



# Financial Crisis Report

Written and Edited by David M. Miyoshi - **Seasons Greetings!**



## Advancing in a Time of Crisis

**Words of Wisdom: "The ability to control information and to rewrite history is the ability to end the concepts of Liberty and Freedom forever" George Orwell**

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### 49 Life Lessons, from a 90 Year Old

This article was presented on the internet by *Wisdom Inquiry*. It had 3,027,823 views

For the Holiday Season, I thought I would begin with some wise thoughts to consider as we enter the new year of 2022. D. Miyoshi



- 13. Don't Compare your life to others, you have no idea what their journey is all about.
- 14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you should not be in it.
- 15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry, God never blinks.
- 16. Take a Deep breath. It calms the mind.
- 17. Get rid of everything that is not useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
- 18. Whatever does not kill you really does make you stronger.
- 19. It is never too late to be happy. But it is all up to you and no one else.
- 20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
- 21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is Special.
- 22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
- 23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
- 24. The Most important sex organ is the Brain.
- 25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you
- 26. Frame every so called disaster with these words, 'in five years, will this matter?'
- 27. Always choose life.
- 28. Forgive but don't forget.
- 29. What other people think of you none of your business.
- 30. Time heals almost everything. Give time to time.
- 31. However good or bad a situation is, It will change.
- 32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- 33. Believe in Miracles.

- 1. Life Is not fair, but it is still good.
- 2. When in doubt, just take the next small step
- 3. Life is too short not to enjoy it.
- 4. Your Job won't take care of you when you are sick, your Friends and family will.
- 5. Don't buy stuff you don't need.
- 6. You don't have to win every argument, stay True to yourself.
- 7. Cry with someone. It is more healing than crying alone.
- 8. It's okay to get angry with God. He can take it.
- 9. Save for things that matter.
- 10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile
- 11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
- 12. It is ok to let your children see you cry.

We are experiencing the most economically unstable period and socially erratic period in the history of the modern world. This period will be marked with extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodity and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions including historic pandemics, conflicts, wars, riots and even regime changing coups. As is typical of such times, many fortunes will be both made and lost during this period. After talking with many business owners, executives, professionals, scholars and government officials from around the world, the writer believes that for the financially astute investor, this is a time of unprecedented opportunity given the global trade unbalances and distortions in the commodity and currency markets that exists. The Financial Crisis Report is a free compilation of the opinions of David Miyoshi as well as of those advisors he himself subscribes to (with appropriate credits given) on how to benefit during this historic time of crisis. The writer receives no compensation of any kind from any advisors whose articles or ideas may appear in this report. The reader is welcomed to check on all sources of information mentioned herein. Because the opinions and observations of this writer and other advisors are provided herein without charge, the reader is asked to make his/her own judgment on the contents.

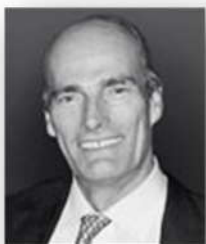
## We All Get Plucked in the End

- 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or did not do.
- 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
- 36. Growing old beats the alternative -dying young.
- 37. Your children get only one childhood.
- 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
- 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
- 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we would grab ours back.
- 41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you think you need.
- 42. The best is yet to come.....
- 43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
- 44. Yield.
- 45. Life is not tied with a bow, but it is still a gift.
- 46. You Get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
- 47. Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.
- 48. An unexamined life is not worth living.
- 49. To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.

End of article

## We All Get Plucked in the End

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving Holiday. On Thanksgiving Day, the following article by economic commentator Bill Bonner appeared. While the article is a humorous view of how the destiny of turkeys and people are similar, I think it also contains some kernels of reality and I present it here for your reading enjoyment. D. Miyoshi



**Bill Bonner**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – As our friend Nassim Taleb reminds us, there's a downside to being a turkey. It's called Thanksgiving.

Every day for 1,000 days, it gets its food. The turkey gets used to it. It feels pretty good about things. Around the feed trough, it is com-

mon knowledge that the food "always" comes. And there is no turkey alive who can contradict it.

The more intellectual turkeys spin out theories to explain their good fortune. One says it's because of turkey exceptionalism:

"The food always comes because we're turkeys, not starlings or pigeons. We are special. We don't have to peck around on the ground trying to find crumbs or scratch in the dirt to find worms. We're a superior bird; we have access to unlimited food."

Another has a different hypothesis – better leadership:

"We always get fed because our president has figured out how to make the farmers feed us. He's the best turkey president ever. If the farmer is a little late, he knows how to make turkey life great again. Didn't you notice? He takes three steps backward and makes a loud gobbling noise. That usually does it. If it doesn't, he just keeps gobbling until the food comes. Always works. Always."

And yet another pipes up:

"Oh, enough with your fancy theories. We always get fed because that's just the way it is. It's nature."

"No, it's not nature," offers another. "It's because the fix is in. The farmer has to feed us, or he'll be charged with animal abuse. He has to keep the food coming; he has no choice."

### Bad Feather Day

But then, as the fourth Thursday of November approaches, the theories are put to the test. All are proved incorrect.

The food doesn't come. Instead, the turkeys are ushered into a special part of the farm complex where they've never been before. There is something disquieting about it.

The turkeys begin to whisper among themselves. One says he hears cries coming from the next room. All of them notice the sounds of machinery... heavy machinery... and a few soft feathers floating through the air.

"What's going on...?" they wonder, one to another. And then, they begin to panic, running helter-skelter, hoping to escape.

Up until that day, the food came every day. Day after day... the sun shone... and along came the farmer with more grain.

And then, without warning, everything changed for the turkey. Worse than a bad feather day... it was the final scene. The curtain fell. The court adjourned.

### Rational and Normal

Meanwhile, over in the stock market, the sun still shines. Heck, the more danger signs we see, the more the market goes up.

But as the SEC is quick to add: Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. You may flip a hundred coins and get heads every time. That doesn't mean that the next one won't come up tails.

We see the turkey's life from the farmer's perspective. It is not all gravy and sweet potatoes. But it is very predictable, with a definite beginning and a certain end. And a purpose.

## Black Friday

We're tempted to make an analogy to the stock market. But there is nothing definite about the stock market. It can famously stay irrational a lot longer than you can stay solvent. But it can also stay solvent longer than you can stay irrational.

We assume that as long as the Federal Reserve is adding money to it, it will continue to go up.

In other words, with the Fed adding so many fake billions, the turkeys might think higher prices are "rational" and "normal"... and that only rug-chewing doom-and-gloomers would expect it to go down.

### Get Plucked

And yet... in the stock market, we're the turkeys, not the farmers. We spin out our own theories.

"Stock prices always go up over the long run," says one simpleton. "Now, with the enlightened management of the Fed and a very money-savvy president, we're pretty much assured that nothing will go wrong," says another.

"Dow 40,000," adds a third. "The fix is in... They have to keep pumping up the stock market or the whole shebang will fall apart."

But backstage, Mr. Market is sharpening his blades. He'll decide for himself when we all get plucked.

Have a nice Thanksgiving.

### End of Article

## Black Friday



November 26, 2021 was Black Friday.... for shopping (and maybe for stocks too).

### Shopping Black Friday

As we all know, in the United States, Black Friday is the colloquial term for the Friday following Thanksgiving. It traditionally marks the start of the Christmas shopping season in the United States. Many stores offer highly promoted sales at discounted prices and often open very early, sometimes as early as midnight. It has routinely been the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States since 2005.

The earliest evidence of the phrase Black Friday originated in Philadelphia, dating back to 1961, where it was used by police to describe the heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic that would occur on the day after Thanksgiving.

The use of the phrase spread slowly, first appearing in *The New York Times* on November 29, 1975, in which it still refers specifically to "the busiest shopping and traffic day of the year" in Philadelphia. Although it soon became more widespread, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported in 1985 that retailers in Cincinnati and Los Angeles were still unaware of the term.

As the phrase gained national attention in the early 1980s, merchants objecting to the use of a derisive term to refer to one of the most important shopping days of the year suggested an alternative derivation: that retailers traditionally operated at a financial loss for most of the year (January through November) and made their profit during the holiday season, beginning on the day after Thanksgiving. When this was recorded in the financial records, once-common accounting practices would use red ink to show negative amounts and black ink to show positive amounts. Black Friday, under this theory, is the beginning of the period when retailers would no longer be "in the red", instead of taking in the year's profits. The earliest known published reference to this explanation occurs in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for November 28, 1981.

Since the early 21st century, there have been attempts by U.S.-based retailers to introduce a retail "Black Friday" to other countries around the world. Retailers outside the U.S. have attempted to promote the day to remain competitive with U.S.-based online retailers.

### Stock Market Black Friday

For centuries, the adjective "black" has been applied to days upon which calamities occurred. Many events have been described as "Black Friday", although the most significant such event in American history was the Panic of 1869, which occurred when financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk took advantage of their connections with the Grant Administration in an attempt to corner the gold market. When President Grant learned of this manipulation, he ordered the Treasury to release a large supply of gold, which halted the run and caused prices to drop by 18%. Fortunes were made and lost in a single day, and the president's own brother-in-law, Abel Corbin, was ruined.

## Bubble Toys for the Rich

On November 26, 2021, in the wake of breaking news that a new Covid 19 variant was discovered in South Africa called Omicron, the U.S. Stock market (and the other stock markets around the world) fell around 2.5%. While this fall was not catastrophic, it was the worst trading day in 2021 (up to that time). The remainder of December will reveal if the stock market suffers a bigger fall in 2021. If there is a bigger fall in December, then it is likely “Katy Bar the Door.” We shall see.

D. Miyoshi

## Bubble Toys for the Rich

The following article by Harry Dent was published on Nov 2, 2021. Dent was a Baker scholar at Harvard Business School and former executive at Bain and Co. He writes an economic newsletter that I subscribe to that reviews the economy and financial markets in the U.S. and around the world by focusing on generational consumer spending patterns. He has written eleven books, two recent ones being bestsellers. His most recent book, *The Sale of a Lifetime*, was released in September 2016. I present his article here for your reading consideration. D. Miyoshi

## It’s Not a Bubble Without Extreme Bubble Toys for the Rich

I was in the San Francisco area for the first tech bubble that peaked in early 2000 and couldn’t help suddenly seeing more top-end cars and, of course, in its grand bay, lots of really cool new boats in Sausalito’s harbor.

So, this recent new yacht totally caught my attention. Is this a “bubble boat,” or what? It looks more like a spaceship made for the water, with a cool pool and helipad on top of a massive spiral hole that can be custom designed for anything you want.

Nothing Marks the Top of This Bubble Better Than This &#x26;#x27;@ Yacht!



The vessel is designed to run exclusively on clean energy - Credit: Lazzarini

Source: <https://www.yachts.com/the-top-garn-helm-helicopter-230-foot-20200115.html>

www.HSDent.com

First, this sleek marvel is almost 600 feet long... the largest yet by far. The longest one before this was the 417-foot Y721 made by

Oceanco. Jeff Bezos reportedly has two yachts, his and hers, with the largest suspected to be in this 400-foot range. Their combined value is estimated to be \$500 million... and he may have another one on the way! There’s a new mega sailboat called Dream Symphony made totally out of wood that is 462 feet long and has 230-foot masts. That surpassed the previous boat, Maltese Falcon, at 289 feet long. These top anything I saw into the 2000 bubble peak when I was living near Silicon Valley and the Golden Gate Bridge, where you would see many such yachts.

Oh, and then I caught this photo of the new 2021 Rolls Royce Boat Tail. It is the coolest convertible they have ever produced, and, of course, it has a foldout table and chairs and a parasol for that spontaneous roadside picnic and wine tasting in Napa or Bordeaux.

What’s a Luxury Car Now Without a Foldout Table Set and Parasol?



