



Financial Crisis Report

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Advancing in a Time of Crisis

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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.

“The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.” Plato

The Importance of a Healthy Health System



"Decent health care is an aspect of freedom and fairness. If more Americans knew how such freedom felt, they might demand it." writes Thomas Shomaker

When Thomas Shomaker moved from Brooklyn to Wakayama Prefecture in southern Japan, he imagined he would have to go through big adjustments. What he didn't expect was how much his family's lives would improve with access to Japan's national health care system.

Shomaker, who lost his father to synovial sarcoma cancer, had witnessed his mother's battle with insurance companies over hospital bills. Having experienced the "luxury of not having to worry about the cost of health care," Shomaker says it is hard to envision returning to the U.S. for quite some time.

Shomaker is a contributing writer to *NikkeiAsia*. For your reading consideration, I present his own story below written in July 2022. The story illustrates a big, if not the biggest, problem the average American faces today. I hope you find it informative as I had. D. Miyoshi

How Japan's health system improved my marriage

Most Americans have no idea what real health care feels like

WAKAYAMA, Japan -- About 18 months ago, I moved from Brooklyn with my wife and two children to her hometown in Wakayama Prefecture. While I was familiar with the country and spoke the language fairly well, I knew it would be a big adjustment to live here permanently. What I didn't anticipate was how much our lives would improve due to Japan's national health care system.

I first became aware that something wasn't right with American health care as a child. When I was nine, my father was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma cancer. He died when I was 12. Parallel to his struggle with the disease was my mother's battle with the insurance companies over hospital bills. For me, health care has always been a fight.

In most couples, one half tends to be a bit more concerned about health matters than the other. In our marriage, that person is my wife. Whenever one of our children got sick while living in the U.S., her impulse was to go to the doctor while mine was to wait and see.

Our insurance, like our incomes, wasn't anything fancy and a doctor's visit always meant having to negotiate a sizable copayment and perhaps other unexpected expenses. My wife often accused me of putting money before health. While I often responded that she was overreacting, the truth was I couldn't separate my financial worries from my natural tendency to not stress about health matters.



Importance of Healthy Health System

"One out of every three Americans has medical debt," said Marshall Allen, the author of the recent book 'Never Pay the First Bill: And Other Ways to Fight the Healthcare System.' "And one out of every five Americans has medical debt in collections."



Top: Thomas Shomaker (far right) and his childhood family in a Christmas photo before his father (far left) was diagnosed with cancer. Bottom: Shomaker's father, left, during a hospital stay, 1992, and, right, Shomaker with his daughter, who has a cold. Brooklyn, 2013.

Allen is a reporter for ProPublica, an independent investigative newsroom, and his book outlines several of what he calls "fundamentals": starting points that must be understood in order to change the U.S. health care system.

One of them is that while America spends nearly \$11,000 a year per capita on health care -- about twice as much as other developed countries -- our outcomes are worse. "The problem isn't that we [America] aren't spending enough," said Allen. "We are spending way too much and we're not getting our money's worth."

Compare that to Japan, which has numerous points of access to its national health care system, from employer-based insurance to individual plans.

In general, patients are responsible for 30% of the costs incurred. Parents can obtain a Free Medical Care Certificate for Children through their local municipality which covers the remaining 30% of

medical expenses for their kids.

Cities have varied ages of expiration for this benefit but it usually covers minors up to the age of 15. Coupons are also provided to cover vaccinations and baby checkups.

For my family, now living in Japan, that means that when one of our kids has a low-grade fever and I want to wait and see before heading out to the doctor, my wife knows I am not more worried about what it will cost. More importantly, she knows that if she is still worried there won't be any further pushback from me. We will go.

Three years ago in Brooklyn, my daughter and I came down with food poisoning from a takeout meal that made us both so ill we couldn't keep water down. We took a cab to the nearest urgent care clinic where we were both given anti-nausea medication and I was hooked up to an intravenous drip.

When I presented our insurance cards after receiving treatment, I learned that when our insurance was renewed the previous November, the urgent care center had become out-of-network -- even though I renewed with the same plan through the same insurance carrier. The bill was \$900.

Japan has different insurance systems and thousands of different plans, but there is no such thing as "in-network" or "out-of-network" care. Anyone can access any clinic or specialist care facility. Dental coverage is not separate and deductibles don't exist.

As fees are set by a government committee, the 30% portion that adults are responsible for is relatively low, like when I recently had a dental cleaning and the out-of-pocket cost was \$16. Set prices for procedures also eliminates the bureaucracy of different carriers negotiating a wide range of prices for the same procedures, as is the case in America.

"Logistically," said Allen of the American health care system, "for a family or for an individual to deal with some kind of illness, it is completely confusing and aggravating because you have to go to multiple places to do all of the things that you need."

Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States, with a 2021 Gallup poll revealing that one in six U.S. workers stay in unwanted jobs just to avoid losing their health benefits.





Importance of Healthy Health System



Top: Marshall Allen, author of "Never Pay the First Bill" in Brooklyn, New York. Bottom: Therapist Manami Yamamoto (standing, far right) in 2011 with tsunami refugees in Fukushima Prefecture.

Manami Yamamoto is a Japanese national and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist based in the San Francisco area. She has a private practice and also is the founder of Blue Humming Therapy, a nonprofit mental health care clinic.

In Japan, she has led Tokyo training seminars and, after the 2011 tsunami, answered a call from Fukushima Prefecture for mental health care professionals to volunteer their time so victims could address their trauma and teachers could be assisted in supporting children and parents. In America, Yamamoto has counseled many couples whose primary issue is related to health care.

"Sometimes," said Yamamoto, "a husband, for example, will stick with a job because the wife will say 'how can we survive without health insurance?'. So they start arguing because of that fear and anxiety."

"I have seen clients who have been in the last stages of sickness," Yamamoto added. "There is a lot of pain because their loved one is dying and at the same time they have to take care of the billing and financials. It is too much additional stress for them."

When Yamamoto established herself in the U.S., she had her own

difficulties getting accustomed to the insurance system.

"It was a nightmare at the beginning. Here we need to think about what kind of insurance we should get, how much coverage we have, how we should keep health insurance and about needing to keep working to keep the health insurance. I never worried about health insurance when I was in Japan."

For couples where both are Japanese nationals -- or from another country with universal insurance -- Yamamoto told me that it is common when one of them encounters a serious health issue to simply leave their lives in the U.S. and return home.

Which made me think of my own parents.

My father, suffering from cancer, still working his job as a Nuclear Regulatory Commission attorney till almost the very end of his life, and my mother, a former head nurse at a Washington, D.C. hospital, spending eight hours a week reviewing bills and benefit explanations and finding mistakes.

If any couple should have been able to easily navigate the American health care system, it was them. And it wasn't easy. How can non-native speakers, immigrants and those without resources keep up?

I ran through a list of health care issues my family had experienced while living in Brooklyn during one conversation with Allen, the erroneous bills from hospitals or associated labs that claimed 'no insurance' when insurance had been presented, or not being able to obtain a list of covered dermatologic creams which caused me to have to get three different prescriptions from a specialist for the same issue.

At one point he stopped me and asked my age, which is 41. "And you have listed half a dozen things," said Allen. "This is the norm. This is not an aberration."

My experience of the U.S. health care system may be normal, but the issues themselves are particular and urgent. When I was calling hospitals or labs to avoid paying thousands of dollars, I was laser-focused on resolving the immediate health care issue at the lowest cost. What I was not thinking about were the underlying reasons why American health care is so expensive.





Beginning of Social Control in U.S.



Top: Shomaker's daughter, left, at the dentist in Japan, and enjoying the swing in Wakayama prefecture with her brother. Bottom: Shomaker's daughter (far right) and playing with friends in Brooklyn in 2019.

To counter this, Allen has devoted his website to stories of insurance battles and how consumers and employers can take action. He also launched Allen Health Academy last year and is currently producing its first health care literacy videos. Still, Allen is quick to acknowledge the absurdity of patients arming themselves with tactics. "The existence of my book," said Allen, "is just a sign of the brokenness of our healthcare system."

"When people have arguments," said Yamamoto, "they try to be very logical about their opinions but the important thing is how they can understand their partner's feelings." It is crucial, she notes, to consider one's partner and ask "what's the deep emotion that leads to that logic?"

Yamamoto's advice could have helped me a few times in Brooklyn, and I appreciate Allen's activism. But I am also relieved to be away from American health care.

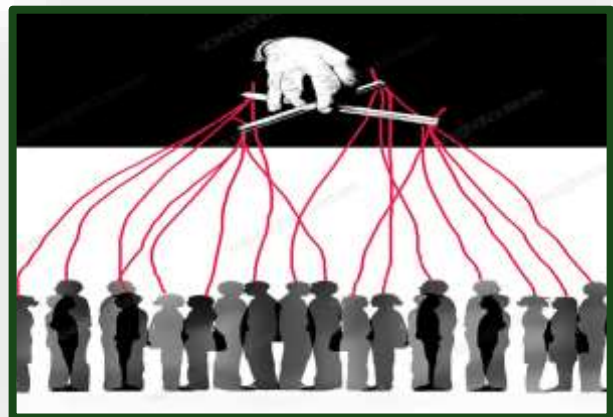
I like living in Japan, of course, for reasons beyond its health insurance system. The attention to detail, the strong foundation of courtesy that eases daily life, and, of course, the cuisine. But there are times when I dearly miss America. The straightforwardness, the diversity, and also, the cuisine.

Before we moved here, my wife and I left the possibility open that at some point, the family may return to the U.S. But having experienced the luxury of not having to worry about the cost of health care, it is hard to imagine returning before our children grow up.

Living in the U.S. means always being a slip or illness away from possible financial ruin and almost-certain bureaucratic frustration. Decent health care is an aspect of freedom and fairness. If more Americans knew how such freedom felt, they might demand it. As Marshall Allen told me many times: "It doesn't have to be this way."

End of Story

The beginning of Social Control in the U.S.



On March 9, 2022 President Joseph R. Bidon signed Executive order 14067 – Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets.

In this Executive Order there is Section 4. Policy and Actions Related to United States Central Bank Digital Currencies. Essentially this provides for the adoption of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to replace the U.S. Dollar.

Is this good or bad?

CBDC's can be good because they can form a more stable system of monetary control for accurate payment of revenues, expenses and even (taxes)?

But CBDC's can be bad because they provide the U.S. government with the means to implement a Social Credit system in the country similar to what is currently in use in China.





Beginning of Social Control in U.S.

What is the Social Credit System in China?

To answer that I will use some passages from an article by Sarah Lilly that appeared in FEE Stories about the Chinese Social Credit System. The article is entitled: Why China's "Social Credit" Scheme Will Create More Corruption, Not a Better Citizenry. The final version of China's social credit system is to be fully implemented by 2020.

Beginning of Lilly Article:

News of China's social credit system has been making waves across media outlets for months. Some publications are going soft on the massive surveillance state, saying it is not as bad as it seems (it is), while others are referring to it as something straight out of Nineteen Eighty-Four (again, it is). With pilot programs operating in certain municipalities, the system is already affecting citizens' lives by limiting their ability to travel or send their children to universities.

"Four million people have been blocked from buying high-speed train tickets over low social credit," VICE News reported earlier this year, "and more than 11 million from buying flights."

Government documents detailing the social credit system say the program will "allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step."

The final version of the social credit system is expected to be fully implemented by 2020, but Beijing is being vague regarding the confirmed list of offenses and how the program will work. Here are some of the actions the Chinese government deems "bad behaviors" that warrant punishment:

- Bad driving or traffic offenses
- Jaywalking
- Smoking on trains
- Not cleaning up after your dog
- Not having your dog on a leash
- Not paying debts
- Not paying taxes
- Playing too many video games
- Watching pornography
- Making frivolous purchases
- Consuming too much alcohol or junk food
- Criticizing the government
- Criticizing the social credit system
- Visiting unauthorized websites

Being friends with or messaging others with low scores or those who commit the above offenses

Some transgressions may be worthy of punishment, like not paying debts, taxes, or traffic citations. However, one can already identify some issues with alleged wrongdoings, such as what defines fake news or a "frivolous" purchase or "too much" gaming.

