

*The Economic Elite*

*Vs.*

*The People of the*

*United States*

*of America*

*DAVID DEGRAW*

# ***The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the United States of America***

*By David DeGraw, AmpedStatus Report*

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“The American oligarchy spares no pains in promoting the belief that it does not exist, but the success of its disappearing act depends on equally strenuous efforts on the part of an American public anxious to believe in egalitarian fictions and unwilling to see what is hidden in plain sight.” -- Michael Lind, [To Have and to Have Not](#)



**It's time for 99% of Americans to mobilize and aggressively move on common sense political reforms.**

**Y**es, of course, we all have very strong differences of opinion on many issues. However, like our Founding Fathers before us, we must put aside our differences and unite to fight a common enemy.

It has now become evident to a critical mass that the Republican and Democratic parties, along with all three branches of our government, have been bought off by a well-organized Economic Elite who are tactically destroying our way of life. The harsh truth is that 99% of the US population no longer has political representation. The US economy, government and tax system is now blatantly rigged against us.

Current statistical societal indicators *clearly* demonstrate that a strategic attack has been launched and an analysis of current governmental policies prove that conditions for 99% of Americans will continue to deteriorate. The Economic Elite have engineered a financial coup and have brought war to our doorstep. . . and make no mistake, they have launched a war to eliminate the US middle class.

To those who feel I am using extreme rhetoric, I ask you to please take a few minutes of your time to hear me out and research the evidence put forth. The facts are there for the unprejudiced, rational and reasoned mind to absorb. It is the unfortunate reality of our current crisis.

Unless we all unite and organize on common ground, our very way of life and the ideals that our country was founded upon will continue to unravel.

Before exposing *exactly* who the Economic Elite are, and discussing common sense ways in which we can defeat them, let's take a look at how much damage they have already caused.

## I: Casualties of Economic Terrorism, Surveying the Damage

The devastating numbers across-the-board on the economic front are staggering. I'll go through some of them here, many we have already become all too familiar with. We hear some of these numbers all the time, so much so that it appears as if we have already begun "to normalize the unthinkable." You may be sick of hearing them, but behind each number is an enormous amount of individual suffering, American lives and families who are [struggling worse than they ever have](#).

America is the richest nation in history, yet we now have the highest poverty rate in the industrialized world with an unprecedented number of Americans living in dire straits and [over 50 million](#) citizens already living in poverty.

The government has come up with clever ways to downplay all of these numbers, but we have over 50 million people who need to use [food stamps to eat](#), and a stunning [50% of US children](#) will use a food stamp to eat at some point in their childhood. Approximately 20,000 people are added to this total *every day*. In 2009, one out of five US households didn't have enough money to buy food. In households with children, [this number rose to 24%](#), as the hunger rate among US citizens has now reached [an all time high](#).

We also currently have over 50 million US citizens without healthcare. [1.4 million Americans](#) filed for bankruptcy in 2009, a 32% increase from 2008. As bankruptcies continue to skyrocket, medical bankruptcies are responsible for [over 60%](#) of them, and over [75% of the medical bankruptcies](#) filed are from people who *have* healthcare insurance. We have the most expensive healthcare system in the world, we are forced to pay [twice as much as other countries](#) and the overall care we get in return [ranks 37th](#) in the world.

In total, Americans have lost [\\$5 trillion](#) from their pensions and savings since the economic crisis began and [\\$13 trillion](#) in the value of their homes. During the first full year of the crisis, workers between the age of 55 - 60, who have worked for 20 - 29 years, have lost an average of [25% off their 401k](#). "Personal debt has risen from 65% of income in 1980 to [125% today](#)." Over [five million US families](#) have already lost their homes, in total [13 million US families](#) are expected to lose their home by 2014, with 25% of current mortgages underwater. Deutsche Bank has an even grimmer prediction: "The percentage of 'underwater' loans may rise to 48 percent, or [25 million homes](#)." Every day [10,000 US homes](#) enter foreclosure. Statistics show that an increasing number of these people are not finding shelter elsewhere, there are now [over 3 million homeless](#) Americans, the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is single parents with children.

One place more and more Americans are finding a home is in prison. With a prison population of [2.3 million people](#), we now have more people incarcerated than any other nation in the world - the per capita statistics are [700 per 100,000 citizens](#). In comparison, China has 110 per 100,000, France has 80 per 100,000, Saudi Arabia has 45 per 100,000. The prison industry is thriving and expecting major growth over the next few years. A recent report from the Hartford Advocate titled "[Incarceration Nation](#)" revealed that "a new prison opens every week somewhere in America."

## Mass Unemployment

The government unemployment rate is [deceptive on several levels](#). It doesn't count people who are "involuntary part-time workers," meaning workers who are working part-time but want to find full-time work. It also doesn't count "discouraged workers," meaning long-term unemployed people who lost hope and don't consistently look for work. As time goes by, more and more people stop consistently looking for work and are [discounted from the unemployment figure](#). For instance, in January, [1.1 million workers](#) were eliminated from the unemployment total because they were "officially" labeled "discouraged workers." So instead of the number rising, we will hear deceptive reports about unemployment leveling off.

On top of this, the Bureau of Labor Statistics recently discovered that 824,000 job losses were never accounted for due to a "[modeling error](#)" in their data. Even in their initial January data there appears to be a huge understating, with the newest report saying the economy lost 20,000 jobs. TrimTabs employment analysis, which has consistently provided more accurate data, "estimated that the U.S. economy shed [104,000 jobs in January](#)."

When you factor in all these uncounted workers — "involuntary part-time" and "discouraged workers" — the unemployment rate rises [from 9.7% to over 20%](#). In total, we now have [over 30 million](#) US citizens who are unemployed or underemployed. The rarely cited "employment-participation" rate, which reveals the percentage of the population that is currently in the workforce, has now [fallen to 64%](#).

Even based on the "official" unemployment rate, just to get back to the unemployment level of 4.6% that we had in 2007, we need to create [over 10 million new jobs](#), and most every serious economist will tell you that these jobs are not coming back. In fact, we are still consistently shedding jobs, on just one day, January 27th, several companies announced new cuts of [more than 60,000 jobs](#).

Due to the length of this crisis already, millions of Americans are reaching a point where the unemployment benefits that they have been surviving off of are coming to an end. More workers have already been out of work longer than at any point since statistics have been recorded, with [over six million](#) now unemployed for over six months. A record [20 million Americans](#) qualified for unemployment insurance benefits last year, causing [27 states to run out of funds](#), with seven more also expected to go into the red within the next few months. In total, [40 state programs](#) are expected to go broke.

Most economists believe that the unemployment rate will remain high for the foreseeable future. What will happen when we have millions of laid-off workers without any unemployment benefits to save them?

## **Working More for Less**

The millions struggling to find work are just part of the story. Due to the fact that we now have a record high [six people for every one job opening](#), companies have been able to further increase the workload on their remaining employees. They have been able to increase the [amount of hours](#) Americans are working, reduce wages and drastically cut back on benefits. Even though Americans were already the [most productive workers in the world](#) before the economic crisis, in the third quarter of 2009, average worker productivity increased by an [annualized rate of 9.5%](#), at the same time unit labor cost [decreased by 5.2%](#). This has led to record profits for many companies. Of the 220 companies in the S&P 500 who have reported fourth-quarter results thus far, 78% of them had “better-than-expected profits” with earnings 17% above expectations, “the [highest for any quarter](#) since Thomson Reuters began tracking data.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national median wage was only [\\$32,390 per year](#) in 2008, and median household income [fell by 3.6%](#) while the unemployment rate was 5.8%. With the unemployment rate now at 10%, median income has been [falling at a 5% rate](#) and is expected to continue its decline. Not surprisingly, Americans’ job satisfaction level is now at [an all time low](#).

There are also a growing number of employed people who, despite having a job, are still living in poverty. There are [at least 15 million workers](#) who now fall into this rapidly growing category. \$32,390 a year is not going to get you far in today’s economy, and *half of the country* is making less than that. This is why many Americans are now [forced to work two jobs](#) to provide for their family to *hopefully* make ends meet.

## **A Crime Against Humanity**

The mainstream news media will numb us to this horrifying reality by endlessly talking about the latest numbers, but they never piece them together to show you the whole devastating picture, and they rarely show you all the [immense individual suffering](#) behind them. This is how they “normalize the unthinkable” and make us become passive in the face of such a high casualty count.

Behind each of these numbers, is a tremendous amount of misery, the physical toll is only outdone by the [severe psychological toll](#). Anyone who has had to [put off medical care](#), or who couldn’t get medical care for one of their family members due to financial circumstances, can tell you about the psychological toll that is on top of the physical suffering. Anyone who has felt the stress of wondering how they were going to get their child’s next meal or their own, or the stress of not knowing how you are going to [pay the mortgage](#), rent, electricity or heat bill, let alone the car payment, gas, phone, cable or internet bill.

