

WHY ARE WE BROKE?

SO YOU'RE BROKE
YOU NEED TO READ THESE:



WHY ARE THESE WORLD POWERS BROKE?

WORLD POWERS THAT ARE
BROKE ENOUGH TO MAKE
YOU CAN FEEL RICH.



WHY ARE MILLENIALS BROKE?

MILLENIALS CAN'T AFFORD
TO SLEEP. HERE'S WHY.



WHY ARE YOU BROKE?

DO YOU SEEM TO NEVER
HAVE ANY MONEY AT THE
END OF THE MONTH AND
ALWAYS ASK YOURSELF, WHY
AM I BROKE?

#WAWB?

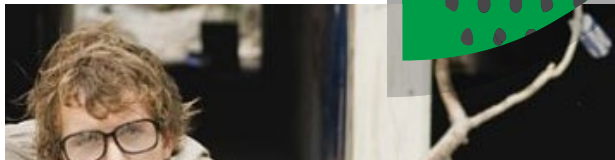
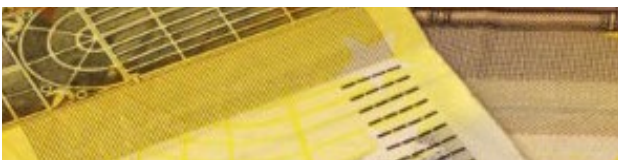
HOME MENU TIPS ABOUT



WHY ARE WE BROKE?

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WHY ARE THESE WORLD POWERS BROKE?

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ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CAN FEEL RICH

All is fair in love and war, or so they say. But when debt is under the spotlight, we look the other way. Could it be that academic bodies never emphasized the importance of home economics curriculum? Or is that we trust elected officials so much we forget to keep them in check?

Whatever the reason, most world powers are currently broke. But as governments borrow their way into further debt, we remain silent. So next time you share that Politico piece on how steep your share of the debt is, don't just hashtag the hell out of it. Get to work, because your politician of choice needs more dough to blow.

Here's a handy list of ten world superpowers who are just way too broke to stay afloat (yet they do, don't ask me how.)

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1 FRANCE

France's national debt has already surpassed the 2 trillion euro mark. Yes, that's trillion with a 'T.'

To some, it's puzzling to see the birthplace of enlightenment drowning in debt. In the decades to come, millions of French citizens will be scratching their heads as they sip on a glass of bordeaux, wondering why they're perpetually in the red.

2 GERMANY

The debt clock is ticking in the country famous for its citizens' love of beer, no wonder nobody cares! With its national debt nearing France's, German nationals are on the hook for \$27,364 each. With that kind of money, they could all get a new Volkswagen Käfer each. Too bad Germany is just too generous toward the European Union.

3 UNITED KINGDOM

To UK's Queen Elizabeth, mo' money doesn't necessarily mean mo' problems. With over \$2 trillion in debt, each UK citizen owes \$39,371, yet the country just can't get enough of its royal fam. So much so that a major chunk of UK revenue is devoted to keeping the royals' palaces in good shape. It sounds like the birthplace of liberalism has some 'splaining to do.

4 JAPAN

Japan has had its share of tragedy. After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the country had to find a way to make \$1.2 billion to cover [PDF] the damage costs. But as it stands, Yoko Ono's homeland owes over \$10 trillion, making each Japanese responsible for over \$79,000 of his country's national debt. That's enough cash to get the big guy to step down so the tot may win.

5 ISRAEL

Since its foundation, Israel has received over \$121 billion in aid from the United States. Unfortunately for over seven million Israelis, Uncle Sam's borrowed cash is not the answer to their government's problems.

According to Israeli officials, the government is over \$200 billion in the red. That means Israelis owe over \$28,000 each. For such a small country, debt that accounts for over 79 percent of its GDP sounds somewhat irresponsible.

Just imagine how heartbroken your parents would be if they learned you owe over \$350,000 to the bank while making a little over \$50,000 a year. Not cool.

6 CHINA

If China's debt had a face, it would look like David Hasselhoff's getting caught drunk.

Currently, the People's Republic of China owes over \$5 trillion. But do not fret. China is so populous, each individual Chinese owes only a little over \$3,000 each. I wonder how many decades of sweatshop work they must put in to get that kind of bill paid.

7 BRAZIL

The US may have Hollywood, but Brazil has Copacabana—and its tanned goddesses in tiny bikinis. But what the US has that Brazil does not is a strong military presence everywhere in the world. Now, I know what you're thinking. "How in the world did Brazil make it to this list of world powers?" Thing is, I have no idea.