Source:

www.HSDent.com

And here’s a quick update in the housing realm. Investor and entrepreneur Marc Andreessen just bought a 10,000 sq. ft. compound on a Malibu cliff for \$177M that was bought for \$41M in 2013, increasing in value more than 4X in 8 years. That topped the previous record set by Jeff Bezos in 2020 for a property at \$165M in Beverly Hills. And if you look internationally, Rome recently hit a new record: Villa Aurora, a 30,000 sq. ft. home with some very valuable paintings included, sold for a whopping \$547M.

I don’t expect to see anything to top these two toys for the rich. So, I suggest you sell most of your bubble toys, stocks, vacation homes, and financial assets by year-end before this “dream” comes to a sudden end in the sharpest one-year crash ever into late 2022 (see my November HS Dent Forecast for more on that).

And guess who loses the most when such an extreme financial asset bubble finally bursts? It ain’t the middle class, as they don’t own stuff like this nor do they have that much in financial assets in their modest 401(k)s.... It’s the top 0.1%, 1%, 10%, and 20%, in that order. It’s that top 20% who own around 88% of the financial assets in this bubble in the U.S., with the top 1% owning around 40%.

Yes, the regular, everyday people more likely will lose their jobs... but the rich literally will lose their ass-ets!

End of Article

## Buying Expensive Nothing



**H**as anybody spent \$3.4 Billion on something that does not exist?

On Oct 20, 2021 Donald Trump's newest company Trump Media & Technology Group announced that it would merge with Digital World Acquisition (DWAC).

Digital World is a special purpose acquisition company ("SPAC"), which is a "blank check" company that goes public with the intention of using the money it raises to buy a business.

In most cases, SPACs buy businesses that actually exist. But in this case, it's a bit different. Trump Media & Technology's only product – a social media platform called "TRUTH Social" – doesn't exist yet.

It's ironic that Trump who coined the term "Fake News" is now receiving public money to operate a business that does not yet exist.

After the deal between Digital World and Trump's company was announced, chaos erupted...

Investors bought shares of Digital World quicker than any exotic flower or piece of invisible art ever. The stock finished Oct 21 up an insane 357%. It closed Oct 22 at \$45.50 per share.

But it was just getting started... On Oct 23 it closed at \$94.20 per share. In other words, in just two days, this pile of doesn't-exist-yet is up an astronomical 845%.

Just like that, Digital World became perhaps the biggest example of the "meme stock" craze.

As news network CNBC reported Oct 22 the ticker DWAC was among the top 10 most popular names on Reddit's WallStreetBets chatroom.

That could be a sign that retail investors active on social media platforms were fueling the rally in the SPAC. Perhaps.....

But all those buying Digital World shares with new abandon might want to consider another pesky little fact...

It could be worse than the troubling fact that Trump Media & Technology's business doesn't yet exist.

Trump has already failed at the social media business – TWICE.

But actually, the first time, Trump really wasn't to blame... However, a failure took him down with it.

Back in January, alternative social media app Parler was virtually eliminated from existence when Apple (AAPL) and Alphabet (GOOGL) both pulled it from their app stores and Amazon (AMZN) took its software off of its servers. Each of the Big Tech companies made up a fake reason why they did it, but it seems pretty obvious that they just didn't like Trump.

In the months leading up to the takedown, Trump had been kicked off of Facebook (FB) and Twitter (TWTR) before moving to Parler... But his loyal followers helped Parler become one of the fastest-growing apps in the U.S. at that time.

However, most people understand this social media failure wasn't Trump's fault... The only real failure was that of the politically motivated far left liberal talking heads who run Facebook, Twitter, Apple, Amazon, and Google. But the point is, it was still a failed attempt from Trump to re-establish a social media presence.

Trump's second social media failure is a product of the first...

Back on May 4, having been booted from social media, Trump launched a blog on his website. It was a series of posts called "From the Desk of Donald J. Trump." But his blogging efforts didn't last long...

Within a month, it had been shut down. At the time, one of Trump's senior aides told CNBC that it "will not be returning."

So maybe this third time will be the charm for Trump. But only maybe.



## Buying Expensive Nothing

Against all odds, TRUTH Social, is available for preorder in Apple's App Store. We will see if and how long this will last.

It makes you wonder if some new intern at Apple let TRUTH Social into the App Store by some oversight. Maybe the intern is from Iowa or some place with a big Trump following and didn't know that it's forbidden to acknowledge Trump's existence in Silicon Valley.

With the Digital World deal, at least for now, Trump has successfully returned to Apple's App Store – and possibly back into mainstream social media. But that's not all...

Trump has also succeeded on the platform whose users are more engaged and ecstatic than they've been for at least 70 years...

We are talking about the stock market, of course.

Back in the 1960s, media guru Marshall McLuhan famously published a book, *The Medium Is the Massage*. He purposely misspelled "message" to reflect TV and other technologies' ability to reach the masses.

Trump must have had McLuhan on his mind because if you want to reach the American masses today, you need to have a stock to tout. According to a recent Bank of America report, Americans are more in love with stocks than at any time in at least 70 years.

That report said that equities now make up about half of the roughly \$109 trillion in American-owned financial assets at the end of the second quarter. That's a larger proportion than any time since at least 1951.

But we need to remember that Trump Media & Technology hasn't actually created a social media app yet.

The only thing the company has done is the SPAC deal.

However, for sure if your company could only do one thing, garnering a \$3.4 billion valuation after just two days in a SPAC deal is a pretty good choice!

In other words, before worrying about actually providing a service for anyone, Trump made sure he got paid. His company can fail miserably – or maybe never even come into existence at all – and he'll get to keep the money.

Trump didn't raise private capital, hire a bunch of people, and struggle for years to build a growing business... then take it public. He skipped the "growing the business for years" step and went straight to the part where you cash out big by going public.

Without SPACs, you can't really skip the step of going public with-

out having an actual business. A SPAC, by definition, doesn't initially have any business operations. So, the thinking goes who cares if the business it merges with doesn't have any, either.

Now, by combining two shells of nothingness, the combined entity of Digital World and Trump Media & Technology has no business even after the merger. There's nothing there... It's the same thing as that piece of invisible art in Italy that sold for \$18,000 or the two blank canvases that helped the Danish artist make off with \$84,000.

The fact that non-existence can't prevent artworks or equity stakes from garnering exorbitant valuations might be a mere coincidence.

It might also be the financial markets talking to investors, begging them to wake up and smell the coffee before it gets cold. And we know, it always gets cold eventually.

All highly speculative, egregiously overvalued asset bubbles end by bursting. They never end by going sideways or accommodating market participants in any way. Instead, the market seems to sadistically set investors up for the maximum amount of pain by luring them in with the most incredible and rapid gains in stocks with the most unlikely success stories – like Digital World, the SPAC that made a deal and still has no business.

And only after the market incinerates a huge chunk of millions of folks' life savings, only then will they all look back at events like this deal and say they saw all the obvious signs of disaster. History repeats itself this way.

In cases like this, no one sees the flames until the whole forest is burnt to the ground.

Talking about artists getting paid thousands of dollars for non-existent art is interesting. We can all just shake our heads and be amused at that type of ridiculousness. Plus, the people paying the exorbitant prices probably have so much more money than sense that nobody is really getting hurt too badly.

But it's a much more somber story when investors pour money into a company that literally has no business as though they're 100% certain it's the next Amazon... That's when we can only wonder how anyone could fail to see what's going on.

With all that said, in the short term, it is very likely that early investors in DWAC will reap a big return as long as they get out before the general public begins to think of it as the next Amazon. History may not repeat itself but it usually rhymes.

D. Miyoshi



## Celebrities Who Became Politicians (or tried to)



This Feb. 26, 2013 photo shows businessman and TV personality Donald Trump from "The Celebrity Apprentice," at his office at Trump Tower in New York. Dan Hallman/AP

Since Donald Trump, the New York real estate mogul and celebrity became president, I wondered about other celebrities who were able to parlay their fame into public office.

According to *Insider* magazine published in March 2018 in an article written by Brennan Weiss and Reuters, here are 17 celebrities who were able to use their fame to help them become politicians.

With a penchant for attention and widespread name recognition, celebrities have a unique advantage in politics, where simply getting noticed is the first step toward winning a political campaign.

From Ronald Reagan to Arnold Schwarzenegger, the following are 17 celebrities who used their superstar status to jump-start their political careers and became or tried to become politicians. This article is about former entertainers so I hope you find it at least a little entertaining. D. Miyoshi

**Bodybuilder and action movie superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger served as governor of California from 2003 to 2011.**



Bodybuilder and action movie superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger served as governor of California from 2003 to 2011. [Francois Lenoir/Reuters](#)

**Actress Stacey Dash, best known for her role in the movie "Clueless", went on to become a Fox commentator and ran for Congress in California's 44th district in the November 2018 election. She bowed out in a month.**



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## Celebrities Who Became Politicians

**Actor Kal Penn — of "Harold & Kumar" fame — served off and on in the Obama administration as an associate director in the White House Office of Public Engagement from 2009 until 2011.**



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**Real estate mogul and TV personality turned President Donald Trump launched his 2016 presidential campaign after publicly considering it in years past. He became the nations 45th president.**



Real estate mogul and TV personality turned U.S. President Donald Trump launched his 2016 presidential campaign after publicly considering it in years past. [Jonathan Ernst/Reuters](#)

**Actress and liberal activist Cynthia Nixon, who starred as Miranda in the "Sex and the City" television series and movies, announced she would run for governor of New York, challenging incumbent Andrew Cuomo for the Democratic nomination. But she lost in a landslide.**



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## Celebrities Who Became Politicians

**First a writer and performer on "Saturday Night Live" and then a political talk show host, Al Franken went on to become a Democratic senator for Minnesota in 2009 before announcing his resignation in 2017 over allegations of sexual harassment.**



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**Linda McMahon, former World Wrestling Entertainment CEO, ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate in 2010 and 2012 US Senate races. Trump appointed her administrator of the Small Business Administration.**



Linda McMahon, former World Wrestling Entertainment CEO, ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate in 2010 and 2012 U.S. Senate races. She was appointed administrator of the Small Business Administration under President Donald Trump. [Joshua Roberts/Reuters](#)

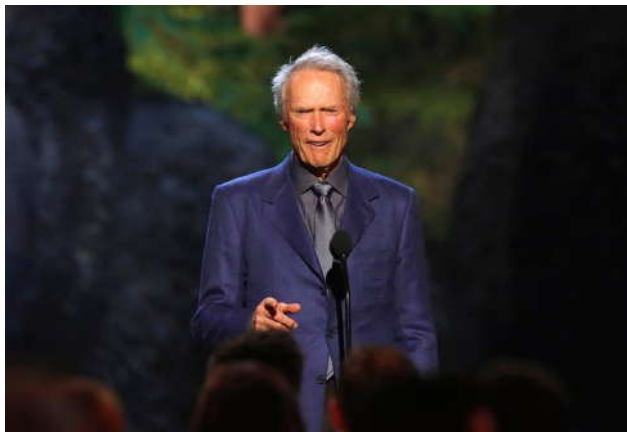
**Best known for his role on "Law & Order", Fred Thompson was a US senator for Tennessee from 1994 to 2003, and also ran in the Republican presidential primaries in 2008, ultimately losing to John McCain.**



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## Celebrities Who Became Politicians

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**Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan went on to serve first as California governor and then as US president from 1981 to 1989.**



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**Child actress Shirley Temple Black ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1967, and was appointed US ambassador to Ghana in 1974 and to Czechoslovakia in 1989.**



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## Celebrities Who Became Politicians

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**Jesse Ventura was a member of the US Navy Underwater Demolition Team, a professional wrestler, and an actor who starred in action movies alongside Schwarzenegger, before he served as governor of Minnesota from 1999 to 2003.**



Jesse Ventura was a member of the U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Team, a professional wrestler and an actor who starred in action movies alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger, before serving as governor of Minnesota from 1999 to 2003. [Eric Miller/Reuters](#)

**World boxing champion Manny Pacquiao was elected to the Philippines House of Representatives in 2010, and was elected as a senator in 2016.**



World boxing champion Manny Pacquiao was elected to the Philippines House of Representatives in 2010, and in 2016 was elected as a senator. [Romeo Ranoco/Reuters](#)

## Celebrities Who Became Politicians

**Former "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken ran for US Congress as a Democrat in his home state of North Carolina in 2014, but lost to the Republican incumbent.**



Former American Idol singer Clay Aiken ran for U.S. Congress as a Democrat in his home state of North Carolina in 2014, but lost to the Republican incumbent. [Lucy Nicholson/Reuters](#)

**Haitian-American hip-hop star Wyclef Jean registered to run in the 2010 presidential elections in Haiti before being disqualified for not meeting residency requirements.**



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**One half of singing team Sonny and Cher, Sonny Bono was mayor of Palm Springs from 1988 to 1992. He was elected to the House of US Representatives in 1994 and served until his death in 1998.**



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## Climate Change, who are the Winners?