*There are now well over 150 million Americans who feel stress over these things [on a consistent basis](#). Over 60% of Americans now live [paycheck to paycheck](#).*

These are all *basic* things that every person should be able to *easily* afford in a technologically advanced society such as ours. The reason why we struggle with these things is because the Economic Elite have robbed us all. This amount of suffering in the United States of America is literally a *crime against humanity*.

## II: The Rise of the Economic Elite

“The war against working people should be understood to be a real war.... Specifically in the U.S., which happens to have a highly class-conscious business class.... And they have long seen themselves as fighting a bitter class war, except they don't want anybody else to know about it.” -- [Noam Chomsky](#)



**A**s a record number of US citizens are struggling to get by, many of the largest corporations are experiencing record-breaking profits, and CEOs are receiving [record-breaking bonuses](#). How could this be happening; how did we get to this point?

The Economic Elite have escalated their attack on US workers over the past few years; however, this attack began to build intensity in the 1970s. In 1970, CEOs made [\\$25 for every \\$1](#) the average worker made. Due to technological advancements, production and profit levels exploded from 1970 - 2000. With the lion's share of increased profits going to the CEOs, this pay ratio dramatically rose to [\\$90 for CEOs to \\$1](#) for the average worker.

As ridiculous as that seems, an [in-depth study](#) in 2004 on the explosion of CEO pay revealed that, including stock options and other benefits, CEO pay is more accurately [\\$500 to \\$1](#).

Paul Buchheit, from DePaul University, revealed, “From 1980 to 2006 the [richest 1% of America tripled](#) their after-tax percentage of our nation's total income, while the bottom 90% have seen their share drop over 20%.” Robert Freeman added, “Between 2002 and 2006, it was even worse: an astounding three quarters of all the economy's growth was [captured by the top 1%](#).”

Due to this, the United States already had the highest inequality of wealth in the industrialized world prior to the financial crisis. Since the crisis, which has hit the average worker much harder than CEOs, the gap between the top one percent and the remaining 99% of the US population has grown to a [record high](#). The economic top one percent of the population now owns over [70% of all financial assets](#), an all-time record.

As mentioned before, just look at the first full year of the crisis when workers lost an average of [25 percent off their 401k](#). During the same time period, the wealth of the 400 richest Americans *increased* by \$30 billion, bringing their [total combined wealth to \\$1.57 trillion](#), which is more than the combined net worth of 50% of the US population. Just to make this point clear, 400 people have more wealth than [155 million people combined](#).

Meanwhile, 2009 was a record-breaking year for Wall Street bonuses, as firms issued [\\$150 billion](#) to their executives. 100% of these bonuses are a direct result of our tax dollars, so if we used this

money to create jobs, instead of giving it to a handful of top executives, we could have paid an annual salary of \$30,000 to 5 million people.

So while US workers are now working more hours and have become dramatically more productive and profitable, our pay is actually declining and all the dramatic increases in wealth are going straight into the pockets of the Economic Elite.

If our income had kept pace with compensation distribution rates established in the early 1970s, we would all be making at least three times as much as we are currently making. How different would your life be if you were making \$120,000 a year, instead of \$40,000?

So it should come as no surprise to see that we now have the highest inequality of wealth in the industrialized world and the highest inequality of wealth in our nation's history. The backbone of America, a hard-working middle class that has made our country a world leader, has been devastated.

Now that we have a better understanding of how our income has been suppressed over the past forty years, let's take a look at how the economy has been designed to take the limited money we receive and put it into the hands of the Economic Elite as well.

## **Costs of Living**

Outside of the workplace, in almost all our costs of living the system is now blatantly rigged against us. Let's take a look at it, starting with our tax system.

In total, the average US citizen is forced to give up approximately 30% of our income in taxes. This tax system is now strategically designed to flow straight into the hands of the Economic Elite. A huge percentage of our tax dollars ultimately ends up in their pockets. The past decade proves that — whether it's the Republicans or the Democrats running the government — our tax money is not going into our community; it is going into the pockets of the billionaires who have bought off both parties - it is obscene.

For an example of how this system flows to the Economic Elite, just look at the Wall Street "bailout." The real size of the bailout is estimated to be [\\$14 trillion](#) - and could end up costing trillions more than that. By now you are probably also sick of hearing about the bailout, but stop and think about this for a moment... Do you comprehend how much \$14 trillion is?

What could be accomplished with this money is almost beyond common comprehension.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg that has hit us. On top of the trillions given to the Wall Street elite, we already have a record [\\$12.3 trillion](#) in national debt - and we now have to pay \$500 billion in interest to the Economic Elite on this debt *every year*, yet another way they are milking us dry. When you add in unfunded liabilities owed, like social security payments, we actually owe a stunning [\\$74 trillion](#). That adds up to a debt of \$242,000 for every man, woman and child in America.

Trillions more, [25% of taxpayer dollars](#) allocated to military spending goes [unaccounted for every year](#), not to mention the billions spent on [overcharging and outright fraud](#). During the War on Terror, the Economic Elite have used our tax money to build a private army that has more soldiers deployed than the US military - a congressional study revealed that [69% of the "US" fighting forces](#) deployed throughout the world in our name are in fact private mercenaries, [80% of them are foreign nationals](#). Private contractors regularly get paid [three to five times more](#) than our soldiers, and have been repeatedly caught overcharging and committing [fraud on a massive scale](#). A congressional investigation revealed this and strongly recommended that we seize [wasting tax dollars](#) on these private military contractors. However, under Obama, there has actually been a [drastic increase](#) in total tax dollars spent on them.

In 2009, just over [\\$1 trillion tax dollars](#) were spent on the military. It's safe to say that at least \$350 billion of that was needlessly wasted.

When you research our tax system you see an unprecedented level of waste and fraud rampant throughout most expenditures. Our tax system is a national disaster of epic proportions. It is literally an organized criminal operation that continues to rob us in broad daylight, with *zero accountability*.

Politicians and mainstream "news" outlets will not tell you this, but most every serious economist knows that due to so much theft and debt created in the tax system, the only way to fix things, other than stopping the theft and seizing the trillions that have been stolen, will be for the government to cut [important social funding](#) and drastically *raise our taxes*. Other than the record national debt, many [states are running record deficits](#) and ["barreling toward economic disaster"](#), raising the likelihood of higher taxes, more government layoffs and deep cuts in services." Our nation's [biggest state economies](#), like California and New York, are the ones in most trouble.

To merely say that things will not be improving economically is to be a delusional optimist. The truth that you will not hear: we have been hit by an [economic deathblow](#) and the United States *lays in ruins*.

It's not just this criminal tax system; the theft is now built into all our costs of living.

Trillions more in our spending on food and fuel have been stolen due to fraudulent stock transactions and overcharging. Just ten years ago, in 2000, American families paid 7% of our income on food and fuel. [We now pay 20%](#). This drastic increase is primarily driven by fraudulent market manipulation that drives up stock prices. Congress [uncovered this in 2006](#), as part of the Enron investigation. They found that companies manipulated the oil market to create major spikes in stock values, but then Congress didn't do anything about it. Nothing to see here, *just move on*.

As mentioned before, we have the most expensive health care system in the world and we are forced to pay [twice as much as other countries](#), and the overall care we get in return [ranks 37th](#) in the world. On average, US citizens are now paying a record high [8% of their income](#) on medical care.



One of the reasons why foreclosure rates are so high is because the percentage of income Americans pay on their housing has risen to 34%.

So for these basic necessities - taxes, food, fuel, shelter and medical bills - we have already lost 92% of our limited income. Then factor in ever-increasing interest rates on credit cards, student loans, rising prices for cable, internet, phone, bank fees, etc., etc., etc.... We are being robbed and gouged in all costs of living, in every aspect of our life. No wonder bankruptcies are skyrocketing and the number of people suffering from [psychological depression](#) has reached an epidemic level.

The American worker is screwed over every step of the way, and it all starts with the explosion in the [cost of a college education](#). This is one of the Economic Elite's most devastating weapons. To have any chance of succeeding in this economy, it is commonly believed that you must attend the best college possible. With the rising costs involved, today's students are graduating with [record levels of debt from student loans](#). At the same time, the unemployment rate among recent college graduates has risen [higher than the national average](#), and those who do find work are making significantly less than they expected to make. This combination of extreme debt and reduced pay has [crippled an entire generation](#) right from the start and has put them in a vicious cycle of spiraling debt that they will struggle with for the rest of their lives. The most recent college graduates are now known as a "[lost generation](#)."

The American dream has turned into a nightmare. The economic system is a sophisticated prison cell; the indentured servant is now an indebted wage slave; whips and chains have evolved into debts.

"There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation.  
One is by sword. The other is by debt."

-- [John Adams](#)

## **Concealing National Wealth**

"Liberty in the concrete signifies release from the impact of particular oppressive forces; emancipation from something once taken as a normal part of human life but now experienced as bondage.... Today, it signifies liberation from material insecurity and from the coercions and repressions that prevent multitudes from participation in the vast cultural resources that are at hand." -- [John Dewey](#)

When you take the time to research and analyze the wealth that has gone to the economic top one percent, you begin to realize just how much we have been robbed. Trillions upon trillions of dollars that could make the lives of all hard-working Americans much easier have been strategically funneled into the coffers of the Economic Elite. The denial of wealth is the key to the Economic Elite's power. An entire generation of massive wealth creation has been strategically withheld from 99% of the US population.

