

RUNNYMEDE GAZETTE

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POSITIVE MONEY BULLETIN

Positive Money team

EDITORIAL

NO BATTLE IS EVER WON

No battle is ever won in our centralised and corporate world. If it transpires ... as it often does ... that we, the Great Unwashed, the Hoi Poloi, are not going to ingest some new corporatist banquet at one sitting, then it will be carefully sausage-sliced and presented to us one small, well-disguised mouthful at a time, over whatever period it takes.

Whether the issue is personal privacy, the demolition of local control and accountability, the roll-back of civil liberties, 'European Integration', mass state snooping ... the list gets almost endless, it will be back in some form and soon, most often massaged by some scare story or other.

So it is with identity cards. We were not going to have them. The answer? Instead introduce an all-embracing identity system, one step at a time over a period of years. Cards will not then be necessary. It can all be done through facial recognition, voice recognition, CCTV, spy drones, finger prints, DNA and even systems which recognise personal characteristics such as gait and posture.

With every new technology, and we seem to be getting something newer and more menacing with every month that passes, we get ever closer to the great Orwellian Panopticon.

FROM WELFARE TO SMART METERS

In his book, *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley may well have been the first person to prophesy an era of compulsory consumption.

It now appears that Iain Duncan Smith's Universal Credit will make it compulsory for all people to have a bank account, a mobile phone, and own a computer, have internet access and be computer literate. Doubtless there will be agencies hovering to make a fat profit off the backs of those who do not fit the bill in these respects.

But that is the name of the game when government becomes little more than the enabling agency and commission agent of large corporations, and the deep circle of institutional corruption is completed.

What was once a novelty gadget moves on a slow but deliberate journey from option, through necessity (but still with choice) to profitable coercion and compulsion.

So it is with Smartmeters. The items from Susanne Posel and Andrew Puhanic speak for themselves. That said, the Australian Origin Energy website is well worth a look as an example of how our consent to have our data sold on to a spate of state agencies and private corporations might very soon become an enforced condition of having an energy supply.

The North West Tenants' Association is amongst a few organisations to recently put out a general alert regarding Smartmeters. If enough people can band together to refuse to have these things installed, then this might be stopped. If that actually happened then what else could happen? Again, it is time to stop talking and start organising.

Frank Taylor

UK TO INTRODUCE NATIONAL ID SCHEME USING MOBILE PHONES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES

Brandon Turbeville; Activist Post

Early in 2012, I wrote an article regarding India's implementation of the Unique Identification (UID) Program for all of its 1.2 billion residents entitled, "Cashless Society: India Implements First Biometric ID Program Despite Growing Concern," where I detailed the history, mechanisms and ultimate goals of the program. I followed this report by an article entitled, "Japan Proposes Next Phase of Centralized Surveillance," dealing with the new Japanese UID with a similar analysis. But, while news of India and Japan's massive National ID program was met with much surprise by many even in the alternative media, it may once again come as a surprise that yet another push for a National ID push is on the way - this time, in the UK.

Like the Indian and Japanese ice-breaker, the UK program is being developed in concert and collusion between the UK government and international corporations.

To be clear, the English version of the National ID is not the same as the Indian program. Biometrics have yet to enter into the equation.

In fact, at this point, the UK is only attempting to implement a "virtual ID" under the Identity Assurance Programme. Yet, the scheme is still raising some ire amidst privacy advocates and those still conscious enough to be aware that they are passengers on a train headed for a system of total surveillance and control if the engine is not soon shut off.

Others, of course, simply recognize the "public/private partnership" required to develop this type of system as a threat to their personal data and a potential source of unprecedented identity theft.

Nevertheless, the new back-door National ID scheme is being ushered in to the UK using similar justifications as that used by the Indian government when the UID program began - i.e. that the new program will improve and streamline the process of requesting, granting, receiving, and distributing government benefits and/or aid.

While India argued that the UID would cut down on fraud, the UK suggests that the program will free up an already-clogged system (due to a ravaged economy) and allow for a smoother and more streamlined process of distribution.

As Ian Burrell of The Independent writes:

The Government will announce details this month of a controversial national identity scheme which will allow people to use their mobile phones and social media profiles as official identification documents for accessing public services.

People wishing to apply for services ranging from tax credits to fishing licences and passports will be asked to choose from a list of familiar online log-ins, including those they already use on social media sites, banks, and large retailers such as supermarkets, to prove their identity.

Once they have logged in correctly by computer or mobile phone, the site will send a message to the government agency authenticating that user's identity.

It has been reported that the Cabinet Office has held talks with agencies and organizations such as the "Post Office, high street banks, mobile phone companies and technology giants ranging from

Facebook and Microsoft to Google, PayPal and BT.”

The system is supposed to be rolled out for trial in April when the Department of Work & Pensions introduces the system overhaul known as the Universal Credit Scheme.

Essentially, government “services” are being grouped together on one website, Gov.uk, which will be accessible via mobile phone. Those wishing to access the services will be able to login with their already-established login IDs set-up with private companies.

The government claims that the ID systems and procedures “have been subjected to security testing before being awarded their ‘Identity Provider (IDP) kitemark, meaning that they have made the list of between five and 20 approved organizations that will be announced on 22 October.”

Those using the new virtual ID program will be asked to identify themselves by picking their preferred corporation from the NASCAR screen, the name of the logo-filled directory on the website.

As Ian Burrell describes:

Major web sites are able to recognise individuals by their patterns of use, the device they are accessing from and its location. Facebook, for example, asks users who sign on from an unusual location to take a series of security questions including identifying friends in photographs.

Much like the Japanese version of the Indian UID, the Basic Resident Register, the IAP is given the perception of being decentralized. For instance, the Cabinet Office has consistently stated that the data provided through accessing the IAP will not be held centrally by any government agency.

However, like the Japanese Juki-net, the fact is that the data will be included inside a centralized database. There is simply no way around it.

Thus, while the Cabinet Office states that the various corporations involved in the program will not know which government agency is requesting information, both the agencies and the Corporations are themselves a part of a centralized database, the very least of which being the Gov.uk website where individuals will go to access their services.

With this in mind, are we really to believe that such information will sit eternally unmolested by the UK central government? The Japanese made the mistake of resting with this assumption early on with the Basic Resident Register and the My Number Bill as well. Unfortunately for them, it was just a few years before the “localized” database became openly centralized.

Furthermore, simply setting up minuscule barriers, such as using the selected corporations as filters for inquiries and distribution of information, is largely meaningless in a world where such a small number of large corporations, banks, and other industry giants essentially own the government.

Again, the question must be asked: Are we really to believe that information sharing between such powerful corporations and governments will not occur due to the high ethical standards of either one? If the answer to this question is affirmative, surely, they jest.

Nevertheless, one must wonder how long it will be before the UK database becomes openly centralized like the Japanese Juki-net and Basic Resident Register program. One must also wonder how long the system will exist before reports of illegal information sharing begin to circulate within the media, subsequently culminating in the confirmation of such information sharing out in the open with no legal repercussions. How long will it be before the information sharing process is then codified into law?

If you think it sounds like the above questions are more a list of predictions than possibilities, you would be right. That’s because, using recent history as a guide, whether it be the Japanese Basic Resident Register, India, Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Spain, Peru, or Italy, the same roadmap is almost always followed with the same results almost always being achieved – the establishment of a massive, all-encompassing (biometric) database containing information gleaned from every aspect of life by corporations, government, and other sources.

Of course, government databases and control are not the only concerns arising out of the new UK program.

As 21st Century Fix reports, there is also the issue of the commercial sale of the personal information submitted by the individual accessing his government services by the corporations facilitating that transaction. The report states:

I would, however, add a third reason not to proceed: I simply, frankly, don’t want to access government services using a privately contracted device I use in the rest of my life. That is to say, for me the real issue is the privatization of a virtual ID card system. That companies such as, for example, Facebook – with all its manifest privacy issues – should seriously be considered a partner in such a scheme is indicative of why so many social media sites now want us to use real identities. For there’s real money in them thar hills for owners of real-identity databases.