Maybe you think climate change is a hoax, but want to hedge your bets just in case... Or you don't care what happens to Mother Earth after you're gone... Perhaps you think that ethics and investing should be strangers, and you invest accordingly... Or maybe you're just a climate penny pinching Scrooge McDuck.

But it is more than likely that big profits await investors positioned for climate change. But not necessarily in the way most think they are.

According to consultant Kim Iskyan of *American Consequences*, things are different from what most people perceive. Iskyan asks the question, is climate change for real? He answers as follows:

It's a legitimate fact that global temperatures are rising, the ocean is warming, ice sheets and glaciers are shrinking, sea levels are rising, and "once a century" weather events are happening a whole lot more often, as NASA explains.

But remember: Your climate-change persuasion doesn't actually matter from an investment perspective. Markets move based on anticipation – not current reality. If you decide it's time to buy Hot-StockABC on the fact, rather than the buzz ("buy the rumor, sell the news"), you're too late. The time to buy land in Alaska or Siberia – see below – is soon... not three decades from now, when there are three Club Med all-inclusive resorts already there.

And now, there's a surplus of climate-change porn: Projections about how we're crippling the Earth... and what it will mean for humanity. Some highlights...

- **The heat:** By 2070, Sahara-like hot zones will cover around 20% of the Earth (versus just 1% now), possibly displacing one of every three people – in Africa, China, India, and elsewhere – because humans can't live in temperatures above the mid-90s indefinitely. (Spend the summer in Phoenix... And then imagine doing it all year, and in parts of the world where air conditioning is no more than a rusty old fan blowing around hot, smelly, stale air.)
- **The water:** As sea levels rise, we would need to learn to swim better. Around 40% of the world's population (that's 3 billion people... 9 times more than the entire population of the U.S.), live

within 60 miles of a coast, according to the United Nations. Ten percent of the world — nearly 800 million people — live within about 30 feet of sea level (e.g. Redondo Beach California, Miami Florida), which will rise an estimated six feet by 2100... forcing at least 13 million people in the U.S. to move, according to a 2020 study. (But there will be less fresh water, of course, as glaciers melt... so less water to drink. But that's a whole other problem.)

- **The war:** With heat, flooding, and forced migration comes displaced people searching for a place to live. As the think tank Brookings Institution explained, "[T]he patterns of war tell us that the effects of this will not be limited to the individual countries affected, but will spread both within Africa [conflict could rise by 50% in sub-Saharan Africa due to climate change] and beyond by the vectors of transnational terrorism and by mass migration." Hungry people are too weak to invade other countries... Hot people, though, are a different matter altogether. "Hot and bothered" is a well-known phrase for a reason.

- **The storms:** The Environmental Defense Fund explains that we'll see "drier droughts, bigger storm surges, and greater snow-fall." Does it seem like there are more big hurricanes than there used to be? It's not your imagination. Same thing with wildfires. And floods. And hurricanes. They're only getting worse.

Whether or not you think the past several decades of climate change are a statistical blip... or that climate change is media hype... or that it's all going to go away soon... doesn't matter to markets or to your money. Enough people think that it's real, and they are investing accordingly.

### The Losers of Climate Change

The hotter it is, the less productive people are (studies and common sense tells us that). Which is bad news for those countries on the planet that already love air-conditioning.

A groundbreaking article in 2015 in the journal *Nature* looked at the impact of changes in temperature and precipitation in the half-century that ended in 2010 – and projected the future effect of climate change, in terms of per capita economic output. It found that...

If future adaptation mimics past adaptation, unmitigated warming is expected to reshape the global economy by reducing average global incomes roughly 23% by 2100 and widening global income inequality, relative to scenarios without climate change.

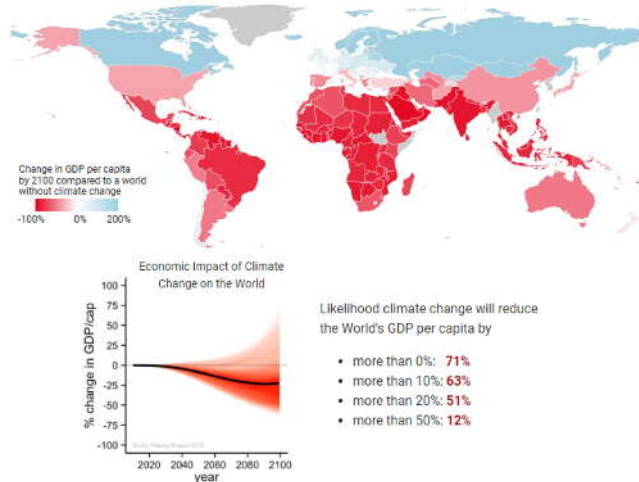
If anything, that nearly one-quarter decline in gross domestic product ("GDP") per person has become an even bigger cut since then.

Within that global drop, there's a huge range – and, like everything in life, winners and losers. A handy – and terrifying – map produced from data in the *Nature* paper suggests that the U.S. will experience a 36% decline in per capita output by 2100 due to climate change.

## Climate Change, who are the Winners?

### Economic Impact of Climate Change on The World

Select a country/region or click on the map to get estimates of how climate change will affect GDP per capita as calculated in Burke, Hsiang, and Miguel (2015) Back to main page



The plot above shows the projected impacts of climate change on GDP per capita between now and 2100 for the World. Impacts are expressed relative to a world without climate change. So a 10% increase in 2100 indicates that we project that climate change will make a particular country 10% richer than it would have been had climate change not occurred. The black line in this plot represents our "best estimate" of impacts for the World, while the red shaded area represents our uncertainty in this estimate. Based on the uncertainty shown in red, the table at right then provides the estimated likelihood that by 2100, climate change will cause losses of at least 0%, 10%, 20%, and 50% in the World.

#### How do we arrive at these numbers?

The projected impacts of climate change shown above are derived by combining three estimates:

1. **estimates of how GDP growth rates respond to temperature.** Determining this response is one of the main exercises in our paper. As described in the paper, we use a half century of historical data for more than 150 countries to arrive at this estimate.
2. **estimates of future temperature change.** Here we rely on estimates from the IPCC CMIP5, taking the median projection across all climate models that report temperature change from the RCP8.5 emissions trajectory, which is a high emissions scenario (the climate model data we use are [here](#)).
3. **estimates of future change in population and GDP/capita absent climate change.** Here we rely on estimates from the "Shared Socioeconomic Pathways" (SSPs), and utilize the two SSPs (SSP3 and SSP5) that are believed consistent with the chosen emissions trajectory.

To find out more about how we arrived at estimates for specific countries, please click on a country above.

That sounds very bad in light of what it means for the quality of life for our children, for the future of American strength and stability, and for the role of the U.S. on the global stage.

But relatively it's actually pretty good compared with projections for other parts of the world: GDP per capita in most countries in Africa – down 80%... India, down 92%... Brazil, down 83%... and Indonesia, down 85%. The biggest drop in Europe is forecasted to be Greece, down 51%.

That's bad. But we should not buy a timeshare in Antarctica. At least not yet.

#### The Winners of Climate Change

In a word... go north.

Canada, the study suggests, will see a 247% rise in GDP per capita... Sweden, up 210%... Germany, up 63%... Kazakhstan, up 208%... and Russia, up 419%.

Why? After all, the Earth's flyover zones are endless expanses of frozen nothingness, ice-solid seaways open only a few months a year, and weather that only an Eskimo would appreciate (or crazy Norwegians with aquavit running through their veins). They're so desolate that America's Pennsylvania-to-Nevada expanse seems as busy as the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston by comparison. No people, no towns, no farms, no nothing.

But with climate change, all that frigid desolation is going to grow warm – while the rest of the world bakes. And all that land's going to become useable for growing crops.

As *the New York Times* explained last year in an article titled "How Russia wins the climate crisis"...

Climate change and its enormous human migrations will transform agriculture and remake the world order — and no country stands to gain more than Russia...

... For a few nations, climate change will present an unparalleled opportunity, as the planet's coldest regions become more temperate. There is plenty of reason to think that those places will also receive an extraordinary influx of people displaced from the hottest parts of the world as the climate warms.

And no country may be better positioned to capitalize on climate change than Russia. Russia has the largest land mass by far of any northern nation... Russia is rich in resources and land, with room to grow. Its crop production is expected to be boosted by warming temperatures over the coming decades...

But the biggest projected climate-change winner, at least in percentage terms, is Mongolia – uncomfortably located between Northern China and Eastern Russia – with a projected 1,413% increase in GDP. With 3.3 million people – that's a bit smaller than the population of Los Angeles – in a country more than twice as big as Texas, Mongolia has space to spare. When Iskyan visited Mongolia eight years ago, it was snowing in early May, so the weather can only get less chilly from here.

#### Not All Else Is Equal

Prognosticating what a country's economy might look like 80 years from now involves assumption built on a house-of-cards-on-quicksand assumption... And there's no such thing as "all else is equal" when we're looking at the impact of climate change. Demographics, natural resources, immigration, politics, money, and about a million other factors could conspire to (for instance) keep Mongolians poor and still in yurts even in 2100... Americans might be doing just fine and not be one-third less prosperous than they are today.

And it's not as if this is the first time that mankind has faced some pretty mammoth challenges. Thomas Malthus in the late 1700s predicted that population growth would result in more pollution, a depletion of resources, starvation, and escalating unemployment. And his theories continued to hold a lot of currency until the middle of the last century. But thanks to innovation and technology, we're still here (though not entirely without the dangers Malthus cited).

## Daylight Robbery—How some make a living in modern America

And let's not forget the nuclear holocaust... "Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear Sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or by madness," warned President John F. Kennedy. And by some combination of smarts, ingenuity, political panache, and pure luck, that sword has yet to fall.

Of course, it could be avoided if at the current COP26, the politicians – few of whom have the eyesight to see beyond the next election, let alone 2100 – could get their act together. But we know better not to count on it.

### Does It Matter to Markets?

Broadly speaking – and contrary to popular opinion – economic growth is not a prerequisite for stock market appreciation. In fact, in some conditions, there's actually a negative correlation between the two... that is, higher economic growth is linked to lower stock market returns. As Iskyan professes, what matters far more to markets is company earnings (which have only a passing relationship with economic growth) and dividends.

However... an outright collapse – or even a slow-motion one, which would be a lot worse than a no-growth world – in GDP per capita through 2100 due to climate change would be bad for about every company and stock in the world... except those that are positioned to benefit from climate change or which are positioned to profit on the other side of the bet.

And a lot of people are taking the opposite angle. Investing in heading off climate change – that is, buying the shares of companies that stand to benefit from the tsunami of cash in clean energy, electric vehicles, low carbon, and the other strands of the climate hydra.

It's the first letter of ESG ("environmental, social, and governance") investing. According to the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment, as of late last year, nearly one-third of all money professionally managed in the U.S. (including hedge funds, mutual funds, and pension funds) is invested using ESG criteria... That's around \$17 trillion. And it's up by 42% since 2018.

