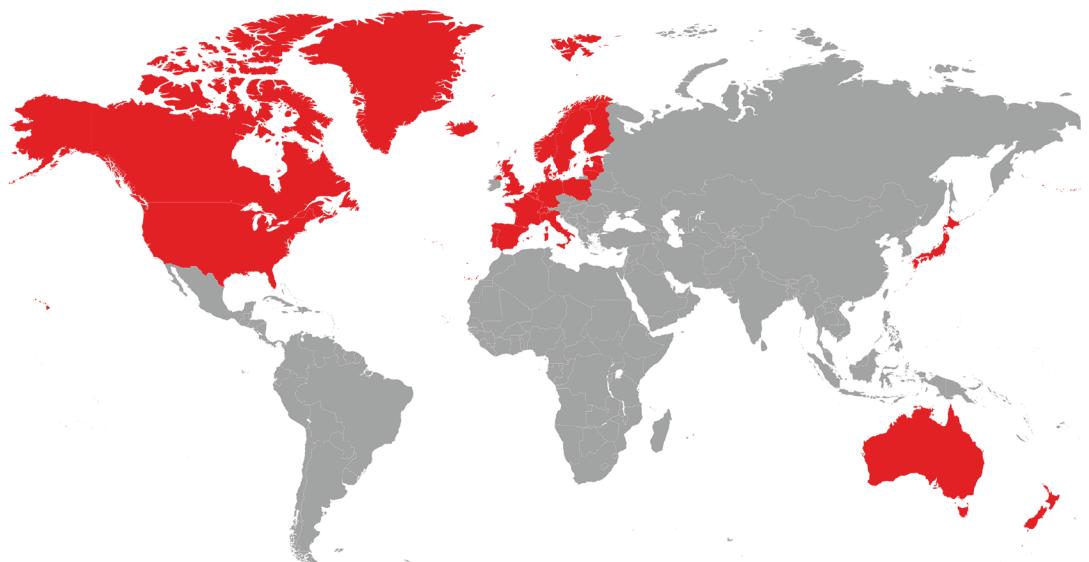


WHY THE WEST CAN'T WIN



From Bretton Woods to a Multipolar World

FADI LAMA

Praise for WHY THE WEST CAN'T WIN

“A must read. One of the best primers on the economic forces shaping modern geopolitics. A no-filler, unrelenting assault of facts and figures which expose the main reasons for the West’s decline and its eventual fading into economic, military and cultural mediocrity, if not irrelevance.”

ANDREI MARTYANOV, Author, *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning*

“With this book, *Why the West Can't Win*, Fadi Lama has presented an extraordinary insight into the history and present-day nature of the financial oligarchy, of what he accurately calls ‘the Money Power.’ He strips away the usual façade of what passes for political analysis and introduces the reader to the actual nature of how nations and governments have been made the servants of an imperial financial system. It is a thorough and well-documented work. Very unsettling and thought-provoking.”

ROBERT INGRAHAM, Author, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire*, and former Editor, *Executive Intelligence Review*

“Author Fadi Lama explains the rise of the Western Money Power in controlling governments and societies worldwide and how it secured U.S. dollar dominance through the neocolonialist policies established at Bretton Woods in 1944. Now, the non-Western world, led by China, is using state-controlled central banking to surpass the West in industrial productivity. The author has provided a brilliantly detailed analysis of the epochal forces that are dictating today’s massive shift in world geopolitical power.”

RICHARD C. COOK, former Treasury analyst and Challenger whistleblower; Author, *We Hold These Truths: The Hope of Monetary Reform*

“An ambitious book that concisely covers a wide range of factors shaping today’s geopolitical conflict. Lama traces a clear narrative from the colonial era through the Cold War and into the present day of how the Western world has striven to perpetuate a global order based on its dominance, and projects how he sees the international system evolving as this order faces growing challenges.”

A. B. ABRAMS, Author, *World War in Syria and Immovable Object: North Korea's 70 Years At War with American Power*

WHY THE WEST CAN'T WIN

From Bretton Woods to a Multipolar World

FADI LAMA



Clarity Press, Inc.

© 2023 Fadi Lama

ISBN: 978-1-949762-74-7

EBOOK ISBN: 978-1-949762-75-4

In-house editor: Diana G. Collier

Book design: Becky Luening

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED: Except for purposes of review, this book may not be copied, or stored in any information retrieval system, in whole or in part, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Clarity Press, Inc.
2625 Piedmont Rd. NE, Ste. 56
Atlanta, GA 30324, USA
<https://www.claritypress.com>

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Diana Collier for her challenging comments, for the long discussions and the occasional disagreements, which altogether contributed significantly to this work.

Fadi Lama

Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| LIST OF FIGURES | xii |
| LIST OF TABLES | xv |
| LIST OF PHOTOS | xvi |
| INTRODUCTION | xvii |
| CHAPTER 1. A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE | 1 |
| Bretton Woods: From Military to Financial Colonialism | 2 |
| Pseudo-Independence vs. Independence: India vs. China. | 5 |
| CHAPTER 2. THE RISE OF THE EAST | 8 |
| The Fallacy of Recent Western GDP Data | 9 |
| The Fading of the American Dream. | 14 |
| From the American Dream to the American Way of Life. | 16 |
| The Emergence of the Chinese Dream | 16 |
| CHAPTER 3. ENERGY: THE LIFELINE OF NATIONS | 18 |
| Energy: A Reliable Economic Indicator. | 20 |
| Energy Sources | 22 |
| <i>Nuclear</i> | 22 |
| <i>Hydroelectric</i> | 22 |
| <i>Oil</i> | 22 |
| <i>Gas</i> | 23 |
| <i>Renewables</i> | 23 |
| The Nuclear Energy Monopoly | 23 |
| <i>The Fukushima accident</i> | 25 |
| Oil Pricing | 31 |
| <i>The myth of price as a function of supply and demand.</i> | 31 |
| <i>1973–1982: Oil replaces gold as backing for the U.S. Dollar</i> | 32 |
| <i>Oil pricing as a geostrategic tool.</i> | 35 |

| | |
|--|----|
| CHAPTER 4. MONEY POWER | 37 |
| The Rise of Money Power. | 38 |
| <i>The Bank of Venice</i> | 41 |
| <i>Amsterdam Exchange Bank</i> | 41 |
| <i>The Central Bank of Sweden (Sveriges Riksbank)</i> | 42 |
| <i>The Bank of England</i> | 42 |
| <i>The Bank of France</i> | 42 |
| <i>German Central Bank (Reichsbank)</i> | 44 |
| <i>The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the Central Bank of Central Banks</i> | 45 |
| Democracy: The Preferred Political System for the Money Powers . . . | 45 |
| <i>Elections</i> | 45 |
| <i>Wealth inequality and the problematic of the Gini Coefficient</i> | 47 |
| The Sovereign vs. the Money Powers. | 49 |
| The Supremacy of the Money Powers | 51 |
| Free Trade Cosmopolitanism and Globalization | 56 |
| CHAPTER 5. THE NIXON SHOCK & BRETON WOODS II | 58 |
| The Neoliberal Vulture Economy | 60 |
| Healthcare | 69 |
| The Fallacy of Per Capita Income as an Indicator of Social Affluence . | 71 |
| Wealth Concentration | 72 |
| Education | 75 |
| Ballooning National Debt | 76 |
| Currency and Interest Rate Manipulation | 78 |
| The Latin American Debt Crisis: The Money Powers at Work | 85 |
| <i>Economic hit men: Trapping countries into debt</i> | 86 |
| <i>The Federal Reserve pulls the trigger</i> | 87 |
| <i>Going for the kill: Banks reclaim the debts</i> | 88 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| CHAPTER 6. THE PRIMORDIAL ROLE OF GEOPOLITICS IN DEVELOPMENT | 90 |
| Japan. | 90 |
| <i>Factors contributing to Japan's high growth period</i> | 92 |
| <i>Reining in Japan: The return of the Unequal Treaties</i> | 94 |
| <i>The BIS cuts Japan back to size.</i> | 96 |
| <i>Japan's fortunes in lockstep with geopolitical developments.</i> | 100 |
| The Asian Tigers. | 103 |
| <i>Economic development</i> | 104 |
| <i>Geopolitical context.</i> | 105 |
| <i>South Korea: Killing a tiger</i> | 107 |
| The Path to Sustainable Development. | 112 |
| Why National Socialism is Demonized | 116 |
| CHAPTER 7. FREE WORLD VALUES | 122 |
| Post–World War II Japan: The Kishi Clan Fiefdom. | 122 |
| Manchukuo's Economic Miracle | 123 |
| <i>Slave labor and sex slaves</i> | 123 |
| <i>Terrorism, drugs, organized crime, and money laundering.</i> | 124 |
| <i>Racism and sexism</i> | 124 |
| Manchukuo's Biological Miracle: Unit 731. | 124 |
| Metamorphosis: The Monster of Shōwa to Great Leader of the Free World | 128 |
| The Crusader Core of Western Civilization | 129 |
| The Free World and the International Community | 136 |
| <i>The historical conformity of Free World civilizational values</i> | 137 |
| <i>Spain and the genocide of the Aztecs and Incas</i> | 138 |
| <i>Belgium's genocide in the Congo</i> | 139 |
| <i>Great Britain in Kenya</i> | 141 |
| <i>Islamic, Russian and Chinese Empires</i> | 142 |
| The Money Powers' Grip on Humanity | 148 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| CHAPTER 8. THE GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICT: SUSTAINING THE UNSUSTAINABLE | 149 |
| Bretton Woods or No Bretton Woods | 150 |
| Geostrategies | 152 |
| <i>The Empire's geostrategy: Control of energy resources</i> | 153 |
| The Empire's Geostrategic Instruments | 155 |
| <i>The Bretton Woods Institutions</i> | 155 |
| <i>Virtual reality</i> | 156 |
| <i>Military supremacy</i> | 161 |
| <i>The military reality</i> | 163 |
| <i>Dystopic political military leadership</i> | 170 |
| Russia/Iran/China Geostrategy: Development and Defense | 172 |
| <i>Highlights of the RIC countries' historical relations with the West</i> | 172 |
| <i>RIC progress</i> | 182 |
| <i>RIC geostrategy: Economic defense</i> | 182 |
| <i>RIC geostrategy: Military defense</i> | 191 |
| CHAPTER 9. THE WEST IMPLEMENTS ITS GEOSTRATEGIC PLANS | 203 |
| Plan A: Direct Military Intervention | 203 |
| Plan B: Proxy Wars | 206 |
| Plan C: The Creation of Two Separate Worlds | 208 |
| <i>RICophobia: The West's ideological basis for the two worlds</i> | 210 |
| <i>Engineering the global economic crash</i> | 215 |
| <i>Bretton Woods to the rescue.</i> | 227 |
| <i>Hedge funds: The four horsemen of the global crisis.</i> | 227 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| CHAPTER 10. THE END OF EMPIRE | 231 |
| What Future for the Two Worlds? | 231 |
| A Systemic Analysis of the Empire's Power | 232 |
| <i>The Bretton Woods institutions</i> | 233 |
| <i>Virtual reality instruments</i> | 235 |
| <i>Military supremacy</i> | 236 |
| <i>Key performance indicator: Control of the global energy reserves</i> . . | 237 |
| <i>Evaluating sovereign world power trends</i> | 239 |
| The RIC Project for a Sovereign Fair World | 240 |
| The Future of the Sovereign World | 242 |
| The Future of the Western Realm | 244 |
| The Unthinkable is Still Unthinkable | 247 |
| The Endgame for the Money Powers | 248 |
| ENDNOTES | 250 |
| INDEX. | 335 |

List of Figures

| | |
|--|----|
| FIGURE 1. Historic World Population Distribution | 1 |
| FIGURE 2. Historic World GDP Distribution | 1 |
| FIGURE 3. China and India % of Global GDP. | 5 |
| FIGURE 4. 1950 East vs. West GDP | 8 |
| FIGURE 5. 2016 East vs. West GDP | 9 |
| FIGURE 6. 2016 East vs. West Real Goods Production | 10 |
| FIGURE 7. Real Goods and Services Sectors of the U.S. Economy 1947–2009. | 12 |
| FIGURE 8. Manufacturing and FIRE Sectors of the U.S. Economy 1947–2009. | 12 |
| FIGURE 9. Individuals Receiving Food Stamps (Trivisonno) | 14 |
| FIGURE 10. U.S. Goods Trade Surplus: Five-year Cumulative 1935–1974. | 15 |
| FIGURE 11. U.S. Goods Trade Surplus: Five-year Cumulative 1974–2019. | 15 |
| FIGURE 12. China’s Nominal GDP 1960 to 2021 | 16 |
| FIGURE 13. China’s GDP by Sector | 17 |
| FIGURE 14. World’s Goods Production vs. World’s Energy Consumption 1976–2016 | 18 |
| FIGURE 15. Electricity Generation 1991–2020 | 20 |
| FIGURE 16. Electricity Generation Growth Rates | 21 |
| FIGURE 17. Share of Nuclear Energy Production | 24 |
| FIGURE 18. Deaths per TWh (terawatt hour) by Energy Source. | 25 |
| FIGURE 19. Oil Price, 1972–2020 | 31 |
| FIGURE 20. World Fuel Imports as a Percent of Merchandise Imports. | 33 |
| FIGURE 21. Oil Imports by Countries Other than the U.S. vs. U.S. Trade Deficit – 1970 to 2016 | 34 |

| | |
|--|----|
| FIGURE 22. Oil Imports of Other Countries vs. U.S. Trade Deficit – 1985 to 2016 | 35 |
| FIGURE 23. USSR: Oil Exports and Revenue vs. 1980 Data | 35 |
| FIGURE 24. Russia: Oil Exports and Revenue vs. 2014 Data | 36 |
| FIGURE 25. Wealth Inequality throughout History (Smithsonian Institute) | 46 |
| FIGURE 26. U.S. Top 0.1% Wealth Share 1913–2012 (Saez & Zucman) | 61 |
| FIGURE 27. Manufacturing and FIRE Sectors of U.S. Economy 1947–2009 | 63 |
| FIGURE 28. Manufacturing and FIRE + Professional Business Services 1947–2009 | 64 |
| FIGURE 29. U.S. Productivity and Median Family Income | 65 |
| FIGURE 30. U.S. State and Federal Prison Population 1925–2012 | 67 |
| FIGURE 31. U.S. Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths 1970–2007 | 68 |
| FIGURE 32. U.S. Healthcare Expenditures 1960–2020 | 69 |
| FIGURE 33. U.S. Healthcare Expenditures as a Percent of GDP 1960–2020 | 70 |
| FIGURE 34. Healthcare Expenditures, GDP and Wages, 1968–2020 | 70 |
| FIGURE 35. Decomposing the Top 1% (Saez & Zucman) | 73 |
| FIGURE 36. U.S. National Debt 1960 to 2020 | 76 |
| FIGURE 37. USD vs. RUB | 81 |
| FIGURE 38. RUB Depreciation after March 18, 2014 | 81 |
| FIGURE 39. Currency Crashes 1800–2006 (Reinhart & Rogoff) | 83 |
| FIGURE 40. Silver Content of 10 Currencies (Reinhart & Rogoff) | 84 |
| FIGURE 41. Federal Reserve Interest Rate Jan. 1975–Jan. 1984 | 87 |
| FIGURE 42. Net Resource Transfer to Latin America (Ocampo) | 88 |
| FIGURE 43. ¥ vs. \$ Appreciation from Kissinger China visit to Basel Accord | 94 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| FIGURE 44. Nikkei 225 Index Up to Basel Accord | 99 |
| FIGURE 45. Nikkei 225 Index from Basel Accord Signature to Enforcement | 99 |
| FIGURE 46. Nikkei 225 Index from Basel Accord to July 2018 | 100 |
| FIGURE 47. Japan: Real Rate of Return and Geopolitical Events | 102 |
| FIGURE 48. Cuba Annual Growth Rate and PCI, 1970–2020 | 115 |
| FIGURE 49. U.S. Picks Up Where Unit 731 Left Off | 129 |
| FIGURE 50. The “International Community” | 137 |
| FIGURE 51. Per Capita Consumption of Energy and Goods | 149 |
| FIGURE 52. Military Spending, 2020 | 161 |
| FIGURE 53. Military Spending G-7 versus RIC | 162 |
| FIGURE 54. Free World Map of Decolonized Russia | 173 |
| FIGURE 55. U.S. Bases around Iran, 2012 | 192 |
| FIGURE 56. U.S. Bases around China | 200 |
| FIGURE 57. U.S. Views toward China, 2005–2020 | 211 |
| FIGURE 58. EUR to RUB Exchange Rate, February 16 to September 13, 2022 | 216 |
| FIGURE 59. Global Upstream Investments in Oil and Gas | 220 |
| FIGURE 60. World Energy Consumption in Billions of Tons Oil Equivalent | 221 |

List of Tables

| | |
|--|-----|
| TABLE 1. Top Exporters of Liner Goods by Value, 2007 (Billion USD) | 11 |
| TABLE 2. Top Exporters of Containerized Cargo, 2007 (Million TEU). | 11 |
| TABLE 3. Energy Types, Prices, and Growth Rates 1973 and 2020. | 22 |
| TABLE 4. Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant | 28 |
| TABLE 5. Russia and United States Financial Comparison | 79 |
| Table 6. Russia and United States Ratings Comparison | 80 |
| TABLE 7. Real Economies of Selected Countries | 113 |
| TABLE 8. Chinese vs. European Maritime Expeditions | 147 |
| TABLE 9. A Sample of Leading Hedge Fund Ownership in Media Corporations | 157 |
| TABLE 10. Hedge Funds Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street and T. Rowe Price Wwnership in Largest U.S. banks | 228 |
| TABLE 11. Top Ten Natural Gas and Oil Reserves at End of 2020. | 238 |

List of Photos

| | |
|---|-----|
| PHOTO 1. Congolese with Chopped Limbs | 141 |
| PHOTO 2. British and U.S. Navy Sailors Surrender to Iranian Navy, June 2004 | 194 |
| PHOTO 3. Iran Captures U.S. Drone, December 2011. | 194 |
| PHOTO 4. U.S. Navy Sailors Surrender to Iranian Navy, June 2016 | 195 |
| PHOTO 5. Iran Shoots Down U.S. Drone, June 2019 | 195 |
| PHOTOS 6a+6b. Before and After Satellite Photos of Area in U.S. Ain al-Assad Air Base, January 2020 | 196 |
| PHOTO 7. Image Analysis of Satellite Photo of Attack on Ain al-Assad Air Base, January 2020 | 196 |
| PHOTOS 8a+8b. Kabul Airport, August 16, 2021 | 205 |
| a. Afghans on Runway | |
| b. Afghans Falling to Their Deaths from the Plane | |
| PHOTO 9. Brzezinski with “Freedom Fighter” Bin Laden, 2008 . | 206 |
| PHOTO 10. In Time-honored Colonialist Tradition: U.S. Stealing Syrian oil. | 207 |
| PHOTO 11. <i>Four Horsemen</i> , Viktor Mikhailovich Vasnetsov, St. Vladimir’s Cathedral, Kiev, 1887 | 230 |

Introduction

Geopolitical upheaval has gripped the world since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

During the 1990s, the West's geostrategic focus was on eliminating the potential for resurgence of Russia as a great power; dual political and economic approaches were adopted.

Politically, it addressed in particular Russia's historical sphere of influence in East Europe, the Caucasus, and the newly created Central Asian republics. This led to the assimilation of the Warsaw Pact countries into NATO, two Chechen wars, and the alignment of the political systems of Central Asian republics with the West.

Economic destruction was managed by the 'Harvard boys' shock therapy,¹ which has been referred to as 'economic genocide,'² which left Russian resources in the control of a few oligarchs aligned with the West.

By the end of the 1990s, Russia was a weak, bankrupt country of marginal influence in the world. The status of Russia at the turn of the millennium was best summarized by Jeffrey Tayler in 2001:

Internal contradictions in Russia's thousand-year history have destined it to shrink demographically, weaken economically and, possibly, disintegrate territorially. The drama is coming to a close, and within a few decades Russia will concern the rest of the world no more than any Third World country with abundant resources, an impoverished people, and a corrupt government. In short, as a Great Power, Russia is finished.³

After having 'finished' Russia, the focus turned to China as a potential challenger to Western global hegemony. Insofar as energy is the lifeline of nations, and China being energy deficient, it was thought that the ability to control global energy resources, sea lanes and choke points to China would prevent China from challenging Western global hegemony. Hence, the West's first two decades of the millennium were focused on

controlling West Asian and North African energy resources and dominating the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el Mandeb choke points.

This work analyses the geopolitical struggle since the fall of the USSR with a view to providing insight into its endgame. Geopolitical analysis necessitates an historic overview, an understanding of the financial systems established at the Bretton Woods conference that continue to dominate the global economy, and how these financial systems are used as a powerful geopolitical instrument. It also requires an economic analysis based on real goods production, global energy dynamics, and the alliances and strategies of key global players.

In this work, the world is divided into two geopolitical groups:

- Western Europe and their outgrowths in North America, Australia, and New Zealand
- Russia, Iran, and China, the sovereigntist opponents of Western hegemony, as well as the Global South

For most, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 signaled the defeat of communism and victory of the Free World. Some were so euphoric as to declare it the end of history, as Francis Fukayama did, in his then-celebrated 1992 work, *The End of History and the Last Man*. As will be shown in this work, events in the three decades that followed the fall of the Soviet Union proved them only partially correct; it signaled the end of a millennium of history, dating back to the First Crusade. That millennium had been one of West European expansionism, plundering and oppression initially labeled Crusades when popes embodied political power, morphing into colonialism when papal powers diminished, to Free World when colonialism went out of fashion post-World War II, to the present ‘International Community’ after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The current global geopolitical clash is in essence a struggle between the colonial powers wishing to preserve the Bretton Woods system that facilitates siphoning the wealth of nations and sovereign nations striving for independence and an end to a millennium of their oppression.

CHAPTER 1

A Historical Perspective

As is apparent from the figures below, in the year 1500 prior to colonization, GDP and population distribution were in equilibrium, with 80% of the world's population accounting for 80% of global GDP and 20% of its population accounting for 20% of global GDP.

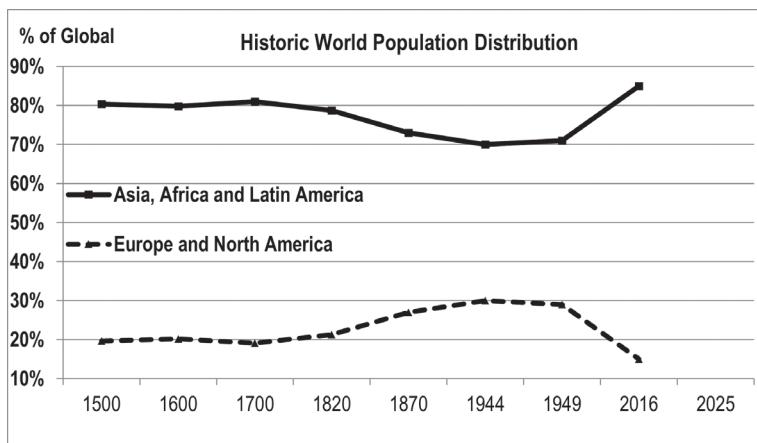


FIGURE 1. Historic World Population Distribution¹

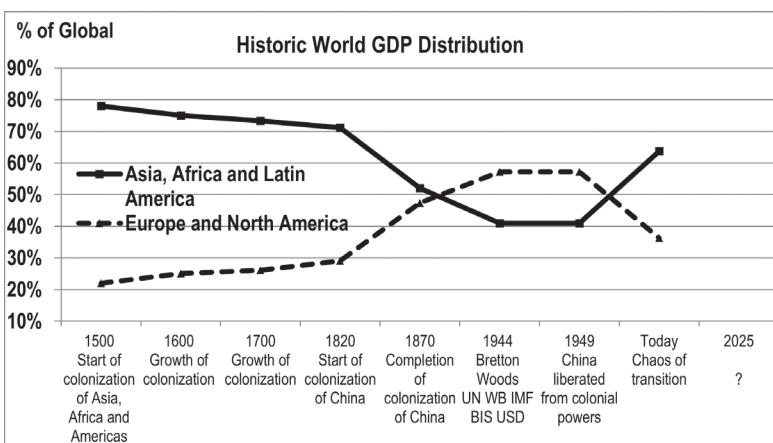


FIGURE 2. Historic World GDP Distribution²

This is a reflection of a “fair world order,” with equivalent economic development taking place globally. India and China, each accounting for about 25% of world population, enjoyed a corresponding 25% of global wealth generation.

The imbalance between population and wealth started with colonization, as wealth was siphoned off from the colonized to the colonial powers. As can be noted in Figure 2, growth in the GDP of colonialist countries as percent of global GDP started with colonization in the years following 1500 and accelerated with the colonization of China after the Opium Wars. Colonialist GDP reached its peak during World War II, at which time the West accounted for only 30% of the global population but 60% of global GDP.

While the decline of Western GDP as a percent of global GDP started with the liberation of China in 1949, the colonial powers were far from oblivious to the ramifications of a post-colonial world. UK Prime Minister Edward Heath noted that the reason for joining EU in 1973 was “because the UK could no longer rely on its special relationship with its former colonies to ensure prosperity”³ As French President Jacques Chirac would observe in 2008: “Without Africa, France will slide down into the rank of a third [world] power.”⁴

During WWII, at peak colonial power,⁵ the Bretton Woods conference established the financial and monetary architecture for the post-World War II era, a framework which has controlled the global economy for eight decades and proved more effective than colonial armies in extracting wealth from Global South nations.

BRETTON WOODS: FROM MILITARY TO FINANCIAL COLONIALISM

Post-World War II, decolonization was imposed by the U.S. on the major European colonialist countries, allowing it to tap into the resources and markets of their former colonies.

Most European colonies were ‘granted independence’ with a view to shaping their inevitable achievement of it in the colonial powers’ interest. Only a handful of colonized nations gained their independence

by militarily means, namely Algeria, China, Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam. Where independence was ‘granted’ rather than ‘gained,’ the political and economic systems of the newly sovereign nations were imposed a priori by the related colonialist power.

As such, these nations had only ‘pseudo-independence.’ The political and economic systems imposed by their former colonialists coupled with their integration into the Bretton Woods system, ensured their continued dependency. Therefore, while China, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and later the Islamic Republic in Iran, and even later Venezuela and Nicaragua, were able to pursue their own independent development models, most decolonized countries could not.

Some countries temporarily on the frontline of the Cold War geopolitical divide, such as West Germany, Japan and South Korea, were allowed unhindered development as part of a geopolitical strategy for keeping them within the Western orbit while curbing the advance of communism and managed to achieve outstanding economic growth. However, being pseudo-independent nations, when that political necessity was removed, they were ‘cut back to size’ using Bretton Woods instruments, as will be discussed later.

Whereas colonial plunder was implemented via direct military control, post-World War II neo-colonialism was mainly achieved by:

- **Constitutions imposed by the colonial powers.** Prior to ‘granting independence,’ the colonial powers imposed constitutions and hence political systems that ensured weak and vulnerable governance by the newly ‘independent’ countries.
- **The Bretton Woods system,** which locks countries into a financial structure controlled by the West. In particular it requires that central bank governors be ‘independent,’ that is, independent of their governments, but dependent on rules established by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), at the top of the pyramid in the Bretton Woods system.

With their political systems weakened by colonial-imposed constitutions and the financial and monetary policies essentially controlled by the Bretton Woods institutions, the newly decolonized countries had

few levers to pursue their own best interests and routes to development. Development was and is only allowed if it serves the interests of colonial powers, as had been the case for frontline countries during the Cold War, and subsequently.

Some newly decolonized countries tried to adopt alternate development models. These included Togo's Sylvanus Olympio, Egypt's Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno, Democratic Republic of Congo's Lumumba, Iran's Mosaddegh, Ecuador's Jaime Roldós, Panama's Omar Torrijos, among others. These leaders were disposed of by wars, coups, or assassinations. Africa, in particular, suffered in its attempts to achieve economic independence, as explained by Kalidou Diouf:

But the European empires were smart, so they didn't leave without keeping control over the entire economy and natural resources of the continent.

The only reason that France is still as wealthy as it was 50 years ago is that the colonial system puts about 500 billion U.S. dollars a year from Africa into its treasury.

When the people of Guinea decided in 1958 to 'free' themselves and get out of the French colonial empire, the French colonial elite in Paris got so furious, that in a historic act of fury the French administration in Guinea destroyed everything in the country which represented what they called the benefits from French colonization, including schools, nurseries, public administration buildings, cars, books, medicine, research institute's instruments, tractors. Also, horses, cows, and pigs were killed in the farms and food in warehouses was poisoned or burned.

David Dacko, Thomas Sankara, Maurice Yaméogo and Hubert Maga are just a few of the most notable Presidents who were either killed or thrown into jail as a result of fighting for their country's independence. As a matter of fact, since 1960, a total of 68 coups have been carried out in 27 countries all over Africa, 17 of those countries are former French colonies.⁶

Togolese Republic President Sylvanus Olympio had decided to pull out of the CFA, the French-issued currency. On the 13th of January 1963, three days after Togo started printing its own currency, President Olympio was assassinated.⁷

France has a history of extorting its previous colonies dating back to the 19th century. In 1825 France demanded 150 million francs from Haiti as an indemnity to its previous slave masters. The sum amounted to five times France's annual budget and ten times what the U.S. paid France to buy Louisiana. For over 120 years Haiti was enslaved by these payments.^{8,9}

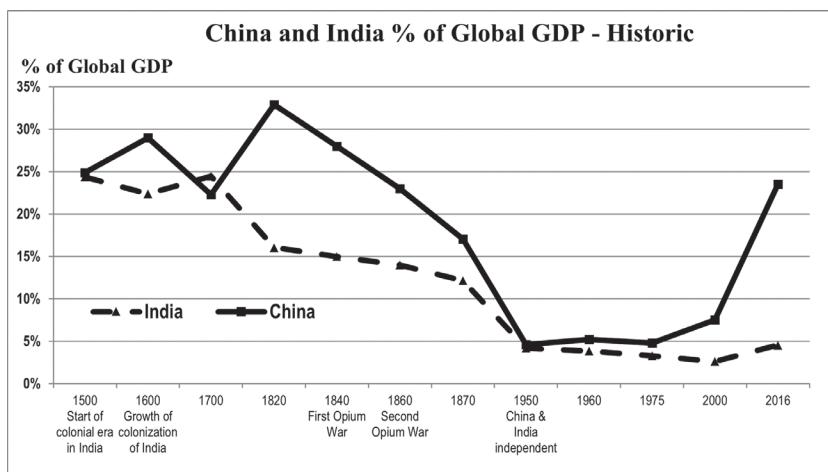


FIGURE 3. China and India % of Global GDP¹⁰

PSEUDO-INDEPENDENCE VS. INDEPENDENCE: INDIA VS. CHINA

Prior to colonization, India and China accounted for 25% of global population and of global GDP. India was colonized first, hence the drop in Indian GDP as of 1500, whereas the colonization of China was a stealth operation started in 1729 by ‘pushing’ opium onto China. Opium exports grew from 13 tons in 1729 to 1,200 tons in 1830. China’s ‘Century of Shame’ is discussed below in the section ‘Highlights of the RIC Countries’ Historical Relations with the West.’

The effective colonization of China was implemented via **Unequal Treaties**¹¹ that were imposed after the Opium Wars of 1840 and 1860.

India was ‘granted independence’ by an Act of the UK Parliament in 1947:

The legislation was formulated by the government of Clement Attlee with the recommendation of the Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten, after representatives of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan.¹²

China’s independence, on the other hand, was the result of an extended military struggle against the occupying powers and their proxies. On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao announced the foundation of the People’s Republic of China (PRC),¹³ a single-party state controlled by the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The contrast between independence and pseudo-independence is reflected in the comparative development paths of India and China – the world’s two most populous countries, both formerly colonized, and both becoming independent at about the same time.

By 2017, China accounted for 19% of world population, was the number 1 economy and its real goods production amounted to 24% of global real goods production. Effectively, China has reclaimed its pre-colonial status.

India, with 18% of world population and 5% of global real goods production, remains at about the same low level as reached just before its independence in 1947.

The meteoric recovery of China and stagnation of India is largely due to the political and economic systems that were subsequently implemented. Having achieved its independence by military victory, the new government of China was able to pursue its own choices for a development model. On the other hand, the independence granted to India by the colonial power left it shackled by the political economic system imposed on it.

Among the most important factors contributing to development disparity between China and India are:

- The political system:
 - » CHINA: Highly centralized allowing rapid adoption and implementation of development policies.
 - » INDIA: A federal parliamentary democracy imposed by the UK which greatly inhibited implementation of rapid development policies.
- The commercial banking sector, a critical factor influencing national development.
 - » China: Commercial banking is dominated by the public sector.
 - » India: Commercial banking is dominated by the private sector.
- Central bank financial and monetary policies, critical for development.
 - » China: Under control of the Chinese government.
 - » India: Conforms to the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) directives.

From this China vs. India comparison, the following can be deduced as requirements for effective national development:

- Real sovereignty, not pseudo-independence.
- Highly centralized political power.
- Commercial banking dominated by the public sector.
- A central bank under government control, giving priority to implementing government policies serving the national interest over those policies of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) which serve the interests of the Western financial oligarchy.

CHAPTER 2

The Rise of the East

After the liberation of China and the end of direct colonialism post-World War II, it was natural that the East, with 70% the global population, would start recovering. This has resulted in a continuous erosion of economic dominance of the West. Despite the fact that the Bretton Woods system, established at peak Western economic power, sought to ensure the continued dominance of the West powers, it was insufficient to prevent the economic decline of the West and the rise of the East.



FIGURE 4. 1950 East vs. West GDP¹

2016 GDP

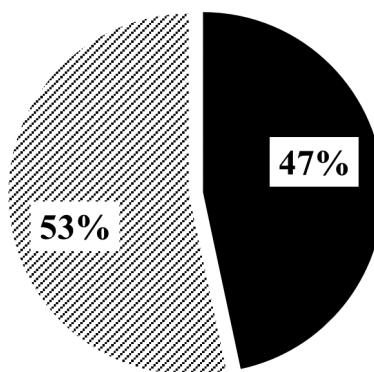


FIGURE 5. 2016 East vs. West GDP

THE FALLACY OF RECENT WESTERN GDP DATA

As can be observed from Figures 4 and 5 and as supplemented by a range of sources,² in 2016, western economies remained dominant despite a drop from 60% share of global GDP to around 53%.

Bear in mind, the GDP data of western countries is subject to gross manipulation, *inter alia* by inflating the services sectors, and more recently and strikingly, by the inclusion of drugs, prostitution and smuggling in GDP data.³ The absurdity of how the services sector can be inflated is illustrated by feces management in San Francisco:

- Feces collectors are paid \$185,000 per year.⁴ Thus a feces collector in San Francisco contributes 3000% more to the U.S. GDP than a Chinese municipal worker.
- A single unit 150-foot (14 sqm) public toilet costs \$1.7 million.⁵ Construction of a public toilet contributes 30,000% more to U.S. GDP than it would in China.

GDP is not a viable measure of economic performance for ‘reserve currency’ nations that can print money out of thin air without risk of significant inflation or currency devaluation.

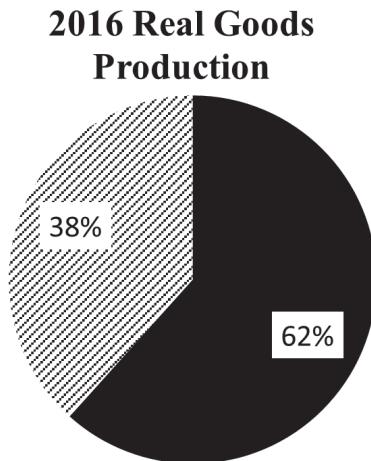


FIGURE 6. 2016 East vs. West Real Goods Production

However, insofar as real goods are tradable, variation in their valuation is limited; therefore, they constitute an accurate indicator of economic performance. As can be noted from Figure 6, when real goods production is measured, the share of western economies drops to less than 40% of global production.

Tradable goods face global competition which facilitates true price discovery. Services, on the other hand, are mostly local, and therefore not subject to global competition. A New Yorker is not going to travel to Mexico City for a haircut, send his kids to a high school in Beijing, go to the movies in Timbuktu, or seek the services of a lawyer from New Delhi for his divorce, etc. The competitiveness of a nation, that is, its ability to offer a high 'quality to price' ratio, is measured by the growth of its tradable goods sector, specifically the manufactured goods sector.

The dominance of Asia in the global economy is reflected in Tables 1 and 2 below:⁶

| Top Exporters of Liner Goods by Value, 2007 | Billion USD | % |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| China (includes Taiwan and Hong Kong) | 1,395 | 30.2% |
| U.S., Germany, UK, France, Netherlands, Italy | 796 | 17.2% |
| Japan | 564 | 12.2% |
| South Korea | 246 | 5.3% |
| Thailand | 118 | 2.6% |
| Singapore | 110 | 2.4% |
| Malaysia | 87 | 1.9% |
| India | 68 | 1.5% |
| Indonesia | 65 | 1.4% |
| Total Asia | 2,652 | 57.4% |

TABLE 1. Top Exporters of Liner Goods by Value, 2007
(Billion USD)

| Top Exporters of Containerized Cargo, 2007 | Million TEU* | % |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| China (includes Taiwan and Hong Kong) | 37.9 | 31.5% |
| U.S., Germany, UK, France, Netherlands, Italy | 19.0 | 15.8% |
| Japan | 7.0 | 5.8% |
| South Korea | 5.3 | 4.4% |
| Thailand | 4.2 | 3.5% |
| Indonesia | 3.1 | 2.6% |
| Malaysia | 2.7 | 2.2% |
| Singapore | 1.5 | 1.3% |
| Vietnam | 1.4 | 1.2% |
| Total Asia | 63 | 52.5% |

TABLE 2. Top Exporters of Containerized Cargo, 2007

[*TEU = Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit fully loaded container]

It is very clear from the above tables that as far back as 2007:

- Chinese exports are about double the total of the leading Western countries.
- Asian exports are over three times the exports of Western countries.

Figures 7 and 8⁷ track U.S. economic sectors between 1947 and 2009, indicating a significant decline in the manufacturing sector since the 1950s, from a peak of 28% down to 12% in 2009. Growth during this period was exclusively in the services sector. In particular, growth was led by the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) sector, which grew from 11% in 1947 to 22% in 2009.

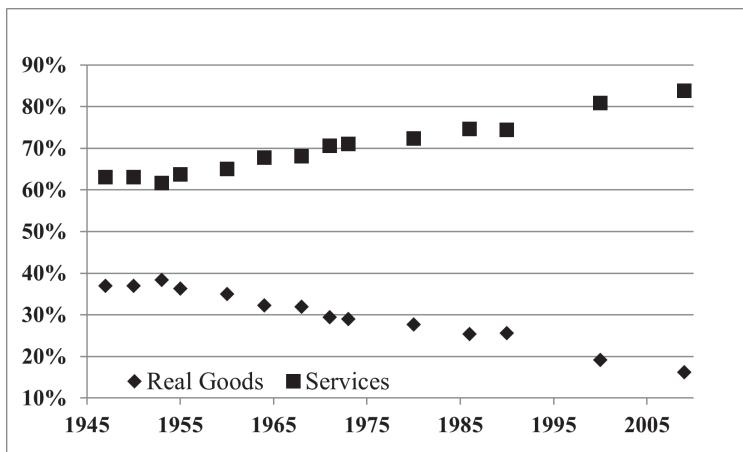


FIGURE 7. Real Goods and Services Sectors of the U.S. Economy 1947–2009

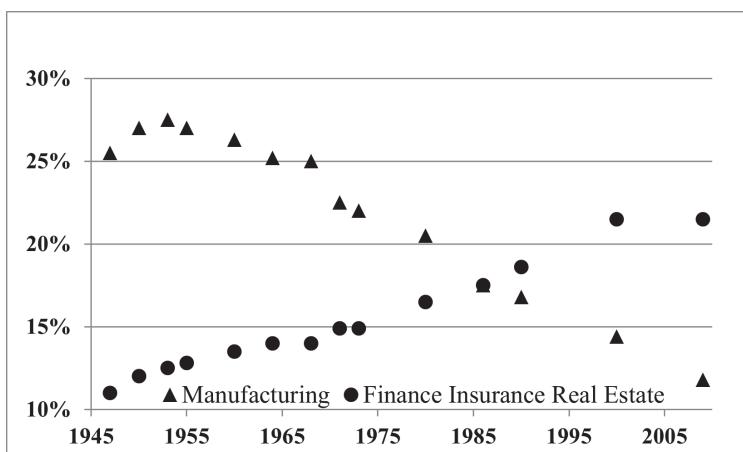


FIGURE 8. Manufacturing and FIRE Sectors of the U.S. Economy 1947–2009

It is important to fully comprehend the meaning of the drop in the manufacturing sector. When the production volume of an automotive factory drops, it is not because the company decided to diversify into the more lucrative services – the health care or education sectors; rather it means that the quality vs. the price of the cars it produces is lower than that of the competition, and therefore it cannot sell as many as in previous years. The automotive sector in particular reflects the competitiveness of a nation.

In 1980 total real goods sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, mining and utilities) in the U.S. dropped below 28%, an indication of an inflated services sector.

The fallacy of GDP data was illustrated in the Ukraine war. When Ukraine ran out of weapons and munitions, the U.S., UK, EU, and Canada scrambled to the rescue, depleting their own stocks. But then, their combined defense industries were unable to continue to produce the needed equipment and ammunitions at the rate Ukraine was using them,⁸ even though Ukraine was expending only a fraction of same compared to Russia.⁹

If we go by GDP numbers, the combined GDP of the U.S., UK, EU and Canada is \$130 trillion, while that of Russia is only \$1.8 trillion or 1.4%. If GDP was reflective of the actual economic power, Russia should be a pushover and defeated within a short time. However, Russia's SMO in Ukraine was not only demilitarizing Ukraine, it was demilitarizing NATO as well. It might have been assumed that the Russian economy had become totally geared to the war effort, but actually, this is not so. As a matter of fact, the Russian economy in 2022 was faring better than that of most G-7 and EU countries, with lower inflation and far better socioeconomic conditions. Moreover, during the war, Russia was undertaking major infrastructure and construction works in the Donbass, building new roads and residences 24/7, and paying Donbass pensions and civil servants.

GDP, PCI, Gini coefficient, credit ratings, stock valuations, inflation figures are mostly reflections of a virtual reality, as will be discussed in this book. When virtual reality meets reality on the battleground, T-Bills and ETFs stand little chance against flying missiles and artillery shells.

THE FADING OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

A drop in manufacturing coupled with a disproportionate rise in the services sector, particularly finance, insurance, real estate (FIRE) sector, results in high wealth concentration and general social impoverishment. By 2014 the top 0.1% owned as much in assets as the bottom 90%.¹⁰ This was coupled with a dramatic rise in poverty reflected in the number of individuals receiving food stamps.

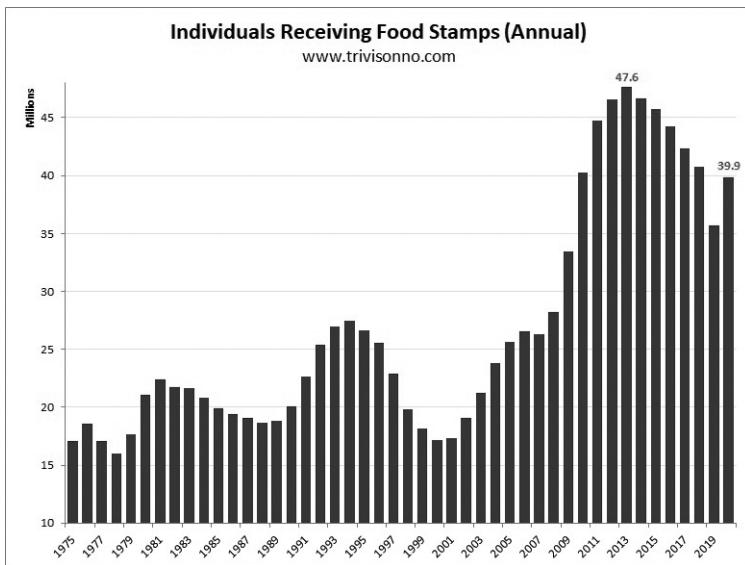


FIGURE 9. Individuals Receiving Food Stamps (Trivisonno)¹¹

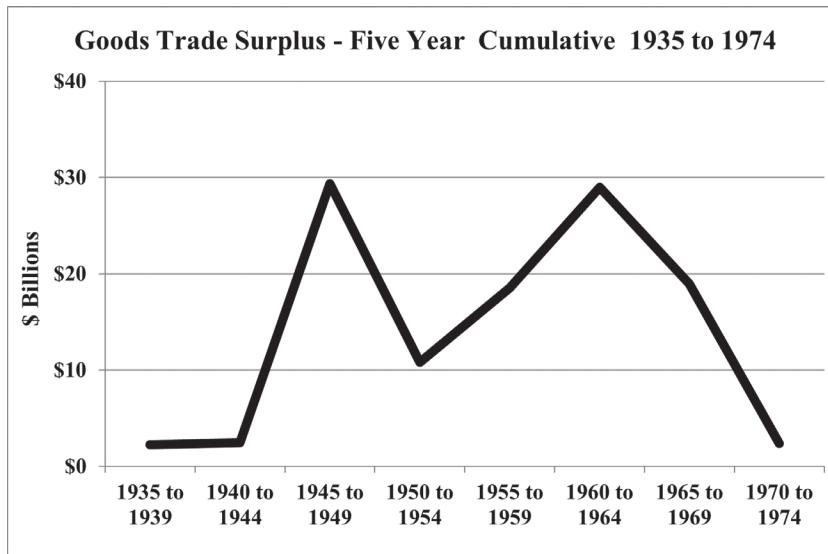


FIGURE 10. U.S. Goods Trade Surplus:
Five-year Cumulative 1935–1974¹²

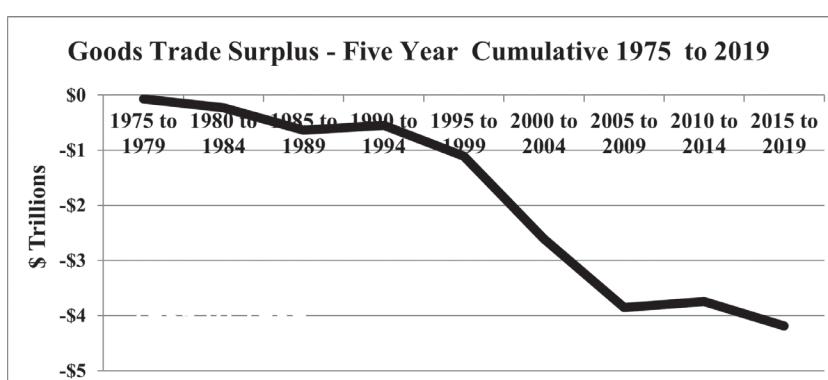


FIGURE 11. U.S. goods trade surplus:
Five-year Cumulative 1974–2019¹³

FROM THE AMERICAN DREAM TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Note that the data in the above charts has to be divided into 2 periods, since trade balance scales differ by a factor of 1000: \$ billions and \$ trillions. If placed on the same chart, the period 1935 to 1974 would appear as a straight line of value zero.

- **1935 to 1974:** ‘The American Dream’ era. Healthy economy, with an average annual trade surplus of \$2 billion.
- **1975 to 2019:** ‘The American Way of Life’ era. An uncompetitive nation, with economically unsustainable deficits. In 2021 the deficit exceeded \$1 trillion.¹⁴

The American Way of Life is clearly not sustained by internal economic activity, but by other factors that enable maintenance of the high consumption patterns of the U.S. economy.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE CHINESE DREAM

The meteoric rise of the Chinese economy¹⁵ since 1992 is shown in Figure 12. Note that the engine of growth is the consistently high contribution of the industrial sector, whose share was stable at 45% of total economy as shown in Figure 13.¹⁶

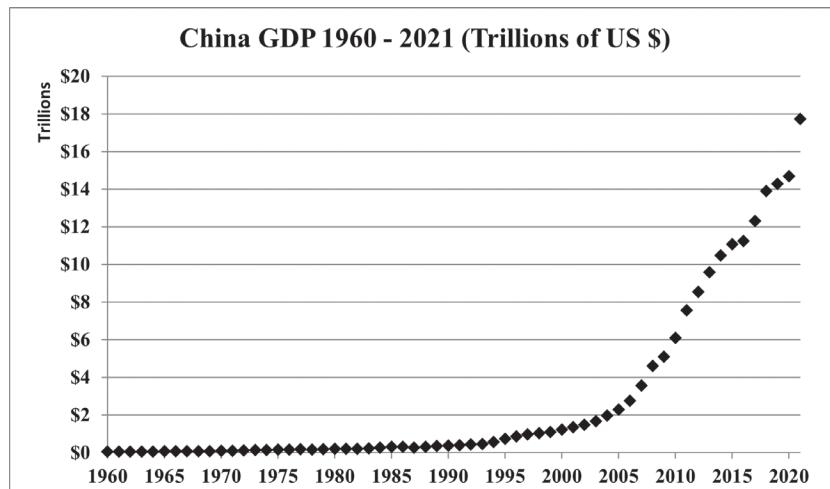
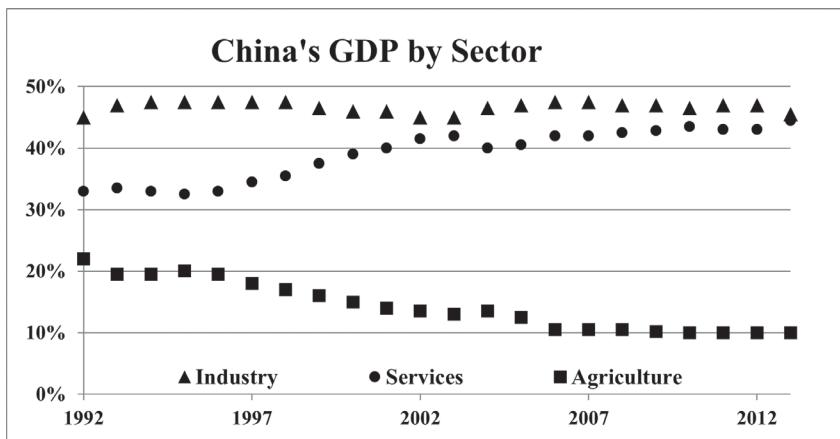


FIGURE 12. China’s Nominal GDP 1960 to 2021¹⁷

FIGURE 13. China's GDP by sector¹⁸

Not only does manufacturing result in the increased wealth of a nation, but more importantly, and unlike in economies where the services sector is dominant, it results in a much more equitable distribution of wealth. This is reflected in the fact that in China, poverty had dropped from 30.7% of the population in 1978 to 3.4% of the population by 2000.¹⁹

Despite the hubris of neoliberal globalization protagonists, national development remains as it has been over the past two centuries: directly related to the degree of industrialization in a nation. The weakness of Western economies was exhibited for all to see in the Ukraine war, as evidenced by the combined West's inability to supply enough weapons to Ukraine.²⁰

The contribution of industrial sector to the economy is the best indicator of national development.

- Industrial sector contribution less than 20 percent → Shrinking economy
- Industrial sector contribution 20 percent → Normal economy
- Industrial sector contribution 20 to 30 percent → Growing economy
- Industrial sector greater than 30 percent → High growth economy

CHAPTER 3

Energy: The Lifeline of Nations

Figure 14 plots the world's total real goods production versus the world's total world energy consumption over a period of 40 years, from 1976 to 2016.

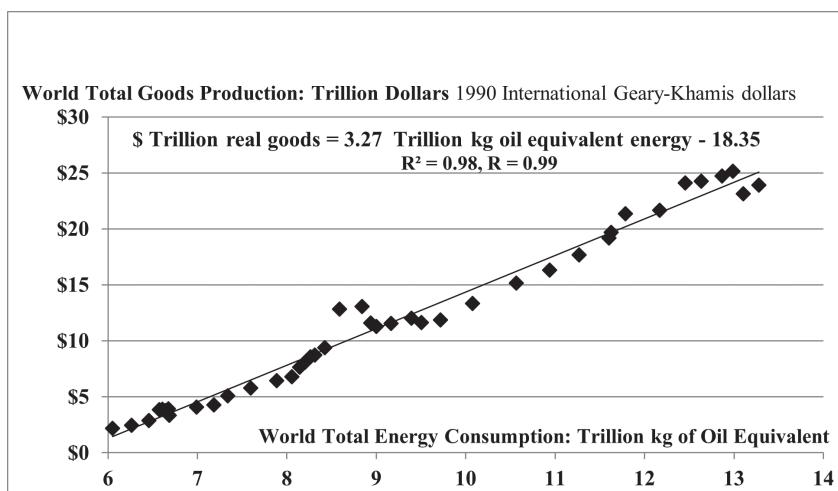


FIGURE 14. World's Goods Production vs.
World's Energy Consumption 1976–2016

Figure 14 provides several pieces of information:¹

- R = Correlation coefficient = 0.99 implies real goods production is directly and linearly related to energy consumption. The linear regression equation for the forty-year period is:
- \$ Trillion² real goods = 3.27 Trillion kg oil equivalent energy – 18.35
- This equation accounts for 98% of the variability in the data, which implies it provides an excellent representation of the relationship between the value of real goods produced and the amount of energy consumed. This indicates that at zero real goods production (Y = 0), Energy (X) = 5.65 Trillion kg of oil equivalent energy. This is

an estimate of energy consumed for non-production purposes, i.e. energy for transport, heating, cooling etc.

- The average annual growth in energy demand over this period was approximately 180 million tons of oil equivalent of energy per year.
- \$1000 of real goods production requires an energy equivalent of about 300 kg of oil.
- The average annual growth in energy consumption of the forty-year period is 1.9%.
- The average annual growth in value of real goods produced over the forty-year period is 6.7%.

The above data indicates that during the period 1976–2016, the high global growth rate of 6.7% existed. This was mainly driven by growth in China, the Asian Tigers and Tiger Cub countries. This growth was sustained by a 1.9% growth in energy supply.

The following examples illustrate the dependence of real goods production on energy:

- 1 kg of steel requires 1.5 kg of oil energy equivalent.
- 1 kg of plastics requires 2 kg of oil energy equivalent.
- 1 kg of aluminum requires 7 kg of oil energy equivalent.

Realizing that national development and wealth depend on industrial production, which in turn is wholly dependent on energy, then:

- the wealth and development of nations is dependent on the availability of energy;
- the local cost of energy is a key factor in the competitiveness of a nation;
- energy is the lifeline of nations, and energy policy is a central issue for national development.

Control over energy reserves, routes and pricing is the central facet of geopolitical struggles.

ENERGY: A RELIABLE ECONOMIC INDICATOR

Realizing that GDP data for Western countries ceased being a reliable economic indicator and that there is a linear relationship between real goods production and energy, a much more reliable economic performance evaluation can be inferred from electricity generation.

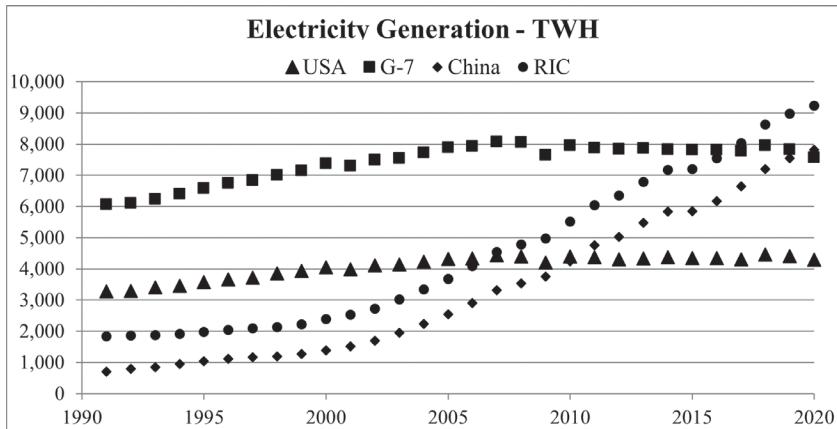


FIGURE 15. Electricity Generation 1991–2020
[Data for China does not include Hong Kong or Taiwan.]

Based on electricity generation data after the fall of the Soviet Union from 1991 to 2020 as shown in Figure 15, the following can be inferred:

- 1991: The G-7 economies were 330% greater than that of Russia, Iran, and China (RIC).
- 2000: There was a phenomenal growth of the Chinese economy post-2000.
- 2007: This marked the peak of the G-7 economies, which have since been stagnant or shrinking.
- 2011: The Chinese economy overtakes the U.S. economy.
- 2017: The RIC economies overtake the G-7 economies.
- 2020: The Chinese economy exceeds the total of the G-7 economies.

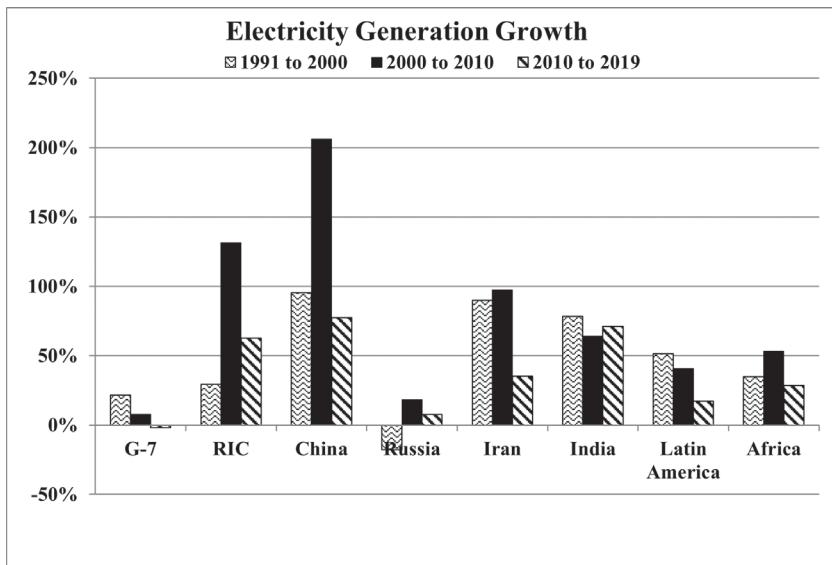


FIGURE 16. Electricity Generation Growth Rates³

Observations based on electricity generation growth rates in Figure 16 covering the same period indicate:

- 1991 to 2000: The shrinkage of Russian economy.
- 1991 to 2019: The highest growth rates are for China⁴ followed by Iran and India.
- 2010 to 2020: The shrinkage of the G-7 economies.
- 2010 to 2020: The growth rates of all economies were lower than 2000 to 2010.

Energy generation and growth data confirm that the gap between RIC and G-7 economies is increasing. The high consumption levels in the West are belied by their large trade and budget deficits. These deficits are not sustained by the growth of the Western economies, but by the ongoing dominance of the Bretton Woods monetary and financial structures, which continue to enable the siphoning of wealth from the Global South countries to the West.

ENERGY SOURCES

| Energy Type | 2016 prices ¢ / kWh | Market | Market | Total Energy 2020 |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| | | Share | Share | Exajoules |
| | | 1973 | 2020 | 557 |
| Oil | 14 | 50% | 31% | 174 |
| Coal | 5 | 27% | 27% | 151 |
| Gas | 11 | 18% | 25% | 138 |
| Nuclear | 3.5 | 0.1% | 4.3% | 24 |
| Hydroelectric | 1.8 | 5% | 6.9% | 38 |
| Renewables | 7 | 0.1% | 5.7% | 32 |
| Fossils Total | | 95% | 83% | 463 |

TABLE 3. Energy Types, Prices, and Growth Rates 1973 and 2020⁵

The following observations can be made based on Table 3:

Nuclear

- This is the cheapest transportable energy.
- It is also the safest form of energy,⁶ with 0.03 deaths per trillion kWh versus 3 for gas and 18 for oil.
- It provides a competitive advantage to nations.

Hydroelectric

- This is the cheapest form of energy overall and should be implemented wherever possible.

Oil

- This is the leading source of energy. In 1973 it represented 50% of total global energy consumption.
- Insofar as it is also the most expensive, oil should not be considered for electric power generation.

Gas

- This is the third source of energy by consumption
- While gas is cheaper than oil, it is much more expensive than nuclear energy and coal

Renewables

- More expensive than nuclear energy, renewables provide for less than 10% of global energy needs and are therefore currently a marginal factor as it relates to energy consumption. Being weather dependent in most regions, they are unpredictable and hence unreliable. This was evidenced in Europe during the 2021 winter season, when a drop in wind power resulted in a severe energy crisis and soaring energy prices.⁷ Therefore in the short and medium terms, renewables cannot form the basis of a national energy policy.

THE NUCLEAR ENERGY MONOPOLY

It is clear from Figure 17 below that until the year 1990, with the exception of COMECON countries for which the USSR supplied nuclear power plants, Global South countries were deprived of access to nuclear energy. The OECD countries thus enjoyed a competitive advantage, while development of the Global South was further hindered. Outside the COMECON countries a monopoly existed on use of nuclear energy. This monopoly was enforced by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), despite its mission statement indicating that it⁸

assists its Member States, in the context of social and economic goals, in planning for and using nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes, including the generation of electricity, and facilitates the transfer of such technology and knowledge in a sustainable manner to developing Member States.

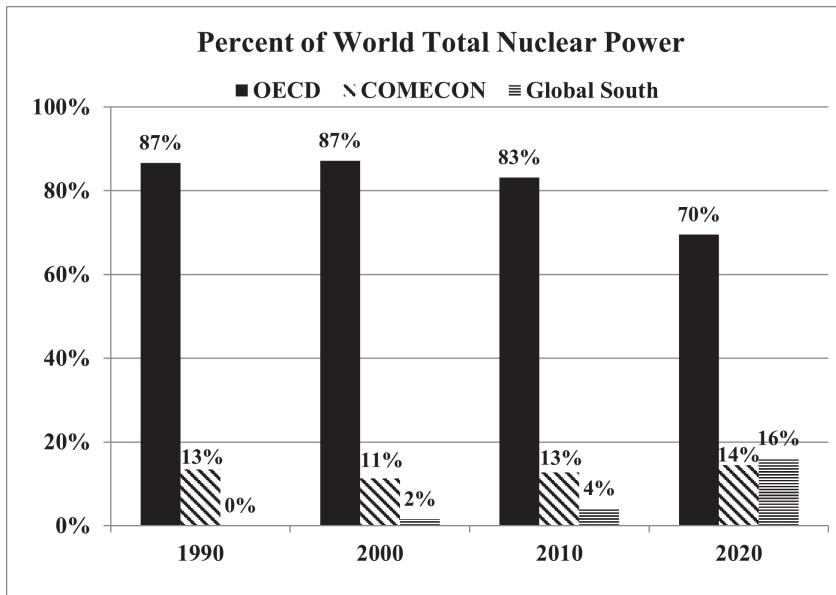


FIGURE 17. Share of Nuclear Energy Production⁹

While the IAEA mission statement calls for assistance in using peaceful nuclear energy, its policies have resulted in the observed monopoly on nuclear energy utilization – a typical case of Orwellian ‘doublespeak,’ commonly used by Bretton Woods institutions.

Geopolitical changes since 2010 have weakened the West’s ability to enforce the monopoly on nuclear energy. In the 2009–2019 decade, China led the world with an annual nuclear energy growth rate of 17%, followed by Pakistan at 13% and India at 10%.¹⁰

Although nuclear energy is by far the safest significant energy;¹¹ it is perceived by significant portions of the population as the most dangerous form of energy. Figure 18 demonstrates the fallacy of this belief.

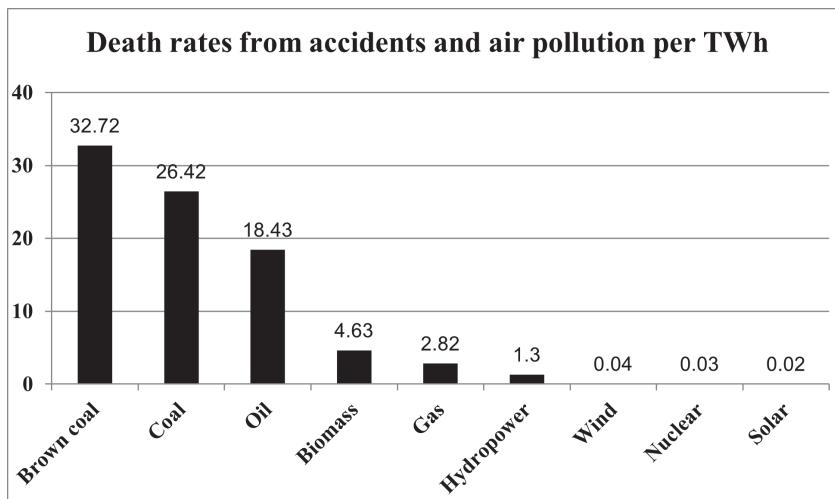


FIGURE 18. Deaths per TWh (terawatt hour) by Energy Source¹²

Let us probe the significance of this fact by addressing the realities of the Fukushima nuclear accident.

The Fukushima accident

Accident facts:

- The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident was triggered by the 9.1 magnitude Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting 15m-high tsunami on the afternoon of March 11, 2011. The power station, built approximately 10m above sea level, was flooded. The units 1, 2 and 3, which were in operation at the time of the disaster, were automatically shut down.
- The supply of off-site power to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was cut off. Meanwhile, the emergency diesel generators located at the basement of the turbine building, roughly 5m above the sea level, which are intended to provide back-up electricity to the plant's cooling system, were disabled by the tsunami flooding.

- The absence of cooling led to the meltdown of units 1, 2 and 3 within the following three days. Unit 1 suffered a massive hydrogen explosion on 12 March 2011, which caused extensive damage to the 1m-thick reactor building walls. It was followed by another hydrogen explosion at the unit 3 reactor on 14 March 2011, which led to the explosion of unit 4 with gas flowing from unit 3 into the unit 4 reactor.
- The hydrogen explosions at the plant led to a massive release of radioactive Iodine-131 and Caesium-137, with radiation levels rising to 1015 microsievert.¹³
- Despite the automatic shutdown of the operating reactors, the loss of access to off-site power and a flooded emergency diesel-generator system caused the station to lose its ability to cool the reactor core and spent fuel ponds.¹⁴
- The worst destruction came from large tsunami waves generated by the quake that swept through low-lying areas of the city and penetrated several miles inland in some places. The areas inundated were largely destroyed and, because the city's residents had so little warning before the tsunami struck, thousands of people were killed or were missing and presumed dead.¹⁵
- No one died directly from the reactor meltdown, itself. However, 40 to 50 people were injured as a result of physical injury from the blast, or radiation burns. In 2018, the Japanese government reported that one worker has since died from lung cancer as a result of radiation exposure from the event.
- Over the last decade, many studies have assessed whether there has been any increased cancer risk for local populations. There appears to have been no increased risk of cancer or other radiation-related health impacts. In 2016, the World Health Organization noted that there was a very low risk of increased cancer deaths in Japan.¹⁶

Accident impact:

- However, the Fukushima accident had a major impact on the global nuclear energy industry, particularly in Germany,¹⁷ Italy,¹⁸ Switzerland¹⁹ and Japan.²⁰
- It also impacted the political landscape, providing a boost to anti-nuclear Green parties, particularly in Germany, buoying the Green party in German state elections later that month, and allowing them to claim their first state government in 2011 as the senior partners in a coalition with the SPD.²¹

Coverage of the Fukushima accident in the media:

“In a reversal of its insistence that nothing could have protected the plant against the earthquake and tsunami that killed almost 20,000 people on 11 March, Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) said it had known safety improvements were needed before the disaster, but had failed to implement them.”

— *The Guardian*, October 2015²²

“The 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan changed the country in many ways. Thousands died; many more are still missing. And the resulting nuclear disaster in Fukushima left parts of the country uninhabitable. It also put much of Japan’s nuclear power industry on hold.

“Nine years later, and it’s still standing. It’s not easy to get rid of nuclear power.”

— *National Public Radio*, September 2020²³

“More than 300,000 people living near the nuclear plant were forced to temporarily evacuate and thousands more did so voluntarily. Once-bustling communities were turned into ghost towns.”

— CNN, June 2022²⁴

Fukushima Power Plant Facts:

| Units | Rated Capacity MW | Commissioning Date | Years in Operation | Subtotal MW | TWh Produced |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | 460 | 1971 | 40 | 460 | 80,592 |
| 1 | 784 | 1974 | 37 | 784 | 127,055 |
| 1 | 784 | 1976 | 35 | 784 | 120,187 |
| 2 | 784 | 1978 | 33 | 1568 | 226,639 |
| 1 | 1100 | 1979 | 32 | 1100 | 154,176 |
| Total rated capacity | | | | 3596 | |
| Total TWh produced assuming 50% operating efficiency | | | | | 708,649 |

TABLE 4. Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant²⁵

Based on Table 4, and the regression relationship obtained earlier:

- Industrial value added produced from Fukushima electricity: \$186 billion.
- Assuming \$100,000 per industrial worker year, then job years would be: 1.9 million job-year or 58,000 jobs since Fukushima plant was commissioned.
- Oil barrels saved: 417 million.
- Only one person died of cancer, seven years after the accident due to nuclear radiation exposure.²⁶
- Fukushima death rate per TWh: 0.0000014.
- Death rate per year: 0.03.
- 2011 traffic deaths in Japan: 4,611.²⁷

- 2011 suicide deaths in Japan: 30,513.²⁸
- Deaths if equivalent amount of energy is produced by wind power: 21,000.²⁹
- Deaths if equivalent amount of energy is produced by solar power: 14,100.³⁰

Contrary to the anti-nuclear orientation of the Greens, it is clear from the above facts, that the Fukushima nuclear power plant:

- Saved more than 14,000 lives, had renewable energies been used instead.
- Saved more than 400 million barrels of oil.
- Provided jobs for more than 58,000 industrial workers.

Not surprisingly, the Japanese government reversed its nuclear policy in 2022.³¹

Japan has adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy in a major reversal of the phase-out plan that was established following the Fukushima disaster.

Faced with fuel shortages and rising energy prices, the nation has taken the step to end an 11-year prohibition on the building of new nuclear reactors.

The new policy establishes that Japan must maximize the use of existing nuclear reactors by restarting as many of them as possible, prolonging the operating life of old reactors beyond their 60-year limit, and developing next-generation reactors to replace them.

The Fukushima accident revealed how global media obfuscates facts, how the masses are so easily manipulated by the media, and how opportunists take advantage of the gullibility of the masses for political ends. This misrepresentation of the dangers of nuclear energy in comparison to its advantages as a clean, least cost, sustainable and reliable energy source effectively acts to discourage countries from pursuing this energy option, instead reinforcing their dependence on higher cost

fossil fuels – with the resultant irony that, in the case of the Green Party of Germany, its ideological orientation to both the climate crisis and the war in Ukraine has led to its resurrecting the use of coal, the world’s dirtiest fuel and least safe source of energy, to address their energy needs.³²

The critical thing about nuclear energy is that it is the cheapest reliable form of energy, and hence provides nations with a competitive advantage. Low-cost energy is central to national development and wellbeing of a society.

Solar and wind are unreliable, hence Europe’s energy problems in winter 2022. They cannot be used as the basis of a national energy policy. They can be used by countries to reduce non-renewable fossil fuel consumption, especially as prices of these fuels are expected to rise. They are also useful for individuals in cases of government services breakdown due to war such as in Yemen³³ or theft of national oil and gas resources by the U.S., such as in Syria,³⁴ or U.S. sanctions such as in Lebanon.³⁵

The scaremongering propaganda against use of nuclear energy; are “nuclear accidents” and the “dangers posed by spent nuclear fuel.” The former was addressed in the Fukushima accident above; the latter is concisely addressed by the largest and earliest user of nuclear energy in the world, the U.S. Office of Nuclear Energy.³⁶ In brief, spent nuclear fuel is safe to store and transport, and can be recycled.

The 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident in Pennsylvania did not deter the U.S., the world’s largest producer of nuclear energy, and accounting for 30% of global nuclear generation of electricity,³⁷ from continuing to use nuclear energy and extending the life of nuclear power plants. “The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which originally licensed plants to operate for 40 years, has now approved 20-year license extensions for more than 75% of the fleet, enabling operation to 60 years. The fleet is now moving forward with plans for a second round of license renewals to allow operation out to 80 years.”³⁸

OIL PRICING

The myth of price as a function of supply and demand

Figure 14, *World Goods Production vs. World Energy Consumption over the forty-year period 1976–2016* (p. 18), indicates a steady and predictable growth in energy demand. Therefore, if oil prices were based on the premise that price is determined by supply and demand, a fairly stable price should have been in place during this period.

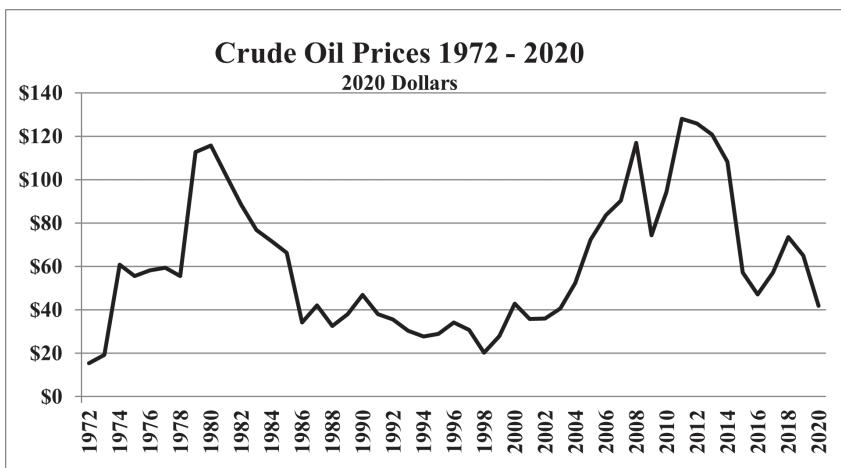


FIGURE 19. Oil Price, 1972–2020³⁹

However, Figure 19 provides a clear indication of oil price volatility:

- 370% increase between 1972 and 1974.
- 160% increase between 1978 and 1980.
- 1400% increase between 1972 and 1980.
- 45% drop between 1980 and 1991.
- 60% drop between 2013 and 2016

Thus, the schoolboy myth of pricing being a function of supply and demand can be disposed with. Oil pricing is determined by factors that have nothing to do with supply and demand, as further discussed below.

1973–1982: Oil replaces gold as backing for the U.S. Dollar

A main pillar of the Bretton Woods system is that the USD is the international trade currency, and that it was to be convertible into gold at the fixed rate of \$35 per ounce of gold. However, U.S. competitiveness had been dropping continuously since its peak in the early 1950s. By 1971, the U.S. was running out of gold to redeem excess dollars in the global market. This led to the Nixon Shock⁴⁰ of August 15, 1971, which:

- froze the convertibility of the USD to gold;
- pressured the leading U.S. competitors (Japan, Germany and France) to revalue their currencies against the USD in the hope of improving the competitiveness of U.S. industrial products.

Effectively, the Japanese yen and the German mark rose over 20% between 1971 and 1973.

- Yen: 22% rise between 1971 and 1973, from 348 Yen/USD to 271 Yen/USD⁴¹
- Mark: 24% rise between 1971 and 1973, from 3.48 Mark/USD to 2.65 Mark/USD⁴²

Despite the significant depreciation of the USD produced by the Japanese and German revaluations and the consequent drop in the price of U.S. products versus theirs, the Quality/Price ratio of U.S. products remained uncompetitive.

By 1973 it was clear that the U.S. could no longer compete in the global market. This had dire consequences for both the U.S. and the Bretton Woods system. It became imperative to find an alternative to the gold backing for the dollar, one that would enable maintaining the dollar as the international trading currency as stipulated in Bretton Woods agreement, and thereby maintaining the status of the USA as leader of the Free World.

Energy being the lifeline of nations, with oil representing 50% of global energy consumption in 1973, and with the leading oil exporter countries being effectively under the control of the West, it was possible to replace

gold backing by oil backing, provided oil was sold only in USD and that the price of oil would increase sufficiently to cover U.S. trade deficits. Hence the drastic increase in the price of oil in 1973 and the birth of the petrodollar arrangement with Saudi Arabia.

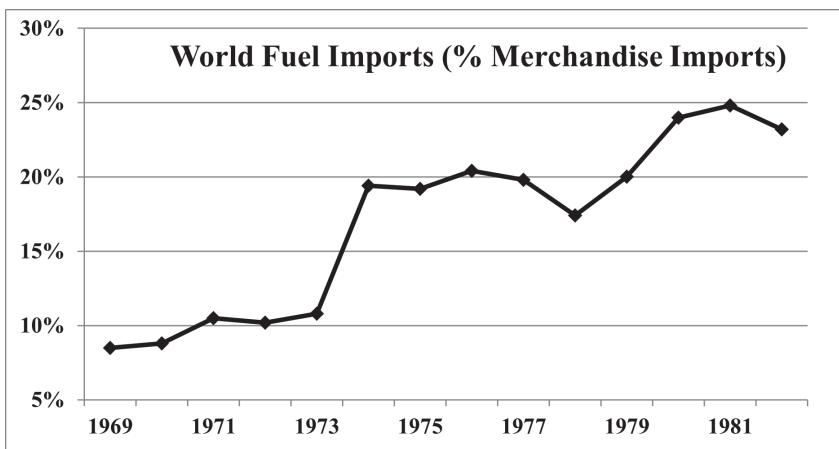


FIGURE 20. World Fuel Imports as a Percent of Merchandise Imports⁴³

There was a phenomenal increase in the price of oil in the 1970s resulting in fuel imports as a proportion of merchandise imports increasing from 9% in 1970 to 24% in 1980 (see Figure 20). The petrodollar deal required Saudi Arabia to use its income from oil to buy U.S. treasury bills (T-bills) in exchange for U.S. weapons and military protection. The interest on these T-bills would be spent by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on infrastructure projects in Saudi Arabia to be executed by U.S. companies,⁴⁴ creating sales and jobs for U.S. companies. The military industrial complex (MIC) also gets its share of oil revenues, with “Saudi Arabia followed by UAE being top recipients of American made arms.”⁴⁵

But the advantages of this paled before the fact that other countries needed to hold reserves of the USD to cover their oil imports, thus allowing the U.S. to incur high trade deficits internationally, not only without causing a depreciation of the USD, but also generating increased revenue for the U.S.

As an illustration: in 1976, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan was \$6 billion.⁴⁶ However, Japan required oil imports worth \$21 billion. Thus, the petrodollar converted a net USD-Yen from a \$6 billion deficit into a \$15 billion surplus for the USD. This oil backing was more than enough to cover the U.S. trade deficit with Japan. The process worked similarly with other countries.

Extending the above example between U.S. and Japan to the world, then, so long as oil imports by countries other than the U.S. exceed U.S. trade deficits, the USD is strengthened versus other currencies. Oil imports by countries other than U.S. versus U.S. trade deficits for the period 1970 to 2015 is shown in figure 21.

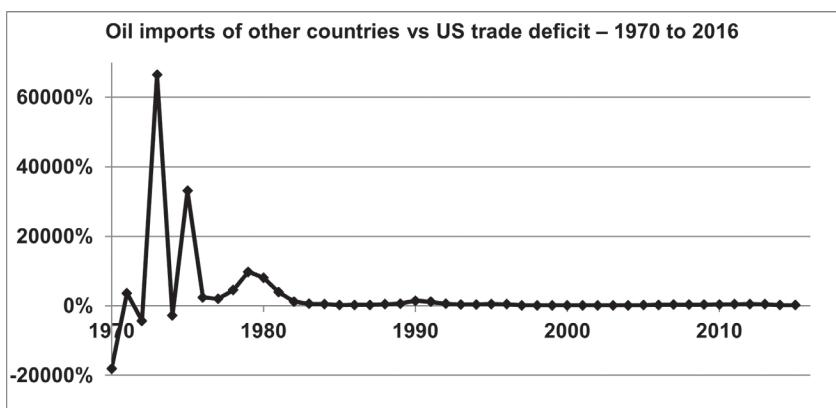


FIGURE 21. Oil Imports by Countries Other than the U.S.
vs. U.S. Trade Deficit – 1970 to 2016⁴⁷

From figure 21, the following observations can be made:

During the 1970s the U.S. trade balance was small compared to oil sales, hence the very high ratios (dividing by a number close to zero).

Negative ratio, indicates positive U.S. trade balance, it is clear that since 1976 U.S. has continuously had trade deficits, which were covered by the petrodollar deal.

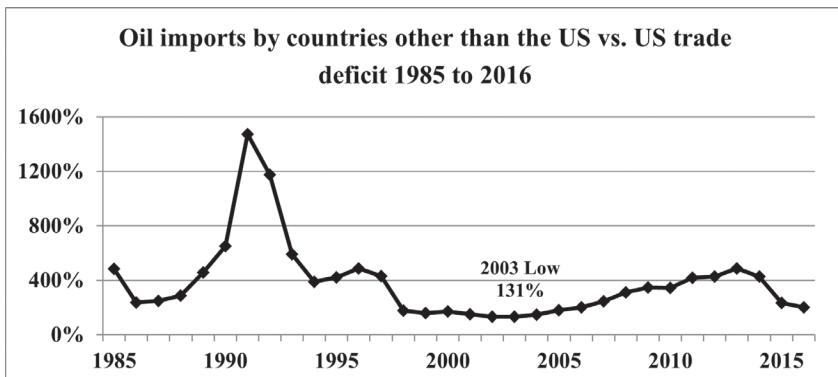


FIGURE 22. Oil Imports of Other Countries vs. U.S. Trade Deficit – 1985 to 2016⁴⁸

With the progress of de-industrialization in the neoliberal era when the U.S. started recording record deficits, these deficits were still covered by the petrodollar system. The lowest level reached was in 2003 and it was still greater than 100% as can be noted in figure 22.

Oil pricing as a geostrategic tool

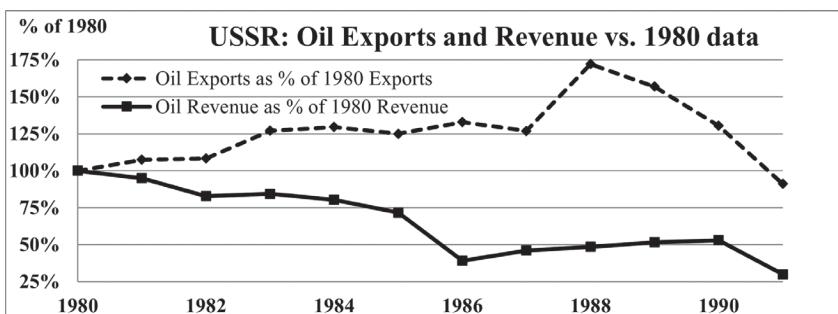


FIGURE 23. USSR: Oil Exports and Revenue vs. 1980 Data

Using 1980 as reference point, between 1980 and 1991 the USSR increased oil exports by up to 75%, yet its oil revenue dropped to less than 50%, putting revenue at \$0.5 trillion instead of \$1.1 trillion, which the exports would have registered at 1980 prices.

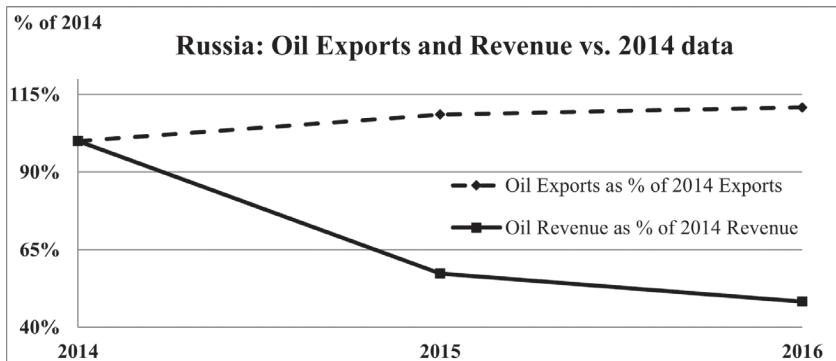


FIGURE 24. Russia: Oil Exports and Revenue vs. 2014 Data

Again, with 2014 as reference point, between 2014 and 2016 Russia increased its oil exports by 10%, yet its oil revenue dropped by 50%. Its revenue was \$0.3 trillion instead of \$0.6 trillion at 2014 prices.

It is therefore clear that oil pricing has nothing to do with supply and demand. Oil pricing is a weapon in advancing the geostrategic objectives of the West, and in preserving the global order established at the Bretton Woods conference, which enables siphoning wealth from the Global South and maintaining global hegemony.

CHAPTER 4

Money Power

One can posit that there are four main pillars of power in societies, namely: political power, ideological power, military power, and money power. In monarchies, three of these power pillars are controlled by the sovereign, namely, political power, ideological power (religious beliefs and traditions), and military power.

Money Power is the power exercised by the wielders of money in a society. In absolute monarchies, communist countries, and dictatorships where political power is dominated by an individual or a small group, this power may exist but it is not dominant. In capitalist economies it is powerful; in neoliberal economies it is dominant. As Michael Hudson notes:

Asian civilizations had their own system of public administration to protect social balance from the power of money that threatened to destroy economic balance if left unchecked. Sovereigns were focused on ensuring the longevity of society by maintaining a livable balance between debtors and creditors. This was achieved by periodically cancelling agrarian debts owed by the citizenry at large, but not mercantile debts among businessmen.¹

Rulers understood that compound interest resulted in debt that would grow faster than the economy. The consequence would be foreclosures on agricultural land, which would shift riches and power to a small oligarchy of creditors. The reason for debt forgiveness was stability, not egalitarianism.²

In Asian civilizations, therefore, there was a limit to the rise of money power.

However, European nations inherited from Rome the pro-creditor sanctity of debt principles that prioritize the claims of creditors and legitimize the permanent transfer to creditors of the property of defaulting debtors.³

The sanctity of debt as opposed to the sanctity of, say, social balance or social wellbeing, is the ideological basis that has allowed the unlimited ascendancy of money power over all other forms of power in Western societies. This has enabled the wielders of money power, referred to going forward as the ‘Money Powers,’ to become absolute rulers.

