



Financial Crisis Report

Written and Edited by David M. Miyoshi



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 is being 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 survive and even benefit during this historic time of crisis in the world. 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 best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



wider scope of things, even impact world events in any year they rule.

Those born under the sign of the rabbit, and those with compatible signs, can benefit from luck or good fortune during an Rabbit year. Those include 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, and 2023.

General predictions for the Year of the Rabbit 2023 (How accurate will these be?)

THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT



According to Chinese astrology, the Rabbit is a harbinger of more tranquil times ahead. (?)

While not as fiery a sign as the Dragon or as flamboyant as the Rooster, Rabbits lead by quiet example with their gentle, relaxed demeanor.

Overall, the whole world will benefit this year from the Rabbit's ruling influence of being self-aware enough to avoid rash decisions, and to think before acting. That said, an intuitive sense of impending trouble, with considered solutions for heading them off, is key to success any year Rabbit year.

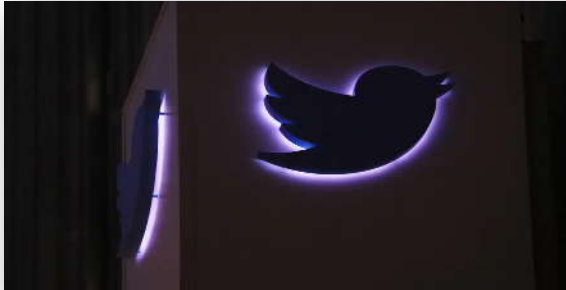
A Rabbit's keen analytical skills protect not only themselves, but others, as they play the role of peacemaker in any difficult situation.

While introspection can be a strength, the Rabbit weakness for over-analyzing troubles can tend toward pessimism and self-isolation. The antidote? Doing what the Rabbit does best -- relaxing with quality time away from the action and in the loving company of good friends and family.

The Rabbit represents the 4th year in the 12 year cycle of the Chinese zodiac.

Like the houses of the zodiac in Western astrology, the animals of Chinese astrology are thought by many to dictate personality traits or, in the

Twitter Gate



Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Elon Musk didn't just buy a company ... he purchased a crime scene. That is how conservative commentator Jack Posobiec responded when Musk paid \$44 billion for the social media platform. On Dec 2, 2022, Musk published the first pieces of evidence.

With left-wing journalist Matt Taibbi, Musk released the "Twitter Files," internal e-mails and memos between Twitter leaders and government agents from late 2020. The topic: How best to suppress the truth about Hunter Biden so that Joe Biden could take the presidency.

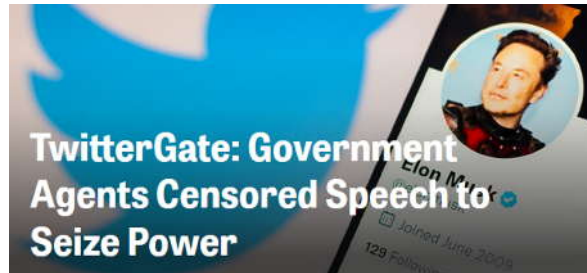
In April 2019, a man brought a damaged laptop into a Delaware repair shop and ultimately abandoned it. The shop owner says it was Hunter Biden, and Biden claims he cannot remember. But the contents of the laptop have Hunter Biden written all over them: 103,000 text messages, 154,000 e-mails and more than 2,000 photos exposing a man obsessed with making and uploading pornographic videos with prostitutes, drug trafficking, and dodging police action. They exposed that he spent so much of his large income on prostitutes and crack cocaine that he asked his father to pay his children's dentist bills. And it exposed numerous overseas business contacts involving Hunter, his uncle James, and the "Big Guy" himself: then presidential candidate Joe Biden.

The New York Post researched, vetted, edited and broke the story about Hunter's laptop in October, three weeks prior to the 2020 presidential election. It was a shocking revelation—and many people never saw it until after the election and eventual declaration of Hunter's father as the next president of the United States.

We know why it was mass-censored. Now we are finding out how.

For your reading consideration, I present to you an article by reporter Stephen Flurry, released on Dec 6, 2022 about these "Twitter Files." It is entitled "TwitterGate: Government Agents Censored Speech to Seize Power" I think you will find it very revealing.

D. Miyoshi



Rafael Henrique/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

New evidence of election tampering by the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Twitter and Facebook executives blatantly mass-censored all information about Hunter Biden's laptop prior to the election. Twitter blocked not only the *New York Post's* publishing of the story but blocked the entire account of the 200-year-old publication, blocked all other users from posting links to the story, and even blocked them from sharing links to the story in their private direct messages.

Tech executives, media executives and more than a few former intelligence officials rapidly branded the revelations about the Biden family as "Russian disinformation." Journalists were literally prohibited from talking about the subject.

Huge amounts of words have been written about the controversy, but we know that the obvious explanation is the right explanation: These executives were covering for the Biden crime family so that the Democratic Party could seize control of the government.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg admitted in an August interview with Joe Rogan that his team censored the existence of Hunter's laptop after it received a general warning that "Russian disinformation" was coming, a warning from none other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The newly released internal documents from Twitter reveal that high-ranking executives there did basically the same thing.

One of the screen images that Taibbi shared showed an internal Twitter e-mail dated Oct. 24, 2020, in which a Twitter executive shared a list of five tweets from people within the Biden campaign. They were asking for tweets critical of Biden to be delegated. Taibbi noted that requests from Biden campaign officials to censor tweets were routine. Musk asked, "If this isn't a violation of the Constitution's First Amendment, what is?"

The conservative Media Research Center reported last year that out of the 1,750 Biden voters it surveyed, 1 in 6 said they would not have voted for him if they had known about the scandals he and his son were involved in. But they did not know, because the media executives strategically and aggressively blocked free speech and

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Two

acted not only as editors, in violation of Section 230, but as partisan censors. They banned this knowledge at the request of the FBI and the Democratic National Committee.

Those who defend such blatant censorship say that Facebook and Twitter can censor whatever they want since they are private companies. But private censorship becomes public when the government is behind the censorship requests.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Musk bought Twitter largely out of concern for its previous leaders' aggressive censoring. He said that Twitter acting on its own to suppress speech isn't a First Amendment violation, but "acting under orders from the government to suppress free speech, with no judicial review, is."

In a separate but related story, an FBI agent testified to Republican attorneys general this week (early Dec) that the FBI held weekly meetings with Big Tech companies ahead of the 2020 election to discuss the best ways to censor "disinformation." This is how Facebook and Twitter were able to coordinate their censorship of the Hunter laptop story so perfectly. The FBI knew the *New York Post* was about to publish, and it instructed Facebook and Twitter to censor any critical stories about the Bidens, Hunter in particular, as soon as they were released.

This shocking story reveals how much power the "deep state" has over Big Tech. The FBI instructed Facebook and Twitter to censor the Hunter Biden story just before the 2020 election. Michelle Obama instructed them to ban Donald Trump from their platforms just before the 2021 inauguration. Elon Musk told a colleague at the time that a tech company banning a sitting president from its platform was insane, but the radical left did it anyway. Now it appears that Musk is making a strong effort to make Twitter a non-censored "digital town square" that allows freedom of speech.

Releasing the "Twitter Files" reveals some more of the truth about Big Tech executives and their collusion with government agents. But radical leftists still control Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and numerous other technological and media centers of power.

This incestuous relationship between government and Big Tech gives us a vivid picture of why God must step in to save America from the radical left. A survey of 1,335 people conducted by the Technometrica Institute of Policy and Politics found that 8 in 10 believed Donald Trump would probably have been reelected in 2020 if the Hunter Biden story had been truthfully reported, so it seems unlikely that President Trump will return to office until more major Biden scandals are exposed.

End of Article

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Two



One of the burdens of writing a newsletter is that you get called all kinds of names including being a "Racist" and a "Conspiracy Theorist." For the record, I don't believe I am a racist and I do believe the great majority of "conspiracy theories" are just that, mere theories. But I also believe that a select few contain the substance of truth and should be acknowledged and impartially examined, according to ones political and economic views and positions.

In my search for a clear definition of Conspiracy Theorist I came across a comprehensive report on the subject entitled "Why Society Needs Conspiracy Theories & Conspiracy Theorists" It is written by Tyler Durden.

The report provides a comprehensive discussion on the definition of Conspiracy Theorist and I would like to share it with you here. Its lengthy so I will present it in three parts. The first part was presented in the December edition of this newsletter. The following is Part Two of this Article. hope you will find this Part Two article on conspiracies informative.

D. Miyoshi

"So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known."

– Matthew 10:26

WHY SOCIETY NEEDS CONSPIRACY THEORIES & CONSPIRACY THEORISTS

Part Two

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Two

The Council on Foreign Relations conspiracy
Conspiracy Theories that turned out to be true
Notable Unresolved Conspiracies

The Council on Foreign Relations conspiracy

In a book aptly titled ‘[None Dare Call It Conspiracy](#)’ by Gary Allen and Larry Abraham published in 1971, the first paragraph of the introduction – written by former U.S. congressman John G. Schmitz reads as follows:

“The story you are about to read is true. The names have not been changed to protect the guilty. This book may have the effect of changing your life. After reading this book you will never look at national and world events in the same way again.”

I feel the same way, though I would also highly recommend the book [The Creature from Jekyll Island: A Second Look at the Federal Reserve](#) by G. Edward Griffin which focuses on the secretive events that lead to the formation of the private corporation known as the US Federal Reserve which has also changed the way I personally view the world.

Griffin holds the distinguished honorary title of Conspiracy Theorist by the editors of Wikipedia and others. So, he must be doing something right.

His [claims](#) about how the North American medical establishment essentially got usurped by billionaire interests certainly added credence to this title.

Speaking of billionaires, a few passages from the book ‘None Dare Call It Conspiracy’ really stand out:

“The American subsidiary of this conspiracy is called the Council on Foreign Relations and was started by and is still controlled by Leftist international bankers.”

“According to his grandson John, Jacob Schiff (above), long-time associate of the Rothschilds, financed the Communist Revolution in Russia to the tune of \$20 million. According to a report on file with the State Department, his firm, Kuhn Loeb and Co. bankrolled the first five year plan for Stalin. Schiff’s partner and relative, Paul Warburg, engineered the establishment of the Federal Reserve System while on

the Kuhn Loeb payroll. Schiff’s descendants are active in the Council on Foreign Relations today.”

And under an old photograph of a building in New York city appears [**emphasis added**]:

“Home of the Council on Foreign Relations on 68th St. in New York **The admitted goal of the CFR is to abolish the Constitution and replace our ones [sic] independent Republic with a World Government.** CFR members have controlled, the last six administrations. Richard Nixon has been a member and has appointed at least 100 CFR members to high positions in his administration.”

And later on in the book:

“The C.F.R. has come to be known as "The Establishment," "the invisible government" and "the Rockefeller foreign office." This semi-secret organization unquestionably has become the most influential group in America.”

It’s most interesting to see how these billionaire actors also *coincidentally* have had a hand in the formation of the U.S. Federal Reserve. Perhaps, G. Edward Griffin was onto something after all.

A more recent (1988) [book](#) provides similar allegations with regards to the CFR by providing a deep dive into the historical roots, connections, and linkages to the war machine of the notorious organization. Its title is ‘[The Shadows of Power: The Council on Foreign Relations And The American Decline](#)’ by author [James Perloff](#).

I will leave it up to the reader to investigate more into this alleged conspiracy, for such an endeavor demands significant time, scrutiny, and attention.

Conspiracy Theories that turned out to be true

Though many conspiracies have been proven true over the years, I will merely showcase a few which relate to two recurring themes of this article, namely that of war and media corruption.

Operation Mockingbird, 1950s+

In light of the revelations listed earlier in this article, it is perhaps most fitting that we exhibit this particular proven conspiracy, for its overarching implications run far and wide – even in 2022 and beyond.

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Two

In a nutshell, [Operation Mockingbird](#) was a large-scale clandestine program of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to manipulate news media for propaganda purposes.

According to [The Black Vault](#) – an online archive that houses over 3 million pages of government documents, Operation Mockingbird was said to be initially organized by Cord Meyer and [Allen W. Dulles](#), later led by Frank Wisner after Dulles became the head of the CIA; and the organization recruited leading American journalists into a network to help present the CIA's views, including worked to influence foreign media and political campaigns.

In 1974, The New York Times had published an article by investigative journalist [Seymour Hirsch](#) who claimed that the CIA had violated its charter

In the mid-1970s, the U.S. Congress had become concerned over abuses of the CIA, NSA, and FBI and called a committee (the [Church Committee](#)) to look over it.

As per [Everipedia](#), the final report of the Church Committee covered CIA ties with both foreign and domestic news media. Specifically with regards to the foreign news media, the report concluded that:

“The CIA currently maintains a network of several hundred foreign individuals around the world who provide intelligence for the CIA and at times attempt to influence opinion through the use of covert propaganda. These individuals provide the CIA with direct access to a large number of newspapers and periodicals, scores of press services and news agencies, radio and television stations, commercial book publishers, and other foreign media outlets.”

And for domestic media, the report emphasizes the following:

“Approximately 50 of the [Agency] assets are individual American journalists or employees of U.S. media organizations. Of these, fewer than half are "accredited" by U.S. media organizations ... The remaining individuals are non-accredited freelance contributors and media representatives abroad ... More than a dozen United States news organizations and commercial publishing houses formerly provided cover for CIA agents abroad. A few of these organizations were unaware that they provided this cover.”

Apart from the staggering revelations outlined in the

two passages above, the term ‘cover’ is of particular interest. German journalist Udo Ulfkotte, mentioned earlier in this article, stated that him and other fellow German journalists were basically operating as ‘non-official cover’, or in a ‘non-official capacity’ for the CIA. In other words, the CIA employed this pretext to cloak itself and adduce plausible deniability.

Looking at the headlines and overt propaganda coming out of the European mainstream press over the last several years leaves us with little doubt that this operation (or a new version of it) is still alive and kicking.

Operation Northwoods (re Cuban Missile Crisis) in 1962

[Operation Northwoods](#) was a proposed ‘false flag’ (i.e., a covert/secretive plot intended to deceive) operation against Cuba originating from the U.S. Dept. of Defense calling upon the CIA and other U.S. government operatives to commit acts of terrorism against American civilians and military targets in Guantanamo (Cuba) and blame them on the Cuban government which would serve as a justification for war against the Caribbean island nation.

The gist of the proposed operation was to hoodwink President John F. Kennedy to declare war against Cuba in the midst of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

For those with a penchant for gripping movie dramas, the 2000 movie [Thirteen Days](#) starring Kevin Costner and Bruce Greenwood (as President Kennedy) serves as an absorbing illustration in which the Democrat president was placed in a mental crucible and tested to his limits.

The declassified document (memorandum for the Secretary of Defense) from 13 March 1962 titled ‘[Justification for US Military Intervention in Cuba \(TS\)](#)’ lays it bare for all to see.

Documentarians Aaron and Melissa Dykes [produced a top-notch work](#) on this planned conspiracy.

There are many reasons why I like [Truthstream Media's documentaries](#). Not only do they produce extremely well-researched works, but they also present them in a clear manner; and sometimes, such as with this particular work, they offer advice to their viewers on how to better educate themselves about world events. Near the start of this documentary, Melissa

What is a Conspiracy Theory? Part Two

Dykes states [**emphasis added**]:

“We thought we would look at this document for Operation Northwoods, it was declassified, **because the problem with people forgetting history or failing to research history or failing to look into history is they forget these things ever happened. And history continues to repeat and people act like they have no idea why.**”

On that, I have to totally agree with Melissa Dykes. In today’s fast-pace society, people are more inclined to play with TikTok on their phones or watch movies than to read books – especially those related to history. It’s one of the main factors that has led to the lack of critical thought and discernment in society.



