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The New **Financial Crisis Report II**

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2025

Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World

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We are in the most economically unstable and socially tumultuous period in the history of the modern world. The period covered by the previous Financial Crisis Report was marked by extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodities, and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions, including historic pandemics, conflicts, riots, and even regime-changing coups. This new Financial Crisis Report II covers the period that begins with the advent of the 47th president of the United States, who augured in the hope of a new America that promises justice for all through strength and the elimination of corruption. This is symbolized by the crest with the scales of justice balanced on a sword that replaces the photo of the writer. The writer believes this is an unprecedented opportunity for the financially astute investor, given the extreme global trade imbalances and distortions in the stock, commodity, and currency markets that will occur as America strengthens economically and militarily. The Financial Crisis Report II is a free compilation of the opinions of David M. Miyoshi, and of those advisors, he subscribes to (with appropriate credits given) on how to benefit during this historic crisis. The writer receives no compensation from advisors whose articles or ideas may appear in this Report II which is issued primarily for CRITICISM, COMMENTARY AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. The reader is welcome to check on all sources of information mentioned herein. Because this writer's and other advisors' opinions and observations are provided herein without charge, the reader is asked to make his/her judgment on the contents. The writer believes the articles presented are honest and sincere empirical observations of what he believes to be the truth. The writer is not perfect, but his north star is the belief that there is truth.

"In international relations, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, only permanent interests." Lord Palmerston of Great Britain



Here are some quick observations of the events of May 2025. I hope you find them informative.

D. Miyoshi



June 1, 2025, Ukraine carried out a large-scale drone attack on Russian military airbases, targeting more than 40 bomber planes.

The damage suffered by Russia is reportedly the biggest since Operation Barbarossa in 1941. The operation, reportedly named "Spider's Web," was personally overseen by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and took a year and a half to plan. The method of attack was drones hidden inside wooden cabins mounted on trucks, which were driven near Russian airbases. At the right moment, the roofs of the cabins were remotely opened, and the drones launched to strike their targets. The attack hit Tu-95 and Tu-22M3 strategic bombers, as well as A-50 early warning warplanes. The strikes affected four Russian airbases, including Belaya in Irkutsk, Olenya in Murmansk, Dyagilevo in Ryazan, and Ivanovo airbase. Russia's Defense Ministry acknowledged the attacks, calling them a "terrorist act," but claimed that air defenses repelled most strikes. Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) estimates the attack caused \$7 billion in damages and disabled 34% of Russia's cruise missile carriers. This attack marks one of Ukraine's most audacious long-range strikes since the war began, occurring as peace talks between Russia and Ukraine are set to resume in Istanbul.



June 1, 2025, a violent attack happened in Boulder, Colorado at Pearl Street Mall, where a group was participating in a pro-Israel demonstration.

A suspect, identified as

Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, allegedly used a makeshift flamethrower and threw incendiary devices at the crowd while shouting "Free Palestine". Six people, all senior citizens aged 67-88, suffered burn injuries, with at least one in critical condition. Some victims were airlifted to specialized burn units. The FBI is treating the attack as ideologically motivated violence, and Colorado officials have condemned it as a hate crime. The demonstration was part of the Run for Their Lives campaign, which raises awareness for Israeli hostages held in Gaza. Authorities evacuated parts of downtown Boulder, and investigations are ongoing.



June 4, 2025 Elon Musk harshly criticized Trump's tax and spending bill, calling it a "disgusting abomination". Trump confirmed the deteriorating relationship

the following day, stating, "Elon and I had a

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great relationship. I don't know if we will anymore". Musk had already left his advisory role in the Department of Government Efficiency a few days prior, but his criticism of the bill escalated tensions significantly. Musk fired back on social media, arguing that his financial support was crucial to Trump's reelection and that the bill was passed too quickly for proper review. The fallout between Trump and Musk stems from Musk's belief that the president's bill doesn't do enough to cut waste and fraud in the federal government. Musk is also concerned about the "Big, Beautiful Bill" adding to the federal deficit. Trump said that Musk "only developed the problem [with the bill] when he found out we're going to have to cut the EV [electric vehicle] mandate," a claim that Musk denied. "Whatever. Keep the EV/solar incentive cuts in the bill, even though no oil & gas subsidies are touched (very unfair!!), but ditch the MOUNTAIN of DISGUSTING PORK in the bill," Musk said. "In the entire history of civilization, there has never been legislation that both big and beautiful. Everyone knows this! Either you get a big and ugly bill or a slim and beautiful bill. Slim and beautiful is the way." The dispute had escalated into personal attacks, marking a significant shift in their previously close relationship. It was stated on X by writer Ariel that the alliance between Donald Trump and Elon Musk, forged during the 2024 presidential campaign, was marked by mutual convenience: Musk provided financial and social media support via X, while Trump leveraged Musk's influence to court tech leaders and young voters. However, tensions over Trump's domestic policy bill, particularly its elimination of electric vehicle tax incentives, led to a public feud in June 2025. Trump threatened to cut Musk's government contracts, while Musk accused Trump of betraying fiscal conservatism and suggested his impeachment. This split, reported by The New York Times and Reuters, has exposed fault lines within MAGA, revealing operatives who have used Trump's platform to advance personal or external agendas.



June 4, 2025, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation imposing a new travel ban affecting 19 countries, citing national security concerns.

The ban fully restricts entry for nationals from 12 countries, including Af-

ghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Additionally, partial restrictions apply to nationals from seven other countries, including Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. The ban is set to take effect on June 9, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time. The administration justified the move by citing high visa overstay rates, inadequate security screening, and lack of cooperation from foreign governments in repatriating their citizens. Exceptions exist for lawful permanent residents, existing visa holders, and individuals whose entry serves U.S. national interests. The policy has drawn criticism from immigrant advocates and Democratic lawmakers, who argue that it mirrors Trump's controversial 2017 travel ban, which was widely referred to as the Muslim ban. The new restrictions are expected to face legal challenges, similar to the previous ban that was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.



June 6, 2025, Protests erupted in Los Angeles following immigration enforcement operations conducted by ICE, leading to clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement. The protests began in Paramount and Compton before spreading to downtown Los Angeles. President Donald Trump de-

ployed 2,000 National Guard troops to the city, citing concerns over "lawlessness," despite opposition from California Governor Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who called the move inflammatory. Some protests remained peaceful, while others saw tear gas, flash grenades, and arrests as tensions escalated. The Los Angeles Police Department stated that while protests in the city were largely peaceful, demonstrations in surrounding areas saw violent confrontations, including Molotov cocktails, rock-throwing, and vehicle fires. The National Guard presence has increased, with Marines on high alert in case of further unrest.



June 10, 2025, President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping reached a trade framework agreement aimed at easing tensions between the two nations. Key details of the agreement include: The U.S. will maintain a 55% tariff on

Chinese imports, while China will impose a 10% tariff on U.S. goods. China has agreed to supply rare earth minerals and magnets to the U.S., which are crucial for various industries. The U.S. will allow Chinese students to attend American universities, reversing previous restrictions. The agreement builds upon a prior Geneva trade deal from May, which had stalled due to disputes over export controls. While Trump announced that the deal is "done," it still requires final approval from both leaders before full implementation. The agreement is seen as a step toward stabilizing trade relations, but some experts remain skeptical about its long-term impact.



June 11, 2025, Elon Musk posted on X (formerly Twitter), saying, "I regret some of my posts about President Donald Trump last week. They went too far." This came after a week-long feud between the two, including Musk's criticism of Trump's spending bill and a controversial claim about

Trump's name appearing in the Epstein files. Musk's apology to Trump came after a heated public feud between the two. The conflict escalated when Musk criticized Trump's spending bill and made a controversial claim that Trump's name appeared in the Epstein files, suggesting that was the reason they hadn't been fully released. Additionally, Musk had posted that Trump wouldn't have won the election without his help, further fueling tensions. The fallout led to



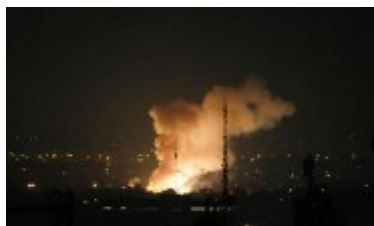
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speculation that Musk's apology was influenced by financial concerns, as Tesla's stock price dropped significantly during the exchange. Musk ultimately led to his apology posted on X. On June 12 Trump praised Elon Musk and Tesla, saying "Musk is a friend of mine but now we know why Elon doesn't like me so much, which he does actually." Trump then praised Musk for endorsing him in 2024 even after he pledged during his campaign that he would abolish federal mandates on electric vehicles.



June 12, 2025, a tragic Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed in Ahmedabad, India, shortly after takeoff. The aircraft, bound for London, carried 242 passengers and crew, and early reports indicate only one survivor—a British national.

Investigators are looking into possible mechanical failure, with aviation experts suggesting that the wing flaps may not have been properly deployed, affecting the plane's ability to gain altitude. This marks the first fatal crash involving a Boeing 787 since its introduction in 2009. Boeing has faced renewed scrutiny following previous safety concerns, including issues with its 737 Max jets. The company stated it is in contact with Air India and is ready to support the investigation



June 13, 2025 (Israeli time), Israel launched a major attack on Iran, targeting Iranian nuclear and military facilities. Explosions were reported in Tehran, with Iranian state media confirming the deaths of two top nuclear scientists and the

leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the strikes aimed to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb, citing Iran's uranium enrichment as a short step away from weapons-grade levels. Interestingly, this attack by Israel came on the first day after the elapse of a 60 day ultimatum to reach a nuclear deal that President Trump gave Iran. Iran, however, has long maintained that its nuclear program is peaceful, and U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Iran was not actively building a weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expressed deep concern, warning that attacks on nuclear facilities could have grave consequences for regional and international security. Iran has vowed retaliation, with officials warning that the U.S. and Israel will pay a heavy price. The situation remains fluid, with analysts predicting potential escalation in the coming days. Israel has closed its airspace and called up tens of thousands of soldiers in preparation for possible Iranian counterattacks. The global community is watching closely as tensions continue to rise. Of course, the risk of a much broader conflict has certainly escalated following this attack by Israel on Iran, but whether it leads to World War III depends on several factors: Iran's Response – Iran has vowed full-force retaliation, including missile strikes and cyber

warfare. If Iran targets U.S. bases or key allies, the conflict could expand. U.S. Involvement – The U.S. has assisted Israel in intercepting Iranian missiles but has distanced itself from direct military action. If Iran retaliates against American assets, Washington may be forced to intervene. Regional Alliances – Iran's allies, including Hezbollah and the Houthis, could escalate attacks on Israel, drawing in more regional players. If Saudi Arabia or Turkey get involved, the situation could spiral. Economic Fallout – Iran could block the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global oil supplies and triggering economic instability. This could pressure world powers to intervene. Nuclear Escalation – Israel's strikes targeted Iran's nuclear facilities, and Iran may now accelerate its nuclear program. If nuclear weapons enter the equation, global powers may take drastic action. While tensions are at an all-time high, diplomatic efforts are still underway to prevent full-scale war. We will report on developments as they occur.



June 14, 2025, Vance Boelter, an individual impersonating a policeman, fatally shot State Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their Brooklyn Park home in Minnesota. He also injured State Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, at their

residence in Champlin. Authorities discovered a manifesto in Boelter's vehicle, listing multiple lawmakers and officials, suggesting broader political motives. The suspect altered a vehicle to resemble a police car and wore a vest, badge, and taser, making him appear as law enforcement. The manhunt for Boelter is ongoing, with law enforcement officers searching rural areas outside Minneapolis. The FBI has issued a \$50,000 reward for information leading to his arrest. This incident has heightened concerns about political violence, prompting security measures for other lawmakers.



June 14, 2025, the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary parade in Washington, D.C. sparked controversy, particularly regarding its cost, political optics, and execution. While the event was meant to honor the U.S. Army, critics argued that it was more about celebrating Trump's birthday

than military history. Some key points of contention: Weather & Attendance: The parade was shortened due to rain, and attendance was lower than expected. Public Backlash: The "No Kings" protests erupted nationwide, with millions rallying against what they saw as Trump's authoritarian tendencies. Military Concerns: Some veterans criticized the parade as a waste of resources, likening it to military displays in authoritarian regimes. Political Optics: Trump's speech at Fort Bragg earlier in the week raised eyebrows when troops were directed to stand behind him, cheering and booing at his remarks—a move seen as politicizing the military. Despite the criticism, Trump dismissed concerns, calling the parade a celebration of American strength and brushing off the protests as "not a big deal"





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June 14, 2025, No Kings Day, a nationwide protest movement took place coinciding with Flag Day and the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army. The demonstrations were organized in response to President Donald Trump's military parade, which critics viewed as an authoritarian display.

Here are some key facts: **Origins:** The protests were led by the 50501 movement and progressive organizations like Indivisible, aiming to reject perceived authoritarianism. **Scale:** Over 2,000 cities hosted demonstrations, making it one of the largest coordinated protests in recent U.S. history. **Message:** Protesters emphasized that America has no kings, opposing Trump's policies on immigration, civil rights, and executive overreach. **International Solidarity:** Democrats Abroad organized protests under the theme "No Tyrants", highlighting concerns about democratic backsliding. **Trump's Response:** Trump dismissed the protests, stating, "I don't feel like a king," but warned that interference with the parade would be met with "heavy force". **Violence & Safety:** While most protests remained peaceful, some cities saw violent clashes, including a vehicular assault in Virginia and a shooting in Utah.



