

Third Saturday Seminar 2011-2012

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 01

17 September 2011

Who's in Charge of the Cuckoo's Nest

Curt Gibby

**ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery
Conroe, Texas**

What does the future hold?

Perhaps I'm missing something

The people in our political system are like young children squabbling in the back seat of the family car.

I do not see the people of this country (or the world) being satisfied with the outcome of the next national election.

It is all about power and advantage and manipulation of crowds. It is not about reason or justice.

The leaders of the world have put their people under crushing debt and the governance of the Middle East is a big question mark.

What does the future hold?

FAR FROM THE MADDING MOB

THE DUPE OF HEARTS

**Most of todays discussion is cued by sections of text
EXCERPTED from the last chapter of:**

MOBS, MESSIAHS AND MARKETS

**Surviving the Public Spectacle in Finance and
Politics**

By WILLIAM BONNER AND LILA RAJIVA

John Wiley and Sons, Inc 2007

**I have in many places listed the page numbers from
which the text or idea was extracted in the titles.**

“Large groups of people are smarter than an elite few, no matter how brilliant,”

... says the jacket cover (*of the Wisdom of Crowds.*)

But we have observed exactly the opposite. When they are thrown into the company of legions of their fellow men, some chemistry turns humans who are individually of irreproachable integrity and unimpeachable prudence into stark, raving blockheads. That this is sometimes called democracy does not improve matters. And that popular business columnists announce the very opposite practically seals the matter for us.

Did a large group of people write Shakespeare’s sonnets?, we wonder. Did a large group of people invent the beret or crispy duck? However, it was a large group of people who wanted Adolf Hitler in the chancellor’s office in Berlin.

Nevertheless, Surowiecki’s book is not bad. In fact, it is delightful in its deceptiveness. Its idea is the old one: “Two heads are better than one.”

ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ELEVEN.
And, the more elevated people's situation, the more they rely not only on past generations, but on their neighbors—and many people they have never met. *Ek aur ek gyarah*, says a Hindi proverb—Even—or perhaps *especially*—*the* world's greatest and loneliest geniuses realize that their contributions rest largely on the work of others. Science is cumulative and universal. Isaac Newton mentioned that he could only rise so high because he was “standing on ye shoulders of Giants.” But he used his famous phrase in a letter to a rival, Robert Hooke . . . who was a dwarf Science may have marched forward, but Newton's heart was as mischievous—or perhaps as cruel—as any since the Flood.

Phenoms, Groups and Crowds

But, Surowiecki seems only dimly aware of what goes on in the human heart. **Crowds are wise, he says. Two heads are better than one.** The genius of the few stands on the shoulders of the many who have gone before. At this point, we begin to guess that **he does not mean “crowds” at all—he means independent individuals voluntarily getting together.**

What is amusing is that Surowiecki describes what Hayek called the “spontaneous order” as if he had just discovered it himself. He seems astonished—and perhaps disappointed—that people go about their daily lives and get things done without anyone telling them what to do. **It is as if he had never heard of culture, or trust, or fairness, or convention, or tradition—or any of the millions and millions of small acts of cooperation that make civilization possible.** It makes the book fun to read—it’s like taking a Baptist teenager to a whorehouse; “So this is what it’s all about,” he asks, his face lit up and his pulse racing.

But cooperation does not make a crowd. It
makes a group.

What is the difference between a group and a crowd? Just this—a group never reduces itself to one. A crowd, in contrast, always acts as one—and soon makes a public spectacle of itself. An army, for example, acts with one mind, one emotion, for one purpose.

Deserters are shot. You wouldn't want to go into battle with a free-spirited intellectual at your back; you want a knucklehead with a single-minded goal—to kill the enemy and protect you.

When the crowd takes up a corrupt wish—to get something for nothing or to make the world a better place by killing people—the last thing it wants is another point of view **The few people who are able to think clearly can only try to get out of the way.** If they are in a bubble market, they can easily sell. If they are in a country that has lost its head, they can try to leave. If they are in an army, it is probably too late.

