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EDITORIAL

THE BEAST COMETH

The Runnymede Gazette has long agreed with Dr Sean Gabb ... that ID cards will be back in one form or another. FierceGovernmentIT tells us that multiple biometrics will do the job without any need for pieces of plastic. It also appears that the data monstrosity being planned by Iain Duncan-Smith will be able to harvest one biometric ... voice recognition ... without our knowledge or consent.

Virtually all of us will claim benefits at some stage in our lives. Dr Gabb warns us that the planned Universal Credit database ... already dubbed 'The Beast' by IT insiders ... is likely to go far beyond any personal database planned by Labour's ID card scheme. With the prospect of all benefit recipients ... even the old and infirm ... being forced on line, that data will be available to private corporations, and that our voice prints can be hoovered up both land based and satellite systems, a vast electronic goldfish bowl is being constructed which will mark the final death of personal privacy.

The democratic resistance faces perhaps its biggest challenge yet. Can we organise to stop this?

FASCISTS AND THEIR BANKS

Some Runnymede Gazette articles of late have perhaps been overly technical. As an antidote, Dr Michael Hudson provides us with an easy-to-read tour of the wrongs of the financial system and the public control of money seigniorage necessary to put it right. Some encouragement might also be derived by the fact that this was delivered to a crowd of over 2000 in a sports stadium in Italy. Obviously there are people in that country doing a similar job to Positive Money in the UK. But it will take more than 2000, or even 200,000 to say 'enough is enough'. We will not defeat the 1% by only mobilising 1%.

Finally, two thought provoking articles on the nature of modern totalitarianism and fascism. Let these speak in their own words ... *"The imperial citizen is truly a fool. The imperium that surrounds the disengaged participant in the latest escalation of self-imposed slavery, is the ultimate result of the corporate/state."*

And little can better Satre's analysis;- .

"A disconnect of left leaning progressives, from the historic context of natural law principles, is a core reason why a coalition of anti establishment advocates fails. Common dreams must become practical beliefs. As long as the utopians refuse to accept the lessons and validity of genuine conservative philosophy, the divide and conqueror tactics of the despotic New World Order will continue."

The economic implosion of the last few years is undeniable. The consolidation of power marches on because ordinary people obey repressive authority. Sadly, the indifference towards one's own self-respect is the prime result of the sick popular culture. The abandonment of Western Civilization is almost complete, but is not final. Totalitarianism is a crime against humanity. It is up to you to do your civil disobedient duty."

Frank Taylor

EU OFFICIAL SAYS IDENTITY MANAGEMENT MUST BE BASED ON MULTIPLE BIOMETRICS

Dperera; FierceGovernmentIT (<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com>); via Nathan Allonby

URL: <http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/eu-official-says-identity-management-must-be-based-multiple-biometrics/>

Identity management in the European Union must be based on the collection of biometric information from individuals, said Frank Paul, head of unit for large scale IT systems and biometrics within the European Commission's directorate general of home affairs.

"We also believe that in an ideal world, you have to take 13," he added, referring to data collections of 10 fingerprints, two iris scans and one facial image. Paul spoke Feb. 1 during a panel of an identity management conference hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

A robust biometrics-based identity management system could replace identity cards, Paul added. "You might as well use the biometrics as your authentication. You don't need any token," he said.

The notion of a national identity card, particularly one containing biometric information, is politically contentious within the United States. When in 2006 the federal government began issuing passports with a chip containing digitized photos, a minor controversy arose. Paul, however, said the U.S. passport doesn't contain enough biometric information.

"You have digitized the information that has been around 100 years. You've digitized the biographic information on the data page and you've digitized the photo"--a level of information, Paul said, that "will not take us to the necessary level that we require."

A passport with more biometric data could permit automated border crossings, Paul added.

During the same panel, Ruth Annus, head of migration and border policy department within the Estonian ministry of the interior, said her country's national identity card does not contain biometric information.

A lost or stolen identity card could be used by a third party online, she said, if its owner also kept with it the two certificates the government also issues, a personal identification certificate and a digital signature certificate.

"If people act properly and at least don't keep together the PIN codes with the card, then the card is useless," she said. "Of course, it is one of the challenges to tell people not to keep your passwords or your PIN codes together with the certificate," she added.

For more:

- go to a CSIS webpage with archived recordings of the identity management conference

Related Articles and links:

<http://csis.org/event/rethinking-identity-management-perspectives-government-and-industry>

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/nist-releases-nstic-pilots-solicitation/2012-02->

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/nist-embraces-assertion-based-remote-e-authentication/2011-12-14>

<http://www.fierc homelandsecurity.com/story/dhs-undertakes-visa-overstay-info-sharing-pilot/2012-01-05>

BIG BROTHER IS BACK. "ID" CARDS WERE NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS GOVERNMENT'S SNOOPING

Dr Sean Gabb, Director of the Libertarian Alliance; via John Newell

URL: <http://wp.me/p29oR-4ow>

Iain Duncan Smith's new database, quietly being built in India, is set to be the most expansive data-mining operation ever carried out by any Government against its citizens.

The Universal Credit system will contain an unprecedented amount of information on all aspects of our lives, much of which will be controlled by private companies. In a chilling development it appears that the database will use ~voice biometrics as part of its security protocols.

The new system, which is due to be launched in 2013, will dwarf the plans for a National Identity Register which was dropped by Labour after storms of protest. With the advent of smart phone and hand held readers this new system could easily become an effective, electronic National Identity Card.

Universal Credit is the Government's policy to replace all benefits and tax credits with one unified benefit. The database set up to manage it will be built into the tax system and rely on the real time reporting system for tax payments which is currently in development. It is therefore likely that everyone, with or without a job, will find themselves on the database.

Under Real Time Reporting, the Government will require self-employed tax-payers and PAYE employers to submit monthly figures on earnings. The Government will know where you are on a month to month basis, unlike the current system which only relies on annual returns. This will create a huge amount of additional work and bureaucracy for self employed people and small firms alike. Like many aspects of the plans, this is something the Government hasn't been particularly forthcoming about.

Like the current tax database it will also contain details of whether you are married, your basic details such as name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number, along with details of your children. To accommodate the changes to child benefit, the database will also need details of whether you live with a partner even if you aren't married. Presumably this data will need to be updated in real time. If you split up with your partner, be sure to tell the Government as soon as possible.

Should you ever claim a benefit such as Housing Benefit, sick pay or Employment Support Allowance, the database will be even more intrusive. At present Housing Benefit data is largely collected locally, and requires a huge amount of information, ostensibly to prevent fraud. Claimants are required to provide full financial details, bank statements, tenancy agreements, details of anyone who may live with them, even housemates, plus information about the type of property, how many rooms it contains etc. All this information will now be held by central Government, quite likely along with information claimed to be for ensuring equal opportunity such as details of ethnicity, religion and sexuality.

Should you fall sick and need disability benefits then the database will also contain full details of your health condition. It will probably also have all the results of the planned regular health checks to be carried out by private companies like Atos and security companies like G4S. As Job Seekers Allowance is also to be built into the system, it is likely the database will include details of criminal records, job search activity, educational achievements and even your CV.

No Government before has ever attempted to collate such a huge amount of data on their citizens all in one place. It is not yet even known whether the system will have scope for further information retention as the project is shrouded in secrecy. Iain Duncan Smith has refused to say how the system will manage any child care payments or whether Council Tax is also to be built into the new software which IT insiders have nicknamed ~The Beast.

Universal Credit is set to be digital by default meaning people will only be able to input information online. People without online access at home will be required to use insecure internet cafes and, if they can still find one, libraries, should they need to report in personal information changes to the Government.

It is the voice recognition system however which will be of most concern to civil liberties campaigners. Known as voice biometrics this relies on the fact that everyone has a unique voice print which can be used to identify them. Whilst it has never been tested on such a huge scale, the DWP are trialling voice recognition technology right now in the hope of building it into the new system. This has

the potential to become an ID Card by default. Whilst coppers will not be able to demand to see your papers they will only need a sample of your voice to access your extensive government file. You have the right to remain silent.

By far the most chilling aspect of the plans however will be the ability of spooks everywhere to track and access your phone calls. The US Echelon satellite famously hovers up all digital information flying through the air which includes telephone conversations. If they have access to your voice print, they will be able to immediately identify and record any telephone call you make from any phone in the world.

If big brother UK isn't listening to you then the CIA may well be. Not to be outdone however are these countries leading eaves-droppers GCHQ. With well founded fears of fraud and hacking being voiced, it is GCHQ who are being brought in to try and prevent this.

Iain Duncan Smith said recently: We are talking to everybody from the private sector right the way through to GCHQ about how and what is the best point at which you protect that information.

So private companies and spooks alike are set to have access to your Government file.

When the ID Card row first blew up under Labour many campaigners warned it was the database planned to be behind the system which was of most concern. The Lib Dems were one of those voices that shouted loudest about infringement of civil liberties and privacy. Yet here they are supporting a national identity database far in excess of anything that Tony Blair dared to dream up. Barely any consultation on the power that this will give the Government, or the implications for privacy, has been carried out. Iain Duncan Smith is launching it by stealth, pretending it is only benefit claimants who will be subject to it. The Government is hoping no-one notices that by benefit claimants they mean everyone who claims, or has claimed, Tax Credits, Child Benefit, Housing Benefit, Statutory Sick Pay, Disability Living Allowance or a state pension.