THE RISE OF MONEY POWER

With the adoption of Christianity in Western Europe, the ideological power of the church emerged as a power pillar independent of and superseding that of the sovereign. The evolving duality of power between sovereigns and the church lasted for about a millennium during the mediaeval period, from the 5th to the 15th century.

During this period, the Catholic Church’s restrictions on money power were added to the traditional sovereign restrictions on money power, thus greatly limiting the growth of money power. These limitations were principally achieved by the imposition of morality on business transactions and the prohibition of usury. As R.H. Tawney put it:

There is a moral authority to which considerations of economic expediency must be subordinated. There is no place in mediaeval theory for economic activity which is not related to a moral end.

It is right for a man to seek such wealth as is necessary for a livelihood in his station. To seek more is not enterprise, but avarice, and avarice is a deadly sin ...

... payment may properly be demanded by the craftsmen who make the goods, or by the merchants who transport them, for both labor in their vocation and serve the common need. The unpardonable sin is that of the speculator or the middleman, who snatches private gain by the exploitation of public necessities.

... usury in particular, as an offence against morality specifically [is] forbidden by both the church and public policy.⁴

Naturally, the laws did not apply to kings, feudal lords or the high-ranking clergy the same as they did to the common man:

Popes regularly employed the international banking houses of the day, with a singular indifference to the morality of their business methods, provided protection, and sometimes enforced the payment of debts by the threat of excommunication.

... the paymaster of princes, was the international financier⁵

Towards the end of the mediaeval period, money power had grown significantly.

... behind Prince and Pope alike, financing impartially Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth, Francis, Charles and Philip, stood in the last resort a little German banker, with branches in every capital in Europe, who played in the world of finance the part of the condottieri in war, and represented in the economic sphere the morality typified in that of politics by Machiavelli's Prince. Compared with these financial dynasties, Hapsburgs, Valois and Tudors were puppets dancing on wires held by a money-power to which political struggles were irrelevant except as an opportunity for gain.⁶

The rise to dominance of money power in Europe occurred in steps, first by the religious wars that limited power of the papacy and Catholicism, thereby removing constraints Christianity imposed on money power. Then democratization revolutions shifted power from the monarch to parliaments, essentially transforming national debt from a debt of the monarch to a debt of the people, as Michael Hudson explains:

The modern epoch of war financing therefore went hand in hand with the spread of parliamentary democracy. For war debts and other national obligations to become binding, the people's elected representatives had to pledge taxes. This could be achieved only by giving the electorate a voice in government.

It thus was the desire to be repaid that turned the preference of creditors away from autocracies toward democracies. In the

end, it was only from democracies that they were able to collect. This of course did not necessarily reflect liberal political convictions on the part of creditors. They simply wanted to be paid.⁷

To clarify our use of the term “Money Powers” – those who wield the power of money – historically they were the major moneylenders catering to the sovereigns, nobility, popes and church hierarchy. With the advent of privately owned central banks, they were the major owners of the central banks, and the major shareholders of the leading colonization companies such as East and West India Companies. Currently they are the major shareholders of the leading hedge funds who have control over the majority of listed corporations, as will be shown later.

The final step in the rise to dominance of the Money Powers was the establishment of privately owned central banks. The origin of this model is traced back to the Republic of Venice, when in 1582 the Banco della Piazza di Rialto, (the Bank of Venice) was established. It ushered in a banking ‘revolution.’ As Robert D. Ingraham described it,

... rather than have private family banks loan money to the state, the innovation was to have the financial oligarchy simply take over the state, i.e., to eradicate any principle of national sovereignty, and to make the state itself an arm of the financial oligarchy. That, in essence, is the core principle of what would become the Anglo-Dutch financial system.

With the creation of the Banco della Piazza di Rialto, and its later imitators in Amsterdam and London, the oligarchy had invented, not national banks, but the beginnings of what we would call today private central banking. The institutions of the state were made subservient, or more accurately, were fused to the private banking system.

The Bank of Venice became the direct inspiration for the 1609 Bank of Amsterdam, and together, these two banks were the model for the Bank of England in 1694.

We find a 1651 proposal by Sir Balthazer Gerbier for the ‘creation of a ‘bank of payment in London after the style of either

the Bank of Amsterdam, or that of Venice.' In 1678 Dr. Mark Lewis in Proposals to the King and Parliament also makes the case for the creation of a national 'bank of issuance,' based on the design of the Bank of Venice, which he believes is the 'perfect credit bank.' And even as late as 1690 Nicholas Barbon calls for the creation of national public bank, modeled on those 'in Venice and Amsterdam.' Thus, one can say that the root of the Anglo-Dutch System goes back to Sarpi's Giovani Revolution in 1582.⁸

This would make Sarpi, the Catholic Monk then self-acclaimed Protestant, the originator of modern capitalism.

The following is a brief sequence of events that trace the establishment of the first central banks, which are the forerunners of modern central banks:

The Bank of Venice

- The Republic of Venice was autonomous with no Papal influence. The Doge, elected by the Great Council did not have absolute powers. The Council of Ten, also an elected body, exercised major power in running state affairs along with other institutions. Thus, the Venetian Republic was in many ways, a precursor to parliamentary republics.
- 1582: The Banco della Piazza di Rialto (Bank of Venice) is established.

Amsterdam Exchange Bank

- 1588: The Dutch revolt led to a Protestant-dominated Dutch Republic, the termination of Catholicism and the ousting of the Spanish sovereign. Venice was the first government in Europe to recognize Dutch independence, and Venice was the first government to which the Dutch sent an ambassador.
- 1609: The Amsterdam Exchange Bank is established and modeled on the practices of the Bank of Venice.⁹

The Central Bank of Sweden (Sveriges Riksbank)

- 1600: Protestantism was adopted as the state religion, marking the end of Catholicism in Sweden. The king did not have absolute power and could only legislate in agreement with the parliament (Riksdag of the Estates).
- 1668: The Central Bank of Sweden is established, modeled after the Amsterdam Exchange Bank, with supervision by parliament.

The Bank of England

- 1688: The Glorious Revolution. James II, the last Catholic monarch, is deposed. Dutch Prince William of Orange invaded England and was proclaimed King William III with his wife as Queen Mary II. Antonio (Isaac) Lopez Suasso, also known as Isaac Israel Suasso, financed the invasion with an interest-free loan of two million guilders to Prince William of Orange.¹⁰ Suasso was a major shareholder in both the Dutch East India Company¹¹ and the Dutch West India Company,¹² then later played an important role in creating the Bank of England, in which he became a major shareholder.¹³
- 1689: The Bill of Rights established a constitutional monarchy. Most importantly, with monarchial powers greatly limited, the monarch could no longer impose taxes. Taxation was now the sole prerogative of parliament.
- 1694: The privately owned Bank of England is established. Jewish capital played an important role in its creation (the Suasso family and others).¹⁴

The Bank of France

- 1789: French revolution led to the Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and to religious freedom.
- 1790: Catholic Church property was nationalized, with clergy expenses handled by the state.
- 1793: King Louis XVI was beheaded.

- 1799: Napoleon Bonaparte was appointed First Consul. Protestant bankers from Switzerland were deeply involved in the agitations leading up to the French Revolution. When the revolutionary violence got out of hand, they orchestrated the rise of Napoleon, whom they regarded as the restorer of order.¹⁵
- 1800: The privately owned Bank of France is established. As a reward for their support, Napoleon gave the bankers a monopoly over French finance by giving them control of the new Bank of France.¹⁶

The above sequence of events reveals the *modus operandi*¹⁷ of the Money Powers in gaining control of nations. The ideological trajectory went like this: start by cancelling the dominant ideology (Christianity) by replacing it with appealing lofty ideals (the ‘Universal Rights of Man,’ ‘Liberté, égalité, fraternité,’ democratic secularism). Follow that by eliminating centralized political power, and replacing it with elected parliaments, thereby facilitating the means to gain control of the state, and after that, establishing privately owned ‘national’ central banks under Money Powers’ control.

It is no coincidence that the establishment of privately owned central banks during the 19th and 20th centuries followed after the fall of sovereigns, and it was this creditor class that financed the overthrow of each sovereign.¹⁸

This Money Powers’ modus operandi culminating in the establishment of privately-owned central banks in sovereign states dates back to the 16th century with the establishment of the Banco della Piazza di Rialto, (the Bank of Venice) and has continued essentially unchanged five centuries later into the 21st century.

By the end of the 18th century, the Money Powers had sidelined ideological power embodied in the Catholic Church and replaced it with narratives propagated by media and social influencers under Money Powers control. Political power was removed from the sovereign and embodied in elected parliaments, which came into being via elections which in general the Money Powers easily controlled. Parliaments had the sole authority to impose taxation and hence had control over state

apparatus, including the military. Thus, by the end of the 18th century, the Money Powers reigned supreme in Europe.

During the 19th century, central banks with partial or complete private ownership were established in the Netherlands, Belgium, Japan and Italy.

After various attempts to establish a privately owned central bank in the U.S. throughout the 19th century, the project was finally achieved in 1913 with establishment of the privately owned Federal Reserve System (Fed).

By the end of the 19th century only three major powers remained sovereign and in control of their own money, beyond the control of the Money Powers. These were the U.S., Russia and Germany. In the U.S., the 1907 bank panic¹⁹ and subsequent election of Woodrow Wilson were sufficient to get a Money Power-owned central bank by 1913. The Russian empire ended with the Bolshevik Revolution during World War I, giving rise to the Soviet Union. Germany was defeated in World War I, then resurrected, defeated, and occupied after World War II. Following is a brief timeline for the changes in control over the German Central Bank:

German Central Bank (Reichsbank)

- 1876: The Reichsbank is established under government control.
- 1924: It is re-organized under Allied supervision, independent of the German government.
- 1937: The Third Reich nationalizes the central bank, placing it again under government control.
- 1948: The Bank of German States is placed under the control of the occupation forces of the U.S., UK and France.
- 1957: The German Federal Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank) becomes independent of the government.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the Central Bank of Central Banks

Established in 1930 to handle reparation payments imposed on Germany after World War I, the BIS “was tasked to promote central bank cooperation more generally.”²⁰ The BIS is owned by central banks. Thus, the control over BIS is by private institutions and not governments. Its initial signatories were the private or partially privately owned central banks of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and Switzerland. Currently, sixty-three central banks and monetary authorities (Singapore) are members of the BIS and have rights of voting and representation at general meetings.

Whereas central banks control the monetary policy of nations, and thus have direct influence on national economies, the BIS, which sets policies for central banks, has direct influence on the global economy. The clearest evidence of the power of the BIS was demonstrated by the issuance of the Basel Accord²¹ in 1988, which crashed the Japanese economy, as discussed in section “The BIS Cuts Japan Back to Size.”²²

DEMOCRACY: THE PREFERRED POLITICAL SYSTEM FOR THE MONEY POWERS

Elections

Insofar as funding is a major factor determining who is able to run for elections in Western democracies, the Money Powers are well placed to control elections in these countries where waging successful campaigns requires increasingly vast expenditures. Not only do the Money Powers control money; as will be shown later, they also control mass media in all its forms, print, TV and social media platforms.

This ensures that elections rarely result in significant changes in government policy, as candidates are thoroughly vetted before they are even selected to be financed to run. This dependency ensures that candidates adhere closely to the desired Money Powers policies, and accounts for the generally recognized declining quality of Western leaders.

Furthermore, if democracy is measured by the Western democracies' domestic socio-economic policies and their international policies, then it can be easily noted that it is amongst the worst social systems in human history. The crimes of the colonial era were mostly committed by West European democracies. So were the Dresden, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Belgrade, Baghdad and Libya bombings, to mention a few. And indeed, there are long lists of wars fought over history between democracies.²³

Despite all the readily observed negatives within Western democracies, and the wars and crimes they commit against other nations, the overwhelming majority of people and intellectual elites, even those opposing the West, still consider democracy as the ideal political system, a common thesis being, 'democracy is best, but it is not being implemented properly.'

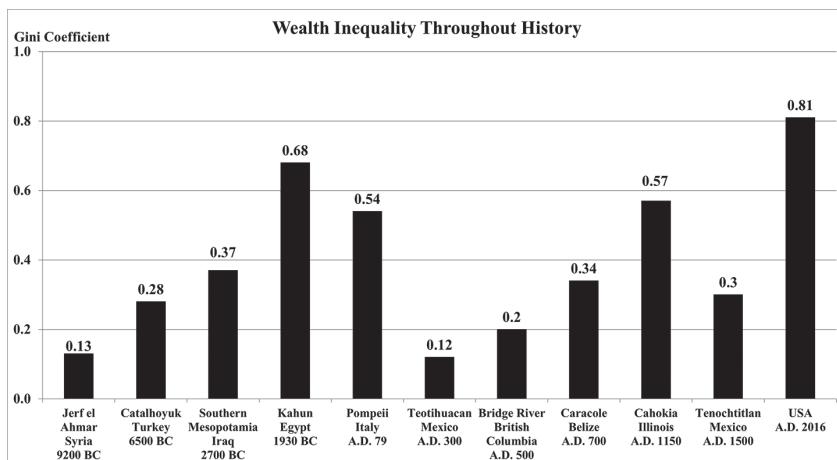


FIGURE 25. Wealth Inequality throughout History
(Smithsonian Institute)²⁴

Wealth inequality and the problematic of the Gini Coefficient

A quick look at wealth inequality over a period of eleven millennia may indicate why Money Powers opted for democracy as the ideal political system. Wealth distribution in diverse societies in three continents over a period spanning eleven millennia is by far the most inequitable in the only democratic society, the United States, with a Gini factor, the index used to measure wealth inequality, of 0.81.

This explains the Money Powers' millennial efforts at dismantling various political systems and for the most part, replacing them with democracies.

The Gini coefficient²⁵ (Gini index or Gini ratio) is a statistical measure of economic inequality in a population. The coefficient can take any values between 0 to 1 (or 0% to 100%). A coefficient of zero indicates perfect equality within a society. A coefficient of one represents a perfect inequality when one person in a society receives all the income, while other people earn nothing.²⁶

The Gini coefficient has political ramifications, as it evaluates socio-economic conditions, and therefore the legitimacy of the governance system. High Gini coefficients, reflecting high inequality, are commonly attributed to "dictatorships" and/or "corrupt" governments.

It is interesting to witness varying Gini coefficients reported for the same country, as can be noted below for the U.S. in 2016.

Smithsonian Magazine and *Fortune Magazine* report a Gini coefficient of 0.81.²⁷ Statista reports a Gini coefficient of 0.48.²⁸ The St. Louis Fed²⁹ and the World Bank³⁰ report a Gini coefficient of 0.41.

A Gini coefficient of 0.41 is quite good, whereas a Gini coefficient of 0.81 is very bad. How is it possible for the same country to be both good and bad without lying?

There are three methods for misreporting reality of Gini: calculating Gini based on income not wealth disparity, not including tail ends, and using wider groupings, as will be illustrated in the following.

Consider a group of ten persons and assume a fixed cost of living of \$2,000 per month. If, say, five of the ten persons earn \$1,500 per month, and the other five earn \$2,500 per month, the Gini coefficient would be 0.12, which is indicative of very low inequality in this group. However, in reality, 50% of this group will end up homeless in a short time, while the other five will be getting wealthier all the time, this makes Gini calculations based on income inequality meaningless as regards reflecting the reality of socio-economic disparity in a society. Thus, the Gini coefficient based on income inequality is used to obfuscate reality of inequality in society. This explains the Gini coefficients of 0.41 to 0.48 reported by World Bank, St. Louis Fed and Statista.

Tail end effects are illustrated in the following. Calculations based on Federal Reserve data on wealth in the U.S. in 2020 by percentile from the bottom 1% to the top 99%³¹, results in a Gini of 0.79. If the top 0.9% and top 0.01%³² wealth groups are added, the Gini coefficient increases to 0.85.

If Gini is calculated using the same data above, but instead of grouping by percentile, the data is divided into five groups of 20 percent each, the Gini would drop from 0.85 to 0.77.

Thus for an accurate assessment of inequality in society, the Gini coefficient should be calculated based on wealth not income, tail ends should be included and narrow groupings should be used.

Accordingly, the Gini factor for the U.S. in 2020 is 0.85, which is even worse than the 0.81 reported by Mathew Shaer, further confirming that from a socioeconomic standpoint, democracy is the worse form of governance throughout history. That is natural, as it was made by the Money Powers for the Money Powers.

THE SOVEREIGN VS. THE MONEY POWERS

The Money Powers were never concerned with conquering a large territory geographically or about achieving economic dominance based on production. Rather, throughout the Money Powers' existence, their focus has been on siphoning the wealth created by others through control of trade and finance:

From the period of the first Crusade in 1099 through to the collapse and depopulation of the Black Death in 1347–1351, Europe and the Mediterranean region were dominated by this first manifestation of a Venetian empire. Despite Venice's seizure of Byzantine and other colonies, this was never primarily an empire of geographical expansion, but of maritime and, particularly, financial ascendancy.

Venice possessed no industry, save for its giant military/naval factory, the Arsenal. Their power was in their control over trade, particularly trade between Europe and the East, and in banking and currency manipulation.³³

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Money Powers had taken control of England with the relegation of the sovereign to a constitutional monarchy and the establishment of the privately owned Bank of England. At the beginning of the 19th century, they took control of France with establishment the French Republic, in 1800 founding the privately owned Bank of France.

Nations under the control of the Money Powers are subsequently used to further the interests of the Money Powers in exploiting other nations. While nations are at the forefront of conducting colonial and imperial wars, it is the Money Powers, who are the puppet masters and beneficiaries, with the colonial armies providing the military forces to establish their domination. At the height of colonialism in the 19th century, Britain had colonized a quarter of land on Earth,³⁴ though the actual colonial powers were the Money Powers, not Britain:

It was not the British government that seized India at the end of the 18th century, but a dangerously unregulated private company headquartered in one small office, five windows wide, in

London; almost all of India south of that city [Delhi] was by then effectively ruled from a boardroom in the City of London.³⁵

At its height, it had an army of 260,000 (twice the size of Britain's standing army) and was responsible for almost half of Britain's trade. The subcontinent was now under the rule of the East India Company's shareholders³⁶

[T]he British East India Company's power spread to encompass much of the subcontinent. ..., installed puppet rulers, minted their own coins, constructed their own court system, and meted out their own punishments.³⁷

The British East Indies Company had received a Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth I, in 1600. Identical formats existed for other colonialist powers: the Dutch East India Company in 1602, the Portuguese East India Company in 1628, and the French East India Company in 1664.

Wealth pillaged from the colonies was not pillaged for the colonialist nations, but for the bankers and shareholders of the exploiting companies based therein; that is, the Money Powers. At the height of colonial pillaging in the 19th century, misery was widespread in the domestic populations of the colonialist nations as reflected by the timeless works of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* (1838) and *Nicholas Nickleby*, (1839), Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, (1862), and Vincent van Gogh's painting, 'The Potato Eaters,' (1885). In some quarters of London, conditions were extremely bad: "in St. Giles parish, the average life expectancy at birth was forty years, but for the poor it was seventeen."³⁸

Colonialist governments were at the service of the Money Powers, the financiers and main beneficiaries of colonial pillaging. Indeed, the earlier looting of gold and silver from the massacred Aztec, Inca and other civilizations did not make its way to the Spanish people or even to the Spanish sovereign. As Ingraham notes:

Jacob Fugger, an insignificant Austrian spice trader residing in Venice, was picked up by the Venetians and made their agent in control of most of the silver and copper mines in central Europe.

Fugger created the most powerful banking house in Europe, and then bankrolled the Austrian Hapsburgs ... into control of the Holy Roman Empire.

... Fugger and Genoese allies, who, as the creditors to the Spanish government, drained off all of the loot from Spain's massive traffic in gold, silver and slaves, manipulated every aspect of Spanish policy, and drove the Spanish Crown into bankruptcy several times.³⁹

THE SUPREMACY OF THE MONEY POWERS

The supremacy of the Money Powers is best evidenced in their faceoffs with two U.S. presidents, one a Democrat, the other a Republican.

During the Bretton Woods conference, in which the post-WWII monetary and political global structure was being set, President Franklin D. Roosevelt supported the proposal enjoining liquidation of the Bank for International Settlements⁴⁰ (BIS) due its cooperation with Nazi Germany during World War II. The proposal passed Commission III without objection:

Commission III recommends to Commission I that an appropriate provision be included in the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund to the effect that the government of no country shall be eligible for membership in the International Monetary Fund as long as the Central Bank of that country has not taken the necessary steps to foster the liquidation of the Bank of International Settlements.⁴¹

The resolution was adopted as part of the final act of the Bretton Woods conference. The resolution was never implemented and was officially revoked in 1948 after Roosevelt's death.

[I]n 1946 European central bank governors started to meet regularly in Basel once again. Soon it became clear that the BIS had an important role to play in making the Bretton Woods system work in the European context, and in 1948 the liquidation resolution was officially revoked.⁴²

Thus, in a face-off between the BIS, the top global financial institution, and the president of the U.S., when the U.S. was at peak military and economic power, it was the privately owned BIS that emerged the victor.

A more recent example of the supremacy of Money Powers can be seen in President Donald Trump's tribulations. The de-industrialization of the U.S. and widespread closure of its industries as well as large agricultural corporations taking control of the agricultural sector resulted in a significant portion of the population losing their well-paid jobs, ultimately forming a significant base for Trump's populist agenda, and allowing him to win the presidency in 2016.

Knowingly or unknowingly, Trump undertook three major actions that conflicted with the Money Powers' agenda:

- 2017: Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord.⁴³
- 2017: Suspension of negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).⁴⁴
- 2017: Cancellation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).⁴⁵

The Money Powers, as represented by the leading hedge funds, had decided by 2015 to adopt the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda,⁴⁶ which calls for drastic cuts in fossil fuel investments, a key element in their engineering the global economic crisis of 2023, as will be discussed below. Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord was a major blow to the ESG agenda. It is noteworthy that President Biden signed the agreement⁴⁷ on his first day in office.

A possibly more imprudent move by Trump was the cancellation of the secretive TTIP and TPP trade agreements. Member of European Parliament (MEP) Molly Scott Cato provides insight into the secrecy shrouding the negotiations of the TTIP agreement:⁴⁸

It appears that, even though I am past 50, my opportunities to become a spy have not expired. This is because, as an MEP, I have now been granted privileged access to the European parliament restricted reading room to explore documents relating to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) deal. But before I had the right to see such "top secret" docu-

ments, which are restricted from the gaze of most EU citizens, I was required to sign a document of some 14 pages, reminding me that “EU institutions are a valuable target” and of the dangers of espionage. Crucially, I had to agree not to share any of the contents with those I represent.

The delightful parliamentary staff required me to leave even the smallest of my personal items in a locked cupboard, as they informed me how tiny cameras can be these days. Like a scene from a James Bond film, they then took me through the security door into a room with secure cabinets from which the documents were retrieved. I was not at any point left alone.⁴⁹

My visit to the parliamentary library was an interesting reminder of the limitations of democratic accountability in the globalised, corporatised world of 2015, where the citizen is side-lined. Even as a representative of 5 million, my role is mainly to be a consultee; a stakeholder.

We hear much criticism of the “nanny state,” but the world according to TTIP is more like Big Brother Corporation, where individual preferences are swept aside in the onward march of progress and order. It is the disturbing and unsettling worldview that David Korten envisaged in his 1995 book, *When Corporations Rule the World*.⁵⁰ At the time, the title seemed rhetorical; outlandish even. It seems considerably less so today.

The reason for this secrecy, and for keeping negotiations out of the public awareness, is that these trade agreements usurp what little is left of national sovereignty. This is explained by Linda Kaucher.

Rather than ‘trade,’ these agreements are really about creating legalised straightjackets to strengthen the power of transnational corporations while correspondingly diminishing the rights of governments to control them.

They are driven by the transnational corporations that will benefit from them, *primarily financial service transnationals*. [Italics added] The City of London Corporation, representing the large number of transnational financial service firms that have

a base in London, has a major influence on EU trade policy, including the TTIP.

An ongoing Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) is planned as part of the TTIP. Its role in harmonising all new regulation means it will, simply, override governments.

The inclusion of ‘investor state dispute settlement’ (ISDS) in TTIP will allow transnational corporations to sue governments directly for the loss of all future profits resulting from government action (at any level of government) that affects those future profits. Such disputes will be decided by secretive arbitration panels making decisions solely on ‘free trade values’ without regard for other principles.⁵¹

As the corporate world is dominated by a handful of hedge funds (see sections ‘Neoliberal Economy in the West: Healthcare’ and ‘Engineering the Global Economic Crash’ below) these trade agreements usurp what little is left of national sovereignty, surrendering it to the Money Powers as represented by hedge funds.

Either President Trump was not aware who he was up against, or he was so naïve as to believe that the president of the U.S. had more power than the hedge funds.

The media and the political establishments in the U.S. and the EU, already hostile to Trump, made him a pariah. In an extraordinary move, he was also banned from the hedge fund-controlled social media platforms while still president of the U.S.⁵²

Even the military did not bother to obey his orders as Commander in Chief. In 2018, Trump ordered the ‘full and immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria.’⁵³ The order was never implemented. Diplomats even bragged about lying to President Trump.⁵⁴

Eventually, Trump lost the re-election in 2020 after four years of personal attacks and obstruction of his policies. Indeed, the 2020 election was exhibit A of a farcical election process.⁵⁵ Already it has been revealed how social media platforms were working hand in hand with the DNC, especially with regard to suppressing the Hunter laptop story.

As with the confrontation between President Roosevelt and the BIS, in the confrontation between President Trump and the Money Powers, Trump was out, and the Money Powers prevailed. While the decision to liquidate the BIS had been taken and included in the Bretton Woods agreements, it was not implemented, either when Roosevelt was alive or after his death. And as mentioned, when Trump ordered a withdrawal from Syria, it was just ignored.

The above two confrontations between U.S. presidents and the Money Powers clearly demonstrate their relative powers, and support the contention that in Western democracies, the Money Powers are the puppet masters of those holding elective office.

It is within this context that global economics and geopolitics need to be analyzed.

In much the same way that the Money Powers were able to usurp sovereignty in Europe during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by disposing of the Church and the sovereign and establishing democracies as the preferred system for exploitation, so too have they imposed this political system on the countries of the Global South, along with the Bretton Woods financial system.

It should be no surprise, therefore, that the departing colonialists chose to impose democratic constitutions on their former colonies before leaving, as they did in India, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, etc. and held to that practice later, even after regime change, as in Iraq and Libya (though they failed to achieve it in Syria).

Prior to World War II colonialism was achieved by military means. Post-World War II, the Bretton Woods financial instruments have been the tools of choice for imposing the neoliberal economic model, enabling acquisition of valuable resources at fire sale prices, be it natural resources, major industries, accumulated wealth, or to advance geostrategic interests. These instruments were used to engineer the Latin America Debt crisis in the early 1980s, Japan's Financial Crash in the late 1980s and the Asian Financial Crisis in the late 90s. Due to the importance of financial warfare, these raids will be studied and analyzed.

Thus, a broader and more accurate visualization of the role of western democracies in the hegemonic effort is that they form a single colonial empire governed by the Money Powers through the leading hedge funds, and in which the BIS stands as the main arbiter. Of course, the elites in Western democracies – the political, security, judicial, military, academic and media personalities – are pampered by the Money Powers in order to preserve the ‘system’ by providing security within the system, an imperial army for advancing global interests, and the tools for manufacturing consent.⁵⁶

Whether the reference is to the British Empire, the U.S. Empire or simply the Empire, what is actually being referred to is the Money Powers’ Empire.

FREE TRADE COSMOPOLITANISM AND GLOBALIZATION

Since colonial days, the Money Powers have called for ‘free trade,’ free movement of capital and ‘cosmopolitanism,’ the latter term having evolved to ‘globalization.’

It is elementary that when it is said that trade or capital movement is not free, it implies that there are restrictions imposed by a nation: an indication of national sovereignty – something anathema to the Money Powers. Hence it is readily understood why Western nations call for unrestricted trade and free movement of capital. The only acceptable restrictions on trade are those that the Money Powers themselves impose, which are commonly referred to as ‘Sanctions.’

As will be discussed later, high rates of industrialization and development were always accompanied by high degrees of protectionism and financial regulation, i.e. by restricting the movement of goods and capital. However, the restriction of trade and capital flows constrains the ability of Money Powers to access and siphon off the wealth of nations. This was well expressed by Sun Yat-Sen a century ago.

The nations which are employing imperialism to conquer others and which are trying to maintain their own favored positions as sovereign lords of the whole world are advocating cosmopolitanism [globalism] and want the world to join them

In order to preserve their privileged position in oppressed countries as well as their supremacy over the world, the imperialist Powers are advocating the doctrine of cosmopolitanism [globalism] to make the world submissive and obedient.⁵⁷

Indeed, going back to the early days of Money Power in Venice:

Despite Venice's seizure of Byzantine and other colonies, this was never primarily an empire of geographical expansion, but of maritime and, particularly, financial ascendancy.

Their power was in their control over trade, particularly trade between Europe and the East, and in banking and currency manipulation.⁵⁸

Not much has changed in the last century nor in the last millennium for that matter.

CHAPTER 5

The Nixon Shock and Bretton Woods II

As was shown earlier, the price of oil has nothing to do with supply and demand; rather it is a powerful tool for advancing geostrategic interests and preserving colonial dominance. Indeed, market manipulation is not limited to oil, but extends to all commodities, particularly strategic commodities such as gas, precious metals,¹ strategic metals,² and even agricultural products.³ However, the most important field of manipulation is that of currencies and sovereign debt interest rates, as these have the potential to lead to hyperinflation, currency devaluation, the bankruptcy of nations, and the expropriation of strategic resources, businesses, and the public assets of nations, thereby quashing their attempts at independence, and extending colonial powers dominance.

For millennia money, however denominated, always had intrinsic value. Gold and silver were the most commonly used currencies; whenever other earlier currencies were used, such as grain, dates, salt, etc. they too had intrinsic value. The Bretton Woods system was no exception, fixing the USD as the global trade and reserves currency against gold at \$35 per troy ounce, or 1 USD \approx 0.9 grams of gold.

Currency devaluation would occur in a nation if it overprinted its currency with respect to its gold reserves. The latter limited the possibility for currency manipulation by external parties.

U.S. competitiveness dropped precipitously since the early 1950s, resulting in a steady reduction of its trade surpluses. Expenditures on the Korean and Vietnam wars and expenses associated with the plethora of overseas bases resulted in ballooning balance of payments deficits and the erosion of U.S. gold reserves. Deficits were covered by currency printing, putting pressure on the USD. To maintain the Bretton Woods rate of \$35/oz, the central banks of the U.S. Germany, UK, France, Italy,

Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland set up a gold pool⁴ to manipulate the gold price.

Here is a timeline of events leading to the end of dollar convertibility to gold:

- November 1961: Agreement to establish the London Gold Pool to maintain the price of gold at \$35/oz.
- February 1965: President de Gaulle of France announces his intention to exchange dollar reserves for gold at the official exchange rate; and sends the French navy to collect 138 tons of gold from the U.S.⁵
- June 1967: De Gaulle orders the withdrawal of France from the London Gold Pool agreement.
- March 1968: The London Gold Pool collapses.
- May 1968: Daniel Cohn-Bendit⁶ leads the May 1968 revolution⁷ against de Gaulle.
- August 1971: U.S. President Nixon ends convertibility of the USD to gold.⁸

A first impression of the termination of dollar convertibility to gold was that it was a blow to the Bretton Woods system in which the gold-backed USD was the currency of national reserves and international trade. But then, the status of the USD as reserve and trade currency was preserved by the replacement of its gold backing with oil backing in 1973.

In actuality, the termination of the gold convertibility of the USD – and thereby the gold convertibility of all currencies – was crucial to granting free rein to the Money Powers, who were the main beneficiaries of the USD–gold decoupling. The USD–gold decoupling laid the foundation for the neoliberal economy and globalization, which are two faces of the same coin.

In Western nations, the decoupling paved the way for side-lining the industrial sector to the benefit of the financial sector and rolled back gains made by the working and middle classes in the post-World War II era.

Globally, the USD–gold decoupling had two major repercussions:

- An aggressive siphoning of wealth from the Global South and the newly industrialized countries. This was achieved by widespread manipulation of currency and interest rates.
- Advancing geostrategic interests through wars, irrespective of their cost, insofar as, unlike gold or other commodity-based currency, there is no limit to the creation of fiat currencies. Thus, when the USD became purely ‘fiat,’ there was no longer a limit on U.S. war expenses.⁹

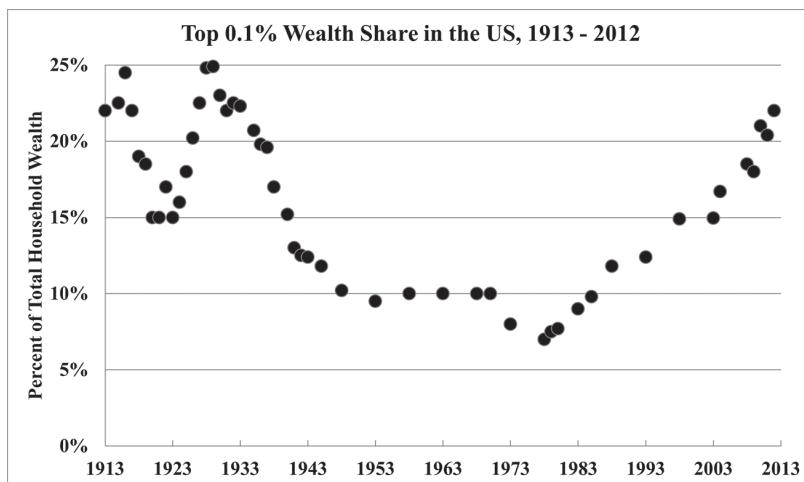
Whereas July 1944 was the date of the establishment of Bretton Woods, August 15, 1971 should be seen as the date of the establishment of Bretton Woods II and the initiation of what was later to be labeled the era of the neoliberal economy and globalization.

It must be noted that during the Nixon presidency, another important decision was taken in 1973 in favor of the Money Powers, namely, the opening of the Chicago Options Exchange (CBOE) for options exchange trading. (Options trading had been made illegal by President Roosevelt in 1936, another belated Money Powers victory over this president.) As with the healthcare and energy sectors, which will be discussed later, the largest shareholders of the CBOE, not surprisingly, are the hedge funds Vanguard, BlackRock and T. Rowe Price, owning 26%.¹⁰

THE NEOLIBERAL VULTURE ECONOMY

Subsequent to the 1929 Wall Street crash and the decade-long Great Depression lasting until 1939, the United States Congress passed the Glass–Steagall Act¹¹ in 1933 to avoid recurrence of such crashes. This law separated banks into commercial banks and investment banks. Financial speculative activities were limited to investment banks, thereby constraining the speculative activities of the Money Powers, the main source of skimming wealth from societies, including the United States.

As shown in Figure 26, the reforms initiated by President Roosevelt and the dominance of the industrial sector in the United States contributed to



This figure depicts the share of total household wealth held by the 0.1% richest families, as estimated by capitalizing income tax returns. In 2012, the top 0.1% includes about 160,000 families with net wealth above \$20.6 million. Source: Saez & Zucman; Appendix Table V1.

FIGURE 26. U.S. Top 0.1% Wealth Share 1913–2012¹²

the drop in wealth concentration over the half century between 1928 and 1978. That drop was reversed in the neoliberal era. The Glass-Steagall Act was repealed in 1999, contributing to the 2008 financial crisis.¹³

The neoliberal economy came to prominence first in the U.S. and UK, and was subsequently imposed globally on most countries. In some cases, neoliberalism was enforced by coercion using Bretton Woods instruments, as will be discussed in subsequent sections on the Latin American Debt Crisis, Japan's Financial Crisis, and the Asian Financial Crisis, all of which ended with these countries deregulating their financial sectors and relaxing constraints on foreign ownership.

The siren call for the establishment of a neoliberal economy – ‘The private sector is more efficient than public sector’ – led to a wave of privatizations of government services, and consequently, a drastic reduction in the role of governments in managing society. As will be discussed in the following, the beneficiaries of neoliberalism were the Money Powers. The standard bearers for the neoliberal economy were Margaret Thatcher¹⁴ in the UK and Ronald Reagan¹⁵ in the U.S.

Privatization necessitates weak labor unions in order to ensure that corporate profits can be carved out of the existing cost structure. Hence, crushing labor unions was key to imposing the neoliberal economy. This was undertaken in the early stages of the neoliberal economy both in the U.S. and the UK. In the U.S. it was first achieved by crushing the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, with President Regan in 1981 firing 11,345 air traffic controllers and banning them from federal service for life.¹⁶ In the UK Margaret Thatcher brought it about by crushing the powerful National Union of Mineworkers in 1984.¹⁷

The vaunted efficiency of the private sector was on display when the privatized Genoa Bridge in Italy collapsed in 2018 due to lack of maintenance, killing at least 43 people.¹⁸ Such death by crashes is no stranger to the billionaire Benetton family-owned businesses. In 2013, the collapse of a clothing factory building in Bangladesh resulted in the death of 1,130 people.¹⁹ The deleterious impact of privatization on healthcare and prisons will be further addressed, below.

It was no coincidence that the champions of the neoliberal economy were the U.S. and the UK. Both countries had lost their industrial competitiveness, were recording large trade deficits, their currencies had ‘reserve’ status, and both were home to the two major global financial centers, Wall Street and The City of London.

Thus, when the U.S. and UK lost in the economic competitiveness game, Bretton Woods II created the opportunity to change rules of the game. Capitalizing on the fact that currencies could now be manipulated at will, and that the instruments of financial manipulation are based in the U.S. and the UK – namely, global banks, rating agencies, hedge funds, commodity exchanges, IMF, World Bank, media, “expert talking heads,” gold reserves of most countries, etc. – it was possible, using these instruments in tandem, to print money at will to cover consumption while maintaining the value of their currencies with respect to other currencies and to wage unlimited wars without risking bankruptcy or economic decline.

With the change in the game’s rules, it was believed irrelevant to maintain a strong manufacturing base, as trade and balance of payments deficits could be covered by money printing without affecting currency

value. This led to an era of globalization i.e. migration of industrial production from non-competitive Western economies to competitive South economies, resulting in the great trade deficits of the Bretton Woods II era. Prior to Bretton Woods II, this would have resulted in drainage of gold reserves and consequently currency devaluation and the impoverishment of de-industrialized countries. The stability of currencies while simultaneously recording great trade and budget deficits was made possible by Bretton Woods II and the enabling power of, effectively, economic virtual reality.²⁰

The transformation of the U.S. economy from laissez-faire capitalism to neoliberalism is shown in Figure 27:

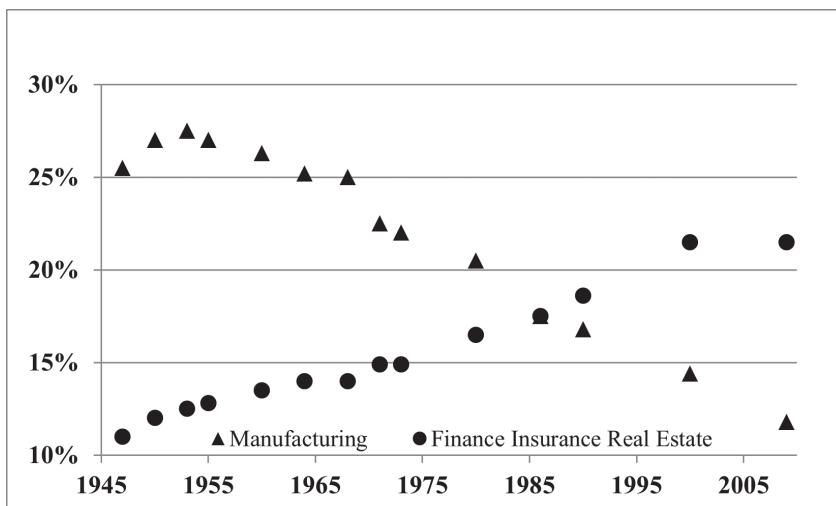


FIGURE 27. Manufacturing and FIRE Sectors of U.S. Economy 1947–2009²¹

During the capitalist era, manufacturing was by far the leading sector of the economy up to the advent of the neoliberal era in 1980, by which time it had dropped from a high of 28% in 1953 to around 21% in 1980. During the neoliberal era, manufacturing dropped further to 12%, by 2009. The finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) sector, like an uncontrolled cancer, was growing continuously, from 11% in 1947 to 22% in 2009.

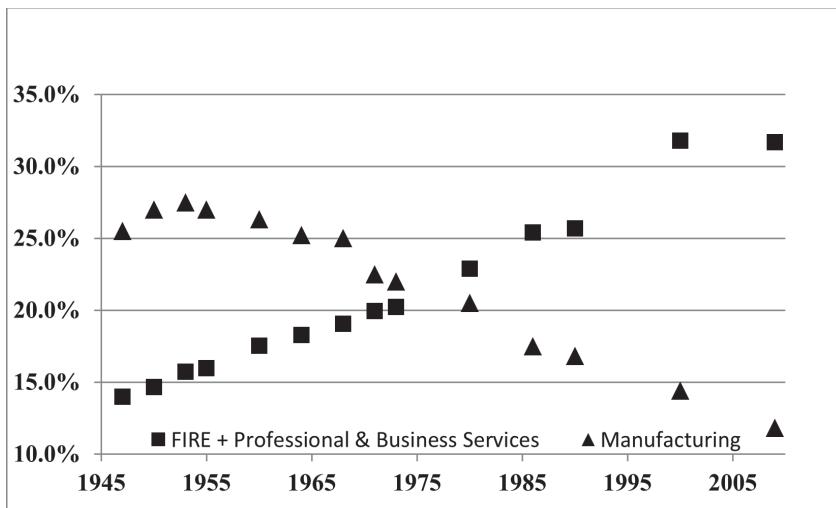


FIGURE 28. Manufacturing and FIRE + Professional Business Services 1947–2009²²

When professional and business services are added to the FIRE sector, the increase is from 14% in 1947 to 32% in 2009.

In a capitalist economy, the driving force of the economy is industry, the product of the industrial sector being competitive products. In a capitalist system, a fair relationship exists between supplier and consumer; the manufacturer inputs materials, knowhow, labor to create a product, for which buyers pay what they consider a fair price. Consumers trade their labor to acquire cars, furniture, clothes, tools, etc. Consumers obtain the products they desire against an amount of their labor they value as a fair trade; producers sell their products at the price they find acceptable. Thus, in a capitalist system, a comparative win-win situation exists between industrialists and consumers.

In a neoliberal economy the driving sector of growth is the financial sector, the product of which is debt and the consequent interest payments on the debt. The growth of the financial sector implies a realization of wealth with no product in return. Thus, in a neoliberal system a win–lose relationship exists between the financial sector of the economy and the remaining sectors.

Commercial banks operate by the fractional reserve banking principle,²³ whereby most of the money they loan is created out of thin air.²⁴

By some estimates, the banks create upwards of 97 per cent of money, in the form of electronic funds stored in online accounts.²⁵

In fractional reserve banking, the bank creates debt out of thin air, and it charges interest on it!

Naturally this results in continuous growth of the financial sector at the expense of other sectors, leading to high wealth concentration and the impoverishment of the society at large, irrespective of an increase in productivity in those sectors.

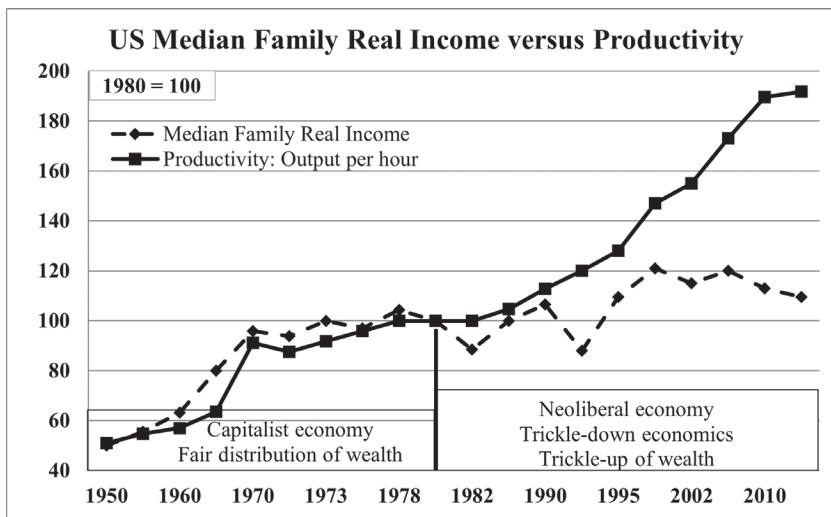


FIGURE 29. U.S. Productivity and Median Family Income²⁶

Figure 29 illustrates the impact of the neoliberal economy on U.S. society.

Up to 1980 during the capitalism era, median family income grew at essentially the same rate as growth of the overall economy, an indication of fair distribution of wealth in society.

Post 1980 in the neoliberal economy era, two observations can be made:

1. The rate of growth of median family income does not keep pace with economic growth, with a widening gap since 1980 an indication of increasing wealth concentration and impoverishment of society at large – the main reason being that industry requires a skilled and consequently well paid labor force.
2. As industry migrates, industrial jobs are replaced by lower skilled services sector jobs. Ford, General Motors, Caterpillar and Carrier, etc., jobs are replaced by minimum wage jobs²⁷ at Wal-Mart, Amazon, Hooters, and McDonald's, etc. Workers at low skill jobs in services sector are also much more readily replaced than workers performing skilled jobs in manufacturing, further weakening the labor movement.

Recently, however, not only industrial jobs but even high paying services jobs are migrating to more competitive nations.²⁸

At this point, a seeming paradox sets in: Economic crises result in the expected drop in median family income, but surprisingly, “national productivity” increases! This was the case for all economic crises since Bretton Woods II, including the 1973 energy crisis, the 1979 energy crisis, the early 1980s recession, 1987’s Black Monday stock crash, the 2000-2002 Dot-com bubble, and the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

Performance during economic crises clarifies the essence of the neoliberal economy. During a crisis personal and corporate losses and bankruptcies proliferate, resulting in the overall impoverishment of society as seen in the dips of median family income. Despite the fact that economic slowdown impacts the banking sector too, as less debt is demanded by individuals and corporations, the banking sector nonetheless records overall growth!

The reason is that the profits made by the banking sector in retrieving the assets of bankrupt individuals and corporations at a fraction of their value greatly outweighs the negative business slowdown effects. Thus like a vulture, the financial sector grows by picking the cadavers of crises victims. This was best expressed by a statement attributed to a member of the leading banking family, Baron Nathan Rothschild: “The time to buy is when there’s blood in the streets.”²⁹

In capitalism, industry thrives when the economy is doing well, as people can consume more, whereas a neoliberal economy thrives when society is in crisis. Clearly a conflict of interest exists between the dominant economic powers and society in a neoliberal economy.

As U.S. industry lost its competitiveness, the capitalist political system was replaced by the neoliberal political system in which the financial sector dominates the economy. Despite any misgivings about the capitalist system beyond its national borders, within the country, its interests are in sync with society, as noted above. In a neoliberal system, however, the financial sector *siphons wealth from society and grows at time of crisis*. This invariably leads to a continuous, across-the-board deterioration in domestic social conditions.

Hence concomitant with the neoliberal era, domestic socioeconomic problems increase exponentially. Rising poverty is evidenced by the growth in number of people on food stamps since advent of the neoliberal era as was shown in Figure 9 presented earlier.³⁰

Rising poverty is but one of the socioeconomic problems. Other problems resulting from a neoliberal economy include the loss of personal freedoms,³¹ increasing crime rates,³² drug abuse,³³ deteriorating infrastructure,³⁴ a skyrocketing prison population,³⁵ and police militarization³⁶ to control the increasingly marginalized segments of society, etc.

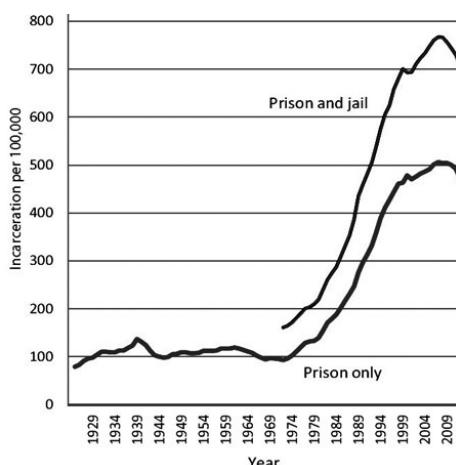


FIGURE 30. U.S. State and Federal Prison Population 1925–2012³⁷

Skyrocketing prison populations coincide with the advent of the neoliberal economy era.

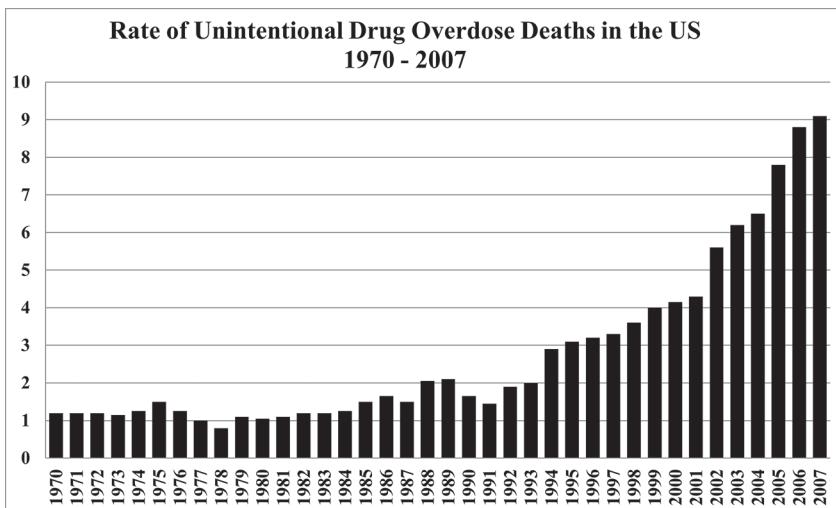


FIGURE 31. U.S. Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths
1970–2007

Drug overdose deaths were stable at around 1 per 100,000 during the decade 1970 to 1980. In the neoliberal era post-1980 overdose drug deaths were doubling every decade.³⁸

In the neoliberal economies, Money Powers domination is unconstrained, both within a country and internationally. The conflict of interest between society and the dominant economic powers in the neoliberal era was demonstrated earlier. However, since Money Powers dominate the political establishment, this then becomes a conflict between society and the government. A clear example of that occurred during the 2008 financial crisis, when society covered big banks' losses³⁹ to the tune of \$7.7 trillion.⁴⁰ This was not limited to the U.S.; European taxpayers were also burdened with €1.5 trillion of big bank losses.⁴¹

Further reflecting the disregard for the individual and society in Western neoliberal democracies, bail-in laws were enacted, allowing confiscation of depositor assets in case of bank failures.⁴² Thus it should be clear, beyond a shadow of a doubt, with whom the ultimate power in neoliberal democracies rests, and more significantly, that the interests of neoliberal governments run against the interests of societies.

HEALTHCARE

The predatory nature of neoliberal economy is best understood by considering the healthcare sector in the U.S.

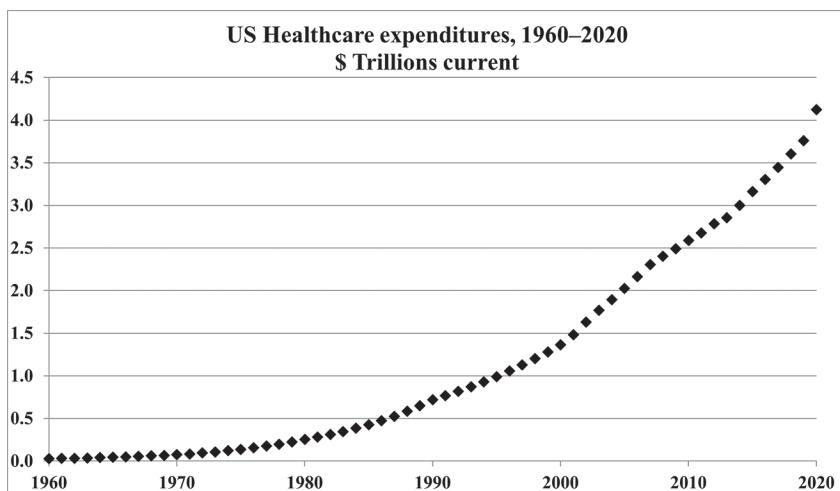


FIGURE 32. U.S. Healthcare Expenditures 1960–2020⁴³

From Figures 32 and 33 (below), the following observations on healthcare costs in the U.S. are noteworthy:

- Skyrocketing healthcare expenditures in neoliberal era⁴⁴ reached \$4.1 trillion in 2020.⁴⁵
- As a percent of GDP healthcare expenditures increased from 5% in 1960 to 20% by 2020.⁴⁶ This contributes to making the cost of living exorbitant, negatively impacting not just individuals but the competitiveness of U.S. businesses.

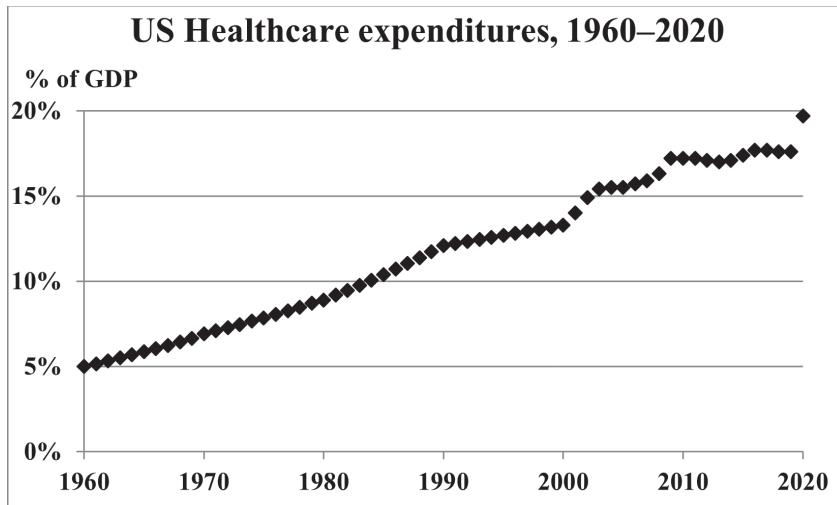


FIGURE 33. U.S. Healthcare Expenditures as a Percent of GDP
1960–2020⁴⁷

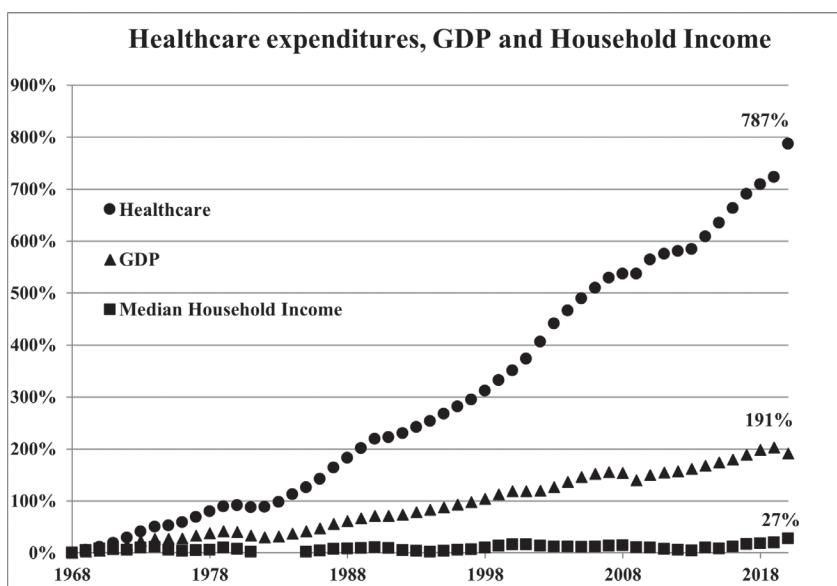


FIGURE 34. Healthcare Expenditures, GDP and Wages, 1968 to 2020⁴⁸

Despite these astronomical expenditures, U.S. healthcare performance falls behind that of Cuba in two key performance indicators, namely life expectancy⁴⁹ and child mortality rates.⁵⁰ Here, the exorbitant cost cannot even procure healthcare on a par with Cuba.

Figure 34 provides excellent insight into misconceptions that arise from correlating GDP-based analyses with social wellbeing and captures the essence of the neoliberal economy.

Between 1968 and 2020 the increasing domestic impoverishment was manifest in the disparity between these increases:

- 27% increase in median household income
- 191% increase in GDP
- 787% increase in healthcare expenditures or 2,900% of wage increase and 400% of GDP increase.

THE FALLACY OF PER CAPITA INCOME AS AN INDICATOR OF SOCIAL AFFLUENCE

The affluence of societies is commonly measured by Per Capita Income (PCI). PCI is calculated as GDP divided by population. If that were so, then:

Adjusting for population growth (196 million in 1968, 336 million in 2020⁵¹), the PCI increase between 1968 and 2020 should be 69%.

However, adjusting for changes in U.S. government inflation calculations since 1980, actual 2020 inflation would have to be increased by 5%,⁵² in which case real wage increases in the 52-year period would be 26%.

Going by the GDP data measurement, the affluence in U.S. society should have increased by 69% between 1960 and 2010. But in reality, for society at large, the improvement in half a century as measured by median family income was only 26%, less than half what is indicated by GDP data.

Thus, not only are western GDP data invalid for national comparisons due to distortions discussed earlier in the above section “The Fallacy of Recent Western GDP Data,” they present a totally erroneous depiction

of social welfare within the country. Furthermore, PCI data is meaningless in neoliberal economies due to its distortion by the high wealth concentration which is inherent in these economies.

What is clear from the above is that wage earners receive a marginal fraction of productivity increases while health sector owners receive a disproportionately large fraction of ‘productivity’ increases. The health sector is therefore an important contributor to increasing wealth concentration in the U.S.

The excessive costs of healthcare in the U.S. contribute to significantly reducing the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in the real economy sectors. In the neoliberal economy, healthcare service is transformed from an essential service to society into a wealth extraction racket, siphoning trillions of dollars from the population to the Money Powers. This was achieved by the Money Powers taking control of this sector through the leading hedge funds.

The largest corporate owners of the U.S. healthcare system are:⁵³

- Health insurers: BlackRock, Vanguard, and T. Rowe Price
- Pharma manufacturers: Vanguard, BlackRock and Capital R&M
- Pharmacies: Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street
- Drug wholesalers: Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street

It is clear therefore that hedge funds control the health sector.

WEALTH CONCENTRATION

Furthermore, BlackRock and Vanguard are among the top five shareholders of almost 70% of the largest 2,000 publicly traded corporations in the U.S.⁵⁴

It would not be an overstatement to say that these four hedge funds – Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street and T. Rowe Price – control every aspect of the U.S. economy. Their power is not limited to the U.S. economy, but extends to the global economy, as will be discussed later in the section ‘Engineering the Global Economic Crash.’

The further concentration of ownership within these leading hedge funds is enlightening:

- BlackRock's largest shareholders: Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street for a combined total of 27%.⁵⁵
- Vanguard's largest shareholders: BlackRock, Vanguard and T. Rowe Price for a combined total of 40%.⁵⁶
- State Street's largest shareholders: Vanguard, BlackRock and T. Rowe Price for a combined total of 36%.⁵⁷
- T. Rowe Price's largest shareholders: Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street for a combined total of 30%.⁵⁸

As was shown earlier in Figure 26, the wealth share of the top 0.1%, increased as a consequence of the neoliberal economy in the U.S. Better insight into wealth concentration is provided by tracking the top 0.01% as shown in Figure 35:

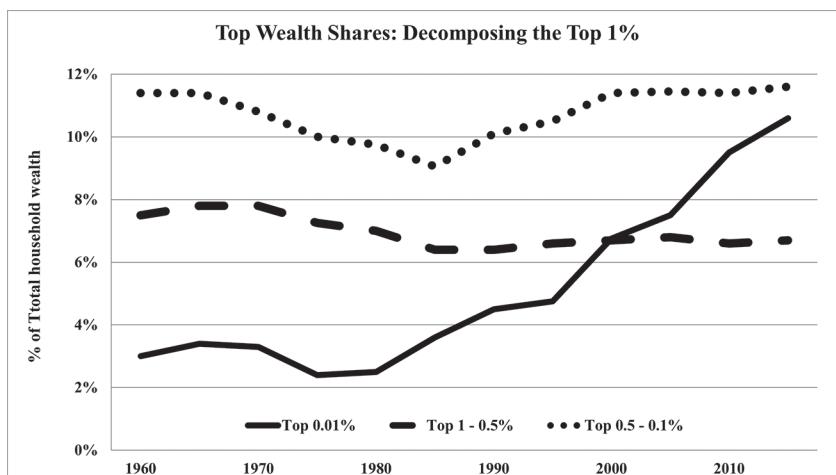


FIGURE 35. Decomposing the Top 1% (Saez & Zucman)⁵⁹

From Figure 35 the following observations can be made:

- Capitalist era 1960 to 1980: All subgroups within the 1% had a drop in relative wealth, indicative of greater fairness of capitalist society.

- Neoliberal era post-1980: All subgroups within the wealthiest 1% benefitted, confirming that wealth concentration is inherent in the neoliberal economy.
- Wealth concentration is even evident within the wealthiest 1%:
 - » The 1% to 0.5%, the least wealthy of this group, benefitted the least.
 - » The 0.01%, wealthiest within this group benefitted the most.

The wealth of the top 0.01% had bottomed at about 2% of total household wealth in 1978 but had increased to about 11% in 2013. In other words, in 2013 an individual of the wealthiest 0.01% owned as much as 1,100 people. This is comparable to wealth distribution in the serf communities of the Medieval Period.

Two main factors contribute to wealth concentration:

- The beneficiaries of neoliberal economy are mainly those associated with the financial sector, particularly hedge funds.
- The migration of industrial and other well-paying jobs has the dual effect of lowering wages compared to industrial jobs and weakening labor unions.

Not only are the hedge funds the main beneficiaries of corporate profits as a result of their ownership, but more importantly they are the decision makers when it comes to business sector policy. Thus, besides adopting policies which maximize their profits, they can adopt and impose additional agendas which are highly detrimental to society, as will be discussed below in the section ‘Engineering the Global Economic Crash.’

Whereas during the colonialism era of the 16th to 20th century, the Money Powers’ global power and exploitation was exercised through banks and the East and West India companies ownership, in the 21st century this occurs through their ownership of the leading hedge funds and the BIS.

In addition to the healthcare racket, the financial sector extracts wealth from interest on mortgages, automotive sales, student loans, and credit card purchases. Naturally these will result in very high wealth

concentration and, coupled with austerity measures, will result in increasing poverty and other social ills in society. However, these are only the readily observable effects. The more damaging effects to society of a neoliberal economy are the hidden effects which cause long-term structural damages to society.

EDUCATION

Wealth inequality results in increasing the percentage of the marginalized in society. The high cost of education has made quality education restricted to an ever-shrinking portion of society. “Costs of obtaining a college education in the U.S. have increased 1200% since 1980 while inflation has increased 236%.”⁶⁰

Many individuals who have great potential are effectively discarded. The consequences of this can already be observed in the Military Industrial Complex (MIC), which since 2000 has been unable to develop any competitive weapons system. This will be discussed later in the section ‘Military Reality.’ A principal reason for the MIC’s failures is the unavailability of top-notch Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) personnel in sufficient numbers. This is because education is effectively restricted to the richest, not the brightest. Here is a simple illustration:

Say that brightness is equally distributed in society, and that 50% of the brightest opt for STEM education, and that the MIC requires STEM graduates with top 10% ‘brightness.’ In a country where college education is free, then 5% of college graduates could meet the MIC’s requirements. In the U.S., where about 1 million students graduate per year,⁶¹ then this could result in 50,000 new qualified STEM graduates per year, which would be more than enough to supply the MIC and other industries and businesses.

However, if we assume the total cost of a STEM education is around \$450,000 (which is the actual total cost of earning a BS in engineering at University of California, Davis and an MS in engineering at University of California, Berkeley) and further assume that only 5% of parents can afford that, then the number of qualified STEM graduates would be reduced to 2,500, which is definitely not enough to meet MIC and

industry requirements. Lost potential would amount to 47,500 annually. Student loans reduce lost potential marginally, while creating another thorny problem.

As with the healthcare sector, education has been transformed from a critical service for the nation's wellbeing into a wealth extraction racket, with student loans reaching \$1.75 trillion by 2022.⁶² Who will be on the hook for this?

In a neoliberal economy, the financial sector is not only a wealth extraction racket; it entails a downward spiral by debilitating the society's most valuable resource, its human potential. It is not surprising therefore that development in the G-7 countries has been stagnant since 2007.

BALLOONING NATIONAL DEBT

In addition to the socioeconomic problems associated with the neoliberal system, this system invariably results in the ballooning of government deficits and the national debt, as is clear from Figure 36.

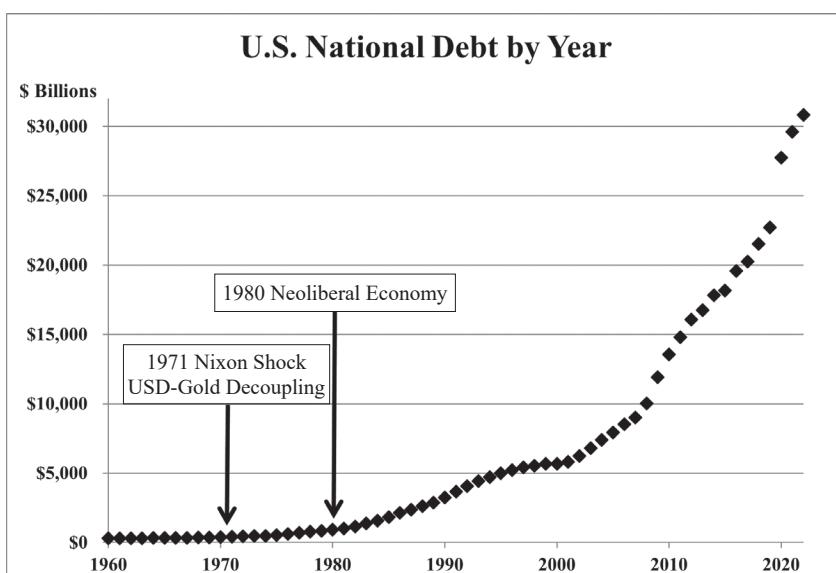


FIGURE 36. U.S. National Debt 1960 to 2020⁶³

The reason for the ballooning national debt is simple: financial institutions that dominate the political system benefit from the interest the government has to pay on the national debt. The greater the debt, the greater the profits, while the burden of the debt is carried by society as a whole.

Like the U.S. healthcare system, the Fed, a privately owned central bank, operates a similar extortion racket.

With increasing deficits and national debt, the commonly proposed solution is ‘austerity,’ which involves cutting back on social and other services offered by the government, which mostly affects the poorest strata of society. This resulted in an increase in the number of homeless people in the 1980s, as housing and social service cuts increased and the economy deteriorated.⁶⁴ In the UK austerity measures have driven people into poverty⁶⁵ and have been linked to 120,000 deaths.⁶⁶ Not surprisingly, spokesmen of the Money Powers nonetheless concluded that “austerity was the right policy for the UK.”⁶⁷

For the U.S., EU, and UK whose currencies are reserve currencies, ballooning deficits do not pose a major problem. They can continue printing money out of thin air and maintain the value of their currencies for as long as the instruments of virtual reality are able to project an image of healthy and leading economies, enjoying high ratings from Moody’s, S&P and Fitch, whose ratings are accepted as valid.

In the era of neoliberal economy, the manufacturers of economic virtual reality – foremost of which are the rating agencies, economy ‘talking heads,’ and mass media – are of critical importance in preserving the Empire.

This is illustrated by the following three headlines occurring within one week:

- “U.S. Goods Trade Deficit Surges Near Record High (Don’t Tell Trump).”⁶⁸
- “The U.S. is racking up record debt.”⁶⁹
- “Final Q2 GDP Estimate at 4.2%, Strongest In 4 Years.”⁷⁰

Astoundingly, two record poor performances – record trade deficit and record budget deficit – result in an excellent overall economic performance as indicated by GDP! Until the advent of neoliberal economic era, this was only possible in Alice's Wonderland.

Besides further confirming the fallacy of conclusions drawn from GDP data, the above illustrates the magical powers of economic virtual reality. Virtual reality, being one leg of the imperial geostrategy instruments triad, will be discussed in the section, 'Empire's Geostrategy Instruments.'

The impact of the neoliberal economy in other countries is similar to that in the U.S., leading to the primacy of the financial sector, weakening of industrial sector, ballooning of national debt, wealth concentration, impoverishment of society and growing socioeconomic problems. However, for Global South countries whose currencies are not reserve currencies, and who adopt a neoliberal economic system, whether by choice or by having it imposed upon them, the impact is much worse, as they cannot print their way out of a ballooning national debt and are forced to shoulder loans (debt) from the global banks. Thus, in addition to continuously deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, they lose whatever little is left of their sovereignty, as their governments are at the mercy of the Money Powers, who have the ability to destroy their currency at a whim, causing wide scale impoverishment and political instability.

CURRENCY AND INTEREST RATE MANIPULATION

Post-World War II many of the decolonized countries adopted policies of industrialization and national development, including protectionist measures for their developing industries and financial sectors. Subsequently, however, many of these countries, such as Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, and Panama, were 'regime changed' to allow exploitation by the Money Powers. Some countries, such as Japan and the Asian Tigers, were allowed to develop unhindered for geopolitical reasons, becoming highly developed economies and succeeding in developing world class industries before they were brought to heel.

While the protectionist measures adopted by many Global South countries sought to limit the ability of the Money Powers to exploit the wealth

they generated, the tools provided by Bretton Woods II allow the Money Powers to pry open the doors to these treasures.

Effectively, by August 1971, there no longer was any intrinsic value in currencies. True, the dollar could purchase oil – but the price of it fluctuated. Unlike with gold backing, currencies no longer had a ‘fixed worth’ either in gold, oil, or any other commodity. Prior to August 1971, reserves were in gold or USD convertible to gold; as such a nation’s wealth was of a known value, with a relatively fixed purchasing power. Currency devaluation would occur if a nation overprinted its currency with respect to its gold reserves. The external manipulation of currencies was thus limited.

In the Bretton Woods II system, however, the valuation of everything, including energy, commodities, and currencies, became detached from any real anchor and wholly dependent on the economic virtual reality as created by Bretton Woods institutions. Thus, it was after August 1971 that major currency manipulation and siphoning of wealth from producer nations to the Money Powers could take place. This is illustrated in the following comparison between Russia and the United States:

| Indicator | Unit | Russia | United States |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Budget deficit | % of GDP | 1.4% ⁷¹ | 3.5% ⁷² |
| Trade surplus | \$ billion | \$115 billion ⁷³ | \$ -566 billion ⁷⁴ |
| Public debt | % of GDP | 12.6% ⁷⁵ | 105% ⁷⁶ |

TABLE 5. Russia and United States Financial Comparison

It is clear from Table 5 that the economic indicators of Russia are far better than those for the United States:

- Budget deficit as % of GDP: Russia is 60% lower than the United States.
- Trade balance: Russia has a surplus of \$115 billion, vs. a deficit of \$566 billion for the United States.
- Public debt of Russia is 12.6% of GDP, whereas for the United States it is 105%.

Clearly Russia has a much healthier economy and far more responsible fiscal management than the United States. Consequently, the debt of Russia should carry a much lower risk than that of the United States. Accordingly, the credit rating of Russia should be much higher and the consequent interest on national debt (bond yield) of Russia should be much lower than that of the United States.

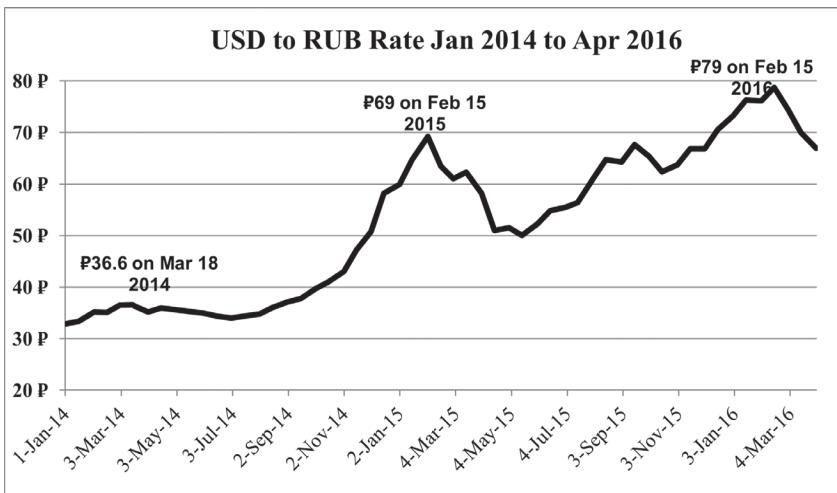
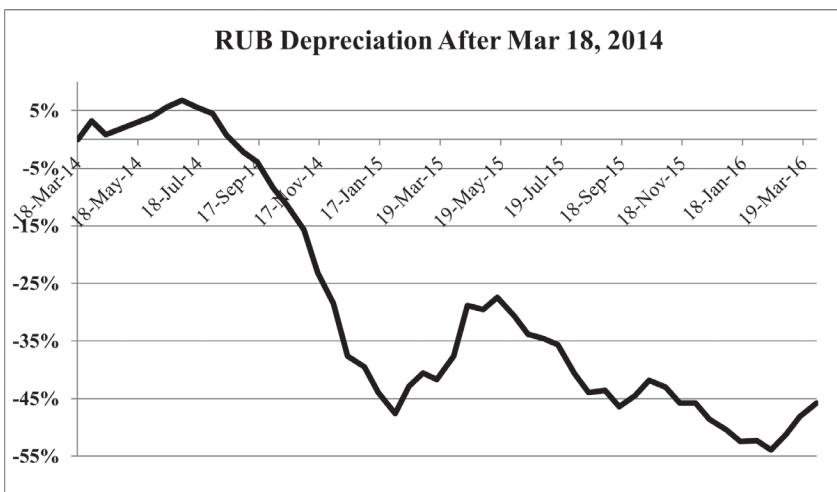
However, despite the factual analysis above, as can be seen in Table 6, Russia is rated as a much higher risk, with the interest rate on its debt 300% higher than on that of the United States.

| Indicator | Agency | Russia ⁷⁷ | United States ⁷⁸ |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Country risk rating | Moody's | Ba1 / Non Investment Speculative | AAA / Prime |
| | S&P | BBB- / Lower Medium Grade | AA+ / High Grade |
| | Fitch | BBB- / Lower Medium Grade | AAA / Prime |
| 10-yr. bond yield % | | 8.52% ⁷⁹ | 2.85% ⁸⁰ |

TABLE 6. Russia and United States Ratings Comparison

Such is the magic of Bretton Woods II coupled with the power of virtual reality in manufacturing consent. Thus, the Russian government, with across-the-board significantly better economic fundamentals, has to pay interest that is 300% higher on its debt compared to the U.S.

The RUB to USD rate was stable within a range of 30 to 35 RUB per USD over a four-year period from 2010 to February 2014, ranging at between 30 to 35 rubles per USD. Then within the span of a single year, it lost 40% of its value, dropping to a rate of over 60 rubles per USD.⁸¹

FIGURE 37. USD vs. RUB⁸²FIGURE 38. RUB Depreciation after March 18, 2014⁸³

Did economic fundamentals change drastically? Did Russian oil and gas wells dry up? Was the Russian population decimated by the plague? There was absolutely no real *economic* reason to justify this drop. The 40% drop within one year was merely due to currency manipulation subsequent to March 18, 2014 when Russia foiled the geostrategic expansion of NATO into Ukraine, and NATO's drive to take over of Crimea.

The rating agencies trinity – Moody's, S&P and Fitch – rate U.S. government debt as lowest risk, despite the fact that the U.S. has had trade and balance of payment deficits for over 40 consecutive years. Despite the clear arbitrariness of the trinity's ratings, they are accepted as fact by their global banking partners.

Rating U.S. debt as having the lowest risk makes it the basis for assessment, and all other debts have higher risk and hence higher interest rates. Thus, when the Fed increases interest rates, the interest rates of all Global South currencies increase.

As such, global interest rates are to a large extent set by the Fed. The implications of this cannot be overestimated. *Whereas the Fed prints money out of thin air, other nations have to produce to earn money.*

Minor increases in Fed rates can have catastrophic consequences on heavily indebted nations, frequently leading to their bankruptcy, at which point they are passed on to the other Bretton Woods institutions, the World Bank and IMF, who then set policies for these nations, typically austerity leading to wide scale poverty, or opening their protected markets to global banks, or privatization leading to expropriation of their public assets built using taxpayers money, or takeover of their natural resources by foreign corporations, etc.

The impact is not limited to national debts; it has a major impact on the national economy. In any country, the lowest risk is the

sovereign risk; accordingly, interest rates for businesses are always higher than interest rates for government issued bonds. Since government bonds have a much higher interest rate than U.S. TBs, interest rates for businesses in any country are much higher than interest rates for businesses in the U.S.; this acts as a major obstacle to investment, and in particular to long term investments such as in industry or agriculture. The high-risk rating assigned to Russia acted as a major obstacle for business investment in Russia.

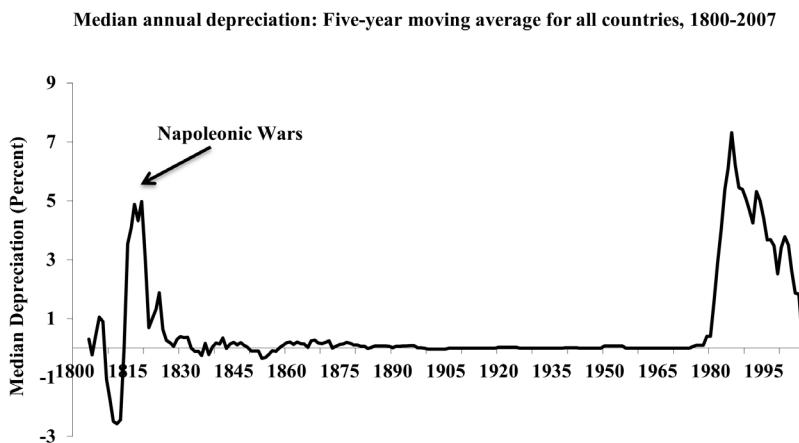


FIGURE 39. Currency Crashes 1800–2006 (Reinhart & Rogoff)⁸⁴

What is clear from Figure 39 is that for a period of 150 years after Napoleonic Wars, there was overall stability in world currencies as measured by median annual currency depreciation. With the advent of the Bretton Woods II era global currency instability returned and was even higher than during Napoleonic Wars period.

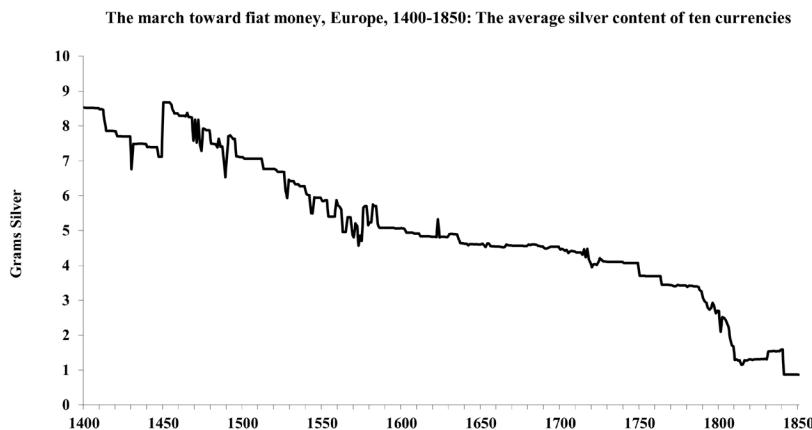


FIGURE 40. Silver Content of 10 Currencies (Reinhart & Rogoff)⁸⁵

It is clear from Figure 40 that currency depreciation during the period of the Napoleonic Wars is due to reduction of silver content in the currency. Silver is money, and value of a coin lies in the amount of silver in the coin. When the amount of silver is reduced, naturally the value of a coin is reduced, regardless of what value or whose head is stamped on it.

In the Bretton Woods II period, currencies were neither made of precious metal nor did they have precious metal backing. So the currency depreciations of Bretton Woods II era are completely unrelated to those of Napoleonic Wars era. Whereas during the Napoleonic Wars period currency debasement was due to the reduction of precious metal content of the currency, during the Bretton Woods II period, currency debasement was due to manipulation using Bretton Woods instruments, as was shown in the case of the Russian ruble during 2014.

The overreaching powers of Bretton Woods II are clear in the major crises engineered in Latin America, Japan, Southeast Asia and South Korea. In all these crises, years of industrial and social development were rolled back, with the nations impoverished as their wealth was siphoned off by the Money Powers, and then

placed under their tutelage through the Bretton Woods institutions. William Engdahl aptly sums up the power of Bretton Woods II:⁸⁶

Today by far the deadliest weapon of mass destruction in Washington's arsenal lies not with the Pentagon or its traditional killing machines. It's de facto a silent weapon: the ability of Washington to control the global supply of money, of dollars, through actions of the privately-owned Federal Reserve in coordination with the U.S. Treasury and select Wall Street financial groups. Developed over a period of decades since the decoupling of the dollar from gold by Nixon in August, 1971, today control of the dollar is a financial weapon that few if any rival nations are prepared to withstand, at least not yet.

THE LATIN AMERICAN DEBT CRISIS: THE MONEY POWERS AT WORK

The power of Bretton Woods II was first applied on a major scale in Latin America. As a result, the continent was devastated; a decade of its development⁸⁷ was destroyed and its countries were placed under tutelage of Bretton Woods institutions, which imposed 'structural reforms' i.e. the neoliberal economic model, to ensure long term exploitation of Latin America. Hence the label, 'Lost Decade.'⁸⁸ Quoting Colombian Minister of Finance and Public Credit, José Antonio Ocampo:⁸⁹

It was the most traumatic economic event in Latin America's economic history.

In terms of its strong adverse effects, the only comparable case is the "lost half-decade" of 1998–2003 induced by the sequence of emerging country crises that started in East Asia in 1997.

The crisis of the 1980s was managed under an elaborate (though incomplete) international financial architecture. As I will argue here, this was not necessarily better, as it was initially used to back a creditors' cartel and forced Latin America to adopt strongly contractionary macroeconomic policies.

Economic hit men: Trapping countries into debt

The first step, equivalent to setting a trap in hunting, is getting targeted nations heavily in debt. This is the task of Economic Hit Men (EHM) in conjunction with international banks and political leaders in the targeted country. John Perkins, in his excellent book *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*⁹⁰ provided invaluable insight into the operation of EHM. Quoting Perkins:

... there were two primary objectives of my work. First, I was to justify huge international loans that would funnel money back to MAIN and other U.S. companies ..through massive engineering and construction projects.

Second, I would work to bankrupt the countries that received those loans.

If an EHM is completely successful, the loans are so large that the debtor is forced to default on its payments after a few years. When this happens, then like the Mafia we demand our pound of flesh. This often includes one or more of the following: control over United Nations votes, the installation of military bases, or access to precious resources such as oil or the Panama Canal. Of course, the debtor still owes us the money – and another country is added to our global empire...

[In] 1968, Texaco had only just discovered petroleum in Ecuador's Amazon region. Because of my fellow EHMs and me, Ecuador is in far worse shape today than she was before we introduced her to the miracles of modern economics, banking, and engineering. Since 1970, during this period known euphemistically as the Oil Boom, the official poverty level grew from 50 to 70 percent, under- or unemployment increased from 15 to 70 percent, and public debt increased from \$240 million to \$16 billion. Meanwhile, the share of national resources allocated to the poorest segments of the population declined from 20 to 6 percent.

Unfortunately, Ecuador is not the exception. Nearly every country we EHMs have brought under the global empire's um-

brella has suffered a similar fate. Third world debt has grown to more than \$2.5 trillion, and the cost of servicing it – over \$375 billion per year as of 2004 – is more than all third world spending on health and education, and twenty times what developing countries receive annually in foreign aid.

For every \$100 of crude taken out of the Ecuadorian rain forests, the oil companies receive \$75. Of the remaining \$25, three-quarters must go to paying off the foreign debt. Most of the remainder covers military and other government expenses – which leaves about \$2.50 for health, education, and programs aimed at helping the poor. Thus, out of every \$100 worth of oil torn from the Amazon, less than \$3 goes to the people who need the money most.⁹¹

Between 1971 and 1982, Latin American debt increased over 1000% from \$29 billion to \$327 billion.⁹²

The Federal Reserve pulls the trigger

Once a country is heavily in debt, all it takes is for the Fed to increase its interest rate to bankrupt the country. If this is not enough, a little help from the rating agency trinity, Moody's, S&P and Fitch, will do the trick.

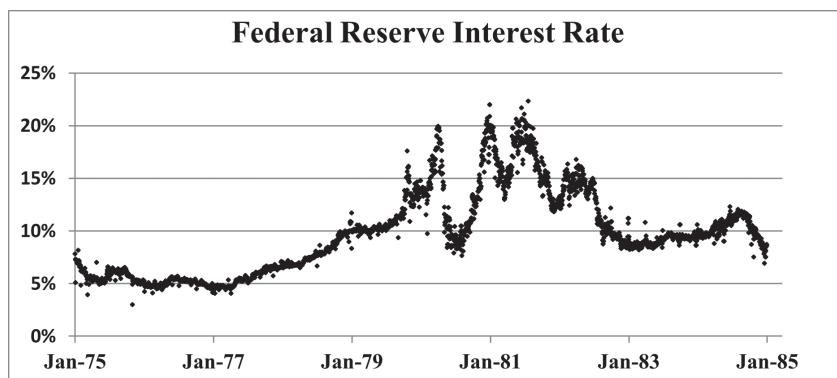


FIGURE 41. Federal Reserve Interest Rate
January 1975–January 1984⁹³

The Fed increased the interest rate from around 5% in January 1977 to 20% in January 1980. Latin American debt servicing increased from \$12 billion in 1975 to \$66 billion in 1982.

Going for the kill: Banks reclaim the debts

Once countries are near default, international creditor banks demand their money back. When the countries cannot pay back, the IMF and World Bank provide loans to the creditor banks on behalf of the indebted countries covering principal and interest. Then they impose neoliberal economic ‘reforms’ on the country, while acting effectively as debt collectors for the creditor banks.