The really long-term business plan becomes evermore clear, doesn’t it?

Information creep was bad enough when governments suggested real-time Internet snooping. Knowing the efficiency of the private sector in extracting personal data from us to generate private profit, the Lord only knows what might happen when corporations get officially involved – and what's more, with the full force of the law behind them in their every act and deed.

But while the concerns centered around the privatization of a virtual database are very real, as are those regarding identity theft, hacking, and centralization, the reality of the situation is much more grave than many of the opponents of the UK virtual ID are letting on. The true nature of the virtual ID scheme is rooted in the ultimate goal of creating an all-encompassing, top-down, cashless society combined with a Total Information Awareness network which includes every aspect of individual life.

While a “decentralized” voluntary virtual ID with allegedly built-in protections may seem like a far cry from a forced omnipotent surveillance state or a national ID, the fact is that the new scheme is merely one more step in that direction.

Obviously, the program will not be voluntary for long. As I have discussed in previous articles, the introduction of a program such as a national ID card, biometric data, or cashless payment technologies is always followed by the program becoming mandatory. The ultimate goal of an all-encompassing cashless surveillance program with no opt-out provisions is always introduced by stealth and the Gradualist Technique.

At first, the program is introduced as a way to speed up transactions, increase efficiency, and provide convenience. Soon, however, governments and businesses begin to transition out of the older methods of payment and identification and focus more on the new technology. Identification using the traditional methods remain as an option, but become viewed as cumbersome. Eventually, the alternative methods are phased out completely and mandates replace what was once a personal choice.

In the end, the statements and reassurances issued by the UK government (or any other government for that matter) should hold very little water with the English people. In terms of the development of virtual and/or biometric databases, government agencies have a track record of 0% when it comes to both honesty and integrity or having the best interests of their people at heart.

What governments cannot accomplish out in the open, they will accomplish by the backdoor as any American who has had experience with programs such as IDENT, NGI, and S-COMM can attest to.

History and experience both have shown that government cannot be trusted to tell the truth regarding potentially dangerous technologies and surveillance policies – much less be trusted to operate these programs with responsibility. It is for this reason that the English people must view the new virtual ID scheme with more than just a healthy dose of skepticism.

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SMART METERS: HOW THE GOVERNMENT MONITORS YOUR EVERY MOVE

Susanne Posel; Activist Post

Smart meters have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) who says their risks are minimal. However, many customers blame them for causing health problems and house fires. These devices are responsible for two-way communication with utilities corporations and government; helping them spy on their customers.

Researchers in Germany have concluded that when privacy implications were analyzed, they proved that customers were being surveilled by their utility company with encrypted data to determine whether or not the customers were home.

They are marketed as a way to save energy on monthly bills as well as reduce carbon

emissions. Jim Marston, vice president of energy for the Environmental Defense Fund, maintains that “if done right, smart meters allow us to eliminate waste from the system. It’s not unlike the revolution in telephones. These are things that allow you to know when you are gone and to turn off all your lights. Or to allow your appliances to turn on only when renewable power is available, or for utilities to figure out where outages are.”

In Australia, the energy corporation, Origin Energy, forces customers to fill out online forms that request detailed personal information that is shared with private sector corporations. This data is given to government authorities electricity installers, data processing analysts, IT service providers, debt collection and credit reporting agencies.

In California, smart meters give hourly reports of electrical usage through wireless connections. Yet the California Public Service Commission (CPSC) received complaints that the data received by utilities corporations led to rate hikes.

Pacific gas and Electric (PGE) claims that their smart meters are in compliance with FCC regulations. Most notably is that the installation of the device requires professional contractors, not utility workers, as if the usual case. PGE contracts others such as Wellington and Corix to install smart meters. These corporations hire temp workers who are not qualified and this may lead to fires and explosions.

In some states, an opt-out program has been installed where customers pay a fee for analog meters. Colorado, Maine and Arizona provide this service while Maryland and the District of Columbia does not.

The Foundation for Information Policy Research (FIPR), a think-tank for Internet policy in Britain, asserts that smart meters may be used as blackmail or fuel for a hostile attack against the UK government by a foreign power or a terrorist group. This information would be most likely sold to identity thieves as well as able to be manipulated by energy corporations.

Smart meters have the capacity to spy on you in your home. They collect data on the electrical usage in your home, then that information is remotely sent to a central database at your utilities corporation.

In March, CIA Director David Petraeus commented on the “internet of things” explaining that: *“Items of interest will be located, identified, monitored, and remotely controlled through technologies such as radio-frequency identification, sensor networks, tiny embedded servers, and energy harvesters — all connected to the next-generation internet using abundant, low-cost, and high-power computing . . . The latter now going for cloud computing, in many areas greater and greater supercomputing, and, ultimately, heading to quantum computing.”*

In December of 2011, the FCC announced plans to transition unused over-the-air wireless bands into Super Wi-Fi. This super Wi-Fi will use low frequencies (from 470 to 698 megahertz) that have longer wavelengths and travel farther; and even penetrate walls.

An indicator of these plans can be found on the underside of any electronic device in your home. Even on the underside of a simple calculator, toaster oven, and even your refrigerator; you will find the following: “This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.”

What this disclaimer means is that this device is not allowed to jam or block any signals and must accept any incoming signal given (by FCC regulations under Part 15 of the FCC Rules).

The Vermont Department of Health released a report in 2012 that stated smart meters use radio signals to communicate with the utility corporations and the exposure to radio frequency radiation (RFR) is detrimental to human health. The human body absorbs a wide range of thermal energy and capable of expelling that energy. However high exposure to radio frequencies breaks down the body’s natural abilities

Susanne Posel is the Chief Editor of Occupy Corporatism. Our alternative news site is dedicated to reporting the news as it actually happens; not as it is spun by the corporately funded mainstream media. You can find us on our Facebook page.

PROOF SMART METERS ARE BEING USED TO SPY ON US; STOP SMART METERS

Andrew Puhanic; Activist Post

If you have ever wondered if your smart meter is being used to spy on you, well now there is proof that governments and private organisations are using data collected from smart meters.

Information about power usage, which can be used to identify when a home is being occupied, is being shared with third parties including government agencies, private organisations and off-shore data processing centres.

This unethical breach of privacy was discovered on the website of one of Australia's largest electricity retailer, Origin Energy.

Electricity customers who sign up for an online service that provides the account holder with detailed information about their electricity usage are unwillingly agreeing to share their private information with third parties.

A 496-word Privacy/Consent policy form explicitly states that customers who wish to sign up for the service that provides them with information about their electricity usage, must agree that the following organisations have access to their private data:

- Government authorities
- Electricity installers
- Mail houses
- Data processing analysts
- IT service providers
- Smart energy technology providers
- Debt collection agencies
- Credit reporting agencies

A spokesperson for the electricity company (Origin Energy) responsible for this revelation was recently quoted as saying "the additional information requested about each household adds to the richness of the Origin Smart experience" (Source: The Age).

One private organisation that is being given personal information of Origin Energy customers is Tendril, a self-described consumer engagement application and services provider and an organisation that believes smart grids can help fight climate change.

Alarmingly, Tendril's own website doesn't explicitly state how it uses data gathered by its clients and for what purposes the data can and cannot be used for.

What implication this has for Australian residents is unknown.

There has been an overwhelming opposition to the roll-out and installation of smart meters around the world.

Smart Meter opt-out coalitions are present in almost all major municipalities that have smart meters present. Unfortunately, in many municipalities an opt-out is not available.

The author (Andrew Puhanic) was forced to have a smart meter installed on his property, with the only notice given about the installation being a letter informing the 'month' that the smart meter would be installed.

The greatest concern with smart meter data being shared with third parties is the fact that the third-party organisation could easily identify (over time) a pattern of when you do and do not use electricity. This information could fall into the wrong hands and could be used to determine when your home is un-occupied.

In Australia, the erosion of privacy was escalated further by a new proposal to force Internet and telephone companies to retain customer records for more than two years.

