

**Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011**  
**Humanity at a Crossroads**  
**Session 07**  
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**Main Presentation**  
**The bin Laden Effect**  
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# The bin Laden Effect

The abrupt interruption of the news cycles and the sudden appearance of exuberant masses at the Whitehouse, college campuses etc. was a clear indication, the news of the termination of Osama bin Laden must mean something to a great many people. Pundits of every stripe and persuasions are opportunistically trying to put meaning to every little thing.

Many Media networks are taking the opportunity to review to drag out whatever footage they have of training to be a Navy SEAL, which I had experienced first hand in 1963.

The Christie, the Korean lady who runs the delicatessen in the building where I spend a lot of time and knew I had been a SEAL congratulated me for the accomplishment of our SEALs and then through her hands up and said "What took you so long?"

I call all these symptoms "The bin Laden Effect."

# What does the future hold?

But what does it mean. I have lots of ideas (not surprising) but, we would really like to hear from a number of you, my fellow seminarians to see what "**the end of the age of bin Laden**" means to you.

Were you really afraid that al Qaida would attack you in your sleep?

Did thoughts of bin Laden occupy your waking hours? Emotions? Fear? Hate? Curiosity

Impact of al Qaida on you and yours and your neighborhood

What does the future hold?

# Here is a list of milestones in the life of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden

1957 - Osama bin Mohammad bin Awad bin Laden was born in Riyadh, one of more than 50 children of a millionaire businessman.

1976-79 - Bin Laden studies management and economics at university in Jeddah.

December 26, 1979 - Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

1984 - Bin Laden becomes involved with organization based in Peshawar, Pakistan, supporting Arab volunteers arriving to fight Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

1986 - Bin Laden moves to Peshawar, begins importing arms and forms his own small brigade of volunteer fighters.

1988 - Soviet forces leave Afghanistan.

**1988 - Al Qaeda (The Base) is established as a magnet for radical Muslims seeking a more fundamentalist brand of government in their home countries and joined in common hatred of the United States, Israel and U.S.-allied Muslim governments.**

1991 - Bin Laden returns to Saudi Arabia, then leaves for exile in Sudan, having opposed the kingdom's alliance with the United States against Iraq.

June 1993 - Bin Laden family moves to expel Osama as shareholder in its businesses, which focuses on construction.

April 9, 1994 - Saudi Arabia, angered by bin Laden's propaganda against its rulers, revokes his citizenship.

May 1996 - Bin Laden is forced to leave Sudan after U.S. pressure on its government, and goes to Afghanistan.

**August 1996 - Bin Laden issues a fatwa, or religious decree, that U.S. military personnel should be killed.**

September 1996 - Taliban movement establishes "Islamic emirate" in Afghanistan.

October 1996 - U.S. names bin Laden as prime suspect in two bombings in Saudi Arabia that killed 24 U.S. servicemen and two Indians.

August 7, 1998 - Truck bombs explode at U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, killing 224, including 12 Americans.

August 20, 1998 - President Bill Clinton names bin Laden as America's top enemy and accuses him of responsibility for the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings. U.S. launches missile strikes against what Clinton calls terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Sudan. One destroys a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, whose owner denies any affiliation with bin Laden.

**October 12, 2000 - Al Qaeda strikes at destroyer USS Cole, in Yemeni port of Aden. Seventeen sailors are killed.**

September 11, 2001 - Three hijacked planes crash into major U.S. landmarks, destroying New York's World Trade Center and plunging into the Pentagon. A fourth hijacked plane crashes in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people are killed. In a video released later, bin Laden says the collapse of the towers exceeded al Qaeda's expectations.

September 17, 2001 - U.S. President George W. Bush says bin Laden is "Wanted: Dead or Alive."

October 7, 2001 - United States attacks Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, host to bin Laden and al Qaeda.

November 2001 - Afghanistan's Taliban rulers are ousted.