In fact as the DWP and HMRC databases are due to be merged it is likely that the Government plans for everyone to be on the new database. They are hardly likely to continue to run the old HMRC database when this one does the exact same thing. Again this is not something which has been adequately explained by a Government which promised Civil Liberties. It is of little wonder that Iain Duncan Smith has been so evasive about the details of the DWP's flagship scheme.

Big Brother would blush at this vast state intrusion of privacy. He may not always be watching, but very soon he could be listening to every phone call you ever make.

I had been idly wondering when the evil of which ID cards are the public face would be rolled out again. Let's hope this whole thing turns out to be a money pit, and that the money soon runs out.

<http://attackthesystem.com/?p=14241>

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

James Madison, address to the Virginia Convention, June 16, 1788.

POLITICAL DISSENT IN THE LAND OF THE SHEEPLE

SARTRE; Activist Post; via Nathan Allonby

The long and sometime turbulent drama of political dissent in America is a continued theme in history of the country. Born out of a revolution and based on social principles of self-determination, the nation wrestles with the internal conflict between individual liberty and the power of tyrannical elites.

This struggle is the natural condition in any nation. How a society treats dissenters is a primary test for any government. Most states fail this assessment miserably. America's tolerance for peaceful dissent is in jeopardy, not solely from the current despotic regime in power, but from the flock of hungry government parasites that graze upon the public benefit programs that herd citizens into a crowd-controlled environment.

The liberal left adopts a mindset that is deficient in understanding of this most important reality. When people become dependent on government, the effective ability for meaningful dissent

diminishes.

Progressives are innately believers in the "Good Society." Their assessment that government improves the plight of citizens is a false conclusion. The greatest degree of suffering and despotism comes directly from the chambers of the State. Yet, the Democratic sentiments that echo the welfare role of central government, causes the apathy and acquiescence that allows for even more consolidation among the oligarchs.

However, there is a more comprehensive description of this circumstance; an "Ineptocracy".

(in-ep-toc'-ra-cy) - a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed, are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.

By this definition, the advocates for more inclusive government practice the very elements that make the situation worse. Watch the video VOICES OF DISSENT: ACTIVISM & AMERICAN DEMOCRACY and observe this disconnect that leftist dissenters often express.

Movements like Occupy Wall Street become co-opted over time in a like manner as the Tea Party organizations that adopt mainstream Republican sentiments. More encouraging are instances when ordinary people pressure the corrupt political class. Notwithstanding heightened activism, there must be a rational basis for a practical alternative. Sadly, in most instances, no matter how many demands petitioners make to restore immutable civil liberties, the establishment refuses to relinquish their tyrannical dictates.

This fact keeps the vast majority in self-induced incarceration. Nearly half of potential voters never cast a ballot. It is reasonable to conclude that the tired old cliché that it does not matter to vote because there is no a difference between the parties, is accurate. Nonetheless, dissent is far more profound than being a duped victim to a rigged voting system. Dissent requires total immersion into the entire political process.

Lobbying officials and confrontation with bureaucracies are necessary elements that every citizen has a duty to engage. Yet, the lesson of history is that only the few ever risk being burned by challenging the status quo. Well, that kind of resignation will never defeat a coercive political dynasty bent on expanding an ever-greater diabolical regime.

The Sheeple mentality produces walking zombies. You know the type. They are your neighbors and relatives. They come from every kind of background or employment. Most just are afraid to get involved. They are the first to wave the flag, but will never attend a government public hearing, much less express their discontent. Their motto, "go along to get along" symbolizes the decay of the nation.

Add in the legions of public employees with their union entitlement extortion demands and you have a formula for a terminable society.

Our natural tendency is to trust authority provides a feeble excuse into the dysfunctional Sheeple DNA. Only the conclusion, "Our tendency to trust authority is allowing mentally incompetent people to remain as leaders in government, universities, business, and news reporting" provides the accurate insight.

One reason we resist improving our world is that we resist facing the possibility that our leaders are corrupt or incompetent. Our natural tendency is to trust people in positions of authority; to assume they are protecting us and providing guidance to us.

Children offer the most extreme example of this. The natural tendency of a child is to assume his parents are wonderful people. A child will trust his life with his parents, and he will resist accusations that his parents are bad people.

This tendency to trust authority persists even in adults. In fact, some people have noticed that simply by pretending that they are important they can get people to regard them as an authority. People who are promoted to management positions are sometimes advised by other managers to put on an aura of being a leader. The reason is simply because we don't judge a leader by his ability to lead. Rather, like an animal, and like a child, we judge a leader by his visual appearance, posture, tone of voice, and -- most important -- according to whether other people consider him to be a leader. (Source)

Another viewpoint expands upon the true motives of the "Leaders" that reaches the fundamental lesson.

So you ask why Operation Condition the Sheeple is the title to this article, because many are being manipulated by those that would control the masses for their own greedy purposes. The elite of this country and the World are simple unwilling to share their knowledge and are afraid of the ever awakening populace and rightfully so! So by keeping the populace of the one remaining Super Power left in the World in the dark, distracted with electronic entertainment and tracked by the very same devices, The Powers That Be have put themselves in a position to Condition the Sheeple in anyway they see fit.

You know in your heart the system conditions the public to become mindless obedient serfs. Every act of obeying institutional corruption and rationalizing, that you are a good citizen for conforming to the subliminal conditioning, is the response of a mentally disturbed person.

Leave it to Alex Jones to crystallize the plight of a submissive country in the video It's Time for The Sheeple to Wake The Hell Up!! Does this analysis conflict with the Ineptocracy definition? While this concept describes the compliant public, do not dismiss the malicious nature of the manipulators that actually control the phony political process and create the environment that fosters a brain dead society.

Denial is not a defense for abdicating your civic responsibility. If you are one of the avid cheerleaders of State adoration and practice the ritual sentiment – "America Love It or Leave It", you are a prime Sheeple follower.

Because there are so many docile disciples ready to forgo their natural rights in order to gain a perceived favor from the jackboot thugs who chime the slogan "rally around the flag boys", the country deteriorates.

Dissent is necessary for any chance of survival. You know this to be true. But where will the opposition appear, or around what issues will they gain critical mass? Under the Amerika Empire, foreign involvement and unremitting war is always a prime target for a mass movement resistance. Just where is the anti-war opposition? There is no monopoly of the left that objects to permanent warfare.

Traditional PaleoConservatives detest NeoCon and NeoLib internationalists. Patriots from all ideologies are alive and eager to stop the madness. So what is the excuse for indifference or lack of coordination? As World War III approaches, what will it take for a national response against the lunacy that guarantees massive human suffering?

The despotism that advances daily will not cease by passing additional repressive laws. National security begins in the minds and souls of the people and ends in the coercive dictates of a police state. Protest and resistance is the true patriotism.

If you are content to be a mere animal subservient to a cruel master, the Sheeple mentality resonates within your defective psyche. PsyOps are at the core of suppression and government education. The normal behavior for the average supporter of the tyrannical system requires condemnation for any dissent that seeks to restore a genuine Republic. If you oppose corruption and advocate accountability, the government flunkies and proponents will label you a domestic terrorist.

It comes as no surprise that the welfare state is now viewed as a right, while the Bill of Rights is trampled into the trash heap of a previous age. Political evolution, for the Sheeple is seen as lowing your head for the clipper that wants to shear your hair. Dissent for creatures absent of courage relegates the society to a fundamental split and confrontation.

Only fidelity to principle and bravery of spirit will transform this disturbed society into a nation worthy of allegiance. Until that day arrives, join the proud legacy of peaceful dissent and civil disobedience. Leadership is different from imposition. Gather the fortitude of risking public ridicule and fight for your country. Start with open resistance to any unlawful or immoral dictate. There is no where left to hide. Become a Patriot in the Patrick Henry tradition.

SARTRE is the pen name of James Hall, a reformed, former political operative. This pundit's formal instruction in History, Philosophy and Political Science served as training for activism, on the staff of several politicians and in many campaigns. A believer in authentic Public Service, independent business interests were pursued in the private sector. Speculation in markets, and international usiness investments, allowed for extensive travel and a world view for commerce. SARTRE is the publisher of BREAKING ALL THE RULES. Contact batr@batr.org

THE EMERGENCE OF A COMMONS-BASED ECONOMY;

May 7th - 18th 2012, LONDON

Global Table

(The Commons is a principle whose origins go right back to tribal Europe, and is a feature common to most tribal and clan based societies. In the past hundred years or so, the Commons has, at least to a considerable degree, been hijacked by various versions of state and corporate socialism. James Quilligan's work has done much to redress that situation and to put the Commons and co-operative principles back on the agenda – Ed)

What is the role of the commons in the economy? You are invited to this intensive social innovation project of 12 interrelated seminars in 12 days involving leading NGOs and think tanks. This series will foster an educational and research collaboration for facilitating transition to a more equitable world. It will demonstrate how differing starting points can lead to a commons ground. You can participate in one or more of the seminars.