EMPIRE OF EXPERTS

In the old days, they would have consulted the headman of the tribe or an elder, the witch doctor, or a wise woman. Lacking these today, people do their best. They thumb through Thomas Friedman's columns. If they are investors, they scan the ratings given by the analysts. They even listen to Jim Cramer.

How do they know whether what experts know is any more useful ultimately than what they know? They don't. And, in many cases, it isn't.

Fame Doesn't Help Either

... Famous experts tended to go wrong far more than their obscure colleagues. The loudmouths in the limelight tripped up because of overconfidence, but also for other reasons—if they were on TV talk shows, they were under pressure to be entertaining; as experts, they couldn't just say the most obvious thing; they felt compelled to come up with ingenious, or at least counterintuitive, predictions that would justify their status. **The trouble is, often, obvious conclusions are also the right ones.**

LAW AND DISORDER

Unlike the order of physical nature, the spontaneous order of human nature is not geometrical—as statisticians like Hobbes thought. It is not so much a system of pulleys and levers as a whorl of snowflakes. We like to think this means chaos, but for a long time now, science has come to see chaos as not the absence of order, but a more complex kind of order.

Pattern in Chaos

There is a pattern even in what we call chaos, just as there is a pattern in the formation of clouds, the shape of mountain ranges, or even the movement of waves. Why would we expect human society to be any less organic in its functioning? **Why would we not expect it to exhibit the same complex self-organization that snowflakes show?** And, on the other hand, isn't it likely that a society that is ordered too mechanically will not function as it should? **A dynamic living society needs to have the organization that corresponds to the real sentiments and wills of its members.** But a bureaucracy handing down regulations substitutes a rigid, destructive order for the living fabric of human interactions.

***Homo faber* (man the creator),**

Man is, first of all, *Homo faber* (man the creator), and we understand him best by looking at his creations. ...

When man ceases to be *Homo faber*—fashioning the world around him with his own hands and wits—he ends up just another factory hand, a clerk in a counting house, anonymous and nameless. He becomes alienated both from his own nature and from the natural world around him—a change mourned by both radicals and conservatives.

NOBLE ROT (374)

And so it goes on from eon to eon, these inevitable cycles, said Vico. Man learns to use his reason to master the world around him, only to turn it on himself. He strives to discover truth and instead concocts the delusory spectacles with which he destroys himself. From a modest republic of the self-reliant, he converts his nation into a boastful empire of debtors that eventually collapses of its own weight. He rises, only to fall.

FLATTERING UNCTION

**The Vision of the Anointed, Tomas Sowell,
(1995)**

CHAPTER 1,

Lay not that flattering unction to your soul.

—Hamlet

Dangers to a society may be mortal without being immediate. One such danger is the prevailing social vision of our time—and the dogmatism with which the ideas, assumptions, and attitudes behind that vision are held.

Uction

It is not that these views are especially evil or especially erroneous. Human beings have been making mistakes and committing sins as long as there have been human beings. The great catastrophes of history have usually involved much more than that. Typically, there has been an additional and crucial ingredient—some method by which feedback from reality has been prevented, so that a dangerous course of action could be blindly continued to a fatal conclusion.

Wisdom was (is) Silent (unction)

Much of the continent of Europe was devastated in World War II because the totalitarian regime of the Nazis did not permit those who foresaw the self-destructive consequences of Hitler's policies to alter, or even to influence, those policies. **In earlier eras as well, many individuals foresaw the self-destruction of their own civilizations, from the days of the Roman Empire to the eras Of the Spanish, Ottoman, and other empires.'** Yet that alone was not enough to change the course that was leading to ruin. Today, despite free speech and the mass media, the prevailing social vision is dangerously close to sealing itself off from any discordant feedback from reality

We Can Only Hope (375)

Decay, degeneration, death—and then, renaissance.
Unstoppable. Irremediable.

Civilizations rise, and then decline—and then rise again.
Markets arise, soar, collapse, and begin rising again. History records the whole thing as a pack of lies and misunderstandings involving hairy people with tails, doing foolish things for absurd reasons. But there are moments of glory, too, when men occasionally stand on two feet.

Sometimes, nature seems to draw out its best from the dregs of corruption.