One reason to doubt the efficiency of the behavioral ranking system is the rampant corruption and use of bribes in China.

Even on the surface, not cleaning up after your dog seems well-intentioned. But for those unaware, it is still common for people to urinate and defecate in public in certain areas of China. (As someone who has lived in China for nearly the last year and a half, I'm all too aware of this fact.)

Perhaps Beijing should get the people to stop pooping outside before they worry about the dogs.

Culture Of Corruption

One reason to doubt the efficiency of the behavioral ranking system is the rampant corruption and use of bribes in China. After collecting and analyzing corporate data, Charney Research published a paper in 2015 that found 35 percent of companies in China pay bribes or give gifts in order to operate. One CFO went so far as to describe the practice as "an unspoken rule." Bribes are particularly common in public hospitals, where doctors and nurses are severely underpaid. Patients try to persuade staff with a hongbao (red envelope filled with cash) for special or preferential treatment, which even the bribe can't guarantee.

This year, the local Shanghai government introduced a slew of new traffic laws and fines for offenses like smoking while driving, not wearing seatbelts, cell phone use while driving, and unlicensed driving. While I can appreciate the measures to improve safety for the average rider like myself, and this is purely anecdotal, no behavioral changes in taxi drivers are evident as bribes to traffic cops are still prevalent.

One of the stated goals of the new social credit system is actually to cut down on the corruption and use of bribes in China. But in the grand tradition of government intervention, state programs have proven a reliable means of perpetuating the very problem they intend to eradicate.

Even the simple act of delivering packages can foster bribes. I recently had a care package sent from the US. The sender paid all necessary customs fees based on the content and weight of the package, but upon arrival to Shanghai customs, the package was impounded. It seems the sender had not paid enough to ensure delivery to a residential address. Indeed, the sender was informed that delivery to





Beginning of Social Control in U.S.

residential addresses in China cost more than double the original shipping cost. Upon investigation with Chinese colleagues, I found out that this was nothing more than, you guessed it, a bribe.

There is no reason to believe that the social credit system will suddenly transform the pervasive practice that is common business procedure in all industries in China.

Exacerbating the Gap Between Rich and Poor

One of the stated goals of the new social credit system is actually to cut down on the corruption and use of bribes in China. But in the grand tradition of government intervention, state programs have proven a reliable means of perpetuating the very problem they intend to eradicate. (See also: the wars on poverty, drugs, and terror.)

In the Chaoyang district of Beijing, there are allegedly 120,000 spies, each paid 300 yuan a month. Already they are at work tattling on their fellow citizens for bad behavior (or rather, behavior deemed bad). If you aren't familiar with the currency, that's a whopping \$43 USD a month. Not exactly a Christopher Steele-sized salary.

Make no mistake, the market is already hard at work circumventing the social credit legislation in China. While the program threatens to downgrade users for visiting certain websites or messaging friends with low scores, the use of VPN apps in China to bypass the Great Firewall is widespread.

What this means is that it won't be very expensive to red envelope your way to behave however you would like. The wealthy will simply pay off the informants, who have every incentive to demand payment for silence. The poor, on the other hand, will just have to behave.

Additionally, as Rachel Botsman of Wired UK points out, the birth of reputation black markets selling under-the-counter ways to raise your credit score is inevitable. In the same way that Facebook likes and Twitter followers can be bought, individuals will pay to manipulate their score.

How the Free Market Will React

If the government truly wants to create an equal and anti-corrupt society, they should just let the free market reign. Make no mistake, the market is already hard at work circumventing the social credit legislation in China. While the program threatens to downgrade users for visiting certain websites or messaging friends with low scores, the use of VPN apps in China to bypass the Great Firewall is widespread. In fact, not having a VPN is like missing a vital appendage; you just need one to survive in China.

The VPNs allow you to visit any restricted websites, use banned apps, and shield your online activity from the government's prying

eyes. So instead of messaging your low credit score friend on the Chinese friendly WeChat app, you can just message them on the unauthorized WhatsApp or Facebook apps.

And while the big government gurus at Apple happily conceded to the Chinese government's Orwellian demand to remove all VPNs from the Chinese app store, you can still purchase them on other platforms. In fact, for a few hundred dollars, you can purchase a modem at one of the technology markets in China that has a VPN pre-installed on it so that every device in your home can access the web totally unrestricted and privately.

Furthermore, it isn't only VPN use that will salvage social credit status. Using cash for purchases the government considers unwise and relying on private ride-sharing apps will allow users to avoid bureaucratic judgment and punishments for behavior.

Does This Sound Familiar?

For those unfazed by this creepy government overreach because they think "that would never happen here," beware, because it already is. Tech giants are already punishing people for their 'wrong think' by banning users from Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, website hosting services, and payment processors. Invariably, these users tend to be conservative/libertarian, free-market advocates, though progressives critical of establishment politics have also experienced bans. And proving that their ideological confidence in the market is correct, it is the free market that swoops in to rescue their public standing with new platforms. Those banned from Patreon will use PayPal, controversial Tweeters are now on Gab, and when the overlords at YouTube find your Super Chat content offensive, you can instead post it on Stream Labs.

Whether it's China's social credit system or Silicon Valley's, free markets find a way.

End of Lilly Article

It will take months to fully implement a CBDC system in the U.S. But no doubt upon implementation it will have an enormous impact upon the social behavior, order and culture of today's America. I will write more about this as matters develop.

D. Miyoshi



Iran's Plan to Destroy New York

The following chilling article appeared on the *Foreign Desk News* wire on August 1. I present it here for your reading consideration. I have no comments to add as the article speaks for itself. D. Miyoshi

Iran Regime Announces Plans to Construct Nuclear Warheads and Destroy New York



Harrowing images of the New York City destroyed by an atomic bomb were featured in the pages of *Collier's* magazine on August 5, 1950

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a threatening statement on its official Telegram channels over the weekend, stating that its goal was to develop atomic warheads and threaten to destroy New York. According to the official post, Iran “can immediately return to the Emad project and build an atom bomb if the Natanz facilities are attacked.”

According to media reports, the comments made by the Iran regime’s paramilitary arm—the Revolutionary Guard, appeared on its linked Bismichi Media Telegram channel, with an accompanying video titled “When Will Iran’s Sleeping Nuclear Warheads Awaken?” In the short video, Tehran declared that it could use its peaceful nuclear program into a nuclear weapons program quickly if the United States or Israel made any careless mistakes. The video post further stated that Iran could “pulverize” New York and turn it into a “hellish ruin.”

The IRGC also boasted that nuclear facilities in places like Fordow are built deep under the mountains of Iran, protected against trench-busting bombs and atomic explosions. The IRGC-linked Bismichi Media Telegram channel said that while the Natanz facility in the Isfahan province is vulnerable to an attack by Western and Israeli forces, other facilities can assume war footing and engage in rapid nuclear breakout projects. Officials in the video post addressed that Iran’s enrichment process to build atomic weapons in underground facilities has allowed the regime to become a member of the international community’s nuclear world powers.

Last week, Nasser Kanani, Iran’s foreign ministry spokesperson, stated that Tehran would not rush into a quick nuclear deal with the West, adding that Iran would cooperate with talks if the U.S. acted “constructively and positively.” In July, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told reporters that Iran is seeking guarantees from the U.S. to be “stung twice” the same way under the previous administration.

According to many experts, such economic concessions would allow the Iranian government to have funds to support the government and the IRGC and terrorist proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.

The U.S. and Iran’s regime have recently stepped away from failed nuclear talks to revive the 2015 agreement created under the Obama Administration. The previous agreement stipulated that Iran would decrease its nuclear enrichment for civilian use and receive economic sanctions relief from the West. However, under the Trump Administration, the President and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo revoked the agreement, enacting a policy of maximum pressure, citing the numerous violations committed under the regime.

Under the Biden administration, the President and his team have been committed to reviving the agreement to score a political win with Iran, engaging in numerous talks with Tehran officials in Vienna. However, negotiations are at a standstill, given that Iran officials have refused to surrender to threats to assassinate several former U.S. government officials in retaliation for the U.S. killing of IRGC commander Qasem Soleimani.

According to media reports, White House Middle East coordinator Brett McGurk told a group of think tank experts several days ago that the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran is unlikely.

Should Iran obtain a nuclear arsenal, national security experts believe it will conduct its revolutionary goals against American allies in the Middle East and feel empowered enough to act against the state of Israel. Under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Raisi, the Islamic Republic has made clear that it will attack Western powers like America harshly if they continue to stand against the regime.

[End of Article](#)

Is Civil War Coming?



For the past 5 years, I have asked that question myself with increasing frequency. I know that many in the media label predictions of civil war as mere sensational or even dangerous pronouncements.

But according to a new study published on July 20, researchers at the University of California-Davis who polled 8,620 adults about deepening divisions in the country, found that more than 50 percent of Americans believe that “in the next few years, there will be civil war in the [United States]” The stance of the people polled primarily leaned to the left; however, the findings highlight some very real problems.

Over 60 percent of respondents saw a “serious threat to our democracy.” As a result, they believe that a civil war is imminent. Both sides of the political divide believe there is some kind of threat to democracy. But both genuinely believe that the other side is that threat.

As a result, the country is now largely at an impasse. Many Americans passionately believe America is evil. They ardently support the LGBTQ movement, communism and critical race theory. The Black Lives Matter protests show how easily this passion can turn into violence.

Many other Americans love their country. They extol their history and the Judeo-Christian values America was founded on. They have been less likely to protest violently, despite what the January 6 committee claims. But the longer the attack on America goes, the more likely this will change.

That’s where the study results become even more worrying.

A fifth of respondents said they are ready to be “armed with a gun” in anticipation of a coming conflict. Four percent said it is likely that they would “shoot someone with a gun.” Extrapolated out to the current gun-owning American population, this would amount to 4 million people. As divisions deepen, such figures are only likely to grow. Eighteen percent agree or strongly agree with using violence or force to “protect American democracy” when “elected leaders

will not.” Twenty percent believe political violence is sometimes justifiable. This is true of people on both sides of the political divide.

Over 600,000 people died in the U.S. Civil War. That is more Americans than were killed in both world wars combined. A modern-day civil war would have far more casualties.

As mentioned before some in the media label predictions of civil war sensational or even dangerous. Most Americans aren’t clamoring for violent conflict; many just want to get back to their lives and enjoy their creature comforts. But the facts speak for themselves. Regardless of truth, both sides believe they are right. Neither side is willing to back down. And more and more people are willing to turn to violence in order to deal with these irreconcilable differences.

On June 16, 1858, Abraham Lincoln said in a speech, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” That was a direct quote from Jesus Christ that Lincoln applied to the very divided United States of America. ...

Lincoln foresaw great peril for America. He knew it would take a crisis for the nation to learn that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.”

That crisis came. The tension and division in America in the middle of the 19th century erupted into a protracted, bloody conflict lasting more than four years. The Civil War cost 620,000 American lives—more deaths than all other American wars combined.

The bitter division in America today can lead to another civil war that will be many, many times worse.

Let’s pray we shall be spared.

D. Miyoshi

The Coming War Over Taiwan

The following article appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* on Aug 4, 2022. The title is self-explanatory. I present it here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

With its global power at a peak and domestic problems mounting, China is likelier than ever before to make good on its threats.

The Coming War Over Taiwan



Chinese President Xi Jinping reviews an honor guard before boarding a destroyer in Qingdao, China, April 23, 2019. Li Gang/Xinhua/Associated Press

By Hal Brands and Michael Beckley

Aug. 4, 2022 8:00 am ET

The U.S. is running out of time to prevent a cataclysmic war in the Western Pacific. While the world has been focused on Vladimir Putin's aggression in Ukraine, Xi Jinping appears to be preparing for an even more consequential onslaught against Taiwan. Mr. Xi's China is fueled by a dangerous mix of strength and weakness: Faced with profound economic, demographic and strategic problems, it will be tempted to use its burgeoning military power to transform the existing order while it still has the opportunity.