Some of the recent winners: The VanEck Vectors Low Carbon Energy Fund (SMOG) is up 46% over the past year... the Invesco Solar Fund (TAN) is up 43%... and the big kahuna of clean meets hype, automaker Tesla (TSLA), is up 188% over the past year. (By comparison, the S&P 500 Index is up 35%.)

### Investing for the Climate Apocalypse

But what if you are not a climate-change believer... you don't want to hedge your bets... and you think ESG is overdone... so what should you invest in?

Land up north. Whether it's Siberia, Sweden, Alaska, or the Arctic... Earth's empty meat locker today is its San Diego tomorrow – only with extra space for agriculture, too. Where will all the climate refugees go? Someplace where they can be outside, of course.

In particular, it would be good to check out what Iskyan is tagging as the Russian Riviera: The shoreline of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake (five times the volume of Lake Michigan), in the southeastern Siberian region of Irkutsk in Russia. I passed through there back in 1976 as a tourist on my way from Asia back to America. It's a remarkably beautiful, remote, and quiet place... until, that is, they launch charter flights from Miami and Kinshasa and New Delhi, bringing in climate refugees.

National oil companies. Western energy producers are being pressured to go "beyond petroleum" (which was what major oil company BP rebranded itself in the early 2000s, before ditching its ahead-of-its-time marketing tagline a decade later). They're being pushed to strand their fossil fuel assets and find a new business model. And it's the national oil companies – mostly or completely owned by governments – that will benefit, through buying up cheap assets from the gutted Western oil companies and continuing to produce with oil... which is likely to be a centerpiece of the world energy puzzle for a lot longer than the environmentalists would have you believe.

That's good for companies like Saudi Arabia's Aramco listed on the Saudi Stock Exchange, or Russia's Rosneft and Gazprom (both publicly traded companies with shares traded in New York), or Brazil's Petrobras, traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1833 Horace Greeley, the famous publisher is reputed to have said "Go West, young man, go West. There is health in the country, and room away from our crowds of idlers and imbeciles."

If he were still alive, he could now say "Go North young man Go North".

In the meantime, the talking continues at COP26 and we should prepare ourselves now ... one way or the other. The time to start is now.

D. Miyoshi

## Daylight Robbery—How some make a living in modern America

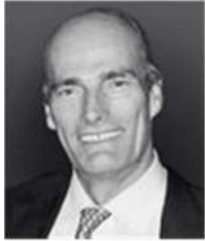


## Daylight Robbery—How some make a living in modern America

The following is a humorous article on how some people make a living in modern America. It is written by Bill Bonner noted author on society and economics. But while it's humorous, it also offers some grains of truth. D. Miyoshi

And don't turn your nose up at the private sector. Every company welcomes a willing and able employee. You might even work your way up to be CEO, earning 278 times more than the typical employee...

### Daylight Robbery



**Bill Bonner**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – We are back in the USA.

It is hot and humid here in B'more. We've scarcely set foot in the city the last two years, but not much has changed.

Elizabeth was mugged on the street last week. She was taking a photo when a man grabbed her phone and ran off with it.

But she didn't give up! Instead, she gave chase... yelling...

Someone called the police...

The chase went on... but the man got away.

She then went back to the house and called up the "Find my Phone" app. It showed the phone near where the perp had given her the slip.

Returning to the scene... she saw the miscreant wandering around. She gave chase again, keeping her distance... shouting... and making a scene.

Again, she lost him, but later found her phone in the bushes.

"It was just an old phone..." we began a question. "Wouldn't it be better just to let it go? He could have turned around and shot you."

"Well, it was the principle of the thing," she answered.

#### Privileged Elite

The nice thing about being mugged on the streets of Baltimore is that the principle is clear. No hidden agendas. No chicanery or disguised villainy. It was an honest, in-your-face robbery.

And while we admire Elizabeth's courage and scrappiness, we also have a sly respect for the creep who stole the phone.

His life could have been so much simpler... so much easier... so much nicer. All he had to do was join the privileged elite.

How?

First, you borrow money to go to college.

Then, you put on a suit... and get a job in Washington. Or maybe even get yourself elected to Congress.

Not too smart? Don't worry about it; you'll fit right in with the other morons.

#### Crypto Boomers

Don't want to go to college? Don't want a job? No problem. Just follow the example of Michael Anderson, a self-described "Crypto Boomer," profiled by The Wall Street Journal last week in its "Bitcoin to Bucks" article. The young man made a fortune – in cryptocurrencies.

Or you could follow the example of Tom Osman, an NFT millionaire. The New York Post reports:

On Monday night, an anonymous buyer purchased a computer-based illustration of a rock with 400 Ethererum (ETH), a cryptocurrency with the current equivalent value of over \$1.3 million.

The geologic doodle, supplied from the free clipart website good-freephotos.com, is one of a series of 100 such images of the same stone, each a slightly different shade, and attached to its own non fungible token (NFT). The project has existed since 2017 without much attention, Vice's Motherboard reported — that is, until NFT sales broke through the mainstream last year.

UK crypto-trader Tom Osman came forward as the seller of EtherRock #42, which he purchased just a few weeks prior at only 1.7 ETH, or about \$4,800 at the time. "I think this might be the best investment of my life so far," he said of the transaction.

Or maybe you could have gotten a degree in "race relations" and scored a job as a diversity officer, helping a big corporation black-wash its workforce...

Or how about this: start a hedge fund? You raise money from friends and family. You "invest" it in the highest-flying, fastest-moving tech companies on the market.

If they go up, you become rich and famous. If they go down, well... it wasn't your money.

#### Alternative Path

There are so many well-trodden paths to success in a late, degenerate, capitalist system. And the "not your money" mantra is the secret to them all.

But who chases the suits through the streets? Who calls the police on them?

Still, against the advice of his family (we presume) and all the counsellors, prison psychiatrists, and parole officers he ever met, the mugger chose a career of simple, old-fashioned crime.

And now, the poor man lives on the gritty streets of a gritty city, in the final days of a hot summer. He is neither enjoying a late-season holiday... nor Facebooking his friends... nor adding millions to his wealth.

He is just trying to get enough cash for his next drug fix... and maybe a little more for a hamburger.

#### Better Idea



## How to Trade Like a Professional Wall Street Money Manager

How much better it would have been to have studied the latest clap-trap theories and fantasies of modern economics. Then, he could have gone to work for the Federal Reserve.

Instead of sleeping in doorways and flophouses, he could have a nice house in Bethesda... and spend his days in a climate-controlled, paneled, cushy office... with wall-to-wall carpeting and a cappuccino machine down the hall.

He could collect a handsome paycheck... while also watching his portfolio of stocks and bonds go up... and up... and up.

And if they should ever begin to go down (markets normally go up AND down)... he could simply announce another stimulus plan!

End of Article

## How to Trade Like a Professional Wall Street Money Manager



**A**s we can expect, most Wall Street fund managers want to *crush* the S&P 500 Index every year. But that's not what really drives all these alumni of the top business schools (usually Ivy Leagues).

No. Their true No. 1 goal is to not underperform the market.

Managers can explain a year where their fund returned the same as the broader market to their clients... But they can't explain a year of underperformance. When that happens, clients start to think they'd be better off buying an index fund with much lower costs. They'll pull their money out of the actively managed fund without a second's hesitation.

So, managers aren't necessarily trying to earn the highest return possible. They're simply trying to tell their clients that they did just as well or slightly better than the market.

That means when it comes time to make investment decisions, they are faced with this question: What's the easiest way to not underperform?

The answer: Hold the same stocks that the S&P 500 does.

That way, no matter what happens, whether the S&P 500 soars by

20% or falls by 10%, their funds will have similar results.

This is why it's such a big deal when a new stock gets added to a major index. Anytime there's a new addition, fund managers race to hit the buy button.

Think about it this way... If a stock is added to the S&P 500 and over the next year it returns 100%, the manager who didn't buy that stock will look pretty silly.

So you don't really need a professional manager to help you make money.... You can trade the same stocks as are in the S&P 500.

Here is to your successful trading.

D. Miyoshi

## Importance of Algorithms



**B**ack in the day (my days) humanities was the byword in college majors.

These days math is the leading major in colleges. This is because computers need math, or more specifically algorithms primarily written in math, to function.

What is an algorithm? It's a set of instructions for solving logical and mathematical problems, or for accomplishing some other tasks.

A recipe is a good example of an algorithm because it says what must be done, step by step. It takes inputs (ingredients) and produces an output (the completed dish).

The words 'algorithm' and 'algorism' come from the name of a Persian mathematician called Al-Khwārizmī (Persian: خوارزمی, 780–850).

Informally, an algorithm can be called a "list of steps". Algorithms



## Importance of Algorithms

can be written in ordinary language, and that may be all a person needs.

In computing, an algorithm is a precise list of operations that could be done by a Turing machine. For the purpose of computing, algorithms are written in pseudocode, flow charts, or programming languages.

So how important is an algorithm? Algorithms can determine the success or failure of a company or a product.

By using an algorithm, decision making becomes a more rational process. In addition to making the process more rational, use of an algorithm will make the process more efficient and more consistent. Efficiency is an inherent result of the analysis and specification process.

Here is a current example of the importance of an algorithm.

Recently Zillow sent shockwaves through the real estate industry when in early November the company announced its abrupt departure from the iBuying industry.

“iBuying,” or online home shopping, is when real estate companies leverage advanced pricing algorithms to make instant cash offers on homes via a website or mobile app, renovate those homes, then flip them for a profit in a few months.

Zillow’s exit from iBuying was huge news for two reasons:

One, iBuying constitutes the bulk of Zillow’s revenues, so this wasn’t like Amazon calling it quits on brick-and-mortar retail – it was like Amazon calling it quits on Amazon.com.

Two, Zillow is the second-largest iBuyer in the industry, so the departure leaves a huge “hole” in the iBuying world.

A lot of investors were floored by the news. After all, Zillow stock dropped 36% when they announced they were getting out of iBuying.

But the investors who followed financial advisory company Innovation Investor were not surprised.

Instead, they were making money, because they were smartly invested in Zillow’s biggest competitor, Opendoor (OPEN), which went up 55% during the time Zillow fell in price.

It seems Innovation Investor, who prides itself in investing in the most promising technology companies, by researching and selecting

the best core technologies that power these companies was able to determine that in the iBuying industry:

- 1) Zillow’s iBuying technology is terrible.
- 2) Opendoor’s iBuying technology is amazing.

Here’s the story...

At the end of the day, the core technology enabling iBuyers is their pricing algorithm. These companies need to be able to leverage robust data-sets to quasi-predict home price trends several months into the future, so that they can buy homes confidently and sell them for a profit.

Knowing this, Innovation Investor’s research into the various iBuyers – Zillow, Opendoor, Offerpad, etc. – revolved around them intimately understanding their pricing algorithms and their datasets, because the company with the best pricing algorithm projects as the industry winner.

To do this, Innovation Investor dug through all of their SEC filings and marketing materials, looked into their management teams and employee bases, talked to folks in the industry, used their apps endlessly, and even made an attempt to sell a home through each of them, ultimately deciding to sell a home via Opendoor.

Innovation Investor concluded that:

Opendoor has a much more tech-focused team of engineers than Zillow, who have gathered a much richer data-set than Zillow, and developed a much smarter pricing algorithm that responds more accurately and dynamically to housing market trends.

So, Innovation Investor told its subscribers to forget Zillow, and invest in Opendoor – a company that they believed would turn into the “Amazon of Houses.”

Zillow’s departure from the iBuying market confirms that Innovation Investor’s research yielded an accurate conclusion.