December 6, 2001 - Anti-Taliban forces capture bin Laden's main base in Tora Bora mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden evades capture.

**September 10, 2002 - Al Jazeera broadcasts what it says is the voice of bin Laden praising the 9/11 hijackers as men who "changed the course of history."**

November 2002 - Al Qaeda claims responsibility for suicide car bombs in Kenya that blew up the Mombasa Paradise resort hotel, popular with Israelis, killing 15 people and wounding 80.

October 2004 - Bin Laden bursts into U.S. election campaign in his first videotaped message in over a year to deride Bush.

September 2006 - Bush vows: "America will find you."

September 2007 - Bin Laden issues first new video for nearly three years, telling U.S. it is vulnerable despite its power.

May 18, 2008 - Bin Laden urges Muslims to break the Israeli-led blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, and fight Arab governments that deal with Israel.

January 24, 2010 - Bin Laden claims responsibility for the failed December 25 bombing of a U.S.-bound plane in an audio tape and vows to continue attacks on the United States



**March 25, 2010 - Bin Laden says al Qaeda will kill any Americans it takes prisoner if accused September 11 planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, held by United States, is executed, according to an audiotape aired on al Jazeera.**

January 21, 2011 - Bin Laden says in an audio recording that the release of French hostages held in Niger by al Qaeda depends on France's soldiers leaving Muslim lands.

May 2, 2011 - Bin Laden is killed in Abbottabad, 60 km (35 miles) north of the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

May 6, 2011 - Al Qaeda confirms bin Laden's death in an Internet message and vows not to abandon armed struggle .

-- It vows revenge on the United States and allies, and says bin Laden's death will be a curse "that chases the Americans and their agents," according to the SITE monitoring service.

Sources: Reuters; open-source material; Steve Coll: "The Bin Ladens"

(Writing by David Cutler, London Editorial Reference Unit; Editing by Kevin Liffey)

## Time magazine cover of Osama bin Laden in Times Square looks odd

Mark Frauenfelder at 10:00 PM Tuesday, May 3, 2011



The windows of the building match Osama bin Laden's eyes, giving him a Roger McGuinn square-hippy-glasses look.

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<http://www.boingboing.net/2011/05/03/time-magazine-cover.html>

## **Nothing Really Changes**

**Everybody's favorite question is: With bin Laden dead, will we be safer or will things be worse? (Do I dare say "Mission accomplished!")**

One expert says al Qaida is now headless (and toothless), and the Secretary of State says we have to be even more vigilant! Which is it?

**The real answer is Nothing Really Changes.  
(Unfortunately)**

# Why nothing changes ...

The death of a star player will not cause the NFL to go out of business. There is just too many interests, some conflicting, and too much money in play on all sides of the **Middle East Situation** for those at the controls to bring these ships of state into port. As a bonus, our captains of finance and industry and their toadies in Wall Street and Washington helped cause the Great Recession and now it's aftershocks which deepen the depths to which the good workers and honest middle class of the world will be driven as they try to satisfy an insatiable monster that demands more and more of their diminishing personal resources.

# Fertile Ground

Throw into this mix, a world of poorly educated, angry and exploited citizens who are being fed a plethora of Religious, Racial and Ethnic narratives intended nurture hate and to block mutual respect amongst all peoples by a limitless supply of institutional and self-appointed leaders of Religions, political and economic factions that have twisted their core philosophies to purposes exactly the opposite purposes to those for which they were created. (and they call it compassion, justice, stability).

Furthermore at the same time, we see an **information and youth driven force** at work in the Middle East and North Africa who wants the same civil liberties that most of us in the West enjoy so they can realize their own potential and the promises they feel should be naturally available to them in a modern, peaceful, free world.

