve will be renamed The Federal Economic Recovery Board.

Our foreign policy will be 'obey or die.' Why should nations be treated any better than Americans?

Food will become increasingly uniform and of lesser choices as farm labor--unavailable from illegals--will be done more and more by machines killing of all but the most commercial of farms and limited to the fruit and vegetable varieties that can be harvested by machines.

Failing to play the national anthem to open any public event will be a crime.

The Middle East will become increasingly free of Christians as we continue to invade/attack secular nations while avoiding radical Islamic ones.

The military will become a jobs program as more and more desperate people are invited or coerced into surrendering to the Military Industrial Complex rather than Debtor's Prison to pay off their debts. Those who excel will be recruited by private mercenary firms for international and domestic use.

Media outlets will get a bailout from the government so they don't disappear.

Not having utility bills will be a crime.

Failing to offer the Pledge of Allegiance at any public event will be a crime.

Social Security will get a means test.

Time for Lebanon to heat up again . . . got to have something to distract.

CONgress will up the national debt . . . twice in one year.

NASA will buy up even more space flights from the private sector delaying further private space ventures.

Failure to immediately obey at law enforcement checkpoints will result in felony convictions.

Gatherings of three or more people will need a permit. And a minimum 45 days to wait for approval.

Taxes must increase for the good of the nation.

Syria will be bombed by US planes acting under NATO and the UN.

Police Departments will increasingly go back to using torture to extract confessions finding it really was a simpler method to seek case file resolution after all.

Only two major airlines will exist by 2013: Government Airlines and Competing Government Airlines.

Vaccines mandated.

Postage will be 47 cents for the first ounce of First Class mail. A tenth of a cent tax for now on emails will help subsidize the Post Office.

The US will be threatening Egypt and Turkey with attack.

TSA employee will direct someone to turn their head and cough.

Videotaping law enforcement will be terrorism.

Hosting links to non-government approved links will result in ISP forfeiture of ... well, everything.

Failing to prominently display the American flag at any public event will be a crime.

On reviewing all of the above I foresee 2012 will just be the same old, same old. 

Powell Gammill is the Senior Editor for Freedoms-Phoenix.com

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Getting Out of Dodge By Doug Casey

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(INTERVIEWED by Louis James, Editor, International Speculator)

L: Doug, a lot of readers have been asking for guidance on how to know when it's time to exit center stage and hunker down in some safe place. Few people want to hide from the world in a cabin in the woods while life goes on in the mainstream, but nobody wants to get caught once the gates clang shut on the police state the US is becoming. How do you know when it's time to go?

Doug: Well, the first thing to keep in mind is that it's better to be a year too early than a minute too late. David Galland recently read [They Thought They Were Free: The Germans, 1933-45](#), by Milton Mayer. He quoted a passage in his column of last Friday. It goes a long way in explaining why Americans appear to be such whipped dogs today. They're no different from the Germans of recent memory. For those who missed it, let me quote it:

"You see," my colleague went on, "one doesn't see exactly where or how to move. Believe me, this is true. Each act, each occasion, is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next. You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join with you in resisting somehow. You don't want to act, or even talk, alone; you don't want to 'go out of your way to make trouble.' ... In the university community, in your own community, you speak privately to your colleagues, some of whom certainly feel as you do; but what do they say? They say, 'It's not so bad' or 'You're seeing things' or 'You're an alarmist.'

"These are the beginnings, yes; but how do you know for sure when you don't know the end, and how do you know, or even surmise, the end? On the one hand, your enemies, the law, the regime, the Party, intimidate you. On the other, your colleagues pooh-pooh you as pessimistic or even neurotic... the one great shocking occasion, when tens or hundreds or thousands will join with you, never comes. That's the difficulty. If the last and worst act of the whole regime had come immediately after the first and smallest, thousands, yes, millions would have been sufficiently shocked... But of course this isn't the way it happens. In between come all the hundreds of little steps, some of them imperceptible, each of them preparing you not to be shocked by the next. Step C is not so much worse than Step B, and, if you did not make a stand at Step B, why should you at Step C?"

The fact is that the US has been on a slippery slope for decades, and it's about to go over a cliff. However, our standard of living, while declining, is still very high, both relatively and absolutely. But an American can enjoy a much higher standard of living abroad.

On the other hand, if I were some poor guy in a poverty-wracked country with few opportunities, I'd want to go where the action is, where the money is, **now**. Today, that means trying to

get into the United States. The US is headed the wrong direction, but it's still a land of opportunity and a whole lot better than some flea-bitten village in Niger.

L: By the time things get worse than some Third-World dictatorship in the US, such a person could have remitted a whole lot of cash back home.

Doug: And you'd have a whole lot of experiences that would give you a competitive edge back where you came from, or in the next place you go to. The one-eyed man is king in the valley of the blind. People have to lose that backward, peasant mentality that ties them to the land of their birth. Sad to say, although the average American has somewhat more knowledge of the world – mainly due to television – his psychology is just as constrained as that of some serf from central Asia or some primitive village in Africa. It's all a matter of psychology.

But if you're not poor, you want to go someplace that is safe, nice – whatever that means to you – and with a lower cost of living. As most readers know, for me that's [Cafayate, Argentina](#), but one size does not fit all. It needs to be a place you actually enjoy spending some time, with people whose company you enjoy.

L: Fair enough. But our readers want to know if your guru-sense is tingling yet, or how close you think we are to it being too late to leave – or at least too late to leave with any meaningful assets.

Doug: I'm a trend observer. This is one of the advantages of studying history, because it shows you that things like this rarely happen overnight. They are usually the result of trends that build over years and years, sometimes over generations. In the case of the US, I think the trend has been downhill, in many ways, for many years. Pick a time. You could make an argument, from a moral point of view, that things started heading downhill at the time of the [Spanish-American War](#). That was when a previously peaceful and open country first started conquering overseas lands and staking colonies. America was still in the ascent towards its peak economically, but the seeds of its own demise were already sewn, and a libertarian watching the scene might have concluded that it was time to get out of Dodge –

L: [Laughs] That would have been a bit early...

Doug: [Chuckles] Yes, that would have been way too soon. As Adam Smith observed, there's a lot of ruin in a country.

L: On the other paw, it would have gotten you out before the War between the States, a disaster well worth avoiding.

Doug: No, the Spanish-American War was in 1898.

L: Oops! Sorry, I was thinking of what Americans call the [Mexican-American War](#), but which Mexicans call the "American Invasion" –

Doug: [Laughs]

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L: I'm not joking. That's what they called it in the history books I was given in Mexican schools when I lived there in the '70s. It has long seemed to me that that was an ominous turn for the worse for the US and a clear example of conquering a weaker neighbor purely for pillage – not just Texas, but everything from there all the way to California.

Doug: That's right. Davey Crockett and the boys, we love them, but in many ways they were the equivalent of today's Mexicans who want to re-colonize the southwest and turn it back into part of Mexico, in what they call the Reconquista.

L: Indeed, but this is ancient history to most US taxpayers today – I'm reminded that it's not correct in many cases to call them Americans.

Doug: Yes, just as it was a misnomer to call the people who lived in the Roman Empire after Diocletian Romans – because Roman citizens were once free men. After about 300 AD most of them were bound to the land or their occupations as serfs. But the slide for Rome started at least 120 years earlier, after the death of Marcus Aurelius. Politically, the decline started with the accession of Julius Caesar 240 years before that. So, when did the slide – politically, economically, and socially – really start for the US? When were there no more trends going up?

L: FDR? The [New Deal](#) was really a moral, economic, and political turning point.

Doug: You could make that argument, but the US still grew economically, despite the roadblocks FDR threw in its path. US military power and global prestige continued growing from that point, although, paradoxically, the accelerating growth of the US military was directly responsible for the decline of the US economically and in terms of personal freedom. One reason for the ascendancy of the US after World War II was that we were the only major country in the world not physically devastated by the war.

L: Ah. Right.

Doug: So it seems to me that the peak of American civilization was in the 1960s. As for evidence, well, I like to put my finger on the [1959 Cadillac](#). Those twin bullet taillights, the opulence of it... In terms of then-current technology, things couldn't get much better.

L: "Opulence. I has it."

Doug: [Laughs – a real belly laugh] That's my favorite [TV commercial!](#) Anyway, that was the peak, in my mind. Though things continued getting better for a while, the US started to live out of capital.

L: Had to pay for guns **and** butter.

Doug: That's right. The Johnson administration's so-called Great Society created vast new federal bureaucracies that promised Americans free food, shelter, medical care, education, and what-have-you. Americans became true wards of the state. But the real, final nail in the coffin for America was in 1971 –

L: Nixon taking the US off the gold standard.

Doug: Nixon taking the US off the gold standard – [open devaluation of the dollar](#), combined with wage and price controls for some months. And that was not long after the so-called Bank Secrecy Act, which abolished bank secrecy, and required the reporting of all foreign financial

accounts. Nixon was, in many ways, even more of a disaster than Johnson. Republicans are usually worse than Democrats when it comes to freedom, partly because they like to couch their depredations in the rhetoric of defending the free market. While everyone understands that Democrats are socialists just under the surface, Republicans actually give capitalism a bad name. Baby Bush is a perfect, recent example.

L: But don't you worry your pretty little head about devaluation – it's just a "bugaboo" – and as long as you're not one of those unpatriotic people wanting to buy imports or vacation abroad, your dollar will be worth just as much tomorrow as it is today. The scary thing is that the Belarusian dictator Lukashenko said almost the same thing when the [Belarusian ruble lost two third of its forex value](#) earlier this year, asking his countrymen why they need to go on vacation in Germany or buy German cars...

Doug: You see why I like to study history? It doesn't repeat, but it sure does rhyme...

L: With a vengeance.

Doug: So, anyway, since 1971, some things have improved largely due to technological advances, but the America That Was has been fading into the past. It was a decisive turning point. You can see that in the accelerated proliferation of undeclared wars we've had since then. I don't just mean the penny-ante invasions of Granada and Panama – the US has always lorded it over Caribbean and Central American banana republics; those are just sport wars. But Iraq and Afghanistan are alien cultures on the other side of the world – apart from never posing any threat to the US. Now it looks like Iran and Pakistan are on the dance card, and they're big game. The War Against Islam has started in earnest, and it's going to end badly for the US. I explained all this at great length in the white paper, *Learn to Make Terror Your Friend*, that I wrote for [The Casey Report](#) last month.

Domestically, saying that the US is turning into a police state when you started this conversation was quite accurate. You can see more and more videos spreading over the Internet, not just of police brutality, but demonstrating the militarization and federalization of police, who are being inculcated with both disdain for and paranoia about ordinary citizens.

In the old days, if you were stopped for speeding, the peace officer was polite – you could get out of your car, meet the cop on neutral ground, and chat with him. You didn't have a serious problem unless you were obviously drunk or combative. Now, you don't dare make a move. You better keep your hands in plain sight on the steering wheel and be ready for a Breathalyzer test without probable cause. The law enforcement officer will stand behind you with his hand on his gun. And you're the one who'd better be polite.

L: There has been a polar reversal. The cops used to address citizens as "sir" or "ma'am." Now, the correct response in a traffic stop is: "Yes, sir! I would love to inspect the bottom of your boot, sir!"

Doug: [Laughs] That's right. My friend Marc Victor gives out magnetized business cards. People ask, "Why?" He answers that it's so clients can put them on the bottom of their cars or refrigerators, so they can see it when the cops throw them to the ground.

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L: Marc's a good man. There's a handy video on [Marc's website](#), offering advice on what to do if you're [pulled over by the police in a traffic stop](#).

Doug: A good public service announcement. At any rate, I think there's no question that the US has turned the corner on every basis: politically, socially, morally, and now, economically...

L: Okay, but, Doug, you said that in 1979 too. The question is, how do we know when the door is going to close?

Doug: [Laughs.] Well, sometimes I feel a little like the boy who cried wolf. But Roman writers like Tacitus and Sallust saw where Rome was going before it got completely out of control. Should they have said nothing, for fear of being too early? Here in the US, it should have gone over the edge back in the 1980s, but we got lucky. There was still a lot of forward momentum, which can last for decades when you're speaking of civilizations. There was the computer productivity boom. The Soviet Union collapsed, China liberalized, and Communism was discredited everywhere except on US college campuses. The end of the Cold War opened up vast areas of the world to the global market. And most surprising of all, Volker tightened up the money supply and interest rates went high, causing people to save money and stop borrowing to consume.

L: That's not happening this time.

Doug: No. We got lucky back then. Since the '90s we've had a long and totally phony, debt-driven boom that's now come to an end. I feel very confident that there's no way out this time. There are huge distortions and misallocations of capital that have been cranked into the system for two decades. And not just in the US this time, but in Europe, China, Japan, and elsewhere.

The US is very clearly on the decline. The fact that in spite of bankrupting military expenditures to no gain for the American people, those in power are talking overtly and aggressively about attacking more countries – Iran and Pakistan in particular – is extremely grave. The fact that they attacked Libya – which, incidentally, is going to turn into a total disaster, a civil war that will last for years – shows it's not stopping. Sure, Obama brought troops home from Iraq – another disaster that's going to remain a disaster for years to come – but at the same time he put a company of combat troops in Uganda, of all places and Marines in Australia, to provoke the Chinese.

Back home, I've read reports that people are being stopped for carrying gold coins out of the US, in Houston in particular. Now we have [authorization of the military to detain US citizens](#), on US soil, with no trail, and indefinitely, on the verge of becoming law. And [Predator Drones have been used to hunt down farmers](#) on their own ranches.

I could go on and on. This is not like spotting early signs of decay in America's expansionist wars of the 19th century or things getting worse with FDR. Most people can't see it with all the noise and confusion, but we've reached the edge of the precipice.

L: Don't worry about exactly where the edge is, just assume it's there and take appropriate action?

Doug: Yes. It really is there. It's a clear and present danger. But most Americans are as oblivious as most Germans were in the '30s. In fact, most of them support what's going on, just as most Germans supported their government in the '30s and '40s.

L: So... don't worry about figuring out exactly when the gates will shut. Assume they are shutting now?

Doug: That's right. One should be actively and vigorously looking to expatriate assets, cash, and even one's self. A prudent person will always be diversified politically and internationally.

L: What about people who have jobs they can't continue doing from abroad and who need the income?

Doug: They should still prepare, as best they can, to be ready to go on a vacation when things get hot – a vacation from which they might not return for a long time. All that needs happen, with the hysteria that's building in the US, is for a major terrorist incident – real or imagined – to occur. Homeland Security will lock the country down. I hate to admit it, but I'm almost starting to credit the [stories about those FEMA camps](#).

Look, I know it sounds extreme, and the comparison to pre-WWII Germany has been made many times, but it bears repeating. Germany was the most literate, civilized, and even mellow, in some ways, country in Europe. It was much admired all around the world – a nation of shopkeepers, small farmers, and scholars. But the whole character of the place started changing in 1933, and it just got worse and worse. By the end of 1939, if you weren't out, you were done.

L: [Pauses] Well, not a cheerful thought. Actions to take?

Doug: Things we've said before: Set up foreign bank accounts in places you like to travel, while you can. Set up vault arrangements for physical precious metals outside the US. Buy foreign real estate that you'd like to own, because it can't be forcibly repatriated. Offshore asset protection trusts are a good idea too. Become an [International Man](#). Let me emphasize that US taxpayers should stay within all US laws, because the consequences of breaking them are unbelievably draconian.

Generally, one simply must internationalize one's assets. The biggest danger investors face, by far, is not market risk – huge as that will be – but political risk. The only way to insulate yourself from such risk is to diversify yourself politically and geographically.

L: Right then... words to the wise. Thanks for your insight.

Doug: You're welcome. Most won't, but I just hope readers listen. 

[For more specific investment advice and big-picture observations from Doug – as well as insightful analyses from other Casey Research experts, including Chief Economist Bud Conrad – give [The Casey Report](#) a test drive. It is absolutely risk-free for ninety days... and will give you a solid boost in becoming a rational speculator.]

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A Year to Wake Up!

By Karen Kwiatkowski

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IT'S always a gamble to make predictions. I've had the benefit of seeing the 2012 predictions of the greats, and so far they don't bode well. [Marc Faber is not excited about](#)

[our prospects for prosperity](#). [Chris Mortenson](#) and [Gerald Celente](#) and [Richard Russell](#) are also concerned. My sense is that 2012 will be a year of learning, of realizing, of waking up. My predictions are as follows:

2012 will be a bad year for rats. Technocrats, bureaucrats, kleptocrats and other central planners of [the superfamily Muroidae](#) will be rightfully credited for the persistent global economic and political malaise. People around the world will ever more rapidly recognize – and dislike, disdain, and hold in contempt – the ‘rats that plague us. Whether the tax-eating voles of municipal governments, the hamsters and pouched rats of state government, *rattus norvegicus* in D.C. or the New World Order lemmings, [members of the ‘rat family will be increasingly viewed negatively](#). Ways to avoid the ‘rat, to starve the ‘rat, disrupt the breeding cycle and nest-building activities of the ‘rat, and to recover from ‘rat-bites will dominate the airwaves and the Internet. ‘Rats themselves will become more cautious and avoid publicity, while storing food and attempting to reinforce their most important nesting and feeding areas. Reports and viral videos of aggressive ‘rats will increase in 2012, even as Americans and others successfully avoid and in some cases, eliminate ‘rat centers of control.

2012 will be a bad year for a good old-fashioned D.C.-devised war. As governments everywhere go bankrupt, print money, and fail to deliver the goods domestically, historians will justifiably predict war. In previous eras, the wars associated with the collapse of empires arrived as apocalyptic and mysterious surprises to the people. But in 2012, the serfs have Internet. The young people are not loyal to the nation-state, and often see politicians and state employees as self-serving, arrogant, and parasitical. If educated by them, they've learned to hold the state authorities in contempt. If educated outside of it, they've adopted a classical liberalism that doesn't trust or believe in central state apparatchiks. Of those who do not fight our wars, the old are embarrassed at what has been already wasted, and have lost enthusiasm for war. The middle-aged are frightened and confused, feeling the financial pinch. It won't be easy to march to war with other countries, and even

another Pearl Harbor or 9/11 style event won't be enough, not after what veterans and citizens alike have learned from Washington's failed and costly occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

2012 will be a year of progress towards truly free markets, sound money, and government so small you can drown it in a bathtub.

Knowledge of and respect for liberty is growing. Every day, more Americans understand how liberty functions in a society, and they embrace self-ownership, sound money and limited government working to secure that liberty. Some of this knowledge comes through teachers like Ron Paul, Tom Woods, Judge Napolitano, sites like Lewrockwell.com, the Future of Freedom Foundation (fff.org), and the Foundation for Economic Education (fee.org), and hundreds of other organizations dedicated to classical liberalism, free-market economics, limited or even no central government. The impact of these people and organization is approaching critical mass. But people are also learning naturally from their own experiences in this long great depression of the 21st Century. Through un- and under-employment, people are indeed rediscovering the value of family, community, and neighbors. By increasingly dependence on government largesse, contempt for the stupidity and arrogance of the state is inculcated. Even financial dependence on government jobs, so many of which are despised by the very occupants for a thousand different reasons, breeds a kind of disgust for the state. As governments at all levels begin to cut services and pass on [costs for past debt and spending to the taxpayers while bureaucrats continue to spend the money of other's and promote their own interests](#), a force for freedom in the hearts of the people is nurtured. The central government in the United States frantically accuses Americans who prepare for reduced government, move outside of government influence, reduce their tax burden, and withdraw from state number-crunching systems to be “domestic terrorists.” Yet, for all that, the central state will be the last to recognize the real changes taking place, and will be unprepared for the energized and widespread demand for liberty we will see in 2012.

2012 will be hard on the political establishment. Establishment Republicans and Democrats alike are discredited by their chosen ones [who seem to blankly echo the failed European statistis](#). Americans and voters of all ages are thrilling to Ron Paul's message – a message that rings back to the great anti-federalists of the Founding of this country, and a message that

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rings true to our hearts, our faith, and the natural law so many of us have rediscovered in only the past fifteen or twenty years. The elections will be fun to watch, to enjoy, and to challenge in every way we can. The establishment candidates, whether Democrat or Republican statist, whether Romney or Obama, or even the ambiguous statist Donald Trump, have become aging pole dancers, naked political queens relying on equally aging fans for a ever shrinking payout. In no way do I mean to offend aging pole dancers with a loyal retinue. But politically speaking, this establishment is going bankrupt, desperately looking for buyers before the bank calls in the note.

2012 will be fun. With Americans seeking alternative economic and social and societal structures as we work through the government caused investment, war, educational, health care, and security-state bubbles, we will increasingly, as a people, exercise those freedoms of speech, gun ownership, movement, and property ownership in part as resistance and in part because we know the state really can do little to stop us. This attitude will be seen at all levels of society, and it will be exhibited by organizations, churches, businesses and even lower levels of government. Municipalities will reject state mandates, state will reject and even nullify federal mandates. Juries will increasingly be unable to be seated, and those seated will increasingly critique the state of government law, and nullify the stupidity. If the so-called “99 percent” can demonstrate without permission and designated free speech zone, certainly the Tea Party and anti-government groups can do the same. The nature of fun usually includes some healthy competition, some thinking in new ways, some personal challenges and skill development, and a bit of risk-taking. 2012 will be a year of fun.

I’ve played it safe and spoken in generalities. To summarize my five predictions for the coming year, let me share a specific local story from a friend of a friend. A young man of 20, who

happens to be a Ron Paul supporter, on his way home from his job in a local restaurant is stopped at a police “checkpoint” in our small town. Without cause, the cop asks a lot of question, to which the young man answers honestly. “No, I don’t have any drugs or alcohol. I work and am driving home.” The cop, ignorantly believing that the convoluted law he “enforces” resembles the Constitution, states that [suddenly] he smells marijuana. The car and the young man are thoroughly searched, and temporarily detained. The cops eventually become bored, and the young man is released. The next morning, his mother, who lives in another town, calls the local police department and makes a vociferous complaint. The department spokesperson said, “Yes, ma’am, of course we found drugs on your son. Isn’t your boy the African-American kid?” 50 years of civil rights flushed, stupidity and arrogance on display, and white and black equally insulted by a state which seeks to divide generations and races. We are made one in persecution, united in a desire to own ourselves, our property, our time and our productivity, and to live unobstructed by a grasping and lying state that no longer serves or protects.