Back to the debt. The country where soccer and drug lords rule is the same country with over \$1 trillion in debt. Without having to foot any major national defense bills, one must wonder where all that money is going. Fighting an imaginary enemy, maybe?

8 ITALY

Italians love meatballs and spaghetti, but what you may not know is that they also love to drown in debt. With pensions eating up their revenue, Italy's debt has reached the \$2,5 trillion mark, making it one of the most interesting countries in this list. Not because it keeps its promises, though. Instead, it might just go bankrupt pretending it does.

9 RUSSIA

All I'm going to say about Russia's comparatively small debt is that...oh my God, is that a puppy!?

10 UNITED STATES

Let's face it, the United States of America is deep in debt. Things are so bad that the country is not even done paying for World War I, how can it even think about starting a new war with Iran!?

Over \$18 trillion in the red, the US doesn't even have enough to pay for Bo's curlers. I heard Obama pays the first dog groomers in selfies. Not bad!

<https://voicesofliberty.com/2015/08/21/10-world-powers-that-are-totally-broke/>

WHY ARE MILLENIALS BROKE?

MILLENIALS CAN'T AFFORD TO SLEEP, HERES WHY.



The millennials landed on the job market at a miserable moment in economic history. On the upside, that should give us something to lord over our children when we're middle-aged and cranky. On the downside, our poor timing will probably depress our incomes for some time to come, since graduating into a recession can drag down your earnings for years.

One-third of New Yorkers between the ages of 23 and 29 have bachelor's degrees but still work in low-wage jobs — 10 percent more than in 2000, city Comptroller Scott Stringer says in a new survey.

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The report, which compared the wages of 20-somethings in 2000 and 2014, found that the average income of young workers has plunged over that period.

In 2000, the average 23-year-old made \$27,700 a year. By 2014, it was down to \$23,500.

The income of the average 29-year-old also fell, from \$56,000 to \$50,300.

Young people working in arts and entertainment were hit the hardest, with their pay down 26 percent.

Those with jobs in food service, hospitality and retail were also forced to pinch pennies, as their wages dived 16 percent.

Stringer chalked up the depressing statistics to timing, saying many young people graduated from college just as the economy was collapsing.

"Millennials were applying for jobs in the most difficult economic climate since the Great Depression and, as a result, a growing number are now working in low-wage industries and earning less than their predecessors," Stringer said.

"This group of young people is confronting unique economic challenges that their parents did not have to face," he added. "Every generation is expected to do better than the last, but too many millennials are not getting a fair chance to make it in New York City."

The report comes as the number of 20-somethings in New York skyrockets.

The percentage of the city's population made up of that age bracket jumped from 10 to 19 percent between 2000 and 2014.

A study last year by the Center for American Progress produced similar disheartening findings nationwide.

The study found that 30-year-olds today make about as much as a 30-year-old would have earned in 1984, around \$19.30 an hour.



“This group of young people is confronting unique economic challenges that their parents did not have to face”

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WHY ARE YOU BROKE?

DO YOU SEEM TO NEVER HAVE ANY MONEY AT THE END OF THE MONTH AND ALWAYS ASK YOURSELF, WHY AM I BROKE?



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1 You have an active social life. Sorry, but leaving your apartment will almost always result in you spending money. Why is this surprising? That's why most socialites are rich. Because it costs money to go out to dinner, go to a bar, spend enough money to get drunk, and take a cab home. You know what doesn't cost any money though? Staying home and feeling things. Emotions are always free!

2 You pay five dollars for a coffee every single day because you don't "do" drip and you need your coffee beans to always be fair-trade organic orgasmic.

3 You don't drink at home. Or you know what? You drink period. Every "broke" person always miraculously has enough money to drink. They'll be talking about their dire financial situation at the bar as they order their fifth drink, "It's really bad, sweetie. Like, I seriously don't know how I'm going to make it till my next paycheck. (TO THE BARTENDER) I'll take another shot. No, not Jim Beam, ew. Makers! So, anyway, I'm totally going to apply to food stamps tomorrow..."

4 Online shopping. It's the sole reason why some of people haven't moved out of their parents house yet.

5 You have an iPhone. I don't care if you were eligible for an upgrade. It still cost you a pretty penny. Everyone has an iPhone these days. When did a \$500 phone become a necessary expense?

6 You suffer from amnesia. On payday, you always go buck wild and forget that you will actually need to eat and live the last week before your next paycheck. For some reason, that doesn't register in your mind. You are strictly living and spending for today. Does a small part of you think you're going to die before you receive your next paycheck and, thus, relieve you from the sheer cost of living? Is that why you just spent \$20 on granola? Because you think you're going to DIE?