Households that are forced to have smart meters installed must be assured that the information their electricity company collects is not shared with third parties. Ultimately, smart meters are designed to collect information about household electricity usage; and now there is proof that electricity companies are openly sharing information collected by smart meters.

So what happens when a tyrannical government or criminal has access to your electricity usage

reCords?

Andrew Puhanic is the founder of the Globalist Report. The aim of the Globalist Report is to provide current, relevant and informative information about the Globalists and Globalist Agenda. You can contact Andrew directly by visiting the Globalist Report.

HEGEMONY AND PROPAGANDA: THE IMPORTANCE OF TRIVIALISATION IN CEMENTING SOCIAL CONTROL

Colin Todhunter; Global Research

Url of this article: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/hegemony-and-propaganda-the-importance-of-trivialisation-in-cementing-social-control/>

(We must all be aware of the stultifying, mind-numbing banality of the mainstream media. We have to endure the constant repetition, mostly of either the already well-known or the bindingly obvious; the infantile style of presentation, vacuous slomo pictures of people and vehicles in streets and powerpoint graphics which assume that we must all be braindead. We even have to endure any variety of moronic amusement arcade sound effects every time the scene, or camera angle changes or a graphic appears ... as if we couldn't work that out for ourselves. This piece gives a bit of background - Ed)

Knowledge in modern societies has expanded to the point whereby specialisms and sub-specialisms are the norm. It is just not possible for one person to have in-depth knowledge of every discipline. We must rely on others to convey such knowledge, usually in relatively simplistic terms. Most of us have to take at face value many of the ideas and concepts that we are bombarded with in this age of instant, mass communications and information overload.

People tend to like simplicity. In many instances, not possessing sufficient expertise on matters, they require it. They require easily manageable packages of knowledge, and these packages become taken for granted stocks of 'common sense' knowledge that enable them to cope, however faulty or misrepresented that 'knowledge' may be.

Politicians and the media also recognise people's need for simplicity. And here lies the problem, particularly in an increasingly complex and confusing world. In order to rally the masses around certain ideas and to make things 'simple' for them, both politicians and the media have to a large extent taken their cue from Edward Bernays, the father of advertising, propaganda and public relations. This is where simplicity morphs into manipulation.

Bernays knew how to manipulate groups of people and get the masses hooked on the products and messages of modern society. We are now all subjected to this type of manipulation each and every day by the incessant bombardment of commercials.

It was the late US academic Rick Roderick who noted the trend towards the banality, simplification and trivialisation that the ad industry excels in is now prolific throughout society. He referred to a rampant phenomenon of important issues and problems being reduced to a fad of some kind through continuous repetition. For example, political debates that are seemingly in deadlock like gay rights and abortion issues, although important, have become almost a pointless debate. The same few points are being thrown around so often that they've almost become a fad. This doesn't mean that the issues themselves aren't important; it just means that they've been reduced to something resembling sound-bite debates.

It can get to the point whereby people simply stop caring about it all. In the face of so many different sides and so many different movements all locked in endless debates, it can be easy for a kind of apathy and inaction to kick in among the wider population.

Indeed, many issues have been reduced to media-friendly slogans. For example, decades of serious writing on feminism were overtaken by the Spice Girls shouting the slogan 'girl power' at every available opportunity. A serious issue became used as a commercial ploy to sell music. What did girl power mean? Who cared at the time: just shout it out.

Barak Obama relied on the mantra 'hope and change', which means everything and nothing at the same time. While in some cases sound-bite sayings may be making a serious point, they are repeated over and over again to the point where they merely become meaningless, feel-good rhetoric.

And then there are all those TV commercials on English language channels in India, which reduce everything to a lowest common denominator selling point: 'white is in dark is out' (why is this phrase pertaining to skin lightening not considered racist in India?), 'because you're worth it' (self esteem reduced to wearing nail varnish or lipstick), 'its very, very sexy' (the nature of sexuality reduced to the effects of a deodorant). Complex issues are merely commodity forms and reduced to brand identities for sale in the market place.

Hand in hand with all of this goes ridicule and cynicism, whereby, if serious issues are not banal through sound-bite repetition, they are made the butt of jokes.

Rick Roderick liked to refer to an old TV show in the US to highlight how society encourages ridicule, trivialization and acceptance of how things are (but should not be). 'Laverne and Shirley' ran from 1976 to 1983. Roderick stated that Laverne and Shirley work in Milwaukee in a beer factory. It could therefore have been a socialist realist film, but it was a sitcom. They have got two friends who are stupid and ugly (according to Roderick). Basically, their life is no good. But this is a comedy. All the troubles that working class life often involves are just reduced to banality, just the common rubble of triviality and little one-line jokes.

A similar phenomenon can be seen in Britain today via the demonisation and mocking of some of the poorest sections of the British working class by the mainstream media and various social commentators. Regarded as 'chavs', they are their lives are stigmatized, ridiculed and trivialised.

Roderick also discusses the notion that John F Kennedy (JFK) was killed in a coup d'état and the US government and that the US has been run secretly ever since. That may or may not be true, but by the time we have had a hundred books and numerous movies on JFK, people tend to switch off, shrug their shoulders and say well it may or may not be the case, but what does it really matter? It's become banal. For Roderick, this is just another example of how you can take matters of ultimate human importance and turn them into banality.

And that is exactly what is required: banality and sneering that finds its ultimate expression in cynicism, apathy and acceptance of and adherence to the status quo.

Given the major issues affecting us, ranging from nuclear war to ecological meltdown, what we really require is sweeping social and economic reforms and great ideas. But have the great movements and ideas of yesteryear that could provide inspiration for today's causes been reduced to mediocre banality? Are they just fodder for the market place? Are they to be sneered at and mocked by a population beaten down to regard apathy and cynicism as a normal and overriding part of the human condition?

What better way to control a population than through inducing apathy and banality and encouraging the trivialization of causes, ideas or the plights of certain folk? What better way to control dissent by ridicule of the dissenters, or, if that doesn't work, in the case of the Indian government, filing sedition charges against 7,000 legitimate anti-nuclear protestors at Kudankulam – simple villagers and fisher-folk.

Are we to just ignore this and sit back and be satisfied with a culture that gives more airtime and column inches to a story about Simon Cowell using placentas on his face to keep young than the death of one of the greatest historians of the 20th century, Eric Hobsbawm? Are we just to sit back and buy shampoo because we bought into the lie that we 'are worth it'? If that's the case, it's not just the 7,000 people legitimately protesting at Kudankulam (<http://www.countercurrents.org/ctw300912.htm>) and others facing similar threats throughout India who are in trouble – most everyone else is too!

“The hallmark of an intelligent society is its ability to ask questions. If I am in doubt, I have the right to ask questions. A simple act of asking questions is treated as sedition here.” Aruna Roy (Indian political and social activist).

Originally from the northwest of England, Colin Todhunter has spent many years in India. He has written for various publications. His East by Northwest site is at:
<http://colintodhunter.blogspot.com>

THE PUTNEY DEBATE

John Papworth

Attempts are being made to revive these discussions on fundamental matters about democracy arising from the civil war of 1647. But I wonder if the enormity of the changes that confront us today are even now appreciated by those who make the preservation of freedom one of their fundamental concerns?

It is over 450 years since the Putney Debates, and in that era freedom has become assailed by forces so monstrous as to make the very idea of it to be esoteric and peculiar to a degree.

The Putney Debates were not confronted by a fraction of the forces that now dominate modern society; they knew nothing of the power of modern newspapers or of radio and television to impose on peoples' minds; the power of money was largely local and constrained by the availability of precious metals, whereas today it is in the hands of centralised bankers and their printing presses. Farming was in the hands of local farmers, whereas today, directly or otherwise, it is dominated by giant stock exchange companies and supermarkets who largely determine the prices and trading conditions as operated with local farmers; it should be noted, although it seldom is, that the board members of these companies are not elected by the farming community. The entire world of trading, financing, insurance is in the hands of private interests. It is private interest rather than public concern that now dominates the situation.