Leading edge 2012’ers will hold ‘rats and government lies and liars in full-blown contempt. They will learn and practice liberty for themselves, their families, and their communities in ways they tried in 2011, and also in ways they never dared. They will laugh at the charades, tirades and costumes of the writhing and twisting political establishment. They will take risks that will lead to real change, and they will find risk-taking not only liberating, but a fun and long-forgotten part of the American tradition. So, in these ways, I part company with the doom-sayers, even as I believe every word they say, and don’t dispute their data. For liberty and community, I think 2012 will be a very good year.



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What's Ahead for Civil Liberties in 2012?

By Mark Nestmann

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NO, it's not a trick question. It's possible in theory for US legal protections for civil liberties to increase in 2012.

Of course, that's not likely. Civil liberties are inconvenient for Big Government and its apologists. What's more, it's easy to persuade a population conditioned to the erroneous proposition that civil liberties and security are mutually exclusive that their security depends on the continued erosion of civil liberties. Unfortunately, I don't see this changing anytime in 2012.

Indeed, in the next 12 months, I believe that we will witness:

* **Occupy Wall Street escalation and counter-escalation.** The OWS campaign may be led by hard-core leftists and other practitioners of muddled thinking, but it has clearly rattled the political establishment. In 2012, I anticipate the OWS "movement" will intensify. It will bring numerous major U.S. cities to a virtual standstill. Inevitably, hotheads within OWS will engage in property destruction and other criminal activity. And that's likely to encourage a fierce counter-reaction. It's not too far a stretch to predict that by Jan. 1, 2013, at least one city in the United States will be under military rule, as U.S. law now permits. My top candidate is Detroit, Mich., with an official unemployment rate now approaching 25% and well over one-third of the city's residents considered to be living in poverty, according to official statistics.

* **The surge in people giving up US citizenship and leaving USA permanently will intensify.** Over the last four years, the number of US citizens permanently severing legal ties with the United States has skyrocketed. The number of "expatriates" has risen from 235 in 2008 to over 1,400 through the first three quarters of 2011. In 2012, I predict the number of persons expatriating will soar to over 5,000.

Why expatriate? Mainly, because U.S. citizenship is an enormous burden to anyone living outside the United States, or trying to invest or do business abroad. Due to the extraterritorial operation of U.S. tax laws, along with legislation such as the US PATRIOT Act, the vast majority of banks outside the United States no longer allow U.S. citizens to open or maintain

accounts. International business arrangements involving U.S. citizens must be very carefully configured to avoid bringing non-U.S. business partners under U.S. legal jurisdiction.

* **IRS audits of high-income Americans will soar.** President Obama's not the only one who wants to raise the tax burden on wealthy Americans. The IRS has its own plans as well. In 2009, the IRS unleashed a new enforcement unit to focus on the financial affairs of America's wealthiest taxpayers. The audit rate of these taxpayers—individuals declaring \$10 million of income annually—nearly doubled from 2009 to 2010. However, IRS statistics show that only 0.71% of individuals with declared income between \$100,000 and \$200,000 were audited in 2010. In 2012, I predict that dramatic increases in audit rates will "trickle down" to lower income taxpayers. The audit rate for anyone with a declared income over \$100,000 will rise to at least 1%, and possibly much higher.

* **TSA ramps up "random" searches on highways and at sporting events.** The Transportation Safety Authority, perhaps best known for strip-searching 90-year-old grandmothers, often reminds us that "transport" isn't limited to airports. The TSA also has brought its unique brand of intrusiveness to other venues. TSA now has deployed 25 so-called VIPER (Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response) teams nationwide. In the last 12 months, they've set up nearly 10,000 unannounced checkpoints throughout the United States. No, they haven't caught any terrorists or anyone else guilty of anything more than possession of illegal herbs. Despite this abject waste of money and resources, TSA officials insist that random searches and armed officers "bolster public confidence." And, since the VIPER budget is growing rapidly, you can look forward to your own encounter with a VIPER team in the months to come. I predict that in 2012, the TSA will set up 15,000 or more checkpoints to search, harass, and detain otherwise law-abiding Americans. I also predict that their 100% success rate of not catching a single terrorist will continue.

* **Cities, states, and the federal government ramp up "civil forfeitures."** In the United States, your property is guilty until proven innocent. If you find this hard to believe, consider the law of civil forfeiture, under which police

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may seize your property, sell it at auction, and use the proceeds to pad their own agency budgets--without charging you, much less convicting you, of any crime. In 2010, forfeiture programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice confiscated more than 15,000 homes, cars, boats and cash holdings. The take exceeded \$2.5 billion, more than double the total confiscated just five years ago. And, if you like civil forfeiture, you'll love what the DOJ has planned for us in 2012. In recent congressional testimony, the DOJ proposes that it be permitted to use classified information to seize property, without arrest or conviction. In other words, it wants to use secret evidence to seize property. Naturally, you as the property owner will have no right to refute that evidence. I predict that in 2012, Congress will pass this legislation unanimously, with the exception of a single U.S. congressional representative (Ron Paul).

* **Cities increasingly seize or demolish "blighted" property.** The right of property is fundamental to civilization. However, under U.S. laws, your property is safe only until politicians decide someone else needs it more than you do. The loss of property is called "expropriation" and the process under which it occurs is called "eminent domain." Politicians have discovered that by condemning blighted properties to construct malls, hotels, and convention centers, they can both increase tax revenues and appease politically connected private interests. Thus, many state laws and local ordinances now

authorize eminent domain for "economic redevelopment," whether or not the areas to be redeveloped are blighted. In 2005, the Supreme Court upheld such use of the eminent domain process. As a result, eminent domain "takings" by cash-strapped state and local governments have risen sharply. For instance, National City, California, wants to seize and bulldoze a youth community center so a wealthy developer can build high-rise luxury condos. The city of Detroit is trying to find a legal way to use eminent domain proceedings to demolish entire neighborhoods of "blighted" homes. I predict that in 2012, numerous other cities will follow Detroit's example to seize supposedly blighted property to pad municipal coffers.

* **And finally...I predict that in 2012, Congressman Ron Paul will find himself with more delegates than any other candidate at the Republican convention.** This will force the discussion of civil liberties into the mainstream media. Republican insiders will find a way to force Paul out of the race, but for a brief period—perhaps just a few days, Americans may just get to hear the truth of how the U.S. government has deliberately and systematically dismantled civil liberties protections guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. 

(Mark Nestmann is President of The Nestmann Group, Ltd., a consultancy focusing on international tax planning and wealth preservation. Link: <http://www.nestmann.com>)

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Historic Showdown, Coming Soon

By Larken Rose

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THE most reliable way to make accurate predictions is to proclaim that history will repeat itself. It usually does. With that in mind...

As the economy continues to crumble (and it will), and the U.S. empire continues its mad dash toward totalitarianism (and it will), most Americans will think stupid things and do stupid things. The general public, having no grasp on economics, will remain stuck in the silly mindset that the way out of catastrophe is to get the right guy on the throne, to elect the right party, to appoint a new, wise "government" to save the day. Most Americans will continue to demand some new "law" or "policy," some new centralized, authoritarian, forcibly-imposed "plan," that will override reality and negate the laws of cause and effect. And they will continue to be frustrated and disappointed, because they don't understand some basic truths about reality, such as the following:

The key to feeding people is growing food, not passing legislation or "managing" (forcibly controlling) resources. Prosperity doesn't come from having lots of currency, but from people producing stuff that people want. People produce and trade to better themselves, not to serve "society" or to fulfill some megalomaniac's control-freak agenda. Actual human beings solve problems and make things work; imaginary "authorities" don't. The gang called "government" is not what protects you; it's what you need to be protected from, now more than ever. Keeping yourself alive--protected, clothed, fed and housed--is not someone else's responsibility; it's yours. If you continue to feel morally obligated to obey whatever arbitrary garbage the politicians decide to call "law," you will soon be deprived of the ability to protect, clothe, feed and house yourself and your family. If you're not able and willing to use force to protect your freedom, there are plenty of people able and willing to use force to take it from you.

Our society has reached a point where most people really have no idea where their food, power, or anything else, comes from. If the local grocery store suddenly has no food on the shelves, most people will literally have no idea what to do about it. Especially those who have always lived in big cities won't be able to think beyond the idea that if they whine loudly enough, and "demand" things, someone will eventually feed them. In the near future they will learn the hard way that that isn't always true.

The good news is that even a complete economic collapse doesn't have to lead to a Mad Max scenario. The know-how won't disappear, the resources won't disappear, the manpower won't disappear. In short, nothing that matters will disappear, but a collapse will happen anyway, simply because most people don't understand how the world works. Most people are so stuck in the authoritarian hierarchical mindset that they

are clueless and helpless without someone telling them what to do, and promising to take care of them, keep them safe, and make everything work. They've never viewed life from the perspective of a responsible, adult human being, but only from the perspective of a dependent, obedient subject. Ironically, the devolution of the U.S. into a tyrannical empire is going to force a lot of people to start thinking and acting responsibly. The faster a regime stampedes toward totalitarianism, the more likely people are to notice. While it may sound odd, that's why I like it when the most narcissistic, megalomaniacal control freak gets into power: because it's the best way to help people wake up to what is really happening.

But none of the above really qualifies as a prediction, since it's really just stating what has happened over and over again throughout history and throughout the world. To say it will happen again requires about as much wisdom and foresight as saying, "Tomorrow the sun will rise in the east." So now I'll throw out there my main specific prediction for the near future:

Maybe in 2012, but almost certainly in the next five years, the U.S. parasite class and its mercenaries will experience something new. While doing their usual control-freak thuggery, they will pick a fight with someone who fights back, hard. That in itself is not entirely new. What will be new is that enough people will recognize the politicians and their mercenaries as the evil aggressors that they will rush to the aid of the intended victims. Most people will still be mindless state-worshippers and politician-obeyers at the time, but enough of a minority will finally stand up, and show the world that even the U.S. empire is mostly bluff. The U.S. "government" will attack someone, starting a violent, bloody conflict somewhere in the U.S., and it will be the U.S. "government" that eventually has to back down and walk away. Even if the particular incident won't directly affect most people, the significance of this happening will be huge, because it will serve as an example, for all the world to see, of the biggest bully on the planet getting his butt kicked by a bunch of mere peasants.

State mercenaries like to put on a show of force, having lots of thugs with lots of weapons in one place, to appear all-powerful. However, every police force of every town, city, county, whatever, is hugely outnumbered and outgunned by the other people who live there. If 10% of the people of any place stand up to the local "government" gang, then you see just how weak the parasite class really is, and how much of their power is propaganda and bluff. A very common mistake tyrants make is to assume that if no one resists them today, then either no one, or very few people, will resist them tomorrow. They don't understand the lesson to be learned from the Milgram experiments, which shows that the best way to get someone to resist authoritarian

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injustice is to show them someone else who is resisting. To over-simplify a bit, when it comes to resisting an obviously bogus "authority," no one wants to be first, but everyone wants to be second. And we are now at a time where things are bad enough that there will be someone who dares to go first, and thousands ready to go second.

Because of that, if what happened in Waco, Texas in 1993, happened today, the outcome would be very different. And, thanks to the short-sighted, power-happy tyrants now infesting Washington--who are too stupid to let go of a scrap of power, even when it would benefit them to do so--we will see that very soon. It might be about a food co-op, or raw milk, or "gun control," or the fascists trying to stop alternative currencies, or a BLM or "eminent domain" land grab, or some new stupid TSA fascism, or some indefinite detention lunacy, or something else--there's certainly no shortage of idiotic, oppressive garbage the feds do that could trigger a little righteous rebellion. One way or another, sooner or later (probably sooner), the state mercenaries will push too hard, and their intended victims will push back. And win.

I'm not talking about a full-scale revolution, just an isolated incident where the parasites pick on the wrong target, the target fights back, and lots of other people--including some cops and soldiers--decide to help the targets out. Eventually the "government" aggressors will be forced to back down. I know we're all taught to believe that this can't happen, that the state is all-knowing and all-powerful, and even a lot of ardent freedom advocates still think that, but it will happen, and it will be soon. In this country, the tyrants will pick a fight they can't win, and after lots of needless bloodshed and suffering, the tyrants will surrender (while pretending they didn't).

And then it will happen again, in some other way, in some other place. And then again. People will start to see the power they really have, when they simply disobey their masters and refuse to back down. (Keep in mind that as the economy gets worse, the people will have less

to lose by resisting the parasites.) Then it will start happening all over the place, at all levels of "government." Through open disobedience and resistance, one stupid "law" after another--property taxes, drug prohibition, gun bans, etc.--will be "repealed," not by the legislators, but by the people ignoring them into irrelevance.

Then, in a panic, the control freaks will declare martial law, and will promptly get their butts kicked. The schoolyard bully, who has always specialized in terrorizing everyone by beating up one kid at a time, will suddenly find three or four of them--or ten--ready and willing to kick the bully's butt. And they will. When the control freaks finally declare martial law, dropping any guise of "legal" legitimacy and due process, and show themselves for the "might-makes-right" thugs they are, the backlash will be swift and severe, far more so than the politicians or the American public would now expect. Politicians who push for police state garbage will start being removed from office by bullet, instead of ballot. (Incidentally, this is not the way I hope things will go, but the way I think they will. Even JFK realized that when you make non-violently change impossible--which has already occurred here--then you make violent change inevitable.)

Along the way the tyrants will, as usual, try several variations on the "false flag" tactic, whether via fake terrorism, a fake military threat, a fake disease, or some other fake or intentionally-caused catastrophe, but what little power this wins them will be trivial and short-lived.

Ultimately, these incidents of successful disobedience will spell the beginning of the end of the United States empire. When the subjects of any regime stop feeling an obligation to blindly obey, and start seeing that resistance is not always futile, that regime is ultimately doomed. And we will see that really beginning, if not this year, then in the next few. When the American people start to again have the attitude of, "You're not the boss of me," it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.



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A Bad Dream

By Glenn Jacobs

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IMAGINE that you have a dream as you catnap in your favorite recliner. Well, more like a nightmare. You dream that your favorite recliner is precariously perched atop a ginormous powder keg, so full of gunpowder that it is flowing out of the seams of the keg. As you start to spring to your feet, a mass of impeccably dressed men and women tell you that everything is going to be okay. You face no danger from the powder keg. In fact, being perched atop an overflowing powder keg is the safest possible place one can find oneself.

Meanwhile, some of the impeccably dressed men and women, most notably a bald man with a beard, nonchalantly flick lit cigarettes your way. Behind the impeccably-dressed-cigarette-flicking men and women, an elder man is jumping up and down, trying to push his way through the mass, yelling something about getting out of there before it's too late. The impeccably-dressed-cigarette-flicking men and women look at the old man with disdain, then turn their attention back to you, smile, and say "never mind him, everything is going to be all right." A few more lit cigarettes fly your way.

Unfortunately, this is no dream, but the situation in which Americans currently find themselves. The powder keg is our Ponzi economy, the gunpowder is a volatile mix of debt and an ever expanding money supply, the impeccably-dressed-cigarette-flicking men and women are the Establishment (politicians, academics, and the media) including Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, and the old man is a certain congressman from Texas. The cigarettes are any number of events--a loss of faith in fiat currencies, war in the Middle East, another financial crisis, deepening stagflation--which could cause this whole thing to blow sky high.

It is impossible to predict the future, especially concrete time frames. But we are in a very serious situation. In 1971, Richard Nixon, fearing that the U.S. would no longer be able to meet its obligation to redeem dollars held by foreign governments for gold, closed the "gold window." At that time, the price of gold was artificially capped at \$35 per ounce. In order to fund LBJ's Great Society and the Viet Nam War,

i.e. Guns and Butter, the U.S. had engaged in monetary inflation. Many of these dollars found their way overseas and Nixon was advised that redeeming them would deplete the U.S.'s gold supply. At that time, the national debt was about \$450 billion.



Freed from the constraints of any link to gold, the Fed was free to inflate at will. Within five years, the nation was in the grips of a horrendous stagflation--high inflation amid an economic downturn--something that the Keynesian economic paradigm claimed was impossible. Meanwhile, the price of gold had quadrupled. Many free market economists and newsletter writers advised their clients to head for the hills as the economy was in danger of a full blown meltdown. And it probably was. That is until Paul Volker assumed the helm of the Fed.

Volker raised interest rates, wringing inflation out of the system and causing a horrific recession. However, the economy recovered within a few years, setting up two decades of economic good times. Unfortunately, Volker didn't solve the problem. It was just kicked down the road.

It is impossible for the current Fed to follow Volker's example. The national debt is now over \$15 trillion. In fiscal year 2010, the interest payment on debt was \$197 billion. Raise interest rates and the year deficit balloons. Then you've got agency debt (Fannie and Freddie), unfunded liabilities such as Social Security and Medicare, underfunded pension funds, and state and municipal debt. Besides, Bernanke is philosophically married to the idea of devaluing the dollar by printing money. Meanwhile, the problems in Europe threaten to spill over to the States as US banks and money market funds have massive exposure to the European debt markets.

The crisis that so many feared in the 1970s is here. And it ain't no dream. 

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A Betrayal of the Founders

By Ray McGovern

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analyst Ray McGovern says courage, not timidity, is what's needed at such moments.

THOUGH voicing "serious reservations" about encroachments on civil liberties in a military authorization bill, President Obama signed the law anyway to avoid a nasty veto fight with Congress. But ex-CIA

President Barack Obama desecrated the Constitution that he and I swore to defend when he signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which includes language violating the Bill of Rights and other constitutionally protected liberties.

The NDAA affirms that the president has the authority to use the Armed Forces to detain any person "who was part of or substantially supported al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners."



George Washington crossing the Delaware, in Emanuel Leutze's iconic (though historically inaccurate) painting

Under the law, the president also may lock up anyone who commits a "belligerent act" against the U.S. or its coalition allies "without trial, until the end of the hostilities." The law embraces the notion that the U.S. military can be used even domestically to arrest an American citizen or anyone else who falls under such suspicion – and it is "suspicion" because a trial can be avoided indefinitely.

Yes, I know that the Obama administration's allies got some wording put in to say that "nothing in this section is intended to limit or expand the authority of the President or the scope of the [2001] Authorization for Use of Military Force," nor shall the NDAA "be construed to affect existing law or authorities relating to the detention of United States citizens, lawful resident aliens of the United States, or any other persons who are captured or arrested in the United States."

And there were some waivers stuck in to give the president discretion over whether to send someone into the gulag of the Military Commissions system possibly for the rest of a detainee's life, given the indefinite nature of what was formerly called the "war on terror" and what the Pentagon has dubbed the Long War.

It's true as well that after signing the NDAA on New Year's Eve, President Obama engaged in some handwringing. He expressed "serious reservations" about some of the law's provisions and declared, "I want to clarify that my Administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens." He added that he would interpret the law "in a manner that ensures that any detention it authorizes complies with the Constitution, the laws of war, and all other applicable law."

But those who hoped that Barack Obama, the onetime constitutional law professor, would begin rolling back the aggressive assault on civil liberties that President George W. Bush began after the 9/11 attacks must be sorely disappointed.

Those existing laws – including the original post-9/11 use-of-military-force authorization and the Military Commissions Act passed in 2006 and modified in 2009 – opened the door for presidents to declare anyone of their choice, American citizen or non-citizen alike, an "enemy combatant" and to subject the person to military prison or even assassination.

Just think of U.S. citizens Jose Padilla (who was tossed into the Navy Brig in Charleston, South Carolina, for years) and Anwar al-Awlaki (who was murdered in a drone attack in Yemen in 2011). So, it's not especially reassuring that President Obama insists that the new law doesn't dramatically worsen the decade-long erosion of constitutional rights.

Sweeping Provisions

The American Civil Liberties Union also disputed Obama's claim that the NDAA was essentially business as usual. "The statute contains a sweeping worldwide indefinite detention provision," the ACLU said, without "temporal or geographic limitations, and can be used by this and future presidents to militarily detain people captured far from any battlefield."

In other words, the ACLU is noting that since the United States relies on the principle of "laws, not men," the assurance of any individual president that he won't exploit an abusive legal power doesn't mean that the next president won't. The right thing to do in such a case is to veto legislation that contains that kind of unconstitutional provision, not simply sign it, promise not to use it, and express "serious reservations."

Sure, if President Obama had exercised his veto, he would have been criticized in some corners as "soft on terror" and he would have undercut his political message about the need for bipartisanship amid the dysfunction of Washington. But compromising on the Constitution isn't like adding a road project to secure some congressman's vote.

Fifty years ago, when I was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. I knew that the oath carried no expiration date. Back then, I could not conceive of the possibility that one day this would pose a problem. I felt that we Americans were pretty much all on the same team. But how will I honor my oath in today's circumstances?

The winter is getting cold and I am getting old. Still. Do I have enough integrity; do I have enough genuine love for my country to be a "winter soldier" and do what I can to stop this steady encroachment on liberties that many other soldiers fought so valiantly to establish and protect?

It is a challenge not wholly different from the cold reality faced 235 winters ago by George Washington's army. The British had forced the

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army's retreat from New York just months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Not only was the American cause at low ebb, but Gen. Washington faced the annual crisis caused by the expiration of the Continental Army's period of enlistment. Some kind of success was desperately needed.

So Washington decided to cross the Delaware River at Christmas, surprise the defenders of Trenton, and seize it. Washington feared that what seemed like a desperate attack plan was unlikely to buck up troop morale, so he had his officers read to the troops an essay fresh from the pen of Thomas Paine, himself a soldier in Washington's army.

Paine's first words became the watchword of the attack on Trenton and are said to have inspired much of the uncommon bravery displayed that night and for the next five years: "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered."

Blood on the Snow

The Delaware River was already running high with flowing ice on Christmas Day, when at 11 p.m. a heavy snow and sleet storm broke. Washington's force did not reach the east bank until around 3 a.m. His soldiers then marched to Trenton — the ones without shoes leaving traces of blood on the snow. Though they reached Trenton hours later than Washington had planned, his troops still surprised and overwhelmed a garrison of Hessian mercenaries on the day after Christmas.