James Quilligan is a globally renowned commons theorist/activist, policy analyst, and founder of the Global Commons Trust. He writes: "Modern economics has turned labour into a utility of the market and government. But the principles of the commons (people's negotiation of their own norms and rules for the management of social and natural resources) show us how to transcend utilitarian economics by transforming the traditional division of labour. New forms of value are already being created by these commons, whether they are traditional (irrigation ditches, pastures, indigenous cultures) or emerging (intellectual property, social networks, collaborative innovation)." James Quilligan's work on managing local and global commons is developing understanding of how in a commons-based economy:

consumers become the producers of their own resources.

trusts set a cap on the extraction and use of a resource to preserve it for future generations.

businesses flourish by renting a proportion of the resources outside the cap for extraction and production.

governments tax a percentage of these rents, funding a basic income for citizens and the restoration of depleted resources.

the power of decision-making returns to the people, enabling them to participate in the decisions that affect them directly.

the traditional property ownership model is eclipsed by a trusteeship model of sustainability, quality of life and well-being.

the lessons of community.

based resource management have major implications for post-liberal forms of multilateralism and global governance.

He will present a series of 12 seminars, workshops and other educational events during his 12 day visit to London in the Spring. Those events will be convened by a variety of organisations. Confirmed conveners include: Finance Innovation Lab, School of Economic Science, St. James Piccadilly, IPPR, NEF, Civil Society Forum, and School of Commoning. The kick-off seminar will be hosted in the House of Commons.

Starting from many different points of engaged intellectual and scholarly concern, research and practice, the various seminars will explore the understanding of the Commons as perceived from each seminar's perspective, guided by James Quilligan. Together, they represent an emergent curriculum of theoretically grounded and action-oriented studies in the key economic, political, and social issues of the Commons.

During his visit, we will examine together such questions as:

Economically, what steps are needed to adjust the rules of the present interest-driven, debt-based economy to the sustainable targets of our natural, social and cultural commons?

Politically, how can the philosophy of individual wealth (ownership, division of labor, reciprocity) be reconciled with the interests of collective wealth (trusteeship, the unity of producers and consumers, complementarity)?

Socially, would it be possible for people's trusts to create sustainable limits to protect our commons for future generations, then rent the remaining resources to business for production and distribution, and provide these revenues to government for the funding of social dividends and the restoration of the depleted commons?

The vital and complex questions introduced in these seminars do not have easy answers. The investigation

into how the “commons” may connect and synergise the economic, social, philosophical, spiritual, and political spheres, and facilitate the great transition to an equitable and sustainable world, is an ongoing challenge.

Getting invited and involved

If you want to receive updates and/or secure your place in one of the seminars (first come, first served), then please say so in your message to Anna Betz. See her email address below. If you want to get involved and become part of this project of epic potential, whilst learning with a dynamic team of commons educators, then find out more about the volunteering and interning possibilities here.

Hosting and Coordination Team

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THE QUILLIGAN SEMINARS; WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COMMONS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY? RE-DISCOVERING THE COMMONS May 7th - 18th 2012

Initiating Coach/Tutor: James Quilligan, Founder of The Global Commons Trust

May 7th Christ Church SE1 9DP 14:30-17:30 'HOW CAN WE DEMOCRATISE THE GLOBAL POLITICAL COMMONS?'

May 8th Hof Commons, Portcullis House, Committee Room 11:00-13:00] 'POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE INCLUSIVE COMMONS'

May 9th . St John's Waterloo 18:00-22:00 'RESTORING THE COMMONS OR TERMINAL DECLINE'

May 10th Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales [ICAEW] 18:00-22:00 'FINANCIAL INNOVATION AND THE COMMONS'

May 11th School of Economic Science 18:00- 21:30 'WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COMMONS IN A NEW ECONOMY?'

May 12th Digital Commons 'CULTURAL AND DIGITAL COMMONS'

May 13th St James, Piccadilly – 11o/c Dialogue Sermon in the Eucharist 13:30-17;30 'COVENANT, STEWARDSHIP & THE INCLUSIVE COMMONS'

May 14th New Economic Fdn 'THE GREAT TRANSITION AND THE COMMONS'

May 15th Civil Society Forum 'BUSINESS PRACTICE AND 'THE COMMONS'

May 16th IPPR - Institute for Public Policy Research 17:30 – 21:00 'COMMONS AND COMPLEXITY – can the new field of complex systems help us manage the commons better?'

May 17th Working in Trust 'TRUSTEESHIP AND THE COMMONS'

May 18th FINAL ASSESSMENT School of Commoning "Review SEMINAR REPORTS" - agree ways forward in systemic surges as the EMERGENCE OF THE COMMONS BASED ECONOMY [CfCE]

James Quilligan as a renowned commons theorist/activist and policy analyst developing insights about managing local and global Commons demonstrates how in a Commons-based Economy:

- consumers become the producers of their own resources
- trusts set a cap on the extraction and use of a resource to preserve it for future generations
- businesses flourish by renting a proportion of the resources outside the cap for extraction and production
- governments tax a percentage of these rents, funding a basic income for citizens and the restoration of depleted resources
- the power of decision-making returns to the people, enabling them to participate in the decisions that affect them directly
- the traditional property ownership model is eclipsed by a trusteeship model of sustainability, quality of life and well-being
- the lessons of community-based resource management have major implications for post-liberal forms of multilateralism and global governance.

TOTALITARIAN COLLECTIVISM; INVERTED TOTALITARIANISM AND THE CORPORATE STATE

Sartre; via Nathan Allonby

"The privatization of public services and functions manifests the steady evolution of corporate power into a political form, into an integral, even dominant partner with the state." -- Sheldon S. Wolin

Stricken with a terminal disease, the decline of traditional society is unavoidable. For decades, the political institutions that fostered a Republic based upon individual liberty and responsibility fade into fond memory. Defenders of all that made America a shining example of human freedom are attacked and ridiculed for holding onto a moral and ethical system that is based upon the dignity of every individual. Most will blame the failure of this decay on the politicians that wilfully pander to the masses with the next generation of social welfare programs. While defining a politician as a scoundrel, deserving damnation, seems obvious; the underlying source of the decay that eats away the culture comes from various directions.

The trends toward despotism are visible for all to see. Most prefer their blinded vision because accepting the lethal condition might require some proactive response. The idea that a single dictator will seize power and rule as a tyranny seems foreign to many plebeians. Yet, the daily news that flows from the corporate mass media build upon the absence of real reporting and fundamental truth that ignores, denies and substitutes meaningless stories for earth shattering events. Therefore, the significance of the concept, inverted totalitarianism, as defined by Sheldon S. Wolin deserves examination.

"It is all politics all of the time but a politics largely untempered by the political. Party squabbles are occasionally on public display, and there is a frantic and continuous politics among factions of the party, interest groups, competing corporate powers, and rival media concerns. And there is, of course, the culminating moment of national elections when the attention of the nation is required to make a choice of personalities rather than a choice between alternatives. What is absent is the political, the commitment to finding where the common good lies amidst the welter of well-financed, highly organized, single-minded interests rabidly seeking governmental favors and overwhelming the practices of representative government and public administration by a sea of cash."

For an in-depth study of Mr. Wolin's ideas, review *Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted Totalitarianism*. He asks the following questions:

"Does a demos have a future in the age of globalization, instant communication networks, and fluid borders? Is the notion of "a" demos as a single, compact body with a "will" and an identity that persists overtime at all possible or even a coherent notion in the age of the political bloggers? Is there time for a more authentic politics, more reflective of the pluralistic character of reality?"

He defines democracy as,

"Democracy is about the conditions that make it possible for ordinary people to better their lives by becoming political beings and by making power responsive to their hopes and needs. What is at stake in democratic politics is whether ordinary men and women can recognize that their concerns are best protected and cultivated under a regime whose actions are governed by principles of commonality, equality, and fairness, a regime in which taking part in politics becomes a way of staking out and sharing in a common life and its forms of self-fulfillment. Democracy is not about bowling together but about managing together those powers that immediately and significantly affect the lives and circumstances of others and one's self."

The power influence of the transnational corporation dampens any idealistic notion that

democracy is coming from the voices of the people. Momentous influence comes through the propagandist media message. The corporate economy dictates the parameters of the public debate. Trivia replaces the profound. Spending drives a lust for meaningless ingestion of poisonous consumption. The shaping of the popular culture is meant not just to dumb down the public but also to confer a normalcy for accepting the mundane. Rejecting the historic dialogue of the nature of man and the role of a just government is replaced with a diet of manufactured "dependency rights" and "entitlements".

From *Fugitive Democracy*: Sheldon Wolin and contemplating the local, the following quote offers an insight on the nature of political apathy that relegates one to accept a mad culture which is devoid from reality.

"In the emerging political economy, Wolin discerns an "anti-political" movement that coordinates the corporation and the state in a drive toward Superpower—that is, "an expansive system of power that accepts no limits other than those it chooses to impose on itself" (p. xvi). As this 'postmodern' political economy tends toward Superpower, those in positions of authority demand a new form of citizen: the imperial citizen. Sheldon Wolin reminds us of American president George W. Bush during the tense moments after September 11th, 2001, who exhorted the people to show their citizenship through consumption: "unite, spend, and fly" (590). This pastoral concern by the president emblemizes the postmodern power of the political economy as it reconstitutes "civic culture" as a flattened plane detached from the dynamic structures of Superpower's sovereign handle of world affairs. The best thing citizens can do is prove their patriotism by submitting to the authority of the established powers without a word of protest or difference (thus the encouragement to "unite"). Rather than spending unnecessary time and energy worrying about the changing shape of common life—of the networks that bind us to near and distant neighbors—the postmodern citizen faces the multiplicity of demands and choices available at the local Starbucks as she scrolls through the latest bids on ebay while listening to music on her iPod as she waits for the latest iTunes song to upload on her iBook. With so much to do, why worry ourselves with what our representatives are paid to do? This is the imperial citizen according to Superpower—a free-floating, apolitical subject, moved by the television pulse from the security of home to the perpetual satisfaction of shopping malls. "Superpower needs an imperial citizen," writes Wolin, "one who accepts the necessarily remote relationship between the concerns of the citizen and those of the power-holders, who welcomes being relieved of participatory obligations, and who is fervently patriotic."