S **imple explanation of a ‘false flag’ operation.**

Source: <https://www.falseflag.info/about/>

Gulf of Tonkin Incident (Vietnam), 1964

[Everipedia](#) – a blockchain-based online encyclopedia (a better source of information than Wikipedia, in my opinion) prefaces the [incident](#) as follows [**emphasis added**]:

“**The Gulf of Tonkin incident** (Vietnamese: Sự kiện Vịnh Bắc Bộ), also known as the Maddox, was **an international confrontation that led to the United States engaging more directly in the Vietnam War. It involved one real and one falsely claimed confrontation between ships of North Vietnam and the United States in the waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. The**

original American report blamed North Vietnam for both incidents, but the Pentagon Papers, the memoirs of Robert McNamara, and NSA publications from 2005, proved material misrepresentation by the US government to justify a war against Vietnam.”

Among all wars fought by Americans, the Vietnam War ranked 4th just after the first two world wars and the U.S. Civil war. It’s [economic and human costs](#) epitomized [human folly](#).

What is equally nefarious is the deceptive means by which this false flag event, or conspiracy, came about.

Notable Unresolved Conspiracies

While there are too many to even contemplate, let us have a look at some of the more controversial ones that still have an impact on society and our way of life.

September 11 attacks

Perhaps one of the biggest and most contentious ones is that of the events that relate to what happened on **September 11, 2001**.

So much has transpired in the 21 years that have lapsed since the collapse of the World-Trade Center towers in New York City.

Though a formal investigation has been conducted and [published](#) on these events, so many unanswered questions remain as to who exactly was behind it.

We often hear some talking about this tragic event insisting that it was an ‘inside job’ (i.e., done by powers within the U.S. Government). And for this, they are immediately labelled conspiracy theorists. Actually, in this rare case I agree with the employment of the defamatory designation. For, with an event as complex as this one, one can readily make such a claim; but to back it up with convincing evidence would require an extraordinary enterprise.

What is perhaps more useful here, though, would be to ask anew some of the most important and un-addressed questions relating to this event. For these questions which are listed below, links are provided for additional context/reference. A good [refresher video](#) (WTC7 and 9/11 Truth 14 Years Later: "People Still Want the Truth") was published by documentary

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ans of [Truthstream Media](#).

How is it possible that WTC Tower 7, the 47-story building which was only affected by minor fires, collapse straight down in a [free fall](#) defying known laws of physics?

- Why was the collapse of WTC Tower 7 reported by the BBC *20 minutes before* it actually came down?
- How come no large pieces of aircraft wreckage from United Airlines flight 93 were ever found at the alleged crash site in Stonycreek Township (Shanksville), Pennsylvania?
- How come no large pieces of aircraft wreckage from American Airlines flight 77 were ever found on the ground near the West wall of the Pentagon?
- Why was all the rubble and steel (evidence) from the site so swiftly collected (over the objections by fire marshals) and shipped overseas?

How was the [Patriot Act](#) (effective October 26, 2001) – a fairly long and complex legal document – drafted, reviewed, introduced, and enacted in merely 6 weeks?

Of course, there are countless other unanswered questions. Perhaps the grander question is: will there ever be a fuller, more transparent official investigation surrounding these attacks?

Who really killed JFK?

Despite the findings of the [Warren Commission](#), it remains to be solved as to whom exactly assassinated U.S. President John F. Kennedy since it is proven that a single gunman could not have acted alone per the additional evidence confirmed after the commission's report.

Many intelligence documents [remained classified](#) – even after 60 years since this tragic event took place in Dallas, Texas.

Over the years, many have contributed to the investigation that never seems to end. Investigator [Jim Garrison](#) was perhaps the most prominent amongst them.

Moon Landing Controversy



[Wernher von Braun](#) at the lunar landing scene on an Apollo set replica during the Atlanta Southeastern Fair, credited to United Press International (UPI), image [source](#)

The picture above (and the cover picture for this article) may seem as a conspiracy theory in itself, for it is difficult to authenticate and locate the *original* photograph from UPI. However, it is one that has been properly credited and attributed to the UPI. Accordingly, the cover photograph for this article can be viewed with its original header:



Image [source](#)

And the Jacksonville Daily Journal published the photograph in its September 30, 1960 edition:

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Image source

For those unfamiliar with [Werner Von Braun](#), he was a brilliant aerospace engineer – the brains behind the development of the [Saturn rockets](#) used in the Apollo launches.

Over the past several decades, there has been a lot of debate regarding many aspects of the moon missions. A tremendous amount of money, blood, sweat, and tears have flowed into the [Apollo program](#) and other related projects.

Much pressure had been placed on the U.S. Government to ensure success – especially amidst the backdrop of the [Space Race](#) and larger [Cold War](#) between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Over the course of this colossal undertaking, it became apparent that some serious problems and challenges needed to be overcome. Many were overcome, but other major problems persisted.

A three and a half hour 2017 documentary entitled [American Moon](#) (available on [YouTube](#), [Brighteon](#), and [Odysee](#)) outlined many of these problems along with a significant amount of anomalies – particularly in the Apollo moon missions. In the lengthy film, they disprove not only the debunkers (those who disprove the deniers) but also some of the deniers themselves regarding their false or flawed claims.

American Moon is meticulously well documented with original (official) NASA photographs, films, interviews, technical documents, and so forth, and presented in a clear and understandable way for the average Jane or Joe.

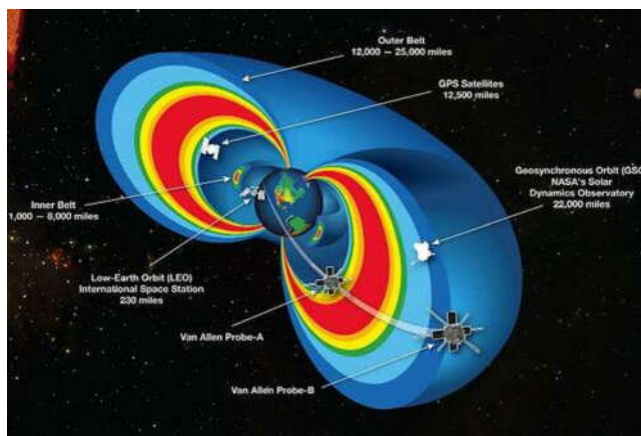
Over 40 extremely well-formulated questions are presented and addressed to NASA itself as well as the greater debunker community. I have yet to locate a source which addresses all these key points; and this, despite nearly five years having elapsed since the doc-

umentary film came out.

I certainly invite the reader to spend the three and a half hours to view this film; for, after doing so, you will never see the moon landing in the same light.

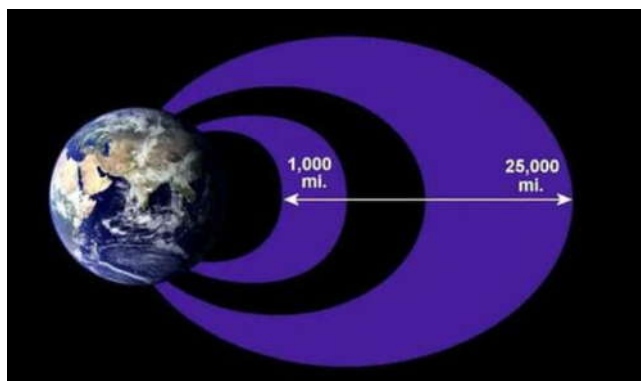
I will only cite a few of the key questions that were put forward in this film.

The first one relates to one of the most critical aspects of space flight, namely that of the **dangers of radiation** that are present beyond our planet, namely the [Van Allen radiation belts](#). The belts protect our planet from harmful radiation originating from the sun and outer space.



Van Allen radiation belts, source: [NASA](#)

Here's a simplified image to get a better idea of the range of these belts from Earth:



Screenshot from American Moon (at the 01:00:20 mark)

The problem, here, as pointed out in the film, is that modern scientists, including NASA Orion engineer [Kelly Smith](#) for that matter, have explained that no human could penetrate either of the two (inner & outer) belts without being exposed to high-energy ra-



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diation and cosmic rays which would biologically cause serious damage, if not death. In the March 1959 edition of Scientific American, the following was noted:

“The discovery [of the Van Allen radiation belts] is of course troubling to astronauts; somehow the human body will have to be shielded from this radiation, even on a rapid transit through the region.”

More recently, NASA Orion engineer [Kelly Smith](#) stated the following when talking about the Van Allen radiation belts [**emphasis added**]:

“We must solve these challenges before we send **people** through this region of space.”

In American Moon (around the 01:11:20 mark), NASA astronaut and commander [Terry Virts](#) says the following [**emphasis added**]:

“The plan that NASA has is to build a rocket called SOS which is a heavy-lift rocket; it’s something much bigger than what we have today. And it will be able to launch the Orion capsule **with humans on board ... to destinations beyond earth orbit. Right now, we can only fly in earth orbit. That’s the farthest that we can go.** This new system that we’re building is gonna allow us to go beyond and hopefully take humans into the solar system to explore. So, the moon, Mars, asteroids, there’s a lot of destinations that we could go to...”

Further in the film, [Apollo 12](#) astronaut [Alan Bean](#) responded the following when asked about whether he had suffered any ill effects from having passed through the Van Allen belts:

“No. Now, I’m not sure we went far enough out to encounter the Van Allen radiation belts. Maybe we did.”

One would think that as a crew member from Apollo 12 – the second mission to land on the moon – he would know about the location and existence of these belts through which he passed through.

Strange.

Very strange.

What is also rather puzzling is the fact that NASA admits they lost the **telemetry data** related to the Apollo 11 moon mission.

The Chief Flight Director for the Gemini and Apollo programs [Gene Krantz](#) (who was portrayed by Ed

Harris in the 1995 film Apollo 13) [admitted that NASA had lost the original tapes containing the telemetry data.](#) When asked by documentary filmmaker Aron Ranen about the tapes, Krantz stated the following:

“I haven’t seen anything that indicates the telemetry data is even in existence. And, as I said, even if we had it, we don’t have the machines to play it back.”

Ranen, the creator of the 2005 film [Did We Go?](#) then went to NASA’s Goodard Space Center and spoke with archivist Dr. David Williams who further asserted:

“We’ve been unable to track it down. We don’t know where this telemetry data ended up. And we don’t know what path it may have taken. So, unfortunately I’m afraid I can’t give you much of a clue as to where this data ended up and whether it still exists or not.”

So, let’s be clear folks here for a minute. The data that recorded what was perhaps the single most important event in human history has completely disappeared. Really? No backup copies have been made? And it would be “impossible” to re-create machines to play it back on?

Absurd.

While it is certainly *possible* that these tapes have indeed disappeared, the whole affair is rather questionable and pitiful, to say the least.

The American Moon documentary further outlines anomalies related to the **lunar module (LEM), telecommunications** (between the earth and the moon), **photographs & photography, cameras, videos, shadows, cosmic radiation, extreme temperatures,** and more.

A large part of the documentary focuses on photographs taken and published by NASA. The producer of the documentary hired several top photographers in the world (who worked in the field during that period) to examine and analyze the official photos taken on the surface of the moon.

These photography experts all pointed out many impossibilities found in them.

For the most part, they disproved that the photographs could have been taken on the surface of the moon if the only main source of light was emanating from the Sun; they decisively contend that the photographs were produced on a set with artificial lighting. This



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segment is presented with meticulous detail and analysis which makes it extremely difficult to refute the assertions from the experts.

A common counter-argument that people have regarding those who claim the moon landings were faked is how could thousands of people be on board with such a hoax without there being any whistleblowers. Firstly, there have been numerous credible whistleblowers who have come out and I will reference one below.

As for the “thousands of employees” conundrum, the answer is quite simple. These thousands of employees would simply not be aware that this subset (i.e., the moon landings) of the Apollo missions were being deceptively presented. This was the case with the Manhattan Project whereby thousands of people worked on the development of the first atomic bomb without knowing about its ultimate goal. The project was carefully structured for secrecy by means of compartmentalization. Put simply, under compartmentalization, people work in their own respective groups (or, compartments) on specific tasks and are not privy to a lot of data or information about the overall project.

Accordingly, it would not have been that difficult to structure the NASA project in such a way.

In an April 12, 2020 confession, Gene Gilmore (born Eugene Reuben Akers), now [deceased](#), appeared in a [video](#) disclosed what his father ([Cyrus Eugene Akers](#) who was stationed in [Cannon Air Force Base](#) in New Mexico in 1968) had previously confessed to him on his death bed.

Mr. Akers senior was in the Military Police for over 20 years and on his death bed in 2002 he made a recording of what he had witnessed.

Gene’s father told him about project ‘Slam Dunk’ whereby there were two large hangars (at the Cannon Air Force Base) that were connected, dump trucks had delivered sand and stone, and cement powder that was applied on top of all that material to make it look like a lunar landscape.

The surprised son continued listening to his father state that in front of the airplane hangars was pull framing with large canvas tents that were concealing the inside of the staging area. Inside the staging area, on flat bed trucks was created the lunar lander that was assembled, reassembled back inside the hangars. All of the walls were painted flat black as were the

ceilings.

Cyrus Eugene Akers was sworn to secrecy by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Gene then recalled that when his father saw the moon landing on television, he cried.

He said that what he witnessed on TV is exactly what they recorded in that hangar.

Mr. Akers continued his death bed confession to his son stating that there were 3 guards at the entrance of the hangar and there was a list of 15 people who could enter, no one else was allowed by order of President [Lyndon] Johnson. Gene Gilmore then stated that he had given the list to [Bart Sibrel](#).

Gene Gilmore then enumerates the specific names of list of 15 people who had special access to the hangars which include President Johnson, Neil Armstrong, Edwin [Buzz] Alden, Werner Von Braun, Gene Krantz, James Webb, Dr. James Van Allen, among others.

Gilmore continues on with what his father had confided in him. President Johnson was there only for the first day of filming. The filming lasted for 3 days. And then, everything was dismantled to bring the hangars back to their original states.

Gilmore then states that since 2002, he verified a lot of the information his father had given him – including records from Cannon Air Force base that confirmed the presence of President Johnson and the astronauts at that time as well as the lunar lander. Apparently though, this information was subsequently removed from Cannon’s [website](#).

Lastly, Gene affirms that his father stated had to tell somebody about the incident before he died because it was too important; but he also warned him not to ever tell anybody.

Regarding the authenticity of these testimonies, there is always the possibility that they are not entirely truthful. But people seldom lie during death bed confessions. They usually want to get truth off their chests before they meet their maker. The fact that Gene Gilmore instructed Bart Sibrel to only publish his confession after his death also adds credibility to his testimony.

As recent as Sept. 22, 2022, Lead Stories published a fact check rebuke regarding this confession video. In it, they stated that they had contacted NASA regard-

A Major Stock Crash is Coming

ing the video and posted their spokesperson's reply in the article:

“There is a significant amount of evidence to support NASA landed 12 astronauts on the moon from 1969 to 1972. We collected 842 pounds of moon rocks that have been studied by scientists worldwide for decades. From these rocks, we've learned that the moon was once part of the Earth, the moon is about 4.5 billion years old, and that most of the moon's craters are caused by impact, not volcanism.”

Anyone with half a brain could tell that this reply is totally unconvincing. Why mention moon rocks? It's as if the spokesperson thinks this provides *tangible* evidence of the moon landings. One would also think that NASA would have come up with a much more thoughtful and convincing argument than the absurdity stated above.