# Motive

**Every crime is the product of Means, Motive, and Opportunity. Means and Motive are freely available to the determined. The only thing that will provide real security is when individuals are no longer motivated to commit acts of violence.**

# Power, and sharing it ...

Of course those who presently hold the power and all its benefits and wealth in those countries, don't, with very few exceptions, see any way it is possible for them to share with their citizens. Further, many of those in power have been stewards of Western Interests in their countries since the end of **WWI. When those rulers are deposed there are some very, very real problems that will threaten those within the countries and well as outside interests, without some sort of enlightened authority and a population that is willing to respect it.**



## **Way Forward:**

What I suggest is that for the time being we need to think about how we have allowed an otherwise unremarkable religious/nationalist extremist, to dominate our lives and economy. Where the very whisper of, "bin Laden" or al Qaida has been enough to panic our leaders to think of a even higher state of alert that we can raise the country to, and what new inconvenience can they impose on innocent citizens, instead of improving their own performance.

Sure bin Laden or his surrogates or franchisees have made several criminal terror attacks, even on our own embassies, one of our naval combatant ships, a train in Spain and of course the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, doing billions of dollars in damage and killing thousands of people, not to mention the devastation experienced by their families, friends and neighbors

And, we are aware that there was a loose connection between al Qaida and the Taliban, but they have different interests. Al Qaida has many foreigners and they are committed to the oppression (purification) of the world through terror. The Taliban are Afghans who believe they are fighting to replace a corrupt government.

The interesting thing is that we were well-aware of bin Laden's gang after the embassy bombings but somehow they continued on to the bombing of the Cole and 911. The back story of the 911 hearings was that government agencies let territorial politics blind them to their mission, so the terrorists had luck on their side. I'm not sure things are much better.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_terrorist\\_organizations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_organizations).

There are easily hundreds if not thousands of groups here and around the world that call themselves freedom fighters, revolutionaries, terrorists, fundamentalists, nationalists, etc. etc. They existed long before bin Laden and will exist after him.

# **De Ja Vu All Over Again**

**But, somehow I think that the death of Osama bin Laden should not have the impact that VJ day brought to the country after 4 years of war.**

**Whatever you want to call the last 10 - 20 years it has not been a real war. In a real war, millions are killed and territories change hands. Something is accomplished or resolved. There were 60 million casualties in WW II for example and some territories did change hands and there was a crushing debt to be paid off. Hitler died. The Emperor Hirohito did not. We started the Cold War to keep the money flowing.**

**What we have now is different. We need a new term for this kind of conflict (Gang warfare?). We have been able to squander trillions, but with far fewer casualties than a real war. Our military future thinkers want to take it a step further with more high tech highly equipped special operations troops (Like SEALs) and more remotely operated machines of war which will cost more with fewer American casualties.**

# A Question to ask ourselves

Are we stronger than we were yesterday?

Bin Laden's objective was, to create irrational fear by terror or the mere threat of it, to get the free world to implode on itself. His intention was not to see the Arab Spring bloom, but to bring on Armagedden.

Will we see the Arab Spring prosper? Nothing could do more than to make the "bin Ladens" of this world irrelevant than to support the emergence of civil rights and liberties to the people of the Middle East.

# A Narrative

Contrary to what the Americans hear from ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX, Washington Post and NYTimes, most Arabs and Muslims believe it's the US & Israel that are the biggest threats to the Middle East and not Iran or Al-Qaeda. **There is no end to terrorism; our government has a list of thousands of names to create new Binladens. The US ... will be engaged in wars with Arabs and Muslims for many years to come. The death of Osama Binladen will make no difference whatsoever.**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/yblog\\_theenvoy/20110517/ts\\_yblog\\_theenvoy/new-terrorist-threats-worry-u-s-leaders-after-bin-ladens-death](http://news.yahoo.com/s/yblog_theenvoy/20110517/ts_yblog_theenvoy/new-terrorist-threats-worry-u-s-leaders-after-bin-ladens-death)



# An Old Soldier Spoke

MGEN Smedley Butler, USMC (ret.) spoke out in 1933

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

## MGEN Smedley Butler, USMC (ret.)

...

