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updates on the insane world of money and power

*How the Hell Did We Get Here?*

Most everything we are told is lies—including lies about the economy. We can thank Bill Clinton, who, early in the game, brought destruction to our economy by offshoring manufacturing jobs to China. He didn't do that for the good of the nation, instead he felt a need to reduce deficits by keeping wages down. To that end, he off-shored high-skilled, productive jobs, ridding himself of rising wages in that sector. Consequently, Americans became paper pushers, a managerial class, trading productivity for finance.

This new managerial class saw itself as winners in stock markets/real estate, without realizing that abandoning the gold standard had produced limitless credit for an economy of easy money—with an easy path to wealth—along which it was difficult to fail.

When the US had been stocked with productive workers, whether agrarian/industrial, life was much simpler. Families owned a car. Homes were 1200 sq. ft.—1500 for the 'square heeled'. But no 2nd homes—well maybe a vacation cottage out on the lake.

The managerial class changed all that in its search for 'angles' to get ahead—that did not involve sweat/grime. As with bankers living 'on the spread' (between interest paid on savings and loan rates), the managerial class looked for ways to increase the spread a % here, a % there—free money. Gathering of wealth required only cunning.

This gave rise to the 'rentier class'—a relatively new phenomena on the US national stage. Human history is expressed through an economic dichotomy between citizens able to own their own homes, and the rest, because of poverty/politics, forced to rent.

Wherever citizens lose ability to own a home, that condition is then used by socialists to extol the virtues of social equity, and a 'right' to own a home. Although 'welfare state socialism' is responsible for the underlying poverty, they use 'equity' to promote home-purchase subsidies, all the while blaming capitalism. But, Is capitalism to blame?

Capitalism (whether 'collectivists' agree or not), built this nation—basic capitalism where someone with an idea, saved hard-earned dollars for that idea to become reality.

So, how did we end-up in this rentier nightmare where big corporations, aligned with government, share a vision that every non-elite is relegated to renter, and not owner?

How? We abandoned the gold standard in favor of unbridled credit/public debt, and made credit available to those closest to dollar creation—shifting away from capitalism to finance—while heaping blame onto capitalism for all ills we are destined to suffer.

This is not to say that capitalism did not run wild at the behest of the 'captains of in-

dustry/robber barons'. Self-interested greed underlies many aspects of human nature, but runaway self-serving capitalism, points not to individuals, but failure of government.

Government exists, at the pleasure of citizens, to do those things that individual citizens can't do on their own. Citizens decide what those things are, then grant government the power to accomplish them. Therein lies the power and limits of government. For instance, there are no monopolies in 'fair-play capitalism' because monopolies work against any feasibility for citizens with a better idea to bring that idea into reality.

Also, a system of pure capitalism only works without corporations—because corporations, with profit for shareholders as its bottom line, function outside of ethics. Before corporations (pre Civil War), businesses had 'single owners' or 'partnerships'. Businesses started-up in a town where the owner lived and his workers were the townspeople. Within that structure existed a basis for ethical concerns as well as for profit.

At this juncture, there are those (let's call them Nietzsche-ians), who will insist 'might is right'—that 'good' is the winning—'bad' is the losing. But it's not true: just as capitalism is needed for an individual or nation to 'go forth', 'unbridled self-interest' is offset by 'small government', mandated to maintain a 'fair play field', and insure safety. In this relationship, government acts as the people's conscience—not exceeding its mandate.

Nothing's perfect—least of all fascism—the 'unholy alliance' of monied interests and government. Corporations, as they grow, owe nothing to any nation or locale. Sitting on a corporate board with any agenda other than profit—results in your being replaced.

Lincoln made a promise to rid us of short duration corporations, put in place for the Civil War. But like other enacted scourges, CIA, Espionage Act, Patriot Act, Homeland Security, they never go away on their own. Now, there isn't even a countervailing force.

This past weekend I visited 'The Grange' to celebrate the life of someone up against unbeatable odds. Today, I looked-up 'The Grange' online—a populist movement from the 1870s, in opposition to monopolistic corporations/middlemen, in opposition against those that degraded producers, violated public good, and undermined the republic.

In 1870, the Civil War was only 5 years in the past, and Lincoln's corporations had already found their way to permanence—as has the Espionage Act and the Patriot Act.

'Might is right' has been winning-out for decades under the banner of US foreign and domestic policy. Economically, it's not about whether or not 'might is right'—it's about the game being rigged. Globally, it's about Nietzschean militarism devoid of emotion.

The Grange movement exemplified the goal of leaving profits with the producers, which is now the ideology of the BRICS. Power needs to be returned into the hands of individual nations, regions, locales. The Constitution/Bill of Rights is the template for what is needed to put the power back into the hands of the people. That takes energy, and the US is a tired nation. But, under China's leadership, there is no 'Bill of Rights'.

However it gets done, 'local' is the goal—everything else has to go. How many foreign military bases does the US need? None. How many of the 3 letter acronyms (CIA, etcetera) do we need? None. Corporations have to go. It sounds impossible but each unconstitutional entity lies outside of reason—and unreason lives next door to insanity.

Reducing the world to simple fractions, a gold standard is the way out of credit lunacy. Corporations have no business in the republic. The Bill of Rights is sacrosanct. Each foreign US military base needs abandoned. Get the hell out of a corrupt UN/WHO. Bring charges against CDC/FDA. Return police/military to state militias—by law.

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