June 19, 2025, it was reported by Fox News that in the preceding 4 days, several flights from China to Iran had turned off their transponders upon entering Iranian airspace. Speculation has it that these flights were not carrying humanitarian aid or regular munitions, as there is no

ground war anticipated. But there is a fear that nuclear warheads could be aboard. Iran has ICBM missiles capable of reaching Europe and the US. so it is conceivable that nuclear warheads could be delivered there. From other private news sources (not Fox News) we hear that China is falling fast economically and that President Xi's military power will be stripped by Zhwang Youxi.



In the wake of these rapidly evolving developments, the speculation now is that China, by military attack, may try to create a panic and depression in the west, so that, on a relative basis, it would remain a financial superpower in the world. Time will tell if this assessment is right or not.



June 21, 2025, U.S. B-2 bombers carrying bunker busting bombs struck three Iranian nuclear facilities—Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan—marking a major escalation in the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. The key facts known at the time are as follows: **Targets and Weapons**

Used: The U.S. deployed B-2 stealth bombers and submarine-launched Tomahawk missiles. Fordow, a fortified underground site, was hit with 14 bunker-buster bombs; Natanz and Isfahan were also targeted with precision strikes. **Trump's Statement:** Trump declared the strikes a "very successful" mission, claiming the nuclear enrichment facilities were "completely and totally obliterated". **Iran's Response:** Iran condemned the attack as a violation of its sovereignty and international law, vowing to defend itself and calling for an emergency UN Security Council meeting. **Global Reaction:** The strikes drew mixed reactions. Some leaders, like UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, supported the action as a deterrent against nuclear proliferation. Others, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, warned of a dangerous escalation with potential global consequences. **Aftermath:** Iran launched retaliatory missile strikes into Israel, injuring civilians and damaging infrastructure. The region remains on high alert, with fears of broader conflict and disruptions to global oil routes like the Strait of Hormuz.



June 22, 2025, Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president and current deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, made a provocative statement claiming that "a number of countries are ready to directly supply Iran with their own nuclear warheads." He posted this on Telegram

following U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan. Medvedev argued that these strikes, authorized by former U.S. President Donald Trump, would not halt Iran's nuclear ambitions but instead escalate them. He asserted that Iran would continue enriching nuclear material and potentially begin producing nuclear weapons, now with international backing. This statement has sparked significant concern globally, as it suggests a potential unraveling of long-standing nonproliferation norms. The idea of countries openly supplying nuclear warheads to Iran blatantly violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which both Russia and Iran are parties to. If such behavior were tolerated or went unchecked, it could prompt other nations—especially regional rivals like Saudi Arabia or Turkey—to pursue their own nuclear capabilities. For the United States, this raises critical questions: Should it double down on containment efforts? Restore or renegotiate aspects of the JCPOA (Iran deal)? Or prepare for more assertive deterrence in the Gulf region?



June 24, 2025, President Donald Trump declared a "complete and total ceasefire" between Iran and Israel. He claimed both nations had approached him simultaneously seeking peace. **Phased Truce:** The ceasefire was structured in phases: Iran would halt operations first at 04:00 GMT.

Israel would follow 12 hours later. After 24 hours, the ceasefire would be considered fully in effect. But it was broken multiple times. Iran launched missiles at U.S. bases even after the truce was announced. Israel reportedly continued airstrikes on Iranian targets, including residential areas in Gilan province, killing civilians. Both





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sides accused each other of breaking the agreement, and retaliatory strikes continued into the next day. While both governments have publicly acknowledged the ceasefire, the situation remains fragile. Skirmishes and missile exchanges have persisted, casting doubt on whether the truce is truly holding or merely symbolic. President Trump erupted in anger at the back and forth airstrikes saying “Isreal, Iran don’t know what the f*** they’re doing.”



June 24, 2025, A classified Pentagon report revealed that recent U.S. airstrikes on Iran, ordered by President Trump, failed to destroy Iran’s underground nuclear facilities. The classified Pentagon report paints a far more restrained picture

than the triumphant tone struck by President Trump and his administration. Here’s a breakdown of what the intelligence actually reveals: Limited Impact: The U.S. airstrikes on June 21, which targeted Iran’s Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites using 30,000-pound GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs, only set back Iran’s nuclear program by a few months—not years or decades as publicly claimed. Underground Facilities Intact: While entrances were sealed and some infrastructure damaged, the deeply buried underground facilities were not destroyed. Iran had reportedly anticipated the strikes and evacuated key sites in advance. Enriched Uranium Survived: Intelligence suggests that Iran’s stockpile of enriched uranium was moved before the strikes, meaning the core materials for a potential nuclear weapon remain largely untouched. Centrifuges Largely Intact: The centrifuges used to enrich uranium—critical to weaponization—were also not fully destroyed, according to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Political Fallout. White House Pushback: The Trump administration has dismissed the report as “flat-out wrong”, with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt insisting the strikes were a “spectacular success” Intelligence Community Concerns: Some officials worry that the leak of the DIA report could undermine diplomatic efforts and embolden Iran to accelerate its nuclear ambitions. Iran’s Response. Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization stated that plans to restart operations were already in place, and an adviser to Supreme Leader Khamenei declared, “the game is not over.” It will take time for the absolute truth to emerge.



June 27, 2025, The Supreme Court on the final day of its term for the year, handed down four significant rulings in favor of President Trump’s policy agenda that aligned with his executive actions on immigration, education, and internet regulation. The rulings are:

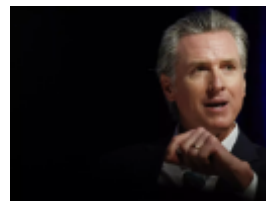
1. Nationwide Injunctions Curtailed: In a 6–3 decision, the Court ruled that federal district judges generally cannot issue nationwide injunctions blocking presidential policies. This limits the ability of

lower courts to halt Trump’s executive orders across the country unless a case is certified as a class action

2. Birthright Citizenship Order: The Court lifted temporary blocks on Trump’s executive order seeking to end automatic birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents. While the Court didn’t rule on the constitutionality of the order itself, it allowed the policy to proceed while litigation continues

3. Parental Rights in Education: The justices upheld the right of parents to remove their elementary school children from classes that include books with LGBTQ+ characters, citing religious freedom concerns. This aligns with Trump’s broader push for parental control over school curricula

4. Online Age Verification Law: The Court upheld a Texas law requiring age verification for access to pornographic websites, a policy Trump has supported as part of his broader internet regulation agenda



June 27, 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit against Fox News in his personal capacity, not as governor, seeking \$787 million in damages -the same amount Fox News paid Dominion Voting Systems in the 2023 defamation settlement. The core

of the lawsuit centers on a claim made by Fox News host Jesse Watters, who accused Newsom of lying about a phone call with former President Trump. Trump had said he spoke with Newsom “a day ago” (on June 9), just before deploying National Guard troops to Los Angeles. Newsom, however, insists the last call occurred on June 7, and that Trump never mentioned the protests or troop deployment during that conversation. Newsom alleges that Fox News misrepresented the timeline and edited video footage to make it appear he was lying, thereby defaming him and violating California’s Unfair Competition Law. Newsom’s legal team argues that this false narrative damaged his reputation and could influence future elections. Newsom is demanding a formal retraction and on-air apology from Fox News. If that happens, he’s willing to drop the case. Otherwise, he says, “If Fox News wants to lie to the American people on Donald Trump’s behalf, it should face consequences—just like it did in the Dominion case”



June 28, 2025, Billionaire Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez tied the knot in a lavish ceremony in Venice, drawing a star-studded guest list and plenty of paparazzi attention





Conspiracies Theories



June 28, 2025, The U.S. Senate advanced President Donald Trump's sweeping domestic policy package—dubbed the “One Big Beautiful Bill”—in a dramatic late-night session with a narrow 51–49 procedural vote, The

final passage vote is expected to occur sometime on Monday, June 30, following a marathon of debate and amendments. The key facts about the bill are: Tax Cuts: It includes \$3.8 trillion in tax cuts, making permanent the tax rates from Trump's first term and adding new exemptions for tips, overtime pay, and some auto loans. Social Programs: To offset costs, the bill proposes deep cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, and green energy programs. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this could leave 10.9 million more people without health coverage and 3 million without food assistance. Border and Defense Spending: It allocates \$350 billion for border security, including \$46 billion for the border wall, and \$25 billion for a new missile defense system called the “Golden Dome”. Other Provisions: The bill introduces “Trump Accounts” (children's savings accounts), restricts certain AI developments, blocks transgender surgeries, and authorizes the sale of public land for housing.. The bill still needs to return to the House for a final vote before it can be signed into law.

End of Observations

it, I am often labeled a “conspiracy theorist.” So, I decided to subscribe to a publication that covers conspiracy theories called



This publication features articles written by authors who have been vetted for their expertise in the subject they cover. The author's name appears under the title of their article. The authors claim that what they write about are facts the government does not want you to know. We should note that the term “conspiracy theory” was originally employed by the CIA to describe alternate explanations that diverged from official accounts of the government. Recently, RFK Jr. said the term is now used to discredit individuals or discourage critical thinking. Or, in other words, to prevent one from seeking the facts.

From time to time, I will provide selected articles from the Conspiracy Report that I believe are true. Some articles have been shortened for brevity. I hope you find them interesting, if not edifying.

D. Miyoshi



Dictionary Definition of a Conspiracy Theory: A theory that seeks to explain a disputed case or matter as a plot by a secret group or alliance, rather than an individual or isolated act. “

In my attempt to uncover and publish the truth, as I see



Two U.S. government officials recently took apart a Chinese-made power converter that was installed in the United States. They





Conspiracies Theories

were checking for security issues, making sure it wasn't rigged with spy equipment. Except it was...

By David Sussin

It may sound paranoid to think any product made in China might be hiding a device to spy on you.

But it's not paranoid. It's actually true. In fact, it's the law. Specifically, China's 2017 National Intelligence Law requires Chinese companies to cooperate with Chinese intelligence services when requested.

This is why two U.S. government officials recently took apart a Chinese-made power converter that was installed in the United States. They were checking for security issues, making sure it wasn't rigged with spy equipment.

It was one of many converters purchased to connect solar panels to the electrical grid.

The product's documents mention the converter can connect to the internet. So, officials expected to find electronics inside meant to share data. This allows the converters to be updated and maintained remotely.

It comes in handy when the power converters are distributed with the solar panels in the field. But the solar panel company had a firewall set up. The data would not make it back to China, and certainly there was no path where China could send instructions back.

Except they could.

When officials opened the converter, they discovered rogue communication equipment, not explained in the product specs. The power converter was set to give the Chinese government complete control of any electrical grid it was linked to.

These same converters are widely used in solar panels and wind turbines across the country. The Chinese could potentially shut down the grid, or create high voltage conditions that could turn into disasters.

Of course, these solar power converters were disabled. Exactly how many was never revealed. But shutting down all Chinese-made converters would mean shutting down 44% of the solar and wind power operating in the U.S.

Turns out, China dominates this market. Chinese companies such as Huawei, Sungrow, and Ginlong Solis are leading global suppliers of power converters, their products widely utilized in U.S. renewable energy.

So, for now the Department of Energy examines these devices for security threats, hoping to catch them before the Chinese have a chance to take advantage.

Why don't we just ban them? Well, turns out, we did. In 2019, an Executive Order was written to ban foreign equipment for use in U.S. power systems. This happened after a similar power transformer was intercepted and found to contain remote hardware hidden inside.

But only a couple of years later, the ban was lifted. Turns out, the Executive Order was too broadly written. Utility companies and manufacturers were confused about what qualified as foreign equipment, and how exactly they were meant to evaluate and replace all the existing equipment.

The well-intentioned effort was bogged down in logistics and red tape. Grid modernization projects and renewable energy efforts were stopped in their tracks -- simply put, they relied on foreign components that just aren't made in the United States, not yet anyway. Some things can't suddenly be banned.

Instead, the Department of Energy focused on high-risk vendors, certain Chinese manufacturers known to hide rogue electronics in their shipments.

Based on this recent discovery, the Chinese continue their brazen efforts to get their hooks in power grids. And U.S. officials continue to uncover these attempts.

Of course, cybersecurity efforts from the Department of Energy are focused on large scale power systems. City-wide power grids. Substations and transformers. As you'd expect, these are the systems we are most concerned might come under foreign control.

But there is a blind spot.





Conspiracies Theories

Home-based energy resources don't get searched. Small scale systems get shipped from China and installed on a regular basis with no cybersecurity official taking a look "under the hood". There is no federal requirement for cybersecurity certification of home inverters, batteries, or EV chargers.

When you charge your Tesla using off-the-shelf equipment, it is most likely made in China. And it likely has built-in communication modules, the ability to connect to Wi-Fi or cell networks. It probably has smart batteries that connect to cloud-based data servers.

If enough of these devices make it into residential neighborhoods across the nation, it's easy to imagine someone in China flipping a switch and compromising millions of homes, disrupting voltage stability, causing power surges and blackouts, and even finding paths into the larger power grids that are the focus of national cybersecurity teams.

Those same Chinese firms dominate the residential market.