How can this situation be democratised? How can public concern be established above the rule of private interest? Different forms of communist or socialist organisation have sought to accomplish this, but it is all too clear that by adopting precisely the scale on which they have sought to operate it they have simply replicated it. What seems to matter is not the political colour on which social objectives are sought but the scale.

It is the scale on which matters are operated, for when the scale becomes beyond a certain level it is the scale itself which imposes on the general will rather than enabling the determinatives of the general will to dominate it. What is at stake here is the power of the people to determine matters, rather than the power of the forces determining the scale to determine the concerns of the people. The modern world has seen an explosion of power, administrative and governing power to a colossal degree in the hands of central government. Such power cannot be in two places at once and it has exploded in centralised forms at the expense of localised communities. Local community government is today much weaker and far less significant than it was at the time of The Putney Debates and any attempt to improve freedom and democracy which ignores this is surely chasing a mirage.

The Putney Debates were confronted only marginally with these matters, especially they saw the ethical concerns of the nation as being governed by the same considerations for a nation as by a local community.

They were not.

A community is governed by ethical considerations; a nation is inevitably governed by power considerations.

We have here an explanation of the catastrophe of the first world war. Millions of young men on both sides perished for no superior moral cause at all. It yields us a truism that if we want ethical considerations to prevail, if only because personal relationships are based on them, then power relationships must be minimised in order that community relationships can be predominant.

THE EMPOWERING TRUTHS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Just Wondering; via Activist Post

Filed under: Activism Alternative Knowledge Consciousness Esoterica Inspiration The Awakening

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."

Many have been asking, "What can I do? How do we respond to this onslaught against humanity we're witnessing?" Here are some examples of one man's response, and his profound effect will be forever felt. The love, the challenge, the embrace. Let them stir your heart and change your life.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

"First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win."

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always."

"Where there is love there is life."

"Seven Deadly Sins—Wealth without work; Pleasure without conscience; Science without humanity; Knowledge without character; Politics without principle; Commerce without morality; Worship without sacrifice."

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

"God has no religion."

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet."

"Hate the sin, love the sinner."

"Nobody can hurt me without my permission."

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

"A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes."

"To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer."

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

"Your beliefs become your thoughts; Your thoughts become your words; Your words become your actions; Your actions become your habits; Your habits become your values; Your values become your destiny."

"The future depends on what you do today."

"Man often becomes what he believes himself to be. If I keep on saying to myself that I cannot do a certain thing, it is possible that I may end by really becoming incapable of doing it. On the contrary, if I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty."

"Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:- I shall not fear anyone on Earth.

- I shall fear only God.

- I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.

- I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.

- I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering."

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are

treated.”

“Each night, when I go to sleep, I die. And the next morning, when I wake up, I am reborn.”

“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.”

“What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or in the holy name of liberty or democracy?”

“To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest.”

“Truth never damages a cause that is just.”

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.”

“It is easy enough to be friendly to one’s friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business.”

“It is unwise to be too sure of one’s own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.”

“Whenever you are confronted with an opponent. Conquer him with love.”

“Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.”

“I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.”

“You can chain me, you can torture me, you can even destroy this body, but you will never imprison my mind.”

“You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results.”

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.(Young India, Volume 1, Issue 52; 1919)”

“Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable.”

“Action expresses priorities.”

“There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.”

“My Life is My Message”

“There is nothing that wastes the body like worry, and one who has any faith in God should be ashamed to worry about anything whatsoever.”

“I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship. I see your beauty. I hear your need. I feel your feelings.”

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”

“It’s the action, not the fruit of the action, that’s important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there’ll be any fruit. But that doesn’t mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.”

“Truth is one, paths are many.”

INTERNET SECURITY; EU CONSIDERS FAR-REACHING INTERNET SECURITY INITIATIVE

Homeland Security Newswire; via Activist Post

Cybersecurity is becoming an increasingly more daunting challenge as governments try to prevent attacks against critical infrastructure on which the well-being of countries depends, now, several European countries are trying to come together in an effort to defend themselves against a cyber attack, but critics say the project, called CleanIT, goes too far

Cybersecurity is becoming an increasingly more daunting challenge as governments try to prevent attacks against critical infrastructure on which the well-being of countries depends. Now, several European countries are trying to come together in an effort to defend themselves against a cyber attack.

ITNews reports that documents leaked an initiative by the European Union, called CleanIT, shows proposal obligating Internet companies to include anti-terrorism features in their software and set up hotlines with law enforcement agencies to report such issues.

The proposal also includes Internet filtering and virtual policing which have some civil rights and privacy advocates worry about Internet freedom. These advocates argue that voluntary but binding agreements between Internet users Internet service providers (ISP) would compromise this freedom.

According to the leaked document, the goal of CleanIT is to develop a set of general rules and practices that the private sector can follow through non-legislative guidelines. The rules would take affect between six months and two years of an Internet organization committing to the recommendations and rules.

Other rules would include implementing a virtual reporting button in a Web browser or operating system, social media patrolling, increased sharing of information among ISPs, automated terrorist activities detection systems, and content blocking/filtering with subscribers using their real names online.

CleanIT”does not aim to restrict Internet freedom,” according to the project FAQ, but it does “have security concerns and wants to limit the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”.

“We realize that openness, privacy and security are the three sides of a triangle that should be balanced properly.” the FAQ stated.

Civil rights lobby group European Digital Rights (EDRI) said the document showed “plans for a large scale undemocratic surveillance of all communications.”

EDRIU claims CleanIT would work on “binding engagements” from ISPs for surveillance, content blocking, and filtering at local network levels. “[CleanIT] wants a network of trusted online informants and, contrary to everything they have ever said, they also want new, stricter legislation from Member States.” the civil rights group said.

Computerworld UK called some of the CleanIT project’s proposals so absurd they should never have been considered for an instant by any reasonable, intelligent group of people. “They are so far from the norms of European society that they should have been laughed out of the room the instant anyone was foolish enough to suggest them.” columnist Glyn Moody said.

ITNews notes that the initiative appeared to be led by the Netherlands’ National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security, with support from Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Hungary, Austria, and Romania. No private company had been involved with CleanIT at the time of the documents leaking.

THE EU SUPPRESSES FREE SPEECH USING BLASPHEMY LAWS

Eurorealist Blog via John Newell

RUIZ-JARABO COLOMER the Advocate-General of the European Court of Justice gave a legal opinion (in case C-274/99) in 19 October 2000 that criticism of the EU, its institutions or its leading figures was akin to blasphemy. Further, that, because laws against blasphemy were acceptable both under the common law of England and the existing European Human Rights Convention, it then followed that punishing someone for allegedly criticizing the EU was not an infringement of free speech

This opinion was given as a result of a case against a British European Commission official Bernard Connolly, who had written 'The Rotten Heart Of Europe', a book critical of the EU.

The European Court of First Instance found against him, ruling that the EU may restrict political speech to protect its interests.

Initially Mr. Connolly had argued that a landmark British case, *Wingrove VS. United Kingdom*, had established that political speech could not be limited except in extreme circumstances of blasphemy. The *Wingrove* case concerned a pornographic video showing St. Teresa of Avila engaged in various sexual acts. The advocate general turned that argument upside down and argued that the blasphemy ruling implied a broader protection for the 'rights of others'. It was the cornerstone of his argument that the EU can legitimately punish dissent.

The meat of the issue is in sections 15 to 20 where the advocate general refers to the *Wingrove* case in the UK

Section 15 gives some of the *Wingrove* case background basically saying that "It appears from the judgment that English law defined the offence of blasphemy in the following terms: 'Every publication is said to be blasphemous which contains any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ or the Bible, or the formularies of the Church of England as by law established. ... the Court of Human Rights acknowledged that the national authorities needed sufficient flexibility to enable them to assess whether certain facts fell within the definition of the offence.'"