The imperial citizen is truly a fool. The imperium that surrounds the disengaged participant in the latest escalation of self-imposed slavery, is the ultimate result of the corporate/state.

Progressive author and pundit, Chris Hedges adds his vantage point in the video, *Inverted Totalitarianism: Brand Obama and the Corporate State*.

Hedges' talent for ripping apart the corporate state in all its horror is well established. However, his clarion voice goes unheard in the corridors of real power. The economy dictates the marketplace that is available for sale. The advertisement is the message that is acceptable to believe. And the limits upon one's ability to think and act rationally is controlled by the inverted totalitarianism that is of our own making.

Blaming external forces for all the ills of circumstances begs the issue. As long as passive individuals accept their subservient plight, the tyrants of the establishment culture will exploit the sheeple at every turn. Our unique existence justifies resistance to every form of tyranny that comes our way. Notwithstanding, this basic human and natural right; most citizens succumb to the mind meld of limited expectations.

The frightful consequences on the totalitarian society rest upon the shoulders of each person who refuses to challenge the system. Resisting immoral authority is your primary civic duty. Our avowed responsibility is to abolish the corporate/state and global governance that enslaves the planet.

A disconnect of left leaning progressives, from the historic context of natural law principles, is a core reason why a coalition of anti establishment advocates fails. Common dreams must become practical beliefs. As long as the utopians refuse to accept the lessons and validity of genuine

conservative philosophy, the divide and conqueror tactics of the despotic New World Order will continue.

The economic implosion of the last few years is undeniable. The consolidation of power marches on because ordinary people obey repressive authority. Sadly, the indifference towards one's own self-respect is the prime result of the sick popular culture. The abandonment of Western Civilization is almost complete, but is not final. Totalitarianism is a crime against humanity. It is up to you to do your civil disobedient duty.

14 DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF FASCISM: THE U.S. IN 2012

Gregory Patin; Activist Post

When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying the cross. -- Sinclair Lewis, It Can't Happen Here. (1935)

In the spring of 2003, ex-corporate executive and political scientist Lawrence W. Britt published an essay in Free Inquiry magazine entitled "Fascism Anyone?" In his work, Britt examined the traits of the two governments that formed the original historical model for fascism, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, and five other protofascist regimes that imitated that model, Franco's Spain, Salazar's Portugal, Papadopoulos's Greece, Pinochet's Chile, and Suharto's Indonesia. He identified 14 characteristics that were common to all of them.

These traits have since been widely accepted as the 14 defining characteristics of fascism.

Nearly three generations removed from the horrors of Nazi Germany, all of these regimes have been overthrown, but fascism's principles can still be found in many nations. History tends to repeat itself because many leaders and nations fail to learn from history, or they draw the wrong conclusions. Sadly, historical amnesia is the norm in the world today.

In the U.S., leaders, teachers, media and citizens proudly claim that America is a democratic society with certain freedoms and rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution, Bill of Rights and rule of law. But is that really the case?

A close look at the 14 characteristics of fascism in light of what has changed in America in the past few years may raise some questions as to whether or not Americans truly live in a democratic society.

1. Powerful and continuing expressions of nationalism. From the prominent displays of flags and bunting to the ubiquitous lapel pins, the fervor to show patriotic nationalism, both on the part of the regime itself and of citizens caught up in its frenzy, was always obvious. Catchy slogans, pride in the military, and demands for unity were common themes in expressing this nationalism. It was usually coupled with a suspicion of things foreign that often bordered on xenophobia.

Drive down any street in suburban or small-town America and witness the amount of flags flying, flag stickers on mailboxes, ribbon stickers on vehicles and patriotic tee shirts. Then-Senator Obama was criticized during his 2007 campaign for not wearing the ubiquitous flag lapel pin that many politicians wear. Nearly everyone has heard catchy slogans such as "Freedom isn't Free," "God Bless America" and "Support the Troops." Borderline xenophobia is exemplified when french fries were renamed "freedom fries" in D.C. cafeterias. The fear of "illegals" taking scarce jobs has been written into legislation in states such as Arizona, where failure to carry immigration documents is a crime. Your papers, please?

This characteristic may be the most innocuous one of the 14. Americans have always had a strong sense of patriotic nationalism and there is nothing inherently wrong with that. But patriotic symbolism and nationalistic legislation have been taken to a new level in the years since the first Gulf war when the first yellow ribbons were placed on trees.

2. Disdain for the importance of human rights. The regimes themselves viewed human rights as of little value and a hindrance to realizing the objectives of the ruling elite. Through clever use of propaganda, the population was brought to accept these human rights abuses by marginalizing, even demonizing, those being targeted. When abuse was egregious, the tactic was to use secrecy, denial, and disinformation.

The use of extraordinary rendition, military tribunals instead of public trials, the refusal to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques" are good examples of human rights violations. Many were done in secrecy until the information was leaked to the press.

Capturing people and imprisoning them without charges is repeatedly called “extraordinary rendition” in the media, simulated drowning is called “waterboarding,” refusing the right to a fair trial a “military tribunal” and torture “enhanced interrogation.” All are good examples of the use of propaganda to make these practices palatable to the American people.

Disdain for human rights in the U.S. has never been more apparent than in recent years. The rights of free speech and assembly obviously do not apply to the over 6700 citizens that have been arrested and the many that have been beaten and pepper-sprayed since the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement began last September.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 (NDAA), signed into law by President Obama in December 2011, gives the government the power to indefinitely detain, imprison, torture and murder anyone, anywhere if he or she is considered a suspect of anything the US government wants to make up. The detention, imprisonment, torture and murder can occur without the person having been charged and without a trial.

These practices would probably have caused public outrage at any time in U.S. history before the new millennium, but now are accepted by many Americans as necessary tools in the “War on Terror,” (itself a slogan). Ask anyone present at recent OWS demonstrations how “free” they think Americans are now.

3. Identification of enemies/scapegoats as a unifying cause. The most significant common thread among these regimes was the use of scapegoating as a means to divert the people’s attention from other problems, to shift blame for failures, and to channel frustration in controlled directions. The methods of choice—relentless propaganda and disinformation—were usually effective. Often the regimes would incite ‘spontaneous’ acts against the target scapegoats, usually communists, socialists, liberals, Jews, ethnic and racial minorities, traditional national enemies, members of other religions, secularists, homosexuals, and ‘terrorists.’ Active opponents of these regimes were inevitably labelled as terrorists and dealt with accordingly.

The most readily identifiable scapegoats for Americans now are Muslims. Saddam Hussein was the ultimate scapegoat. It was easy for the Bush administration to rally the American people behind the invasion and occupation of Iraq by suggesting Saddam Hussein had ties to Al Qaida, which Bush later denied, and by repeatedly stating that Iraq had WMDs, which were never found.

There is a difference, however, between fascism today and the right-wing ideology that it embodied under Hitler and Mussolini. Modern fascism uses the left-right dialectic to maintain control over a divided populace. American politicians, citizens and media on both sides of the political spectrum continually use scapegoats to shift blame for failures and misdirect anger: liberals, conservatives, socialists, capitalists, bible-thumpers, atheists, blacks, welfare queens, tree-huggers, etc., etc. The list of labels used in name-calling and blaming goes on and on. Meanwhile, few if any real solutions are offered for problems such as unemployment, inflation, corruption on Wall Street and government spending.

4. The supremacy of the military/avid militarism. Ruling elites always identified closely with the military and the industrial infrastructure that supported it. A disproportionate share of national resources was allocated to the military, even when domestic needs were acute. The military was seen as an expression of nationalism, and was used whenever possible to assert national goals, intimidate other nations, and increase the power and prestige of the ruling elite.

The U.S. government spends more on defense than anything else and more than the next 14 largest defense-spending nations combined. When the need for budget cuts are debated, politicians usually take aim at “entitlement” programs and social programs, while expressing concern that “military spending cuts are a risk to our national security.”

The U.S. government has allocated \$851 billion for defense spending in fiscal year 2013. Defense spending accounts for more than two-thirds of all discretionary spending and accounts for about 22.4% of all federal spending - more than the allotments for Medicare or Social Security. Military manufacturing increased by 123% between 2000 and 2009 while the rest of the manufacturing sector decreased.

While Americans pay for the military to invade and occupy sovereign nations, millions of Americans lack access to affordable healthcare. The U.S. is the only country in the “developed” world that does not have a tax-payer funded healthcare system. Infrastructure is literally crumbling. Students in other industrial nations are outperforming U.S. students in math, science and reading. Yet all other departments, including Health and Human Services (\$71.7 billion), the Department of Education (\$69.8 billion), and Housing and Urban Development (\$35.3 billion), must operate with the remaining \$410 billion of discretionary spending.