Capt. Alexander Hamilton commanded an artillery section. Capt. William Washington, second cousin to the commanding general, and Lt. James Monroe (yes, that James Monroe) were wounded, the only American officer casualties. Two American soldiers were killed; and two others froze to death. The Hessian defenders suffered 20 killed and around 100 wounded, with 1,000 captured.

Not a major battle, you may be thinking. But remember, the effect of the Battle of Trenton was out of all proportion to the numbers involved and the casualties. The success at Trenton galvanized the American effort across the colonies and reversed the psychological dominance enjoyed by the British in the preceding months.

So why all this history? Because, remember, actions often have a larger impact, a greater significance, than numbers can impart. Bravery and ideas can touch the heart and focus the mind. They can inspire.

Perhaps you will sense the same hope I do in recognizing that this kind of thing can, and does, happen. And can happen again. What are required are integrity, courage, and imagination. Americans still can revive the spirit around the Battle of Trenton and start to turn the tide against a new tyranny.

We may have to leave some "blood on the snow," so to speak, but perhaps we owe that to the soldiers who had no shoes 235 Christmases ago. We are Washington's foot soldiers now — facing the resurgent face of tyranny. But there are already enough of us to defend our Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Traitorous Law

Lawyers and historians may argue over whether the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 is the deepest wound ever inflicted on the U.S. Constitution or just another debilitating cut. They may note that the United States has lost its way before — from the Alien and Sedition Acts to Cointelpro.

But the NDAA strikes me as the most serious affront to American rights in my already pretty long lifetime. That, and the lifetime of my eight grandchildren, constitutes my horizon. Yet, why do so few of my neighbors understand the assault on the Bill of Rights that President Obama advanced with his signature?

Is it the old story of the frog that lets itself get slowly boiled to death because the water temperature is raised only gradually? Or is it that the law was signed on New Year's Eve when most Americans were distracted? Or perhaps because the following day, the journalists of the Fawning Corporate Media had convenient hangovers, excusing them for ignoring this latest dark turn in our nation's history.

Just as former CIA Director George Tenet protested to Scott Pelley on *60 Minutes* — five times in five consecutive sentences, "We do not torture!" — Obama may now declare, "We don't violate the Constitution!"

But where are our journalists now, this week in January 2012? Why aren't they investigating how this travesty occurred — and how curious it is that this steady encroachment on American rights continues even as U.S. intelligence agencies say al-Qaeda is on the verge of defeat with only a couple of "high-value targets" left from its core operation?

Shouldn't this be the moment when the United States begins winding down this decade-long anti-constitutional state of siege rather than giving it new life and even expanding its reach? Is

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there a message here about the future, especially given the new neoconservative [propaganda initiative](#) associating al-Qaeda with Iran?

Secret Covenants

Behind closed doors, the law's chief co-conspirators – Sens. Carl Levin, D-Michigan; John McCain, R-Arizona; Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina; and Joe Lieberman, I-Connecticut – injected into the NDAA ambiguous language that could be applied by this president or the next to Americans who resist endless war against “associated forces” somehow linked to al-Qaeda or the Taliban.

All four of these co-conspirators are prominent supporters of harsher and harsher sanctions against Iran, actions that have put in place the dry kindling that awaits some spark to touch off a new conflagration in the Middle East.

Now that neocon operatives have “associated” al-Qaeda with Iran does that mean protesting a new war with Iran constitutes the kind of “support” that could prompt a long vacation at Guantanamo Bay? That may be too big a stretch, but it does seem odd that we’re having this debate after al-Qaeda has been reduced to a sliver of its past self and as the Obama administration seeks negotiations with the Taliban.

The media play, or lack thereof, is another backstory here. Painfully clear is the success enjoyed thus far by those determined to use artificially whipped up fear of “terrorism” in the same way Sen. Joe McCarthy used the dread of “communism” to deprive Americans of their constitutional rights.

Let it not be forgot that our Founders, one of whom (George Mason of Virginia, author of the Bill of Rights) grew up a stone's throw from where I live, had the courage to declare how importantly urgent was the enterprise upon which they, and the foot soldiers of George Washington's army, were embarked toward freedom.

In 1776, at a time when it seemed far more likely than not that they would hang at the end a rope, they formally declared their support for a common effort to defeat tyranny. They declared: *“We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”*

And we are the beneficiaries of their decision to risk all to ensure the blessings of liberty to us and our posterity. Are we, 235 years later, unable to recognize what is at stake? Do we lack the courage to act in the tradition of the Founders when government becomes destructive of these ends?

I came across the following on my bookshelf. It's nice. Anyone know what it's from? It reads: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

–That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,

–That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation

on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

THAT is how strongly our predecessor patriots from Virginia, Massachusetts and points south, north, and in between felt about all this. Many of them knew first-hand the evils of unchecked tyranny. THAT is why courageous foot soldiers were willing to mark the snow with blood from their feet as they marched on Trenton.

The Bill of Rights?

It is generally known that my former neighbor, George Mason, worked side-by-side with James Madison in crafting the Constitution. What is less known is that, when the draft was finished, Mason shocked Madison by refusing to sign the Constitution in 1787. His reason? He demanded that it contain a Bill of Rights.

Madison and other Founders pledged – and honored their pledge – to incorporate a Bill of Rights as the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution. They did so by riding through the towns and villages of the young country, making the case for a Bill of Rights, which was approved by Congress and ratified in 1791.

Can you visualize that in your mind's eye? How many of us can envisage riding horseback far and wide to persuade Carolinians and Vermonters alike that their liberty could not be assured without those Ten Amendments to the Constitution?

What about us? Can we not get up from our armchairs and do what we can to insist that those liberties be protected? How have we reached such a pass? Have we grown so inured to the repetition from our leaders, including both George W. Bush and Barack Obama, that keeping us “safe” is their first priority, that we have forgotten that the Founders risked everything for liberty, not for “safety”?

Madison already knew far too well what could pose the greatest danger to the Constitution. He recognized the inevitable effects on our liberties of “continual warfare” of the kind we have been waging for more than a decade now:

“A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defense against foreign danger, have been always the instruments of tyranny at home.”

“Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed

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debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few.” [Or put in today’s parlance, the 99 percent under the boot of the one percent.]

“The same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manners and of morals, engendered by both. No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.”

Speaking Out

While horses and sailing ships of the 18th Century are slower than today’s newspaper delivery trucks and electronic news outlets, those riders and ship captains who delivered Thomas Paine’s pamphlets up and down the colonies encountered a much less distracted, much more engaged and eager readership.

There was no competition from faux-news on TV, or in what pass for newspapers these days. There was not even any football. And for the Founders and their families, freedom and politics were not spectator sports. They knew all too well how tyranny could be ushered in not only from overseas but also from behind closed doors.

Who has exposed Congress’s latest poaching on our liberties – and President Obama’s hand-wringing decision to compromise those liberties? In fact some have, but you won’t find them on U.S. network TV or even on most American cable channels.

You either have to know your way around the Internet, or purchase the kind of service that will permit you to see foreign-sponsored channels like PressTV, Aljazeera, and RT. Even Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has admitted that

by watching Aljazeera and RT when she travels abroad, she has gotten used to better news coverage than she gets in Washington.

I have been keeping track: CNN domestic has been punctual in interviewing me every three and a half years. I have flunked out of Fox News altogether, although there have been a few rare occasions when a local Fox station invites me on to comment on a fast-breaking event. And forget the rest of the FCM.

So when someone from, say, PressTV, which is run by Iran, asks to interview me on a subject I know something about, I normally say yes if a convenient time can be arranged. On Monday, PressTV invited me to join two others (Dave Lindorff in Philadelphia and Don DeBar in New York) in [a panel discussion](#) of the implications of the President’s signing of the NDAA.

I haven’t a clue how many Americans might have been able to watch such a program on their TVs. But it is usually possible to access such programs on the Web, where many more may have already seen it, or can see it now. The interview touched on many things that I would have welcomed a chance to say on CNN.

It will be necessary to keep informed as we face down this resurgence of tyranny. Sunshine patriots will deceive themselves into thinking they can do that, while staying malnourished by the Fawning Corporate Media. You readers know better, right? 

Ray McGovern works with Tell the Word, a publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in inner-city Washington. He served as an Army infantry/intelligence officer and then a CIA analyst for a total of 30 years and is now on the Steering Group for Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).

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What Will 2012 Bring? Bt Gerald Celente

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"WAKE-UP Call" Trend: The Decline of America trend is nowhere near bottom, and the worse is yet to come.

One year later: "Worse" has happened, as the country piles up more and more debt, politicians are gridlocked, paralyzed in some perpetual political traffic jam of inaction.

"Crack-Up 2011" Trend: Teetering economies will collapse, currency wars will ensue, trade barriers will be erected, economic unions will splinter...

One year later: The Sovereign debt crisis threatens both the European Union and Euro, currency wars are underway and the US and China are trading trade barbs.

"Crime Time" Trend: No job + no money + compounding debt = high stress, strained relations, short fuses. Hardship-driven crimes will be committed across the socioeconomic spectrum by legions of the on-the-edge desperate who will do whatever they must to keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table.

One year later: Thieves are stealing copper piping and cables, cooking oil and temple donation boxes; "Criminal recycling" is flourishing; in 2011 a record number of cyber crimes is reported to the FBI: more than 23,000 per month.

"Screw the People" Trend: As times get even tougher and people get even poorer, the "authorities" will intensify their efforts to extract the funds needed to meet fiscal obligations.

One year later: In the two-tier American justice system, the long arm of the law only reaches down to the low hanging fruit. Banks are slapped with slap on the wrist fines for billion dollar crimes, and like Jon Corzine, no crime time. But swift justice is readily dealt out for small time crimes. From closing down lemonade stands operating without a license to SWAT teams busting raw foods cooperatives, in America, Justice means "just us!"

"Students of the World Unite" Trend: "University degrees in hand yet out of work, in debt and with no prospects on the horizon, young adults and 20-somethings are mad as hell, and they're not going to take it anymore."

One year later: Occupy Wall Street is just one of the scores of worldwide student protest movements, some of which have proven powerful enough to bring down governments.

"Crackdown on Liberty" Trend: A national crusade to "Get Tough on Crime" will be waged against the citizenry. And just as in the "War on Terror," where "suspected terrorists" are killed before proven guilty or jailed without trial, in the "War on Crime" everyone is a suspect until proven innocent.

One year later: TSA strip searches of little old ladies; Obama backs bill "authorizing indefinite military detention of U.S. citizens."

"Journalism 2.0" Trend: With its unparalleled reach across borders and language barriers, "Journalism 2.0" has the potential to influence and educate citizens in a way that governments and corporate media moguls would never permit.

One year later: Aleksai Navalny, an imprisoned young Russian blogger/Twitterer with some 200,000 followers, is "credited with mobilizing a generation of young Russians through social media, a leap much like the one that spawned Occupy Wall Street and youth uprisings across Europe this year."

"Cyberwars" Trend: The demonstrable effects of Cyberwar and its companion, Cybercrime, are already significant – and will come of age in 2011. Equally disruptive will be the harsh measures taken by global governments to control free access to the web, identify its users, and literally shut down computers that it considers a threat to national security.

One year later: Iran proudly displayed a sleek, white U.S. drone that was used for spying on Iranians; Iranians were able to capture what US military officials privately told Bloomberg was a Lockheed Martin RQ-170 by hacking into its security code; PayPal shuts off service to WikiLeaks. 

Gerald Celente is founder and director of [The Trends Research Institute](#), author of [Trends 2000](#) and [Trend Tracking](#) (Warner Books), and publisher of [The Trends Journal](#). He has been forecasting trends since 1980, and recently called "The Collapse of '09."

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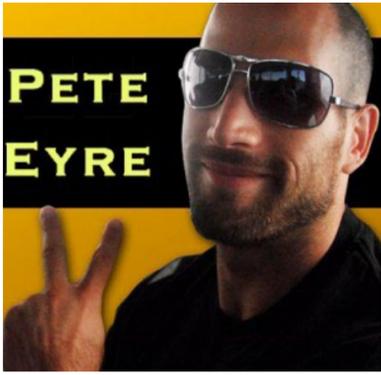
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Should We Strive for a Revolution?

By Pete Eyre

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IN the history of the world, every single empire has dissolved after being stretched too thin. Every single fiat currency has lost against the realities of [economics](#). And every single centralized State has collapsed under its own bureaucracy. A lot may change in 2012, but it's not all doom-and-gloom. In fact, it's the opposite. Such very-real scenarios set the stage for a better alternative: a voluntary society.

You know things aren't right. But how did we arrive here? Think critically. What can be done to change things for the better? As penned by Rose Wilder lane in [The Discovery of Freedom](#):



Look at any available records of any people, living anywhere at any time in the whole history of the Old World. . . They replace the priest by a king, the king by an oligarchy, the oligarchs by a despot, the despot by an aristocracy, the aristocrats by a majority, the majority by a tyrant, the tyrant by oligarchs, the oligarchs by aristocrats, the aristocrats by a king, the king by a parliament, the parliament by a dictator, the dictator by a king . . . there's six thousand years of it, in every language. . . Every imaginable kind of living Authority has been tried, and is still being tried somewhere on earth now.

Should we strive for a revolution? Should we seek to replace a "bad" leader with a "good" leader? Or is that just more of the same? How about we each evolve, and run our own lives? Act as we best see fit (and be responsible for our actions), and leave others free to do the same?

Those who seek to control others thrive on censorship. They must hide or distort their misdeeds to maintain legitimacy. But their grip is slipping. Today we each have the ability to communicate regardless of geographical distances or arbitrary political boundaries. Transparency is increasing and ideas are being shared. The real aggressors are being seen for their actions.

Nothing can stop an idea who's time has come. And there's no way a lethargic, top-down bureaucracy can ever hope to keep pace with a nimble, decentralized association of individuals dedicated to keeping information free and accessible.

How great would it be to live in a society where no one acts like they have extra rights because no one claims, nor grants, them? Where actions wrong don't suddenly become right when wearing a particular costume? Where blind obedience to text on paper is replaced by common sense?

Live free. Don't buy into the fear. Ignore the distractions. Negate the state. Evolve past the current master-slave dichotomy. Your actions will embolden others to do the same.



Things today are in flux, but that presents an opportunity. We have only to replace bad ideas with good ideas. That's it. If you recognize things are wrong yet fail to act, believing you'll do so later, you're living a lie. If you fail to act today it will only become more difficult tomorrow.

Think about it: Who owns you?

Stand on your principles. Educate yourself and those around you. Live today what you hope to see tomorrow.



- More:
- [The Chain of Obedience](#) by StormCloudsGathering
 - [I'm Allowed to Rob You!](#) by Larken Rose
 - [The State Is Not Great: How Government Poisons Everything](#) by Jacob Spinney
 - [Charles "Rad Geek" Johnson chats it up with MHD about Agorism](#) by the Motorhome Diaries
 - [Brad Spangler on His Journey to Embracing Agorism](#) from the Motorhome Diaries
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Pete Eyre is a strategist with [CopBlock.Org](#)

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Silver Circle

www.silvercirclemovie.com

Silver Circle and How This Piece of Fiction Could Become Reality

By Megan Duffield

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ON the dull streets of downtown D.C. businesses are closed, apartments and condos foreclosed, and the homeless sprinkle every other curb hoping for someone to walk by and spare a \$20 bill so they can afford a meal. Meanwhile, a beautifully ominous piece of architecture sits on the Northwest side of the National Mall, employing thousands of security officers and miscellaneous workers to handle the economic calamity the nation is watching unfold. That building is The Federal Reserve, standing alive and more powerful than ever before.

The average day-to-day life has been severely affected by inflation. Inflation caused by the incessant printing of money by The Federal Reserve to fund endless wars, bailouts, and entitlement programs. People used to complain about high gas prices after September 11, 2011; now people must afford \$65/gallon. Food prices have skyrocketed and you can't even get a beer to wash down the financial stress for less than \$100 at your local pub. Since food and oil are not accounted for when putting together the national inflation rates, many people are unaware that the financial policies in 2019 are causing the poor to become poorer and those in power to become the richest this world has ever seen. The one thing that has positively affected the country was the lift on marijuana prohibition; just a few less citizens are now arrested on a daily basis. Not much of a difference in the incarceration rate, though.

The Federal Reserve is no longer just manipulating the interest rates and controlling inflation. The housing market is, now, solely in the Fed's hands. Security officers can be found forcing people out of their homes in order to stabilize housing prices, and at times, when home owners don't comply, the extraction can become violent.

This state of mass confusion and corruption has spawned an underground Rebel movement; those who refuse to comply with the theft-like policies and utter wrongdoing by the Federal Reserve and Federal Government. This subversive group wants nothing more than to regain

control over their own lives and own economic freedom. You may even see one of their activism tools circulating through the community at local establishments that have managed to keep their lights on. Their Silver Circles have been minted discreetly underground in hopes that the existence of this alternative currency, although illegal, will expose the Federal Reserve in due time. Their following grows everyday, as people hear the message of truth and liberty.

So what kind of world have you painted in your head after reading about the view from 2019? When I first read the script of this film, I found myself wondering how long it would be until I'm underground, collecting silver illegally (in 2019 it's illegal to own, buy, sell, or trade silver). The economy hasn't quite hit these levels of inflation, but with the rate of financial stimulus and bail out packages I can only imagine how quickly we're moving towards that. Since the Federal Reserve's inception in 1913 the dollar has lost almost all of its value. When the government wants to expand their dominance around the world they exert force with the help of cheap credit, credit that pays for war and foreign aid overseas. Here at home, money is spent on an entitlement system that is spiraling out of control while big businesses that work closely with the Federal Reserve and government stay afloat through enormous bailout packages.

Are we so far away from this economic distress our story reveals in 2019? We did not consult a crystal ball, however history exists. We can all learn from history. In our case Silver Circle plans to take lessons from the past and address them in a modern day fashion. Now is the time to spread the message of sound money and expose the fraudulent acts of the Federal Reserve. If we don't, we may be that person in 2019 begging for a \$20 bill.

If you haven't joined the networks for our upcoming film that is releasing in 2012, do so today!



By Megan Duffield
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My Predictions...

By Ademo Freeman

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I'D like to start off by saying that I think 2012 will be a memorable one. It's my hope that it will be in the light of a peaceful revolution, where individuals govern themselves based on voluntary interactions without the use of force. That over the next year more can realize that governments - this one, the last one, all of them - are what's at the root of our issues. The idea that through 'government' an individual gains the right to do harm, take property, and control the actions of another is simply absurd.



Most people who've looked at or seen the justice system operate understand this, yet millions of law enforcement do not. Not only do they disagree with you, they continue to cage people for victimless crimes and/or crimes with no violence. Anyone who has researched statistics regarding the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. (quick fact: the US has 1/8 of the world's population yet 25% of the world's prison population) knows this is a for profit, as well as a control/compliance, justice system.

That being said, here are five things I think Police will do in 2012 - whether it's pro or con, that's up to you.

1. Local Police, on the state level, will ramp up use of 'non-lethal' devices. I'm not talking about your Tasers and pepper spray. I'm talking about ear piercing sirens (handheld) and Taser bullets - yes, projectiles that latch on to you then shock you - shot from shotguns.



The actions in which it takes to use these tools will decline to a point where anyone, for any reason, will have some sort of 'non-lethal' device used on them via the police.

2. The planned break-ins into people's homes (aka a "RAID") by SWAT like teams will increase. Only now it will expand to affect those who decide to grow their own food, create their

own power, or anything that removes one's self from the state's grip. With the increase in home invasions we'll also see more officers injured (as more defend their property/lives) and more [innocent people raided](#) - we all know the system makes mistakes.

3. Those who oppose the system will be targeted and criminalized for state created crimes. I mean everyone from those who film public officials and directly challenge the system to those who support Ron Paul and attempt to change the system from within. We'll all end up in the same camp.

4. The government, most likely on a federal level, will create or allow an attack that will quickly be answered with further security measures. TSA will expand onto the roadways with checkpoints and vehicle inspection stations. While in some cities, the larger the more likely, will experience curfews and food rations which will be conducted by corrupt police forces.

5. Drone Surveillance will be taken to new heights in 2012. Already being tested in Texas and other states, drones in the hands of LEOs will mean mega bucks for the state. Not only will they bust those dirty drug runners (sarcasm!),



but the state will also be able to notice if you've added a porch or pool. They can then look to see if you paid the taxes for it, pulled the permits, and then charge/

fine you accordingly. Maybe they'll zoom in so close that they'll be able to remind you to renew your plates or comment on your wife's new nighty.

Fact is, I'm just guessing - anything is possible. It's even possible that enough of you out there have finally had enough and will withdraw your consent of this defacto government. Stop funding their intruding, rights violating, and profit driven actions and live free. Remember, badges don't grant extra rights. And record public officials at all times! 🌿

Adamo Freeman is the founding member of [CopBlock.Org](#), and is a front-line activist for restoring freedom in this country.

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Was 2011 The End of the Gold Rush?

By Peter Schiff

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FOR such a wonderful year for precious metals investors, the final calendar quarter left little to celebrate. Just as people now take for granted that their phones will also take pictures, play music, and surf the internet, many investors have come to expect gold and silver to move up in a straight line.

In fact, in a recent CNBC interview one analyst claimed that gold's recent correction proves that it is not really a safe haven. In truth, such a statement merely proves how little some analysts know about markets.

However much the fundamentals may be on your side, there are always mitigating factors that affect price movement. In the case of gold and silver, the temporary resurgence of the dollar versus other fiat currencies alternatives has been the dominant factor - but even that isn't the whole story.

STAMPEDE OUT OF EUROS

The critical factor that has been in play the past few months has been the European debt crisis going critical. I have said all along that the US is in worse shape than the EU overall because the EU has less will and capacity to resolve - or even temporarily paper over - its problems. The flip side is that, absent the massive stimulus the US has received, Europe has been forced to deal with its sovereign debt problems first.

Global investors have been spooked since the credit crunch of 2008. That means they are more likely to follow the herd rather than stick to the fundamentals. It takes a certain firmness of character to watch your investments sell off by double digits and not have a moment of self-doubt.

So, what we're seeing is big moves into and out of asset classes. But what is important to understand about these circumstances is not the scale of the moves but the direction of the trend.