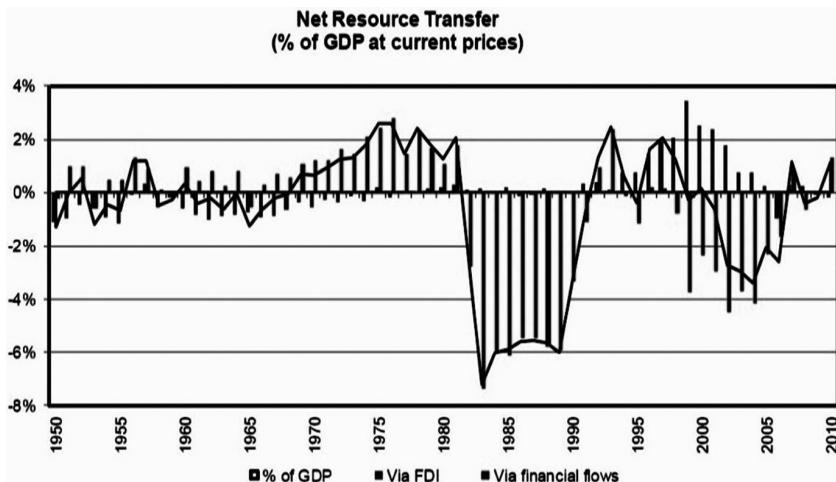


FIGURE 42. Net Resource Transfer to Latin America (Ocampo)⁹⁴

The phases of financial attack are evident in the funds flow graph presented by Professor Ocampo in Figure 42:

- 1971–1980: Economic Hit Men get Latin American countries into unredeemable debt.
- 1977–1982: The Fed increases interest rates from 5% to 20%.
- 1982: Mexico defaults on its debt; creditor banks demand collection of debt from Latin America.
- 1982–1990: Creditor banks withdraw funds from Latin America.
- 1982–1990: The IMF and World Bank impose neoliberal policies on Latin American countries.

CHAPTER 6

The Primordial Role of Geopolitics on Development

The development achieved by Japan and South Korea was the most successful of the twentieth century, labeled miraculous by many. However, as will be shown, their development versus that of other global south countries was a function of their geopolitical context, and when this context changed, they were cut back to size.

JAPAN

The ‘Japanese Economic Miracle’¹ and the subsequent crash resulting in Japan’s ‘Lost Decades’² provide an excellent illustration of the primordial role of geopolitics on development and the omnipotence of the BIS and the Bretton Woods system.

By 1948 it was clear that Chinese Communist Party forces would prevail over the Western supported Kuomintang forces, resulting in the possibility of communist rule stretching from the Bering Strait to Berlin, a geostrategic nightmare for the West.

A miracle was needed to counter the Red Peril. Miracle makers are hard to find in modern times, nevertheless one was found among the Class A War Criminal suspects then being held in solitary confinement at the Sugamo Prison: Nobusuke Kishi,³ the “Monster of the Shōwa.”⁴ Kishi had already proved his credentials earlier in the economic miracle he had enforced in Manchukuo (Manchuria), transforming it into an industrial powerhouse, with Manchukuo’s steel production exceeding that of Japan by the late 1930s.⁵

A change in status of Japan from an occupied country to an ally was needed to help counterbalance the USSR and communist China in East Asia. Accordingly, post-1949, Japan was allowed to develop unhindered until the mid-1970s by adopting essentially National Socialist economic policies, the main features of which were defined by Gottfried Feder in

the 1932 outline of the fundamental principles and proposals of National Socialist Economic Policy:⁶

- Purpose of the economy is to provide for the wellbeing of citizens.
- A capitalist economy.
- Government has unconditional primacy over the economy.
- Promotion of cooperative relations between employer and employee.
- Protection of the local market from foreign competition.
- Nationalization of electricity supply to provide electricity at low prices.
- Control over the financial sector:
 - » Nationalization of the central bank, large banks, and real estate loans.
 - » Establishment of Social Construction and Commercial Banks.
 - » Lowering interest rates.
 - » Providing cheap credit to targeted sectors of the economy.

Notably, National Socialists stress reining-in the banks:

The Breaking of Interest-Slavery is the biggest and most significant problem of economic policy that the National Socialist state has to solve. It is the prerequisite for economic recovery.

in particular, international banks:

A nation's economy is not an end in itself; it is not there to enrich individual business leaders at the expense of their officials, employees, and workers, and even less is it there to serve as an object of exploitation for international High Finance.

The Bank of Japan Law of 1942 was "largely a translation of Hitler's Reichsbank Law of 1939."⁷ Japan and the Asian Tigers were permitted to adopt policies in conformity with the above principles. Strict financial regulation existed during Japan's high growth period, and foreign banks

were kept off limits,⁸ allowing Japan to achieve annual growth rates of 10% or more between 1955 and 1973. By 1975, Japan had become a leading industrial nation and a leading exporter and had accumulated significant wealth.

The degradation of China–USSR relations, culminating in the border clashes of 1969, led to an immediate rapprochement between the U.S. and China, with Secretary of State Kissinger's secret visit to China in 1971⁹ and President Nixon's visit the following year.

This marked the start of the decline of Japan's geopolitical importance. As relations between the U.S. and China evolved, economic pressure was applied on Japan commensurate with the development of U.S.-China relations and the consequent decline of Japan's geopolitical importance. Pressures exerted were specifically aimed at deregulating the financial sector. With the fall of the Eastern Bloc and disintegration of the USSR, the plug was pulled, and the Japanese economy crashed.

Just as the Latin American Debt Crisis had resulted in a 'Lost Decade,'¹⁰ Japan, the manufacturing powerhouse and the number two economy at the time, suffered its own 'Lost Decade.'¹¹

Factors contributing to Japan's high growth period

During the high growth period between 1953 and 1973,¹² Japan had annual growth rates of 10% or more. In the 1960s, Japanese exports expanded at an annual rate of more than 15%. In 1965, it was revealed that Japan had a trade surplus. This was due to these factors:

- The National Socialist system: a 'welfare society'¹³ with collaboration between employers, workers and government.
- An existing industrial base: Building on war-time knowhow – accelerated industrial development.
- The end of war crimes reparation payments: This freed up resources for development.
- Limited defense expenditures: These were limited to 1% of GDP as resources were focused on development.

- U.S. military expenditures in Japan: USD inflow facilitated the import of raw materials for industry.
- The Korean War boom: Japan's production increased by 70%¹⁴ as Japan was the logistical base and supplier of firearms to the U.S. army in Korea.
- The central role of government: The high growth rate was engineered by the Japanese government by the following means:
 - » Centralized planning:¹⁵ Planning was under the all-powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Funds and new technologies were provided to targeted sectors, including steel, shipbuilding, chemicals, automobiles, precision optical equipment, electronics products, and machinery. MITI facilitated early development by providing protection from import competition, technological intelligence, help in licensing foreign technology and access to foreign exchange. MITI stimulated the movement of capital and labor out of declining industries, such as coal and textiles, and into promising new industries with high growth potential – first into electronics, steel, petrochemicals, and automobiles, and later into computers, semiconductors, and biotechnology.¹⁶
 - » A highly regulated financial sector:¹⁷ By exercising control over international capital movements, Japan's Ministry of Finance ensured the availability of funds for development by placing restrictions on inflow and outflow of capital, and guided flow to industries targeted for development. The Industrial Development Bank, Japan Development Bank and Postal Saving System were central in providing funds for industry. Government policy made the necessary funds available for development. Savings were directed to the government-owned Postal Savings System, as accounts were tax exempt. These savings were then made available to a Fiscal Investment and Loan Plan (FLIP), which amassed funds four times greater than that of the largest bank in the world. These funds were made available to MITI to provide low-cost capital to sectors targeted for development.

- » Protectionism: Japan had the world's second highest tariffs on manufactured goods.¹⁸
- » A productive educational system: A well-educated workforce particularly in STEM was a critical factor in Japan's development.¹⁹
- » Developing an internal market: The 'Income Doubling Plan'²⁰ was launched to double worker income between 1961 and 1970, with the objective of increasing the size of the internal market.

However, continuously increasing trade surpluses coupled with a strictly regulated financial sector created friction between Japan and its trading partners in the U.S. and Europe and between Japan and the U.S. and UK global banks.

Reining in Japan: The return of the unequal treaties

Pressure on Japan took two forms: increasing the exchange rate of yen and deregulating the financial sector:

- The pressure to increase the exchange rate of the yen was intended to reduce the competitiveness of Japan's exports, thereby weakening its export-driven economy. These pressures started in 1971, the same year as Kissinger's visit to China. By July 15, 1988, when the Basel Accord²¹ was released to the banks, the value of the yen had risen by 168%.²²

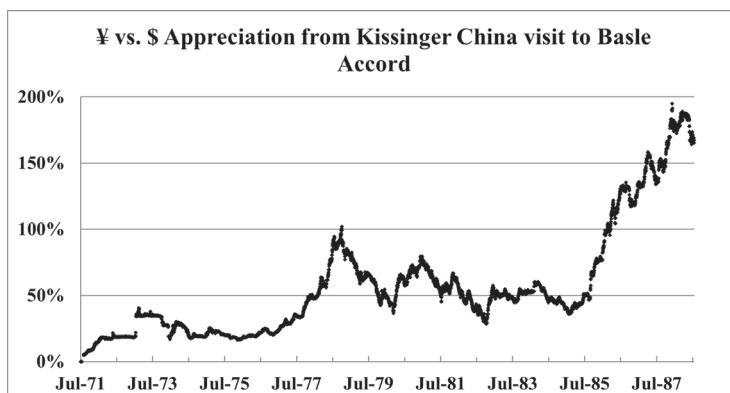


FIGURE 43. ¥ vs. \$ Appreciation from Kissinger China visit to Basel Accord

- Deregulation of the financial markets was intended to enable Western financial institutions to siphon wealth from Japan. Deregulation pressures went hand in hand with geopolitical developments. Notable milestones in Japanese banking deregulation are:
 - » 1979: Gradual deregulation of interest rates²³ and relaxation of foreign exchange controls.
 - » 1980: Foreign Exchange Law, allowing Japanese companies and banks to borrow money from abroad.
 - » 1984: The U.S.-Japan Accord, deregulation of Japanese capital and financial markets. Reduction of restrictions on international bond issues, including Japanese resident borrowing, and bond issues by Japanese residents and foreigners. Establishment of a Yen/Dollar Committee to investigate the possibility of additional measures. The pressure exerted on Japan in the U.S.-Japan Accord during negotiations is well described by Robert D. Hershey Jr.:²⁴

At one point, Washington blocked enlargement of Japan's role in the World Bank because it was displeased with what Tokyo was offering to do to open Japanese capital markets.

... one Treasury official said that "we got everything we asked for"

It does, however, allow foreign banks to trade Japanese Government securities in Japan for the first time and commits the Finance Ministry to establish by the end of this year a plan to create a yen-denominated market in bankers' acceptances."

A Japanese Government official said today that the agreement on financial liberalization should eliminate most trade friction on that issue for the present. 'I feel the United States will be satisfied,' Tomomitsu Oba, Deputy Finance Minister for International Affairs, said as details of the agreement were released.

- » 1985: The Plaza Accord²⁵ agreement among the G-5 nations (France, Germany, U.S., UK and Japan) to manipulate exchange rates by depreciating the U.S. dollar relative to the Japanese yen and the German Deutsche mark.

Japan's industrial competitiveness nonetheless enabled it to absorb the effects of the increase in energy costs, and yen appreciations. It gained market share in diverse products globally, registering growing trade surpluses with the U.S., becoming the second largest economy in the world and remaining so until 2010 when it was overtaken by China.²⁶ By 1990, nine of the top ten banks were Japanese.²⁷

But earlier than that, in 1988, given the slow pace of implementing financial deregulation in Japan coupled with the geopolitical upheaval (disintegration of communist block), it was time to begin to cut Japan back to size.

The BIS cuts Japan back to size

Japan's phenomenal economic development coupled with a highly regulated financial sector limiting the access of the Money Powers to this lucrative market resulted in the “Unequal Treaties” being imposed on Japan concomitant with a drop in Japan's geostrategic importance.

Trespassing geopolitically where it shouldn't have made matters worse for Japan. In 1981, Japan had discussed a plan with President Omar Torrijos of Panama to replace the Panama Canal with a new, more efficient canal. On July 31, 1981, President Torrijos was killed in a plane crash.²⁸ President Torrijos' successor, Manuel Noriega, continued the exploration of prospects for building a new canal to be financed and constructed by the Japanese.

A tripartite discussion between the U.S., Japan and Panama took place in summer of 1985. The Japanese submitted plans for an alternate, more efficient canal, a canal capable of handling ships of up to 300,000 tons capacity, instead of the current capacity of 65,000 tons.

According to an American official, the agreement, reached this summer [1985], does not commit the three countries to a particular plan or even to any action at all. The feasibility study

is expected to take four years, starting in 1986, with the \$20 million in estimated expenses to be shared equally.²⁹

Quoting Noriega:

I want to make it very clear: the destabilization campaign launched by the United States in 1986, ending with the 1989 Panama invasion, was a result of the U.S. rejection of any scenario in which future control of the Panama Canal might be in the hands of an independent, sovereign Panama – supported by Japan . . .³⁰

On December 20, 1989, the U.S. took action; it occupied Panama, arrested Noriega and took him to the U.S. where he was jailed.³¹

The compounded effects of Japan's economic success, locking-out Western financial institutions, trespassing geopolitically where it shouldn't have, and most importantly, becoming the global banking leader, hitherto the exclusive domain of London and New York bankers, was too much for the Money Powers to tolerate. An ominous warning came from George Soros in his 1987 book, *The Alchemy of Finance*:

Japan has, in fact, emerged as the banker to the world. The dollar is no longer qualified to serve as the international currency.³²

The axe had to fall on Japan soon, and it did: one year after Soros' warning.

Japan being the global export leader, significant fund inflows to Japan occurred during the 1980s. Naturally a large part went into local real estate, resulting in a boom in construction, skyrocketing real estate values, real estate speculation, and extensive use of real estate as debt collateral. Between January 1985 and December 1989, stocks rose 240% and land prices 245%.³³ Quoting Professor Richard Werner:

the value of the garden surrounding the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo was worth as much as all the land of the entire state of California.³⁴

Extremely high real estate prices are the Achilles' heel of any economy, as it ties down resources in speculative rather than productive assets.

All it takes to cause a crash is to force a tightening of the money supply. And this is exactly what was done when Japan was ripe for bringing down. The tool used to force tightening of the money supply in Japan came from the top Bretton Woods institution, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the central bank of central banks.

On July 15, 1988, the central bankers of the BIS G10 countries signed the ‘International convergence of capital measurement and capital standards.’³⁵ better known as the Basel Accord. Basically, it called for banks to hold capital reserves equal to 8 percent or more of their loans by the end of 1992. The BIS G10 countries consisted of 10 Western countries and Japan, namely: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Japan.³⁶

The issue was first raised by Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker in 1984. The pressure on Japanese banks was mostly exerted by U.S. and UK bankers. Quoting David Grover:

... [U.S. & UK bankers] claimed ‘under-capitalized’ Japanese banks were pinching their business unfairly ... Japan was now facing a unified Britain and U.S., and they were forced to come to the negotiating table. Much like a shotgun wedding, they (Japan) really had no choice. This was hardly the beginning of benign multilateral coordination – it was pure international power politics, and the story of the Basel Accord thus illustrates the enduring strength of the U.S. in shaping and advancing policies in international economic relations.³⁷

At the time of signing the Basel Accord, Japan was not overly worried. The Tokyo stock exchange was booming, as noted in Figure 44.

To meet the Basel Accord requirement, Japanese banks were forced to cut the money supply by withdrawing liquidity from the market. Lending to all sectors was affected, and real estate was particularly hard hit, with property prices dropping by 60%.³⁸ As real estate comprised a significant part of debt collateral, the tightening of the money supply coupled with a drop in real estate values led to wide scale bankruptcies of companies and individuals.

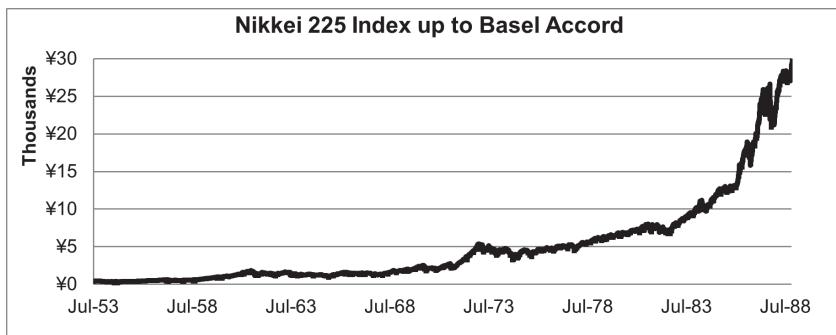


FIGURE 44. Nikkei 225 Index Up to Basel Accord³⁹

This caused an across-the-board recession as noted in the 40% drop in the Nikkei 225 Index from the date of the signing of the Basel Accord to the time it went into force. The Nikkei 225 index dropped from 27,500 on September 30, 1988 to 16,925 on December 30, 1992.

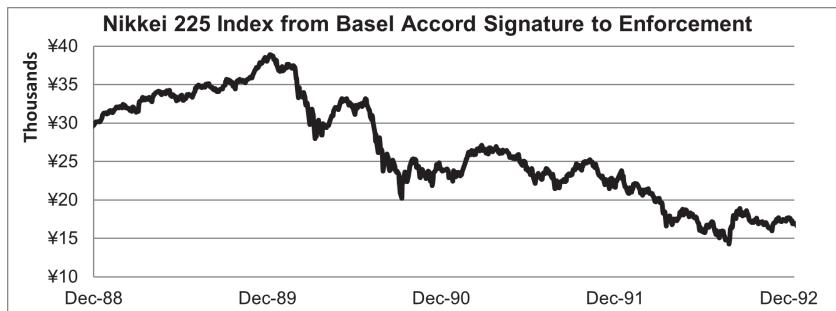


FIGURE 45. Nikkei 225 Index from Basel Accord Signature to Enforcement⁴⁰

Thirty years after signature of the Basel Accord, the Nikkei index had not recovered. On August 22, 2018, the Nikkei 225 stood at 22,363, 20% lower than it was in September 1988.

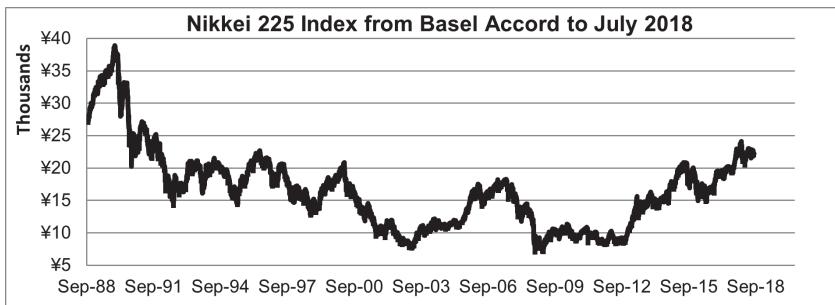


FIGURE 46. Nikkei 225 Index from Basel Accord to July 2018

In conclusion, despite four decades of Japanese technological and economic successes, during which phenomenal growth was registered, propelling Japan to being the #1 exporter, #1 creditor nation,⁴¹ and #2 economy; when Japan lost its geostrategic value and it was decided to cut it down to size, Japan was brought down effortlessly through the Bretton Woods institutions. Thus, Japan's lost decade, which extended to two decades,⁴² was not due to a real estate bubble that burst or to a highly leveraged banking sector. Rather it was due to the following:

- Being an occupied country, Japan could not protect its citizens,⁴³ let alone its national interests.
- Regardless of its achievements, whether economic or technological, or the degree of its subservience to western powers, Japan, like other nations conforming to the Bretton Woods directives, has a Damocles sword hanging over it which can be dropped whenever needed.

Japan's fortunes in lockstep with geopolitical developments

The timeline below traces major geopolitical events and their impact on Japan:

- 1949–1951 Geopolitical upheaval in East Asia.
 - » Mao Zedong liberates China.⁴⁴
 - » China and the Soviet Union sign a Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance.⁴⁵
 - » The Korean War.⁴⁶

- » The Treaty of San Francisco⁴⁷ absolves Japan of war crimes and ends its occupation status.
- » U.S. and Japan sign a ‘Security Treaty,’⁴⁸ whereby Japan relinquishes its sovereignty.
- 1957–1969 Deterioration of Sino–Soviet relations.
 - » Start of deterioration of relations between China and the Soviet Union.
 - » Border conflict between China and the Soviet Union.⁴⁹
- 1971 – 1972: Start of U.S.-China rapprochement and start of financial pressure on Japan.
 - » Secret trip of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to China.⁵⁰
 - » President Nixon visits China.
 - » The Nixon Shock⁵¹ – Bretton Woods II.
 - » Forced Yen appreciation by 10% and imposition of voluntary quotas on exports.
- 1979–1985: Strengthening of U.S.-China relations, increasing financial pressure on Japan.
 - » Formal ties between U.S. and China; U.S. accepts the One China Principle.⁵²
 - » President Reagan visits China, extending U.S.-Chinese relations to defense.⁵³
 - » U.S.-Japan Accord: Deregulation of Japanese financial markets under U.S. pressure.⁵⁴
 - » The Plaza Accord:⁵⁵ Pressure to further appreciate the Yen vs. the USD.
- 1988–1992: Disintegration of the Communist Block and cutting Japan back to size.
 - » First cracks in the Communist Block, a non-communist government in Poland.

- » Fall of the Berlin Wall, disintegration of the Communist Block.
- » Dissolution of the USSR.⁵⁶
- » The Basel Accord⁵⁷ signed July 1988 with deadline for implementation 31 Dec 1992.
- » The Nikkei 225⁵⁸ crashes from 38,900 in December 1989 to 16,900 on 31 Dec 1992.
- 1996–2001: Full deregulation of Japanese financial markets.⁵⁹

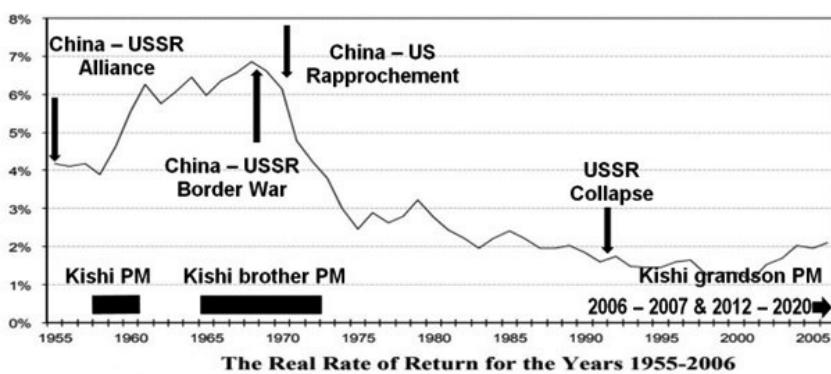


FIGURE 47. Japan: Real Rate of Return⁶⁰ and Geopolitical Events

Here is an interesting talking head observation on the correlation between Japan's fortunes and its geopolitical importance:

Coincidentally, the conclusion of the economic miracle coincided with the conclusion of the Cold War. While the Japanese stock market hit its all-time peak at the end of 1989, making a recovery later in 1990, it dropped precipitously in 1991. The year of the conclusion of the Japanese asset price bubble coincided with the Gulf War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.⁶¹

In talking-head parlance, it could be stated that the Basel Accord,⁶² the instrument used to cut Japan down to size, was coincidentally issued in 1988, after significant improvement in China-U.S. relations and the start of the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact countries, beginning with the

Polish strikes of 1988.⁶³ The Basel Accord became enforced by law in 1992, again coincidentally just after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

THE ASIAN TIGERS

Like Japan, the Asian Tigers⁶⁴ – South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan – were frontline nations with the communist bloc, which gave them high strategic value during the Cold War. The fourth Asian tiger, Singapore, a city state at the southern entrance to the Malacca Strait, has been of great geostrategic importance since the start of the colonization era. At a maritime choke point between West and East Asia, it was colonized in the first wave of colonialism in 1509. Due to its strategic importance, control over Singapore indicates which is the dominant colonial power of the era. Hence Singapore was initially colonized by the Portuguese, followed by the Dutch, the British, the Japanese during World War II, and finally the British in conjunction with the U.S. – albeit with pseudo independence, post-World War II.

In addition to their high geostrategic value, the Asian Tigers, like Japan, lack natural resources and were very poor immediately after World War II. These determinant factors permitted their adoption of similar political systems and economic development paths, which similarly led to their phenomenal growth,⁶⁵ transforming them from poor agricultural nations in the 1950s and early 1960s into rich industrialized nations on par with the U.S. and Western European countries.

Having had a highly developed industrial sector prior to end of World War II, Japan had a head start in economic development. Furthermore, with a much larger population, the global impact of Japan's rapid economic development had come about earlier and was greater.

The homogeneity of the Tigers' economic development, as with Japan, was a direct consequence of the nearly identical geostrategic context for this group of countries. Actually, as can be observed from Table 7 further below, Tiger nations are on par with Japan in economic development and industrialization.

Thus, whereas the “miraculous” label has been often been used to describe the economic development of Japan and the Tiger countries, it is

postulated that there was no miracle, but rather due to the post-World War II geostrategic conditions in East Asia, that Japan and the Tiger countries were allowed to have several decades of unhindered development, free from the externally imposed instability occurring in most of the Global South countries where long term planning and development was inhibited. Again, as with Japan, when geostrategic conditions in East Asia changed, these Tiger countries were “cut back to size” using Bretton Woods financial instruments.

Economic development

In view of their geostrategic value, the Asian Tigers needed to be developed in order to make them a geostrategic asset rather than a liability during the Cold War. This value, coupled with their lack of important natural resources, spared the Asian Tigers the wars, political meddling, assassinations, and coups d'état which took place throughout the Global South, namely in Latin America, Africa, West Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia during the 1950s to 1980s.

The Asian Tiger countries, like Japan, adopted National Socialism. Its strong centralized political system enabled their successful implementation of long term economic and human development strategies, while their lack of resources protected them from attracting the interest of the predatory colonial powers. For Asian Tiger governments, a lack of resources meant that the path to prosperity could only be via trade surplus, with the surplus reinvested in development. Accordingly, export oriented economic policies were adopted and pursued vigorously.

Insofar as the Asian Tigers had been seriously affected and impoverished by World War II, austerity thus came naturally to their societies, enabling them to direct any savings or surplus generated towards long term development rather than consumption. Their much smaller internal markets compared to those of Japan made them emphasize exports even more than Japan had done. Like Japan, the Tiger nation governments set target sectors, provided funds for development and, in the case of Taiwan and South Korea, provided subsidies to improve export competitiveness.

Initially the Asian Tigers' main competitive advantage was their low cost of living which enabled low labor costs. Thus, they all started with

low technology/labor intensive products, and by reinvesting surplus in further industrialization, were able to gradually and steadily move up the value chain to become producers and leading exporters of high technology products.

Their lack of natural resources also incentivized the Asian Tigers to develop their human resource base and hence, as in Japan, Asian Tiger governments focused on education,⁶⁶ particularly in the sciences and math, where they became global leaders. They also focused on infrastructure to improve national productivity.

As a result of their focus on industrial development the Tigers achieved sustained growth and high levels of equal income distribution.⁶⁷ This contrasts with services-based economies, which lead to high wealth concentration and great inequality, which hinders development. Thus, not only are Tiger nations on par in productivity and development with the leading Western nations, they are projected to continue having higher growth rates than Europe and the U.S.

Geopolitical context

Two factors contributed to triggering the Asian financial crisis: ASEAN interference in the “China Containment Policy”⁶⁸ and the Money Powers lack of access to the Asian Tigers and Tiger Cubs economies.

ASEAN interference in China containment policy

Bearing in mind the geostrategic theory of Nicholas Spykman, the ‘Godfather of Containment,’⁶⁹ on the need to control the Rimland⁷⁰ in order to contain the Heartland: when China became the rising Eurasian power that could in the future challenge the Empire after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Western containment was now focused on China.

Insofar as Myanmar offers China a land route to the Bay of Bengal, bypassing the Straits of Malacca choke point, and good relations exist between China and Myanmar, Myanmar emerged as the missing patch of Rimland to be utilized to contain China. The size of Myanmar and the fact that it neighbors China precluded direct military action. ‘Soft power’ tools were therefore adopted to bring about regime change in

the country the West insisted was still named Burma, including isolation, sanctions,⁷¹ and nurturing and supporting government opposition by means such as awarding the 1991 Noble Peace Prize⁷² to opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Naturally NGOs played a leading role in the destabilization,⁷³ with Soros' NGOs starting operations in 1994.⁷⁴ The hedge fund-controlled media also played a major role in the campaigns against the Myanmar government.

The ASEAN group of countries, bolstered by their economic development achieved by the mid-90s and seeking stability in South East Asia, refused to go along with the U.S. and EU in destabilizing Myanmar. In December 1995, the ASEAN group decided to admit Myanmar to the ASEAN, reaffirming their decision in December 1996⁷⁵ and setting July 23, 1997 as the date for the admission.

Stark warnings against admitting Myanmar were issued by both the U.S. and the EU in June 1997:

- U.S., June 6, 1997. *Washington Post* article “Burma withstands West’s embargo with Chinese military aid,”⁷⁶ noting that

over the weekend, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, voted to allow Burma to join this summer. Such economic and political support has effectively annulled the West’s attempt to induce domestic political change through international pressure

Six days later:

- EU, June 12, 1997. A European Parliament resolution opposing admittance of Myanmar into ASEAN⁷⁷

Vigorously condemns the accession of Burma to ASEAN...calls on the ASEAN countries to review their ‘policy of constructive engagement

The insubordination of the ASEAN countries had to be punished, and it was, using Bretton Woods instruments.

The Money Powers' lack of access to Southeast Asia's corporations

The Money Powers in particular lacked access to South Korean corporations. Laws protecting local corporations from foreign ownership prevented the Money Powers from partaking in the fruits of Asian development. These laws had to be rescinded.

South Korea: Killing a Tiger⁷⁸

By the mid-1990s the Asian Tigers had witnessed significant industrialization and to a lesser extent, so had the Asian Tiger Cubs – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. South Korea in particular had become a leading industrialized country, achieving first place in shipbuilding,⁷⁹ consumer electronics, mobile broadband, smartphones,⁸⁰ and LCD TV, third place as a producer of electronics,⁸¹ and sixth in automotives.⁸² It was leading in construction with Samsung C&T,⁸³ and builder of Burj Khalifa, the highest building in the world, and the Petronas Twin Towers. Furthermore, it was a leading supplier of nuclear power plants.

South Korean laws protected national companies, limiting foreign ownership of publicly traded companies to 26% and putting the ceiling of individual foreign ownership at 7%. Thus, despite global banks' ability to print unlimited amounts of money out of thin air, their money could not buy the manufacturing marvels created by the South Koreans. Accordingly, just as Japan had to be cut down to size when geostrategic imperatives warranted it, shortly thereafter the time was ripe for hunting down the Tigers, in particular South Korea, which had developed world leading industrial conglomerates (chaebols).

Here is a brief timeline of the events leading to the Asian Financial Crisis:

- 1994: China devalued its currency by 33%,⁸⁴ underpricing neighboring countries on low-cost goods.
- 1995: Sharp drop in semiconductor prices⁸⁵ causing a drop in export revenue, putting pressure on the South Korean won.

- 1995: The Fed increased rates by 60%,⁸⁶ from less than 3% in 1993 to over 5% between 1995 and 2000.
 - » The stronger USD placed pressure to devalue other currencies
 - » Currencies pegged to the USD increased in value, reducing the competitiveness of their exports.
 - » The higher Fed rate resulted in a greater debt servicing burden.
 - » Funds attracted to the U.S. result in the oversupply of local currencies and further devaluation pressure on the local currencies.
 - » Countries reacted by increasing interest rates, resulting in increased debt burden on companies and bankruptcies.
 - » Countries use up reserves to maintain peg to USD; local currencies depreciated further, making the foreign debt burden even greater, resulting in more bankruptcies.
- 1996: The U.S. Treasury and IMF set the trap.

As explained by Robin Hahnel:

For three decades, South Korea had the highest rate of growth of GDP per capita of any country in the world. South Korea achieved these high rates of growth while preserving domestic ownership over its “world class” international business conglomerates known as ‘chaebols.’ At the core of the highly successful Korean model were the ownership and financial links between large, modern industrial enterprises and Korean banks, and between Korean banks and various Korean government ministries. ... Nor was the Korean model particularly unique – in most respects, it was similar to the Japanese model that was equally successful in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

... the U.S. Treasury orchestrated a successful carrot-and-stick strategy to penetrate the South Korean economy that is proving successful beyond even the plotters wildest expectations ... Under an agreement with the monetary fund,

foreign banks will be able to compete in Korea beginning this year, and the government is considering ways to ease the restrictions that prevent foreigners from buying Korean land ... Administration dangled an attractive bait: if Korea gave in, it would be allowed to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ...’ To enter the OECD,’ recalled a senior official of the organization, ‘the Koreans agreed to liberalize faster than they had originally planned ... ‘priority areas where Treasury is seeking further liberalization.’ These included letting foreigners buy domestic Korean bonds; letting Korean companies borrow abroad both short term and long term, and letting foreigners buy Korean stocks more easily.⁸⁷

- 1997: The Soros hedge fund pulls the trigger.

In January 1997, the Soros Fund Management shorts the Thai Baht, the weakest of the Asian currencies. Thanong Khanthong explains:

Soros told the diplomat ... By pegging the baht to the dollar, Thai authorities encouraged banks and big corporates to borrow U.S. dollars unhedged. The dollar was converted into baht for domestic lending, leading to a credit boom and an economic bubble. With an economic slowdown in Japan and a rising U.S. dollar, trade and capital accounts in Thailand had deteriorated. The baht became unstable, eventually leading to the economic bubble bursting ... a former Bank of Thailand official overheard talk in the financial markets that the Quantum Fund used some US\$700 million (Bt29.7 billion) from its total war chest of \$12 billion against the baht. Soros’ top aides were Stan Druckenmiller and Rodney Jones ...⁸⁸

The devaluation of the Thai Baht led to a domino effect across East Asian economies, resulting in across the board currency, stock market and asset prices crashes⁸⁹ and the subsequent intervention of the IMF, as noted in the sequence of events in 1997.⁹⁰

Currency and stock market crashes:

- » July: Thai baht, Philippine peso and Indonesian rupiah crash.
- » August: Asian stock markets crash.
- » October: Korean won crashes.

IMF to the rescue:

- » July: Loan to Philippines.
 - » August: Two loans to Thailand.
 - » November: \$40 billion package to Indonesia.
 - » December: \$57 billion package to Korea
- 1998: The IMF goes in for the kill.

As explained by Robin Hahnel:

After the crisis hit, the IMF upped the ante and the struggle was over in weeks. The IMF simply insisted that remaining restrictions on foreign ownership be rescinded and that the government take active steps to dismantle the chaebols as a condition of its bailout.

If the Democratic Republic of North Korea ever had designs on the South Korean economy, it is too late now. The U.S. Department of Treasury, with an assist from the IMF, has just “scooped” the North Koreans – and the Japanese, Chinese or anyone else who had an eye on picking up the pieces of the South Korean economic ‘miracle’ in the aftermath of the recent economic ‘crisis.’

Many companies newly available for foreign purchase are very attractive to international investors not only because their stocks are depressed and the won is cheap, but because South Korean labor has been severely chastised. One can only wonder how South Korean workers who demonstrated and occupied plants in their attempts to avoid mas-

sive layoffs at the hands of their fellow South Korean employers at the outset of the crisis may react to going back to work for Western owners who flaunt their scorn for the South Korean system of ‘life time employment’...⁹¹

- 1999: The Money Powers pluck the cadaver.

South Korean business banks were finally accessible by the Money powers.

As Nicholas Kristoff explained in the *New York Times*:

In South Korea, as a direct result of the crisis, the government is talking about selling two of the biggest banks to foreigners, and teetering local securities firms are searching for foreign companies to take them over. Under an agreement with the monetary fund, foreign banks will be able to compete in Korea beginning this year, and the government is considering ways to ease the restrictions that prevent foreigners from buying Korean land.⁹²

Sandra Sugawara of the *Washington Post* put it this way:

A key target of economic reform is ...

The top five chaebols – Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG Group and SK Group – account for more than one-third of the country’s gross economic output ...

Kim Dae Jung’s new government enacted a series of laws to ... remove barriers to hostile takeovers and foreign investments. He also launched a campaign to convince the nation that the chaebols, not foreign investors, were to blame for Korea’s woes.

... the government has agreed to sell Seoulbank to the London-based HSBC Holdings PLC and Korea First Bank to a U.S. investment group led by Newbridge Capital Ltd.

... Scudder Kemper, Rothschild Inc., State Street Bank & Trust Co. and Templeton Asset Management Ltd. were chosen to manage the new \$1.4 billion Corporate Restructuring Fund....

... Milton Kim, the 37-year-old chairman of Ssangyong Investment & Securities Co., lobbied hard to get his older brother, the chairman of Ssangyong Group, ... to sell the company to an investment group led by Hambrecht & Quist. The San Francisco investment bank installed a new president and San Francisco-based chairman ... ‘The company will be managed very much according to the standards of a Wall Street firm,’ he said.⁹³

By 2016, as can be noted from Table 7, the real goods productivity of Singapore and South Korea was on par with Japan and with the highly productive European countries, such as Sweden and Germany, and ahead of the U.S., UK, France and Italy. Taiwan’s productivity was on par with France.

On the 31st of December 2021, foreign investors held over 46% of Samsung.⁹⁴

THE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The phenomenal economic development of Japan and South Korea provides a reliable guideline for sustainable development.

A plethora of studies are available detailing the policies adopted by Japan and South Korea that enabled their excellent development rates. Both countries adopted National Socialist economic systems, in which political power was highly centralized, the government had a major role in the economy, the financial sector was strictly regulated, foreign banks were kept off limits and foreign ownership of assets was greatly limited. Both countries adopted 5-year plans for socio-economic development, protected their markets and focused on export-oriented industries and quality STEM education. In both countries industrial conglomerates were leaders in industrial development – the zaibatsu in Japan and the chaebols in South Korea – which implemented government development policies.

Similarly, multitudes of studies explain the weaknesses of Japan and South Korea which resulted in the crashes of their economies. But few if any studies shed light on the strategic geopolitical contexts which

| Country | Group | Population 2016 (millions) | Agriculture 2016 (\$ million) | Industry 2016 (\$ million) | Per Capita Real Goods production |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| World | | 7,289 | 3,173,020 | 20,360,191 | 3,228 |
| Europe | | 615 | 355,341 | 4,520,752 | 7,933 |
| China | | 1,379 | 774,870 | 4,503,230 | 3,827 |
| USA | | 327 | 186,200 | 2,718,520 | 8,893 |
| Russia | | 142 | 50,037 | 461,880 | 3,599 |
| India | | 1,282 | 393,936 | 584,112 | 763 |
| Japan | | 126 | 59,244 | 1,357,676 | 11,245 |
| Singapore | Asian Tiger | 6 | — | 79,002 | 13,415 |
| South Korea | Asian Tiger | 51 | 38,097 | 561,578 | 11,717 |
| Taiwan | Asian Tiger | 24 | 6,885 | 169,472 | 7,502 |
| Sweden | Europe High | 10 | 9,198 | 137,459 | 14,724 |
| Germany | Europe High | 81 | 27,832 | 977,599 | 12,475 |
| UK | Europe Medium | 65 | 18,403 | 552,090 | 8,808 |
| Italy | Europe Medium | 62 | 37,020 | 447,942 | 7,805 |
| France | Europe Medium | 67 | 46,854 | 451,278 | 7,423 |
| Spain | Europe Medium | 49 | 40,689 | 298,386 | 6,926 |
| Hungary | Europe Low | 10 | 4,603 | 38,937 | 4,420 |
| Greece | Europe Low | 11 | 6,422 | 34,833 | 3,831 |
| Romania | Europe Low | 22 | 14,820 | 61,720 | 3,555 |

TABLE 7. Real Economies of Selected Countries

address the fundamental reasons why the West initially allowed them to develop unhindered. As mentioned earlier, both Japan and South Korea, being front line states facing the ‘Red Peril,’ were allowed to develop unhindered until the ‘Red Peril’ gradually disappeared with the improved relations with China and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the USSR. As both Japan and South Korea are occupied countries with limited sovereignty, they could be readily cut down to size when needed. Hence when the geopolitical context changed, both economies were plundered, using essentially the same Bretton Woods instruments which were used earlier to raid Latin America.

On the other hand, more recently and within the context of geopolitical conflict with Russia, when Western governments imposed drastic sanctions on Russia, insofar as the Russian economy is autarkic to a great degree, the damage to Russia was minimal⁹⁵ and transient, as reflected by the negligible impact on its currency and rate of inflation. The impact on the sanctioners was far greater⁹⁶ and will have dire long-term effects. Nevertheless, instead of backing down on their sanctions, the European governments doubled, tripled, quadrupled, quintupled, etc. them, adding sanctions package after sanctions package, even while suffering more and more from these sanctions, themselves. This irrational, indeed, suicidal⁹⁷ behavior indicates both the primordial role of geopolitics on development and the lack of sovereignty of EU countries that were forced to adopt policies that are highly detrimental to themselves.

Thus, the basic requirement for sustainable development is sovereignty. Development under occupation is akin to erecting a high-rise without foundations; it can be brought down easily. True sovereignty encompasses both political and economic sovereignty.

Today, colonial-style military bases blatantly usurp the political sovereignty of countries such as Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, etc. while the Bretton Woods financial instruments, on the other hand, stealthily usurp their economic sovereignty.

While achieving political sovereignty is no easy task and generally is costly in blood and treasure, economic sovereignty is even more difficult for countries to achieve, as it necessitates withdrawal from Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank, IMF, WTO, SWIFT,

etc.,⁹⁸ leading to their isolation from global trade, which greatly limits their potential for economic development. Thus, fewer than a handful of countries are not members of these institutions, most notably Cuba,⁹⁹ North Korea and recently Russia.¹⁰⁰ In addition to their isolation from global trade as facilitated by these institutions, Cuba and North Korea have been sanctioned for decades, resulting in further isolation.

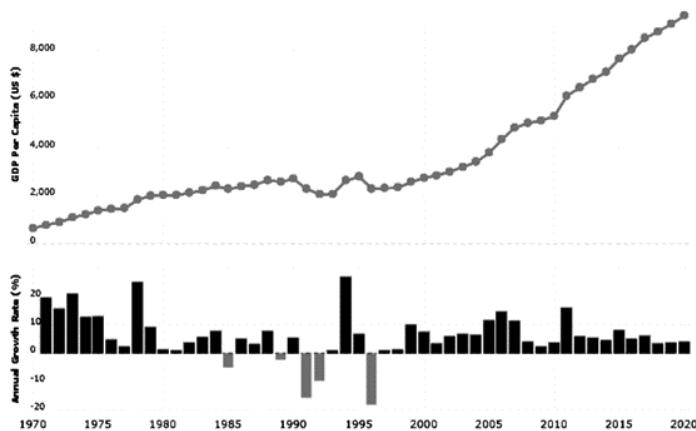


FIGURE 48. Cuba Annual Growth Rate and PCI, 1970–2020¹⁰¹

As can be noted in Figure 48, Cuba managed to have steady growth for most of the past 50 years. The significant drop in 1991 and 1992 was due to the collapse of the USSR. Nevertheless, Cuba managed to adapt, and for the past 25 years, it has had steady growth.

Despite the isolation and incessant harassment¹⁰² by the U.S., especially after the collapse of the USSR, Cuba succeeded in steadily improving the quality of life of its population. In some key social wellbeing indicators, Cuba surpasses the U.S.:

- Child mortality rates: Cuba 0.55% vs. U.S. 0.65%.¹⁰³
- Life expectancy: Cuba 79.0 vs. U.S. 76.6.¹⁰⁴
- Literacy rates: Cuba 99.8% vs. U.S. 86%.¹⁰⁵

- Obesity: Cuba 24.6% vs. U.S. 36.2%.¹⁰⁶
- Unemployment: Cuba 2.6% vs. U.S. 4.4%.¹⁰⁷
- Incarceration rates per 100,000: Cuba 510 vs. U.S. 629.¹⁰⁸

Most importantly, Cuban developmental achievements are cumulative and cannot be set back by the Bretton Woods institutions, making the quality of life for citizens of Cuba assuredly better year after year. The global geopolitical upheaval post 2022 will result in a major leap forward for Cuba and other nations that were on the ‘wrong side’ of Bretton Woods II.

The above are strategic considerations for development. Operational structural considerations for promoting development include a highly centralized political system and publicly owned banking, insurance, utilities, public transport, health and education sectors. The central bank should be government owned and managed and prioritize government, not BIS, directives. The national currency to be issued should have intrinsic value, i.e. backed by precious metals or commodities.

WHY NATIONAL SOCIALISM IS DEMONIZED

No party is demonized in Western media like the National Socialist German Workers’ Party, aka the Nazi party, and no individual demonized as much as Adolf Hitler. When Western media embarks on a demonizing an individual they liken him to Hitler to capitalize on the investments already made in demonizing Hitler. To wit:

*CBS News: “Expert Likens Saddam To 1930s Hitler”*¹⁰⁹

*The Guardian: “From Hitler to Gaddafi: dictators and their bunkers”*¹¹⁰

*Associated Press: “Bush says Saddam even worse than Hitler”*¹¹¹

*Herald Net: “Saddam was a Hitler in waiting”*¹¹²

*National Interest: “What Do Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi Have In Common? They Loved Golden Guns.”*¹¹³

*New York Post: “Assad Is Like Hitler: Kerry.”*¹¹⁴

Mirror UK: “Vladimir Putin ‘is the new Hitler and Russia doomed to fall like Nazi Germany’”¹¹⁵

Forbes: “Is Vladimir Putin Another Adolf Hitler?”¹¹⁶

The question arises: why are the National Socialists, the Nazi party, and Hitler singled out as the ultimate evil in human history over all other candidates for this ignominious label? After all, as will be further addressed in Chapter 7, Free World Values, to follow, Western civilization’s criminality over the past millennium has resulted in the obliteration of numerous civilizations, killing and pillaging all over the globe, enslaving millions and causing suffering to billions for over a millennium.

Germany under the Nazi party started World War II that cost tens of millions of lives. In the European and North African region overall, this war resulted in 45 million deaths.¹¹⁷ But this terrible tragedy is nevertheless, much less than number of deaths caused by British colonialism. Suffice it to mention the well over 100 million deaths in India¹¹⁸ and 100 million deaths due to opium in China¹¹⁹. Clearly from a quantitative standpoint, the Nazi crimes are dwarfed by those of the British.

Could it be that the Nazis were demonized for using indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction? They did not have any, and if they did, they may or may not have used them. Should they have used them, it would have put them on par with the U.S., which did use them – not any worse.

Could it be because of biological warfare? Quoting Dan Vergano, *Nazi Scientists May Have Plotted Malaria Mosquito Warfare*:

Nazi scientists at the infamous Dachau concentration camp may have planned to use offensive biological warfare on Germany’s World War II enemies. Newly found records suggest they made plans to release malaria-carrying mosquitoes from airplanes.

Although Hitler issued edicts against biological weapons during the war, experts have debated for decades whether such efforts took place in the hidden corners of the Nazi regime.

Reinhardt suggests that the Nazis did in fact run an offensive biological warfare effort under the cover of a concentration camp entomological institute headed by insect researcher Eduard May, who died in 1956. "My opinion is that May knew that he did offensive warfare research," Reinhardt says.¹²⁰

And from Ace Elliot, *10 Horrible Atrocities Committed by the SS*:

Archived documents show that an entomological research institute was established at the Dachau concentration camp in 1942. There, the Nazis conducted experiments with the end goal of creating biological weapons, even though Hitler had forbade such weaponry. Himmler enlisted the help of Eduard May in testing whether insects like mosquitoes could be used to infect their enemies with malaria. May examined different species to determine which type of mosquito was best suited for the job. He also researched fleas and rats and attempted to pick the brains of plague experts.

Ultimately, May refused to experiment on people and never actually handled infectious diseases. His role appears to have been more of a researcher, tasked with identifying which insects would make the best bioweapons. Luckily, the SS didn't have the time and resources to carry out their plan.¹²¹

Clearly therefore the Nazis did not have any biological warfare program that can be compared with Japan's Unit 731 which is addressed in Chapter 7, "Free World Values," to follow. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Third Reich was criminal. Nevertheless its crimes pale in comparison with those of West European colonialists or the Japanese administration of Manchukuo and its rape of Nanking.

As Western media is beholden to the Money Powers, it is necessary to examine the relationship between the Money Powers and the Third Reich. In the period post World War I prior to the Nazis taking control of the Reichstag in 1933:

around 6 million Germans were unemployed; the German economy was in total collapse, Germany had no international

credit rating, and was almost bankrupt from World War 1 reparations payments.

The German people were demotivated, factories were closed from lack of money to pay wages, benefits were cut as the Government had no money to pay them and inflation was spiralling out of control.

The National Socialist party placed the central bank (Reichsbank) under control of the government and enacted several laws strictly regulating the banking activities.¹²² This meant that

the money and banking mechanism was compelled to relinquish the position it had occupied as the nerve center of the traditional capitalist economy. The money and capital market characteristic of that economy had all but disappeared long before the actual outbreak of hostilities, and credit institutions had been shorn of much of their power.

Instead of depending upon the mechanism of the market for the allocation of funds, the government used special devices to syphon accumulated funds into desired channels.

In neither the money nor the capital market did interest rates, anticipated profits or the entrepreneurial judgment of the individual industrialists and bankers have much to do with investment decisions. It was the government that determined the volume and composition of new capital investment and production, that allocated the raw materials and labor necessary for the execution of the investment and production plans, that became increasingly responsible for the quantity and distribution of industrial and agricultural production.

The consequences of the National Socialists taking control of the financial sector were spectacular:¹²³

Inside an incredible three years, all this was changed. Unemployment was banned by the Nazi Party and went from 5 million to zero in the space of a few years.

Work teams were created from unemployed Germans and companies were given money if they employed more workers. Massive infrastructure-building projects were established, constructing new Autobahns between major cities, which stimulated the German Car industry to build more cars, which then needed to employ more people.

The Nazis sponsored building programmes for new Football Stadia, enormous housing projects, and planting of new forests. In 1937 a new state-sponsored car manufacturer was commissioned by Hitler to provide cheap cars for families. It was called Volkswagen, which meant ‘people’s car’ and families were encouraged to buy one by making monthly payments.

Huge public works programmes were established in construction and agricultural labour.

From 1933 to 1936 the number of Germans working in the construction industry tripled to 2 million. Many worked renovating and building the public buildings of Berlin.

Employers were discouraged from taking on women while the NSDAP delivered propaganda for women to stay home and be good wives and mothers, alongside giving them increased family benefits for doing so.

Imports were forbidden unless vital to survival and then heavily discouraged, with research established to reproduce these goods from inside Germany as soon as possible.

In the space of four years, Nazi Germany changed from a defeated nation, a bankrupt economy, strangled by war debt, inflation and lack of foreign capital; into full employment with the strongest economy and biggest military power in Europe.

As indicated above as it concerned Japan and the Asian Tigers, National Socialist economic and monetary policy had demonstrated how an economy can blossom when the parasitic financial sector is stifled.

Why should National Socialism be demonized? It was not the cause of the crimes of the Hitler regime. Rather, Hitler’s crimes reflected the

German cultural proclivity to pursue the colonial West's genocidal tradition as it concerns "the Other," a tradition sanctioned by the '*representatives of God himself*,' adopted in the colonial Doctrine of Discovery, and continued through the twentieth century reflected in policies that the West has pursued, such as per Madeleine Albright, that "killing 500,000 Iraqi children, was worth it."¹²⁴ Genocides, torturing and mutilating "the Other" and obliterating their civilizations are not embedded as crimes in the Western psyche.

What has made National Socialism *per se* an unforgivable blasphemous crime was its crime against the Money Powers. The German state overturned rule by the Money Powers, supplanting it with rule by the German state. This was the unforgivable crime.

This is in no way to condone or belittle the crimes committed by the Third Reich but rather to put these crimes in perspective. They are on a par with or less than what the British, Spanish, Belgian, French, Dutch and Portuguese colonialists committed – a contemporary manifestation of the rapacious nature of West European civilization that was sanctioned by the Popes and reflected in its history.

Nazi leaders were rightly despised, tried at Nuremberg and hung on scaffolds for the enormity of their crimes – whereas Winston Churchill, Cecil Rhodes, Queen Victoria, Edmund Allenby, Hernán Cortés, Leopold II of Belgium, Henri Gouraud, and a long list of other colonial genocidaires are glorified with their statues placed on pedestals. The most significant difference between the Nazis and the colonialists is that the colonialists were working for the Money Powers, not against them. Indeed, the adulation of Churchill is a particularly interesting case in point insofar as, in an article titled "Why can't Britain handle the truth about Winston Churchill?," the *Guardian* pointed to "his contributing role in the 1943 Bengal famine in which millions of people died unnecessarily, and his interest in eugenics; and his views, deeply retrograde for his time, on race."¹²⁵

CHAPTER 7

Free World Values

In this chapter horrendous crimes are presented. The purpose of presenting them is:

- To uncover the actual values of the self-denominated civilized peoples.
- To make clear that pursuit of power is the DNA of the Free World.

While it is not possible to bring justice to the victims, it is a moral responsibility to embed these crimes as a part of the historical record. The post-World War II period illustrated the primordial role of geopolitics on development and exposes the vacuity of the purported ‘Free World values,’ which are exclusively operationalized as geostrategic instruments, void of any moral or humane values.

POST-WORLD WAR II JAPAN: THE KISHI CLAN FIEFDOM

Mao’s liberation of China with the support of the USSR resulted in a geostrategic nightmare for the West, necessitating that it find a miracle maker to help face the looming Red Peril. The choice fell on Class A War Criminal suspect Nobusuke Kishi, the ‘Monster of Shōwa.’

Kishi was instrumental in forming the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as a merger between the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party in 1955. The LDP has dominated the National Diet (parliament) ever since. The LDP received millions from the CIA during the 1950s and 1960s.¹ Kishi was Prime Minister 1957 to 1960. His role in passing the second security treaty with the U.S.² despite widespread popular rejection³ led to his resignation in 1960. Thereafter, Kishi’s brother, Eisaku Satō,⁴ was the second-longest serving prime minister (from 1964 to 1972) in Japanese history, and Kishi’s grandson, Shinzō Abe,⁵ was the longest serving prime minister in Japan’s history, serving from 2006 to 2007, then from 2012 to 2020 and as ‘kingmaker’⁶ of Japanese politics

until his assassination in 2022. Thus, post-World War II Japan can be aptly described as the Kishi Clan fiefdom.

Kishi having been selected for his achievements in Manchukuo, it is necessary to delve into the ‘miracles’ of Manchukuo.

MANCHUKUO’S ECONOMIC MIRACLE

Slave labor and sex slaves

In 1935 Kishi was appointed Manchukuo’s Deputy Minister of Industrial Development⁷ and given complete control of Manchukuo’s economy by the military, with the authority to do ‘whatever he liked, as long as industrial growth was increased.’ In 1937, Kishi issued a decree mandating use of slave labor in Manchukuo,⁸ stating that money to pay the workers was not available. Between 1938 and 1945, about one million Chinese were rounded up and taken as slaves to Manchukuo.⁹

The dire conditions at Manchukuo were exemplified by the Fushun coal mine, which employed about 40,000 miners, 25,000 of whom died annually and were replaced by new slaves.¹⁰ Four million Chinese were used as slave laborers in Manchukuo; more than 40% of them died.¹¹

Having issued the slavery decree, Kishi can thus be held personally responsible for the death of more than 1.5 million Chinese slaves in Manchukuo.

As a result of his ‘great achievements’ in Manchukuo, Prime Minister Hideki Tōjō appointed Kishi Minister of Munitions in October 1941, as the best man to prepare Japan economically for war with the U.S.¹² Kishi applied his Manchukuo methods in his new position, and was deeply involved in taking hundreds of thousands of Koreans and Chinese to work as slaves in Japan’s factories and mines during the war.¹³ The majority of them did not survive.¹⁴

In addition to slave workers, Chinese and Korean girls and women were forced into becoming sex slaves, or ‘comfort women,’ as they were referred to in the Japanese army.¹⁵

Terrorism, drugs, organized crime, and money laundering

Drug Warfare is definitely the worst and only known war crime case of systematic massive drug doping of civilians.

Japan was one of the Axis of Evil of the International Drug Holocaust which had lasted 150 years and at least 100 Million Chinese were chronically massacred by Britain, U.S., Japan etc. directly and indirectly.¹⁶

Kishi was deeply involved in the opium trade. The inscription on the tombstone of Hajime Satomi – Manchukuo's ‘Opium King’ – was written by Kishi.¹⁷ The Manchukuo State Opium Monopoly used the yakuza¹⁸ as opium distributors, the same criminal organization Kishi had used to terrorize Chinese slave workers into submission.¹⁹ Kishi was known for his skill in laundering money and as ‘the man who could move millions of yen with a single telephone call.’²⁰

Racism and sexism

In Kishi's analogy, just as dogs were not capable of understanding abstract concepts such as the law, but could be trained to be utterly obedient to their masters, the same went with the Chinese, whom Kishi claimed were mentally closer to dogs than humans.²¹

Kishi considered the Chinese as only good for being ‘robot slaves’ or ‘mechanical instruments’ of the Imperial Army, non-human automatons, absolutely obedient’ to their Japanese masters.²² His racist and sexist views are reflected in his view on Chinese and Korean women whom he considered as ‘disposable bodies’ to be used by Japanese men, and thus he had no qualms about rounding up women and girls to serve as sex slaves aka ‘comfort women’ for the Japanese army.²³

MANCHUKUO'S BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE: UNIT 731

In addition to its miraculous industrialization, Manchukuo boasted the largest and most technically advanced biological weapons research center in the world, Unit 731, one of two such centers along with Unit 100. Unit 731 had more than 150 buildings and three crematoria and

employed over 3,000 researchers and technicians. More than 10,000 Chinese, Korean and Russians were slaughtered in the biological experiments that were conducted there. A glimpse into the crimes committed in Unit 731 is provided by the following excerpts of testimonials published by Sky City Gallery:²⁴

The live un-anesthetized dissection was routine, common practice in all units.

“The fellow knew that it was over for him, and so he didn’t struggle.” recalled the old former medical assistant of a Japanese Army unit. “But when I picked up the scalpel that’s when he began screaming. I cut him open from the chest to the stomach, and he screamed terribly, and his face was all twisted in agony. He made this unimaginable sound, he was screaming so horribly. But then finally he stopped.” The former medical assistant who insisted on anonymity, explained the reason for the vivisection. The Chinese prisoner had been deliberately infected with the plague as part of a research project.

The Chinese woman victim had regained her consciousness while being vivisected alive. “She opened her eyes ... and said, ‘it’s all right to kill me, but please spare my child’s life.’

To determine how much pressure the body can withstand, some were put inside a pressure chamber and would suffer terrible agony before their eyes would pop out from their sockets and blood forced out through their skin.

To determine the treatment of frostbite, prisoners were taken outside in freezing weather and left with exposed arms, periodically drenched with water until frozen solid. The arm was later amputated, the doctors would repeat the process on the victim’s upper arm to the shoulder. After both arms were gone, the doctors moved on to the legs until only a head and torso remained. The victim was then used for plague and pathogen experiments.

Victims were burned with flamethrowers, blown up with shrapnel, bombarded with lethal doses of X-ray, spun to death in

centrifuges, injected with animal blood, air bubbles, exposure to syphilis, surgical removal of stomachs with the esophagus then attached to the intestines, amputation of arms and re-attachment on the opposite side, gassed to death in chambers ...

“We called the victims ‘logs,’” he said. “We didn’t want to think of them as people. We didn’t want to admit that we were taking lives. So we convinced ourselves that what we were doing was like cutting down a tree.”

The doctors experimented on children and babies, even a three-day-old baby, measuring the temperature with a needle stuck inside the infant’s middle finger to keep it straight to prevent the baby’s hand clenching into a fist.

Victims were often taken to a proving ground called Anda, where they were tied to stakes and bombarded with test weapons to see how effective the new technologies were. Planes sprayed the zone with a plague culture or dropped bombs with plague-infected fleas to see how many people would die.

The Japanese army regularly conducted Field Tests. Planes dropped plague-infected fleas over Ningbo in eastern China and over Changde in north-central China.

Japanese troops dropped cholera and typhoid cultures in water reservoirs, wells and ponds.

Cottony material and feathers coated with anthrax bacteria were used to spread the disease in an airborne manner; as such, fibers had been found to be effective in keeping the bacteria alive long enough to reach the intended human victims.

Witnesses recall watching Japanese airplanes dropping a mixture of wheat, millet, soybeans, rice, cotton fibers, paper and fabric cuttings, aerial spraying pathogens over the cities. They all had been coated with the biological organism or with fleas and brought the germs to people.

Japanese distributed infected food, cakes, drink, clothes and children’s candies to the locals.

The same mass infections were being repeated all over China, except Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang.

Arrested by the American occupation authorities, the 2,000 members of Unit 731 received immunity from prosecution for war crimes before the Tokyo Tribunal of 1948, in exchange for their germ warfare data based on human experimentation.²⁵

The head of Unit 731 was M.D. Shiro Ishii.²⁶ After the war, Ishii was arrested by American troops. As with all other Unit 731 leaders, he was granted immunity by Allied leaders in exchange for their knowledge in biological and chemical warfare. “According to Cambridge University lecturer Richard Drayton, Ishii moved to Maryland, United States to continue his research of biological weapons.”²⁷

The criminal in charge of the frostbite experiments was M.D. Hisato Yoshimura. At the end of the war, he was granted immunity by the American Occupation forces. He went on to assume leading academic positions, including Chair of the Japan Meteorological Society, President of Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, professor at the Hyogo College of Medicine, and professor at Kobe Women’s University. In 1978, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun 3rd Class for his achievements in the field of biological adaptation.²⁸

The acquittal of these Japanese criminals by the U.S. occupation forces occurred in 1948, the same year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations under the leadership of the United States.²⁹

“The Soviet Prosecutor at the IMTFE [International Military Tribunal for the Far East] attempted to initiate a new tribunal to try other Unit 731 personnel... but, [General] MacArthur ensured that his initiatives were thwarted.”³⁰

The Soviet Union caught 12 Japanese army officers and medical of Unit 731 during their push east.³¹ These were charged with the manufacture and use of biological weapons at the Khabarovsk War Crimes Tribunal.³² All admitted their guilt and were sentenced to prison. In 1956, China tried 36 of Unit 731 criminals in Shenyang.

During the Khabarovsk trials, the accused, including Major General Kiyoshi Kawashima, testified that as early as 1941, some 40 members of Unit 731 air-dropped plague-contaminated fleas on Changde, China, causing epidemic plague outbreaks. The trial, together with the evidence presented to the court and its major findings – ‘which have proved to be remarkably accurate’ – were dismissed as communist propaganda and totally ignored in the West until the 1980s.³³

METAMORPHOSIS: THE MONSTER OF SHŌWA TO GREAT LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD

If ever there was a hell on earth, it would probably have been Manchukuo.

On June 20, 1957 Kishi was a guest of honor at the U.S. Senate, where he spoke of the ideals of democracy.³⁴ Introducing Kishi, Vice President Richard Nixon banged the gavel, welcoming him as an “honored guest” who was “not only a great leader of the free world, but also a loyal and great friend of the people of the United States.”³⁵ Kishi responded to Nixon by referring to ‘the honor of speaking in this citadel of democracy’ and his “belief in the lofty principles of democracy – in the liberty and dignity of the individual.”³⁶ Thus, on joining the Free World, the “Monster of the Shōwa”³⁷ was metamorphosed into “Great Leader of the Free World” at the “Citadel of Democracy.”

The consequences of the horrendous crimes committed in Manchukuo were as follows:

- Kishi the “Monster of Shōwa” who was personally responsible for the deaths of over 1.5 million Chinese slave workers, and numerous other crimes, was anointed by Vice President Nixon as a ‘Great Leader of the Free World,’ and U.S. occupation forces handed him the reins to Japan, over which he and his clan have ruled since 1955.
- After delivering the knowledge acquired from their criminal activities to the U.S., the mass murderers and torturers of Unit 731 were granted immunity by the U.S. occupation and walked away scot-free, going on to lead a ‘normal’ life in Kishi’s Japan.

Not surprisingly, with the head start acquired from ‘research’ of Unit 731, the U.S. is today the leader in bio warfare, with its bio labs dotting the globe.³⁸ U.S.-controlled bio labs in Ukraine have performed experiments similar to those of Japan’s Unit 731.³⁹

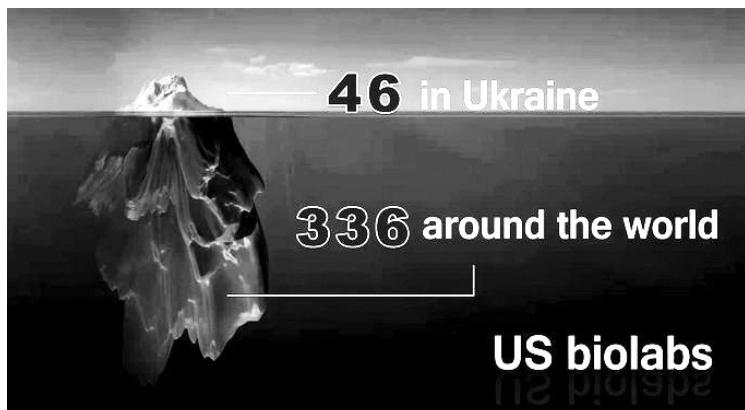


FIGURE 49. U.S. Picks Up Where Unit 731 Left Off⁴⁰

The question that poses itself is: how was it possible for the Free World to overlook the horrendous crimes of Manchukuo, and furthermore, to reward the ‘Monster’ and anoint him a pillar of the Free World?

It is thus necessary to understand the Free World and its origins.

THE CRUSADER CORE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Oppression is not exclusive to European civilization. Unfortunately, oppression has existed throughout history and across various civilizations to this day. What distinguished the European civilization is that the highest moral authority, the popes, who were accepted as representatives of God, called for murder, enslavement and expropriation of “all others.” The colonial era is widely accepted to have started in the 15th century with the colonization of Ceuta by the Portuguese in 1415, or more commonly with Columbus’ voyage in 1492, but in fact colonialism had started in the 11th century with the First Crusade of 1095. Abbot Guibert of Novigente (1053–1125), in his book on the First Crusade *Historia Quae Dicitur; Gesta Dei per Francos* (The History That is Told, Acts of God through the Franks) describes the Levant as “the new colony”:⁴¹

Balduinum ex Edessa transferunt, et sanctae illius Christianitatis novae coloniae regnare constituunt.

They transfer Baldwin from Edessa, and appoint that holy Christian to rule the new colony. (Google translate)

The ‘miraculous rewards’ of colonization are described by French chaplain Fulcher of Chartres (1059–1127), a settler of Jerusalem, in book III of his *Gesta Francorum Jherusalem peregrinantium* (*The exploits of the French pilgrims to Jerusalem*):

Consider, I pray, and reflect how in our time God has transferred the West into the East, for we who were Occidentals now have been made Orientals. He who was a Roman or a Frank is now a Galilaean, or an inhabitant of Palestine.

For those who were poor there, here God makes rich. Those who had few coins, here possess countless besants [Byzantine gold coin, 4.5 grams⁴²]; and those who had not had a villa, here, by the gift of God, already possess a city. Therefore why should one who has found the East so favorable return to the West? God does not wish those to suffer want who, carrying their crosses, have vowed to follow Him, nay even unto the end. You see, therefore, that this is a great miracle, and one which must greatly astonish the whole world. Who has ever heard anything like it?⁴³

The plunder of foreign lands is God’s wish for ‘His most dear friends’:

Therefore, God wishes to enrich us all and to draw us to Himself as His most dear friends. And because He wishes it, we also freely desire the same; and what is pleasing to Him we do with a loving and submissive heart, that with Him we may reign happily throughout eternity.

The call for and justification of colonization was issued by Pope Urban II in his 1095 Clermont speech:⁴⁴

this land which you inhabit, shut in on all sides by the seas and surrounded by the mountain peaks, is too narrow for your large population; nor does it abound in wealth; and it furnishes

scarcely food enough for its cultivators. Hence it is that you murder one another, that you wage war, and that frequently you perish by mutual wounds. Let therefore hatred depart from among you, let your quarrels end, let wars cease, and let all dissensions and controversies slumber. Enter upon the road to the Holy Sepulchre; wrest that land from the wicked race [the Muslims], and subject it to yourselves.

Just as the colonization of the Levant was sanctioned by the Pope, the highest moral authority of Europe, justification for the colonial era of global genocide, enslavement and plundering was similarly sanctioned by later popes who set the rules for European colonization and division of the world between European powers through papal bulls, the most important of which are:

- 1452 *Dum Diversas*, issued by Pope Nicholas V:⁴⁵
granted among other things free and ample faculty to the afore-said King Alfonso – to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed, and the kingdoms, dukedoms, principalities, dominions, possessions, and all movable and immovable goods whatsoever held and possessed by them and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery, and to apply and appropriate to himself and his successors the kingdoms, dukedoms, counties, principalities, dominions, possessions, and goods, and to convert them to his and their use and profit
- 1454 *Romanus Pontifex*, issued by Pope Nicholas V:⁴⁶
these islands, lands, harbors, and seas, and they do of right belong and pertain to the said King Alfonso and his successors, nor without special license from King Alfonso and his successors themselves has any other even of the faithful of Christ been entitled hitherto, nor is he by any means now entitled lawfully to meddle therewith

- 1493 Inter Caetera, issued by Pope Alexander VI:⁴⁷

with the authority of the Almighty God bestowed on us we draw and establish a line from the Arctic Pole, or north, to the Antarctic Pole, or south, irrespective of whether the mainlands and islands were found or are to be found towards India or any other region – a line that shall be distant one hundred leagues to the west and south of any of the islands that are usually called the Azores and Cape Verde, so that all islands and mainlands discovered and to be discovered, detected and to be detected, from said line towards the west and south, as long as they were not in fact in the possession of another Christian king or prince... we give, grant and assign in perpetuity to you and your heirs and successors, the kings of Castile and Leon, all the islands and mainlands found and to be found, discovered and to be discovered, in the west and south

The above papal bulls formed the basis for ‘The Doctrine of Discovery’⁴⁸ which became international and U.S. law, serving as the judicial sanction for the European seizure of indigenous lands through the Americas.⁴⁹ The Doctrine remains in force despite indigenous nations in Canada requesting its repudiation by Pope Francis, as part of retribution by the Catholic Church for its infamous residential schools’ abuses and deaths.

The civilizational values of the Free World in relation to the non-European peoples have been apparent since the First Crusade further confirmed in the Crusades of the Era of Colonization. These values are embodied in the triple prongs of Crusader praxis: ideological supremacism, plunder, and genocide.

It is critical to realize that the Crusades are not merely a defining feature of West European civilization, but that these features of Crusader civilization have persisted throughout the millennium since the First Crusade, and on into the 21st century.

While the Crusades are usually associated with the Christian assaults on Islamic countries, this mentality and praxis as evidenced in the papal bull *Dum Diversas* of 1452 specifically sanctioned and promoted the conquest, colonization, and exploitation of *all* non-Christian territories and peoples, stating its intent

to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed..... and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery

These papal bulls lay the ideological foundation for the ‘supremacy’ of Europeans and their rights over all peoples and wealth in the world. Hundreds of years of decisions and laws continuing right up to our own time can ultimately be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery – laws that invalidate or ignore the rights, sovereignty, and humanity of non-Europeans – ‘the other’ – both in the United States and around the world.

This continuity of Crusader civilization throughout the millennium is reflected in the statements of the Western conquerors in the 20th century. British Field Marshall Edmund Allenby, on entering Jerusalem in 1917, proclaimed that “only now have the crusades ended.”⁵⁰ Church bells chimed in the Free World to celebrate Allenby’s occupation of Jerusalem.⁵¹ French High Commissioner for the Levant General Henri Gouraud, on entering Damascus in July 1920, went to Saladin’s tomb and exclaimed: “Saladin, we have returned. My presence here consecrates the victory of the Cross over the Crescent.”⁵²

In a post 9/11 statement that inaugurated the Global War on Terrorism, George W. Bush made a similar reference, As James Carroll noted in “The Bush Crusade: Again Unleashed in 2001 Could Prove as Violent as in 1096”:⁵³

Speaking spontaneously, without the aid of advisers or speech-writers, he put a word on the new American purpose that both shaped it and gave it meaning. “This crusade,” he said, “this war on terrorism.”

While ideology is in the realm of the psyche, it is useful in mobilizing the masses and justifying actions. The longevity of an ideology, however, depends on its suitability to the purposes of the wielders of power. That the Crusader supremacist ideology has lasted for a millennium is indicative that it was suitable for Money Powers as it legitimized global plundering. Thus, both the Crusades to the Levant, and the subsequent

global Crusades of the era of colonization were closely intertwined with Money Powers' interests.

Venice's rise to financial prominence was a consequence of the Levantine Crusades. "In 1096 Venice organized the first Crusade, to be followed by four more over the next 126 years. Out of these crusades the Venetian empire was born."⁵⁴

Notably, the 'revolutionary' concept of the Money Powers taking control of the state and making the state itself an arm of the Money Powers is also traceable to Venice:⁵⁵

... rather than have private family banks loan money to the state, the innovation was to have the financial oligarchy simply take over the state, i.e., to eradicate any principle of national sovereignty, and to make the state itself an arm of the financial oligarchy. That, in essence, is the core principle of what would become the Anglo-Dutch financial system.

The modus operandi in wars of conquest in furtherance of Money Powers interests whereby proxies are used as cannon fodder is similarly traceable to the Venetian Money Powers;

Venice's first partners in creating their empire were drawn from the Norman nobility of Europe, particularly from France and Angevin England. It was the Normans who acted as the cannon fodder for Venice's wars of conquest, known as the Crusades.⁵⁶

Five centuries after the First Crusade, Isaac Israel Suasso, banker and major shareholder in the Dutch East India Company⁵⁷ and the Dutch West India Company,⁵⁸ financed Dutch Prince William of Orange's invasion of England.⁵⁹ Shortly thereafter Suasso played an important role in the creation of the Bank of England of which he became a significant shareholder⁶⁰.

The colonialist expansion financed by the bankers was based on the technique used by the Venice bankers when financing the Crusades:⁶¹

The 'commenda' was a technique whereby an investor provided all of the capital needed for a campaign in return received three fourths of the profits.

Another Crusader financing technique was known as ‘societas maris,’ in which an investor provided two-thirds of the capital for the campaign and received half of the profits.

... it was their activities in finance during the Crusades that made them among the most powerful people in Europe.

The Italians helped finance many of the European counts’ armies and in the process developed new financing techniques that were used throughout the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance.⁶²

Similarly, it was bankers⁶³ that promoted, financed and were beneficiaries of colonialist ventures, determining state policy irrespective of the interest of the state:

he [Luis de Santangel] succeeded in winning over Queen Isabella, and, from purely patriotic motives, himself lent the necessary money, 17,000 ducats (5,000,000 maravedis), without interest. It was Santangel that received Columbus’ first detailed report of his voyage and discoveries.⁶⁴

Luis de Santangel a Jewish banker resident in Valencia... did cut a deal for a fair percentage of any profits.⁶⁵

... Fugger and Genoese allies, who, as the creditors to the Spanish government, drained off all of the loot from Spain’s massive traffic in gold, silver and slaves, manipulated every aspect of Spanish policy, and drove the Spanish Crown into bankruptcy several times.⁶⁶

The Crusaders’ wealth accumulation through the pillaging of foreign lands was a precursor to the pillaging of the colonies in the European-denominated ‘Age of Discovery.’

The key features of this civilization have remained essentially unchanged throughout the millennium since the First Crusade. U.S. Marine Corps Major General Smedley Butler aptly summarized these features as manifested in his role in the American military in the 20th century:⁶⁷

I spent 33 years and four months in active military service, and during that period, I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers.

Thus, starting with the Venetian Empire, then the Dutch Empire, then the British Empire, the historical labels given to Western empires concealed their driving force – a single Money Powers empire that originated with the Crusades. Similarly the descriptors of the entities concerned – from Crusaders to Colonialists to the Free World to the International Community and G-7, or ‘the West’ – are merely label changes reflective of the various historical eras: Crusaders when the Popes embodied political power, morphing into colonialism and imperialism when Papal powers diminished, to the Free World when colonialism went out of fashion post-World War II, to the International Community after the collapse of the Soviet Union. All these terms refer to the Money Powers’ empire in its metamorphoses through the ages.

The above-delineated historical trajectory of Western civilization therefore clarifies why “The Monster of the Shōwa” could not only be pardoned but honored as a ‘great leader of the Free World’ and why he and his clan were handed the management of Japan. Or later, how Madeleine Albright, who justified the death of 500,000 Iraqi children,⁶⁸ could be rewarded with the highest civilian honor, the aptly named ‘Presidential Medal of Freedom.’⁶⁹

THE FREE WORLD AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Free World is a term primarily used during the Cold War from 1945 to 1991, to refer to the Western Bloc and similar countries. It also more broadly refers to all non-communist and democratic countries. It has traditionally primarily been used to refer to the countries allied and aligned with the United States, the European Union and NATO.⁷⁰

With the end of the Cold War, the term has been replaced by the concept of the International Community.⁷¹

← Tweet



Lijian Zhao 赵立坚

@zlj517

China government official

...

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that when the West talks about the "int'l community", they mean:

The “international community” you always hear about



1:22 AM · Mar 18, 2022 · Twitter for Android

FIGURE 50. The “International Community”⁷²

In essence, therefore, the ‘International Community’ is identical to the ‘Free World,’ consisting of the U.S., Western Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

The historical conformity of free world civilizational values

Four of the Free World countries – the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the offspring of Britain – came into being through the genocide and expropriation of the indigenous civilizations. The Free World origin thus lies in the colonialist history of Western European countries.

That this exclusive Free World club could pardon, reward and accord membership to the criminals of Manchukuo suggests that similar ‘civilizational values’ exist between the West European colonialists and the Manchukuo administration.

What, then, could the colonialists' actual 'civilizational values,' as demonstrated by their actions, be? The following are but instances of a consistent trajectory.

Spain and the genocide of the Aztecs and Incas

Quoting Vladislav Sotirovic, 'The Spanish Conquistadors and the First Genocide in Modern History (III)':⁷³

On his way to Aztec capital, Tenochtitlán, H. Cortés responded to the tribes who resisted his incursion with terrible violence ... annihilated the tribe of Otomis of Tecoa, ..Cortés attacked them [Tlaxcalans] and burn their towns and villages, killing men, women, and children.

Cortés tricked the chieftains of the Cholulan Indians into gathering in an assembly room for the talks. The Spaniards then, under the guise of carrying out negotiations, entered the city and killed some 10,000 locals by burning their houses and other buildings.

Cortés barged the new Aztec emperor Cuauhtemoc while the Aztec priests, according to the source, 'have been given to the dogs.' All survived young women and boys were captured to slavery. ... He ordered the burning of books and records of the Aztec civilization.

Pizzaro called the Inca Emperor to come to his camp promising full protection⁷⁴. As the Emperor rejected to accept Christianity and to submit his Empire to the Spanish King, .. Pizarro's cannon fired at the huge crowd of Inca Indians and the Spaniard cavalry charged into the mass of Indians .. the Inca delegation was unarmed, the Spaniards were able to kill almost all of them (several thousand). All aristocrats who carried the Emperor's litter have been cut to pieces...The Spanish cavalry finally succeeded [in] arresting Atahualpa [Inca Emperor]..

.. it was explained by F. Pizarro .. as the inevitable consequence of God's will in order to convince the Emperor to reject his

bestial and diabolical life and to accept Christianity (the Roman Catholicism).

Pizarro demanded of the Emperor to purchase his life by filling a room (22x17x9 feet) by precious gems, gold, and silver. Nevertheless, when the Emperor finally managed to collect such huge treasure, F. Pizarro executed him on July 26th, 1533.⁷⁵

Belgium's genocide in the Congo

The following is from “RDC: Léopold II, ce bourreau aux 10 millions de victimes,” by Nicolas Michel:⁷⁶

Avenues in his name, statues to his glory... The King of the Belgians who died in 1909 continues to be honored in Europe. Not a drop of blood on his hands, perhaps, but the man who appropriated the Congo to bleed it white has some 10 million deaths on his conscience (Google translation).

From “The Hidden Holocaust: How King Leopold II Murdered 10 Million Africans” by Takudzwa Hillary Chiwanza:⁷⁷

Rubber quotas were imposed on villages and the Force Publique was called in to enforce these quotas, which were unrealistic to fill. Failure to meet the quotas was punishable by violence and death. The Force Publique would destroy villages, rape women, take hostages, torture, and extort the people. Men who could not fill their quotas would be mutilated and/or killed. At times whole villages that could not fill their quotas would be burned down to the ground as a lesson for other villages. Women and children would be taken hostage until the men filled their designated quotas. The women would be raped.

From “Congolese Genocide: The Overlooked History of the Colonized Congo” by Marietta Korfiati:⁷⁸

The Congolese genocide is one of the biggest mass murders in modern history, counting eight to ten million murder victims and millions of others severely injured.

The men of Force Publique traditionally cut the lower limbs, the hands, the feet, or even the heads of the “disobedient” under the orders of their European officers. The mutilated parts of the victims’ bodies sometimes would be eaten. Flogging the villagers and burning whole villages was also a prevalent terrorist tactic. Many Congolese died from overwork and untreated diseases like smallpox and sleeping sickness.

Sexual violence against women was a daily thing. Congolese women were completely unprotected, especially when they could not pay the state taxes. White men and sentries kidnapped young girls and women, whomever they liked. Rape, sexual torture, and forced sexual slavery were the most silenced crimes of the Congolese genocide. Most of the searches and books about the colonization of Congo inform the modern audience about the mutilation atrocities but not the gendered ones. Modern Congo is the country with one of the biggest numbers of rapes and sexual torture tactics, having their roots in the colonization era. And still, the women’s experiences during this era remain largely silenced.

From “Sexual Violence in the Congo Free State: Archival Traces and Present Reconfigurations” by Charlotte Mertens:⁷⁹

Belgian colonial officials and their sentries employed rape and sexual torture on a massive scale during the predatory rage that characterised the rubber regime of King Leopold II in the Congo Free State

While the white man killed people, he made others prisoner, and cut off hands and feet. He pillaged and burnt down houses. He killed those who did not collect enough rubber.

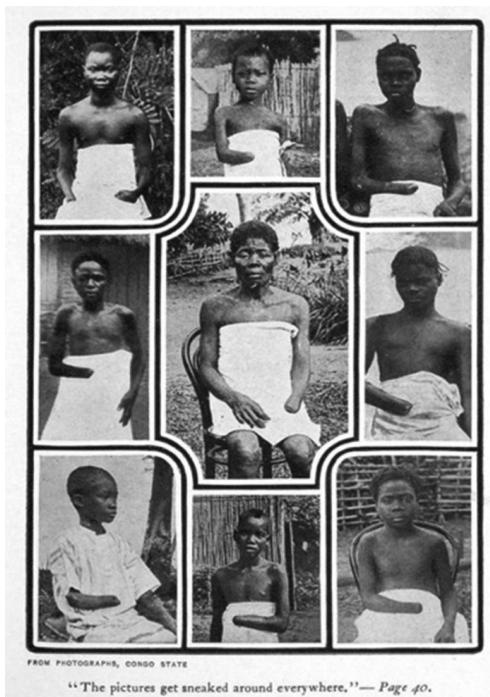


PHOTO 1. Congolese with Chopped Limbs⁸⁰

Great Britain in Kenya

From “Rape, Genocide and a Cover-up: How Britain Tortured and Killed 300,000 Kenyans,” by Tatenda Gwaambuka:⁸¹

In Kenya, the British would pour pepper into the genitals of women, crush the testicles of men, rip them off and make them eat the testicles, sodomise prisoners with bottles and brooms. By 1960, 300,000 Kikuyu were either unaccounted for or dead.

... crushed and ripped out testicles of Kikuyu men, mutilated breasts of women as well as cut off ears and fingers. ... gouging of Kikuyu eyes by the colonialist machinery ... in Kenya, men were dragged by Land Rovers until they disintegrated into chunks of scavenger food.

Some victims' skin was burnt off and they were forced to eat their own castrated testicles. One particular Kikuyu man was slowly electrocuted to death, his testicles and ears already cut off while one eyeball hung out of its socket. She says, "The men were sodomized by their guards, and bottles, brooms, animals and insects were forced into their rectums. They were pinned to the ground or tied to tables whilst their penises and testicles were beaten and torn from their bodies. Fighters were tied to backs of Land Rovers and driven around the village to slow and painful deaths. Men and women were made to run around with toilet buckets on their heads and they were sometimes made to eat the excrement in the buckets"

Realizing that Kenya was a very minor part of the British Empire, one can safely state that Britain's 'civilizational values' are comparable with those of Manchukuo. Indeed, Sir John Robert Seeley, a founder of British imperial history,⁸² averred "the special fitness of the English to rule over other people"⁸³

The above examples are merely a drop in the bucket of the horrendous acts committed by Western European colonialists in their pursuit of wealth and power.

If deeds, not words, reveal the truth of what values are held, it would seem that the 'civilizational values' of West European colonialists are comparable to those of the above-mentioned instances. This conformity of values provides insight into the basis for the inclusion of Kishi's Japan in the Free World leadership and that of its successor, the International Community.

Islamic, Russian and Chinese Empires

It should be noted that other great empires have existed in history, none of which obliterated existing civilizations and committed genocides comparable in scale or geographical scope to that by West European colonialism. It would be useful to compare the West's behavior to that of the Islamic, Russian and Chinese empires, to establish the extent to which this is not a behavior common to all humanity.