5. Rampant sexism. Beyond the simple fact that the political elite and the national culture were male-dominated, these regimes inevitably viewed women as second-class citizens. They were adamantly anti-abortion and also homophobic. These attitudes were usually codified in Draconian laws that enjoyed strong

support by the orthodox religion of the country, thus lending the regime cover for its abuses.

For years it has been common knowledge that women in the U.S. earn less than their male counterparts in identical positions. Rampant sexism and misogyny, however, has recently received more media attention than ever. Planned Parenthood was labelled an “abortion provider” and defunded by Congress in February, despite the fact that only 3% of its patient care expenditures go towards abortion services.

After a female Georgetown law student, Sandra Fluke, testified in a Democratic congressional hearing regarding whether or not private health care insurance companies should be federally mandated to cover female contraceptives, Rush Limbaugh infamously called her a “prostitute” and a “slut” on national public airwaves. Fluke was earlier denied the right to speak at a larger congressional hearing on the same topic by Rep. Darrell Issa. Ironically, many insurance plans cover erectile dysfunction treatments for men.

Roe v. Wade has yet to be overturned and abortion is still legal, but “Draconian” anti-abortion legislation has chipped away at it due to pressure from fundamentalist Christian and other religious organizations. In 2007 the Supreme Court upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003, which bans a medical procedure technically known as “intact dilation and extraction.”

In states such as Virginia, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, legislation that forces women to have a trans-vaginal ultrasound performed before being able to legally obtain an abortion was recently passed. While there is a push to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 that defines marriage as “between a man and a woman,” the Respect for Marriage Act of 2011 that would do is under intense scrutiny and has not yet passed. Currently, 41 states do not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

6. A controlled mass media. Under some of the regimes, the mass media were under strict direct control and could be relied upon never to stray from the party line. Other regimes exercised more subtle power to ensure media orthodoxy. Methods included the control of licensing and access to resources, economic pressure, appeals to patriotism, and implied threats. The leaders of the mass media were often politically compatible with the power elite. The result was usually success in keeping the general public unaware of the regimes’ excesses.

Back in 1983, approximately 50 corporations controlled the vast majority of all news media in the United States. By 2004, ownership of the news media had been concentrated in the hands of just six incredibly powerful media corporations. Today, these six corporate behemoths - Time Warner, Walt Disney, Viacom, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., CBS Corporation and NBC Universal, control 90% of what we watch, hear and read every single day.

These gigantic media corporations do not exist to objectively tell the truth to the American people. Rather, the primary purpose of their existence is to make money. One cannot reasonably expect these corporations to provide information to the American people that would threaten their relationships with their biggest advertisers in industries such as finance, health insurance, banking, pharmaceuticals or defense.

Furthermore, many of these corporations have direct ties to other industries. NBC’s parent corporation, for example, is GE, which not only is one of the largest defense contractors, but also paid no taxes in 2010. That undoubtedly explains the omission of the no tax story from NBC news outlets.

7. Obsession with national security. Inevitably, a national security apparatus was under direct control of the ruling elite. It was usually an instrument of oppression, operating in secret and beyond any constraints. Its actions were justified under the rubric of protecting ‘national security,’ and questioning its activities was portrayed as unpatriotic or even treasonous.

Air travelers in the U.S. selected for additional screening by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the name of national security are given two choices: an x-ray body scan or an “enhanced” pat-down. Some suggest a better way to describe the choices would be “radiation” or “sexual assault.” The obsession with national security since 9/11 has led the U.S. government to spend \$8 billion annually on TSA airport security measures, yet no “terrorists” have ever been caught and no “terror plots” have ever been foiled by the TSA.

Americans have accepted such things as a color-coded threat index, secret warrantless wire-tapping, highway checkpoints and video surveillance in public areas as the new way of life since 9/11. The current administration has taken the obsession with national security to a new level with the National Defense Resources Preparedness executive order (EO) issued by President Obama on March 16. This EO allows the government to confiscate private property without due process under the direction of Janet Napolitano and the Department of Homeland Security in the event of a “potential threat to the security of the United States.”

8. Religion and ruling elite tied together. Unlike communist regimes, the fascist and protofascist regimes were never proclaimed as godless by their opponents. In fact, most of the regimes attached themselves to the predominant religion of the country and chose to portray themselves as militant defenders of that religion. The fact that the ruling elite’s behavior was incompatible with the precepts of the religion was generally

swept under the rug. Propaganda kept up the illusion that the ruling elites were defenders of the faith and opponents of the 'godless.' A perception was manufactured that opposing the power elite was tantamount to an attack on religion.

There are many examples of America being considered a Christian nation, "one nation under God." Conservative darling Ann Coulter published a book entitled, *Godless Liberals: The Church of Liberalism*. Republicans refer to themselves as the "family values" party. Both parties embrace Christian values with their rhetoric, while behaving otherwise with sex scandals and passing legislation enabling Wall Street greed such as the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000.

Presidential hopeful Rick Santorum said Kennedy's famous 1960 speech endorsing an "absolute" separation between church and state made him want to "throw up." Legislators are caving in to pressure from religious groups on issues such as abortion and same sex marriage.

In 1996 a school prayer amendment to the constitution was proposed by House Republicans. George W. Bush referred to the war on terrorism as a "crusade" in a speech in 2001. The separation of church and state implied in the constitution with the statement that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" has been slowly eroding away. May God bless America.

9. Power of corporations protected. Although the personal life of ordinary citizens was under strict control, the ability of large corporations to operate in relative freedom was not compromised. The ruling elite saw the corporate structure as a way to not only ensure military production (in developed states), but also as an additional means of social control. Members of the economic elite were often pampered by the political elite to ensure a continued mutuality of interests, especially in the repression of 'have-not' citizens.

The 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, in effect, gave corporations the same rights as people by saying that federal restrictions on corporate spending in elections constituted a violation of free speech. Never mind that 80% of Americans opposed the ruling. Corporations are now free to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections and buy politicians.

Wall Street banks crashed the economy in 2008, yet were bailed out with public funds through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). According to the *Financial Times*, the corporate tax rate in the U.S. reached a ten-year low in 2011.

While corporate profits reached an all-time high since the end of World War II in the third quarter of 2011, real workers wages fell by about 2%.

In the last three years, 78 corporations had at least one year where they paid no federal income tax at all, while 30 corporations paid not a dime over the entire three years.

Huge corporations such as Lockheed Martin permeate all aspects of American life by performing functions for more than two dozen government agencies from the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy to the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. Lockheed Martin is involved in surveillance and information processing for the CIA, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the National Security Agency (NSA), the Pentagon, the Census Bureau, and the Postal Service.

10. Power of labor suppressed or eliminated. Since organized labor was seen as the one power center that could challenge the political hegemony of the ruling elite and its corporate allies, it was inevitably crushed or made powerless. The poor formed an underclass, viewed with suspicion or outright contempt. Under some regimes, being poor was considered akin to a vice.

The movement to destroy labor unions and eliminate collective bargaining is something Wisconsinites have become very familiar with since Scott Walker became governor. That movement is taking place nationwide. Legislation similar to Walker's budget bill was passed in Indiana and Ohio, although in Ohio it was later overturned.

In a speech on August 9, 1960, JFK said, "Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor -- those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized -- do a disservice to the cause of democracy." Frank Askin, a professor of law and director of the Constitutional Litigation Clinic at Rutgers Law School-Newark, states that "the ultimate aim of the right-wing strategy is to allow employers to make a mockery of workers' right to organize, established by the National Labor Relations Act during the New Deal era."

11. Disdain and suppression of intellectuals and the arts. Intellectuals and the inherent freedom of ideas and expression associated with them were anathema to these regimes. Intellectual and academic freedom were considered subversive to national security and the patriotic ideal. Universities were tightly controlled; politically unreliable faculty harassed or eliminated. Unorthodox ideas or expressions of dissent were strongly attacked, silenced, or crushed. To these regimes, art and literature should serve the national interest

or they had no right to exist.

A 46-page report compiled by over 60 scientists in 2004 accused the Bush administration of censoring scientific reports for political purposes. The report accused the administration of "suppressing, distorting, or manipulating the work done by scientists at federal agencies" on environmental, agricultural, health and energy issues.

Disdain for science is also evident in the push to give teaching creationism the same weight as teaching evolution in schools. In 2005, policymakers in 19 states were weighing proposals that question the science of evolution. Universities such as UW-Madison are pressured by state legislatures to remove faculty members with undesirable points of view, such as Kevin Barrett in 2006. Funding for NPR, PBS and education is now under attack.

Anyone calling for a new investigation of the events on 9/11 is labeled a "conspiracy theorist" and immediately disregarded -- despite the fact that over 220 senior military, intelligence service, law enforcement, and government officials, over 1,500 engineers and architects, over 250 pilots and aviation professionals, over 400 professors, over 300 survivors and family members, over 200 artists, entertainers, and media professionals, and over 400 medical professionals have done so.

Science is embraced when it is used for purposes such as weapons or surveillance technology development, but rejected when it is used to develop alternative energy sources, study the effects of carbon emissions on the planet or question the government's version of events.