MOMENTS OF GLORY(376)

Without death and decay, there would be no redemption, no hope of heaven, no fear of hell, and no chance of everlasting life. Without them, life everlasting would have no meaning; all movement would cease, because the earth would be frozen into a meaningless past and an equally meaningless future.

Even our religious beliefs regress to the mean. They get cheapened. They go through cycles—saints and sinners, bulls and bears, never wholly good nor wholly bad, but always subject to influence. And one measure of it is how they lose their own meanings to the slogans of a public spectacle.

Life is not school (377)

If life were like school, George W. Bush would have known that Iraq would test him and he might have prepared by boning up on the history of the greatest empire ever—Rome. He could have read about Emperor Trajan's attack on Ctesiphon, near present-day Baghdad. At least Trajan had a plan. He captured 100,000 prisoners, whom he sold into slavery. Back then, empire was not only a source of glory but of profits.

Glory (378)

But glory is our subject here, not profits. We wonder who gets it and who deserves it. Generally, we note, they are different people. And here, for once, we do not pause in sorrow over the depths of darkness in mankind; no, we rejoice in those rare moments of dignity and courage in which people rise above the cycle of life and decay. In which they become heroes.

No Vietcong ever called me a.....

... the punishment would be severe. He would be stripped of his boxing title. He wouldn't be able to box; he would have a hard time earning a living, let alone paying the legal fees that would be needed to keep him out of jail. Plus, he would be called a traitor.

But Ali still said no. It was against his Black Muslim religion. And he added: "I ain't got nothin' against them Vietcong" and "No Vietcong ever called me a nigger."

PILATE ERROR (379)

... But, so what? The Roman, Pontius Pilate, saw nothing in what Jesus was saying that posed a threat to the empire, or even to Roman rule in Judaea.

“I find no fault in him at all,” he concluded.

That wasn't good enough for the local authorities. Jesus may have been no menace to Rome, but he was a troublemaker in the Levant. The elders wanted to get rid of him. The mob wanted his blood.

“Crucify him! Crucify him!” they yelled.

A Masterpiece (Narrative)

It is a history that has been retold every year for the last two millennia, and like any history, *we have no way of knowing what part of it is humbug and what part is true*. Still, like the jesting Pilate—whom Francis Bacon invented—when the question is posed, we don't wait for an answer. Whether history or not, the story itself is a masterpiece.

What Rose and Fall ???

As a member of Parliament, Gibbon was an ignominious failure, but as a historian of the Roman Empire, **he told the story so vividly that generations of readers have taken his history for gospel, even though it was full of the author's prejudices, half-truths, and misapprehensions. What history isn't? It is the great, bloody river on which all the public spectacles sail.**

But, if history rises and falls as chaotically as the waves, how can it have anything to teach us?

What about failed promises as a guide? i.e. WMD? (381)

If grace and glory are to be found only in the acts of isolated individuals, why do we bother to turn to the past at all? **If the story of mankind is not marching inexorably toward a better world, what could it possibly teach us?**

The financial authorities in England and America have a somewhat similar idea. **“Past performance is no guide to future performance,”** they say.

Cycle of Empire

And what does it shows us? It shows us that things don't stand still. They go up and down, back and forth. It shows us that what goes around comes around, and that there are short cycles and long ones—circadian and imperial. Rome rose for 500 years and fell for another 500.

The British Empire took a couple of hundred years getting there and only a few decades to unravel.

Culture as Grammar

Frank Bayer (2011)

(383)“Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it,” say earnest history teachers and terminal optimists. But it’s not that easy. Studying history is a little like learning a foreign language; until you really get the hang of it, there are likely to be some misunderstandings. They come, as you might expect, in the compound tenses and subtle, subjunctive moods. The casual reader understands the major verbs, but misses the veiled meaning. He is like a Hudson River hustler trying to do business in Hyderabad—or a man trying to reason with his wife. The words will be deceptively familiar; but he’ll miss the sense of the conversation completely. (*Wisdom helps*)

OMNES GENTES ALLELUIA (384)

we get more and more experience with facts that turn out not to be so.