Let's hope they never flip off that switch.



From YouTube video

FLY THE FRIENDLY LIES: AIRLINES COVER UP RISKS

It has become a cliché that air travel is the safest form of transportation, much safer

than driving your car. Of course, there is a significant difference.

By Egon E. Mosum

Of course, there is a significant difference.

If your Chevy has engine failure, you don't drop thirty thousand feet into the ground at a velocity that certainly is, like the old Chevrolet Corvair automobile, unsafe at any speed.

Another difference is, all of the cars are traveling in the same plane (pun not intended), and not at a variety of altitudes requiring the services of both radar and an experienced air traffic controller.

It is more likely that in the event of driver error, in the event of faulty maintenance of the automobile, any accident resulting will see a statistical probability that the passengers and driver survive.

Not so in an airplane, because it isn't the sudden drop that kills you, it's the sudden stop from six miles up to a very hard landing at ground (meat) zero.

Recently in the news, we have read of errors causing air crashes, and blackouts causing blind air traffic controllers when the radar is not operating, and they lose track of what's up there in the very wild blue yonder.

But airline lies about maintenance and the like aren't anything new, so let's pay a flying visit to some of the stories that may have you thinking next time you'll take the train.

In a 2018 article, it was reported regarding their airplanes, 'There have been persistent concerns about how the discount carrier (Southwest Airlines) maintains them. The Federal Aviation Administration has levied multimillion-dollar fines against the airline on three occasions since 2009, with a total of \$17.5 million in safety penalties imposed since 2000.'

The article goes on to reveal 'airlineratings.com gives Southwest only four out of seven possible stars — the lowest rating of any American carrier — on the basis of past fatalities and a failure to complete a special international safety audit.'

But it's not only Southwest that fudges on the maintenance of its flying machines.

Let's take a look at what climbs to the heights in colder airspace..





Conspiracies Theories

In 2000, the Federal Aviation Administration with respect to Alaska Airlines, 'found that while the airline was generally in compliance with the regulations, there were serious breakdowns in record keeping, documentation and quality assurance. The inspection also found that the airline's maintenance personnel are not following FAA approved procedures contained in the airline's manuals.'

That isn't safe, but what is a safe bet is the airline didn't make any effort to publicize that to its passengers and cargo clients.

Anybody who has been to a major airport knows that they are busy places with plenty of takeoffs and landings and aircraft in the sky at any one time. It's a good idea that the air traffic controllers on the ground have working radar so they know where every plane is, because two planes cannot occupy the same space at the same time without a lot of corpses.

But, thanks to some diligent reporting it has been learned that at Newark Liberty Airport 'controllers lost radio contact with pilots flying into the airport in recent months.'

But for the press, the passengers on the planes, and the future flyers would never have known that.

Most readers will remember the helicopter-plane crash at Reagan Airport that took place in January 2025. However the sixty seven people aboard the two aircraft won't—they are dead.

Once again, we look to human error and/or equipment malfunction or mis-maintenance.

It wasn't exactly like this was some anomalous occurrence, one that could not have been anticipated, because it was reported by the Associated Press that 'The National Transportation Safety Board has said there were 85 dangerous close calls between planes and helicopters near Reagan National in the three years before the crash, and collision alarms had been ordering pilots to take evasive action at least once a month since 2011.'

One might opine that after fourteen years of near-misses the personnel hired to maintain safe skies might have tightened up their procedures and protocols a bit.

But, apparently they didn't.

In more recent years, 2021-2024, Reagan Airport chalked up an impressive record of near misses. According to an analysis of the National Transportation Safety Board, 'between October 2021 and December 2024, there were a total of 944,179 commercial operations at DCA. During that time, there were 15,214 "close-proximity events" between commercial airplanes and helicopters.

Of those, 85 had a horizontal separation of less than 1,500 feet and were less than 200 feet apart vertically.'

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Having the government and major corporations lie to the public isn't exactly something new. It is almost expected these days.

However, when it comes to a major issue of public transportation safety, I'm sure we'd all appreciate being accurately apprised of the risks we take when flying the 'friendly' skies that these days are not all that friendly.

Fudged maintenance records, radar blackouts, pilot error, air traffic controllers going blind when their equipment crashes; this is not a consummation devoutly to be wished.

We need more oversight by qualified people checking on people who should be qualified to protect air passengers. We need investigations as to why radar would suddenly go black, because those reasons can affect both civilian and military aircraft, and that's a really dangerous scenario.

Perhaps we need more trained maintenance workers who will perform the work they log done. Perhaps we need better trained air traffic controllers monitoring better protected equipment. Perhaps we need better trained pilots—including periodic psychological examinations of said pilots—just in case they are having a really bad day and want to share it with others.

We pay taxes for a government to protect us, especially in areas where government should be protecting us, like air transportation safety.

Recently, it appears we are not getting our monies worth, and people are dying to prove it.



Here are some interesting facts taken from the Publications' Interesting Facts and History Facts





Besides being interesting, I found them thought-provoking and wanted to share them with you.

D. Miyoshi

5 Facts About How Our Genes Work

Science & Technology

by Tony Dunnell



Genes are the basic units of inheritance, passing traits from parents to offspring and containing the information that determines our physical and biological attributes. To put it simply, they carry the instructions that make all of us unique. Contained within chromosomes, which are located in the nuclei of almost every cell in our bodies, each gene contains information that tell our cells to make proteins, which perform a wide array of tasks from making eye pigments to attacking invading bacteria. As such, our genes hold the secrets to our physical traits, our predispositions to certain diseases, and even aspects of our behavior.

The study of genetics has revolutionized our understanding of biology, medicine, and human evolution. And as we continue to unravel the complexities of the human genome, we discover ever

more intriguing aspects of these tiny yet powerful units of heredity. Here are some facts about our genes that highlight the wonder and complexity of the genetic code that connects and shapes us all.



The Human Genome Contains Far Fewer Genes Than Expected

In 1990, the Human Genome Project began identifying, mapping, and sequencing all the genes of the human genome, and determining the base pairs that make up human DNA. (DNA, genes, and chromosomes all work together to make us who we are.) Initially, it was estimated that humans have around 100,000 genes. But the findings of the project, which was concluded in 2003, revealed this number to be significantly lower; today, scientists estimate the number of genes at just under 20,000.



We Share a Surprising Number of Genes With Other Animal Species

While we humans may look markedly different from one another, we are remarkably similar at the genetic level. Any two indi-



Interesting Facts

Humans share approximately 99.9% of their DNA sequence, meaning a minuscule 0.1% difference accounts for all the genetic variation among humans — our size, shape, facial features, and so on. Perhaps even more surprising are the genetic similarities between humans and other species. Humans and chimps, for example, share a surprising 98.8% of their DNA. Most of the genes in humans and chimps are nearly identical, but identical genes are used in different ways and in varying amounts across species, which explains our very notable differences. For example, a wide range of species have the PAX6 gene, which is responsible for the development of distinctly different eyes in everything from humans to fish, flatworms, parakeets, and water fleas.



Genes Have a Significant Influence on Our Behavior

Our genes certainly shape our physical traits, but they might be responsible for far more than just our looks. Studies suggest many routine aspects of our daily lives are also partially driven by our genome. Our genes can play a role in our inclination for or aversion to all manner of different activities, from our preference for tea or coffee, to our enjoyment (or not) of exercising, to whether we like gardening or doing crossword puzzles. Researchers have also discovered, using data collected from a large sample of fraternal and identical twins, that our genes may even shape our political beliefs.



Genetic Mutations Can Be Beneficial, Harmful, or Neutral

Mutations happen when a change occurs in a gene or chromosome. It can be caused by external factors, such as ionizing radiation or chemical mutagens, or it can occur spontaneously or through inheritance. The idea of mutation tends to have a negative connotation, but not all mutations are bad; they're typically described as being beneficial, harmful, or neutral. Beneficial or advantageous mutations are necessary for the long-term survival of populations and species — this is how we evolve and adapt. In humans, having some mutations is commonplace at birth — every baby has around 70 brand-new or “de novo” mutations in their genes.



Genes Can Be Turned On and Off

Our genes can be activated or deactivated without changing the actual DNA sequence itself, in a process known as epigenetics. This involves minute chemical tags that are added or removed from our DNA in response to changes in our environment. In other words, our genes can essentially be turned on and off. This

Why did Trump Attack Iran at this time?

allows us to adapt to our surroundings and lived experiences without requiring a more drastic or permanent shift in our genomes. When it comes to the age-old debate of nature versus nurture, epigenetics proves that our genes are certainly not set in stone once we're born, and that both nature and nurture play their part when it comes to our development.

[End of Article on Genes](#)



What are some of the most mind-blowing facts about Japan?

By Rajnish Kumar on Quora

Late-night dancing was illegal in Japan until 2015.
 Japan suffers 1,500 earthquakes every year.
 Japan has more than 50,000 people who are over 100 years old.
 Japan has just 2 gun-related homicides per year.
 Japan consists of over 6,800 islands.
 Japanese Trains are among the world's most punctual: their average delay is just 18 seconds.
 In Japan there are more pets than children.
 Japan's birth rate is so low that adult diapers are sold more than baby diapers.
 The Japanese who survived the Titanic crash was called a coward in his country for not dying with the other passengers.
 In Japan, 90% of mobile phones are water proof because youngsters use them even in the shower.
 Japan has 5.52 million vending machines.
 Sleeping on the job is acceptable in Japan, as it's viewed as ex-

haustion from working hard.

Japan and Russia still haven't signed a peace treaty to end World War II due to the

Kuril Islands dispute.

In Japan, teachers and students come together to clean the classrooms and cafeteria.

In Japan, there's a building with a highway passing through it.

The biggest Japanese community outside of Japan is in Brazil.

If you commit suicide in Japan by jumping in front of a train, the family of the deceased will be charged a disruption fee.

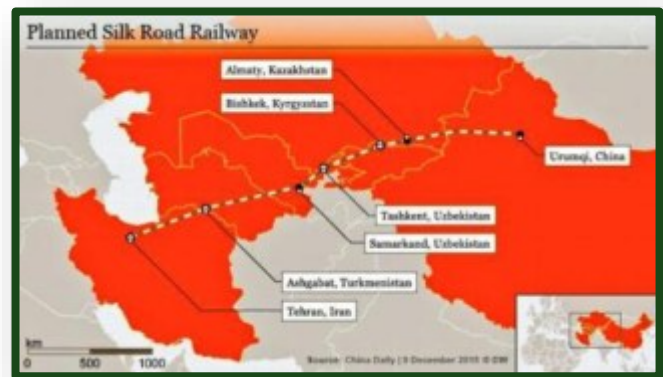
Most streets in Japan have no name.

In Japan, Burger King has an all-black burger.

<http://www.factslikes.com/s-Japan>

Why did Trump Attack Iran at this time?

By Dave Hodges of the Common Sense Show



I am in awe of the genius of Trump and his leaders. This old map is 10 years old. It shows a deal between China and Iran to construct an Overland Railroad from Yorkie, China to Tehran Iran. I think it costs around \$6 billion to build this railroad. A little bit of the railroad goes underground. But much of it is above ground. The Chinese completed a maiden voyage on May 15, 2025 lessening shipping times from 30 days to 15 days. The direct route goes through Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and into Iran. These countries are not going to stand in the way of Iran. They're afraid of Iran .



Why did Trump Attack Iran at this time?

But this railway avoids the sanctions against Iran because of Iran's nuclear program. China can continue to supply Iran with things that are sanctioned. But it's a two way street. Not only that, Iran supplies 70% of China's oil. Right now, if you have to ship it, you have to go through the Malacca Strait. It's narrow and can easily be deterred by naval and air forces of the United States and its allies. This is really bad news for China, if they don't have this rail. Their energy supplies could be dramatically hindered. Not to mention they have tried to take over the Panama Canal and now that's been thwarted. There's only been one train that went from China to Tehran. There's not going to be another one. And you're saying, wait a minute, is the US going to bomb Chinese trains?

No, no. But Israel will. And what they'll do is bomb it as soon as it crosses into Iran. We don't know if there's nuclear weapons on board. We don't know if there's aid and comfort to our enemy. But we are having a war and we have the right to stop all action within Iran.

China, we don't care about you. We don't care if it's the United States. If you have got stuff moving on the ground in Iran and we suspect it's supplying their war effort especially if it's their nuclear war effort, we're going to take it out.

This is why Trump picked the time he did to interdict. Now I know there might have been urgency with the nuclear reactors and having uranium grade material, but to turn it into a deliverable weapon, it may still have taken more time. So the strike did not have to be on Saturday the 21st of June.

But what's interesting now is that China is a danger of not getting oil. And Iran is not going to get resupplies. And I guarantee you Iran has told China we will interdict your planes and if they don't comply and fly off from Iran, we will shoot them down. I guarantee you. And people say, well, that could cause a war. Well, according to Secretary Hegseth, China's already planning to go to war. They needed a distraction.

But this is why Trump chose the time that he did so there couldn't be a second train. China is now in a stranglehold economically with energy to go with their other issues. Iran has no source of support from the outside. I'm amazed at the genius of Trump and his administration.