12. Obsession with crime and punishment. Most of these regimes maintained Draconian systems of criminal justice with huge prison populations. The police were often glorified and had almost unchecked power, leading to rampant abuse. 'Normal' and political crime were often merged into trumped-up criminal charges and sometimes used against political opponents of the regime. Fear, and hatred, of criminals or 'traitors' was often promoted among the population as an excuse for more police power.

Under the guise of the wars on terror and on drugs, U.S. police forces are almost completely militarized and are allowed to violate the Constitutional rights of the citizenry at will. The U.S. has by far the highest incarceration rate in the world. There are now more Americans in jail – more than 6 million - than there were in Stalin's Gulag. Military weaponry and gear was on full display as police from Los Angeles to New York cracked down on OWS protests. Since September some 6,700 Americans protesting against economic inequality and corporate greed have been arrested. Many were beaten or pepper-sprayed.

Three provisions of the PATRIOT Act of 2002 were reauthorized by President Obama in 2010, giving law enforcement an expanded ability to gain access to personal financial, travel and communications records and to conduct secret searches. The Federal Restricted Building and Grounds Improvement Act (HR 347) makes protesting in areas where the US President, or anyone protected by the Secret Service may be visiting, a felony punishable with hefty fines and up to 10 years in jail. In a recent Republican Presidential debate, Americans even cheered for the 234 executions in Texas under Governor Rick Perry.

13. Rampant cronyism and corruption. Those in business circles and close to the power elite often used their position to enrich themselves. This corruption worked both ways; the power elite would receive financial gifts and property from the economic elite, who in turn would gain the benefit of government favoritism. Members of the power elite were in a position to obtain vast wealth from other sources as well: for example, by stealing national resources. With the national security apparatus under control and the media muzzled, this corruption was largely unconstrained and not well understood by the general population.

Cronies in U.S. government positions commonly award non-competitive contracts to former employers, who in turn, thanks to the Citizens United ruling, can now kick limitless amounts of money back into elections. The lack of competition and oversight leads to corruption.

No-bid, sole source, cost-plus contracts in Iraq were awarded to Halliburton and its subsidiaries while then-Vice-President Cheney, a former board member, held stock options in the corporation. According to a military census, in 2006 there were about 100,000 contractors in Iraq performing security and other logistical functions.

Private contractors are used more now than ever as more and more public functions are being privatized.

A Baton Rouge company, Innovative Energy Management (IEM), lacking evacuation experience was paid \$500,000 by FEMA to handle the emergency preparation and evacuation of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. IEM was a large contributor to President Bush's campaigns and the Republican National Committee.

The Bush-appointed head of FEMA at the time was Michael Brown, an old friend of Bush's with no experience in disaster management.

Cronyism and corruption continues with the Obama administration and has exploded in the financial

sector. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, former New York Federal Reserve chairman, has close ties to former Goldman Sachs CEO Henry Paulson and to Lawrence Summers. Geithner authored the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 giving banks free reign over derivative trading in energy futures, leading to a spike in gasoline prices.

Summers pocketed \$5 million as a managing director of D.E. Shaw, one of the biggest hedge funds in the world, and another \$2.7 million for speeches delivered to Wall Street firms that have received government bailout money. This includes \$45,000 from Citigroup and \$67,500 each from JPMorgan Chase and the now-liquidated Lehman Brothers. Summers is also a leading advocate of banking deregulation.

Michael Froman, deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs, worked for Citigroup and received more than \$7.4 million from the bank from January of 2008 until he entered the Obama administration in 2009. This included a \$2.25 million year-end bonus handed him within weeks of his joining the Obama administration. Citigroup has thus far been the beneficiary of \$45 billion in cash and over \$300 billion in government guarantees of its bad debts.

Obama's deputy national security adviser, Thomas E. Donilon, was paid \$3.9 million by a Washington law firm whose major clients include Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and the private equity firm Apollo Management. The list of Wall Street cronies in government - David Axelrod, Louis Caldera, David Stevens, Neal Wolin, is seemingly endless. While the TARP bailout was signed into law by the Bush administration, the administration of funds was done at the hands of all of the above.

The result of these reckless policies are plain as day -- a new ruling class with \$13 trillion of public IOUs added to the national debt. Much of this was paid out in salaries and bonuses and to "make themselves whole" by paying on their bad risks in default. American taxpayers, on the other hand, got rising unemployment, collapsing infrastructure, a steady rise in home foreclosures, inflation and increased levels of economic stress. Bush-Obama policies have benefited those who wield real power in the capitalist world - the financial oligarchs and militarists who prospered from the bailouts and "War on Terror" military spending.

14. Fraudulent elections. Elections in the form of plebiscites or public opinion polls were usually bogus. When actual elections with candidates were held, they would usually be perverted by the power elite to get the desired result. Common methods included maintaining control of the election machinery, intimidating and disenfranchising opposition voters, destroying or disallowing legal votes, and, as a last resort, turning to a judiciary beholden to the power elite.

It is difficult to choose where to begin: Bush v. Gore in 2000, Voter ID laws, the swift-boating of John Kerry, the birther movement, portraying Obama as "secret Muslim", "un-American", "anti-business", "socialist"; "Our highest priority is to make Obama a one-term President", redistricting, denying minorities and college students the right to vote, easily-hacked electronic voting machines, no viable third party candidates, super PACs. It takes no more than a casual observer to know that the U.S. election process is fraudulent. The end result is a choice between two candidates vetted by the banks and corporations with little or no differences in policies.

The 2000 Presidential election may go down in U.S. history as the point of no return to not only fair elections, but also to a representative form of government. It came down to votes in Florida. The race was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court in favor of Bush even though Gore won the popular vote by over 500,000 votes. Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush supporter, oversaw the certification process. On November 22, the anniversary of JFK's assassination, Republican protestors pounded on the doors and windows of the building where Miami's Dade county officials were counting the ballots.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights investigated allegations of voting fraud in Florida during the 2000 presidential election. The Commission found that approximately 54 percent of the 180,000 "spoiled ballots" in Florida were cast by African-Americans, who make up about 11 percent of Florida voters, and are largely registered as Democrats.

Currently in the U.S., there are many allegations of fraud in the Republican caucuses by Ron Paul supporters.

In distinguishing democratic governments from the commonly known fascist dictatorships in history, the primary difference that comes to mind for many is that in democracies leaders are fairly elected by the people to represent the people. Many former supporters of Al Gore or supporters of Ron Paul may say that is not the case in America.

Because many concepts in social science, including political science, are subjective in nature, it is impossible to say with certainty that the U.S. has crossed the line from freedom to fascism. A close look at the direction America is heading today with the 14 characteristics of fascism in mind, however, should at least raise some alarm bells.

A true democracy requires a rule of law to uphold freedoms, a constitution to protect liberties, honest elections to choose truly representative leaders, and most importantly, a well-informed public constantly on guard against evils. History has shown what can happen when these things break down.

This article first appeared at the Examiner. Gregory Patin is a freelance writer residing in Madison, WI.

‘GLOBAL FINANCE: THE SHYLOCK MODEL’

Adrian Salbuchi; Russia Today; via Dave Barnby

<http://rt.com/files/news/global-finance-shylock-model-605/showing-central-sign-euro.n.jpg>

A Greek brainstorming session would sound something like this: Default! Downgrade! Bond Swap! ECB Bailout! Austerity Measures! IMF Recipes! Riots! Euro Collapse! Pay up!! Can anybody make any sense out of this??

Let’s try... Because it’s a question of joining the dots... correctly!

First and foremost, Sovereign Debt “Crises” explode, then collapse only to “resurrect” bigger and fatter according to a Model: let’s call it “The Shylock Model” after William Shakespeare’s despicable Usurer in “The Merchant of Venice”: Shylock loaned money to Antonio, a Venetian Merchant, demanding he sign a bond pledging a pound of his flesh as collateral...

Models are orderly, consistent and sequential representations of complex systems. Like a Road Map, Models can guide us from point “A” to point “B” so that we don’t go astray. When you understand how a Model works, the complex system it represents becomes predictable.

A Comedy of Errors

In my 23rd February article for RT on Greece (<http://rt.com/news/argentina-advice-greece-default-033/print/>), I stressed that Sovereign Debt Crises are not the result of bad luck, worse judgment or coincidence. For over a quarter century we’ve seen the same show staged again and again with little variation. Greece, Argentina, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Brazil, Mexico, Iceland, Ireland, Russia, Asian Tigers... all “stupidly” borrowed too much from private bankers only to “discover” they couldn’t pay them back.

Symmetrically, the same group of powerful global Mega-Banks lent too much to those countries only to “discover” they couldn’t recover those loans.

A Comedy of Errors in which governments and bankers are either very stupid or... are they discretely winking at each other as they carve out pound after pound of flesh?

Can somebody please clean our dirty sheets...!

Bankers and politicians make strange bedfellows. Invariably, their Comedies of Errors get their linen soiled. When that happens, bankers know they cannot go banging on the doors of presidential palaces, ministries of finance and parliaments yelling “Pay up, or else!”

The farce of “democracy” and “national sovereignty” must be maintained. That’s when banker-controlled “public multilateral agencies” come on stage – IMF, ECB, World Bank – to do the, er... banging!!

After all Greece, you ARE a member of the ECB so you must obey their orders (even if written in German). And you, Argentina, you ARE a member of the IMF so stop wailing and do your homework!!

Doctor, I’ve got a fever...