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

## MGEN Smedley Butler, USMC (ret.)

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912 (where have I heard that name before?). I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. **Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.'**

I repeat ...

**Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.“**

MGEN Smedley Butler, USMC (ret.), 1933

# The Arab awakening Tunisia, Egypt, Libya,

**Bahrain:** Last Modified: 22 Feb 2011 16:05



Click on a highlighted country above for Al Jazeera's coverage of those protests.

The world's attention has been focused on a handful of countries - Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain and Libya - since the first popular protests broke out in Tunisia in December. But nearly a dozen countries in the region have seen political unrest, and the protest movement shows no signs of stopping.

# Map of Islamic world today



[eaglesofpakistan.blogspot.com](http://eaglesofpakistan.blogspot.com)

# Muslim Distribution



# déjà vu all over again

The trick is to act by establishing more than verbal criticism and condemnation but to act in a timely and effective manner

The rights and liberties (a la our bill of rights) of innocent citizens and people must take priority over the interests of parties and government

Before WWII strong countries stood by while the Germans and Japanese under their \_\_\_\_\_ Leaders Oppressed their own people and those they invaded.



# Who is in Charge?

The People?

Bureaucrats?

Rich People ?

Domestic Corporations?

Multinational Corporations?

Global Religions?

Central Bankers?

The Chamber of Commerce?

# Questions?

# Don't panic!

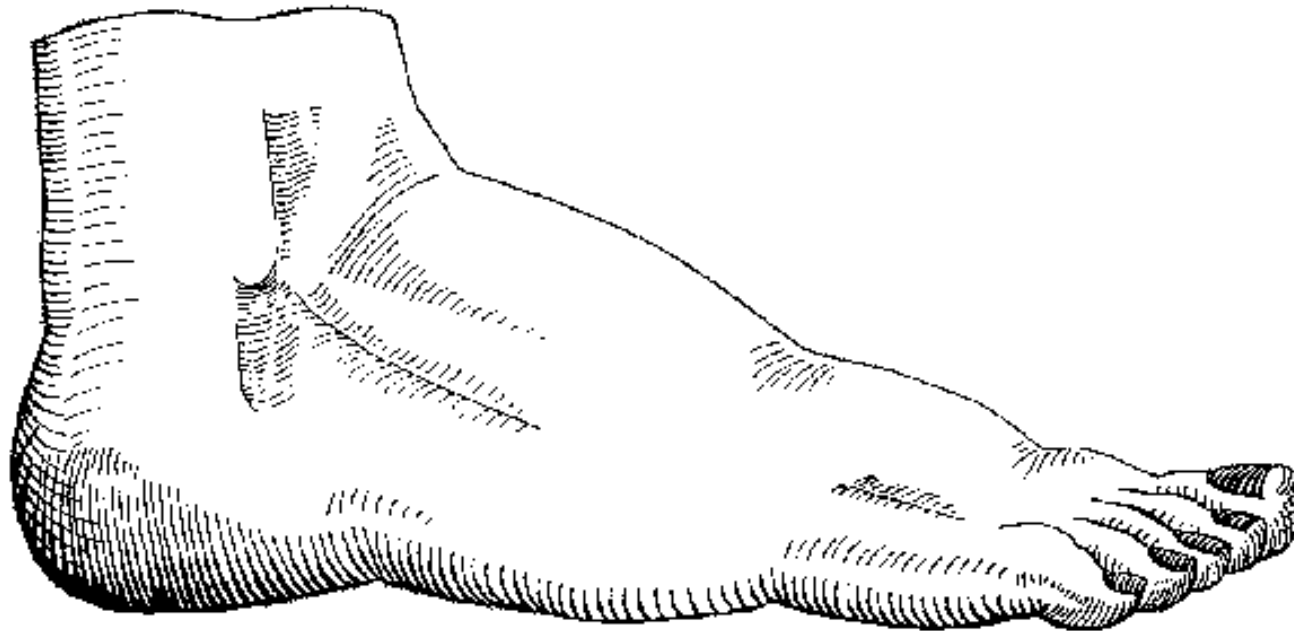
*Don't be Panicked!*

## Welcome back to interesting times !



## See You 21 May 2011

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

# Enrichment Material

# What makes you an Authority?

The word authority comes from the word *author*. And the word author has a Latin root. It means: “he who enables growth”.