7 You still say "yes" to attending birthday dinners. You fool.

8 BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN AMERICA AND YOU'RE A CONSUMER AND YOU'RE IN CREDIT CARD DEBT BECAUSE YOU HAD TO BUY NEW WORK PANTS AT H & M.

9 Because you're in a relationship and loving someone is expensive.

10 Because you're single and need to pay for a gym membership and buy the right pair of jeans that makes your ass look good so you can increase your chances of someone finding you attractive.

11 You live in New York. Go live anywhere else and live like a king, why don't you?! People who live here don't get to complain about being broke. We revoked that right the second we paid a brokers fee.

12 Your student loans prevent you from ever not being on the verge of financial ruin.

13 You're a girl. Girls have to spend so much money on things that men don't like make up or tampons. It blows my mind that tampons cost money. Like, I'm sorry I was born a woman and, thus, have to bleed once a month. Really, truly sorry. But it's not my fault so why are you making me give you money? Women should be paid money to endure periods, not the other way around.

14 You're unemployed and a mysterious benefactor is not paying you to live comfortably. SHOCKER.

15 You go to the movies. Stop that. Stop living so luxuriously. If I see someone at the movies, I automatically assume they're a millionaire



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TIPS

WANT TO STOP BEING BROKE? HERE'S HOW:

Do you seem to never have any money at the end of the month and always ask yourself, why am I broke? Here are 14 possible reasons why and how to fix them.

There is a difference between broke and poor. Poor means you don't make enough to cover all of your necessities. Broke means you can cover the necessities but never have enough money to save or pay down debt. If the latter describes you, here are some reasons why you're broke. Stop asking yourself why am I broke and start fixing the issues before they make you poor.

1 You're Lazy

Well, stop being lazy! I know certain things are a pain but they won't kill you. Being lazy in this way is a bad mind set and it will work against you when you're trying to make good financial decisions.

Now I take out more money each ATM trip so I have to go less often. Cash doesn't burn a hole in my pocket so having some extra around doesn't mean I spend it more. I still spend it on only the things I need cash for.

Maybe part of the reason you send out laundry is because you let it pile up and it seems overwhelming to do it all at once. So don't let it go for so long. Schedule it like you would anything that has to get done and do it!

2 Your Socializing Is Expensive

Cut back a little. You can decline an invitation once in awhile without alienating people. Offer to host a get together. Have a pot luck or just invite a few people over for pizza and beer. Neither option is free but both are bound to be cheaper than going out.

Try also to not make every outing revolve around food and drink. Meeting for dinner or at the bar are just kind of default options but spend a few minutes thinking of alternatives. Meet at a museum, the zoo, a walk in the park. If you do live in an urban area, search the web for free events in your city. There are pages of results if you do that for NYC. In October I'm going to a Renaissance Fair. It's cheesy but fun and it only costs \$1 to get in.

3 You're A Brand Slave

Only buy the brand name if there is an appreciable difference. Over the counter drugs are a good place to save by buying an off brand. Some store brands are markedly cheaper and the FDA requires them to be chemically identical to the name brands. The name brands are more expensive because of the research and development costs in making the product and the advertising money spent to promote them.

Sometimes the store brand is better anyway. Whole Foods' brand of almond butter is cheaper than the name brands and has nothing in it but almonds while some of the name brands contain weird oils and various types of sugar they try to hide under one of its 57 different names.

4 You're Penny Wise & Pound Foolish

Look at the bigger picture. You did well to save on your grocery bill but it doesn't give you a licence to be careless in other areas. Approach spending larger amounts the same way you approach spending small amounts.

5 You're Pound Wise & Penny Foolish

You might not even notice you do this because the amounts you're spending this way are pretty small. Even if you do notice, you don't think much of it again, because it's only a few dollars at a time. But little things add up too. And they add up faster for broke ass people of which you are one.

Another reason these small amounts are easy to miss is because often times we use cash for them. It hardly seems worth getting out your credit card (which you probably are not paying in full every month) for \$2.34 when you have a ten dollar bill in your wallet. So if you are tracking spending in Mint or something similar, those cash transactions aren't showing up.

Give yourself a cash allowance for the week that you do track in your budget so you can see where it's going. Once you know, you can be more mindful of how these small amounts are adding up.

6 You're Disorganized

Life is more expensive when you're disorganized. That duvet is in the house. It's buried under some camping equipment and clothes that you culled from your closet but never got around to donating.

You have a spot on your kitchen counter where you toss the mail when you come in from work and the forgotten cable bill is at the bottom of the pile.