I digress.

The conclusion of the American Moon documentary shows part of the Apollo 11 astronauts post moon mission press conference. They point out that the three astronauts were totally unenthusiastic.

They were there to talk about the single most important feat accomplished by human beings and these men could barely crack a smile or convey their joy and enthusiasm about their monumental achievement. This goes without saying that it is all, indeed and utterly, extremely bizarre.

Moreover, the very apparent levels of stress shown by the astronauts as per their body language at the beginning of the press conference is somewhat mind boggling. Keep in mind that these astronauts are test pilots who have experience handling extremely stressful situations, not to mention having [purportedly] flown an extremely dangerous mission to the moon. So, relatively speaking, simply talking to the public and press about their monumental achievement should not have been so challenging and stressful for these men. Rather, it should have been a cause for celebration and pride. What is the average person to make of this?

American Moon ends with video clips of Bart Sibrel confronting each of the three Apollo 11 astronauts (Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins) asking them to swear on the Bible that they walked on the moon. All three men displayed very uncomfortable stances and refused. Sibrel even offered \$5,000 in cash to charity should Neil Armstrong agree, but he

still refused. Buzz Aldrin actually punched Sibrel in the face when the interrogator persisted in his questioning. Even though Sibrel's approach wasn't particularly friendly, it remains odd that none of them agreed to do so.

As more and more inconsistencies surface regarding the Apollo moon missions along with mounting evidence which contradicts the official narrative, it is probably just a matter of time before NASA becomes obligated to admit what really happened in July of 1969. Undoubtedly, there is a lot at stake.

Will history books need to be re-written?

Time will tell.

End of Report Part Two

Part Three will conclude in a later newsletter edition.

A Major Stock Crash is Coming – Harry Dent



The following is from a regularly published article by Harry Dent that appeared on Dec 7, 2022. The article predicts a major stock crash to occur soon. Harry Dent is a best-selling author and one of the most outspoken financial editors in America. Using proprietary research, Harry developed a unique method for studying economies around the world, and uses his analysis to provide insights on what to expect in the future. Dent received his MBA from Harvard Business School where he was a Baker Scholar. After Harvard he joined Bain & Company as a Fortune 100 business consultant and now heads the independent research firm HS Dent Publishing. I think you will find his article informative.

D. Miyoshi

American Education is on a Decline



Clear Sign of Top: Stock Prices Have Outstripped Earnings to the Extreme

There are now many signs of a top between November 22, 2021, on the Nasdaq and January 4, 2022, on the S&P 500 that will not be exceeded for decades or ever in our lifetimes. For one thing, look at just the bubble trajectory, which is almost identical to the first bubble from 1995 to 2000. How could analysts and experts be saying that this isn't a bubble this time, when they look exactly the same?

The truth is that most experts fear being too negative and even more so fear causing investors to panic and to sell even more when stocks get to extreme valuations, like today. That's an understandable ethic, but it does not serve the smarter investors who want to protect their long-term gains and retirement assets. People like me have the onerous task of having to be the realists when markets get this overvalued and must come back down to reality, most often in a matter of just a few years, like happened in 1929–1932, 1973–1974, and 2000–2002. Avoiding most of such rare and extreme great resets makes a huge difference in your long-term returns and financial assets!

The one thing on which I have focused in my forecasting career since 1988 is to forecast what the fundamental trends are, regardless of whether they are more bullish or more bearish than people hope or think. I actually got more criticism early in my career, because I was forecasting the greatest boom in history when American investors saw a peaking and declining America. They wondered how this could be, with the massive rise of Asia and our increasing loss of world leadership in one industry after the next.

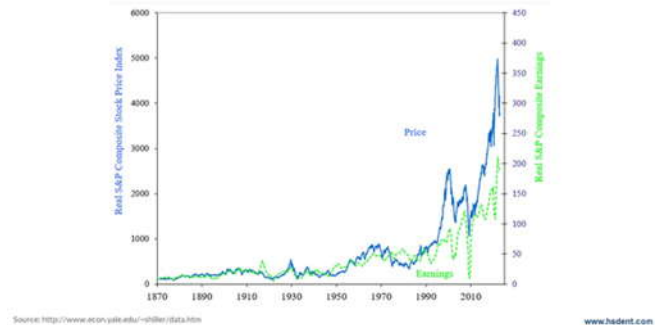
What the experts were missing is a more-focused view of demographics that concentrated not on population growth, but on the peak spending of new generations. Yes, the U.S. had peaked in global leadership and population growth was going to be slower, but we also had the most-affluent and powerful Baby Boom generation in the world to give us that one last hurrah into 2007, followed by a plateau of prosperity with the Millennials into 2037 before we actually start to decline.

You can't be a good forecaster and have a built-in bias toward being bullish or bearish. History is clear that great booms are followed by great busts. But most economists are always finding some reason why this time will be different. That is purely and simply delusion and serves no one.

Here's another chart that clearly says we are in for a major stock crash and economic downturn, not just another correction. And

that's on top of the fact that we already have seen a much-larger correction than since the 2000 bubble top: The Russell 2000 has fallen 41%, the Nasdaq 38%, and the S&P 500 28%.

Real S&P Stock Composite Outstrips Earnings Similar to 2000 Bubble



Let me make this simple: The recent top in the broadest S&P composite index for stocks was about 30% higher compared with earnings than at the 1929 and 1968 extreme tops of the past, which occurred on the 39-year Generational Cycle. This bubble was extended past the natural generational top in 2007 to late 2021, due to an unprecedented 13-year stimulus spree meant to fight off a depression at all costs. But that is finally over with the forced Fed tightening. Only the first tech bubble top in 2000 was higher, at 50% greater than such past tops. You wouldn't expect this bubble to be as extreme after the 78% Nasdaq and 57% S&P 500 crash from 2000 to 2002 brought such a big dose of reality.

But now that tightening has ended the “long party” for good, don't expect anything other than a bigger crash than we had from 2000 to 2002 to get us back to reality, given that central banks cut the last crash short with massive and long-term stimulus, which then ballooned beyond imagination with the short-term COVID crisis.

My ultimate hope is that this crash will be as extreme as I am forecasting (86% on the S&P 500, 92% on the Nasdaq) and will cause us never to think we can just avoid a necessary recession and debt detox by printing unlimited amounts of money out of thin air. How else will we learn, after such a ridiculous stimulus fantasy? This should have been obvious from the beginning.

End of Article

American Education is on a Decline

On Oct 24, 2022 Education Week published an article by Assistant Editor Sarah D. Sparks, entitled “Two Decades of Progress, Nearly Gone: National Math, Reading Scores Hit Historic Lows” This is the article with my comments

American Education is on a Decline

following. I hope you find the article informative. D. Miyoshi

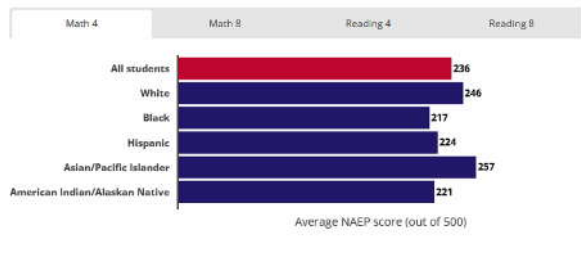


The pandemic has smacked American students back to the last century in math and reading achievement, according to the tests known as the Nation’s Report Card.

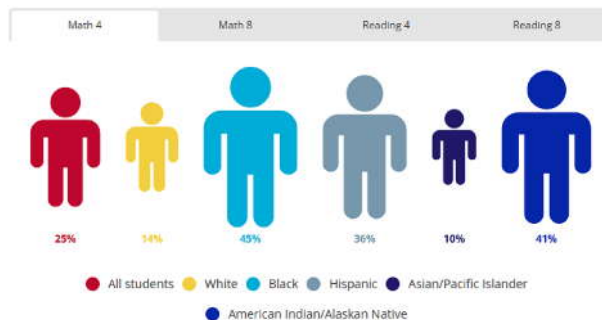
Results for students who took the test in spring 2022—the first main National Assessment of Educational Progress administration for these grades since the pandemic began—show the biggest drop in math performance in 4th and 8th grades since the testing program began in 1990. In reading, 4th and 8th graders likewise are performing on par with students in the 1990s, and about a third of students in both grades can’t read at even the “basic” achievement level—the lowest level on the test.

Academic declines on NAEP were sweeping, spanning low-income and wealthier students, boys and girls, and most racial or ethnic groups in both subjects and grades.

NAEP Performance by Student Group



How Many Students Don't Meet Basic Benchmarks?



SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022 School Survey, Institute of Education Sciences

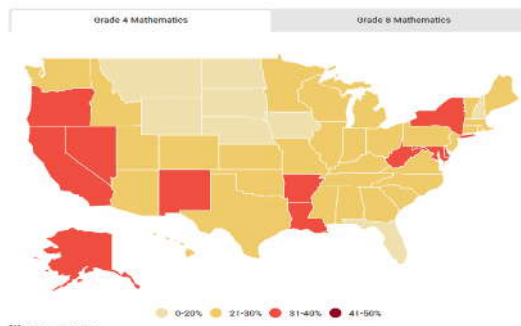
That made for some achievement gaps changing in unusual ways. For example, from 2019 to 2022, reading performance fell significantly for white 8th graders, but not their Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native American classmates, leading to smaller racial differences in performance. In 4th grade, Black, Hispanic, white, and Native American students’ average reading scores fell in 2022, while Asian students’ average scores improved, widening the white-Asian performance gap from 7 points in 2019 to 12 points in 2022.

“This is not just nerdy education policy stuff. This is really about the future of young people. The world we’re moving towards is one that requires significantly higher skills to be successful, to live lives of purpose and meaning,” said Jeb Bush, former Florida governor and founder of the education advocacy groups ExcelinEd and Chiefs for Change, in a briefing before the NAEP results were released. “If we allow these learning gaps to grow, and if we allow for the decline in learning to just stand pat ... a lot of dreams are gonna be shattered over the long haul.”

The results come on the heels of NAEP’s long-term trend data released last month, which also showed historically poor performance for 9-year-olds.

Students Scoring Below Basic in Math, by State

INTERACTIVE: Hover your cursor over each state to see the percentage of students in that state who scored below the basic level on NAEP and the state’s average NAEP score. You can toggle between 4th and 8th grade data by using the tabs.

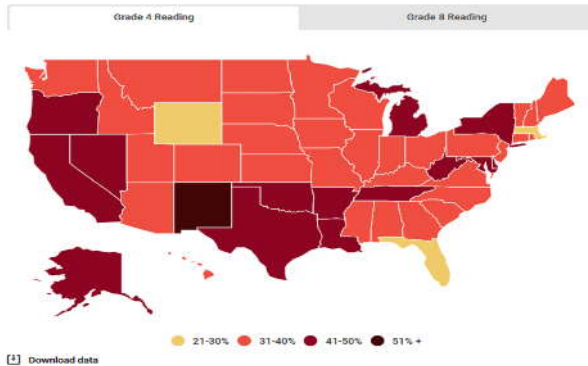


SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2021 School Survey, Institute of Education Sciences

American Education is on a Decline

Students Scoring Below Basic in Reading, by State

> INTERACTIVE: Hover your cursor over each state to see the percentage of students in that state who scored below the basic level on NAEP and the state's average NAEP score. You can toggle between 4th and 8th grade data by using the tabs.



SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2021 School Survey, Institute of Education Sciences

Eighth graders saw the steepest drops in both subjects, and high schools will have to significantly ramp up academic support for the students who entered high school this fall, said Beverly Perdue, a former governor of North Carolina and chair of the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for the testing program.

“Otherwise,” she said, “students will graduate and enter college and the workforce without the skills and knowledge we need to be globally competitive.”

Graduation rates fell in at least 31 states for the class of 2021, and the latest graduating class of 2022 had historically low scores on college placement tests.

In math, pool of struggling learners grows

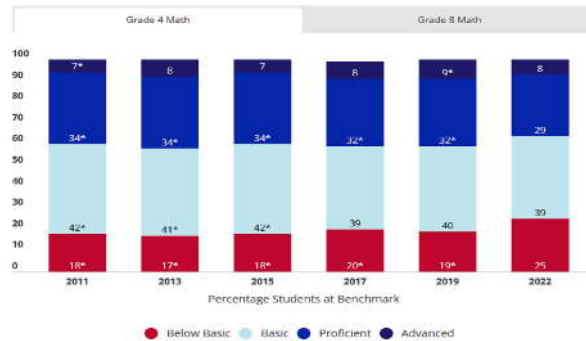
The average NAEP math score fell 5 points in 4th grade, to 236 out of 500, and in 8th grade fell 8 points, to 274 out of 500. In prior years, the top-performing 10 percent of math students held their ground, while the lowest-achieving students fell. This time, however, math achievement fell across every percentile, even for the highest performers.

“Normally, for a NAEP assessment at the national level, we’re talking about significant differences of 2 and 3 points. So an 8-point decline that we’re seeing in the math data is stark; it is troubling; it is significant,” said Peggy Carr, the commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics, which administers the NAEP.

In both grades 4 and 8, more students cannot meet even the basic level of math achievement, according to the NAEP report. The pool of advanced performers in math has likewise shrunk at both grades, though top readers have held steady.

NAEP Math Results, by Achievement Level

> INTERACTIVE: Use the tabs below to toggle between data sets.



* Significantly different from 2022

SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2021 School Survey, Institute of Education Sciences

Roberto Rodríguez, the Education Department’s assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy, noted that, in a prior NAEP study of districts’ practices during the pandemic, 75 percent of districts reported that they held remedial programs this summer, and more than half of districts in the study reported using intensive tutoring to help catch students up.

“Kids need more time,” said Patricia Levesque the chief executive officer of the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd), in a briefing before the NAEP results were released. “They lost time over the last several years, of getting instruction that they need in math, and we need to figure out ways to give them more time.”

Levesque pointed to states like Tennessee, which is requiring high-dosage tutoring for students performing below grade level. However, with large swaths of students now far behind, paying for intensive tutoring may be hard to sustain after federal pandemic recovery funding runs out.

And it’s not clear teachers feel ready to take on the severity of students’ learning loss.

More than a third of 4th graders and 21 percent of 8th graders who participated in NAEP had a teacher who reported spending nearly every day on remedial material in math. But less than half of students in either grade had teachers who were confident in their ability to address knowledge and skill gaps in math.

“We’ve known for decades that many teachers, especially in high-poverty areas, are not as mathematically confident,” said Zalman Usiskin, a professor emeritus and director of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. “They tend to focus more on memorization and the most basic of basic skills, not on problem-solving. ... and the prediction has to be that it’s going to get worse, because teachers now are trying to catch up students who are behind because of pandemic-related disruptions.”



American Education is on a Decline

Reading drops are smaller but hit low-achievers hard

Nationwide, the average reading score on NAEP fell 3 points from 2019 to 2022, to 217 in grade 4 and 260 in grade 8. While not as large a drop as math, it represented a significant decline in reading skills for both grades for all but the top 10 percent of 4th graders.