Criminal individuals exist in all societies to varying extents. What differentiates societies is the extent to which tolerance and restraint are embedded in their traditions and norms of thought via foundational works or institutional structures serving to constrain such virulent drives that are part of the human makeup. When these are inadequate, lacking, or even antipathetic, they fail to prevent a civilization's impetus toward committing crimes on a mass scale affecting large sectors of humanity. The key element in the transformation of any civilization into a criminal civilization hinges on its view of '*the other*'.

In Islam, the unquestionable authority is the Quran, followed by the verified sayings (*hadith*) of Prophet Muhammad. The Quran addressed the relationship to 'the other' as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارُفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ
اللَّهِ أَنَّفَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَيْرٌ⁸⁴

O' people we have created you from man and woman, and have made you into races and tribes so that you get to know each other, and the dearest to God is the most pious, and God is aware of all.

And

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ⁸⁵

We [God] have sent to every community a messenger: worship God and avoid oppression

This universalist perspective is further elaborated in well-known hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad, such as:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ وَاحِدٌ، وَإِنْ أَبَاكُمْ وَاحِدٌ، أَلَا لَا فَضْلَ لِعَرَبٍٰ عَلَى عَجَمٍ، وَلَا لِعَجَمٍ عَلَى
عَرَبٍ، وَلَا لِأَحْمَرٍ عَلَى أَسْوَدَ، وَلَا لِأَسْوَدَ عَلَى أَحْمَرَ إِلَّا بِالتَّقْوَىٰ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنَّفَاكُمْ⁸⁶

O' people! There is but one God for all, and one father for all. [Adam] God has no preference for Arab over non-Arab or non-Arab over Arab, or red man over black man or black man over red man, except in piety. The dearest to God is the most pious.

And

وَكَانَ عَدْدُ جَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مِائَةُ أَلْفٍ نَّبِيٌّ وَأَرْبَعَةُ وَعَشْرُونَ أَلْفَ نَّبِيٍّ، خَمْسَةُ مِنْهُمْ أَوْلَا الْعَزْمِ:
نُوحٌ وَإِبْرَاهِيمُ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى وَمُحَمَّدٌ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ
أَمَا إِنَّ مُحَمَّداً وَرَجُلَّ عِلْمٍ مَّا كَانَ قَبْلَهُ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ⁸⁷

The total number of prophets sent by God is one hundred and twenty-four thousand, five of whom are Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, peace be on them.

As for Muhammed, he inherited the knowledge of the prophets and messengers that came before him.

It is clear from the above verses of the Quran and the Prophet's sayings that the message of God has been sent to all peoples via their own messengers. Islam acknowledges that humanity is made of diverse races and communities, and no race, not even the Arabs in whose language the Quran is delivered, is better than the others. Indeed, the Prophet Muhammad assigned delivering the Islamic call to prayer (adhan) to Bilal, a former slave of African descent. When the Muslims achieved their primary victory in Arabia, it was Bilal who recited the adhan from atop the sacred Kabba in Mecca.

Islam guarantees religious freedom for non-Muslims and prohibits forced conversion and spreading the religion by violence. This teaching is established in numerous verses of the Quran and in the Prophet's practice. It is written in the Quran that:

لَا إِكْرَاهٌ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيْرِ

There is no compulsion in religion.

Importantly in Islam, there is no 'Pope' who claims to be God's representative on earth, and who can issue papal bulls or edicts that contradict the Quran. So, while there have been many Muslim criminals in Islamic history, Islamic civilization itself cannot be transformed into a 'criminal civilization.' As a matter of fact, non-European Christians felt safer with the Ottoman Muslims than with the European Christians.⁸⁸ Quoting Father Wannous:⁸⁹

In 1204 the Crusaders were at the gates of Constantinople and wanted to move towards Egypt. Suddenly they attacked Constantinople and plundered the city, robbing the palaces and the treasures and destroyed Orthodox churches in a way which even the non-Christians have never done.

The Christians in the Orient were simply confused, especially after the great massacre which the Crusaders carried out in Jerusalem. After conquering the city they slaughtered not only the Muslims but also Jews and Christians.

When the Ottoman Turks stood at the gates of Constantinople in 1453, the Byzantine Emperor was about to ask for help from the West. But he then heard from his people: “Rather the turban of the Turk than the tiara of the Pope!”

In the Russian empire, the dominant religion and therefore moral guide is Christian Orthodoxy. The Orthodox Church does not have the equivalent of the Roman Pope, who *embodies the moral authority of God in himself*. There is no absolute head of the church who can act and decide on grave matters independently. The patriarch is merely a first among equals, and thus has to consult the bishops and reach unanimous consensus, as is explicit in Apostolic Canon 34, adopted by the Orthodox Church at the Council in Trullo in 692:

It behoves the Bishops of every nation to know the one among them who is the premier or chief, and to recognise him as their head, and to refrain from doing anything superfluous without his advice and approval: but, instead, each of them should do only whatever is necessitated by his own parish and by the territories under him. But let not even such a one do anything without the advice and consent and approval of all. For thus will there be concord, and God will be glorified through the Lord in Holy Spirit, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.⁹⁰

The limited authority of the Patriarch is evident in the fact that most of the Christian theological works in Byzantine Antioch were in Arabic, the local language, not in Greek, the Byzantine language.⁹¹ This contrasts

with the Catholic Church where Latin was imposed on all theological works.

A mundane illustration of the limited powers of an Orthodox Patriarch is that he cannot visit a parish under his jurisdiction without the consent of the local Metropolitan (Bishop).⁹²

The fact that Orthodoxy Patriarchs are not considered representatives of Jesus on earth, coupled with their limited authority, helps to ensure that the possibility of them straying far from the teachings of the Bible is limited. Most importantly, in Orthodoxy the moral authority is in the Bible and the Orthodox Church, not in the Patriarch. Thus, while the Russian empire included many faiths, among them a significant Muslim minority, all faiths coexisted and there was no systemic persecution of other faiths per se, let alone justifying their dispossession, enslavement or genocide.

The civilizational contrast between the West Europeans and the Chinese Empire can be discerned from their voyages to foreign countries and interaction with foreign civilizations. For the West Europeans this led to the genocide of existing populations, cancelling of existing civilizations, destruction of their houses of worship, enslavement, pillaging of gold, silver and anything tradable, occupation, colonialism and imposition of European religions and rules.

Chinese expeditions, the most famous of which are those of Admiral Zheng He, between 1405 and 1433, coincide with the Portuguese occupation of Ceuta in 1405. Admiral Zheng He's fleets visited Arabia, Brunei, East Africa, India, Malay Archipelago and Thailand,⁹³ dispensing and receiving goods along the way. Europeans later visited and then colonized these nations. Chinese expeditions brought back to the imperial court ambassadors and dignitaries in lieu of slaves.⁹⁴ Chinese expeditions gifted gold and silver to foreign rulers instead of killing them to steal their gold and silver.⁹⁵ Chinese ships were loaded with gold and silver leaving China, not opium. Chinese expeditions reflected respectful civilizational interaction between the various Asian and African civilizations. European expeditions reflected a barbarian criminal materialistic civilization.

The greatness of the Chinese civilization is best exemplified in the Trilingual Tablet found in Sri Lanka.⁹⁶ The tablet made in Nanjing, China in 1409 was inscribed in three languages: Chinese, Tamil and Arabic. Though the Chinese civilization is anchored in the teachings of Confucius, the Chinese inscription offered praise to Buddha, the Tamil inscription offered praise to Hindu God Tenavarai-Nayanar, and the Arabic inscription offered praise to Allah. Offerings to Buddha, God Tenavarai-Nayanar and Allah were exactly equal, and consisted for each:⁹⁷

1,000 pieces of gold; 5,000 pieces of silver; 50 rolls of embroidered silk in many colours; 50 rolls of silk taffeta, in many colours; 4 pairs of jewelled banners, gold embroidered and of variegated silk, 2 pairs of the same picked in red, one pair of the same in yellow, one pair in black; 5 antique brass incense burners; 5 pairs of antique brass flower vases picked in gold on lacquer, with gold stands; 5 yellow brass lamps picked in gold on lacquer with gold stands; 5 incense vessels in vermillion red, gold picked on lacquer, with gold stands; 6 pairs of golden lotus flowers; 2,500 catties of scented oil; 10 pairs of wax candles; 10 sticks of fragrant incense.

The Trilingual Tablet encapsulates the Chinese Empire's view of '*the other*': respect and equality.

It may be worth noting that the reason the Chinese didn't not occupy, plunder and enslave was not for lack of military power; on the contrary, Chinese maritime expeditions dwarfed those of the Europeans, in number of ships, size of ships, number of crewmen and armament.

| Navigator | Number of Ships | Biggest Ship Length (feet) | Number of Crew |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Zheng He (1405–1433) | 48 to 317 | 500 | 28,000 |
| Columbus (1492) | 3 | 60 | 90 |
| Da Gama (1498) | 4 | | ca. 160 |
| Magellan (1521) | 5 | | 265 |

TABLE 8. Chinese vs. European Maritime Expeditions⁹⁸

The contrast between the values and praxis of Islamic, Russian and Chinese civilizations and Western civilization, reflected in the history of West European colonialism and the earlier formative factors of that civilization, indicates that notable foundational Western values evidenced through their praxis are not universal but rather are particular to the West itself, rooted not in the teachings of Jesus, but in those of the Apostle Paul and the doctrinal struggles which eventually gave rise to the ferocity of the Catholic Church towards those contradicting it, Christians and non-Christians alike.

THE MONEY POWERS' GRIP ON HUMANITY

The U.S., leader of the Free World, has appointed itself the arbiter of human rights standards, and has the gall to issue a Human Rights Report⁹⁹ evaluating the performance of other nations.¹⁰⁰ Given the above, it is apparent that 'Human Rights' as proclaimed by the West is little more than an additional instrument for advancing Free World geostrategy. The fact that these criminal practices, illustrative of their actual 'values,' have existed for a millennium in Western European societies, indicates they have been deeply engrained in the mass psyche, and cannot be readily erased.

The Free World / International Community civilizational values include being agreement incapable in its relations with "the Other," as proven throughout its history, from its origins in the First Crusade and the genocides in the Americas, to the colonial and post-World War II barbarities to the recent withdrawals from UN Security Council resolution 2231 (the Iran deal), and from numerous international arms control treaties.¹⁰¹ To say nothing of the promise that NATO would not expand eastward, and the treaty reached in Minsk II, whose purpose as admitted by former Chancellor Merkel, was simply to buy time.¹⁰² Not surprisingly the West has been labeled the 'Empire of Lies.'¹⁰³

The dilemma humanity faces today is how to coexist with an inherently criminal and implacable 'International Community' which is agreement incapable and convinced of its rectitude?

CHAPTER 8

The Geopolitical Conflict: Sustaining the Unsustainable

As can be seen in Figure 51, a great imbalance has existed heretofore in per-capita consumption of the world's goods and energy. European consumption levels are about double world average; and that of the U.S. about four times more.

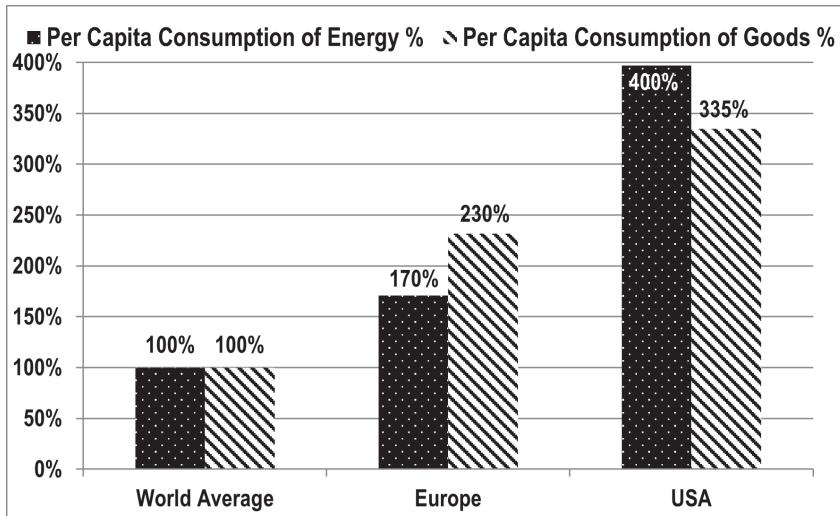


FIGURE 51. Per Capita Consumption of Energy and Goods

Once drugs, prostitution, smuggling (the European Union)¹ and hyper-inflated services (the United States)² are cast aside, it is clear, as demonstrated above, that the East has overtaken the West economically. Yet the West manages to maintain standards of living, as reflected by their consumption levels, that are well over double the global average, racking up record trade and budget deficits with no impact on the

purchasing power of their currencies. The question that poses itself is: *How is this possible?*

The answer lies in the global monetary financial structures set up at the Bretton Woods conference and supplemented by gold decoupling in 1971. The subsequent use of fiat currencies enabled Western powers' domination of the global economy, constraining the development and siphoning off the wealth of Global South nations, similar to the exploitation of the colonial era, 1500 to 1945.

Western economies, and the U.S. in particular, are sustained by the 'Reserve Currency' status enabled by Bretton Woods II, without which their crash would be catastrophic.

The global chaos observed during the last quarter century is a reflection of the conflict between the Money Powers trying to preserve the Bretton Woods system of exploitation, and resistance to this exploitation by the sovereign nations spearheaded by the RIC (Russia – Iran – China) alliance. The conflict is active in multiple domains – economic, military, financial and monetary – but insofar as energy is the lifeline of nations, it plays a central role in geopolitical conflict.

BRETTON WOODS OR NO BRETTON WOODS

As was shown earlier, the East has long since overtaken the West economically. Not only that, due to the erosion of competitiveness in the West, the trend is towards further growth in the East and further decline in the West.

Heretofore, the Bretton Woods instruments were generally sufficient to control nations, as was done in Latin America in the early 1980s, in Japan in the early 1990s and in East Asian countries in the late 1990s, allowing the Money Powers to siphon their accrued wealth and retain control over the specifically targeted nations.

However, since the turn of the millennium, the phenomenal economic growth of China coupled with Russia's putting a stop to Western pillaging of the 1990s and regaining control over its resources, has resulted in the emergence of two major powers capable of posing a serious threat to the Bretton Woods world order. The rapprochement between China and

Russia and their joint efforts to construct alternatives to Bretton Woods structures have greatly accentuated this threat.

As Western and Central Asia have historically been at the center of West vs. East geopolitical clashes, it is thus unsurprising that the turmoil since 2000 was focused on this region and initially particularly on Western Asia where critical energy reserves are located.

The global geopolitical and military turmoil witnessed since the turn of the third millennium is due to frantic attempts by the Money Powers, who have long usurped political power in the West, to preserve their millennial domination. While during the millennium there were indeed numerous wars, including the Crusades, other religious wars, colonial wars, two world wars, yet what makes the current clash critical for the Money Powers is that, for the first time, the armies under their control have lost their military edge,³ putting the monetary system that forms the basis of their global power at stake. This was succinctly expressed in statements by three successive U.S. presidents, which some may have misconstrued as mere rhetoric:

GEORGE W. BUSH: “We’re fighting for our way of life.”⁴

BARACK H. OBAMA: “The American way of life is not a gift.”⁵

DONALD J. TRUMP: “Our way of life is under threat.”⁶

The colonial powers conquered the New World with gunpowder, subdued Asia with opium and under its subsequent designation, the Free World, maintained global hegemony with the Bretton Woods system. Hence the 21st century geopolitical conflict can be presented as Bretton Woods vs. No Bretton Woods and the protagonists’ leaders are:

- Bretton Woods camp: Money Powers with the USA at the forefront of nations under their control.
- Non-Bretton Woods camp: Sovereignists with RIC (Russia, Iran, and China) at the forefront, and countries allied with them.

GEOSTRATEGIES

Geopolitical analysis is based on the possibilities of interaction between nations and/or nation groups. Such an analysis is valid between sovereign nations, as each nation will act in its national interests and hence are regarded as ‘subjects’ or actors. Vassal states are but ‘objects,’ as they do not have control over their destiny. Geostrategic analysis only concerns ‘subjects,’ hence prior to geostrategic analysis it is necessary to distinguish between ‘subjects’ and ‘objects’ i.e., between sovereign states and vassal states.

Let us improvise on Brzezinski’s analogy of chess, where the sovereign states are the chess players and the vassals are the pieces, with the queen, rook, bishop and knight more valuable than pawns. But all are nevertheless just pieces. None of them is a player. Insofar as the sovereignty of the Western democracies was usurped with the establishment of the private central banks, any analysis treating these as sovereign nations will be confusing and lead nowhere. The suicidal sanctions policy adopted by the European Union (EU) during the Ukraine War is a good illustration of their being vassals in the geopolitical struggle. Indeed, an overwhelming majority of analysts have concluded that the EU is a vassal to the U.S.

However, this is only partially correct. U.S. citizens are not faring much better than EU citizens and the sanctions policy, while harming the EU more, is nevertheless harming the U.S., too.

For our reframing of Brzezinski’s chess game, *it is critical to realize that the U.S. itself is a ‘piece’ just like the EU.* The U.S. may be the queen, UK and Germany rooks, Italy and France bishops, while Bulgaria, Romania and Poland are pawns; nevertheless they all remain ‘pieces,’ not players. The player is the one that moves the pieces, and for Western nations it has been established that it is the Money Powers, who have usurped their sovereignty, that is the player. This was illustrated when two U.S. presidents had a faceoff with the Money Powers; in both cases it was the Money Powers that reigned supreme. The Biden’s Administration’s anti-fossil fuel policy,⁷ which aligns with the leading hedge funds’ policy to the detriment of the U.S. economy and society, as will be illustrated later, is yet another such instance.

It must also be realized that the Money Powers have historically transcended national borders. Thus, when using the term ‘Empire’ here, the reference is not to the U.S. Empire but to the Money Powers’ Empire. As an historical example, Suasso a leading figure behind the establishment of the Bank of England, made his fortune in Spain, moved to Holland, and was invested in England. More recent examples are the leading 20th century U.S. geostrategists, Spykman was Dutch, Kissinger is German and Brzezinski was Polish; the assumption of such a high role in successive American administrations by the latter two being otherwise inconceivable.

So please bear in mind that, while reference in the following is frequently made to the U.S., that is only because of all the players’ chess pieces, the U.S. is the most populous, largest, most resource rich, and has the largest army, and hence, it is at the forefront of chess pieces, serving as the queen.

The Empire’s geostrategy: Control of energy resources

After the fall of the Soviet Union and the ‘finishing of Russia,’⁸ China, as the most populous country and having a centralized communist political system, represented the greatest potential challenge to the Empire’s hegemony in the 21st century.

The way to control China was to control global energy reserves. This was spelled out in 1997 by leading Western geostrategist, Zbigniew Brzezinski, in his book, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*:⁹

... it is on the globe’s most important playing field – Eurasia – that a potential rival to America might at some point arise.

America is now the only global superpower, and Eurasia is the globe’s central arena. Hence, what happens to the distribution of power on the Eurasian continent will be of decisive importance to America’s global primacy and to America’s historical legacy.”

It is imperative that no Eurasian challenger emerges capable of dominating Eurasia and thus of also challenging America.

The momentum of Asia's economic development is already generating massive pressures for the exploration and exploitation of new sources of energy, and the Central Asian region and the Caspian Sea basin are known to contain reserves of natural gas and oil that dwarf those of Kuwait, the Gulf of Mexico, or the North Sea.

Potentially the most dangerous scenario would be a grand coalition of China, Russia and perhaps Iran.

From the above, the Empire's strategic objective and threats can be deduced:

- **Strategic objective:** Maintaining global hegemony, which necessitates controlling the Caspian Sea basin, i.e. Iran's energy reserves.
- **Strategic threats:** Alliance between Russia, Iran, and China.

Iran and Russia, having the second and third greatest total oil and gas energy reserves after Venezuela, can supply the needed energy to China. They can also provide land routes for Chinese trade. The synergy between these three nations would necessarily lead to a de facto alliance, as will be discussed later. One must give credit to Brzezinski for already realizing in 1997 the natural synergy between Russia, Iran, and China (RIC). Brzezinski summarized U.S. geostrategy as follows:

In brief, for the United States, Eurasian geostrategy involves the purposeful management of geopolitically dynamic states and the careful handling of geopolitically catalytic states, in keeping with the twin interests of America in the short-term preservation of its unique global power and in the long-run transformation of it into increasingly institutionalized global cooperation. To put it in a terminology that hearkens back to the more brutal age of ancient empires, the three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are:

- to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals
- to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and
- to keep the barbarians from coming together.

Nations that are neither vassals nor tributaries are barbarians. Hence sovereigntist nations are barbarians. The Empire's policy towards the world is therefore:

- Military domination of nations that accept hegemony: 'allies' aka 'vassals' and 'tributaries.'
- Sowing discord between nations who don't accept hegemony, aka the 'barbarians.'

In summary, the Money Powers have no allies, only vassals or tributaries. There is to be no accommodation with nations seeking sovereignty; these are barbarians to be subdued.

THE EMPIRE'S GEOSTRATEGIC INSTRUMENTS

There is a triad of instruments for advancing the Empire's geostrategy: the Bretton Woods institutions, virtual reality, and the military. These instruments are complementary and work in tandem to maintain global hegemony, aka the Empire's 'rules-based order.'

- The Bretton Woods structures: Siphons wealth globally to allow high consumption levels in colonial countries, thereby providing a powerful tool to enable economic warfare, as was discussed earlier, as well as to sustain a bloated military; and thus, in conjunction with virtual reality, to maintain an image of global economic leadership.
- Virtual reality: Provides credence to the Bretton Woods institutions and military supremacy, justifies military intervention whenever needed, and sets the dominant global narrative.
- Military: Enforces the Bretton Woods 'rules based' order.

The Bretton Woods Institutions

The Bretton Woods institutions are regarded here as including the following economic and other institutions: the Federal Reserve, IMF, World Bank, Bank for International Settlements, European Central Bank (ECB), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), World Health

Organization (WHO), SWIFT interbank transfer system, credit rating agencies, commodity exchanges, global banks, hedge funds, media, and Western controlled NGOs, etc.

As was shown earlier, the termination of USD convertibility to gold has enabled currency and interest rate manipulation beyond anything heretofore known in history. Thus, after the decoupling, the Bretton Woods II system gained tremendous power, enabling the unlimited siphoning of wealth from producers of real value products and commodities. It also provided the power to destroy economies at will, as was seen with these financial crises discussed earlier:

- Early 1980s: Latin America debt crisis. Tools: Oil price, Fed interest rate, global banks, IMF.
- Early 1990s: Japanese banking crisis. Tools: BIS
- Late 1990s: Asian financial crisis. Tools: Hedge funds, credit rating agencies, IMF.

Bretton Woods II not only enabled unprecedented economic warfare to be waged, as Michael Hudson explains,¹⁰ but also made the kinetic wars no longer costly, since ‘money’ is printed out of thin air, hence enabling trillions to be spent on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, among others, and the trillion dollar ‘defense’ budgets (when all security expenditures are included).¹¹ Bretton Woods II therefore made possible an era of endless wars.¹² It seems clear that the most powerful instrument of the Money Powers’ geostrategy is the Bretton Woods II system.

Virtual reality

A frequently overlooked or underestimated instrument of the Empire’s geostrategy is ‘Virtual Reality,’ namely the ability to create what is perceived as real by a sufficiently wide audience as to enable the advancement of its geostrategic objectives. This was clearly expressed by Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to President George W. Bush and White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, to Ron Suskind,¹³ who reported that

guys like me [Suskind] were “in what we call the reality-based community,... believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality. ... That’s not the way the world really works anymore,... We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you’re studying that reality – judiciously, as you will – we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that’s how things will sort out. We’re history’s actors...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.”

The main instrument for creating virtual reality is the mass media in all its forms. With four hedge funds dominating the U.S.’s 2000 largest companies,¹⁴ it is to be expected that these four hedge funds dominate the media companies too.¹⁵

| Hedge Funds Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street & T. Rowe Price Sample of Corporate Media Ownership | | |
|--|-----|---|
| Media Corporation | % | Media Outlets |
| Newscorp | 66% | Wall Street Journal, New York Post, Sky News, Times UK, The Sun, Fox News |
| Comcast | 26% | NBC News, Sky News |
| Warner Bros. | 25% | CNN |
| Alphabet (Google) | 27% | YouTube |
| Twitter | 27% | Twitter |
| Meta | 26% | Facebook |
| Netflix | 26% | Netflix |

TABLE 9. A Sample of Leading Hedge Fund Ownership
in Media Corporations¹⁶

Table 9 provides a sample of hedge fund ownership of leading news media outlets and social media platforms. With control over the media in all its forms, it is possible to control the global narrative and hence create a virtual reality that replaces reality in the minds of masses globally.

'Reality creation' as Rove expresses it, is not limited to one sector but permeates all vectors of U.S. power: moral, economic, politics, military, and science and technology, as can be seen in the examples below:

Moral

- **Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices:**¹⁷ This provides the U.S. with the moral high ground, enabling it to judge other nations despite the fact that the U.S. itself is possibly the greatest criminal nation in history. Its creation was by genocide of the existing inhabitants; it is the only country that has used nuclear weapons on a civilian population, and its history consists of a string of massacres from its creation until today.

Economic

- **Fake economic data:** U.S. GDP is inflated by non-tradable over-priced services. If one asks, which is the number 1 economy in the world, nine out of ten respondents would say the USA,¹⁸ despite the fact that all indicators on trade volume, exports, industrial production, and agricultural production show that the U.S. is far behind China. This allows the image of global economic leadership to be maintained.
- **Fake valuations of commodities:**¹⁹ Prices are set by neither producers nor suppliers. They are set by commodity exchanges which can and do manipulate prices, as was observed regarding oil pricing. The same applies to gold pricing,²⁰ and practically all commodities. Despite this, buyers and sellers worldwide abide by the prices set by these commodity exchanges. During the Ukraine war an oil price cap was presented by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and adopted by the U.S. Administration and the EU. This proposal is amateurish and comical compared to the professional decades old manipulation by the commodity exchanges, which for the oil trade are the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) and Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). It should come as no surprise that the major shareholders are the same hedge funds that control the healthcare sector and media discussed earlier (and ExxonMobil, which will be discussed

later). Hedge funds Vanguard, Blackrock, State Street and T. Rowe Price own 28.9% of ICE.²¹ Vanguard, Blackrock and State Street own 25.5% of CME.²²

- **Fake gold reserves:** Audits of U.S. monetary gold severely lack credibility;²³ nevertheless, all reports herald the U.S. as holder of the world's greatest gold reserves,²⁴ contributing to justification of the USD as a trade and reserve currency. When the German Central Bank requested an audit of its gold stored at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the request was refused.²⁵ Subsequently, the German Central Bank requested a repatriation of a portion of its gold stored in New York over a five-year period, which the U.S. Federal Reserve renegotiated for a seven-year timeline.²⁶
- **Fake risk ratings, Moody's, S&P and Fitch:** Interest rates globally are based on ratings of these three agencies, which have been shown above to be non-factual and biased in the Russia versus USA ratings. All three rating agencies were sued over the failed Bear Stearns funds.²⁷ S&P provided investment grade "A" rating to Lehman Holdings Inc. just before its collapse.²⁸ Both Moody's²⁹ and S&P³⁰ provided fraudulent risk ratings for mortgage securities which led to the subprime mortgage crisis of 2008.

The question that poses itself is: *How can these three rating agencies, having caused a string of globally damaging failures costing trillions of dollars, and themselves paying fines in the billions of dollars, remain top ranked and continue to be used as the reference for risk rating of companies and nations?*

The answer lies in the fact that they are key players in creating the virtual economic reality and thereby important contributors sustaining Bretton Woods II.

Politics

- **False flag terrorist attacks:**

- » 9/11:³¹ Enabled setting U.S. geostrategic plans in motion with global approval.
- » Bologna train station:³² 85 people killed by NATO's Operation Gladio to influence elections. The terrorist attack was 'successful' and the communist party lost the election.

- **Fake popular revolts:** Color revolutions.³³

Military

- **Fake chemical attacks:** To justify bombing Syria when the Syrian army was about to clear the Ghouta suburb from terrorists.³⁴
- **Fake weapons of mass destruction:** To justify the occupation of Iraq.³⁵

Science and Technology

Possibly the least exposed:

- **Fake military technology achievements:** Star Wars.³⁶

Virtual reality has contributed to:

- The fall of the USSR, a result of both internal and external factors. The external factors were mainly oil price manipulation discussed earlier, which greatly reduced its export revenue during the 1980s, coupled with the arms race triggered by the SDI (Star Wars).³⁷
- The manipulation of currencies and commodity pricing, siphoning wealth for decades, and financing the Free World 'way of life.'
- The financing and justification of wars launched by the Free World, with the latter allowing the Free World to win the hearts and minds of people around the world.
- The whitewashing of the horrendous crimes of the Free World, both past and present etc.

The question that poses itself is: If the impact of virtual reality is tangible, does reality remain virtual? Or as Karl Rove stated,³⁸ is reality based on facts inconsequential, insofar as the Empire creates reality?

Military supremacy

The objective of global military dominance is reflected in the military spending of the U.S.

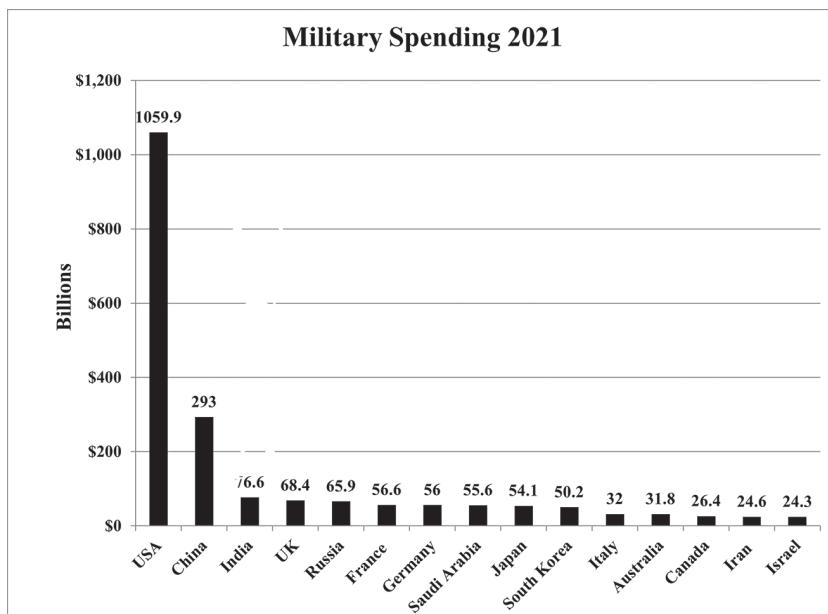


FIGURE 52. Military Spending, 2020³⁹

U.S. military spending in Figure 52 includes defense budget and expenses for nuclear weapons and veteran's affairs. It does not include expenses for international affairs or homeland security.⁴⁰ As can be noted, U.S. military expenditures in 2021 at \$1060 billion exceed the expenditures of the other 14 countries (\$916 billion) of the top 15 defense spending countries.

The G-7 military spending is 350% of RIC defense spending.

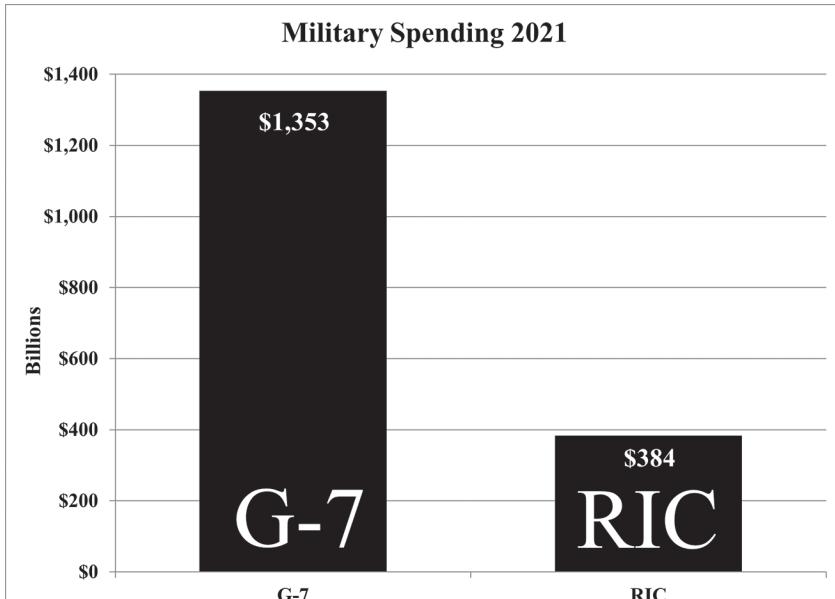


FIGURE 53. Military Spending G-7 versus RIC⁴¹

The U.S. has conducted over 500 military interventions since 1776,⁴² over one-third of these since 2000.⁴³ After collapse of the USSR, the U.S. increased its military involvement abroad. The “post-9/11 era is one of the most militarily aggressive in U.S. history”⁴⁴ in which “U.S. foreign policy tools have been reduced to a unilateral hammer.”⁴⁵

Historically, colonial power geostrategists focused on containment of Eurasia by a sea power. The pioneer of colonial geostrategy, Halford John Mackinder, in his 1904 classic *The Geographical Pivot of History*,⁴⁶ presented his ‘Heartland Theory’ for the containment of Eurasian great powers by a sea power. In 1942, Nicholas John Spykman⁴⁷ focused on a similar ‘Rimland Theory,’ urging containment of Eurasian great powers by a sea power. However, Brzezinski, as a result of the imperial hubris following the collapse of the USSR, was overconfident and deemed that the U.S. – in addition to having control over the oceans and seas – was

capable of projecting power inland. In his book, *The Grand Chessboard, American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*, he wrote:

... the scope and pervasiveness of American global power today are unique. Not only does the United States control all of the world's oceans and seas, but it has developed an assertive military capability for amphibious shore control that enables it to project its power inland in politically significant ways. Its military legions are firmly perched on the western and eastern extremities of Eurasia, and they also control the Persian Gulf. American vassals and tributaries, some yearning to be embraced by even more formal ties to Washington, dot the entire Eurasian continent.⁴⁸

History may judge that the death knell of the Money Powers' empire was due to their overconfidence following the fall of the USSR and their belief that sea power has the capability of projecting power inland. Thus, if a date is to be placed for the start of unraveling of the Empire,⁴⁹ it might paradoxically be the date of dissolution of the USSR, Christmas day, 1991.⁵⁰

The military reality

The neoliberal economy that was imposed on Western societies since 1980, coupled with offshoring industrial production activities, has resulted in an across the board weakening of their human resource base, as manifested in the significant degradation of their scientific, engineering and manufacturing capabilities. This is best reflected by the weapon systems developed by the U.S. military industrial complex (MIC) since the turn of the millennium. Not only is the U.S. generations behind Russia in cutting edge weapon systems⁵¹ such as missile defense, hypersonic missiles and strategic ballistic missiles; the MIC is also no longer capable of developing basic military hardware.

Anecdotal evidence of the MIC status are the purported game changer weapon systems⁵² delivered to Ukraine by the U.S., Switchblade drones, M777 Howitzers, HIMARS rocket launchers, none of which proved to be game changing. Instead the M777 requiring frequent repairs became

a headache for the Pentagon.⁵³ The new Iranian so-called kamikaze drones, on the other hand, have proved far more effective⁵⁴ than any of the purported ‘Game Changers.’ The latest version of the Abrams tank, the M1, has not been provided due to its heavy weight which is not suitable for most European bridges, as well as its conspicuous heat signature, limited range, heavy fuel consumption, and propensity to break down.⁵⁵

Navy

Three new warships were introduced. All were failures as noted by reports in the U.S. media.

- **The Zumwalt destroyer:**⁵⁶ The U.S. Navy originally planned to buy 32 destroyers, a number that was cut to seven ships, and then finally to just three. The Zumwalt destroyer program has been an expensive mess.
- **Littoral Combat Ship (LCS):**⁵⁷ THE PENTAGON – The nine Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ships currently in Navy service – the youngest of which commissioned in 2020 – have been marked for disposal as part of the Department of Defense’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal, USNI News has learned.
- **The Gerald Ford Aircraft Carrier:**⁵⁸ The combat system for the Navy’s newest and costliest warship. The \$13 billion Gerald R. Ford “has yet to demonstrate that it can effectively” defend the aircraft carrier from anti-ship missiles and other threats, according to the Pentagon’s testing office.

The poor performance of warships delivered to the U.S. Navy was the subject of a critical statement by Senators Jim Inhofe and Jack Reed, who referred to⁵⁹

... absurd acquisition debacles that have set back the country tens of billions of dollars and delayed necessary weapon systems for years. While examples abound in each military service, we are particularly concerned with Navy shipbuilding.

We believe there is a better way to develop new first-of-class ships.

... lead ships in new classes of naval vessels routinely fail to meet expectations. For the eight most recently delivered lead combatant ships – the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), Zumwalt (DDG-1000), Freedom (LCS-1), Independence (LCS-2), America (LHA-6), San Antonio (LPD-17), Virginia (SSN-774), and Texas (SSN-775) – the GAO found that a total of \$8 billion more than the initial cost estimate was required to construct these ships, each lead ship experienced cost growth of at least 10 percent, and three lead ships exceeded their initial budgets by 80 percent or more. Further, each lead ship was delivered to the fleet at least six months late – five were more than two years late – and most lead ships had dozens of uncorrected deficiencies when the Navy accepted them.

It was not always this way. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Navy took a methodical, knowledge-based, subsystem-focused approach.

Air Force

Two fighter jets were introduced in the two decades since the turn of the millennium: the F-22 and the F-35. The F-22 made its first flight in 1997 and first delivery was in 2005.

According to virtual reality it was the best: “a stealthy air superiority fighter”⁶⁰ ... “which cannot be matched by any known or projected fighter aircraft.”⁶¹ In reality it had problems that couldn’t escape media notice:

- 2009: “Senate votes to stop production of F-22 jet”⁶²
- 2011: “Fatal problems plague the U.S.’ costliest fighter jet”⁶³
- 2012: “Air Force insiders reported F-22 oxygen problems”⁶⁴
- 2012: “More problems for F-22 beyond mysterious oxygen loss issue”⁶⁵

- 2012: “F-22 Crash Widow Sues Lockheed Martin for Wrongful Death”⁶⁶

Only 195 F-22 were built, compared with 1,198 for the F-15, 4,604 for the F-16 and 1,480 for the F-18.

The F-35 made its first flight in 2006 and first delivery was in 2015; it is based on a 1980s Soviet design, the Yakovlev Yak-141.⁶⁷

For all the yelling and shouting over the Department of Defense’s much-maligned F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, there’s an unusual, often overlooked footnote in the trillion-dollar project’s history: its origins as an experimental Soviet fighter that only fell into Lockheed Martin’s lap because a desperate Russian aerospace company needed some cold, hard cash.⁶⁸

The Yak-141 had its first flight in 1987, marking the first complete transition from vertical to high-speed flight and vertical landing in 1990 and first vertical landing on a Soviet aircraft carrier in 1991. No more funding was available for development of the Yak-141. Lockheed concluded an agreement with Yakovlev for the production of three new prototypes in 1991 but did not reveal the deal until 1994.⁶⁹

Despite having received a successful design and prototypes, and hundreds of billions of dollars, Lockheed was unable to develop a successful fighter jet, as evidenced by the news headlines below:

- 2016: “The Pentagon’s official F-35 bug list is terrifying”⁷⁰
- 2016: “F-35 radar system has bug that requires hard reboot in flight”⁷¹
- 2018: “F-35B jet crashes in South Carolina”⁷²
- 2019: “The Pentagon is battling the clock to fix serious, unreported F-35 problems”⁷³
- 2019: “Japanese F-35 crashes. Now the search is on for wreckage and reasons”⁷⁴

- 2019: “Supersonic speeds could cause big problems for the F-35’s stealth coating”⁷⁵
- 2019: “Inside America’s Dysfunctional Trillion-Dollar Fighter-Jet Program”⁷⁶
- 2020: “The F-35 Is Still Full of Must-Fix Flaws”⁷⁷
- 2020: “Pilot OK after F-35 stealth jet crashes in Florida”⁷⁸
- 2020: “Video captures F-35 fighter jet crashing into the ground after collision”⁷⁹
- 2021: “F-35 Flies With 871 Flaws, Only Two Fewer Than Year Earlier”⁸⁰
- 2021: “The F-35 Reportedly Has a New Capability: Shooting Itself”⁸¹
- 2021: “Even by Pentagon terms, this was a dud: The disastrous saga of the F-35”⁸²
- 2021: “Video appears to show UK F-35 fighter crash after take-off”⁸³
- 2022: “F-35 Stealth Fighter Jet Makes ‘Belly Landing’ As South Korean Warplane Develops Avionics Snag”⁸⁴
- 2022: “Newly leaked video shows F-35 crashing in flames on aircraft carrier”⁸⁵
- 2022: “Lockheed F-35’s Factory Flaws Persist Even After 800 Are Built”⁸⁶
- 2022: “Air Force pilot miraculously survives as \$78m F-35 crashes in ball of flames in Utah training exercise”⁸⁷

Thirty years after the agreement with Yakovlev and twelve years after its first flight, the F-35, remains all show and not much by way of go.

Consequently, two decades into the millennium, the bulk of fighter jet tasks are undertaken by the 1970s vintage F-15, F-16 and F-18. The F-16 is expected to continue serving until 2042,⁸⁸ 68 years after its first flight!

The deterioration in MIC capabilities is evident by comparing the F-35 with the 1972 F-15:⁸⁹

- the F-35 can carry 22,000 lbs of weapons to 50,000 ft and travel 670 miles at a top speed of Mach 1.6
- An F-15EX can handle 29,500 lbs of weapons and fly at 60,000 ft for 1,100 miles at Mach 2.5

Army

The main battle tank of the U.S. army, the M1 Abrams, is a 1970s design. No new main battle tank has been developed in the following 40 years.

Air Defense

The two main U.S. air defense systems are the Patriot and THAAD systems. The war on Yemen proved the ineffectiveness of the Patriot in defending Saudi cities and oil installations against Ansarallah's simple missiles and drones. Notably, the 2019 attack on the Abqaiq plant "took out nearly half Saudi's oil production"⁹⁰ while in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, Patriot missiles malfunctioned and hit residences.⁹¹ As regards THAAD, in 2022 Germany opted for the Israeli Arrow 3 instead of Lockheed's THAAD.⁹²

As far as strategic missiles are concerned, the land-based Minuteman III missile is 1970s vintage and the UGM-133A Trident II submarine launched ballistic missile is 1980s vintage.

In conclusion, the main U.S. weapon systems date from the 20th century. Despite trillions of dollars in defense spending, in the 21st century the MIC could not produce weapon systems that could match the new weapons developed by Russia. The money spent was not a total loss, however:

Since U.S. military actions in Afghanistan were authorized in September 2001, the stocks of the top five defense companies have risen in value by an average of nearly 900%, strongly outperforming the S&P 500 index ...

Among those who have benefitted from investments in the stocks are nearly four dozen members of Congress, the people who approve funding for the contracts that make up the bulk of the companies' revenues.

At least 47 members of Congress and their spouses hold between \$2 million and \$6.7 million worth of stock in companies that are among the top 100 defense contractors.⁹³

Beneficiaries of overpriced subpar weapons systems are not limited to the U.S., but extend to Bretton Woods 'allies.'⁹⁴

China, a latecomer to the weapon systems competition, is catching up with the U.S. and is ahead in missile technology. The question posed in the U.S. today is whether it is possible to catch up with China's hypersonic missiles development.⁹⁵

Iran has adopted an asymmetric warfare strategy and produces its own weapon systems. It has proved capable of standing up to and deterring the U.S. with its locally produced weapon systems. In the Ukraine war, Iranian-designed low cost drones⁹⁶ proved to be more effective than weapon systems provided by MIC or NATO allies.

The status of Western weapon systems is best evidenced by the results of the wars on Yemen and Ukraine. Hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Western weapons in seven years of war have failed to defeat Ansarallah, who have basic infantry weapons and some Iranian designed drones and missiles. Instead, Ansarallah has made significant gains against the combined armies of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Sudan, which have had the support of the U.S.,⁹⁷ the UK⁹⁸ and the French⁹⁹ military.

In Ukraine, not only did the purported U.S. 'game changer' weapons fail to have any significant impact on the ground, but Russia's 'demilitarization' of Ukraine is transforming into a demilitarization of NATO as the latter runs out of weapons and ammunitions stocks,¹⁰⁰ while the Russian military industrial complex continues churning out weapons and ammo, despite repeated Western assertions that it was running out.

The inability of the MIC to produce state-of-the-art weapon systems that are comparable with Russian weapon systems is a result of structural problems and cannot be fixed in the foreseeable future. Its root cause is the neoliberal system and the impact this has had on U.S. society and its human resource base. The financialization of college education is the most significant factor.¹⁰¹ As was mentioned earlier, the prohibitive costs of quality STEM education drastically reduces the number of qualified STEM graduates that are needed to support a technologically advanced society. This is implicit in the statement by Senators Jim Inhofe and Jack Reed that

It was not always this way. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Navy took a methodical, knowledge-based, subsystem-focused approach.¹⁰²

Prior to the neoliberal era and financialization of education, higher education could provide the needed STEM graduates for the MIC, industries and businesses in the U.S. This is a further explanation of the widening and irreversible technological gap between U.S. weapon systems and those of Russia and China.

Dystopic political military leadership

The deterioration in the U.S. human resource base, resulting from half a century of neoliberal policy, is not limited to the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and manufacturing necessary for the development of state-of-the-art military hardware. It extends to the lack of acumen of the U.S. political and military leadership, who in 2022 are still planning to order a total of ten Gerald Ford-class aircraft carriers,¹⁰³ despite the fact that aircraft carriers have been rendered obsolete¹⁰⁴ with the deployment by Russian navy of the 3M22 Zircon hypersonic missile¹⁰⁵ and the deployment by China and Iran of precision missile systems capable of sinking aircraft carriers.

As will be further addressed below, when Iran hit the Ain Assad air force base in western Iraq with precision missiles after the U.S. assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, CentCom realized that its headquarters in Qatar was no longer safe, so it was moved from 200 kilometers to over 12,000 kilometers away from Iranian shores.

William Schryver¹⁰⁶ presents an excellent analysis proving the obsolescence of aircraft carriers:

So, in a potential battle today between a U.S. carrier strike group and a peer or near-peer adversary, a mere half-dozen ships with an extremely limited number of defenses will face massed salvos of hundreds of cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, supersonic and hypersonic anti-ship missiles, and dozens of submarines with many hundreds of torpedoes – all of which deploy large modern warheads capable of inflicting a mortal blow against any of the ships in the group.

U.S. naval power apologists may argue that the array of defenses on these ships is much more capable than in World War II. But it simply does not matter. It won't be enough. Regardless of how one attempts to crunch the numbers, a putative engagement between a carrier strike group and the PLA Navy in the South China Sea would entail simultaneous massed attacks of precision-guided anti-ship missiles zooming in from all points of the compass.

It doesn't require more than middle-school math to realize the inevitable result: the strike group's defenses would be utterly overwhelmed. In all likelihood, every single ship would be sunk in a matter of minutes. It would be a catastrophic defeat – one which would shock the entire world and forever alter the course of military history.

The plain truth of the matter, in my estimation, is that, faced with the wide array of 21st century anti-ship missiles possessed today by Russia, China, Iran, and likely even North Korea, conventional surface fleets are effectively obsolete, and this will be proven beyond dispute in the first few hours of the next great power war.

Nonetheless, U.S. political and military leaderships living in a dystopian world plan on investing hundreds of billions more on obsolete aircraft carriers. It may be argued that aircraft carriers will be targeted on countries such as Grenada as was the case when the

U.S. was booted out of Lebanon.¹⁰⁷ However with Grenada's GDP¹⁰⁸ less than 10% of the cost of a single carrier,¹⁰⁹ is it worth it?

RUSSIA/IRAN/CHINA GEOSTRATEGY: DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE

Russia, Iran, and China strategies are to a large extent influenced by historical events between each of these countries and the Free World. Thus it is necessary to undertake a brief historical review of relations between these countries and the Free World.

Russia, Iran, and China are very different nations, each with different political and economic systems. Russia is a secular democratic country with a capitalist economy. Iran is an Islamic state, with a capitalist economy based on Islamic values. China has a meritocracy-based communist political system with a mixed economy of publicly and privately owned businesses. Fundamentally, however, they are very similar. All three are civilizational multi-ethnic states with deep roots in history, Russia one thousand years, Iran and China several thousand years each. All three are rich countries. Russia, by far the largest country in the world, is the richest country in natural resources, including minerals, agricultural land, water etc. Iran is rich in natural resources, particularly in oil and gas. China, along with India, has been historically the richest nation in the world except for the period of its looting, during the 'Century of Shame'¹¹⁰ and the fifty years it took to recover from that. Naturally the wealth of these nations attracted the colonialists, from whom all three nations have suffered greatly.

Highlights of the RIC countries' historical relations with the West

Russia

Being the closest to and sharing land borders with West Europe, Russia was first attacked by the Crusaders¹¹¹ in the 12th century. Despite repeated defeats, the Money Powers never ceased lusting for Russia's resources; every century or so, they attempted to invade it but were repelled.

Russia has lost tens of millions of citizens in the various wars waged against it by the Money Powers, most recently due to the economic war of the 1990s when, during the transition from communism to capitalism at the behest and design of Western economic advisers, the privatization of its extensive public assets led to severe economic disruption and a huge decline in longevity:

The total excess of the number of deaths over the number of births in the 1992–1997 period is estimated at 3,890,000 persons. At the same time, Russia's overall demographic losses for those years, as a consequence of the deterioration of the social and economic situation and the destruction of a normal cultural and daily life environment, are estimated at 8 million people, of which approximately 3 million died prematurely and 5 million were not born, due to the sharp decline of child-bearing. The rate of annual population loss during the mid-1990s was more than double the rate of loss during the period of Stalinist repression and mass famine in the first half of the 1930s.¹¹²

Recently the Money Powers appear to have given up on attempts to conquer Russia; instead the focus now is on “decolonizing” or breaking up Russia.¹¹³



FIGURE 54. Free World Map of Decolonized Russia¹¹⁴

Iran

Iran is one of the world's oldest civilizations dating back several millennia, and a major historical power in South and Central Asia. Control over Iran was part of the Great Game¹¹⁵ between Britain and Russia in the 19th century. This was settled by the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907,¹¹⁶ whereby spheres of influence over Iran would be shared; Russia would have the north and Britain everywhere else. The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 nullified all international treaties, including the 1907 Anglo-Russian convention, leading to Britain's exclusive influence over Iran.

Upon discovery of oil in commercial quantities in 1908, Iran effectively lost its sovereignty. In 1909 the British Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) was established to extract its oil. APOC was taken over by the British government in 1914, with its name changed in 1935 to Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC). The exploitation of Iran's wealth proceeded apace:¹¹⁷

For 38 years, from 1912–1951:

- 338 million tons: Oil exported
 - » £118 million: To Iranian government (26 percent)
 - » £115 million: To shareholders (25 percent)
 - » £224 million: To British government (49 percent)

When the Iranian parliament suspected AIOC's accounting data and requested an independent audit, the British refused. Thus, it can be safely concluded that the Iranian nation received far less than a quarter of the oil wealth extracted from its land. Here is the timeline of events subsequent to the British refusal of the AIOC audit:

- March 1951: On refusal of AIOC audit, the Iranian parliament issues a bill to nationalize the oil industry.
- April 1951: Mohammad Moṣaddeq is appointed prime minister.
- May 1951: British government rejects nationalization and refers the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).¹¹⁸

- June 1951: The National Iranian Oil Company is established.
- July 1951: The ICJ issues an interim restraining order preventing Iran from proceeding with nationalization.
- August 1951: Negotiations between Iran and Britain with the U.S. as mediator fail.
- September 1951: The U.S. rejects nationalization and blames Iran for failure of negotiations.
- August 1953: Shah Mohammad Reza tries and fails to remove Moṣaddeq. Riots break out and the Shah flees Iran. A few days after the Shah fleeing Iran, U.S. and British intelligence services remove Moṣaddeq in a coup d'état and reinstate the Shah.¹¹⁹
- 1953 to 1978: A quarter century of repression and terror. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians¹²⁰ were tortured and murdered by SAVAK,¹²¹ the Shah's intelligence agency, created with the help of the CIA and MOSSAD.¹²²
- January 1979: The Shah flees Iran in the face of ongoing protests.
- February 1979: Imam Khomeini returns from exile.
- April 1979: The Islamic Republic constitution is approved by referendum.

The Islamic constitution adopted by Iran had globally strategic consequences.

Thus, whereas we have deemed Christmas day 1991 as the date of the beginning of the unraveling of the Empire, April Fool's Day, 1979 was the date the empire received its most significant strategic blow. The Islamic Constitution and Iran's subsequent progress at all levels proved that for Global South nations, development based on a nation's own civilization and values may be capable of enabling them to achieve exceptional growth rates. As for Iran, this is corroborated by Canadian research firm Science-Metrix:¹²³

Iran embarked on one of the fastest build-up of scientific capabilities the world has witnessed during the last two decades.

Scientific output in Iran has grown 11 times faster than world level.

Iran has experienced the fastest growth in science with a growth index (GI 14.4) followed by the Republic of South Korea (GI 9.8).

China

The obsession of the Money Powers with pillaging has been the driving force of colonialism from as far back as the First Crusade. Civilizations were destroyed, genocides committed, and the art of torture perfected to enable it to rob other countries' resources in diamonds,¹²⁴ gold and silver,¹²⁵ copper,¹²⁶ rubber,¹²⁷ oil,¹²⁸ and nutmeg.¹²⁹ They would even kill and destroy nations for bananas!¹³⁰

Their greed extended to anything that was tradable. Even the artifacts of ancient civilizations were robbed and are now 'proudly' exhibited in Free World museums.¹³¹ Not only are stolen artifacts on exhibit, depravity of Western 'civilization' is on exhibit too, at the *Musée de l'Homme* in Paris: here skull of "Mamadou Lamine, a 19th-century West African Muslim leader who led a rebellion against French colonial troops" is kept,¹³² along with skulls of decapitated Algerian resistance fighters. A family of Canadian Inuits were exhibited in a Paris human zoo in 1881.¹³³

Currently, Global South countries are requesting the return of stolen artifacts. After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, renewed calls are being to return the Koh-i-Noor 105 carat diamond, which the British stole from India and is currently set on the Queen Mother's crown.¹³⁴ Algerian Brahim Senouci launched a petition for return of the skulls of Zaatcha resistance fighters massacred by the French army in 1849 and kept at the *Musée de l'Homme*.¹³⁵

Looting China posed a dilemma: while it was the richest nation in the world due to the wealth it had accumulated over millennia, it was too big and populous to conquer and then colonize. Nevertheless, the Money Powers' satanic ingenuity devised a way to siphon off this wealth: get the Chinese addicted to drugs on a mass scale, then 'push'

drugs in exchange for their wealth. It took over a century of pushing drugs on China until they were ‘successful.’ “China’s silver flowed out of the country, and the people suffered while morale declined.”¹³⁶

The West’s route to subjugating China, leading to its ‘Century of Shame,’ was by hooking the Chinese population on opium. The Chinese government’s campaign to enforce its prohibition of trafficking led to the Opium Wars. Here’s a timeline of the events leading to the First Opium War:¹³⁷

- 1729: Emperor Yongzheng bans the smoking and trade of opium.
- 1729: 200 chests¹³⁸ of opium are sold.
- 1769: 1000 chests of opium are sold.
- 1796: China issues an opium prohibition edict.
- 1807: The Emperor issues edicts restating the previous prohibition of the import of opium.
- 1809: The governor of Canton reiterates the prohibition of opium.
- 1809: 4500 chests of opium are sold.
- 1811: The Imperial court urges local officials to enforce punishments against sellers of opium.
- 1813: Emperor Jiaqing issues punishments specifically targeting officials who use opium.
- 1815: The Emperor orders Portuguese ships at Macao to be searched for opium.
- 1820: The Emperor authorizes Hong merchants to search all foreign ships.
- 1829: The Emperor approves a regulation prohibiting import of opium and outflow of silver.
- 1830: 18,760 chests of opium are sold.
- 1833: The illegal presence of English appears at ports other than Canton. A letter is sent to Westerners to respect Chinese law.

- 1834: In a show of force and disregard for Chinese prohibition of foreign ships entering Pearl River, the British send two warships to Canton and into Pearl River.
- 1836: In the previous eight years, the British imported \$4 million worth of goods mostly tea, silk and porcelain and exported ten times more in opium.
- 1838: British Foreign Secretary Palmerston orders more warships to the Chinese coast.
- 1839: Imperial emissary Lin Zexu arrives at Canton to stamp out the opium trade. Lin orders the arrest of Lancelot Dent, a leading British opium trader and destroys 20,000 chests of opium. Lin sends a letter to Queen Victoria,¹³⁹ reminding her to treat other people and their countries with the respect that she and her subjects expect from others.
- 1839: Start of the first Opium War, with British warships destroying a Chinese blockade of the Pearl River (Zhu Jiang) estuary at Hong Kong.¹⁴⁰

The purpose of providing the above timeline in such detail is to prove the futility of negotiations and appeasement with the Money Powers and of an appeal to moral values, justness, or win-win concepts. These are non-existent in their historical praxis, and presumably therefore reflect their civilizational orientation. Power politics is their only policy and hence the only method of dealing with them is on that basis. During the period extending for over a century, from 1729 when Emperor Yongzheng banned smoking and trading of opium to 1840, China was gradually being weakened by the spread of drugs in its society and the resultant loss of wealth. During this period, the Money Powers were greatly strengthened by the wealth flowing out of China.

Notably, the Money Powers used not only the British for pillaging China via opium; other colonial powers were engaged in the illicit opium trade as well.

The British had already discovered a great market in southern China for smuggled opium, and American traders soon also turned to opium to supplement their exports to China.¹⁴¹

Early in the 18th century the Portuguese found that they could import opium from India and sell it in China at a considerable profit.¹⁴²

NHM (Royal Dutch Trading Company) trade operations reached even into China, the largest market for opium! The opium trade played an important role in the development of Dutch economy.¹⁴³

The French ... established an opium franchise ... only six months after they annexed Saigon in 1862.

Nor was the opium trade limited to China.¹⁴⁴ The pattern witnessed in China was common to all South-East Asian countries.

Opium was also banned in several other South-East Asian countries by the beginning of the 19th century, including Siam (Thailand), Burma (Myanmar) and Vietnam, as well as in parts of Java and Sumatra (today's Indonesia). These bans encountered tremendous resistance from European traders intent on penetrating Asian markets.¹⁴⁵

At the beginning of World War II, the French administration continued to rely heavily on its opium monopoly. Indochina's 2,500 opium dens were maintaining more than 100,000 addicts and providing 15 per cent of all tax revenues.¹⁴⁶

Opium was the Money Powers' tool of choice to rob a millennia of accumulated wealth and to subdue Asian populations and exploit them. In fact, the 19th century in East and Southeast Asia can be aptly labeled 'The Opium Century.'

An important and rarely mentioned facet of the opium assault on Asia was how it stunted the development of Asian populations. By the end of World War II, there was a very wide development gap between most Asian nations and the Free World.

The phenomenal achievements in development of China, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, etc. and their ability to close the development gap with the West within a relatively short period attests to the greatness of these civilizations.

The Opium Wars and the Unequal Treaties

Following the crackdown by Lin Zexu on opium in Canton and the destruction of 2.8 million pounds of opium, British warships destroyed the Chinese blockade of the Pearl River estuary. A British naval force was expedited to China, arriving in 1840. It blockaded Canton and moved north to Tianjin near Beijing. The superior British warships sank several Chinese warships and controlled the traffic into the Pearl River (Canton), the Yangtze River (Shanghai) and the White River (Tianjin – Beijing), effectively forming a blockade on the main port cities of China, and threatening Beijing. British ships sailed up the Zhujiang and Yangtze rivers, occupied Shanghai and seized tax-collection barges, strangling the finances of the Qing government. The Chinese armies suffered defeat after defeat, suing for peace in 1842.¹⁴⁷

Negotiating from a position of strength, the Money Powers imposed the first of the Unequal Treaties, as they are designated by the Chinese, on China, the Treaty of Nanjing (Nanking).¹⁴⁸ China ceded Hong Kong to Britain, paid an indemnity¹⁴⁹ and allowed Britain to establish trading houses in five ports and trade in whatever they wished. This treaty was followed in 1843 by the British Supplementary Treaty of the Bogue, which granted the British the right to be judged by British courts set up on Chinese soil.¹⁵⁰ A year later in 1843, the U.S. and France secured their own unequal treaties with China: the Treaty of Wanghia and the Treaty of Whampoa. These treaties provided Westerners with an independent legal, judicial, police, and taxation system within the treaty ports,¹⁵¹ and hence any semblance of Chinese sovereignty was eliminated.

These unequal treaties were not enough for the Money Powers; they lusted for a greater and faster acquisition of Chinese wealth, so they had Britain, France and the U.S. wage the Second Opium War, eventually occupying Beijing:

The pretext for the second Opium War is comical in its absurdity. In October 1856, Chinese authorities seized a former pirate ship, the Arrow, with a Chinese crew and with an expired British registration. The captain told British authorities that the Chinese police had taken down the flag of a British ship.

The British demanded the Chinese governor release the crew. When only nine of the 14 returned, the British began a bombardment of the Chinese forts around Canton and eventually blasted open the city walls.¹⁵²

Further Unequal Treaties were imposed on China, providing access to more Chinese cities, including Tianjin, only 100 kilometers from Beijing.

Notably, both Christianity and opium were legalized. British ships were authorized to transport indentured Chinese laborers to the United States, and fined the Chinese government eight million silver dollars.¹⁵³ Vietnam was ceded to France.

Tsarist Russia did not join the war; however it used the war to pressure China into ceding territories north of the Amur River, including presentday Vladivostok.¹⁵⁴

The history of the Opium Wars or the ‘Chinese Lesson’ needs to be engraved on every political actor’s mind. When dealing with the Money Powers, only power politics carries any weight. International law, treaties, concepts of justice, right and wrong, values and morality are totally irrelevant. This was true in ‘Ma’arra’ a millennium ago and remains unchanged in the 21st century.¹⁵⁵

All nations, large and small, must be ready to defend themselves against the Money Powers. The 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah proved that even smaller nations can defend themselves against the Empire.¹⁵⁶

RIC progress

The strategies of Russia, Iran, and China are to a large extent influenced by their having suffered from Western aggression, and their awareness of the need to defend against future aggression.

As mentioned earlier, all three are civilizational states with deep roots in history. All are rich nations, that have yet to tap their full potential, and all three have a history of abiding by international law and honoring treaties.

The RIC nations are focused on across the board development to recover from the earlier periods of Money Powers domination.

- Russia: from the 1990s destruction and pilferage, frequently referred to as the ‘Rape of Russia.’¹⁵⁷
- Iran: from 80 years of plunder and terrorism by the Anglo-American duo, 40 years of sanctions and attempts at destabilization and 8 years of proxy war.
- China: from the devastation of the ‘Century of Shame.’

During the first two decades of the millennium, while the Money Powers were advancing their strategies for taking control of West Asia and North Africa’s energy resources to extend their global hegemony for the 21st century, the RIC were focusing on their strategic objectives of development and defense. All three nations achieved phenomenal development during these two decades.

RIC geostrategy: Economic defense

Let us reiterate Engdahl’s statement concerning the Bretton Woods instruments mentioned above:

Today by far the deadliest weapon of mass destruction in Washington’s arsenal lies not with the Pentagon or its traditional killing machines. It’s de facto a silent weapon: the ability of Washington to control the global supply of money, of dollars, through actions of the privately-owned Federal Reserve

in coordination with the U.S. Treasury and select Wall Street financial groups.¹⁵⁸

National defense thus necessarily implies being prepared to defend national economies against Western attacks using the Bretton Woods instruments. Illegal unilateral sanctions are the instruments most commonly used, but they are far from being the only instruments available to the Money Powers via the Bretton Woods arsenal. Federal Reserve interest rates, global banks, rating agencies, hedge funds, commodity exchanges, BIS edicts, etc. are all tools available for use in attacking targeted national economies.

Russia, Iran, and China have all prepared economic defenses both on an individual basis and in collaboration with each other.

Key factors in Russia's economic defense

Energy

Russia's economy has grown tenfold from a 1999 GDP of \$200 billion to one of \$2 trillion by 2013.¹⁵⁹ It wrested control of its energy resources from oligarchs and foreign companies,¹⁶⁰ and leveraged its geography to transit landlocked energy producers Kazakhstan (CPC pipeline),¹⁶¹ and Turkmenistan¹⁶² for distribution through the Russian pipeline network.¹⁶³ Russia built the world's most extensive oil and gas pipelines capable of transporting energy from Europe to China,¹⁶⁴ investing significantly in oil and gas exploration and developing win-win cooperation with OPEC and gas exporters.

Russia is also the leading supplier of enriched uranium for nuclear energy power plants, accounting for 43% of global enrichment capacity and one third of global supply.¹⁶⁵ While the European countries are presently moving back to wood¹⁶⁶ and coal,¹⁶⁷ Russia is a leading supplier of both.¹⁶⁸

By becoming the premiere supplier of energy, the most valuable economic resource, Russia has provided itself with a powerful shield against Bretton Woods attacks,¹⁶⁹ the value of which became plain for all to see when the West's 'Sanctions from Hell'¹⁷⁰ were imposed on Russia, to little avail and their own detriment.

Autarky

As the global economy is controlled by the Bretton Woods system, and as unilateral sanctions outside the UNSC can be (illegally) imposed at any time, by 2016 Russia had already adopted highly effective autarkic economic policies of import substitution in all import fields.¹⁷¹

With food security being critical for sovereignty, Russia made significant advances in agriculture, becoming the leading grain producer and exporter.¹⁷² Russia is the leading wheat exporter¹⁷³ with a 20 percent share of the global market, enjoying a bumper crop in 2022, with the same forecast for 2023. Russia is also the leading fertilizer exporter.

Of the world's twenty largest economies, Russia is by far the most autarkic, making it effectively immune from sanctions. The world, on the other hand, is far from immune to a reduction of Russia's energy or food supplies. While the Empire can sanction fiat money, Russia can sanction the two essential commodities, energy and food.

Monetary defense

In addition to the 'Energy Shield' and autarky, Russia undertook additional actions to defend itself against Bretton Woods attacks, notably the establishment of alternatives:

- Commodities trading exchange; SPIMEX founded in 2008.¹⁷⁴
- Credit card MIR founded in 2014.¹⁷⁵
- Rating agency ACRA founded in 2015.¹⁷⁶
- System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS) as an alternative to SWIFT, in 2018.¹⁷⁷
- Foreign reserves policy: dump the dollar¹⁷⁸ and stash gold in 2018.¹⁷⁹
- Gas sales in ruble: In late March 2022 Russia demanded payment for gas exports to Europe in rubles.¹⁸⁰ At the time the exchange rate

was over 110 rubles per euro. Within 1 month the exchange rate dropped to under 85 rubles per euro and within two months had stabilized at under 70 rubles per euro.¹⁸¹

When Russia's Special Military Operation pre-empted the Ukraine war on Donbass in February 2022¹⁸² after seven years of Ukraine's non-compliance with the 2015 Minsk II agreements and its total disregard of international law as stipulated in UNSC resolution 2202, the Money Powers were also ready to unleash a range of sanctions on Russia. The effectiveness of Russia's preparations since turn of the millennium were quickly demonstrated,¹⁸³ as M. K. Bhadrakumar attested in his article, "Russia Adjusts to "Sanctions from Hell.""¹⁸⁴

On the other hand, the Money Powers that had been busy waging energy control wars for twenty years were not prepared for facing that, as signaled in an array of media headlines:

"Prepare for a Winter from Hell"¹⁸⁵

"Winter from Hell: Europe About to Descend into Chaos as Millions Could Die"¹⁸⁶

"2023 Will Be Year from Hell"¹⁸⁷

"EU countries hunt for global coal stocks"¹⁸⁸

"Putin has pulled off a shock win that could destroy the free world"¹⁸⁹

The mere thought of waging war on the leading nuclear power and placing sanctions on 'The New Shah of Oil,'¹⁹⁰ as *Forbes* termed Vladimir Putin, is proof of the age-old wisdom: Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad. Indeed, since the turn of the millennium, the only significant growth in the Free World has been in the level of madness:

"Cheers as Liz Truss says she's ready to press nuclear button and unleash 'global annihilation'"¹⁹¹

"Woman Tells Congress That Men Can Get Pregnant and Have Abortions"¹⁹²

“U.S. Supreme Court nominee can’t, won’t define what a woman is”¹⁹³

“Same-sex marriages and partnerships should be recognized across the EU”¹⁹⁴

“Spanish Minister Declares Children Can Have Sex ‘With Whomever They Want’ If They ‘Consent’”¹⁹⁵

Key factors in Iran’s economic defense

The Islamic Constitution provided Iran with national sovereignty and a basis for national development, as reflected in Iran’s outstanding advances in science and technology.¹⁹⁶

Ever since the success of the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran has been subject to Bretton Woods attacks, including seizure of its foreign reserves,¹⁹⁷ sanctions, being cut off from SWIFT,¹⁹⁸ and the freezing of oil revenues.¹⁹⁹ These attacks had immediate and medium-term negative consequences on its national development; however this unwittingly provided Iran with the freedom to pursue economic sovereignty, leading to its becoming one of the few countries with both national and economic sovereignty, thereby providing it with a solid basis for sustainable national development.

Iran is second only to Venezuela in total proven oil and gas reserves.²⁰⁰ When sovereign countries control this critical resource, this deprives the Money Powers of a most important geostrategic tool. When Brzezinski laid out the Money Powers’ strategy for the 21st century,²⁰¹ his emphasis was on controlling Caspian Sea Basin energy reserves, i.e. Iranian oil and gas reserves, the only reserves of the top four not under control of the Money Powers in 1997.

Since the success of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has been subjected to non-stop destabilization efforts. These took various forms: economic and kinetic (proxy wars, color revolutions, and assassinations). Iran was able to defend itself by adopting the asymmetric warfare strategy initiated by Supreme Guide Imam Khomeini.

Despite these destabilization efforts, Iran was able to achieve excellent across the board development, greatly improving the quality of life for its citizens, subsidizing basic goods to alleviate poverty,²⁰² achieving great bounds in industrialization, and in scientific and technological development, while being able to preserve its sovereignty.

Supreme Guide Imam Khomeini had set the guidelines for defense policy which have proved highly successful. His successor, Supreme Guide Imam Khamenei, set the guidelines for economic development, labeled the Economy of Resistance or (Resistance Economy) in 2005,²⁰³ its key facets include relying on local capabilities, reducing dependence on oil exports, and having a science-based outlook.²⁰⁴

Here are some excerpts of Imam Khamenei's speech on the Economy of Resistance:

The economy of resistance means the kind of economy which is resistant and which is not strongly influenced by global fluctuations and by the policies of America and other countries. It is an economy which is reliant on people.²⁰⁵

He pointed to the six pillars of the Resistance Economy, which are:

- An economy in line with the needs of our country ...
- An economy grows from the inside ... originates from the capacities of our own country and our own people ... reliant on the resources of our own country... It is extroverted. It interacts with global economies and it has powerful relations with the economies of other countries. Therefore, it grows from the inside, but it is not introverted.
- It is not governmental economy. ... it is a popular economy, one that is achieved with the determination, resources and the presence of the people.
- This economy is a knowledge-based economy. It utilizes and relies on scientific achievements, and it makes knowledge the pivot of economy.

- The issue is not only about the rate of national growth and gross national production. The standard of justice, "economic and social justice," is one of the important standards in the economy of resistance.
- This economy is permanent. The economy of resistance means making the economy resistant and strengthening its bases. Such an economy will be fertile and it will help the people whether during the time of economic sanctions or during any other time.

Most energy rich economies rely on energy exports and fall into the 'Dutch Disease' trap,²⁰⁶ particularly countries that lag in industrial development, where industries are mainly comprised of low value-adding downstream manufacturing. However, the Economy of Resistance, by limiting reliance on energy exports and therefore limiting the ability to import, provides a strong impetus for relying on national human resources in technological and industrial development. While this may appear to delay development in the short term, in the medium and long terms it cements the foundations of robust development by requiring research, design and development tasks be undertaken by indigenous human resources. This is an important contributing factor to Iran's global leadership in knowledge growth.

Iran has made great strides in industrial development. It has moved from being a net importer of steel to being one of the world's top 20 steel exporters, and has robust automotive, pharmaceutical, fuel refining, telecom and computer hardware sectors.²⁰⁷

Iran's scientific and technological development is reflected in its advanced military industry, where a wide range of quality weapon systems have been developed and, in particular, in the space industry, with Iran being one of a few countries that have the capability to produce and launch their own satellites into space.²⁰⁸

Unlike Latin America, Japan, and East Asian countries which depended on national socialist policies that were ultimately broken by the Money Powers, Iran's Economy of Resistance is a major factor enabling its ongoing development, while at the same time minimizing the ability of the Bretton Woods system to negatively impact development.

Key Factors in China's economic defense

The ‘Century of Shame’ weighs heavily on the Chinese psyche. The abuse this great civilization was subjected to by colonialist powers cannot be forgotten and continues to define strategies adopted by China.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party, China regained its sovereignty and in seventy years recovered from being one of the poorest countries to its historic position today as the leading economic power in the world, which is commensurate with its demographics. China has eradicated poverty,²⁰⁹ lifting 770 million out of poverty in 40 years.²¹⁰ Homelessness is practically non-existent, whereas in Western countries²¹¹ it ranges from a low of 2.4 percent in Germany to 7.7 percent in the UK. As the World Bank admits, “countries could learn a number of lessons from China’s experience.”

A Global Manufacturing Base

Currently, China is both the manufacturing powerhouse of the world and the world’s biggest market. It has made great achievements in science and technology and has among the best infrastructures in the world. Following are some of China’s achievements:

- Leading manufacturer in the world.²¹²
- Biggest market in the world.²¹³
- Leading steel producer in the world by a wide margin.²¹⁴
- Leading aluminum producer in the world.²¹⁵
- Leading cotton producer in the world.²¹⁶
- Leading rice producer.²¹⁷
- Largest automotive manufacturing country in the world.²¹⁸
- Leading ship building nation in the world.²¹⁹
- Leading high tech exporter in the world.^{220, 221}
- Leader in 5G mobile technology.²²²

- Fastest train in the world.²²³
- Biggest telescope, with a field of view 300 times that of Hubble.²²⁴
- First to send a probe²²⁵ and lunar rover to the dark side of the moon.²²⁶
- Completed building of its own space station Tiangong.²²⁷
- First to photograph the entire surface of Mars.²²⁸
- Set a new nuclear fusion milestone.²²⁹ China even donated a nuclear fusion reactor to Thailand for scientific research purposes.²³⁰

Whereas Russia developed its energy resources and energy transport infrastructure to make it the indispensable nation as regards global energy supply, China focused on the manufacturing sector and the requisite human and physical infrastructure, making it the indispensable nation for manufactured goods in the era of globalization.

Financial Architecture

Realizing the inevitability of conflict with the Money Powers, China has made great progress in defending itself against the Bretton Woods institutions, as shown below:

- The top 12 Chinese companies are all state-owned, including the leading commercial banks, utilities, construction, railways and oil companies.²³¹
- The Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company was established in 2012.²³²
- The Shanghai International Gold Exchange for trading physical gold in Yuan was launched in 2014.²³³
- The UnionPay credit card, founded in 2002,²³⁴ overtook Visa to become number 1 in 2015.²³⁵
- The Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payments System (CIPS) created as an alternative to SWIFT, launched in 2015.²³⁶

- China launches the Asian International Investment Bank (AIIB), providing developing nations with an alternative to the IMF in 2016.²³⁷
- The Shanghai International Energy Exchange (INE)²³⁸ started trading in 2018.²³⁹
- China reduced U.S. treasury bills in its reserves.²⁴⁰
- China's declared gold reserves are 1,948 tons;²⁴¹ however, leading gold analyst Jan Nieuwenhuijs estimates China's true gold reserves to be greater than 20,000 tons.²⁴²

The RIC's joint defense against Bretton Woods tools

Trade payments in national currencies:

- China agrees to pay for gas in rubles and yuan.²⁴³
- Iran and Russia replace dollar with rial and ruble in trade.²⁴⁴
- Iran and China sideline dollar in their trade.²⁴⁵

RIC geostrategy: Military defense

Key factors in Russia's military defense

- History: Throughout the past millennium, Russia repeatedly faced aggression by the armies of the Empire. Destabilization efforts continued until recently through proxy wars,²⁴⁶ Western-financed NGOs,²⁴⁷ attempted color revolutions both in Russia²⁴⁸ and in neighboring countries.²⁴⁹
- Geography: Russia shares thousands of kilometers of land borders with NATO countries. It shares sea borders with NATO countries on the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Bering Sea
- Demographics: The breakup of the USSR resulted in a more than 50 percent drop in population from 290 million in 1990 to the 144 million in Russia currently. Russia has a very low population density of less than nine people per square kilometer.²⁵⁰

The above factors have shaped the Russian military strategy and occasioned the need for a standing army capable of facing the combined West. Due to a low population density and extensive common borders in land and sea, Russia could not rely on a quantitative military advantage. The only viable option was to achieve technological breakthroughs in weapons systems, allowing Russia to be generations ahead in military technology. This was achieved by 2018.²⁵¹

Key factors in Iran's military defense

- History: With the discovery of oil, Iran was effectively occupied by the Western powers. On the success of the Islamic Revolution, Iran was subjected to a wave of destabilization attempts via proxies, including an assassination attempt on Imam Khamenei.²⁵² When internal destabilization failed, a proxy war was waged against it by Iraq.²⁵³ Even chemical weapons were supplied to Iraq,²⁵⁴ which resulted in over 20,000 Iranian deaths in that war. Iran has been under sanctions since 1979. More recent destabilizing actions include the green color revolution in 2009,²⁵⁵ and what the West currently projects as a hijab-related color revolution in 2022.²⁵⁶



FIGURE 55. U.S. Bases around Iran, 2012²⁵⁷

- Geography: This is best summarized by Figure 55 indicating the extent of U.S. bases surrounding Iran:
- Demographics: Iran has a population of 88 million, with a population density of 53 per square kilometer.
- Resources: Iran ranks second globally in total proven oil and gas reserves.²⁵⁸

Iran has been in the crosshairs of the Empire since the success of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Notably, the success of the Empire's geo-strategy as defined by Brzezinski²⁵⁹ hinged on the occupation of Iran with a view to controlling its oil and gas energy resources.

From a material standpoint Iran is no match for the empire. Thus the strategic defense principles adopted by Iran based on the guidance of Supreme Guide Imam Khomeini are:

- Asymmetric warfare.
- Alliance with the resistance movements of South West Asia and oppressed nations in the world.
- Reliance on domestically developed weapon systems that fit into Iran's asymmetric warfare strategy.

The four decades since the establishment of the Islamic Republic have proved the judiciousness of these guiding principles. Iran has shown the Global South how small countries can protect their sovereignty from the Empire. A case in point is the Iran-supported Hezbollah ability to defeat the Free World-supported Israeli army in the 2006 war on Lebanon.

By 2020 the Resistance Axis led by Iran had become a formidable force to be reckoned with in Southwest Asia. Furthermore Iran has contributed significantly to weakening the Empire by thwarting its strategy elsewhere.²⁶⁰

Iran has become a key partner in the RIC alliance along with Russia and China in shaping the Fair World of the future. In skirmishes with the Free World and to the displeasure of the International Community, Iran has repeatedly had the upper hand, as the following photos indicate:



PHOTO 2. British and U.S. Navy Sailors Surrender to Iranian Navy, June 2004²⁶¹



PHOTO 3. Iran Captures U.S. Drone, December 2011²⁶²



PHOTO 4. U.S. Navy Sailors Surrender to Iranian Navy,
June 2016²⁶³



PHOTO 5. Iran Shoots Down U.S. Drone, June 2019²⁶⁴

Missile Attack on Ain Assad Airbase: The End of Empire?

The most significant confrontation between Iran and the U.S. was the January 8, 2020 missile attack on Ain Assad air base in Iraq, avenging the U.S. assassination of General Qasem Soleimani.²⁶⁵ Satellite image analysis of the Ain al-Assad air base strike²⁶⁶ indicates that Iranian missiles had an average blast radius of 21 meters and accuracy measured in CEP (circular error probability) of 11 meters average, 7 meters median. Their accuracy can be noted from Photo 6, before and after the strike on the center of the middle hangar.²⁶⁷



PHOTOS 6a & 6b. Before and After Satellite Photos of Area in U.S. Ain al-Assad Air Base, January 2020



PHOTO 7. Image Analysis of Satellite Photo of Attack on Ain al-Assad Air Base, January 2020²⁶⁸

Pixel analysis of the image in Photo 7 indicated the probability that the Iranian missiles were guided missiles is 99.38% as explained below.

- Three buildings were hit with one missile each, pointed to with arrows in Photo 7.
- Total area of photo = 189,406 pixels
- Total area of buildings, grey blanked out surfaces in photo 7 = 34,897 pixels
- Probability of a missile hitting a building by chance = $34,897/189,406 = 18.42\%$
- Probability of 3 out of 3 missiles hitting by chance = $0.1842 \times 0.1842 \times 0.1842 = 0.6254\%$
- Probability of 3 out of 3 missiles hitting buildings not by chance = $100\% - 0.6254\% = 99.38\%$

Hence the probability of the missiles being guided = 99.38%

The Ain al-Assad missile attack had significant tactical and strategic ramifications. The tactical aspect is reflected in the U.S. refraining from responding to this particular missile attack.

But here are the strategic ramifications.

Let us apply the 11 meters average CEP of Iranian missiles to the Gerald R. Ford class aircraft carriers (length 333 meters, width 78 meters) or the Nimitz class aircraft carriers (length 333 meters, width 77 meters). It can be safely assumed that the probability of an Iranian missile with a CEP of 11 meters, hitting a target of size 333 x 77 meters is greater than 90%. If two missiles are launched, the probability of at least 1 missile hitting it would be 99%. If three missiles are launched, the probability of at least 1 missile hitting would be 99.9%.

As was noted earlier U.S. aircraft carriers simply do not have adequate anti-ship missile defense:

[T]he Navy's newest and costliest warship, the \$13 billion Gerald R. Ford, "has yet to demonstrate that it can effectively" defend the aircraft carrier from anti-ship missiles and other threats, according to a new assessment by the Pentagon's testing office.²⁶⁹

In addition to displaying Iranian missiles' accuracy, the Ain al-Assad attack demonstrated Iran's stand-off weapons capability. Iranian missiles' range is 2,000 km²⁷⁰ while the operational range of U.S. carrier-based fighter jets is significantly lower: the F-18 is 800 km,²⁷¹ and the F-35 is 1,100 km.²⁷²

As was noted earlier U.S. aircraft carriers do not have adequate anti-ship missile defense: "the Navy's newest and costliest warship, the \$13 billion Gerald R. Ford, "has yet to demonstrate that it can effectively" defend the aircraft carrier from anti-ship missiles and other threats, according to a new assessment by the Pentagon's testing office."²⁷³

Only in a state of war would Iran attack an aircraft carrier, in which case it would not give advance warning to the U.S., as was the case with the attack on Ain al-Assad airbase. Thus, the odds of the U.S. intercepting Iranian missiles without any warning would be even lower than in the case of Ain al-Assad missile attack.

Furthermore, Iran would launch a salvo of missiles, not just one or two, so the probability of it sinking an aircraft carrier is 99.9%. And notably, Iran can sink it before Iranian shores can be within reach of its carrier jets.

The U.S. military bases are even more vulnerable than its aircraft carriers because they are stationary and the coordinates of all key locations on the base are preprogrammed in the missiles.

Based on the above it can be concluded that Iran demonstrated on Jan 8, 2020 that it has stand-off weapons capable of sinking aircraft carriers and of destroying all bases within a 2000 km of Iranian borders.

The Iranian missile attack effectively put a brake to empire. If an empire cannot project power, it is no longer an empire. Bases surrounding

a country are transformed from threat-projecting assets to vulnerable liabilities. Aircraft carriers, the ‘long arm of the law,’ are transformed from floating islands for launching offensives into fat sitting ducks. It is not surprising therefore, that after the Ain al-Assad missile attack, CentCom relocated its headquarters from Doha, Qatar at 200 kilometers from Iranian shores to safety in Tampa Florida,²⁷⁴ over 12,000 kilometers away from Iran.

Even if U.S. aircraft carriers were to preemptively attack Iran after having sailed to within their striking range, their fighters would be unable to take out all of Iran’s missile launchers (if they were not already shot down by Iranian defense systems). Then within the hour the aircraft carrier would be sunk along with all 5000 crew members, and all U.S. military bases in the Gulf region would be destroyed. Nor would Israel escape destruction. That an American attack on Iran, despite Israeli goading, has not taken place, is indicative that the imperial war planners have war-gamed this out, and been unable to find a route to victory. Indeed, back in 2002 Iran was already the winner in a U.S. Iran War simulation.²⁷⁵

If a date is to be placed for the End of Empire, then that date would be January 8, 2020.

Key factors in China’s military defense

- Demographics: China, with a population of 1.4 billion, is the most populous country in the world. China and India each account for 18% of world population. Hence, food security²⁷⁶ and energy security²⁷⁷ are critical factors for China.
- Geography: China shares land borders with Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Despite somewhat problematic relations with India, no serious land-based threat exists.

As in the 19th century, the threat to China is from the sea.



FIGURE 56. U.S. Bases around China²⁷⁸

In case of war, the supply lines to China can be readily compromised, primarily by the submarine force of the U.S. navy. In particular, its supply of energy and food could be threatened. Trade would also be significantly affected. Hence Chinese strategy has focused on:

- Energy supply agreements with Russia and Iran.
- Developing land-based supply lines for energy,²⁷⁹ food²⁸⁰ and trade.²⁸¹
- Developing and deploying a powerful surface to surface missile force along Chinese shores.²⁸²
- Military cooperation with Russia.²⁸³

RIC Strategic Relations

- China-Russia strategic partnership.²⁸⁴
- China-Iran strategic partnership.²⁸⁵
- Russia-Iran strategic partnership.²⁸⁶
- RIC joint military exercises.²⁸⁷

Recalling words of Pyotr Stolypin, the third Prime Minister of Russia (1906–1911): “Give Russia 20 years of internal and external peace and quiet and it will change beyond recognition.”²⁸⁸ It is not surprising that Pyotr’s portrait hangs prominently on the wall of President Putin’s office.²⁸⁹ By 2020, Russia, Iran, and China had had their 20 years of internal and external peace, albeit relative.