This peaking-power syndrome—the tendency for rising states to become more aggressive as they become more fearful of impending decline—has caused some of the bloodiest wars in history. Unless the U.S. and its allies act quickly, it could trigger a conflict that would make the war in Ukraine look minor by comparison.

No one can say we didn't see it coming. Just this week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid a high-profile visit to Taiwan, and Beijing responded by encircling the island with several days of live-fire military exercises. For the past decade, China's factories have churned out ammunition and put warships to sea faster than any country since World War II. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) regularly practices missile strikes on mock-ups of Taiwanese ports and U.S. aircraft carriers, and PLA vessels and aircraft menace Taiwan's territorial waters and airspace several times a week. The regime has issued bloodcurdling threats toward the island and countries that might come to its aid. "Those who play with fire will perish by it," Mr. Xi told President Joe Biden last week. Senior U.S. officials warn that China might attack Taiwan in the next half-decade, possibly even in the next 18 months.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi poses for photographs with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, Taipei, Taiwan, Aug. 3. Photo: Getty Images

Beijing's belligerence might look like the mark of an ascendant superpower. But the reality is more complex. China isn't so much a rising state as a peaking power, one that has acquired fearsome coercive capabilities—and soaring power ambitions—but now faces worsening challenges at home and abroad.

Such a combination of aspiration and anxiety can be explosive. From ancient times to the present, once-rising powers have taken up arms when their fortunes faded, their enemies multiplied, and they felt they had to lunge for glory or lose their chance forever. Fast-growing countries have responded to economic slumps with reckless expansion. Revisionist states that find themselves cornered by rivals often use force to break the ring. The ghastliest wars of the last century were started not by rising, optimistic powers but by countries—such as Germany in 1914 or Japan in 1941—that had crested and begun to decline. Now China is following this arc—an exhilarating rise followed by the prospect of a hard fall.

Thanks to decades of rapid growth, China boasts the world's largest economy (measured by purchasing power parity), and navy by number of ships and conventional missile force. Chinese investments span the globe, and Beijing is pushing for primacy in crucial technologies. Chinese leaders are dreaming some very big dreams: They want to absorb Taiwan, make the Western Pacific a Chinese lake and carve out a vast economic empire across the global south—all part of the "national rejuvenation" that will return China to its former place as the most powerful country on Earth. In the West, pundits breathlessly warn that Beijing will soon be number one.



Chinese President Xi Jinping reviews an honor guard before boarding a destroyer in Qingdao, China, April 23, 2019.

The Coming War Over Taiwan

Look closer, however, and China's future doesn't seem so bright. Once-torrid growth had already slowed dramatically before Covid-19 compelled the government to lock down major cities indefinitely. Water, farmland and energy resources are becoming scarce. Thanks to the legacy of its one-child policy, China is approaching demographic catastrophe: It will lose 70 million working-age individuals over the next decade while gaining 120 million senior citizens. And whereas the outside world once aided China's rise, now advanced democracies are kicking Chinese firms out of their financial markets, strangling China's tech giant Huawei, boosting military spending and creating multilateral coalitions to check Beijing's expansion. Mr. Xi may tout the rise of the East and the decline of the West, but behind the scenes, Chinese government reports paint pessimistic pictures of slowing growth at home and surging anti-Chinese sentiment abroad.

In the long term, China's woes will make it less competitive. It probably can't outpace America in a superpower marathon, let alone America plus its allies. But in the near-term, we should expect a more dangerous China—one that gambles big to reshape the balance of power before its window closes.



The Taiwanese military conducts exercises, July 27, New Taipei City, Taiwan. Photo: Annabelle Chih/Getty Images

Taiwan is the most likely target of this anxious expansion. Reclaiming Taiwan would eliminate a government whose very existence disproves the Chinese Communist Party's claims that Chinese culture is incompatible with democracy. It would give Beijing a commanding position in the Western Pacific and terrify U.S. allies like the Philippines and Japan. Not least, it would cement Xi Jinping's legacy as a leader on par with Mao Zedong.

For decades, a confident, rising China was content not to force the issue, seeking to gradually lure Taiwan back through peaceful means. Today, though, the prospects for peaceful unification are fading fast. Most Taiwanese don't want to be ruled by a genocidal dictatorship. Popular support for unification has nearly disappeared while support for incremental moves toward independence has doubled since 2018.

But between now and the end of the decade, China has a tantalizing opportunity to secure unification by force. Mr. Xi's reforms of the PLA—meant, among other things, to make it capable of taking Tai-

wan—are nearly complete. China is rapidly deploying missiles, aircraft, warships and rocket launchers that can pummel Taiwan; it is assiduously rehearsing large-scale amphibious assaults.

Meanwhile, U.S. military power is about to dip. The mid-2020s will witness the mass retirement of aging U.S. cruisers, guided-missile submarines and long-range bombers, leaving the U.S. military with hundreds fewer missile launchers—the key metric of modern naval firepower—floating and flying around East Asia. While Washington, Tokyo and Taipei are all undertaking much-needed defense programs focused on denying Chinese hegemony in Asia, those efforts won't bear fruit until the early 2030s. Mr. Xi has repeatedly said that the task of “liberating” Taiwan cannot be passed down from generation to generation. In the mid- and late 2020s, he'll have his best chance to accomplish that mission.

If war comes, it is likely to feature the massive application of force. Beijing could theoretically try to coerce Taiwan into unification with a more limited operation, such as an air-sea blockade or the seizure of Taiwan's small offshore islands. Yet none of these options can guarantee Taiwanese capitulation, and all of them would give Taipei, Washington and other democracies time to mount a punishing response. To achieve its goals, China has to go big and brutal from the start.

Its war plan could well involve a surprise missile and air attack against Taiwan and U.S. military bases in the Pacific, strikes on the satellite communications that underpin the American way of war and a wave of sabotage and assassinations within Taiwan—all as prelude to a massive airborne and amphibious invasion.

Both U.S. and Taiwanese forces could be crippled as the PLA rushes toward its objectives. Even if America avoids rapid defeat, the nightmare scenario currently envisaged in Ukraine—direct clashes between the U.S. and a nuclear-armed great power—would be the reality at the outset. A Sino-American war could escalate rapidly because it will involve technologies that work best when used first, including cyberattacks, hypersonic missiles and electronic warfare. The side that is losing might decide to use low-yield nuclear weapons to turn the tide or force its opponent into submission.

The economic fallout would also be horrendous. Vital waterways would become shooting galleries; the world might find itself cut off from the more than 90% of cutting-edge semiconductors that are manufactured in Taiwan. According to the RAND Corporation, one year of fighting would reduce America's gross domestic product by 5% to 10% and China's by 25% to 35%. A global depression would be all but guaranteed.

American officials aren't blind to the problem, but Washington—thanks to a mixture of inertia, distraction and simple denial—isn't racing to address it. President Biden has pledged, albeit ambiguously, to defend Taiwan from Chinese attack. Speaker Pelosi has joined a growing list of lawmakers to visit Taiwan. The Pentagon calls China its “pacing challenge.” Yet such symbolic gestures will amount to cheap and provocative talk if not backed by a strong and resilient defense—something the U.S. and Taiwan currently lack.

The Coming War Over Taiwan

American forces in the Pacific are still concentrated at large bases, principally on Guam and Okinawa, that are highly vulnerable to missile attacks. The U.S. defense budget has loads of money for future capabilities that might materialize in the 2030s but won't help win a war over Taiwan in this decade. Washington has, rightly, committed tens of billions of dollars in aid to Ukraine yet struggles to find a fraction of that to fund the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, meant to make U.S. forces in the region more resilient and powerful. The fact that China faces an ugly long-term trajectory won't be much consolation if Beijing nonetheless thrashes Washington and Taipei in the coming fight for dominance of the Western Pacific.

But the situation isn't hopeless. Amphibious assaults are devilishly difficult, and a full-on invasion of Taiwan would be one of the largest amphibious assaults in history. It would require the PLA to surge hundreds of thousands of troops across the turbulent Taiwan Strait and to seize an island whose geography—mountains, dense jungles, crowded urban environments—is a defender's dream. A smart, committed defender could turn this operation into a bloody nightmare for invading forces. And doing so doesn't require defying the laws of physics; it just requires moving—now—to make an invasion look all-too-daunting for even a risk-prone peaking power.

First, the Pentagon can turn the Taiwan Strait into a deathtrap for attacking forces by stocking up on tools that are ready or nearly ready today. This means positioning hordes of missile launchers, armed drones, electronic jammers and sensors at sea and on allied territory near the strait. Instead of waiting for a Chinese assault to start and then surging missile-magnet aircraft carriers into the region, the Pentagon could use what is, in essence, a high-tech minefield to decimate China's invasion forces and cut their communications links. These diffuse networks of munitions and jammers would be difficult for China to eliminate without starting a nationwide war. They could be installed on virtually anything that floats or flies, including cargo ships, barges and aircraft.

The U.S. also needs to ensure that its military doesn't have a glass jaw. To prevent China from wrecking forward-stationed American forces at the start of a conflict, the U.S. must scatter those forces across dozens of small operating sites in East Asia. The few big bases that remain must be outfitted with hardened shelters, robust ballistic missile defenses and fake targets to absorb Chinese missiles. Hanging tough also requires dramatically ramping up production of key munitions, so that America has adequate stockpiles and active production lines when the shooting starts. In short, Washington must deprive Beijing of any hope of landing a knockout blow—and thereby confront it with the prospect of a long, grueling war that could threaten the CCP's hold on power at home.



A Taiwanese pilot participates in an Air Force drill in Chiayi, Taiwan, Jan 5. Photo: Reuters

Another priority is for Washington to help Taiwan help itself. Taipei has smart plans to stock up on mobile missile launchers, mines and radars; harden its communications infrastructure; enlarge its army and ground-force reserves; and otherwise prepare to inflict sky-high costs on an aggressor. But Taipei isn't implementing these plans fast enough. If Taiwan doesn't pick up the pace, there is nothing the U.S. can do to save it. If Taiwan redoubles its efforts, however, then America should provide money, hardware and expertise to make the island a tougher target.

The U.S. can help by donating ammunition and sensors, subsidizing Taiwanese procurement of missile launchers and mine layers, matching Taiwanese investments in vital military infrastructure and expanding joint training on crucial defense missions. American special operations forces can help Taiwan prepare for a lethal insurgency against Chinese occupiers, the threat of which may help deter an invasion in the first place. Just as important, Washington can undertake more complex exercises with Taiwan's military—and quietly station larger contingents of trainers and special operations forces on the island—to ensure that the two countries can act as a real alliance if a conflict ignites.

The U.S. also needs to exploit the enemy's weaknesses. Because the PLA hasn't fought a major war since invading Vietnam in 1979, it hasn't tested its modern command-and-control processes under fire. By developing the ability—through cyberattacks and related means—to inject confusion into military communications networks, the Pentagon can make Chinese officials wonder how glitchy their forces will be in combat. And by rehearsing a distant blockade of Chinese energy imports, America can threaten to turn any protracted conflict into an economic disaster for Beijing.

Finally, the U.S. must make China realize that a Taiwan war could go big as well as long. The more friends America can bring into the fight, the less appetizing that fight will look to Beijing.

The PLA may talk big about crushing Japan if Tokyo helps Washington in a crisis, but it can't relish the prospect of fighting a global superpower and its mightiest regional ally. The Indian and Australian navies could help Washington choke off Beijing's oil imports as they transit the Malacca Strait. Key European powers—especially the United Kingdom and France—can contribute submarines or surface combatants; more important, they can impose painful techno-

The Arming of the IRS

logical and economic sanctions. Sanctioning China obviously would be more difficult than sanctioning Russia—which is why America and its allies need to plan these punishments now, before a crisis starts.

If Washington can credibly promise to turn a fight over Taiwan into a showdown between China and the world's most advanced democracies, that is a strategic price even Xi Jinping might not want to pay. Indeed, the best way to avoid a looming war in Asia is to make clear that Beijing cannot win at anything like an acceptable cost.