A woman says she will be ready in five minutes. A teenager believes he has done his homework. And George W. Bush and Tony Blair may have actually believed that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Reason is slave to our wishes. Our minds work for our desires, not the other way around. “The brain is merely the heart’s dupe,” said French writer and philosopher La Rochefoucauld.

But there are different kinds of facts. The little white lies we tell ourselves and each other to get through life gracefully are not the big, mass illusions of the public spectacle.

Global Freezing (written in 2007)(385)

Global freezing—who can forget that? It was widely believed in the 1960s and 1970s that the planet was getting colder. When the oil shock of 1973 came along, “We will all shiver in the dark,” said the pundits. Then the oil price was supposed to go to \$100 a barrel. Of course, it collapsed down to \$10 a barrel and stayed there for the next 20 years. And then Dow 36,000 was just around the corner in the late 1990s. And, oh, yes, remember “The Great Crash of 2004”? This was one of our own mistakes. It seemed like a decent guess at the time. But that day didn’t come in 2004. Or in 2005. Or in 2006. **Will it come in 2008?** We don’t know. **(Why?)** We’re too modest to know. It is not given to man to know his fate. At least it isn’t given to us.

Using up Life (386)

... When you are born, you are full of life. It is all ahead of you: years of energy and excitement. But you use them up; you trade them off for experience, **wisdom**, money. Little by little, day by day, year by year, your life gets. used up, until you are all experience, **all wisdom, all memories**, and no life left. ...

Everything is Moral (386)

“Everything is moral,” said Emerson. He meant that there are principles that we ignore at our peril. And, the critical element of public spectacles is that people forget this. They begin to think that they can get something for nothing, or do something to someone else that they wouldn’t want done to them—and not have to answer for it. It is a New Era, they say; the old rules no longer apply.

Progressing ad ridiculum (386)

Then, the spectacle progresses to farce, when the lies begin to catch up. Finally, it ends in disaster. You see this pattern playing itself out in Iraq today, or in World War II. Hitler's lies—racial superiority, the need for lebensraum (living room) in the east—were soon followed by absurd programs and torchlight spectacles, before they ended in the disasters at Stalingrad and Berlin.

Liquidity rocks! (388)

In New York, for instance, young hedge fund managers and investment bankers go out to celebrate ripping off some poor pension fund by ordering \$1,000 martinis. And, of course, here in London, prices are so high that most people in the City would consider a \$1,000 martini a bargain. In Paris a fashionable and very expensive place to frequent is an ice bar—which is literally covered in ice, like the inside of a giant freezer. Everyone seems to want to show off, to splurge, to celebrate the one thing that matters most to them—making money—by spending it.

Every bubble era, too, has its winners and losers, its kings and queens as well as its cannon fodder and concentration camp victims. The bubble royalty of this era works in London in the City or in New York on Wall Street, making their fortunes from the huge gush of liquidity flooding the world.

Heros or ... ? (388)

Someone has to row the boat in a public spectacle—and that makes the ordinary voter, the patriot, the soldier, and the saver the chumps! They have to go fight and die—in wars that mean nothing to them personally. They have to be set up and then wiped out by inflation and stock market crashes. Every excess has to be dealt with and every bubble pricked. Imperial armies are eventually defeated; paper currencies eventually disappear; religious heresies are stamped out or exterminate themselves with doctrines so pure they do not even permit procreation—think of the Albigensians or the Cathars.

“Public Opinion”

The press gives us two ways to look at this phenomenon. On the one hand, the plebes and finger-pointers are outraged. Something should be done, they say, to cap executive salaries. Apparently they think executive salaries should be determined by politicians rather than by businessmen.

Of course, there's another way to look at it. Capitalism is the finest system ever devised, say true believers. If it gives huge incentives to corporate managers to increase shareholder value, well, that's just what makes it work so well. Besides, every mother's son in the United States, 2007, hopes he might someday be able to get that kind of money for himself. He's not worried about heaven; he figures he'll be able to grease his way in somehow.

Does everybody have a racket?(389)

Will he? We don't know, of course. But in the here and now, is there anything out there that supports Emerson? Have not all these people gotten away with something?