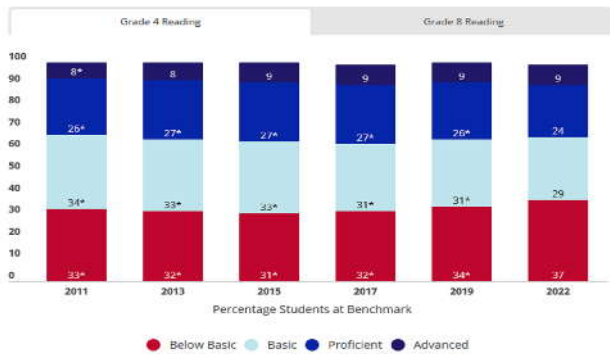
While experts have urged schools to accelerate students’ learning in order to help them make up lost academic ground, more than half of 8th graders had teachers who reported using remedial measures at least once or twice a week, and 20 percent had teachers who did so nearly every day. Among 4th graders, 70 percent of teachers reported using remedial measures a couple times a week. Moreover, about 1 in 3 students who took NAEP in 2022 had a teacher who reported covering the previous year’s material and using remedial instruction every day or nearly every day.

When it comes to acceleration, “it just seems as if we expect teachers to know how to do that,” said Kymyona Burk, the policy director for early literacy at ExcelinEd, and a former literacy director for the state of Mississippi. “We have to invest in people, we have to invest in their knowledge.”

In both grades 4 and 8, larger numbers of students cannot read at even the basic academic level than was the case in 2019, according to the 2022 NAEP report. Top readers have held steady, but gained little ground.

NAEP Reading Results, by Achievement Level

> INTERACTIVE: Use the tabs below to toggle between data sets.



* Significantly different from 2022

SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2021 School Survey, Institute of Education Sciences

Burk said states need to bolster the use of science-based reading instruction to help students who started school during the pandemic and may struggle more with foundational reading skills.

Looking ahead, there are some signs of recovery in reading at least. One study by the testing group Amplify looked at more than 300,000 K-3 students in 43 states who took the Dynamic Indicators of Basic

Early Literacy Skills, or DIBELS, assessment, this fall—which would be the most recent, available testing data. That study found that while students in all grades remain below their pre-pandemic reading achievement, the share of students who started school this fall on track to read on grade level by the end of the academic year ticked up in every grade, ranging from 33 percent of kindergarteners to 55 percent of 3rd graders.

“The news may be still a bit grim, although the positive side is that, directionally, we are seeing that students at the beginning of this year are more prepared for school than they were at the beginning of last year,” said Paul Gazzo, the director of data analysis for Amplify.

Still, the Amplify study suggests large shares of students—ranging from half of kindergarteners to 30 percent of 3rd graders—won’t read on grade level by the end of this school year without significant, intensive interventions.

Political fallout?

Well before NAEP results were made public, some education pundits predicted students in states that reopened their schools earlier in the pandemic would have better scores than students in states with longer pandemic-related spans of virtual schooling. Michael Petrilli, the president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, suggested that differences in the performance between states that reopened school buildings for in-person learning earlier in the pandemic could become fodder in midterm elections.

But Carr, the NCES commissioner, strongly disagreed with interpreting the results in that way.

“There’s nothing in this data that says we can draw a straight line between the time spent in remote learning, in and of itself, and student achievement,” Carr said. “And let’s not forget that remote learning looked very different all across the United States. ... We have massive comprehensive decline everywhere, whether some were in remote learning longer or shorter than others.”

By the start of 2020-21, the first full school year of the pandemic, an Education Week analysis found that several states had mandated full-time, in-person learning, (Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North and South Carolinas, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia) but nearly three-quarters of the 100 largest school districts (representing 9 million students) opened that fall only with virtual instruction.

In reading, 8th graders lost ground in all but two of those states; Iowa and Texas had flat scores, but so did several late-opening states like California, New York, and New Jersey. Performance was more mixed at 4th grade, with seven early-opening states and at least one late-opening one, California, seeing no change in reading achievement during the pandemic.

The other six early-opening states saw drops in 4th grade reading in 2022. In math, only South Carolina and Iowa among the early-





Basic Lessons in Investments

opening states held steady in 4th grade. The rest saw drops in math achievement from 2019 to 2022. And Utah, the only state that saw no decline in 8th grade math, had no mandate on schools reopening at the start of 2020-21.

End of Education Week Article

As revealed by the results of the first main National Assessment of Education Progress administration the math skills of America's students are falling at the fastest rate in history. Just 26 percent of eighth graders (13-to-14-year-olds) were deemed to be proficient in math, down from 34 percent in 2019, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress—aka, the Nation's Report Card.

We ask why?

The COVID factor: This is the first national report card since COVID, and many recognize the massive damage America's pandemic response did to the nation's education. Trumpet magazine wrote at the time, the "cure" for COVID has been worse than the disease.

"The results show the profound toll on student learning during the pandemic, as the size and scope of the declines are the largest ever in mathematics." —Peggy G. Carr, National Center for Education Statistics Commissioner

But that's not all: We need to recognize and acknowledge that another factor that is destroying American education is the "woke" indoctrination. Analyzing an early data set from RealClearEducation unearthed some shocking examples:

One California student reported that a teacher at his school told the class that perfectionism and striving for perfection was part of white supremacy culture. Another one of his teachers "made it seem like it was bad to have a good work ethic or to be supportive of meritocracy." In his school, grades were inflated, low grades were eliminated, late assignments were allowed, and multiple retakes of exams were permitted. Rigor simply disappeared.

"To not teach hard work and to not teach a work ethic is going to be disastrous for the kids who kind of cruise along in public schools," the student reflected.

It's no coincidence that this historic drop in test scores has happened as U.S. schools embrace extreme beliefs such as critical race theory.

In 2020, the Trumpet magazine described a new math curriculum that taught that "math has been and continues to be used to oppress and marginalize people and communities of color." Instead of being

taught arithmetic and algebra, kids discuss subjects like, "How important is it to be right? What is right? Says who?" No wonder eighth graders are not "proficient" in math.

The decline in math standards is merely a side effect of an even worse push: an attack on the minds of America's children. Trumpet magazine wrote:

These are just a few examples of the radicalization of public-school curricula in America and many other nations. Educators are teaching the next generation leftist views that depict the West, especially America, as oppressive, hate-filled and genocidal. They are exalting wealth redistribution and socialism while condemning free markets. They are encouraging students to become environmental activists. They are teaching radical views about sexuality, normalizing transgenderism, gender fluidity and sexual experimentation.

These educators realize something that too many others have taken for granted: The minds of children are worth fighting for. Leftists are using education to shape the next generation into tomorrow's activists and radicals. They recognize that implanting these politicized social concepts into young minds will reshape society the way they envision it should be.

Teaching children is a critical responsibility. It is something we must fight to get right. At stake is not just our children's ability to do math and hold down a good job but also their ability to live in a way that brings happiness and fulfillment.

What do you think are the causes of our educational achievement scores regressing and what do you think we should do to resolve it?

It's one of the most important issues our society is now faced with. We have to get the solution right.

D. Miyoshi

Basic Lessons in Investments



Basic Lessons in Investments

In these times when the stock market is on a down turn with most stocks losing their value, it is a good time to review some basic lessons on investments that are good for all of us to know. These lessons are taken from a recent article by Kim Iskyan, a financial writer for Stansberry Research Organization. I present them here for your reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

Four Finance Words You're Using Wrong

Like many professions, finance has a language of its own.

If you're not part of the club (and even if you are), it's easy to get the lingo wrong. And that can lead to very expensive mistakes.

You've probably even seen a lot of "financial jargon" here in Health & Wealth Bulletin. You might think you understand some of the most often-used phrases, but the truth is, you likely don't.

So to help you avoid making mistakes, today I (Kim Iskyan) am sharing some of the most frequently misused words in finance and what they really mean...

1. Volatility

What People Think It Means: Volatility is often misused as a synonym for "uncertainty." The two words are frequently used interchangeably. Volatility is also often framed as a bad thing. Look out for the CNBC talking head muttering – with a stricken look on his face – about how there's "too much volatility" in markets right now.

What It Really Means: Volatility is just a way to measure the change in the price of an investment over a particular period of time. Whether stocks are going up or down, the amount they move either way is the stock's volatility.

If a stock has low volatility, it means it doesn't make extreme moves beyond its average price. If it has high volatility, it means the price swings are bigger.

2. Cheap/expensive stock

What People Think It Means: Some investors look at the price of a stock and make a declaration about whether it's "cheap" or "expensive." In this world, shares of real estate development company NVR, which trade at nearly \$4,400 per share, are "expensive." And shares of Texas-based oil producer Kosmos Energy, which trade under \$6 per share, are "cheap."

What It Really Means: The price of a stock has nothing to do with whether it's cheap or expensive. In the investment world, cheap and expensive refer to a stock's valuation – which is measured by, for example, the price-to-earnings ratio (P/E), which compares a company's share price with its net income.

In this case, NVR's current P/E is 10. And Kosmos is barely profitable, sporting a P/E of 444. NVR shares, each of which costs more than the average mortgage payment, are cheap – while shares of Kosmos Energy, which change hands for the price of a cup of coffee, are nosebleed expensive.

3. Median vs. average

What People Think It Means: There's an important difference between median and average (which is usually the "mean"). Both median and mean refer to a midpoint in a series of numbers. But the way they're calculated is very different.

What It Really Means: Let's say there are seven people in a classroom – six kids and one teacher. Here is a list of their ages: five, six, six, seven, seven, eight, and 36.

The average (mean) age of everyone in the classroom is calculated by adding all the ages and dividing by the number of people. So the sum of the ages is 75... and divided by seven results in an average age of 10.7.

Of course, the teacher's age skews the results. In this case, the mean isn't representative of the age of everyone in the room. Six of the seven people in the room are younger than the average age.

A more accurate indicator is the median age. The median is calculated by arranging the values from lowest to highest and picking the one in the middle – seven years. So, the median age is seven.

This distinction is significant in interpreting economic and other data. For example, in many countries, the average (mean) household income is a lot higher than the median, because the average is skewed by the very wealthiest households. The median is much more representative, because when incomes are listed from lowest to highest, it's the number in the middle.

4. Nominal vs. effective interest rates

What People Think It Means: Interest rates on loans are sometimes quoted as nominal or effective. Many bank products have these rates stated on their marketing material. And there's an important difference between the two terms.

What It Really Means: Let's say you have \$10,000 to invest. Your bank offers you a product that offers a 4% nominal rate per year, with monthly compounding interest. How much money will you have at the end of the year?

Four percent of \$10,000 is \$400, suggesting a final sum at the end of the year of \$10,400. But that's based on the nominal, or stated, interest rate. Note, though, that the interest rate compounds monthly. This means that interest is paid every month – with the interest earned each month then earning interest, or compounding.

Because any interest you've earned each month will start earning interest, the actual final interest rate, or the effective rate, is slightly higher than the nominal rate. In this example, with monthly compounding, your \$10,000 would be worth \$10,407 after one year. That means the effective interest rate, or what you effectively earned, is 4.07%, or 0.07 percentage points more than the nominal rate.

That seemingly small difference can matter a lot more over long periods of time – and when interest rates are higher. For example, credit cards may charge a nominal rate that compounds monthly, resulting in a far higher effective rate.

Learning the language of finance is an important step toward understanding what's happening in the world of money. And it's also a helpful way to arm yourself against "car-mechanic syndrome"...



Basic Lessons in Investments

Three Ways to Avoid 'Car-Mechanic Syndrome'

What is "car-mechanic syndrome"?

That's when your car makes some funny noises, and rather than watch a YouTube video and try to fix it yourself, you take your vehicle to the body shop.

After popping the hood and casting his master eye over its contents for a few seconds, the car mechanic tut-tuts before making his prognosis.

"Well, it looks like your carburetor lower incisor has a myocardial fibrillation, and we'll have to drain the accelerator abscess and replace the dynamical half plug," he says.

Well, he doesn't say that, specifically. But he says something that makes about as much sense as that to you. You nod glumly.

And \$2,000 (if you're lucky) later, you're on your way, reeling from a severe case of car-mechanic syndrome... You've been fooled by an "expert" into overpaying for a service that should be a lot simpler, and less expensive, than you've been led to believe.

And because you don't have the time, money, inclination, and/or desire to learn enough to not be ripped off, you'll continue to be bamboozled by the car mechanic... forever.

Overpaying to fix your car is bad enough. But lots of people waste their hard-earned money in a similar way – only with their money rather than with their car. They allow the financial-industrial complex to rip them off.

That's the vast web of interests that's eager to get their hands on your cash and "help" you invest it – from the mainstream financial media to private bankers and "financial advisers" to policymakers who let those guys have their way with your money. The ultimate purpose is to separate you from your money. An important part of that is to make finance and investing sound more complicated than it really is.

It's the car-mechanic syndrome, fine-tuned for finance and investing.

How the financial-industrial complex works: First they confuse you with needless jargon. Then, they make you anxious that if you don't listen to their recommendations, something catastrophic could happen. Then they overcharge you to fix the problem that they just manufactured in your brain – in the form of fees and expenses and loads and wraps and other fancy-sounding structures that the financial industry comes up with to pry your hard-earned dollars from your hand.

And the worst of it is that every dollar you spend on fees is one dollar less that's going to be compounded, year after year, to produce

more wealth for later on... Wealth that could go toward your retirement or your kids' education or that condo in Orlando.

That's not to say that there's no role for others to help you with figuring out what to do with your money and how to make it grow. Even the best amateur mechanic can use the insight of a bona fide expert.

And the best source of insight is people who know what they're talking about, provide unbiased and honest insight, and who have no incentive to guide you toward any one investment or another – and who are interested only in helping you make better financial decisions.

And there may, in fact, be a role for a financial adviser or private banker in your financial life – if for no other reason than to listen to what they have to say. Many of them are smart, experienced people with real insight on investing. The problem is that they make money when they take some of yours.

So the decision to let someone else – whether it's a private banker or investment adviser or someone similar – be your "financial mechanic" is a big one. If you elect to go that route, here are three questions of him or her to ensure that you don't suffer from car-mechanic syndrome...

1. How do you value a financial asset?

This is a hugely broad question. It's like asking a religious person to prove the existence of a greater being. But the point is to see how a possible financial adviser responds – and, most importantly, whether you understand the response. If your potential financial adviser sounds like the car mechanic above, you should take your money elsewhere. If you don't understand him now, you're not going to understand him later... and if you don't understand him, you'll wind up paying dearly for your ignorance.

2. How many bear markets have you experienced in your investment career?

Would you take advice from a marriage counselor who has never been married? Or be the first patient of a just-out-of-school dentist? Or listen to a lawyer who has never practiced law? Of course not. For the same reason, you should think long and hard before letting someone who has never experienced the violence of different market environments manage your money. Stressful situations involving money – yours and especially others' – can bring emotions into play in a way that can be destructive to your personal wealth.

3. How are you paid?

Some investment advisers are paid – either directly or indirectly – on a commission basis. That means that they make money only if you buy or sell. But often, doing nothing is the best thing to do. If your



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financial adviser only makes money if your portfolio records a transaction, you'll wind up buying and selling a lot more than you should.

Instead, find a financial adviser who is paid based on your total assets, or a flat fee. That means s/he won't be incentivized to put you into vehicles that don't make sense for you (but which generate lots of fees for him), or to buy and sell a lot more than you should.

Bonus... beware fancy acronyms.

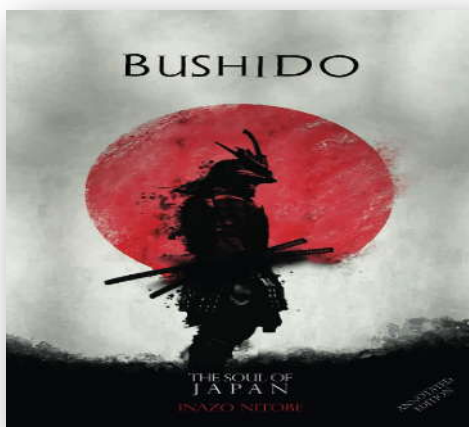
If your financial adviser ever recommends an asset that's described with some kind of silly acronym (like, for example, BCTTLHIRSSN, which stands for Bermudan Callable Three Times Leveraged Inverse HIBOR in-arrears Resettable Step-up Snowball Note... yes, it was a real thing), run away, fast. No matter how good it sounds, you can bet that something incomprehensible is designed, first and foremost, to separate you from more of your money, faster, than anything that isn't described by some kind of new acronym.