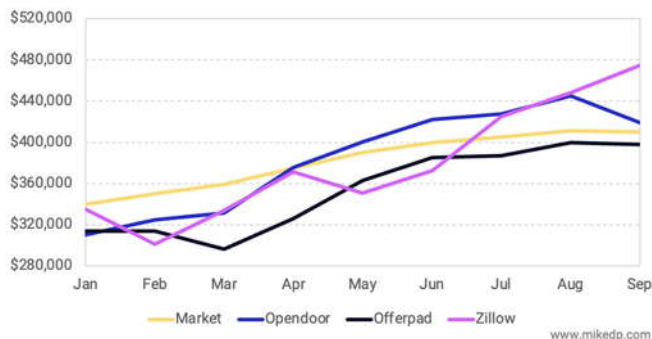
Because, to be clear, Zillow isn’t leaving the iBuying industry because the business is untenable – they’re leaving the iBuying industry because they had a bad pricing algorithm, which led them to overpay for a ton of homes over the summer.

Just look at this data. While Opendoor responded to a cooling housing market in September by reducing its offer prices and number of acquisitions, Zillow powered ahead, paying top-dollar for a lot of homes that they are now under water on...



## Is it time to breakup Facebook/Meta?

Median Purchase Price - Phoenix, 2021



Interestingly enough, Zillow recently said that despite its decision to leave the iBuying business, conversions in that business picked up very quickly toward the end of September.

So, the iBuying industry continues to grow and gain momentum – just without Zillow.

What’s the implication?

The future looks bright for Opendoor. In early November:

- 1) Consumers are starting to really like iBuyers.
- 2) iBuying as a business is really hard.
- 3) Opendoor is the only company in the world with legitimate-enough technology to do iBuying at scale.

In fact, it’s possible Opendoor could be the next Amazon.

And it all comes down to Opendoor has a better algorithm than its competitors.

This is why today math majors are finding jobs four times faster than history majors.

D. Miyoshi

## Is it time to breakup Facebook/Meta?



I seldom use Facebook myself but I do recognize its vast utility. Changing its Name

October 2021 was a brutal month for Facebook...

The tech giant was down 11% since September 7. That translates to a loss of \$116 billion – a huge one-month move for a company of its market size. Meanwhile, the tech-heavy Nasdaq is only down 1%.

Facebook has been in the crosshairs of lawmakers who want to dismantle what they consider a monopoly. The allegations are that Facebook became the 5th-largest U.S company by routinely putting “profit over people” and allowing hate and misinformation to spread among the 2.8 billion users on its platforms... including WhatsApp and Instagram.

In a way, there is no surprise that Facebook has announced in an effort to rebrand itself, and beginning in November it will adapt the name “Meta”

Now, this isn’t the first time a major corporation rebranded itself in the wake of controversy...

In 2003, cigarette maker Philip Morris changed its name to Altria to distance its association with tobacco and focus on its consumer brands like Kraft.

And ValuJet changed its name to AirTran after one of its planes crashed in 1996...

As so maybe Facebook is changing its name because it’s becoming a national scourge like Big Tobacco in the 1990s.

But according to reports (likely assembled by Facebook), Facebook



## Is it time to breakup Facebook/Meta?

is changing its name to reflect its focus on building the “metaverse.” Regulation

The metaverse encompasses all types of virtual worlds many of us already use... things like video games... eSports... social media... digital collectibles... cryptocurrencies... blockchain... and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Financial advisory firms such as *Palm Beach Daily* believe the metaverse will become the next multitrillion-dollar trend in technology.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was quoted as saying “You can think about the metaverse as an embodied internet, where instead of just viewing content – you are in it... It’s going to be accessible across all our different computing platforms; VR and AR, but also PC, and also mobile devices and game consoles. And my hope, if we do this well, I think over the next five years or so, in this next chapter of our company, I think we will effectively transition from people seeing us as primarily being a social media company to being a metaverse company.”

### Breaking it up

Recently Chris Hughes who helped Zuckerberg launch Facebook wrote an article in a *New York Times* op-ed titled “It’s Time to Break Up Facebook.” In the article Hughes argued that Facebook has gained too much power — and that it should be broken up and regulated.

“It’s been 15 years since I co-founded Facebook at Harvard, and I haven’t worked at the company in a decade,” Hughes wrote. “But I feel a sense of anger and responsibility.”

### “Unchecked Power”

Hughes argues that at the middle of Facebook’s continued troubles is Zuckerberg, a CEO that he argues has too much “unchecked power” — Zuckerberg can determine what people read, what is hate speech and what isn’t — and an incredible amount of wealth that gives him the ability to shut out any competitors by buying them out.

Hughes mentions that Zuckerberg has a unilateral control over speech and there is no precedent for his ability to monitor, organize and even censor the conversations of two billion people.”

Though Hughes is unusually close to Facebook, he’s certainly not alone in calling for accountability for the social giant. His op-ed comes after news of an impending multi-billion-dollar fine from the Federal Trade Commission emerged as a result of an investigation into the way Facebook handled its users’ data. Hughes also joins Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), who argued in March that she wants Facebook, Amazon and Google to be broken up.

The solution to Zuckerberg’s unbridled power, according to Hughes: government regulation. WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook need to be spun out into distinct businesses to create a healthier, more competitive market. Hughes also calls for the creation for a new government agency that deals with tech regulation specifically.

“I don’t blame Mark for his quest for domination,” Hughes wrote. “Yet he has created a leviathan that crowds out entrepreneurship and restricts consumer choice. It’s on our government to ensure that we never lose the magic of the invisible hand.”

On October 7, 2021 Trish Regan of *American Consequences* wrote the following:

There's no question that our society today in America is divided...

Some blame Trump. Some blame Clinton.

But in many respects, today's divisiveness is the fault of that trillion-dollar social media app that so many folks are addicted to.

There's just something about Facebook...

Even before the recent whistleblower news, we all knew it already, didn't we? You can almost feel it whenever you're on the Facebook platform... the hate, the vitriol, the insanity.

A few years ago, a grade-school music teacher, who had at one time been my (Regan) mentor, lashed out at me on Facebook because I had expressed support for the Trump tax cuts. Her reaction was out of left field, and super aggressive.

What could possibly cause people to go into a total attack mode on a seemingly harmless social media app?

Well, now we may know why...

### Breeding Hate

We learned in early October that Facebook's algorithms – as whistleblower Frances Haugen explained both on 60 Minutes and in her testimony on Capitol Hill – were intentionally designed to inspire raw, often negative, emotion.

Posts were said to have circulated at a greater pace when they got a lot of comments, hearts, dislikes, etc. In other words, an emotional response was rewarded with better circulation, which in turn, promoted even more emotion.

And according to Haugen, Facebook found that "hateful, divisive, and polarizing" content got the most reaction from users... So the company's algorithms, she explained, promoted that kind of content.

(Facebook disagrees... Its founder has maintained the platform provides people with a connectivity that enhances its users' lives and create better interpersonal bonds.)

Because the more emotional connection users had to a platform, the more time they'll spend on it, and thus the more money Facebook would make.





## Is it time to breakup Facebook/Meta?

So Facebook's own research shows that it amplifies hate, misinformation, and political unrest – but it seems the company has hidden what it knows.

### Monopoly on Speech

Granted, as a nation, we're ultimately responsible because we've allowed the company to flourish completely unchecked... Our government failed us on this one.

This is one of the many arguments why Big Tech needs to be broken up. The government should look long and hard at breaking up the platform so as to not allow such hate to flourish unchecked in the future.

Yet it's even more than that... Outside of the hate spreading, Facebook has become a monopoly that threatens our freedom of speech, while simultaneously hurting our ability to interact and communicate with one another.

It's hard to argue that Facebook does not have a monopoly on speech...

Facebook is like the delivery truck for a local newspaper. Imagine if, after reporters and columnists worked hard to convey truth and fact in their stories, the delivery truck for the paper refused to go on any deliveries? They could go to another truck company – but what if there were no other truck companies in the area?

Facebook is the truck company deciding who it wants to publish and when...

For instance, if Facebook believed that a commentator such as Trish Regan of *American Consequences* is talking about inflation in a way that could harm the reputation of the current administration, then why not prevent Trish Regan from reaching her audience?

Well, that actually happened. Earlier this year, Regan had a firsthand experience... She was shadow banned on Facebook.

After the Colonial Pipeline cyberattack, a reporting video Regan created and posted about the serious threat of an EMP attack on this country was flagged and demonetized... buried in the feeds where hardly anyone could view it.

Regan had been silenced. Facebook deliberately suppressed news that Americans deserve and need to hear.

At that time, Regan wrote:

It seems Facebook, a monopolistic enterprise started by a socially awkward computer guy who went to my own high school, is out entirely for itself... not the country, not the world, but apparently whatever is best for shareholders.

And in monopolies, it's the customer who loses out... typically via price gouging. In this case, I (Regan) agree with the administration's Lina Kahn, the new head of the Federal Trade Commission, who's been vocal that this country needs to rethink monopolies for the modern era.

It's terrifying to think what the world might look like in the future if Facebook – which is now exploring virtual-reality technology and avatars – is allowed to continue completely unchecked.

### Regan's Takeaway

Between Haugen's damning testimony and Facebook's massive outage on Oct 4, it was a trying time for the tech-market darling.

Facebook's stock was down 5% on Oct 4 alone, and shares are off roughly 14% since the start of September.

While the public's sentiment toward Facebook seems to have shifted in 2021, Wall Street continues to reward it. Why? Because it's a huge money maker. Facebook is an incredibly capital-efficient company... It makes fistfuls of cash with little investment.

According to a recent CNN Business story, "Facebook doubled its profits during the second quarter, netting \$10.4 billion. Advertising revenue soared 56% compared to the same period a year earlier."

Some are suggesting the tech giant's sell-off right now may be a good time to buy in... Others may feel that despite its strong financials, they don't want to own Facebook because they don't agree with what it represents.

Regan spoke with a friend the other day who told Regan she sold her Facebook stock a couple months ago because she didn't like what the company represented anymore. This latest news that it has been alleging promoting viciousness and hate online certainly contributes to that. You need to make that decision for yourself as an investor.

Also, while Wall Street really only cares about the bottom line... if Facebook's business model falls apart and advertisers lose interest, well that's where issues could really happen.

The fallout from Facebook's ecosystem disintegrating would be dramatic... less revenue and diminishing margins.

We should all recognize that in the best, most healthy version of capitalism, the monopoly should be shunned.

Facebook/Meta is a monopoly in the purest sense. ... And as such its monopolistic power should be both shunned and ended. But, like big celebrated companies in the past who successfully rebranded themselves, will it matter to the user who wants to show off his latest painting to the group or to the investor who makes another 45% profit on his stock for the year.

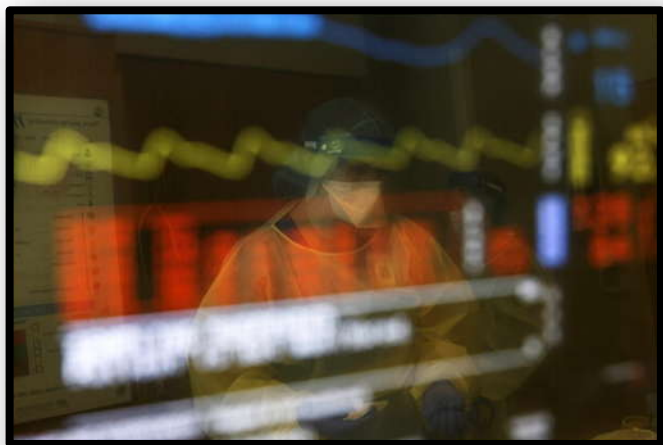
D. Miyoshi



## Who has more Covid Deaths, Republicans or Democrats?

This is an intriguing question that columnist David Leonhardt sought to answer in his article in *The New York Times* on Nov 8, 2021. I present his answer for your reading consideration. D. Miyoshi

## Good morning. The partisan gap in Covid deaths has grown larger.



A nurse in Rexburg, Idaho. Shannon Stapleton/Reuters

Even redder

As 2020 wound down, there were good reasons to believe that the death toll during the pandemic's first year might have been worse in red America. There were also good reasons to think it might have been worse in blue America.