The crisis over Speaker Pelosi's visit is just the beginning. The U.S. is entering the most crucial phase of its rivalry with China, when the risk of war is highest and decisions made, or not made, will reverberate for decades. America can win a protracted competition against a formidable but faltering China, but only if it braces now for the very real possibility of a dramatic attack on Taiwan.

Mr. Brands is the Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Mr. Beckley is associate professor of political science at Tufts University and a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This essay is adapted from their new book, "Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China," which will be published by W.W. Norton on Aug. 16.

[End of Article](#)

The Arming of the IRS



America's "deep state" now has more agents with firearms than the United States Marine Corps has soldiers. Last month, Rep. Matt Gaetz drew attention to this issue on Fox News, noting that the Internal Revenue Service has spent \$725,000 on ammunition just this year. "Call me old-fashioned, but I thought the heaviest artillery an IRS agent would need would be a calculator," Gaetz said on Jesse Watters's prime-time show. "I imagine the IRS in green eyeshades and cubicles, not busting doors down and emptying Glock clips on our fellow Americans."

Yet the IRS is indeed busting down doors and arresting citizens with its own "swat teams." It has stockpiled 4,500 guns and 5 million

rounds of ammunition for this purpose, and it's not the only federal agency doing so. A December 2020 report from American Transparency highlights how 103 executive agencies outside the Department of Defense spent \$2.7 billion on guns, ammunition and military equipment between 2006 and 2019. The Department of Veterans Affairs spent \$11.6 million on guns, ammunition, body armor, chemical weapons and military supplies. The Animal and Plant Inspection Service spent \$3.9 million on rifles, ammunition, dart guns, night-vision equipment, unmanned aircraft and the like. Even the Railroad Retirement Board spent \$50,088 on guns, ammunition and similar gear (though train robberies aren't much of a problem these days).

What are these federal agents up to? The U.S. must have the best-armed accountants and entomologists in the world. But the Animal and Plant Inspection Services does not need shotguns, LP gas cannons and drones to get through a bad tomato worm season. The deep state is arming itself to the teeth, and Representative Gaetz thinks he knows why.

"So here's the Biden plan," he told Watters. "Disarm Americans, open the border, empty the prisons—but rest assured, they'll still collect your taxes, and they need \$725,000 worth of ammunition, apparently, to get the job done."

Gaetz introduced a bill to Congress on July 7 called the Disarm the IRS Act, which would ban the agency responsible for tax enforcement from purchasing ammunition. Yet this bill probably will not pass, and it would do nothing about other agencies stockpiling weapons even if it did pass. It is understandable for the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to have some armed agents. But the fact that the Social Security Administration, Small Business Administration, and National Archives and Records Administration are stocking up on ammunition is concerning.

Investigative journalists Adam Andrzejewski, the founder of American Transparency, has been reporting on the militarization of U.S. executive agencies since the Obama administration. He recently told *Epoch Times* via e-mail that the public needs to be watching and questioning federal government arms purchases. "Just who are the federal agents preparing to battle?" he asked. "Our data shows that the federal government has become a gun show that never adjourns. Taxpayers need to tell Washington that police power belongs primarily to cities and states, not the feds."

There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers in the U.S., but America's sprawling deep state of federal agencies no longer trusts local law enforcement to enforce their unconstitutional dictates. So it is arming its 200,000-plus agents to the teeth in preparation for a future conflict. Gaetz has exposed how the Federal Bureau of Investigation worked to cover up evidence of depravity, crime and corruption on Hunter Biden's laptop even after it was caught helping Barack Obama frame Donald Trump for Russian collusion.

There is ample evidence indicating the deep state helped Barak Obama and his team steal the 2020 presidential election from Trump

Fate of the First Amendment

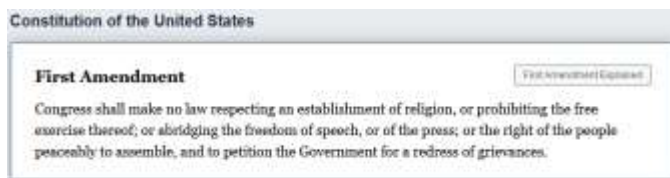
and give it to Joe Biden. Now people like Dinesh D’Souza are exposing the election fraud, so don’t be surprised if the agents who assisted Biden getting the presidency use their considerable arsenal to keep him in office.

“We are in a bitterly weak time in America,” Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his book *America Under Attack*. “Lawmakers, judges, bureaucrats and others wielding power are shockingly corrupt. Our institutions are crumbling. Our constitutional form of government is almost completely destroyed. ... These events gave us a hard look at what radical leftists are willing to do to seize power and stay in power. They have no respect for the rule of law. They believe they are above the law. Such contempt for the nation’s founding principles is a grave threat to the republic!”

If Donald Trump regains the presidency in 2024, he could find himself up against a lot of firepower as the deep state agents who helped change the election are unlikely to surrender without a fight. There is conflict on the horizon, and ultimately it will take a miracle to stabilize America long enough for people to have a chance to repent and allow the country to get back its democracy.

D. Miyoshi

The fate of the First Amendment



The First Amendment gives Americans five basic freedoms: Freedom of speech, press, petition, assembly and religion.

While all five are important, perhaps Freedom of speech is talked about the most.

Free speech is the cornerstone of our democracy.

It not only protects speech that people like, but speech that people don’t. Because when it comes to free speech, either everyone is protected or no one is at all.

It allows citizens to support political movements and candidates. It gives people the power to call out government corruption and abuse. And most importantly, it empowers people to give unpopular opin-

ions.

Although what you say can have consequences—like losing friends or a job—it gives Americans the right to express opinions without government censorship or control. And more importantly—you can’t go to jail for expressing your opinion. At least that’s the idea. But a recent Federal court case now casts doubt on this entitlement we take for granted.

It is the case of Alex Jones.

The following report on this case was written by conservative columnist and commentator Dave Hodges. It was published in the *DailyBell.com*. I present it here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

Today they come for Alex Jones, tomorrow for all of us

Submitted by Dave Hodges on Thursday, August 4, 2022 - 22:56.



The theory of the current batch of civil lawsuits against Alex Jones and *InfoWars* goes like this: he claimed on multiple occasions that the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting didn’t happen. He also posited the alternative theory that it did happen, but was a false flag.

To be sure, there were lots of strange goings-on surrounding the case and the shooter. Here are just a handful:

Even mainstream outlets reported that the FBI and CIA visited the shooter Adam Lanza’s house, discussed his “fascination” with mass shootings with agents who then declined to take further action.

In 2014, two years after the Sandy Hook massacre, one of the deceased victims’ photographs appeared on a poster at a vigil for a Pakistan school massacre, ostensibly indicating him as a victim there as well.

One day after the shooting, a parent of a murdered child appeared on camera at a press conference laughing and smiling before taking a

Fate of the First Amendment

deep breath and assuming a more businesslike, somber tone to deliver his remarks. The rapid change in demeanor is startling and not at all what one would expect of a grieving father.



There are many more anomalies not included here for the sake of brevity.

While none of the above curiosities, alone or in combination, proves government collusion, they certainly warrant further scrutiny. And they're fair game to examine with a skeptical eye.

Which Jones did.



Per the prosecution's theory in the ongoing civil lawsuit, the parents of the Sandy Hook kids got harassed — allegedly due to Jones' skepticism, which caused them unquantifiable emotional distress. Now their lawyers want \$150 million in compensation, and the corporate media is practically orgasming on air. Nothing excites them more than shutting down their populist, more popular competition.



Trust in legacy media among the public has plummeted to 36% (a record low, likely an overestimate). CNN+, the platform intended to rival online media, failed just three weeks into its launch — even after CNN's parent company dumped \$300 million into the project.

The only way they can survive is to use the state's legal fiat to muzzle their competition.

Jones never once said the purported Sandy Hook victims' names on the air — which, using common sense, would seem to be a baseline element of any defamation case (although US law doesn't always follow that standard).

Furthermore, lots of web-based media figures claimed Sandy Hook didn't happen in the way it was portrayed. Lots of members of the general public are unhinged, independent of media influences. Lots of people get harassed online every day.

The idea that Jones' denial/questioning of Sandy Hook, through a labyrinth of cause and effect, through proxies, ultimately resulted in emotional trauma for parents is, to put it mildly, a stretch. Some might call it implausible.

The evidence presented is an extremely loose casual chain of events, one which a jury likely wouldn't buy if the decision were left to them.

Hence the default judgment and straight to damages.

In a break from the Constitution, Alex Jones never got a jury trial to decide his guilt in this matter. Judges instead unilaterally issued a default judgment of guilt.

The 7th Amendment:

“In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved.”

The right to jury trial, as indicated, extends even further back in time than the founding of the nation to British common law. That's how



Simple Investment to Counter Inflation

far fundamental rights have been eroded. Legally, we're getting dragged back into the feudal era.

To emphasize, the current jury proceedings are not to determine guilt; the state already decided that for them. The jury's only job now is to decide how much Jones owes based on his pre-determined guilt.

"Guilty until proven bankrupt."

The public, brazen display of extraconstitutional power is the point of the exercise. The state wants to demonstrate that it is no longer remotely constrained by the Constitution when it persecutes its enemies.

To the social engineers bent on mass censorship, Alex Jones is the juiciest target possible.

He's bombastic; he's flamboyant; he often comes off, frankly, as an unhinged lunatic. That's his brand.

Free Alex Jones pic.twitter.com/53gvfYXrml

— Jackson Hinkle ?? (@jacksonhinkle) July 30, 2022

Jones' demeanor assists the corporate state in demonizing and framing him as a unique danger.

But, for all his theatrics, Jones has been prescient about a hell of a lot – from blowing the whistle back in the day on warrant-free mass-scale NSA spying way before the Snowden leaks to toxic water causing chemical castration to the mRNA "vaccine" fraud back in 2020 when they were still in development.

On many of the foremost issues of interest to libertarians and dissidents more broadly, Jones has been the quintessential canary in the coal mine.

The insight he offers from his independent platform, which can't be co-opted or controlled, is why the state (and the media it controls) hates him. His current legal persecution is retribution for not toeing the line. The Empire strikes back.

Alex Jones is the bellwether: whatever happens to him will subsequently befall a broader swathe of the anti-establishment press.

In 2018, Alex Jones was the first target of mass social media censor-

ship when he was deplatformed from every major social media network overnight. In justification, he was framed as the exception to free speech – so beyond the pale as to warrant extraordinary measures to silence his dangerous voice.



The mere idea of a national debate in corporate media regarding the censorship of "far-right" media figures in 2022 is inconceivable – it's now just accepted as standard operating procedure.

Of course, Jones' banning was merely a taste of things to come. In the aftermath, scores of other, less notorious subversive figures got the boot.

The precedent is set. Watch default judgments for independent media outlets that do the wrong kind of reporting become the "new normal."

End of Report

A Simple Investment to Counter Inflation



Simple Investment to Counter Inflation

Collectibles are items that are worth far more than their original sale price and are considered alternative investments—vehicles that don't fall into any other category like stocks, bonds, cash, or real estate. If done wisely, investing in this asset class can be both rewarding and help you maximize your returns.

Here is an article by Teeka Tiwari, editor of *Palm Beach Daily*, and a multi-millionaire and investment consultant to the mega rich, about collectibles that the average investor can become involved in. I updated the article with the latest sale of a Mickey Mantle card and present the article here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

What a \$7.25 Million Baseball Card Reveals About the Economy

I've always loved sports cars. In fact, as a kid growing up in England, I was obsessed with them.

My first car was a 1969 Ford Mustang GT convertible. It was a dream come true.

Every time I drove it around, someone would give me a nod of admiration. I still remember driving with my girlfriend and watching her blond hair flow in the wind.

It felt amazing.

I was also among the first Americans to buy a Land Rover Discovery Series II. I bought it in 1994 – the first year it came to the U.S.

I walked into the Manhattan dealership as a young Wall Street hot-shot and plunked down \$38,000 in cash for it. I could've written a check, but I'd always dreamed about buying my first Land Rover with cash.