So, the person whom you recognize as an authority is a person who enables your growth.

The others are the ones to decide if I am an authority to them or not.

## What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

## Authority and Inner Power:

I just said the true Authority is the result of your Inner Power.

This means I would judge your sense of Authority at your Inner Power.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

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# Authority and Inner Power:

Yet, most people will judge your authority by **how you appear** and **how you act**.

We could call this your intrapersonal intelligence and your interpersonal intelligence.

People will confuse your Inner Power with your appearance and your acts, which are part of the ego.

This means that may you be totally genuine or totally faked, you will be an authority for someone.

Some will like a person's big ego and strong personality.

And he will be considered as an authority to them. That's their choice.

Some others will prefer another person's genuine vibration and ability to connect and recognize the source, and he will be considered as an authority to them.

It's always the others' choice.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

## **Authority and Knowledge:**

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

It can be because you are a good listener, or because you react calmly and softly to others' fragilities, or because you are good at saying No, or because you have no fears, or because you verbalize and observe your emotions...

If you are an individual who is very much identified with your ego, you will recognize authority to egotistic people.

If you are an individual who prefers to connect to the Source, to the I Am, you will recognize authority in spiritual people, for example, but not in egotistic people.

### **Authority and Knowledge:**

Your knowledge is your ability to master [Instruction on Matter](#).

People will like your knowledge in Economy, or in Finance, or in Law, or in Philosophy, or in Engineering , or in Astrology, or in Painting...

**This means authority does not claim for obedience, never!**

Only someone who feels that his authority may be at stake will claim for obedience thru the use of power.

**Power inspires fear.**

**Authority inspires respect.**

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>



# **RETURN of the ELDERS UNLEASH YOUR WISDOM**

**It's time for the Return of the ELDERS! Previous successful societies relied on the councils of their ELDERS to offer WISDOM in times of confusion. Folks, we can't quit yet.**

# What does Authority mean?

The true Authority is the result of your inner power. It's the wisdom that comes from within.

It has to do with your connection [to the source, to the I Am](#).

Authority has nothing to do with the verb to have, but rather with the verb to be.

You do not have authority. You are seen as an authority.

The big difference between the External Power and Authority lies in the fact that authority cannot be imposed, it needs to be recognized.

So your authority depends on those who look at you.

Some people may recognize your authority and some others may not.

And you cannot do anything about it.

This is why people who are very much identified with their ego, and thus seeking for others approval, can't stand those who do not recognize their authority and hence use power to submit them by force.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

# Accepting the challenge

Many of you have in fact made real contributions during your lifetimes and careers. And now you feel you have earned a rest and start cashing in your chips and enjoying the good life.