Conservative areas tend to be older, less prosperous and more hostile to mask wearing, all of which can exacerbate the spread or severity of Covid-19. Liberal areas, for their part, are home both to more busy international airports and more Americans who suffer the health consequences of racial discrimination.

But it turned out that these differences largely offset each other in 2020 — or maybe they didn't matter as much as some people assumed. Either way, the per capita death toll in blue America and red America was similar by the final weeks of 2020.

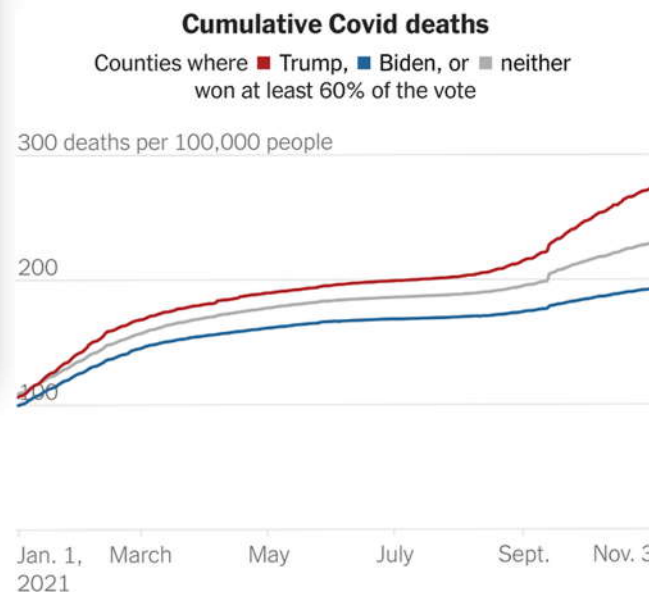
It was only a few percentage points higher in counties where Donald Trump had won at least 60 percent of the vote than in counties where Joe Biden crossed that threshold. In counties where neither candidate won 60 percent, the death toll was higher than in either Trump or Biden counties. There simply was not a strong partisan pattern to Covid during the first year that it was circulating in the U.S.

Then the vaccines arrived.

They proved so powerful, and the partisan attitudes toward them so different, that a gap in Covid's death toll quickly emerged. I have covered that gap in two newsletters — one this summer, one last month — and today's newsletter offers an update.

The brief version: The gap in Covid's death toll between red and blue America has grown faster over the past month than at any previous point.

In October, 25 out of every 100,000 residents of heavily Trump counties died from Covid, more than three times higher than the rate in heavily Biden counties (7.8 per 100,000). October was the fifth consecutive month that the percentage gap between the death rates in Trump counties and Biden counties widened.



Data unavailable for Alaska and Washington, D.C. Source: New York Times database, Edison Research

Some conservative writers have tried to claim that the gap may stem from regional differences in weather or age, but those arguments fall apart under scrutiny. (If weather or age were a major reason, the pattern would have begun to appear last year.) The true explanation is straightforward: The vaccines are remarkably effective at preventing severe Covid, and almost 40 percent of Republican adults remain unvaccinated, compared with about 10 percent of Democratic adults.

Charles Gaba, a Democratic health care analyst, has pointed out that the gap is also evident at finer gradations of political analysis: Counties where Trump received at least 70 percent of the vote have an even higher average Covid death toll than counties where Trump won at least 60 percent.

As a result, Covid deaths have been concentrated in counties outside of major metropolitan areas. Many of these are in red states, while others are in red parts of blue or purple states, like Arizona, Michi-

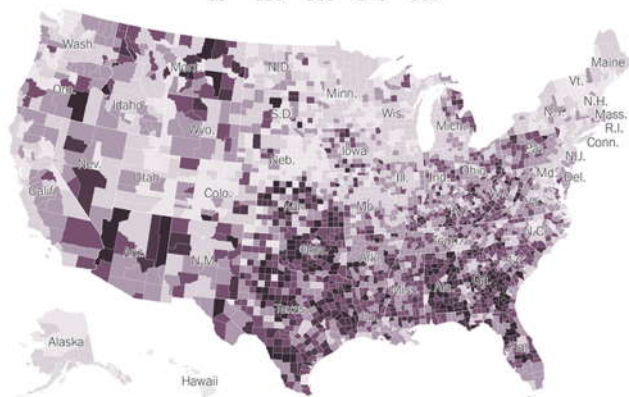
# Not Incompetence but Treason

gan, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Virginia and even California.

Covid deaths in 2021

Deaths per 100,000 people

60 120 180 240 300



Data as of Nov. 3. Source: New York Times database

This situation is a tragedy, in which irrational fears about vaccine side effects have overwhelmed rational fears about a deadly virus. It stems from disinformation — promoted by right-wing media, like Rupert Murdoch’s Fox News, the Sinclair Broadcast Group and online sources — that preys on the distrust that results from stagnant living standards.

A peak?

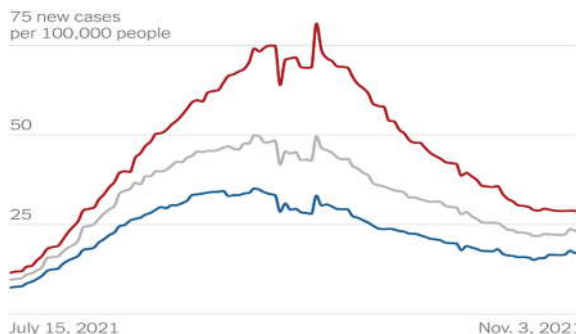
The future of Covid is uncertain, but I do think it’s possible that the partisan gap in Covid deaths reached its peak last month. There are two main reasons to expect the gap may soon shrink.

One, the new antiviral treatments from Pfizer and Merck seem likely to reduce Covid deaths everywhere, and especially in the places where they are most common. These treatments, along with the vaccines, may eventually turn this coronavirus into just another manageable virus.

Two, red America has probably built up more natural immunity to Covid — from prior infections — than blue America, because the hostility to vaccination and social distancing has caused the virus to spread more widely. A buildup in natural immunity may be one reason that the partisan gap in new Covid cases has shrunk recently.

Daily average new Covid cases

Counties where Trump, Biden, or neither won at least 60% of the vote



Data unavailable for Alaska and Washington D.C. Source: New York Times database, Edison Research

Death trends tend to lag case trends by a few weeks, which suggests the gap in deaths will shrink in November.

Still, nobody knows what will happen next. Much of the recent decline in caseloads is mysterious, which means it may not last. And the immunity from vaccination appears to be much stronger than the immunity from infection, which means that conservative Americans will probably continue to suffer an outsized amount of unnecessary illness and death.

## End of Article

# Not Incompetence but Treason

The following article is by Gerald Flurry. It explains why America’s stunning defeat in Afghanistan was not the result of incompetence but of intentional acts within to destroy its superpower status. It is a chilling account of the treachery that is being committed by our own trusted leaders of today. I provide it here for your serious reading consideration. D. Miyoshi



Taliban fighters controlling the Kabul airport watch the departure of a United States Air Force C-17 transport. MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES/GETTY IMAGES



## Not Incompetence but Treason

### This Isn't Incompetence. This Is Treason!

America's stunning defeat in Afghanistan demonstrates the collapse of a superpower. How could the Biden administration have enacted a policy so devastating to the nation? The answer goes deeper than you realize!

BY GERALD FLURRY, October 2021

The Afghanistan catastrophe is an abject, shameful dishonor for America. The mighty American military simply surrendered to the Taliban. Our nation lost nearly 2,500 soldiers and spent \$275 million per day every day for 7,267 days on that war—more than \$2 trillion in 20 years. Yet our soldiers were evacuated in absurd haste to leave this nation to barbarians.

This has been the worst foreign-policy disaster in the nation's history. This terrible defeat was a spectacle seen by the entire world—and they were watching intently! It will mar our history, perhaps for the rest of time.

Many people say it proves Joe Biden's incompetence. But this catastrophe isn't the result of bungling and bad judgment. It is a deliberate, planned effort to destroy America.

And it has been terribly successful.

With its rushed pullout, the Biden administration managed to squander 20 years of sacrifices in Afghanistan in mere days. It permitted the very extremist group we went in to destroy to regain control and create another radical Islamist state. Back in July, it abandoned a massive air base that would have made an evacuation far easier and safer. It left 5,000 terrorists in its prison that the Taliban were able to set free. It failed to evacuate at least hundreds of Americans safely and abandoned thousands of Afghan allies. It sent an unmistakable message to both allies and enemies worldwide: America does not keep its promises. We do not honor commitments. We cannot be trusted even to protect our own people!

Now, millions of people are going to be greatly persecuted and killed. Children and women are going to be abused, raped and murdered. The Taliban immediately began gathering up girls age 15 and even younger and giving them to their fighters as "wives." They began publicly executing women for failing to wear a burka.

The Taliban, a primitive organization of around 75,000 fighters, threatened America—the most overwhelmingly powerful nation in history—that if it didn't completely vacate by the end of August, it would face consequences. Many other nations with people in Afghanistan pleaded with Joe Biden to remain and get everyone out no matter how long it took. Biden refused. He obeyed his orders from the Taliban!

Joe Biden is commander in chief of the most militarily sophisticated

nation in world history. He could use that power to drive the Taliban and every other terrorist group out of Kabul for as long as he wanted!

But he didn't. Instead he begged the Taliban to let our people out. He didn't want to upset these thugs. He would rather obey them, even if it meant enraging and alienating America's allies and abandoning American citizens!

Former war correspondent Lara Logan said this administration wants you to believe "that Afghanistan is complicated," but, in reality, "the United States wants this outcome." She said America's leaders "could do anything they want to change this. And they're not."

She is absolutely right. This is not mere incompetence. It is calculated destruction. It is treachery!

#### America's Collapse

Just days before the evacuation was to be completed, a terrorist attack at the Kabul airport killed 182 people, including 13 American servicemen. The Taliban have armed checkpoints on every road leading to that airport. Clearly they allowed suicide bombers and armed gunmen in to commit that heinous act. But Biden's people said they needed to work with the Taliban to prevent more attacks.

This has been the worst foreign-policy disaster in the nation's history.

They even gave the Taliban a list of American citizens, green-card holders and Afghan allies, supposedly to facilitate their evacuation. The Taliban are known to torture, mutilate, behead and burn people who have helped America! To give them such a list is beyond stupidity—it is a grotesque betrayal!

Usually when America retreats from a war zone, if it has to leave any armaments behind it destroys them so they won't fall into enemy hands. The Biden administration did the exact opposite! It gave a staggering \$85 billion worth of U.S. military equipment to this extremist group—including that massive air base, 2,000 armored vehicles, 45 Black Hawk helicopters, 208 total aircraft, 10,000 air-to-ground rockets, over 2,500 bombs, and millions of U.S. dollars in cash. Victor Davis Hanson noted that the night-vision equipment, more than 20,000 grenades and 1,400 grenade launchers, more than 7,000 machine guns and 600,000 small arms, and millions of rounds of ammunition are "the perfect equipment for jihadist terror operations and asymmetrical street fighting." Overnight, America created one of the most well-funded, heavily armed terrorist nations in the world!

Hanson compared this haul of armaments with the military aid America has given to Israel over the last 70 years, which has totaled around \$100 billion. "In other words, in one fell swoop, the Pentagon deposited into Taliban hands about 80 percent of all the military aid that we've ever given to Israel since the founding of the Jewish state."





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What a wretched deed by the American “superpower”! This is as shameful as anything America has ever done.

America is not just declining, it is in the last throes of death. It is being destroyed before our eyes. Many are now in open despair. This Afghanistan disaster is the worst evidence ever of how the United States has collapsed as a superpower!

As president, Obama completely reshaped the leadership of America’s military.

Other nations around the world see this clearly. They are taking advantage of this and preparing to replace American dominance with their own dominance.