After that, I bought a 1987 Porsche 911 Turbo (Porsche aficionados know it as the 930). People called it the "Widowmaker." I almost died in it.

The old Porsches didn't have electronic stabilization systems. And as rear-engine cars, they were prone to frightening oversteer... So if you went into a turn too fast and hit the brakes, the rear end would start sliding.

It happened to me once. I went into a turn at high speed... and the back end just went whoosh. Fortunately, I regained control and just avoided smashing into an old stone barn. (A week later it was sold).

I bought the car for \$30,000 and sold it a few years later for \$35,000.

That's a pretty good deal considering I drove it a lot.

But if I'd held onto it, it would have been worth as much as \$200,000. Since so many people totaled their 911 Turbos, the supply has dwindled. There are very few left in factory condition.

Here's why I'm telling you this...

Why the Wealthy Are Buying \$7.25 Million Baseball Cards

A few weeks ago, a T-206 Honus Wagner baseball card sold for a record \$7.25 million in a private auction. Fewer than 50 authenticated copies of the card exist in the world.



Then on August 24, 2022 Texas based Heritage Auctions reported that a 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle card with an initial bid of \$6.1 million, sold for \$12.6 million, a new record.

These auctions confirm a trend I call the "New Reality of Money."

In this reality, obscene money-printing and out-of-control inflation have perverted normal money rules.

People are paying record prices for collectibles because they're desperate to find rare and highly desirable assets that offer a substantial return that can outpace inflation.

I've been preparing for this New Reality for years.

I own boats, cars, and watches that I purchased as recently as three years ago. And even though they've been fished from, driven hard, and worn daily... they're worth more today than I originally paid.

Friends, that's not normal. It should never have been able to happen, and yet it is.



Simple Investment to Counter Inflation

In fact, my biggest personal investment returns over the last 12 months haven't been in crypto... It's been in luxury watches. And some have risen as much as 800% in value.

(Unlike my subscribers that have enjoyed gains as much as 85,000%, the publishing rules I work under here at PBRG limit me to owning just bitcoin and Ethereum.)

Over the last three years, I've been one of the few newsletter editors in the business pounding the table on collectibles.

Because if you want to make money in today's market... you must think outside the box.

Just think about this...

In the past, wealthy individuals bought collectibles as status symbols or passion investments.

Today, they view high-end cars, luxury watches, and fine art as assets whose values will increase exponentially over time – thus protecting their money from inflation.

And it's no surprise why...

If you look at assets like contemporary art, they've delivered average annual returns of 14.1% over the past 26 years...

Other alternative investments like venture capital and bitcoin have seen even bigger gains with average annual returns of 19.3% and 230%, respectively, over the previous decade.

So you can see why the wealthy allocate huge gobs of their capital to assets outside the traditional 60/40 stock and bond portfolio.

For instance, a recent Ernst & Young survey found that 81% of ultra-high-net-worth individuals now invest in alternative assets.

By comparison, retail investors allocate less than 5% to alternative investments. Is it any wonder why the Main Street investor is getting left behind?

As more investors diversify into alternative assets, I expect we'll see even bigger returns from these nontraditional investments.

The good news is you don't have to buy a Ferrari, a Picasso, or a multimillion-dollar condo in Miami to protect yourself against inflation.

Today, there are strategies anyone can use to invest like the ultra-wealthy... you just need a game plan.

How Regular Folks Can Get Involved in Collectibles

There's so much money sloshing around the world looking for a home that wealthy people are spending millions of dollars on things like baseball cards.

We're not talking about a one-of-a-kind Monet or Picasso. There are still close to 50 Honus Wagner cards in existence.

This shows you just how much money is out there looking for a shelter against the destroying effects of inflation... And it'll only get worse.

The Senate just passed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. The 755-page bill includes \$430 billion to combat climate change and extend health care coverage.

Of course, the bill contains tax increases and other "savings" to offset the spending. I don't think for one second it will have any impact on reducing inflation. But even if it reduces inflation – and that's a big if – it'll likely take a decade.

I don't know about you, but I don't have another 10 years to wait for the government to "modestly" reduce inflation.

That's why I've been looking for ways for everyday investors to get exposure to collectibles.

One idea is Rally, a platform that allows you to purchase fractional ownership interests in fine art, rare cars, comic books, and more.

Here's how it works...

The owner of an asset lists it on Rally and offers investors shares (fractions of the asset's worth).

For example, you could list a rare comic book worth \$100,000 and offer investors \$100 fractions of it. If the comic's value rises to \$1 million, that \$100 investment rises to \$1,000.

Platforms like Rally can offer these fractional investments because they're classified as Regulation A+ listings... so the owner can raise money from the public rather than just wealthy accredited investors.

More importantly, fractionalizing assets through a Reg A+ listing makes them SEC-registered investments.



Crash in Used Car Prices

That means these investments have federal oversight... and you have more financial protection than you might get through online marketplaces like eBay.

So investing with Rally gives you broad exposure to the tremendous upside in collectibles with limited risk.

Friends, don't wait for the government or Fed to save you from inflation a decade from now... If you have cash on the sidelines, consider allocating a small amount to collectibles.

You may not buy the next Honus Wagner, but you'll have a good shot at beating inflation while avoiding the market uncertainty we're seeing today.

Let the Game Come to You!

End of Article

The Crash in Used Car Prices



We need to prepare for an exploding supply of used automobiles... And like most economic disruptions these days, it'll be thanks to the pandemic.

COVID-19 brought about never-imagined lifestyle changes. Families that used to live in crowded apartments and concrete jungles made the move to suburban areas with yards and trees. And trains, subways, and shuttle buses were no longer reliable forms of transportation.

Everyone needed cars.

This change in demand (along with global supply-chain issues) made cars a precious commodity. Prices nearly doubled as a result.

But recent indicators show the car market's strength is starting to fade. And for the first time in years, prices are about to fall.

To explain the situation, I present the following report published by the *Stansberry NewsWire* on August 1, 2022.

D. Miyoshi

Used-Car Prices Are About to Crash... Here's Why

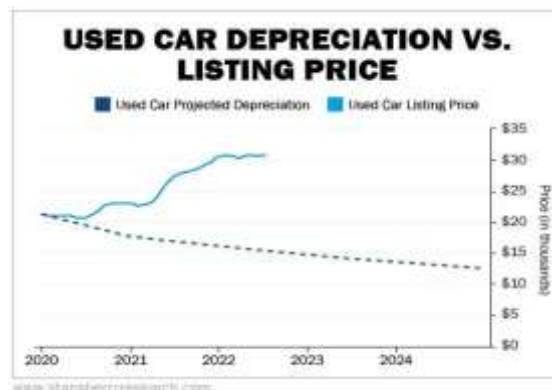
By C. Scott Garliss, editor, *Stansberry NewsWire*

Before we go any further, remember... this isn't the housing crisis in 2008. It's a car crisis in 2022. If the housing bust hit us like a right hook, a collapse today in the used-car industry might be more akin to a left jab.

Still, the change we're seeing is dramatic.

It used to be that a vehicle would start to depreciate as soon as you drove it off the lot – at least, that was the case until early 2020. Fast-forward to this year, and a car you bought two to three years ago is likely to earn you a better return than your 401(k).

The chart below shows what the value of a used vehicle purchased in 2020 should be today, based on the typical depreciation (dashed line)...



www.stansberryresearch.com

Now, look at the bright blue line – the actual value of what that car is worth today. It's not even close to the trend.

It's hard to imagine, but the used-car industry has swollen to a size that's simply unsustainable on a long-term basis.

But what's the catalyst for change? The answer lies with consumers. A troubling number of folks today can't afford their car payments...

The Point of No Return

Edmunds, an online automotive inventory and information resource, reports that about 13% of new-car buyers are making payments of at least \$1,000 per month. Cox Automotive and Moody's Analytics say these numbers are the highest on record... And keep in mind, this is for an asset that's historically considered a terrible investment.

For comparison, the median monthly mortgage payment is \$1,600.

Consumers' disposable incomes increased as the pandemic brought about debt forbearance, stimulus checks, and better unemployment benefits. But as those benefits dried up, car buyers were left holding the bag. A lot of buyers are now defaulting on auto loans from 2020 and 2021.

According to Barron's, the nation is experiencing a surge in repossessed vehicles over the last year. Auto dealers are seeing repossessed vehicles go to auction where the buyer's loan-to-value ("LTV") ratio was north of 130%. (And that's our conservative number... Barron's quoted one dealer who's seeing ratios at 140%.)

LTV is the loan amount versus the value of the actual vehicle. So in other words, buyers are defaulting on car loans of \$26,000... on vehicles worth only \$20,000 (130% LTV).

What's alarming is that this isn't limited to subprime borrowers. Yes, subprime borrowers' default rate is still higher than prime borrowers' (those who have good credit)... But Barron's reports that both groups saw their default rate double since 2020. Subprime borrowers' default rate increased from about 6% to 11%, while prime borrowers' increased from 2% to 4%.

It gets worse when we zoom out. According to a Consumer Reports investigation in 2021, 25% of loans were given to borrowers who might not be able to afford them. Income and employment verification only happened 4% of the time.

Consider these locality default rates... 8.7% in California, 10% in Texas, and a shocking 23% in Washington, D.C.

These numbers are all for loans that are 30 days or more past due. And they're concerning. These states are major economic centers. California and Texas account for roughly 23% of national output.

So, while the data doesn't paint a promising economic picture, it does tell us what's coming for the used-car market. It's quickly moving from no supply to a flood of inventory... And that means the high prices we've seen since the pandemic are nearing their end.

End of Report

Has America reached the point of no return?



The following is a very insightful article by Dr. Thomas Sowell of where America, as a nation and a law abiding society have come. The article appeared on the internet August 2, 2022. Because I consider Dr. Sowell one of the finest contemporary thinkers and social theorists in America today, I wanted to provide Dr. Sowell's latest article here for your reading consideration. I think you will find it elucidating.

D. Miyoshi

The Point of No Return

By Dr. Thomas Sowell

This is an election year. But the issues this year are not about Democrats and Republicans. The big issue is whether this nation has degenerated to a point of no return — a point where we risk destroying ourselves, before our enemies can destroy us.

If there is one moment that symbolized our degeneration, it was when an enraged mob gathered in front of the Supreme Court and a leader of the United States Senate shouted threats against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, saying "You won't know what hit you!"

There have always been irresponsible demagogues. But there was once a time when anyone who shouted threats to a Supreme Court Justice would see the end of his own political career, and could not show his face in decent society again.

You either believe in laws or you believe in mob rule. It doesn't matter whether you agree with the law or agree with the mob on some particular issue. If threats of violence against judges — and publishing where a judge's children go to school — is the way to settle issues, then there is not much point in having elections or laws.

There is also not much point in expecting to have freedom. Threats and violence were the way the Nazis came to power in Germany. Freedom is not free. If you can't be bothered to vote against storm-trooper tactics — regardless of who engages in them, or over what issue — then you can forfeit your freedom.

A Big Lesson in Investing

Worse yet, you can forfeit the freedom of generations not yet born.

Some people seem to think that the Supreme Court has banned abortions. It has done nothing of the sort.

The Supreme Court has in fact done something very different, something long overdue and potentially historic. It has said that their own court had no business making policy decisions which nothing in the Constitution gave them the authority to make.

Get out a copy of the Constitution — and see if you can find anything in there that says the federal government is authorized to make laws about abortion.

Check out the 10th Amendment, which says that the federal government is limited to the specific powers it was granted, with all other powers going to the states or to the people.

Why do we elect legislators to do what the voters want done, if unelected judges are going to make up laws on their own, instead of applying the laws that elected officials passed?

This is part of a very long struggle that has been going on for more than 100 years. Back in the early 20th century, Progressives like President Woodrow Wilson decided that the Constitution put too many limits on the powers they wanted to use.

Claiming that it was nearly impossible to amend the Constitution, Progressives advocated that judges "interpret" the Constitutional limits out of the way.

This was just the first in a long series of sophistries.

