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*Waking Up—In Milton Friedman's Nightmare*

Some Americans, having to deal with what for them is a new set of facts, are feeling overwhelmed as, for them, faith in the system turns to skepticism. But where was their curiosity these past years when they could have adjusted to the facts—incrementally?

Those Americans coming to terms with data that conflicts the establishment narrative are a small group next to a vast herd who 'swallowed the pill'. The larger group are those, who when confronted with a reasoned account of why Russia was forced to invade Ukraine, strike back with: 'You're a Putin Puppet—nobody I know believes that.'

They need re-directed to a "Gunsmoke" episode, where a drunken mob advances on the jail to get Jenkins (or whomever), to take him out and hang him without the bother of a trial. All that is between them and Jenkins is Marshall Dillon guarding the jailhouse door—advocating for 'due process'—and willing to enforce that Jenkins gets that. Just because no one in the mob agrees with the marshal—does that make him wrong?

Not understanding 2014/2022 history of Ukraine, the mob likely didn't follow a seemingly less dangerous history, beginning in 1971 with the end of the gold standard, which, when understood, is the principle cause for far more dangerous times, today.

How could 'leftist do-gooders' come to terms and grasp that the entire edifice they support: 'The United Welfare States of America' (even if we grant that some of it came from a desire to help), is Milton Friedman's worst nightmare. And, forestalling any slander of Milton as a 'white' male, 'black' economist, Thomas Sowell, shares Milton's view.

Viewing 'states rights' and power vested in citizens as causes for horrors of segregation, or worse, how does one support the Bill of Rights? How does one comprehend that 1 person 1 vote (including illegals?), 'mob rule'—is what the founders attempted to avoid? "The Constitution is not a document for the government to restrain the people; it's is an instrument for the people to restrain the government."—Patrick Henry.

Unfortunately, the incurious are unable to follow the history, forward from 1971, or backwards from today, to understand that unrestricted federal growth and enshrinement of the consequent welfare state (wherein most Americans are reliant on government), as the cause for losing our rights—and quashing American can-do attitudes.

Some readers suggest it's too late to talk about the Constitution—that we are way past that argument. Maybe, but besides a 2nd Amendment to enforce the Bill of Rights, the Constitution is all we have that sets us apart from the rest of the world—and the

only legal stepping-stone we possess to counter a medical/economic/political tyranny.

Credit and debt cycles growing precipitously (with the financial sector growing ever larger than the manufacturing base), ought to have been warning enough that something was wrong—that power was shifting from citizens to corporate/government control. For example: Oregon (and many state), legislators are utilizing tax dollars to buy-up motels to house the homeless—that's the stuff of a Milton Friedman nightmare.

Consider that wealth belonging to the citizens is being usurped by federal and state governments, without due process, to be used by 'socialist ideologues', directing our hard-earned tax dollars to fund band-aid projects to deal with symptoms—not cause.

Taxation is an historically-accepted, incremental tactic for gaining elite control—rendering us bankrupt and dependent on elite charity for survival. And, if you don't think they are actually trying to bankrupt us, ask why 'mom and pop' businesses were locked-down because of a virus, while 'big box', corporate conglomerates operated at will? Best guess: the heart of any nation's economy is small business—and bankrupting the little guy is a simple means to transfer wealth/power to corporate/government.

Milton Friedman and Thomas Sowell supported time-tested, entrepreneurial capitalism and were not interested in symptomatic fixes for economic problems. They understood the causes for economic un-sustainability. They knew that, to insure future prosperity and economic sustainability, problems needed to be turned into productivity.

They were supporters of free enterprise and small government (charged with leveling the playing field and fair play). They supported constitutional limits of power, with the federal government operating within the confines of legally-mandated, delineated powers. Any powers not specifically delineated to government, belong to the citizens.

Ending the gold standard in 1971, gave rise to a credit and debt cycle, without end, providing a foundation for 'out of control' government growth and control. Now, with 'entrepreneurs' a relic, we wonder why less Americans want to work than ever before. How about: without abiding faith in what used to be the 'American Dream', the 'working stiffs' workforce cannot even keep up with rising costs. As a result, 10s of millions are now without hope, in the ranks of 'the given up', where many turn to pharmaceuticals.

I was asked today (more an attack than a question), what I would do as 'decider', for the 'homeless'. I would do everything possible that didn't poison what we breathe, drink, and eat, to lessen regulations causing difficulties for business start-ups. I'd cut the defense budget in half (after forging working relationships with adversaries), and I'd hire some Russia/China military procurement officers—to get a \$ worth of arms for a \$.

Nobody is asking me to direct the economy, so what can I do as a citizen to secure my rights? I begin by stepping-up to make reasoned arguments—reducing the complicated to simple, common denominators—then speaking the truth. When, in conversation with someone who supports elite narratives, I ask my question: 'Are you in the group that wants to be left alone, or the group who will never leave anyone alone? If you oppose any of the freedoms identified in the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Amendments, I don't know what you are, but I do know you are not free—and you are not an American.'

And a new rule: When my motivation/character is attacked without facts, the attacker has to listen to 3 minutes of why I think what I do—or accept the 'chickenshit' award.

Find your voice. My friend, once a 'chief of police', says cops are trained to 'control' traffic stops. 'Constitution deniers' also attempt to control the narrative. Don't let them. Get on my subscription list by request: [erik@neverhadaboss.com](mailto:erik@neverhadaboss.com). Thanks for reading.