By the start of the third decade of the millennium, the RIC were ready. While they will avoid confrontation as much as possible, should war be imposed by the Money Powers as is presently the case in Ukraine against Russia with threats to China and Iran, the RIC will have the upper hand. This capacity has already been demonstrated on several occasions:

- 2015: The Russian air force provides support to Syrian army against Western supported terrorists.²⁹⁰
- 2018: Russia sends nuclear capable bombers to Venezuela to warn the Empire against direct military intervention in Venezuela.²⁹¹
- 2020: Iran launches precision missiles on Ain al-Assad air force base,²⁹² transforming its offensive assets in the region into targets.
- 2022: Russia launches its Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine,²⁹³ after having stood by for seven years while Donbass was being shelled regularly, with an estimated 12,000 people killed²⁹⁴ and total disregard by the West for the Minsk II agreement, despite the fact that it is an internationally legal treaty under UNSC Resolution 2202.

The status of the RIC versus the West is well summarized by Alex Krainer:²⁹⁵

Russia has matched and in many ways surpassed the west in military technologies.

China has become the world's leading high technology powerhouse.

... the west today, like the Soviet Union thirty years ago, is wasting resources to keep zombie corporations on life support, ploughing trillions of dollars into 'Net-Zero' projects.

... we can expect the technological gap between the west and the emerging multi-polar world to continue to diverge.

... the western powers are at the same time increasingly less intimidating to their opponents and less attractive to would-be allies and collaborators.

The era of colonial 'free lunches' might be irreversibly slipping away.

While the Money Powers were mired in losing wars to advance their strategy of controlling West Asia and North Africa's energy resources, the RIC focused on development and defense. By the end of the second decade of the millennium, the RIC were ready for the showdown.

CHAPTER 9

The West Implements Its Geostategic Plans

PLAN A: DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION

The September 11 attacks provided the ‘catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor’¹ needed to set the U.S. military intervention plans in motion. As revealed early in the game by General Wesley Clark: “In addition to Afghanistan we’re going to take out seven countries in five years: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Iran.”²

The energy reserves of these targeted countries, in addition to reserves already controlled by the combined West, would result in its controlling over 60% of global gas reserves and 70% of global oil reserves. Here’s the timeline:

- May 1, 2003: President George W. Bush declares “Mission Accomplished.”³
- December 2001: Afghanistan is occupied. The Taliban are removed from power.
- March 2003: Iraq is invaded. Saddam is removed from power and later executed.
- May 2003: Secretary of State Powell meets President Assad demanding surrender. Assad rejects his demand.⁴
- May 2003: Iran, Syria and Hezbollah decide to support Iraqi resistance to U.S. occupation.
- March 2007: U.S. military deaths in the Gulf Wars reach 60,329,⁵ exceeding its Vietnam War deaths.⁶

To hide casualty numbers from the public, creative accounting was used.⁷ To hide cadavers of the dead soldiers, ingenious methods were

devised, dumping them in landfills⁸ or in the sea without notifying their families.⁹

Gari-Lynn Smith, portions of whose husband's remains were disposed of in the landfill after his 2006 death in Iraq, said she was "appalled and disgusted" by the way the Air Force had acted. She learned of the landfill disposal earlier this spring in a letter from a senior official at the Dover mortuary.

"My only peace of mind in losing my husband was that he was taken to Dover and that he was handled with dignity, love, respect and honor," Smith said. "That was completely shattered for me when I was told that he was thrown in the trash."

The Dover mortuary changed its policy in June 2008, Jones said. Since then, the Navy has placed the cremated remains of body parts in urns that are buried at sea.

The obliteration of the U.S. army by Iraqi and Afghani resistances is further confirmed by data on U.S. veterans applying for permanent disability benefits, in a report on the cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. From page 4 of the report:¹⁰

Approximately 2.5 million service men and women have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND), and/or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan to date.

Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are utilizing VA medical services and applying for disability benefits at much higher rates than in previous wars.

The actual number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans receiving government medical care has grown to more than 56% of the total. One out of every two veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan has already applied for permanent disability benefits.

Simple math indicates that "one of every two" of 2.5 million equals 1.25 million soldiers have applied for permanent disability benefits.

However, there is another notable death total: the suicide rate among veterans. Reuters, in February, 2013, cited the Department of Veteran Affairs study as showing that twenty-two soldiers a day are killing themselves, or one every sixty-five minutes. Insofar as the Department of Veteran Affairs study covered the period from 1999–2010, Reuters left it to readers to do the math.¹¹

- December 14, 2008: The U.S. admits defeat in Iraq as President Bush signs the U.S.–Iraq Status of Forces Agreement,¹² requiring the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq by December 31, 2011.
- August 15, 2021: The Taliban take over Kabul¹³
- August 31, 2021: The U.S. completes a disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan.¹⁴



PHOTOS 8a and 8b. Kabul Airport, August 16, 2021: Afghans on Runway and Falling to Their Deaths from the Plane¹⁵

Not only was Plan A an abysmal failure, the great losses in military personnel incurred by the U.S. Army has precluded any other ‘boots on the ground’ military intervention since.

In lieu of direct military intervention, an innovative concept was introduced by President Obama: “Lead from behind.”¹⁶ This was reflected in the proxy wars that occurred thereafter, including in Libya, Syria and Ukraine.

The United States Army War College is teaching this creative military concept – Retaking the Lead from Behind: A New Role for America in Libya.¹⁷

PLAN B: PROXY WARS

Having failed in direct military intervention in Iraq, the Empire resorted to Plan B, Brzezinski's time-tested method: proxy war via 'Freedom Fighters' aka 'Rebels' aka Al Qaeda aka ISIS.¹⁸



PHOTO 9. Brzezinski with "Freedom Fighter" (Bin Laden)¹⁹

Plan B was launched in 2011 as the 'Arab Spring.' Western-recruited mercenaries and jihadists from all over the world converged on South West Asia and North Africa, on essentially the same region that Wesley Clark had mentioned ten years earlier as a target for occupation.²⁰

Where a government had popular support and could not be overthrown by domestic revolt, as in Libya, assistance was provided by the military intervention of NATO forces, which expanded the mandate provided to them by the UN Responsibility to Protect (R2P) program.²¹ The West

facilitated the fall of 50 percent of Syria²² and 40 percent of Iraq to ISIS control.²³

However, with the help of Iran and Hezbollah, the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units²⁴ (PMU) was able to defeat the terrorists in Iraq. Then, with the help of Russia, Iran and Hezbollah, the Syrian army was able to defeat the proxies in all the major population centers of Syria. The remaining terrorists in Syria are in areas under the direct protection of NATO military, including the U.S.,²⁵ Türkiye,²⁶ France²⁷ and the UK.²⁸



PHOTO 10. In Time-honored Colonialist Tradition:
U.S. Stealing Syrian Oil²⁹

Iraq and Syria by 2022 were free of terrorists, except for the safe havens for proxy Kurdish groups provided by NATO. Securing Iraq's oil reserves failed, though the U.S. still retains control of Syrian oil in the Deir Ezzor region.

Ten years after NATO's overthrow of the Libyan government, the Empire has failed to secure Libya; terrorists, chaos and misery have reigned in Libya ever since.³⁰

Plan B, therefore, also ended in failure.

PLAN C: THE CREATION OF TWO SEPARATE WORLDS

By 2014 it was clear that control of global energy reserves by direct military intervention had failed, and the proxy jihadists had gotten out of control, and were heading to failure in any event. In the meantime the RIC had overtaken the Free World in all fields including economic, physical and social infrastructure, technology and military.³¹

Critically, the RIC were starting to project power by protecting sovereign nations from Empire interventionism in West Asia (Syria),³² North Ossetia,³³ Belarus,³⁴ Central Asia (Kazakhstan)³⁵ South America (Venezuela),³⁶ and Africa (Mali, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso)³⁷ and to stand up to the U.S. directly.³⁸ Making matters worse for the West, the economic, technological and military gap between itself and the RIC was widening irreversibly with no chance for the West to catch up.³⁹

If there were any doubts about the global balance of power, these doubts were removed in 2014, with Russia taking over Crimea and Sevastopol without firing a shot – and without a shot being fired against it.⁴⁰ Brzezinski had indicated the geostrategic significance of Crimea in his book, seventeen years earlier:

Prior to 1991, the Black Sea was the point of departure for the projection of Russian naval power into the Mediterranean. By the mid-1990s, Russia was left with a small coastal strip on the Black Sea and with an unresolved debate with Ukraine over basing rights in Crimea for the remnants of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet, while observing, with evident irritation, joint NATO-Ukrainian naval and shore-landing maneuvers and a growing Turkish role in the Black Sea region.⁴¹

Indeed, Crimea's historical geostrategic importance is evidenced by the Crimean War,⁴² one of the bloodiest wars of the 19th century, in which Britain, France and the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia (Italy) allied with the Ottoman Empire against Russia.

In 2015, Russia joined the war in Syria against the NATO proxies, thwarting Plan B in West Asia.⁴³

Towards the end of 2018 a most significant event took place. Amid ongoing U.S. efforts to destabilize Venezuela (which has the world's largest proven oil reserves), including threats of military intervention by President Trump in 2017⁴⁴ and an assassination attempt on President Maduro in 2018,⁴⁵ Russia sent two strategic nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela.⁴⁶ Insofar as Russian Nuclear Doctrine includes protection of its allies, without specifying who these allies are,⁴⁷ Russia's sending of the two strategic bombers which, according to NBC, are "capable of carrying conventional or nuclear-tipped cruise missiles with a range of 3,410 miles"⁴⁸ is a clear indication that Venezuela is off limits to direct military intervention.

The impossibility of exercising global hegemony, coupled with the continuous erosion of the West's power and global influence and a commensurate expansion of RIC global influence, necessitated a Plan C.

The only feasible strategy for the Empire to preclude its capacity for domination from melting away completely would be to terminate the competition by splitting the world into two regions, one over which the Money Powers have ironclad control, where 'their rules' rule, and which is completely separated from the regions in which RIC have influence.

These down-sized objectives can be stated as follows:

- To impose an Iron Curtain totally dividing the world into two realms.
- To incorporate in the transition period as many resource-rich nations as possible.
- To install ruthless police states in the Western realm to subdue revolts arising from the resultant social problems and economic impoverishment.

To impose total separation an ideological basis is required, akin to the earlier 'Free democratic world vs. Totalitarian communist world' during the Cold War period. Other supporting ideological opposites during that period were 'Believers in God vs. Atheists' and 'Right of ownership vs. No private property.'

RICophobia: The West's ideological basis for the two worlds

The West's new ideological basis is anchored in racism and cultural aversion.

Russophobia

Russophobia has been traceable in the Western world for over a millennium, dating to the 11th century;⁴⁹ the initial ideological basis was religious, Catholic vs. Orthodox Christianity. Nevertheless, no such phobia is witnessed against other Orthodox countries, such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, or Romania. The actual impetus for enduring Russophobia is the millennial lust of the Money Powers for Russia's wealth, hence the repeated attempts to conquer Russia over the past millennium.

Efforts by the West's global media bullhorn to ratchet up Russophobia have been highly successful, especially after the Ukrainian Maidan Coup in 2014, and more so after Russia's Special Military Operation (SMO) in 2022.⁵⁰ A Pew poll indicated that in the G-7 countries, unfavorable opinions of Russia in June 2022 had reached 86%.⁵¹

Americans' unfavorable view of Russia increased from 50% in 2013 to 77% in 2021 to 85% in February 2022⁵² up to 92% by March 2022, at which time 70% of Americans viewed Russia as an enemy, up from 41% in January 2022.⁵³

It is common for extremist views in a society to be held by the less educated strata. However, in the U.S. extremist views are correlated positively with educational level. In March 2022, of people with high school education or less, 66% considered Russia as enemy, while 77% of people with a post graduate degree considered Russia as an enemy. This may be attributed to the deteriorating quality of U.S. education coupled with the disinterest of the lesser educated with global news – or perhaps to the educated, professional classes' tendency to kowtow to the views handed down from on high, which they must reflect as being among the more knowing, while the lesser indoctrination of those of lower standing may actually reflect their greater freedom to hold their own views.

Iranophobia / Islamophobia

Islamophobia like Russophobia has existed for a millennium, dating back to the First Crusade. The dispossession and enslavement of Muslims (Saracens) was sanctioned by the ‘representative of God’ himself, Pope Nicholas V in papal bull *Dum Diversas*.⁵⁴ The geopolitical developments of the 20th century in West Asia, namely the discovery of oil and the creation of Israel in Palestine, energized Islamophobia in the West.⁵⁵ Thus when the Islamic Revolution succeeded in Iran it was easy to develop Iranophobia based on the already existing Islamophobia. Given that major shareholders and therefore controllers of the oil majors are the same major shareholders and controllers of Western media, it has been natural to demonize Iran ever since the Islamic Revolution.

In 2022, 84% of Americans viewed Iran unfavorably.⁵⁶ This has been consistent through the years, ranging within a narrow band of between 79% and 89% over the 33-year period of 1989 to 2022. This negative view is shared among the G-7 countries; in 2020, over two thirds had an unfavorable opinion of Iran;⁵⁷ in 2015, it was 75%.⁵⁸

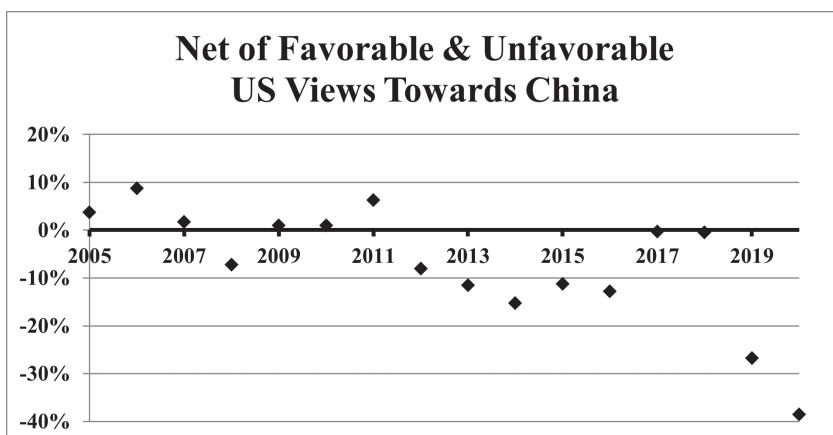


FIGURE 57. U.S. Views toward China, 2005–2020⁵⁹

Sinophobia

From Figure 57, it can be noted that Americans were essentially indifferent towards China until 2018. However, as of 2019, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, Americans had become strongly polarized against China. By 2020, two thirds of Americans had an unfavorable view of China.

In G-7 countries, significant majorities have negative opinions of China. In a 2021 survey by Pew Research Center,⁶⁰ the average was 74% with negative views, increasing from 71% a year earlier.⁶¹

In a choice between favoring economic ties with U.S. or China, “a majority – and often a wide majority – say it is more important for these economies to have strong economic ties with the U.S. than with China … the importance placed on ties with the U.S. has also grown substantially in recent years.”⁶²

By 2022, RICophobia was well engrained in G-7 populations, with 86% unfavorable to Russia, 67% unfavorable to Iran, and 74% unfavorable to China.

Much insight can be gained into the global influence of the hedge fund controlled western media by analyzing the Pew Research Center’s 2015 global poll of opinions about Iran.⁶³ The following results are noted:

- Russians and Chinese have mostly unfavorable views of Iran.
- All Latin Americans have mostly unfavorable views of Iran, including Brazil and Venezuela.
- All Levant populations polled including Palestinians have mostly unfavorable views of Iran. This despite Iran being the number one enemy of Israel the occupier of Palestine.
- All Africans except for Ethiopia and Ghana have mostly unfavorable views of Iran.
- Out of 40 countries in the poll, populations of only four countries had favorable views of Iran, namely, Pakistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Ghana.

The question that poses itself is; why would the Chinese, Filipinos, Palestinians, Kenyans, Russians and Venezuelans have mostly unfavorable views of Iran?

Iran never occupied or waged war on any of these countries, nor has Iran waged any war on any country in modern history or defied international law. On the contrary, Iran has been a victim of Western oppression, as were all the above mentioned countries. This confirms the power of hedge fund controlled media in creating a virtual reality that has global reach and effectiveness.

Thus not only are G-7 populations already conditioned against RIC, but more significantly, the populations of Global South countries are, too, which is important for Plan C.

Raising tensions, especially military tensions, radicalizes public opinion. Unfavorable opinions turn into enmity, and favorable opinions tend to become more supportive. As was shown earlier, Western public opinion, already hostile by years of allegations of the subsequently debunked Russiagate electoral interference, was further antagonized against Russia by what it was assured was an “unprovoked” Russian Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine. Public opinion was mobilized to such hysterical dimensions in support of Ukraine that it turned against all manifestations of Russian culture, whether in sport, music or literature. The degree of hatred promoted by the West crossed the border of sanity, leading to the banning Russian cats⁶⁴ and trees⁶⁵ from international competitions.

To split the world into two, it is necessary to radicalize popular opinion. This is achieved by raising tensions with RIC to extreme levels – but short of a direct war, knowing that a war between RIC and the West would result in a defeat of the West.⁶⁶

It is in this context that tensions are also being increased with China and Iran.

Accordingly, the major Western media headlines also aggravated tensions with China during the Russian SMO in Ukraine:

- Reuters: “U.S. delegation arrives in Taiwan as China denounces visit,”⁶⁷ March 1, 2022
- *New York Times*: “Supply Chains Widely Tainted by Forced Labor in China,”⁶⁸ April 8, 2022
- *Taiwan Today*: “President Tsai receives Slovakia delegation,”⁶⁹ June 8, 2022
- “Trudeau accuses China of ‘extremely troubling’ harassment of Canadian jets,”⁷⁰ June 8, 2022
- *Washington Examiner*: “Send an international maritime flotilla through the Taiwan Strait,”⁷¹ June 15, 2022
- *Bloomberg*: “China Sends Warplanes Near Taiwan After U.S. Rejects Strait Claims,”⁷² June 22, 2022
- *NY Post*: “Defiant Pelosi arrives in Taiwan to declare U.S. stands against ‘autocrats,’”⁷³ Aug 2, 2022.

Similarly, the Western media exacerbated tensions with Iran during Russian SMO in Ukraine

- Reuters: “U.S. seizes Iranian oil cargo near Greek island,”⁷⁴ May 26, 2022
- United Press International: “Iran nuclear deal is unraveling,”⁷⁵ June 13, 2022
- *Haaretz*: “Blinken Says Iran’s Demands Make Nuclear Deal ‘Unlikely’ for Now”⁷⁶ September 13, 2022
- 24/7 global media coverage: The so-called Hijab revolution: Empire has another go at a color revolution in Iran,⁷⁷ September 2022
- *The Independent*: “Biden says ‘we’re gonna free Iran’ as protests there go on”⁷⁸

The ideological groundwork for splitting the world into two is ready. Western populations are conditioned against Russia, Iran, and China.

Engineering the Global Economic Crash

Laying the ideological groundwork for a global rejection of the RIC is helpful to win ‘hearts and minds,’ but in itself, this is not sufficient to ‘lock-in’ many resource-rich Global South nations. This was evident by the refusal of most Global South countries to comply with Western sanctions on Russia,⁷⁹ and by the developing of relations between Russia and African, Arab, ASEAN and Latin American countries.⁸⁰

To this end a global economic crash of unprecedented scale has been engineered, with a perfect storm of energy, food, economic and monetary crises coming together in 2023.

While Plans A and B were military interventions, initially direct and then by proxy, Plan C is a global economic war intended to crash economies globally. The Global South countries will be particularly hard hit, bankrupting many of them. Insofar as developing countries are governed by ‘elites,’ bankrupt countries will first go to the IMF, as was the case with Sri Lanka, Egypt, Tunisia, Ghana⁸¹ and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This will provide the opportunity for Bretton Woods institutions to lock them into the Western realm.

Just as 9/11, ‘a catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor,’⁸² was used to launch Plan A and the ‘Arab Spring’ was used to launched Plan B, ‘Russia Sanctions’ were used to launch Plan C.

The Patriot Act⁸³ was rolled out immediately after 9/11, similarly sanctions on Russia⁸⁴ were rolled out immediately upon Russia recognizing the Donbass republics as independent states on February 21 – even before the Russian army entered Ukraine on February 24. Within a week three sanctions packages were issued. These included banning transactions with the Russian central bank, freezing some Russian bank accounts, disconnecting some Russian banks from SWIFT, and banning flights of Russian carriers over EU airspace. By December 15, 2022, a ninth sanctions package was imposed.⁸⁵

The widely accepted explanation is that the West imposed these draconian sanctions with the expectation that it would turn the ‘ruble into rubble,’⁸⁶ causing a bank run, crashing the Russian economy and hence

weakening Putin's grip on power with the likelihood of his being replaced by a more amenable president.⁸⁷

None of these expectations materialized. On the contrary the ruble strengthened against the dollar and the euro, and the Russian economy is faring better than most Western economies, which are witnessing record inflation and recession. Putin's popularity has soared while Western leaders' popularities hit record lows.

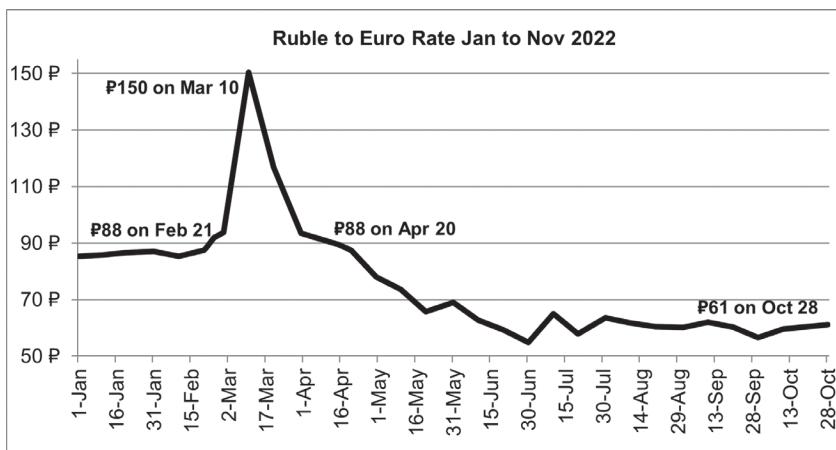


FIGURE 58. EUR to RUB Exchange Rate, Feb. 16 to Oct. 28, 2022⁸⁸

Within two months the ruble had regained its prewar exchange rate versus the euro, and within four months had appreciated by over 30% against the euro compared to prewar levels.

It was thus already clear by April 2022 that sanctions had failed to significantly harm Russia and indeed, they were harming the European and U.S. economies far more, instead. Nevertheless the West persisted in imposing new sanction packages, causing further damage to Western economies in general and to the European economies in particular.⁸⁹

The West's sanctioning policy suggests that the sanctions' potential impact wasn't well studied, neglecting in particular the boomerang effect it would have on Western economies. However, the West's persistence in introducing additional sanctions packages after their damaging effects on the West itself were clear, begs the question: *why?*

The answer lies not in their impact on Western nations, however grievous, nor on Russia, however negligible, but in the likely magnitude of the impact on the Global South countries. Michael Hudson sheds light on this,⁹⁰ stating that Ukraine war was a catalyst to impose sanctions that would result in global energy and food crises, allowing the U.S. to again coerce Global South as it had during the Latin American debt crisis, imposing George W. Bush's 'You are either with us or against us,'⁹¹ – a reiteration of Bush Senior's 1991 four-word "What we say goes"⁹² message to the world at the collapse of the USSR.

The energy crisis

It must be realized that the energy crisis that started in 2022 is not due to sanctions on Russia, but had been deliberately engineered several years earlier by the leading hedge funds driving the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)⁹³ and International Energy Agency (IEA) agendas, imposing restrictions on investments in fossil fuels exploration and other upstream activities.

In May 2021 the IEA issued a report titled "Net Zero by 2050: A Road Map for the Global Energy Sector"⁹⁴ which stated that effective 2021 there were to be "no new oil and gas fields approved for development; no new coal mines or mine extensions."

Insofar as fossil fuels oil, gas and coal account for 83% of energy supply, and that real goods production – not just transport – is totally dependent on energy, the above is clearly a nonsensical suicidal policy statement. It would not be of any value or consequence were it not supported by the powerful hedge funds that have the major influence on global investment.

Let us consider the case of ExxonMobil, an oil major with a market capitalization of over \$255 billion. Of the oil majors, ExxonMobil was not onboard the ESG and Net Zero agendas:

of concern to long term investors was that unlike other oil majors, ExxonMobil appeared to be investing in initiatives to boost its fossil fuel output rather than in renewable energy.⁹⁵

ExxonMobil was following the rational energy agenda, namely the recognition that renewables cannot form the basis of energy supply in the near and midterm.

This put ExxonMobil at odds with the hedge funds' drive towards a 'Net Zero' agenda, resulting in a faceoff between ExxonMobil and the Money Powers. This confrontation is very revealing, as it illustrates the power hedge funds have over corporations and their ability to shape the economy, reminiscent of the above-mentioned faceoff between U.S. presidents and the Money Powers. Here is the timeline:

- December 2020: Engine No. 1, a hedge fund with an ESG agenda is established. Jennifer Grancio, a BlackRock hedge fund executive, is founding team member and CEO. Engine No. 1 acquires 0.02% of ExxonMobil shares.⁹⁶
- January 2021: Engine No. 1 'announced that it had formally nominated four candidates for election as independent directors of ExxonMobil.'⁹⁷
- March 2021, ExxonMobil issues a letter to its shareholders:⁹⁸

Engine No. 1, a small, three-month-old hedge fund with about an 0.02 percent ownership in ExxonMobil, wants to make big changes to our company. They have made false statements about our plans and strategy.

Engine No. 1 stated that it believed that "the lack of directors with successful transformative energy industry experience ... played a large part in the value destruction at ExxonMobil over the last decade."

ExxonMobil management responding to Engine No. 1 [describes Engine No. 1's] approach as one that "ignores the role of oil and gas in the energy system of the future and the leadership role that ExxonMobil *intends to play in reducing emissions through development and deployment of new lower-carbon technologies.*"

- May 26, 2021: Elections for the ExxonMobil twelve-seat board of directors. Three of the four Engine No. 1 candidates are elected to the board.

The question is: how is it possible that a small, newly established company, with 0.02% of shares, could go head-to-head with an oil major's management and win?

This win was a result of backing by the major hedge funds who are the largest owners of ExxonMobil shares.⁹⁹

In 2021 ExxonMobil's largest share ownerships were Vanguard (8.2%), Blackrock (6.7%) and State Street Corporation (5.7%).¹⁰⁰ The total ExxonMobil shares of the three hedge funds were 20.6%, equivalent to about \$52.5 billion, which was enough to impose change in the board of directors of ExxonMobil.

Based on the above it is possible to grasp the power of these hedge funds over the corporate world. Their Assets Under Management (AUM): Blackrock, \$9.5T,¹⁰¹ Vanguard, \$7.5T,¹⁰² and State Street Corporation, \$4.1T.¹⁰³ Notably, the \$52.5 billion these three hedge funds own in ExxonMobil represents only 0.25% of the combined AUM of the Blackrock, Vanguard and State Street hedge funds.

Therefore these three hedge funds alone can control over 400 companies the size of ExxonMobil, or over corporations with a total of \$100 trillion market capitalization. Insofar as the U.S. market capitalization is the largest in the world at \$40.7 trillion,¹⁰⁴ the power of these hedge funds is global, and whatever agenda they adopt will be enforced on listed corporations globally.

More significantly, any global agenda without the support of these hedge funds will not have much chance of success. They can rightfully be credited with the title, 'Lords of the Rings.'

Just as with the face-offs between presidents Roosevelt and Trump and the Money Powers where the latter had the upper hand, similarly in the face-off with ExxonMobil, the Money Powers represented by the hedge funds once again had the upper hand.

The impact of the hedge fund–driven ESG agenda on oil exploration can be seen in Figure 59:

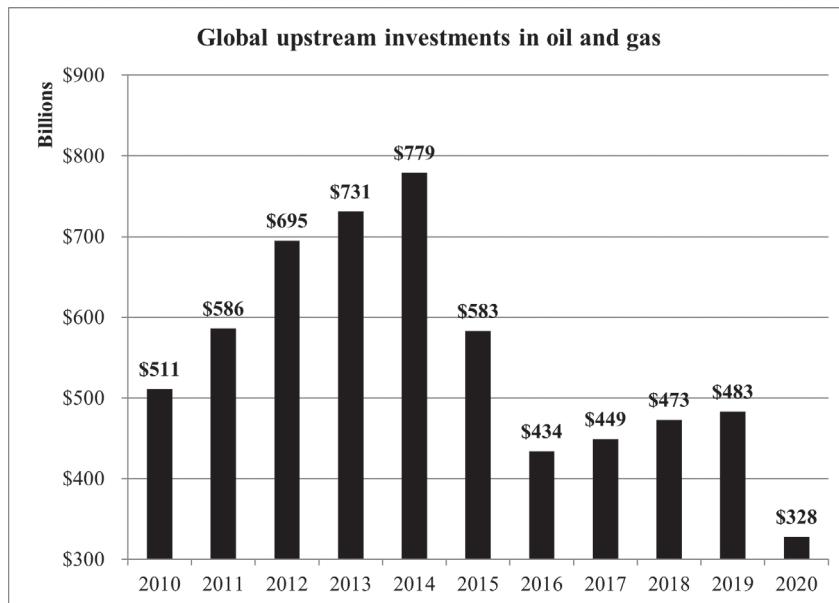


FIGURE 59. Global Upstream Investments in Oil and Gas¹⁰⁵

Until 2014, there was an annual increase of investment in oil exploration averaging 11%. In 2015, instead of an increase, there was a drastic drop of 25% in investment, dropping a further 26% in 2016. By 2020, investment was 58% lower than in 2014. Investments dropped further in 2021 and 2022.¹⁰⁶

Despite that, from Figure 60 it is clear that since 2000, global energy demand was continuously increasing, the only exception being the 2009 drop due to the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. In particular, between 2010 and 2014, there was an annual increase in energy demand. Thus the drastic 25% drop in oil and gas upstream investment in 2015 is not due to a drop in projected global energy demand. This confirms that a decision was taken in 2014 to cut back drastically on oil and gas exploration and other upstream investments.

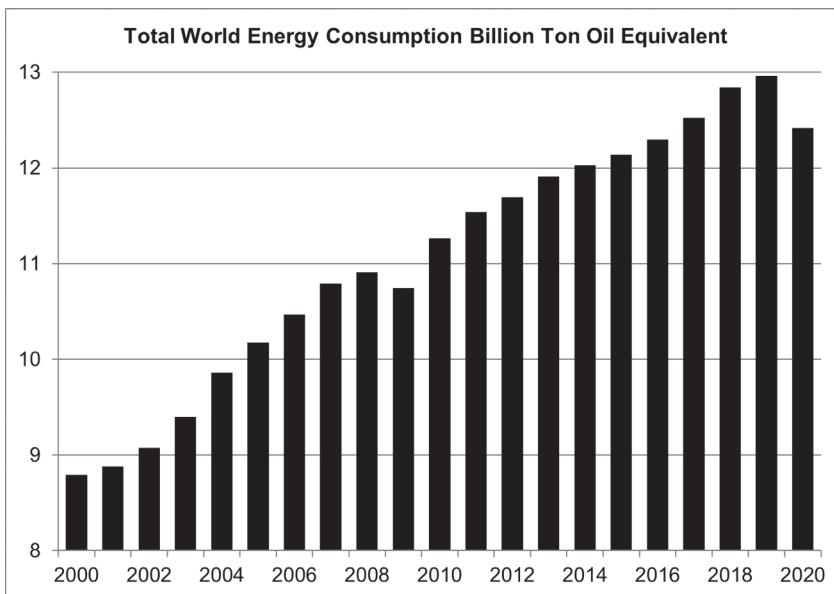


FIGURE 60. World Energy Consumption
in Billions of Tons Oil Equivalent¹⁰⁷

As was shown in the ExxonMobil example, only the leading hedge funds have the power to enforce such a drastic and unjustified cutback in investments. It surely has not been due to the efforts of environmentalists, Greta Thunberg, et al., whose presence and influence has been receding into the background since the COVID pandemic. Nor, preceding them, has it been due to Russia-related sanctions.

Covid-19 lockdowns and associated travel restrictions delayed the emergence of the energy shortage problem resulting from the drop in oil and gas exploration and other upstream investments, a consequence of the leading hedge funds driving the ESG and IEA 'Net Zero' agendas.¹⁰⁸ According to Aramco CEO Amin Nasser:

What happened in Russia–Ukraine masked what would have happened. We were going through an energy crisis because of a lack of investment.

The world is running with less than 2% of spare capacity. Before COVID, the aviation industry was consuming 2.5 million

bpd more than today. If the aviation industry picks up speed, you are going to have a major problem.¹⁰⁹

In conclusion, it is the Money Powers through the leading hedge funds that imposed the ESG, ‘Net Zero’ agenda globally, which will result in a major energy crisis, indications of which were already apparent by 2022 and will worsen significantly in subsequent years.

The sanctions against Russia, by causing disruptions in a market already facing a supply deficit,¹¹⁰ triggered the purposefully engineered problem.

The food crisis

Modern high productivity agriculture is energy intensive, thus the energy crisis in itself will necessarily result in a food crisis. To make matters worse, fertilizer supply from Russia, the global leader in fertilizer supply (15% of global supply),¹¹¹ was sanctioned. The potash supply from Belarus, the leading supplier of potash (18% of global supply),¹¹² a key ingredient in fertilizers, had been sanctioned a year earlier in 2021.

In democracies administrations are ‘elected’ to implement what are in actuality Money Powers’ policies. This was evident in the Biden administration’s role in contributing to the engineered energy crisis discussed earlier, and in the EU’s Russia sanctions policies which are having a highly detrimental effect on the wellbeing of European populations and the European economy. Similarly as regards the food crisis, both the U.S. and EU administrations undertook steps to exacerbate the food crisis. William Engdahl, author of the seminal book *Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation*,¹¹³ in his April 2022 article, “Biden Cynically Uses Ukraine to Cover Food Shortage,” addressed the food crisis thus:¹¹⁴

The U.S. Administration intervened to block the freight rail shipping of fertilizer from the largest U.S. supplier of nitrogen fertilizers at the most critical time for spring planting.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will allow a 50% increase in corn-based biodiesel and ethanol fuel mix for the summer; this will send corn prices through the roof and will add to the growing food crisis. A major use for U.S. feed corn is as animal feed for cattle, pigs and poultry as well as for human diets.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) demands chicken farmers to kill off millions of chickens in now twenty-seven states, allegedly for signs of Bird Flu infection. The H5N1 Bird Flu “virus” was exposed in 2015 as a complete hoax. At least 23 million chickens and turkeys have been culled. The upshot is sharp rises in prices of eggs by some 300% since November and severe loss of chicken protein sources for American consumers at a time when overall cost of living inflation is at a forty-year high.

The U.S. Administration turned a deaf ear to pleas of farmer organizations to allow cultivation of some 4 million acres of farmland ordered left out of cultivation for “environmental reasons.”

The EU uses its Green Agenda as an excuse to forbid the Italian government from ignoring EU rules limiting state aid to farmers.

Germany has given farmers who want to grow more food a cold response.

The Netherlands government announced a plan to cut livestock numbers by 30% to meet nitrogen targets.¹¹⁵

Thus a food crisis reflected in global shortages and skyrocketing prices is bound to occur in 2023.

Just as the energy crisis was engineered by the Money Powers through the leading hedge funds, so too was the food crisis engineered by the Money Powers through the politicians of Western democracies whom they control.

The economic crisis: COVID-19 pandemic

The global response to the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020-2021 set the stage for the global economic crisis. Insofar as real goods production is directly and linearly related to energy consumption (see Figure 61 where a 5% drop in energy consumption is noted in 2020, which is a 250% steeper drop than the 2009 drop due to the global financial crisis of 2007-2008), the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic was much more devastating to the global economy than the 2008 global financial crisis.

Many businesses across the board were destroyed.¹¹⁶ The services sector was seriously affected. The manufacturing sector was not spared; in a globalized economy with extensive subcontracting, the travel restrictions were highly disruptive to supply chains, causing serious damage to the manufacturing sector. Agricultural produce distribution networks were seriously affected by the lockdowns, causing damage to this business sector too.

Most affected however, was the travel and tourism sector which came to a standstill. Many Global South countries depend on tourism for earning the foreign currencies needed to pay for their imports and to service their debts.¹¹⁷

Like painkillers, the pandemic aid disbursements in the U.S. and the EU did not address the underlying business problems; they merely postponed the immediate impact on the populations, while having inflationary effects by sustaining demand at a time of a drop in supply. The inflationary effects of these disbursements, coupled with the reduction in supply due to business closures and disruption of supply chains, has resulted in the double digit inflation witnessed globally in 2022 and which will increase in the following years.

The monetary crisis

After two years at near zero interest rate, the Fed started increasing the effective federal funds rate (EFFR) in March 2022, followed by another rate hike in May 2022, and then on June 15, 2022, the Fed increased interest rates by 0.75%, the biggest increase since 1994.¹¹⁸ This was

followed by another increase of 0.75% on July 27, 2022,¹¹⁹ another on September 21, 2022,¹²⁰ and another on November 2, 2022,¹²¹ and a hike of 0.5% on December 14, 2022.¹²² The total interest rate increase in 2022 was 4.5%. The 2022 interest rate hike cycle was the fastest since 1988.¹²³

While the official inflation figure in the U.S. is 8.3%,¹²⁴ real inflation is at 16.6% if inflation were to be calculated in the way that it was prior to the advent of the neoliberal era in 1980.¹²⁵ In the U.S. food cost inflation is at 10.9%, the largest spike in food prices since 1979. The ‘food at home’ index spiked 15.8%, cereals and bakery goods rose 15%, and dairy products rose 14.9%.¹²⁶ Pentagon data indicates that 24% of military personnel are food insecure, and it is recommending food stamps for them.¹²⁷ Couples with a \$100,000 combined income are struggling to make ends meet.¹²⁸

The Impact on Global South countries

While Western countries have suffered and will suffer further from the Western sanctions imposed on Russia, the perfect storm resulting from energy, food, economic (due to pandemic restrictions) and monetary crises will have a devastating impact on Global South countries, in particular those countries that are food and energy deficient and those with high external debt.

As was shown earlier in the cases of the Latin American debt crisis, and the Asian financial crisis, the Fed rate increase weakens other currencies¹²⁹ and impacts debt servicing of these countries. The following is a sample of annual currencies depreciations versus the USD: South Korea, 17%, Taiwan 12%, Thailand 11%, South Africa 18%, Egypt 32%, Tunisia 13%, Argentina 31%, and Colombia 13%.¹³⁰

Currency depreciation measured against USD is further compounded by the depreciation of the USD itself over this period, measured by the rate of inflation in the U.S. Thus Global South countries will face an inflation reflecting the combined effects of currency depreciation versus the USD plus the inflation of real goods in the U.S. They will receive a quadruple whammy:

- Their currencies' depreciation will proportionately increase foreign debt servicing costs for governments and corporations.
- The Fed rate increase will also increase debt servicing costs for governments and corporations.
- Inflation particularly in energy and food, will make imports of basics much more expensive and will drain foreign currency reserves.
- The significant drop in tourism since 2020 has already strongly impacted the foreign currency reserves of those countries relying on tourism.

The combined effect of the above on Global South countries will bankrupt many countries and place many more on the edge of bankruptcy.¹³¹ High inflation coupled with increased unemployment due to high energy costs and a hard hit tourism sector will foment serious domestic instability, which the financially weakened governments are not able to address or face.

The first casualty of these devastating crises was Sri Lanka, which resulted in a popular revolt¹³² and ouster of the president.¹³³ Sri Lanka was the first casualty because, in addition to the aforementioned global crises, it faced an additional crisis particular to itself, namely the imposition of an organic farming agenda by the government, which resulted in a drastic drop in crop yields.¹³⁴

The agrochemical ban caused rice production to drop 20 percent in the six months after it was implemented, causing a country that had been self-sufficient in rice production to spend \$450 million on rice imports – much more than the \$400 million that would have been saved by banning fertilizer imports.¹³⁵

Sri Lanka was just a preview; many more countries¹³⁶ will follow as the perfect storm develops.

Bretton Woods to the Rescue

Political elites reflect the interests and agenda of the economic elite. In the neoliberal era, the FIRE sector (Finance / Insurance / Real Estate) is dominant, including in most Global South countries, hence the interests of the political elites of these countries lie within the Western financial construct. This inclines the political elites in the Global South to join the West.

Given this scenario, the populations in many Global South countries will also be in favor of joining the Western realm, as a result of the influence of the globally dominant hedge fund-controlled media which strongly propagates RICophobia.

With Global South elites and significant portions of the populations inclined to join the West, the stage is set for creating the global split. With the perfect storm of the quadruple crisis hitting the Global South, enter the Bretton Woods institutions to the ‘rescue,’ locking-in countries within the Western Realm as they fail. Sri Lanka was the first country to go bankrupt and accordingly in stepped the IMF with its conditions.¹³⁷

As the perfect storm develops many more countries of the Global South will fall and be ripe for Bretton Woods instruments to lock them in. What little is left of their sovereignty will be surrendered, along with what is left of their government-owned national assets and resources,¹³⁸ resulting in their further medium- and long-term impoverishment.

Hedge Funds: The Four Horsemen of the Global Crisis

Preparatory work for this perfect storm of energy, food, economic and monetary crises can be traced back to 2014, with the adoption by the leading hedge funds of the ESG¹³⁹ and IEA¹⁴⁰ ‘Net Zero’ agendas, and the UN release of its Agenda 2030¹⁴¹ the following year with the same focus on renewable energy.

Recall, as discussed earlier: the Money Powers through the leading hedge funds, central banks and the BIS, control the Western economies and much of the global economy. The ExxonMobil board of directors election illustrated how hedge funds can impose their will on any

corporation or sector, even if their actions are detrimental to corporations in that sector, and to the economy as whole.

So bear in mind: of the top 100 companies in the world by market capitalization in December 2022, 61 of these companies were American. Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street and T. Rowe Price hedge funds were the largest shareholders and together had controlling shares in all these companies, with an average ownership of 27.4%.¹⁴² The total value of these four hedge funds' investment in the biggest 61 U.S. companies is \$5.3 trillion, representing only 25% of assets under management, AUM, of these four hedge funds.¹⁴³

When the hedge funds undertook the *coup* against ExxonMobil board of directors, they owned only 20.6% of ExxonMobil shares. Thus, their remaining 75% of AUM, or \$16 trillion, enables them to control companies with a market capitalization of \$77 trillion. Since the total market value of the U.S. stock market is \$46.5 trillion¹⁴⁴ then these hedge funds can essentially control all listed companies in the U.S. as well as globally. Quoting the Financial Post, "With \$20 trillion between them, Blackrock and Vanguard could own almost everything by 2028."¹⁴⁵

As an illustration, Table 10 presents the ownership of these hedge funds in the five largest U.S. banks.

| Hedge funds Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street & T. Rowe Price ownership in largest U.S. banks | |
|--|----------|
| Bank | % |
| JPMorgan Chase | 28% |
| Bank of America | 25% |
| Citi Group | 29% |
| Wells Fargo | 29% |
| U.S. Bancorp | 20% |

TABLE 10. Hedge Funds Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street and T. Rowe Price Ownership in Largest U.S. Banks¹⁴⁶

And again, as was mentioned earlier: these same hedge funds have controlling shares in commodity exchanges that price energy and commodities globally. They also have total control of the media and social media platforms (see Table 9 ‘Leading Hedge Fund ownership in media corporations’). Thus they control the narrative in both the West and the Global South. This was evident in the global Gallup and Pew polls presented earlier on Russia, Iran, and China.

This control of the Money Powers dates back to the Venetian Empire, where they were the main beneficiaries of the Crusader campaigns, and controlled trade and banking. During the 17th to 20th century colonization period, the Money Powers controlled central banks, and the East and West India companies, who were the primary drivers and beneficiaries of colonialism. In the 21st century the Money Powers control the hedge funds, which are the drivers and beneficiaries of the neoliberal economic system sustained by Western global hegemony and the Bretton Woods II financial and monetary structure.

Superceding the British East India Company which controlled 50 percent of global trade, the hedge funds now control well over 70% of global businesses. Colonialist oppression and exploitation has been replaced by hedge funds oppression and exploitation enabled by the Bretton Woods financial and monetary system backed by Western military power.

The foremost of these hedge funds are BlackRock, Vanguard, State Street and T. Rowe Price, the Four Horsemen of the Global Crisis.

Hence the geopolitical clash is: Bretton Woods or an End to Bretton Woods.



PHOTO 11. *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, Viktor Mikhailovich Vasnetsov,
St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Kiev, 1887

CHAPTER 10

The End of Empire

Confident that no power stood in its way, the Empire embarked on an aggressive quest for total global hegemony,¹ costing millions of lives² in Russia,³ Iraq,⁴ Afghanistan,⁵ Syria,⁶ Libya⁷, Yugoslavia,⁸ Yemen,⁹ Somalia,¹⁰ Ukraine,¹¹ and many other countries. Additional millions were displaced and the lives of many more were torn in the Empire's futile quest for global hegemony that has caused untold misery for billions of people across the centuries.

Three decades after the fall of the Soviet Union and Fukuyama's book, *The End of History*,¹² the only end of history in sight is that of the Empire's dominion, which has lasted for a millennium, destroying numerous civilizations, wreaking havoc all over the globe and causing untold misery to billions.

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE TWO WORLDS?

Plan C will lead to two distinct worlds: a Western Realm and a Sovereign World of self-determining countries protected from the deteriorating Empire by the RIC core.

Already by the end of 2022, and prior to the crises reaching their climax, Sri Lanka,¹³ Tunisia,¹⁴ Egypt,¹⁵ Ghana¹⁶ and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)¹⁷ all sought IMF loans. It is noteworthy that Sri Lanka, Ghana and particularly the DRC are resource rich nations. The question that needs to be addressed is therefore: Will the success of Plan C be an enduring success or a fleeting one similar to that of George W. Bush's 'Mission Accomplished' announcement in Iraq?

Recalling that the Empire only understands power politics, the success of Plan C depends on the balance of power.

A SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS OF THE EMPIRE'S POWER

Nations and societies are not static systems, but dynamic. Therefore while it is important to assess the current state of affairs, it remains essential to understand a system's dynamics in order to determine its trajectory. Analyzing the dynamics of the complex geopolitical system is no easy task and is prone to significant errors that will lead to erroneous conclusions. The financial crashes during the quarter century 1997 to 2022 wiped out tens of trillions of dollars, attesting to the global failure to correctly analyze the dynamics of this single component of geopolitics – economics – on which, one presumes, a huge amount of attention will nonetheless have been paid.¹⁸

Here, industrial engineering forecasting methodology will be used to forecast power of the Empire with the objective of assessing its trajectory going forward, with a view of determining the likely evolution of this geopolitical conflict.

Forecasting uses historical data to determine the expected value of a variable in the future. This methodology is used in business for forecasting demand, commodity pricing, revenue; it is also used in many diverse fields, including sports, energy, earthquake prediction, etc. The greater the time interval of historical data used in the analysis, the more robust are the results of the forecast. .

For successful forecasting the factors which influence the target variable – the power of the empire in this case – need to be identified and forecast also.

Brzezinski explicitly indicated that the Empire's continued hegemony in the 21st century hinged on controlling global energy reserves, specifically those of Iran. Therefore, the most significant variable quantifying the power of the Empire will be its control over global energy reserves; this can be considered as the key performance indicator (KPI) of the Empire's power.

Earlier, it was determined that power of the empire rests on a triad of pillars, namely the Bretton Woods institutions, virtual reality and military power. Thus forecasting the power of the empire going forward

will consider evolution of the KPI and the three power pillars over a sufficiently long period of time.

Time Period: The period of evaluation is the quarter century extending from 1997, the date Brzezinski published *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*,¹⁹ to 2022, the year of the Ukraine war. This is a sufficiently long period for analysis, particularly as it was a highly eventful period, during which many wars were launched, significant economic crashes took place, and major global changes occurred across the economic, media, technology, national development and military spectrums.

Component performance: In the following we will compare the status of each element of the Empire's triad of instruments used to advance its geostrategic objectives.

The Bretton Woods institutions

The status of Western reserve currencies:

- 1997: USD 65.5%, total Western currencies 97%²⁰
- 2020: USD 59.0%, total Western currencies 89%, CNY 2.3%²¹
- 2022: Q3: USD 55.5%, total Western currencies 87.2%, CNY 2.6%²²

In the period under consideration, the USD and Western currencies were by far the dominant reserve currencies. However, the downward trajectory in the dominance trend is observable. The accelerating rate of drop since 2020 is particularly interesting.

- Average annual rate of drop of USD as reserve currency, 1997 to 2020: 0.3%
- Average annual rate of drop of USD as reserve currency, 2020 to Q3 2022: 2.0%

The rate of drop of the USD as reserve currency increased 700% between 2020 and Q3 2022, compared to the average annual rate of drop in the 23 years 1997 to 2020. This is a consequence of weaponizing the dollar, particularly against Russia, a major energy, food and other resources exporting country.²³ The most serious blow to the USD is

expected within the next five years. In his December 9, 2022 speech to the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit, President Xi specifically stated that:

In the next three to five years, China is ready to work with GCC countries in the following priority areas:

The Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas Exchange platform will be fully utilized for RMB settlement in oil and gas trade.²⁴

Thus, going forward, the drop in USD as a reserve currency will be at a higher rate than witnessed in the 2020–2022 period.

Regarding the World Bank and IMF: Between 1997 and 2022, their status went from TINA (there is no alternative) to TIA (there is an alternative), with significant funding to developing countries to be provided by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Belt and Road Initiative.

While other instruments such as SWIFT, Visa and MasterCard remain dominant at present, they are nevertheless following the same downward trend as the dollar reserve currency due to the development of alternatives during this time period, mainly the Chinese UnionPay and the Russian MIR payment system. Here, too, their drop accelerated as a consequence of sanctions against Russia.

Notably, the Project mBridge²⁵ has emerged, using central bank digital currencies (CBDC) to facilitate real-time, peer-to-peer, cross-border, and foreign exchange transactions, bypassing the U.S. dollar and the network of Western correspondent banks run by the dollar system.

While Western commodity exchanges remain dominant, alternatives have been developed during this period.²⁶ Most importantly, within next five years, China, the largest energy importer, will be fulfilling its oil and gas needs via the Shanghai exchange for CNY trade with Gulf nations as noted in President Xi's speech.²⁷

The transformative event which accelerated the Bretton Woods institutions' decline was the application of sanctions against Russia, first in 2014 and then serially in 2022. The 2014 sanctions not only led to the accelerated development of alternatives, with the 2022 sanctions leading

to the implementation of these alternatives, but they also globally exposed the risks inherent in USD reserves and investment in the West, which could have been a contributing factor in the GCC countries distancing themselves somewhat from the West later in 2022.

In conclusion, the Bretton Woods instruments are still dominant; their effectiveness is illustrated by the fact that Global South countries that went bankrupt in 2022 still sought relief via Bretton Woods. However, as mentioned, during the period under consideration, 1997 to 2022, TINA has given way to TIA. The rate of weakening of the Bretton Woods institutions has accelerated since the imposition of sanctions on Russia in 2022. The downward trajectory of Bretton Woods institutions is evident and appears irreversible.

Virtual reality instruments

The second pillar of the Empire's triad, Western mass media, remains dominant in the West and powerful in much of the Global South nations. Nevertheless, within the period under consideration, the legitimacy of the hedge fund-controlled mass media has been weakened significantly by the many new media alternatives that have emerged during this period, both in the West and globally. The significance of alternative media was aptly described as a threat by Mr. Brzezinski, who actually referred to it as the "global political awakening."²⁸ The problematic of alternative media's impact on Western mass media's shaping of the narrative, was eloquently expressed by Mr. Brzezinski speaking at Chatham House, London in 2008:

In earlier times it was easier to control a million people, than physically to kill a million people. Today it is infinitely easier to kill a million people than to control a million people.²⁹

The Western mainstream media and the leading social media platforms that emerged during this period have been plagued by numerous revelations exposing them as being disinformation instruments of the CIA, FBI and other government agencies, eroding the trust of the masses and consequently their effectiveness as instruments of mass manipulation.³⁰ The impact of the exposure of a multitude of government lies is observable

in the movement of masses of people away from the mainstream media, thereby greatly weakening its ability to control the narrative.³¹

The antidote to virtual reality is reality. In a dynamic and constantly evolving world, especially where events directly affect the average person, propaganda becomes less effective over time, as the truth seeps through. It took eight years to identify the perpetrators of the 1980 Bologna train station massacre.³² That was before the age of internet and mobile phones. It took less than 5 weeks to identify the perpetrators of the terrorist attack on the Nord Stream pipelines.³³ The true source of the missile “attack” on Poland was identified within a day, forcing repudiation by Western governments, themselves, of Ukrainian claims and calls for NATO engagement.

Already in late 2022 reality has started to dent the hedge fund narrative in Europe, as Europeans have started to question the policies of their governments,³⁴ and longtime ruling parties are already losing elections.³⁵ While changes of ruling parties will not make a difference in the national policies of the Western democracies, it does reflect the growing discontent of the masses with the status quo.

The transformative event for the virtual reality instruments was the internet, which greatly expanded available information and offered low-cost platforms for disseminating it. The censorship and disinformation associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly as regards alternative treatments and vaccine related problems, coupled with the extraordinary treatment of President Trump by the mainstream media and social media platforms, contributed to rejection of the mainstream media by a wider constituency.

In conclusion, the power of virtual reality has greatly diminished in 2022 compared to 1997, and the trajectory going forward is of irreversible decline.

Military supremacy

Being directly connected to reality, the military pillar of the triad was the first to fall. As was discussed earlier in section “Military Reality,” the MIC has been unable to put forward a single competitive weapons

system in the quarter century under consideration. Since the debacle in Iraq, it has been relegated to ‘*leading from behind*’ and as such, since 2008 has only been capable of fomenting and sustaining chaos by using NGOs, terrorists and proxy armies, as witnessed in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran, Myanmar, DRC,³⁶ Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The military can no longer project power, as was illustrated earlier; it is incapable of subduing nations and imposing the will of the Empire. It has essentially been transformed into a wealth extraction racket akin to the healthcare sector in the U.S., except that its reach is not limited to the U.S. but extends globally to the Empire’s vassals and tributaries. Even in this respect, it is losing ground, as evidenced by NATO member Türkiye’s procurement of the Russian S-400 aerospace defense systems, despite threats³⁷ and sanctions.³⁸

On January 4, 2023, Russia sent on patrol the Admiral Gorshkov frigate armed with 3M22 Zircon hypersonic missiles.³⁹ Thus January 4, 2023 can be stated as the end of the Empire’s five centuries of sea power dominance.

The key transformative events for the military were the 2008 debacle in Iraq, the 2020 Iranian missile attack on Ain al-Assad airbase, and the January 2023 Russian ship armed with hypersonic missiles going on patrol.

In conclusion the military arm of the Empire has deteriorated significantly and has become of very limited effectiveness. As was explained in the section “Military Reality,” this deterioration is mainly due to the social impact of neoliberalism. It is irreversible and on an accelerating downward trajectory.

Key performance indicator: Control of the global energy reserves

A comparison of the status of the three pillars of the Empire’s power between 1997 and 2022 reveals a definite negative trend for all three. The fact that the period under consideration is a quarter of a century indicates that this is not a transient trend; rather it is a structural irreversible trend. Accordingly, it can be confirmed that the Empire’s power is on a one-way downward trajectory, which is reflected in the key performance

indicator (KPI), namely the change in control of global energy reserves over the time period under consideration, 1997 to 2022.

Here is a comparison of the status of the four leading energy reserve nations between 1997 and 2022:

- 1997: The Empire had control over three of the top four energy reserves. Venezuela was a U.S. vassal, Russian energy resources were under control of the Money Powers via their proxy Russian oligarchs,⁴⁰ and Saudi Arabia was a compliant U.S. tributary. Of the top four, only Iranian reserves were out of the Money Powers' control.
- 2022: The Empire has lost control of the top three reserves, Venezuela, Iran and Russia, while Saudi Arabia is no longer as compliant as it was in 1997.⁴¹

| Oil and Gas Reserves End of 2020 | | Gas | Oil | Oil + Gas | % of World Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------|-----------|------------------------|
| Rank | Country | Trillion Tons Oil Equivalent | | | |
| 1 | Venezuela | 5.4 | 48.0 | 53.4 | 13.2% |
| 2 | Iran | 27.6 | 21.7 | 49.3 | 12.1% |
| 3 | Russian Federation | 32.2 | 14.8 | 46.9 | 11.6% |
| 4 | Saudi Arabia | 5.2 | 40.9 | 46.0 | 11.3% |
| 5 | Canada | 2.0 | 27.1 | 29.1 | 7.2% |
| 6 | Qatar | 21.2 | 2.6 | 23.9 | 5.9% |
| 7 | Iraq | 3.0 | 19.6 | 22.6 | 5.6% |
| 8 | U.S. | 10.9 | 8.2 | 19.1 | 4.7% |
| 9 | United Arab Emirates | 5.1 | 13.0 | 18.1 | 4.5% |
| 10 | Kuwait | 1.5 | 14.0 | 15.4 | 3.8% |

TABLE 11. Top Ten Natural Gas and Oil Reserves at End of 2020⁴²

The strategic system KPI confirms the failure of the Money Powers in advancing their hegemonic strategy. Instead, significant setbacks occurred during this period. This was evident even to the Money Powers, confirming the futility of their strategy for global hegemony as early as

2014. Hence their resort to Plan C, the Two Worlds strategy, i.e. to maintain their hegemony over the West and as many Global South countries as they can entrap in the Western Realm as a result of the engineered perfect storm of energy, food, economic and monetary crises.

Evaluating sovereign world power trends

Here are some pertinent facts to bring this comparative power projection up to date:

- RIC Economy:
 - » Electricity generation, 1997, 2097 TWh, 2020 10,086 TWh → 380% growth
- RIC Technology, space program:
 - » Russia, was and remains a leader in space exploration
 - » In 1997 China had not launched any manned space flight. By 2021 China had explored Mars with Tianwen-1. In 2022 China completed building of its own space station, Tiangong.
 - » In 1997 Iran had not launched any satellite. By 2022 Iran had an indigenous program for producing and launching its own satellites. In 2013 it sent a monkey on a space trip.
- RIC Military, missiles:
 - » In 1997, no hypersonic missiles existed. By 2022 Russia had developed and deployed two hypersonic missile types, and China has developed a hypersonic missile. Iran did not have precision guided missiles in 1997; by 2022 Iran has an array of short, medium, and long-range precision missiles.

As can be noted from the above, the RIC has made great strides in economic growth, scientific and technological development, and in development of state-of-the-art weapons systems.

Thus, whereas Empire power is on an irreversible downward trajectory, RIC power is on an ascendant trajectory. The power balance is beyond tilting in favor of the Sovereign World; the Sovereign World has already surpassed the Empire and the gap is widening irreversibly.

THE RIC PROJECT FOR A SOVEREIGN FAIR WORLD

While there are strategic agreements between Russia and China,⁴³ Russia and Iran,⁴⁴ and China and Iran,⁴⁵ there are no trilateral agreements or any formal alliance between these countries. Nevertheless, with all three facing common threats and constant meddling from the West and having a history of oppression and exploitation by the Money Powers, it is only natural that they come together in an informal alliance to face the Empire – and that it should have the binding force of mutual interests.

There is significant synergy between these countries and the potential for significant win-win cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific and military fields. Russia, Iran, and China are thus de facto allies in the struggle for a ‘Fair World.’⁴⁶ A joint statement, effectively a manifesto for the ‘Fair World,’ was outlined in the historic summit between President Xi and President Putin on February 4, 2022. Here are some quotes selected from their joint statement:⁴⁷

On respect for civilizational diversity:

Democracy is not built on stencils. Depending on the socio-political structure, history, traditions, and cultural characteristics of a particular state, its people have the right to choose such forms and methods of implementing democracy that correspond to the specifics of this state. Only its people have the right to judge whether a state is democratic.

On sovereignty, international law and moral principles as opposed to the Empire’s ‘rules-based order’ anchored in power politics:

Some forces representing a minority on the world stage continue to advocate unilateral approaches to solving international problems, and resort to power politics, practice interference in the internal affairs of other states, provoking contradictions, disagreements and confrontation, and hindering the development and progress of humanity.

The Parties appeal to all states ... to respect the rights of peoples to independently choose the path of development of their countries, and also the sovereignty and interests of states in the

field of security and development, to protect the international system based on the central role of the UN.

The parties emphasize that Russia and China, as world powers and permanent members of the UN Security Council, intend to strictly adhere to moral principles and responsibility, and resolutely uphold the international system in which the UN plays a central coordinating role.

The parties intend to oppose attempts to replace generally accepted and consistent international law formats and mechanisms with certain rules developed in a “narrow circle” by individual countries or blocs of countries.

On respect for sovereignty and rejection of imperialism:

Attempts by individual states to impose their “democratic standards” on other countries, to arrogate to themselves the monopoly right to assess the level of compliance with the criteria of democracy, are in fact an example of trampling on democracy. Such attempts to act as a hegemon pose a serious threat to global and regional peace and stability and undermine the stability of the world order.

On being ready to face the Empire’s transgressions against sovereign countries:

Russia and China intend to resist the interference of external forces under any pretext in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, to oppose color revolutions and to increase cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

The parties oppose the politicization of the issues of combating terrorism and turning them into a toolkit for the policy of double standards, condemn the practice of interference in the internal affairs of other states for geopolitical purposes through the use of terrorist and extremist groups, as well as under the banner of combating international terrorism and extremism.

In what may be a defining moment in the conflict with the West, in February 2023 the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a

document titled “U.S. Hegemony and Its Perils,”⁴⁸ putting an end to any appearance of ambiguity in China’s orientation and indicating that China would commit its massive resources to preventing the success of Western designs upon Russia.

THE FUTURE OF THE SOVEREIGN WORLD

As reflected in the diverse political and economic models of the RIC, the Sovereign World will see a variety of development models coming into existence, reflecting the civilizational diversity of the world. It is this civilizational diversity, where each civilization has its own unique features, that is the cornerstone of an egalitarian world and a key component of the right to self-determination. Inherent in civilizational diversity is the acceptance of the cultural and religious orientations of the different civilizations, hence an acceptance of the ‘others’ as they are.

Just as cuisine has no one dish that is universally accepted as the ‘best,’ similarly with civilizational diversity, there is no one civilization that is ‘best.’ The acceptance of this understanding forms the basis for egalitarian relationships between civilizations, and points to the consequent absence of a ‘leading nation,’ let alone an ‘exceptional’ or ‘indispensable’ one – to say nothing of the ‘necessity’ for it. This can be seen in practice in the relationships between the RIC countries over the past several decades . Within the RIC there is no ‘leader.’ This contrasts with the West where the U.S. is recognized and accepted as ‘leader,’ or the ‘exceptional’ nation. The underlying factor enabling this acceptance is the cultural homogenization of the Western countries, where a dominant language, political system, economic system, business model, media, dress code, technical standards, etc. have come into being. . To illustrate the bizarre extent of cultural homogenization: English is the dominant language spoken in the EU parliament deliberations, despite there not being any member nation in which English is the official language!

The win-win cooperation model, as exists currently between the RIC themselves and between the RIC and other nations is a natural consequence of civilizational diversity. This is projected to be the norm within the Sovereign World.

The attraction of the Sovereign World could already be sensed in 2022 from the desire of some nations which have been historically entrenched in the Western camp, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE,⁴⁹ Egypt and Türkiye,⁵⁰ to join the BRICS. In fact, over a dozen countries have formally applied to join the BRICS.⁵¹

The inability of Bretton Woods to syphon off the wealth of nations in the Sovereign World will result in their significant, widespread and rapid development. Global South nations who join the Sovereign World will embark on an accelerated path of development as occurred in China and in the Asian Tigers when they had an opportunity for unhindered development – which most countries in the Global South have not had for centuries. This development will not be based on IMF-World Bank recipes that have proved to be catastrophic for the Global South. Rather, their development will be in conformance with sovereign countries' civilizational heritage, their views as to the best projects on which to concentrate their energies, and in win-win cooperation with other countries in the Sovereign World.

The financial monetary construct should be based on real value such as a basket of commodities and real goods, enabling money to have an intrinsic value as it had for millennia prior to Bretton Woods II.⁵² Already significant work is being undertaken in this area with joint efforts encompassing the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the BRICS and the SCO.⁵³

Accelerated development can only occur if the financial sector is highly regulated, as was the case in China, Japan and the Asian Tigers during their high growth rate periods. Speculative investments including 'longs' and 'shorts' should have no place.

Commercial banks and insurance companies should be government owned to ensure the highest rates of national development and avoid the exploitation of society by a parasitic minority. This was a key element in the development path adopted by China, which allowed it to eradicate poverty and achieve phenomenal across-the-board development.

With the reduced impact of Hollywood and other hedge fund-controlled media, 'diversity' would refer to the multitude of flourishing and

interacting civilizations as stated in the joint statement of President Xi and President Putin,⁵⁴ not the kind of ‘diversity’ presently being promoted by the hedge fund-controlled media.⁵⁵

Since Global South countries that join the Sovereign World will develop and prosper both economically and culturally, they will prefer to remain permanently in this camp and will resist Western efforts by its assorted means to change their alignment. The same cannot be said of the countries that will be ensconced in the Western Realm.

THE FUTURE OF THE WESTERN REALM

The Western Realm will continue on the path of neoliberalism with its inherent socioeconomic problems discussed earlier. However, due to significantly smaller populations and resources – particularly energy resources – under its control, its wealth will be considerably lessened. Even prior to the Covid-19 effects on the economies, societies in the G-7 countries were starting to become impoverished, as indicated below:

- Electricity generation growth between 2007 and 2019: -6.2%
- Population growth between 2007 and 2019: 5.9%

The West’s electricity generation drop by 6.2% indicates that the G-7 economies shrank by about 6% between 2007 and 2019. The fact that, on the other hand, G-7 populations grew by 5.9% during this period indicates that populations in G-7 countries were impoverished by about 12%. Insofar as the G-7 neoliberal economies have a high wealth inequality, where wealth ‘trickles up,’ this indicates that the bulk of the population in the G-7 has actually been impoverished by more than 12% during this time period. This impoverishment is the root cause of the disillusionment with the political status quo and has been evident for several years, as reflected in the UK’s 2016 Brexit referendum, ‘outsider’ Trump’s election in the U.S., and ‘outsider’ Macron’s election in 2017 and the collapse of the heretofore mainstream French parties.

Notably, while stability in the Western democracies was based on the millennial Roman recipe – give the poor bread and circuses and they will not revolt – ‘bread’ is already in short supply due to the dual effect of shrinking economies, and a reduced ability to siphon wealth from the

Global South as the Empire's global influence shrinks. In the new Two Worlds the West will have significantly less ability to siphon wealth, and hence there will be much less 'bread' to go around.

Political systems, spectator sports and media entertainment, – the modern day circuses – are losing their effectiveness as discussed earlier in the assessment of the virtual reality pillar.⁵⁶ Significantly, Western masses are starting to catch up with the fact that the route to change purportedly offered by elections only brings more of the same.

Peaceful protests attempting to effect minor changes in government policy have been repressed violently as evidenced by police crackdowns on French *Gilets Jaunes*,⁵⁷ the Canadian Freedom Convoy⁵⁸ and Dutch farmers.⁵⁹ The Canadian Emergencies Act also imposed a freeze on the bank and crowd-funded accounts of the protesting truckers, exposing a new governmental tool for domestic repression.⁶⁰

Thus, it appears that without enough bread to go around and circuses that are becoming increasingly unconvincing, the Roman recipe has reached its expiry date.

This presages increasingly violent social turbulence ahead. Ruthless 'democratic' governments will be the norm in the Western Realm. These are already taking shape, as the saga of the 'January 6' protestors and the subsequent kangaroo courts attest. The people in the West are in for a long and likely bloody struggle to regain their freedom from the Money Powers that usurped their civilizations centuries ago via central banking and the electoral democracy mirage.

The inability of the West to provide effective solutions to crises which its own policies have exacerbated, such as providing affordable food or energy, coupled with their colonialist history, will incentivize the Global South countries to join the Sovereign World. This will be further influenced by the RIC countries providing support during this crisis period. Russia has already offered to assist in the provision of food to Afghanistan⁶¹ and African countries,⁶² and has offered to provide 300,000 tons of fertilizer to poor countries.⁶³ Iran provided gasoline to Venezuela during its fuel crisis⁶⁴ and proposed gifting Lebanon oil for electricity generation.⁶⁵ China⁶⁶ and Russia⁶⁷ were the first to provide

Covid-19 aid. China already has a successful track record of win-win infrastructure development in Global South countries.⁶⁸

The contrast between the RIC and the West in addressing the needs of Global South countries is best reflected in their approaches to addressing Africa's electricity shortage. Africa's main impediment to development and provision of a better life for its people is its lack of electricity, with about half the population of Africa still without electricity. The RIC offers solutions, while the West offers threats:

- RIC: Russia and China propose nuclear energy as a clean-power fix for Africa.⁶⁹
- West: John Kerry warns Africans not to rely on oil and gas for electricity.⁷⁰

Most importantly, as shown in Table 10 above, the top three nations with total oil and gas reserves are Venezuela, Iran and Russia, accounting for 37% of global energy reserves. Adding Iraq, the total would be 42%. Thus, the Western Realm is likely to be energy deficient with its energy costs rising, while the Sovereign World will have sufficient energy for development and food for the people.

The Western Realm only has Bretton Woods financial solutions to offer: delay in debt repayment, the provision of more fiat currency debt, and the ability to shore up currencies temporarily. More importantly, the assistance provided by Bretton Woods institutions comes with strings attached⁷¹ and invariably leads to long term impoverishment. It can neither supply ample food nor energy, the critical items needed for survival and development of a society.

Thus, as socioeconomic conditions continue deteriorating, it is inevitable that nations within the Western Realm will start trying to escape. Their efforts will be assisted by the ability of the Sovereign World to offer protection to nations, as was the case with Venezuela,⁷² Kazakhstan,⁷³ Mali and Ethiopia.⁷⁴ Not only will Global South nations that joined the Western Realm be able to escape the clutches of the Empire, but eventually even European countries will try to escape as socioeconomic conditions keep on deteriorating.

Thus, as Plans A and B failed, similarly Plan C will eventually fail. In the faceoff between reality and virtual reality, the latter will necessarily lose in the long term. This fact was expressed clearly by President Putin in September 2022 when he stated:

But people cannot be fed with printed dollars and euros. You can't feed them with those pieces of paper, and the virtual, inflated capitalization of western social media companies can't heat their homes.⁷⁵

THE UNTHINKABLE IS STILL UNTHINKABLE

The world is living in very dangerous times like never before. The U.S. has already undertaken a heretofore unimaginable (terrorist) attack on the Nord Stream pipelines, indicating its willingness not just to harm Russia, but also European countries, especially Germany, purported to be its allies, who were partial owners of those pipelines.⁷⁶ This indicates the extent to which the U.S. believes itself as well to be facing an existential threat. This has given rise to speculation and concern that the world may well be facing a nuclear war between the two powers, leading the Doomsday Clock measuring how close the world is to ending due to nuclear war to be placed at 90 seconds to midnight on January 24, 2023.⁷⁷

It is with this awareness, and in face of the progressive U.S. abandonment of nuclear-related treaties,⁷⁸ that Russia has been working overtime to develop and deploy missile and missile defense systems that effectively eliminated concept of mutually assured destruction, (M.A.D.). As former CIA Analyst Larry Johnson explains:

So, here is the critical question: *Can the U.S. block a nuclear missile?*

*A new study sponsored by the American Physical Society concludes that U.S. systems for intercepting intercontinental ballistic missiles cannot be relied on to counter even a limited nuclear strike and are unlikely to achieve reliability within the next 15 years.*⁷⁹

If you are a Russian military planner, you realize that M.A.D. is no longer a reality. In the event that Russia believed it faced a genuine existential threat from the West from a nuclear strike, even a tactical hit, the Russian military could present President Putin with a viable plan that would destroy the U.S. nuclear response with limited (albeit horrific) damage to Russia. . . . M.A.D. is dead. Let us pray that we survive.⁸⁰

The Russian systems are currently deployed. On February 14, 2023, all Russian naval assets, both surface ships and submarines all equipped with both conventional and nuclear missiles were put to sea for first time in 30 years.⁸¹

On several occasions, when Putin indicated “we know who the decision makers are” and also stated “you cannot hide from us,” many assumed he was referring to the leaders of NATO or the U.S. But Russians are likely the society most aware of the Money Powers insofar as Russia has suffered for over a century from Money Powers attacks. They are also the most aware that it is the Money Powers who control the West and determine its policies. Russia has a record of tracking and capturing or punishing those who harm it. Is it not most likely, then, that these warnings were meant for the Money Powers in the hope of restraining them and preventing them from launching a nuclear attack on Russia or any of its allies, in the realization that their own survival is far from assured?

And indeed, is it not likely that they got the message?

THE ENDGAME FOR THE MONEY POWERS

The fact that the Money Powers may have given up on global hegemony after a millennium of expansionism is a historical turning point. The damage to Western societies as a result of four decades of neoliberal policies and two decades of war, coupled with extreme materialism, has greatly weakened these societies, making it difficult for them to undertake a turnaround. This was evident in the inability of the U.S. military industrial complex (MIC) to develop competitive weapons systems, despite spending trillions of dollars. The problem is a structural problem in these societies resulting from neoliberalism and cannot be readily

remedied. Thus for the foreseeable future, the Western Realm is on a one-way path downwards in every respect.

Within the Western Realm, poverty and repression will be the norm.

The chickens have come home to roost. The oppression inflicted by the Money Powers against humanity will now be directed internally. Until people in the Western Realm revolt against this minuscule parasitic financial “elite” that oppresses them, and recover their civilizations and sovereignty, the best depiction of their future would be George Orwell’s statement in *1984*:

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face – forever.⁸²

Endnotes

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Janine R. Wedel, “The Harvard Boys Do Russia,” *The Nation*, May 14, 1996. <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/harvard-boys-do-russia/>
- 2 Caleb Maupin, “Clinton & Russia: Has U.S. Media Forgotten the 1990s?,” *New Eastern Outlook*, September 9, 2016. <https://journal-neo.org/2016/09/09/clinton-russia-has-us-media-forgotten-the-1990s/>
- 3 Jeffrey Tayler, “Russia Is Finished,” *The Atlantic*, May 2001. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/05/russia-is-finished/302220/>

CHAPTER 1

- 1 Angus Maddison, *Historical Statistics for the World Economy.xls*, 2007. http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/historical_statistics/horizontal_file_03-2007.xls
- 2 Angus Maddison.
- 3 Seth Ferris, “Gibraltar – The Real Reason For Brexit Finally Revealed,” *New Eastern Outlook*, March 3, 2018. <https://journal-neo.org/2018/03/17/gibraltar-the-real-reason-for-brexit-finally-revealed/>
- 4 Mawuna Koutonin, “14 African Countries Forced by France to Pay Colonial Tax For the Benefits of Slavery and Colonization,” *African Events, Silicon African*, January 28, 2014. <https://siliconafrica.com/france-colonial-tax/>
- 5 Winston Churchill, *The Sinews of Peace* (“Iron Curtain Speech”), International Churchill Society, March 5, 1946. <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1946-1963-elder-statesman/the-sinews-of-peace/>
- 6 Kalidou Diouf, “Why no African country is truly free or independent,” *African Courier*, April 30, 2020. <http://www.theafricancourier.de/opinion-analysis/neo-colonialism-in-africa-the-illusion-of-freedom/>
- 7 Kalidou Diouf, “Why no African country is truly free or independent,” *African Courier*, April 30, 2020. <http://www.theafricancourier.de/opinion-analysis/neo-colonialism-in-africa-the-illusion-of-freedom/>
- 8 “When France extorted Haiti: The greatest heist in history,” *The Conversation*, June 30, 2020. <https://theconversation.com/when-france-extorted-haiti-the-greatest-heist-in-history-137949>
- 9 Greg Rosalsky, “‘The Greatest Heist in History’: How Haiti Was Forced To Pay Reparations For Freedom,” *NPR*, October 5, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/10/05/1042518732/-the-greatest-heist-in-history-how-haiti-was-forced-to-pay-reparations-for-freed>
- 10 Angus Maddison, *Historical Statistics of the World Economy 1-2008*, Maddison Database, 2010. https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/data/mdi2010_horizontal.xlsx

- 11 Elena Conde Pérez and Zhaklin Valerieva Yaneva, “Unequal Treaties in International Law,” *Oxford Bibliographies*, March 25, 2020. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199796953/obo-9780199796953-0131.xml>
- 12 UK Public General Acts, *Indian Independence Act 1947*, July 18, 1947. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/10-11/30/enacted>
- 13 Mao, *Proclamation of The Central People's Government of The PRC*, October 1, 1949, USC Annenberg, March 26, 2019. <https://china.usc.edu/mao-proclamation-central-peoples-government-prc-october-1-1949>

CHAPTER 2

- 1 Angus Maddison, *Historical Statistics for the World Economy.xls*, 2007. http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/historical_statistics/horizontal-file_03-2007.xls
- 2 Real GDP data sources:
 - Central Intelligence Agency, “Country Comparisons – Real GDP (purchasing power parity),” *The World Factbook*, 2018. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/real-gdp-purchasing-power-parity/country-comparison>
 - Central Intelligence Agency, “Field Listing – GDP (official exchange rate),” *The World Factbook*, 2018. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/gdp-official-exchange-rate/>
 - Central Intelligence Agency, “Field Listing – GDP (composition by sector),” *The World Factbook*, May 31, 2007, *Internet Archive Wayback Machine*. <https://web.archive.org/web/20070613004816/https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2012.html>
 - US GDP by Sector 1929–2021, 2022, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. https://www.bea.gov/national/Release/XLS/Survey/Section1All_xls.xlsx
 - “Manufacturing Value Added: Country rankings,” *The Global Economy*, 2021. https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/manufacturing_value_added/
 - “Industry, value added (% of GDP),” The World Bank, 2017. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.IND.TOTL.ZS>
 - “Agriculture, value added (% of GDP),” The World Bank, 2017. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS>
 - GDP by Industry VA 1947–2016.xls, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2018. https://www.bea.gov/industry/xls/GDPbyInd_GO_1947-2016.xlsx
 - Robert E. Yusavage and Mahnaz Fahim-Nader, “Gross Domestic Product by Industry for 1947–86,” Survey of Current Business, Bureau of Economic Analysis, December 2005. https://www.bea.gov/industry/xls/GDPbyInd_GO_1947-2016.xls
- 3 EU nations adding drugs and prostitution to GDP:
 - Liz Alderman, “EU Nations Counting Sex and Drug Trades Toward GDP,” *New York Times*, July 9, 2014. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/10/business/international/eu-nations-counting-sex-and-drug-trades-toward-gdp.html>
 - Sarah O’Connor, “Drugs and prostitution add £10bn to U.K. economy,” *Financial Times*, May 29, 2014. <https://www.ft.com/content/65704ba0-e730-11e3-88be-00144feabdc0>

- 4 Tyler Durden, "San Francisco 'Poop Patrollers' Make \$185,000," *Zerohedge*, August 24, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-22/san-francisco-poop-patrollers-make-185000>
- 5 Ryan Mills, "Flushing Money: San Francisco to Spend \$1.7 Million to Build a Single Public Toilet," *National Review*, October 19, 2022. <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/flushing-money-san-francisco-to-spend-1-7-million-to-build-a-single-public-toilet/>
- 6 "Top 20 Exporters of Containerized Cargo – 2010, 2013 & 2014, 2015," World Shipping Council, February 7, 2010, *Internet Archive Wayback Machine*. <https://web.archive.org/web/20100207225229/http://www.worldshipping.org/about-the-industry/global-trade/trade-statistics>
- 7 Robert Hetu, "Sectors of US Economy as Percent of GDP 1947–2009," *Gartner* (blog), February 27, 2014. https://blogs.gartner.com/robert-hetu/i-promise-ill-connect-this-to-retail-but/sectors_of_us_economy_as_percent_of_gdp_1947-2009/
- 8 West unable to keep with Ukraine weapons and ammunition depletion:
Alex Vershinin, "The Return of Industrial Warfare," Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), June 17, 2022. <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/return-industrial-warfare>.
- Oleksandr Syrskyi, "Ukraine's artillery shell expenditure outstrips US production," *Yahoo News*, December 24, 2022. <https://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-artillery-shell-expenditure-outstrips-231200400.html>
- 9 Michael Curzon, "Zelensky's forces outgunned '40 to 1' with up to 100 Ukrainian soldiers being killed a day," *Express UK*, June 19, 2022. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1627743/Ukraine-war-Zelensky-soldiers-killed-a-day-outgunned-40-to-1-nato-report>
- 10 Angela Monaghan, "US wealth inequality – top 0.1% worth as much as the bottom 90%," *The Guardian*, November 13, 2014. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/13/us-wealth-inequality-top-01-worth-as-much-as-the-bottom-90>
- 11 "Food Stamp Charts," Matt Trivisonno, 2022. <http://www.trivisonno.com/food-stamps-charts>
- 12 Section1All_xls.xlsx, Bureau of Economic Analysis, December 17, 2020. https://www.bea.gov/national/Release/XLS/Survey/Section1All_xls.xlsx
- 13 Section1All_xls.xlsx, Bureau of Economic Analysis, December 17, 2020. https://www.bea.gov/national/Release/XLS/Survey/Section1All_xls.xlsx
- 14 Robert E. Scott, "U.S. trade deficits hit record highs in 2021," *Economic Policy Institute*, February 15, 2022. <https://www.epi.org/blog/u-s-trade-deficits-hit-record-highs-in-2021-more-effective-trade-industrial-and-currency-policies-are-needed-to-create-more-domestic-manufacturing-jobs/>
- 15 Peter Kopanov and Ivan Tchalakov, "Towards of Quantitative Model of Stacked Actor-Network Dynamics," *International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation* 9, no. 2 (ResearchGate, April to June 2017). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322781668_Towards_of_Quantitative_Model_of_Stacked_Actor-Network_Dynamics
- 16 S.C., "Industrial Eclipse," *The Economist*, April 15, 2013. <https://www.economist.com/analects/2013/04/15/industrial-eclipse>

- 17 "China GDP 1960–2022," *Macrotrends*, December 2, 2022. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/CHN/china/gdp-gross-domestic-product>
 - 18 S.C., "Industrial Eclipse," *The Economist*, April 15, 2013. <https://www.economist.com/analects/2013/04/15/industrial-eclipse>
 - 19 Albert Park and Sangui Wang, "China's poverty statistics," *China Economic Review* 12 (2001), 384–398. <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.722.2149&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
- Jack Detsch, "20 West unable to keep up with Ukraine's need for weapons. Ukraine's Appetite for Weapons Is Straining Western Stockpiles," *Foreign Policy*, November 16, 2022. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/16/ukraine-weapons-military-aid-stockpiles-nato-low-industry/>
- Alex Vershinin, "The Return of Industrial Warfare," *Royal United Services Institute*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/return-industrial-warfare>

CHAPTER 3

- 1 Real Goods production and Energy Consumption:
British Petroleum, "BP Statistical Review of World Energy, June 2017," 2018. <http://www.bp.com/statisticalreview>
"Manufacturing Value Added," *The Global Economy*, December 3, 2022. https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/manufacturing_value_added/
Angus Maddison, *Historical Statistics for the World Economy.xls*, 2007. http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/historical_statistics/horizontal-file_03-2007.xls
"Field Listing – GDP – composition by sector," *The World Factbook*, CIA, 2012. <https://web.archive.org/web/20070613004816/https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2012.html>
- "Gross Domestic Product for United States," Archival Economic Data, FRED, St. Louis Fed, December 3, 2022. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MKTGDPUSA646NWDB>
- "Real GDP at Constant National Prices for Indonesia," Archival Economic Data, FRED, St. Louis Fed, December 3, 2022. <https://alfred.stlouisfed.org/series?seid=RGDPNAIDA666NRUG>
- "Gross Domestic Product for Germany," Archival Economic Data, FRED, St. Louis Fed, December 3, 2022. <https://alfred.stlouisfed.org/series?seid=MKTGDPDEA646NWDB>
- Martin Neil Baily and Barry R. Bosworth, "U.S. Manufacturing: Understanding Its Past and Its Potential Future," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28, no. 1 (Winter 2014): 3–26.
- 2 British Petroleum, "BP Statistical Review 2021," all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 3 British Petroleum, "BP Statistical Review 2021," all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 4 Data for China does not include Hong Kong and Taiwan.