And I pray that God would bring peace to this situation for everyone's benefit. But there's some people that don't want a benefit, they just want a conflict and terrorism. And that would be the existing leadership in Iran. Have you seen Iranian citizens in this country and what they're saying? My goodness, this is absolutely amazing. They're saying they're hoping everything that Israel and the United States have done leads to a regime change. There are

people in Iran that are getting communications out covertly and they're saying the same thing.

So what does Acacio Cortez do? Acacio Cortez is again showing she has no credibility. She doesn't understand what the American people want or need. She doesn't seem to care if Israel gets nuked, if we eventually get nuked with Iran's ICBM's. They don't need ICBM's for Israel, but they do need them for us. She doesn't seem to care about that. She said, we're going to impeach Donald Trump for this unauthorized attack in Congress. We did not declare war. Hey lady, we haven't declared war since World War 2. Let's see, Truman got us involved in Korea. Eisenhower continued it. Vietnam, Kennedy sanctioned the continued the war that Eisenhower said we will advise you with troops but not with military outfits. And then Johnson put 500,000 soldiers at the peak into South Vietnam. HW Bush in Panama, Grenada.

Open a history book for Ocasio Cortez so she can see what history shows. The War Powers Act is part of the law. And she said we're going to impeach Trump over this and some other Democratic congressman has drawn up articles of impeachment prior to yesterday's involvement. I guess they would rather you get nuked rather than to stop it in its tracks.

Iran is the chief sponsor of terrorism, Hamas, Hezbollah and aid to other terrorist organizations. And now Hamas and Hezbollah are intermingling, according to reports from the FBI, with TDA, MS13 and the remnants of ISIS in this country. Does it sound like these Democrats care about you. I just had to make this point. Shouldn't we all be on the same team? Hey, thank goodness we set Iran's nuclear program back. We're going to stop China from supplying them with dangerous materials. Should we be celebrating that regardless of who the president is? If Bush or Biden or Obama was in power, I'd be saying exactly the same thing. I don't care what party it is. We are safer, generally than we were before.

I'm Dave Hodges. This is the Common Sense Show and we'll see you back here again next time.

End of Transcript





Is There Gold in Fort Knox?



Are you still waiting for President Trump and Elon Musk to inspect Fort Knox for the gold? Our waiting may be futile. Financial consultant Jim Rickards provides the answer in his report below.

D. Miyoshi.



Whatever Happened To The Tump-Musk Visit To Fort Knox?

Whatever happened to the Donald Trump and Elon Musk visit to Fort Knox? You'll recall the buzz from last month. Trump and Musk loudly announced they were going to visit the U.S. bullion depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky to make sure the U.S. gold was actually there. The press was invited to tag along. Musk claimed that his DOGE team was ready to "audit" the gold bars to see that there were none missing. This would be the mother of all photo ops. In the popular imagination, all of the gold is in Fort Knox. That's where they were headed to prove once and for all that the gold was actually there. Elon Musk planned to livestream the entire visit using his Starlink satellite system. Trump vaguely threatened that if any gold were missing, there would be disastrous consequences for any wrongdoers who removed it. The plot was set. The drama seemed irresistible. Then suddenly the whole story went away.

Trump never mentioned it again after February 26. It was as if the whole story never happened. It just went away. The question is, why? Let's answer that, beginning with the obvious point that the gold is all there. There have been rumors of missing and stolen gold almost from the day the bullion depository was built.

The 1964 James Bond film *Goldfinger* is built around a plot to steal the gold. This speculation makes for good rumormongering but, in fact, the gold is all present and accounted for.

There are two reasons why the visit did not proceed. The first one is that the U.S. government does not want to call attention to gold's role as a monetary asset. The Fed has a monopoly on the money printing press. The government has eradicated any memory of gold as money. Why bring it back to life with a high-profile visit to Fort Knox?

There's another even more insidious reason why Trump and Musk backed off from their Fort Knox visit. Even allowing for the fact that the gold is actually in Fort Knox, the deeper question is whether that gold is leased? Gold leasing is an established market but not well-understood by non-specialists. Basically, it's a way for a gold holder to earn a return. Gold does not pay dividends or interest like stocks and bonds. But you can lease it to a third party and make 2% or so annually in lease payments. The gold stays in the original vault. Gold leasing is a purely paper transaction. The lessee gets what's called a right of rehypothecation. That means the lessee can lease the same gold to another party and so on. With rehypothecation, one metric tonne of gold could support 100 metric tonnes of "paper gold" transactions.

The danger is obvious. If a group of paper gold investors suddenly demands physical delivery, the counterparties have to buy gold in the spot market since the leased gold is not in their physical possession. The gold market is liquid, but not liquid enough to support delivery if there was demand for physical gold by more than a small slice of the paper gold market. A full-scale gold panic could emerge quickly. The spot price of gold would go to \$25,000 per ounce before an investor could yell "buy!"

I take it that someone (probably Scott Bessent) sat down and patiently explained the paper gold reality to Trump and Musk. For the rest of us, the solution to this problem is simple – buy gold.





Will there be a full-scale war between Iran and the US?



On June 22, 2025, following the B-2 airstrikes on Iran, President Trump posted on Truth Social “It’s not politically correct to use the term, ‘Regime Change,’ but if the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn’t there be a Regime change??? MIGA!!!”

This statement came shortly after top officials in his administration—including Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio—publicly emphasized that the U.S. strikes were aimed solely at Iran’s nuclear program and not intended to topple the regime. So while Trump didn’t explicitly call for regime change as official policy, his post signaled openness to the idea, creating a noticeable contrast with his administration’s messaging.

That being said, however, many claim that the actual policy against Iran is that the US wants regime change. And as a veteran with some experience in leading a Combined Action Platoon in Vietnam involved in a Civic Action Program supported by the CIA, I believe that at its heart, classic American hegemonic interests are now informing its foreign policy strategies to overturn the current government of Iran, i.e. regime change.

In 1953, the US CIA and British intelligence orchestrated a coup to overthrow Iran’s democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh after he nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The U.S. and U.K. feared both the loss of oil interests and the potential for Soviet influence. The coup reinstalled the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who ruled with strong Western backing until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Since then, U.S. policy toward Iran has often been interpreted—especially by critics and within Iran—as aiming to weaken or replace the Islamic regime. This includes economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and support for opposition groups. The recent U.S. strike on Iranian nuclear facilities on June 21 under President Trump have reignited that narrative. While Trump stated that the strikes were meant to halt Iran’s nuclear ambitions, not to pursue regime change, some commentators and even former allies have argued otherwise. For instance, figures like Tucker Carlson and Steve Bannon have framed the strikes as part of a broader regime change agenda.

So, the perception that U.S. actions—past and present—are part of a continuous regime change strategy has legitimacy, especially when viewed through the lens of Iran’s historical experience with foreign intervention. Whether that’s the actual intent of current policy is debated, but the legacy of 1953 casts a long shadow.

Because the echoes of 1953 resonate strongly in how Iran perceives its place in the world today, that 1953 coup planted a deep-rooted mistrust of Western powers, especially the United States and continues to shape Iran’s internal and external outlook.

In view of this, here is how the Iranians of today look at America.

1. Iranian Media and Political Messaging

State-run outlets like Press TV and IRNA often frame U.S. policies through the lens of historical betrayal—especially the 1953 coup. This framing isn’t just propaganda; it reflects deeply held societal memory. Even reformists invoke it to critique Western double standards, especially when sanctions target humanitarian sectors like medicine.

2. Diplomatic Posture

Iranian diplomats regularly bring up the coup in nuclear talks and at the UN, presenting Iran as a victim of imperial overreach. By drawing parallels between historical and contemporary pressures, they aim to build moral authority and diplomatic leverage. It plays well with members of the Non-Aligned Movement and Global South nations wary of Western interventionism.

3. Iranian Diaspora

Among Iranian Americans and broader diaspora communities, reactions are mixed. Older generations who fled the Shah’s regime or the Islamic Republic may be sharply divided in their interpretations. Younger Iranians—especially activists—often acknowledge the 1953 coup as a turning point, viewing today’s struggles for reform or civil liberties as part of an ongoing battle for self-determination, independent of both U.S. and clerical in-





America's Weapon to Dominate the Chinese Navy

terference.

4. Popular Culture and Education

The story of Mossadegh's ouster is taught in Iranian schools and appears in art, film, and literature. It's part of a national identity shaped around resistance. That history becomes not just a cautionary tale but a source of cultural pride, a reminder that sovereignty must be protected, even at great cost.

This historical memory, embedded in every sphere from policy to poetry, informs how Iran reacts to Western moves—especially anything that hints at external interference.

In view of this, the experts now believe the probability of an extended U.S.-Iran war is certainly higher now than it was just a few weeks ago. Based on current expert analysis and geopolitical signals, here's how the landscape looks to them:

1. Limited Conflict Is More Likely Than Full-Scale War

Most analysts agree that both sides want to avoid a prolonged war. Iran has shown restraint even after major provocations, and the U.S.—despite recent strikes—remains wary of another “forever war” in the Middle East. However, miscalculation or escalation through proxies (like Hezbollah or militias in Iraq and Syria) could spiral into something larger.

2. Three Scenarios Experts Are Watching

According to the most likely outcomes include:

Tit-for-tat escalation through cyberattacks, proxy strikes, and sanctions.

A negotiated pause, where both sides step back after initial shows of force.

A broader regional war, if Israel or Gulf states are drawn in and Iran retaliates directly.

3. Trump's Calculus Is Unpredictable

President Trump's decision to bomb Iran's nuclear sites—dubbed “Operation Midnight Hammer”—has raised fears of a deeper entanglement. While he claims the goal is to end the nuclear threat, critics warn it could backfire and entrench Iran's determination to develop nuclear weapons.

4. Iran's Strategic Patience Is Wearing Thin

Iran's leadership has vowed a “major response,” but it's also aware of its military limitations. If it feels cornered, it may resort to asymmetric warfare, targeting U.S. assets or allies in the re-

gion, which could provoke a larger U.S. response.

In short, a full-scale war is not the most probable outcome; however, the risk of a drawn-out, multi-front conflict is real, especially if diplomacy fails or regional actors become involved.

But if it turns out to be an all-out war, then we have far bigger problems to concern ourselves with.

In the final analysis, I can only guess what will happen, but I am guessing it will be less than an all-out war. I hope I am right.

D. Miyoshi

America's New Secret Weapon that will Dominate the Chinese Navy



By Dave Hodges,
Common Sense Show

We understand the need for self-defense. It's legal, it's Biblical. And the Chinese are not legal, they are not ethical, their government is one of the most corrupt regimes that's ever existed. It's as evil as ever existed. I have no problem with the Chinese people, it's the CCP I have a problem with. And we need to prepare for the dastardly things they're going to do. And we know that eventually they won't take Taiwan with president Xi Jinping, who is no longer in control of the military. I think now the Chinese are going to take a different strategy. We'll have to see how this unfolds but in the meantime you're going to be glad to know that this present administration hasn't sat still. There's a new developmental secret weapon and the production has already started and it is going to be a game changer.





America's Weapon to Dominate the Chinese Navy

The weapon is the Orca. Here is a story that really makes me proud to be an American. Yankee ingenuity resurfaced under President Trump and let's get down to the nitty-gritty. We have an autonomous submarine and it's controlled by AI. The longer it's in action, the more adaptable it becomes, and we're not talking universally adaptability, we're talking individual mission adaptability.

In Afghanistan, we were having robots lead missions, and they could rewrite their mission protocol on the spot, not quite sentient but certainly adaptable with AI. That was 2008 when I ran that story. Now we're applying it to submarines and it's a darn good thing because the Chinese can outproduce America by building new Navy ships tenfold. Now a lot of the Chinese construction we know is cheap construction and doesn't last very long or work very well. You'd better have a warranty. In their weapon systems, it's about the same. But they do pose a significant threat just in terms of sheer volume and they're statistically and technologically valid enough to cause us a lot of harm, particularly due to their overwhelming numbers.

So we had to have a game changer and in particular in protecting Taiwan this new weapon is absolutely fantastic. Now this submarine can't be launched easily. It has to be launched from a larger ship but it has an amazing range. So it can be hundreds of miles out and it's virtually undetectable because it can use a type of lithium battery that emits fumes that are toxic to humans but it's the most efficient and most silent running system. This is important for a submarine to avoid detection. But it's the most silent running technology we have and you don't have to worry about the toxicity because there's no humans on board. It's a huge advantage.

So what can it do? I made a list here. It communicates with satellites. It can find enemy vessels because it's satellite driven. It's AI adaptable. It's approximately 85 feet long, a pretty good size. It's classified as a drone and we think of drones as being small. Well, we've seen how drones in the Ukraine Russia war has changed the war and Russia, because of attrition is losing. This weapon is a game changer. Technologically, it's cost effective for what it does. In other words, you can even send this into high-risk areas to do missions and if you lose it you're going to lose some money but you're not losing humans and some of the humans are hard to train to get into the position for replacements. So you have a human capital advantage. It has mind sweeping abilities so if we ever had to attack Chinese ports, it can clear the mines. It has torpedoed the same as regular submarines and it has the ability to launch miniature ballistic missiles and hit surface targets using satellite technology as a guide.