Taking your car into the repair shop is much like investing – in that the more you know about it, the less money you'll likely spend. If you decide that you do need an investment mechanic, be sure you find one that isn't going to cost you more than he should.

Kim Iskyan

[End of Article](#)

Bushido, Good or Bad for Japan?



Bushido was the code of conduct for Japan's warrior classes from perhaps as early as the eighth century through modern times. The word "bushido" comes from the Japanese roots "Bushi" meaning "warrior," and "Do" meaning "path" or "way." It translates literally to "way of the warrior."

These days some historians, sociologists and teachers question the benefit and efficacy of bushido in modern day Japan. The following is a transcription of a very popular YouTube program called "Lets Ask Shogo" that first aired in September 2021. Its title is "Why Bushido is the Root of All Social Problems in Japan." The commentator Shogo Yamaguchi gives his very perceptive view of the pros and cons of Bushido on modern day society of Japan. It's an interesting program and I present it here for your reading consumption.

D. Miyoshi

Why Bushido is the Root of All Social Problems in Japan

If you study Samurai culture, you most certainly will come across Bushido, the way of the warrior. I am sure you know about it as the "Samurai Code" that made the samurai bolder and stronger. There are many movies, video games, and music that praises it as something great. But what if I told you that cherishing Bushido might be ruining Japan? I was very shocked to read this book "The Lie of Japanese People" written by a social psychologist professor Yamagishi Toshio where he explains that "Japan must discard Bushido right away if we want to have a brighter future." So today I would love to share with you what I learned from this book and also my opinions as a Japanese man studying multiple traditional cultures by summarizing the content into 3 sections.

Japan is a "strange" groupism (collectivist) society

Bushido is the virtue of a groupism (collectivist) world

Should we really discard Bushido?

In order to understand why Bushido may ruin Japan, we must first understand that Japan is a society based on groupism. Groupism is a term that refers to ideas and tendencies that value groups rather than the individuals. The opposite is individualism, the idea of denying the authority of the state and society and respecting the rights and freedoms of individuals. You might be able to express it as socialism versus capitalism or seniority system versus merit system as well. There is a high chance that these terms have different definitions in different languages but here I will follow the definition in this book. How did Japan come to be a society based on groupism (socialism/seniority)? Let's take a look at these two main reasons: The natural environment and the social system during the Edo Period.



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The Natural Environment Japan is an island nation with a lot of natural disasters. Japan is nearly 0.28% of land on earth but has 7% of all active volcanoes and 10% of all earthquakes. This is because Japan is located above four tectonic plates out of ten. What's more horrifying is that out of all earthquakes that are stronger than magnitude 6.0, 20% of them happen in Japan. Also, an average of 26 typhoons pass near or over Japan every year, and sediment disasters often occur after heavy rain because about 70% of land in Japan are mountains. These environmental characteristics have forced Japanese people to cooperate with each other in order to survive, because we had nowhere to run. No matter how strong a leader or warrior you were, you could not beat natural disasters. It also meant that the people were very sensitive and would attack or kick out anyone who were uncooperative or could not blend into the group, because having one selfish person could lead the whole community to danger during emergencies. So, as a natural instinct, Japanese people learned that the best survival technique is to not to stand out and not to pursue personal interests, which is exactly what groupism is. By the way, it is very interesting that in many Japanese movies scenes of despair are expressed by the characters facing the ocean. From this you can understand that from ancient times Japanese people have suffered thinking I want to change my life but I can't run away from this reality or community due to Japan being an island nation.

The social system during the Edo period. However, you might be thinking weren't the periods like the Sengoku war era pretty chaotic? Yes, there were times in Japanese history where it seems like many people were fighting for their own ambitions, and cooperating with each other in order to revive was quite normal anywhere in the world to a certain point. The critical event that established groupism in Japan today is the social system during the Edo period, the 3rd and last Shogunate of Japanese history. This period's biggest characteristic was that it was peaceful for more than 250 years with hardly any wars, which in some studies is considered to be the longest term of peace within one nation in the history of the whole world. Such a long term of peace is possible due to the clever political measures laid out by the Tokugawa Edo Shogunate that basically strengthened the groupism system in order to keep everyone in their place.

Dividing the land into clans and creating the family register system so people cannot easily leave their hometowns

Dividing the people into social classes, and determining where they can live, what they can do, what they can wear, etc.

Restricting trade and the movement to foreign countries.

Excluding Buddhism teachings and introducing neo-Confucianism to educate that protecting faces and always obeying superiors are a virtue

During the Edo period, it was very common for samurai clans and individual families to have their privileges taken away by the government, if they ever were to not act like a noble warrior or go against discipline and lose their honor. This is why they were always afraid about how people would see them or what people say about them, which is a characteristic you can see among Japanese people even today. It's hard to believe that a single government was able to come up with this many effective active measures, apply them, and actually succeed in controlling the people and changing their way of thinking. But looking back from the present day you would know that this is true. By putting much emphasis on such "harmony" not only was it peaceful for 250 years but it also caused an unusual situation of hardly no economic growth at all during the whole period.

Next let's take a look at what kind of characteristics were born due to these reasons.

Keeping harmony is the top priority, it's more important than the actual progress/development

People have an advanced ability to "read the air (sense the mood)" and sense relationships between people within the group.

Each person will try to act good and be polite to not stand out, regardless of what they are truly thinking (less honest people, more two-faced personalities)

People will automatically trust the people within their community, because there is hardly any merit in betraying/creating disorder within the group (strong organizational power)

People will be extremely exclusive against outsiders, because the common rules and system of the group won't be applied against strangers (low communication skills)

Sounds really "Japanese"

The author of the book points out that all the things the Japanese





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people praise of themselves, is not because Japan is a nice or special country, it was simply a survival strategy for Japanese people to live within the system. For example,

“Good manners and discipline” were only for you to not be seen as a person without common sense

“Humbleness” was only for not standing out from the crowd and staying hidden

“Cleanliness of the environment” was only for not getting in trouble with neighbors due to problems about dirtiness

By the way, there is an interesting experiment introduced this book that asked Japanese people to questions:

Do you think Japanese people are individualists or groupists (collectivists)

Are YOU an individualist or a groupist?

The results might surprise you. 90% of people answered that “Japanese people are groupists,” but at the same time 50% answered that “they themselves are individualists.” Which means that about half of the people said that “Everyone else are groupists, but not me.” This might sound like a contradiction, but it proves that most people just go with the crowd because they believe that everyone else would attack and slander them otherwise, and they don’t actually care much about what the benefits of the group really. Groupism in Japan is not about “everyone is caring about each other and that’s why the group is important,” but more of “everyone only cares about themselves, and as a result they chose to act good and not speak out for their personal benefits.” Even if the group was heading towards a cliff, if we are all falling and going to suffer together that’s okay because I don’t want to be the one to stand out by speaking up and pointing out the actual problem.

However, I must make it very clear that this doesn’t mean that “groupism is bad and individualism is good.” Obviously, there is no perfect social system, because if it did exist, we should have solved most of our social problems by now. The 250 years of peace during the Edo period was a miracle, and the politeness of the people and cleanness of the environment, regardless of the motivations, are a good thing. The problem is not about whether groupism is good or bad, it is Japan does not have an environment suitable for the old

groupism anymore! Japan is not an isolated island like it once was in the past, and globalization and capitalism have already been imported since the end of the 19th century. We can wear whatever we want to, can change our jobs, and move to any city anytime. However, as I pointed out in my past videos, Japan strangely clings on to the “groupism culture,” by teaching the young to be normal through education, always prioritizing the elder’s opinion and believing that earning money is evil. My mother for example, when she used to scold me for any mistakes I’ve made when I was a child, she would say “you are going to embarrass me in front of others.” She was more afraid of what others would think of her having a son that doesn’t behave properly more than my own future or consequences I will experience. I’m not the only one that was told this. When my mother herself told her mother (my grandmother) that she wanted to get divorced, my grandmother said.....”You are an embarrassment! If you’re going to get divorced, do it after I die!” Take another example, the tiresome rules in the business world like the greeting cards, upper and lower seats, and overtime workHave you ever wonder why Japan can’t stop following the annoying rules? Why do Japanese people work for long hours but have very low productivity? Why can’t Japanese people change jobs or run away before they end their own lives? It is because again, “Harmony” and “how people will see you” are still more important than actual results...! The benefits of following these rules and systems in the past, were because the group would protect you, provide you a place in society, and cooperate with you when you were in trouble. However, most companies have abandoned the “lifetime employment system.” Local communities are disappearing or losing connections. And families are becoming more and more isolated. This means that we have inherited just the negative parts of groupism and are not taking in the positive parts of individualism. Why is Japan continuously suffocating itself? Why do we care so much about what the society would think when there’s hardly any benefits? Yes, it’s because we still see Bushido as a virtue.

Before we start talking about why and how cherishing Bushido is having a negative impact on Japanese society, we need to make the definition of this word in this book clear. To put it simple, “Bushido” is the ideal human image formed mainly in the Edo period, in other words a virtue in the groupism world. Which means it is the perfect person that fitted the ideal control of the samurai admin-





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istration during These are some of the fundamental morals and teachings of Bushido that are introduced in this book.

- 1 Protect rules and traditions
- 2 Follow those stronger than you and be loyal
- 3 Be brave and exclusive to keep strangers out
- 4 Take revenge to defeat enemies
- 5 Lie if it is necessary

Again, the ultimate purpose of all of these morals are “the unity of the members that are part of the group.” Bushido taught Japanese people that “keeping things the way they are (protecting traditions)” is always the priority, and the orders of the superiors are absolute. They were exclusive in order to keep any outsiders from invading the community, and anyone who is brave enough to fight and take revenge if necessary were considered heroes, because they were the ones who were protecting the peace of the group the most. If you are familiar with the stories of the 47 Ronin or Shinsengumi which are both considered representative stories of “beautiful Bushido” in Japan you would probably immediately realize that their actions and purposes to kill others are not logical at all, but come from pure loyalty to their lords. You might think that the last “lie if it is necessary” is surprising, but again the goodwill of individuals being honest is shunned, and for unity and harmony of the group or following the will of your lords, lying to yourself and others and others was considered something good as well.

Because the Edo period was able to make the samurai actually follow these morals, they were able to create a peaceful era with no wars, in exchange for “almost no economic progress” for more than 250 years.

Whenever social problems such as bullying in schools, the corruption of politicians and businesses, and the young going bad (gangs/prostitutes) are shown on the media, there are many Japanese people who say, “Oh where has our noble dignity (Bushido) gone!?” “We need to revive the good and old honorable minds of the samurai!” If you go to a bookstore in Japan today, you will find many self-development books talking about how great the heart of Bushido is, and many of them are quite popular. However, I believe you already understand that trying to promote Bushido is completely going against the modern era. It’s almost like you’re trying to ride a boat even after you’ve reached land, and you’re making the young suffer

and die by making them row that boat on the ground and saying “this is the right way things should be done.” Much concrete data, like the most number of young committing suicide in the world, the most number of mental hospitals in the world, being one of the countries that has the biggest gender gap, hundreds and thousands of cats and dogs slaughtered by the government, and the most amount of pesticides and food additives in the world, are proof that there is something wrong with Japan.

It is repeatedly emphasized in this book that Japan is NOT suitable for groupism anymore. You can leave your hometown or the country anytime you want to, communities and companies will not protect you anymore, and there is no such things as a “lord” that you have to die for. What we need are actual results and productivity, not a diploma of a good school or a good status within a company that’s only meant to be seen as an excellent person within the group. We need real connections with people linked with honesty, not being fearful of “the system” that forces you to be normal and keeps you under surveillance. We need deeper relationships with other countries around the world, not hating people that you’ve never even met before just because they have a different nationality.

Should we Really Discard Bushido?

Before I end this video, I would like to share my opinions about this topic with you.

As a man training in multiple traditional culture that often talks about Bushido, I had one big question in my mind when I closed this book..... Should be really completely discard Bushido?

You too might have study about, or have trained budo martial arts, and have seen Bushido as a positive attitude to create discipline. Although I completely understand that it might have negative effects on our society: good manners, cleanness, punctuality, are all the things that are seen as the good things about Japan. So my answer to the question is, NO. Because again, we are not talking about whether individualism is good, or groupism is bad, and there is no correct answer anywhere in this world. I personally believe that Japan should try to seek a good balance between the two, and preserve the good, and change the old. Unfortunately, no matter how slow Japan





China's Growing Water Crisis

might be in making progress, evidently it will eventually shift to an individualistic society. If we don't do anything about it Bushido will soon completely fade away, and at some point it will be impossible to remember even what the good and positive teachings were about. Then, what can we do? My answer is.... "To preserve the traditional cultures." In our daily lives we might not need Bushido and the groupism ideals anymore, but I think that training in budo martial arts, tea ceremony, stage arts, etc., would be a great occasion for us to remember what were the good things about Bushido and Japan in the past. This is why I'm training in multiple traditional cultures; it's so that one day I can also help to carry on what Japan has nurtured throughout its few hundred years of history. Of course, this includes many challenges.....

1. There are less and less people training in traditional culture and its becoming more difficult to sustain
2. Even the large organizations of each traditional culture could be corrupt, and the top people are far from living the way of Bushido
3. The term Bushido is sometimes used by Japanese right wing organizations under the belief that Japan should militarize to attack and fight other countries

I am very, very far from having an answer to solve the social problems in Japan, and the idea of Bushido itself is very ambiguous and it's just a floating image today. But I can promise you one thing that I will dedicate my life to finding my Bushido through my training, and I will do everything I can to preserve the good things about Japan that many people around the world look forward to. This is my dream, and this is my path.

End of Video Narration

China's Water Crisis can lead to Global Catastrophe

China's water crisis is nothing new, but it's gotten worse - and is now on the 'brink of catastrophe' and could trigger a global catastrophe, according to *Foreign Affairs*. For your reading consideration, here is the full report by Tyler Durden published August 25, 2022.

D. Miyoshi

China's Growing Water Crisis

A Chinese Drought Would Be a Global Catastrophe



Dried-up riverbed of Jialing river, a Yangtze tributary, China, August 2022

Thomas Peter / Reuters

Given the country's overriding importance to the global economy, potential water-driven disruptions beginning in China would rapidly reverberate through food, energy, and materials markets around the world and create economic and political turbulence for years to come. -Foreign Affairs

For starters, there's no substitute for water - which is essential for food production, electricity generation and sustaining all life on earth.

In China, which consumes ten billion barrels of water per day (approximately 700x its daily oil consumption), decades of economic and population growth have pushed northern China's water system to unsustainable levels.

According to the report, the per-capita water supply around the North China Plain at the end of 2020 was nearly 50% below the UN's definition of acute water scarcity at 253 cubic meters. Other major cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, are at similar (or lower) levels.

For comparison, Egypt had per-capita freshwater resources of 570 cubic meters, and has nowhere near as large of a manufacturing base as China.

Not fit for human consumption

Also worrisome, is that 19% of China's surface water is not fit for human consumption according to China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment. Roughly 7% was deemed unfit for any use at all.

Groundwater was worse - with around 30% considered unfit for





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consumption, and 16% unfit for any use.