Market Analysts and Rating Agencies are today’s financial witch doctors telling us why stock markets go up and down like a patient’s fever. Currencies rise, currencies fall in a casino-like roller-coaster; Sovereign Debt Bond Ratings are up-graded or down-graded, all to the tune of the Pied Pipers at S&P, Finch’s and Moody’s, FT and The Wall Street Journal... And, yes, these oracles of “good” and “bad” are on Mega-banker payrolls.

Whatever they utter is Revealed Truth. So what if in 2008 they rated AIG, Lehman, Merrill Lynch, Fannie Mae “AA”, even “AAA” until they dissolved into oblivion?

In perfect sync, they downgrade Greece and Argentina, Spain and Italy, Ireland and Iceland forcing

them to pay higher interest to the Mega-bankers...

I'll have my Bond!

When Shylock the Usurer got ready to cut a pound of flesh nearest Antonio's heart, he parrots time and again, "I'll have my bond!" waving his legal contract, formally enforceable under the laws of Venice. One will never understand a Usurer's mindset if you believe that Shylock loaned the money to Antonio in order to get it back. Oh, no!! Shylock was betting on NOT getting it back!!

You see, rich, sovereign creditors who cannot pay back loans are music to bankers' ears! What good is a sovereign creditor who CAN and will actually pay back a loan? That undermines the very essence of usury! It thwarts parasitism forcing usurer bankers to have to work to find new victims to loan all that money to...

Jesus! Do you expect a banker to work!?!? Banking Business thrives on refinancing debt, rolling it over year after year, exponentially ballooning it through compound interest...

When a country can't pay its debts, then our modern Shylock Banksters demand their "pound of flesh": full control of the country turning it into a Financial Colony of the Global Power Masters, who impose their Trilateral Commission brethren in key positions of power: Papademos, Monti, Cavallo, Geithner...

It was never Shylock's goal to recover his 3.000 Ducats. No, Sir! He only wanted his pound of flesh. The loan and the bond were just the mechanism to get to that flesh. Shylock's Model was to legally in debt Antonio under the laws of Venice, so that those laws would then enforce his immoral outrage of executing the collateral: a pound of flesh.

Bankers' Worst Nightmare!

What's the worst thing that could happen to Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Rockefeller, and Rothschild who manage the Shylock Model? If any sovereign country – Argentina, Greece, Spain, Brazil, Italy – were to turn around and say: "Hey! How much did you say I owed you? 200 billion? No sweat! Come pick up your check Monday morning..."

If that ever happened, bankers would be confronted with two very serious problems:

Problem One (a Technical Hitch): Where would they find another group of 'sheeple' to impose unnecessary – even fictitious – 200 billion dollar debts at usury interest?

Problem Two (a Political Hitch): They would lose control over Greece, or Argentina, or Spain, or Ireland or Italy just when they had them right under their thumb, controlling their resources and governments; running the show because if any government were to do something "stupid" like being Sovereign, then all the bankers needed to do was say, "No, no!! Remember: you owe us Zillions in "sovereign debt" that you can't pay back.

If you do something foolish like prioritizing your people's national interests, we will wipe you off the global financial map; our global media will destroy you; we'll throw S&P and Fitch downgrades at you! Watch out: we can literally set your country on fire!!".

Yes, when a country finally owes nothing to the bankers then that country is truly FREE! Make no mistake: true national sovereignty, independence and freedom are the greatest enemies of the Global Money Power Masters.

Today's Global Financial System functions according to "The Shylock Model": it will go to great lengths to carve out its pound of flesh...

Good doctors say: proper Diagnosis is the first step to being cured.

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THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO NEOLIBERAL MONETARY AUSTERITY

The Economy doesn't Need to suffer Neoliberal Austerity

Prof. Michael Hudson; Global Research

URL of this article: www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=29605

I have just returned from Rimini, Italy, where I experienced one of the most amazing spectacles of my academic life. Four of us associated with the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) were invited to lecture for three days on Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) and explain why Europe is in such monetary trouble today – and to show that there is an alternative, that the enforced austerity for the 99% and vast wealth grab by the 1% is not a force of nature.

Stephanie Kelton (incoming UMKC Economics Dept. chair and editor of its economic blog, *New Economic Perspectives*), criminologist and law professor Bill Black, investment banker Marshall Auerback and me (along with a French economist, Alain Parguez) stepped into the basketball auditorium on Friday night. We walked down, and down, and further down the central aisle, past a packed audience reported at over 2,100. It was like entering the Oscars as People called out our first names. Some told us they had read all of our economics blogs. Stephanie joked that now she understood how the Beatles felt. There was prolonged applause – all for an intellectual rather than a physical sporting event.

With one difference, of course: Our adversaries were not there. There was much press, but the prevailing Euro-technocrats (the bank lobbyists who determine European economic policy) hoped that the less discussion of possible alternatives to austerity, the easier it would be to force their brutal financial grab through.

All the audience members had contributed to raise the funds to fly us over from the United States (and from France for Professor Alain Parguez), and treat us to Federico Fellini's Grand Hotel on the Rimini beach. The conference was organized by reporter Paolo Barnard, who had studied MMT with Randall Wray and realized that there was plenty of demand in Italian mass culture for a discussion of what actually was determining the living conditions of Europe. His aim was to show that the emerging financial elite hopes to use this crisis as their opportunity to carve out personal fiefdoms by privatizing the public domain of the governments they have seduced, bribed or coerced into unnecessary debt. Instead of using a central bank to finance their deficits, governments are told to dump these assets under distress conditions at fire sale prices. So governments end up beholden to bondholders and Eurocrats drawn from neoliberal ranks.

Paolo and his enormous support staff of translators and interns provided us an opportunity to give an approach to monetary and tax theory and policy that until recently was almost unheard of in the United States. Just one week earlier the *Washington Post* published a review of MMT (followed by a long discussion in the *Financial Times*). But the theory remains grounded primarily at the UMKC's economics department and the Levy Institute at Bard College, with which most of us are associated.

The basic thrust of our argument is that just as commercial banks now create credit electronically on their computer keyboards (creating a bank account credit for borrowers in exchange for their signing an IOU at interest), so governments can create their own money. They can reclaim this proper function without incurring needless interest-bearing debt to private bondholders or from banks that create credit by electronic fiat. Government computer keyboards can provide nearly free credit creation to finance spending.

Once the money is created by government, the crucial difference is that governments spend it (at least in principle) to promote long-term growth and employment, invest in public infrastructure, research and development, provide health care and other basic economic functions. Banks have a more short-term time frame and narrowly self-interested motivation. Some 80% of their loans are

mortgages against real estate. Banks lend against collateral in place, and the economy's largest assets are land and buildings. Although banks loans also are used to finance leveraged buyouts and corporate takeovers, most new fixed capital investment by corporations is financed out of retained earnings, not bank credit.

And contrary to popular belief, the stock market has ceased to be a source of such financing. Textbook diagrams still depict it as raising money for new capital investment. Unfortunately, it has been turned into a vehicle to buy out companies on credit (e.g., with high interest junk bonds), replacing equity with debt ("taking a company private" from its stockholders). Inasmuch as interest payments are tax-deductible – on the pretence that they are a necessary cost of doing business – corporate income-tax payments are lowered. And what the tax collector relinquishes is available to be paid out to the bankers and bondholders who get rich by loading the economy down with debt.

The upshot is that the flow of corporate earnings is not used for productive investment, but is diverted to the financial sector – not only to pay interest and penalties to banks, but for stock buybacks intended to support stock prices and hence the value of stock options that managers of today's financialized companies give themselves.

Welcome to the post-industrial economy, financial style. Industrial capitalism has passed through a series of stages of finance capitalism, from Pension-Fund capitalism via Globalized Dollarization and the Bubble Economy to the Negative Equity stage, foreclosure time, debt deflation, and austerity – and now what looks like debt peonage in Europe, above all for the PIIGS: Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain. (The Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have been plunged so deeply into debt that their populations are emigrating to find work and flee debt-burdened real estate. The same has plagued Iceland since its bank rip-offs collapsed in 2008.)

Why aren't economists describing these phenomena? The answer is a combination of political ideology and analytic blinders. As soon as the Rimini conference ended on Sunday evening, for instance, Paul Krugman's Monday, February 27 New York Times column, "What Ails Europe?" blamed the euro's problems simply on the inability of countries to devalue their currencies. He rightly criticized the Republican Party line that blames social welfare spending for the Eurozone's problems, and also criticized putting the blame on budget deficits.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/27/opinion/krugman-what-ails-europe.html?hp>

But he left out of account the straitjacket of the European Central Bank (ECB) inability to monetize the deficits by issuing currency or more typically, simply writing checks on the central bank's own account. This prohibition is a result of the junk economic theology written into the EU constitution. Krugman's rejection of MMT leads him to ignore this option:

"If the peripheral nations still had their own currencies, they could and would use devaluation to quickly restore competitiveness. But they don't, which means that they are in for a long period of mass unemployment and slow, grinding deflation. Their debt crises are mainly a by-product of this sad prospect, because depressed economies lead to budget deficits and deflation magnifies the burden of debt."

There are two problems with this neoclassical trade analysis. First, currency depreciation lowers the price of labor, while raising the price of imports. The burden of debts denominated in foreign currencies increases in keeping with the devaluation. This creates problems unless governments pass a law re-denominating all debts in their own domestic currency. This will satisfy the Prime Directive of international financing: always denominate debts in your own currency, as the United States does.