Section 17 states affirms that censorship is fine in the case of 'the protection of the reputation or the rights of others, which, without any doubt, encompasses a Community institution's rights in relation to the reputation of its members'

20 concludes "To put it in positive terms, the decision dismissing Mr Connolly for having contravened that provision satisfies the requirement of proportionality in that it finds that the work which was published caused serious prejudice to the Communities' interests"

The full text can be obtained from the Court of Justice of the European Communities website (<http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en&Submit=Submit&docrequire=alldocs&numaff=C-274%2F99&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100>) but it is very hard to find using the site search engine (perhaps they are not proud of this one?) the EU Observer site has a direct link from this article <http://www.euobserver.com/index.phtml?aid=1640>

THE EU IS NOT A "PERSON": GRANTING THE NOBEL PRIZE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION IS IN VIOLATION OF ALFRED NOBEL'S WILL

Prof Michel Chossudovsky; Global Research,

Url of this article: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-eu-is-not-a-person-granting-the-nobel-prize-to-the-european-union-is-in-violation-of-alfred-nobels-will-2/5308142>

This year's Nobel Peace Prize was granted to the European Union (EU) for its relentless contribution to "the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe."

While the EU's contribution to peace is debatable, the key issue is whether a union of nation states, which constitutes a political, economic, monetary and fiscal entity is an "eligible candidate" for the Peace Prize, in accordance with the mandate of the Norwegian Committee.

The Olympic Games are "granted" to countries. But the Nobel Peace Prize cannot under any stretch of the imagination be granted to a nation-state, let alone a union of nation states.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has a responsibility to ascertain "the eligibility of candidates" in accordance with the Will of Alfred Bernhard Nobel (Paris, 27 November, 1895).

"The whole of my remaining realizable estate shall be dealt with in the following way: the capital, invested in safe securities by my executors, shall constitute a fund, the interest on which shall be annually distributed in the form of prizes to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind...."

The said interest shall be divided into five equal parts, which shall be apportioned as follows: one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of

literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses. ...

[F]or champions of peace [the prize will be awarded] by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Storting. It is my express wish that in awarding the prizes no consideration whatever shall be given to the nationality of the candidates, but that the most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he be a Scandinavian or not.

Will of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, November 27, 1895, emphasis added

The conditions set out in Alfred Nobel's Will have been twisted upside down. Nobel's Will is crystal clear. The five prizes are to be granted to "persons". (See complete list of laureates)

Since its inception, however, several of the prizes have been granted to both "persons" and organizations/institutions to which they are affiliated as in the case of Henry Dunand (Red Cross) or Mohamed ElBaradei, UN International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA). In other cases, the prize was granted as to "organizations" consisting of a collective of persons (e.g. UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

The granting of the Nobel Prize to the European Union, which is a political entity, a union of nation states, is visibly in blatant violation of Alfred Nobel's Will.

Theater of the Absurd

The European Union cannot under any stretch of the imagination be categorized as a "person", "a group of persons" or even an "organization". Moreover, implied in Nobel's Will is that the candidates must be citizens without regard to nationality:

"It is my express wish that in awarding the prizes no consideration whatever shall be given to the nationality of the candidates, but that the most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he be a Scandinavian or not.(Alfred Nobel's Will, Paris, 1895)

The European Union is a union of nation states composed of citizens. The EU cannot be a citizen of itself, nor does the EU have a nationality. Citizens of the EU are "eligible candidates" but the EU cannot be "an eligible candidate".

Moreover, it stands to reason that "eligible candidates" for the Peace prize who are "persons" cannot reasonably be evaluated, compared or ranked by the Norwegian selection committee in relation to the European Union, which is a "non-person", namely a union of countries.

This an important consideration: How does the candidacy of the EU "compare" to "other" distinguished 2012 nominees who are actual "persons"? "Oranges versus apples?"

According to the procedure, a short list of nominees "is reviewed by permanent advisers and advisers specially recruited for their knowledge of specific candidates." And based on this review, the Peace Laureate is chosen, through a majority vote of the five persons Norwegian Committee.

The prize consists of "a medal, a personal diploma, and a cash award." Theater of the absurd: A "personal diploma" to the European Union and "a cash award", for what, to whom? To finance the EU's budget deficit, its bank bailout schemes?

The decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee is diabolical and illegal, in blatant violation of its mandate.

Full text of Alfred Nobel's Will

I, the undersigned, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, do hereby, after mature deliberation, declare the following to be my last Will and Testament with respect to such property as may be left by me at the time of my death:

To my nephews, Hjalmar and Ludvig Nobel, the sons of my brother Robert Nobel, I bequeath the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Crowns each;

To my nephew Emanuel Nobel, the sum of Three Hundred Thousand, and to my niece Mina Nobel, One Hundred Thousand Crowns;

To my brother Robert Nobel's daughters, Ingeborg and Tyra, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Crowns each;

Miss Olga Boettger, at present staying with Mrs Brand, 10 Rue St Florentin, Paris, will receive One Hundred Thousand Francs;

Mrs Sofie Kapy von Kapivar, whose address is known to the Anglo-Oesterreichische Bank in Vienna, is hereby entitled to an annuity of 6000 Florins Ö.W. which is paid to her by the said Bank, and to this end I have deposited in this Bank the amount of 150,000 Fl. in Hungarian State Bonds;

Mr Alarik Liedbeck, presently living at 26 Sturegatan, Stockholm, will receive One Hundred Thousand Crowns;

Miss Elise Antun, presently living at 32 Rue de Lubeck, Paris, is entitled to an annuity of Two Thousand Five

Hundred Francs. In addition, Forty Eight Thousand Francs owned by her are at present in my custody, and shall be refunded;

Mr Alfred Hammond, Waterford, Texas, U.S.A. will receive Ten Thousand Dollars;

The Misses Emy and Marie Winkelmann, Potsdamerstrasse, 51, Berlin, will receive Fifty Thousand Marks each;

Mrs Gaucher, 2 bis Boulevard du Viaduc, Nimes, France will receive One Hundred Thousand Francs;

My servants, Auguste Oswald and his wife Alphonse Tournand, employed in my laboratory at San Remo, will each receive an annuity of One Thousand Francs;

My former servant, Joseph Girardot, 5, Place St. Laurent, Châlons sur Saône, is entitled to an annuity of Five Hundred Francs, and my former gardener, Jean Lecof, at present with Mrs Desoutter, receveur Curaliste, Mesnil, Aubry pour Ecoeu, S. & O., France, will receive an annuity of Three Hundred Francs;

Mr Georges Fehrenbach, 2, Rue Compiègne, Paris, is entitled to an annual pension of Five Thousand Francs from January 1, 1896 to January 1, 1899, when the said pension shall discontinue;

A sum of Twenty Thousand Crowns each, which has been placed in my custody, is the property of my brother's children, Hjalmar, Ludvig, Ingeborg and Tyra, and shall be repaid to them.

The whole of my remaining realizable estate shall be dealt with in the following way: the capital, invested in safe securities by my executors, shall constitute a fund, the interest on which shall be annually distributed in the form of prizes to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind. The said interest shall be divided into five equal parts, which shall be apportioned as follows: one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses. The prizes for physics and chemistry shall be awarded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences; that for physiological or medical work by the Caroline Institute in Stockholm; that for literature by the Academy in Stockholm, and that for champions of peace by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Storting. It is my express wish that in awarding the prizes no consideration whatever shall be given to the nationality of the candidates, but that the most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he be a Scandinavian or not.

As Executors of my testamentary dispositions, I hereby appoint Mr Ragnar Sohlman, resident at Bofors, Värmland, and Mr Rudolf Lilljequist, 31 Malmskillnadsgatan, Stockholm, and at Bengtsfors near Uddevalla.

To compensate for their pains and attention, I grant to Mr Ragnar Sohlman, who will presumably have to devote most time to this matter, One Hundred Thousand Crowns, and to Mr Rudolf Lilljequist, Fifty Thousand Crowns;

At the present time, my property consists in part of real estate in Paris and San Remo, and in part of securities deposited as follows: with The Union Bank of Scotland Ltd in Glasgow and London, Le Crédit Lyonnais, Comptoir National d'Escompte, and with Alphen Messin & Co. in Paris; with the stockbroker M.V. Peter of Banque Transatlantique, also in Paris; with Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft and Joseph Goldschmidt & Cie, Berlin; with the Russian Central Bank, and with Mr Emanuel Nobel in Petersburg; with Skandinaviska Kredit Aktiebolaget in Gothenburg and Stockholm, and in my strong-box at 59, Avenue Malakoff, Paris; further to this are accounts receivable, patents, patent fees or so-called royalties etc. in connection with which my Executors will find full information in my papers and books.