- 5 Energy types prices and growth rates:
British Petroleum, “BP Statistical Review 2021,” all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- “What is the cheapest source of electricity?” *BURN: An Energy Journal* (podcast), 2017. <http://burnanenergyjournal.com/what-is-the-cheapest-source-of-energy/>
- 6 “Death rate per unit of electricity production,” *Our World in Data*, University of Oxford. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/death-rates-from-energy-production-per-twh>
- 7 Europe 2021 energy crisis:
Irina Slav, “Europe’s Energy Crisis Worsens As Wind Stops Blowing,” *Oil Price*, September 14, 2021. <https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Europees-Energy-Crisis-Worsens-As-Wind-Stops-Blowing.html>
- Darragh Roche, “The Wind Turbine Failures Behind Europe’s Energy Crisis Are a Warning for America,” *Newsweek*, October 27, 2021. <https://www.newsweek.com/wind-turbine-failures-europe-energy-crisis-warning-america-fossil-fuels-1643011>
- “Europe’s Self-Inflicted Energy Catastrophe Driven by Hopelessly Unreliable Wind & Solar,” *Stop These Things*, February 6, 2022. <https://stopthesethings.com/2022/02/06/europe-self-inflicted-energy-catastrophe-driven-by-hopelessly-unreliable-wind-solar/>
- 8 “The IAEA Mission Statement,” International Atomic Energy Agency, October 19, 2022 . <https://www.iaea.org/about/mission>
- 9 British Petroleum, “BP Statistical Review 2021” all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 10 British Petroleum, “BP Statistical Review 2021” all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 11 Capitalist Exploits, “The Black Plague And Nuclear Energy,” *Zerohedge*, August 12, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-12/black-plague-and-nuclear-energy>
- 12 “Death rate per unit of electricity production,” *Our World in Data*, University of Oxford. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/death-rates-from-energy-production-per-twh>
- 13 “Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant,” *NS Energy*, 2011. <https://www.nsenergybusiness.com/projects/fukushima-daiichi-nuclear-power-plant-japan/>
- 14 Masatsugu Hayashi and Larry Hughes, “The Fukushima nuclear accident and its effect on global energy security,” *Energy Policy* 59 (August 2013). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421512010282>
- 15 “Fukushima accident,” *Britannica*, December 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Fukushima-accident>
- 16 Hannah Ritchie, “What was the death toll from Chernobyl and Fukushima?” *Our World in Data*, July 24, 2017. <https://ourworldindata.org/what-was-the-death-toll-from-chernobyl-and-fukushima>
- 17 “Germany extends nuclear power amid energy crisis,” *BBC*, October 18, 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63294697>

- 18 “Nuclear Power in Italy,” World Nuclear Association, July 2022. <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/italy.aspx>
- 19 “Nuclear Power in Switzerland,” World Nuclear Association, April 2022. <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-o-s/switzerland.aspx>
- 20 Prachi Patel, “Fukushima’s Impact on Nuclear Power: The Japanese disaster could jeopardize the nuclear industry’s revival around the world,” *Spectrum IEEE*, March 22, 2011. <https://spectrum.ieee.org/fukushimas-impact-on-nuclear-power>
- 21 “Green Party of Germany,” *Britannica*, December 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Green-Party-of-Germany>
- 22 Justin McCurry, “Fukushima disaster could have been avoided, nuclear plant operator admits,” *The Guardian*, October 15, 2012. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/oct/15/fukushima-disaster-avoided-nuclear-plant>
- 23 Kat Lonsdorf, “How The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Affected The Energy Industry In Japan,” *NPR*, September 9, 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/09/911188345/how-the-fukushima-nuclear-disaster-affected-energy-industry-in-japan>
- 24 Emiko Jozuka and Helen Regan, “‘We’re still recovering’: 11 years after Fukushima nuclear disaster, residents return to their village,” *CNN*, June 14, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/14/asia/japan-fukushima-katsurao-village-return-intl-hnk/index.html>
- 25 “Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant,” *NS Energy*, 2011. <https://www.nsenergybusiness.com/projects/fukushima-daiichi-nuclear-power-plant-japan/>
- 26 Hannah Ritchie, “What was the death toll from Chernobyl and Fukushima?,” *Our World in Data*, July 24, 2017. <https://ourworldindata.org/what-was-the-death-toll-from-chernobyl-and-fukushima>
- 27 “Automobile accidents in Japan,” *Facts and Details*, 2019. <https://factsanddetails.com/japan/cat23/sub184/item850.html>
- 28 “Suicides in Japan,” *Facts and Details*, January 2013. <https://factsanddetails.com/japan/cat19/sub120/item639.html>
- 29 “Death rate per unit of electricity production,” *Our World in Data*, University of Oxford. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/death-rates-from-energy-production-per-twh>
- 30 “Death rate per unit of electricity production,” *Our World in Data*, University of Oxford. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/death-rates-from-energy-production-per-twh>
- 31 Japan has adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy in a major reversal of the phase-out plan that was established following the Fukushima disaster: Beatriz Valero de Urquia, “Japan to invest in nuclear energy in major policy shift,” *Engineering and Technology*, December 22, 2022. <https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2022/12/japan-to-invest-on-nuclear-energy-in-major-policy-shift/>
- 32 Rob Schmitz, “Amid an energy crisis, Germany turns to the world’s dirtiest fossil fuel,” *NPR*, September 27, 2022. <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/27/1124448463/GERMANY-COAL-ENERGY-CRISIS>
- 33 Marc Ayoub, “Chasing the Sun: Drivers for Solar Energy Development in Lebanon, Yemen and Jordan,” *Alternative Policy Solutions*. December 19, 2022. <https://aps.aucegypt.edu/en/articles/955/chasing-the-sun-drivers-for-solar-energy-development-in-lebanon-yemen-and-jordan>

- 34 Arabi Souris, “US Army Steals an Additional 95 Tankers of Stolen Syrian Oil,” *Syria News*, December 22, 2022. <https://syrianews.cc/us-army-steals-an-additional-95-tankers-of-stolen-syrian-oil/>
- 35 AP, “US senators warn against Iranian fuel shipments to Lebanon,” *AhramOnline*, September 2, 2021. <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/422307/World/Region/US-senators-warn-against-Iranian-fuel-shipments-to.aspx>
- 36 “5 Fast Facts about Spent Nuclear Fuel,” US Office of Nuclear Energy, October 3, 2022. <https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/5-fast-facts-about-spent-nuclear-fuel>
- 37 “Nuclear Power in the USA,” World Nuclear Association, November 2022. <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-t-z/usa-nuclear-power.aspx>
- 38 Brent Barker, “Nuclear plant life extension: A Strategic Bridge,” *Electric Power Research Institute Journal*, September 19, 2017. <https://eprijournal.com/nuclear-plant-life-extension-a-strategic-bridge/>
- 39 British Petroleum, “BP Statistical Review 2021” all data xlsx, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 40 Simon Manka, “1971 Nixon Shock: The End of the Bretton Woods System,” *Ampleforth*, May 21, 2019. <https://blog.ampleforth.org/1971-nixon-shock-the-end-of-the-bretton-woods-system-4f30eb456e8a>
- 41 “US Dollar–Yen exchange rate, 1971 to 1989,” *TEAR4*, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/graph/24824/us-dollar-yen-exchange-rate-1971-to-1989>
- 42 Harold Marcuse, “Historical Dollar-to-Marks Currency Conversion Page,” History Department, University of California at Santa Barbara, <http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/projects/currency.htm>
- 43 World Bank, “Fuel imports (% of merchandise imports),” 2022. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/TM.VAL.FUEL.ZS.UN>
- 44 John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Berret-Koehler, 2004), 90
- 45 Curtis Brown, Ryan Browne, and Zachary Cohen, “Here’s who buys the most weapons from the U.S.,” *CNN*, updated May 25, 2016. <https://www.cnn.com/2016/05/24/politics/us-arms-sales-worldwide/index.html>
- 46 Stephen E. Haynes, Michael M. Hutchison, and Raymond, F. Mikesell, “Japanese Financial Policies and the US Trade Deficit,” Princeton University, *Essays in International Finance*, no. 162 (April 1986). <https://ies.princeton.edu/pdf/E162.pdf>
- 47 “US Trade deficits and global oil trade: Table 1.1.5. Gross Domestic Product,” Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce, 2017. https://www.bea.gov/national/Release/XLS/Survey/Section1All_xls.xlsx
- Lamar McKay, *BP Statistical Review of World Energy June 2017* (British Petroleum, 2018). <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/news-and-insights/speeches/bp-statistical-review-of-world-energy-2017-lamar-mckay.pdf>
- “History of International Trade,” Metric Investments, 2017. <https://www.metricinvestments.com/history-of-international-trade>
- “Fuel imports (% of merchandise imports),” The World Bank, 2022. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/TM.VAL.FUEL.ZS.UN>
- 48 Ibid.

CHAPTER 4

- 1 Michael Hudson, “The End of Western Civilization,” *Michael Hudson* (blog), July 11, 2022. <https://michael-hudson.com/2022/07/the-end-of-western-civilization/>
- 2 Michael Hudson, “A debt Jubilee for America?,” *Michael Hudson* (blog), May 6, 2019. <https://michael-hudson.com/2019/05/a-debt-jubilee-for-america/>
- 3 Michael Hudson, “The End of Western Civilization.”
- 4 R. H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism a Historical Study* (Angelico Press, 1921), 39.
- 5 R. H. Tawney, 78.
- 6 R. H. Tawney, 44.
- 7 Michael Hudson, “The Financial Road to Serfdom: How Bankers use the Debt Crisis to Roll Back the Progressive Era,” *Global Research*, June 13, 2011. <https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-financial-road-to-serfdom/25250>
- 8 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire: Its Origins, Evolution, and Anti-Human Outlook* (Independently published, 2008), 24, 25.
- 9 Robert D. Ingraham, 64.
- 10 David B. Green, “This Day in Jewish History: 1710 The Banker Who Helped William of Orange Conquer England Dies,” *Haaretz*, April 22, 2015. <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2015-04-22/ty-article/.premium/banker-who-helped-william-win-england-dies/0000017f-e5bb-df5f-a17f-ffff6ea40000>
- 11 “Sephardic Jews and the House of Orange,” *Royal Rosamond Press*, May 8, 2018. <https://rosamondpress.com/2018/05/18/sapharadic-jews-and-house-of-orange/>
- 12 Joseph Jacob and Meyer Kayserling, “Suasso,” *Jewish Encyclopedia*. <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14093-suasso>
- 13 “Early Jewish Holders of Bank of England Stock (1694–1725),” *Miscellanies* 6 (Jewish Historical Society of England, 1962): 143–174. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/29777130>
- 14 Suasso banking family:
 - Joseph Jacob and Meyer Kayserling, “Suasso,” *Jewish Encyclopedia*.
 - David B. Green, “This Day in Jewish History: 1710 The Banker Who Helped William of Orange Conquer England Dies,” *Haaretz*, April 22, 2015.
 - “Early Jewish Holders of Bank of England Stock (1694–1725),” *Miscellanies* 6 (Jewish Historical Society of England, 1962): 143–174.
- 15 Carrol Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (Macmillan, 1966), 47.
- 16 Carrol Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope*, 47.
- 17 This m.o., dating back to the 16th century with the establishment of the Banco della Piazza di Rialto (the Bank of Venice), continues unchanged five centuries later.
- 18 ICE-9, “The Evolution of Fiat Money, Endless War, and the End of Citizenship,” *The Burning Platform*, August 12, 2020. <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2020/08/12/the-evolution-of-fiat-money-endless-war-and-the-end-of-citizenship/>
- 19 Michael Boyle, “Bank Panic of 1907: Causes, Effects, and Importance,” *Investopedia*, September 27, 2021. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bank-panic-of-1907.asp>
- 20 “History – foundation and crisis (1930–39),” *BIS*, https://www.bis.org/about/history_1foundation.htm

- 21 Basle Committee on Banking Supervision, *International Convergence of Capital Measurement and Capital Standards* (BIS, July 1988). <https://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs04a.pdf>.
- 22 Peter Myers, “The 1988 Basle Accord: Destroyer of Japan’s finance system,” September 9, 2008. <http://mailstar.net/basle.html>
- 23 Wars Between Democracies:
 - “List of wars between democracies,” *Infogalactic*, December 19, 2022. https://infogalactic.com/info/List_of_wars_between_democracies
 - “List of Wars Between Democracies – 20th Century,” *Liquisearch*, Dec. 19, 2022. https://www.liquisearch.com/list_of_wars_between_democracies/20th_century
- 24 Mathew Shaer, “The Archaeology of Wealth Inequality,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, March 2018. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/aracheology-wealth-inequality-180968072/>
- 25 Wei Bin Loo, “Gini Coefficient Calculator,” *Omni Calculator*; November 21, 2022. <https://www.omnicalculator.com/finance/gini-coefficient>
- 26 CFI Team, “Gini Coefficient,” *CFI*, December 5, 2022. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/economics/gini-coefficient/>
- 27 Wealth inequality in the U.S.:
 - Erik Sherman, “America Is the Richest, and Most Unequal, Country,” *Fortune*, September 30, 2015. <https://fortune.com/2015/09/30/america-wealth-inequality/>
 - A. Karim Ahmed, “Eco-Justice, economic inequality and the Gini coefficient: Integrating social and ecological concerns,” *Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network*, January 8, 2018. <https://irejn.org/blog-post/eco-justice-economic-inequality-and-the-gini-coefficient-integrating-social-and-ecological-concerns/>
- 28 “Household income distribution according to the Gini Index of income inequality in the United States from 1990 to 2021,” *Statist.com*, December 23, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/219643/gini-coefficient-for-us-individuals-families-and-households/>
- 29 “GINI Index for the United States,” FRED Economic Data, St. Louis Fed, April 12, 2022. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SIPOVGINIUSA>
- 30 “Gini index, Poverty and Inequality Platform,” World Bank, December 23, 2022. <https://api.worldbank.org/v2/en/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?downloadformat=excel>
- 31 “Household Net Worth Percentiles for the United States in 2020” [table], *DQYDJ*, 2022. https://dqydj.com/average-median-top-net-worth-percentiles/#Household_Net_Worth_Percentiles_for_the_United_States_in_2020
- 32 “Wealth by wealth percentile group” (chart), Federal Reserve, December 16, 2022. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/z1/dataviz/dfa/distribute/chart/>
- 33 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire: Its Origins, Evolution, and Anti-Human Outlook* (Independently published, 2008), 16.
- 34 “Former British Colonies,” *World Atlas*, October 19, 2022. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/former-british-colonies.html>
- 35 William Dalrymple, “The East India Company: The original corporate raiders,” *The Guardian*, March 4, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/04/east-india-company-original-corporate-raiders>
- 36 Erin Blakemore, “How the East India Company became the world’s most powerful business,” *National Geographic*, September 6, 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/british-east-india-trading-company-most-powerful-business>

- 37 “British East India Co,” *The Economic Historian*, 2021. <https://economic-historian.com/2021/03/british-east-india-company/>
- 38 Ian Angus, “Cesspools, Sewage, and Social Murder,” *Monthly Review*, July 1, 2018. <https://monthlyreview.org/2018/07/01/cesspools-sewage-and-social-murder/>
- 39 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire*, 19
- 40 Chiwendu Okenwa, *Fx Proficient Route To Success* (Independently published, 2012). <https://www.amazon.com/Proficient-Route-Success-Chiwendu-Okenwa/dp/1447847148/>
- 41 *Full text of Proceedings and Documents of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, July 1–22, 1944: Volume II*, FRASER, St. Louis Fed. <https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/proceedings-documents-united-nations-monetary-financial-conference-bretton-woods-new-hampshire-july-1-22-1944-430/volume-ii-7569/fulltext>
- 42 *Guide to BIS Directives, Bank for International Settlements* (BIS, 2017). https://www.bis.org/about/arch_guide.pdf
- 43 “President Trump Announces U.S. Withdrawal From the Paris Climate Accord,” *Trump Whitehouse Archives*, June 1, 2017. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/articles/president-trump-announces-u-s-withdrawal-paris-climate-accord/>
- 44 Kimberly Amadeo, “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP),” *The Balance*, November 29, 2021. <https://www.thebalancemoney.com/transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-ttip-3305582>
- 45 “Trump executive order pulls out of TPP trade deal,” *BBC*, January 24, 2017. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38721056>
- 46 Sean O’Grady, “By scrapping TPP and TTIP, Trump has boosted American jobs in the short term – and destroyed them in the long term,” *Independent UK*, January 24, 2017. <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/donald-trump-trade-deals-tpp-ttip-american-business-workers-boost-short-term-destroy-long-term-a7543706.html>
- 47 “Using the power of governance to change the world,” *ESG*, 2022. <https://www.esg.org/>
- 48 Molly Scott Cato, “I’ve seen the secrets of TTIP, and it is built for corporations not citizens,” *The Guardian*, February 4, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/04/secrets-ttip-corporations-not-citizens-transatlantic-trade-deal>
- 49 Molly Scott Cato, “I’ve seen the secrets of TTIP...”
- 50 David C. Korten, *When Corporations Rule the World* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 1995). https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50923.When_Corporations_Rule_the_World
- 51 Linda Kaucher, “The TTIP: How a New Secret ‘Trade’ Treaty Could Put the World’s Biggest Firms Beyond Government Control,” IBT, January 15, 2014. <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/ttip-how-new-secret-trade-treaty-could-put-worlds-biggest-firms-beyond-government-control-1432405>

- 52 Social media platforms suspend President Trump:
 Ben Collins, “Twitter permanently suspends President Donald Trump,” *NBC News*, January 9, 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/twitter-permanently-bans-president-donald-trump-n1253588>
- Margaret Hartmann, “Zuckerberg Says Facebook Will Block Trump ‘Indefinitely,’” *New York Magazine*, January 7, 2021. <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/facebook-bans-trump-full-zuckerberg-statement.html>
- 53 Richard Hall, “Trump orders full and immediate withdrawal of US troops from Syria,” *The Independent*, December 19, 2018. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/trump-syria-us-troops-withdrawal-isis-end-islamic-state-a8690871.html>
- 54 Streiff, “US Envoy to Syria Brags About Lying to President Trump About US Troop Levels,” *Red State*, November 13, 2020. <https://redstate.com/streiff/2020/11/13/jim-jeffrey-lied-about-troops-syria-n279309>
- 55 Cheryl K. Chumley, “Election results have more holes than Swiss cheese,” *Washington Times*, December 1, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/dec/1/election-results-have-more-holes-than-swiss-cheese/>
- 56 Tools for manufacturing consent:
 Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media* (Pantheon, 1988), 306.
 Adam Curtis, *The Century of the Self* [documentary series (BBC, 2002)], YouTube Video, 3:54:43. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ3RzGoQC4s>
- 57 Sun Yat-Sen, *San Min Chu I, The Three Principles of The People* (1924). http://chinese.larouchepub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/San-Min-Chu-I_ALL-en.pdf
- 58 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire*, 16.

CHAPTER 5

- 1 Gold price manipulation:
 “Central banks manipulating & suppressing gold prices – industry expert to RT,” *RT*, March 18, 2018. <https://www.rt.com/business/421618-central-banks-manipulating-suppressing-gold/>
- Neils Christensen, “Gold, Silver Manipulation: CFTC Fines Deutsche, USB, HSBC for Spoofing Markets,” *Kitco*, January 30, 2018. <http://news.goldseek.com/GoldSeek/1489601367.php>
- “LME defends move to calm nickel market,” *Financial Times*, August 17, 2006. <https://www.ft.com/content/6cb1ac70-2e19-11db-93ad-0000779e2340>
- 2 “LME defends move to calm nickel market,” *Financial Times*, August 17, 2006
- 3 Price manipulation of agricultural products:
 Kim Janssen, “Suit alleging Kraft Foods manipulated wheat prices can go ahead, judge rules,” *Chicago Tribune*, December 22, 2015. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-kraft-wheat-manipulation-1223-biz-20151221-story.html>
- Jerry W. Markham, “Manipulation of Commodity Futures Prices: The Unprosecutable Crime,” 1991, *Yale Journal on Regulation*, 1991. <https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1185&context=yjreg>

- 4 Michael Bordo et al., *The Gold Pool (1961–1968) and the Fall of the Bretton Woods System*, Working Paper 24016 (National Bureau of Economic Research, 2017). https://economics.ucdavis.edu/events/papers/copy2_of_417Bordo.pdf
- 5 “A Crisis to Shatter the World,” *Bullion Vault*, November 10, 2007. https://www.bullionvault.com/gold-news/gold_dollar_France_Sarkozy_de_Gaulle_crisis_111020072
- 6 Daniel Cohn-Bendit, leader of French May 1968 uprising against De Gaulle: Pascal Guyot, “Expelled leader of May 1968 uprising granted French citizenship,” *France 24*, May 25, 2015. <https://www.france24.com/en/20150525-france-cohn-bendit-1968-french-citizenship>
J.C. von Krempach, J.D., “Daniel Cohn-Bendit and the 1968 Revolution: Paedophilia as Part of their Political Agenda,” *Turtle Bay and Beyond*, April 21, 2013. https://c-fam.org/turtle_bay/daniel-cohn-bendit-and-the-1968-revolution-paedophilia-as-part-of-their-political-agenda/
- 7 “May 1968: A Month of Revolution Pushed France Into the Modern World,” *Europe World News*, May 4, 2018. <https://www.europeworldnews.com/may-1968-a-month-of-revolution-pushes-france-into-the-modern-world/>
- 8 Sandra Kollen Ghizoni, “Nixon Ends Convertibility of US Dollars to Gold and Announces Wage/Price Controls,” *Federal Reserve History*, November 22, 2013.
- 9 ICE-9, “The Evolution of Fiat Money, Endless War, and the End of Citizenship,” *The Burning Platform*, August 12, 2020. <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2020/08/12/the-evolution-of-fiat-money-endless-war-and-the-end-of-citizenship/>
- 10 “Cboe Global Markets Inc,” *CNN Business*, September 28, 2022. <https://money.cnn.com/quote/shareholders/shareholders.html?symb=CBOE&subView=institutional>
- 11 Reem Heakal, “The Glass-Steagall Act,” *Investopedia*, September 25, 2022.
- 12 E. Saez and G. Zucman, *Wealth Inequality in the United States Since 1913* (National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2014). https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w20625/w20625.pdf
- 13 James Rickards, “Repeal of Glass-Steagall Caused the Financial Crisis,” *US News and World Report*, August 27, 2012. <https://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2012/08/27/repeal-of-glass-steagall-caused-the-financial-crisis>
- 14 Margaret Thatcher neoliberalism champion:
Ross Gittins, “The neoliberalism of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan has run its course,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, July 18, 2017. <https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/the-neoliberalism-of-margaret-thatcher-and-ronald-reagan-has-run-its-course-20170718-gxda42.html>
Walden Bello, “Short-lived legacy: Margaret Thatcher, neoliberalism and the global south,” *The Guardian*, April 16, 2013. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/apr/16/legacy-margaret-thatcher-neoliberalism>
Bryan Gould, “Margaret Thatcher’s Contribution to Neoliberalism,” *London Progressive Journal*, April 12, 2013. <http://londonprogressivejournal.com/article/view/1463/margaret-thatchers-contribution-to-neoliberalism>
- 15 Monica Prasad, “The Popular Origins of Neoliberalism in the Reagan Tax Cut of 1981,” *Journal of Policy History*, 24, no. 3 (Cambridge University Press, June 12,

- 2012). <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-policy-history/article/abs/popular-origins-of-neoliberalism-in-the-reagan-tax-cut-of-1981/33007D77CF60888719A6A4BE31FAA167>
- 16 Scott Walker, “Reagan’s firing of striking air traffic controllers set the stage for his presidency,” *Washington Times*, August 5, 2021. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/aug/5/reagans-firing-of-striking-air-traffic-controllers/>
- 17 Thatcher crushes the unions:
Alan Thorne, “How Thatcher smashed the unions,” *Green Left*, September 3, 1998. <https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/how-thatcher-smashed-unions>
Sarah Pruitt, “When Margaret Thatcher Crushed a British Miners’ Strike,” *History.com*, November 16, 2020. <https://www.history.com/news/margaret-thatcher-miners-strike-iron-lady>
- 18 Devon Pendleton, “Benetton Family’s Wealth Drops by \$2B After Genoa Bridge Disaster,” *Insurance Journal*, August 21, 2018. <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2018/08/21/498656.htm>
- 19 Benetton family crashes:
Andrew Spannaus, “Privatization, the EU, and a Bridge,” *Consortium News*, September 27, 2018. <https://consortiumnews.com/2018/09/27/privatization-the-eu-and-a-bridge/>
Quartz, “Benetton Denies Ties to Deadly Bangladesh Factory, But Its Shirts Were Found in the Rubble,” *HuffPost*, April 29, 2013. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/benetton-bangladesh-factory-collapse_n_3179523
- 20 “Virtual Reality” is a key instrument of US geostrategy; the ability to create what is perceived as real by a sufficiently wide audience. This is discussed in the section, “Imperial Geostrategy Instruments.”
- 21 Robert Hetu, “Sectors of US Economy as Percent of GDP 1947–2009,” *Gartner*, February 27, 2014. https://blogs.gartner.com/robert-hetu/i-promise-ill-connect-this-to-retail-but/sectors_of_us_economy_as_percent_of_gdp_1947-2009/
- 22 Robert Hetu.
- 23 “Fractional Reserve Banking,” *Investopedia*. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fractionalreservebanking.asp>
- 24 Commercial banks crating money out of thin air:
Richard Murphy, “The Bank of England spells it out in full: Money is made by banks out of thin air,” *Tax Research UK*, March 13, 2014. <http://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2014/03/13/the-bank-of-england-spells-it-out-in-full-money-is-made-by-banks-out-of-thin-air/>
“Fractional Reserve Banking – How The Banks Make Money Out Of Thin Air,” *Finance UK*, 2018. <https://www.finance.co.uk/fractional-reserve-banking-how-the-banks-make-money-out-of-thin-air/>
- 25 Jackson Stiles, “Banks create money from nothing. And it gets worse,” *The New Daily, Australia*, January 3, 2017. <https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2017/01/03/how-banks-create-money/>
- 26 Atif Mian, “The Most Important Economic Chart,” *House of Debt*, May 19, 2020. <http://houseofdebt.org/2014/03/18/the-most-important-economic-chart.html>
- 27 Well paying manufacturing jobs replaced by low wage services jobs:
Michael Collins, “Where Have All the Good Paying Jobs Gone?,” *Industry Week*, March 4, 2016. <https://www.industryweek.com/public-policy/where-have-all-good-paying-jobs-gone>

- Tyler Durden, "Waiters And Bartenders Rise To Record, As Manufacturing Workers Drop Most Since 2009," *Zerohedge*, April 1, 2016. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-04-01/waiters-and-bartenders-rise-record-manufacturing-workers-drop-most-2009>
- 28 Well paying manufacturing jobs replaced by low wage services jobs:
Michael Collins, "Where Have All the Good Paying Jobs Gone?," *Industry Week*, March 4, 2016. <https://www.industryweek.com/public-policy/where-have-all-good-paying-jobs-gone>
- Tyler Durden, "Waiters And Bartenders Rise To Record, As Manufacturing Workers Drop Most Since 2009," *Zerohedge*, April 1, 2016. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-04-01/waiters-and-bartenders-rise-record-manufacturing-workers-drop-most-2009>
- 29 "Buy When There's Blood In The Streets," *Forbes*, February 23, 2009. https://www.forbes.com/2009/02/23/contrarian-markets-boeing-personal-finance_investopedia.html#7958275bb59a
- 30 "Food Stamp Charts," Matt Trivisonno, 2018. <http://www.trivisonno.com/food-stamps-charts>
- 31 Scott Gilmore, "The slow death of American freedom," *MacLean's*, July 25, 2017. <https://www.macleans.ca/news/world/the-slow-death-of-american-freedom/>
- 32 Timothy Williams, "Violent Crime in U.S. Rises for Second Consecutive Year," *New York Times*, September 25, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/25/us/violent-crime-murder-chicago-increase-.html>
- 33 Rise of drug abuse in neoliberal era:
Kathleen Miles, "These Charts Show Just How Bad America's Heroin Problem Has Become," *Huffington Post*, February 20, 2014. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/21/america-heroin-charts_n_4817130.html
- Tyler Durden, "1 In 4 Baltimore Hospital Admissions Are Babies Addicted To Opioids," *Zerohedge*, September 28, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-28/1-4-baltimore-hospital-admissions-are-babies-addicted-opioids>
- 34 Deteriorating infrastructure in neoliberal era:
Andrew Spannaus, "Privatization, The EU, and a Bridge," *Consortium News*, September 27, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-28/1-4-baltimore-hospital-admissions-are-babies-addicted-opioids>
- Niall McCarthy, "The Massive Cost Of America's Crumbling Infrastructure," *Forbes*, March 13, 2017. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/03/13/the-massive-cost-of-americas-crumbling-infrastructure-infographic/#29afb6e13978>
- 35 Growth in prison population in neoliberal era:
Chris Nichols, "Mostly True: America's prison population has skyrocketed 500 percent in 40 years," *Politifact California*, September 16, 2016. <https://www.politifact.com/california/statements/2016/sep/16/kamala-harris/mostly-true-americas-prison-population-has-skyrock/>
- Sarah Lazare, "Skyrocketing Prison Population Devastating US Society," *Mint Press News*, May 3, 2014. <https://www.mintpressnews.com/skyrocketing-prison-population-devastating-us-society/190040/>
- 36 James Hetherington, "Militarization of Police: U.S. Law Enforcement Has \$1.9 Billion Of Army Equipment at Its Disposal," *Newsweek*, May 31, 2018. <https://www.newsweek.com/us-military-how-many-weapons-and-vehicles-are-given-police-951011>

- 37 Jeremy Travis, Bruce Western, and Steve Redburn (Eds.), *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences* (National Research Council, 2014). Available via National Academies: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/download/18613>
- 38 "These Charts Show Just How Bad America's Heroin Problem Has Become," *Huffington Post*, February 21, 2014. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/21/america-heroin-charts_n_4817130.html
- 39 *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008*, H.R. 1424 – 110th Congress, Congress . <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/1424>
- 40 Mick Collins, "The Big Bank Bailout," *Forbes*, July 14, 2015. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikecollins/2015/07/14/the-big-bank-bailout/#4ea81f2a2d83>
- 41 Mehreen Khan, "EU calls time on 'too big to fail' with bank bail-in laws," *The Telegraph*, December 31, 2015. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/12076186/Europes-trillion-euro-bank-bail-outs-are-over.html>
- 42 David Chapman, "The Bail-In: Or How you Could Lose Your Money in the Bank," *BMG Group*, May 30, 2016. <http://bmgroup.com/bail-lose-money-bank/>
- 43 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "National Health Expenditure Data, Historical," October 29, 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NationalHealthAccountsHistorical>
- 44 Thomas Sullivan, "11 Ways to Reduce Healthcare Spending," *Policy and Medicine*, May 6, 2018. <https://www.policymed.com/2012/10/a-systemic-approach-to-containing-healthcare-spending.html>
- 45 U.S. healthcare expenditures:
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "National Health Expenditure Data, Historical," October 29, 2022. 1
"US Healthcare Industry in 2022: Analysis of the health sector, healthcare trends, & future of digital health," *Insider Intelligence*, January 11, 2022. <https://www.insiderintelligence.com/insights/healthcare-industry/>
- 46 Steve Davis, "The \$12 trillion question: What will health spending look like in 2040?" *Deloitte*, March 9, 2021. <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/blog/health-care-blog/2021/the-12-trillion-dollar-question-what-will-health-spending-look-like-in-2040.html>
- 47 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "National Health Expenditure Data, Historical," October 29, 2022.
- 48 Household income and healthcare expenditures:
PK, "Household Income by Year: Average, Median, One Percent (and a Percentile Calculator)," *DQYDJ*, October 29, 2022. <https://dqydj.com/household-income-by-year/>
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "National Health Expenditure Data, Historical," October 29, 2022.
Nathan Moore, "Why Healthcare in the United States is so Expensive," *Steady MD*, October 14, 2016. <https://www.steadymd.com/blog/healthcare-united-states-expensive/>
- 49 Deidre McPhillips, "US life expectancy continues historic decline with another drop in 2021, study finds," *CNN*, April 8, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/07/health/us-life-expectancy-drops-again-2021/index.html>

- 50 Mauro Castelló González and Imti Choonara, “Cuba’s success in child health: What can one learn?” *NIH*, October 30, 2019. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6830455/>
- 51 US population data:
“U.S. Population 1950–2022,” Macrotrends, October 29, 2022. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/population>
United States Census Bureau, “Historical Population Change Data (1910–2020),” October 20, 2022. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/popchange-data-text.html>
- 52 “Consumer inflation vs. ShadowStats (1980 based) Alternate,” *Shadow Government Statistics*, October 13, 2022. http://www.shadowstats.com/alternate_data/inflation-charts
- 53 Jon Hellevig, “US Healthcare System in Crisis,” *Awara*, December 3, 2019. <https://www.awaragroup.com/blog/us-healthcare-system-in-crisis/>
- 54 “Handful of Oligarchs Control Entire Collapsing US Health System,” *Astute News*, December 26, 2019. <https://astutenews.com/2019/12/handful-of-oligarchs-control-entire-collapsing-us-health-system/>
- 55 “BlackRock, Inc. (BLK),” *Yahoo Finance*, September 30, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/BLK/holders>
- 56 “American Vanguard Corporation (AVD),” *Yahoo Finance*, September 30, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/AVD/holders>
- 57 “State Street Corporation (STT),” *Yahoo Finance*, September 30, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/STT/holders>
- 58 “T. Rowe Price Group, Inc. (TROW),” *Yahoo Finance*, September 30, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/TROW/holders>
- 59 E. Saez and G. Zucman, *Wealth Inequality in the US Since 2013*, Working Paper 20625 (National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2014).
- 60 Govind Bhutada, “The Rising Cost of College in the U.S.,” *Visual Capitalist*, February 3, 2021. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/rising-cost-of-college-in-u-s/>
- 61 “College Graduates Statistics,” *ThinkImpact*, 2022. <https://www.thinkimpact.com/college-graduates-statistics/>
- 62 Alicia Hahn, “2022 Student Loan Debt Statistics: Average Student Loan Debt,” *Forbes*, September 19, 2022. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/student-loans/average-student-loan-statistics/>
- 63 Kimberley Amadeo, “U.S. National Debt by Year,” *The Balance*, October 4, 2022. <https://www.thebalancemoney.com/national-debt-by-year-compared-to-gdp-and-major-events-3306287>
- 64 Tyler Durden, “The Face Of The Oligarch Recovery: Luxury Skyscrapers Empty as NYC Homeless Population Hits Record High,” *Zerohedge*, February 4, 2015. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-02-04/face-oligarch-recovery-luxury-skyscrapers-empty-nyc-homeless-population-hits-record>
- 65 Dominic Brady, “UK’s austerity policy ‘has driven people into poverty,’” *Public Finance*, May 22, 2019. <https://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2019/05/uk-s-austerity-policy-has-driven-people-poverty>
- 66 Lara Merling, “Austerity in the UK: Senseless and Cruel,” *Economic Questions*, March 6, 2018. <https://economicquestions.org/uk-senseless-austerity/>

- 67 Niall Ferguson, "Why austerity was the right policy for the UK," *World Economic Forum*, May 21, 2015. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/05/why-austerity-was-the-right-policy-for-the-uk/>
- 68 Tyler Durden, "US Goods Trade Deficit Surges Near Record High," *Zerohedge*, September 27, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-27/us-trade-balance-plunges-near-record-high-deficit-dont-tell-trump>
- 69 Stephanie Kelton, "The U.S. is racking up record debt. It feels great now, but someday the tab will come due," *Bloomberg*, September 24, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-09-24/just-when-should-we-start-worrying-about-deficits>
- 70 Tyler Durden, "Final Q2 GDP Estimate at 4.2%, strongest in 4 years," *Zerohedge*, September 27, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-27/final-q2-gdp-estimate-42-strongest-4-years>
- 71 Reuters, "TABLE – Russia budget deficit in 2017 at 1.4 pct/GDP – FinMin," *Kitco*, January 19, 2018. <http://www.kitco.com/news/2018-01-19/TABLE-Russia-budget-deficit-in-2017-at-1-4-pct-GDP-FinMin.html>
- 72 Robert Schroeder, "U.S. ends fiscal 2017 with \$666 billion budget deficit," *Market Watch*, October 20, 2017. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/us-ends-fiscal-2017-with-666-billion-budget-deficit-2017-10-20>
- 73 "Trade Balance in Russia," *Focus Economics*, March 2020. <https://www.focus-economics.com/country-indicator/russia/trade-balance>
- 74 Ben Margot, "U.S. Trade Deficit Grew to \$566 Billion in 2017, Its Widest Mark in Nine Years," *WSJ*, February 6, 2018. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-trade-gap-highest-in-nine-years-in-december-1517923918>
- 75 "Russia Government Debt: % of GDP," *CEIC Data*, 2018. <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/russia/government-debt--of-nominal-gdp>
- 76 "United States Gross Federal Debt to GDP" [table], *Trading Economics*. <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/government-debt-to-gdp>
- 77 "Rating: Russia Credit Rating," *CountryEconomy.com*, 2018. <https://countryeconomy.com/ratings/russia>
- 78 "Rating: United States Credit Rating," *CountryEconomy.com*, 2018. <https://countryeconomy.com/ratings/usa>
- 79 "Russia 10-Year Bond Yield," *Investing.com*, 2018. <https://www.investing.com/rates-bonds/russia-10-year-bond-yield>
- 80 Sunny Oh, "10-year Treasury yield near four-week low as Turkey tensions stay on radar," *Market Watch*, August 15, 2018. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/treasury-yields-turn-lower-as-traders-await-key-economic-data-2018-08-15>
- 81 "RUB to USD Chart," *XE*, October 29, 2022. <https://www.xe.com/currencycharts/?from=USD&to=RUB&view=10Y>
- 82 "RUB to USD Chart," *XE*, October 29, 2022.
- 83 "RUB to USD Chart," *XE*, October 29, 2022.
- 84 Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth S. Rogoff, *This Time is Different: A Panoramic View of Eight Centuries of Financial Crises*, NBER Working Paper 13882 (National Bureau of Economic Research, March 2008). https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w13882/w13882.pdf
- 85 Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth S. Rogoff, *This Time is Different*.

- 86 F. William Engdahl, “Washington’s Silent Weapon for Not-so-quiet Wars,” *New Eastern Outlook*, August 20, 2008. <https://journal-neo.org/2018/08/20/washington-s-silent-weapon-for-not-so-quiet-wars/>
- 87 Jocelyn Sims, “Latin American Debt Crisis of the 1980s,” *Federal Reserve History*, November 22, 2013. https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/latin_american_debt_crisis
- 88 Margaret Daly Hayes, “The US and Latin America: A Lost Decade?,” *Foreign Affairs*, February 1, 1989. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/central-america-caribbean/1989-02-01/us-and-latin-america-lost-decade>
- 89 José Antonio Ocampo, *The Latin American Debt Crisis in Historical Perspective*, paper prepared for the International Economic Association Project on “Debt Crises and Resolution” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). http://policydialogue.org/files/publications/The_Latin_American_Debt_Crisis_in_Historical_Perspective_Jos_Antonio_Ocampo.pdf
- 90 John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Berret-Koehler, 2004), xvii, xviii, 15.
- 91 John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, xx
- 92 Jocelyn Sims, “Latin American Debt Crisis of the 1980s,” *Federal Reserve History*, November 22, 2013.
- 93 “Federal Funds Rate – 62 Year Historical Chart, Historical Data,” *Macrotrends*, October 29, 2022.
- 94 José Antonio Ocampo, *The Latin American Debt Crisis in Historical Perspective*.

CHAPTER 6

- 1 Robert J. Crawford, “Reinterpreting the Japanese Economic Miracle,” *Harvard Business Review* (Jan.-Feb. 1998). <https://hbr.org/1998/01/reinterpreting-the-japanese-economic-miracle>
- 2 Japan’s lost decades:
- Pernille Rudlin, “Japan’s Lost Three Decades: What Are the Causes?,” *Rudlin Consulting*, November 27, 2019. <https://rudlinconsulting.com/japans-lost-three-decades-what-are-the-causes/>
- Yoshiaki Nohara, “Japan’s lost generation is still jobless and living with their parents,” *Bloomberg*, October 1, 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-japan-lost-generation/>
- 3 Michael Schaller, *America’s Favorite War Criminal: Kishi Nobusuke and the Transformation of U.S.-Japan Relations*, JPRI Working Paper No. 11 (Japanese Policy Research Institute, July 1995). <https://jpri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Working-Paper-11.pdf>
- 4 Lars Erik Schönander, “The Works of the Monster of Shōwa,” *Palladium*, June 3, 2022. <https://palladiummag.com/2022/06/03/the-works-of-the-monster-of-showa/>
- 5 “Manchukuo, puppet state created by Japan in China,” *Britannica*, September 7, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Manchukuo>
- 6 Gottfried Feder, “The Fundamentals of National Socialist Economic Policy,” in *National Socialist Yearbook* (1932). <https://arplan.org/2022/04/18/fundamentals-of-national-socialist-economic-policy-feder/>

- 7 Richard Werner, "Princes of the Yen: Japan's Central Bankers and the Transformation of the Economy," *Routledge*, May 2, 2003 . <https://www.amazon.com/Princes-Yen-Central-Bankers-Transformation/dp/0765610493>
- 8 Murat A. Yülek, *On the Financial Repression in Japan During the High Growth Period (1953–73)* (Research Papers in Economics, 2005). <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/9315765.pdf>
- 9 "The Key Problem of Our Time": A Conversation with Henry Kissinger on Sino-U.S. Relations," *Wilson Center*, September 20, 2018. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/the-key-problem-our-time-conversation-henry-kissinger-sino-us-relations>
- 10 Margaret Daly Hayes, "The US and Latin America: A Lost Decade?" *Foreign Affairs*, February 1, 1989. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/central-america-caribbean/1989-02-01/us-and-latin-america-lost-decade>
- 11 Jerome Roos, "History: The Lost 1980s Decade in Latin America," *Swiss National Bank*, December 16, 2012. <https://snbchf.com/history-2/financial-cycles/latin-america-lost-decade/>
- 12 Strict financial regulation in Japan during high growth period:
Murat A. Yülek, *On the Financial Repression in Japan During the High Growth Period (1953–73)*.
Masahiro Takada, *Japan's Economic Miracle: Underlying Factors and Strategies for Growth*, March 23, 1999. <https://www.lehigh.edu/~rfw1/courses/1999/spring/ir163/Papers/pdf/mat5.pdf>
- 13 "Japanese economic takeoff after 1945," Indiana University Northwest, 2002. http://web.archive.org/web/20030505190626/http://www.iun.edu/~hisdcl/h207_2002/jecontakeoff.htm
- 14 Masahiro Takada, *Japan's Economic Miracle: Underlying Factors and Strategies for Growth*.
- 15 Shinji Yoshioka and Hiromi Kawasaki, *Japan's High Growth Post War Period: The Role of Economic Plans*, ESRI Research Note No. 27, August 2016. https://www.esri.ao.jp/jp/esri/archive/e_rnote/e_rnote030/e_rnote027.pdf
- 16 Kenneth B. Pyle, *The Making of Modern Japan*, 2nd ed. (D.C. Heath, 1996). <https://www.worldcat.org/title/making-of-modern-japan/oclc/604244273>
- 17 Murat A. Yülek, *On the Financial Repression in Japan During the High Growth Period (1953–73)*.
- 18 "Japan Economic Transformation," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/Economic-transformation#ref319759>
- 19 Robert J. Crawford, "Reinterpreting the Japanese Economic Miracle," *Harvard Business Review* (Jan.–Feb. 1998). <https://hbr.org/1998/01/reinterpreting-the-japanese-economic-miracle>
- 20 "Income Doubling Plan," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/Economic-transformation#ref319759>
- 21 Basel Accord I:
Basel Capital Accord (Basel Accord): an agreement among the G-10 central banks to apply common minimum capital standards to their banking industries, to be achieved by end of year 1992. Released to banks on July 15, 1988.
"History of the Basel Committee," *BIS*, 2019. <https://www.bis.org/bcbs/history.htm>
"International convergence of capital measurement and capital standards," *BIS*, July 15, 1988. <https://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs04a.htm>

- 22 "Dollar–Yen Exchange Rate Historical Chart," *Macrotrends*, 2018. <https://www.macrotrends.net/2550/dollar-yen-exchange-rate-historical-chart>
- 23 Allen Frankel and Paul Morgan, *Deregulation and Competition in Japanese Banking* (Federal Reserve of St. Louis, August 1992). https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/files/docs/publications/FRB/pages/1990-1994/32980_1990-1994.pdf
- 24 Robert D. Hershey Jr., "U.S. Financial Accord With Japan Announced," *New York Times*, May 30, 1984. <https://www.nytimes.com/1984/05/30/business/us-financial-accord-with-japan-announced.html>
- 25 The Plaza Accord:
"Plaza Accord," *Investopedia*. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/plaza-accord.asp>
"Plaza Accord, 1985," *Margaret Thatcher Foundation*, September 22, 1985. <https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/109423>
- 26 David Barbosa, "China Passes Japan as Second-Largest Economy," *New York Times*, August 16, 2010. <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/16/business/global/16yuan.html?module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=Global%20Business&action=keypress®ion=FixedLeft&pgtype=article>
- 27 Janmejaya Sinha, "Why Indian banks don't figure," *Financial Express*, January 9, 2008. <https://www.financialexpress.com/archive/Why-Indian-banks-dont-figure/259309/>
- 28 John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Berret-Koehler, 2004), 156.
- 29 Clyde Haberman, "U.S., Japan and Panama Plan Study of Canal," *New York Times*, September 15, 1985. <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/09/05/world/us-japan-and-panama-plan-study-of-canal.html>
- 30 John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, 176
- 31 Bijan Hosseini, "Manuel Noriega, former dictator of Panama, dead at 83," *CNN*, May 30, 2017. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/05/30/americas/manuel-noriega-dies/index.html>
- 32 George Soros, *The Alchemy of Finance* (John Wiley & Sons, 1987), 350
- 33 Basel Accord impact on Japan's financial system:
Princes of the Yen, Richard A. Werner, M.E. Sharpe, 2003. <https://idoc.pub/documents/princes-of-the-yen-richard-wernerpdf-pqn8d99jmy41>
Peter Myers, "The 1988 Basle Accord – destroyer of Japan's finance system," September 9, 2008. <http://mailstar.net/basle.html>
- 34 Richard Werner, "Princes of the Yen: Japan's Central Bankers and the Transformation of the Economy," *Routledge*, May 2, 2003 . <https://www.amazon.com/Princes-Yen-Central-Bankers-Transformation/dp/0765610493>
- 35 Basel I Accord:
Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, *International Convergence of Capital Measurement and Capital Standards* (BIS, July 1988). <https://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs04a.pdf>
"History of the Basel Committee," *BIS*, 2019. <https://www.bis.org/bcbs/history.htm>
- 36 Will Kenton, "Group of 10 (G10)," *Investopedia*, January 28, 2021. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/groupoften.asp>
- 37 David Grover, "If Japan's financial power peaked in the late 1980s, why was its negotiating position in the Basel Capital Adequacy accord so weak?," October 14, 1999. <http://web.archive.org/web/20010224000913/http:/homepages>.

- ulb.ac.be/~ganicode/monpolart/monpolart3.html; originally posted at <http://homepages.ulb.ac.be/~ganicode/monpolart/monpolart3.html>
- 38 Peter Myers, "The 1988 Basel Accord – destroyer of Japan's finance system," September 9, 2008. <http://mailstar.net/basle.html>
- 39 Nikkei 225 Index – 67 Year Historical Chart, *Macrotrends*, 2018. <https://www.macrotrends.net/2593/nikkei-225-index-historical-chart-data>
- 40 Nikkei 225 Index – 67 Year Historical Chart.
- 41 Reuters, "Japan's 2017 external assets fall, still biggest creditor nation," May 25, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-assets/japans-2017-external-assets-fall-still-biggest-creditor-nation-idUSKCN1IQ0LL>
- 42 Masazumi Wakatabe, "Those Who Lived Through Japan's 'Lost Two Decades' Can Now Build A Better Future," *Forbes*, July 16, 2017. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mwakatabe/2017/07/16/those-who-lived-through-japans-lost-two-decades-can-now-build-a-better-future/#5ef686197df1>
- 43 Japan under occupation:
- Julian Ryall, "Anti-US Rage: Rapes, Murders, Accidents, and now this in Okinawa," *SCMP*, January 1, 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2126112/anti-us-rage-rapes-murders-accidents-and-now-okinawa>
- Suzuyo Takazato, "Why is there no end to sexual violence by U.S. military personnel in Okinawa?," *The Mainichi*, September 15, 2016. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20160915/p2a/00m/0na/017000c>
- "Crimes Committed and Incidents Concerning U.S. Military on Okinawa 1948–1995," Okinawa Peace Network-L.A., 1995. http://www.uchinanchu.org/history/list_of_crimes.htm
- "On Okinawa, many locals want U.S. troops to leave," *PBS*, September 16, 2017. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/okinawa-locals-want-u-s-troops-leave>
- Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, "Okinawa residents protest over new US military base," *BBC*, April 27, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-pacific-32485485>
- okinawa-residents-protest-over-new-us-military-base
- 44 "Mao Zedong," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mao-Zedong>
- 45 Glenn Kucha and Jennifer Llewellyn, "Sino-Soviet Relations," *Alpha History*, October 1, 2019. <https://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/sino-soviet-relations/>
- 46 Korean War, *History.com*, May 11, 2022. <https://www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war>
- 47 "San Francisco Peace Treaty (1951)," FAPA, September 8, 1951. <https://fapa.org/san-francisco-peace-treaty-september-8-1951/>
- 48 "Treaty of Peace with Japan, 1951," USC Anneberg, September 8, 1951. <https://china.usc.edu/treaty-peace-japan-1951>
- 49 Jesse Du, "Russia vs. China: How conflict at the Sino-Soviet border nearly started Nuclear War," *HistoryNet*, July 21, 2021. <https://www.historynet.com/sino-soviet-border-conflict/>
- 50 "US Relations with China 1949–2022," Council on Foreign Relations, 2022. <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>
- 51 Will Kenton, "Nixon Shock," *Investopedia*, August 30, 2022. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/nixon-shock.asp>
- 52 "US Relations with China 1949–2022," Council on Foreign Relations, 2022. <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>

- 53 Kerry B. Dumaugh and Richard F. Grimmet, "Arms sales to China: The limits to U.S.-Chinese Cooperation," *Washington Quarterly*, 9, no. 3 (1986). <https://doi.org/10.1080/01636608609450832>
- 54 K. Osugi, "Japan's experience of financial deregulation since 1984 in an international perspective," *BIS*, January 1, 1990. <https://www.bis.org/publ/econ26.htm>
- 55 "Plaza Accord, 1985," Margaret Thatcher Foundation, September 22, 1985. <https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/109423>
- 56 "Soviet Union, 2018," *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Soviet-Union>
- 57 "International convergence of capital measurement and capital standards," *BIS*, July 1988. <https://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs04a.pdf>
- 58 Nikkei 225 Index – 67 Year Historical Chart, 2018, *Macrotrends*. <https://www.macrotrends.net/2593/nikkei-225-index-historical-chart-data>
- 59 Edward J. Lincoln and Robert E. Litan, "The 'Big Bang'? An Ambivalent Japan Deregulates Its Financial Markets," *Brookings*, December 1, 1988. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-big-bang-an-ambivalent-japan-deregulates-its-financial-markets/>
- 60 W. Erwin Diewert, Hideyuki Mizobuchi, and Koji Nomura, *On Measuring the Productivity and the Standard of Living in Japan, 1955–2006*, KEO Discussion Paper No. 115, KEO University, February 2009 . https://www.sanken.keio.ac.jp/publication/KEO-dp/115/JPN_living_standard.pdf
- 61 Nasratul Ferdous, "How did Japan experienced economic miracle after world war II? – A short analysis," *Academia.Edu*. https://www.academia.edu/42989322/How_did_japan_experienced_economic_miracle_after_world_war_II_A_short_analysis?auto=download
- 62 "International convergence of capital measurement and capital standards," *BIS*, July 1988. <https://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs04a.pdf>
- 63 John Tagliabue, "Thousands at Gdansk Shipyard Join Polish Strike," *New York Times*, May 3, 1988. <https://www.nytimes.com/1988/05/03/world/thousands-at-gdansk-shipyard-join-polish-strike.html>
- 64 Andrew Bloomenthal, "Four Asian Tigers," *Investopedia*, January 15, 2021. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/four-asian-tigers.asp>
- 65 John Page, "The East Asian Miracle and Development Policy – A Twenty-Year Retrospective," *The World Bank, NBER Macroeconomics Annual 1994*, Vol. 9, (January 1994). <https://www.nber.org/system/files/chapters/c11011/c11011.pdf>
- 66 Asian Tiger governments' focus on education:
"Korea Tops PISA Education Rankings," *The Chosunilbo*, December 4, 2013. http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/12/04/2013120401600.html
"High performance, high pressure in South Korea's education system," *ICEF Monitor*, January 23, 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/01/high-performance-high-pressure-in-south-koreas-education-system/>
- 67 Andrew Bloomenthal, "Four Asian Tigers."
- 68 Robert Kagan, "What China Knows That We Don't: The Case for a New Strategy of Containment," Carnegie Endowment Center, January 20, 1997. <https://carnegieendowment.org/1997/01/20/what-china-knows-that-we-don-t-case-for-new-strategy-of-containment-pub-266>

- 69 Joshua Ryan, "Nicholas Spykman: The Godfather of Containment," *Prezi*, March 14, 2014. https://prezi.com/_buzw3wevnpf/nicholas-spykman-the-godfather-of-containment/
- 70 "Rimland Theory," *American Geopolitical Society*. <https://americangeopoliticalsociety.com/rimland>
- 71 Michael F. Martin, "U.S. Sanctions on Burma," US Congressional Research Service, October 19, 2012. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41336.pdf>
- 72 Kallie Szczepanski, "Nobel Peace Prize Laureates from Asia," *Thought Co.*, April 13, 2019. <https://www.thoughtco.com/asian-nobel-peace-prize-laureates-195704>
- 73 Kallie Szczepanski, "The 8888 Uprising in Myanmar (Burma)," *Thought Co.*, August 24, 2018. <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-8888-uprising-in-myanmar-burma-195177>
- 74 Open Society Foundations, "Statement on George Soros's Visit to Burma," March 30, 2012. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/press-releases/statement-george-soros-s-visit-burma>
- 75 Michael Richardson, "Asian Nations Resist The West's Pressure On Human Rights: Burma's Bid For ASEAN Membership Reaffirmed," *New York Times*, December 2, 1996. <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/02/news/asian-nations-resist-the-wests-pressure-on-human-rights-burmas-bid-for.html>
- 76 R. Jeffrey Smith, "Burma withstands West's embargo wit," *Washington Post*, June 6, 1997. <http://www.burmalibrary.org/reg.burma/archives/199706/msg00110.html>
- 77 EU Parliament, "Resolution on the continuing human rights abuses in Burma," Burma Library, June 12, 1997. <http://www.burmalibrary.org/reg.burma/archives/199706/msg00213.html>
- 78 Eugene Linden, "How to Kill a Tiger," *Time Asia*, November 3, 1997. https://web.archive.org/web/20000817001027/http://www.time.com/time/magazine/1997/int/971103/asia.how_to_kill_a.html
- 79 Palash Ghosh, "South Korea Solidifies Status As World's Top Shipbuilder," *IBT*, January 1, 2007. <https://www.ibtimes.com/south-korea-solidifies-status-worlds-top-shipbuilder-2898009>
- 80 Leigh Dayton, "How South Korea made itself a global innovation leader," *Nature*, May 28, 2020. <https://www.nature.com/nature-index/news-blog/how-south-korea-made-itself-a-global-innovation-leader-research-science>
- 81 "S. Korea's electronics industry No. 3 by production," *Korea Herald*, 2018. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180126000750>
- 82 "South Korea's Automotive Industry: Remains One of the World's Largest," *BizVibe*, September 16, 2018. <https://blog.bizvibe.com/blog/automotives/south-korea-automotive-industry>
- 83 "Samsung Takes 'Do What You Can't' to New Heights with the Burj Khalifa Spectacular Showcase," *Samsung Newsroom*, March 3, 2018. <https://news.samsung.com/global/samsung-takes-do-what-you-cant-to-new-heights-with-the-burj-khalifa-spectacular-showcase>
- 84 Reuters, "Timeline: China's reforms of yuan exchange rate," April 14, 2012. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-yuan-timeline-idUSBRE83D03820120414>
- 85 Ramon Moreno, "What Caused East Asia's Financial Crisis?," Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, August 7, 1998. <https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/>

- publications/economic-letter/1998/august/what-%20caused-east-asia-financial-crisis/
- 86 "Federal Funds Rate – 62 Year Historical Chart," *Macrotrends*, 2015. <http://www.macrotrends.net/2015/fed-funds-rate-historical-chart>
- 87 Robin Hahnel, "The Conquest of South Korea," *Vedasara* [blog], April 4 1999. <http://echelon-vedasara.blogspot.com/2011/05/tacit-knowledge-explicit-knowledge-in.html>
- 88 Thanong Khanthong, "Soros' Part in The Economic Crisis," January 30, 2001. <https://thanong.tripod.com/01302001.htm>
- 89 "Asian Financial Crisis," *Corporate Finance Institute*, May 1, 2022. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/finance/asian-financial-crisis/>
- 90 "Asian Financial Crisis," *Corporate Finance Institute*, May 1, 2022.
- 91 Robin Hahnel, "The Conquest of South Korea."
- 92 Nicholas D. Kristol, "Asia's Doors Now Wide Open to American Business," *New York Times*, February 1, 1998. <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/financial/020198asia-us.html>
- 93 Sandra Sugawara, "South Korea Takes On Family Business Groups," *Washington Post*, March 11, 1999. https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/business/1999/03/11/south-korea-takes-on-family-business-groups/5ee7f6cc-9392-4042-a1d4-e85f9370982f/?utm_term=.1d94fa90f675
- 94 "Ownership structure (As of December 31, 2021)," Samsung SDI, September 28, 2022. <https://www.samsungsdi.com/ir/stock-information/shareholders.html>
- 95 Phillip Inman, "Western powers have realized Russia is largely immune to sanctions," *The Guardian*, February 25, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/25/western-powers-have-realised-russia-is-largely-immune-to-sanctions-ukraine-putin>
- 96 "Former Wall Street financier Hudson: Sanctions against Russia backfired," *Scooptrade*, August 7, 2022. <https://scooptrade.com/former-wall-street-financier-hudson-sanctions-against-russia-backfired/>
- 97 The irrational Russia sanctions:
- Paul Withers, "'Suicide!' Russia sanctions doing 'MORE damage' to Europe – financial crash fears surge," *Express UK*, July 31, 2022. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1648059/eu-news-europe-russia-sanctions-gas-supply-euro-eurozone-inflation-recession>
- War between fiction and reality – John Laughland at the Ukraine Symposium (FVD International, July 12, 2022) YouTube Video, 25:53.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmZke_mNqSM
- 98 Martin Khor, "IMF policies leading to foreign control of Asian countries," *TWN*, 1998. <https://www.twn.my/title/cont-cn.htm>
- 99 James M. Boughton, "The IMF's Final Few: What will it take for Cuba to rejoin?" *CIGI*, February 19, 2016. <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/imfs-final-few-what-will-it-take-cuba-rejoin/>
- 100 "The Bank of International Settlements Suspends Russia as Sanctions Bite," *Times UK*, March 10, 2022. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bis-the-bank-for-central-banks-suspends-russia-gjrcq7qq>
- 101 "Cuba GDP per capita," *Macrotrends*, 2022. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/CUB/cuba/gdp-per-capita>

- 102 Peter Kornbluh and William M. LeoGrande, “The Real Reason It’s Nearly Impossible to End the Cuba Embargo,” *The Atlantic*, October 5, 2014. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/10/the-1996-incident-that-made-it-nearly-impossible-to-repeal-the-cuba-embargo/381107/>
- 103 Mauro Castelló González and Imti Choonara, “Cuba’s success in child health: What can one learn?” *NIH*, October 30, 2019
- 104 Deidre McPhillips, “US life expectancy continues historic decline with another drop in 2021, study finds,” *CNN*, April 8, 2022.
- 105 Dailyn Brinas, “Cuban and American Education,” *Tricolor Times*, September 11, 2017 . <https://tricolortimes.com/2352/student-life/academics/cuban-and-american-education/>
- 106 Quality of Life Comparisons – United States compared to Cuba, *My Life Elsewhere*. <https://www.mylifeelsewhere.com/compare/united-states/cuba>
- 107 Quality of Life Comparisons.
- 108 “Incarceration Rates by Country 2022,” *World Population Review*, 2022. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/incarceration-rates-by-country>
- 109 Lloyd Vries, “Expert Likens Saddam to 1930s Hitler,” *CBS News*, July 17, 2002. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/expert-likens-saddam-to-1930s-hitler/>
- 110 Jonathan Glancey, “From Hitler to Gaddafi: dictators and their bunkers,” *The Guardian*, August 27, 2011. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/27/best-of-the-bunkers-gaddafi-hitler-saddam>
- 111 Tom Raum, “Bush says Saddam even worse than Hitler,” *Associated Press*, November 1, 1990. <https://apnews.com/article/c456d72625fba4c742d17f1699b18a16>
- 112 Everett, “Saddam was a Hitler in waiting” [opinion], *HeraldNet*, May 11, 2003. <https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/saddam-was-a-hitler-in-waiting/>
- 113 “What Do Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi Have In Common? They Loved Golden Guns,” *National Interest*, March 23, 2019. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/what-do-hitler-saddam-hussein-and-gaddafi-have-common-they-loved-golden-guns-48792>
- 114 Bruce Golding “Assad Is Like Hitler: Kerry,” *New York Post*, September 2, 2013. <https://nypost.com/2013/09/02/assad-is-like-hitler-kerry/>
- 115 Mathew Young, “Vladimir Putin ‘is the new Hitler and Russia doomed to fall like Nazi Germany,’” *Mirror UK*, October 26, 2022. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/vladimir-putin-is-new-hitler-28329193>
- 116 Paul Johnson, “Is Vladimir Putin Another Adolf Hitler?” May 4, 2014. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/currentevents/2014/04/16/is-vladimir-putin-another-adolf-hitler/?sh=6aff6d10237a>
- 117 “Estimated number of military and civilian fatalities due to the Second World War per country or region between 1939 and 1945,” *Statista*, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1293510/second-world-war-fatalities-per-country/>
- 118 British colonialism caused over 100 million deaths in India:
Dylan Sullivan and Jason Hickel, “How British colonialism killed 100 million Indians in 40 years,” *AlJazeera*, December 2, 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/12/2/how-british-colonial-policy-killed-100-million-indians>
Ben Norton, “British empire killed 165 million Indians in 40 years: How colonialism inspired fascism,” *MultiPolarista*, December 12, 2022. <https://multipolarista.com/2022/12/12/britain-100-million-india-deaths-colonialism/>

- 119 “Opium, Heroin, Morphia: Inhuman WMD Drug Warfare,” *Sky City Gallery*, 2022. <http://www.skycitygallery.com/japan/japan.html#opium>
- 120 Dan Vergano, “Nazi Scientists May Have Plotted Malaria Mosquito Warfare,” *National Geographic*, January 30, 2014. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/140130-nazi-biological-weapons-biowarfare-mosquito-malaria-history>
- 121 Ace Elliot, “10 Horrible Atrocities Committed By The SS,” *ListVerse*, May 25, 2015. <https://listverse.com/2015/05/25/10-horrible-atrocities-committed-by-the-ss/>
- 122 “The Banking System in the Nazi Military and War Economy,” National Bureau of Economic Research, April 1944. <https://www.nber.org/system/files/chapters/c9477/c9477.pdf>
- 123 Tina Gayle, “From Hyperinflation to Full Employment: Nazi Germany’s Economic Miracle Explained,” *History Hit*, August 8, 2018. <https://www.historyhit.com/nazi-germanys-economic-miracle/>
- 124 *Madeleine Albright says 500,000 dead Iraqi Children was “worth it” wins Medal of Freedom*, YouTube Video, 0:23 (ttj1776, May 2, 2012). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omnskeu-puE>
- 125 Priyamvada Gopal, “Why can’t Britain handle the truth about Winston Churchill?,” *The Guardian*, March 17, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/17/why-cant-britain-handle-the-truth-about-winston-churchill>

CHAPTER 7

- 1 Tim Weiner, “CIA Spent Millions to Support Japanese Right in 50’s and 60’s,” *New York Times*, October 9, 1994. <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/10/09/world/cia-spent-millions-to-support-japanese-right-in-50-s-and-60-s.html>
- 2 “San Francisco Peace Treaty (1951),” *FAPA*, September 8, 1951. <https://fapa.org/san-francisco-peace-treaty-september-8-1951/>
- 3 “Japanese protest security treaty with U.S. and unseat Prime Minister, 1959-1960,” *Global Nonviolent Action Database, GNVAD*, Swarthmore College, 2010. <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/japanese-protest-security-treaty-us-and-unseat-prime-minister-1959-1960>
- 4 “Satō Eisaku Prime Minister of Japan,” *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sato-Eisaku>
- 5 Kenneth Pletcher, “Shinzo Abe Prime Minister of Japan,” *Britannica*, September 17, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abe-Shinzo>
- 6 Philippe Mesmer, “Shinzo Abe, former prime minister and ‘kingmaker,’” *Le Monde*, July 10, 2022. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/obituaries/article/2022/07/10/shinzo-abe-former-prime-minister-and-kingmaker_5989680_15.html
- 7 Joseph Maiolo, *Cry Havoc: How the Arms Race Drove the World to War, 1931–1941* (Basic Books, 2010), 30.
- 8 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan’s Imperialism, 1895–1945* (Duke University Press, 2010), 275.
- 9 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 276.
- 10 Eri Hotta, *Pan-Asianism and Japan’s War 1931–1945* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 125.

- 11 Lars Erik Schoenander, "The Works of the Monster of Shōwa," *Palladium*, June 3, 2022. <https://palladiummag.com/2022/06/03/the-works-of-the-monster-of-showa/>
- 12 Joseph Maiolo, *Cry Havoc How the Arms Race Drove the World to War, 1931–1941* (Basic Books, 2010), 395.
- 13 Michael Schaller, *America's Favorite War Criminal: Kishi Nobusuke and the Transformation of U.S.-Japan Relations*, JPRI Working Paper No. 11 (Japanese Policy Research Institute, July 1995). <https://jpri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Working-Paper-11.pdf>
- 14 John Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race & Power in the Pacific War* (Pantheon, 1987), 47. <https://www.amazon.com/War-Without-Mercy-Power-Pacific/dp/0394751728>
- 15 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 307.
- 16 "Asian Holocaust: WMD Opium, Sex Slaves, Nanjing Massacre Pillage, Slavery, WMD Unit 731, 100, 516," *Sky City Gallery*, 2022. <http://www.skycitygallery.com/japan/japan.html>
- 17 Kishreiji Yoshida, "Opium King's ties believed went to the top: Trader allegedly pipelined 'secret funds' to Tojo, Kishi, other Tokyo bigwigs," *Japan Times*, August 30, 2007. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2007/08/30/national/opium-kings-ties-believed-went-to-the-top/>
- 18 "Yakuza, Japanese organized crime," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/yakuza>
- 19 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 270.
- 20 Richard Samuels, *Kishi and Corruption: An Anatomy of the 1955 System*, JPRI Working Paper No. 83 (Japan Policy Research Institute, December 2001).
- 21 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 266.
- 22 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 266.
- 23 Mark Driscoll, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, 307.
- 24 "Unit 731, 100 etc. – Inhuman WMD Biological Warfare," *Sky City Gallery*, 2022. <http://www.skycitygallery.com/japan/japan.html#unit731>
- 25 U.S. amnesty to war criminals Unit 731:
Romeo Jung, Unit 731: Imperial Japan's Biological and Chemical Warfare," UC Santa Cruz, March 25, 2018. <https://dangerousworld.soe.ucsc.edu/2018/03/25/unit-731-imperial-japans-biological-and-chemical-warfare/>
Jeffrey Kaye, "Department of Justice Official Releases Letter Admitting U.S. Amnesty of Japan's Unit 731 War Criminals," Jeffrey Kaye [blog] on *Medium*, March 15, 2017. <https://jeff-kaye.medium.com/department-of-justice-official-releases-letter-admitting-u-s-amnesty-of-unit-731-war-criminals-9b7da41d8982>
- 26 Romeo Jung, "Unit 731: Imperial Japan's Biological and Chemical Warfare," *Dangerous World*, University of California, Santa Cruz, March 25, 2018. <https://dangerousworld.soe.ucsc.edu/2018/03/25/unit-731-imperial-japans-biological-and-chemical-warfare/>
- 27 C. Peter Chen (Contrib.), "Shiro Ishii," *World War II Database*, November 2009. https://ww2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=n541
- 28 C. Peter Chen (Contrib.), "Hisato Yoshimura," *World War II Database*, May 2019. https://ww2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=1090
- 29 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, United Nations, December 10, 1948. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

- 30 Ian Schneier, “Pardoning Devils: The American Cover Up of Imperial Japanese Unit 731,” Center for Junior Officers [blog] on *Medium*, January 27, 2021. <https://medium.com/leadership-counts/pardoning-devils-the-american-cover-up-of-imperial-japanese-unit-731-504f966cf08d> [Article removed from original link: https://juniorofficer.army.mil/pardoning-devils-the-american-cover-up-of-imperial-japanese-unit-731/#_ftn4]
- 31 Didi Kirsten Tatlow, “A New Look at Japan’s Unit 731 Wartime Atrocities and a U.S. Cover-Up,” *The Asia Pacific Journal*, November 16, 2015. https://apjjf.org/-Didi-Kirsten_Tatlow/4399
- 32 Jing-Bao Nie, “The West’s Dismissal of the Khabarovsk trial as ‘Communist Propaganda’: Ideology, evidence and international bioethics,” *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 1 (2004), 32–42. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF02448905>
- 33 Jing-Bao Nie.
- 34 “Japanese Prime Ministers Who Have Delivered an Address at the United States Congress, Government of Japan,” *Tomodachi* (Spring 2015). https://www.japan.go.jp/tomodachi/2015/spring2015/japanese_prime_ministers_who_have.html
- 35 Richard Samuels, *Kishi and Corruption: An Anatomy of the 1955 System*, JPRI Working Paper No. 83 (Japan Policy Research Institute, December 2001). <https://www.gwern.net/docs/japanese/2001-12-samuels-kishiandcorruptionanatomyofthe1955system.html>
- 36 Richard Samuels.
- 37 Lars Erik Schoenander, “The Works of the Monster of Shōwa,” *Palladium*, June 3, 2022. <https://palladiummag.com/2022/06/03/the-works-of-the-monster-of-showa/>
- 38 U.S. Biological experimentation on humans:
- Kara Rogers, “Guatemala syphilis experiment,” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Guatemala-syphilis-experiment>
- Elizabeth Nix, “Tuskegee Experiment: The Infamous Syphilis Study,” *History.com*, December 15, 2020. <https://www.history.com/news/the-infamous-40-year-tuskegee-study>
- Scott Allen, “Radiation used on retarded Postwar experiments done at Fernald school,” *Boston Globe*, December 26, 1993, p. 1, archived at https://faculty.uml.edu/darcus/47.269/MATERIALS/fernale_globe1993.htm#fulltext
- Stacey E. Blau “Institute Charged in Fernald Radiation Experiment Lawsuit,” *The Tech*, MIT, October 17, 1995. <http://tech.mit.edu/V115/N49/radiation.49n.html>
- 39 U.S. biolabs:
- Dilyana Gaytandzhieva, “Documents expose US biological experiments on allied soldiers in Ukraine and Georgia,” *Dilyana.bg*, January 24, 2022. <https://dilyana.bg/documents-expose-us-biological-experiments-on-allied-soldiers-in-ukraine-and-georgia/>
- “U.S. owes world an answer on bio lab,” *Global Times* editorial, March 10, 2022. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202203/1254649.shtml>
- 40 U.S. biological labs:
- Alexander Alimov, “US biological labs operating in foreign countries,” Twitter post @A_Alimov, October 2, 2020. https://twitter.com/a__alimov/status/1311952903142285312

- Dilyana Gaytandzhieva, "Potential pandemic bird flu modified to be more dangerous in new risky NIH research," *Dilyana.bg*, January 24, 2022. <https://dilyana.bg/potential-pandemic-bird-flu-modified-to-be-more-dangerous-in-new-risky-nih-research/>
- Feng Qingyin, "US-funded bio-labs raise public health concerns," *Global Times*, March 10, 2022. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202203/1254588.shtml>
- Dilyana Gaytandzhieva, "New data leak from the Pentagon biolaboratory in Georgia," *Dilyana.bg*, September 7, 2020. <https://dilyana.bg/new-data-leak-from-the-pentagon-biolaboratory-in-georgia/>
- Louis Casiano, "Boston University researchers claim to have developed new, more lethal COVID strain in lab," *Fox News*, October 18, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/boston-university-lethal-covid-strain-lab>
- 41 Historia Quae Dicitur, Gesta Dei per Francos, Guibert of Novigente, *Documenta Catholica Omnia*, 1108. http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/02m/1053-1124_Guibertus_De_Novigento_Abbas_Historia_Quae_Dicitur_Gesta_Dei_Per_Francos_MLT.pdf
- 42 "Coinage in the Byzantine Empire," *Britannica*, December 9, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coin/Coinage-in-the-Byzantine-Empire>
- 43 August. C. Krey, *The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants* (Princeton: 1921), 280–81, citation for "3. The Latins in the Levant [From Book III]," *Fulcher of Chartres: History of the Expedition to Jerusalem*, History Department, Fordham University. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/fulcher-cde.asp#levant>
- 44 "Medieval Sourcebook: Urban II (1088-1099): Speech at Council of Clermont, 1095" [five versions of the speech], *Internet Medieval Source Book*, History Department, Fordham University, December 9, 2022. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/urban2-5vers.asp>
- 45 "Papal Bull Dum Diversas 18 June, 1452," *Doctrine of Discovery Project*, July 23, 2018. <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/dum-diversas/>
- 46 "The Bull Romanus Pontifex (Nicholas V), January 8, 1454," *Doctrine of Discovery Project*, July 23, 2018. <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/the-bull-romanus-pontifex-nicholas-v/>
- 47 S. Modrow (Translator), and M. Smith, "The Papal Bull Inter Caetera of May 4, 1493," Indigenous Values Initiative, *Doctrine of Discovery Project*, July 30, 2018. https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/assets/pdfs/Inter_Caetera_Modrow&Smith.pdf
- 48 Papal Bulls and the Doctrine of Discovery:
 "Papal Bulls that create the foundation of the Doctrine of Discovery," Indigenous Values Initiative, *Doctrine of Discovery Project*, July 30, 2018. <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/papal-bulls/>.
 "Doctrine of Discovery," *Legal Information Institute*, Cornell Law School, April 2022. https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/doctrine_of_discovery
 "What is the Doctrine of Discovery?" *Unitarian Universalist Association*, 2020. <https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/racial-justice/dod/what-doctrine-discovery>
- 49 Erin Blakemore, "This 500-year-old Catholic decree encouraged colonization. Will the pope revoke it?," *National Geographic*, July 22, 2022. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/doctrine-of-discovery-how-the-centuries-old-catholic-decree-encouraged-colonization>

- 50 Edmund Allenby, on entering Jerusalem in 1917:
Catherine Philp, “A new chapter in centuries of religious unrest for Jerusalem,” *Times UK*, December 7, 2017. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trump-embassy-declaration-heralds-new-chapter-in-centuries-of-religious-unrest-for-holy-city-frmwg39rm>
- “The Christmas Present 1917–1919,” *Erenow*. <https://erenow.net/common-jerusalem-the-biography/49.php>
- 51 Michael Neiberg, “Allenby Captures Jerusalem,” *HistoryNet*, March 13, 2017. <https://www.historynet.com/allenby-captures-jerusalem/>
- 52 General Henri Gouraud, on entering Damascus:
Tariq Ali, “The King and the Sultan,” *Washington Post*, June 4, 2001. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2001/06/04/the-king-and-the-sultan/dc3a03b6-7c37-45a7-9c82-b7a584108522/>
- Michael Provence, *The Last Ottoman Generation* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). https://www.reddit.com/r/islam/comments/mdxcgz/an_interesting_except_i_found_in_the_last_ottoman/
- James Barr, “General Gouraud: ‘Saladin, We’re Back!’ Did He Really Say It?” *Syria Comment*, May 27, 2016. <https://www.joshualandis.com/blog/general-gouraud-saladin-back-really-say/>
- “Quotes by Gamal Abdel Nasser, 1954–1967,” *Center for Online Judaic Studies*. http://cojs.org/quotes_by_gamal_abdel_nasser_1954-1967/
- 53 James Carroll, “The Bush Crusade,” *The Nation*, September 2, 2004. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/bush-crusade/>
- 54 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire: its Origins, Evolution, and Anti-Human Outlook* (Independently published, 2008), 11.
- 55 Robert D. Ingraham, 24.
- 56 Robert D. Ingraham, 16.
- 57 “Sephardic Jews and the House of Orange,” *Royal Rosamond Press*, May 8, 2018. <https://rosamondpress.com/2018/05/18/sapharidic-jews-and-house-of-orange/>
- 58 Joseph Jacob, “SUASSO,” *Jewish Encyclopedia*. <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14093-suasso>
- 59 David B. Green, “This Day in Jewish History: 1710 The Banker Who Helped William of Orange Conquer England Dies,” *Haaretz*, April 22, 2015. <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2015-04-22/ty-article/.premium/banker-who-helped-william-win-england-dies/0000017f-e5bb-df5f-a17f-ffff6ea40000>
- 60 Early Jewish Holders of Bank of England Stock (1694–1725), *Miscellanies*, 6 (Jewish Historical Society of England, 1962), 143–174. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/29777130>
- 61 “What Were the Financial Benefits of the Crusades?,” Medieval History, *Daily History*, January 3, 2018. https://www.dailystory.org/What_Were_the_Financial_Benefits_of_the_Crusades
- 62 “What Were the Financial Benefits of the Crusades?”
- 63 David B. Green, “This Day in Jewish History: Spain’s King Ferdinand Issues Immunity to Luis De Santangel,” *Haaretz*, May 30, 2014. <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2014-05-30/ty-article/this-day-spanish-king-grants-immunity/0000017f-e685-df2c-a1ff-fed59f770000>

- 64 Cyrus Adler and Myer Kayserling, "Santangel (Sancto Angelos), Luis (Azarias) De," *Jewish Encyclopedia*, 2021. <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13183-santangel-sancto-angelos-luis-azarias-de>
- 65 "Luis de Santangel, the man who paid for America," *Better Later than Never*, 2020. <https://www.betterlatethannever.info/luis-de-santangel-man-paid-america/>
- 66 Robert D. Ingraham, *The Modern Anglo-Dutch Empire: its Origins, Evolution, and Anti-Human Outlook* (Independently published, 2008), 20.
- 67 Mark Oliver, "The Banana Wars: How The U.S. Plundered Central America On Behalf Of Corporations," *All That's Interesting*, September 14, 2017. <https://allthatsinteresting.com/banana-wars>
- 68 Madeleine Albright on death of 500,000 Iraqi children:
"Iraq Sanctions Kill 576,000 Children, U.N. Reports," *New York Times*, December 1, 1995. <https://www.nytimes.com/1995/12/01/world/iraq-sanctions-kill-children-un-reports.html>
World Future Fund, "Madeleine Albright Endorsed Killing Over 500,000 Children in Iraq." <https://www.worldfuturefund.org/Articles/madalbright.html>
Madeleine Albright says 500,000 dead Iraqi Children was "worth it" wins Medal of Freedom, YouTube Video, 0:23, (ttj1776, May 2, 2012). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omnskeu-puE>
- 69 Wellesley College, "Former U.S. Secretary of State Receives Highest Civilian Honor," July 5, 2012. <https://www.wellesley.edu/news/stories/node/27273>
- 70 "Free World," *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_World
- 71 "Free World," *Wikipedia*.
- 72 Lijian Zhao, *Twitter*, March 18, 2022. https://twitter.com/zlj517/status/1504599052868255744?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
- 73 Vladislav Sotirovic, "The Spanish Conquistadors and the First Genocide in Modern History (III)," *Oriental Review*, February 4, 2021. <https://orientalreview.org/2021/02/04/the-spanish-conquistadors-and-the-first-genocide-in-modern-history-iii/>
- 74 Vladislav Sotirovic.
- 75 Vladislav Sotirovic.
- 76 Nicolas Michel, "RDC : Léopold II, ce bourreau aux 10 millions de victimes," *Jeune Afrique*, September 9, 2015. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/262331/culture/rdc-leopold-ii-ce-bourreau-aux-10-millions-de-victimes/>
- 77 Takudzwa Hillary Chiwanza, "The Hidden Holocaust: How King Leopold II Murdered 10 Million Africans," *African Exponent*, June 11, 2020. <https://www.africanexponent.com/post/7586-the-hidden-holocaust-how-king-leopold-ii-murdered-10-million-africans>
- 78 Marietta Korfiati, "Congolese Genocide: The Overlooked History of the Colonized Congo," *The Collector*, June 8, 2022. <https://www.thecollector.com/congolesegenocide-colonized-congo/>
- 79 Charlotte Mertens, "Sexual Violence in the Congo Free State: Archival Traces and Present Reconfigurations," Proceedings of the 38th AFSAAP Conference: *21st Century Tensions and Transformation in Africa*, Deakin University, October 28–30, 2015 (published February 2016). https://afsaap.org.au/assets/Charlotte_Mertens_AFSAAP2015.pdf

- 80 Robert Paris, “Les dix millions de victimes africaines du colonialisme belge au Congo,” *Matière et Revolution*, March 21, 2011. <https://www.matierevolution.fr/spip.php?article4353>
- 81 Tatenda Gwaambuka, “Rape, Genocide and a Cover-up: How Britain Tortured and Killed 300,000 Kenyans,” *The African Exponent*, December 18, 2018. <https://www.africanexponent.com/post/9530-the-torture-of-thousands-of-kikuyu-in-kenya-and-the-great-british-cover-up>
- 82 “Sir John Robert Seeley biography,” Seeley Genealogical Society. <https://www.seeley-society.org/genealogy/biographies/sir-john-robert-seeley/>
- 83 Máire ní Fhlathúin, “The British Empire in the Nineteenth Century,” University of Nottingham, Gale, 2008. <https://www.gale.com/intl/essays/maire-ni-fhlathuin-british-empire-nineteenth-century>
- 84 Sura Al-Hujurat, Aya 13, *Holy Koran*. <https://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tabary/sura49-aya13.html>
- 85 Sura An-Nahl, Aya 36, *Holy Koran*. <https://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/tabary/sura16-aya36.html>
- 86 “Prophet Mohammad Hadith on racism.” <https://hadithprophet.com/hadith-26981.html>
- 87 “Prophet Mohammad Hadith on number of prophets.” <https://imamhussain.org/maaref/32917>
- 88 As an illustration on a personal level, I am a Christian from the Levant. The Islamic empire controlled the Levant some fourteen centuries ago. That I am a Christian of the Levant attests to that fact that, not at any time during 1400 years were any of my ancestors oppressed to a point that they had to change religion or leave the region. As a matter of fact, the Christian population percentage in the Levant only dropped with advent of the European colonialists in the early 20th century, initially in Palestine and Lebanon, and subsequently in Iraq after the 2003 war and in Syria after the 2011 Western-sponsored proxy war using “rebels,” a.k.a. ISIS.
- 89 Father Dr. Ramy Wannous, “The Crusades from the view of an Arab Christian belonging to the Orthodox faith,” *Stuttgarter Theologische Themen* | Band 4 (2009). https://www.stttonline.org/wp-content/uploads/files/STT09_2_Wannous_EN.pdf
- 90 “The 85 canons of apostles,” Holy Trinity Orthodox School. http://www.holytrinitymission.org/books/english/cannons_apostles_rudder.htm
- 91 Father Dr. Ramy Wannous, “The Crusades from the view of an Arab Christian belonging to the Orthodox faith,” *Stuttgarter Theologische Themen* | Band 4 (2009). https://www.stttonline.org/wp-content/uploads/files/STT09_2_Wannous_EN.pdf
- 92 Father Dr. Ramy Wannous, Priest of Saint George Greek Orthodox parish, Broumana, Mount Lebanon.
- 93 “Admiral Zheng He and the Chinese Treasure Fleet,” Channel Islands Maritime Museum, 2022. <https://www.education.maritime-museum.org/training/north-gallery-2/asian-history/admiral-zheng-he-and-the-chinese-treasure-fleet/>
- 94 Admiral Zheng He brings and returns ambassadors to Chinese imperial court: “Admiral Zheng He and the Chinese Treasure Fleet,” Channel Islands Maritime Museum, 2022. <https://www.education.maritime-museum.org/training/north-gallery-2/asian-history/admiral-zheng-he-and-the-chinese-treasure-fleet/>

- Michael L. Bosworth, "The rise and fall of 15th century Chinese sea power." <http://web.archive.org/web/20040607174057/http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/china.htm>
- 95 Chinese expeditions gifted gold and silver:
"Admiral Zheng He and the Chinese Treasure Fleet," Channel Islands Maritime Museum.
- Michael L. Bosworth, "The rise and fall of 15th century Chinese sea power."
"The trilingual inscription of Admiral Zheng He," Universiteit van Amsterdam. <http://cf.hum.uva.nl/galle/galle/trilingual.html>
- Alex Perry, "A Testament to an Odyssey, A Monument to a Failure," *Time Asia, Asian Journey 2001*. http://www.time.com/time/asia/features/journey2001/india_sb1.html
- 96 The Trilingual Tablet:
"The trilingual inscription of Admiral Zheng He," Universiteit van Amsterdam. <http://web.archive.org/web/20040603181458/http://cf.hum.uva.nl/galle/galle/trilingual.html>
- Alex Perry, "A Testament to an Odyssey, A Monument to a Failure."
- 97 "The trilingual inscription of Admiral Zheng He," Universiteit van Amsterdam.
- 98 Chinese vs. European maritime expeditions:
Michael L. Bosworth, "The rise and fall of 15th century Chinese sea power."
Richard Gunde, "Zheng He's Voyages of Discovery," UCLA, 2004. <http://web.archive.org/web/20040601143306/http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=10387>
- 99 U.S. Department of State, *Human Rights Report*, April 12, 2022. <https://www.state.gov/subjects/human-rights-report/>
- 100 U.S. Department of State, *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, April 12, 2022. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/>
- 101 Withdrawal from treaties:
C. Todd Lopez, "U.S. Withdraws From Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty," U.S. Department of Defense, August 2, 2019. <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1924779/us-withdraws-from-intermediate-range-nuclear-forces-treaty/>
- U.S. Department of Defense, "DOD Statement on Open Skies Treaty Withdrawal," May 21, 2020. <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2195239/dod-statement-on-open-skies-treaty-withdrawal/>
- Lynn F. Rusten, "U.S. Withdrawal from the Antiballistic Missile Treaty," National Defense University, January 1, 2010. <https://wmdcenter.ndu.edu/Publications/Publication-View/Article/627137/us-withdrawal-from-the-antiballistic-missile-treaty/>
- 102 West used Minsk II Agreements a ploy to buy Ukraine time:
"Merkel: Minsk agreements were meant to 'give Ukraine time,'" *Al Mayadeen*, December 8, 2022. <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/merkel:-minsk-agreement-attempted-to-give-ukraine-time>

- “Real intention behind Minsk agreements further destroys credibility of the West,” *Global Times*, December 12, 2022. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1281708.shtml>
- “Minsk deal was used to buy time Ukraine’s Poroshenko,” *RT.com/Malaysia Sun*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/272589263/minsk-deal-was-used-to-buy-time-ukraines-poroshenko>
- 103 Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, “Address by the President of the Russian Federation,” February 24, 2022. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67843>

CHAPTER 8

- 1 Drugs, prostitution and smuggling inflate EU GDP:
“E.U. Nations Counting Sex and Drug Trades Toward G.D.P.,” *New York Times*, July 9, 2014. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/10/business/international/eu-nations-counting-sex-and-drug-trades-toward-gdp.html>
- Sarah O’Connor, “Drugs and prostitution add £10bn to U.K. economy,” *Financial Times*, May 29, 2014. <https://www.ft.com/content/65704ba0-e730-11e3-88be-00144feabdc0>
- 2 Tyler Durden, “San Francisco ‘Poop Patrollers’ Make \$185,000,” *Zerohedge*, August 24 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-08-22/san-francisco-poop-patrollers-make-185000>
- 3 Andrei Martyanov, *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning* (Clarity Press, 2018), 220.
- 4 “Bush: ‘We’re fighting for our way of life,’” *CNN*, September 6, 2006. <http://edition.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/09/06/bush.transcript/index.html>
- 5 “Obama: The American way of life is not a gift,” *Investor’s Business Daily*, December 13, 2014. <https://www.investors.com/obama-holiday-greetings-thanks-to-troops/>
- 6 Donald Trump, “Our way of life is under threat,” @realDonaldTrump, Twitter, July 27 2016. <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/758872422028148740?lang=en>
- 7 Biden’s Administration’s anti-fossil fuel policy:
David Blackmon, “Why Biden’s Killing Of Keystone XL Was An Energy Security Blunder,” *Forbes*, March 10, 2022. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidblackmon/2022/03/10/why-bidens-killing-of-keystone-xl-was-a-big-energy-blunder/?sh=42d2cac013fd>
- Robert McNally, “Biden’s decision to cancel Keystone is one the US will eventually regret,” *CNN*, February 8, 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/08/perspectives/keystone-cancel-biden/index.html>
- Ben Lefebvre, “Biden kills Keystone XL permit, again,” *Politico*, January 20, 2021. <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/20/joe-biden-kills-keystone-xl-pipeline-permit-460555>
- Thomas Barrabi, “Why Biden energy policies have contributed to surging oil prices,” *New York Post*, March 9, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/03/09/why-biden-energy-policies-have-contributed-to-surging-oil-prices/>
- 8 Jeffrey Tayler, “Russia Is Finished,” *The Atlantic*, May 2001 issue. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/05/russia-is-finished/302220/>

- 9 Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books, 1997), 39. <https://www.amazon.com/Grand-Chessboard-American-Geostrategic-Imperatives/dp/046509435X/>
- 10 Michael Hudson, *Super Imperialism: The economic strategy of American Empire, 3rd edition* (ISLET, 2021), 299. <https://www.amazon.com/Imperialism-Economic-Strategy-American-Empire/dp/3981826094>
- 11 Mandy Smithberger, “America’s National Security Budget Nearing \$1.2 Trillion,” *POGO*, February 13, 2018. <https://www.pogo.org/investigation/2018/02/americas-national-security-budget-nearing-12-trillion>
- 12 ICE-9, “The Evolution of Fiat Money, Endless War, and the End of Citizenship,” *The Burning Platform*, August 12, 2020. <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2020/08/12/the-evolution-of-fiat-money-endless-war-and-the-end-of-citizenship/>
- 13 “The Reality-Based Community And Trump’s Orwellian Dystopia,” *Huffington Post*, 2017. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-milton-mankoff/the-reality-based-community-and-trumps_b_13351438.html
- 14 “Handful of Oligarchs Control Entire Collapsing US Health System,” *Astute News*, December 26, 2019. <https://astutenews.com/2019/12/handful-of-oligarchs-control-entire-collapsing-us-health-system/>
- 15 Hedge fund domination of the media:
Who owns the world – Documentary by Tim Gielen, YouTube Video, 1:03:31 (DJ Spu, July 9, 2022). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joQzQKGqbyg>
Joseph Mercola, “Who Owns the World?: Blackrock and Vanguard,” *Organic Consumers Association*, November 8, 2021. <https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/who-owns-world-blackrock-and-vanguard>
StylishSkunk, “Blackrock and Vanguard are the top shareholders in almost every big company,” *Investment Watch* [blog], March 10, 2022. <https://www.investmentwatchblog.com/blackrock-and-vanguard-are-the-top-shareholders-in-almost-every-big-company/>
- 16 “Yahoo Finance,” *Yahoo*, October 1, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/>
- 17 U.S. Department of State, *Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*. <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrpt/>
- 18 Laura Silver, “China’s Economic Growth Mostly Welcomed in Emerging Markets, but Neighbors Wary of Its Influence,” *Pew Research Center*, December 5, 2019. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2019/12/05/chinas-economic-growth-mostly-welcomed-in-emerging-markets-but-neighbors-wary-of-its-influence/>
- 19 Jerry W. Markham, “Manipulation of Commodity Futures Prices: The Unprosecutable Crime,” *Yale Journal on Regulation*, 8 (1997), 281. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1707522
- 20 “Central banks manipulating & suppressing gold prices – industry expert to RT,” *Russia Today*, 2018. <https://www.rt.com/business/421618-central-banks-manipulating-suppressing-gold/>
- 21 “Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (ICE) Major Holders,” *Yahoo Finance*, December 15, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/ICE/holders>
- 22 “CME Group Inc. (CME) Major Holders,” *Yahoo Finance*, December 15, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/CME/holders>.