In reality, the Constitution was amended 4 times in 8 years — from 1913 through 1920 — during the heyday of the Progressive era.

When the people wanted the Constitution amended, it was amended. When the elites wanted the Constitution amended, but the people did not, that is called democracy.

Another great sophistry was using the federal government's authority to regulate interstate commerce to call all sorts of other things interstate commerce. In 1995, elites were shocked when the Supreme Court ruled — 5 to 4 — that carrying a gun near a school was not interstate commerce.

States had a right to ban carrying a gun near a school, and most of them did. But the federal government had no such authority. Nor did the Constitution give the federal government the right to make laws about abortion, one way or the other.

What both state and federal laws do have the right to stop is threats against judges and their families.

This is not a partisan issue. The Republican governor of Virginia is providing protection to Supreme Court Justices who live in that state. But the Republican governor of Maryland seems to think that harassing judges and their families is no big deal.

Voters need to find out who is for or against mob rule, whether they are Democrats or Republicans. We are not going to be a free or decent society otherwise.

Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305. His website is www.tsowell.com. To find out more about Thomas Sowell and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

End of Article

A Big Lesson in Investing



Here is an article by Nomi Prins, former Managing Director of Goldman Sachs and now prominent and successful Investment Consultant writing about perhaps the biggest lesson she learned about investing on Wall Street. I subscribe to Ms. Prins' publications and would like to share this article with you. It is an important lesson.

D. Miyoshi

What My Mom Taught Me About Investing – That Wall Street Couldn't

By Nomi Prins, Editor, *Inside Wall Street with Nomi Prins*

There are moments in life that define your path.

A Big Lesson in Investing

Today, I want to share one of those moments with you.

I was a managing director at Goldman Sachs at the time. But it didn't happen in my office at the World Trade Center...

Instead, it was a lesson I learned from my mom.

It changed my life forever. And I believe it could have implications for you and your money.

Let me show you how...

A Twisted Story

Today, I want to write to you about other tactics to help you become a better long-term investor.

It has to do with my mom, and a broker at Smith Barney two decades ago.

Now, my mom is a smart, independent person. So, when she decided to invest her retirement funds with a brokerage firm called Smith Barney, she didn't ask for my opinion.

Smith Barney was a prestigious institution. Its history went all the way back to 1873.

You may even recall its motto from a TV commercial in the 1980s. In it, actor John Houseman said:

They make money the old-fashioned way. They earn it.

All that was before a telecom company called WorldCom went bankrupt on July 21, 2002. And not quietly either.

I chronicled the rise and fall of WorldCom in my book, *Other People's Money*. It's a twisted story.

This was the biggest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history. WorldCom had assets of \$107 billion at the time.

In its wake, WorldCom left a cesspool of \$11 billion in accounting fraud. Its former banks – including Citigroup, Bank of America, and J.P. Morgan – settled lawsuits with creditors for \$6 billion. And its CEO, Bernie Ebbers, served nearly 14 years in jail.

My Mom and WorldCom

Before WorldCom went bankrupt, three things happened.

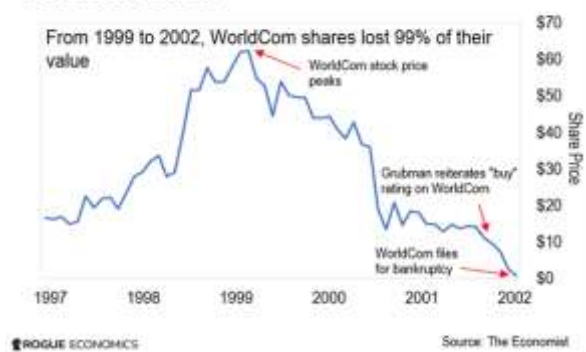
First, it bought a lot of other firms, after the Clinton Administration passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996. WorldCom's stock rose from \$16.50 to a peak of \$62.30 in September 1999.

Second, a famous telecom analyst and managing director at Salomon Smith Barney wrote glowing research reports about WorldCom's financial health.

This was even as its stock was bucking and it was announcing large accounting revisions. His name was Jack Grubman.

And third, WorldCom's stock began plummeting into bankruptcy, as you can see in the chart below.

WorldCom Stock



If you remember the book *Liar's Poker* by Michael Lewis, you'll know that Salomon Brothers was big in the 1980s. (I'll tell you my Salomon Brothers' liar's poker story another time.)

But what you might not know is the incestuous relationship between Salomon, Smith Barney, and Citigroup.

Salomon Brothers merged with Smith Barney in 1997. Then, Travelers Insurance bought the combined company. And Citicorp merged with Travelers Insurance in 1998 to become Citigroup.

Yes, all that merging and name-changing can make your head spin. But here's why I mention it...

Citigroup was significantly involved in WorldCom at the investment banking level.

At the time, WorldCom was struggling to pay its debt. And as it turned out, it was also cooking its books to hide its true condition.

While all that was happening, my mom's broker was urging her to invest in WorldCom stock.

She followed his guidance... and invested nearly half her retirement fund.

This happened during the months before WorldCom shares took a nosedive. She doesn't remember the exact dates, but shares were already dropping steadily.

At the time, it might have seemed like a golden opportunity to "buy the dip."

After all, on the surface, WorldCom looked like a world-class company. And it's not hard to imagine that her broker might have painted that picture for her.

But it turned out to be the worst financial mistake of her life.

And the "dip" in the case of WorldCom was not related to overall market behavior – but to fraud.

From its peak in 1999 to 2002, WorldCom shares plunged 99.1%. In the summer of 2002, the company filed for bankruptcy.

As a result my mom lost nearly half of her retirement funds. She did not tell me this until months after WorldCom's bankruptcy.

She was very upset. But she wasn't the only one who lost money. Investors in WorldCom stock lost a total of \$175 billion.

China's Plans to Attack America

Don't Make the Same Mistake My Mom Made

Here's why that makes me so angry.

First, my mom lost that money by trusting a broker to act in her best interest.

She didn't ask me for advice on the situation, even though I was an executive at Goldman Sachs. She didn't think she had to. She trusted her broker.

Second, there was the incestuous relationship between Salomon Smith Barney and Citigroup.

It was such that certain brokers could convince their customers to purchase stock in companies that were heading south. Just like my mom's broker urged her to buy WorldCom.

They could tout internal positive research as a way to encourage retail customers to buy that stock.

Remember Jack Grubman, managing director at Salomon Smith Barney?

He maintained a "buy" recommendation on WorldCom even as it dove from its peak of over \$60 a share in 1999 to \$7 a share in 2002.

On February 8, 2002, he even reiterated his "buy" rating, according to Salomon Smith Barney research reports. That was just a few months before WorldCom declared bankruptcy.

That was one major reason that my mom's broker used to convince her to buy WorldCom stock.

And this is why, when my mom told me about her experience, it was a defining moment in my life.

By that point, I'd already witnessed the horror of 9/11 firsthand. I was sick of the greed and corruption on Wall Street. I resigned from Goldman Sachs just before my mom told me what happened to her.

But my mom's experience was the final push I needed to choose the next path of my life. From that point forward, I vowed to help people like her to avoid these situations.

I've made it my life-long mission to reveal how Wall Street really works, so that you can arm yourself and prosper from knowing what I know.

And from knowing what I learned from my mom.

What This Means for You and Your Money

Today, the historic Smith Barney name is no more.

In 2009, Citigroup sold part of its Smith Barney retail brokerage business to investment bank Morgan Stanley.

That combined company – or "joint venture," in Wall Street speak – was called Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Wealth Management.

But, in 2012, Morgan Stanley dropped the Smith Barney name. It simply had too much baggage.

What my mom learned from her experience with Smith Barney is that you have to be wary of brokers. Especially ones that have an institutional relationship with the company they're recommending.

So, here's my advice on your brokerage accounts, especially for your retirement funds:

1. Be wary of brokers – even the big ones.

It's best to keep your retirement funds with companies that aren't owned by any mega-banks.

That's a good way to know that the recommendations they offer you aren't tied to positions those banks might have, or might publicly endorse.

These independent brokerages include Ameriprise Financial, Advisor Group, Raymond James, and LPL Financial.

2. Don't put all your investment eggs in one basket – and don't invest it all at one time.

Spread your risk, even when you're investing in what seems like an amazing opportunity.

Don't invest all your capital on a single name or idea. And invest in small increments, rather than all at one time.

Instead, consider investing half of what you'd allocate to that name now, and half in a few months, or when you see a dip. You can also consider investing smaller amounts over a longer period of time.

This is what we call "legging in," or "dollar-cost averaging."

None of us can time the market with 100% accuracy. And none of us can get every investment right.

This sort of approach can help you protect your nest egg if one of your investments doesn't work out.

End of Article

China's Plans to Attack America



A clip originally posted on the Weibo microblogging platform by the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command.

To gain the most definitive declaration of the official position of China towards America, we look to actual declarations made by the current leading military officials in China. Columnist Dave Hodges has compiled a transcript of recent declarations by Chinese Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe. From these official declarations one can surmise America is in grave danger. For your reading consideration I present Hodges report published on July 25, 2022.

D. Miyoshi



China's Plans to Attack America

"The central committee believes, as long as we resolve the United States problem at one blow, our domestic problems will all be readily solved. Therefore, our military battle preparation appears to aim at Taiwan, but in fact is aimed at the United States, and the preparation is far beyond the scope of attacking aircraft carriers or satellites.

- Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe

This is the first part of a multipart series which exposes China's intention to go to war with the United States. Part One is based upon the idea that the Chinese fully intend on not just conquering America, but destroying America.

A recent speech made to the CCP in Communist China speaks to the resolve and historical overview that exists in China with regard to not just invading the United States, but to decisively destroy the country and kill as many Americans as possible. The content of this speech was leaked to John Moore. Paul Martin forwarded me the copy. I have spent the previous 12 hours gathering opinions and statements from my very best sources. Sometimes, my sources can be a bit slow to respond. However, all but one of the people I solicited opinions from answered within a couple of hours of receiving this. To a man, they believe everything in the report, however, many expressed extreme surprise that this content would be discussed in such an open political environment. The universal consensus is that this is authentic and does represent the majority philosophy of the CCP.

In two successive articles, I am going to highlight some quotes and relate the material back to the present day relationship between China and the United States.

China Is Not, Never Has Been, Or Will Ever Be an American Ally

For another report on another day, I firmly believe that when, not if, the Red Dawn invasion of the United States commences, the Chinese will be among the invading armies. That is why the Chinese-controlled Hollywood forced the producers of the remake of Red Dawn (2012) to change the identity of the invading force from Chinese to North Korean. I believe the script hit too close to home.

Recently, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) conducted an online survey conducted by sina.com and one of the key questions that they asked was the following:

"Will you shoot at women, children and prisoners of war," more than 80 percent of the respondents answered in the affirmative, exceeding by far our expectations as expressed by the Chinese Defense Minister.

General Wei went on to say:

The central issue of this survey appears to be whether one should shoot at women, children and prisoners of war, but its real significance goes far beyond that. Ostensibly, our intention is mainly to figure out what the Chinese people's attitude towards war is: If these future soldiers do not hesitate to kill even non-combatants, they'll naturally be doubly ready and ruthless in killing combatants. There-

fore, the responses to the survey questions may reflect the general attitude people have towards war...The purpose of the CCP Central Committee in conducting this survey is to probe people's minds. We wanted to know: If China's global development will necessitate massive deaths in enemy countries, will our people endorse that scenario? Will they be for or against it?

Subsequently, General Wei deems the Chinese people ready for war and we can expect the brutality of invading Chinese military force to be off the charts. It is clear that the CCP intention is to commit genocide against American citizens and they simply wanted to see if their people were on board with the intention and they apparently are.

The Chinese View Themselves as the Master Race on the Planet

The Chinese view Americans, and pretty much everyone else with contempt. They believe that they, and they alone are the master race and are entitled to rule the planet. This is the Chinese version of Americans 19th Century Manifest Destiny.