Right now, the dollar is riding high. But it's still down over 30% over the last decade as measured by the generous US Dollar Index. Gold, by contrast, is up over 350% in that period. Of course, past performance does not guarantee future results, but the fundamentals have not changed. It's worth remembering that mainstream analysts chose the dollar over gold in almost every report over the last 10 years, based on a blind faith in the power of the US government to centrally plan the American economy. The market proved them wrong.

Once again, the mainstream narrative is that the real danger is in Europe and therefore the US offers a safe haven. This has caused a stampede out of euros and into dollars. But as we've seen over the last few years, the euro and dollar can decline simultaneously - and will continue to do so as more and more investors realize that the real safe haven is gold.

SHOOTING STRAIGHT UP

There is a reason assets don't move up in a straight line. Besides varying liquidity needs and risk appetites of investors, there are also built-in mechanisms to flush speculators out of a skyrocketing market.

As silver approached \$50 this past April, the COMEX raised margin requirements for futures contracts on the metal, thereby pushing many speculators out of the market. While this practice presumably prevents speculators from over-using leverage, it also has the effect of crushing the short-term price of the metal. Both gold and

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silver have been subject to increased margin requirements this past year.

While we can now rest assured that future price increases are driven more by long-term investment than short-term speculation, it is not without costs. Speculators serve to reduce volatility in a market by buying in anticipation of future scarcity and vice versa. So, pushing out the speculators may increase volatility in the future. However, it's my feeling that in truth no gains have been lost at all - they have merely been postponed.

IS THIS THE TOP?

In order to determine whether the recent sideways movement of gold and silver is cause for concern, let's look at what lies ahead for 2012.

It is clear from 2011 that the new Tea Party members of Congress are not strong enough to stop the fiscal bleeding, and with the Occupy Wall Street movement in full swing, President Obama doesn't have a lot of room to compromise. Washington has been reduced to short-term measures to "pay" its bills, and the bills are mounting faster than ever.

Meanwhile, Ben Bernanke's Federal Reserve seems intent on pushing all the boundaries of monetary policy. In its most recent ploy, the Fed has engaged in a covert bailout of Europe through the use of currency swaps. From an investment perspective, this goes to show how deluded dollar investors are - they're buying

into a currency that is being printed for any and all comers. This news should have caused the dollar to tank and gold and the euro to rise, but again, the fear trade is overriding all other considerations.

2012 should see more trouble from Europe, and therefore potentially more dollar buying. This might even be the year we see a few members exit the euro. However, there is no way to know how the euro will react in the short-term to such events, as such scenarios may already be priced into the market. In any event, long-term, the eurozone will be stronger without its weaker members. If they cannot mend their profligate ways, better to force them out now than compromise the solvency of the stronger members.

For smart investors, dollar strength caused by euro fears is simply an opportunity to buy contra-dollar assets on the cheap. Yes, I believe sub-\$30 silver and sub-\$1600 gold are still cheap for what's ahead. And with 2012 forecasts of \$2,200 by Morgan Stanley, \$2,050 by UBS, and \$2,000 by Barclays, it appears I'm not alone. 

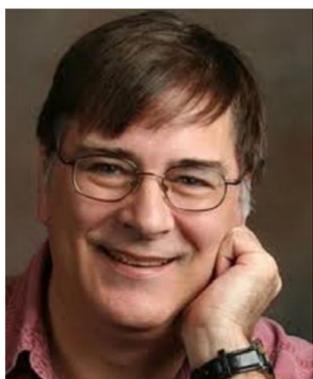
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Mish 2012 Predictions; 2011 Year in Review with Max Keiser

By Mike Shedlock

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SHORTLY before Christmas I did a video discussion of 2011 with Max Keiser with a look-ahead to a few ideas for 2012.

Part of the discussion was a recap of some of my call for 2011 as noted in [Mish 2011 Predictions Review](#)



Looking ahead to 2012, I see a continuation of the same themes, but a few new ideas as well.

Ten Themes for 2012

1. Severe European Recession as the sovereign debt crisis escalates: Austerity measures in Italy, Greece, Spain, and Portugal plunges all of Europe into a major recession. Spain and Portugal will follow Greece into an outright depression.

2. Political Crisis in Europe: French President Sarkozy loses to socialist challenger Francois Hollande. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition collapses. The Merkozy agreement is either modified to do virtually nothing or is not ratified at all. This chain of events will not be good for European equities or European bonds.

3. Relatively Minor US Economic Recession: The US will not avoid a recession in 2012. Retail spending ran its course with the tail-off into Christmas of 2011. The Republican Congress has little incentive for fiscal stimulus measures in 2012 so do not expect any. However, with housing already limping along the bottom in terms of construction and investment (not prices), a US GDP decline will not be severe. The US may see a recession even if GDP barely drops. Certainly the US recession will be far less severe than the recession in Europe and Australia.

4. Major Profit Recession in US: Profit margins in the US will be torn to shreds as businesses will be unable to reduce costs the same way they did in 2008 and 2009 (by shedding massive numbers of employees).

5. Global Equity Prices Under Huge Pressure: Don't expect the same degree of reverse decoupling of US equities we saw in 2011. The US economy will be better than Europe, but equities globally will take a hit, including the US. Simply put, stocks are not cheap.

6. Fiscal Crisis in Japan Comes to Forefront: Japan's fiscal crisis and debt to the tune of 200+% of GDP finally matters. The crisis in Japan will start out as a whimper not a bang, but will worsen as the year wears on. If Japan responds by monetizing debt, not a remote possibility at all, Japanese equities will massively outperform in nominal and perhaps even in real terms. "Real" means "yen-adjusted", not "inflation-adjusted" terms.

7. Few Hiding Spots Other than the US Dollar: US treasuries and German bonds were safe havens in 2011, but with yields already depressed don't expect huge gains. Expect to see a strengthening of the US dollar across the board against all major currencies. Moreover, cash (one the most despised asset classes ever), may outperform nearly everything, even if the dollar goes virtually nowhere. Hiding places will be few and far between for much of 2012.

8. US Public Union Pension Plans Under Attack: States finally realize the need to rein in pension plans much to the dismay of public unions. Social and economic tensions in the US rise.

9. Regime Change in China has Major Ramifications: China will start a major shift from a growth model dependent on housing and infrastructure to a consumer-driven model. The transition will not be smooth. Property prices in China will collapse and commodity prices will remain under pressure.

10. Hyperinflation Calls Once Again Will Look Laughable: Unless there is a major disruption in the Mideast (which I do not rule out by any means), oil prices will drop and food prices

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will follow. If so, we will once again see silly talk from the Fed about preventing "unwelcome drops in inflation". As always, the deflation key is not prices at all but rather credit and credit marked-to-market. Expect credit in all forms to come under attack and expect junk bonds take a hit as well. By the way, regardless of what happens to oil prices, hyperinflation calls will look silly.

Addendum:

2011-12-30 - Several people have asked me to comment on precious metals. I also wanted to mention trade wars and energy.

Trade Wars

Expect Global Trade Wars: Look for tit-for-tat trade wars to heat up in 2012 as noted previously in [China to Impose Anti-Dumping Duties on GM; "Fair Trade" Idea is Self-Serving Scam; Proposal to Stop "Free Sunlight" Gains Support From Mitt Romney](#). Should Mitt Romney win the election, expect global trade to collapse in 2013. Trade wars will not be good for equity prices.

US Election

US Political Roadmap: If President Obama dumps Joe Biden for Hillary Clinton as his vice presidential candidate as Robert Reich suggests in [My Political Prediction for 2012: It's Obama-Clinton](#), Obama will win re-election unless the Republican candidate is specifically Ron Paul. Clearly this is not an endorsement of Obama, it is a prediction. Some mistook my 2008 prediction for Obama as an endorsement. It wasn't. I wrote in Ron Paul in 2008 and will do so again unless he is the nominee. If Ron Paul is the Republican nominee I think Paul would draw enough crossover votes from independents and Democrats who are sick of war and big government to win. If it's Obama-Biden vs. Newt Gingrich or Mitt Romney then it's too close to call.

Energy

Oil is a wildcard. My prediction is cooler heads prevail. However, the election is 11 months away and that is a lot of time for someone to get carried away. The odds the US initiates an attack on Iran under Ron Paul are virtually zero. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for any of the other major candidates. Should the US or Israel attack Iran (I do not believe the US will), then the price of crude will quickly skyrocket by \$50 or more. Such an oil shock would immediately send the entire global economy into a severe recession.

Precious Metals

Precious Metals Roadmap: What follows is more of an approach than a prediction. Gold remains a much safer play than silver, something I have said for years. Technically silver is flirting with a breakdown of major support at \$27. If that low does not hold, a decline to the low-to-mid \$20's is likely (something I said earlier this year when silver was near \$50). I have no target for gold. The longer the US holds off quantitative easing and the ECB lets the sovereign debt crisis simmer without action, the bigger the potential drop in precious metals. Moreover, silver is likely to take a bigger hit than gold (percentage-wise) in a recession or global slowdown because silver is an industrial commodity and Chinese demand for industrial commodities is poised to plunge. Both gold and silver are more likely to be weaker earlier in the year as opposed to the second half given the Bernanke Fed does not look to launch QE3 any time soon. If the stock market and energy prices plunge in the first half of 2012, Bernanke will be more inclined to launch another QE program and that would be beneficial to precious metals.



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Twenty Twelve: The Agora Blossoms

By Catherine Bleish

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WE have all heard predictions about 2012 since we were children. That once far-off date seemed to loom precariously in the distance dangling stories of future horror, future spiritual evolution, or other predictions of major global change. Now that it has arrived it seems reasonable that by coincidence or not, this year will indeed be one filled with changes of historic proportion.

It is easy to see the potential for a monumental shift in human behavior if you simply take a step back and watch humanity from a bird's eye view. Tensions have been steadily rising for generations as human livestock have slowly begun to demand freedom from their human owners in various capacities. Amazingly, it has been our simple human curiosity that has led many to suddenly break their mind free from the propaganda they have been fed their entire lives.

One of the greatest influences on this has been the growth of the Internet which has become the source for documenting all human knowledge, ideas and experiences. This means two things. The first is that people are able to actually see the atrocities committed by government that at one time were censored from their spoon fed media. The second is that the idea of individual sovereignty has been able to suddenly explode throughout the populace.

That is not to say that people aren't ripe for the information. Simply existing on a day to day basis has become a struggle for many. Our culture of debt spending has created a society where people are perpetually ripped away from their families while they toil at work in a financial spiral of despair. College students graduate already in debt and unable to find a job leaving our young adults flailing in a pool of hopelessness as they wait tables and move back home with their parents. An ignorant and brainwashed populace is easy to manipulate and exploit, and thus our people suffer through their own actions and choices.

These conditions, combined with our new-found easy access to knowledge, create a perfect environment for the beginning of a new cultural Renaissance for humanity. This opportunity is one of great proportion, and one that can elevate our species from one living in perpetual anguish to one thriving in our natural roles as creative and infinitely powerful beings. 2012 will be the year that the straw breaks the camel's back; 2012 will be the beginning of our evolution into creatures of a higher frequency.

This means 2012 will bring a boom to the grey and black markets as people seek ways to survive without dependency on a failing federal reserve note, and without having the fruits of their labor stolen by greedy gangsters with guns. People struggling to find work will begin to use their skills, their talents, their time and their energy to barter for their needs. People will use items of real value to barter for other items of real value. People will cut the middle man out and begin to take ownership of their own survival.

The need for a "job" in the traditional American neo-feudalism will begin to disappear out of a pure animalistic need to survive. As these

"jobs" become harder to find and the dollar becomes more and more worthless, people will be forced to look for alternative ways to make ends meet. This is where the cultural Renaissance comes in. As people turn to their hobbies or interests to create a means of providing for their families, they will have the opportunity to be creative. This will create a market of unique hand made goods, delicious homegrown foods, and personalized services that big box businesses just can't compete with. Once those who enter the black and grey markets out of necessity begin to flourish, you will find others entering out of a desire to be creative and successful. It will be beautiful!

I know this because the evolution has already begun in my own life and in my own circles. I know this because I am watching it happen and watching it grow and because I know it is real for me. My life has changed profoundly in the past year and a half as I evolved from politico to sovereign.

It was easy for me to become disenfranchised with our current system of government after working so hard during the 2008 Presidential Campaign for Dr. Ron Paul. Not only were the powers that be absolutely heinous in their attempts to stop and silence us - the powers within his own campaign where equally disheartening. I figured it was because it was a national campaign and national politics and that state/local activism was really where I could influence things.



After several State Legislative sessions, I watched our government grow. Sure, we had several minor successes. We stopped Real ID in Missouri, slammed back the infamous MIAC Report on the Modern Militia Movement, passed several tenth amendment bills, and even passed a Constitutional Amendment to stop Obama Care in Missouri. Yet, suddenly I saw check points popping up in Missouri. I felt the presence of police everywhere I went. And then I was unlawfully arrested. Twice.

I'll admit I was very traumatized in each arrest circumstance. They happened within six months of each other, which left me emotionally exhausted and obsessed with the growing police state in our country. The first charges were dropped relatively quickly which removed the burden of an impending trial from over my head, but my second arrest caused me many months of stress as I awaited trial in New Hampshire.

I was not myself. I was depressed and angry and everyone I knew was forced to suffer right along with me. It took John leaving me for me to realize just how much power I was giving these institutions of violence and fear. I was giving my entire being, every ounce of my energy and every thought in my head, to the state. I knew that something must change and I began to take ownership of my emotions, my income, and my life. Without truly understanding the term, I began to walk down a path of agorism as I healed and began to grow.



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I decided that I must learn to grow food in order to ensure I could one day provide for a family. I explored places to live in Missouri, New Hampshire and Texas where I could barter my labor for housing. My favorite offer was from a small farm in Dripping Springs, Texas where I decided to spend the last six months of 2010 learning to garden and care for chickens. I knew my dependency on the federal reserve note for my housing would return when my time on the farm was done, so I simultaneously began to work on trading my skills, knowledge, time and energy into things that I needed to survive.

My first barter arrangement was under my belt and I began to seek others. I hooked up with a local bookstore, Brave New Books, and offered to make them a new website. In exchange, they offered me a Berkey Water Filtration system valued around \$225. What a blessing this was as the well-water was full of sulfur and I could not afford a filter with cash!



Next, I hooked up with a local Political Action Committee and provided conflict resolution, team building, and strategic planning services. I also wrote one article a month for a local paper in my hometown. In total, I lived off of just over \$200 a month for about 7 months. Sure, its possible, but I do not recommend it.

The honest truth is that it was very difficult on my health - I was working very hard for very little and my body paid a toll. I lost my energy and drive, I began to find grey hairs and see lines in my face, and I became rather thin for my build. But I was determined. I was NOT going to go back and work for the system that robbed from my paycheck only to point a gun at me and put me in a cage simply for speaking. I just could not participate in that system any longer.

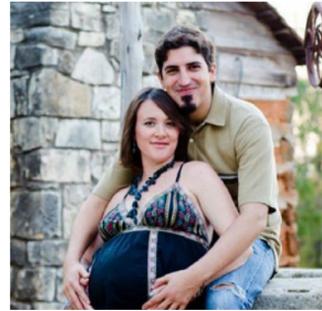
And so I took the hard road and made a sudden switch. I learned to live very small. My entire life fit in an 18 foot trailer and I only spent money on my needs. Dog food, gasoline, cell phone (and thus Internet access), and food. I suddenly found myself more blessed than I thought possible. I spent hours and hours outside working my hands in soil and tending to plants that I learned to love as I watched seeds turn into plants that would provide beautiful and delicious food. Friends began to grace the farm with their presence. Together we'd work mid noon until sun down, then together we'd eat, drink, sing songs and be merry around the campfire. Life was slow. It was simple. It was beautiful. I got a taste for freedom. It tasted good.

Quickly my need for federal reserve notes increased when I moved off the farm. This is when I found myself in over my head. I was cranking out websites left and right all fall of 2010, so I decided to offer three websites in one month for a hundred dollars each. I wanted to diversify my work and needed to raise the dollars to pay rent. Not only did I accidentally take

on absolutely huge jobs that would take months and many additional hours to finish, but I made poor choices in hosting providers and lost over a dozen websites at one juncture. One was for my best friend Tracy's campaign right toward the end, and we lost all of her content. This crushed me like nothing ever had. All my work. Just gone. And it was my fault for not backing it up, I had no one else to blame.

It was one obstacle after another. I really had a hard time getting on my feet and if it wasn't for John, I don't know how I would have made it. He always made sure I was eating well and even helped me pay the upfront fees to move into an apartment. He was a true blessing in my life during this time. We soon found out we were pregnant and I would soon find my impoverished lifestyle devastating my body as nutrients were re-directed to baby. This is when another blessing entered my life.

A local activist and naturopath doctor offered to treat John and I as a thank you for our activism. We visited him the first time before we knew we were going to have a baby. I was in very bad shape, as was John. Our bodies were not happy with us. We had spent years of around-the-clock activism or agorism and we were close to falling apart. Our doctor encouraged us to change our lives immediately. And we did. Well, some things took time, but others happened that day.



We began taking vitamins, paying attention to how our bodies reacted to various foods, and generally began to take care of ourselves. The timing was perfect as not a month later we found out a baby was on the way. Later, I would help the doctor with web work and John plans to help him with video and audio assistance in the future.

As our lives both began to transition from "work" to "agora", we found many circumstances to barter with people in our community in this way. When our dog, Edward Norton, became ill with bone cancer, we bartered with a local veterinarian for his end of life care. We provided a website and a YouTube video. We have also paid this veterinarian in silver. We began to take silver to the farmers market and found vendors that would barter silver for veggies, meat, cheese, and fruit. So we began to use "junk silver" dimes to buy food. Months later, a farmer's market vendor asked John to provide marketing services in exchange for food. Now our family is blessed with fresh veggies and frozen homemade meals every month. It has lowered our grocery bill significantly, especially since we only eat organic real food. We moved into a house on two and a half acres and began to grow our own veggies (although we have been defeated by drought and freezing to date), and acquired chickens who lay the eggs we eat and provide us with a sporadic stream of silver (we barter a dozen eggs for a silver dime).

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We also began to invest in our agorist friends. One of the aforementioned arrests resulted in a small settlement for me from the arresting police department. That money was spent on baby expenses, finishing my graduate degree, a few farm items (like 18 baby chicks!), and on products created by our friends that we can now sell at our vendor booths as we travel the country giving speeches. It is really important to me that my friends are able to start the transition from activist to agorist as well.

Granted, we're not totally there. We still depend on the dollar for rent and utilities, but we have done a fantastic job of decentralizing our resource acquisition so that we are providing for ourselves in a variety of means. We write, speak, sell items at vendor booths and offer various media services. We love to barter. I'm not going to do websites for pay anymore; it took the fun out of it for me as I still have a few projects backlogged from this time last year! We are close, though, and I have never been happier. I eat good food, take good vitamins, spend time outside, spend time with family and get to support people I love while supporting our family.



We are building toward something more. We want to live as sus-

tainably as possible. We are interested in buying land in Texas or New Hampshire and starting a homestead where we can build a home of the earth that does not require tapping in to the central electric, water, or gas grids. We want to raise our own food and create many things ourselves. We want to experience joy every single day just simply by existing in the world we have built for ourselves. We are so excited!

I tell you this so you understand both the pros and the cons of becoming an agorist. You have to sacrifice a lot to make the transition, especially if you are one of the firsts in your community to begin the process. But it is worth it. If you can persevere through the rough patches, you can arrive at a point where you have made enough contacts and built enough relationships that you can live with little stress regarding your needs. You will feel so liberated.

It also means that those of you who are not yet ready to make the transition should consider finding a way to support those who are paving the way. Each time someone takes the first step down the path of agorism, it becomes easier for the next person. It is by helping each other that we can rise above the chaos and negativity found in mainstream culture. We can create a way of life that allows our fellow human being to exist without the use of the federal reserve note and without a gun pointed at them demanding a cut.

If you're interested in supporting any of my agorist / barter friendly / silver friendly friends by purchasing items made by them, hit me up and I'll put you in touch. We sell the notorious "Peace Piece" tobacco pipes, Surviving Sheftall paracord bracelets, Dean Ryan Collection lady's v-neck tee's, JFK ETF shirts by LRP, hand made AliCat glass/wire jewelry, Nicola's Duct Tape wallets, Liberty Stickers, Dime Cards by Indigo Agora, and much more! You can also visit our growing agorist directory at www.blackandyellowpages.biz.

Twenty twelve is the year. The time is now. Agorism is the key to thriving in this chaotic society.



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How To Elect Ron Paul

By Stefan Molyneux

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Hi everybody, it's Stefan Molyneux from Freedom Radio. So it is January 3, 2012 and tonight is in some ways the make or break for Ron Paul in Iowa.

Now, I've made my position on political action clear, but of course no one can predict the future, and what I think is absolutely necessary for the rescuing of liberty from the jaws of tyranny is commitment - is commitment! So, I'm going to hand you a little gem of a speech which I think is necessary for Ron Paul to win.

If you believe that Ron Paul is going to secure liberty, that Ron Paul is the best hope for the freedom of the Union, then you need to be committed - and being committed is not about personal commitment; being committed is about social commitment. I've run successful companies, I've started the largest philosophy show in the world - I know little bit about success, and I know little bit about commitments.

I hope you will take this advice, because if you believe that this is how it's going to work, then you need to give it 250% if it's going to work. I don't want you to look back upon regret if Ron Paul does not succeed in the way you want him to, and kick yourself for not doing more.

So: here's the more that you can do.

You need to get people out to vote for Ron Paul - and that is a matter of personal commitment to the virtues that you believe Ron Paul is going to achieve.

I will give you three examples.

Number One: War

Ron Paul as the future commander-in-chief can, it is argued, bring home all the troops and end imperialism and foreign wars. This is going to save the lives literally of hundreds of thousands of people - and thousands of Americans. Life and death - this is the import, this is the depth, this is the power of what is at stake.

Life and death.