- 23 Koos Jansen, "Audits Of US Monetary Gold Severely Lack Credibility," *BullionStar* [blog], March 28, 2018. <https://www.bullionstar.com/blogs/koos-jansen/audits-of-us-monetary-gold-severely-lack-credibility/>
- 24 Frank Holmes, "Top 10 Countries With The Largest Gold Reserves," *Forbes*, May 26, 2016. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2016/05/26/top-10-countries-with-the-largest-gold-reserves/#3179a93f730a>
- 25 Marc Howe, "Germans demand bullion back after Federal Reserve refuses to let them view their own gold," *Mining Dot Com*, November 1, 2012. <https://www.mining.com/germans-begin-to-demand-their-gold-back-after-new-york-federal-reserve-rebuffs-access-requests-52759/>
- 26 Daniela Cambone, "Germany Gets Its Gold Back From The Fed And It's A Big Deal," *Kitco*, August 24, 2017. <https://www.kitco.com/news/2017-08-24/Germany-Gets-Its-Gold-Back-From-The-Fed-And-It-s-A-Big-Deal.html>
- 27 Karen Freifeld, "Moody's, S&P and Fitch sued over failed Bear Stearns funds," *Yahoo Finance*, November 11, 2013. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/moodys-p-fitch-sued-over-165204564.html>
- 28 Reuters, "UPDATE 1: S&P offers rare defense of Lehman 'A' rating," September 24, 2008. <https://www.reuters.com/article/lehman-ratings-sandp-idINN2446040820080924>
- 29 Reuters, "Moody's \$864m penalty for ratings in run-up to 2008 financial crisis," *The Guardian*, January 14, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jan/14/moodys-864m-penalty-for-ratings-in-run-up-to-2008-financial-crisis>
- 30 James O'Toole and Chris Isidore, "U.S. sues S&P over subprime ratings," *CNN Business*, February 6, 2013. <https://money.cnn.com/2013/02/05/news/economy/sandp-subprime-lawsuit/index.html>
- 31 Kaelan Deese, "Lin Wood claims 'no plane fragments found' at 9/11 target sites," *Washington Examiner*, October 3, 2021. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/lin-wood-claims-no-plane-fragments-found-at-9-11-target-sites>
- 32 Bologna train station false flag:
"A Diabolic False Flag Empire: Is The American Trajectory Divine Or Demonic?" *Zerohedge*, September 9, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-09/diabolic-false-flag-empire-american-trajectory-divine-or-demonic>
"The terror trail that won't grow cold: Dark forces bombed Bologna station in 1980, killing 85," *Independent UK*, October 10, 1993. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/the-terror-trail-that-wont-grow-cold-dark-forces-bombed-bologna-station-in-1980-killing-85-at-a-1509705.html>
- 33 Color revolutions:
Mathew Ehret, "The Anglo-American Origins of Color Revolutions & NED," Strategic Culture Foundation, August 17, 2019. <https://strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/17/the-anglo-american-origins-of-color-revolutions-ned/>
Javier Castro, "C.I.A. Color Revolutions," *Counter Currents*, April 23, 2018. <https://countercurrents.org/2018/04/c-i-a-color-revolutions/>
William Blum, "Trojan Horses and Color Revolutions: The Role of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)," *Investig'Action*, August 10, 2017. <https://www.investigaction.net/en/trojan-horses-and-color-revolutions-the-role-of-the-national-endowment-for-democracy-ned/>
- 34 Fake chemical attacks in Syria:

“DISINFO: Leaked OPCW report proves Douma chemical attack was staged,” *Sputnik News*, May 14, 2019. <https://euvdisinfo.eu/report/leaked-opcw-report-proves-douma-chemical-attack-was-staged/>

Robert Fisk, “The evidence we were never meant to see about the Douma ‘gas’ attack,” *Independent UK*, May 23, 2019. <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/douma-syria-opcw-chemical-weapons-chlorine-gas-video-conspiracy-theory-russia-a8927116.html>

BBC producer drops bombshell by saying footage of 2018 Douma chemical attack was ‘staged,’ YouTube Video, 1:48, (CGTN, February 16, 2019). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xcsH2EJOis

35 Fake weapons of mass destruction to justify war on Iraq:

Joe Wilson and Valerie Plame Wilson, “How the Bush administration sold the war – and we bought it,” *The Guardian*, February 27, 2013. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/feb/27/bush-administration-sold-iraq-war>

Jonathan Schwarz, “Lie After Lie After Lie: What Colin Powell Knew Ten Years Ago Today and What He Said,” February 5, 2013, *Huffington Post*. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-schwarz/colin-powell-wmd-iraq-war_b_2624620.html

Bob Constantine, “Just how outrageous were Colin Powell’s Iraq lies to the U.N.?” *Los Angeles Times*, October 19, 2021. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-10-19/just-how-outrageous-were-colin-powells-iraq-lies>

36 Fake Star Wars:

Tim Weiner, “Lies and Rigged ‘Star Wars’ Test Fooled the Kremlin, and Congress,” *New York Times*, August 18, 1993. <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/08/18/us/lies-and-rigged-star-wars-test-fooled-the-kremlin-and-congress.html>

John Tirman, “A Big Hoax to Match a Big Lie : ‘Star Wars’ was a fantasy all along,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 20, 1993. <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1993-08-20-me-25495-story.html>

37 Soviet collapse:

Charles McCarry, “‘Star Wars’ and the Soviet Collapse,” *Wall Street Journal*, November 6, 2015. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/star-wars-and-the-soviet-collapse-1446839909>

“‘Star Wars destroyed Soviet Union’ – Russian space chief,” *RT*, March 9 2012. <https://www.rt.com/russia/russian-chief-star-wars-762/>

“Star Wars: How Reagan’s \$30BN Space Initiative Helped Bankrupt the Soviets (And was possibly a bluff),” *Daily Mail UK*, January 17, 2019. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/fb-6604811/STAR-WARS-REAGANS-30BN-SPACE-INITIATIVE-HELPED-BANKRUPT-SOVIETS-POSSIBLY-BLUFF.html>

38 Milton Mankoff, “The Reality-Based Community And Trump’s Orwellian Dystopia,” *Huffington Post*, December 8, 2016. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-milton-mankoff/the-reality-based-community-and-trumps_b_13351438.html

39 Countries with highest military spending:

- “Countries with the highest military spending worldwide in 2021,” *Statista*, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262742/countries-with-the-highest-military-spending/>
- Jackie Gilbert, “Connecting Vets: House passes \$241 billion 2021 Veterans Affairs budget plan – the largest ever,” *FedHealthIT*, July 27, 2020. <https://www.fedhealthit.com/2020/07/connecting-vets-house-passes-241-billion-2021-veterans-affairs-budget-plan-the-largest-ever/>
- Projected Costs of U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2021 to 2030*, Congressional Budget Office, May 2021. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57240>
- 40 Mandy Smithberger, “America’s National Security Budget Nearing \$1.2 Trillion,” *POGO*, February 13, 2018. <http://www.pogo.org/straus/issues/defense-budget/2018/americas-national-security-budget-nearing-1-trillion.html>
- 41 Military spending G-7 versus RIC:
“Countries with the highest military spending worldwide in 2021,” *Statista*, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262742/countries-with-the-highest-military-spending/>
- Jackie Gilbert, “Connecting Vets: House passes \$241 billion 2021 Veterans Affairs budget plan – the largest ever,” *FedHealthIT*, July 27, 2020. <https://www.fedhealthit.com/2020/07/connecting-vets-house-passes-241-billion-2021-veterans-affairs-budget-plan-the-largest-ever/>
- Projected Costs of U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2021 to 2030*, Congressional Budget Office, May 2021. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57240>
- 42 *Military Intervention Project (MIP)*, Fletcher Center for Strategic Studies, Tufts University, 2022. <https://sites.tufts.edu/css/mip-research/>
- 43 *Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798–2022*, Congressional Research Service, March 8, 2022. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/R42738.pdf>
- 44 Nick Turse, “Report: Post-9/11 era one of the most militarily aggressive in US history,” *Responsible Statecraft*, August 10, 2022. <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/08/10/report-post-9-11-era-one-of-the-most-militarily-aggressive-in-us-history/>
- 45 Monica Duffy Toft, “The Dangerous Rise of Kinetic Diplomacy,” *War on the Rocks*, May 14, 2018. <https://warontherocks.com/2018/05/the-dangerous-rise-of-kinetic-diplomacy/>
- 46 H. J. Mackinder, “The Geographical Pivot of History,” *The Geographical Journal*, XXIII, no.4 (Royal Geographical Society, April 1904). https://web.uniroma1.it/disp/sites/default/files/Mackinder_Geographical+Pivot+of+History.pdf
- 47 Patrick J. Garrity, “Nicholas Spykman, America’s Strategy in World Politics (1942),” *Classics of Strategy and Diplomacy*, April 1, 2008. <https://classicsofstrategy.com/2008/04/01/americas-strategy-in-world-politics/>
- 48 Zbigniew Brzezinski, “The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives” (Basic Books, 1997), 23. <https://www.amazon.com/Grand-Chessboard-American-Geostrategic-Imperatives/dp/046509435X/>
- 49 Milton Mankoff, “The Reality-Based Community And Trump’s Orwellian Dystopia,” *Huffington Post*, December 8, 2016. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-milton-mankoff/the-reality-based-community-and-trumps_b_13351438.html
- 50 “Collapse of the Soviet Union,” *History.com*, April 19, 2022. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/fall-of-soviet-union>

- 51 Andrei Martyanov, *The (Real) Revolution in Military Affairs* (Clarity Press, 2019), 157.
- 52 Ukraine ‘game changing’ weapons systems:
Charles Creitz, “Petraeus: Sending Switchblade drone munitions to Ukraine would be ‘game-changer,’” *Fox News*, April 1, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/war-in-ukraine-russia-david-petraeus-switchblade-drones-biden>
- Peter Aitken, “Switchblade drones US sending to Ukraine may be ‘game changers,’” *Fox News*, March 17, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/switchblade-drones-ukraine-game-changers>
- “How American M777 Howitzers Could Turn the Tide of Ukraine War,” *Ukraine Today*, May 12, 2022. <https://ukrainetoday.org/2022/05/12/how-american-m777-howitzers-could-turn-the-tide-of-ukraine-war/>
- Jason Lemon, “HIMARS ‘Game Changer’ in Ukraine War, Russia ‘in Dire Shape’: Ex-General,” *Newsweek*, July 23, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/himars-game-changer-ukraine-war-russia-dire-shape-ex-general-1727400>
- 53 “Artillery is breaking in Ukraine. It’s becoming a problem for the Pentagon,” *New York Times*, November 25, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/25/us/ukraine-artillery-breakdown.html>
- 54 Iranian drones in Ukraine war:
“Iranian drones a game changer in Russia’s favor: Politico,” *Al Mayadeen*, September 26, 2022. <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/iranian-drones-a-game-changer-in-russias-favor:-politico>
- Lara Seligman, “‘Huge problem’: Iranian drones pose new threat to Ukraine,” *Politico*, September 26, 2022. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/09/26/iranian-drones-ukraine-russia-war-00058802>
- 55 M1 Abrams tank:
“The US Will Not Send Abrams Tanks to Ukraine Because of Their Gluttony and Propensity to Break Down,” *Scoop Trade*, January 5, 2023. <https://scooptrade.com/washington-post-the-us-will-not-send-abrams-tanks-to-ukraine-because-of-their-gluttony-and-propensity-to-break-down/>
- “Facts M1 Abrams tank revealed,” *Turbotrain*. <http://turbotrain.net/en/m1tank.htm>
- This is the Road to Hell | Douglas Macgregor & Jeffrey Sachs*, YouTube Video, 22:54 (Dialogue works, December 31, 2022). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r0LR7zp_XM
- 56 Kyle Mizokami, “After Only 3 Years in Service, the USS Zumwalt’s Mission Is Changing,” *Popular Mechanics*, May 17, 2019. <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a27496295/uss-zumwalt-mission/>
- 57 Sam LaGrone, “All Freedom Littoral Combat Ships in Commission Tapped for Early Disposal,” US Naval Institute, March 29, 2022. <https://news.usni.org/2022/03/29/all-freedom-littoral-combat-ships-in-commission-tapped-for-early-disposal>
- 58 Anthony Cappacio, “Navy’s \$13 Billion Carrier Sows Doubt That It Can Defend Itself,” *Bloomberg*, January 25, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-25/navy-s-13-billion-carrier-sows-doubt-that-it-can-defend-itself#xj4y7vzkg>
- 59 “Inhofe and Reed in Proceedings: The Navy Needs a Course Correction” [press release], U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, June 29, 2020. <https://www>.

- armed-services.senate.gov/press-releases/inhofe-and-reed-in-proceedings-the-navy-needs-a-course-correction
- 60 “F-22 Raptor Stealthy air superiority fighter,” *Military Today*. https://www.military-today.com/aircraft/f22_raptor.htm
- 61 “F-22 Raptor,” Air Force, August 2022. <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104506/f-22-raptor/>
- 62 Andy Sullivan, “Senate votes to stop production of F-22 jet,” *Reuters*, July 21, 2009. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-defense-idUSTRE56K4KN20090721>
- 63 W.J. Hennigan, “Fatal problems plague the U.S.’ costliest fighter jet,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 19, 2011. <https://www.latimes.com/business/la-xpm-2011-dec-19-la-fi-fighter-jet-down-20111220-story.html>
- 64 “Air Force insiders reported F-22 oxygen problems,” *USA Today*, Sept. 27, 2012. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/09/27/f-22-air-force/1597365/>
- 65 Mike Mount, “More problems for F-22 beyond mysterious oxygen loss issue,” *CNN*, July 12, 2012. <https://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/07/16/more-problems-for-f-22-beyond-mysterious-oxygen-loss-issue/>
- 66 Lee Ferran, “F-22 Crash Widow Sues Lockheed Martin for Wrongful Death,” *ABC News*, March 13, 2012. <https://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/22-crash-widow-sues-lockheed-wrongful-death/story?id=15909809>
- 67 Oleg Kaptsov, “Just a coincidence? Yak-141 vs. F-35,” *Top War*, October 4, 2015. <https://en.topwar.ru/84332-neprostoe-sovpadenie-yak-141-protiv-f-35.html>
- 68 Brad Howard, “How The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter May Have Benefited from Soviet Technology,” *Task & Purpose*, April 24, 2018. <https://taskandpurpose.com/tech-tactics/f-35-yak-141-freestyle-vtol-jet/>
- 69 “Yakovlev Yak-141,” *Military History*. https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Yakovlev_Yak-141
- 70 Joel Hruska, “The Pentagon’s official F-35 bug list is terrifying,” *Extreme Tech*, February 3, 2016. <https://www.extremetech.com/extreme/222380-the-pentagons-official-f-35-bug-list-is-terrifying>
- 71 Sean Gallagher, “F-35 radar system has bug that requires hard reboot in flight,” *Arstechnica*, March 10, 2016. <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2016/03/f-35-radar-system-has-bug-that-requires-hard-reboot-in-flight/>
- 72 Ryan Browne, “F-35B jet crashes in South Carolina,” *CNN*, September 29, 2018. <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/09/28/politics/marine-corps-f-35b-fighter-crash/index.html>
- 73 Valerie Insinna, “The Pentagon is battling the clock to fix serious, unreported F-35 problems,” *Defense News*, June 12, 2019. <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2019/06/12/the-pentagon-is-battling-the-clock-to-fix-serious-unreported-f-35-problems/>
- 74 Brad Lendon, “Japanese F-35 crashes. Now the search is on for wreckage and reasons,” *CNN*, April 11, 2019. <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/09/asia/japan-f-35-stealth-fighter-missing-intl/index.html>
- 75 Valerie Insinna, “Supersonic speeds could cause big problems for the F-35’s stealth coating,” *New York Times*, June 12, 2019. <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2019/06/12/supersonic-speeds-could-cause-big-problems-for-the-f-35s-stealth-coating/>

- 76 Valerie Insinna, "Inside America's Dysfunctional Trillion-Dollar Fighter-Jet Program," *New York Times*, August 21, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/21/magazine/f35-joint-strike-fighter-program.html>
- 77 Kyle Mizokami, "The F-35 Is Still Full of Must-Fix Flaws," *Popular Mechanics*, January 31, 2020. <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a30718538/f-35-flaws/>
- 78 Pilot OK after F-35 stealth jet crashes in Florida, CNN, May 20, 2020. <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/20/politics/f-35-crash-florida-stealth-jet/index.html>
- 79 Ryan Browne, "Video captures F-35 fighter jet crashing into the ground after collision, Yaron Steinbuch," *New York Post*, October 1, 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/10/01/f-35-fighter-jet-crashes-into-the-ground-after-collision-video-shows/>
- 80 Anthony Capaccio, "F-35 Flies With 871 Flaws, Only Two Fewer Than Year Earlier," *Bloomberg*, January 12, 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-12/f-35-flies-with-871-flaws-only-two-fewer-than-a-year-earlier#xj4y7vzkg>
- 81 Charles Pierce, "The F-35 Reportedly Has a New Capability: Shooting Itself," *Esquire*, March 29, 2021. <https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/politics/a35968632/f-35-shoot-itself/>
- 82 Lucian Truscott, "Even by Pentagon terms, this was a dud: The disastrous saga of the F-35," *Salon Magazine*, February 27, 2021. <https://www.salon.com/2021/02/27/even-by-pentagon-terms-this-was-a-dud-the-disastrous-saga-of-the-f-35/>
- 83 Jonathan Beale, "Video appears to show UK F-35 fighter crash after take-off," *BBC*, November 29, 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59470276>
- 84 Ashish Dangwal, "\$100M F-35 Stealth Fighter Jet Makes 'Belly Landing' As South Korean Warplane Develops Avionics Snag," *Eurasian Times*, January 5, 2022. <https://eurasiatimes.com/f-35-stealth-fighter-makes-emergency-belly-landing-as-south-korea/>
- 85 Brad Lendon, "Newly leaked video shows F-35 crashing in flames on aircraft carrier," *CNN*, February 8, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/07/asia/f-35-aircraft-carrier-crash-new-video-intl-hnk/index.html>
- 86 Anthony Capaccio, "Lockheed F-35's Factory Flaws Persist Even After 800 Are Built," *Bloomberg*, August 5, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-05/lockheed-f-35-s-factory-flaws-persist-even-after-800-are-built#xj4y7vzkg>
- 87 Oliver O'Connel, "Air Force pilot miraculously survives as \$78m F-35 crashes in ball of flames in Utah training exercise," *Yahoo News*, October 20, 22. <https://news.yahoo.com/air-force-pilot-miraculously-survives-143931815.html>
- 88 John Tirpack, "F-16s to Serve Nearly Two More Decades, Replacement Choice Still 6-8 Years Away," *Airforce Magazine*, April 4, 2022. <https://www.airforcemag.com/f-16s-to-serve-nearly-two-more-decades-replacement-choice-still-6-8-years-away/>
- 89 Stephen Mraz, "Air Force Upgrades the F-15 to the F-15EX Eagle II," *Machine Design*, April 15, 2021
- 90 Tim Lister, "Attack on Saudi oil field a game-changer in Gulf confrontation," *CNN*, September 15, 2019. <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/15/middleeast/saudi-oil-attack-lister-analysis-intl/index.html>
- 91 "Patriot missile malfunctions, crashes in Riyadh residential area," *Gulf Times*, March 28, 2018. <https://www.gulf-times.com/story/586844/Patriot-missile-malfunctions->

- crashes-in-Riyadh-res | <https://www.machinedesign.com/mechanical-motion-systems/article/21161375/air-force-upgrades-the-f15-into-the-f15ex-eagle-ii>
- 92 Michael Nienaber, “Germany Snubs Lockheed, Opt for Israeli Air-Defense System,” *Bloomberg*, September 12, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-12/germany-set-to-buy-israeli-manufactured-arrow-air-defense-system#xj4y7vzkg>
- 93 David Moore, “Lawmakers Benefit From Booming Defense Stocks,” *Sludge*, August 23, 2021. <https://readsludge.com/2021/08/23/lawmakers-benefit-from-booming-defense-stocks/>
- 94 Sales of overpriced subpar weapons systems:
Federica Roman, “F-35: Which countries use the aircraft?” *Forces Net*, September 16, 2020. <https://www.forces.net/news/f-35-which-countries-use-aircraft>
“Who is Buying F-35s? Here are the Countries Where F-35 Sales Are Taking Off,” *Fighter Jets World*, June 29, 2018. <https://fighterjetsworld.com/air/the-countries-where-f-35-sales-are-taking-off/5139/>
- 95 Jennifer Griffin, “Can the US catch China’s hypersonic missiles?” *Fox News*, July 15, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/us-catch-chinas-hypersonic-missiles>
- 96 Sales of overpriced subpar weapons systems
Federica Roman, “F-35: Which countries use the aircraft?”
“Who is Buying F-35s?”
- 97 US involvement in war on Yemen
“U.S. president confirms deployment of troops in Yemen,” *The Cradle*, June 12, 2022. <https://thecradle.co/Article/News/11676>
Oriana Pawlik, “Remember the war in Yemen? The U.S. Air Force is there,” *Air Force Times*, February 26, 2016. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2016/02/25/remember-the-war-in-yemen-the-u-s-air-force-is-there/>
Jon Gambrell, “US Military Fired Missiles During Yemen Houthi Attack on UAE,” *Military.com*, February 1, 2022. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/02/01/us-military-fired-missiles-during-yemen-houthi-attack-uae.html>
- 98 UK involvement in war on Yemen:
Arron Merat, “‘The Saudis couldn’t do it without us’: the UK’s true role in Yemen’s deadly war,” *The Guardian*, June 18, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/18/the-saudis-couldnt-do-it-without-us-the-uks-true-role-in-yemens-deadly-war>
Naseh Shaker, “UK Troops ‘Secretly operating in Yemen,’ *Stop the War Coalition*, July 16, 2021. <https://www.stopwar.org.uk/article/revealed-uk-troops-secretly-operating-in-yemen/>
- 99 French involvement in war on Yemen:
“French Foreign Legion arrives in Yemen to secure gas facility,” *The Cradle*, August 18, 2022. <https://thecradle.co/Article/News/14486>
Jason Ditz, “French Special Forces on the Ground in Yemen,” *Antiwar*; June 16, 2018. <https://news.antiwar.com/2018/06/16/french-special-forces-on-the-ground-in-yemen/>
- 100 NATO running out of weapons and ammunition:
Caleb Larson, “Ukraine Is Depleting the ‘Arsenal of Democracy,’” *Newsweek*, December 15, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-depleting-arsenal-democracy-opinion-1758726>

- “US and NATO Scramble to Arm Ukraine and Refill Their Own Stocks,” *New York Times*, November 26, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/26/world/europe/nato-weapons-shortage-ukraine.html>
- Gordon Lubold, “Ukraine War Is Depleting U.S. Ammunition Stockpiles, Sparking Pentagon Concern,” *Wall Street Journal*, August 29, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraine-war-depleting-u-s-ammunition-stockpiles-sparking-pentagon-concern-11661792188>
- “NATO countries blew entire Stinger inventory on Ukraine – Stocks now empty,” *Veterans Today*, April 27, 200. <https://www.veterantoday.com/2022/04/27/nato-countries-blew-entire-stinger-inventory-on-ukraine-stocks-now-empty/>
- “German weapon stocks depleting, no longer able to provide to Ukraine,” *Al Mayadeen*, July 19, 2022. <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/german-weapon-stocks-depleting-no-longer-able-to-provide-to>
- 101 Dominic Russel, Carrie Sloan and Alan Smith, *The Financialization of Higher Education: What Swaps Cost Our Schools and Students*, Refund America Project (Roosevelt Institute, June 2016). <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/RI-Financialization-of-Higher-Education-201609-1.pdf>
- 102 “Inhofe and Reed in Proceedings: The Navy Needs a Course Correction” [press release], U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, June 29, 2020. <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/press-releases/inhofe-and-reed-in-proceedings-the-navy-needs-a-course-correction>
- 103 John Keller, “Navy awards \$3.4 billion contract to Huntington Ingalls to build Ford-class aircraft carrier,” *Military Aerospace Electronics*, June 8, 2015. <https://www.militaryaerospace.com/home/article/16714070/navy-awards-34-billion-contract-to-huntington-ingalls-to-build-fordclass-aircraft-carrier>
- 104 James Holmes, “Is the Aircraft Carrier Already Obsolete?” *National Interest*, January 15, 2022. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/aircraft-carrier-already-obsolete-199500>
- 105 “Zircon: What’s known about the new Russian hypersonic missiles,” *Russia Today*, July 31, 2022. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559958-zircon-hypersonic-cruise-missile/>
- 106 Dinosaurs of the Deep Blue Sea, William Schryver, Imetatronink, July 26, 2022. <https://www.imetatronink.com/2022/07/dinosaurs-of-deep-blue-sea.html>
- 107 Beirut marine barracks bombing and invasion of Grenada:
“Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing Fast Facts,” *CNN*, October 6, 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/13/world/meast/beirut-marine-barracks-bombing-fast-facts/index.html>
“United States invades Grenada,” *History.com*. <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/united-states-invades-grenada>
- 108 Anshul Chaudhary, “The Most Expensive Aircraft Carrier *Gerald R Ford* is Finally Ready for Combat,” *The Maritime Post*, April 12, 2021. <https://themaritimepost.com/2022/04/the-most-expensive-aircraft-carrier-gerald-r-ford-is-finally-ready-for-combat/>
- 109 “Grenada GDP,” *Trading Economics*. <https://tradingeconomics.com/grenada/gdp>
- 110 Hsu Chung-Mao, “The Opium Wars: When China’s ‘century of shame’ began,” *Think China*, July 30, 2021. <https://www.thinkchina.sg/opium-wars-when-chinas-century-shame-began>

- 111 “Crusading into the medieval Baltic”: Q&A with Aleks Pluskowski, Stanford Humanities Center, December 12, 2016. <https://shc.stanford.edu/news/qa-research/crusading-medieval-baltic-stanford-humanities-center-qa-aleks-pluskowski>
- 112 Sergei Glazyev, *Genocide: Russia and the New World Order* (Executive Intelligence Review, 1999), 13.
- 113 Plans for breaking up Russia:
- Leonid Bershidsky, “Is Breaking Up Russia the Only Way to End Its Imperialism?,” *Bloomberg*, June 1, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-06-01/is-breaking-up-russia-the-only-way-to-end-its-imperialism>
- Decolonizing Russia, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, June 23, 2022. <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/decolonizing-russia>
- U.S. Helsinki Commission, *Decolonizing Russia: A Moral and Strategic Imperative*, YouTube Video, 1:33:05 (Helsinki Commission, June 23, 2022). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iGtFXs9gvo>
- Benjamin Norton, “U.S. gov’t body plots to break up Russia in name of ‘decolonization,’” *Multi Polarista*, June 2022. <https://multipolarista.com/2022/06/23/us-government-decolonize-russia/>
- 114 Oleksandr Aleksandrovych, “The Way to Deal With Russia is To Disintegrate It,” *Radio Lemberg*, September 18, 2019. <https://www.radiolemberg.com/ua-articles/ua-allarticles/the-only-way-to-deal-with-russia-is-to-disintegrate-it>
- 115 David Fromkin, “The Great Game in Asia,” *Foreign Affairs*, Spring 1980. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/south-asia/1980-03-01/great-game-asia>
- 116 “Anglo-Russian Rivalry in the Middle East,” *Encyclopedia.com*. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/anglo-russian-rivalry-middle-east>
- 117 F. Kazemi, “Anglo-Persian Oil Company,” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, December 15, 1985. <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/anglo-persian-oil-company>
- 118 International Court of Justice, based in the Hague. <https://www.icj-cij.org/en>
- 119 Iran coup that toppled Moṣaddeq:
- Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, Britannica, October 22, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mohammad-Reza-Shah-Pahlavi>
- Dan Merica and Jason Hanna, “In declassified document, CIA acknowledges role in ’53 Iran coup,” *CNN*, August 20, 2013. <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/19/politics/cia-iran-1953-coup/index.html>
- “Aug. 19, 1953: Operation Ajax – Priya Satia,” Department of History, Stanford University, June 25, 2020. <https://history.stanford.edu/news/aug-19-1953-operation-ajax-priya-satia>
- Mohammad Homaeefar, “Mosaddegh and the coup d’état of 1953,” *Tehran Times*, August 19, 2017. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/416034/Mosaddegh-and-the-coup-d-%C3%A9tat-of-1953>
- “Transcript of Interview with Norman Darbyshire for End of Empire,” *National Security Archive*, August 17, 2020. <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/20490-national-security-archive>
- 120 “Truth Takes a Beating,” *Fifth Estate Collective*, March 18, 1981. <https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/305-march-18-1981/truth-takes-a-beating/>

- 121 Jonathan Kandell, "Savak Agent Describes How He Tortured Hundreds," *New York Times*, June 18, 1979. <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/06/18/archives/savak-agent-describes-how-he-tortured-hundreds-trial-is-in-a-mosque.html>
- 122 "40 Years On, Chilling Display Brings Torture of Iranian Dissidents Close to Home," *Haaretz*, February 6, 2019. <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/2019-02-06/ty-article-magazine/40-years-on-chilling-display-brings-torture-of-iranian-dissidents-close-to-home/0000017f-e0ca-df7c-a5ff-e2fa4b9f0000>
- 123 "30 Years in Science, Secular Movements in Knowledge Creation," *Science Metrix*, 2010. http://web.archive.org/web/2020120100000*/https://www.science-metrix.com/30years-Paper.pdf
- 124 Diamonds, gold and war in South Africa:
 "Diamonds, Gold and War: The British, the Boers and the Making of South Africa," Library of Congress, October 11, 2007. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021687886/>
 Martin Meredith, "Diamonds, Gold, and War: The British, the Boers, and the Making of South Africa," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/capsule-review/2008-03-02/diamonds-gold-and-war-british-boers-and-making-south-africa>
 Bethany Augliere, "Benchmarks: October 11, 1899: Second Boer War begins, fueled by discovery of gold," *Earth Magazine*, September 7, 2018. <https://www.earthmagazine.org/article/benchmarks-october-11-1899-second-boer-war-begins-fueled-discovery-gold/>
- 125 Pillaging and wars for gold and silver:
 Tejvan Pettinger, "What happened to the Spanish Gold from the Incas?" *Economics Help*, September 5, 2016. <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/7785/concepts/what-happened-to-the-spanish-gold-from-the-incas/>
 "South African 'Boer' War," *New Zealand History*. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/south-african-boer-war/introduction>
Bullion | Aztec and Spanish, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Michael C. Rockefeller Wing. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/722248>
 Lost pre-Inca treasure found in Spanish lock-up, Dale Fuchs, *The Guardian*, December 6, 2007. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/dec/06/spain.international>
- 126 Pillaging and killing for copper:
 John Fleming, *The Nationalization of Chile's Large Copper Companies in Contemporary Interstate Relations*, 18 Vill. L. Rev. 593 (1973). <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/vlr/vol18/iss4/2/>
Fela Kuti – International Thief Thief (I.T.T.), YouTube Audio Recording, 24:03 (Fela Kuti, January 15, 2016) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jptR_YwCs3o
 "Papers Show I.T.T Urged U.S. to Help Oust Allende," *New York Times*, July 3, 1972. <https://www.nytimes.com/1972/07/03/archives/papers-show-itt-urged-us-to-help-oust-allende-suggestions-for.html>
 "Chilean president Salvador Allende dies in coup," *History.com*, September 11, 1973. <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/allende-dies-in-coup>
 v. "CIA Acknowledges Involvement in Allende's Overthrow," *TNI*, September 19, 2020. <https://www.tni.org/es/node/13624>
- 127 Killing for rubber:

- Nicolas Michel, "RDC: Léopold II, ce bourreau aux 10 millions de victimes," *Jeune Afrique*, September 9, 2015. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/262331/culture/rdc-leopold-ii-ce-bourreau-aux-10-millions-de-victimes/>
- Takudzwa Hillary Chiwanza, "The Hidden Holocaust: How King Leopold II Murdered 10 Million Africans," *African Exponent*, June 11, 2020. <https://www.africanexponent.com/post/7586-the-hidden-holocaust-how-king-leopold-ii-murdered-10-million-africans>
- Martin Rudner, "The Evolving Political Economy of Malaya's Rubber Development from Colonial Times to Independence," *Economic History Malaya*, 2002. <https://www.ehm.my/publications/articles/the-evolving-political-economy-of-malayas-rubber-development-from-colonial-times-to-independence>
- James Hagan and Andrew Wells, *The British and Rubber in Malaya c1890–1940* (University of Wollongong, 2005). <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/36988015.pdf>
- 128 Destroying nations for oil:
- F. Kazemi, "Anglo-Persian Oil Company," *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, December 15, 1985. <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/anglo-persian-oil-company>
- Dan Merica and Jason Hanna, "In declassified document, CIA acknowledges role in '53 Iran coup," *CNN*, August 20, 2013. <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/19/politics/cia-iran-1953-coup/index.html>
- "Aug. 19, 1953: Operation Ajax – Priya Satia," Department of History, Stanford University, June 25, 2020. <https://history.stanford.edu/news/aug-19-1953-operation-ajax-priya-satia>
- 129 Mark Hay, "The Hidden History of the Nutmeg Island That Was Traded for Manhattan," *Atlas Obscura*, February 28, 2019. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/island-traded-for-manhattan>
- 130 Killing and destroying nations for bananas:
- Gerald Haines, "CIA and Guatemala Assassination Proposals 1952–1954," CIA, June 1995. https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0000135796.pdf
- "The United Fruit Company, and the 1954 Guatemalan Coup," The College of Wooster. <https://ufcguatemala.voices.wooster.edu/>
- "Guatemala: Del Monte's 'Banana Republic,'" *Latin America and Empire Report*, NACLA, June 2, 2016. <https://nacla.org/article/guatemala-del-monte's-banana-republic>
- "June 27, 1954: Elected Guatemalan Leader Overthrown in CIA-Backed Coup," *Zinn Education Project*. <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/jacobo-arbenz-guzman-deposed/>
- Grahame Russel, "1954 CIA Coup in Guatemala Effects Still Being Felt Today," *Telesur*, June 27, 2016. <https://www.telesurenglish.net/opinion/1954-CIA-Coup-in-Guatemala-Effects-Still-Being-Felt-Today-20160626-0026.html>
- Mark Oliver, "The Banana Wars: How the U.S. Plundered Central America on Behalf of Corporations," *All That's Interesting*, September 14, 2017. <https://allthatsinteresting.com/banana-wars>
- 131 Thefts exhibited in colonial museums:
- Kyla Guilfoil, "London museum agrees to return stolen Nigerian artifacts, including Benin bronzes," *ABC News*, August 8, 2022. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/london-museum-agrees-return-stolen-nigerian-artifacts-including/story?id=88095476>

- Amah-Rose Abrams, "France Has Returned 26 Objects Stolen From an Ancient Palace in Benin, including a Throne, Altars, and Ornate Door," *Artnet News*, November 9, 2021. <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/france-returns-looted-items-benin-2032238>
- Henrique Valdares, "As Paris museum returns looted African treasures, will others follow France's lead?" *France 24*, October 11, 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20211110-as-paris-museum-returns-looted-african-treasures-will-others-follow-france-s-lead>
- Daniel Boffey, "Dutch museums vow to return art looted by colonialists," *The Guardian*, October 8, 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/08/dutch-museums-vow-to-return-art-looted-by-colonialists>
- 132 "A Paris museum has 18,000 skulls. It's reluctant to say whose," *New York Times*, November 28, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/28/arts/design/france-human-remains-restitution-skulls.html>
- 133 "Les têtes des résistants algériens du Musée de l'homme," *Histoire Coloniale et postcoloniale*, June 13, 2016. <https://histoirecoloniale.net/les-tetes-des-resistants-algeriens-du-Musee-de-l-homme>
- 134 India requests return of stolen Koh-i-Noor 105 carat diamond:
- Taniya Dutta, "Indians demand return of Kohi-i-Noor diamond after Queen Elizabeth II's funeral," *The National News*, September 20, 2022. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2022/09/20/indians-demand-return-of-koh-i-noor-diamond-after-queen-elizabeth-iis-funeral/>
- Avani Dias, "Indians want King Charles III to return Kohinoor, a massive 105-carat diamond worth \$591 million," *ABC News Australia*, September 16, 2022. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-17/indians-want-kohinoor-diamond-back-from-king-charles-iii/101430400>
- Shannon Power, "Calls Grow for Return of Crown Jewels to India, Africa After Queen's Death," *Newsweek*, September 8, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/crown-jewels-queen-elizabeth-india-star-africa-kohinoor-1741294>
- 135 Brahim Senouci, "Restitution des têtes des résistants algériens, détenues par le Musée de l'Homme," *Change.org*, May 18, 2016. <https://histoirecoloniale.net/les-tetes-des-resistants-algeriens-du-Musee-de-l-homme>
- 136 Hsu Chung-Mao, "The Opium Wars: When China's 'century of shame' began," *Think China*, July 30, 2021. <https://www.thinkchina.sg/opium-wars-when-chinas-century-shame-began>
- 137 Jason Karsh, *The Root of the Opium War: Mismanagement in the Aftermath of the British East India Company's Loss of Its Monopoly in 1834*, University of Pennsylvania, May 2, 2008. <https://core.ac.uk/display/76379462>
- 138 "Chest is equal to 140 lbs." (World Drug Report 2008). https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2008/WDR2008_100years_drug_control_origins.pdf
- 139 "Lin Zexu: Letter to Queen Victoria, 1839," *Longman World History*, https://wps.pearsoncustom.com/wps/media/objects/2427/2486120/chap_assets/documents/doc24_1.html
- 140 "Chinese history: Opium Wars," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Opium-Wars>

- 141 "The Opening to China Part I: The First Opium War, the United States, and the Treaty of Wangxia, 1839–1844," U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/china-1>
- 142 "Opium Trade," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/opium-trade>
- 143 Hans Derkx, "History of the Opium Problem: The Opium Regime of the Dutch (Colonial) State, 1850–1940," *Brill*, January 4, 2012. https://brill.com/view/book/9789004225893/B9789004225893_020.xml?language=en
- 144 Hans Derkx, "History of the Opium Problem."
- 145 *World Drug Report 2008*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2008/WDR2008_100years_drug_control_origins.pdf
- 146 Serguei Blagov, "Vietnam—Drugs: Colonial Era Opium Trade Still Haunts Hanoi Today," *IPS News*, July 16, 1996. <https://www.ipsnews.net/1996/07/vietnam-drugs-colonial-era-opium-trade-still-haunts-hanoi-today/>
- 147 Sébastien Roblin, "Opium Changed China Forever," *The National Interest*, August 23, 2021. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/opium-changed-china-forever-192214>
- 148 "Treaty Of Nanjing, 1842," USC US-China Institute, USC Annenberg, December 13, 1901. <https://china.usc.edu/treaty-nanjing-nanking-1842>
- 149 "Unequal treaty Chinese History," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Uncqual-Treaty>
- 150 "Qiying," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Qiying#ref251418>
- 151 "Unequal treaty Chinese History," *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Uncqual-Treaty>
- 152 Sébastien Roblin, "Opium Changed China Forever."
- 153 Sébastien Roblin, "Opium Changed China Forever."
- 154 "Unequal treaty Chinese History," *Britannica*.
- 155 Futility of negotiations with the West:
- Julian Borger, "Saddam's desperate offers to stave off war," *The Guardian*, November 7, 2003. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/nov/07/iraq.brianwhitaker>
- Luke Harding, "Gaddafi's desperate bid to save regime revealed," *The Guardian*, August 25, 2011. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/25/libya-letters-gaddafi-nato-obama>
- 156 "Total Population by Country 2022," World Population Review. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries>
- 157 1990s Rape of Russia:
- Lars Schall and F. William Engdahl, "The Rape of Russia," *The Saker*, April 16, 2018. <https://thesaker.is/the-rape-of-russia-saker-blog-exclusive-interview/>
- Steve Sailer, "The Rape of Russia Explained by Anne Williamson," *The Unz Review*, February 28, 2014. <https://unz.com/isteve/the-rape-of-russia-explained-by-anne/>
- 158 F. William Engdahl, "Washington's Silent Weapon for Not-so-quiet Wars," August 8, 2018. <https://journal-neo.org/2018/08/20/washington-s-silent-weapon-for-not-so-quiet-wars/>
- 159 "Russia GDP," *Trading Economics*, October 27, 2022. <https://tradingeconomics.com/russia/gdp>

- 160 Marin Katusa, "Vladimir Putin Is the New Global Shah of Oil," *Forbes*, October 29, 2012. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energysource/2012/10/29/vladimir-putin-is-the-new-global-shah-of-oil/?sh=3797aef6eb2d>
- 161 "Caspian Pipeline Consortium," *CPC.ru*. <https://www.cpc.ru/en/about/Pages/default.aspx>
- 162 Is Turkmenistan Being Pulled Into Russia's Orbit? Radio Free Europe, January 16, 2019. <https://www.rferl.org/a/iqshloq-ovozi-turkmenistan-pulled-into-russia-s-orbit/29713898.html>
- 163 Russian pipelines transit landlocked countries' oil and gas
"Russia Doubled Imports Of Natural Gas From Turkmenistan In 2021, Envoy Says," *Radio Free Europe*, December, 24, 2021. <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-doubles-gas-imports-turkmenistan/31625051.html>
Sabrina Valle, "Oil majors face output slump and deep losses if Russia stops Kazakh pipeline," *Japan Times*, July 12, 2022. <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-doubles-gas-imports-turkmenistan/31625051.html>
- 164 "Power of Siberia: Russia's 3000 km gas pipeline to China 99% complete," *RT*, February 27, 2019. <https://www.rt.com/business/452550-russia-mega-pipe-siberia-china/>
- 165 "Russia's energy clout doesn't just come from oil and gas – it's also a key nuclear supplier," *The Conversation*, March 18, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/russias-energy-clout-doesnt-just-come-from-oil-and-gas-its-also-a-key-nuclear-supplier-179444>
- 166 Europe switching to wood for heating:
"Poles told to gather firewood amid soaring energy prices," *Euronews*, June 3, 2022. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/06/03/poles-told-to-gather-firewood-amid-soaring-energy-prices>
Ronnie Schreiber, "Deutsche Bank Says Germans May Need to Switch from Gas-to-Wood for Heating this Winter, is Wood-to-Gas for Cars Next?," *The Truth About Cars*, July 20, 2022. <https://www.thetruthaboutcars.com/2022/07/deutsche-bank-says-germans-may-need-to-switch-from-gas-to-wood-for-heating-this-winter-is-wood-to-gas-for-cars-next/>
- 167 "All the European countries returning to 'dirty' coal as Russia threatens to turn off the gas tap," *Euronews*, June 24, 2022. <https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/06/24/all-the-european-countries-returning-to-dirty-coal-as-russia-threatens-to-turn-off-the-gas>
- 168 Russia leading supplier of coal:
"Russia to overtake Indonesia as top exporter of thermal coal by 2040: IEA," *S&P Global*, October 30, 2019. <https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en-market-insights/latest-news/coal/103019-russia-to-overtake-indonesia-as-top-exporter-of-thermal-coal-by-2040-iea>
"Russia to boost coal exports to China," *The Coal Hub*, January 2022 . <https://thecoalhub.com/russia-to-boost-coal-exports-to-china.html>
- 169 Marin Katusa, "Vladimir Putin Is The New Global Shah Of Oil," *Forbes*, October 29, 2012. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energysource/2012/10/29/vladimir-putin-is-the-new-global-shah-of-oil/?sh=3797aef6eb2d>

- 170 "U.S. Lawmakers Pass "Sanctions Bill From Hell" To Punish Russia," *Oil Price*, December 18, 2019. <https://oilprice.com/Geopolitics/International/US-Lawmakers-Pass-Sanctions-Bill-From-Hell-To-Punish-Russia.html>
- 171 Russia's autarky policy:
- Jon Hellevig, "Russia's reliance on imports has dramatically decreased, as its diversified economy has substituted most imports," *Awara*, April 28, 2016. <https://www.awaragroup.com/blog/russias-reliance-on-imports-has-dramatically-decreased/>
- Jon Hellevig, "Russia's Import Substitution: Impressive Results by Carrots and Sticks ... and a Little Money," *Awara*, July 26, 2017. <https://www.awaragroup.com/blog/russias-import-substituton/>
- 172 Russia leading grain exporter
- "Russia Becomes World's No.1 Grain Producer, Leaves US, Canada Behind," *Sputnik*, June 16, 2016. <https://sputniknews.com/20160616/russia-grain-exports-1041428176.html>
- "World's top grain exporter Russia keeps global supplies high despite Covid-19 pandemic," *RT*, July, 10, 2020. <https://www.rt.com/business/494403-russia-keeps-grain-exports-high/>
- 173 Alexei, Lossan, "How Russia became the world's *leading* wheat exporter," *Russia Beyond*, November 3, 2022. <https://www.rbth.com/business/332948-russia-leading-wheat-exporter>
- 174 "St. Petersburg to be base for Russia oil futures," *Reuters*, June 5, 2007. <https://www.reuters.com/article/russia-oil-exchange-idUKL0565681120070605>
- 175 Kyrill Zykov, "What is Russia's 'MIR' payment system?" *Russia Beyond*, March 10, 2022. <https://www.rbth.com/business/334833-russian-mir-payment-system-card>
- 176 About Agency: "ACRA is the biggest Russian authorized credit rating agency. ACRA operates in compliance with the latest regulatory requirements and best global practices," *ACRA*. <https://acra-ratings.ru/company/?lang=en>
- 177 Russian SPFS alternative to SWIFT
- Tyler Durden, "Russian Deputy PM: Our Banks Are Ready To Turn Off SWIFT," *Zerohedge*, February 14, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-02-14/russian-deputy-pm-our-banks-are-prepare-survive-without-swift>
- Chris Devonshire-Ellis, "SPFS – Russia's Alternative To SWIFT," *Russia Briefing*, December 15, 2021. <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/spfs-russia-s-alternative-to-swift.html/>
- Ali Raza, "Bank of Russia to use SBFS as an alternative to SWIFT," *Inside Bitcoins*, March 1, 2022. <https://insidebitcoins.com/news/bank-of-russia-to-use-sbfs-as-an-alternative-to-swift>
- 178 "Dump the dollar: Russia has now gotten rid of over 96% of its US debt holdings," *RT*, May 18, 2020. <https://www.rt.com/business/488928-russia-dumps-us-dollar-debt/>
- 179 "Russia continues to add gold to the country's huge forex reserves," *RT*, October 21, 2021
- 180 Carla Mozée, "Putin's demand for Europe to use rubles to pay for natural gas is a 'blackmail' attempt, says EU," *Markets Insider*, March 25, 2022 . <https://markets>.

- businessinsider.com/news/currencies/russia-ruble-natural-gas-blackmail-eu-europe-supplies-imports-sanctions-2022-3?op=1
- 181 “EUR to RUB Chart,” *XE*, December 15, 2022. <https://www.xe.com/currencycharts/?from=EUR&to=RUB>
- 182 *Resolution 2202*, United Nations Security Council, February 17, 2015.
- 183 Jon Hellevig, “Russia’s industry expanding and war chest swelling while global economic outlook turns gloomy,” *Awara*, March 26, 2019. <https://www.awaragroup.com/blog/russian-economy-brief-march-2019/>
- 184 M. K. Bhadrakumar, “Russia Adjusts to “Sanctions from Hell,” *Indian Punchline*, March 11, 2022. <https://williambowles.info/2022/03/12/russia-adjusts-to-sanctions-from-hell/>
- 185 “Prepare for a Winter From Hell,” *Energy Intelligence Group*, August 19, 2022. <https://www.energyintel.com/00000182-b55f-d25e-a9de-ff7f26280000>
- 186 “Winter from Hell: Europe About to Descend into Chaos as Millions Could Die,” *USSA News*, August 20, 2022. <https://ussanews.com/2022/08/20/winter-from-hell-europe-about-to-descend-into-chaos-as-millions-could-die/>
- 187 “2023 Will Be Year from Hell – Martin Armstrong,” *USA Watchdog*, July 19, 2022. <https://usawatchdog.com/2023-will-be-year-from-hell-martin-armstrong/>
- 188 “EU countries hunt for global coal stocks as Russian ban looms,” *Shore News Network*, April 7, 2022. <https://www.shorennewsnetwork.com/2022/04/07/eu-countries-hunt-for/>
- 189 Allister Heath, “Putin has pulled off a shock win that could destroy the free world,” *Telegraph UK*, August 31, 2022. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/31/putin-has-pulled-shock-win-could-destroy-free-world/>
- 190 Marin Katusa, “Vladimir Putin Is The New Global Shah Of Oil,” *Forbes*, October 29, 2012. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energysource/2012/10/29/vladimir-putin-is-the-new-global-shah-of-oil/?sh=3797aef6eb2d>
- 191 Kate Buck, “Cheers as Liz Truss says she’s ready to press nuclear button and unleash ‘global annihilation,’” *Yahoo News*, August 24, 2022. <https://news.yahoo.com/audience-liz-truss-ready-press-nuclear-button-unleash-global-annihilation-103552126.html>
- 192 Sarah Wagner, “Woman Tells Congress That Men Can Get Pregnant and Have Abortions,” *American Faith*, May 20, 2022. <https://americanfaith.com/woman-tells-congress-that-men-can-get-pregnant-and-have-abortions/>
- 193 Yen Makabenta, “US Supreme Court nominee can’t, won’t define what a woman is,” *Manila Times*, March 26, 2022. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/03/26/opinion/columns/us-supreme-court-nominee-cant-wont-define-what-a-woman-is/1837642>
- 194 “Same-sex marriages and partnerships should be recognised across the EU,” *EU Parliament*, September 14, 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11913/same-sex-marriages-and-partnerships-should-be-recognised-across-the-eu>
- 195 Amy Mek, “Pedophiles Celebrate: Spanish Minister Declares Children Can Have Sex ‘With Whomever They Want’ If They ‘Consent,’” *RAIR Foundation*, September 28, 2022. <https://rairfoundation.com/pedophiles-celebrate-spanish-minister-declares-children-can-have-sex-with-whomever-they-want-if-they-consent-video/>

- 196 “30 Years in Science, Secular Movements in Knowledge Creation,” *Science Metrix*, 2010. http://web.archive.org/web/20201201000000*/https://www.science-metrix.com/30years-Paper.pdf
- 197 Richard Nephew, “Sanctions 4: The ‘Chilling Effect’ of U.S. Sanctions on Iran,” *The Iran Primer* [blog], U.S. Institute of Peace, October 11, 2020.
- 198 Suzanne Maloney, “The Revolutionary Economy,” *The Iran Primer* [blog], U.S. Institute of Peace, 2016. <https://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/revolutionary-economy>
- 199 Henry Rome, “Sanctions 1: Impact on Iran’s Oil Exports,” *The Iran Primer* [blog], U.S. Institute of Peace, February 10, 2021. <https://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2021/feb/10/iran-struggles-under-oil-sanctions>
- 200 “BP Statistical Review 2021” all data xlsx, *British Petroleum*, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 201 Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books, 1997), 125.
- 202 Reuel Marc Gerecht, “Ayatollah Khamenei’s Economy of Resistance,” *TXT*, July 27, 2022. <https://www.txtreport.com/life/2022-07-27-ayatollah-khamenei-s-economy-of-resistance.BJkSGiC2c.html>
- 203 Tim Anderson, “Iran’s Resistance Economy and Regional Integration,” *Journal of World Sociopolitical Studies*, 3, no.4 (October 2019).
- 204 “Iran’s economic strategy in confronting sanctions,” *Khamenei.ir*, July 12, 2020. <https://english.khamenei.ir/news/7739/Iran-s-economic-strategy-in-confronting-sanctions>
- 205 Imam Khamenei, “Leader’s Speech at the Shrine of Imam Ridha (a.s.),” *Khamenei.ir*, March 21, 2014. <https://english.khamenei.ir/news/1891/Leader-s-Speech-at-the-Shrine-of-Imam-Ridha-a-s>
- 206 Dutch disease:
“Dutch Disease,” *Corporate Finance Institute*, April 12, 2021. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/economics/dutch-disease/>
- Elena Ianchovichina and Harun Onder, “Dutch disease: An economic illness easy to catch, difficult to cure,” *Brookings*, October 31, 2017. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/10/31/dutch-disease-an-economic-illness-easy-to-catch-difficult-to-cure/>
- 207 Tim Anderson, “Iran’s Resistance Economy and Regional Integration.”
- 208 Iran launches satellites into space:
“Iran launches research satellite into space,” *Deutsche Welle*, December 30, 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/iran-launches-research-satellite-into-space/a-60293125>
- Brad Dress, “Iran’s Revolutionary Guard launches second surveillance satellite: state TV,” *The Hill*, March 8, 2022. <https://thehill.com/policy/international/597381-irans-revolutionary-guard-launches-second-surveillance-satellite-state/>
- Victor Nava, “Iran launches satellite-carrying rocket into space,” *Washington Examiner*, June 27, 2022. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/iran-launches-satellite-carrying-rocket>
- 209 “Xi Jinping announces China’s eradication of extreme poverty,” *CGTN*, February 25, 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-02-25/Xi-Jinping-announces-China-s-eradication-of-extreme-poverty-YaaPRcrJiE/index.html>

- 210 “Lifting 800 Million People Out of Poverty – New Report Looks at Lessons from China’s Experience,” *World Bank*, April 1, 2022. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/01/lifting-800-million-people-out-of-poverty-new-report-looks-at-lessons-from-china-s-experience>
- 211 Paul Toro, “Homelessness in Europe and the United States: A Comparison of Prevalence and Public Opinion,” *Homeless Hub*, 2007. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/homelessness-europe-and-united-states-comparison-prevalence-and-public-opinion>
- 212 “China overtakes America, first of all in manufacturing, America Surrenders to China,” *Economist*, December 18, 2010. <https://www.economist.com/cassandra/2010/12/18/america-surrenders-to-china>
- 213 Tyler Durden, “The Chinese Are Now Spending As Much As Americans,” *Zerohedge*, January 14, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-01-13/chinese-are-spending-much-americans>
- 214 “Steel Production by Country 2022,” *World Population Review*. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/steel-production-by-country>
- 215 “Top 10 Aluminium-producing Countries” (Updated 2022), *Investing News*, May 25, 2022. <https://investingnews.com/daily/resource-investing/industrial-metals-investing/aluminum-investing/aluminum-producing-countries/>
- 216 Charles B. Stockdale, “8 industries China leads where the US used to,” *NBC News*, January 29, 2012. <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna46181723#.WrDdQq6WZhE>
- 217 M. Shahbandeh, “Rice Production by Country 2022,” *World Population Review*, March 2, 2022. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/rice-production-by-country>
- 218 “Automotive manufacturing industry in China – statistics & facts,” *Statista*, June 21, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/topics/1050/automobile-manufacturing-in-china/>
- 219 Xavier Vavasseur, “China Shipbuilding Group Is Now the World’s Largest Shipbuilder,” *Naval News*, November 27, 2019. <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2019/11/china-shipbuilding-group-is-now-the-worlds-largest-shipbuilder/>
- 220 Charles B. Stockdale, “8 industries China leads where the US used to,” *NBC News*, January 29, 2012. <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna46181723#.WrDdQq6WZhE>
- 221 Alex Krainer, “Of empires and technology,” *Zerohedge*, September 18, 2022. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2022-09-18/empires-and-technology>
- 222 “China is clear leader in the 5G race – Deloitte,” *telecoms.com*, August 9, 2018. <https://telecoms.com/491374/china-is-clear-leader-in-the-5g-race-deloitte/>
- 223 Theo Wayt, “China unveils 373-mph ‘levitating’ train, fastest ground vehicle in the world,” July 20, 2021. <https://nypost.com/2021/07/20/china-unveils-373-mph-levitating-train-fastest-in-the-world/>
- 224 Margaret Davis, “China’s New Space Telescope Has 300 Times Greater Field of View Than the Hubble,” *The Science Times*, April 21, 2021. <https://www.scientetcities.com/articles/30782/20210421/chinas-new-space-telescope-300-times-greater-field-view-hubble.htm>
- 225 Rafi Letzter, “Chinese Probe Uncovers New Mystery on the Dark Side of the Moon,” *Live Science*, February 1, 2019. <https://www.livescience.com/64663-dark-side-moon-colder-china.html>

- 226 Patrick Reilly, “China sends lunar rover to investigate strange ‘hut’ on far side of moon,” *New York Post*, December 6, 2021. <https://nypost.com/2021/12/06/china-sends-lunar-rover-to-investigate-hut-on-far-side-of-moon/>
- 227 Andrew Jones, “China’s Shenzhou 14 astronauts return to Earth after helping build Tiangong space station,” *Space.com*, December 4, 2022. <https://www.space.com/china-shenzhou-14-astronauts-land-earth>
- 228 Jessie Yeung, “China’s Mars probe has photographed the entire red planet,” *CNN*, June 30, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/30/china/china-tianwen-1-mars-images-intl-hnk-scn/index.html>
- 229 Maurizio Di Paolo Emilio, “Chinese EAST Reactor Set a New Nuclear Fusion Milestone,” *Power Electronics News*, January 12, 2022. <https://www powerelectronicsnews.com/chinese-east-reactor-set-a-new-nuclear-fusion-milestone/>
- 230 “China helps Thailand build ‘artificial sun’ tokamak for research,” *CGTN*, November 19, 2022. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-11-19/China-helps-Thailand-build-artificial-sun-tokamak-for-research-1f58isQBQJO/index.html>
- 231 Scott Cendrowski, “China’s Global 500 companies are bigger than ever – and mostly state-owned,” *Fortune*, July 22, 2015. <https://fortune.com/2015/07/22/china-global-500-government-owned/>
- 232 Chengxin (Asia Pacific) Credit Ratings Company, “About Us: Company profile.” http://ccxap.com/en/about_us/detail/1/
- 233 “Mechanics of the Shanghai International Gold Exchange,” *Bullion Star*, 2017. <https://www.bullionstar.com/gold-university/the-mechanics-of-the-shanghai-international-gold-exchange>
- 234 “Throwback Thursday: Chinese payment giant UnionPay,” *Pay Space Magazine*, November 5, 2020. <https://payspacemagazine.com/banks/throwback-thursday-chinese-payment-giant-unionpay/>
- 235 Vlad Rothstein, “China’s UnionPay surpasses Visa – become world’s biggest credit card firm,” *Tactical Investor*, 2015. <https://tacticalinvestor.com/chinas-unionpay-surpasses-visa-become-worlds-biggest-credit-card-firm/>
- 236 Chotchaeva Leyla, “China Launches CIPS International Payment System,” *BRICS Info*, October 8, 2015. <http://www.brics-info.org/china-launches-cips-international-payment-system/>
- 237 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, “Introduction,” *AIIB*, 2022. <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/index.html>
- 238 INE Shanghai International Energy Exchange Co., Ltd., 2018, *INE*. <http://www.ine.en/en/about/simintro/>
- 239 “INE China Daily: Three years on, SC promoted the development of oil market,” *INE*, April 8, 2021. <https://www.ine.cn/en/news/news/4237.html>
- 240 Jeff Cox, “China holdings of U.S. debt fall below \$1 trillion for the first time since 2010,” *CNBC*, July 18, 2022. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/18/china-holdings-of-us-debt-fall-below-1-trillion-for-the-first-time-since-2010.html>
- 241 “Central bank holdings,” *World Gold Council*, September 6, 2022. <https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-reserves-by-country>
- 242 Koos Jansen, “Estimated Chinese Gold Reserves Surpass 20,000t,” *Bullionstar* [blog], July 29, 2017. <https://www.bullionstar.com/blogs/koos-jansen/estimated-chinese-gold-reserves-surpass-20000-tonnes/>

- 243 "Russia says China will start paying for gas in rubles and yuan," *CNN*, September 6, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/06/energy/china-russian-gas-payments-ruble-yuan/index.html>
- 244 "Iran, Russia use own currencies for trade," *AL-Monitor*, August 24, 2022. <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/08/iran-russia-use-own-currencies-trade>
- 245 Iran and China sideline dollar in trade:
"Iran-China Traders Agree to Sideline US Dollar," *Financial Tribune*, December 4, 2017. <https://financialtribune.com/articles/economy-business-and-markets/77359/iran-china-traders-agree-to-sideline-us-dollar>
- Tyler Durden, "De-Dollarization Continues: China, Iran to Eliminate Greenback from Bilateral Trade," *ZeroHedge*, December 8, 2017. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-12-05/de-dollarization-continues-china-iran-eliminate-greenback-bilateral-trade>
- 246 F. William Engdahl, "The Original Chechnya Bombers: The CIA, The Saudis and Bin Laden," *Global Intel Hub*, May 24, 2015. <https://globalintelhub.com/the-original-chechnya-bombers-the-cia-the-saudis-and-bin-laden/>
- 247 Jennifer Ablan, "Russia bans George Soros foundation as state security 'threat,'" *Reuters*, December 1, 2015. <https://www.reuters.com/article/russia-soros-idUSL1N13P22Y20151130>
- 248 Toni Halpin, "The Russian 'snow revolution,'" *Times UK*, December 11, 2011. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-russian-snow-revolution-59bfrrr3pq>
- 249 Color revolutions in Russia and neighboring countries"
"The denim revolution: The opposition in Belarus finds a new symbol," *The Economist*, November 17, 2015. <https://www.economist.com/europe/2005/11/17/the-denim-revolution>
- "Ukraine's Orange Revolution," *The Kyiv Independent*. <https://kyivindependent.com/explaining-ukraine/ukraines-orange-revolution>
- "Georgia's 'Rose Revolution,'" Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, U.S. Helsinki Commission, July 1, 2004. <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/publications/georgias-rose-revolution>
- Rayhan Demytrie, "Why Armenia 'Velvet Revolution' won without a bullet fired," *BBC*, May 1, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43948181>
- "Understanding Ukraine's Euromaidan Protests," *Open Society Foundations*, May 2019. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/explainers/understanding-ukraines-euromaidan-protests>
- 250 "Countries By Population Density," *World Atlas*, 2022. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-by-population-density.html>
- 251 Russian technological breakthrough weapon systems:
Nathan Hodge, "Putin claims new 'invincible' missile can pierce US defenses," *CNN*, March 1, 2018. <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/01/europe/putin-russia-missile-intl/index.html>
- Joseph Trevithick, "Here's The Six Super Weapons Putin Unveiled During Fiery Address," *The Drive*, June 30, 2019. <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/18906/heres-the-six-super-weapons-putin-unveiled-during-fiery-address>
- Andrei Martyanov, *The (Real) Revolution in Military Affairs* (Clarity Press, 2019), 92.

- 252 "Details of the attempted assassination on Imam Khamenei on June 27, 1981," *Khamenei.ir*. <https://english.khamenei.ir/news/4948/Details-of-the-attempted-assassination-on-Imam-Khamenei-on-June>
- 253 Iraq war on Iran:
"Iran-Iraq War," *History.com*, July 13, 2021. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/iran-iraq-war>
Seymour Hersh, "U.S. Secretly Gave Aid to Iraq Early in Its War Against Iran," *New York Times*, January 26, 1992. <https://www.nytimes.com/1992/01/26/world/us-secretly-gave-aid-to-iraq-early-in-its-war-against-iran.html>
"US and British Support for Hussein Regime," *Global Policy Forum*. <https://archive.globalpolicy.org/iraq-conflict-the-historical-background-/us-and-british-support-for-huss-regime.html>
- 254 William Louther, "Rumsfeld 'helped Iraq get chemical weapons,'" *Daily Mail UK*. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-153210/Rumsfeld-helped-Iraq-chemical-weapons.html>
- 255 Iran's Green color revolution:
"A Green Revolution for Iran?" *New York Times*, June 10, 2009. <https://archive.nytimes.com/thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/10/a-green-revolution-for-iran/>
Hooman Majd, F"Think Again: Iran's Green Movement," *Foreign Policy*, January 6, 2010. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2010/01/06/think-again-irans-green-movement/>
- 256 Iran's Hijab color revolution:
Sharmine Narwani, "Iran: To veil or not to veil," *The Cradle*, December 9, 2022. <https://thecradle.co/Article/Columns/19259>
Yasmine Mohammed, "Mahsa Amini's Murder Revealed the Truth: Hijab Is a Tool of Oppression," *Newsweek*, September 23, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/mahsa-amini-s-murder-revealed-truth-hijab-tool-oppression-opinion-1745874>
- 257 Rob Wile, "The 15 Maps That Explain The Entire World," *Business Insider*, June 25, 2012. <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-15-maps-that-explain-the-world-in-2012-2012-6?op=1>
- 258 "BP Statistical Review 2021 All-Data," *British Petroleum*, July 2021 . <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 259 Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books, 1997), 125.
- 260 Iran thwarting Empire's plans:
"The 'Biggest Ever' Flotilla Of Iranian Tankers Is En Route To Venezuela," *Zerohedge*, Oil Price, December 7, 2020. <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/The-Biggest-Ever-Flotilla-Of-Iranian-Tankers-Is-En-Route-To-Venezuela.html>
Adam Kredo, "Iranian Oil Tanker Arrives in Venezuela as Rogue Regimes Boost Relations," *Washington Free Beacon*, June 14, 2022. <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/iranian-oil-tanker-arrives-in-venezuela-as-rogue-regimes-boost-relations/>
"Iran delivers another oil tanker to Venezuela," *Iran Front Page*, June 11, 2022. <https://ifpnews.com/iran-oil-tanker-venezuela/>

- 261 "American and British Soldiers Captured and Later Released by Iran in 2004 Displayed on Iranian TV," *MEMRI TV*, November 4, 2006. <https://www.memri.org/tv/american-and-british-soldiers-were-captured-and-later-released-iran-2004-displayed-iranian-tv>
- 262 Iran captures U.S. drone:
- Scott Peterson, "Downed US drone: How Iran caught the 'beast,'" *Christian Science Monitor*, December 9, 2011. <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2011/1209/Downed-US-drone-How-Iran-caught-the-beast>
- "Iran shows film of captured US drone," *BBC News*, December 8, 2011. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-16098562>
- 263 Carlo Muñoz, "Navy commander surrendered to Iran to protect Obama's nuclear deal," *Washington Times*, June 30, 2016. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/30/navy-commander-surrendered-to-iran-to-protect-obam/>
- 264 Iran shoots down US drone:
- "Video shows Iran shooting down US drone," YouTube Video, 9:19 (CNN, June 20, 2019). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqze_TVtQbA
- Joshua Berlinger, "Iran shoots down US drone aircraft, raising tensions further in Strait of Hormuz," *CNN*, June 21, 2019. <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/20/middleeast/iran-drone-claim-hnk-intl/index.html>
- 265 "Qasem Soleimani: US kills top Iranian general in Baghdad air strike," *BBC News*, January 3, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50979463>
- 266 Haider Geoanalyst, "Analysis of the Iranian missile strikes on Ayn Al Assad Airbase," *The Saker*, January 28, 2020. <https://thesaker.is/analysis-of-the-iranian-missile-strikes-on-ayn-al-asad-airbase/>
- 267 "Satellite images show damage done to Al Assad Air Base following Iranian missile strikes," *NT News*, January 9, 2020. <https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/world/satellite-images-show-damage-done-to-al-assad-air-base-following-iranian-missile-strikes/news-story/bd24e4ce64bfa7b7f8af4622a0b590f0>
- 268 "The Anglo Zionist Empire vs Iran: a discussion of the recent events," *The Saker*, January 9, 2020. <https://thesaker.is/the-anglozionist-empire-vs-iran-a-discussion-of-the-recent-events/>
- 269 Anthony Cappacio, "Navy's \$13 Billion Carrier Sows Doubt That It Can Defend Itself," *Bloomberg*, January 25, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-25/navy-s-13-billion-carrier-sows-doubt-that-it-can-defend-itself#xj4y7vzkg>
- 270 "Missiles of Iran, Missile Threat," CSIS Missile Defense Project, August 10, 2021. <https://missilethreat.csis.org/country/iran/>
- 271 Ben Brimelow, "The Navy wants to extend how far the F-18 can fly to counter China's anti-ship missile advantage," *Business Insider*, March 1, 2018. <https://www.businessinsider.com/navy-f-18-extend-flight-china-2018-2?op=1>
- 272 John Donnelly, "The Navy's F-35 Flight Range Is Dangerously Low, Congressional Report Says," *Task & Purpose*, May 22, 2018. <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navys-f-35-strike-radars-already-date-new-report-says/>
- 273 Anthony Cappacio, "Navy's \$13 Billion Carrier Sows Doubt That It Can Defend Itself," *Bloomberg*, January 25, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-25/navy-s-13-billion-carrier-sows-doubt-that-it-can-defend-itself#xj4y7vzkg>

- 274 "CentCom Unveils New Headquarters at MacDill," *News Talk Florida*, November 29, 2011. <https://www.newstalkflorida.com/news/tampa/centcom-unveils-new-headquarters-at-macdill/>
- 275 David Axe, "In 2002, the U.S. Military Conducted an Iran War Simulation. Iran Won," *National Interest*, September 24, 2019. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/2002-us-military-conducted-iran-war-simulation-iran-won-82906>
- 276 China food security:
Dominique Patton, "China steps up focus on food security in major policy document," *Reuters*, February 22, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-steps-up-focus-food-security-major-policy-document-2021-02-22/>
- Genevieve Donnellon-May, "China's Evolving Food Security Strategy," *The Diplomat*, November 25, 2021. <https://thediplomat.com/2021/11/chinas-evolving-food-security-strategy/>
- 277 China energy security:
Jude Clemente, "China Is The World's Largest Oil & Gas Importer," *Forbes*, October 17, 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/judeclemente/2019/10/17/china-is-the-worlds-largest-oil--gas-importer/?sh=70658c295441>
- Cecilia Jamasmie, "China Moving Towards Being the Largest Importer of Coal," *Mining.com*, November 5, 2010. <https://www.mining.com/china-moving-largest-importer-coal-2/>
- 278 Nadeem Walayat, "US Paving the Way for Massive First Strike on North Korea Nuclear and Missile Infrastructure," *Market Oracle UK*, September 3, 2017. <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article60112.html>
- 279 China land supply routes for energy:
Pei-Hua Yu, "Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipelines," *The Peoples Map of Global China*, March 23, 2021. <https://thepeoplesmap.net/project/myanmar-china-oil-and-gas-pipelines/>
- Chen Aizhu, "Russia, China agree 30-year gas deal via new pipeline, to settle in euros," *Reuters*, February 4, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-russia-china-agree-30-year-gas-deal-using-new-pipeline-source-2022-02-04/>
- Tsvetana Paraskovs, "Russia To Supply More Gas To China Via New Pipeline," *Oil Price*, February 4, 2022. <https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Russia-To-Supply-More-Gas-To-China-Via-New-Pipeline.html>
- Irina Slav, "New Pipeline Doubles Russian Oil Supply To China," *Oil Price*, January 2, 2018. <https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/New-Pipeline-Doubles-Russian-Oil-Supply-To-China.html>
- 280 Xinhua, "First trainload of Russian wheat arrives in China," *China Daily*, April 9, 2017. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-04/09/content_28846390.htm
- 281 China overland trade routes
Louis Ritzinger, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," *The National Bureau of Asian Research*, August 5, 2015. <https://www.nbr.org/publication/the-china-pakistan-economic-corridor/>
- Zsombor Peter, "China Plows Ahead with High-Speed Rail Line for Southeast Asia," *VOA News*, June 28, 2020. https://www.voanews.com/a/east-asia-pacific_china-plows-ahead-high-speed-rail-line-southeast-asia/6191893.html

- “New Rail Transport Service Connecting China and Portugal Launched,” *China-Lusophone Brief*, May 31, 2021. <https://www.clbrief.com/new-rail-transport-service-connecting-china-and-portugal-launched/>
- “BRI Projects,” *Belt and Road Initiative*. <https://www.beltroad-initiative.com/projects/>
- Jacob Lew, “China’s Belt and Road Initiative,” Council on Foreign Relations, March 23, 2021. <https://www.cfr.org/belt-and-road-initiative>
- Andrew Chatzky, “China’s Massive Belt and Road Initiative,” Council on Foreign Relations, January 28, 2020. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>
- “First goods carried by train to Portugal from China arrive,” *Forum Macao*, February 3, 2021. <https://www.forumchinaplp.org.mo/first-goods-carried-by-train-to-portugal-from-china-arrive/>
- 282 China deploys powerful surface to surface missiles on its shores:
- “Missiles of China, Missile Threat,” Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 12, 2021. <https://missilethreat.csis.org/country/china/>
- “Wait, China Has TWO Hypersonic Missiles?” *The National Interest*, December 3, 2019. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/wait-china-has-two-hypersonic-missiles-101422>
- “China’s Hypersonic Missiles Advantage Has West Worried,” *Asia Financial*, August 3, 2022. <https://www.asiafinancial.com/chinas-hypersonic-missiles-advantage-has-west-worried>
- Paul Bernstein, “China’s Hypersonic Weapons,” *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, January 27, 2021. <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2021/01/27/chinas-hypersonic-weapons/>
- 283 Chinese-Russian military cooperation:
- “Russia is helping China build a missile defence system, Putin says,” *Guardian*, October 4, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/04/russia-is-helping-china-build-a-missile-defence-system-putin-says>
- Chen Qingqing, “China-Russia military cooperation serves core interests, doesn’t target third party: Chinese envoy,” *Global Times*, August 30, 2022 . <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274221.shtml>
- Brett Forrest, “China and Russia Military Cooperation Raises Prospect of New Challenge to American Power,” *Wall Street Journal*, January 2, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-russia-america-military-exercises-weapons-war-xi-putin-biden-11641146041>
- 284 China-Russia strategic partnership:
- Candela Sol Silva, “Russia and China increase their strategic cooperation,” *Warsaw Institute*, April 25, 2022. <https://warsawinstitute.org/russia-china-increase-strategic-cooperation/>
- Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, “Putin and Xi Frame a New China-Russia Partnership,” *The Diplomat*, February 15, 2022. <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/putin-and-xi-frame-a-new-china-russia-partnership/>
- 285 China-Iran strategic partnership:
- Farnaz Fassihi, “Defying U.S., China and Iran Near Trade and Military Partnership,” *New York Times*, July 11, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/11/world/asia/china-iran-trade-military-deal.html>

- “China, Iran start implementing sweeping strategic agreement,” *The Hindu*, January 15, 2022. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-iran-start-implementing-sweeping-strategic-agreement/article38275709.ece>
- Full text of “Joint Statement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between I.R. Iran, P.R. China,” *President.ir*, April 23, 20. <https://president.ir/EN/91435>
- 286 Russia-Iran strategic partnership:
- Nicholas Carl, “Russia and Iran double down on their strategic partnership,” *Institute for the Study of War*, August 11, 2022. <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russia-and-iran-double-down-their-strategic-partnership>
- “Russia and Iran: boosting strategic partnership to counter Western pressure,” *Special Eurasia*, June 28, 2022. <https://www.specialeurasia.com/2022/06/28/russia-iran-partnership-west/>
- Clément Therme, “The Russian-Iran Partnership in a Multipolar World,” French Institute of International Relations, *IFRI*, March 3, 2022. <https://www.ifri.org/en/publications/etudes-de-lifri/russieneireports/russian-iran-partnership-multipolar-world>
- “China, Russia and Iran Are Slowly Ganging Up on the US, Hal Brands,” *Bloomberg*, September 1, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-09-01/china-russia-and-iran-are-slowly-ganging-up-on-the-us#xj4y7vzkg>
- Ghoncheh Tazmini, “Russia and Iran – a strategic alliance or something more?” The London School of Economics and Political Science, *LSE*, January 18, 2021. <https://www.lse.ac.uk/research/research-for-the-world/politics/russia-and-iran-a-strategic-alliance-or-something-more>
- vi. Adam Lucente, “Russia to invest \$40 billion in Iran’s oil sector,” *Al-Monitor*, July 19, 2022. <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/russia-invest-40-billion-irans-oil-sector>
- 287 RIC joint military exercises:
- Vladimir Isachenkov, “Russia to Hold Sweeping Joint War Games with China, Others,” *Military.com*, August 29, 2022. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/08/29/russia-hold-sweeping-joint-war-games-china-others.html>
- Ben Wolfgang, “Russia, China, Iran to hold massive joint military exercise,” *Washington Times*, September 10, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/sep/10/russia-china-iran-hold-massive-joint-military-exer/>
- “Iran, Russia, China Hold Joint Naval Drill Amid Growing Ties,” *Radio Free Europe*, January 21, 2022. <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-russia-china-exercises/31663080.html>
- James Lee, “Iran, China and Russia link up for military operation to challenge ‘unipolar world,’” *Express UK*, July 7, 2022. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1636808/iran-china-russia-joint-military-drill-venezuela-south-America-defence-news>
- 288 “Putin Channels Stolypin,” *SRB Podcast*, July 14, 2011. <https://srbpodcast.org/2011/07/14/putin-channels-stolypin/>
- 289 “Through the Lens of Stolypin: Understanding Vladimir Putin’s Personal Politics through his Historical Idol,” *History in Politics*, Durham University, August 7, 2020. <https://historyinpolitics.org/2020/08/07/through-the-lens-of-stolypin-understanding-vladimir-putins-personal-politics-through-his-historical-idol/>

- 290 Russian air force provides support to Syrian army against Western supported terrorists:
 Ed Payne, "Russia launches first airstrikes in Syria," *CNN*, September 30, 2015. <https://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/30/politics/russia-syria-airstrikes-isis/index.html>
 "Donald Trump: I meant that Obama founded ISIS, literally," *CNN*, August 12, 2016. <https://edition.cnn.com/2016/08/11/politics/donald-trump-hugh-hewitt-obama-founder-isis/index.html>
- 291 Amid threats of US military intervention, Russia sends nuclear capable bombers to Venezuela:
 Matthew Bristow, "Talk of U.S. Military Intervention in Venezuela Suddenly Gains Traction," *Bloomberg*, September 26, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-09-26/trump-s-venezuela-military-option-gains-backers-as-millions-flee#xj4y7vzkg>
 "Russia sends two nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela," *ABC News*, December 11, 2018. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russia-sends-2-nuclear-capable-bombers-venezuela-n946246>
- 292 "Iran Launches Missile Attacks on U.S. Bases in Iraq," *Iran News*, January 8, 2020. <https://irannewsupdate.com/news/middle-east/iran-iraq-missile-attack-ain-assad/>
- 293 Andrew Osborn, "Russia's Putin authorises 'special military operation' against Ukraine," *Reuters*, February 24, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-putin-authorises-military-operations-donbass-domestic-media-2022-02-24/>
- 294 Eight years of shelling civilians in Donbass:
 "Donbass residents have been exposed to eight years of genocide – Putin," *Tass*, March 16, 2022. <https://tass.com/world/1423131>
 "More than 14,000 people have been killed in Donbass, about which we hear little in the media," *MSN*, April 22, 2022. <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/other/more-than-14-000-people-have-been-killed-in-donbass-about-which-we-hear-little-in-the-media/ar-AAWt3vS>
- 295 Alex Krainer, "Of empires and technology," *Zerohedge*, September 18, 2022. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2022-09-18/empires-and-technology>

CHAPTER 9

- 1 Project for the New American Century, "Rebuilding Americas Defenses," September 1, 2000. <https://archive.org/details/RebuildingAmericasDefenses>
- 2 General Wesley Clark "We're going to take-out 7 countries in 5 years." [Democracy Now broadcast, March 2, 2017], YouTube Video, 7:51 (Nakama, March 6, 2019). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Knt3rKTqCk>
- 3 George W. Bush – "Mission Accomplished":
 Andrew Marshal, "What was the Mission Accomplished Speech (2003)?," *Boot Camp & Military Fitness Institute*, February 2, 2022. <https://bootcampmilitaryfitnessinstitute.com/2022/02/22/what-was-the-mission-accomplished-speech-2003/>
 "'Mission Accomplished' Whodunit," *CBS*, October 29, 2003. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mission-accomplished-whodunit/>