This Will and Testament is up to now the only one valid, and revokes all my previous testamentary dispositions, should any such exist after my death.

Finally, it is my express wish that following my death my veins shall be opened, and when this has been done and competent Doctors have confirmed clear signs of death, my remains shall be cremated in a so-called crematorium.

Paris, 27 November, 1895; Alfred Bernhard Nobel

That Mr Alfred Bernhard Nobel, being of sound mind, has of his own free will declared the above to be his last Will and Testament, and that he has signed the same, we have, in his presence and the presence of each other, hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses:

Sigurd Ehrenborg
former Lieutenant
Paris: 84 Boulevard Haussmann

R. W. Strehlenert
Civil Engineer
4, Passage Caroline

Thos Nordenfelt
Constructor
8, Rue Auber, Paris

Leonard Hwass
Civil Engineer
4, Passage Caroline

THE FED'S "QE INFINITY": MONEY GALORE... WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Ellen Brown; Global Research

Url of this article: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-feds-qe-infinity-money-galore-what-is-it-all-about/>

QE3, the Federal Reserve's third round of quantitative easing, is so open-ended that it is being called QE Infinity. Doubts about its effectiveness are surfacing even on Wall Street. The Financial Times reports:

Among the trading rooms and floors of Connecticut and Mayfair [in London], supposedly sophisticated money managers are raising big questions about QE3 — and whether, this time around, the Fed is not risking more than it can deliver.

Which raises the question, what is it intended to deliver? As suggested in an earlier article here, QE3 is not likely to reduce unemployment, put money in the pockets of consumers, reflate the money supply, or significantly lower interest rates for homeowners, as alleged. It will not achieve those things because it consists of no more than an asset swap on bank balance sheets. It will not get dollars to businesses or consumers on Main Street.

So what is the real purpose of this exercise? Catherine Austin Fitts recently posted a revealing article on that enigma. She says the true goal of QE Infinity is to unwind the toxic mortgage debacle, in a way that won't bankrupt pensioners or start another war:

The challenge for Ben Bernanke and the Fed governors since the 2008 bailouts has been how to deal with the backlog of fraud – not just fraudulent mortgages and fraudulent mortgage securities but the derivatives piled on top and the politics of who owns them, such as sovereign nations with nuclear arsenals, and how they feel about taking massive losses on AAA paper purchased in good faith.

On one hand, you could let them all default. The problem is the criminal liabilities would drive the global and national leadership into factionalism that could turn violent, not to mention what such defaults would do to liquidity in the financial system. Then there is the fact that a great deal of the fraudulent paper has been purchased by pension funds. So the mark down would hit the retirement savings of the people who have now also lost their homes or equity in their homes. The politics of this in an election year are terrifying for the Administration to contemplate.

How can the Fed make the investors whole without wreaking havoc on the economy? Using its QE tool, it can quietly buy up toxic mortgage-backed securities (MBS) with money created on a computer screen.

Good for the Investors and Wall Street, But What about the Homeowners and Main Street?

The investors will get their money back, the banks will reap their unearned profits, and Fannie and Freddie will get bailed out and wound down. But what about the homeowners? They too bought in good faith, and now they are either underwater or are losing or have lost their homes. Will they too get a break? Fitts says we'll have to watch and see. Perhaps there was a secret agreement to share in the spoils. If so, we should see a wave of write-downs and write-offs aimed at relieving the beleaguered homeowners.

A nice idea, but somehow it seems unlikely. The odds are that there was no secret deal. The banks will make out like bandits as they have before. The never-ending backdoor bailout will keep feeding their profit margins, and the banks will keep biting the hands of the taxpayers who feed them.

How can Wall Street be made to play well with others and share in their winnings? In a July 2012 article in The New York Times titled "Wall Street Is Too Big to Regulate," Gar Alperovitz observed:

With high-paid lobbyists contesting every proposed regulation, it is increasingly clear that big banks can never be effectively controlled as private businesses. If an enterprise (or five of them) is so large and so concentrated that competition and regulation are impossible, the most market-friendly step is to nationalize its functions. . . .

Nationalization isn't as difficult as it sounds. We tend to forget that we did, in fact, nationalize General Motors in 2009; the government still owns a controlling share of its stock. We also essentially nationalized the American International Group, one of the largest insurance companies in the world, and the government still owns roughly 60 percent of its stock.

Bailout or Receivership?

Nationalization also isn't as radical as it sounds. If nationalization is too loaded a word, try "bankruptcy and receivership." Bankruptcy, receivership and nationalization are what are SUPPOSED to happen when very large banks become insolvent; and if the toxic MBS had been allowed to default, some very large banks would have wound up insolvent.

Nationalization is one of three options the FDIC has when a bank fails. The other two are closure and liquidation, or merger with a healthy bank. Most failures are resolved using the merger option, but for very large banks, nationalization is sometimes considered the best choice for taxpayers. The leading U.S. example was Continental Illinois, the seventh-largest bank in the country when it failed in 1984. The FDIC wiped out existing shareholders, infused capital, took over bad assets, replaced senior management, and owned the bank for about a decade, running it as a commercial enterprise. In 1994, it was sold to a bank that is now part of Bank of America.

Insolvent banks should be put through receivership and bankruptcy before the government takes them over. That would mean making the creditors bear the losses, standing in line and taking whatever money was available, according to seniority. But that would put the losses on the pension funds, the Chinese, and other investors who bought supposedly-triple-A securities in good faith—the result the Fed is evidently trying to avoid.

How to resolve this dilemma? How about combining these two solutions? The money supply is still SHORT by \$3.9 trillion from where it was in 2008 before the banking crisis hit, so the Fed has plenty of room to expand the money supply. (The shortfall is in the shadow banking system, which used to be reflected in M3, the part of the money supply the Fed no longer reports. The shadow banking system is composed of non-bank financial institutions that do not accept deposits, including money market funds, repo markets, hedge funds, and structured investment vehicles.)

Rather than a never-ending windfall for the banks, however, these maneuvers need to be made contingent on some serious quid pro quo for the taxpayers. If either the Fed or the banks won't comply, Congress could nationalize either or both. The Fed is composed of twelve branches, all of which are 100% owned by the banks in their districts; and its programs have consistently been designed to benefit the banks—particularly the large Wall Street banks—rather than Main Street. The Federal Reserve Act that gives the Fed its powers is an act of Congress; and what Congress hath wrought, it can undo.

Only if the banking system is under the control of the people can it be expected to serve the people. As Seumas Milne observed in a July 2012 article in the UK Guardian:

Only if the largest banks are broken up, the part-nationalised outfits turned into genuine public investment banks, and new socially owned and regional banks encouraged can finance be made to work for society, rather than the other way round. Private sector banking has spectacularly failed – and we need a democratic public solution.

*Ellen Brown is an attorney and president of the Public Banking Institute. In *Web of Debt*, her latest of eleven books, she shows how a private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her websites are <http://WebofDebt.com>, <http://EllenBrown.com>, and <http://PublicBankingInstitute.org>*

11 THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU ALLOW YOUR COUNTRY TO BECOME ENSLAVED BY BANKERS

Michael Snyder; Activist Post

Why are Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal and so many other countries experiencing depression-like conditions right now? It is because they have too much debt. Why do they have too much debt? It is because they allowed themselves to become enslaved to the bankers. Borrowing money from the bankers can allow a nation to have a higher standard of living in the short-term, but it always results in a lower standard of living in the long term. Why is that?

It is because you always have to pay back more money than you borrowed. And when you get to the point of having a debt to GDP ratio in excess of 100%, you are basically drowning in debt. Huge amounts of money that could be going to providing essential services and stimulating your economy are now going to service your horrific debt.