From one point of view—the point of the view of the people who get them—enormous bonuses are something to celebrate. From another—from the point of view of those who don't get them—they are terrible examples of waste and extravagance. Since the people who don't get enormous bonuses clearly outweigh those who do, we can imagine a time of rebellion among the unbused masses. But then again, we are not sure we think that bonuses make such a big difference either way. After all, they will ultimately be spent, and usually in as inexplicable a way as they were earned.

The Food Chain

Waitstaff at ice bars, Rolls—Royce salesmen, condominium boards—a host of workers and middlemen stands ready to relieve the rich of their riches. It is not simply that in the long run we are all dead, as John Maynard Keynes said. It is that in the short run we all have to live, and there is nothing to say that a Goldman bonus is necessary to do that well.

But that, of course, is the delusion of the current public spectacle ... and who are we to stand in its way?

What does the future hold?

Perhaps I'm missing something

The people in our political system are like young children squabbling in the back seat of the family car.

I do not see the people of this country (or the world) being satisfied with the outcome of the next national election.

It is all about power and advantage and manipulation of crowds. It is not about reason or justice.

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What does the future hold?

If

http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems_if.htm

**IF you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:**

**If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:**

If concluded

.....

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
' Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

**If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!**

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.

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 Qaeda 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 humiliation can they impose on innocent citizens, instead of improving their own performance. How should we respond?

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.

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 bin Ladens. 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

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 parries and government

Before WWII strong countries stood by while the Germans and Japanese under their dictatorial 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!

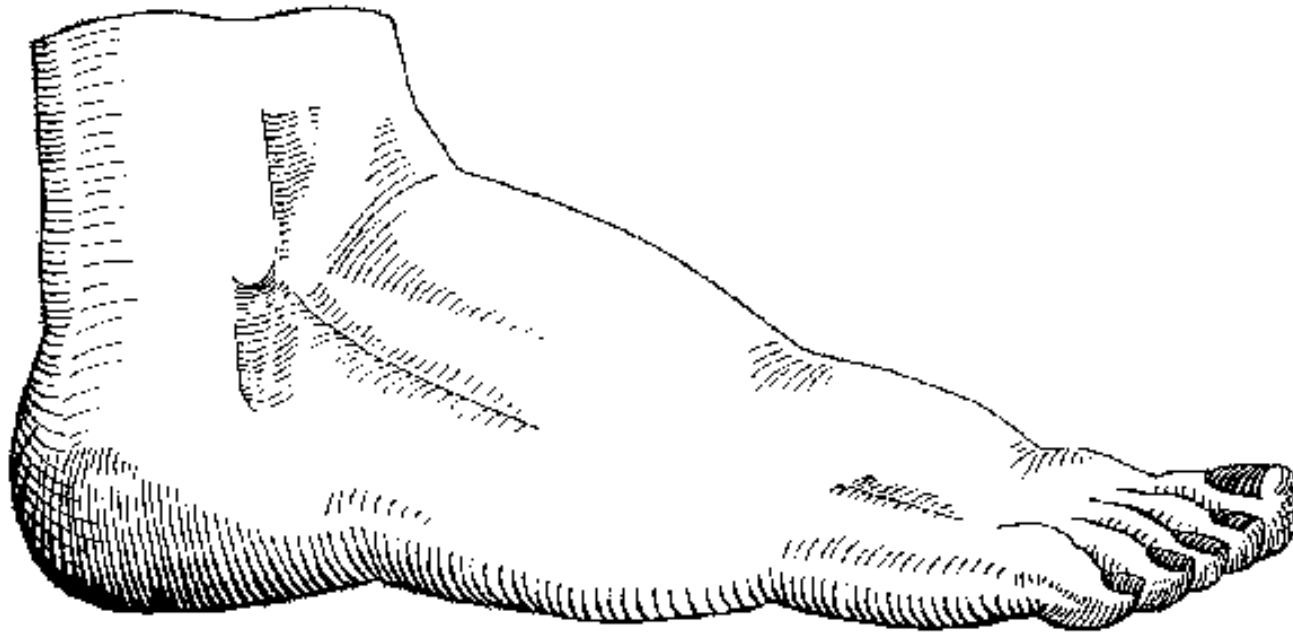
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 15 October 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/>

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.