The US public doesn't have any understanding of how much wealth has been generated and concentrated into the hands of the Economic Elite over the past 40 years; there is no historical

frame of reference. This withholding of wealth is truly the greatest *crime against humanity* in the history of civilization.

What could be done with all the money that has been hoarded by the Economic Elite is extraordinary!

Let's consider what we could do with the money that has been stolen from us. On top of what should be our average six-figure yearly income, we could have:

- \* Free health care for every American,
- \* A free 4 bedroom home for every American family,
- \* 5% tax rate for 99% of Americans,
- \* Drastically improved public education and free college for all,
- \* Significantly improved public transportation and infrastructure,

The list goes on...

This is not some far-fetched fantasy. These are all things that [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) talked about doing in the 1940s, long before the explosion of wealth creation in our technologically advanced global economy. The money for all this is already there, stashed into the claws of the Economic Elite. The denial of wealth to the masses is the key to the Economic Elite's power. Outside of outdated and obsolete economic models and theories — and incredibly short-sighted greed — there is no reason why all this money should be kept in the hands of a few, at the immense suffering and expense of the many.

If Americans could just understand how much wealth is being withheld from us, we would have a massive uprising and the Economic Elite would be swept away, into the history books alongside the evil despots of the past.

“For if leisure and security were enjoyed by all alike, the great mass of human beings who are normally stupefied by poverty would become literate and would learn to think for themselves; and when once they had done this, they would sooner or later realize that the privileged minority had no function, and they would sweep it away. In the long run, a hierarchical society was only possible on a basis of poverty and ignorance.”

-- [George Orwell](#)

Now that we have a better understanding of how the Economic Elite dominate our lives, let's take a look at exactly who *they* are....

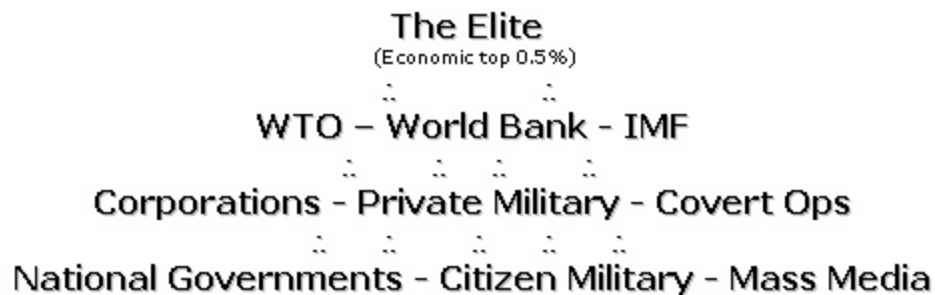
### **III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite**



“The money powers prey upon the nation in times of peace and conspire against it in times of adversity. It is more despotic than a monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, and more selfish than bureaucracy. It denounces as public enemies, all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes... As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money powers of the country will endeavor to prolong it's reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”

-- [Abraham Lincoln](#)

## **The Axis of Greed**



### **U.S. Elite**

#### **Institutions:**

Federal Reserve  
Business Council  
Bilderberg Group  
Conference Board  
Brookings Institute  
Advertising Council  
Heritage Foundation  
Trilateral Commission  
Business Round Table  
Chamber of Commerce  
Federal Trade Commission  
Council on Foreign Relations  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Enterprise Institute

American Bankers Association  
Pharm Research & Manufacturers  
Public Relations Society of America  
American Psychological Association  
Project for a New American Century  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Committee for Economic Development  
National Association of Manufacturers  
Carnegie / Ford / Rockefeller foundations  
Military / Media / Prison Industrial Complex

I don't view the Economic Elite as a small group of men who meet in secrecy to control the world. They do feature elements of conspiracy and are clearly composed of secretive organizations like the [Bildergroup](#) - this is not a conspiracy theory, this is a conspiracy fact - but as a whole the Economic Elite are primarily united by ideology. They're made up of thousands of individuals who subscribe to an *ideology of exploitation* and the belief that wealth and resources need to be concentrated into the fewest hands possible (theirs), at the expense of the many.

That being said, there are some definite lead players in this group and it is important that we are not too vague and expose the individuals who publicly lead them. Focusing on the fundamental structure of the US economy, we have people like Hank Paulson, Tim Geithner, Ben Bernanke, Robert Rubin, Larry Summers, Alan Greenspan, Lloyd Blankfein, Jamie Dimon, John Mack, Vikram Pandit, John Thain, Hank Greenberg, Ken Lewis, John J. Castellani, Edward Yingling and Tom Donohue.

In total, the Economic Elite are made up of about 0.5% of the US population. At the center of this group is the [Business Roundtable](#), an organization representing Fortune 500 CEOs that is also interlocked with several lead elite organizations. Most Americans have never heard of the Business Roundtable. However, in my analysis, it is the most influential and powerful Economic Elite organization.

“The Business Roundtable joined the Business Council at the heart of both the corporate community and the policy-formation network and now has the most powerful role.... The Roundtable's interlocks with other policy groups and with think tanks are presented [below].” -- [G. William Domhoff, Who Rules America?](#)



The Roundtable's first year of operation was 1972, which coincided with the beginning of the CEO salary explosion, and has been the driving force behind the unprecedented concentration of wealth since their inception. Their dominance over the US economy and government is unparalleled. Their members are a Who's Who of everything that is wrong with our economy. Here is a partial list of some of [their lead members](#):

- Lloyd C. Blankfein, Goldman Sachs
- James Dimon, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- James P. Gorman, Morgan Stanley
- Vikram S. Pandit, Citigroup, Inc.
- Brian T. Moynihan, Bank of America
- Brendan McDonagh, HSBC
- Robert W. Selander, MasterCard Incorporated
- Kenneth I. Chenault, American Express Company
- Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation
- Glenn A. Britt, Time Warner Cable Inc.
- Philippe Dauman, Viacom, Inc.
- Jeffrey R. Immelt, General Electric Company
- Brian L. Roberts, Comcast Corporation
- Steven A. Ballmer, Microsoft Corporation
- John T. Chambers, Cisco Systems, Inc.
- Randall L. Stephenson, AT&T Inc.
- Ivan G. Seidenberg, Verizon Communications
- David G. DeWalt, McAfee, Inc.
- Steven R. Loranger, ITT Corporation
- Paul T. Hanrahan, AES Corporation, The
- Riley P. Bechtel, Bechtel Group, Inc.
- W. James McNerney, Boeing Company, The
- Rex W. Tillerson, Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Marvin E. Odum, Shell Oil Company
- John S. Watson, Chevron Corporation
- James J. Mulva, ConocoPhillips

John B. Hess, Hess Corporation  
James E. Rogers Duke Energy Corporation  
J. Larry Nichols, Devon Energy Corporation  
Ronald A. Williams, Aetna Inc.  
David Cordani, CIGNA  
Jeffrey B. Kindler , Pfizer Inc.  
Angela F. Braly, WellPoint, Inc.  
John C. Lechleiter, Eli Lilly and Company  
Edward B. Rust, Jr., State Farm  
Andrew N. Liveris, Dow Chemical  
James W. Owens, Caterpillar Inc.  
Ellen J. Kullman, DuPont  
Edward E. Whitacre Jr., General Motors Company  
Michael T. Duke, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

The Business Roundtable is the most powerful activist organization in the United States. Their leaders regularly lobby members of Congress behind closed doors and often meet privately with the President and his administration. Any legislation that affects Roundtable members has almost zero possibility of passing without their support.

For three major examples, look at healthcare and financial reform, along with the military budget. The healthcare reform bill devolved into what amounts to an [insurance industry bailout](#) and was drastically altered by Roundtable lobbyists representing interests like WellPoint, Aetna, Cigna, Pfizer, Eli Lilly and Johnson & Johnson. Obama and Congress are trying to please the Roundtable with a bill that supports their interests. This led to the [dropping of the public-option](#) put forth in the House bill. However, when it came to finishing the bill, Roundtable members began to walk away from the process. That's the real reason [why the reform bill has stalled](#). Obama will be meeting with the Roundtable on February 24th, in hopes of getting healthcare reform back on track. After that meeting, he will then hold a bipartisan healthcare meeting with members of congress.