The life and death of hundreds of thousands of people. You have to be pretty stone hearted to put political ideology above the lives of hundreds of thousands of people - and so you can say to people:

Ron Paul has committed to ending foreign wars. Ron Paul knows what it is like to be ideologically pure; he knows what it is like to do that which is unpopular for the sake of that which is true and that which is good - and so we have every reason to believe that he will follow through on that commitment - which will save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. I am committed to saving those lives, I am committed to getting him elected. Now you need to cough up 20 bucks - and if you don't have 20 bucks, I will beg borrow or steal it for you - and you need to come down to the convention, and you need to cast your vote for Ron Paul tonight, because hundreds of thousands of people's lives literally hang in the balance.

Now if you say 'yes' to me - if you trust me (I have studied the stuff for many years I am in depth, I am knowledgeable about these things) - if you trust me then I will thank you. I think the

future will thank you, I think you will look back and look at it as a turning point in a change in your life, in a way of doing things that is even better than what you've done before.

If you do this, I will thank you, because it will show me that you care about me, that you care about my opinions, that you respect where I'm coming from, that you trust me - that you love me - and I will thank you for it.

It's a favor, it's an hour or two, it's 20 bucks - which even I will cover if you can't - but I will view it, even if you don't agree with me fully, even if you don't agree with me partially, I will ask you to trust me. I will ask you to give up an hour or two in our whole lives for the sake of something that is incredibly important to me, that I deeply care about, and that I consider essential to the way that we live - and to the future freedoms that we also value.

Will you do this favor for me, even if you don't agree with me? Will you trust me? Will you spend an hour or two doing something that you may not find that interesting for the sake of our friendship? if you're a stamp collector, I will spend an hour or two looking at your stamps; if you're a birdwatcher, I will come out with you and sit in a hutch and watch the birds; if you're a train spotter, I will come out and note down the numbers of trains for an hour or two - because I care about what's of interest and important to you!

I am asking, I am begging, I am pleading for you to have an interest in that which is important to me, to spend an hour or two for the sake of our relationship, for the sake of our friendship, to come down with me and do this thing that is so important for me. Tust do it for me - even if you don't believe in anything that I believe in - just do it for me, just trust me, just show that you will do something that is mildly inconvenient for you, for the sake of something which is incredibly important to me.

So please, come.

Now, if you don't - if you don't want to come with me - then I know that you don't respect what it is that I believe. I also know that we are on opposite sides of this issue - and since this issue involves the lives and deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, this is going to be a serious blow to our relationship. This is not a threat, it is just a recognition of reality: that if you are for the continuance of foreign wars, then you are for the murder of millions - of hundreds of thousands - of people. That is a serious blow to our relationship, because that tells me where you're coming from morally. It also tells me that you don't trust me, it also tells me that you don't respect me - it also tells me that you're not willing to put out a little bit of inconvenience for the sake of something that is incredibly important to me - and I also believe incredibly important to you. But you need to come down with me. I will thank you, I will buy you dinner, I will do whatever it takes to make that as enjoyable as possible- but you need to come down with me and do this.

If you do it, I will thank you, we will be closer, we can talk about it - fantastic! If you won't do it - well, I know where you stand and I know where our relationship is - and that will be very sorrowful for me, that would be very sad for

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me, to know that I'm not trusted, to know that I'm not respected, to know that a minor inconvenience to you is more important than that which is deeply held and a passionate conviction for me.

Number Two: The Federal Reserve

Yes I know - I bring up the Federal Reserve, everyone rolls their eyes - but surely you've noticed that everything's getting more expensive. Surely you've noticed that there are no jobs around - surely you've noticed that the national debt is getting bigger and bigger - surely these are not facts that are subjective or crazy on my part to bring forward.

The Federal Reserve is going to destroy the currency, because there's no way to pay off the national debt; they can't repudiate it, they can't tax their way out of it, they can't print their way out of it - it is simply too big.

Ron Paul's commitment to end the Federal Reserve is the only chance we have for any kind of stable currency. If you think that's important, it is. If you think it is not important, you just have to remember what happened in Germany when hyperinflation hit, or what happened in Argentina or other places when hyperinflation hit.

It is a road to tyranny.

Because people panic when their bank accounts evaporate. The poor can't eat - food is too expensive, gas is too expensive, the economy grinds to a halt.

Money is the lifeblood of the economy - if you corrupt the money, you corrupt the economy. If you destroy the money, you destroy the people, because everything that we do - the cities that we have - everything is reliant upon sound currency! All the economic transactions that bring food into cities, that bring gasoline from overseas, that pay people, that is money in the bank, that is life savings - that is people's blood sweat equity from their entire lives - is at risk of evaporation if the Federal Reserve continues to create the kind of money - the massive amounts of monopoly money that it has over the past few years.

This is important - just because you can't see it yet doesn't mean it's not happening. A smoker smokes for a long time - decades possibly - before he gets sick, if he's going to get sick. That doesn't mean it's not dangerous, that doesn't mean it's not bad - and this is even more certain than lung cancer! This is math - and I care about the stability of the economy. I care about people having jobs. I care about people's life savings not getting wiped out - at two levels: one, because I don't want people's life savings to get wiped out - and neither should you - and second, because when people's life savings do get wiped out - and when they can't buy food - they turn to extreme political measures - always. And that is very dangerous for us. It is very dangerous for me in particular, having been out there as an advocate for freedom publicly for many years.

You are putting me at risk if you support a continuance of the existing policies of the government - there is indefinite detention at the will of the government. It is dangerous for me - come and help me gain some protection from someone who's going to repeal this stuff that is putting me in danger, because I've been out there for so many years as a freedom advocate.

Help me - give me some security, give me some safety, give me some protection - and give yourself some protection from the extreme reactions of people who are gonna panic when they can't buy food and their savings are gone!

So - let's prevent this; let's get someone into power who is going to deal with this, who is going to keep us safe from the dangers - the inevitable road to tyranny - that results from hyperinflation and debasement of the currency

Number Three: The Drug War

Hundreds and hundreds of thousands of your fellow citizens are locked in abusive, destructive, repulsive degrading cages for the innocent act of carrying and smoking pieces of vegetation that some people don't like.

I myself, I don't use drugs - but what does that have to do with anything? There are hundreds of thousands of people who are caged - in cages - their lives destroyed, having to check off criminal records for the rest of their lives - their lives smashed into atoms by the callous brutality of a prohibition against that which people disapprove of - in the same way that temperance unions disapproved of alcohol and foisted Prohibition upon the nation - we all know how that went! That was a massive invitation for organized crime to come in and take control of society. There was almost no organized crime before Prohibition - Prohibition created the incentive for organized crime - it has drawn thousands and thousands of young people into a life of crime, because we have on the one hand very little job opportunities for them, because of the death of manufacturing - and on the other hand, we have the incredible short-term incentive gains of the drug war.

It has caused the corruption of the police force, it has added to the national debt, it is causing an increasing militarization of the police force in America, it has created huge problems internationally, as America bombs fields in Colombia and Mexico, and supplies arms to people out there - both the government and the criminals - it has caused a massive degradation, it has added to the national debt - it is catastrophic, and anyone that you know could be picked up by this craziness - you don't think that cops ever plant drugs on anyone they don't like? I am at risk for this kind of treatment, for this kind of behavior.

This has to end - we have to set these people free. This is a way to deal with the budget issues, this is a way to deal with civil liberties issues - and if you are not going to support Ron Paul with me today, if you are going to avoid

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that hour or two of inconvenience that I'm asking you - I'm begging you, I'm pleading with you - to provide to me, to provide to the country, to provide to the future, to lay the foundation for the security and freedom of tomorrow - then I know that you are for innocent, peaceful people being locked in abusive, degrading, destructive, inhumane cages - and that is a serious blow to our friendship, because I don't think that I can actually respect someone who is for the murder of hundreds of thousands overseas - who is for the kidnapping and imprisonment and locking in cages of peaceful people - and who is for inflation, which robs from the poor - for the coming instability of a currency crash which is been predicted - hey, don't listen to me, there are thousands of experts out there a saying exactly what I'm saying! I'm not making this up, this is a fact, it has happened before in history, it will happen again in history - but I damn well do not want it to happen here, because this is the Shining City on the Hill, this is the bastion of freedom, this is the last and best hope of mankind - here!

Because if tyranny happens here, the lights go out across the world.

The lights go out across the world.

Because this was the noblest and freest experiment in history.

This was the city on a hill, built on the foundation of principle - of property rights, of nonaggression - of the peaceful and voluntary interaction, trade and resolution of conflicts between citizens.

Of a tiny government, of a minimal government, of a miniscule government - which has grown and swollen like a cancer, until it is going to overwhelm and slaughter the body politic.

If we cannot be free, none can be free - and you need to come down with me tonight, and you need to put that checkbox in - that is all I am asking, and you can mock me and berate me until the end of time, but I'm just asking for an hour or two.

I've made my case - I hope that you will accept my case. If you do not accept my case, don't do it because you believe it's right - just do it for me, just do it for me.

Sometimes your doctor will tell you to do stuff that seems counterintuitive, that is painful - go to rehab if you break your leg, it's really painful and it's hard but you do it because you trust the doctor.

I have studied this for many years. I am passionately out there in public, trying to forward the ideals of liberty - just do it for me, do it for our friendship, do it for the credit that I have built up as a friend of yours for many years - please, please, please come down with me, mark that checkbox - set us free! 🌸

From YouTube.Com - How To Elect Ron Paul:



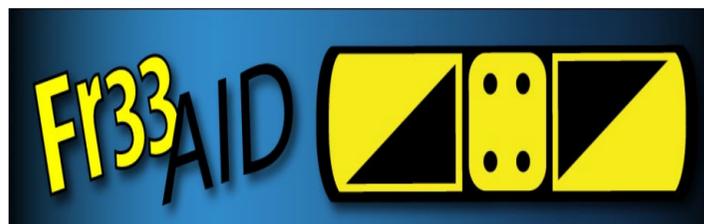
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A Healthy Dose of Predictions for 2012

By Stephanie Murphy

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IT'S been a longstanding late December tradition to make predictions about what's in store for the coming year. But the real fun, in my opinion, comes when those predictions about what was *supposed* to happen can later be compared to what actually took place.

Some prognostications are absurd. Some sound plausible at the time they were made, but then turned out not to come true. Others turn out to be entirely accurate.

As I see it, I have an opportunity in writing this article to either entertain you with wild and crazy predictions that will be fun to read, but almost certainly turn out to be untrue. Or, I could try my best to be accurate and maintain my credibility for the future.

Instead, I'm going to try to strike a balance by offering some serious predictions which are based on what I see as current trends, followed by some silly ones which I hope will not come true, but will make you laugh.

Since I volunteer with the mutual aid and educational organization Fr33 Aid, I'm going to focus on health and medicine related predictions, at least for the serious part.

First, the serious predictions for 2012...

The not-so-good news: the government will continue to grow in every sense.

- Governments at every level will attempt to ban or tax foods, drinks, and habits that they don't like.
- The "war on drugs" will continue, putting lots of nonviolent people in jail, diminishing everyone's civil liberties, and disproportionately affecting minorities. Drug abuse will not be recognized as a medical problem for which abusers need help, but instead as a behavior that needs to be punished.
- Military presence and wars in the Middle East will continue, putting many people's lives at risk and guaranteeing the return to the US of many military members with severe physical and psychological trauma, who unfortunately will not get the care that they need from the VA. Many will be lost to suicide.
- Government will become more involved in the relationship between doctors and patients with more regulations and mandates. Mandates will also fall on patients to purchase health insurance from politically connected insurance companies.
- Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare will not serve the needs of those they are supposed to help, but will drive federal deficits higher, which the government will saddle our future children with paying off.
- Currency inflation will continue, making it more difficult to get the same amount of health care for the same amount of dollars as in the past.

The good news: what remains of a free market, or perhaps those who find creative ways to get around red tape, will step up to fill the demand for health care, as well as other health related products and services

- Home testing kits for things like cholesterol, blood glucose, and hemoglobin A1c will become less expensive and better in quality. More non-invasive tests will be developed, such as the glucose scanner that works by reflecting light off a patient's eye.

- More artificial body parts will come to market, like the replacement bladder that can be grown by molding cells around a balloon, or the artificial pancreas which combines a glucose sensor with an insulin pump.

- Manufacturing processes for generic drugs will improve, allowing patients to access them more cheaply when they are needed. Drugs whose manufacturers are still being granted monopoly privilege (i.e. drugs under patent) will remain expensive since no competition is present to drive the price down and manufacturers must pay exorbitant costs to get them approved by the FDA.

- Information about the reputation of health care professionals will become increasingly easy to access and share on the internet.

- The internet will bring knowledge about diseases and health to people who could once only get that information from doctors, enabling people to in some cases make their own diagnoses, or question ones they were given by professionals, or just be empowered to learn more about their own medical conditions.

- Mutual aid networks will grow, enabling people in need to access care from compassionate professionals.

- E-Cigarettes will help many thousands of people quit smoking vastly more harmful tobacco cigarettes.

- Genetics research will advance to allow people to easily and cheaply test to see what genes they carry, which may affect their risk for certain diseases. This will help people make lifestyle adjustments geared toward staying healthy.

- Software algorithms will calculate people's risk for various diseases based on data that is already known. It is already possible to calculate one's risk for heart attack, stroke, and some types of cancer, but soon more algorithms will come into widespread use, and will be freely available through websites.

- Information about natural disasters and epidemics will become more easily available in real time through the internet and through social networks.

- New antibiotics, antiviral drugs, and vaccines will diminish suffering from infectious diseases around the world.

- Medical hackers will build their own open source diagnostic equipment (like [OpenPCR](#)), devices, and drugs, for a fraction of the cost of currently available ones – and they will publish how they did it freely on the internet.

The even better news: all of these things were already happening in 2011!

Call me an optimist, but based on the "good news" above, I think the future is bright.

Finally, here are my silly predictions for 2012...

- Aliens will land at the Porcupine Freedom Festival and report that they've searched all over the galaxy for freedom, and have finally found it.
- Bathrooms across the US will be occupied as a continuation of the Occupy Movement.
- Ancient Mayans will appear in a time machine and announce that they were just kidding about their calendar ending in 2012 and have tacked on a few extra years. 



Stephanie Murphy is a liberty activist in New Hampshire and is currently an MD-PhD student. She is a co-organizer, volunteer, and media liaison for Fr33 Aid. Fr33 Aid appreciates your willingness to volunteer or your donation if you enjoyed this article. Find out more at [Fr33Aid.com/about](#).

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Perspective 2012 By Howard Blitz

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A new year is always a good time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Human action taken in the past drives results that take place in the future. Positive human action drives positive results. Negative human action drives negative results.

The federal government of the United States is in hock to the tune of \$15 trillion because of all of the government spending that has taken place over years past. In addition, the current \$1-2 trillion deficits created each year plus the coming massive required Medicare and Social Security expenditures will result in the United States federal government looking at a totally incomprehensible \$150 trillion debt over the next 50-70 years. The American people are just now beginning to realize and question the astronomically devastating economic situation that exists caused directly by the excessive amount of spending by American government officials.

Based on all of history the self-evident truth is that this debt creation will not be sustained and will end tragically with the collapse of the current U.S. dollar. In other words, the current U.S. dollar will no longer be an acceptable type of currency in the world for payment of goods and services. That endgame probably will not take place in 2012, but 2012 will see a ramped up continued devaluation of the dollar as the U.S. government resorts to more printing press money to pay for its expenditures very similar to what the German government did ninety years ago.

In 1922, a loaf of bread cost 163 German marks. By September 1923, it took 1,500,000 German marks to purchase a loaf of bread, and just two months later in November 1923, the same loaf of bread cost 200 billion German marks. This is the result of very negative human action on the part of government officials generating very negative results.

Like the drug addict who continues to inject drugs into his body to continue that false sense of well-being, the stimulation of the economy by greater amounts of government spending paid for by printing press money is being seen by more and more individuals as being a false stimulation. Individuals are realizing that government spending does not create real jobs, does not create real economic growth, and only depresses the economy as a whole. Individuals are coming to realize that there is something deadly wrong in the economy and that government spending and regulation is the culprit. Individuals are coming to this realization because

of the increased interest in the U.S. Constitution and what it has to say about the responsibilities of government officials.

In 2012 the world will not come to an end, although it might appear that way as inflation really begins to spin out of control. The Saturday morning economic hangover from the economic drinking all night Friday will begin to set in and there will be those that will demand that government do something. However, with the increased interest in the U.S. Constitution individuals will realize that looking to government officials for a solution through increased spending is not warranted. Individuals will begin to demand from government officials to abide by the document.

In the meantime, individuals will continue to do what humans always do, create wealth for themselves and others in spite of all of the actions by government officials to restrict and control such activity through government expenditures. 2012 may seem pretty sick economically, but it will be a year that reflects the beginning of the healing of the economy just as the Saturday morning hangover is the beginning of the healing process by which the body corrects itself back to normalcy.

The natural state of affairs for individuals is to be free from government regulation. 2012 can be the year where an increased number of individuals realize what the founders of America knew, that government is brute force, must be contained at all costs, and its only reason for existence is to protect the inherent rights of all individuals and otherwise leave them alone to direct their own lives.



A year from now Americans will begin to witness the beginning of a resurgence of individual liberty as the real solution to individual situations. Americans will begin to realize that minding one's own business and being responsible for one's own life without resorting to government force against their neighbor to achieve their goals is what created the greatness of America in the first place.

Employing the positive human action of individual liberty will end with positive results for everyone. 

Howard J. Blitz, Founder, [The Freedom Library](#), helps to sponsor and teach individuals about personal freedom by offering classes and academic scholarships on the subject.

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2 Predictions for Freedom

By Ian Freeman

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PREDICTIONS for 2012
- I like the sure bets.

1. More liberty-minded people will move to New Hampshire as part of the [Free State Project](#)

Are you frustrated at the loss of freedom and responsibility in America, while the growth of government and taxes continues unabated? Do you want to live in strong communities where your rights are respected, and people exercise responsibility for themselves and in their dealings with each other?

If you answered "yes" to those questions, then the Free State Project has a solution for you.

What the Free State Project is... The Free State Project is an effort to recruit 20,000 liberty-loving people to move to New Hampshire. We are looking for neighborly, productive, tolerant folks from all walks of life, of all ages, creeds, and colors who agree to the political philosophy expressed in our [Statement of Intent](#), that government exists at most to protect people's rights, and should neither provide for people nor punish them for activities that interfere with no one else.

When you sign our Statement of Intent, you signal your commitment to move to the chosen free state, New Hampshire, within five years of obtaining 19,999 other people who commit to move. The more signatures we get, the more secure people can be in their decision to move, because they know that many other people will also be moving— [enough to make a real difference!](#) You don't have to wait until we have 20,000 signatures to move, of course, but that option is there to let you be more secure in your decision.

What the Free State Project is not... We are not a political action organization. We are not tied to any political party or organization; we do not run candidates for election, we do not financially support or endorse candidates, and we do not oppose or endorse legislation. All these things will be done by [local activist organizations](#) with which many Free Staters are involved.

2 The [Shire Society](#) will continue to rise in prominence within the movement

Shire Society Declaration

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED witnesses to the lesson of history — that no form of political governance may be relied upon to secure the individual rights of life, liberty, or property — now therefore establish and provide certain fundamental precepts measuring our conduct toward one another, and toward others:

FIRST, each individual is the exclusive proprietor of his or her own existence and all products thereof, holding no obligations except those created by consent;

SECOND, no individual or association of individuals, however constituted, has the right to initiate force against any other individual;

THIRD, each individual has the inalienable right of self-defense against the initiation of force;

FOURTH, explicit voluntary association is the only means by which binding obligations may be created, and claims based on association or relationships to which any party did not consent are empty and invalid;

FIFTH, rights are neither collective nor additive in character, and no group can possess rights in excess of those belonging to its individual members;

We hereby declare our commitment to peace, individual sovereignty, and independence, and join the Shire Society.

IMMIGRATION (to the Shire):

Q. I've [signed the declaration](#) – how do I move together with other Shire Society people?

A. While it is true that the Shire is a state of mind, it is also a physical location. It is commonly known as “New Hampshire”. It is within this arbitrary geographic land mass that the idea of the Shire was created. People who love liberty are coming to this place every month and joining together to stand for freedom. Moving to the Shire is as simple and as complex as any move. For some, it means moving businesses and families while others are couples or single people with varying levels of belongings. Some sell lots of stuff and others pack it all in a truck. Some move with very little, but it's recommended you be prepared to take care of yourself upon arrival. Shire Society people tend to be generous, but aren't interested in being used. In short, freeloading isn't likely to get you very far. It's smart to move with a “nest egg” to insure your maximum ability to settle into a new locale.

Q. When should I move to the Shire?

A. *As soon as possible.* Hundreds of liberty-loving people have already moved here, and more are moving every month. As soon as you are financially able and have cut the necessary strings tying you down where you are, come on up! You'll find housing and jobs subforums over at the [Shire Society Forum](#), as well as forums where you can ask questions of those already here.

Q. To where should I consider moving in the Shire?

A. You can certainly move to anywhere within they physical land mass known commonly as New Hampshire, but it makes the most sense to move around the areas of the highest concentrations of Shire Society people. Two of these areas are [Keene](#) and [Manchester](#). Here is a [map of the Shire](#) to which you can add your location.

Q. Will signing and moving protect me from the aggression of the people calling themselves “the state”?

A. WARNING: The Shire is currently occupied by a large gang know as “the state”. This gang provides a variety of services, wanted and unwanted, as a means of covering their coercive, monopolistic method of “doing business”. Shire Society people should be aware that they could be the subject of some of these unwanted services, and remain peaceful. Hopefully the people calling themselves “the state” will repudiate their former ways and renounce advocating and using aggression against their fellow peaceful man, and join us in the Shire. Joining and moving can't guarantee your safety, but you didn't

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really think signing a piece of paper would stop armed criminals, did you? The best way to stop the violent monopolists is to stand peacefully together – here.