The facts are irrefutable. Many people see the damage President Biden is doing. The most clear-eyed analysts recognize that there must be malicious intent behind it. These actions truly cannot be explained any other way.

What is particularly stunning is the way all of the civilian and military leaders in Joe Biden’s administration called the evacuation a tremendous success! They repeatedly said that everything went according to plan, and that it was a “heroic and historic” operation. Reporters pressed them on whether they felt they made any mistakes, and the answer—time and again—was no!

This proves just how arrogant and impervious to correction these leaders are. But even more—it shows you that they planned for this operation to be so disastrous! It all followed their plan—to America’s great hurt!

Many people recognize that there must have been malicious planning and intent behind what America did in Afghanistan. But almost nobody can tell you why the Biden administration is pursuing a policy so disastrous to America!

However, there is a reason. If you have followed the *Trumpet* for any length of time, you probably have a sense of what it is. There is a spiritual dimension to what is happening that you must understand.

### The Obama Years

Many of the seeds for this disaster were laid years ago, when Joe Biden was vice president—second in command to Barack Obama.

I have written extensively on how, for eight years, the Obama administration was working dangerously against America’s interests—and why. With a background in radicalism, Marxism and communism, President Obama enacted a series of policies that wreaked havoc on the nation. He stirred up racial hatreds. He opened up America’s borders to dangerous illegal immigrants. He massively expanded the government’s control over the private economic sector. He sank the nation trillions deeper into debt. He attacked and cast aside the Constitution and other laws. He weaponized the na-

tion’s intelligence services against American citizens. He overlooked provocations by powers like Russia and China. He trashed America’s relationships with allies like Britain and Israel.

President Obama also empowered Islamists in many ways. In Egypt he helped oust President Hosni Mubarak from power and supported the Muslim Brotherhood. He allowed America’s outpost in Libya to be overrun by jihadis, who killed a U.S. ambassador and several soldiers. He failed to enforce his own demands on Syria, undermining America’s strength and leaving a murderous dictator in place. Most importantly, he empowered the most extreme elements within the world’s number one terrorist nation, Iran. He turned his back on the people of Iran who rose up in protest against their tyrannical leaders. And as the regime withered under economic sanctions, Obama threw it a lifeline: He authored the disastrous nuclear deal that gave the mullahs millions in cash and a clear path to build nuclear weapons!

Throughout his presidency, Barack Obama pursued treacherous pro-Iran, pro-Muslim policies. The way that Joe Biden just gifted Afghanistan to the extreme Islamist Taliban—along with \$85 billion in armaments—is entirely consistent with Obama’s policies, and it must be viewed in that context.

What Joe Biden did in Afghanistan is a continuation of the disastrous anti-American policies of Barack Obama.

Why would he do that? There is a sinister reason.



Barack Obama controlled the U.S. when Biden stood behind him as vice president (pictured). Now he controls the U.S. through Biden. Kristoffer Trippelaar/Getty Images

Many people can clearly see that Joe Biden is not really in charge of the government. He has filled his administration with Obama-era officials, and Mr. Obama himself is really directing the show! Some say—correctly—that this is effectively Obama’s third term.

Eight years ago, during Obama’s presidency, I wrote my booklet *America Under Attack*. It explains the reason behind these ruinous



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policies. I wrote, “Many people can see that these are disastrous decisions. But we must understand that this isn’t simply the result of ineptitude on the part of this administration, or naivety about how the world really works. We are seeing the aftereffects of a calculated, aggressive, satanic attack aimed at weakening and ultimately destroying the nations of Israel, starting with the world’s most powerful nation!”

That booklet exposes the spiritual reality behind these terrible actions: Satan the devil is working to bring down America.

Many biblical scriptures explain and underscore this truth. You cannot grasp the malevolent intent behind Barack Obama’s actions without recognizing this. (If you have not read this booklet, please request a free copy.)

### Purging the Military

President Obama also specifically prepared for this summer’s disaster in Afghanistan with some crucial decisions during his administration.

One diabolical act of his received little attention. As president, Obama completely reshaped the leadership of America’s military.

During his first five years in office, President Obama relieved close to 200 generals and many other high-ranking officers of their command. Presidents often change some top military staff, but several retired generals called what Obama did a “purge.” In 2013, retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady said, “There is no doubt he is intent on emasculating the military” (emphasis mine throughout). Retired Navy Capt. Joseph John told World Net Daily that “the U.S. Armed Forces have been under relentless attack by the occupant of the Oval Office for five years” (Nov. 4, 2013). Retired Army Maj. Gen. Paul Vallely told Investor’s Business Daily that Obama was “intentionally weakening and gutting our military, Pentagon and reducing us as a superpower, and anyone in the ranks who disagrees or speaks out is being purged” (Oct. 29, 2013).

President Obama enfeebled America’s armed forces in many ways—but this was perhaps the deadliest!

No matter how powerful or numerous or sophisticated the military, if it lacks strong leadership it can accomplish nothing!

The leaders Obama put in office prioritized political correctness, racial and gender equality, and other outrageous causes that gutted America’s defenses. They supported Obama allowing transgenders into the military. They directed resources toward promoting radical-leftist ideas in foreign countries rather than protecting America’s interests and securing the globe.

Their goal was never to train soldiers to love their country and fight and even die to save their country! These leaders often trained soldiers to commit treason against their own country!

When Donald Trump became president, he worked to restore the might of America’s military. But even he was disappointed with the quality of many of the leaders under his command. And once Joe Biden took over, he went right back to the Obama-era madness: offering transgender soldiers “free” gender-reassignment surgery, working to purge “racism” and “right-wing extremism,” and so on. Reading lists for sailors and soldiers feature books that indoctrinate them in anti-American thinking. Earlier this year, when one lieutenant colonel wrote a book revealing how Marxism had infected the military elite, he was immediately fired! Prior generations of soldiers sacrificed their lives to stop the ideology that this generation of soldiers is being taught in our military academies!

These decisions by America’s leaders have deadly consequences! What happens when military commanders are more dedicated to promoting radical ideas than to defending the country? What happens when they don’t even believe in the ideals of the nation they represent?

Should we be surprised that military leaders no longer felt responsible for defending Afghanistan from terrorists and welcomed the Taliban taking it back?

This is a dramatic fulfillment of God’s prophecy in Isaiah 3:1-3, where He promises to curse America by removing “[t]he mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man,” and other effective leaders.

### Negotiating With Terrorists

When America announced it would be out of Afghanistan by August 31, the Taliban began taking over the country at lightning pace. Some sources say the offensive was masterminded by Khairullah Khairkhwa, a jihadist who has long aimed to eliminate America’s presence from Afghanistan. This past spring he promised the White House that if the U.S. removed all its troops, the Taliban wouldn’t attack. He became the chief Taliban negotiator speaking with the Biden administration.

The fact that Biden’s team would talk with this man is deeply condemning! It turns out, America knows him well. He had been captured and was confined at Guantanamo Bay Prison. “Mullah Khairkhwa previously served as the Taliban’s interior minister in Afghanistan, where he oversaw enforcement of brutal Islamist punishments, including beheadings and stonings,” the New York Post reported. “After 9/11, he was arrested in Pakistan and sent to Gitmo in 2002. The Pentagon accused him of closely associating with Osama bin Laden and bin Laden’s al Qaeda henchmen” (August 16). Khairkhwa and four other high-ranking Taliban terrorists were to be lifetime prisoners there. The Pentagon called them the “hardest of the hardcore” among Guantanamo prisoners.

But these five men were released—by Barack Obama. He let them go in 2014 in exchange for U.S. Army deserter Bowe Bergdahl.

This was another move by Obama that proved to be deadly! As soon





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as Khairkhwa was released, he reportedly went back to his terrorist activities. Now he has helped deal a crushing blow to America!

Still, Mr. Obama—through the Biden administration—is treating this man as a trustworthy negotiation partner. This is treasonous!

It also directly links the current disaster in Afghanistan with former President Barack Obama.

Certainly the Biden administration’s eagerness to treat the Taliban—these brutal terrorists who have killed so many Americans in the past 20 years, not to mention Afghan citizens—as a legitimate partner is very consistent with the way Obama has been working for years.

Most people, however, are only looking at the surface. All the blame and anger over the Afghanistan fiasco is being directed almost solely at Joe Biden! People are failing to see the bigger picture.

I believe Barack Obama intended Biden to take the flak for what has happened here. Joe Biden has talked about getting out of Afghanistan for years. He really believed it was best for America. And now this man is rashly carrying out this policy in the worst way possible both to humiliate America and empower our enemies, heedless of all the horrifying evidence of what tragedy it is creating.

I do not know exactly how this was orchestrated, but it has all fulfilled Mr. Obama’s desires perfectly. America has retreated, it has proved itself to be a spent power, Islamists control Afghanistan and are ascendant in the Middle East, and Joe Biden is taking the fall for all of it.

From the beginning, Kamala Harris was Obama’s preferred candidate for president. She has been invisible throughout the Afghanistan ordeal and is taking none of the blame. Neither is Obama. This is all by design! Something is causing many of Joe Biden’s most loyal supporters to turn on him dramatically and fiercely!

Will we see a change in America’s leadership soon as a result of this debacle?

### Blotting Out Israel

The biblical book of Kings is part of the former prophets. And most of its prophecy is for this end time.

I have often pointed to the prophecy in 2 Kings 14:26-27. It is speaking of the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel—America most of all. It says, “For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.”

Somebody is trying to blot out the very name of Israel! And the only thing that is going to prevent that is God’s intervention.

That is the real aim of what Barack Obama has been doing and continues to do through the Biden administration. This gets to the truth in a way that no one else can recognize. Everything is happening in a way that causes maximum destruction to this country!

The real mastermind is not even Barack Obama—it is Satan the devil! He is the one who “made the earth to tremble”! (Isaiah 14:16). A human being could not plan out these events to create such scale of devastation. But the devil is extraordinarily shrewd and skilled at sabotage and destruction. And he intensely hates America, to which God gave the birthright blessings promised to the descendants of ancient Israel. (Request The United States and Britain in Prophecy for a thorough explanation.) So he is passionately attacking America.

Ephesians 2:2 calls Satan “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” Yes, this evil spirit works in people! He is able to influence people’s thinking and emotions. The more that human beings allow themselves to be influenced by him, the more they can do terrible things! And you see a lot of that in our nations today.

Revelation 12:7-9 is an end-time prophecy that describes a war in heaven between righteous angels and the devil and his demons. It says that “the dragon [Satan] fought and his angels [demons], And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Can you see that the whole world has fallen prey to the devil’s deceptions? He is far more active in world events than people realize!

Verse 12 warns: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” As his time grows shorter, Satan is more wrathful than ever!

Why is God allowing this satanic attack on America? Look closely at 2 Kings 14:27, and you see that God will prevent the devil from blotting out the name of Israel. But how severe will He allow the attack to get?

### Jeroboam

As The United States and Britain in Prophecy proves, many Bible prophecies explain why God is allowing all this to take place. God is correcting America for its sins! (You can read more about this in “Why America Really Failed.”)

Do you recognize the Afghanistan disaster as the earthshaking event that it is? This should shake us all to our core and cause us to acknowledge that God is cursing America!



## Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty

Ultimately, this is not caused by a bad president. It is not caused by the wickedness of the radical left. God is cursing us for the sins of the whole nation. We all need to turn to God in repentance! We as a people are disobeying God and are facing the terrifying consequences! And because we refuse to acknowledge this, these wretched events are going to get far worse before this is over.

God has given America incomparable blessings, and He wants to continue to bless us. But He cannot do so while we live in rebellion against Him. He is correcting us—as a father who loves his children! (e.g. Hebrews 12:5-7).

And 2 Kings 14:27 indicates that, even if we fail to repent collectively, in His mercy, God is going to ensure that the name of Israel is not blotted out! He is going to save America “by the hand of Jeroboam”—temporarily.