Also being addressed in Obama's upcoming meeting with the Roundtable are [issues concerning financial reform](#). Almost every aspect of [financial reform](#) has been D.O.A. thanks to [Roundtable lobbyists](#) representing the interests of Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, Bank of America, HSBC, Master Card and American Express. They even pushed to make sure [Ben Bernanke was reconfirmed](#) as the head of the Federal Reserve and they have also guided Obama into [focusing on deficit reduction](#), now that their member companies are healthy again and making record profits after receiving trillions in government subsidies. The Roundtable played a pivotal role in the [appointment of Hank Paulson](#), formerly the CEO of Roundtable member Goldman Sachs, who replaced Roundtable member John Snow as US Treasury Secretary. The Roundtable also strongly lobbied on behalf of current [Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner](#) and White House National Economic Council Director [Larry Summers](#). Although there has been recent talk of Geithner being replaced at the Treasury, the lead choice to replace him is [Jamie Dimon](#), Roundtable member and CEO of JP Morgan Chase.

The drastic rise in military spending is also a result of Roundtable lobbyists pushing the interests of large military companies like Boeing and Bechtel, along with the largest oil companies like ExxonMobil, Shell, Hess and Chevron.

The Roundtable tells politicians what they want done, and the politicians do it. At times, Roundtable members even [write the laws themselves](#). On financial reform alone, those representing Wall Street firms gave “[\\$42 million](#) to lawmakers, mostly to members of the House and Senate banking committees and House and Senate leaders.” During the 2008 election cycle, they gave [\\$155 million](#): \$88 million to Democrats and \$67 million to Republicans. Keep in mind, this is the spending on just their financial reform initiative. When it came to health reform, they [gave even more](#).

When it comes to getting elected, over 90% of the time the candidate who simply spends more money on their campaign wins the election. The Roundtable and politicians recognize this fact, so the overwhelming majority of current elected officials [relied heavily](#) on campaign funding from Roundtable members, [including President Obama](#).

Shortly after Obama’s inauguration he held a [meeting with Roundtable members](#) at the St. Regis Hotel. The president of the Business Roundtable is John J. Castellani. Throughout the first nine months of Obama’s presidency, Castellani met with him at the White House more than any other person, with the exception of Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue. If you look at the records of people who have spent the [most time with Obama](#) in the White House, other than these two, another frequent visitor is Edward Yingling, the president of the American Bankers Association.

These organizations - the Business Roundtable, Chamber of Commerce and the American Bankers Association - along with the Federal Reserve, a secretive quasi-government private institution, form the center of the Economic Elite’s power structure. Since the bailout, the Federal Reserve has been working closely with private firm [BlackRock](#). Due to this relationship, BlackRock has emerged as the world’s largest money manager and now manages more assets than the Federal Reserve. They also “manage many of the Treasury Department’s [big investments](#).”

On a global level, you have economic institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and international treaties like NAFTA. These organizations already form a de facto world government that has rights beyond our constitutional rights and national sovereignty. If the WTO makes a ruling that goes against US law, the WTO ruling supersedes US law and wins out.

Here is how Global Exchange [explains these global institutions](#):

“The World Trade Organization is the most powerful legislative and judicial body in the world. By promoting the ‘free trade’ agenda of multinational corporations above the interests of local communities, working families, and the environment, the WTO has systematically undermined democracy around the world.... Unlike United Nations treaties, the International Labor Organization conventions, or multilateral environmental agreements, WTO rules can be enforced through sanctions. This

gives the WTO more power than any other international body. The WTO's authority even eclipses national governments.

[\[World Bank and International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)\]](#)

When the Bank and the Fund lend money to debtor countries, the money comes with strings attached. These strings come in the form of policy prescriptions called 'structural adjustment policies.' These policies—or SAPs, as they are sometimes called—require debtor governments to open their economies to penetration by foreign corporations, allowing access to the country's workers and environment at bargain basement prices. Structural adjustment policies mean across-the-board privatization of public utilities and publicly owned industries. They mean the slashing of government budgets, leading to cutbacks in spending on health care and education.... And, as their imposition in country after country in Latin America, Africa, and Asia has shown, they lead to deeper inequality and environmental destruction."

In addition to dominating our political and economic system, the Economic Elite have already created their own private military. Their private military is now [more powerful](#) than the US military. As mentioned earlier, private mercenaries now outnumber US soldiers and receive the lion's share of military spending.

Corporations like SAIC, Blackwater, Bechtel, Raytheon and Halliburton are composed of the most elite worldwide intelligence and military officers. These are the highly profitable and powerful entities that the Economic Elite turn to when national militaries and intelligence agencies - like the CIA, FBI or other government run entities - can't get the job done.

For instance, SAIC, a "[stealth company](#)" that most people have never heard of, is considered to be the brains of the entire US intelligence apparatus, more powerful than the much more popularly known CIA, NSA and FBI - all agencies that SAIC is deeply intertwined with. I urge you to research SAIC to get a crash course in how the true power structure functions. You can start by reading an excellent investigative report by Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele titled, "[Washington's \\$8 billion shadow](#)."

The Economic Elite dominate US intelligence and military operations. Other than the obvious geo-strategic reasons, the never-ending and ever-expanding War on Terror's objective is to drain the US population of more resources and further rob US taxpayers, while using our tax money to create a private military that is more powerful than the US military.

I think any logical person can see the [ominous implications](#) of having such a vast and powerful private military and intelligence complex, created for and used, in secrecy, by the Economic Elite. Outside of the blatant economic policy attacks, heavily armed and sophisticated covert powers led by small groups of Economic Elite are now a serious risk and present danger.

In conclusion, these economic and government policy forming organizations, along with their private military and intelligence corporations, form the core of the Economic Elite power structure.



“I think one has to say it’s not just simply a matter of capturing people and holding them accountable, but removing the sanctuaries, removing the support systems.”

-- [Paul Wolfowitz](#)

## IV: The Financial Coup d’Etat



**A**lthough most of the Economic Elite live and operate inside the US, they are not concerned for our future. To them, the entire world is theirs and they work intimately with other elites throughout the world against the interests of the US public. Ever since the days of Henry Ford, the Economic Elite have needed a thriving US middle class to increase growth and

profits, but now, in the global economy, they view the US middle class as obsolete. They increasingly look globally for profits and they would rather pay cheap labor in countries like China and India. On top of the millions of jobs they have already shipped overseas to increase profits at our expense, they are planning to ship an additional [25% of current US jobs](#) overseas as well.

They now see us as the biggest obstacle to their continued consolidation of wealth and resources. This is why they have stepped up their attack on us.

If you want further proof of this, all one needs to do is study the Wall Street bailout. The entire bailout is strategically designed to eliminate the US middle class. Every time you hear the word “bailout,” you should think “coup d’état.” Here is the definition of [coup d’état](#):

“A coup d’état or coup for short, is the sudden unconstitutional deposition of a government, usually by a small group of the existing state establishment... to replace the deposed government with another.... A coup d’état succeeds when the usurpers establish their legitimacy if the attacked government fail to thwart them, by allowing their (strategic, tactical, political) consolidation and then receiving the deposed government’s surrender; or the acquiescence of the populace and the non-participant military forces.

Typically, a coup d’état uses the extant government’s power to assume political control of the country. In *Coup d’État: A Practical Handbook*, military historian Edward Luttwak says: ‘A coup consists of the infiltration of a small, but critical, segment of the state apparatus, which is then used to displace the government from its control of the remainder’, thus, armed force (either military or paramilitary) is not a defining feature of a coup d’état.”

The bailout was [a financial coup](#), an intelligence operation to seize control of the US economy and tax system. It is similar to what the Economic Elite have done through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in many other countries throughout the world. It is clearly a case of economic imperialism. When financial coups are carried out in other countries, they call it a [Structural](#)

[Adjustment Program](#) (SAP). The end result is the theft of working class wealth, the privatization of public functions and resources, rising unemployment, the elimination of the middle class and increasing taxation and debt that turns the overwhelming majority of the nation into a peasant class. This is exactly the [track we are on now](#).

Just look at how they have already done this in [many other countries](#), and then [look at the "bailout."](#)

The success of the coup is clear by the control of the US Treasury by Goldman Sachs criminal masterminds Hank Paulson and Tim Geithner, and the continued control of the Federal Reserve by Ben Bernanke.



In 1970, Hank Paulson began his career in the Pentagon working for Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. In 1972, he then moved to the White House, where he worked for the Nixon Administration. He was “the [assistant to John Ehrlichman](#) during the events of the Watergate scandal for which Ehrlichman was convicted, and sentenced to prison.” After Paulson’s disgraced exit from the political world, he joined Goldman Sachs in 1974, eventually becoming CEO in 1999 when he led an effort to force out Goldman’s previous CEO John Corzine. While leading Goldman, Paulson developed very intimate relations with [members of the Chinese elite](#), visiting the country over 70 times.

In 2004, during his time as Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, Paulson personally led a successful effort to get the SEC to remove the “[net capital rule](#),” which was a “requirement that their brokerages hold reserve capital that limited their leverage and risk exposure.” This was the biggest reason why the economic crisis happened. With the “net capital rule” out of the way, Goldman Sachs and other major Wall Street firms with over \$5 billion in assets were free to engage in high risk/high reward behavior. This led to the housing bubble with the creation of [high risk speculation](#), essentially rigged Ponzi-style scams like “[mortgage-backed securities, credit derivatives, and credit default swaps](#)... and other exotic structured finance instruments that only highly-trained mathematicians understand, based on models that are beyond the comprehension of most traders.”