So, let's say the Chinese were foolish enough to cross the straight of Taiwan. These drone submarines could take out the shipping ports because there'd be lots of warning from satellites. We'd see the accumulation of men and material and you could say "Okay

we know what they're going to do." And then you do a preemptive strike using these drones. The ships that did get out could be torpedoed and the Orcas would be almost impossible to find. But you ask "Well wouldn't there be Chinese submarines?" Of course but the Orca's are very good at finding Chinese submarines and they run quieter than other submarines for the reason we mentioned so they'd be a Chinese submarine killer and the Chinese submarines they're now developing still don't match what we have and they are certainly no match for this drone. So we'd be able to take out a lot of the Chinese submarine threats and that would really help us in our coastline defense.

We have seen instances where Chinese submarines, as a show of force have surfaced in San Francisco Bay. Well, that won't be a problem much longer. The Orca will also have the ability to clear mines. If we ever had to invade the ports it can run more silent and deeper than a Chinese submarine and the Chinese would never know what hit them. This is a tremendous game changer and it's important because as we see now the Chinese have actually surpassed us in the number of submarines, 72 to 68 which is not a huge advantage but the Orca is a huge advantage and according to Pentagon sources this has panicked the Chinese high command. It has given them hesitation to invade Taiwan now.

We've talked before about Taiwan's incredible internal defenses. They make Iwo Jima's defense structures seem comparatively minor and minuscule. Compared to what Taiwan's defense is capable of doing, in Iwo Jima, we lost over 20,000 soldiers on a small island in which the defenses were well organized. The ones on Taiwan are even better. But you add in these Orca drone submarines and China's got a big problem. This is a big checkmate. Now technology is fluid and things can change but we're talking in the immediate future. China will be checkmated from their ambitions to take Taiwan. This is just good old Yankee ingenuity.

[End of Show Transcript](#)





CHINA IS FALLING

Taken from The Common Sense Show

David Hodges commenting

I have an interesting story about China. We've got 20 reasons why China is economically collapsing....right now.

Here are 20 reasons why the Chinese economy is failing and it will not come back with one exception and that exception is scary.

1. Beijing and Shanghai are virtually ghost towns, well not entirely. Beijing has 5 million people but its baseline is 20 million. Where have 15 million people gone? Well they've gone back to the farms of their families or extended families and they're going to live off the land because there's no jobs. The major centers in China are failing. The cities are collapsing

2. The stock market collapsed and is closed are they going to bring it back limitedly yes. but I believe it's only going to be for limited stocks that they feel they can show the public. They are saying everything is fine, we'll get these other stocks back up and going soon. But this is a huge, huge red flag. Think 1929 when our stock market collapsed what happened?

3. Roving blackouts. This is really, really serious. This includes schools, hospitals, emergency procedures, everything but the military. And roving blackouts are occurring because the Chinese can't afford to keep the lights on. Pretty darn serious.

4. 25% of Chinese factories are now closed and you're saying "Well I know you're doing a part two show on the effects this will have on America. This should be your first clue. 25% of factories can't get the spare parts they need to keep operating and people are leaving the labor force there because they're not getting paid. It's absolutely chaotic.

5. You don't want to get sick. You don't want to have to go in the hospital in China because they're using diesel generators to keep the lights on. And they're also recirculating gloves and gowns. Why do you think doctors scrub up so diligently and now they're going to do this and the diesel is only for the lights being on in the hospitals It's a huge problem.

6. China has sought out emergency cash exchange because the yuan is worthless and been invested in Saudi Arabia. I can't believe the Saudis are doing this but I think it's a bad deal for them but the Chinese have given massive amounts of yuan that they just printed out of thin air. If you know the history of our Federal Reserve, you know what's wrong with printing more money. And the Saudis in exchange are giving their currency to China as a stimulus and I'm sure there's an under the cover backroom deal for future trade considerations. This will be a loser deal for the Saudis but it does help the dollar in a small way. But the overriding message is, the yuan has failed as a currency.

7. The banks are virtually closed. Try getting your money out. Oh it's the Chinese version of DoddFrank 2010. The Chinese didn't codify it in law. They're just doing it. But basically the Chinese have said you put your stuff in the bank, it's ours, we'll decide what to do with it. The ATMs are not working. The few banks that are open, people are hoarding cash. I don't know what the value is in hoarding cash because soon inflation is going to be so out of control that you can't hoard enough cash. You could build a cash house you're going to need so much. Do you remember the history books that you grew up with. They were talking about the collapse of the German Vermachark. It took a lady with a wheel barrel full of cash to buy a loaf of bread. That's what China is going to be facing in the future with hyperinflation.

8. Imagine working your whole life, you've retired, you've been retired for 2, 3, 5, 10 years. You get a notice by email that says your pension has been paused. That's the phrase they're using. They're not saying "Hey we're not going to give you your pension" because they don't want people picking up pitchforks and marching. But they're saying "your pension has been paused" How are these people supposed to pay their rent, their mortgage, buy food, pay for medical bills. They're not.

9. Now what's happening in a collapsed real estate market that we're not even touching on here. We're getting multi-families or





China is Falling

extended families staying in the same living space and this is one of the preemptive causes of mom and dad going to work. And for the great babysitter, the schools, they're not paying the teachers. How long would you go to work if you're not being paid. I suspect you wouldn't go very long and the teachers are leaving.

10. There are some school districts in China that have just closed. Now you got child care debt on top of everything else and not to mention children not growing. Parents aren't sure what to do. Their tutors are expensive. Formal tutoring was outlawed by President Xi Jinping because it was creating competition with the elite in the CCP because middle class kids were gaining entrance into elite Chinese universities due to tutoring assistance which displaced the kids of the elite class and so they outlawed it. Now where are parents going to turn?

11. There is social upheaval. You see when people say there's going to be a revolution or a civil war it's generally not one cause, it's a series of things that eventually become the straw that breaks the camel's back. Well, there's more straws to go on the CCP's back but it's on its way. Not paying teachers is unbelievable.

12. Here's a really big one, capital flight. And I've mentioned this before but it fits into the genre so I'm going to repeat it. Mom and dad, they're wealthy or they're upper middle class and they have sent their kids overseas to study. Now mom needs to go and visit and take care of the kids, so dad schedules a business trip. Meanwhile they have converted to things like Bitcoin or gold or silver in foreign markets and they have basically transferred their wealth by stealth out of the country. Capital flight is enormous now. Even the CCP are doing it. In fact, they did it first. I reported on this earlier. It's estimated the CCP have put about \$2 trillion in the West and they have a dual purpose here. One is political takeover by extending their financial influence over whatever organizations they invest in overseas, but two they knew what was coming with the Chinese economy so they are getting out of Dodge while the getting's good. And they send their money out of the country so this is a trend.

13. For the average non CCP leadership people, remember under communism there are rules for thee but not for me. For non CCP people when your factories are going down and fuel is at a premium it makes it costly to ship. So supply chains start to break down. The supply chains are in trouble and so this adds to the unemployment.

14. Real famine is coming to China. There is a phrase now in Western businesses that describes working inside China. It's called the great decoupling. It refers to Apple and Intel canceling billions of dollars of deals with China and sending their

money into Malaysia. Now this is dispelling doom. We used to say the Chinese economic engine was roaring at 10% growth per year. But it needed the Western infusion of capital to continue to grow because the Chinese aren't good money managers. There is the Belt and Road initiative., Chinese artificial islands, all these projects are enormously expensive and drain the budget. The Chinese need an infusion of western cash now. Not only are they suffering capital flight by their leadership and the rich who are cleverly getting their wealth out now, they're seeing defections of Western bankers. HSBC, Bank of America, all these institutions are saying "Bye-bye, you're no longer viable and we can't stay."

15. It started with layoffs. You remember we talked about that back in May. Now it's just outright closures and the majority of Western bank branches in China have closed. I am sure the Chinese are going to have a counter for that but right now they're in big, big trouble. HSBC issued a statement that said China is no longer a viable investment vehicle. HSBC is so intertwined with the Chinese government and the CCP, they're really the most corrupt bank in my humble opinion on the face of the earth. John Cruz has been a guest on our show many times. He used to be a senior VP at HSBC and as long as 12 years ago John was coming on the program after he was fired from the bank and he said "I turned them in to Homeland, I turned them in to the DOJ and to the Eastern Division in New York and they just got a slap on the wrist. But they're corrupt as the day is long. And he listed their crimes on the show and basically said China is no good. That's a banner statement that encourages other defections.

16. The people are hoarding whatever they have left so that they can buy stuff with it. Do you remember our days of Covid lockdowns with fist fights in stores over toilet paper? That's happening in China. They are now hoarding, and what happens when you hoard? The prices escalate dramatically above inflation and inflation's rampant in China right now. But it's going to escalate more because of the hoarding.

17. People can't even electronically transfer very much of their funds. It's basically they've been given a haircut. The banks are like Cyprus several years ago. Remember when the Cyprus banks seized their clients bank accounts and they gave back 40%. That's effectively what's happening in China. You can't go to the bank and get your money but you can wire some money but only a small percentage of what they say you have in the account. They say, Oh we're going through technical review and reconsolidation. That's the official excuse. The bottom line is we don't have the money to pay you so we're going to give you what we have and you'll be lucky if you get it and shut up and say thank you.

18. What's happened to Chinese retail? Do I even need to mention what's happening to our retail every time you turn around. You have these major retail outlets I don't care if it's Walgreens



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or CVS or what it is they're closing massive amounts of branches in this country. Hello America look at China. In America, these are the early warning signs. These are the chest pains before the heart attack in America. And in China retail outlets and the malls are empty. I've shown you the pictures of it. Public transportation is vacated now, people aren't going to work and so now you're seeing a closure of the public private partnerships that goes with public transportation in China. That's starting to disappear. The merchants don't have much to sell and they're doing all these going out of sale events so they can recoup what they can. Their rents are going into default. It's a retail collapse in China which is to be expected given everything I've told you up to this point.

19. The yuan is not respected, it's not desired. I mean some people are trying to hoard it like I said. But people are escaping the currency. First of all they're thinking get their hands on Yuan. They know it's not worth very much so they've begun to barter. I'll give you this necklace if you give me that loaf of bread. Now it's not meant to be an actual transaction that's taking place but it's an example of what's happening. Bartering has replaced currency in most of your major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. That's what would happen here if we had an economic collapse.

I'll tell you what's next in China too. I didn't have this on the list but they have organized crime like you wouldn't believe. You're going to see strong army tactics employed and you're going to see small collectives form and it's going to be ruled with protection money. They are saying, well we're going to help set you up in some kind of business but you got to pay us a percentage. That's what's coming to China if it's not already happening. The CCP is the biggest protection racket in the world. But I'm talking about individual criminal organizations that'll do it and the same thing would happen here in America.

20. Many of the Chinese investors are turning to Bitcoin because the Chinese government is hoarding the gold. I wonder why so many people are turning to what they can get their hands on which is Bitcoin now. It's interesting when most of these transactions take place on the internet, the Chinese are interfering in these transactions. They want people to stay in the yuan. They tell you, you need to buy yuan, it's your civic duty, it's your responsibility to your country and so they try to block the Bitcoin. And it's not working really well but not all transitions transactions are blocked. I haven't read a definitive reason why except I can tell you they're not blocking the CCP, they're blocking the common person who are using it for currency. Street crime is exploding in the major population centers that are being depopulated. What do you think they're doing? You probably guessed it. Opium and prostitution. And going back to the previous one when I said organized crime protection rackets are going to emerge, that's how they emerged but right now the gangs control those two organizations not the government. So we're looking at a black market underground economy and it's surfacing in a very loud way.

As of June 20, there has been a limit on wire transfers that must be approved by the Chinese government. So let's say you want to buy something from Amazon and you're in Beijing and you can get something pretty routine but if you buy something bigger or if you even buy a car or an expensive ring you got to have CCP approval to move the money because they're trying to stop the capital flight.

I could have come up with many more reasons the Chinese economy is collapsing but these should be sending shock waves into America and if you haven't made the connections from the list I gave you, I'll spell it out for you in a later segment of the show.

By the way, what is the one exception that could possibly restore China's economy?

Successfully attach and control Taiwan.

End of transcript of show

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From the peculiar habits of nail-biting to the idiosyncratic rituals of daily life, behavioral quirks are as diverse and fascinating as the individuals who have them, making us all a unique group of creatures. These quirks, those little oddities that make us who we are, often go unnoticed or dismissed as mere eccentricities. But dig a little deeper, and you'll find a world of wonder hiding in plain sight.



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But what are behavioral quirks? Well, they're those peculiar habits, rituals, or mannerisms that deviate from the "norm". They're the unexpected twists in our personal narratives, the footnotes in our autobiographies. Some might call them odd, others charming, but for sure, they're undeniably human.

Here are a couple of articles that attempt to explain, first, some peculiar ways in which humans think and, second, some of the peculiar traits that we have.

D. Miyoshi

From Quora

By C. Ravinda

Illusion of Transparency: You think people notice your feelings more than they actually do.

Spotlight Effect: You believe everyone sees your mistakes, but most don't.

Zeigarnik Effect: You remember unfinished tasks better than completed ones.

Mere Exposure Effect: Seeing something often makes you like it more.

Dunning-Kruger Effect: People who know less often think they know more.

Ben Franklin Effect: Helping someone makes you like them more.

Optimism Bias: You think bad things are less likely to happen to you.

Sunk Cost Fallacy: You stick with something because you've already invested in it.

Pratfall Effect: Smart people seem more relatable when they make small mistakes.

