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Assume It's Bad

And it's gonna get worse. George Carlin observed elites pulling the levers of power: 'It's a big club and you ain't in it.' Americans, subjected to a divide and conquer agenda, became many clubs, some we assumed we were part of, but when the chips settled, we found we are not—maybe never were?

These clubs are often about blood and *sacred cows*. Back in the 'Grapes of Wrath' days, when the poor became *the roving homeless*, all one could rely on was family. Back then family bonds were thick and if you were blood, you were part of the family—by default.

Since then we've spread out. With the coming of the interstate highway system in the 50s/60s, Americans (and Canadians), spread-out across vast lands, and the family you would see daily, you now saw a couple of times a year—if at all. To make up for lost family, close friends became the replacement, and our new emotional support.

But that was the good times, when a growing economy was ahead of America, when friendships hadn't yet been tested for *sacred cow syndrome*. In the 2015 election cycle, friendships got tested. *Trump Derangement Syndrome* made politics insular: 'You were either with us or against us.' Wagons circled. Friends and foes rushed to identify with a particular *sacred cow*. If you wanted into a group—you had best pledge allegiance.

Here's the problem—what's coming won't be about politics or even economics—it's about survival. Assuming Bill Holter is correct and credit freezes (maybe suddenly), that leaves only a couple of trillion dollars, globally, in printed dollars, not nearly enough to even pay for necessities without credit. Every other dollar is digital credit. So, what happens when credit freezes and there are not even fake dollars to spend?

Back in the *Dustbowl*, there was the hope of someplace better. America was a young, strong nation, populated with working citizens, many who could grow food and produce goods. Steinbeck's Joad family had hopes—go to California and start a new life (or so they thought). Now that's changed. Life and gas prices in Kansas don't offer much of an alternative.

When credit freezes suddenly or over few weeks, what then? People will be hungry and the worst among us will feel entitled. Blue states, unable to fend for themselves will become targets. Anything not nailed down/defended, will be taken. Mini splits/heat pumps can be taken in minutes. Homes with mortgages paid off can be fraudulently quit-claimed to somebody else. Oh, you may in court get it back—along with all the delinquent tax bills.

How about me? I'm fit, but I'm 82 years old. Do I have what it takes to be a survivor? How long would I have to survive? Let me suggest something: the life we knew is gone forever. I assume, because I have real money, I'm provided for. Really? I bought 2 Honda HRVs (1 for me/1 for her), the last of the 4 cylinder, naturally-aspirated gas engines. In total I owe about \$50K and it seemed like a good idea at the time. But I don't have \$50K in cash, so if I have trouble selling metal—those cars are gone.

I've always been a survivor, but I didn't anticipate the economy freezing during my last decade. And, seeing the world as a failed human experiment, I'm not sure the I want to muster up what it will take to persevere.

I know farmers, but I'm not growing food. I've been working on my rentals (10 of them), trying to keep them viable for another decade, but how many of my renters will be able to pay rent? In a credit freeze, what kind of rent payment could I expect?

Any assumptions we have for how this pays out are speculative at best. I don't fly, so I've agreed to drive to Florida for Christmas. Quite an assumption? Will the roads still be safe? Will pump prices be \$20—fiat not accepted—gold/silver only? My family will fly. I watched 'FreeFall' on Netflix—the telling of the undoing of Boeing. How Boeing degraded from a company producing aircraft where the top of the food chain was quality control, to a model of maximizing profit? What caused Boeing to disregard quality/safety whistleblowers, with utter disregard for passengers?

Corporate culture, across the board, now embraces production over quality. But those I know and love fly often, and are unwilling to watch 'FreeFall'. As with mRNA, clearly there is a problem, but it's all in the past—right? Boeing whistleblowers, even after a corporate re-shuffle, are still being intimidated/threatened—driven to suicide. After management cancels their concerns, they go to the FAA where concerns of planes coming apart in flight are buried under a rationale: *Boeing took care of all the issues*. But Boeing whistleblowers are still intimidated, transferred—fired?

I'm going to cut-back writing about political developments. Focusing on morons is just not worth it. Any with Trump/Obama as a *sacred cow*, you are no longer interesting to me. Unable to think for yourself—you barely exist.

In my last article I compared Teddy Roosevelt to Trump. Both come with the *war gene*, but Trump/W. Bush/Biden, also have the *stupid gene*. Teddy shed foreign blood, but as a reformer he did good work and he created the national parks. Teddy is at least 50% positive. With Trump as your sacred

cow, the horse pulling your wagon is 90%—a scourge on the earth.

Writing about politics is exasperating. This from a reader: ‘Erik, you are looking at issues from ground level. You need to go to the top of the mountain and look down on what is happening for a different perspective. I have tried to endure your missives, hoping you would come around but I cannot take them anymore. PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST!

My last article: ‘You Are Either With Us Or Against Us’, was well-researched/fact laden, yet this fellow sizes me up inside some imagery without any facts. I have to guess his meaning. Since I surmized about the slam on gold/silver, I’m guessing he’s either a Christian, viewing events from on high, or he’s a Trump-er with inside information I’m not privy to. Either way, it begs a question: What the hell is wrong with people?

Let’s end on a bit of politics. Consider ramifications of the Ukraine war on the rest of the world. No nation (except the loonies), think they are next in a Putin domino theory. They view Ukraine, not from a perspective that they necessarily want Russia to prevail, but around the threat of the US weaponizing the dollar and entitled to confiscate an adversaries wealth.

The confiscation of Russia’s foreign reserves is the act of global piracy that dooms the dollar. Every nation in the world now knows that if it does not do Trump’s bidding it will be de-banked—reduced to a state of poverty.

Had Trump been able to run over Iran as he did Venezuela, the neocons could have celebrated and lauded another brilliant victory. Instead, the US is exposed as a hegemony incapable of defending so-called allies. In that process, the US empire comes to an abrupt halt, with nations, assumed to be under US protection, scurry to make new security arrangements.

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