After making over \$700 million on these [shady high risk activities](#) that created a ticking time bomb in our economy, Paulson left Goldman Sachs to run the US Treasury. Shortly after that, the speculative trading scams blew up, and there was the man who played the most pivotal role in causing the economy to crash now running the US Treasury and in charge of “maneuvering” trillions of dollars in national wealth to “fix” the economy. It was time for Paulson, along with his close confidant Tim Geithner, then heading the NY Federal Reserve Bank, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, to engineer the [greatest theft of wealth in history](#) with the “bailout.”

Paulson quickly brought in several former Goldman Sachs partners to help him engineer the coup. A pivotal Paulson asset was former Goldman executive Dan Jester, who Paulson quickly hired as a “contractor.” As Robert E. Prasch [recently reported](#), “Jester was never appointed by Congress or otherwise vetted before taking up his role as the Treasury’s de facto central player in the crucial decisions that marked that fall’s bailout of Wall Street.” Paulson’s most publicized move was the \$700 billion Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP). This was a blatant [no-strings attached giveaway](#) of taxpayer money, handed directly to Wall Street’s biggest players. To oversee the TARP operation, Paulson brought in Goldman Sachs Vice President [Neel Kashkari](#).

Another egregious unilateral move by Paulson was [installing Edward Liddy](#), one of his former board members at Goldman Sachs, as [CEO of AIG](#). Liddy was the Chairman of Goldman’s Audit Committee, making him the most knowledgeable person regarding Goldman’s [collateralized debt obligations](#) (CDOs). Paulson knew these CDOs would go bust because they were based on [fraudulent activities](#), essentially a massive Ponzi scheme. So Paulson and Goldman Sachs covered their risk by [insuring them through AIG](#), making it pivotal to save AIG and have one of his most trusted allies run the company. With Liddy in place, billions of taxpayer dollars were secretly funneled by the [Geithner-led NY Federal Reserve through AIG](#) to Goldman Sachs and several other Wall Street elite counterparties. Without the AIG bailout, Goldman Sachs would have collapsed as a result of their own Ponzi scheme.

The assassinations of Goldman rivals [Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers](#), and the forced Bank of



America acquisition of Merrill Lynch were all equally scandalous actions as well. The hidden hand of the Bernanke-led Federal Reserve’s secret “black magic” tactics — which [created and distributed trillions of dollars](#) — turned Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs into [bank holding companies](#) overnight, which gave them access to trillions of dollars to further [manipulate the market](#) and create record setting profits.

Every step of the way, the *economic terrorist organization* led by Paulson, Geithner and Bernanke held our economy *hostage* by declaring that all their demands must be met or the entire [economy would be destroyed](#), as a result of the very actions the players being rewarded had taken. (I don’t use the words “economic terrorists” as hyperbole. The threat posed by them and the amount of death, destruction and misery they have already caused the United States is much greater than that caused by Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda - it’s not even close.)

Through the crisis, the fundamental structure of the stock market has been [proven to be a scam](#). The [Ponzi scheme activities](#), outright [market manipulation](#) and massive [worldwide fraud](#) perpetrated by Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, AIG, the three [major ratings agencies](#) and several other Wall Street elite firms are blatant. Just in the [housing](#) and [oil futures](#) markets alone, the [criminal activity](#) and economic theft is in the *multi-trillions*.

By looking the other way, the [SEC, Congress and Presidents Bush and Obama](#) are complicit. An analysis of actions taken, or most often not taken, by the leaders of both the Republican and Democratic parties prove that they are now accomplices. They have not only let it happen; they

continue to look the other way and have been stonewalling laws, investigations and prosecutions in what is [clearly criminal activity](#).

If we had a nation of law, none of these things would have happened. This proves to anyone who cares to look that we now live in a Banana Republic. Our democracy has clearly become a farce.

The overwhelming majority of our politicians are now on the [Economic Elite payroll](#). This financial coup started under Hank Paulson in the Bush Administration and has been carried through, without even the slightest hitch, under Geithner in the Obama Administration, and all along Ben Bernanke has been leading the Federal Reserve. Bernanke's reconfirmation shows you who the co-conspirators are - just look at the [members of Congress who voted for it](#).

All three branches of our government are now complicit in what is literally the [greatest theft of wealth in history](#), along with a mainstream "news" media that keeps going about their "reporting," as if this wasn't a crime, business as usual. Nothing to see here...

## Obama's Role

As hard as it is for many Americans to admit, after a year in office it is now obvious, to those who study policy decisions, that Obama's rhetoric is very far from the reality of his actions. Outside of the tough talk Obama gives concerning "Wall Street Bankers," all evidence clearly demonstrates that [he is their puppet](#). The list of decisions that he has made to support the Economic Elite at our expense is already extensive.

As mentioned before, the fact that the bailout started under Bush and went straight through without a hitch under Obama is proof enough. On top of this, Obama's campaign was [heavily financed](#) by Goldman Sachs, and prior to the election Obama [often spoke with Paulson](#). An analysis of phone records shows that Obama and Paulson engaged in 26 direct calls *prior to the election*. "Paulson placed more than [twice as many](#) individual outgoing calls to [candidate] Obama (14) as to President Bush (6)."

As soon as Obama was elected, he got rid of all the economic advisors he had during his campaign and replaced them with Wall Street insiders who were committed to ["turning the bailout into an all-out giveaway"](#). He took the [main players](#) that caused the economic crisis to begin with, and put them [in charge of economic policy](#).

Right from the start he appointed Tim Geithner, Paulson's right-hand man, to run the US Treasury. Mark Patterson, a former Goldman Sachs lobbyist, then became [Geithner's Chief of Staff](#) with the direct approval of Obama. Geithner has surrounded himself with many aides that formerly worked for Goldman Sachs, ["none of whom faced Senate confirmation."](#) Obama also allowed Adam Storch, a Goldman Sachs VP, to become "the first chief operating officer of the Securities and Exchange Commission's [enforcement division](#)." Obama even [nominated](#) Goldman Sachs executive [Gary Gensler](#) to head



the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which regulates futures markets.” Gensler was “a high-level Treasury official in a 2000,” when he helped create a “law that exempted the [\\$58 trillion credit default swap market](#) from oversight.” Another major player in the economic collapse was [Larry Summers](#), who Obama quickly appointed as White House National Economic Council Director.

All of this is, in essence, the final stage of a *coup d'état*, with Obama now serving as their puppet.

Obama *clearly* has not held the thieves accountable. He has emboldened them in ways that led to record setting profits and bonuses - bonuses that are 100% a direct result of our tax money. He let them take the money, keep the money, and now he lets them continue to make *even more money*.

Even now, with all his new anti-Wall Street talk, his proposals are [extremely misguided and weak](#).

Obama always [deceptively frames the bailout](#) discussion in relation to the \$700 billion TARP program. He, along with the mainstream media, always seems to gloss over the fact that the bailout is much more than just the TARP program. TARP is a mere [2% of this multifaceted scam](#).

His *proposal* of a tax on Wall Street firms to get some of our tax money back is estimated to bring in \$90 billion over the next ten years. That works out to \$9 billion a year, compare that to the [\\$150 billion in bonuses handed out](#) by these same firms... just in the past year! The top Wall Street firms would [no longer even exist](#) if we didn't bail them out. Their profits are a direct result of our tax money. If Obama is serious about getting our money back, [100% of the record-breaking bonus money](#) that these thieves gave themselves should be going back into the tax system that it came from to pay down our national debt, lower our tax rates and create jobs.

The \$150 billion in bonuses handed out this year cost you \$500 of *your hard-earned money*. For a family of four, that's \$2000 that was taken from you and *your family* just this year and given directly to Wall Street bonuses. Think about that... Your personal money was taken from you and *your family*, and given directly to Goldman Sachs CEO [Lloyd Blankfein](#). In fact, your direct gift to Wall Street is much more than that; the \$2000 *your family* lost was just for this year's bonuses, much more of *your money* was [given away in the bailout](#). The real size of the bailout is estimated to be \$14 trillion, which works out to be \$46,662 for every man, woman and child in America.

On top of being bailed out with our tax money, Goldman Sachs, which just had its [most profitable quarter](#) in its 140-year history, only paid [1% in taxes in 2008!](#)

And now that Obama has given trillions of our dollars to Wall Street, he is all of a sudden so [concerned about our national deficit](#). That is disgraceful! When it came to the Economic Elite he could [give away trillions](#), but when it comes to the social infrastructure of the American public and [creating job programs](#), we all of a sudden have to be tight with our tax money and make “[painful choices](#).” When looking at Obama's latest \$100 billion jobs program, again, compare that to the \$150 billion in bonuses. If you want to know if Obama is serious about creating jobs, just look at where he gave his big “[Jobs Speech](#)” - at the Business Roundtable affiliated Brookings Institution. Thus again, confirming where his true loyalties lie.