Temporal Discounting: You want smaller rewards now instead of bigger ones later.

Behavioral Quirks: Exploring Unique Human Habits and Idiosyncrasies

From NeuroLaunch

From the peculiar habits of nail-biting to the idiosyncratic rituals of daily life, behavioral quirks are as diverse and fascinating as the individuals who possess them, weaving a tapestry of human uniqueness that begs to be explored. These quirks, those little

oddities that make us who we are, often go unnoticed or dismissed as mere eccentricities. But dig a little deeper, and you'll find a world of wonder hiding in plain sight.

Ever caught yourself tapping your fingers to an invisible rhythm or arranging your desk just so? Congratulations, you're human! These quirky behaviors are more than just random acts; they're the spice that flavors our daily existence. They're the secret ingredients that make each of us a one-of-a-kind recipe in the great cookbook of life.

But what exactly are behavioral quirks? Well, they're those peculiar habits, rituals, or mannerisms that deviate from the norm. They're the unexpected twists in our personal narratives, the footnotes in our autobiographies. Some might call them odd, others endearing, but one thing's for sure – they're undeniably human.

Now, you might be thinking, "Sure, I've got a quirk or two, but surely they're not that common?" Oh, my friend, you'd be surprised! These little idiosyncrasies are as ubiquitous as morning coffee and rush hour traffic. They're the unsung heroes of our daily routines, the silent companions that walk beside us through life's journey.

Understanding these quirks isn't just an exercise in navel-gazing. It's a window into the complex tapestry of human behavior, a peek behind the curtain of our shared humanity. By exploring these interesting behaviors, we gain insight not just into ourselves, but into the rich diversity of human experience.

The Quirky Quartet: Common Types of Behavioral Quirks

Let's dive into the wonderful world of behavioral quirks, shall we? It's like a quirky quartet, each section playing its own unique tune in the symphony of human behavior.

First up, we have the verbal virtuosos. These are the folks who pepper their speech with catchphrases, um's and ah's, or even full-blown accents that appear out of nowhere. Maybe you know someone who ends every sentence with "you know?" or perhaps you're guilty of peppering your speech with "like" more often than you'd like to admit. These verbal tics are like the seasoning in our conversational stew – sometimes subtle, sometimes overpowering, but always adding flavor.

Next in our quirky quartet are the physical performers. These are the toe-tappers, the hair-twirlers, the pen-clickers of the world. They're the ones who can't sit still during a meeting, their legs bouncing like they're riding an invisible pogo stick. Or maybe they're the ones who absent-mindedly trace patterns on their palms while deep in thought. These repetitive physical movements are like a secret language of the body, speaking volumes without uttering a word.

Then we have the routine revolutionaries. These are the people who have elevated their daily routines to an art form. Maybe they have a specific order for eating the food on their plate, or perhaps they need to check the front door is locked exactly three times





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before leaving the house. These unusual behaviors might seem strange to others, but to the person performing them, they're as natural as breathing.

Last but not least, we have the culinary connoisseurs of quirk. These are the folks with specific food preferences or eating habits that might raise an eyebrow or two. Perhaps they refuse to let different foods touch on their plate, or maybe they have a ritual for eating M&Ms that involves sorting them by color first. These quirks add a dash of spice to the mundane act of eating, turning every meal into a personal performance.

And let's not forget the social butterflies of quirk. These are the people who have their own unique way of interacting with others. Maybe they have a special handshake for each of their friends, or perhaps they always greet people with a joke, no matter the situation. These quirks can sometimes lead to freaky behavior in social situations, but they also make our social interactions richer and more memorable.

The Quirk Factory: Psychological and Neurological Factors

Now, you might be wondering, "Where do these quirks come from? Are we born with them, or do we pick them up along the way?" Well, dear reader, the answer is a bit of both. It's like nature and nurture decided to throw a party, and behavioral quirks were the unexpected guests that showed up and refused to leave. Let's start with the genetic predisposition. Some quirks might be hardwired into our DNA, like a secret code that's been passed down through generations. Maybe your tendency to whistle when you're nervous is a trait you share with your great-grandfather, or perhaps your habit of organizing your bookshelf by color is a genetic quirk that runs in the family.

But genes aren't the only players in this quirky game. Environmental influences play a huge role too. The experiences we have, the people we meet, the cultures we're exposed to – all of these factors shape our behaviors and can lead to the development of unique quirks. Maybe you picked up the habit of always walking on the right side of the sidewalk after living in a busy city, or perhaps your penchant for collecting bottle caps started after a memorable beach vacation.

Then there's the fascinating world of neurological differences. Our brains are as unique as our fingerprints, and these differences can manifest in all sorts of interesting ways. Some people might have heightened sensitivity to certain stimuli, leading to quirks like always needing to wear socks to bed or having a strong aversion to certain textures. These odd behaviors aren't just random; they're often the brain's way of processing and responding to the world around us.

Anxiety and stress can also be major contributors to our quirky behaviors. Have you ever noticed how some people twirl their hair when they're nervous, or tap their feet when they're under pressure? These behaviors can serve as coping mechanisms, helping us manage stress and anxiety in our own unique ways. Lastly, let's not forget about learned behaviors and habits. Some quirks start as conscious actions and, over time, become in-

grained habits. Maybe you started wearing your watch on your right wrist as a teenager to be different, and now it feels strange to wear it any other way. Or perhaps you developed a habit of always eating dessert first because life's too short to wait for the sweet stuff!

Living La Vida Quirky: The Impact on Daily Life

Now that we've explored the origins of our quirks, let's talk about how these little idiosyncrasies impact our daily lives. It's not all smooth sailing in the sea of quirks, but it sure makes for an interesting voyage!

First up, let's chat about the social implications of our quirky behaviors. In some cases, our quirks can be real conversation starters. That habit you have of always arranging your french fries in order of size before eating them? It might just be the ice-breaker that leads to a great friendship. On the flip side, some quirks might make social situations a bit more challenging. If you have a tendency to interrupt people with random facts about penguins, you might find yourself swimming in awkward silences more often than not.

In the workplace, our quirks can present both challenges and opportunities. That colleague who needs absolute silence to concentrate might struggle in an open-plan office, while the one who talks to themselves while problem-solving might be seen as a bit eccentric. But here's the thing – these quirks can also be our superpowers. That detail-oriented coworker who always triple-checks everything? They might just save the day when it comes to catching errors in important documents.

When it comes to relationships and communication, our quirks can add flavor to our interactions, but they can also sometimes lead to misunderstandings. Your partner's habit of leaving notes around the house might be endearing to you, but it might drive your roommate up the wall. The key here is communication and understanding. After all, one person's quirk is another person's bizarre behavior.

Our quirks also play a significant role in shaping our self-perception and self-esteem. Some people embrace their quirks as part of what makes them unique, wearing them like badges of honor. Others might feel self-conscious about their idiosyncrasies, worrying that they make them stand out in a negative way. It's important to remember that our quirks are part of what makes us who we are – they're the sprinkles on our personality sundae! Lastly, let's talk about coping mechanisms and strategies. Many of us develop quirks as ways to deal with stress, anxiety, or other challenges. That friend who always cracks jokes in tense situations? They might be using humor as a way to cope with discomfort. The coworker who needs everything on their desk arranged just so? They might find that order helps them feel more in control in a chaotic world.

Quirks Around the Globe: Cultural Perspectives

Now, let's embark on a whirlwind tour of quirks across cultures. Buckle up, because this is where things get really interesting! What's considered quirky in one culture might be perfectly normal in another. Take, for example, the Japanese custom of slurping noodles. In Japan, it's not only acceptable but often encour-





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aged as a way to show appreciation for the meal. But try slurping your spaghetti in an Italian restaurant, and you might get some raised eyebrows!

On the flip side, there are some quirks that seem to be universally recognized. The habit of talking to oneself, for instance, is something you'll find in cultures around the world. Whether you're in New York, New Delhi, or New Zealand, you're likely to encounter people having animated conversations with themselves.

Culture plays a huge role in shaping our perception of behavior traits, including quirks. In some cultures, certain behaviors that we might consider quirky are actually encouraged. In parts of China, for example, it's common to see people practicing tai chi in public parks early in the morning. To someone from a different cultural background, this might seem like weird behavior, but in Chinese culture, it's a normal and healthy practice.

The level of acceptance for different quirks can vary widely across cultures too. In some societies, conformity is highly valued, and standing out – even in small ways – might be frowned upon. In others, individuality is celebrated, and quirky behaviors are seen as expressions of personal uniqueness.

It's also fascinating to see how different cultures have their own unique set of socially acceptable quirks. In Spain, it's not uncommon for people to take a siesta in the afternoon, closing shops and offices for a few hours. To someone from a culture where the workday is typically uninterrupted, this might seem like a strange practice.

Embracing the Quirk: Managing and Celebrating Our Idiosyncrasies

So, we've traveled the world of quirks, explored their origins, and seen their impact on our lives. Now, let's talk about how we can manage and even celebrate these unique aspects of ourselves. First things first: self-awareness is key. Understanding our own quirks is the first step towards embracing them. It's like getting to know a new friend – the more time you spend with your quirks, the more you'll understand and appreciate them. Maybe that habit of yours of always checking the time in multiples of five isn't so bad after all. It's just your brain's way of keeping things orderly in a chaotic world!

For some people, therapy or professional support can be incredibly helpful in understanding and managing their quirks, especially if these behaviors are causing distress or interfering with daily life. A mental health professional can provide valuable insights and strategies for dealing with quirks that might be rooted in anxiety or other underlying issues.

Mindfulness and behavior modification techniques can also be powerful tools. By becoming more aware of our quirks and the situations that trigger them, we can start to have more control over these behaviors. It's not about suppressing our quirks entirely – it's about finding a balance that works for us and those around us.

Education is another crucial aspect of managing quirks, both for ourselves and others. The more we understand about typical behavior patterns and the wide range of human experiences, the more accepting we can be of differences. Sharing information about our quirks with friends, family, or colleagues can help foster understanding and reduce potential conflicts or misunderstandings.

But here's the most important part: celebrating our quirks! These idiosyncrasies are what make us unique, what make us human. They're the little flourishes that add color to our personalities, the unexpected twists that make life interesting. Instead of trying to hide or change our quirks, why not embrace them as part of our personal brand?

After all, in a world that often values conformity, our quirks are rebellious little reminders of our individuality. They're like tiny acts of defiance against the mundane, little sparks of creativity in the routine of daily life. So go ahead, arrange your M&Ms by color before eating them. Wear mismatched socks if that's your thing. Talk to your plants if it makes you happy. Your quirks are what make you, well, you!

In conclusion, behavioral quirks are an integral part of the human experience. They're the seasoning in the soup of life, the unexpected notes that make our personal melodies unique. By understanding, accepting, and even celebrating these quirks, we open ourselves up to a richer, more diverse world of human behavior. As we move forward, it's important to continue researching and exploring the fascinating world of behavioral quirks. The more we understand about these idiosyncrasies, the better equipped we'll be to create a society that values and embraces diversity in all its forms – including the quirky ones!

So the next time you catch yourself engaging in a quirky behavior, don't be quick to judge or suppress it. Instead, take a moment to appreciate it. After all, it's just one of the many things that make you wonderfully, uniquely you. And in a world full of odd or eccentric behavior, isn't it great to know that we're all a little quirky in our own special ways?

Why Democrats Embrace Socialism



Why Democrats Embrace Socialism

By Thomas Sowell who is one of America's leading economists, historians, and social and political commentators. He graduated with honors from Harvard, has a master's in economics from Columbia and a PhD from the University of Chicago, and is now at the Hoover Institute as the Senior Fellow in Public Policy.

The philosophy of Socialism begins with a seductive premise that it is morally superior, that it cares more about the poor, that it gives power to the people.



But what it really gives is power to politicians. Bernie Sanders once said, I think we should look to countries like Denmark, like Sweden and Norway, and learn what they have accomplished for their working people. But what he fails to mention, whether through ignorance or ideology, is that these countries are not socialist. They are capitalist countries with large welfare states. They built their wealth through free markets. Their redistribution came later. And even then, they've spent the last two decades rolling it back.

As I wrote in *The Vision of the Anointed*, much of the social vision of intellectuals is both unrealistic and untested. Reality is often shrugged off as somehow being less important than the vision. Socialism appeals to that vision. The utopia that exists only in the minds of elites who do not bear the consequences of being wrong.

Socialism's defenders on the American left speak of free health care, free college and economic justice, as if repeating the word "free" enough times will make scarcity vanish.



Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, for instance, has championed the Green New Deal, a document promising universal employment, guaranteed income and nationalized infrastructure, all without a single coherent cost estimate.

But economics is not about what sounds good. It's about trade-offs. There is no such thing as free health care. You either pay for it through higher taxes or degraded services. In *Basic Economics*, I said the first lesson in economics is scarcity. There's never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics. And that's exactly what politicians like Sanders and AOC do. They offer what cannot be delivered without consequences. They never discuss.

Socialism thrives on envy. It is not built on lifting up the poor, but on tearing down the successful. Sanders doesn't just argue that the rich should pay more. He implies they got rich by harming others. He once declared that billionaires should not exist as if wealth creation were a zero-sum game. This worldview is toxic. In *The Quest for Cosmic Justice*, I warned that envy was once considered one of the seven deadly sins before it became one of the most admired virtues under its new name, social Justice. The politics of resentment fueled Socialism, not because the system works, but because it targets the system that does.