...we can assert that we are the product of cultural roots of more than a million years, civilization and progress of more than ten thousand years, an ancient nation of five thousand years, and a single Chinese entity of two thousand years. This is the Chinese nation that calls itself, "descendants of Yan and Huang," the Chinese nation that we are so proud of. Hitler's Germany had once bragged that the German race was the most superior race on Earth, but the fact is, our nation is far superior to the Germans. During our long history, our people have disseminated throughout the Americas and the regions along the Pacific Rim, and they became Indians in the Americas and the East Asian ethnic groups in the South Pacific..We all know that on account of our national superiority, during the thriving and prosperous Tang Dynasty our civilization was at the peak of the world. We were the center of the world civilization, and no other civilization in the world was comparable to ours. Later on, because of our complacency, narrow-mindedness, and the self-enclosure of our own country, we were surpassed by Western civilization, and the center of the world shifted to the West.

..In reviewing history, one may ask: Will the center of the world civilization shift back to China?

Comrade He Xin put it in his report to the Central Committee in 1988: If the fact is that the center of leadership of the world was located in Europe as of the 18th Century, and later shifted to the United States in the mid-20th Century, then in the 21st Century the center of leadership of the world will shift to the East of our planet. And, "the East" of course mainly refers to China.

This is the goal of Chinese foreign policy: To shift the center of world civilization back to China by any means possible.

THE CHINESE MODEL FOR EXPANSION IS BASED UPON NAZI GERMANY WITH ONE EXCEPTION



Weaponizing of the FBI

It is clear from Wei's remarks that the Chinese are going to follow Hitler's regime plan, with one exception. They fully plan to tight control over media and social media (Google-based Social Credit System) and they plan state-sponsored domination and brainwashing of the schools.

When we decide to revitalize China based on the German model, we must not repeat the mistakes they made.

Specifically, the following are the fundamental causes for the defeat of Germany and Japan: First, they had too many enemies all at once, as they did not adhere to the principle of eliminating enemies one at a time; second, they were too impetuous, lacking the patience and perseverance required for great accomplishments; third, when the time came for them to be ruthless, they turned out to be too soft, therefore leaving troubles that resurfaced later on.]

This statement made by the Chinese Defense Minister should send chills up and down the spines of every American. Let's break down this three-tiered statement:

The Chinese will focus on defeating only one enemy, the United States.

The Nazis lacked patience. The Chinese are willing to bide their time and plan their military conquests over a larger time frame.

The Germans were too soft, meaning that they were not brutal enough and did not kill enough people.

Conclusion

This concludes exposing the fact that the Chinese want war at any cost. Their philosophies have been stated and why we still have diplomatic relationships with them is mind-boggling. In Part Two, we will explore the reasons behind their desire for war.

End of Report

The Weaponizing of the FBI and its Results



Helping Rig an Election

The Main Stream Media reported that at a political rally August 25, Joe Biden said he wanted to make sure no one has the opportunity to steal an election ever again. This is deeply ironic considering Joe Rogan's interview with Mark Zuckerberg on the same day, during which Zuckerberg admitted the FBI asked Facebook to censor the Hunter Biden laptop story during the 2020 presidential election because it was "Russian disinformation." Zuckerberg essentially admitted that the FBI and social media outlets colluded to rig the 2020 election in favor of Joe Biden. In a recent poll, 79 percent of Americans polled said Donald Trump would have been reelected in 2020 if the Hunter Biden story had been truthfully reported.

Raiding a Politician's Residence

For the first time in history, the FBI raided a president's home. This raid on Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence takes the nation deep into uncharted territory.

The warrant authorizing the FBI to search Trump's home was allegedly written so that federal agents could retrieve classified documents still in President Trump's possession. Yet even many liberals are skeptical of this explanation. The FBI ended up seizing a birthday party menu, a cocktail napkin, a list of telephone numbers and items best described as memorabilia from the Trump administration. This appears to be a politically motivated raid fishing for any dirt they can find on Mr. Trump.

Government institutions can sustain themselves based on trust or brute force. These two pillars have gradations and take many forms, but they're really the only two bases on which governments operate. Trust can be earned through the passage of time. It can be embedded in law in the form of written constitutions. At its best, it's a combination of the two where rights are protected in writing but government also enjoys popular support through tradition and best practice. Likewise, brute force can be measured in degrees. At its worse, it can be a matter of secret police, imprisonment without evidence or recourse, mass executions, genocide, and total surveillance. In milder forms, it can involve the arrest of political opponents, silencing of critical media outlets, and rigged elections. In evaluating governments, it's advisable to focus on substance, not form. A government can be democratic and pluralistic on paper but act in a thuggish manner. Canada comes to mind. And some authoritarian regimes can still show respect for human rights. Singapore might be an example of that. Where is the United States today on this spectrum of trust versus force? The following article by Victor Davis Hanson, seems to indicate that brute force is gaining the upper hand. I offer Hanson's article here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

Weaponizing of the FBI

FBI, R.I.P.?

By Victor Davis Hanson



The FBI is dissolving before our eyes into a rogue security service akin to those in Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

Take the FBI's deliberately asymmetrical application of the law. This week the bureau surprise-raided the home of former President Donald Trump -- an historical first.

A massive phalanx of FBI agents swooped into the Trump residence while he was not home, to confiscate his personal property, safe, and records. All of this was over an archival dispute of presidential papers common to many former presidents. Agents swarmed the entire house, including the wardrobe closet of the former first lady.

Note we are less than 90 days out from a midterm election, and this was not just a raid, but a political act.

The Democratic Party is anticipated to suffer historical losses. Trump was on the verge of announcing his 2024 presidential candidacy. In many polls, he remains the Republican front-runner for the nomination -- and well ahead of incumbent President Joe Biden in a putative 2024 rematch.

In 2016 then FBI Director James Comey announced that candidate Hillary Clinton was guilty of destroying subpoenaed emails -- a likely felony pertaining to her tenure as secretary of state. Yet he all but pledged that she would not be prosecuted given her status as a presidential candidate.

As far as targeting presidential candidates, Trump was impeached in 2020 ostensibly for delaying military aid to Ukraine by asking Ukrainian officials to investigate more fully the clearly corrupt Biden family -- given Joe Biden at the time was a likely possible presidential opponent in 2020.

The FBI has devolved into a personal retrieval service for the incorrigible Biden family. It suppressed, for political purposes, information surrounding Hunter Biden's missing laptop on the eve of the 2020 election.

Previously, the FBI never pursued Hunter's fraudulently registered firearm, his mysterious foreign income, his felonious crack cocaine use, or his regular employment of foreign prostitutes.

Yet in a pre-dawn raid just before the 2020 election, the FBI targeted the home of journalist James O'Keefe on grounds that someone had passed to him the lost and lurid diary of Ashley Biden, Biden's wayward daughter.

At various times, in Stasi-style the FBI has publicly shackled Trump economic advisor Peter Navarro, swarmed the office of Trump's legal counsel Rudy Giuliani, and sent a SWAT team to surround the house of Trump ally Roger Stone. Meanwhile, terrorists and cartels walk with impunity across an open border.

FBI Director Christopher Wray last week cut short his evasive testimony before Congress. He claimed he had to leave for a critical appointment -- only to use his FBI Gulfstream luxury jet to fly to his favorite vacation spot in the Adirondacks.

Wray took over from disgraced interim FBI Director Andrew McCabe. The latter admitted lying repeatedly to federal investigators and signed off on a fraudulent FBI FISA application. He faced zero legal consequences.

McCabe, remember, was also the point man in the softball Hillary Clinton email investigation -- while his wife was a political candidate and recipient of thousands of dollars from a political action committee with close ties to the Clinton family.

McCabe took over from disgraced FBI Director James Comey. On 245 occasions, Comey claimed under oath before the House Intelligence Committee that he had no memory or knowledge of key questions concerning his tenure. With impunity, he leaked confidential FBI memos to the media.

Comey took over from Director Robert Mueller. Implausibly, Mueller swore under oath that he had no knowledge, either of the Steele dossier or of Fusion GPS, the firm that commissioned Christopher Steele to compile the dossier. But those were the very twin catalysts that had prompted his entire special investigation into the Russian collusion hoax.

FBI legal counsel Kevin Clinesmith was convicted of a felony for altering an FBI warrant request to spy on an innocent Carter Page.

The FBI, by Comey's own public boasts, bragged how it caught National Security Advisor designate General Michael Flynn in its



Trump Beware of Man with Diary

Crossfire Hurricane Russian collusion hoax.

As special counsel, Mueller then fired two of his top investigators -- Lisa Page and Peter Strzok -- for improper personal and professional behavior. He then staggered their releases to mask their collaborative wrongdoing.

Mueller's team deleted critical cell phone evidence under subpoena that might well have revealed systemic FBI-related bias.

The FBI interferes with and warps national elections. It hires complete frauds as informants who are far worse than its targets. It humiliates or exempts government and elected officials based on their politics. It violates the civil liberties of individual American citizens.

The FBI's highest officials now routinely mislead Congress. They have erased or altered court and subpoenaed evidence. They illegally leak confidential material to the media. And they have lied under oath to federal investigators.

The agency has become dangerous to Americans and an existential threat to their democracy and rule of law. The FBI should be dispersing its investigatory responsibilities to other government investigative agencies that have not yet lost the public's trust.

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Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the author, most recently, of *The Case for Trump*. You can reach him by e-mailing author@victorhanson.com.

End of Article

Trump - Beware of Man with Diary



Trump should be beware of a man with a diary as he (Trump) is in grave Danger!

This is the warning that Dave Hodges gave in his latest article appearing on the web on August 29, 2022. It is a sinister warning with very grave consequences and I present it here for your considerate thoughts.

D. Miyoshi



SINCE TRUMP WAS ELECTED HE HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF EXTREME FRAUD AND CORRUPTION. NOW THAT THE GOP IS PRIMED TO TAKE OVER THE HOUSE AND SENATE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS! JUST LOOK AT WHAT THE DEMOCRATS HAVE DONE TO TRUMP:

1. THE RUSSIAN COLLUSION DELUSION
- 2/3. IMPEACHMENT #1 AND #2
4. THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL J6 HEARINGS
5. THE BASELESS MAR A LAGO RAIDS
6. ATTACKS UPON HIS BUSINESSES BY NEW YORK STATE

IF TRUMP IS NOT INDICTED AND IS KEPT OFF OF THE BALLOT, THE DEMOCRATS ONLY HAVE ONE OPTION LEFT!

The assassination card is all that is left! I am turning my attention to the JFK assassination in order to look for historical parallels.

Men With Diaries Await Modern Day Reformers

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy was attempting to dismantle the Federal Reserve's stranglehold over the nation's economy through the introduction of an alternative interest free "C-notes" as they were called. JFK was determined to prevent the next cash cow for the military industrial complex, the Vietnam War. Kennedy was cutting the unwarranted tax break to the oil companies called the oil depletion allowance. He was having back channel talks with Russia about banning above ground nuclear testing by secretly using Norman Cousins as an emissary. Kennedy slapped the CIA and the mafia in the face by not allowing air cover in the infamous Bay of Pig invasion which could have risked World



In the Event of War

War III with the Soviets. JFK was a three-year, one man wrecking crew who was becoming an obstacle for the New World Order. On November 22, 1963, JFK was murdered in order to erase any possibility of reelection. According to the Warren Report, JFK was murdered by a man with a diary who said what he was going to do in that diary. If you doubt the veracity of these statements, Google "JFK's Secret Societies Speech" and follow that up with his "American University speech" in May of 1963.

In 1968, and against all odds, Robert, former Attorney General, "Bobby" Kennedy, was compiling upset victory after upset victory on his way to the 1968 Democratic nomination for the Presidential race. RFK was murdered by a man with a diary, who stated what he was going to do. And the man with the diary made good on that promise just following Bobby's win in the California Democratic Primary. Why did Bobby have to be murdered by a man with a diary? Because he was vehemently opposed to the Vietnam War and would have ended it. He was opposed to the unlimited spending of the military industrial complex that Eisenhower had warned the American people about in his 1960 Farewell Address. RFK had to be murdered by a man with a diary because the 1960's version of the globalists could not tolerate another Kennedy in the White House who was opposed to their policies.