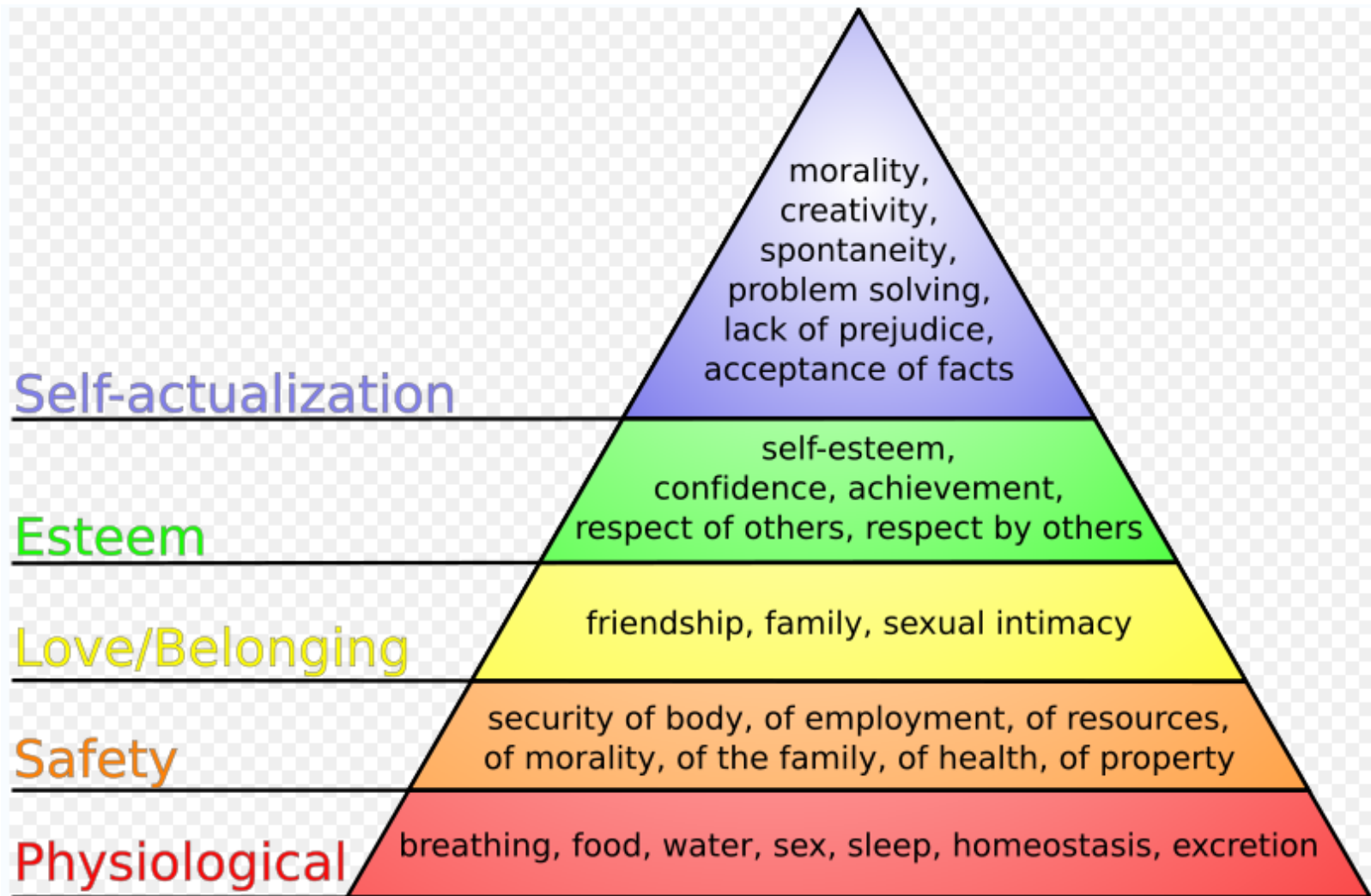
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



[Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs.svg](#) (SVG file, nominally 1,717 × 1,124 pixels, file size: 8 KB)

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

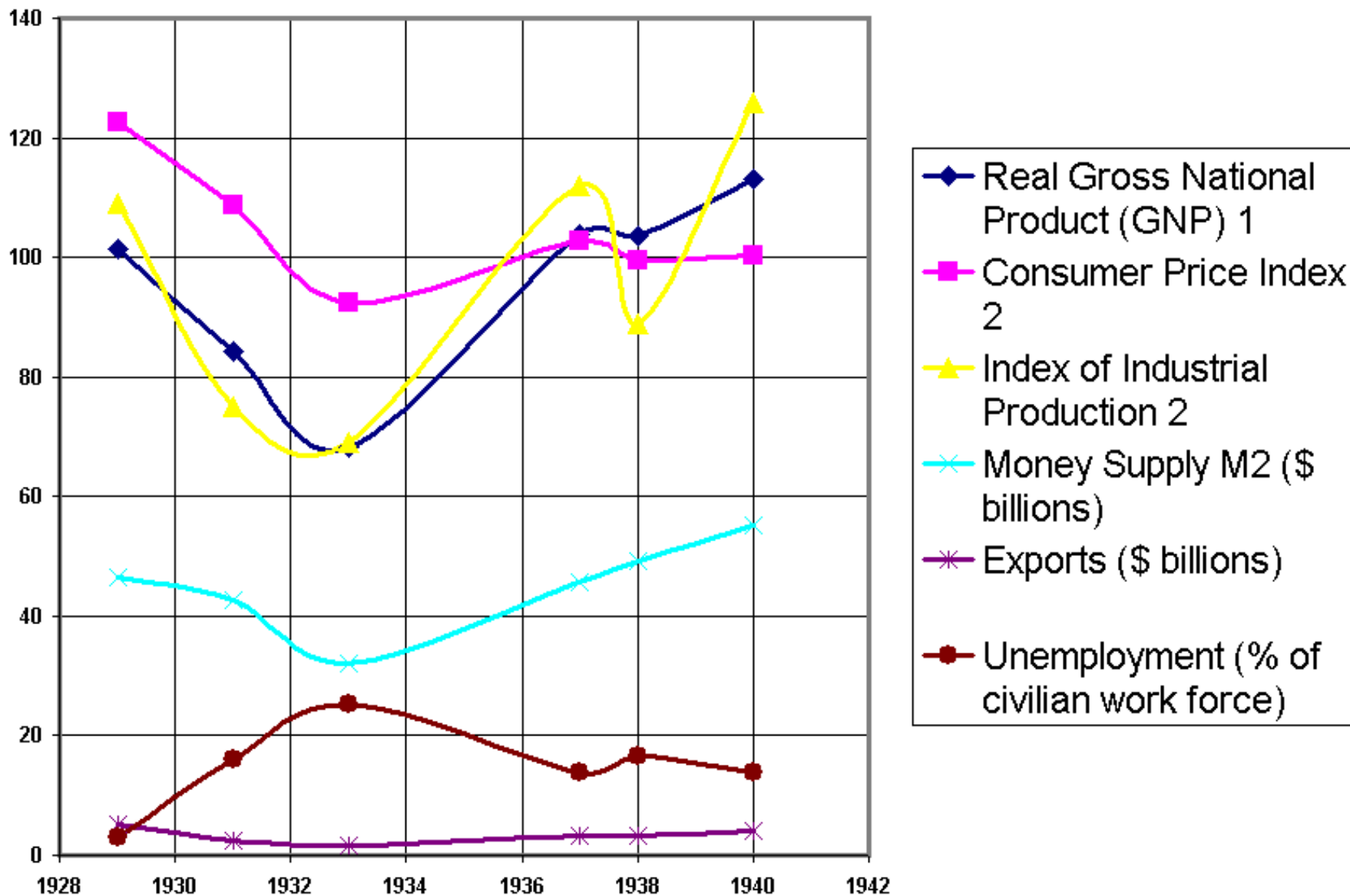
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

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.