One of the most dangerous aspects of this socialist resurgence is the sheer historical ignorance of its advocates. They speak glowingly of Socialism as though it were a new experiment. But socialism is not new. It has been tried repeatedly and failed catastrophically.

The Soviet Union, Mao's China, Cuba. Venezuela, these are not anomalies. They are the predictable outcomes of a system where power is centralized and incentives are distorted.



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Venezuela, once the richest country in Latin America, was transformed into a failed state by the very policy standards AOC endorsed. Massive nationalizations, price controls, wage controls all led to hyperinflation, food shortages and mass poverty. And yet, as I noted in *Intellectualism and Society*, the fatal attraction of government power for intellectuals is not just the prospect of being able to shape policy, but the feeling of moral superiority it gives them. That moral superiority blinds them to the lessons of history.

Another reason the Democrats gravitate toward Socialism is the belief in central planning, the notion that bureaucrats in Washington can allocate resources more efficiently than the decentralized decisions of millions of people in a market. But history shows otherwise. Every planned economy has produced a misallocation, inefficiency and ultimately, stagnation. In contrast, the free market, imperfect as it may be, responds to supply, demand, prices and competition. It is self-correcting, adaptable and driven by information.

As I stated in *Knowledge and Decisions*, the most basic question is not what is best, but who shall decide what is best. The Socialist answer is always the same, the state. And that answer should terrify us. Socialism appeals to the young because they have no memory of its failures. College campuses are Ground Zero for the spread of these ideas, often taught by professors who have never worked in the real economy and who view profit as exploitation rather than productivity. Why? Because socialism cloaks itself in compassion, but compassion with other people's money is not morality. It is the easiest virtue to signal and the hardest one to measure.

Now, in *A Conflict of Visions*, I explained that the unconstrained vision embodied by socialists assumes that human nature is essentially good and perfectible and that systemic problems require systemic overhauls led by enlightened elites. But this is fantasy. Human nature is not perfectible, and systems designed on that premise collapse under the weight of reality. Socialist rhetoric like that of Sanders and AOC, divide the country into villains and victims. The 1% and the 99%. But this narrative is dangerously

simplistic. The top 1% is not a static group of robber barons. People move in and out of income brackets throughout their lives. A small business owner who takes risks and succeeds is not the same as a rent seeking crony capitalist. But the rhetoric makes no distinction. Why? Because class warfare works. It galvanizes support, distracts from failure and justifies government expansion.

But here's the truth. In every socialist economy, the very class warfare meant to empower the poor ends up concentrating power in the hands of the political elite. The poor get poorer and the planners get richer. As I wrote in *The Vision of the Anointed*, the anointed do not really believe they know what is best. They believe they must be given the power to impose it. And Socialism is their tool.

Now, ask yourself, are Sanders and AOC truly trying to solve poverty, or are they trying to seize and centralize power in the name of solving poverty?

Real solutions to poverty, economic growth, education reform, job creation, deregulation, these don't require revolution. They require freedom. But Socialism is not about solving problems. It is about shifting power from individuals to the state. And once the state has that power, it never gives it back.

Socialism is not a future vision. It is a recurring nightmare. It has failed every time it has been tried, not because of poor implementation but because its core assumptions about human nature, incentives and economics are wrong.

As I've often said, much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades has involved replacing what worked with what sounded good. Democrats like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez are not new thinkers. They are the latest in a long line of ideologues who traded promises and reaped in power. And unless Americans learn the real history, not the sanitized slogans, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Socialism is not compassion. It is coercion. It is not justice. It is jealousy. It is not progress. It is regression. And the facts, history and logic are clear, if only you are willing to look.

End of Sowell Article





Why We Are Becoming Stupid



The following are ideas I took from a Youtube video I recently viewed entitled MASS IDIOCRACY: The Cost Of The Disappearance Of Wisdom. The video revealed to me why I am now growing more stupefied every day. In my quest for truth, I wanted to share these ideas with you here.

Have you ever had a conversation with an older person who read entire books, solved calculations mentally, and had the patience to listen? Compare that to today's conversations of people who can't keep their attention for even 5 minutes and respond with emojis.

Beginning around 2016 everything started to speed up and everything became more superficial. Tik Tok exploded and screen addiction became the norm and the intelligence curve began to decline. The world that created geniuses is now dying and our younger generation, despite all the technology, is becoming the most distracted, vulnerable, and least intelligent. The year 2016 was the breaking point and collective dumbness that year began to take shape. It was a revolution in how we consume information and worse, how we think.

Tik Tok emerged as a platform of short videos designed to absorb your attention. After Instagram revamped its algorithm, it became a dopamine machine. Companies like Tik Tok found that if they give us quick doses of visual and auditory pleasure, we get trapped like rats in a lab, but unlike rats, we don't get tired. Every 10-second video you watch releases dopamine in your brain, but the more you watch, the harder it is to enjoy simple things. a 300-page book, a 1-hour documentary, a discussion without your phone—everything gets tiresome, and it's not just entertainment. This impairs our thinking, reflecting, and creativity. Do you ever read a page and forget what you read or struggle to focus on a simple task without checking your phone every three minutes? It's a side effect of being conditioned.

Since 2016, the average IQ in wealthy countries has started to fall for the first time in modern history. This includes school knowledge and logical thinking, reading comprehension and memory focus. A Norwegian study found that young people born after 1995 had an average decline of seven IQ points compared to their parents. That's the difference between grasping a sophisticated idea and not understanding a basic argument. So is it the app's fault?

Life is a tradeoff of values and you will notice we are now trading wisdom for entertainment, depth for speed, cognitive effort for easy distraction. How often have you started a YouTube video and moved on before halfway through? (I have) How often have you tried to read something important but couldn't get past the second paragraph without checking WhatsApp? (I have) How many uninterrupted meaningful chats have you had this week? (Many). We are trading our brains for clicks and most frighteningly we think it's normal. If you feel your mind is slower, more fragmented and that you lost something you used to have, it's not your imagination, it's real.

The average IQ reached a historical peak in the 1970's due to genetics and a cultural and educational background that matched intellectual development in classrooms. Respect was earned by students who listened, took notes, and reflected. Teaching was tough, but the students who understood gained valuable autonomy of thinking. Books were portals, not just school tools. Young people read Camu, Nietze, Errico, Verrismo, Graciano Ramos. Since there were no videos, the tempo was different. A 15-year-old from that time could easily recite Shakespeare and understand algebra's logic. Today's youth can't interpret a simple paragraph without asking ChatGPT what it means. It's not arrogance to say this. Culture had another force. Magazines like Super-intressant and Sunday newspapers published lengthy writings on entire pages. Radio interviews were long and explained whole concepts without interruptions or soundtracks. The most amazing thing was that people read, listened, reflected, and discussed it. Today, a 40-minute prime time TV interview with a philosopher discussing the meaning of life would be boring, slow, and too difficult. In the 1970s, this was common, natural, and productive.

Another vital detail: Silence was accepted and people would sit alone on benches to think, ponder, and observe the world. Today, we feel forced to fill every empty space with video, music or worthless talk as if we couldn't stand being alone with our thoughts. What caused this golden age. Well, two main factors: concentration and scarcity of external stimuli. In the absence of external stimuli, the brain creates its own stimuli. Before the internet, imagination fed creativity. Ideas came from boredom, which we today try to kill at all costs. Everything was built on attention. reading an extensive text, viewing a documentary, attending an entire class without checking the clock was normal.

From this fertile ground were born the geniuses who shaped the





Why We Are Becoming Stupid

modern world, scientists, thinkers, engineers, artists. Many who created the technologies we use today were educated in that time when logic, rhetoric and history were taught with depth, which is why the gap between that generation and the younger one of today is so shocking. The former generation wrote letters, diaries, and serious essays while they read 30 volumes a year. Today we read fewer than two books a year and use emoticons, acronyms, and autoresponders to communicate. Speed has replaced depth and ease has killed effort. The young are being raised with access to all knowledge but no mental framework to process it. The difference between a young person from 1971 and one today isn't raw intelligence but the quality of attention. The previous generation had more time, more focus, more silence. The generation now has more technology, more distraction, more anxiety and that trade off was a terrible bargain.

So, as we look back at that golden age of intelligence, not wanting to go back in time but to understand what we're losing and, most importantly, what we can still recover. Concentration, critical thinking, enjoying reading, profound curiosity. If the 80s and '90s were the warm-up, the 2000s came like a stampede. The internet was no longer a curiosity; it was a necessity. Technology stopped being a tool in 2000 and became the new environment where our minds dwell. Yet for many, thinking became surviving in a jungle of distractions. Facebook was founded in 2004, YouTube in 2005, and the first iPhone in 2007, ushering in a new era of knowledge at your fingertips, available anytime, anywhere. But it also led to addiction, anxiety, and cognitive collapse. The promise was beautiful, the truth was harsh.

Now everything is chewed up, simplified, packaged in two-minute videos. But no one teaches us how to handle this excess. Our minds were thrown into an ocean of information without a life vest, compass, or map. Social media evolved quickly. Orkut became Facebook. MSM became Whatsapp and attention spans shrank with each advance. Microsoft studies found that by 2015, the average adult's attention span had dropped to 8 seconds less than a goldfish. That's right, a goldfish. Why? Because these platforms aren't designed to inform but to capture your attention at any cost. Infinite feed autoplay videos, colorful vibrant notifications, a psychological casino in your pocket.

During this period, studies showed a troubling drop in cognitive performance indices throughout this time. Lower reading logic and comprehension scores. The brain entered a state of continuous partial attention, where you're never 100% present in anything. Have you tried reading an article and checking your phone five times before finishing the first paragraph? Tried studying but had to watch a summary video because you couldn't focus on the text? Forgot something seconds after picking up your phone? It's not a personal failure. The system is designed to make you respond this way.

The large tech business strategy became evident around this

time: the more time you spend on your screen, the more they profit. To do this, they investigated how to addict your brain with varied rewards, intermittent notifications and dopamine on demand material modified to replace learning with entertainment, offering performance videos with less text. Everything became top five lists or three minute summaries.

The secret no one told you is the logic isn't to inform you but to hook you. The result is terrible. We're generating anxious, accelerated brains incapable of long reasoning. Young people jump from video to video unable to maintain an argument or create a novel thought. Adults have trouble listening without checking their phones. Professionals read reports like tweets and label multitasking a virtue when it's a sham. The human brain can't execute numerous difficult activities concurrently; it switches rapidly between them, creating fatigue, errors, and lost productivity.

From 2000 to 2016 intelligence stopped being exercised like a muscle and became overwhelmed by a tsunami of stimuli with every notification interrupting thought, every new feed resetting focus. The mind began to operate in fragments that led to emotional consequences. Less focus brings more mistakes and greater distraction, worry, and frustration, loneliness and insecurity both Intellectually and emotionally. A distracted mind feels incomplete and alone

During this time there were warnings given. Philosophers, neuroscientists, and educators began sounding the alarm. But the feed noise was louder and addiction was already installed. When Tik Tok arrived in 2016 the collapse was already announced. The mind stopped being the center and became just another product.

But you can break this cycle. It's not inevitable. The human brain is plastic. It adapts and if you understand this process you can reverse it. But first you must accept the uncomfortable fact that you (and I) were manipulated. We were manipulated by companies that discovered how to turn distraction into profit and sold us the illusion that being connected is the same as being present.

It's not a digital revolution that expanded our minds but fragmented what we had. This isn't a conspiracy theory. It's an uncomfortable portrait of our reality. In just a few decades we went from a generation that valued intellect to one that fears boredom, that swapped the pleasure of reading for the rush of scrolling, that preferred to seem intelligent rather than be intelligent. And the most painful part we got used to it.

The 1970s generation with fewer resources thought more, felt more and debated with more depth. The new generation surrounded by technology, stumbles over simple phrases, gets lost



Why Real Smart Moral People Are Not Leaders

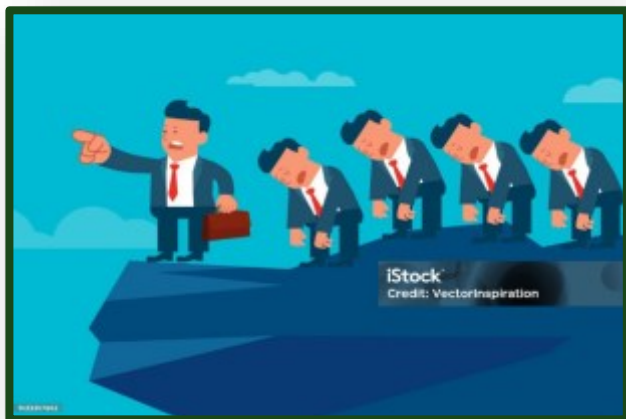
in short texts and drowns in distractions disguised as information. It's humiliating but it's also a call to action because what distraction destroyed discipline can rebuild. You can take back control of your mind. It won't be easy, nothing worthwhile ever is. But it will be liberating. Start small, delete a time-wasting app, read one page of a book a day with focus. Talk without your phone, rebuild your mind as if you were rebuilding a temple with respect, time, and silence because what we're losing isn't just concentration, but identity, autonomy and the ability to live deeply in an increasingly shallow world.