Get it together! Clean out one closet or drawer a week until the whole house is done. You'll be amazed at how much lighter you feel once all that stuff is gone.

Set up automatic bill pay through your bank. If you don't feel comfortable with that, at least set up an alert on your phone for a few days before a bill is due. A lot of billing dates can be changed too. Call up as many as you can and ask that the due dates be changed to the same day. If that will leave you with too little cash, change the dates to two different dates that coincide with when you get paid. There's no reason you have to be paying bills every few days.

7 You Stick Your Head In The Sand

This is no joke. It's scary, I know it is. But I promise, you will feel better when you have a clearer picture of your situation. To drift is Hell, to steer, Heaven. You will feel better because you will be able to make a plan to fix this. And having a plan and taking action on it will give you relief.

8 You Spend What You Expect To Make

Pretend that tomorrow may never come. Not in the sense that you won't wake up. That will make you spend more money! But in the sense that you may not get a big raise at your next review or your company stock options may never be worth anything or gasp! that you may never actually win the lottery.

Spend based on what you make right now, not what you think you might make one day soon or worse, think that you rightly deserve.

9 You're Too Cheap!

Instead of being cheap, be frugal. A frugal person doesn't always choose the cheapest option. When they decide to spend money, they choose the best option they can afford. If you need a new can opener, you don't have to buy the diamond studded one, but you shouldn't buy the one at the dollar store either because it won't last.

10 You Drive Everywhere

I know not everyone has public transit or even sidewalks. But some of you who drive everywhere do. And some of you are capable of riding a bike. You don't have to ride or walk everywhere or in terrible weather but you don't have to drive everywhere either.

Make a list of all the trips you take in your car for one week. Now look at the list and see if there is even just one trip you could make on public transit or by walking or biking. Walking and biking are pleasurable. The really are. And if you are one of those people who claims you don't have time to exercise, doing so can help you kill two birds at once.

11 You Love A Good Sale

If you buy something for \$3 that was reduced from \$5 how much have you saved, \$2? Maybe. Is that thing something you needed? If it was, you did indeed save \$2. If it was something you didn't need, how much did you save? Nothing, you saved nothing! You spent \$5.

A sale is like the Siren's Song to some people and they will buy a thing that's on sale no matter if they need it or not. Stop doing this. If there is a sale on something you use, by all means, stock up. But ask yourself if you do need it or if you just want that little charge of "saving money" or "getting a good deal."

12 You Buy As Needed

Buy in bulk! Poor people often can't afford to do this. They only have the money to replace things when they run out completely. But you aren't poor, you're just broke. This is partly why. Buying one of something is usually more expensive than buying several of them.

My local gross store currently has a really cheap, drug, single ply brand of toilet roll on sale for .50 a roll. They have 12 rolls of really nice toilet roll on sale for \$4.99. So the nicer one comes out to .42 per roll. You get a better product at a cheaper price when you buy in larger quantities.

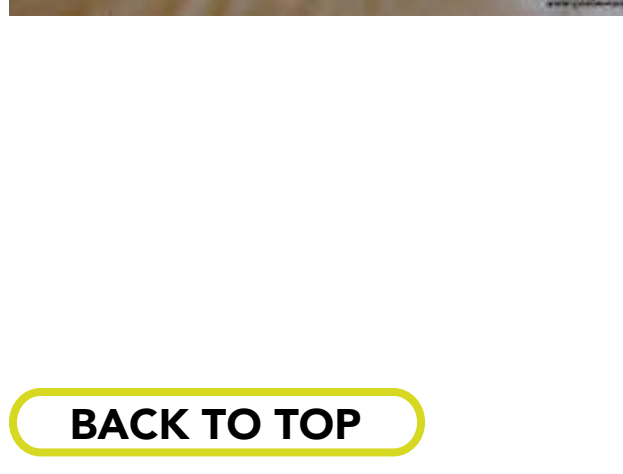
13 All Or Nothing

Perfect is not the enemy of good. You will mess up because we're humans and not robots. It's okay to mess up. What's not okay is to mess up and then throw your hands up in defeat. You messed up today but you can and you will do better tomorrow.

14 You Have No Emergency Fund

There are lots of lofty numbers to aspire to when saving for an emergency fund, three months of expenses, six months, \$25,000. But you're broke so those numbers are out of reach right now.

But remember, you are not poor. So you're going to scrimp, save and cut back until you have \$1000 to set aside as your emergency fund. That amount is not out of reach for a broke person, you just have to start doing a few of the fixes on this list that you haven't been doing. You'll have your emergency fund in no time so you can stop using your credit card for emergencies. Remember, debt is an emergency too.



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