Here shall be a list of reasons to immiGREAT to The Shire:

Shire Community

More peace-oriented voluntarists/anarchists per capita than anywhere else. Growing numbers of principled, liberty-oriented Shire people moving here to get more free and help set others free. The Shire community tends to be alternative currency-friendly – hard metals, bitcoin, etc. The Shire community is creating alternatives to the state society's coercive system, like [Shire Sharing](#) and [Shire 911](#). This is the Agora in action. For some of the latest efforts, take a look in the Shire tab of the menu bar. Other forms of agorism here have included cooking, haircuts, medical, and other unique services available only in the underground. The Shire independent media offers alternatives to the old pro-state media. The most pro-liberty media in the world are here including television, radio, print, and blogs. Large amounts of media-savvy Shire people willing to collaborate means creating your media vision can be possible here. Semi-yearly large gatherings/parties attracting hundreds like the [Porcupine Freedom Festival](#) and the [Liberty Forum](#). Regular weekly social and strategy gatherings in areas with greatest concentrations of Shire people. Communicate at a distance with fellow Shire people via forum, facebook, two-way radio, 411 text messaging

services like [Keene 411](#), mass voicemail like [Porcupine 411](#), and more. More opportunities for housing with other liberty-oriented people. Check the [Shire Society forum](#) for specifics to certain areas. Areas with the greatest concentration of Shire Society people, like Manchester and Keene ([see a map](#)) will have the greatest potential for response during situations with the state society gang members.

Location

Advantageous New England location with two international borders. It's all about the numbers: the low general population means a larger positive effect per liberty-oriented person. The coercive state society aggressors tend to be less bad as their counterparts in other geographic areas. The area commonly known as New Hampshire has low unemployment and the best economy in the region. This is the land commonly known as New Hampshire, and the region still retains some of the "Live Free or Die" spirit. There were many reasons why liberty-loving pioneers moved here to create the Shire Society, and the Free State Project has "[101 Reasons to Move to New Hampshire](#)", that contain many persuasive reasons.



Ian Freeman is a voluntaryist, free marketeer, and host, affiliate relations, and webmaster of the internationally syndicated radio show, "[Free Talk Live](#)". It's his mission in life to effectively communicate, restore, and propagate liberty, to have fun doing it, and to profit. Ian uses profit to provide more opportunities to promote the evolution to a voluntary society.

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Buy Silver

By Karen Emery

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AS I sat pondering the topic at hand, predictions in the year of 2012, I stood amazed that the economy, as bad as it is, hasn't become a lot worse.

As I write this, silver sits at \$27.81 per ounce. In 2011, the spot price of silver rose to a high of \$49.51 in April, and since then has slowly decreased during the rest of the year.

Economically this is more than just an anomaly. The spot price of silver shows how many FRNs (Federal Reserve Notes) are needed to buy one ounce of silver. Silver is the standard in this equation, not dollars. One ounce of silver will always be worth one ounce of silver, whereas the value of the dollar is constantly fluctuating.

We have a dollar that is not guaranteed by anything. Up until 1933, the dollar was on the gold standard. Until 1971 other governments could still convert dollars to gold. After that, the dollar has been based on only one thing – our trust in the United States Government. How much do YOU have faith in our Government, really?

Our government (through the Federal Reserve) creates money out of thin air in two ways – fractional banking and the printing press. Fractional banking allows banks to loan out much more money than they actually have in their possession, essentially creating money where none exists. Then they can loan money on the money loaned, spiraling the amount of “phantom money” out of control ad infinitum. Secondly, to make things even worse, the Federal Reserve

authorizes the printing of additional dollars whenever they deem it necessary.

Couple this with the fact that there isn't any Government currency in the world backed by gold, brings me to the astonishment that silver is as low as it is. It just doesn't make sense.

It's not rocket science to understand that the more we have of something the less each one is worth. Since silver cannot be manipulated in this same way, it makes me wonder how silver can stay this low. IT JUST CAN'T.

I recommend people divest their interest in dollars and invest in precious metals, silver in particular as it is obviously undervalued. Start building a community of businesses that will accept real money (silver and gold) in trade. When the economy collapses, and it will (no government has survived once it devalued their currency by not having it backed by a precious metal), we need to be prepared.

Make 2012 your year of preparedness: You can opt out of the Federal Reserve by refusing to use their notes as much as possible. In this way, you will also be prepared in a way most Americans won't by having a method of trading (when we will need a wheelbarrow full of FRNs to buy a loaf a bread, as has happened in the 1920's in the Weimar Republic and most recently in Zimbabwe). 

Karen Emery

President

DelValley Silver

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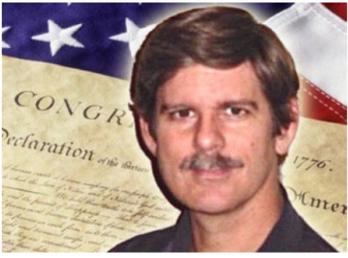
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Political Predictions for 2012

By Mark Hinkle

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MY crystal ball is in the shop for extensive repairs. However, I did foresee the election of Obama long well before the November election in 2008, so perhaps I don't need it in 2012. For the record, I foresaw Obama election, but certainly didn't support it in any way. I also foresaw that his policies wouldn't work to solve any societal problems and would, in fact, make them worse. 20-20 hindsight now you say?

So, what do those of us who want more freedom and less government, expect to see in 2012? Every presidential election cycle is a turning point. The President and Vice-President, one-third of the Senate, and every member of the House of "Representatives" are up for election.

So, every presidential election cycle "we the people" have a chance to change course.

Sadly, every time "we the people" have chosen more government and less freedom.

Sometimes, as with the case of Ronald Regan, they thought they were choosing less government, but in fact, they always got more government and less freedom.

2012 is another year like that.

The Democrats and the Republicans have proven that they can't govern. They haven't passed a budget since 2009. And even when the Senate and the House shirked their responsibility and established a "Super Committee", that to failed to perform.

At a gut level, both the TEA Party folks and the Occupy Wall Street folks know something is wrong, dramatically wrong.

We Libertarians know that the TEA Party agenda of a balanced budget without cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Defense is not possible. Libertarians know we need to cut all three.

We Libertarians know that the Occupy Wall Street agenda of regulating Wall Street and Big Business caused the financial meltdown which led to the bank bailouts and that is definitely not the solution to crony capitalism. In fact, that is the very essence of crony capitalism, which we oppose.

This year, more than ever before, "we the people" are rejecting politics as usual. Numerous polls show a majority of the American voting public want a viable third party.

Between 2008 and 2010, the latest dates for which we have data, every political party lost voter registration, except the Libertarian Party. And the real dramatic growth has been the rise of the independent voter. It's been so dramatic that Reason Magazine editor Matt Welch and Reason TV editor Nick Gillespie wrote a book called "Rise of the Independents" to chronicle the phenomenon.

"We the People" are feed up, but time will tell if we continue to take it or if we finally rebel.

The unexpected rise and support for Ron Paul in the Republican Party is a strong indication that "we the people" are feed up and aren't going to take it anymore. And to a lesser extent Gary Johnson's support within the GOP was also an indication of that feeling. Both Ron Paul and Gary Johnson have very loyal supporters of the message that we need less government and more freedom. It's a message that the Libertarian Party has been reciting for over 40 years. Finally, some of the "we the people" are listening.

In 1995, a former Libertarian Party presidential candidate, the late Harry Browne, wrote a book called "Why Government Doesn't Work".

He foresaw the structural problems that would cause government to fail to address societies' problems. Now you'd have to be a hermit to realize that not only doesn't government work, but it's also causing businesses to fail, unemployment to rise, educational scores to drop, poverty to rise, more homelessness, and to make it all worse, we're exporting our failures to other countries to harm their economies, and to make the world less safe for freedom and the responsibility that comes with it.

Every major government program that "we the people" are forced to support, has led to failure:

- The U.S. Post Office: broke
- Social Security: broke
- Medicare: broke
- Amtrak: broke
- Government pension systems (at every level): broke
- And finally: the U.S. Government: broke to the tune of \$15,142,758,997,472.35 in debt as of 1/3/12. And that's not counting future liabilities already promised by our government.

The national debt is increasing at the rate of \$3,940,000,000 per day since September 28, 2007.

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And since neither the Republicans nor the Democrats are doing anything to address the major problems of today, I predict the trend towards alternative parties will continue throughout 2012 and beyond.

If the economy continues to worsen, and it will, and if it gets bad enough (debatable), then and only then will the American voter get angry enough and fed up enough to reject that status quo that is the duopoly we call the republican and democratic parties.

I predict the status quo (the R's and D's) won't give up without a serious fight. If a third party starts to emerge that seriously challenges the establishment, whether it's the Libertarian Party or perhaps this vague America's Elect, the R's and D's will use every trick in the book to maintain their power. They will lie. They will certainly try to keep all third parties out of the presidential debates. They will challenge third party petition drives required to get their candidates on the ballot. They will continue to introduce falsely named "open primary" initiatives which effectively eliminate all third parties from appearing on the November general election ballots (as they have already done in the states of Washington and California). And for which they are trying to do in Arizona as I write this piece. Beware of republicans and democrats bearing initiatives called "open primary" or "top two". They are designed to eliminate the competition and to reduce your choices. They only want you to have two choices: so-called republicans and so-called democrats.

We Libertarians just see them as two sides of the same coin. A coin that represents big government, big business, big special interest, and an interventionist foreign policy devoted to supporting the military-industrial complex.

The same military-industrial complex that former president Eisenhower warned about in his farewell speech in 1960. I strongly urge you to [look it up on the web](#) and read it. He knew of the dangers involved and sadly "we the people" have not heeded his warnings. We do so today at our peril.

I predict a very interesting election cycle in 2012. I know, not a stretch of my imagination. Will "we the people" open our eyes and see every failure of the policies of the republicans and the democrats and vote to reject them at the ballot box? Or, will "we the people" once again, be fooled by the "don't waste your vote" argument from the R's and D's and like lemmings, stampede over the edge?

I predict we'll find out on November 6, 2012.

Yours in liberty.....

Mark Hinkle

Chair of the Libertarian Party

Email: chair@lp.org



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The Irrelevancy of the System

By Marc Stevens

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POLITICAL power is crumbling, those in control are losing it and they seem to know it. My prediction for 2012 is more people taking

control of their lives and working on bringing about a voluntary society without looking to politicians for help. I see far less of the people looking to the problem for solutions. It's going to be much more of a do it yourself year.

Freedom is autonomy; seems contradictory to ask anyone for it. It's always been a do it yourself kind of thing.

I'm very optimistic for the coming year for several reasons. I do a lot of work helping people resolve issues with tax agencies. This means I have the joy of speaking to tax agent's every day, people who are unwilling or incapable of dealing with others as equals.

I've seen the increased desperation of tax agents as so many "governments" are going bankrupt. They are seeing their pensions and jobs in trouble, so they have become more resistant to dropping attacks even when they admit there is no evidence of a liability. Just recently, I had a lawyer from the Franchise Tax Board's legal department, advise someone in collections to stop an attack and was told no. This lawyer then changed her story; she initially said she had the authority to advise collections to stop an attack, and then said she didn't.

I have a call posted on my website <http://marc-stevens.net/articles/no-witnesses-no-verification-no-problem-with-the-california-ftb.html> where an agent agreed the FTB could not verify my client was a taxpayer with taxable income. Despite this, he still refused to stop the attack.

The past year we've seen much evidence of this trend of the people not asking politicians, such as we saw with the Arab Spring and the Occupy Wall Street movements (although I do not agree with the different agendas). There was

also the increased control and persecution of those who want local markets to provide food; the food Nazi's have even attacked the Amish. Seems those in control don't like people having a choice about the food they eat.

There is increased activism; an example is the failure of a local tyrant to force people in Montana to participate in the persecution of a man for possessing pot. This lawyer could not stack a jury against a man not accused of hurting anyone. As a consequence, there could be no trial and there shouldn't have been even a complaint.

This is just one example where despite opposition to the war on plants not approved by politicians continue. Politicians don't care, they don't have to. The people of the community didn't ask the politicians - they told them by their actions: "No to your insane drug war". This has an impact; people see they can do it themselves. This helps make politicians irrelevant.

There has been increased barter and community currencies as people see the economy destroyed by the governments and their partners in crime, the banks. Instead of asking politicians to end the FED, they are increasingly bringing alternatives to the market. And this despite the ranting's of psychos like [Anne Tompkins](#) who think competition for the FED is "domestic terrorism", even though it involves no violence or terror.

The people are figuring out that we out number politicians and bureaucrats and they need our cooperation. 2012 will be a year for more non-cooperation. If politicians want us to cooperate, then they should drop their guns and threats and work peacefully for our consent.

Here's to making politicians even more irrelevant in 2012. 

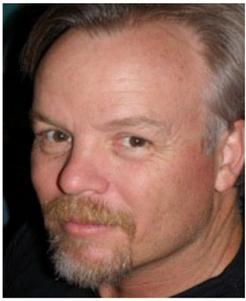
You can visit Marc Stevens' webpage at MarcStevens.Net

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Village Praxis Series: T.E. Lawrence and the Next American Revolution (Part I)

By Bill Buppert

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“MEN have looked upon the desert as barren land, the free holding of whoever chose; but in fact each hill and valley in it had a man who was its acknowledged owner and would quickly assert the right of his family or clan to it, against aggression.”

- T. E. Lawrence



Vietnamese General Giap (who vanquished both the French and the Americans) was asked who his greatest influence was in conducting guerrilla campaigns in Vietnam in an interview with (soon to be infamous) French General Salan in 1946: “My fighting gospel is TE Lawrence’s [Seven Pillars of Wisdom](#). I am never without it.” Nor am I and I keep a copy both at home and my office. My copy at home is my dog-eared and duct taped copy from my former days in the Army. I adore the book and have read it three times but it can be a hard slog for readers unfamiliar with the British idiom and not well acquainted with the history that led to the Arab Revolt. For the best introduction I have found to the mess that is now the modern Middle East, read David Fromkin’s brilliant book: [A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East](#).



General Giap

For those who won’t take the time to read it, the distillate of his teaching can be found in his 27 Articles. Some are totally irrelevant to any fight we may be concerned with in North America such as 10 but some, such as 12 and 22, are timeless and effective combat multipliers. Lawrence, of course, was Arab-centric in his nostrums but many of these can be universally applied with a little intellectual effort.

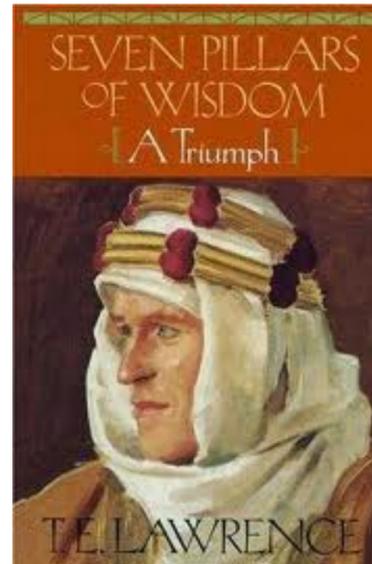
Whether the central bankers like it or not, the EU fiat currency will collapse in the next six to twelve months and take the dollar with it. This will lead to the hardest times America has known since the War of Northern Aggression tore the continent asunder in the nineteenth century. Hard times will be a subtle way to describe it. The US government will react in the same barbaric fashion it does in every crisis: it will wage war abroad and on its own citizens and systematically strangle every notion of freedom

and liberty remaining across the fruited plain. It will clothe all of these noxious behaviors in the most patriotic tones and cries of threats to national security will scare the woolen-clad subjects into paroxysms of bleating and begging for coddling and protection from their masters. There will be conflict on American soil again and the guerrilla style of conflict will soon be the only means of opposition for the few who fight for the right to be left alone. However one anticipates your personal involvement in the emerging crisis, Lawrence provides the basic building blocks for seeing how that fight may be conducted.

I am a guest lecturer in Irregular Warfare and a number of readers have requested that I address this subject so I am finally getting around to it. I will address the top ten tactical/operational/campaign books and manuals one should have in your library to illuminate the best and worst practices in insurgency and guerrilla warfare in Part II of this essay.

Nine-tenths of tactics are certain, and taught in books: but the irrational tenth is like the kingfisher flashing across the pool, and that is the test of generals.

- T. E. Lawrence



The following notes have been expressed in commandment form for greater clarity and to save words. They are, however, only my personal conclusions, arrived at gradually while I worked in the Hejaz and now put on paper as stalking horses for beginners in the Arab armies. They are meant to apply only to Bedu; townspeople or Syrians require totally different treatment. They are of course not suitable to any other person’s need, or applicable unchanged in any particular situation. Handling Hejaz Arabs is an art, not a science, with exceptions and no obvious rules. At the same time we have a great chance there; the Sherif trusts us, and has given us the position (towards his Government) which the Germans wanted to win in Turkey. If we are tactful, we can at once retain his goodwill and carry out our job, but to succeed we have got to put into it all the interest and skill we possess.

1. Go easy for the first few weeks. A bad start is difficult to atone for, and the Arabs form their judgments on externals that we ignore. When you have reached the inner circle in a tribe, you can do as you please with yourself and them.

2. Learn all you can about your Ashraf and Bedu. Get to know their families, clans and tribes, friends and enemies, wells, hills and roads. Do all this by listening and by indirect

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inquiry. Do not ask questions. Get to speak their dialect of Arabic, not yours. Until you can understand their allusions, avoid getting deep into conversation or you will drop bricks. Be a little stiff at first.

3. In matters of business deal only with the commander of the army, column, or party in which you serve. Never give orders to anyone at all, and reserve your directions or advice for the C.O., however great the temptation (for efficiency's sake) of dealing with his underlings. Your place is advisory, and your advice is due to the commander alone. Let him see that this is your conception of your duty, and that his is to be the sole executive of your joint plans.

4. Win and keep the confidence of your leader. Strengthen his prestige at your expense before others when you can. Never refuse or quash schemes he may put forward; but ensure that they are put forward in the first instance privately to you. Always approve them, and after praise modify them insensibly, causing the suggestions to come from him, until they are in accord with your own opinion. When you attain this point, hold him to it, keep a tight grip of his ideas, and push them forward as firmly as possible, but secretly, so that to one but himself (and he not too clearly) is aware of your pressure.

5. Remain in touch with your leader as constantly and unobtrusively as you can. Live with him, that at meal times and at audiences you may be naturally with him in his tent. Formal visits to give advice are not so good as the constant dropping of ideas in casual talk. When stranger sheikhs come in for the first time to swear allegiance and offer service, clear out of the tent. If their first impression is of foreigners in the confidence of the Sherif, it will do the Arab cause much harm.

6. Be shy of too close relations with the subordinates of the expedition. Continual intercourse with them will make it impossible for you to avoid going behind or beyond the instructions that the Arab C.O. has given them on your advice, and in so disclosing the weakness of his position you altogether destroy your own.

7. Treat the sub-chiefs of your force quite easily and lightly. In this way you hold yourself above their level. Treat the leader, if a Sherif, with respect. He will return your manner and you and he will then be alike, and above the rest. Precedence is a serious matter among the Arabs, and you must attain it.

8. Your ideal position is when you are present and not noticed. Do not be too intimate, too prominent, or too earnest. Avoid being identified too long or too often with any tribal sheikh, even if C.O. of the expedition. To do your work you must be above jealousies, and you lose prestige if you are associated with a tribe or clan, and its inevitable feuds. Sherifs are above all blood-feuds and local rivalries, and form the only principle of unity among the Arabs. Let your name therefore be coupled always with a Sherif's, and share his attitude towards the tribes. When the moment comes for action put yourself publicly under his orders. The Bedu will then follow suit.

9. Magnify and develop the growing conception of the Sherifs as the natural aristocracy of the Arabs. Intertribal jealousies make it impossible for any sheikh to attain a commanding position,

and the only hope of union in nomad Arabs is that the Ashraf be universally acknowledged as the ruling class. Sherifs are half-townsmen, half-nomad, in manner and life, and have the instinct of command. Mere merit and money would be insufficient to obtain such recognition; but the Arab reverence for pedigree and the Prophet gives hope for the ultimate success of the Ashraf.

10. Call your Sherif 'Sidi' in public and in private. Call other people by their ordinary names, without title. In intimate conversation call a Sheikh 'Abu Annad', 'Akhu Alia' or some similar by-name.

11. The foreigner and Christian is not a popular person in Arabia. However friendly and informal the treatment of yourself may be, remember always that your foundations are very sandy ones. Wave a Sherif in front of you like a banner and hide your own mind and person. If you succeed, you will have hundreds of miles of country and thousands of men under your orders, and for this it is worth bartering the outward show.

12. Cling tight to your sense of humour. You will need it every day. A dry irony is the most useful type, and repartee of a personal and not too broad character will double your influence with the chiefs. Reproof, if wrapped up in some smiling form, will carry further and last longer than the most violent speech. The power of mimicry or parody is valuable, but use it sparingly, for wit is more dignified than humour. Do not cause a laugh at a Sherif except among Sherifs.

13. Never lay hands on an Arab; you degrade yourself. You may think the resultant obvious increase of outward respect a gain to you, but what you have really done is to build a wall between you and their inner selves. It is difficult to keep quiet when everything is being done wrong, but the less you lose your temper the greater your advantage. Also then you will not go mad yourself.

14. While very difficult to drive, the Bedu are easy to lead, if: have the patience to bear with them. The less apparent your interferences the more your influence. They are willing to follow your advice and do what you wish, but they do not mean you or anyone else to be aware of that. It is only after the end of all annoyances that you find at bottom their real fund of goodwill.

15. Do not try to do too much with your own hands. Better the Arabs do it tolerably than that you do it perfectly. It is their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them. Actually, also, under the very odd conditions of Arabia, your practical work will not be as good as, perhaps, you think it is.

16. If you can, without being too lavish, forestall presents to yourself. A well-placed gift is often most effective in winning over a suspicious sheikh. Never receive a present without giving a liberal return, but you may delay this return (while letting its ultimate certainty be known) if you require a particular service from the giver. Do not let them ask you for things, since their greed will then make them look upon you only as a cow to milk.

17. Wear an Arab headcloth when with a tribe. Bedu have a malignant prejudice against the

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hat, and believe that our persistence in wearing it (due probably to British obstinacy of dictation) is founded on some immoral or irreligious principle. A thick headcloth forms a good protection against the sun, and if you wear a hat your best Arab friends will be ashamed of you in public.