These are the key lessons I took away from the video. Now the challenge is to put it into action.

On the bright side, if all else fails and one becomes quite foolish, there is always politics.

Gambarimasu,
D. Miyoshi.

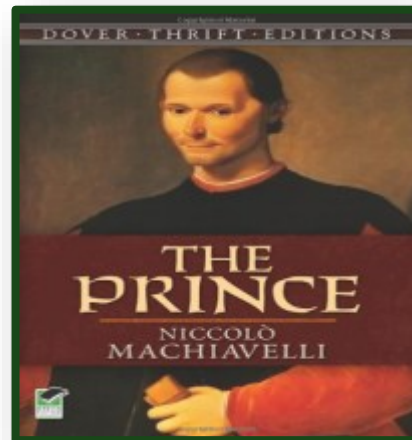
WHY REAL SMART MORAL PEOPLE ARE NOT LEADERS



The MACHIAVELLIAN PARADOX BEING TOO SMART WORKS AGAINST LEADERSHIP

This is an analysis of a portion of Nicolo Machiavelli's *The Prince*, one of the most controversial political treatises in history. Unlike the idealistic political philosophers before him, Machiavelli

wasn't concerned with how rulers should behave in a perfect world. He focused on how power actually worked in the real one.



The Prince outlines a pragmatic, sometimes ruthless approach to leadership, emphasizing cunning, adaptability, and the ability to maintain power at all costs

Several historical leaders have embodied these principles:

Cesare Borgia – Machiavelli himself admired Borgia's strategic ruthlessness and ability to consolidate power in Renaissance Italy

Napoleon Bonaparte – His military genius, political maneuvering, and ability to reshape Europe align with Machiavellian ideals

Otto von Bismarck – The architect of German unification, Bismarck mastered *realpolitik*, using diplomacy and calculated aggression to achieve his goals

Henry VIII – His ability to manipulate political and religious structures to maintain control over England reflects Machiavellian pragmatism

Joseph Stalin – His consolidation of power, strategic purges, and use of propaganda fit Machiavelli's emphasis on maintaining authority through fear and control



Why Real Smart Moral People Are Not Leaders

These figures, while controversial, exemplify Machiavelli's belief that effective rulers prioritize power and stability over moral considerations.

But were these leaders truly competent to rule over their constituency as they did?

"Everyone sees what you appear to be, few experience what you really are." This statement cuts to the heart of Machiavelli's thinking. He understood that perception often matters more than reality when it comes to acquiring and maintaining power. And herein lies the first clue to our paradox. Appearing competent is often more important than actually being competent.

Machiavelli observed that rulers who display too much intelligence often create problems for themselves. Why? Because intelligence usually comes with certain traits that can be liabilities in power struggles. Traits like nuanced thinking, ethical considerations, and self-awareness.

Consider what happens when a genuinely intelligent person enters a power structure. They tend to see complexity where others see simplicity. They acknowledge limitations where others make sweeping promises. They questioned themselves where others project absolute confidence.

In settings where bold assertions trump's (no pun intended) thoughtful deliberation, these intellectual traits, become handicaps. Look at the contrast between someone like Socrates, who questioned everything and was ultimately sentenced to death by the Athenian democracy versus populist leaders throughout history who rose to power by offering simple absolute certainties.

Socrates's famous "I know that I know nothing" wisdom made him a philosophical giant, but a political failure. Meanwhile, countless leaders have risen by claiming they alone have all the answers.

A controversial 2017 study from the Journal of Management suggested something that might make you uncomfortable. Intelligence correlates positively with leadership effectiveness only up to an IQ of about 120. Beyond that

point, additional intelligence actually becomes a hindrance to leadership emergence. The researchers suggested that exceptionally intelligent people struggle to connect with and influence others who can't follow their complex thinking patterns. Think about that. Being too smart might actually prevent you from gaining leadership positions in the first place. Whether or not you buy into that study, it challenges us to rethink what kind of intelligence actually helps someone gain power.

But raw intelligence isn't the only factor at play. If intelligence can sometimes be a liability in power games, what qualities actually help people climb the ladder? This brings us to a psychological principle that explains why we so often follow the wrong people.

THE CONFIDENCE ILLUSION

Have you ever noticed how the loudest voice in the room often becomes the most influential, regardless of what that voice is actually saying. This phenomenon has deep roots in our psychological makeup. In the 1990s, psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger identified what we now know as the Dunning Kruger effect. The cognitive bias where people with limited knowledge dramatically overestimate their competence, while genuine experts tend to underestimate theirs, aware of how much they don't know.

"The Fool does think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." Shakespeare captured this principle centuries before psychology gave it a name, but Machiavelli would have recognized it immediately as a fundamental truth about power dynamics. Modern research confirms this bias operates in leadership contexts. A 2020 study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that individuals who displayed overconfidence were more likely to be perceived as leaders by their peers, regardless of their actual competence.

The appearance of certainty was more persuasive than demonstrated expertise. Consider figures like George Armstrong Custer, whose supreme confidence led to catastrophic military decisions yet earned him rapid promotions and devoted followers. Or look at the tech industry where founders who speak in absolute visionary terms often secure massive funding over more measured experienced entrepreneurs.





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Wii works, Adam Diamond exemplified this. Despite a shaky business model, his unshakeable confidence helped him attract billions in investment and a cult like following. This pattern repeats globally. Japan's Masayoshi Son of SoftBank, lost \$70 billion on failed investments while maintaining investor confidence through sheer force of personality. Russia's oligarchs rose not through confidence, but through connections and confidence during the post Soviet privatization. Singapore, by contrast, built safeguards specifically designed to prevent confidence from trumping competence in leadership selection.

In 2012, researchers from Stanford and the University of Houston, found that narcissism, not confidence, may be the strongest predictor of who emerges as a leader in unstructured groups. The groups led by narcissists didn't perform better, they just thought they did.

Why does this happen? Our brains use mental shortcuts when evaluating others. Confidence signals competence, decisiveness suggests clarity of thought. These shortcuts served our ancestors well in straightforward environments, but become problematic in our complex modern world where genuine expertise often involves acknowledging uncertainty.

This confidence illusion explains how incompetent individuals might initially rise to power. But there's something even more insidious at play. A mechanism that helps them entrench their position throughout entire organizations.

THE NETWORK OF INCOMPETENCE

Machiavelli observed something crucial about power structures. Incompetent leaders tend to surround themselves with even less competent subordinates. In the Prince, Machiavelli wrote the first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him. What Machiavelli understood was that weak leaders deliberately select weaker subordinates to ensure they never face threats to their authority. This creates a cascading effect where incompetence becomes institutionalized. Dr. Totoma Kamuro Premuseic, an organizational psychologist, describes this as competence threatening. Insecure leaders feel threatened by confident team members who might expose their limitations or eventually re-

place them. Instead of selecting for talent, they select for loyalty and non threatening personalities. Think of it as a confidence drought that spreads outward from central leadership.

In Emperor Commodus's court, capable administrators were systematically replaced by flatterers and entertainers, accelerating Rome's decline. In contemporary Brazil, the Centrome political system. Institutionalizes this dynamic, where incompetent political appointees secure positions through personal connections rather than merit. African nations like Zimbabwe under leader Mugabe saw systematic replacement of capable administrators with partisan loyalists, devastating economic consequences following.

This creates what organizational scientists call homophily the tendency of individuals to associate with similar others. In power structures, this means incompetent leaders create islands of incompetence around themselves, insulated from conflicting viewpoints and constructive criticism.

Ask yourself, have you ever worked in an organization where asking questions was discouraged, where raising concerns was labeled as not being a team player. These are symptoms of this network effect in action.

Yet even knowing all this, we still find ourselves drawn to leaders who offer simplistic answers. This vulnerability helps explain why incompetence continues to thrive despite our best intentions.

THE COMFORT OF SIMPLICITY

Why do we often choose leaders who offer simple answers to complex problems? The answer lies in cognitive psychology and our fundamental need for certainty in an uncertain world. Genuine expertise is almost always accompanied by nuance. Real experts understand the limitations of their knowledge. They recognize complexity. They acknowledge trade-offs, but these intellectual virtues can be profoundly unsatisfying to our psychological needs.

"For the great majority of mankind are satisfied with ap-





Why Real Smart Moral People Are Not Leaders

pearances as though they were realities and are often more influenced by the things that seem than by those that are.” When Machiavelli wrote these words, he identified something fundamental about human psychology. We crave certainty even when certainty isn't possible or realistic. Consider what happens in times of crisis or uncertainty. People rarely rally behind the leader, who says this is a complex situation with no easy answers that will require careful thought and inevitable trade-offs. Instead, they follow the person confidently proclaiming, I alone can fix this. The solution is simple.

Look at how actual environmental scientists speak about climate change with careful caveats, ranges of possibilities and nuanced policy recommendations versus how popular figures on both sides frame the issue with absolute certainty.

The scientific approach, while intellectually honest, struggles to compete with the psychological comfort of simple narratives. Or consider healthcare debates. Actual medical experts acknowledge complex trade-offs in any system while political figures offer simplistic solutions that promise everything with no downsides. Which approach typically wins public support? The simple certain one, regardless of feasibility.

In a particularly jarring 2017 experiment, Yale researchers discovered something disturbing about how we process political information. When subjects were presented with mathematically complex policy problems and solutions, their ability to correctly interpret the data was directly affected by whether the results aligned with their political beliefs.

Even more striking, the most mathematically skilled participants showed the strongest bias using their intelligence not to reach the correct answer, but to justify their preferred conclusion. Cognitive psychologists call this cognitive closure, our desire for definite answers rather than continued ambiguity.

Studies show that when people feel threatened or uncertain, their need for cognitive closure increases dramatically. They become more receptive to black and white thinking and more willing to follow authoritarian leaders who project absolute certainty. This creates a dangerous dy-

namic. The more complex and frightening our world becomes, the more susceptible we become to simplistic thinking and the leaders who peddle it. It's like a psychological immune system failure. Precisely when we most need nuanced thinking, we become most vulnerable to intellectual shortcuts. Ask yourself. Have you ever found yourself drawn to an explanation precisely because it was simple and definitive? Even when part of you suspected the reality was more complex. That's this principle at work in your own mind.

While our psychological comfort with simplicity explains part of this dynamic, there's an even more troubling dimension to consider, one that reveals why intelligence alone doesn't guarantee effective resistance to manipulative power.

THE ETHICAL HANDICAP

Here's where Machiavelli becomes truly unsettling. He suggested that moral considerations often handicap intelligent people in power struggles. And what might be his most infamous passage, he wrote, “it is necessary for a Prince who wishes to maintain his position to learn how not to be good and to use this knowledge or not to use it according to necessity.”

While intelligent people typically develop more complex moral reasoning, this can actually impede their ability to compete for power against those unburdened by such considerations. In any competitive environment, the person willing to cross ethical lines has access to strategies that morally constrained competitors do not. They can make promises they have no intention of keeping. They can undermine rivals through deception. They can exploit fears and prejudices that others refuse to touch.

Consider the contrasting fates of Cicero versus Julius Caesar in ancient Rome. Cicero, brilliant and principled, ultimately lost the power struggle to Caesar, who had no qualms about crossing the Rubicon, literally and figuratively breaking norms, his opponents felt bound to respect. In modern context, we see ethical candidates struggling against opponents willing to employ deception and character assassination.

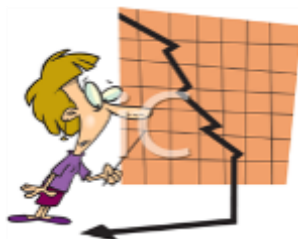
In organizational contexts, University of British Columbia researchers found that psychopathic traits like lack of em-



Why Real Smart Moral People Are Not Leaders



**What's Really Happening
in America and the World**



Financial Crisis Report II

pathy were positively associated with rapid advancement when combined with social charm. This pattern appears cross culturally from China's Shenu, ruthless businesswoman archetype, to Nordic companies, where studies show that despite cultural emphasis on collaboration, manipulative leaders often outpace their more ethical peers in advancement speed.

This creates what game theorists call a race to the bottom. When unethical tactics prove successful, others face pressure to adopt similar approaches or be left behind.

Over time this can transform entire systems, making unethical behavior the norm rather than the exception. Understanding these dark dynamics might make the situation seem hopeless. But not all environments equally reward incompetence and unethical behavior.

By recognizing which conditions favor stupidity and power, we can begin to design systems that select for genuine merit instead.

Hopefully, the designers of the coming AI systems will consider this when they program them.

D. Miyoshi

Trust and Estate Corner



My clients are always inquiring about wills, trusts and estates. Each publication of *Financial Crisis Report II* (Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World) will feature a simple factoid on Trusts and Estate Planning. For more information you may consult my website at www.miyoshilaw.com

Consider life insurance.

You can skip life insurance if you have no one to support or you have enough money saved to provide for your spouse. Otherwise, if you are the primary source of income for your family, you should consider buying enough life insurance coverage to meet your family's expenses when after you are gone.



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He is Managing Attorney of Miyoshi Law, an International Law Firm where he approaches legal issues through a commercial lens and is a trusted legal and business advisor to his corporate and estate clients. In military service in Vietnam, he led a Combined Action Platoon as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and received the Naval Commendation Medal with "Combat V".

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