Obama's sudden change of heart after the Massachusetts Senate election defeat is still [more empty rhetoric](#). His new found [support for Paul Volcker](#), and his proposals to bring back Glass-Steagall type laws to prevent another economic catastrophe sound great on the surface, but then you find out that Wall Street firms have already figured out ways [around these proposed laws](#). While it would be great to have Volcker creating the rules over the [Goldman Sachs-led team at the Treasury now](#), he is himself a former Federal Reserve Chairman who [represents JP Morgan Chase interests](#). Jamie Dimon, current JP Morgan Chase CEO and Business Roundtable member, is considered by Obama to be a possible replacement for Geithner at the Treasury. Replacing Goldman Sachs interests with JP Morgan interests is hardly change for the 99% of Americans who have seen their interests ignored thus far. JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs are two heads of the same monster.

An analysis of the "Volcker Rules" shows you the essence of what Obama is all about. The "Volcker Rules" are just more propaganda. First off, the rules do not go far enough. Simon Johnson [testified before the Senate Banking Committee](#) and summed them up by saying: "while the principles behind these proposed rules are exactly on target... the specific rule changes would need to be much tougher if they are to have any effect." Johnson earlier exposed the "Volcker Rules" to merely be a ["marketing slogan"](#).

Jeff Madrick, writing for the [Roosevelt Institute](#), rightly questioned if Obama's economists even did their homework when putting together the rule. "What is disturbing is how poorly the Volcker rule has been thought through. When first announced, it sounded like a worthy and needed step in the right direction, and a suggestion the Obama team was waking up to reality. But I also expected more sophisticated details to come. So far, there are none... it looks like they didn't give it much thought before announcing the plan. This is a critical error in judgment." Even if the flawed laws make it to the Senate floor, the Banking Committee has come out [strongly against them](#) as being too little, too late. To sum this all up, this is another case of Obama trying to make it look like he's doing something, when in reality, he isn't doing anything.

This is similar to Obama's \$75 billion taxpayer funded foreclosure-prevention program that has been a [spectacular failure](#) in stemming the foreclosure crisis. The Obama Administration [knew the program wasn't working](#) from the start, but they just sat back and let it continue to fail, wasting billions of taxpayer dollars in the process.

Even Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general for the TARP program, said the following in his January 30th [report to Congress](#): "It is hard to see how any of the fundamental problems in the [financial] system have been addressed to date.... Even if TARP saved our financial system from driving off a cliff back in 2008, absent meaningful reform, we are still driving on the same winding mountain road, but this time in a faster car." Now that the "Too Big to Fail" Wall Street elite know that the government will come in to bail them out, they are engaging in even riskier behavior than before.

As President [Theodore Roosevelt once declared](#) in a situation much like our current crisis, "Corporation cunning has developed faster than the law of nation or state. Corporations have found ways to steal long before we have found that they were susceptible to punishment for theft.

But sooner or later, unless there is a season of readjustment, there will come a riotous, wicked, murderous day of atonement.... These fools on Wall Street think that they can go on forever! They can't!"

It is hard to face the fact that we have been so taken advantage of and abandoned by the very people we supported and had put our hope and faith into. Americans need to understand that Obama, along with *most* of the Democrats and Republicans are not looking out for our best interests.

## V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy

"The conflicting propaganda of opposing parties is essentially what leads to political abstention. But this is not the abstention of the free spirit which asserts itself; it is the result of resignation, the external symptom of a series of inhibitions. Such a man has not decided to abstain; under diverse pressures, subjected to shocks and distortions, he can no longer (even if he wanted to) perform a political act. What is even more serious is that this inhibition not only is political, but also progressively takes over the whole of his being and leads to a general attitude of surrender." -- Jacques Ellul, [Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes](#)



The primary reason why the Economic Elite have gained such dominance is their commitment to psychological operations that divide-and-conquer the US public. They use their overwhelming influence over mainstream media outlets and political candidates in very clever ways to divide us.

It is known among political scientists that powerful forces always seek to gain control of pre-existing social and political institutions so they can usurp their powers. The Economic Elite gained control of both the Democratic and Republican political parties because they knew that hardworking Americans loyally followed these parties, and we believed these parties were looking out for our best interests. We have, for the most part, been lifelong Republicans or lifelong Democrats, but until we see that our favored party has been seized by power and greed addicted interests, we will all continue to lose. These are extremely hard truths to face, but until we face them, we will continue our decline.

With half the US population loyal to Democrats and the other half loyal to Republicans, gaining control of both these parties meant total control for them. The past decade is testament to their total control of both parties.

In manufactured public opinion, Obama represented a far left swing in US politics, and Bush represented a far right swing, and these two supposed polar opposites also had a Congress overwhelmingly run by members of their own party. Did we get drastically different policies? In what matters most, in both cases, the results were the same: more money and power for the Economic Elite and the continued decline of the US middle class. This fact is now undeniable.

Yes, there are definite differences in their rhetoric and on some social issues, but this is the key to the psychological operations, to the divide-and-conquer strategy that they use so effectively.

To distract and divide us, they use rhetoric on social issues like religion, gay marriage, abortion, etc., all serious and significant issues that we bitterly disagree on, but in the overall picture, these issues are secondary to the larger, more fundamental political and economic issues that lead to our wealth being stolen from us, and ultimately, our lives being increasingly dominated by a small few.

Bush appealed to conservative Republicans and then ran up the deficit to record levels. Obama appealed to liberal Democrats, but increased war spending and support for Wall Street billionaires. In both cases, the candidates severely divided the US middle class, but in the policy decisions that mattered most, they both sided with the economic top one percent at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Just look at the last few election cycles. In 2006 and 2008 US citizens rose up in record-breaking numbers to kick out the Republicans in power, whom they felt had betrayed them. Now, with the Democrats in power, the consensus seems to be that in the 2010 mid-term elections we will vote for Republicans and kick out the Democrats who have failed to deliver on the much needed and promised changes.

Do you not see the ridiculous nature of this divide-and-conquer strategy? This is a vicious cycle that will continue to lead to our destruction.

### **Psychological Operations 101: Obama Vs. Fox News**

For those of us who are strong enough to see beyond our propaganda-induced preconceptions and prejudices, the insidious nature of the Economic Elite's divide-and-conquer strategy is on full display in the feud between Obama and Fox News. About half of the country loves Obama and hates Fox News, and the other half loves Fox News but hates Obama. They both use very effective propaganda to seduce their followers. However, as hard as it is for people who love one of them to admit, they both serve the same masters.



Once again, let's look at Goldman Sachs. They financed Obama's campaign and he has rewarded them with policies that have led to them making [record-breaking profits](#), instead of investigating them for the many [illegal activities](#) they participated in and continue to take part in.

On the other side of this psychological operation, you have Fox News. When was the last time you saw Fox News doing an investigation into the [illegal practices of Goldman Sachs](#)? Even the Obama-appointed Tim Geithner, the Economic Elite's main man on the economy, escapes the significant focus of Fox News' powerful attack force.



Looking at the Business Roundtable, a significant majority of Obama's campaign funding came from Roundtable members and, as mentioned earlier, he frequently meets with Roundtable members. On the other hand, Fox News is owned by Roundtable member Rupert Murdoch, and Fox relies heavily on advertising money from Roundtable members. Rupert Murdoch even supported [Obama over McCain](#). As someone who monitors Fox News, I can't recall the last time I heard Fox reporting on the activities of the Business Roundtable, not that any mainstream "news" companies do.

The list of similarities between the two, when it comes to exposing and holding the Economic Elite accountable, is extensive. So here you have an excellent divide-and-conquer psychological operation. Fox News declares Obama the enemy, and Obama declares Fox the enemy, yet the Economic Elite remain in the shadows, behind the scenes, untouched and continuing their plunder.

Just think of all the misplaced outrage spent on these two puppets. Sure, people have many reasons to like and dislike both, but imagine if all the diehard Obama-haters focused their rage on the people who put Obama in power, and if the diehard Fox-haters stopped criticizing everything Fox says and focused on the Economic Elite who control the media environment in which Fox News operates.

If the Fox-haters and the Obama-haters united and focused their combined outrage on the common forces behind the both of them, we would all be much better off.

The most significant bias in the mainstream media is not the liberal or conservative views propagated to divide, distract, confuse and create apathy among the populace; the ultimate bias is in what is missing from the coverage. The investigative reporting on the most powerful forces within our society is left out of the discussion.

McClatchy, one of the few real journalism news organizations, has [repeatedly reported](#) on the illegal activities of Goldman Sachs and the [crime syndicate they operate in](#). Yet, an overwhelming majority of mainstream news outlets [ignore these reports](#) and nothing is done to hold Goldman Sachs accountable. In fact, two of the leading figures in the outright theft of our money have recently been lauded in their propaganda press. When you see Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke become the [Person of the Year](#) in *Time Magazine* and Goldman Sachs CEO Llyod Blankfein become the *Financial Times* [Man of the Year](#), you begin to see where the real media bias lies.