Also in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, who was very much against the Vietnam War, was making serious headway with much of the American public. The globalists could not tolerate a serious change in the landscape of American politics. Through King's efforts, a new voting block was being created made up of previously disenfranchised black people. This was a threat to a political system which was already locked up by the globalists. King was murdered, one day after having his FBI protection removed by J. Edgar Hoover. And he was murdered by a man with a diary stating what he was going to do.

My Fear for Donald Trump

Trump is a threat to the global establishment! They have tried to get him out of the way and each effort has only served to increase his popularity. Coming up on the midterms, I fear the final card may get played. Therefore, I am interviewing some people connected with the JFK's assassination. I hope to establish parallels and call so much attention to the event that the Deep State does not dare attempt what I fear the most.

End of Article

In the Event of War

The following is an interesting and intriguing article by Kerry Cassidy that was published in *Project Camelot* on August 5, 2022. Some of the claims are seemingly extreme but are highly plausible with sound evidence supporting them. A few claims are just extreme (such as the claim about JFK Jr.) and will need history to reveal their authenticity, which on many occasions have occurred. In any case, I am placing this as the last article in this month's edition because if any of the claims herein are true, then we have serious problems facing our country. Thus, I present this article for your serious and very careful reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi



By Kerry Cassidy, *Project Camelot*, Investigative Reporter

REGARDING PELOSI AND WAR...WHAT I KNOW

Many are questioning what Pelosi as Speaker of the House is doing flying to Taiwan and North Korea conducting a kind of diplomatic mission normally reserved for members of the State Department and Office of the President/Executive Branch. One source is saying Pelosi went to Taiwan at the invitation of a certain high level Chinese operative who



In the Event of War

works with a top Chinese General named “Shu” and the offer of a substantial sum of money with the objective to trigger war... Pelosi left Taiwan rather suddenly when the offer was withdrawn...Please note: the above info has not been vetted.

What is clear is both sides want war with China and China apparently has been planning this for a long while...

Project Camelot was told war with China has been planned by both sides and will be orchestrated by our whistleblower Henry Deacon aka Arthur Neumann back 16 years ago...

Both sides need a war right now... China needs war to stimulate their economy and eliminate 500 million of their population (covid didn't work well enough) ...This information regarding China needing to eliminate 500 million comes from a key Project Camelot whistleblower, Captain Mark Richards 3 years ago. (see my 12 interviews conducted over a period of 5 years up to late 2019 when the Covid bioweapon was unleashed upon the world.)

The U.S. Democrats and Republicans want war for a variety of reasons. At the moment the Dems who are taken over by the CCP and dark side Illuminati/Soros/Rothschild/off planet Draco/Rep/AI agenda... allowed the CCP to successfully invade our country by way of stealing the election in 2020 with the help of MI6, the Vatican and the CCP and various other players and installing their puppet/clone Biden (who has died) and is also played by doubles and some say Jim Carrey.

China needs our resources and has been buying as much land in the U.S. as it can get away with. They now need boots on the ground to finish the invasion/takeover scenario which also feeds into the NWO plans.

The Republicans need war to bring back Trump and reveal that he was chosen by the military as Com-

mander-in-Chief back in March of 2021 (as the rightful President and to overturn the stolen election). When the DNI/Radcliffe and the Generals finally came to the conclusion that the election had been stolen by foreign invaders they had to act to protect the security of the United States. They did so by recognizing Trump was the legitimate winner of the 2020 election and in a ceremony conducted on March 11th swore Trump in as Commander-in-Chief.

Initially when Radcliffe and the intelligence services and military submitted their election review just before the swearing in of Biden, they could not agree on the election steal or at least refused to reveal it. Radcliffe submitted their report on election integrity WEEKS LATE, as I recall, a day before Biden was sworn in.

What is clear is that something took place between Jan 21st and March 11th of 2021 that resulted in the military unifying enough to swear in Trump as Commander-in-Chief. At that point they decided NOT to tell the people. Trump and his team had known about the plans of the CCP/Vatican/and various players including MI6/Germany/Italy and others ever since Trump won in 2016 when the Navy put together a team to hack back the election being stolen at that time by Hillary and her cohorts.

Once Trump took office in 2017 he and his team prepared for what they knew would be a certain election steal in 2020. According to certain Q/White Hats, they have all the evidence (to quote former CIA officer Robert Davide Steele who died earlier in the year) including block chain tracking of the vote, the Dominion servers (from the CIA warehouse raid and much, much more including the 2000 Mules referenced mail-in-ballot fraud.

While President Trump put in place numerous EXECUTIVE ORDERS and other lawful moves to install a totally legal (in the face of a takeover/invasion from foreign powers) presidential shadow government or government in exile. (See the Patel Patriot Devolution series of articles for the legal basis and total explanation for this. <https://>





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www.devolution.link/. He and his team also put in place Executive Orders and other legal basis to prevent or expose any future election fraud from taking place.

Important note: Back during 911 President Bush activated this same Presidential shadow government COG law. This is not widely known.

COG=Continuity of Government and is a very closely guarded set of laws and procedures put in place to insure the Security of the United States in the face of invasion/takeover by a foreign power or even from inside. This has been activated from the day that Biden was sworn in.

So we have in essence had 2 Presidents for the past year and a half... And Trump is doing a lot more than playing golf at Mar Lago and doing rallies. He has been running COG / our Government in Exile.

For example it is said that any time the Biden administration sends someone overseas to talk to other governments Trump sends his own team of specially pre-selected (when he was still President) members of his shadow government to reverse anything discussed.

THE REASON the military has not told the American people what I am explaining here (based on careful study of every Juan O Savin (JFK jr.) talk and the Devolution.link information along with my own investigations... is to PREVENT CIVIL WAR. The reason they must prevent civil war at all costs is that since we have been invaded “digitally” and with the installation of the CCP backed Biden regime, the U.S. would be a sitting duck for complete boots on the ground takeover by China once we are weakened by fighting from within. China and a majority of the Democrats are totally on board with or clearly sympathetic to the Klaus Schwab NEW World Order agenda and taking over the U.S. is the final move in making that reality manifest.

Note: Keep in mind that our military is split into factions, mainly those that favor the New World Order (NWO) which includes the Generals who have been paid by ROTHSCHILD with “spoils of war” large financial “salaries and benefits” for years. This is something Trump put a stop to when he took office which of course pissed-off many of the Generals who turned against him. The other half or more are those that are loyal to America and what our country stands for and to Trump.

At this time the Biden regime is no longer viable as a platform in part because it is being seen through by world leaders (who have known for the past year and a half... it was a farce—) and growing numbers of Americans but also because it is being largely recognized that Biden was backed by the NWO/CCP/ Draco/Reps.

With the Biden administration loosing all confidence the democrat’s current problem is that they need another Presidential pawn the people who favor the NWO agenda will back. Kamala won’t work because the Republicans have a legal case that will reveal she was not born in this country making her ineligible to be President (among other issues with her). The next in line prior to the MIDTERMS is Pelosi who wants to be President. However she is a mind controlled tool of the Deep State and CCP (see her husband’s investments in China and Taiwan to see how deep her loyalty to the NWO goes, making her a liability similar to Biden.

So for Pelosi to be President the MIDTERMS have to be stopped or at the very least delayed. Because there is ample evidence that in spite of the drive to recruit RHINOS... (Republican traitors who pretend to support Trump and the real Republican agenda but in reality support the NWO/CCP agenda) that if the MIDTERMS take place Pelosi would be replaced as SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE by a Republican.

I did an interview with English Barrister and intelligence expert Michael Shrimpton who suggested at the time that once Pelosi, Kamala and Biden are all found to be ineligible or inappropriate for a variety of





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reasons to be President, a Republican Speaker of the House would be next in line. Of paramount importance is of course the Hunter BIDEN LAPTOP. The laptop contains evidence of President Biden's financial investments and involvement in the human trafficking economy and money trafficking center, UKRAINE...as well as in China (and probably Taiwan) all overseen by so-called President Biden — illegally demonstrating his conflict of interest with the National Security of the United States.

Once a Republican in theory loyal to the U.S. is installed as Speaker of the House they would be in line for the interim Presidency. At that point after serving even 1 day they could (in theory) step down and hand the Presidency over to Trump. Or by selecting Trump as their VP then stepping down. Again this theory was put forward by former Barrister, intelligence expert, Michael Shrimpton, who I have interviewed several times.

Once WAR is declared however and martial law installed the above scenario would not happen and Pelosi could retain her seat as House Speaker and the Democrats would retain their majority in the House for an indefinite length of time. There are however, problems with leaving Biden as a figurehead President during war time because our country cannot go to war without the Commander in Chief calling the shots. The military will not or should not act without the Commander-in-Chief's authorization and guidance.

Clearly, Biden does not have the backing of the top military (those loyal to America and to Trump). In order to declare war, it would seem the devolution-Trump-government-in-exile reality and the fact that he is the lawful Commander-in-Chief, would in theory, have to be exposed to the American people.

Note: this is a sticking point with the Q/WhiteHats/Trump team. They have worked hard to keep under wraps the above with the exception of the very excellent 'interviews and talks' conducted by Juan O Savin aka John Kennedy Junior where he has revealed much of the above information over time and in long

winded stories and sometimes directly.

2nd Note: To see more about the fact that JFK junior is still alive and working alongside Trump and the Q/white hats see Project Camelot and many interviews with me, Kerry Cassidy over the past year where I explain the evidence and basis for this understanding along with numerous videos published by others who are also aware that John Kennedy is alive. Although most of those who are 'in the know' do not know the details of his Juan O Savin disguise and the fact that there are actually 2 Juans. One who is an intelligence operative doubling as Juan named Wayne Willott and the other who is John F. Kenned Junior in disguise as Juan O Savin. Juan=John O=Jackie O. And Savin references the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library on Savin Hill.

With the reveal stated above involving Trump as Commander-in-Chief and President in Exile, what would happen under this scenario at that point is unclear.

If the U.S. is forced to go to war with China to protect the major semiconductor/chip maker TAIWAN.... Then the above is fully in play and all bets are off as to the suspending of the midterms and Trump will still, in theory, need to be revealed as Commander in Chief along with the gov-in-exile. However, in a less smooth transition not involving the succession outlined above with regard to the Midterms resulting in a Republican Speaker of the House. In which case a certain amount of unrest and even civil war could erupt within the U.S.

However, one would hope that in spite of our profound differences that both sides, Democrats and Republicans would rally to prevent a boots on the ground takeover. Including the fractured military services that would under declaration of war be forced to fight for our country and repel the Chinese invaders.

Either way, a declaration of war prior to the midterms would certainly throw our country into greater



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Advancing in a Time of Crisis



Financial Crisis Report



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chaos, in theory.

The above is not intended to preclude other eventualities or possibilities. However the points made about Trump being Commander in Chief (and not Biden) as well as the Trump government in exile backed by a certain group of our top military is real. And it's time the American people become aware of it.

Needless to say, if there is no declaration of war prior to the Midterms then the consensus opinion is that the Democrats will loose many seats in the House and there will be a Republican selected as Speaker of the House. At that point the succession mentioned above put forward by Michael Shrimpton may take place.

Added note: I recognize that all Democrats are not necessarily on board with the Klaus Schwab NWO and CCP agenda but for purposes of this discussion I am emphasizing that their leadership is mainly ruled by a faction fully co-opted by the CCP /NWO invader/enemies of the United States.

—Kerry Cassidy, Project Camelot, August 5, 2022

End of Article

Trust and Estate Corner



Often my clients, friends and associates inquire about trusts, wills and estate planning. Therefore, each publication of *Financial Crisis Report* at the end will feature a simple factoid on Trusts and Estate Planning. For more information you may consult my website at www.miyoshilaw.com

A trust avoids costly probate costs. The probate process for an estate can be very expensive in terms of probate costs, fees, and attorney charges — especially in California. If instead your assets are contained in a revocable living trust, you can avoid the time consuming delay of probate and its expensive costs.



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