Today, citizens in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy are experiencing a standard of living far below what they should be because the bankers have trapped them in endless debt spirals. Sadly, the vast majority of the people living in those countries have absolutely no idea what is at the root cause of their problems.

The truth is that no sovereign nation on earth ever has to borrow a single penny from anyone.

In theory, there is nothing stopping a government from printing up debt-free money and spending it into circulation.

But that is not the way our world works. Instead, our national governments borrow money that has been zapped into existence out of thin air by central banks.

Now what kind of sense does that make?

Why don't our governments just create the money themselves?

If the government of Greece had been directly issuing debt-free Greek currency all these years, they would have a national debt of zero and they would not be in the middle of a deep depression today.

So why isn't anyone proposing that they go to such a system?

Instead, everyone is trying to figure out a way that the Greeks can muddle through this depression and keep paying on their unsustainable debts.

It is such a tragedy what has happened to Greece. The city of Boston has a larger economy than the entire nation of Greece at this point.

But this is what happens when you allow the bankers to trap your country in debt. The central banking systems of the world are designed to be endless debt spirals that systematically transfer wealth from the people through the governments and into the hands of the ultra-wealthy.

Just look at what is happening in the United States. The U.S. national debt is now more than 5000 times larger than it was when the Federal Reserve was first created.

Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the rest of the nations of the western world did not get into all this debt by accident. This happened by design.

And we can see what happens when the system starts to unravel by looking at what is happening in Greece and in Spain right now.

The following are 11 things that can happen when you allow your country to become enslaved to the bankers....

#1 At some point nations that are drowning in debt must implement "austerity measures" in an attempt to stay solvent. This causes economic slowdown and unemployment skyrockets. We are seeing this happen in Greece, Spain and a whole bunch of other nations right now.

Over the past four years, the Greek economy has contracted by close to 25 percent. Just this week it was announced that the unemployment rate in Greece has risen to 23.1 percent. A year ago

it was just 16.8 percent

In Spain, the unemployment rate is even higher. It has hit 24.6 percent, and some analysts expect it to eventually reach 30 percent. This would have never happened if these nations had not gotten into so much debt.

#2 Economic progress can actually go backwards in a debt-based system.

In Greece, a very large number of citizens have actually been giving up their cars and have gone back to riding bikes....

The high cost of road tax, fuel and repairs is forcing Greeks to ditch their cars in huge numbers. According to the government's statistics office, the number of cars on Greek roads declined by more than 40 percent in each of the last two years. Meanwhile, more than 200,000 bikes were sold in 2011, up about a quarter from the previous year.

#3 Your banking system will inevitably melt down at some point.

Every debt bubble eventually bursts, and authorities all over Europe are desperately trying to keep the European banking system from completely imploding. But despite their efforts, people are pulling money out of banks in southern Europe at a staggering pace. Just check out the slow motion bank run that is unfolding in Spain....

Capital outflows from Spain more than quadrupled in May to €41.3 billion (\$50.7 billion) compared with May 2011, according to figures released on Tuesday by the Spanish central bank. In the first five months of 2012, a total of €163 billion left the country, the figures indicate. During the same period a year earlier, Spain recorded a net inflow of €14.6 billion.

#4 In all countries with a debt-based system, eventually your taxes will be raised to ridiculous levels. When the income tax was introduced in the United States back in 1913, the vast majority of Americans were in the 1 percent tax bracket.

Throughout the years there have been countless promises that taxes would be limited, but those promises always end up getting broken. Even when they give us "tax cuts" with one hand, they usually end up raising taxes ten different ways with the other hand. In the United States today, we are literally taxed in dozens and dozens of different ways. Our politicians love to come up with new and inventive ways to tax us without us really even feeling it. In the end, they are going to take as much away from us as they can possibly get away with.

Just look at what is happening in France. The newly elected socialist president of France says that his party plans to raise the top tax rate in France to 75 percent. But even though our politicians tax us to death, they still manage to run up gigantic mountains of debt on top of that.

#5 Your currency slowly but steadily becomes worthless.

Most people don't realize that inflation is a tax. Every dollar you currently have in the bank is constantly losing value. That is because in a debt-based system like we have, the total amount of money and the total amount of debt is supposed to keep perpetually expanding.

Since the Federal Reserve was created, the U.S. dollar has declined in value by well over 95 percent.

This did not happen by accident. Every other major currency around the globe has been steadily declining in value as well.

#6 When things get bad enough, there will be rioting in the streets.

A few weeks ago, a total of more than a million public employees took to the streets in more than 80 different Spanish cities. You can view footage of some of the violent clashes with police that took place right here.

#7 When a debt-based economy crashes, money becomes very tight and shortages tend to happen.

Just look at what is happening in Greece. Medicine shortages have become a tremendous problem. The following is from a recent Bloomberg article....

Mina Mavrou, who runs a pharmacy in a middle-class Athens suburb, spends hours each day pleading with drugmakers, wholesalers and colleagues to hunt down medicines for clients. Life-saving drugs such as Sanofi (SAN)'s blood-thinner Clexane and GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK)'s asthma inhaler Flixotide often appear as lines of crimson data on pharmacists' computer screens, meaning the products aren't in stock or that pharmacists can't order as many units as they need.

'When we see red, we want to cry,' Mavrou said. 'The situation is worsening day by day.'

The 12,000 pharmacies that dot almost every street corner in Greek cities are the damaged capillaries of a complex system for getting treatment to patients. The Panhellenic Association of Pharmacists reports shortages of almost half the country's 500 most-used medicines.

#8 Your population will eventually become so desperate that they will start banding together to loot food and supplies from stores.

When people have no work and they cannot feed their families they often find themselves doing things that they never imagined that they would do. Just check out what is happening in Spain right now....

Unemployed fieldworkers and other members of the union went to two supermarkets, one in Ecija (Sevilla) and one in Arcos de la Frontera (Cadiz) and loaded up trolleys with basic necessities. They said that the people were being expropriated and they planned to 'expropriate the expropriators'. The foodstuffs, including milk, sugar, chickpeas, pasta and rice, have been given to charities to distribute, who say they are unable to cope with all the requests for help they receive. Unemployment in the Sierra de Cadiz is now 40%.

#9 If things get bad enough, even essential services may start shutting down.

Authorities in Greece are legitimately concerned that there may be interruptions in the supply of natural gas and electricity. Suppliers are leaving bills unpaid for extended periods of time, and one day millions of Greeks may wake up to find that the power to their homes has been cut off....

Greece's power regulator RAE told Reuters on Friday it was calling an emergency meeting next week to avert a collapse of the debt-stricken country's electricity and natural gas system.

'RAE is taking crisis initiatives throughout next week to avert the collapse of the natural gas and electricity system,' the regulator's chief Nikos Vasilakos told Reuters. RAE took the decision after receiving a letter from Greece's natural gas company DEPA, which threatened to cut supplies to electricity producers if they failed to settle their arrears with the company.

#10 In an economic depression, many people begin to totally lose hope.

An increasing number of parents in southern Europe are facing such desperate situations that they are actually abandoning their babies. The following is from a recent CNBC article....

According to SOS Villages, a European charity that attempts to help families in financial hardship before abandonment occurs, in the last year alone 1,200 children in Greece and 750 in Italy have been abandoned. That is almost double the 400 children abandoned in Italy a year ago, and up from 114 children abandoned in Greece in 2003.

#11 Just like we saw during the Great Depression of the 1930s, there is a spike in suicides when an economy crashes.

Greece has never seen anything like what is happening now. The suicide rate has been absolutely soaring. The following is from a Reuters article back in April....

On Monday, a 38-year-old geology lecturer hanged himself from a lamp post in Athens and on the same day a 35-year-old priest jumped to his death off his balcony in northern Greece. On Wednesday, a 23-year-old student shot himself in the head.

In a country that has had one of the lowest suicide rates in the world, a surge in the number of suicides in the wake of an economic crisis has shocked and gripped the Mediterranean nation - and its media - before a May 6 election.