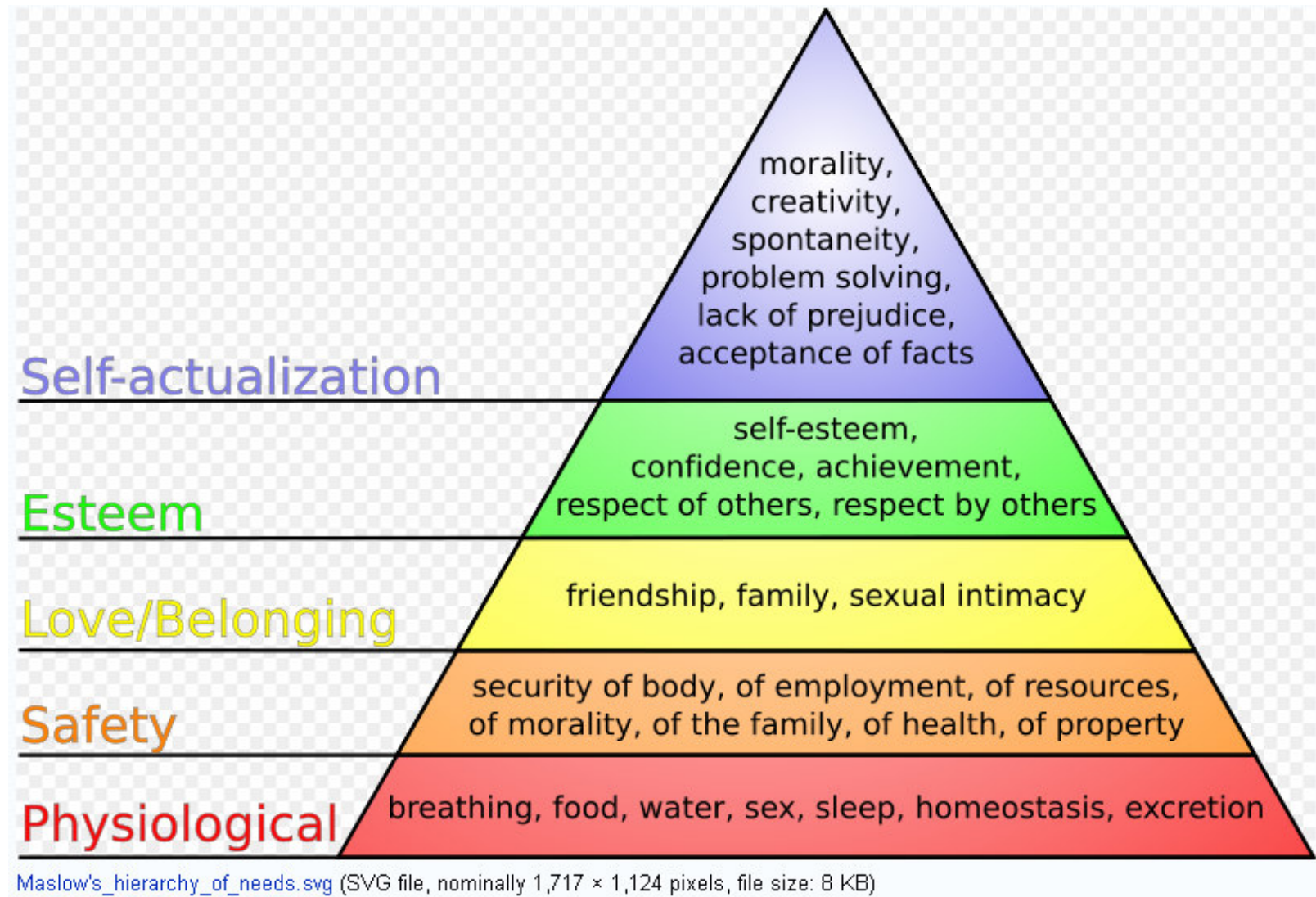
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