- 4 “Powell to put US demands to Syria,” *NZ Herald*, May 3, 2003. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/powell-to-put-us-demands-to-syria/5SSPTGY45FZTN7K3JNIXUDIMFE/>
- 5 US Department of Veterans Affairs, Gulf War Information System, May 2007, released June 30, 2007.
- 6 Gary Vey, “Surprise! Iraq war deaths exceed Vietnam War,” *The New Dark Age*, July 4, 2011. <https://williambowles.info/2011/07/04/surprise-iraq-war-deaths-exceed-vietnam-war-by-gary-vey/>
- 7 Gary Vey.
- 8 US troops remains dumped in landfill:
- “Report: 274 troop’s remains dumped in landfill” [Airforce has removed page and webarchive.org excludes the page]. <http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2011/12/ap-military-air-force-dover-274-troops-remains-landfill-report-120711/>
- Gavin Allen, “Number of dead U.S. soldiers’ remains dumped in landfill sites is revealed by Army... and it’s much higher than expected,” *Daily Mail UK*, December 8, 2011. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2071629/Number-dead-U-S-soldiers-remains-dumped-landfill-sites-revealed-Army-274.html>
- 9 Craig Whitlock, “Remains of war dead dumped in landfill,” *Washington Post*, November 9, 2011. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/national-security/remains-of-war-dead-dumped-in-landfill/2011/11/09/gIQAz7dM6M_story.html
- 10 Linda J. Bilmes, *The Financial Legacy of Iraq and Afghanistan: How Wartime Spending Decisions Will Constrain Future National Security Budgets*, M-RCBG Faculty Working Paper No. 2013-01, Harvard Kennedy School, 2013. <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/publications/financial-legacy-iraq-and-afghanistan-how-wartime-spending-decisions-will-constrain>
- 11 “U.S. military veteran suicides rise, one dies every 65 minutes,” *Reuters*, February 7, 2013. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-veterans-suicide-idUSBRE9101E320130202>
- 12 “President Bush and Iraq Prime Minister Maliki Sign the Strategic Framework Agreement and Security Agreement,” The White House [press release], December 14, 2008. <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/12/20081214-2.html>
- 13 “Timeline of events in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover,” *ABC News*, August 12, 2022. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/timeline-events-afghanistan-taliban-takeover-88284231>
- 14 U.S. completes a disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan:
- Scott Walker, “Biden’s disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan,” *Washington Times*, August 19, 2022. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/aug/19/bidens-disgraceful-withdrawal-afghanistan/>
- Tim McNulty, “Kabul Airport horror sees Afghans fall to their death after clinging to plane to escape,” *Express UK*, August 16, 2021. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1477429/Kabul-Airport-horror-Afghanistan-evacuation-latest-afghans-fall-from-plane-video-VN>
- 15 Scenes from Kabul airport August 16, 2021:
- “Dentist, Soccer Star Among Afghans Who Fell to Death From Plane at Kabul Airport,” *Bloomberg*, September 21, 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-21/after-afghans-fell-from-plane-families-live-with-horror>

- Tim McNulty, “Kabul Airport horror sees Afghans fall to their death after clinging to plane to escape,” *Express UK*, August 16, 2021. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1477429/Kabul-Airport-horror-Afghanistan-evacuation-latest-afghans-fall-from-plane-video-VN>
- 16 Lead from behind doctrine:
- Charles Krauthammer, “The Obama doctrine: Leading from behind,” *Washington Post*, April 28, 2011. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-obama-doctrine-leading-from-behind/2011/04/28/AFBCy18E_story.html
- James Jay Carafano, “Obama’s ‘lead from behind’ strategy has US in full retreat,” *The Heritage Foundation*, February 6, 2015. <https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/obamas-lead-behind-strategy-has-us-full-retreat>
- Roger Cohen, “Leading From Behind,” *New York Times*, October 31, 2011. <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/01/opinion/01iht-edcohen01.html>
- LTC Brian E Linvill, “Retaking the Lead from Behind: A New Role for America in Libya,” United States Army War College, April 2013. <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA592903.pdf>
- 17 LTC Brian E Linvill, “Retaking the Lead from Behind.”
- 18 ISIS a US Proxy:
- “Donald Trump: I meant that Obama founded ISIS, literally,” *CNN*, August 12, 2016. <https://edition.cnn.com/2016/08/11/politics/donald-trump-hugh-hewitt-obama-founder-isis/index.html>
- Dilyana Gaytandzhieva, “Islamic State weapons in Yemen traced back to US Government: Serbia files (part 1),” *Dilyana.bg*, September 24, 2019. <https://dilyana.bg/islamic-state-weapons-in-yemen-traced-back-to-us-government-serbia-files-part-1/>
- William Van Wagenen, “For 18 months, as ISIS advanced, the US did nothing to stop them,” *The Cradle*, September 2, 2022. <https://thecradle.co/Article/Investigations/15142>
- 19 Zbigniew Brzezinski with Bin Laden:
- “Les Géostratégies de Domination,” *Angelidis.be* [blog]. <https://www.angelidis.be/420111298>
- Adam Garfinkle, “‘I’d Do It Again’: Talking about Afghanistan with Zbigniew Brzezinski,” *American Interest*, May 1, 2008. <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2008/05/01/id-do-it-again/>
- 20 General Wesley Clark “We’re going to take-out 7 countries in 5 years.” [Democracy Now broadcast, March 2, 2017]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Knt3rKTqCk>
- 21 NATO intervention in support of Islamist terrorists and ISIS:
- “NATO and Libya Operation Unified Protector,” NATO, March 27, 2012. <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/71679.htm>
- Gordon Duff, “Breaking: US Bombs Syrian Army in Der Ezzor, Backing ISIS Advance, 80 Killed,” *Veterans Today*, September 17, 2016. <https://www.veteranstoday.com/2016/09/17/breaking-us-bombs-syrian-army-in-der-ezzor-backing-isis-advance-80-killed/>
- Brandon Turbeville, “U.S. Attacks Syrian Military, Protects ISIS In Deir Al-Zour, Thardeh Mountains,” *The Last American Vagabond*, September 17, 2016. <https://www.thelastamericanvagabond.com/u-s-attacks-syrian-military-protects-isis-deir-al-zour-thardeh-mountains/>

- 22 Kareem Shaheen, “Isis ‘controls 50% of Syria’ after seizing historic city of Palmyra,” *Guardian*, May 21, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/21/isis-palmyra-syria-islamic-state>
- 23 Cameron Glenn and Garrett Nada, “Timeline: the Rise, Spread, and Fall of the Islamic State,” Wilson Center, October 28, 2019. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state>
- 24 “Get To Know Iraq’s PMU ‘People Mobilization Units,’” *News Rescue*, January 1, 2020. <https://newsrescue.com/get-to-know-iraqs-pmu-people-mobilization-units/>
- 25 U.S. supporting terrorists in Syria:
Valery Kulikov, “New Evidence of US Ties to Terrorists in the Middle East,” *New Eastern Outlook*, May 27, 2020. <https://journal-neo.org/2020/05/27/new-evidence-of-us-ties-to-terrorists-in-middle-east/>
“Captured Daesh terrorists confess to cooperation with US forces in Syria’s al-Tanf,” *Press TV*, May 15, 2020. <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2020/05/15/625372/Captured-Daesh-terrorists-confess-to-cooperation-with-US-forces-in-Syria-al-Tanf>
- 26 Türkiye supporting terrorists in Syria:
Steven Sahiounie, “Turkey-Supported Terrorists in North-West Syria Attack Church with Deaths and Injuries,” *Global Research*, July 26, 2022. <https://www.globalresearch.ca/turkish-supported-terrorists-idlib-attack-church-deaths-injuries/5787813>
“Erdogan threatens use of heavy weapons against Syrian army in Idlib,” *Press TV*, October 21, 2021. <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2020/05/15/625372/Captured-Daesh-terrorists-confess-to-cooperation-with-US-forces-in-Syria-al-Tanf>
- 27 Niamh Harris, “Report: French Forces Building Military Bases In Syria,” *News Punch*, June 17, 2016. <https://newspunch.com/report-french-forces-building-military-bases-in-syria/>
- 28 “UK special forces pictured on the ground in Syria, Quentin Sommerville,” *BBC*, August 8, 2016. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37015915>
- 29 U.S. stealing Syrian oil:
“US Steals More Than 80% of Syria’s Daily Oil Production,” *Orinco Tribune*, August 14, 2022. <https://orincotribune.com/us-steals-more-than-80-of-syrias-daily-oil-production/>
Steven Sahiounie, “US Military Still Stealing Syrian Oil,” *USSA News*, August 22, 2022. <https://ussanews.com/2022/08/22/us-military-still-stealing-syrian-oil/>
“Stealing Syrian oil exposes US nature as a robber,” Lu Xue [opinion], *Global Times*, August 30, 2022. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1274216.shtml>
- 30 Terrorists and chaos reign in Libya after NATO intervention:
Stephen Lendman, “Endless War and Chaos in Libya,” *The Stephen Lendman Blog*, April 8, 2014. <https://stephenlendman.org/2019/04/08/endless-war-and-chaos-in-libya/>
John J. Metzler, “Libya sinks further into chaos as terror, crime groups put down ‘deep roots,’” *World Tribune*, March 11, 2016. <https://www.worldtribune.com/libya-sinks-further-into-chaos-as-terror-crime-groups-put-down-deep-roots/>
Libya Slides Deeper Into Chaos as Parliament Picks New Government, *New York Times*, February 10, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/10/world/middleeast/libya-tripoli-parliament-election.html>

- 31 Andrei Martyanov, *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning* (Clarity Press, 2018), 178.
- 32 “Russia joins war in Syria: Five key points,” *BBC*, October 1, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34416519>
- 33 Russian military intervention in North Ossetia:
Lira Tskhovrebova, “Georgia’s shameful attack on South Ossetia,” *Los Angeles Times*, November 17, 2008. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/la-oew-tskhovrebova17-2008nov17-story.html>
Sarah Pruitt, “How a Five-Day War With Georgia Allowed Russia to Reassert Its Military Might,” *History.com*, August 8, 2018. <https://www.history.com/news/russia-georgia-war-military-nato>
- 34 “Belarus – This Color Revolution Is Already Dead. The Union State Has Killed It.” *Grenville Post*, August 15, 2020. <https://www.grenvillepost.com/2020/08/15/%C2%B6-belarus-this-color-revolution-is-already-dead-the-union-state-has-killed-it/>
- 35 Russian military intervention in Kazakhstan:
“Color Revolution In Kazakhstan 2022 – Analysis,” *Eurasia Review*, February 10, 2022. <https://www.eurasiareview.com/10022022-color-revolution-in-kazakhstan-2022-analysis/>
“Vladimir Putin vows to stop ‘colour revolutions’ after sending troops to Kazakhstan,” *Financial Times*, January 10, 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/ee9005ee-7269-4081-801a-61011b233e78>
- 36 Russian and Iranian support to Venezuela:
“Russian nuclear-capable bombers fly to Venezuela, angering U.S.,” *Reuters*, December 11, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/venezuela-russia-airforce-idUKL8N1YG2CZ>
“Iran oil tanker reaches Venezuela amid US tension,” *BBC*, May 25, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52789276>
- 37 Russian intervention in Africa:
“Arrival of Russian Wagner mercenaries in Mali condemned by European governments,” *CNN*, December 24, 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/24/africa/russia-mercenaries-mali-intl/index.html>
“France announces military withdrawal from Mali after nine years,” *The Guardian*, February 17, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/17/france-announces-military-withdrawal-from-mali-after-nine-years>
“Mali Demands French, European Troops Leave Country Immediately,” *VOA News*, February 18, 2022. <https://www.voanews.com/a/mali-demands-french-european-troops-leave-country-immediately/6448383.html>
“Ethiopia, Russia Sign Military Cooperation Agreement,” *Fana Broadcasting*, July 12, 2021. <https://www.fanabc.com/english/ethiopia-russia-sign-military-cooperation-agreement/>
“Factbox: Russian military cooperation deals with African countries,” *Reuters*, October 17, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-russia-factbox-idUSKCN1MR0KH>
“Russia is building its military influence in Africa, challenging U.S. and French dominance,” *CNBC*, September 13, 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/09/13/russia-is-building-military-influence-in-africa-challenging-us-france.html>

- 38 “Iran’s IRGC Missiles Hit US’ Ain Al-Assad Base in Iraq,” *IFP News*, January 7, 2020. <https://ifpnews.com/irgc-missiles-hit-us-ain-al-assad-base-in-iraq/>
- 39 Andrei Martyanov, *Disintegration: Indicators of the Coming American Collapse* (Clarity Press, 202), 151.
- 40 Anshel Pfeffer, “Ukraine’s Crimea Falls to Putin, Without a Shot Fired,” *Haaretz*, March 1, 2014. <https://www.haaretz.com/2014-03-01/ty-article/.premium/putin-takes-crimea-without-a-shot/0000017f-f8b5-d460-afff-fbf706de0000>
- 41 Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books, 1997), 93.
- 42 Crimean War, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Crimean-War>
- 43 “Russia joins war in Syria: Five key points,” *BBC*, October 1, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34416519>
- 44 “Trump says he’s open to military intervention in Venezuela,” *Fox News*, September 26, 2017. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/trump-says-hes-open-to-military-intervention-in-venezuela>
- 45 “Venezuela President Maduro survives ‘drone assassination attempt,’” *BBC*, August 15, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45073385>
- 46 “Russian nuclear-capable bombers fly to Venezuela, angering U.S.,” *Reuters*, December 11, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/venezuela-russia-airforce-idUKL8N1YG2CZ>
- 47 “Russian Nuclear Doctrine,” *Global Security*, March 3, 2022. <https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/russia/doctrine.htm>
- 48 “Russia sends two nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela,” *NBC News*, December 11, 2018. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russia-sends-2-nuclear-capable-bombers-venezuela-n946246>
- 49 Russophobia in the West:
- Guy Mettan, *Creating Russophobia: From the Great Religious Schism to Anti-Putin Hysteria* (Clarity Press, 2017), 100.
- Guy Mettan, *Russie-Occident une guerre de mille ans, La Russophobie de Charlemagne à la crise Ukranienne* (Editions des Syrtes, 2015), 135.
- 50 Rising Russophobia in the West:
- Hicran Çokyaman, “Russophobia Spreads Following the Russia-Ukraine War,” *Politics Today*, April 12, 2022. <https://politicstoday.org/russophobia-spreads-following-the-russia-ukraine-war/>
- “Feature: Anti-Russian sentiment on rise in Germany amid Ukraine crisis,” *Xinhua*, May 12, 2022. <http://english.news.cn/20220512/cb391186eebe4621b23ed5a817942771/c.html>
- Ella Whelan, “The dangerous rise of Russophobia,” *Spiked*, March 2, 2022. <https://www.spiked-online.com/2022/03/02/the-dangerous-rise-of-russophobia/>
- Aleksei Avdonin, “Expert explains why Anglo-Saxons are spreading the ideology of Russophobia in Europe,” *SB News*, August 24, 2022. <http://web.archive.org/web/20220824140210/https://www.sb.by/en/expert-explains-why-anglo-saxons-are-spreading-the-ideology-of-russophobia-in-europe.html>
- William Nattrass, “Russophobia is sweeping through central Europe,” *The Post*, March 11, 2022. <https://unherd.com/thepost/russophobia-is-sweeping-through-central-europe/>

- Antonio de Lauri, "Militarisation, racism and Russophobia: What the war in Ukraine produces and reveals," Norwegian Center for Humanitarian Studies, March 7, 2022. <https://www.humanitarianstudies.no/militarisation-racism-and-russophobia-what-the-war-in-ukraine-produces-and-reveals/>
- Karla Adam, "Anti-Russian hate is making chefs and school children out to be enemies," *Washington Post*, March 7, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/07/antirussian-hate-putin-europe/>
- "This is Putin's fault": Russian diaspora feels growing distress over Ukraine war," *Financial Times*, March 8, 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/829b3108-b6ff-4c9f-ab34-868f0b1e3ed9>
- 51 Richard Wike, "Ratings for Russia drop to record lows," *Pew Research Center*, June 22, 2022.
- 52 "Russia," *Gallup*, 2022. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/1642/russia.aspx>
- 53 Richard Wike, "Seven-in-Ten Americans Now See Russia as an Enemy," *Pew Research Center*, April 6, 2022. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2022/04/06/seven-in-ten-americans-now-see-russia-as-an-enemy/>
- 54 "Papal Bull Dum Diversas 18 June, 1452," *Doctrine of Discovery Project*, July 23, 2018. <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/dum-diversas/>
- 55 Stephen Sheehi, *Islamophobia: The Ideological Campaign Against Muslims* (Clarity Press, 2006). <https://www.claritypress.com/product/islamophobia-the-ideological-campaign-against-muslims/>
- 56 "Iran Gallup Historical Trends," *Gallup*, February 17, 2022. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/116236/iran.aspx>
- 57 Mara Modecai, "Iran widely criticized in 14 advanced economies," *Pew Research Center*, December 2, 2020. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/12/02/iran-widely-criticized-in-14-advanced-economies/>
- 58 Richard Wike, "Iran's Global Image Mostly Negative," *Pew Research Center*, June 18, 2015. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2015/06/18/irans-global-image-mostly-negative/>
- 59 Xiaojun Li, "More than Meets the Eye: Understanding Perceptions of China Beyond the Favorable-Unfavorable Dichotomy," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 56 (February 24, 2021): 68–86. <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12116-021-09320-1.pdf>
- 60 David Hutt, "The numbers behind Europe's anti-China sentiment," *Asia Times*, July 9, 2021. <https://asiatimes.com/2021/07/the-numbers-behind-europe-s-anti-china-sentiment/>
- 61 "Negative Views of China Tied to Critical Views of Its Policies on Human Rights," *Pew Research Center*, June 29, 2022. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2022/06/29/negative-views-of-china-tied-to-critical-views-of-its-policies-on-human-rights/>
- 62 Laura Silver, "Large Majorities Say China Does Not Respect the Personal Freedoms of Its People," *Pew Research Center*, June 30, 2021. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2021/06/30/large-majorities-say-china-does-not-respect-the-personal-freedoms-of-its-people/>
- 63 Richard Wike, "Iran's Global Image Mostly Negative," *Pew Research Center*, June 18, 2015. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2015/06/18/irans-global-image-mostly-negative/>

- 64 Marlene Lenthang, "International Cat Federation bans Russian felines from competitions," *NBC News*, March 3, 2022. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/international-cat-federation-bans-russian-felines-competitions-rcna18595>
- 65 Ryan Merrifield, "Famed 198-year-old Russian oak banned from European Tree of the Year contest due to war," *Mirror UK*, March 25, 2022. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/famed-198-year-old-russian-26560245>
- 66 War between RIC and the West would result in a defeat of the West:
Ryan Morgan, "US will 'lose fast' in war with China, Air Force's simulation shows," *American Military News*, March 11, 2021. <https://americanmilitarynews.com/2021/03/us-will-lose-fast-in-war-with-china-air-forces-simulation-shows-report/>
Michael Beckley, "America Is Not Ready for a War With China," *Foreign Affairs*, June 10, 2021. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2021-06-10/america-not-ready-war-china>
Laura Widener, "US 'gets ass handed to it' in WW3 simulations with China, Russia – Analysts," *American Military News*, March 12, 2019. <https://americanmilitarynews.com/2019/03/us-gets-ass-handed-to-it-in-ww3-simulations-with-china-russia-analysts/>
- 67 "U.S. delegation arrives in Taiwan as China denounces visit," *Reuters*, March 1, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-says-us-attempts-support-taiwan-will-be-futile-2022-03-01/>
- 68 "Supply Chains Widely Tainted by Forced Labor in China, Panel Is Told," *New York Times*, April 8, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/08/business/economy/china-forced-labor.html>
- 69 "President Tsai receives Slovakia delegation," *Taiwan Today*, June 8, 2022. <https://taiwantoday.tw/news.php?unit=2&post=220223>
- 70 Adela Suliman, "Trudeau accuses China of 'extremely troubling' harassment of Canadian jets," *Washington Post*, June 3, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/06/03/china-canada-military-airplane-north-korea/>
- 71 "Send an international maritime flotilla through the Taiwan Strait," *Washington Examiner*, June 15, 2022. https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/send-an-international-maritime-flotilla-through-the-taiwan-strait/ar-AAYsqqP?ocid=msedg_ntp&cvid=3970947f9d38421d8d6353b0c1e12657
- 72 "China Sends Warplanes Near Taiwan After US Rejects Strait Claims," *Bloomberg*, June 22, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-22/china-sends-warplanes-near-taiwan-after-us-rejects-strait-claims>
- 73 Mark Moore, "Defiant Pelosi arrives in Taiwan to declare US stands against 'autocrats' as China fumes," *New York Post*, August 2, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/08/02/pelosi-arrives-in-taiwan-for-visit-defying-china-threats/>
- 74 "U.S. seizes Iranian oil cargo near Greek island," *Reuters*, May 26, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-seizes-iranian-oil-cargo-near-greek-island-sources-2022-05-26/>
- 75 "Iran nuclear deal is unravelling," *UPI*, June 13, 2022. <https://www.upi.com/Voices/2022/06/13/iran-Iran-nuclear-deal-JCPOA-unraveling/8711655123372/>
- 76 Ben Samuels, "Blinken Says Iran's Demands Make Nuclear Deal 'Unlikely' for Now," *Haaretz*, September 13, 2022. <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east>

newsiran/2022-09-13/ty-article/.premium/blinken-says-nuclear-deal-with-iran-unlikely-for-now/00000183-3549-dad9-a3bb-b77b2ab00000

77 2022 Hijab color revolution in Iran:

Joint statement on the equal condition and human rights of women: The death of Mahsa Amini, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva, September 30, 2022. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2022/09/30/joint-statement-on-the-equal-condition-and-human-rights-of-women-the-death-of-mahsa-amini-hrc51/>

Borzou Daragahi, “‘This is a revolution’: On potent 40th day after Mahsa Amini’s death, protests erupt across Iran,” *Independent UK*, October 27, 2022. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iran-mahsa-amini-protests-tehran-islamic-republic-b2211126.html>

Gillilan Steffey, “Who was Mahsa Amini and how is her story causing a revolution against oppression?” *Her Campus*, October 3, 2022. <https://www.hercampus.com/school/cal-poly/who-was-mahsa-amini-and-how-is-her-story-causing-a-revolution-against-oppression/>

Evan Simko-Bednarski, “Protests erupt across Iran as mourners flock to grave of Mahsa Amini 40 days after her death,” October 26, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/10/26/protests-rock-iran-40-days-after-death-of-mahsa-amini/>

Chelsey Cox, “U.S. issues fresh sanctions against Iranian officials for ‘brutal’ crackdown on peaceful protestors following Mahsa Amini’s death continue,” *CNBC*, October 26, 2022. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/10/26/treasury-new-sanctions-iranian-officials-protests-mahsa-aminis-death-.html>

Aamer Madhani, “Biden says ‘we’re gonna free Iran’ as protests there go on,” *Independent UK*, November 4, 2022. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/joe-biden-ap-iran-oceanside-mahsa-amini-b2217423.html>

78 Aamer Madhani, “Biden says ‘we’re gonna free Iran’ as protests there go on.”

79 Laura Aboli, “List of Countries Not Imposing Economic Sanctions Against Russia,” *Australian National Review*, March 5, 2022. <https://www.australiannationalreview.com/state-of-affairs/list-of-countries-not-imposing-economic-sanctions-against-russia/>

80 Lavrov welcome by Global South countries:

“Lavrov presence in Arab League breaking up US hegemony,” *Al Mayadeen*, July 26, 2022. <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/lavrovs-presence-in-arab-league-breaks-up-us-hegemony---anal>

Catherine Byaruhanga, “Russia-Ukraine crisis: Lavrov shows diplomatic clout in Africa,” *BBC*, July 28, 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62316313>

Anwar A. Khan, “Warm Welcome to Sergei Lavrov,” *Daily Sun*, Indonesia, November 19, 2022. <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/657080/Warm-Welcome-to-Sergei-Lavrov>

Mateo Haydar, “China and Russia creeping further into West as major Latin American nations reject the US,” *Washington Examiner*, November 25, 2022. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/courage-strength-optimism/china-and-russia-creeping-further-into-west-as-major-latin-american-nations-reject-the-us>

81 Cooper Inveen, “Ghana expects \$3 bln IMF loan approval early in 2023,” *Reuters*, December 13, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ghana-sees-imf-board-approval-3-bln-3-year-loan-early-2023-2022-12-13/>

- 82 Project for the New American Century, “Rebuilding Americas Defenses,” September 1, 2000. <https://archive.org/details/RebuildingAmericasDefenses>
- 83 *H.R.3162 – Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001*, U.S. Congress. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/3162>
- 84 Chad P. Brown, “Russia’s war on Ukraine: A sanctions timeline,” *PIIE*, September 2, 2022. <https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/russias-war-ukraine-sanctions-timeline>
- 85 “EU agrees 9th sanctions package against Russia – diplomats,” *Reuters*, December 15, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-agrees-9th-sanctions-package-against-russia-diplomats-2022-12-15/>
- 86 “Joe Biden: ‘the ruble had been reduced to rubble,’” *Investment Watch*, April 27, 2022. <https://www.investmentwatchblog.com/joe-biden-the-ruble-had-been-reduced-to-rubble/>
- 87 Alistair Crooke, “‘If We Don’t End the War, War will End Us’* [H.G. Wells],” *Strategic Culture Foundation*, June 13, 2022. <https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2022/06/13/if-we-dont-end-war-will-end-us/>
- 88 “EUR to RUB chart,” *XE.com*, October 28, 2022. <https://www.xe.com/currencycharts/?from=EUR&to=RUB>
- 89 Western sanctions harm West more than Russia:
“Western sanctions don’t harm Putin – they strengthen him,” *The Hill*, February 25, 2022. <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/595776-western-sanctions-dont-harm-putin-they-strengthen-him/>
“Inflation rises at fastest pace in 40 years, pushed up by record gas prices,” *CNN*, June 10, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/10/economy/may-inflation-gas-prices/index.html>
“Record inflation: Which country in Europe has been worst hit and how do they compare?” *Euronews*, June 1, 2022. <https://www.euronews.com/next/2022/06/01/record-inflation-which-country-in-europe-has-been-worst-hit-and-how-do-they-compare>
- 90 “Is US/NATO (with WEF help) pushing for a Global South famine?,” *The Saker*, June 6, 2022. <http://thesaker.is/is-us-nato-with-wef-help-pushing-for-a-global-south-famine/>
- 91 “You are either with us or against us,” *CNN*, November 6, 2001. <https://edition.cnn.com/2001/US/11/06/gen.attack.on.terror/>
- 92 Noam Chomsky, “What We Say Goes’: The Middle East in the New World Order,” *Z Magazine*, May 1991. https://chomsky.info/199105__/
- 93 “ESG Using the power of governance to change the world,” *ESG*, 2022. <https://www.esg.org/>
- 94 IEA Net Zero by 2050:
“Net Zero by 2050 A Road Map for the Global Energy Sector,” International Energy Agency, May 18, 2021. <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/4719e321-6d3d-41a2-bd6b-461ad2f850a8/NetZeroby2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector.pdf>
Fiona Harvey, “No new oil, gas or coal development if world is to reach net zero by 2050, says world energy body,” *Guardian*, May 18, 2021. [https://www.guardian.com/environment/2021/may/18/no-new-oil-gas-or-coal-development-if-world-is-to-reach-netzero-by-2050-says-world-energy-body](https://www.guardian.com/environment/2021/may/18/no-new-oil-gas-or-coal-development-if-world-is-to-reach-net-zero-by-2050-says-world-energy-body)

- theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/18/no-new-investment-in-fossil-fuels-demands-top-energy-economist
- 95 ExxonMobil, “Engine No. 1 v ExxonMobil – A Victory For Shareholder Activism And Sustainable Development,” *Market Screener*, July 7, 2021. <https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/EXXON-MOBIL-CORPORATION-4822/news/Exxon-Mobil-Engine-No-1-v-ExxonMobil-A-Victory-For-Shareholder-Activism-And-Sustainable-Development-35807805/>
- 96 Engine No. 1:
Svea Herbst-Bayliss, “Hedge fund veteran launches impact firm with former Jana, BlackRock executives,” *Reuters*, December 1, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-investment-funds-james-idUSKBN28B6AO>
Engine No. 1 team, Engine No. 1, November 2, 2022. <https://engine1.com/team/>
- 97 Engine No. 1 Nomination to ExxonMobil board of directors:
ExxonMobil, “ExxonMobil comments on Engine No. 1 nomination of director candidates” [press release], January 27, 2021. https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/news/newsroom/news-releases/2021/0127_exxonmobil-comments-on-engine-no-1-nomination-of-director-candidates
ExxonMobil, “Engine No. 1 v ExxonMobil – A Victory For Shareholder Activism And Sustainable Development.”
- 98 ExxonMobil, “Engine No. 1 v ExxonMobil – A Victory For Shareholder Activism And Sustainable Development.”
- 99 Alastair Marsh, “Engine No. 1’s Exxon Win Provides Boost for ESG Advocates,” *Bloomberg*, May 27, 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-27/engine-no-1-s-exxon-win-signals-turning-point-for-esg-investors>
- 100 ExxonMobil, “Engine No. 1 v ExxonMobil – A Victory For Shareholder Activism And Sustainable Development.”
- 101 Joshua Rodriguez, “16 Largest Hedge Funds of 2022 By AUM,” *Money Crashers*, August 9, 2022. <https://www.moneycrashers.com/largest-hedge-fund-firms/>
- 102 “Vanguard Group,” *Vanguard Group*, 2022. <https://www.advratings.com/company/vanguard-group>
- 103 “Total assets under management (AUM) of State Street Corporation from 2010 to 2021,” *Statista*, 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1255849/assets-under-management-state-street/>
- 104 “United States Market Capitalization December 2020,” *CEIC Data*, 2022. <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/united-states/market-capitalization>
- 105 “Global investments in oil and gas upstream in nominal terms and percentage change from previous year, 2010–2020,” International Energy Agency, October 26, 2022. <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/global-investments-in-oil-and-gas-upstream-in-nominal-terms-and-percentage-change-from-previous-year-2010-2020>
- 106 Global oil and gas exploration investments:
Surin Murugiah, “Global oil and gas exploration set to fall this year, says Rystad,” *The Edge Markets*, September 8, 2022. <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/global-oil-and-gas-exploration-set-fall-year-says-rystad>
Emily Thomas, “Rystad Energy: Global oil and gas exploration shrinks as companies shift focus to lower-risk core assets and regions,” *Oilfield Technology*, September 9, 2022. <https://www.oilfieldtechnology.com/exploration/09092022/>

- rystad-energy-global-oil-and-gas-exploration-shrinks-as-companies-shift-focus-to-lower-risk-core-assets-and-regions/
- 107 "BP Statistical Review 2021" all data xlsx, *British Petroleum*, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 108 Usman Kabir, "10 Top Hedge Funds Focusing on ESG and Impact Investing," *Yahoo Finance*, July 8, 2021. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/10-top-hedge-funds-focusing-211846004.html>
- 109 Alessandra Galloni, "Aramco CEO warns of global oil crunch due to lack of investment," *Reuters*, May 23, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/aramco-ceo-warns-global-oil-crunch-due-lack-investment-2022-05-23/>
- 110 Ryosuke Hanafusa, "Global energy shortage looms as investment in fossil fuels slides," *Nikkei Asia*, September 21, 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Datawatch/Global-energy-shortage-looms-as-investment-in-fossil-fuels-slides>
- 111 Daniel Workman, "Top Fertilizers Exports by Country," *World's Top Exports*, May 2022. <https://www.worldstopexports.com/top-fertilizers-exports-by-country/>
- 112 "Belarus struggling to find path to market for potash amid US sanctions," *S&P Global*, February 22, 2022. <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/belarus-struggling-to-find-path-to-market-for-potash-amid-us-sanctions-68990380>
- 113 William F. Engdahl, *Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation* (Global Research, 2007), 197.
- 114 F. William Engdahl, "Biden Cynically Uses Ukraine to Cover Food Sabotage," *New Eastern Outlook*, April 26, 2022. <https://journal-neo.org/2022/04/26/biden-cynically-uses-ukraine-to-cover-food-sabotage/>
- 115 Netherlands to cut livestock numbers by 30%:
"Cattle herd to be cut by 30% over next decade to meet nitrogen targets," *Dutch News*, February 16, 2022. <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2022/02/cattle-herd-to-be-cut-by-30-over-next-decade-to-meet-nitrogen-targets/>
"Dutch farmers in uproar over plans to curb animal numbers to cut nitrogen emissions," *Financial Times*, August 3, 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/90e38fb5-e942-4afd-994d-048dc40579a2>
Senay Boztas, "Netherlands proposes radical plans to cut livestock numbers by almost a third," *The Guardian*, September 9, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/09/netherlands-proposes-radical-plans-to-cut-livestock-numbers-by-almost-a-third>
- 116 Impact of pandemic on businesses:
Emily Pandise, "One year into pandemic, Main Street bankruptcies continue," *NBC News*, May 16, 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/which-major-retail-companies-have-filed-bankruptcy-coronavirus-pandemic-hit-n1207866>
Allie Schwartz, "COVID-19 Pandemic Spurs Wave of Mega Corporate Bankruptcies," *National Law Review*, October 28, 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-pandemic-spurs-wave-mega-corporate-bankruptcies>
Patrick Mathurin, "Pandemic triggers wave of billion-dollar US bankruptcies," *Financial Times*, August 23, 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/277dc354-a870-4160-9117-b5b0dece5360>
- 117 Impact of pandemic on South countries:

- Selva Demiralp, "How the pandemic and dollarisation have deepened Turkey's economic crisis," *South China Morning Post*, January 6, 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3116590/how-pandemic-and-dollarisation-have-deepened-turkeys-economic>
- David Gauthier-Villars, "Turkey Strains to Ward Off Currency Crisis as Pandemic Weighs on Economy," *Wall Street Journal*, May 12, 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/turkey-strains-to-ward-off-currency-crisis-as-pandemic-weighs-on-economy-11589292609>
- "Pandemic, Inflation, Foreign Currency Devaluation: Timeline of Sri Lanka's Economic Mayhem," *News18*, April 4, 2022. <https://www.news18.com/news/world/pandemic-inflation-foreign-currency-devaluation-timeline-of-sri-lankas-economic-mayhem-4941245.html>
- 118 "Fed hikes its benchmark interest rate by 0.75 percentage point, the biggest increase since 1994," *CNBC*, June 15, 2022
- 119 Mark Kolakowski, "Fed Raises Rates By 75 Basis Points at July 2022 Meeting," *Investopedia*, July 27, 2022.
- 120 Jeff Cox, "Fed raises rates by another three-quarters of a percentage point, pledges more hikes to fight inflation," *CNBC*, September 21, 2022. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/15/fed-hikes-its-benchmark-interest-rate-by-three-quarters-of-a-point-the-biggest-increase-since-1994.html>
- 121 Marcos Cabello, "Fed Raises Rates by Another 75 Basis Points. Here's What Higher Rates Mean for You," *CNET*, November 2, 2022. <https://www.cnet.com/personal-finance/banking/fed-raises-rates-by-another-75-basis-points-heres-what-higher-rates-mean-for-you/>
- 122 Brian Martucci, "Fed's Interest Rate Hikes in 2022: What the December Raise Means for You," *Money Crashers*, December 16, 2022. <https://www.moneycrashers.com/fed-interest-rate-hike-raises/>
- 123 Jenna Ross, "Comparing the Speed of U.S. Interest Rate Hikes (1988–2022)," *Visual Capitalist*, October 6, 2022. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/comparing-the-speed-of-u-s-interest-rate-hikes/>
- 124 Alicia Wallace, "American inflation rose more than expected in August," *CNN*, September 13, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/13/economy/august-cpi-inflation/index.html>
- 125 Michael Snyder, "12 Numbers That Show That We Are Dangerously Close To An Economic Crash As Fall 2022 Approaches," *Washington Standard*, September 5, 2022. <https://thewashingtonstandard.com/12-numbers-that-show-that-we-are-dangerously-close-to-an-economic-crash-as-fall-2022-approaches/>
- 126 Martin Armstrong, "Food Stamps For US Soldiers," *Armstrong Economic*, September 15, 2022. https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/international-news/north_america/americas-current-economy/food-stamps-for-us-soldiers/
- 127 Casey Harper, "U.S. Army Recommends Food Stamps For Soldiers Struggling With Inflation," *Political Insider*, September 9, 2022. https://thepoliticalinsider.com/u-s-army-recommends-food-stamps-for-soldiers-struggling-with-inflation/?utm_source=home-headline-stories
- 128 Jeannette Settembre, "Heartbreaking reality of Biden inflation: 'People have told me I lost weight, but I can't afford groceries,'" *New York Post*, September 14, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/09/14/americans-struggling-under-biden-inflation/?>

- 129 “FX Markets Are On Fire, Alfonso Peccatiello,” *The Macro Compass*, September 29, 2022. <https://themacrocompass.substack.com/p/fx-markets-on-fire#details>
- 130 *Trading View*, September 15, 2022. <https://www.tradingview.com/>
- 131 Global South currency crisis:
- Larry MacDonald, “Take The Tragedy In Sri Lanka And Multiply By Ten’: The Fed Just Lobbed A Financial Nuke That Will Obliterate The Global Economy,” *Zerohedge*, July 14, 2022. <https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/take-tragedy-sri-lanka-and-multiply-ten-fed-just-lobbed-financial-nuke-will-obliterate>
- Graham Summers, “The Great Currency Crisis of Our Lifetimes Is Starting Now,” *Zerohedge*, September 26, 2022. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2022-09-26/great-currency-crisis-our-lifetimes-starting-now>
- 132 Iqbal Athas, “Sri Lanka Prime Minister says he’s willing to resign as protesters storm President’s residence,” *CNN*, July 9, 2022. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/09/asia/sri-lanka-protest-president-saturday-intl-hnk/index.html>
- 133 Jessie Yeung, “Sri Lanka’s former President has stepped down – but larger problems loom for the crisis-hit country,” *CNN*, July 15. <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/15/asia/sri-lanka-rajapaksa-crisis-friday-intl-hnk/index.html>
- 134 Ted Nordhaus, “In Sri Lanka, Organic Farming Went Catastrophically Wrong,” *Foreign Policy*, March 5, 2022. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/05/sri-lanka-organic-farming-crisis/>
- 135 Kenny Torrella, “Sri Lanka’s organic farming disaster, explained,” *VOX*, July 15, 2022. <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2022/7/15/23218969/sri-lanka-organic-fertilizer-pesticide-agriculture-farming>
- 136 Global South defaults:
- Marc Jones, “The big default? The dozen countries in the danger zone,” *Reuters*, July 16, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/big-default-dozen-countries-danger-zone-2022-07-15/>
- Sydney Maki, “Historic Cascade of Defaults Is Coming for Emerging Markets,” *Bloomberg*, July 8, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-07/why-developing-countries-are-facing-a-debt-default-crisis>
- 137 After Sri Lanka’s bankruptcy, IMF steps in:
- International Monetary Fund: “IMF Staff Reaches Staff-Level Agreement on an Extended Fund Facility Arrangement with Sri Lanka,” *IMF*, September 1, 2022. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/09/01/pr22295-imf-reaches-staff-level-agreement-on-an-extended-fund-facility-arrangement-with-sri-lanka>
- Shan Li, “Sri Lanka, IMF Reach Deal on \$2.9 Billion Rescue Package,” *Wall Street Journal*, September 1, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/sri-lanka-imf-reach-deal-on-2-9-billion-rescue-package-11662021371>
- 138 IMF an instrument for pillaging South nations:
- John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Berret-Koehler, 2004), 223.
- Conor Gallagher, “Michael Hudson on The Euro Without Germany,” *Naked Capitalism*, September 30, 2022. <https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2022/09/michael-hudson-on-the-euro-without-germany.html>
- 139 “Environmental, Social, and Governance,” *ESG*. <https://www.esg.org/>
- 140 “International Energy Agency,” *IEA*. <https://www.iea.org/>

- 141 *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, September 27, 2015. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- 142 Dorothy Neufeld, "Ranked: The 100 Biggest Public Companies in the World," *Visual Capitalist*, December 26, 2022. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/biggest-public-companies-in-the-world-2022/>
- 143 Assets under management of Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street and T. Rowe Price hedge funds:
 Chad Morris, "Vanguard Assets Under Management (AUM)," *Brokerage Review*, September 27, 2022. <https://www.brokerage-review.com/investing-firm/assets-under-management/vanguard-aum.aspx>
 "Total assets under management (AUM) of BlackRock from 2008 to 2nd quarter 2022," *Statista*, July 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/891292/assets-under-management-blackrock/>
 "Total assets under management (AUM) of State Street Corporation from 4th quarter 2010 to 3rd quarter 2022," *Statista*, October 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1255849/assets-under-management-state-street/>
 "T. Rowe Price group, reports preliminary month-end assets under management for November 2022," *PR Newswire*, December 12, 2022. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/t-rowe-price-group-reports-preliminary-month-end-assets-under-management-for-november-2022-301700418.html>
- 144 "Total Market Value of the U.S. Stock Market," *Siblis Research*, September 30, 2022. <https://siblisresearch.com/data/us-stock-market-value/>
- 145 Rachel Evans, "With \$20 trillion between them, Blackrock and Vanguard could own almost everything by 2028," *Financial Post*, December 4, 2017. <https://financialpost.com/investing/a-20-trillion-blackrock-vanguard-duopoly-is-investings-future>
- 146 Largest US banks and leading hedge fund ownership:
 Mathew Goldberg, "The 15 largest banks in the US," *Bankrate.com*, September 8, 2022. <https://www.bankrate.com/banking/biggest-banks-in-america/>
 "JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPM) Top Major Holders," *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2023. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/JPM/holders>
 "Bank of America Corporation (BAC), Major Holders," *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2023. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/BAC/holders>
 "Citigroup Inc. (C), Major Holders," *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2023. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/C/holders>
 "Wells Fargo & Company (WFC), Major Holders," *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2023. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/WFC/holders>
 "U.S. Bancorp (USB), Major Holders," *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2023. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/USB/holders>

CHAPTER 10

- 1 U.S. militarism following fall of USSR:

Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-2022, Congressional Research Service, March 8, 2022. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/R42738.pdf>

- Monica Duffy Toft, "The Dangerous Rise of Kinetic Diplomacy," *War on the Rocks*, May 14, 2018. <https://warontherocks.com/2018/05/the-dangerous-rise-of-kinetic-diplomacy/>
- Nick Turse, "Report: Post-9/11 era one of the most militarily aggressive in US history," *Responsible Statecraft*, August 10, 2022. <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/08/10/report-post-9-11-era-one-of-the-most-militarily-aggressive-in-us-history/>
- 2 Nicolas J S Davies, "How Many Millions Have Been Killed in America's Post-9/11 Wars? Part 3: Libya, Syria, Somalia and Yemen," *Consortium News*, April 25, 2018. <https://consortiumnews.com/2018/04/25/how-many-millions-have-been-killed-in-americas-post-9-11-wars-part-3-libya-syria-somalia-and-yemen/>
- 3 Sergei Glazyev, "Genocide: Russia and the New World Order," *Executive Intelligence Review*, 1999, p 13
- 4 "Iraq conflict has killed a million Iraqis: Survey," *Reuters*, January 30, 2008. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-deaths-survey-idUSL3048857920080130>
- 5 United Nations, "Afghanistan: Civilian casualties exceed 10,000 for sixth straight year," *UN News*, February 22, 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057921>
- 6 Stephanie Nebehay, "U.N. issues new Syria war death toll, says 350,000 is an 'undercount,'" *Reuters*, September 24, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-issues-new-syria-war-death-toll-says-350000-is-an-undercount-2021-09-24/>
- 7 Deaths in NATO's war on Libya:
- Joe Dyke, "NATO Killed Civilians in Libya. It's Time to Admit It," *Foreign Policy*, March 20, 2021. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/20/nato-killed-civilians-in-libya-its-time-to-admit-it/>
- "Unacknowledged Deaths, Civilian Casualties in NATO's Air Campaign in Libya," *HRW*, May 14, 2012. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/05/13/unacknowledged-deaths/civilian-casualties-natos-air-campaign-libya>
- "Libya: Civil War Casualties Could Reach 100,000," *International Business Times*, October 26, 2011. <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/libya-conflicting-death-toll-raises-questions-about-what-truly-happened-237895>
- 8 Ron Perrier, "Yugoslavian Wars – 1991–2002," March 30, 2019. <https://www.ronperrier.net/2019/03/30/yugoslavian-wars-1991-2002/>
- 9 Yemen war deaths:
- United Nations, "UN humanitarian office puts Yemen war dead at 233,000, mostly from 'indirect causes,'" *UN News*, December 1, 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1078972>
- "Yemen war deaths will reach 377,000 by end of the year: UN," *Al Jazeera*, November 23, 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/23/un-yemen-recovery-possible-in-one-generation-if-war-stops-now>
- 10 Somali war deaths:
- "Somalia intervention," *Britannica*, December 2, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Somalia-intervention>
- Eric Schmitt, "Somali War Casualties May Be 10,000," *New York Times*, December 8, 1993. <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/12/08/world/somali-war-casualties-may-be-10000.html>

- “Somalia: The hidden US war in Somalia; civilian casualties from air strikes in Lower Shabelle,” *Amnesty International*, March 20, 2019. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr52/9952/2019/en/>
- “Somalia: Zero accountability as civilian deaths mount from US air strikes,” *Amnesty International*, April 1, 2020. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/somalia-zero-accountability-as-civilian-deaths-mount-from-us-air-strikes/>
- 11 “Watchdog estimates civilian death toll from Ukrainian attacks on Donbass,” *RT*, December 14, 2022. <https://www.rt.com/russia/568240-donbass-death-toll-report/>
- 12 Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man* (Macmillan, 1992).
- 13 Uditha Jayasinghe, “Exclusive – Sri Lanka expects up to \$8 billion more in loans, asset restructuring,” *Yahoo Finance*, December 14, 2022. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/exclusive-sri-lanka-expects-8-115355485.html>
- 14 Angus McDowall, “IMF reaches staff-level agreement with Tunisia for loan programme,” *Reuters*, October 16, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/imf-reaches-staff-level-agreement-with-tunisia-loan-programme-2022-10-15/>
- 15 “IMF confirms \$3 bln loan for Egypt, welcomes exchange rate flexibility,” *Reuters*, October 27, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/imf-confirms-3-blн-loan-egypt-welcomes-exchange-rate-flexibility-2022-10-27/>
- 16 Cooper Inveen, “Ghana expects \$3 bln IMF loan approval early in 2023,” *Reuters*, December 13, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ghana-sees-imf-board-approval-3-blн-3-year-loan-early-2023-2022-12-13/>
- 17 “IMF board approves \$203 mln disbursement to Democratic Republic of Congo,” *Reuters*, December 20, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/imf-board-approves-203-mln-disbursement-democratic-republic-congo-2022-12-20/>
- 18 Financial crashes in period 1997 to 2022:
- “The Dotcom bubble burst (2000),” *International Banker*, September 29, 2021. <https://internationalbanker.com/history-of-financial-crises/the-dotcom-bubble-burst-2000/>
- “Dotcom Bubble,” *Corporate Finance Institute*, December 7, 2022. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/equities/dotcom-bubble/>
- David Gewirtz, “The dot-com bubble: How to lose \$5 trillion,” *AC360* [blog], CNN, November 24, 2009. <https://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2009/11/24/the-dot-com-bubble-how-to-lose-5-trillion/>
- Stacy Curtin, “2008 Financial Crisis Cost Americans \$12.8 Trillion: Report,” September 17, 2012. <https://finance.yahoo.com/blogs/daily-ticker/2008-financial-crisis-cost-americans-12-8-trillion-145432501.html>
- Michael Snyder, “46 Trillion Dollars In Financial Wealth Lost During Great Global Market Crash Of 2022,” October 4, 2022. <https://thewashingtonstandard.com/46-trillion-dollars-in-financial-wealth-lost-during-great-global-market-crash-of-2022/>
- 19 Zbigniew Brzezinski, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives* (Basic Books, 1997).
- 20 “How reserve currencies have changed over 120 years,” *Visual Capitalist*. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/how-reserve-currencies-evolved-over-120-years/>
- 21 “How reserve currencies have changed over 120 years.”

- 22 "Currency composition of official foreign exchange reserves (COFER)," *IMF*, December 23, 2022. <https://data.imf.org/?sk=E6A5F467-C14B-4AA8-9F6D-5A09EC4E62A4>
- 23 Weaponizing the dollar:
"U.S. dollar weaponization: 1000 damage to the enemy, 800 self damage," *iNF news*, December 30, 2022. <https://inf.news/en/world/45cfbe57e229ceeaefca84a3295a37075.html>
SL Kanthan, "The End of Dollar Hegemony," *India and Geopolitics* [blog], December 24, 2022. <https://slkanthan.substack.com/p/the-end-of-dollar-hegemony>
Michelle Jamrisko, "Suddenly Everyone Is Hunting for Alternatives to the US Dollar," *Bloomberg*, December 21, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-12-21/fx-weaponization-supercharges-de-dollarization-drive>
Vijay Prashad, "The Petrodollar's Long Goodbye," *Consortium News*, December 15, 2022. <https://consortiumnews.com/2022/12/15/the-petrodollars-long-goodbye/>
- 24 "Full text of Xi Jinping's keynote speech at China-GCC Summit," *China Daily*, December 10, 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/10/WS6393e690a31057c47eba3b6c.html>
- 25 "Project mBridge: Connecting economies through CBDC," *BIS*, October 2022. https://www.bis.org/about/bisih/topics/cbdc/mcbdc_bridge.htm
- 26 "Russia invites Iran to sell oil on St Petersburg exchange," *RT*, March 2, 2009. <https://www.rt.com/business/russia-invites-iran-to-sell-oil-on-st-petersburg-exchange/>
- 27 China to buy its oil and gas on Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas exchange:
"Full text of Xi Jinping's keynote speech at China-GCC Summit," *China Daily*, December 10, 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/10/WS6393e690a31057c47eba3b6c.html>
Zoltan Pozsar, "War and Commodity Encumbrance," *Credit Suisse*, December 27, 2022. <https://plus2.credit-suisse.com/shorturlpdf.html?v=5h1o-8SW-V&t=6f9o9gxfcir9ldit6fbldzzx>
- 28 Zbigniew Brzezinski on "Global Political Awakening":
Zbigniew Brzezinski, "The Global Political Awakening," *New York Times*, December 16, 2008. <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/16/opinion/16iht-YEbrzezinski.1.18730411.html>
Alan, "Brzezinski at Montreal CFR in April, 2010," *Canadian Liberty*, November 11, 2010. <https://canadianliberty.com/brzezinski-at-montreal-cfr-in-april-2010/>
Paul Joseph Watson, "Brzezinski Decries 'Global Political Awakening' During CFR Speech," *Infowars*, May 19, 2010. <http://web.archive.org/web/20100521134405/http://www.infowars.com/brzezinski-decrys-global-political-awakening-during-cfr-speech/>
- 29 "Zbigniew Brzezinski: It Is Infinitely Easier to Kill a Million People than it is to Control Them," YouTube Video, 2:31 (mmaghfai, August 22, 2009). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkCEOSgLRt4>
- 30 Social media platforms instruments of CIA, FBI and other government agencies:
Jim Edwards, "Social Media Is a Tool of the CIA. Seriously," *CBS News*, July 11, 2011. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/social-media-is-a-tool-of-the-cia-seriously/>
Scott Whitlock, "Twitter Files part 9: Vast web of coordination between tech giant and CIA, State Department, other agencies," *Fox News*, December 24, 2022.

https://www.foxnews.com/media/twitter-files-part-9-vast-web-coordination-between-tech-giant-cia-state-department?intcmp=tw_fnc

Kyle Becker, "FBI and CIA Connections to Twitter Exposed Amid Massive Election Interference and Censorship Operation," *Trending Politics*, December 9, 2022. <https://trendingpolitics.com/fbi-and-cia-connections-to-twitter-exposed-amid-massive-election-interference-and-censorship-operation-knab/>

Mary Kay Linge, "Latest Twitter Files shows CIA, FBI have spent years meddling in content moderation," *New York Post*, December 24, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/24/latest-batch-of-twitter-files-shows-cia-fbi-involved-in-content-moderation/>

Victor Nava, "FBI treated Twitter as a 'subsidiary,' flagged tweets and accounts for 'misinformation,'" *New York Post*, December 16, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/16/fbi-treated-twitter-as-subsidiary-flagged-tweets-for-misinformation/>

Victor Nava, "FBI paid Twitter \$3.4M for doing its dirty work on users, damning email shows," *New York Post*, December 19, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/19/fbi-reimbursed-twitter-for-doing-its-dirty-work-on-users/>

Caitlin Doombos, "Facebook, Twitter stocked with ex-FBI, CIA officials in key posts," *New York Post*, December 22, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/22/facebook-twitter-stocked-with-ex-fbi-cia-officials/>

Whitney Webb, "The Military/Intelligence Origins Of Facebook," *Technocracy News*, April 19, 2021. <https://www.technocracy.news/the-military-intelligence-origins-of-facebook/>

Robert Jonathan, "'Very worrying': Facebook reportedly using ex-CIA to moderate misinformation policy," *BPR*, July 25, 2022. <https://www.bizpacreview.com/2022/07/25/very-worrying-facebook-reportedly-using-ex-cia-to-moderate-misinformation-policy-1265895/>

31 Mainstream media losing credibility:

Joseph Choi, "News networks see major viewership drop in 2021," *The Hill*, December 27, 2021. <https://thehill.com/homenews/media/587401-news-networks-see-major-viewership-drop-in-2021/>

Neal Rothschild and Sara Fischer, "News engagement plummets as Americans tune out," *Axios*, July 12, 2022. <https://wwwaxios.com/2022/07/12/news-media-readership-ratings-2022>

"CNN ratings plummet 90% in year: Viewer data," *Arab News*, January 13, 2022. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2003906/media>

Sohil Sinha, "The death of mainstream media in the united states," *TFI Global News*, June 30, 2021. <https://tfibglobalnews.com/2021/06/30/the-death-of-mainstream-media-in-the-united-states/>

32 Bologna train station massacre:

Tyler Durden, "A Diabolic False Flag Empire: Is The American Trajectory Divine Or Demonic?," *Zerohedge*, September 10, 2018. <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-09-09/diabolic-false-flag-Empire-american-trajectory-divine-or-demonic>

"The terror trail that won't grow cold: Dark forces bombed Bologna station in 1980, killing 85," *Independent UK*, October 10, 1993. <https://www.independent.co.uk/>

- news/world/the-terror-trail-that-wont-grow-cold-dark-forces-bombed-bologna-station-in-1980-killing-85-at-a-1509705.html
- 33 Terrorist attack on Nord Stream pipelines:
“Phone hack reveals Ex-UK PM Liz Truss Allegedly Texted Antony Blinken ‘Its done’ Minutes After Nord Stream Pipeline Sabotage,” *Conservative News Daily*, October 31, 2022. <https://www.conservativenewsdaily.net/breaking-news/phone-hack-reveals-ex-uk-pm-liz-truss-allegedly-texted-antony-blinken-its-done-minutes-after-nord-stream-pipeline-sabotage/>
- Wendy, “‘How the Russians Knew...’ A minute after the Nord Stream explosion, Liz Truss sent this sms to Blinken,” *Serbia Posten*, November 1, 2022. <https://serbia-posten.com/world/71796/HOW-THE-RUSSIANS-KNEW%E2%80%A6-A-minute-after-the-Nord-Stream-explosion-Liz-Truss-sent-this-sms-to-Blinken%E2%80%A6-The-Internet-magnate-launched-a-shocking-conspiracy-theory.html>
- 34 Europeans question government’s policies:
“Protests Start in Europe as Belgium Prime Minister Warns that the European Economy will Come to ‘Full Stop’ in a ‘Few Weeks,’” *O.N.E. News*, September 13, 2022. <https://www.ournewearthnews.com/2022/09/13/protests-start-in-europe-as-belgium-prime-minister-warns-that-the-european-economy-will-come-to-full-stop-in-a-few-weeks/>
- “Soaring prices trigger regional protests in Europe against sanctions on Russia,” *CGTN*, September 12, 2022. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-09-12/Mass-protests-held-in-Europe-as-energy-crisis-aggravates-1dgpuq1Pq5G/index.html>
- “European Politicians Suffering As Protests Rise over Energy Prices,” *Tasnim News Agency*, September 12, 2022. <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2022/09/13/2773835/european-politicians-suffering-as-protests-rise-over-energy-prices>
- “A popular protest in Vienna against the sanctions against Russia,” *The Limited Times*, September 11, 2022. <https://newsrnd.com/news/2022-09-11-a-popular-protest-in-vienna-against-the-sanctions-against-russia.HyZWaCEies.html>
- “Thousands of Germans Take to the Streets of Plauen in Protest of Sanctions Against Russia and the Cost of Living,” *Red Voice Media*, September 11, 2022. <https://www.redvoicemedia.com/video/2022/09/thousands-of-germans-take-to-the-streets-of-plauen-in-protest-of-sanctions-against-russia-and-the-cost-of-living/>
- “Whodunnit? – Facts Related to The Sabotage Attack On The Nord Stream Pipelines,” *Moon of Alabama*, September 28, 2022. <https://www.moonofalabama.org/2022/09/whodunnit-facts-related-to-the-sabotage-attack-on-the-nord-stream-pipelines.html>
- 35 Upsets in European elections:
Tony Barber, “The hard right’s election breakthrough has upset the Swedish apple cart,” *Financial Times*, September 9, 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/c3a62a59-2ef7-4e9d-8ef5-885df53c2e92>
- Aliki Kraterou, “Italy’s Giorgia Meloni declares victory in election upset ushering in ‘country’s most right-wing leader since Mussolini,’” *The Sun*, September 26, 2022. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/19917023/italy-victory-first-far-right-government-giorgia-meloni/>

- 36 Connor Gallagher, "US-China Struggle for DR Congo Resources Intensifies," *Naked Capitalism*, December 26, 2022. <https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2022/12/us-china-struggle-for-dr-congo-resources-intensifies.html>
- 37 "Pentagon threatens Turkey with 'grave consequences' for buying Russian S-400," *RT*, March 5, 2019. <https://www.rt.com/news/453033-s400-turkey-grave-consequences/>
- 38 Ryan Morgan, "US sanctions Turkey for buying Russian S-400 missile systems," *American Military News*, December 14, 2020. <https://americanmilitarynews.com/2020/12/us-sanctions-turkey-for-buying-russian-s-400-missile-systems/>
- 39 Admiral Gorshkov on patrol with 3M22 hypersonic missiles:
"Russia's hypersonic missile-armed ship to patrol global seas," *ABC News*, January 4, 2023. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russias-hypersonic-missile-armed-ship-patrol-global-seas-96192661>
"Gorshkov Is On Patrol," *Reminiscence of the Future...* [blog], January 4, 2023. <http://smoothie12.blogspot.com/2023/01/goshkov-is-on-patrol.html>
Zircon And Other Military Toys, SmoothieX12, YouTube, January 6, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVbbLt0iViU>
- 40 The oligarchs behind the oligarchs:
Simon Bell, "Rothschild is the new power behind Yukos," *Sunday Times UK*, November 2, 2003. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rothschild-is-the-new-power-behind-yukos-9wtmr3d90nz>
"Arrested oil tycoon passes shares to banker," *Washington Times*, November 2, 2003. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2003/nov/2/20031102-111400-3720r/>
- 41 Saudi Arabia no longer as compliant to U.S.:
Frances Martel, "Saudi Arabia Seeks to Join Russia/China-Led BRICS Coalition After Biden Admin Insults," *Breitbart*, October 18, 2022. <https://www.breitbart.com/middle-east/2022/10/18/saudi-arabia-seeks-join-russia-china-led-brics-coalition-after-biden-admin-insults/>
"South African president says Saudi Arabia interested in joining BRICS," *TASS*, October 18, 2022. <https://tass.com/world/1524345>
- 42 "BP Statistical Review 2021" all data xlsx, British Petroleum, 2022. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/xlsx/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-all-data.xlsx>
- 43 Sevinç İrem Balci, "Russia-China Partnership Agreement," *The Asia Today*, February 2, 2022. <https://theasiatoday.org/editorials/russia-china-partnership-agreement/>
- 44 Sofia Chegodaeva, "Iran and Russia Agree on Strategic Cooperation Plan," *The Intel Drop*, August 29, 2022. <https://theinteldrop.com/2022/08/29/iran-and-russia-agree-on-strategic-cooperation-plan/>
- 45 Strategic agreements between Iran and China:
"Iran, China sign strategic long-term cooperation agreement," *ABC News*, March 27, 2021. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iran-china-sign-strategic-long-term-cooperation-agreement-76720627>
"China, Iran Begin Implementation of Sweeping Strategic Agreement," *VOA News*, January 15, 2022. <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-iran-begin-implementation-of-sweeping-strategic-agreement/6398246.html>

- 46 China and Russia working towards a democratic, fair world order:
“Russia says it’s building a new ‘democratic world order’ with China,” *CBS News*, March 30, 2022. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-china-lavrov-visit-beijing-vladimir-putin-xi-jinping-new-world-order/>
- “Russia, China Will Move Towards A Multipolar, Fair World Order: Lavrov,” *Tasnim*, March 30, 2022. <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2022/03/30/2688527/russia-china-will-move-towards-a-multipolar-fair-world-order-lavrov>
- 47 President of Russia, *Joint Statement by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on International Relations Entering a New Era and Global Sustainable Development*, February 4, 2022. <http://www.kremlin.ru/supplement/5770>
- 48 *U.S. Hegemony and Its Perils*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples Republic of China, February 20, 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230220_11027664.html
- 49 Mohammed Al Asoomi, “UAE and Saudi Arabia joining in BRICS will be game changing,” *GulfNews*, November 23, 2022. <https://gulfnews.com/business/analysis/uae-and-saudi-arabia-joining-in-brics-will-be-game-changing-1.1669211706316>
- 50 “Turkey, Egypt and KSA may join BRICS forum ‘very soon,’” *Egypt Independent*, July 14, 2022. <https://www.egyptindependent.com/turkey-egypt-and-ksa-may-join-brics-forum-very-soon/>
- 51 Chris Devonshire-Ellis, “The New Candidate Countries For BRICS Expansion,” *Silk Road Briefing*, November 9, 2022. <https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2022/11/09/the-new-candidate-countries-for-brics-expansion/>
- 52 Pepe Escobar, “Russia’s Sergey Glazьев introduces the new global financial system,” *The Cradle*, April 14, 2022. <https://thecradle.co/Article/interviews/9135>
- 53 Pepe Escobar, “The Global South births a new game-changing payment system,” *The Cradle*, December 2, 2022. <https://mronline.org/2022/12/02/the-global-south-births-a-new-game-changing-payment-system/>
- 54 President of Russia, *Joint Statement by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on International Relations Entering a New Era and Global Sustainable Development*, February 4, 2022. <http://www.kremlin.ru/supplement/5770>
- 55 “LGBTQ Diversity Toolbox for Teachers – Introduction,” National Association for Gifted Children, 2016. <https://www.nagc.org/lgbtq-diversity-toolbox-teachers-introduction>
- 56 Mainstream media losing credibility:
Joseph Choi, “News networks see major viewership drop in 2021,” *The Hill*, December 27, 2021. <https://thehill.com/homenews/media/587401-news-networks-see-major-viewership-drop-in-2021/>
- Neal Rothschild and Sara Fischer, “News engagement plummets as Americans tune out,” *Axios*, July 12, 2022. <https://wwwaxios.com/2022/07/12/news-media-readership-ratings-2022>
- “CNN ratings plummet 90% in year: Viewer data,” *Arab News*, January 13, 2022. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2003906/media>
- Sohil Sinha, “The death of mainstream media in the united states,” *TFI Global News*, June 30, 2021. <https://tfiglobalnews.com/2021/06/30/the-death-of-mainstream-media-in-the-united-states/>

57 Gilets Jaunes repression in France:

“Gilets Jaunes: Un bilan inquiétant,” Amnesty International France, *Amnesty France*, November 11, 2019. <https://www.amnesty.fr/liberte-d-expression/actualites/gilets-jaunes-un-bilan-inquietant>

Andre Kapsas, “The Repression of France’s Yellow Vests Has Left Hundreds in Jail – And Crushed Freedom of Protest,” *Jacobin*, November 17, 2020. <https://jacobin.com/2020/11/gilets-jaunes-yellow-vests-protests-france-police-brutality>

58 Russel Coates, “Freedom Convoy: Justin Trudeau chooses repression over removing mandates,” *Learn Liberty*, February 19, 2022. <https://www.learnliberty.org/blog/freedom-convoy-justin-trudeau-chooses-repression-over-removing-mandates/>

59 Dylan Eleven, “Protesting Dutch Farmers Refuse to Back Down Despite Police Crackdown,” *Truth11*, July 12, 2022. <https://www.truth11.com/protesting-dutch-farmers-refuse-to-back-down-despite-police-crackdown/>

60 Financial repression of protestors in Canada:

Katherine Fung, “Banks Have Begun Freezing Accounts Linked to Trucker Protest,” *Newsweek*, February 18, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/banks-have-begun-freezing-accounts-linked-trucker-protest-1680649>

Blair Gable, “Canada says it will freeze the bank accounts of ‘Freedom Convoy’ truckers who continue their anti-vaccine mandate blockades,” *Business Insider*, February 15, 2022. <https://www.businessinsider.com/trudeau-canada-freeze-bank-accounts-freedom-convoy-truckers-2022-2?op=1>

61 “Putin approved the allocation of an urgent consignment of grain to Afghanistan,” *TASS*, June 14, 2022. <https://ria.ru/20220614/afghanistan-1795256544.html>

62 Russian assistance to African countries:

“Grain supply tops Putin’s talks with African Union leader,” *Washington Post*, June 2, 2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/grain-supply-tops-putin-african-union-head-talks-agenda/2022/06/03/caebb324-e340-11ec-ae64-6b23e5155b62_story.html

“Russia is preparing second Russia-Africa summit,” *TASS*, May 31, 2022. <https://tass.com/politics/1458399>

63 “Putin offers poor nations free fertilizers,” *RT*, September 16, 2022. <https://www.rt.com/news/562944-putin-fertilizers-free-sanctions/>

64 “Iran oil tanker reaches Venezuela amid US tension,” *BBC*, May 25, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52789276>

65 Iran proposes gifting Lebanon oil for electricity generation:

“Iranian Ambassador: Tehran Set To Give Oil to Energy-starved Lebanon,” *Medialine*, August 29, 2022. <https://themedialine.org/headlines/iran-ready-to-donate-fuel-to-lebanon-ambassador/>

“Iran ready to offer Lebanon 600,000 tonnes of fuel, Al Manar TV reports,” *Reuters*, September 20, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-ready-offer-lebanon-600000-tonnes-fuel-al-manar-tv-2022-09-20/>

66 China Covid-19 aid:

“First assistance for Serbia from People’s Republic of China,” Government of Serbia, March 16, 2022. <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/151479/first-assistance-for-serbia-from-peoples-republic-of-china.php>

“China pledges further COVID-19 aid to Southeast Asia,” *Economic Times*, June 8, 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/china-pledges-further-covid-19-aid-to-southeast-asia/articleshow/83336832.cms>

- 67 Russia Covid-19 aid:
“Russian experts wipe out COVID-19 in Italian care home as EU stands by and does nothing” *Express UK*, March 30, 2020. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1262275/Russia-news-coronavirus-COVID-19-Italy-EU-European-Union-Conte-Macron>
- Stephen Sorace, “Russian Army sending hard-hit Italy coronavirus aid after Putin phone call,” *Fox News*, March 22, 2020. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/italy-coronavirus-aid-russia-putin>
- 68 China win-win cooperation in infrastructure development:
“China and Laos open \$6 billion high-speed rail link,” *Reuters*, December 3, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/china-laos-open-6-billion-high-speed-rail-link-2021-12-03/>
- Karim Lebhour, “New Chinese-built railway links Ethiopia to the sea,” *Yahoo News*, October 5, 2016. <https://news.yahoo.com/news/chinese-built-railway-links-ethiopia-sea-092611944.html>
- Aamir Ataa, “New Fiber Optic Cable Connecting Pakistan with China Inaugurated,” *Pro Pakistani*, July 13, 2018. <https://propakistani.pk/2018/07/13/new-fiber-optic-cable-connecting-pakistan-with-china-inaugurated/>
- Mifrah Haq, “China builds Digital Silk Road in Pakistan to Africa and Europe,” *Nikkei Asia*, January 29, 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Belt-and-Road/China-builds-Digital-Silk-Road-in-Pakistan-to-Africa-and-Europe>
- Xinhua, “Chinese-built Ethiopia-Djibouti railway boosts regional integration,” *Horn Diplomat*, February 23, 2022. <https://www.horndiplomat.com/2022/02/23/chinese-built-ethiopia-djibouti-railway-boosts-regional-integration/>
- 69 Sébastien Malo, “Russia, China back nuclear as a clean-power fix for Africa,” *Reuters*, February 7, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-energy-nuclearpower-idUSKCN1PW0KV>
- 70 Bradford Betz, “Climate czar John Kerry warns Africa not to rely on natural gas to bring power to millions,” *Fox News*, September 18, 2022. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/climate-czar-john-kerry-warns-africa-natural-gas-bring-power-millions>
- 71 Connor Gallagher, “US-China Struggle for DR Congo Resources Intensifies,” *Naked Capitalism*, December 26, 2022. <https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2022/12/us-china-struggle-for-dr-congo-resources-intensifies.html>
- 72 Amid threats of US military intervention, Russia sends nuclear capable bombers to Venezuela:
Matthew Bristow, “Talk of U.S. Military Intervention in Venezuela Suddenly Gains Traction,” *Bloomberg*, September 26, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-09-26/trump-s-venezuela-military-option-gains-backers-as-millions-flee#xj4y7vzkg>
- “Russia sends two nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela,” *ABC News*, December 11, 2018. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russia-sends-2-nuclear-capable-bombers-venezuela-n946246>
- 73 Russian military intervention in Kazakhstan:
“Color Revolution In Kazakhstan 2022 – Analysis,” *Eurasia Review*, February 10, 2022. <https://www.eurasiareview.com/10022022-color-revolution-in-kazakhstan-2022-analysis/>

- “Vladimir Putin vows to stop ‘colour revolutions’ after sending troops to Kazakhstan,” *Financial Times*, January 10, 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/ee9005ee-7269-4081-801a-61011b233e78>
- 74 Russian intervention in Africa:
“Arrival of Russian Wagner mercenaries in Mali condemned by European governments,” *CNN*, December 24, 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/24/africa/russia-mercenaries-mali-intl/index.html>
“France announces military withdrawal from Mali after nine years,” *The Guardian*, February 17, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/17/france-announces-military-withdrawal-from-mali-after-nine-years>
“Mali Demands French, European Troops Leave Country Immediately,” *VOA News*, February 18, 2022. <https://www.voanews.com/a/mali-demands-french-european-troops-leave-country-immediately/6448383.html>
“Ethiopia, Russia Sign Military Cooperation Agreement,” *Fana Broadcasting*, July 12, 2021. <https://www.fanabc.com/english/ethiopia-russia-sign-military-cooperation-agreement/>
“Factbox: Russian military cooperation deals with African countries,” *Reuters*, October 17, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-africa-russia-factbox-idUSKCN1MR0KH>
“Russia is building its military influence in Africa, challenging U.S. and French dominance,” *CNBC*, September 13, 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/09/13/russia-is-building-military-influence-in-africa-challenging-us-france.html>
- 75 The Kremlin, Moscow, “Signing of treaties on accession of Donetsk and Lugansk people’s republics and Zaporozhye and Kherson regions to Russia” [event], Vladimir Putin, *President of Russia*, September 30, 2022. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69465>
- 76 Seymour Hersh, “How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline,” *Seymour Hersh* [blog], February 8, 2023. <https://seymourhersh.substack.com/p/how-america-took-out-the-nord-stream>
- 77 Reuters, “What is the ‘Doomsday Clock’ and how does it work?” *Today*, January 4, 2023. <https://www.today.com/news/doomsday-clock-what-it-is-how-it-works-rcna67302>
- 78 The New Start treaty was renewed for another 5 years until 2026. Arms Control Association, “U.S.-Russian Nuclear Arms Control Agreements at a Glance” [fact sheet], last reviewed October 2022. <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/USRussiaNuclearAgreements>.
- 79 “Does the US have an anti-missile system?” *Radition.thesocialselect.com*, <https://radiation.thesocialselect.com/does-the-us-have-an-anti-missile-system/>
- 80 Larry Johnson, “Forget M.A.D., Can Russia Defeat the United States in a Nuclear War?”, *A Son of the New American Revolution* [blog], October 17, 2022. <https://sonar21.com/forget-m-a-d-russia-can-defeat-the-united-states-in-a-nuclear-war/>
- 81 <https://warnews247.gr/ektakto-norvgia-o-rosikos-voreios-stolos-apelefse-me-pyrrinikous-pyrravlos-meta-apo-30-chronia-etoimasis-syrraxis-me-nato/>
- 82 George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/61439040-1984>

Index

9/11, 133, 160, 162, 203, 215

A

Afghanistan, 157, 169, 199, 203, 204, 205, 231, 245
Agenda 2030, 228
Ain Assad, 170, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 237
Albright, Madeleine, 121, 136, 174
Allenby, Edmund, 121, 133
American dream, 14, 16
American way of life, 16, 151
Anglo-Dutch system, 41
Arab Spring, 206, 215
Aramco, 221
Asian Financial Crisis, 55, 61, 110, 226
Asian Tigers, 19, 78, 91, 103, 104, 105, 120, 243
Assad, Bashar, 203
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 105, 107
Aung San Suu Kyi, 106
Aztec, 50, 138

B

Baghdad, 46
Banco della Piazza di Rialto, 40, 41, 43
Bank for International Settlements, 51, 97, 156
Bank of England, 40, 42, 49, 134, 153
Bank of France, 42, 43, 49
Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 3, 7, 45, 51, 52, 55, 56, 74, 90, 96, 98, 116, 156, 183, 227
Bank of Venice, 40, 41, 43
Basel Accord, 45, 94, 98, 99, 100, 102
Belgium, 44, 45, 59, 98, 121, 139
Belgrade, 46
Ben Laden, Osama, 206
Biden, Joe, 52, 152, 222

BlackRock, 60, 72, 73, 157, 159, 218, 219, 228, 229

Bologna train station, 160, 236

Bretton Woods, 2, 3, 8, 21, 24, 32, 36, 51, 55, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 66, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 90, 98, 100, 101, 104, 106, 114, 116, 150, 151, 155, 156, 159, 169, 182, 183, 184, 186, 188, 190, 191, 215, 227, 229, 232, 233, 234, 235, 243, 246
Bretton Woods II, 58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 101, 116, 150, 159, 229, 243

Brexit, 244

British East India Company, 50, 229

British Empire, 55, 136, 142

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, 152, 153, 154, 162, 186, 193, 206, 208, 232, 233, 235

Bush, George W., 116, 133, 151, 156, 203, 205, 217, 231

C

Capitalist economy, 64, 91, 119, 172

Caspian Sea basin, 154, 186

Catholic Church, 38, 42, 43, 132, 146, 148

CentCom, 170, 199

Central Bank of Sweden, 42

Century of Shame, 5, 172, 177, 182, 189

China, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 90, 92, 94, 96, 100, 101, 102, 105, 107, 113, 114, 117, 122, 126, 127, 128, 146, 147, 150, 151, 153, 154, 158, 169, 170, 171, 172, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 189, 190, 191, 193, 199, 200, 201, 202, 212, 213, 214, 229, 234, 239, 240, 241, 243, 245, 246

Chirac, Jacques, 2

Chiwanza, Takudzwa Hillary, 139

CIA, 122, 175
 City of London, 50, 53, 62
 comfort women, 123, 124
 commenda, 134
 Congo, 4, 78, 139, 140, 141, 215, 231
 Congolese genocide, 139
 Cortés, Hernán, 121, 138
 cosmopolitanism, 56, 57
 Covid-19, 212, 221, 224, 236, 244, 246
 Crimea, 82, 208
 Crimean War, 208
 Crusades, 49, 129, 132, 133, 134, 135,
 136, 145, 148, 151, 172, 176, 211,
 229
 Cuba, 3, 71, 115, 116
 currency crashes, 83
 currency manipulation, 49, 57, 58, 79, 82

D

de Gaulle, Charles, 59
 democratization revolutions, 39
 Diouf, Kalidou, 4
 Dutch East India Company, 42, 50, 134
 Dutch Republic, 41

E

economic hit men, 86, 89
 Ecuador, 4, 78, 86, 87
 Eisaku Satō, 122
 empire, 4, 44, 49, 56, 57, 77, 86, 105,
 134, 136, 138, 142, 145, 147, 153,
 154, 155, 156, 157, 161, 163, 175,
 181, 184, 191, 193, 198, 199, 201,
 206, 207, 208, 209, 229, 231, 232,
 233, 235, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241,
 244, 246

energy crisis, 217

energy reserves, 19, 151, 153, 154, 186,
 203, 208, 232, 237, 238, 246

Engdahl, F. William, 85, 182, 222

Engine No. 1, 218, 219

England, 40, 42, 49, 134, 153

Environmental, Social, and Governance
 (ESG) agenda, 52, 217, 218, 220,
 221, 222, 227

Eurasia, 105, 153, 154, 162, 163, 243

ExxonMobil, 218, 219, 220, 221, 228

F

Federal Reserve (Fed), 44, 47, 48, 77, 82,
 85, 87, 88, 89, 98, 108, 155, 156,
 159, 182, 183, 224, 225, 226
 FIRE sector, 12, 14, 63, 64, 227
 Fitch, 77, 80, 82, 87, 159
 food crisis, 222
 France, 2, 4, 5, 11, 32, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49,
 58, 59, 96, 98, 112, 113, 134, 152,
 180, 181, 207, 208
 free world, 32, 117, 118, 122, 128, 129,
 132, 133, 136, 137, 142, 148, 151,
 160, 172, 176, 179, 185, 193, 208
 Freedom Convoy, Canadian, 245
 French East India Company, 50
 Fugger, Jacob, 50, 51, 135
 Fukushima, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30
 Fukuyama, Francis, 231

G

G-7, 13, 20, 21, 76, 136, 162, 210, 211,
 212, 213, 244
 Gilets Jaunes, 245
 Gini, 13, 47, 48
 Glass-Steagall, 60, 61
 Global South, 2, 21, 23, 36, 55, 60, 78,
 82, 90, 104, 150, 175, 176, 193, 213,
 215, 217, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229,
 235, 239, 243, 244, 245, 246
 Gwaambuka, Tatenda, 141

H

Heath, Edward, 2
 hedge funds, 40, 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 72,
 73, 74, 152, 156, 157, 158, 159, 183,
 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 227,
 228, 229

Hershey, Robert D., Jr., 95

Hezbollah, 181, 193, 203, 207

Hiroshima, 46

Hudson, Michael, 37, 39, 156, 217

I

Incas, 138
 Ingraham, Robert, 40, 50
 international community, 136, 137, 142,
 148, 193

International Energy Agency (IEA), 155, 217, 221, 227
International Monetary Fund (IMF), 62, 82, 88, 108, 109, 110, 114, 155, 156, 191, 215, 227, 231, 234, 243
Iran, 3, 4, 20, 21, 22, 78, 148, 150, 151, 154, 164, 169, 170, 172, 174, 175, 176, 180, 182, 183, 186, 187, 188, 191, 192, 193, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 203, 207, 211, 212, 213, 214, 229, 232, 237, 238, 240, 245, 246
Iranophobia, 211
Iraq, 55, 121, 156, 160, 170, 192, 196, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 231, 237, 238, 246

J

Japan, 3, 11, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 44, 45, 55, 61, 78, 84, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 98, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 112, 113, 114, 118, 120, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 136, 137, 142, 150, 156, 166, 188, 243

K

Kaucher, Linda, 53
Khamenei, Ali Hosseini, 187, 192
Khanthong, Thanong, 109
Khomeini, Ruhollah, 175, 186, 187, 193
King Leopold II of Belgium, 121, 139, 140
Kishi, Nobusuke, 90, 122, 123, 124, 128, 142
Kissinger, Henry, 92, 94, 101, 153
Korfiati, Marietta, 139

L

Latin America, 55, 61, 84, 87, 88, 89, 92, 104, 114, 150, 156, 188, 212, 215
Latin American Debt Crisis, 61, 85, 87, 88, 92, 217, 225
Libya, 46, 55, 203, 205, 206, 207, 231
Lockheed Martin, 166
London Gold Pool, 59

M

Manchukuo, 90, 118, 123, 124, 128, 129, 137, 142
Mertens, Charlotte, 140
Michel, Nicolas, 139
monetary crisis, 224
Money Powers, 38, 40, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61, 68, 72, 74, 77, 78, 79, 84, 85, 96, 97, 105, 107, 111, 118, 121, 133, 134, 136, 148, 150, 151, 152, 153, 155, 156, 163, 172, 173, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185, 186, 188, 190, 201, 202, 209, 210, 218, 219, 222, 223, 227, 229, 238, 240, 245, 248

Monster of Shōwa, 122, 128

Moody's, 77, 80, 82, 87, 159

Moṣaddeq, Mohamad, 4, 174, 175

MOSSAD, 175

Myanmar, 105, 106, 179, 199, 237

N

Nagasaki, 46

National Socialist, 90, 91, 92, 112, 116, 117, 119, 120

NATO, 13, 82, 136, 148, 160, 169, 191, 206, 207, 208, 236, 237, 248

neoliberal democracies, 69

neoliberal economy, 37, 54, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 163, 244

neoliberal system, 64, 67, 76, 170

Net Zero, 202, 217, 218, 221, 222, 227

NGOs, 106, 156, 191, 237

Nikkei 225 index, 99, 100, 102

Nixon, Richard, 58, 60, 85, 92, 101, 128

Nixon Shock, 57, 94, 101

Noriega, Manuel, 96, 97

O

Ocampo, José Antonio, 85, 88, 89

Operation Enduring Freedom, 204

Opium Wars, 2, 6, 177, 178, 180, 181

organic farming, 226

P

- Panama Canal, 86, 96, 97
 Papal bull, 131, 132, 133, 144, 211
 Paris Climate Accord, 52
 Perkins, John, 86
 Plaza Accord, 96, 101
 Popular Mobilization Units, Iraqi, 207
 Portuguese East India Company, 50
 Powell, Colin, 203
 Putin, Vladimir, 117, 185, 201, 216, 240, 244, 247, 248

Q

- Quran, 143, 144

R

- Reagan, Ronald 61, 101
 Reinhart, Carmen, 83, 84
 Resistance Axis, 193
 resistance economy, 187
 RIC (Russia, Iran, and China), 20, 21, 150, 151, 154, 162, 172, 182, 191, 193, 201, 202, 208, 209, 213, 215, 231, 239, 240, 242, 245, 246
 RICophobia, 210, 212, 227
 Rogoff, Kenneth, 83, 84
 Roosevelt, Franklin D., 51, 54, 59, 61, 220
 Rove, Karl, 156, 161
 Russia, 13, 20, 21, 36, 44, 79, 80, 82, 83, 113, 114, 115, 117, 150, 151, 153, 154, 159, 163, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 190, 191, 192, 199, 200, 201, 202, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 221, 222, 225, 229, 231, 233, 234, 235, 237, 239, 240, 241, 245-48
 Russophobia, 210, 211

S

- S&P, 77, 80, 82, 87, 159, 168
 SAVAK, 175
 Schryver, William, 171
 Seeley, John Robert, 142
 Sevastopol, 208
 Sex Slaves, 123, 124

Shinzō Abe, 122

- Sinophobia, 212
 Sky City Gallery, 125
 slave labor, 123
societas maris, 135
 Soleimani, Qassem, 170, 196
 Soros, George, 97, 106, 109
 Sotirovic, Vladislav, 138
 South Korea, 3, 11, 84, 90, 103, 104, 107, 108, 110, 112, 113, 114, 176, 226
 Southeast Asia, 84, 104, 107, 179
 Soviet Union, 20, 44, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 127, 136, 153, 202, 231
 Sri Lanka, 147, 215, 226, 227, 231
 State Street, 72, 73, 111, 157, 159, 219, 228, 229
 Stolypin, Pyotr, 201
 Suasso, Antonio (Isaac Israel) Lopez, 42, 134, 153
 Sugawara, Sandra, 111
 Sukarno, Ahmed, 4
 Sun Yat-Sen, 56
 Syria, 30, 54, 55, 160, 203, 205, 207, 208, 231, 237

T

- Tayler, Jeffrey, xvii
 Torrijos, Omar, 4, 96
 T. Rowe Price, 60, 72, 73, 157, 159, 228, 229
 Thatcher, Margaret, 61, 62
 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), 52
 Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), 52, 53, 54
 Trilingual Tablet, 147
 Trump, Donald, 52, 54, 55, 151, 209, 219, 236, 244
 Truss, Liz, 185
 Two Worlds, 210, 231, 239, 245

U

- UK, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 44, 45, 58, 61, 62, 77, 94, 96, 98, 112, 113, 117, 152, 157, 167, 189, 207, 244
 Ukraine, 13, 17, 30, 82, 129, 152, 158, 163, 169, 185, 201, 205, 208, 213, 214, 215, 217, 221, 222, 231, 233, 237

- unequal treaties, 6, 94, 96, 180, 181
Unit 731, 118, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129
U.S., 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 44, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 115, 116, 117, 122, 123, 124, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 135, 137, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 175, 180, 183, 186, 190, 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 212, 214, 216, 217, 218, 219, 222, 223, 224, 225, 228, 234, 237, 238, 242, 244, 247, 248
U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement, 205
USSR, 23, 35, 90, 92, 102, 114, 115, 122, 160, 162, 163, 191, 217
usury, 38

V

- Vanguard, 60, 72, 73, 157, 159, 219, 228, 229
Venetian empire, 49, 134, 136, 229
Venezuela, 3, 154, 186, 201, 208, 209, 212, 213, 238, 245, 246
Venice, 40, 41, 43, 49, 50, 57, 134
virtual reality, 13, 63, 77, 78, 79, 80, 155, 156, 157, 160, 161, 165, 213, 232, 235, 236, 245, 246
Volcker, Paul, 98

W

- wealth concentration, 14, 61, 65, 66, 72, 73, 74, 78, 105
West Asia, 104, 182, 193, 202, 206, 208, 211
Western realm, 205, 215, 227, 231, 239, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249
World Bank, 47, 48, 62, 82, 88, 89, 95, 114, 155, 189, 234, 243

World Trade Organization (WTO), 114, 155

World War II, 2, 3, 8, 44, 51, 55, 59, 78, 103, 104, 117, 122, 123, 148, 171, 179

X

Xi, Jinping, 234, 240, 244

Y

Yakovlev, 166, 167

Yak-141, 166

Yugoslavia, 231

Z

Zheng He, 146, 147