If you live in the United States, you need to watch what is happening in Europe very closely, because similar conditions will come to the United States soon enough. Just like Europe, we have allowed ourselves to become enslaved to the bankers, and now we will suffer the consequences.

Sadly, most Americans do not even realize how we got into this mess. The following is from a recent article by Professor Steven Yates....

It should have been clear that the country—indeed, Western civilization itself—was on the wrong

trajectory as governments and central banks, working in tandem, severed ties between their currencies and precious metals, allowing massive credit expansion to run rampant and the national debt to skyrocket—making, e.g., the pseudo-prosperity of the roaring 1990s possible. Nixon had 'closed the gold window' on August 15, 1971; our national debt was around \$400 billion. Slightly over ten years later, the debt crossed the \$1 trillion threshold. Ten years after that, it reached \$6 trillion. When George W. Bush left office having been the biggest spending Republican in U.S. history, it had risen to over \$11 trillion. Today, under the watch of the catastrophic Obama presidency, by the time this reaches print the national debt might have surmounted \$16 trillion with no end in sight.

The United States has accumulated the greatest mountain of debt in the history of the world and it will totally crush us at some point. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and are totally unprepared for the economic chaos that is coming. One study found that 64 percent of all Americans have less than \$1000 in the bank. Can you believe that?

Even though we could be on the verge of another global food crisis, most Americans do not have enough food in their homes to last a single month.

Even though the U.S. economy is on the verge of another recession, most Americans are still running out and buying toys that they don't need and paying for them with credit cards that they should not be using. If you want to see where we are headed, just look at Greece and Spain. They are going through economic hell, and we will be joining them soon enough.

Get ready while you can.

This article first appeared here at the Economic Collapse Blog. Michael Snyder is a writer, speaker and activist who writes and edits his own blogs The American Dream and Economic Collapse Blog. Follow him on Twitter here.

POSITIVE MONEY BULLETIN

Positive Money team

Back in June we asked you to help us to find and fund a new member of the team who would create videos that would explain our message in a simple, clear and entertaining way. Thanks for your help - it wouldn't have been possible without you. Our new team member Henry has been working on a series of videos over last months and last week we released the first one:

House Prices - Why are they so high? (Video) "House Prices - Why are they so high?" [2 mins] Help us spread the word...

If we want to keep houses affordable for ordinary people, we have to make sure that enough people understand how banks really work and where the money for mortgages actually comes from. Spreading the word is crucial!

You almost certainly have friends or family who have been priced out and are now facing high rents or unaffordable mortgages. Here's some text that you can just copy and paste into a new email:

A campaign group that I am supporting has released a new video and I thought you would be interested to see it.

Did you know that in the ten years up to the start of the financial crisis, house prices rose by over 200%? Do you know why?

A common belief is that there are too many people, too much immigration, and too few houses to go around. But this is a myth.

This new video explains why houses have become so expensive and why millions of people are now priced out:

Please watch this 2 mins video: House Prices - Why are they so high?

You can find more about Positive Money campaign at the website: www.positivemoney.org.uk

And of course, you can help by sharing it on Facebook and Twitter! We'd be grateful for any support to get the word out.

Subscribe to our Youtube channel! To stay up to date with our latest videos, go here and click

"Subscribe".

If you have a blog, write a piece about this video. Here's a generic article you can use.

Join the Video Team

We're looking for volunteers who can work with Henry to produce videos and animations. It's work that can be done evenings and weekends, and on a project by project basis. We need people with animation and/or motion graphics within After Effects, any familiarity with Trapcode Particular and Form plug-ins would be a bonus though not essential.

The videos themselves consist mostly of still vector elements being combined in After Effects compositions, so not much traditional animation (movement of characters, speech etc.) required. We're also looking for anyone experienced in vector illustration within Adobe Illustrator, for the creation of the vector elements (all quite simple but within a consistent style).

All volunteers would need to be comfortable working within a pre-defined style, but with room for individual creative decision making.

If you're interested in helping to make videos like the one above, or simpler educational presentations, please contact henry@positivemoney.org.uk with your level of experience and ideally any examples of work you've already done.

Monetary Reform in Major German Newspapers

Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Full Reserve Banking We're happy to let you know that also our fellow money reformers from Germany and Switzerland have received great coverage in the mainstream media recently. The second largest newspaper Die Sueddeutsche Zeitung and some other big newspapers published articles that not only revealed the root cause of the financial crisis. i.e. the creation of money by private commercial banks as debt, but also presented their full reserve banking reform proposals and the benefits this would bring.

It's time to fix banking - 38 Degrees campaign:

The campaign group 38 Degrees has started a petition which urges the MPs to be tough on the banks. When you sign the petition, there's a space provided for comments. You can help spread the message by suggesting that the campaign tackles the 'privatisation-by-stealth' of the power to create money here.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) paper advocates Debt-Free Money

After a series of articles in mainstream media on debt-based money creation by commercial banks recently, there is more great news: Now support for reform of the monetary system comes from a very unlikely source...

The IMF has released a paper in which the authors advocate Irving Fisher's original 1930s proposals for banking reform, which remove the ability of banks to create money and which are the inspiration for Positive Money's own proposed reforms. They've used state of the art economic modelling, and found strong support for the benefits of the proposals - reducing debt, making the banking system safer and stopping the instability in the money supply

IMF Paper Backs Full Reserve Banking!

"The effectiveness of countercyclical policy would be further enhanced under the Chicago Plan relative to present monetary arrangements. [B]ank runs can obviously be completely eliminated... It would lead to an instantaneous and large reduction in the levels of both government and private debt, because money creation no longer requires simultaneous debt creation..."

Help Wanted: Organise a film screening in London

Today, when we hear from everywhere every day about the banking frauds, austerity, double-dip recession, bailouts of banks etc. and we see that our leaders don't have any workable solution to get the economy working again, the film 97% Owned is the most relevant documentary. It reveals the puzzle that economists were missing when they failed to predict the crisis. It is the same puzzle that most of them are still missing today to get us out of this crisis. The film explains the crucial questions which usually get overlooked: "Where does money come from? Who creates it? Who decides how it gets used?", based on in-depth research and solid evidence.

Many screenings have been organized around the country...but only few of them were in London, the largest UK city and financial centre! Do you live in London? Do you think more people should learn about money? Organize one!

*Supporters from all other areas are very welcome to organize screenings too, of course :-)

Success of Move Your Money UK Campaign

Half a million of people have moved their money so far this year. Since January 2012 Move Your Money UK estimates that 500,000 people have switched their current accounts to ethical alternatives such as Co-ops and mutuals.

The key to address the root cause of our current social, economic and environmental problems is to reform the way how money is created. But in the meantime, you can help chip away the power of big banks by moving your money. Move Your Money UK campaign aims to reach more than a million by the end of the year. Tell your friends by email or Facebook and get them moving too.

Events:

Newcastle, Thu 8th Nov - Talk at Economic and Social Research Council's Festival

Latest from the blog

Positive News: Media Picks up on Need to Reform Money

Debt, Grinding Debt

Is it Not Time to Call a Spade a Spade?

Vickers Had No Idea What Narrow Banking Is

Bypass the Banks: Online Hub of Borrowing and Lending

Stop Bankers Betting on Hunger

Ignorance Is Not Bliss

Guardian: We Can't Grow Ourselves out of Debt

Lawrence White Tries to Argue for Fractional Reserve Banking

Including Money and Banks in Macroeconomic Models – Finally

What the Heck is a Bailout? (video)

Aljazeera: Where does money come from?

Reverse Auctions – a Mechanism for Flexibility of Publicly Issued Money

How the BBC is misleading the public about the financial crisis

Nationalize Money, Not Banks by Herman Daly

George Selgin Favours Fractional Reserve Banking

Wise words from Paul Moore, HBOS Whistleblower

Co-op Bank: "We're Boring!"

Channel 4 Dispatches: Can you trust your bank? (Includes Paul Moore)

Bank on Dave on Channel 4

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