**One of life's persistent questions:**

**“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”**



# Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



# **It all connects**

**Fear, War, Greed**

**To much capital in the hands of the few**

**Too little money in the hands of the consumers.**

**Credit is not a replacement for disposable income**

**Oil is a limited resource**

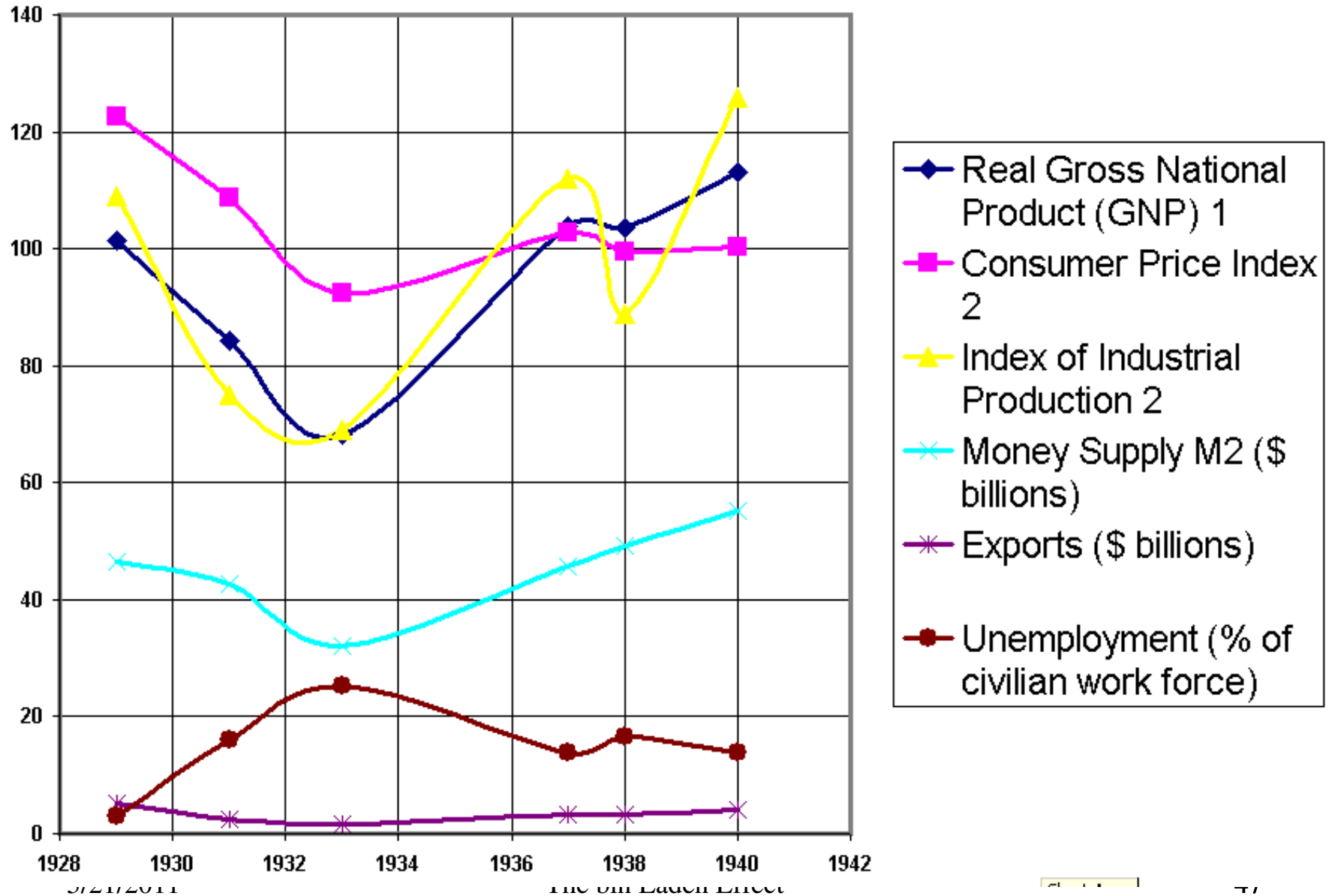
**Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect**

**Trusting of Authority**

**Lacking critical ability/Education**

**Etc.**

# The Years of the Great Depression



# **Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat**

**Jill Carroll**



**“...we are the leaders we've  
been looking for.”**

*Grace Lee Boggs*

# Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

## From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

**Fear** - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

**Pain** - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

**Cold** - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

**Thirst** - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

**Hunger** - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

**Fatigue** - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

**Boredom & Loneliness** - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.