Fortunately, sovereign nations can do this ex post facto. In 1933, for instance, Franklin Roosevelt nullified the Gold Clause in U.S. loan contracts, enabling banks and other creditors to be paid in the equivalent gold value. But any sovereign government can rule how debts are to be paid (or not paid, for that matter). In his usual neoclassical fashion, Mr. Krugman ignores this debt issue:

"The afflicted nations [the PIIGs], in particular, have nothing but bad choices: either they suffer the pains of deflation or they take the drastic step of leaving the euro, which won't be politically feasible until or unless all else fails (a point Greece seems to be approaching). Germany could help by reversing its own austerity policies and accepting higher inflation, but it won't."

So the existing system could work, he contends, if only Germany would inflate its economy and more German tourists spend more in Greece – assuming that the Greek government would tax enough of this spending to balance its budget. If Germany does not bail out the failed and dysfunctional economic structure, Greece will have to withdraw – but devaluation will restore

equilibrium.

This is typical neoclassical over-simplification. Leaving the euro is not sufficient to avert austerity, foreclosure and debt deflation if Greece and other countries that withdraw retain the neoliberal anti-government, post-industrial policy that plagues the Eurozone. If the post-euro economy has a central bank that still refuses to finance public budget deficits, forcing the government to borrow from commercial banks and bondholders. What if the government still believes that it should balance the budget rather than provide the economy with spending power to increase its growth? In this case the post-euro government will tie itself in the same policy straitjacket that the Eurozone now imposes.

Suppose further that the Greek government slashes public welfare spending, and bails out banks for their losses, or takes losing bank gambles onto the public balance sheet, as Ireland has done. For that matter, what if the governments do what the neoliberal Obama Administration in the United States has done, and refrain from writing down real estate mortgages and other debts to the debtors' ability to pay, as Iceland and Latvia have failed to do? The result will be debt deflation, forfeiture of property, rising unemployment – and a rising tide of emigration as the domestic economy and employment opportunities shrink. The budget deficit and balance-of-payments deficit both will worsen, not improve.

Mr. Krugman's second error of omission is his assumption that government budgets need to be balanced. He misses the MMT point that governments can finance deficits rather than relying on bondholders. The monetary effect is identical: credit-financed spending. The difference – and it is essential – is that the government is not constrained by having to tax the economy to finance its operations, and it does not go further in debt to banks and bondholders. But despite his counter-cyclical Keynesianism, Mr. Krugman shares in principle the neoliberal mythology that demonizes the public option for credit creation, while approving private sector debt financing (even in foreign currencies!). The upshot is to make economies behave as if they still were on the gold standard, needing to borrow savings (in "hard" assets), when in fact the banks have simply sold the illusion that their electronic balance-sheet entries are "as good as gold." That world ended in 1971 when the United States went off gold. Since then, all currencies are state currencies – often backed by U.S. Treasury IOUs rather than their own money, to be sure.

So what then is the key? It is to have a central bank that does what central banks were founded to do: monetize government budget deficits so as to spend money into the economy, in a way best intended to promote economic growth and full employment.

This is the MMT message that the five of us were invited to explain to the audience in Rimini. Some attendees came up and explained that they had come all the way from Spain, others from France and cities across Italy. And although we gave many press, radio and TV interviews, we were told that the major media were directed to ignore us as not politically correct.

Such is the censorial spirit of neoliberal monetary austerity. Its motto is TINA: There Is No Alternative, and it wants to keep matters this way. As long as it can suppress discussion of how many better alternatives there are, the hope is that the public will remain quiescent as their living standards shrink and wealth is sucked up to the top of the economic pyramid to the 1%.

The audience was vocally against remaining in the eurozone – to the extent that continued adherence to it meant submission to neoliberal pro-financial policies. (The proceedings were videotaped and will be transcribed and placed on the web. Pacifica KPFA broadcaster Bonnie Faulkner attended and is compiling a series of programs and will re-interview the speakers for her "Guns and Butter" program.) They had no naivety that withdrawal by itself would cure the problems that they originally hoped EU membership would solve: Italian political corruption, tax evasion by the rich, insider dealings, and most of all, the power of banks to siphon off the surplus and control the government, the mass media and even the universities in an attempt to brainwash the population to believe that financial control of resource allocation, tax policy and wealth distribution was all for the best to make the economy more efficient.

The audience requested above all more monetary and fiscal theory from Stephanie Kelton, who gave the clearest lecture on economics I have ever heard – a Euclidean presentation of MMT logic.

The size of the audience filling the sports stadium to hear our economic explanation of how a real central bank should operate to avoid austerity and promote rather than discourage employment showed that the government's attempt to brainwash the population was not working. (For a visual of the magnitude, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XP60tpwu5cs>.)

The attempt to force TINA logic on the population is not working any better than it did in Harvard's Economics 101 class, from which students recently walked out in protest against the unrealistic parallel universe thinking. Its appeal is mainly to intelligent but ungrounded individuals (not yet post-autistic). They are selected as useful idiots and trained to draw pictures of the economy that exclude analysis of the debt overhead, rentier free lunches and financial parasitism. One needs to be very clever, after all, to imagine a system that "saves the appearances" of an unrealistic Ptolemaic system. Any positive role for government and a real central bank not oppressed under the thumb of private-sector bankers and financial engineers seeking to suck the economic surplus out of nations much as military conquerors did in past centuries.

There is a growing sense that Western civilization itself is at a critical juncture. It must choose between needless austerity and progress – but progress is blocked by the reluctance to write down the debt overhead. So as Prof. Kelton noted, economies face two different types of growth policy. Neoliberal policy promises to help the body politic grow by draining the blood from the body, ostensibly to help it grow more healthy and restore its balance (with all power to the wealthy 1%). The MMT policy is feed the body to help it grow healthy. This requires liberating the brain – the government and policy makers that implement an economic philosophy – from the financial sector's control.

Epilogue

Now that summary videos have begun to be placed on the web, a Norwegian economist wrote to me

I do not understand what is new about this: governments can create money ... to promote long-term growth ... What IS new is that somebody finally listens. There seems to a hunger out there for somebody (with the "right background") to tell people plain simple common sense.

What MMT teaches today is indeed long-established knowledge and practice. The degree to which its logic and message have been excluded from the academic curriculum is testament to the neoliberal version of free markets: their policy only appears to work if they can excluded discussion of any alternatives – and indeed, exclude economic history itself.

POSITIVE MONEY BULLETIN

Positive Money Team

Video: 6 Myths about Money & Banking – Josh Ryan-Collins

Josh Ryan-Collins, author of the book *Where Does Money Come From?*, explains how banks create money, out of thin air, through the accounting process they use when they make loans. He also addresses 6 common myths about money and banking prevalent in mainstream economics.

"Full reserve banking in plain English"

In Our Proposal section on our website you can now download a booklet, that explains in plain English, how we can prevent commercial banks from being able to create money, and move this power to create money into the hands of a transparent and accountable body. Read here

Share the information on Facebook & Twitter

Are you following us on [Twitter@Positivemoneyuk](https://twitter.com/Positivemoneyuk)? Have you liked our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/PositiveMoney>)? To share/retweet our posts is the easiest and fastest way that you can help spread the word. Please do this whenever you get the chance, because it really makes a difference.

Publications on monetary reform

The James Gibb Stuart Trust, one of the supporters of Positive Money, recently launched a new website. Now it has added a "Publications for Sale" page and the material might be of interest to you. For example, you can purchase a hard copy of our 60-page 'Bank of England (Creation of Currency) Bill'. The hard copy is handy to have and contains more Explanatory Notes than the version which is available on our site for download. This Bill is essential reading for anyone attending our training seminars. There is also a helpful and easily-read introduction to Money

Reform called 'Clarifying our Money Reform Proposals', which was first published in 2006.

CONFERENCE "Just Banking" - Edinburgh 19-20 April

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Don't Bank on the Bomb!

On the Nature of Physical Cash in the UK

One in Five People in Debt for Food

Andrew Haldane: What Is the Contribution of the Financial Sector?

German Media Discusses Money Creation

National Community Activists Network

Do Banks Lend Money?

Paul Moore is the man who warned HBOS they were about to go under back in 2005. Naturally the board of HBOS ignored him. The 20 minute interview with Paul Moore below reveals just how the banks operate and why leaving them with the power to create money can be disastrous. He answers some crucial questions like "Do the guys at the top of the banks understand that bank lending creates new money?", "Do they consider the impact they have on economy?"

Interview with the producer of upcoming documentary "Four Horsemen"

Positive Money's Ben Dyson and Andrew Jackson were interviewed by Renegade Economist this week.

Available Now: Where Does Money Come From?

There's been a great response to *Where Does Money Come From?*, co-authored by Positive Money's Andrew Jackson and colleagues from the New Economics Foundation. The book is already being used as the sole required reading for an economics degree course at City University! After selling out, the book has been reprinted and is available again:

The book is based on over 500 original documents from the Bank of England and other banking authorities, with a foreword by one of the leading authorities in banking, Prof Charles Goodhart. It's the most comprehensive and authoritative guide to how money is created ever published, and reveals that most of the textbooks are very much out of date.

The Positive Money team Ben, Drew & Mira

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