In order to utilize this water, Beijing will need to make major investments in treatment infrastructure, which will require a significant increase in electricity usage in order to power the equipment.

Working against progress is China's farming and industrial industries, which dump contaminants into the country's groundwater - potentially setting the stage for decades of additional impairments.

Data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization indicate that China uses nearly two and a half times as much fertilizer and four times as much pesticide as the United States does despite having 25 percent less arable land.

For decades, Beijing has generally chosen to conceal the full extent of China's environmental problems to limit potential public backlash and to avoid questions about the competence and capacity of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This lack of transparency suggests that an escalation to acute water distress could be far closer than most outside observers realize—increasing the chances that the world will be ill prepared for such a calamity. -Foreign Affairs

The core problem is the overpumping of aquifers under the Northern China Plain - which according to NASA GRACE satellites, are more overdrawn than those of the Ogallala Aquifer under the Great Plains in the US - which is one of the world's most imperiled sources of agricultural water.

In some instances, groundwater levels have gotten so low that underground aquifers have collapsed - triggering a phenomenon called Land Subsidence, which can cause the ground to cave in over large areas, which in some case renders the aquifer unusable in the future.

In 2003, Beijing launched a \$60 billion "South-to-North Water Transfer Project" to use waters from the Yangtze River to replenish the north.

Meanwhile, China has deployed cloud seeding technologies to lace the clouds with silver iodide or liquid nitrogen in order to stimulate rainfall. It's also relocated heavy industries away from dry regions.

In April 2022, Vice Minister of Water Resources Wei Shanzhong estimated that China could end up spending \$100 billion annually on water-related projects.

It might not be enough, however.

Despite highly innovative programs to improve water availability, some scholars estimate that water supply could fall short of demand by 25 percent by 2030—a situation that would by definition force major adjustments in society. Experiences to date on the North China Plain enhance concern and illustrate the scale of additional needed hydraulic intervention. Despite nearly a decade of importing

Yangtze valley water supplies to high-stress areas such as Beijing, large-scale depletion of stored groundwater continues in other nearby areas, such as Hebei and Tianjin. -Foreign Affairs

The result of a worsening drought will, of course, mean less food.

60% of China's wheat, 45% of its corn, 35% of its cotton and 64% of its peanuts come from the at-risk North China Plain - where, in the example of wheat, their annual production of more than 80 million tons is on par with Russia's annual output, while their 125 million tons of corn is nearly 3x Ukraine's prewar production.

In order to sustain these harvests, water is being pumped to farms faster than nature can replenish it. According to satellite data, between 2003 and 2010, Northern China lost as much groundwater as Beijing consumes annually - leaving farmers struggling to find new sources.

If the North China Plain suffers a 33% crop loss due to water insufficiency, China would need to import roughly 20% of the world's internationally traded corn and 13% of the world's wheat.

Although China has stockpiled the world's largest grain reserves, the country is not immune to a multiyear yield shortfall. This would likely force China's food traders, including large state-owned enterprises such as COFCO and Sinograin, into global markets on an emergency basis to secure additional supplies. This in turn could trigger food price spikes in high-income countries, while rendering key food items economically inaccessible to hundreds of millions of people in poorer countries. The impacts of this water-driven food shortage could be far worse than the food-related unrest that swept across lower- and middle-income countries in 2007 and 2008 and would drive migration and exacerbate political polarization already present in Europe and the United States. -Foreign Affairs

A shocking problem

China's water woes go beyond agriculture - with around 90% of the country's electrical grid reliant on extensive water resources - "particularly hydro, coal, and even nuclear generation, which needs large and steady water supplies for steam condensers and to cool reactor cores and used fuel rods" according to the report.

If China lost 15% of its hydropower production in any given year due to low water levels, it would have to increase electricity output via other means by an amount equal to what Egypt consumes in a year - something that only coal would be able to accomplish.

Except - the process of mining and preparing coal is also highly water intensive. And while seawater can be used to cool the limited coastal coal sources, much of the sooty resource is located inland and rely on groundwater, rivers and lakes.

End of Article



Eating Late is a No-No



It's midnight and you're rooting through your fridge looking for a snack...

If that's you, you're not alone. According to a 2021 survey from the International Food Information Council, 60% of Americans snack after 8 p.m.

But have you ever wondered why you hunger for a snack late at night? Most folks think hunger has to do with how long it's been since they last ate.

But that's not true.

The reason why people eat late and why it is not good for their health and weight is in a recent report by Dr. David Eifrig, Editor of the Stansberry Research Health & Wealth Bulletin. Here is Dr. Eifrig's report.

D. Miyoshi

Eating Late Is Worse for You Than You Think

Why do we get hungry late at night?

Well, did you know your hormones dictate feeling hungry (and satiety).

And those hormones – ghrelin and leptin – increase and decrease in wave-like patterns throughout the day. A 2005 study found that ghrelin – the "hunger hormone" – peaked eight times over a 24-hour period in a small group of six healthy adults.

This is the reason why you might feel hungry late at night, despite eating dinner earlier in the evening. It's also why you may not be hungry first thing in the morning, despite several hours of not eating while you slept...

But if you're eating late at night on a regular basis, you could be

jeopardizing your ability to maintain a healthy weight... without even knowing it.

And two new studies on time-restricted eating help explain why this is so.

But before I jump into these studies, let me briefly explain what time-restricted eating is, because after reading this, you'll never want a late-night snack again...

Time-restricted eating is a pattern of eating within a specific window of time. So rather than eating throughout the day, whenever you feel so inclined, or whenever you're in the habit of eating your meals, you'd set a predetermined time frame. It's often a six-to-eight-hour window. So, for example, you'd decide to only eat from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Now, let's proceed with the studies...

In the first study, published in August, researchers from the University of Alabama set out to examine the impact of time-restricted eating on weight loss. They conducted a randomized clinical trial over the course of 14 weeks with 90 adult participants – aged 25 to 75 years – who were obese. The participants were randomly assigned to one of two groups:

1. The control group – where eating occurred over 12 or more hours throughout the day.
2. The experimental group – where eating was restricted to an eight-hour window from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Both groups also received weight-loss counseling for following a calorie-restricted diet. After 14 weeks, folks in the time-restricted eating group lost significantly more weight (14 pounds) than those in the control group (nine pounds). They also experienced greater improvements to their blood pressure measurements, depressive symptoms, and fatigue.

So simply by avoiding food after 3 p.m., these folks made greater strides toward their weight-loss efforts and general health.

And the second study, published earlier this month in *Cell Metabolism*, helps further illustrate how eating at night negatively impacts us...

A team of researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Clinical Investigation in Boston conducted a randomized, controlled, crossover trial to compare the effects of eating late versus eating early in 16 participants who were considered overweight or obese.

Folks in the early eating group ate three meals a day that were timed for one hour after waking, five hours and 10 minutes after waking, and nine hours and 20 minutes after waking. Folks in the late eating group ate their three meals at five hours and 10 minutes after waking, nine hours and 20 minutes after waking, and 13 hours and 30 minutes after waking.

The researchers controlled nutrient intake, physical activity, sleep, and light exposure across the two groups. From the experiment, here's what the researchers observed...

First, eating late doubled a person's odds of being hungry the next morning. What's more, the ratio of appetite-regulating hormones ghrelin and leptin in participants' blood supported that difference. In other words, eating late changes your hormone balance.

Also, eating late was associated with less calorie expenditure. So despite doing the same amount of physical activity, folks in the late eating group burned 5% fewer calories than those in the early eating

What Will Happen if China Invades Taiwan?

group. That means, these folks would have to work out more in order to level the playing field with their early eating counterparts.

So do what I do... Pay attention to when you're eating and fast several times a month. Aim to eat your biggest meal of the day between noon and 3 p.m. to best utilize your hormones' natural rhythm.

David Eifrig MD

End of Report

What Will Happen if China Invades Taiwan?



The following is a direct transcript of an interview in October by reporter Chris Williamson of Peter Zeihan, noted geo-political expert on what would happen if China invades Taiwan.

Zeihan explains what could happen in such an invasion. Is the Chinese invasion of Taiwan likely? Does Peter Zeihan think that China would succeed if they tried to take Taiwan? Why does China want to invade Taiwan?

For your edification here are Zeihan's opinions in that interview. I hope you find them informative.

D. Miyoshi



Chris Williamson: What difference would it make if China invaded Taiwan?



Peter Zeihan: That would probably lead to the end of the Chinese system as an industrialized economy in less than a year.

Chris Williamson: Why? That's fascinating.

Peter Zeihan: It's an open question of whether or not the Chinese could pull it off and with the Ukraine war we finally got some good signposts of what it might look like. The Chinese have always assumed that the war would be a walkover, that no one else will get involved and that China is such a big place that everyone will just suck it up and move on. Well, that clearly hasn't happened with Ukraine. And the United States and the West have a much tighter relationship with Taiwan than they do with Ukraine. Ukraine was only preparing for this war for eight years. Taiwan has been preparing for 60. You can walk to Ukraine from Russia. It's a bit of a swim to get to Taiwan. The sanctions that are in place against Russia would absolutely devastate China because while Russia has a lot of faults it's a major exporter of food and energy. China imports those things. Seventy-Five percent of their oil is imported from a different continent. And 75% of their oil is important. And then I think it's really the boycotts that have really scared the Chinese the most. The idea that individual citizens might have any say on policy, they did not see that coming. They have no way to process that in a one-man state. Every assumption that they've based the last 40 years of military planning on has proven to be wrong. And then, of course, there's the question of whether they could actually do it. If they did a slow-motion mobilization like the Russians did, it took three months, the Taiwanese would see that. They would build a few nukes and so the cost of capturing Taiwan would be losing Shanghai and Beijing That doesn't seem like a good plan. So, the only battle plan that I've seen that might work is if they just texted every member of the Army and say go to a port, get on a fishing boat and sail. You would lose a million people in the crossing, just to get to the beaches. So, there's nothing about this that works. And if they did pull it off, even if they do capture Taiwan, they are now cut off from global manufacturing, global investment, global energy and global



Forever Stocks

food. Trucks stop running within a couple of months. The lights go out in less than six and that is all she wrote. Remember, agriculture is an industrial sector, so you're talking about mass famine in under a year. Now, normally, I'd say the Chinese aren't stupid. They wouldn't do this. But it's a one-man show now. And nobody wants to bring Xi any information because they don't know how he'll react. He's shot the messenger literally so many times that everything is a surprise to him.

Chris Williamson: Yes, I understand what you mean. I suppose there's a lot of criticisms around the fact that the vote of a stupid person is worth as much as the vote of a well-educated person in a democracy. But the problem is if you condense all of that power down to a single individual, the decision of an angry old grumpy individual is the same as them on a good day, or them if they were less idiotic or somebody else had got to power. So, I suppose it's a forcing function that condenses all of these things down to one individual human that is just as fallible as the rest of us, maybe even more human.

Peter Zeihan: What human is perfect every time? Okay, but even a minor mistake just cascades through the system and it's a full cult of personality. So, you know we got basically people who were zealously trying to do what they think Xi wants them to do and just one of the more inane ones is seeing teams of people in hazmat gear disinfecting airport runways because they think that's what you have to do for Covid. Just that people talk about the Americans now in a fact free zone. That's nothing compared to what's going on in the Chinese system.

End of Interview

Forever Stocks



Wouldn't you like to invest in "Forever Stocks" the kind you can and should stash away for as long as you can with barely a second thought, no matter what the market or economy is doing. The problem is locating these types of stock, especially in this current historic global economic decline.

Fortunately, Dr. David Eifrig, MD, MBA, and former executive of Goldman Sachs and author of *Retirement Millionaire* has written in a recent introduction to that publication his opinion of where non-professional investors can find the Forever Stocks of the future that they can invest in to more safely fund their retirement. Dr. Eifrig's introduction is lengthy so I took selective portions only to reveal what he believes constitutes the "Forever Stocks" that investors should consider during this financial crisis now enveloping the world. I think you will find it informative.

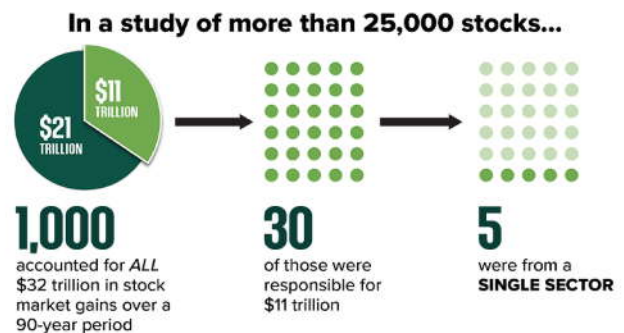
D. Miyoshi

The Biggest, Most Important and Most Bulletproof Sector of the U.S. Economy

In a recent study of more than 25,000 stocks, researchers found that just 1,000 of them – a mere 4% of the total – accounted for all of the \$32 trillion in stock market gains over a 90-year period.

Just 30 of those – the top one-tenth of 1% – were responsible for \$11 trillion. A third of the total gains over nearly a century.

And of those 30 stocks, five were from a single sector.



I'm talking about Health Care.

Did you know that shares of Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) have produced a "lifetime cumulative return" of 2.9 million percent?



Forever Stocks

And drug maker Bristol Myers Squibb (BMY)?

3.5 million percent.

Those returns are extraordinarily rare of course. They happened over decades of compounding and reinvestment.

But consider this.

Even the insurer Humana (HUM) would have compounded your wealth by more than 20% per year since 2000...



Humana chart

That's thirty-three times the performance of the S&P 500.

UnitedHealth Group (UNH) – 21% per year since 1990.



That's the kind of steady, compounding growth that most people scoff at – yet the world's greatest investors would absolutely kill for.

Growth that would turn \$50,000 into:

\$336,000 over 10 years...

\$2.3 million over 20 years...

More than \$22 million over the full 32-year span



In some ways, it makes perfect sense you'd find these gains in health care.

You were likely greeted into this world by a nurse or midwife.

And you'll likely have a health worker by your side when you leave it. We're health care consumers the whole time.

By 2030, every Baby Boomer – and 20% of all Americans – will be retirement age. And the same trend is playing out all over the world.

This aging population is using more care. And our growing lifespans mean we're using it for longer.

The tailwinds are obvious.

I don't think anything in the markets has one-tenth as much potential over the coming decade.

In 2020, Google's DeepMind AI outsmarted a team of highly trained radiologists in identifying breast cancer from x-ray images.



The computer found nearly 10% more cancers – cases that were being missed by human eyes – yet also produced fewer false posi-

Forever Stocks

tives than the doctors.

Researchers at the Houston Methodist Research Institute in Texas have developed their own AI – that can diagnose cancer risk 30 times faster than a human doctor with 99% accuracy.

The AI software diagnoses cancer risk 30 times faster than a human doctor with 99 percent accuracy — *Wired*

And last year, a promising cancer drug designed by artificial intelligence entered clinical trials.

According to the journal Nature, the typical five-year development timeline was compressed to just eight months thanks to a system that can sort through and compare millions of molecular candidates.



These are the sort of developments we've imagined for decades... but that never seemed to materialize.

Now they're all happening at once.

And it's why folks like venture capitalist D.A. Wallach – early investor in Spotify, SpaceX, Neuralink, and many others – are pouring money into health care technology today.