The main bias is in favor of the thieves who stole our country and economy, and own the mainstream media companies. The omni-present mainstream media is the greatest *weapon of oppression* humanity has ever known.

Although the Internet has had an impact, television news is still by far the [most influential news medium](#). Despite all the new information platforms, this year we have set a new record by watching an average of [four hours and 49 minutes](#) of TV per day. We have been subjected to heavy doses of propaganda on a daily basis, for hours a day, *every day of our lives*.

The mainstream media creates what is known in mass psychology as the “[spectrum of thinkable thought](#).” By constantly discussing and debating surface issues, they limit the range of debate. Having the Republican vs. Democrat paradigm leads us to never debating the underlying Economic Elite who control both of the parties, not to mention their ownership of the media platform on which this debate is taking shape. The more important underlying issues are never discussed, and therefore never enter public consciousness.

The censorship that is most prevalent today is the most dangerous form. Not the censorship of explicit words, sex, or violence, but the censorship of any thoughts outside of elite corporate ideology. Any debate that leads to critical thought on prevailing elite economic dominance is not allowed to enter into the mass media or mainstream public consciousness.

“We must conclude that a changeover is imminent and ineluctable in the co-opted caste who serve the interests of domination, and above all manage the protection of that domination. In such an affair, innovation will surely not be displayed [in the mainstream media]. It appears instead like lightning, which we know only when it strikes.”

-- Guy Debord, [Comments on the Society of the Spectacle](#)

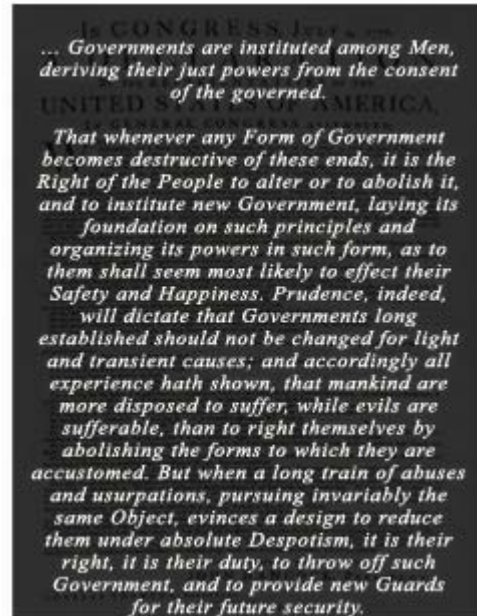


## VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won

Throughout this report, I have presented statistical and fact-based evidence to demonstrate that a strategic attack has been launched against 99% of Americans. Despite the efforts of the mainstream media and most current politicians, awareness of this reality is spreading throughout the United States. A recent Rasmussen poll found that only [21% of Americans](#) think that the government has the consent of the governed. An Opinion Research Corp. survey revealed that 86% believe “the system of [government is broken](#).”

An overwhelming majority of the population has come to the realization that our government doesn't effectively represent us anymore. It is just a matter of time before people start taking it upon themselves to begin organizing on a mass scale. Our survival instinct will soon overwhelm our conditioned passivity and erupt into a powerful countervailing force. However, the longer we hesitate and delay action, the harder it will be to obtain economic and political justice.

We cannot continue to stand by and watch our nation be raped and pillaged like this. We can no longer remain idle and passive while our families' futures are destroyed as we are sentenced to a slow death.



### It's time for 99% of Americans to mobilize and aggressively move on common sense political reforms.

We will obviously have many differences on how our country should be run, but we can all come together to dismantle the Economic Elite by making several pivotal political reforms. As long as the game is rigged in favor of the Economic Elite, we will all lose. So let's find common ground and focus on several obvious battles that we need to win, and can win:

#### Election Reform

“The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which all other rights are protected. To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery.”

-- Thomas Paine, [Dissertation on the First Principles of Government](#)

\* **Electronic Voting:** First and foremost, no private corporation should be able to tell us who has won an election without providing an auditable paper trail. Many Democrats felt that Bush stole the 2000 and 2004 elections, and many Republicans felt Obama stole the 2008 election. Of course people are going to feel that elections are stolen when you have a private corporation secretly counting the votes; it is the inevitable result when you can't verify the election results. In the past

few years companies that count the votes have been consolidating, and one company, ES&S, now secretly controls the majority of all our votes. As voting watchdog Brad Friedman stated, "With the ES&S takeover of Diebold/Premier, their nearest competitor, the privately-run election Goliath now has an un-overseeable lock on virtually every election in the United States of America." It is common sense to say that this is way too much power to be put into one private corporation.

\* **Campaign Finance:** The stunning ruling by the Supreme Court to allow unlimited political spending by the Economic Elite has made a bad situation even worse. We must level the playing field by enacting laws to prevent the overwhelming influence of big money interests in controlling politicians who are forced to pander to them for the ever-increasing need to raise more and more money to have any shot at winning public office. Statistics show how much the Economic Elite already dominate this process: over 90% of the time the candidate who simply spends more money on their campaign wins the election.

\* **The Two-Party Oligarchy:** We must end the two-party system by funding and voting for alternative parties. It is absurd and completely outdated to only have two dominant political parties in a technologically advanced nation of 309 million people. The two-party paradigm is obsolete and creates a system easily manipulated, as the past decade proves with the co-option of the Democratic and Republican parties. We can give our money and support to whomever we like - Libertarians, Tea Party, Progressives, Greens, Independents and the many soon-to-be-created political groups. However, it is pivotal that we immediately cease support for both the Republican and Democratic parties. We understand that there are representatives from both parties who are fighting for our interests, but they are very few and easily marginalized by paid-off party leaders.

\* **Getting on the Ballot:** Republicans and Democrats have created rules to make it increasingly difficult for opposing political parties to even get on the voting ballot. We must make this process easier and invite new parties onto the ticket.

\* **Debate Commission:** The Democratic and Republican control over who is allowed to participate in the nationally televised debates gives the two parties an insurmountable advantage over any other parties. If you are not even allowed to participate in them, you have no shot at winning. Along with this, *all candidates* should be given a fair share of television coverage.

\* **Voter Registration:** If you are a citizen, you should be automatically registered to vote.

## Governmental Policy Formation

\* **Secrecy, Transparency and Accountability:** Government secrecy is at the root of most of our current societal and economic problems. When decisions are made in secrecy, corruption will most often be the result. By throwing light and investigation on the government policy process, we can easily expose the Economic Elite's agenda and limit their influence. As part of this, all legislation and conference reports must be posted online prior to Congressional debate and vote.

\* **Lobbying:** Along with campaign finance, political lobbying is another way the Economic Elite can easily manipulate our political process financially, in what amounts to legalized bribery. In 2009, a record amount of money was spent lobbying Congress, and now with the new Supreme Court ruling, lobbyists will have even more power to manipulate the political process with what amounts to buying the laws of our nation. Lobbying activities behind closed doors must cease entirely and equal time must be given, transparently, to all the parties directly affected by the law being written.

\* **Shutting the Revolving Door:** No politician should be allowed to profit from government laws or policies which they have written or supported. The practice of leaving a major company to become a politician who then creates and/or supports laws that directly benefit the corporation he or she used to work for, or, conversely, politicians who leave public office to take a high-paying job for a company they have benefited, is a grotesque abuse and manipulation of the democratic process. The revolving door between politics and big business is worse than it has ever been and has corrupted the government like never before.

## Information Platforms

\* **Media Concentration:** Having a few large multinational corporations dominating the overwhelming majority of our news and information system will never lead to an informed citizenry. Only ten multinational corporations dominate our mainstream media system. These companies are run by 118 individuals who actively work to propagate Economic Elite rule. The people who run these media companies also sit on other corporate boards that often represent a major conflict of interest. Having only 118 people in ten companies dominating a system that creates public opinion for 309 million people is absurd. We must break up this information cartel and support a more diverse and vibrant independent press that fosters real investigative journalism.

\* **Net Neutrality:** The free and open architecture of the Internet is vital to our success. Without an open Internet our most powerful medium for research and communication, and key organizing tool, will be lost. The Internet must be protected from growing forces that seek to control it by limiting our access to information and our ability to communicate on a mass scale.

## Healthcare

\* **Medical Costs:** We have disagreements on how to best provide healthcare, but we all agree that whatever the method, the result needs to be lower costs. We have the most expensive healthcare system in the world and we now pay twice as much as other nations. Other than creating huge salaries for health industry-related executives, there isn't any reason why we should be forced to pay such outrageous sums of money for second-rate care. No American should die due to lack of money, or have to face bankruptcy in order to get life-sustaining treatments.

\* **Food and Water Supply:** Our food and water supply systems have become a major health hazard. The amount of harmful chemicals found in both our food and water have reached record levels and is causing alarming levels of sickness in a growing number of people.