As I have written for years, the end-time type of Jeroboam in this prophecy is Donald Trump. When he came to power, we saw a sudden and dramatic reversal in the direction of the nation! Mr. Obama’s plans were abruptly halted. So he and his people determined to do whatever was necessary to prevent Mr. Trump from getting a second term—including stealing the 2020 election! That too reveals just how much they are being influenced by the devil in his worst wrath.

But that is not the end of the prophecy. Verse 28 shows that this Jeroboam is going to war to “recover” something. I am convinced that is talking about the stolen election. Somehow, Donald Trump will return to power. He could even have the support of the military in doing so. I explain this in my article “What Will Happen After Trump Regains Power.” This prophecy suggests that the diabolical influence of Barack Obama will be stopped.

The Bible provides the keys to understanding these otherwise incomprehensible events. The startling truths that God has revealed about Barack Obama over the past several years have been made all the more vivid and plain by the Afghanistan disaster!

As Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” God explains all these truths so we can recognize what is happening, heed His warnings, and turn from our sins! He also gives the outline of where these events will lead so we can see God’s hand in what is happening as events unfold according to His prophecies!

Every American needs to recognize this and act on it! But regardless of what happens nationally, God gives you the power and the choice individually to do so.

End of Article

## Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty



Citizens expect court decisions to be implemented in an effective and fair manner. Well-functioning civil justice systems protect the rights of all citizens against infringement of the law by others, including by powerful parties and governments. An essential component of the rule of law is indeed based on effective and fair judicial systems to ensure that the laws are respected and appropriate sanctions are taken when they are violated. But above, to insure people trust in our legal system, a fair and impartial trial must be guaranteed.

These fair trials are the only way to prevent miscarriages of justice and are an essential part of a just society. Every person accused of a crime should have their guilt or innocence determined by a fair and effective legal process. However, it goes further than protecting suspects and defendants, without fair trials, victims can have no confidence that justice will be done. Without fair trials, trust in the state and the rule of law collapses.

Whether we are a Democrat, Republican, Independent or none of the above, it’s our sacred duty to honor official legal decisions arrived at on the facts of a case.

On Friday, November 19, 2021 the jury in the Kyle Rittenhouse murder case found him not guilty on all five charges that he faced. This verdict was based on the facts of the case and must be honored. Thus, our trust in the state was reaffirmed.... at least for now.

But many in the extreme liberal wing of their political party did not honor the verdict and resorted to boisterous demonstrations, looting and rioting to show their anger and displeasure with the decision.

But it was evident the decision was based on the facts as discovered through the testimony of the witnesses, the photos and vide-

## Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty

os taken and the analysis of the hard evidence.

Dealing fairly with a person must be based on what he/she actually did, not what we, or some celebrity or main stream media thinks or hopes happened.

As Jack Webb would always say in Dragnet, “all I want are the facts Mam”

Well, what were the facts in the Kyle Rittenhouse case?

A 17-year-old male named Rittenhouse had a rifle that he got from a friend in a “straw purchase.”

That is the only thing he should have been charged with since a 17-year-old can't buy an AR-15.

However, he should never have been charged with murder and because he was displaying a huge lack of integrity on the part of the prosecutor's office.

Unfortunately, there are numerous prosecutors in this country who want to ride the political winds only caring about making a name for themselves and getting a promotion... not about doing what is right and just.

Because any normal and fair prosecutor who looked closely at the case would have seen it was clearly self-defense and would not have brought it in the first place.

It's possible the prosecutor thought Kyle Rittenhouse was a punk, or he might hate guns or that he is an all consumed flaming liberal.

But a professional prosecutor needs to take emotion out of the case, because all that matters are the facts.

The facts are that people said they were going to kill Rittenhouse, that someone tried to bash his face in with a skateboard and that another guy pointed a gun at him.

And, if someone is trying to smash your face in with a skateboard, that could clearly cause permanent damage, so you can justify using your gun to protect yourself.

If someone is threatening to kill you and they attack you... you're justified.

If someone points a gun at you... you're justified in defending yourself.

Obviously, it was not a good idea for a 17-year-old to be roaming the streets with an AR-15.

But such act was not illegal and was not in question.

But, for a moment let's take a look at some of the lies and half-truths the liberal pundits and main stream media were pushing to the public in an attempt to get Rittenhouse imprisoned and to show the world he was an angry white supremacist whose mother drove him across state lines with an AR-15 to shoot Black Lives Matter protesters.

“A white, Trump-supporting, MAGA-loving Blue Lives Matter social media partisan, 17 years old, picks up a gun, drives from one state to another with the intent to shoot people,” said John Heilemann, MSNBC's national affairs analyst.

The following are 10 lies that were debunked in the murder trial.

1. He killed two black BLM protesters. All three of the men he shot in self-defense during violent riots in Kenosha on Aug. 25 last year were white.
2. He crossed state lines. He lived 20 miles from Kenosha in Antioch, Ill., with his mother and sisters. But his father, grandmother, aunt, uncle, cousins and best friend live in Kenosha. He had a job as a lifeguard in Kenosha and worked a shift on Aug. 25 before helping clean graffiti left by rioters at a local school. There, he and his friend were invited to join other adults who had been asked by the owners of a used car lot in Kenosha to guard the property after 100 cars had been torched the previous night, when police abandoned the town to rioters. Kyle took his gun to protect himself, since the rioters were violent and armed, including, for instance, Antifa medic Gaije Grosskreutz, who lunged at him with a loaded Glock pointed at his head before he was shot in the arm.

## Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty



Kyle Rittenhouse rightfully defended the Kenosha community while legally possessing an AR-15 rifle.

Adam Rogan/The Journal Times via AP)



Assistant District Attorney Thomas Binger holds Kyle Rittenhouse's gun as he gives the state's closing argument during the trial.

Sean Krajacic/The Kenosha News via AP, Pool



Footage shows Kyle Rittenhouse defending himself from angry rioters on Sheridan Road in Kenosha, Wisconsin, during the riots.

YouTube

3. Rittenhouse took an AR-15 across state lines. Esquire accused him of "terrorist tourism." False. His rifle was kept in a safe at his best friend's stepfather's house in Kenosha.

4. The gun was illegal. Wrong. Under Wisconsin law, he was entitled to possess the AR-15 as a 17-year-old. The judge dismissed the gun charge, which the prosecution never should have brought.

5. Rittenhouse's mother drove him across state lines to the riot. Wendy Rittenhouse, 46, never went to Kenosha. She slept late the morning of Aug. 25 after working a 16-hour shift at a nursing home near her home in Antioch, she told the Chicago Tribune. Kyle had already gone to his job in Kenosha when she woke up.

6. He was an "active shooter" who took his gun to a riot looking for trouble. "A 17-year-old kid just running around shooting and killing protesters," said MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, "who drove across state lines with an AR-15 and started shooting people up." On Friday, after evidence in court already had debunked his talking points, Scarborough called Rittenhouse a "self-appointed militia member ... unloading 60 rounds." When the defense called out the lie in closing arguments, Scarborough had the gall to tweet that he was "embarrassed" for the lawyer.

7. Rittenhouse is a "white supremacist," as then-candidate Joe Biden labeled him in a tweet showing the teenager's photograph. When White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked to explain why recently, she slyly slimed Rittenhouse again, without naming him, as a "vigilante."



Gaige Grosskreutz was not a "victim" after testifying that he provided aid as a trained medic to Black Lives Matter protesters amid the Kenosha riots.

Mark Hertzberg/Pool Photo via AP

## Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty

In one story, the Intercept used the term “white supremacist” 16 times. The accusation has become holy writ, but there is zero evidence. The FBI scoured Kyle’s phone and found nothing about white supremacy or militias, the court heard. All they saw were pro-police, “Blue Lives Matter” posts from a kid who had been a police and fire department cadet, wanted to be a police officer or paramedic and once sat near the front of a Trump rally. That was enough for the media to brand him a white supremacist.

8. He “flashed white power signs” with Proud Boys. After spending three months in jail, Kyle was freed on \$2 million bail two days after his 18th birthday last year, and went to a bar for a beer, with his mother and other adults, which is legal in Wisconsin. He posed for selfies with strangers at the bar, who the media say are Proud Boys, and was pictured making the OK sign with his thumb and forefinger. The false claim that this is a white supremacist sign comes from a 2017 hoax on the website 4chan, to punk liberals, who keep falling for it. Biden uses the gesture frequently. It was unwise to pose for the photo, but it does not mean Kyle is associated with white supremacists.

9. He wore surgical gloves “to cover his fingerprints.” This pearl was spread by Matthew Modine, another celebrity bigmouth. Kyle wore gloves because he was giving first aid to protesters. His face was bare, so he was hardly hiding.



Wendy Rittenhouse, Kyle’s mother, was not present with her son when he traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Sean Krajacic/The Kenosha News via AP, Pool

10. Judge Bruce Schroeder is a “Trumpy” racist biased toward the defense. This slur is based on the fact he would not let the prosecution use the term “victim” — common practice when the jury has not ruled on a case. He told a lame joke about Asian food for lunch being held up by the supply-chain crisis, and his phone’s ring tone sounds like a 1980s ditty played at Trump rallies. Ridiculous. In fact, Schroeder is a Democrat, has run as a Democrat for the Wisconsin Senate and was first appointed by a Democratic governor. Bias was also perceived in what the Chicago Tribune said was his “highly unusual” decision to allow Kyle to draw names randomly out of a container at the end of the trial to determine which 12 of the 18 jurors would decide his fate. It’s something this judge always does, he told the court.



The liberal media and then-Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden smeared Kyle Rittenhouse as a “white supremacist.”

Getty Images



Kyle Rittenhouse proved he used his AR-15 for self-defense against hostile Black Lives Matter protesters during riots in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Mark Hertzberg/Pool Photo via AP

On the second day of jury deliberations Wednesday, the judge railed against media distortions, although he seemed most aggrieved about attacks on his reputation, rather than Kyle’s. He threatened to stop trials from being televised, but that’s exactly

# Kyle Rittenhouse facts = not guilty



Advancing in a Time of Crisis



## Financial Crisis Report



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the wrong solution.



Judge Bruce Schroeder railed against the prosecution's snobby evidence against Kyle Rittenhouse.

Sean Krajacic/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

Only because the public was able to hear the evidence for themselves did they become aware of the malevolent dishonesty of the media coverage, which threatened a fair trial and may have led to riots upon an acquittal of Rittenhouse.

In the final analysis, the overriding fact is some people tried to attack and kill Rittenhouse and he was allowed to defend himself.

The sad part is unfortunately, these days many people don't seem to care about such facts.

If we looked at it objectively, we would be saying...

"Okay, it doesn't matter if it was a 17-year-old kid, a 54-year-old woman, it doesn't matter their skin color..."

All that matters is they are a human being who was attacked multiple times and used a gun to defend themselves."

Even if you hated Kyle Rittenhouse... we need to

recognize and honor the facts.

What if instead of Kyle Rittenhouse, it was Chuck Schumer who committed the shooting?

I, for one do not like Chuck Schumer.

But even though I don't like him, he as well as everyone are allowed to defend themselves when they're in fear for their life or serious bodily injury.

It doesn't matter if you're defending yourself with a gun, a knife, a tactical pen or a baseball bat.

We all have the right to self-defense and if someone is forced to defend themselves, all that matters is the facts.

The Late Show" host Stephen Colbert said that if what Kyle Rittenhouse did was legal than we should change the law. That's a fair statement.

Maybe for our current society providing the right to carry a firearm at 16 years of age is a bit early. Perhaps the age to carry a firearm should be raised to 18 or 21. But that's another discussion.

However, for Kyle Rittenhouse, the case is now officially closed. But realistically his life will never be the same. His own attorney advised him to change his name and move out of the area. Perhaps he may have to change his appearance as well. Maybe he should sue CNN and MSNBC for libel and slander as Nickolas Sandman did and won. Perhaps he could write a book about his experiences and make millions.

Whatever, it's tough to be legally right and resent-ed.

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