18. Disguise is not advisable. Except in special areas, let it be clearly known that you are a British officer and a Christian. At the same time, if you can wear Arab kit when with the tribes, you will acquire their trust and intimacy to a degree impossible in uniform. It is, however, dangerous and difficult. They make no special allowances for you when you dress like them. Breaches of etiquette not charged against a foreigner are not condoned to you in Arab clothes. You will be like an actor in a foreign theatre, playing a part day and night for months, without rest, and for an anxious stake. Complete success, which is when the Arabs forget your strangeness and speak naturally before you, counting you as one of themselves, is perhaps only attainable in character: while half-success (all that most of us will strive for; the other costs too much) is easier to win in British things, and you yourself will last longer, physically and mentally, in the comfort that they mean. Also then the Turks will not hang you, when you are caught.

19. If you wear Arab things, wear the best. Clothes are significant among the tribes, and you must wear the appropriate, and appear at ease in them. Dress like a Sherif, if they agree to it.

20. If you wear Arab things at all, go the whole way. Leave your English friends and customs on the coast, and fall back on Arab habits entirely. It is possible, starting thus level with them, for the European to beat the Arabs at their own game, for we have stronger motives for our action, and put more heart into it than they. If you can surpass them, you have taken an immense stride toward complete success, but the strain of living and thinking in a foreign and half-understood language, the savage food, strange clothes, and stranger ways, with the complete loss of privacy and quiet, and the impossibility of ever relaxing

your watchful imitation of the others for months on end, provide such an added stress to the ordinary difficulties of dealing with the Bedu, the climate, and the Turks, that this road should not be chosen without serious thought.

21. Religious discussions will be frequent. Say what you like about your own side, and avoid criticism of theirs, unless you know that the point is external, when you may score heavily by proving it so. With the Bedu, Islam is so all-pervading an element that there is little religiosity, little fervour, and no regard for externals. Do not think from their conduct that they are careless. Their conviction of the truth of their faith, and its share in every act and thought and principle of their daily life is so intimate and intense as to be unconscious, unless roused by opposition. Their religion is as much a part of nature to them as is sleep or food.

22. Do not try to trade on what you know of fighting. The Hejaz confounds ordinary tactics. Learn the Bedu principles of war as thoroughly and as quickly as you can, for till you know them your advice will be no good to the Sherif. Unnumbered generations of tribal raids have taught them more about some parts of the business than we will ever know. In familiar conditions they fight well, but strange events cause panic. Keep your unit small. Their raiding parties are usually from one hundred to two hundred men, and if you take a crowd they only get confused. Also their sheikhs, while admirable company commanders, are too 'set' to learn to handle the equivalents of battalions or regiments. Don't attempt unusual things, unless they appeal to the sporting instinct Bedu have so strongly, unless success is obvious. If the objective is a good one (booty) they will attack like fiends, they are splendid scouts, their mobility gives you the advantage that will win this local war, they make proper use of their knowledge of the country (don't take tribesmen to places they do not know), and the gazelle-hunters, who form a proportion of the better men, are great shots at visible targets. A sheikh from one tribe cannot give orders to men from another; a Sherif is necessary to command a mixed tribal force. If

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there is plunder in prospect, and the odds are at all equal, you will win. Do not waste Bedu attacking trenches (they will not stand casualties) or in trying to defend a position, for they cannot sit still without slacking. The more unorthodox and Arab your proceedings, the more likely you are to have the Turks cold, for they lack initiative and expect you to. Don't play for safety.

23. *The open reason that Bedu give you for action or inaction may be true, but always there will be better reasons left for you to divine. You must find these inner reasons (they will be denied, but are none the less in operation) before shaping your arguments for one course or other. Allusion is more effective than logical exposition: they dislike concise expression. Their minds work just as ours do, but on different premises. There is nothing unreasonable, incomprehensible, or inscrutable in the Arab. Experience of them, and knowledge of their prejudices will enable you to foresee their attitude and possible course of action in nearly every case.*

24. *Do not mix Bedu and Syrians, or trained men and tribesmen. You will get work out of neither, for they hate each other. I have never seen a successful combined operation, but many failures. In particular, ex-officers of the Turkish army, however Arab in feelings and blood and language, are hopeless with Bedu. They are narrow minded in tactics, unable to adjust themselves to irregular warfare, clumsy in Arab etiquette, swollen-headed to the extent of being incapable of politeness to a tribesman for more than a few minutes, impatient, and, usually, helpless without their troops on the road and in action. Your orders (if you were unwise enough to give any) would be more readily obeyed by Beduins than those of any Mohammedan Syrian officer. Arab townsmen and Arab tribesmen regard each other mutually as poor relations, and poor relations are much more objectionable than poor strangers.*

25. *In spite of ordinary Arab example, avoid too free talk about women. It is as difficult a subject as religion, and their standards are so unlike our own that a remark, harmless in English,*

may appear as unrestrained to them, as some of their statements would look to us, if translated literally.

26. *Be as careful of your servants as of yourself. If you want a sophisticated one you will probably have to take an Egyptian, or a Sudani, and unless you are very lucky he will undo on trek much of the good you so laboriously effect. Arabs will cook rice and make coffee for you, and leave you if required to do unmanly work like cleaning boots or washing. They are only really possible if you are in Arab kit. A slave brought up in the Hejaz is the best servant, but there are rules against British subjects owning them, so they have to be lent to you. In any case, take with you an Ageyli or two when you go up country. They are the most efficient couriers in Arabia, and understand camels.*

27. *The beginning and ending of the secret of handling Arabs is unremitting study of them. Keep always on your guard; never say an unnecessary thing: watch yourself and your companions all the time: hear all that passes, search out what is going on beneath the surface, read their characters, discover their tastes and their weaknesses and keep everything you find out to yourself. Bury yourself in Arab circles, have no interests and no ideas except the work in hand, so that your brain is saturated with one thing only, and you realize your part deeply enough to avoid the little slips that would counteract the painful work of weeks. Your success will be proportioned to the amount of mental effort you devote to it.*

"It seemed that rebellion must have an unassailable base, something guarded not merely from attack, but from the fear of it: such a base as we had in the Red Sea Parts, the desert, or in the minds of the men we converted to our creed."

- T. E. Lawrence



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New Study Exposes the “60% Effective” Flu Shot as 98.5% Useless

By Dr. Mercola

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THE U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine as "the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses."

This is a roughly 60% drop, but that ignores **the fact that the vaccine has no protective health benefit for 97.5% of adults.**

The researchers' own conclusions are also somewhat more lackluster in their tone than the media would have you believe:

"Influenza vaccines can provide moderate protection against virologically confirmed influenza, but such protection is greatly reduced or absent in some seasons. Evidence for protection in adults aged 65 years or older is lacking."

This advice applies to *everyone* 6 months of age and older, and the CDC stresses that you "should get a flu vaccine as soon as [they] are available."

With a promotion this strong, you might assume that getting a flu shot is a "sure thing" to protect you from all flu-like illness this year, but actually it's not.

Not even close.

Most Flu-Like Illness is NOT Influenza

During the "flu season," doctors and patients alike often attribute respiratory illness to "the flu" or influenza viruses when they most of the time flu-like symptoms are actually associated with other types of viruses and bacteria.

The only way to know for sure what type of virus or bacteria is causing flu-like symptoms is to have it lab confirmed.

The seasonal influenza vaccine only contains three strains of type A or type B influenza, which U.S. and WHO health officials select each year as the most likely influenza strains that will circulate around the world.

There are many influenza strains and most cases of flu-like illness that occur in the U.S. during a typical flu season are not associated with type A or type B influenza strains.

So, it is important to remember that, when you feel like you have the "flu," you can't automatically assume that your flu symptoms are caused by type A or type B influenza strains included in the seasonal flu vaccine. Also, people who do get a flu shot every year cannot automatically assume they will not get sick with either type A or type B influenza or another respiratory illness that looks and feels like influenza.

Flu Vaccines Prevent the Flu in Only 1.5% of Adults

A new study in [The Lancet Infectious Diseases](#) reveals that the flu vaccine prevents lab confirmed type A or type B influenza in only 1.5 out of every 100 vaccinated adults ... but the media is reporting this to mean "60 percent effective."

It is estimated that, annually, only about 2.7% of adults get type A or type B influenza in the first place. The study showed that the use of flu vaccines appear to drop this down to about 1.2%.

So where is the 60% effectiveness claim coming from? This number is based on *relative risk*, and it does not mean that 59 out of 100 people who get the flu shot will be protected against the flu ... allow me to explain.

Why You Need to Understand Basic Statistics Before Getting a Flu Shot

[Some clinical trials](#) are only able to show a meaningful benefit because they focus on *relative* risk reduction rather than *absolute* risk reduction. What's the difference? You can find a very simple explanation of relative risk vs. absolute risk at the [Annie Appleseed Project web site](#), but let me sum it up here.

- Relative risk reduction is calculated by dividing the absolute risk reduction by the control event rate
- Absolute risk reduction is the decrease in risk of a treatment in relation to a control treatment

In plain English, here's what that means: let's say you have a study of 200 women, half of whom take a drug and half take a placebo, to examine the effect on breast cancer risk. After five years, two women in the drug group develop breast cancer, compared to four who took the placebo. This data could lead to either of the following headlines, and *both* would be correct:

"New Miracle Drug Cuts Breast Cancer Risk by 50%!"

"New Drug Results in 2% Drop in Breast Cancer Risk!"

How can this be?

The Annie Appleseed Project explains:

"The headlines represent two different ways to express the same data. The first headline expresses the relative risk reduction — the two women who took the drug (subjects) and developed breast cancer equal half the number (50%) of the four women who took the placebo (controls) and developed breast cancer."

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The second headline expresses the absolute risk reduction — 2% of the subjects (2 out of 100) who took the drug developed breast cancer and 4% of the controls (4 out of 100) who took the placebo developed breast cancer — an absolute difference of 2% (4% minus 2%)."

You can now see why clinical trials, especially those funded by drug companies, will cite relative risk reductions rather than absolute risk reductions, and as a patient you need to be aware that statistics can be easily manipulated.

As [STATS at George Mason University](#) explains:

"An important feature of relative risk is that it tells you nothing about the actual risk."

Flu Shot Protects Against Only Three Flu Viruses ...

As stated previously, each year the flu shot contains three influenza viruses -- one influenza A (H3N2) virus, one seasonal influenza A (H1N1) virus, and one influenza B virus. It only has a chance of preventing you from getting a flu-like respiratory illness during the flu season IF you so happen to be infected with one of these three specific influenza viruses.

In the United States, federal health officials at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are in charge of selecting which viruses to include in seasonal flu vaccine, a process that is based on international "surveillance-based forecasts about what viruses are most likely to cause illness in the coming season." U.S. health officials works with World Health Organization (WHO) health officials to come up with projections about which three type A or type B influenza viruses should be included in seasonal influenza vaccine each year.

In other words, it's an educated guess.

As you might suspect, getting a "good match" between the chosen vaccine virus strains and the actual influenza viruses that do end up circulating and causing most of the type A or type B influenza in the U.S. and around the world is challenging.

As the [CDC notes](#):

"There are a number of factors that can make getting a good vaccine virus strain for vaccine production challenging, including both scientific issues and issues of timing. Currently, only viruses grown in eggs can be used as vaccine virus strains. If specimens have been grown in other cell lines, they cannot be used for vaccine strains."

However, more and more laboratories do not use eggs to grow influenza viruses, making it difficult to obtain potential vaccine strains. In addition, some influenza viruses, like H3N2 viruses, grow poorly in eggs, making it even more difficult to obtain possible vaccine strains."

In terms of timing, in some years certain influenza viruses may not circulate until later in the influenza season, or a virus can change late in the season or from one season to the next. This can make it difficult to forecast which viruses will predominate the following season, but it can also make it difficult to identify a vaccine virus strain in time for the production process to begin."

When you add to this gamble, the little-known fact that, according to the CDC, [only about 20 percent of flu-like illnesses](#) are actually caused by influenza type A or B, you realize how limited an effect the flu vaccine has on keeping people well during the flu season. Too many people assume that all flu-like illness is caused by influenza viruses when the truth is that about 80 percent of flu-like illness is NOT caused by type A or type B influenza. Most flu-like symptoms are actually associated with more than 200 other bugs that can make you feel just as sick -- respiratory syncytial virus, bocavirus, coronavirus, and rhinovirus, to name a few.

What this means is that if you think you have the flu, odds are five to one that you actually don't have the flu but a *flu-like virus*, against which the flu shot is absolutely worthless!

Is the Small Purported Flu Shot Benefit Actually due to the "Healthy User" Effect?

Lisa Jackson, a physician and senior investigator with the Group Health Research Center in Seattle, found that healthy people tend to choose flu vaccination, while the "frail elderly" didn't or couldn't. Her research suggested that [flu vaccine itself does not reduce mortality](#) at all.

Healthy (and health-conscious) people tend to get the vaccine AND come down with influenza less often, not because of the vaccine itself but because they are healthier to start with.

Jackson concluded:

"The reductions in risk before influenza season indicate preferential receipt of vaccine by relatively healthy seniors... the magnitude of the bias demonstrated by the associations before the influenza season was sufficient to account entirely for the associations observed during influenza season."

Unfortunately, Jackson's papers were turned down for publication in the leading medical journals, even though her hypothesis makes perfect sense.

Every day you're around viruses and bacteria and, when you're healthy, you usually don't get sick. But even if you do get sick, most healthy adults and children will not have serious problems moving through and recovering from influenza or other flu-like illnesses. If you do come down with influenza and have a good immune response, you will likely recover quickly without serious complications, as well as obtain natural immunity to that strain of influenza and to similar ones.

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As an aside, this is one more health benefit to achieving immunity naturally by experiencing and recovering from normal infectious diseases, such as influenza.

Vaccine-acquired immunity is temporary, which is why even though the viruses in this season's flu vaccine are the *same viruses* that were selected for the 2010-2011 influenza vaccine, the CDC is still recommending you get vaccinated again, even if you got the vaccine last year. The immunity that healthy individuals get by recovering from influenza naturally is usually much longer lasting.

Why Are Vaccinated Kids Getting the Measles?

Vaccine effectiveness simply cannot be taken at face value, and this applies not only to the flu vaccine but also to other diseases, like measles. Measles cases have greatly increased in parts of Canada and the United States this year. Although unvaccinated children and teens are often blamed for driving the high numbers, a [recent investigation into a measles outbreak](#) in a high school found that about half of the cases were in teens who had received the recommended two doses of vaccine in childhood.

In other words, many of the cases were among those whom health authorities would have expected to have been protected from the measles virus. Conventional medical wisdom states that the measles vaccine should protect against measles infection about 99 percent of the time.

[CBC News reported:](#)

"So the discovery that 52 of the 98 teens who caught measles were fully vaccinated came as a shock to the researchers who conducted the investigation ... If other groups confirm what the Quebec investigation found, it could mean there is a lot more susceptibility to measles in the vaccinated population than is currently being assumed."

In the United States, the minimum age for the first dose of measles vaccine is recommended as 12 months, but this may actually render the vaccine ineffective. If a breastfed child is given a measles vaccine too early, their mother's antibodies transferred to the baby via breast milk (which also protect the baby from measles disease naturally), can interfere with the baby obtaining measles vaccine strain virus induced antibodies. It was, in fact, due to a high rate of measles vaccine failure that a second dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine was introduced in the United States in 1991.

As noted by the [National Vaccine Information Center \(NVIC\)](#):

"An MMR vaccine manufacturer states that in a study of 279 children 11 months to 7 years of age, MMR vaccine was shown to be 95 to 99 percent effective. Protection is estimated to persist for up to 11 years. In a measles outbreak in the U.S. in the late 1980's and early 1990's, it was found that there were a significant number of vaccine failures in older children, teenagers and adults, when the disease can be more severe. The government proceeded to recommend that a second MMR shot be given to boost immunity either before entrance to kindergarten or before entrance to junior high school."

In the national outbreak of measles during the late 1980's and early 1990's, it also became apparent that children who had been vaccinated before 15 months of age were also at risk for vaccine failure, especially if their mothers had recovered naturally from measles disease as children.

An MMR vaccine manufacturer states "Infants who are less than 15 months of age may fail to respond to the measles component of the vaccine due to presence in the circulation of residual measles antibody of maternal origin, the younger the infant, the lower the likelihood of seroconversion." The manufacturer goes on to advise that infants vaccinated at less than 12 months of age will have to be revaccinated after 15 months of age even though "there is some evidence to suggest that infants immunized at less than one year of age may not develop sustained antibody levels when later immunized."

Quite simply, vaccines do not confer the same type of immunity that exposure to the actual disease does ...

Why the Herd Immunity Concept is Flawed



[Download Interview Transcript](#)

Typically, vaccine promoters will stress the importance of compliance with the vaccine schedule that requires multiple doses of a vaccine in order to create and maintain vaccine induced "herd immunity," because a vaccine is never 100 percent effective. However, they never quite seem to be able to explain why the majority of outbreaks occur in areas that are thought to HAVE herd immunity status, i.e. where the majority of people are vaccinated and "should" therefore never get the disease.

The problem is that there is, in fact, such a thing as *natural* herd immunity. But what has happened is that public health officials have taken this natural phenomenon and assumed that vaccine induced herd immunity is the same as disease induced herd immunity and it is not the same. The science clearly shows that there's a big difference between naturally developed herd immunity and vaccine-induced herd immunity in a population.

To learn more, I urge you to listen to the video above, in which Barbara Loe Fisher and I discuss the concept of herd immunity.

"The original concept of herd immunity is that when a population experiences the natural disease... natural immunity would be achieved – a robust, qualitatively superior natural herd immunity within the population, which would then protect other people from getting the disease in other age groups. It's the way infectious diseases work..." Barbara explains. "But the vaccinologists have adopted this idea of vaccine induced herd immunity."

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The problem with it is that all vaccines only confer temporary protection... Pertussis vaccine is one the best examples... Pertussis vaccines have been used for about 50 to 60 years, and the organism has started to evolve to become vaccine resistant. I think this is not something that's really understood generally by the public: Vaccines do not confer the same type of immunity that natural exposure to the disease does."

Vaccine professionals would like you to believe they are the same, but they're qualitatively two entirely different types of immune responses.

"In most cases natural exposure to disease would give you a longer lasting, more robust, qualitatively superior immunity because it gives you both cell mediated immunity and humoral immunity," Barbara explains. "Humoral is the antibody production. The way you measure vaccine-induced immunity is by how high the antibody titers are. (How many antibodies you have, basically.)"

But the problem is that cell mediated immunity is very important as well. Most vaccines evade cell mediated immunity and go straight for the antibodies, which is only one part of immunity. That's been the big problem with the production of vaccines."

Are You Willing to Accept the Risks for a 1.5% Benefit?



The latest study showing the incredibly minimal benefit of the flu vaccine is in line with past research that has also concluded that [flu vaccines appear to have very limited measurable benefits](#) for children, adults or seniors.

The Cochrane Database Review—which is the gold standard for assessing the scientific evidence for the effectiveness of commonly used medical interventions -- [published the following telling statistics](#):

"Over 200 viruses cause influenza and influenza-like illness, which produce the same symptoms (fever, headache, aches and pains, cough and runny noses). Without laboratory tests, doctors cannot tell the two illnesses apart. Both last for days and rarely lead to death or serious illness. At best, vaccines might be effective against only influenza A and B, which represent about 10 percent of all circulating viruses. Each year, the World Health Organization recommends which viral strains should be included in vaccinations for the forthcoming season."

Authors of this review assessed all trials that compared vaccinated people with unvaccinated people. The combined results of these trials showed that under ideal conditions (vaccine completely matching circulating viral configuration) 33 healthy adults need to be vaccinated to avoid one set of influenza symptoms.

In average conditions (partially matching vaccine) 100 people need to be vaccinated to avoid one set of influenza symptoms.

Vaccine use did not affect the number of people hospitalized or working days lost but caused one case of Guillian-Barré syndrome [GBS] (a major neurological condition leading to paralysis) for every one million vaccinations."

Is it really worth risking the health and well-being of 100 people in order to prevent ONE case of the flu, which may or may not result in serious illness or death in that one individual to begin with?

While infants and young children are at greatest risk, no one is exempt from the potential serious complications of vaccination, one of which is GBS.

In the video profile of vaccine injury above, Barbara Loe Fisher, co-founder and president of NVIC, interviews a Connecticut artist and her mother, a former professor of nursing, who developed Guillaine-Barre syndrome after getting a seasonal flu shot in 2008 and today is permanently disabled with total body paralysis. This family has chosen to share their heartbreaking story to help those who have had the same experience feel less alone, and to educate others about what it means to be vaccine injured.

What happened to this family is a potent reminder of just how important it is to make well-informed decisions about vaccinations.

The Best Way to Prevent the Flu Has Little to do With a Vaccine

Avoiding influenza and flu-like illness during the flu season or any season *doesn't* require a flu vaccine. By following the simple guidelines below, you can help keep your immune system in optimal working order so that you're far less likely to get sick or, if you do get sick, you are better prepared to move through it without complications and soon return to good health.

[Optimize your vitamin D levels.](#) As I've previously reported, [optimizing your vitamin D levels is one of the absolute best strategies for avoiding infections](#) of ALL kinds, and [vitamin D deficiency is likely the TRUE culprit behind the seasonality of the flu](#) -- not the flu virus itself. This is probably the single most important and least expensive action you can take. Regularly [monitor your vitamin D levels](#) to confirm your levels are within the therapeutic range of 50-70 ng/ml.

Ideally, you'll want to get all your vitamin D from sun exposure or a safe tanning bed, but

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Continued from Page 64 - New Study Exposes the "60% Effective" Flu Shot as 98.5% Useless

as a last resort you can take an oral vitamin D3 supplement. According to the latest review by Carole Baggerly (Grassrootshealth.org), adults need about 8,000 IU's a day.

[Avoid Sugar, Fructose and Processed Foods.](#)

Sugar impairs the function of your immune system almost immediately, and as you likely know, a healthy immune system is one of the most important keys to fighting off viruses and other illness. Be aware that sugar is present in foods you may not suspect, like ketchup and fruit juice.

[Get Enough Rest.](#) Just like it becomes harder for you to get your daily tasks done if you're tired, if your body is overly fatigued it will be harder for it to fight the flu. Be sure to check out my article [Guide to a Good Night's Sleep](#) for some great tips to help you get quality rest.