## Real Economic Competition

\* **Most Americans Believe in Competition:** If a person works hard, is productive and good at what they do, most everyone believes that they should make more than a person who sits around looking for handouts. However, just as in sports, to maintain a competitive environment you have to have rules in place that prevent people from having an unfair advantage. For those who believe in competition, in capitalism and free markets, you have to acknowledge that what we have now is not a free market based on fair competition. It is a rigged market, where larger institutions like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have an unfair advantage. We cannot allow them to be beyond the law, manipulate the market and then receive taxpayer funds to increase profits and risk-taking while smaller companies, outside of Economic Elite circles, have to play by a much stricter set of rules.

You can't have free market capitalism when you have government policies favoring companies that have more political clout than others. What we have is socialism for the rich and trickle down economics for the rest of us. We have a market systemically designed to funnel money into the pockets of the richest. If the past few years have proved anything, they have proved that our economy is much more like a pyramid scheme than a free market, where the more money you have, the more money you make. So whatever your economic beliefs and theories might be, let's all come together to admit that our "free market" is an illusion. We need to make the economic playing field fair so we that can have real competition.

\* **Redistribution of Wealth:** Due to the rigging of our economic and political system, vast sums of wealth have been hoarded by the Economic Elite over the past 40 years. This money must be redistributed to the 99% of Americans who have been robbed and exploited. There will be much heated debate over how this money should be distributed, but we all need to agree that we must first hold the Economic Elite accountable and our wealth must be seized from them.

## Restore the Rule of Law

\* **Investigations and Prosecutions:** The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission has the power to reveal the inner workings of the financial coup. We must apply intense public pressure and

scrutiny to force the Commission into conducting a real investigation. Another urgent priority needs to be a much wider-ranging look at war profiteering. There has been some investigation, but not nearly enough and hardly any prosecution. These are just two of the many investigations that need to be launched. As long as we keep letting the Economic Elite get away with outright theft in broad daylight, we will never be able to restore a nation of law.



There are obviously other vital issues that need to be addressed, but these are the core common-ground issues that we must urgently rally around and support. Unless we organize and take decisive action on all these issues, we will all suffer the consequences of our collective inaction. Any politician who does not urgently move on these issues must be voted out of office and replaced by people who will aggressively fight on these fronts.

These are the core issues that keep the Economic Elite in power. As famed military strategist Carl von Clausewitz wrote in his study [“On War,”](#) it is pivotal to strike at this core structure, at “the hub of all power and movement, on which everything depends.”

To those Americans who feel powerless to change things, I say that your feelings are only a result of your induced delusion. You have become so propagandized that you do not even understand the significant position that you are in. We are not peasants trapped in a Third World existence. We are still a mass of people who have the power to change the course of history. The Economic Elite realize this, which is why they are attacking us with an increased intensity.

## **Why We Must Take Mass Organized Action Now: The Devastation Ahead**

Market Watch recently ran an article entitled, [“Death of American Capitalism: The 10 final scenes.”](#) The article references Charlie Munger, Warren Buffett’s long-time investment partner, stating: “Munger is warning us ‘It’s Over’ for America. Yes, ‘o-v-e-r,’ America’s in decline, at the end-of-days, coming to ‘financial ruin,’ says Munger.”

As a result of the Economic Elite’s attack on us, the inequality of wealth between the economic top one percent and the remaining 99% of the population is the highest it has ever been in our nation’s history. The Robber Barons of the Gilded Age have now been overtaken as America’s most deprived and despotic class.

As this attack continues, social safety nets and important public functions that are already reaching a breaking point will collapse under the weight of prolonged decline. With the national deficit now at an all-time high, economists are expecting major cutbacks in vital government programs and tax increases [“that aren’t even imaginable.”](#) President Obama has recently put together a [“Deficit Commission”](#) and is prepared to make [“painful choices.”](#) Many state economies are already [running high deficits](#) and preparing for [deep cuts in Medicaid](#) and [retirement pensions](#). Major cuts in Social Security payments are also [a real possibility](#).

On top of the [160 banks](#) that have already failed in the past year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has listed another [702 banks](#) as being in danger of failing. These banks “collectively hold more than [\\$400 billion in assets](#)” and the FDIC is already operating at “a deficit of nearly [\\$21 billion](#) as of Dec. 31, or more than double the previous quarter.”

With [30 million](#) Americans now unemployed and underemployed, over the next few months [five million people](#) will lose the unemployment benefits which they have been surviving off of. Unemployment benefits in 27 states have already gone [into the red](#). In total [40 state programs](#) are expected to go broke. Even the most optimistic economists believe high unemployment rates will continue for [the foreseeable future](#).

Millions more will be added to the [five million families](#) who have already been kicked out of their homes, as the number of foreclosures is expected to reach [13 million](#) within the next few years. Food and homeless shelters are already overwhelmed, and there will be millions more in need of these life-sustaining services. [50 million Americans](#) are currently in need of food stamps for survival and approximately 20,000 new people are added to this total *every day*.

Despite all the healthcare reform talk, the bill *still* being discussed [will do little](#) to reduce costs and extend coverage to those who urgently need it, as insurance [rates continue to rise](#). The number of Americans without health insurance continues to skyrocket to now well over 50 million, with [45,000 preventable US citizen deaths](#) occurring *per year*. Due to economic hardship, the number of people suffering from [psychological depression](#) has hit an all-time high, as [suicide rates keep rising](#).

With a prison population of [2.3 million people](#), we now have more people incarcerated than any other nation in the world. Our per capita rate of [700 people imprisoned](#) per 100,000 citizens is higher than the darkest days of the Soviet Union. On top of this, the prison industry is expecting major growth over the next few years, as a “new prison opens every week somewhere in America” and Obama commits [more tax dollars](#) for the federal Bureau of Prisons.

All told, the death and destruction wrought by this economic crisis is equivalent to a *9/11 attack every single week!* And the attacks continue unabated, with no significant measures taken to defend against them and hold those responsible accountable.

With almost [200 million Americans](#) now living paycheck to paycheck, and over [50 million](#) already living in poverty, people are quickly running out of options. The clock is ticking loudly for them, and time delayed is time closer to death.

At the same time, Americans are arming themselves at an alarming rate. The demand for guns and ammunition has hit a record high, and the gun industry cannot produce enough bullets to [keep up with orders](#). In the past year, [100 new armed militia groups](#) have been formed, as militia members have [doubled in numbers](#). Federal authorities are gravely concerned about the “uptick in militia activities.” One federal authority [recently said](#), “All it’s lacking is a spark. I think it’s only a matter of time before you see threats and violence.”



The [recent suicide-bomber](#) who hit the IRS building in Texas will be the first of many violent acts if we don't demonstrate that justice and the rule of law can be restored in a non-violent manner. Suicide-bombers have already reeked havoc in many countries across the globe. As the last act of revenge and desperation, people throughout the world have increasingly resorted to this method of violence and terror.

Fate has placed us in our nation's most pivotal moment. If we do not take it upon ourselves to lead in decisive non-violent mass action, our country will soon be torn apart by violence and destruction.

In our nation's history, the stakes have never been higher. It is vital that we recognize the urgent gravity of the situation. What happens over the next few years will determine the fate of our very way of life, of our families' very existence. We have been attacked, and we are now at war. This is the unfortunate reality of our current crisis.

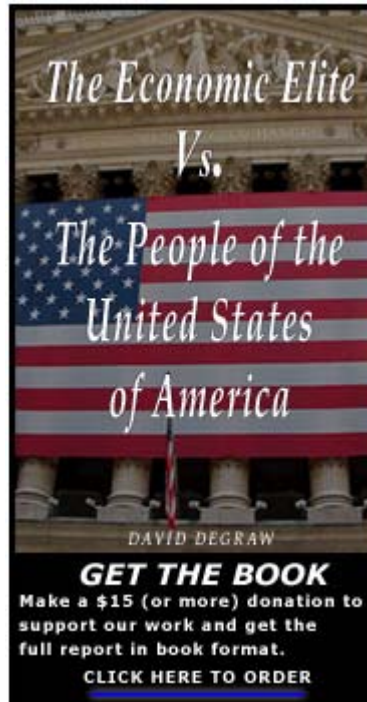
Our enemy is extraordinarily powerful. However, we are 99% of the US population, and they are only 1%. If we fight, we win!

“Power concedes nothing without a demand.  
It never has, and it never will.”  
– [Frederick Douglass](#)

“All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency is great and unendurable. And oppression and robbery are organized, I say; let us not have such a machine any longer.  
I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize.”  
– Henry David Thoreau, [On the Duty of Civil Disobedience](#)

“We have no choice left.... A concealed yes drives us that is stronger than all our no's. Our strength itself will no longer endure us in the old decaying soil.  
We venture away, we venture ourselves! We know of a new world.”  
– [Friedrich Nietzsche](#)

**GET INVOLVED: We are doing outreach to organizations that are working on the core common ground issues mentioned in this report. If you plan to take action on any of these issues or would like to be involved in this effort, [please sign up here](#).**



*The Economic Elite*  
*Vs.*  
*The People of the*  
*United States*  
*of America*

DAVID DEGRAW

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