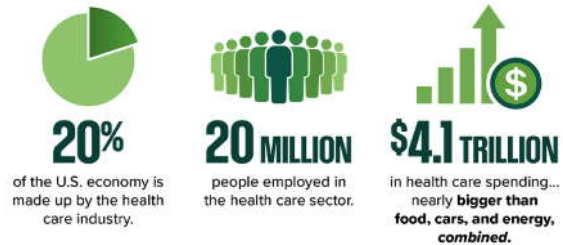
As Wallach put it:

“We're moving from an era of what I would consider medicine 1.0, where largely what we do is try to control symptoms of disease, and we're moving into medicine 2.0, which is all about trying to cure disease, or even better, prevent it.”

These developments go way beyond changes like the rise of tele-health or a new vaccine.

Health care makes up nearly 20% of the U.S. economy.

It employs over 20 million people.



Health care industry chart

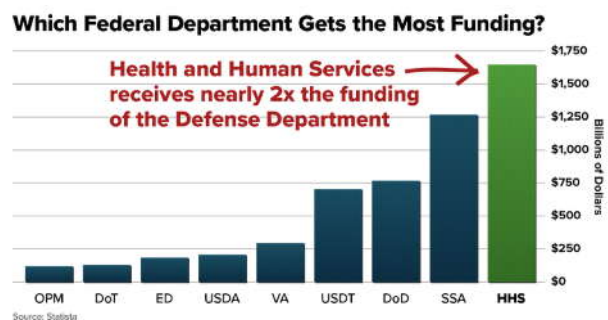
At \$4.1 trillion, it's not just bigger than every penny spent nationwide on food... cars... or energy.

It's bigger than all three put together.

Ask any American which federal department gets the most funding and almost everyone will say defense.

The DoD is certainly huge, with a nearly \$800 billion budget this year.

But the “winner” is the Department of Health and Human Services. It's twice as big at \$1.6 trillion. Nothing else comes close.



In this context, an innovation that can reduce costs or expand profits by even 1% can be worth billions.

A treatment that can improve outcomes by 5% can become the best-selling drug in the world.

Something you may have never considered when it comes to where to put your money.



Forever Stocks

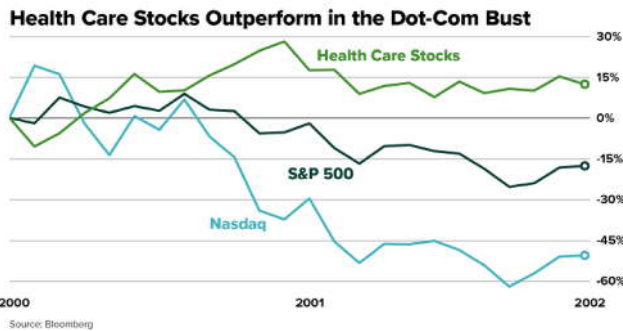
A study of 49 industry groups – dating back to 1926 – found that health care stocks are the single best hedge against inflation anywhere in the markets.

Twice as good as gold.

That’s because demand for health care doesn’t change much, no matter the economic environment... and providers have almost unlimited pricing power.

It’s recession-proof, for the same reason.

Take a look:



During the tech crisis, when the S&P fell by 25% (and the Nasdaq fell far more) – health care stocks rose nearly 15%.

Then, during the Financial Crisis, when the market got cut in HALF – health care stocks rose 14%:

healthcare chart financial crisis

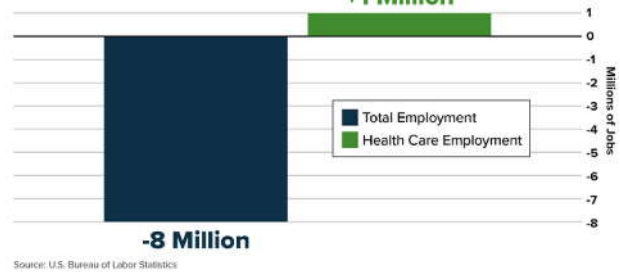
Health Care Stocks Survive and Thrive in the Financial Crisis

Peak Date	Bottom Date	S&P 500 % Change	S&P 500 Health Care % Change
Sep. 2000	Mar. 2002	-25.9%	14.6%
Jun. 2007	Sep. 2009	-49.2%	13.9%
Mar. 2015	Jun. 2016	-6.1%	14.2%
Average		-27.1%	14.2%

And while the main street economy lost 8 million jobs, health care added nearly a million:

healthcare adds jobs

Health Care Adds Jobs While Main Street Cuts Millions 2007–2010

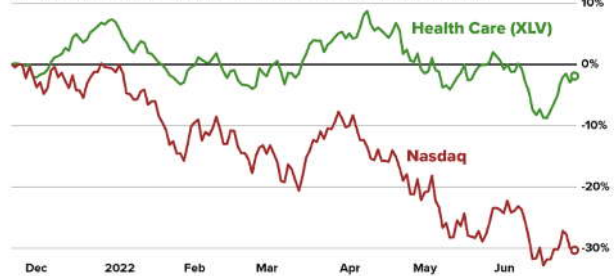


Now, it’s happening again.

The Nasdaq fell as much as 30% from its peak. And neither cryptos... gold... nor any other supposed hedge remained stable.

But health care stocks have barely budged...

Health Care Steady While Stocks Plummet



What’s even more amazing is that four of the others – Amazon, Apple, Alphabet, and Walmart – are falling over themselves to try to get into health care.

Google is still ‘all in’ on health care
– CNBC

Apple reportedly wants to run its own health care clinics
– New York Post

Amazon buying One Medical is only its most recent dive into the health care industry
– NPR

How Walmart plans to take over health care
– CNBC



Forever Stocks

The investment boom of a lifetime is taking place, right now.

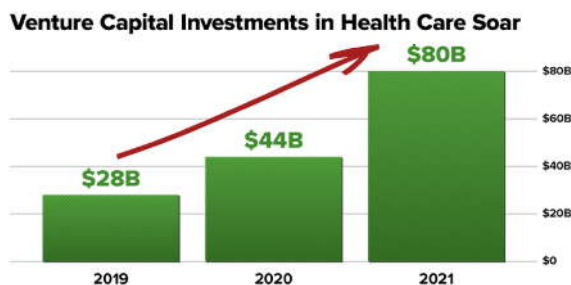
And if you're stuck watching the trainwreck in big tech or other popular stocks, you're going to miss it completely.

Venture capital investment in health care hit a record \$28 billion in 2019.

But that was just the beginning.

It shot up 58% to \$44 billion, the next year, 2020.

Then nearly doubled from there to \$80 billion in 2021...



As health care venture capitalist Eli Casdin told Barron's:

“Covid didn't throw our business off; if anything, it sped up the investment train. ... The pandemic has kick-started, or accelerated the entire life-sciences industry.”

And Barron's reported something else that's absolutely astonishing.

A handful of the world's largest drugmakers have enough cash on hand to buy all of small and midcap biotech.

That means every biotech company on earth with a market cap of \$5 billion or less – all 600 of them – could be bought out.

The remainder of Dr Eifrig's report goes on to introduce his news publication *Retirement Millionaire* which I myself subscribe to.

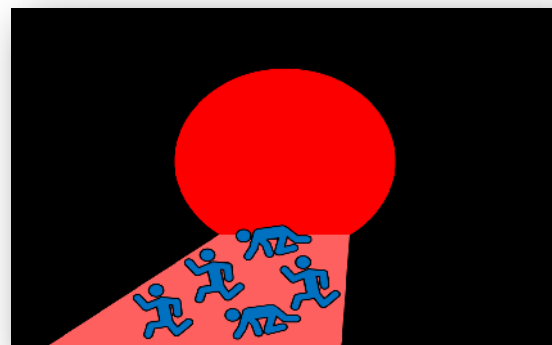
The bottom line is that even though this country and the world is destined to experience an economic decline of historic proportions, through it all one of the shining pillars of economic dominance that America will provide to the world will be in Health Care. And selected stocks in this industry promise vast and rich returns for its investors.

Going forward, this will be the industry where investors should look for their “Forever Stocks”

To your profitable investing.

D. Miyoshi

The Dark Side of Japan: The Lost Generation



If we look at Japan from the outside, we see robots, advanced tech, zero crime, incredible culture, the third biggest economy in the world, healthy population, and companies that are famous all over the world. In many ways an ideal country. But if you look closer under the surface, you will see that while all that is true there is another much darker side to the life in Japan. Unbeknownst to most of the world, Japan has millions of people who have failed to succeed in the society and ended up completely isolated from it. Without access to jobs, marriages, and means to live a normal and happy life they are known as the lost generation and they make up almost 15% of the population of the country. And their sad story is a symbol of Japan's fall from grace and a sign of its disturbing future.

The following is a transcription of a YouTube video released on June 22, 2022 entitled “The Dark Side of Japan, the Lost Generation,” I present it for reading consideration.

D. Miyoshi

The Dark Side of Japan

The Dark Side of Japan, the Lost Generation



While this is now mostly forgotten, in the 1980s Japan was seen as the next economic superpower that was going to replace the United States and completely take over the global economy in a similar way we might see China today. It seems so certain that there was a serious anxiety about Japan in the US with articles talking about an economic Pearl Harbor and how Japan is going to buy the entire United States. And with movies like Diehard, Rising Sun and Blade Runner, all featuring the trope of Japanese corporations taking over America and the world, this anxiety was the result of the Japanese miracle, three decades of enormous consecutive economic growth made possible by the unique Japanese economic system that was at the time as seen as superior to the western model.

Basically, it was based on cooperation between gigantic corporate cartels and the Japanese government. These cartels called “keiretsu” were basically alliances of the biggest Japanese corporations owning shares in each other and while formally independent working together to back each other up. And the biggest keiretsu were given unfair support from the government in the form of enormous loans distributed by the state owned national Bank of Japan. This basically meant that these alliances had access to an infinite stream of cash to finance their aggressive expansion abroad while at the same time the government would block foreign companies from expanding into the Japanese market. It wasn’t a healthy system or a fair one but it was working. The Japanese stock market was booming. Japanese products were conquering one market after another and regular people knew that if they worked hard and got a university degree, they would get a solid job at a large corporation that would mean the guarantee of a lifetime employment.

Japan was unstoppable and everything was going great until it wasn’t. By 1991 Japan had been growing extremely fast for three consecutive decades and it became the second biggest economy after the United States. As the economy was growing prices of real estate and values of companies listed on the stock market were growing as well. But by the end of the 1980s this growth went into overdrive and turned into a speculative mania. Basically, everyone thought that the economic boom and the growth of assets will continue forever and the more you invest the more money you will make.

And meanwhile the National Bank of Japan continued to print out and lend money to basically anyone who asked regardless of what the money was for or how trustworthy the creditors were.

And then one day the bubble popped.

Throughout the year 1990, the stock market fell by 43% and real estate prices followed. The bursting of the bubble meant that regular people had much less money to spend and that no one was willing to invest in Japanese companies anymore leading to an end of the economic boom. On top of that, in the years after the burst of the bubble, cracks in the Japanese system quickly begin to show. It was revealed that corruption was widespread and common in Japanese business and government from insider trading to stock manipulation and fraud and bribery and that the practically unlimited supply of loans created hundreds of zombie companies, businesses that would have gone bankrupt years ago but that kept surviving on never ending supply of cheap money borrowed from the state.

In one decade, Japan went from being called an economic tiger riding the Japanese miracle to being called the sick man of Asia. But while this was a drastic downfall it wasn't that unique. Economies of different countries go up and down and that is part of life.

But in Japan it was different. Unlike in other countries the economic downturn in Japan had devastating effects for a whole generation. Effects that millions of people have never recovered from.

The Dark Side of Japan

So why was that?

In order to answer that, we need to understand the Japanese job hiring culture which is, to put it mildly, very intense. And it has several unique aspects that make it quite different from any other job market in the world. A corporate career in Japan starts with “shushoku katsudo” a unique Japanese job hunting ritual that university graduates go through at the end of their study. Many companies including the biggest keiretsu hire only fresh graduates and only once a year but in mass, loads of people at once.

The fresh graduates pass through the job hunting ritual filled with group interviews and seminars that thousands of people dressed in identical black-and-white suits have to go through. And at the end of it, they get a job and they keep that job for decades until retirement, in line with another common policy known as “shushinkoyo” or lifetime employment. And their company will then only promote from within.

A policy known as “shanaishosen” grooming and cultivating their employees throughout their career to become future executives one day. These practices which were basically the universal standard in the 1990s and are still very common in Japan to this day bring stability. But they also create an incredibly rigid job market.

If you want to get a good job you have one shot after university and once you are hired you stick with the company for the rest of your career. But if you failed to do that you are left out in the cold and the doors of most companies will remain closed to you forever.

But the point is that when the economic bubble burst and the economic boom ended this ritual was broken. While during the boom it was not that hard to get at least some corporate job, after 1990 most companies froze their hiring entirely for almost the entire decade and they were not hiring any graduates at all in order to keep all of their lifelong employees during the economic crisis.

They eventually resumed their hiring in the new century although

finding a job became much harder ever since. But for a whole generation of people who graduated in the 1990's it was too late, they were not graduates anymore by then. And so, the companies would not hire them as they were hiring fresh graduates instead. Those people whose only fault was being born at the wrong time missed their chance and fell through the cracks of the system and a whole generation, millions of people were left behind destined to spend the rest of their lives on temporary part-time low-paid jobs. This period became known as the employment ice age and people who graduated during that time as the lost generation. And since the Japanese economy never fully recovered, more young people graduating in the 2000's and then 2010's joined their ranks and the period of the last 30 years became collectively known as the lost decades.

This is obviously tragic for those who are part of the lost generation but it doesn't affect just that. Instead, their sad fate negatively affects the entire Japanese society and it casts a dark shadow over Japan's future.

There is an entire generation of people now in their 30s and 40s who are missing from the job market entirely. They usually live with and often off their parents. They were never economically secure enough to start families of their own and they never had proper jobs and careers. Around 50% of the population, almost 70 million people are considered part of the lost generation and they make up the age group that's the most important for an economy of any country. It's the people in their 30s and 40s who usually spend the most on their families' housing, taking mortgages, buying cars. They are those who keep the economic engine going. But in Japan there is no one to do that now.

And the economy is not Japan's only problem that's getting worse because of the lost generation.

Currently the country is dealing with what's been called “super aging.” Japan has the highest percentage of elderly people (almost 30% of the population), in the world and its aging more rapidly than any other country. And that is partly also because of the millions of children that the lost generation never had.

FTX Scandal, Who's Behind it?

By 2015 the ratio between seniors and people in the working age will be 1 to 1.3 meaning that there will be almost as many people over 65 as people between 15 and 64. In any country in the world the elderly are dependent on the taxes paid by people in what's called productive age. But in Japan this will be at some point simply no longer sustainable.

And on top of that the lost generation created another social issue that is becoming increasingly damaging to the survival of the Japanese society, the phenomenon of so-called "hikikomori." These are Japanese men who have voluntarily decided to completely cut themselves off of society and spending their lives in complete isolation, never leaving their house and not having any social contacts at all, usually being completely financially dependent on their parents.

The first hikikomori were members of the original lost generation, men today in their 30s and 40s who could not fulfill the requirements expected from them by the Japanese society, get a job, climb the career ladder, start a family and provide for them and decided to give up entirely instead. But eventually they were joined by others from the younger generations as well, who, although they did have a chance to join the job market just found it too stressful and competitive.

Today there is almost 1 million of these men in the Japanese society with many more on the verge of joining them and the social phenomenon is quickly becoming a very real mainstream problem affecting the entire society. The Japanese government is aware of the extremely negative impacts that the existence of the lost generation and the growing number of hikikomori are having on the Japanese society and economy and it has announced that it will try to help the lost generation to get back up on its feet and reintegrate those who had secluded themselves from the society.