[Have Effective Tools to Address Stress.](#) We all face some stress every day, but if stress becomes overwhelming then your body will be less able to fight off the flu and other illness. If you feel that stress is taking a toll on your health, consider using an energy psychology tool such as [the Emotional Freedom Technique](#), which is remarkably effective in relieving stress associated with all kinds of events, from work to family to trauma.

[Exercise.](#) When you exercise, you increase your circulation and your blood flow throughout your body. The components of your immune system are also better circulated, which means your immune system has a better chance of finding an illness before it spreads.

[Take a Good Source of Animal-Based Omega-3 Fats.](#) Increase your intake of healthy and

essential fats like the omega-3 found in krill oil, which is crucial for maintaining health. It is also crucial to avoid excessive and/or oxidized omega-6 fatty acids, as well as trans fatty acids commonly found in processed foods, as they will seriously damage your immune response.

[Wash Your Hands.](#) Washing your hands will decrease your likelihood of spreading a virus to your nose, mouth or other people. Be sure you don't use antibacterial soap for this -- antibacterial soaps are completely unnecessary, and they cause far more harm than good. Instead, identify a simple chemical-free soap that you can switch your family to.

Use Natural Antibiotics. Examples include [colloidal silver](#), oil of oregano, and [garlic](#). These work like broad-spectrum antibiotics against bacteria, viruses, and protozoa in your body. And unlike pharmaceutical antibiotics, they do not appear to lead to resistance.

Avoid Hospitals. I'd recommend you stay away from hospitals unless you're having an emergency and need expert medical care, as hospitals are prime breeding grounds for infectious microorganisms of all kinds. The best place to get plenty of rest and recover from illness that is not life-threatening is usually in the comfort of your own home. 



Dr. Mercola is the founder of the world's most visited natural health web site, [Mercola.com](#). You can learn the hazardous side effects of OTC Remedies by getting a FREE copy of his latest special report [The Dangers of Over the Counter Remedies](#) by going to his [Report Page](#).



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Minding Your Mitochondria (TEDxIowaCity)

By Dr. Terry Wahls

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DR. Terry Wahls learned how to properly fuel her body. Using the lessons she learned at the subcellular level, she used diet to cure her MS and get out of her wheelchair.



From her webpage(TerryWahls.Com):

In 2003 Terry Wahls, M.D., was diagnosed with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis and soon became dependent upon a tilt-recline wheelchair. After developing and using the Wahls Protocol™, she is now able to walk through the hospital and commute to work by bicycle. She now uses intensive directed nutrition in her primary care and traumatic brain injury clinics. Dr. Wahls is the lead scientist in a clinical trial testing her protocol in others with progressive MS.

I am a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, U.S.A., where I teach internal medicine residents in their primary care clinics. I also do clinical research and have published over 60 peer-reviewed scientific abstracts, posters and papers.

In addition to being a doctor, I am also a patient with a chronic, progressive disease. I was diagnosed with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis in 2000, just as I began working for the University. By 2003 I had transitioned to secondary progressive multiple sclerosis. I underwent chemotherapy in an attempt to slow the disease and began using a tilt-recline wheelchair because of weakness in my back muscles. It was clear: eventually I would become bedridden by my disease. I wanted to forestall that fate as long as possible.

Because of my academic medical training, I know that research in animal models of disease is often 20 or 30 years ahead of clinical practice. Hoping to find something to arrest my descent into becoming bedridden, I used PubMed.gov to begin searching the scientific articles about the latest multiple sclerosis research. Night after night, I relearned biochemistry, cellular physiology, and neuroimmunology to understand the articles. Unfortunately, most of the studies were testing drugs that were years away from FDA approval. Then it occurred to me to search for vitamins and supplements that helped any kind of progressive brain disorder. Slowly I created a list of nutrients important to brain health and began taking them as supplements. The steepness of my decline slowed, for which I was grateful, but I still was declining.

In the fall of 2007, I had an important epiphany. What if I redesigned my diet so that I was getting those important brain nutrients not from supplements but from the foods I ate? It took more time to create this new diet, intensive directed nutrition, which I designed to provide optimal nutrition for my brain. At that time, I also learned about neuromuscular electrical stimulation and convinced my physical therapist to give me a test session. It hurt, a lot, but I also felt euphoric when it was finished, likely because of the endorphins my body released in response to the electrical stimulation. In December 2007, I began my intensive directed nutrition along with a program of progressive exercise, electrical stimulation, and daily meditation. The results stunned my physician, my family and me: within a year, I was able to walk through the hospital without a cane and even complete an 18-mile bicycle tour.



In 2007 I was losing my phone and keys and was afraid my chief of staff would soon be calling me to his office to tell me that it was time to revoke my clinical privileges. I expected to become ever more dependent because of my illness. Instead, within a year of starting my regimen I regained the ability to commute to work on my bicycle, do my rounds on foot without canes or wheelchairs, conduct clinical trials and write grants, all by making changes to the foods I ate and keeping up with exercise and stress management. Getting my life back was a gift I did not believe was possible. Grateful to have that life back, I have spent the last three years researching, teaching, lecturing and speaking about my journey and how others may help themselves with intensive directed nutrition. I have recorded many of my [public lectures](#). Fifty percent of the profits from the sales of the lecture DVDs and audio CDs is used to support clinical research in the area of nutrition, meditation, massage, exercise and neuromuscular electrical stimulation in the setting of progressive multiple sclerosis.



Please click on the link to the [August 5th, 2011 Edition of the Freedom's Phoenix Online Magazine](#) for a host of articles on Gardening, Mini-Farming, and Self-Sustainability



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U.S. Debt Illustrated

Source: USDebtClock.Org

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TAKE a minute to study the visualization of the U.S. Debt. Scroll to the end because the point is quite clear.

One Hundred Dollars

\$100 - Most counterfeited money denomination in the world. Keeps the world moving:



Ten Thousand Dollars

\$10,000 - Enough for a great vacation or to buy a used car. Approximately one year of work for the average human on earth:



One Million Dollars

\$1,000,000 - Not as big of a pile as you thought, eh? Still this is 92 years worth of work for the average human on earth:



One Hundred Million Dollars

\$100,000,000 - Plenty to go around for everyone. Fits nicely on an ISO / Military standard sized wooden pallet:



One Billion Dollars

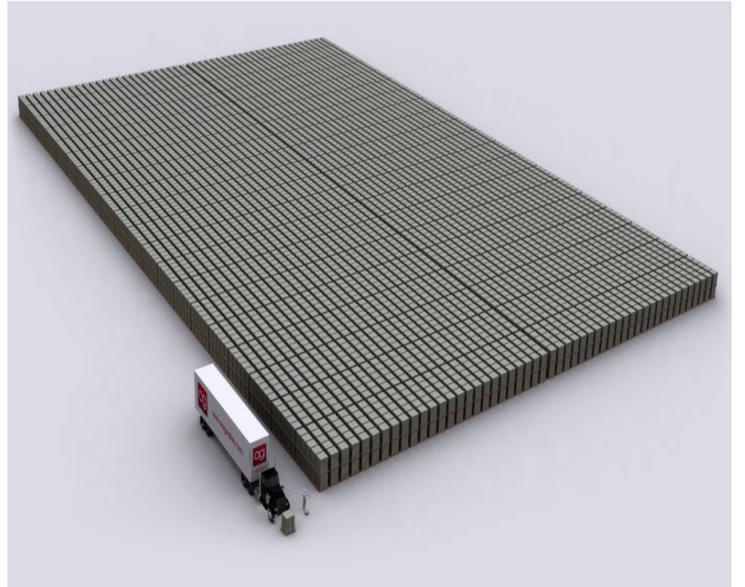
\$1,000,000,000 - You will need some help when robbing the bank. Now we are getting to serious money!:



One Trillion Dollars

\$1,000,000,000,000 - When the U.S government speaks about a 1.7 trillion deficit - this is the volumes of cash that was borrowed in 2010 to run things. Keep in mind it is made of double stacked pallets of \$100 million dollars each, full of \$100 dollar bills. You are going to need a lot of trucks to freight this around.

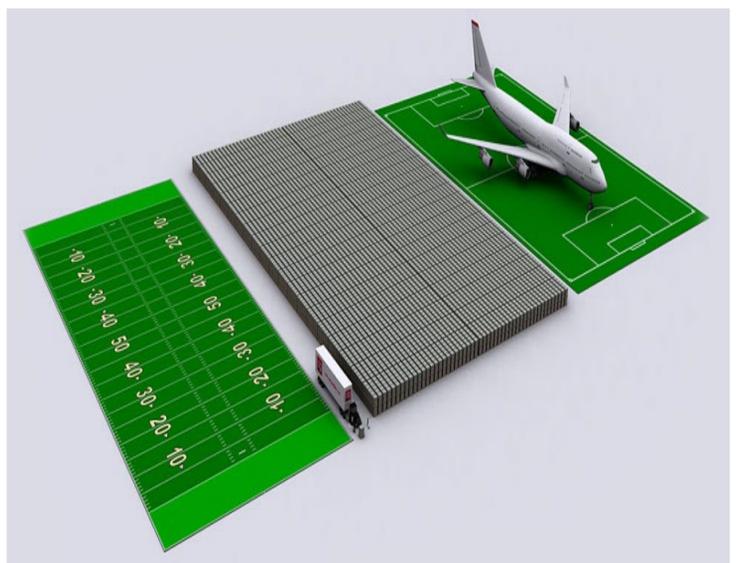
If you spent \$1 million a day since when Jesus was born, you would have not spent \$1 trillion by now... but ~\$700 billion - the same amount the banks got during the 2008 bailout:



One Trillion Dollars

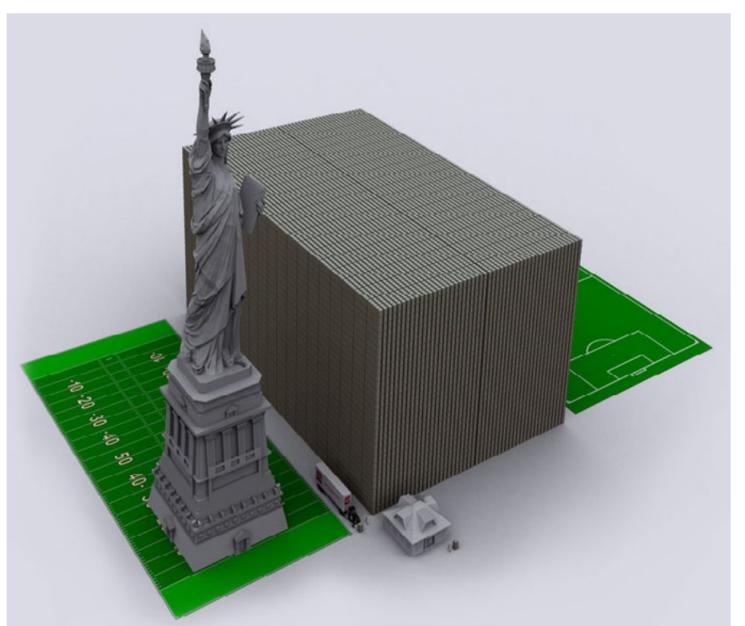
Comparison of \$1,000,000,000,000 dollars to a standard-sized American Football field and a European Football field.

Say hello to the Boeing 747-400 transcontinental airliner that's hiding on the right. This was until recently the biggest passenger plane in the world:



15 Trillion Dollars

\$15,000,000,000,000 - Unless the U.S. government fixes the budget, US national debt (credit bill) will top 15 trillion by Christmas 2011. The Statue of Liberty seems rather worried as United States national debt passes 20% of the entire world's combined GDP (Gross Domestic Product). In 2011 the National Debt will exceed 100% of GDP, and venture into the 100%+ debt-to-GDP ratio that the bankrupting European nations (PIIGS) have:



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114.5 Trillion Dollars

\$114,500,000,000,000. - US unfunded liabilities.

To the right you can see the pillar of cold hard \$100 bills that dwarfs the WTC & Empire State Building - both at one point the world's tallest buildings. If you look carefully you can see the Statue of Liberty.

The 114.5 Trillion dollar super-skyscraper is the amount of money the U.S. Government knows it does not have to fully fund Medicare, the Medicare Prescription Drug Programme, Social Security + Military and civil servant pensions. It is the money the USA knows it will not have to pay all its bills. If you live in USA this is also your personal credit card bill; you are responsible along with everyone else to pay this back.



The citizens of USA created the U.S. Government to serve them, this is what the U.S. Government has done while serving the people.

The unfunded liability is calculated on current tax and funding inputs, and future demographic shifts in US Population.

Note: On the previous 114.5T image, the size of the base of the money pile is half a trillion, not 1T as on 15T image. The height is double. This was done to reflect the base of Empire State and WTC more closely. 🌸

Source: Federal Reserve & www.USdebtclock.org - visit it to see the debt in real time and get a better grasp of this amazing number.

(This U.S. Debt Illustration was forwarded to Ernest Hancock from former Arizona Senator Karen Johnson)

Also, Here is a video entitled: One Hundred Million Dollar Penny



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Aching for Freedom

By Kent Van Cleave

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HAPPY New Year to all!

Here's hoping that 2012 brings health, prosperity, happiness, and above all FREEDOM to you ... and all of us.

We ache for freedom to return.

For undeclared wars to end.

For heroes in the military to be released from unnecessary risk, injury, and death, for no reason other than to enrich and empower the neo-mercantilist (a.k.a. "corporatist") elites.

For Americans to travel freely once again, without invasion of privacy or unreasonable delays.

For Americans to be delivered from the recent threat of disappearance (including assassination) at the whim of some official.

For an abrupt end to the devastation imposed on all of us by the subsidization of drug abuse, as the government continues to support the drug lords, the inner city gangs, and the exploitation of children in order to let them market products whose natural market prices would, without government intervention, be more in line with candy and burgers than with toasters and microwaves.

For the end of inflation and credit "easing" by the Federal Reserve that causes the business

cycle and economic bubbles like the ones we see bursting all around us.

For capital acquisition rather than debt to return as the economic model we follow.

For an escape from the "[Mutt and Jeff](#)" politics we have suffered under for far too long, as the two wings of the government political party do their tag team job on us under the pretense that they are actually rivals.

For an end to the worldwide use of "false flag" operations as pretext to steal away the liberties of people everywhere.

For an end to the apathy of citizens who have long ago given up hope of making a difference in the political arena.

For ending the militarization of law enforcement officers, formerly known as "peace officers," whose new mission (instead of keeping the peace) is to control us in every respect they can.

For an end to the need for people like us to send out lists like this....

2012 could well be the year we either save ourselves or become cattle.

Next year, let us not wish one another a "Happy Moo Year." 

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Publisher's Backpage

By Ernest Hancock

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OVER the last 20 years I was able to recover from the decades of statist indoctrination I was exposed to by every authority figure I can remember ever coming into contact with. Now I'm com-

fortable enough with my views that I am willing to share them with my grandchildren. My four grown children have shared this evolution with Donna and me so that as a team we are very likely to raise a 'Generation Next' free from the mind prisons waiting for them.

I was fortunate to be quickly immersed into a sea of political corruption dominated by individuals of poor character and weak minds while I pulled a thread attached to the truth. It had an immediate and lasting impact on me that spared me the wasted time most of my peers had to endure that hadn't been there for the personal experience of associating with those in political power.

I consider myself fortunate because I was spared the years, decades or even an entire lifetime of fear and doubt associated with searching for an unknown truth. It seemed clear to me at the relatively young age of 28, that if I couldn't be recruited to support the power structure of the status quo I could be confounded enough by people with empty rhetoric, positions of power, expensive suits and flattery to be rendered incapable of knowing the truth of things and the seriousness of the effort to enslave the minds and productivity of any and everyone, even future generations. The impact on me was almost immediate.

For two years my family swam in an ocean of political corruption while sending up signal flares that were finally spotted by good libertarian activists in the early 90's that are still very close friends and fellow activists that are a large part of our successes here in Arizona on many fronts.

It was at about the same time that we were exposed to the use of "Electronic Mail" and electronic bulletin boards and the creation of internet service providers and the creation of web browsers for the 'WORLD WIDE WEB!' and Search Engines.

Ideas sparked flames in our minds. We became confident in knowing what questions to ask and where to get the answers. We would accumulate reading lists and movie lists and other resources to share with others. We would join and/or create email lists, run for political office while being creative activists. We learned to create 'Web Pages' that would be a resource for others just like us looking for answers.

At a time when most people would have to wait minutes for a single graphic to load on their computers we were planning for the future when the media monopolies would be vanquished by a tireless and creative generation of young minds that would have the tools to free minds. Another

generation was to be enslaved by the evils of control that have plagued humanity throughout recorded history. FreedomsPhoenix.com, the Radio Show, the Digital Magazine, the activism and the relationships that have been nurtured over the years were a dream fully formed in our minds over a decade and a half ago.

We knew that the future would be full of individuals just like us that wanted nothing more than to be left alone. Sustained efforts to create a foundation of support and understanding was made available to help the next generation accomplish what we could not in our time. Technology has been a force multiplier that statist are incapable of understanding. To the Authoritarian, technology is a hammer to be used to advance a particular agenda without regard to unknown and unintended consequences. It doesn't even occur to them that the individual minds capable of creating such wonders are where the real power resides.

China is only now starting to realize that the educated minds, capable of engineering (or reverse engineering) technology, is where the real threat to the State comes from.

Years of reading and discussion and contemplation has been replaced with an evening of watching Ron Paul YouTubes and communicating with new 'friends' on Facebook. And newly discovered liberty oriented web sites can fill in any gap of understanding.

This is why a year ago we provided the protesters in the Middle East with the sources of information that we knew to be the most fundamental to our own personal evolution as self-sustaining human beings ([HarheaPhoenix](#) is Arabic for FreedomsPhoenix).

An Arabic version of [The Philosophy of Liberty](#) is constantly shared with the young Arabic speaking activists via our [Arabic Facebook](#) and [Arabic Twitter](#) pages. Middle East formatted DVDs and [Arabic translated written material](#) has joined the use of the Internet in a constant stream of information sent to truth seekers in the streets of oppression and brutality to reinforce the ideas of liberty that are already so deep in the hearts of many of the young here in America. The LOV3olution has always been worldwide... and for all of the same reasons it has flourished here in America.

We soon followed with a small effort in [Honduras](#) (Spanish version of the [Philosophy of Liberty](#)) and quickly learned that they were much farther ahead of their Arabic peers. Just last month the Honduras government changed their Constitution to allow for a 'Galt Gulch' [Free Zone](#) to exist.

The 'Age of The State' is quickly passing and most individuals in power and those still mentally and emotionally enslaved by it can not comprehend what is happening all over the world at the speed of thought.

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I PREDICT:

That the 2012 Person of the Year will be... the "person",... the Individual. Time Magazine's acknowledgement of 'The Protestor' may be the closest that they will ever come to the recognition of the individual as the most influential entity on the planet, but the establishment is starting to feel 'the individual' breathing down their neck in the form of their own children and grandchildren.

All of my other potential predictions branch from the root of an entire generation suddenly becoming self-aware of their individual importance... to themselves.

The feeling that's implanted in the young that they must turn themselves or their friends or their family in (even if they don't know to whom or for what) is quickly being replaced with... indifference. Just as an experienced hiker knows that the selection of a trail to avoid the bears is far superior to being eaten or having to defend your life, the next generation of human beings are having it demonstrated to them constantly that the best way to deal with the state is to avoid it.

By the end of 2012 we will evaluate our efforts to educate an entire planet on the use of barter and trade and the use of commodities... because we can :) Stay Tuned!

The realization of an entire generation of young Americans, Hondurans or Egyptians that they don't need another Pharaoh to add to thousands of years of Pharaohs is the real danger facing those that Just Won't Leave Us Alone.

When some promote the idea that we shouldn't bring children into a world filled with seemingly overwhelming challenges, all I can think is, that is WHY we need the next generation. The controllers hope to indoctrinate these innocents into thinking that they are somehow responsible for the enslaving debt that the Bad Guys hope they'll accept. I look forward to the cultural evolution playing out before us in live 3D... recorded by a teenager's Smartphone, of vast numbers of the young making it clear that [ItsNotMyDebt](#).

I look forward to a time when I can feel comfortable explaining to my granddaughter playing outside how the helicopter over her is able to fly and is such a fantastic tool in providing opportunities for humanity to explore the possibilities of their imagination,... you know,... what we did the first time we experienced such wonders. But, I hate the feeling that I should be thinking about how and when I might start adding additional information about the overhead helicopter's armor and firepower. And that they are at the control of people that demand her obedience.

I look forward to when the birth of our 3rd and 4th and 5th... grandchild can be enjoyed with out having to be backup to parents that want to avoid a state mandated needle full of metals and molecules and potions and notions to be made part of their infant child's flesh.

I look forward to a time when I'm more worried about my children driving safely on the highway than any encounter with the state as a far greater risk to their health, their wealth and their lives.

I look forward to a trip down the street to a neighbor's home; with as many grandchildren as can fit into a Radio Flyer Wagon, to teach them about community and trade and being a good neighbor, where they'll learn how to trade peacefully our citrus and eggs for goat's milk, until our young female goat starts to produce. But now we must concern ourselves with felony charges and being thrown to the ground in front of our children and grandchildren,... that are forbidden to video tape the event.

I look forward to traveling without being forced to demonstrate to young impressionable minds the requirement that The State wears blue gloves and you are required to allow the 'King's Men' to stick them down your pants to visit family... even if they only live a few miles down the freeway.

I am working very diligently to be sure that I never have to explain to my grandchildren why people in uniforms wearing fine hats and a shiny badge and a gun are constantly trying to convince them that a vast portion of everything that they will ever produce already belongs to someone or something else.

But a funny thing happened on the way to planetary enslavement. An entire worldwide Generation Next took a moment to communicate with each other, in whatever creative and unknown method left to them, and simply took an unknown path of their own choice.

"I know you're out there. I can feel you now. I know that you're afraid. You're afraid of us. You're afraid of change. I don't know the future. I didn't come here to tell you how this is going to end. I came here to tell you how it's going to begin. I'm going to hang up this phone, and then I'm going to show these people what you don't want them to see. I'm going to show them a world without you, a world without rules and controls, without borders or boundaries, a world where anything is possible. Where we go from there, is a choice I leave to you.". Neo (From the very end of *The Matrix*) 

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