But so far, it has had very little success. The problem is that the Japanese economy is still not doing great and at the same time it still has extremely rigid work culture. Not only that people are expected to work extremely long hours and comply with strict hierarchy, but many companies still follow the same pattern of lifelong employment hiring only once a year and promoting only from within the company making it impossible for the employees to take breaks or

even to get a second chance if they failed to get their foot in the door.

And so, millions of people are stuck and their numbers are constantly growing as more young people fail to succeed in the ruthless system and eventually they just give up.

End of Transcription

FTX Scandal, Who's Behind it?



The FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried (SBF) was arrested in the Bahamas on Dec 12, 2022. The disgraced crypto entrepreneur has spent the last few weeks giving interviews to the mainstream media to state his version of what happened. But will the truth now come out in the investigation, or is his arrest yet another cover-up, designed to stop him from giving testimony to the House Financial Services Committee on Dec 13, 2022? Just before Christmas, it was revealed that SBF accepted extradition to the U.S., posting an unprecedented bail of \$250 Million Dollars. It has also been reported that SBF's close associate Caroline Ellison has now also been arrested and indicted. The questions now remains, how possible is it that politicians benefited from another dodgy scheme using money from people who were eager to turn a fast profit. And without an open investigation in front of the House Financial Services Committee, how possible is it to actually discover "que bono" (who benefited).

The following article is by Richard Palmer that was published in the *Trumpet* magazine in November before the arrest and before SBF was extradited to the U.S.. The article is admittedly written from a politically conservative perspective. But it also raises some intriguing questions

FTX Scandal, Who's Behind it?

that could have been asked in a House Financial Services Committee hearing. Now we will have to rely on a Department of Justice investigation to uncover the “truth.” It’s evident the DOJ is tightly controlled by the Democrats so it will be interesting to see what they purport to find.

D. Miyoshi



Jakub Porzycki/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Last week FTX, the second-largest crypto-exchange, ran out of cash. It is the biggest cryptocurrency disaster yet. Investors wanted to know what they did wrong. Now we have the answer: almost everything.

The result is a scandal so big it goes far beyond those just interested in bitcoin. It links to corruption at the highest levels and may have even played a major role in the United States midterm elections. The media, financial authorities and the Democratic Party are all implicated.

FTX allowed people to easily trade cryptocurrency. Set up an account, and you could buy, sell and save bitcoin or any number of a wide range of new types of electronic money that have sprung up in recent years.

But FTX wasn't just going to help you get rich. It was going to save the world. Its founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, was saint and banker—hailed as a “future trillionaire,” a “savior” and “the world’s most generous billionaire.” He partnered with the World Economic Forum, spoke at Davos, and visited the White House.

Sam Bankman-Fried, or SBF as he is known, preached the gospel of earning to give, or effective altruism. Yes, he wanted to get rich—but only so he could give it all away.

But what did he do to get rich? And whom did he send the money to?

‘Borrowing’ Money

It looks like Bankman-Fried cheated in spectacular fashion.

Last week, a competitor put out the rumor that FTX didn't have the cash to cover all the assets it claimed to have in its accounts. People worried and started to pull their money out. The rumor was right.

FTX claimed it was a “liquidity crisis” and that they could get the cash to pay everyone back; they just didn't have it immediately. That was wrong. No one knows where the money is.

FTX's balance sheet—the listing of all its debts and assets—was published online over the weekend. Bloomberg's Matt Levine described it as “an Excel file full of the howling of ghosts and the shrieking of tortured souls. If you look too long at that spreadsheet, you will go insane.”

FTX promised that whatever digital money you put into your FTX account was yours—they would not touch it. Their terms of service stated explicitly that “title to your digital assets shall at all times remain with you.” Instead, they helped themselves. These were the liabilities on their balance sheet.

But what about their assets? If they took their customers' money and bought something, then that “something” should show up on the balance sheet. They should have assets they can point to. If they used all that cash to purchase fancy cars, there should at least be a garage full of Aston Martins.

Instead, FTX's assets were essentially FTX loyalty points. They made up their own currencies. They could print as much of them as they liked. And then they swapped their made-up money with the content of everyone's accounts.

You can tell Levine is exhausting the full reaches of the English language as he tries to describe how insane this is. If FTX asset's were “consisting entirely of some magic beans that you bought in the market for \$16 billion” that would be “[v]ery bad.” But what FTX had was worse: “assets consisting mostly of some magic beans that you invented yourself and acquired for zero dollars.”

“What?” writes Levine (emphasis his). “Never mind the valuation of the beans; where did the money go? What happened to the \$16 billion? ... FTX shot its customer money into some still-unexplained reaches of the astral plane”

“[I]t is striking that the balance sheet that FTX circulated to

FTX Scandal, Who's Behind it?

potential rescuers consisted mostly of stuff it made up,” he continued. “Its balance sheet consisted mostly of stuff it made up! Stuff it made up! You can’t do that! That’s not how balance sheets work! That’s not how anything works!”

But there’s more.

When FTX went under, it brought down another firm named Alameda Research. In theory, Alameda was a completely separate company—that just happened to also have been founded by Bankman-Fried. FTX allowed other people to buy and sell crypto. Alameda was a crypto investor. And the two worked together in ways that are very probably very illegal.

The Wall Street Journal reported on insider trading going on between the two. As FTX would work to bring a new product to its platform, Alameda would buy it up. Once that product launched on FTX, its price would soar and Alameda would make a nice profit.

In April, Bloomberg’s Odd Lots podcast asked Bankman-Fried to explain how FTX made money through “yield farming.” The answer he gave was almost a textbook definition of a Ponzi scheme.

So, if they were helping themselves to other people’s money and cheating to get more—where’s the cash?

Show Me the Money

The mostly likely explanation is that Alameda lost at least part of it.

A lot of crypto investors got into trouble this year. FTX insiders report that the company was quietly sending billions Alameda’s way. They even said that FTX set up back doors in the system so they could keep these transfers hidden from those not in the know.

Perhaps Alameda lost the money, wasting it on risky crypto investments. This was money that came from nothing just a few years ago—so it’s unsurprising to see it disappear back to nothing.

But something else also could have played a role: effective altruism. Levine also speculates that Bankman-Fried may have simply donated his customers’ money away.

To whom? Bankman-Fried has a history of giving money to Democrats.

He was the number two donor to the Democratic Party during the midterm election, behind George Soros. Most of Soros’s money went to PACS that won’t actually spend the money until the presidential elections in 2024. With his \$36 million in donations, Bankman-Fried actually spent more on the Democrats’ midterm efforts than anyone else. In 2020, he donated \$5.2 million to Joe Biden, becoming his second-largest donor after Michael Bloomberg.

This is no paranoid conspiracy theory. *The Financial Times*—far from a right-wing blog—published an article titled “Sam Bankman-Fried’s Fall Cuts Off Big Source of Funds for U.S. Democrats.” In it, they wrote: “Sam Bankman-Fried stormed on to the U.S. political scene with multimillion-dollar donations that led lawmakers, particularly Democrats, to believe he was ushering in the next generation of donors.” He said he was just getting started—talking of donating \$1 billion in 2024, though he later backed off that lavish promise.

Even his nightmare of a balance sheet made his political leanings clear: \$7 million in spending was mysteriously marked “Trumplose.”

Raising money for Democrats is practically the family business. Bankman-Fried’s mother runs the “Mind the Gap” PAC. Vice called it “the secretive Silicon Valley group that has funneled over \$20 million to Democrats.” Bankman-Fried’s brother used to advise wealthy donors on how to give to the Democrats—and he now runs another SBF-funded outfit focused on pandemic preparedness.

Bankman-Fried’s motivations were not purely ideological. He also donated to people from important financial committees in order to shield himself from investigation from authorities. He even sent \$155,000 the Republicans’ way, donating to the head of the Senate Agriculture Committee—who happens to oversee cryptocurrency regulation. His girlfriend, Caroline Ellison, is CEO of Alameda. Her dad is head of economics at MIT. He is close to many of the key bureaucrats in charge of financial regulation.

Garry Gensler, head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, has come under particular scrutiny. Republican Rep. Tom Emmer claimed he’s received reports that Gensler—a former collegemate of Caroline Ellison’s dad—helped Bankman-Fried “work on legal loopholes to obtain a regulatory monopoly.”

Some in the media have pointed out that FTX Co-CEO Ryan Salame gave \$23.6 million to Republicans. However, he generally focused on left-leaning figures; \$13.4 million of his spending was in the name of “Pandemic Preparedness.”

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Corrupt System

What to make of all this? At best, Samuel Bankman-Fried and Alameda are a symptom of widespread Washington corruption. The rule of law has gone. Supporting the correct side is all that matters.

Bankman-Fried and friends had no noticeable talents or experience. They had access to the money and contacts necessary to start billion-dollar businesses purely because of who their parents were and the expensive university they had attended. His girlfriend boasted that she doesn't use much math or receive much out of her university education—except for the contacts she made.

They believed they could get away with all kinds of fraud because they backed the Democrats. The media would give them glowing write-ups. The Security and Exchange Committee would look the other way. They had nothing to fear from Congress, the Senate, the Department of Justice or the FBI.

And this plan is still working. On November 14, the New York Times published a puff piece on Bankman-Fried, where they somehow managed to avoid mentioning all the most interesting and newsworthy parts of the story. Gizmodo wrote, "It reads like if the Times had conducted an interview with Bernie Madoff after his Ponzi scheme collapsed and ultimately suggested he just made some bad investments."

Even now, with everything that Bankman-Fried has touched exploding, he might just get away with it. He's in The Bahamas, where the police have interviewed him instead of arresting him. So far, U.S. authorities have discussed bringing him to the U.S. for questioning—rather than extradition.

Perhaps that's the cleverest thing Bankman-Fried had figured out: Support the right people, and you can do whatever you want.

But this still leaves the question unanswered, where is the missing money?

The wealthy are "falsifying the balances by deceit." Change that to "balance sheet," and you have FTX.

We tend to focus on the prophecies of lawlessness and political turmoil. But these prophecies are accompanied by forecasts of rampant corruption. We are seeing the results before our eyes. If the law is not enforced, people will cheat to grow rich. They can cheat at the ballot box, and they can cheat in

business.

But the story of FTX's corruption could go still deeper.

With such a strong background in murky democratic financing and items like "Trumplose" on its balance sheet, FTX could be a major player in Washington, D.C.'s corruption. Billions are missing. What Bankman-Fried donated is merely a tiny fraction of that. If you are going to cheat in an election, engaging in practices like ballot harvesting or worse, you'll need access to off-the-books cash. A dodgy cryptocurrency enterprise could be a great way to generate or hide it.

The evidence that FTX was involved at that kind of level hasn't yet been uncovered. But it is plausible. Certainly, the way the left-wing media has swooned over Bankman-Fried, is reason enough for suspicion.

There is a lot corruption going on at all levels of business and government—and some of that is about to be exposed.

End of Article

China's Unprecedented Financial Crisis



A custodian stands near a map of Evergrande's China development projects, in Beijing. Global investors are watching nervously as Evergrande struggles to avoid defaulting on tens of billions of dollars of debt, fueling fears of possible wider shock waves for the Chinese financial system [Andy Wong/AP Photo]

America and most of the western world are now experiencing the growing pangs of a deep financial crisis and the bitter effects of an intensifying war in Ukraine. But if Americans and Europeans want to

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enjoy a bit of "schadenfreude," they need only to look to the unprecedented economic turmoil that is now engulfing the country of China.

China is usually listed as a "developed economy." But in reality, it is actually an "emerging market."

According to financial analyst Joel Litman of *Empire Financial Daily*, despite being looked at as the 2nd largest economy in the world, China still qualifies as a developing country based on metrics like energy access and gross domestic product ("GDP") per capita.

As an emerging market, China has plenty of up-and-coming entrepreneurs and companies. But they are new to understanding how to build long-term sustainable businesses.

And these new businesses are being built with massive debt loads. Litman and his research team have looked at more than 5,000 publicly traded Chinese companies, including those in Hong Kong. His findings underscore that most of these companies must be considered "high credit risk."

China has \$29 trillion in corporate debt. That's way larger than the entire U.S. GDP, which was \$23 trillion last year. And the US GDP is almost double the size of China's GDP.

That's not to mention, that China's economy has been headed in the wrong direction.

Last year 2021, 9% of Chinese companies were cash flow negative... meaning they were spending more money than they were making. That number is expected to rise to between 13% and 28% this year 2022.

And everything cannot be blamed on the pandemic lockdowns. Many of the biggest problems in corporate China began long before the country's "zero COVID" policies. While the lockdowns have made things much worse, the crisis didn't start with them.

China today looks a lot like America more than a century ago...

Back then, financier J.P. Morgan bailed out the U.S. when its financial system was on the brink of collapse. Morgan acted as the country's central bank in 1907 before the Federal Reserve existed.

The U.S. had a lot of debt in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Corporations took out so much capital that they couldn't pay it back. This caused a massive credit issue that hurt all economic systems.

J.P. Morgan was powerful... and other bankers trusted him. He swooped in to rescue the U.S. economy. In 1893, he preserved the gold standard by loaning the U.S. Treasury \$65 million in gold. And he effectively prevented what could have been the 1907 version of the Great Depression by personally loaning millions of dollars to private banks.

The crash he helped forestall highlighted an issue for the U.S. The country had an immature financial system that lacked the structure to manage defaults, bankruptcies, and capital flows.

J.P. Morgan became a major advocate for a centralized system to help act as a savior in times of need. The U.S. economy was developing fast. That called for an institution to act as a support system... not just one guy with deep pockets.

Since then, the U.S. has become what most consider the most robust financial system the world has ever seen.

Now, the same situation is playing out in China. Chinese banks don't seem to be quantifying risk appropriately. That might lead to serious issues on the horizon. Only it will take more than one generous investment banker to turn things around.

To stave off its looming credit crisis, China will need several J.P. Morgans...

China is a massive country with a massive debt load. No individual would be able to bail it out on their own. (It also seems like a much bigger task in 2022 than it did in 1907.)

China is trying to manage itself through this incredible credit crisis. However, the battle has been messy and fraught with problems. And it's getting messier...

The country has been attempting to tighten underwriting and make it more difficult for risky companies to get debt. One such example is the "three red lines" credit-worthiness rule, which attempted to reduce debt in the real estate industry by imposing debt limits and minimum cash requirements.

These efforts have led to many companies being unable to

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Advancing in a Time of Crisis



Financial Crisis Report



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He appears in 14 Who's Who publications throughout the world and is listed as a specialist in international business, real estate and estate planning.

refinance their debt. That makes defaults even more likely.

It's a vicious cycle.

This is why most financial experts would not bet on China today. Investors would be wise to place their funds elsewhere including the U.S., which solidly appears will remain at the top of the global economy for decades.

Wall Street and the mainstream media love to rail against the U.S. economy. They tend to focus on emerging markets, such as China. Either they are not seeing these major issues or their present agenda discourages covering them. But eventually, they'll will have to reveal what has been going on in China.

The bottom line is China is facing an unprecedented financial credit crisis. It also is now facing an unprecedented Covid health crisis which we will cover in a separate article. China has not been able to solve these huge problems (financial, health, water)yet . And it likely won't anytime soon.

No doubt we will be hearing the sordid details of the results of these unprecedented problems sometime soon.

For now, investors would be wise to keep their money on U.S. soil.

D. Miyoshi

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 allows you to keep control.

Your trust document contains instructions for managing your assets, as well as how the funds will be used in the event of your death or incapacity. Without a trust, while you still get to designate who gets your assets, you do not have a say in what they do with those assets.



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