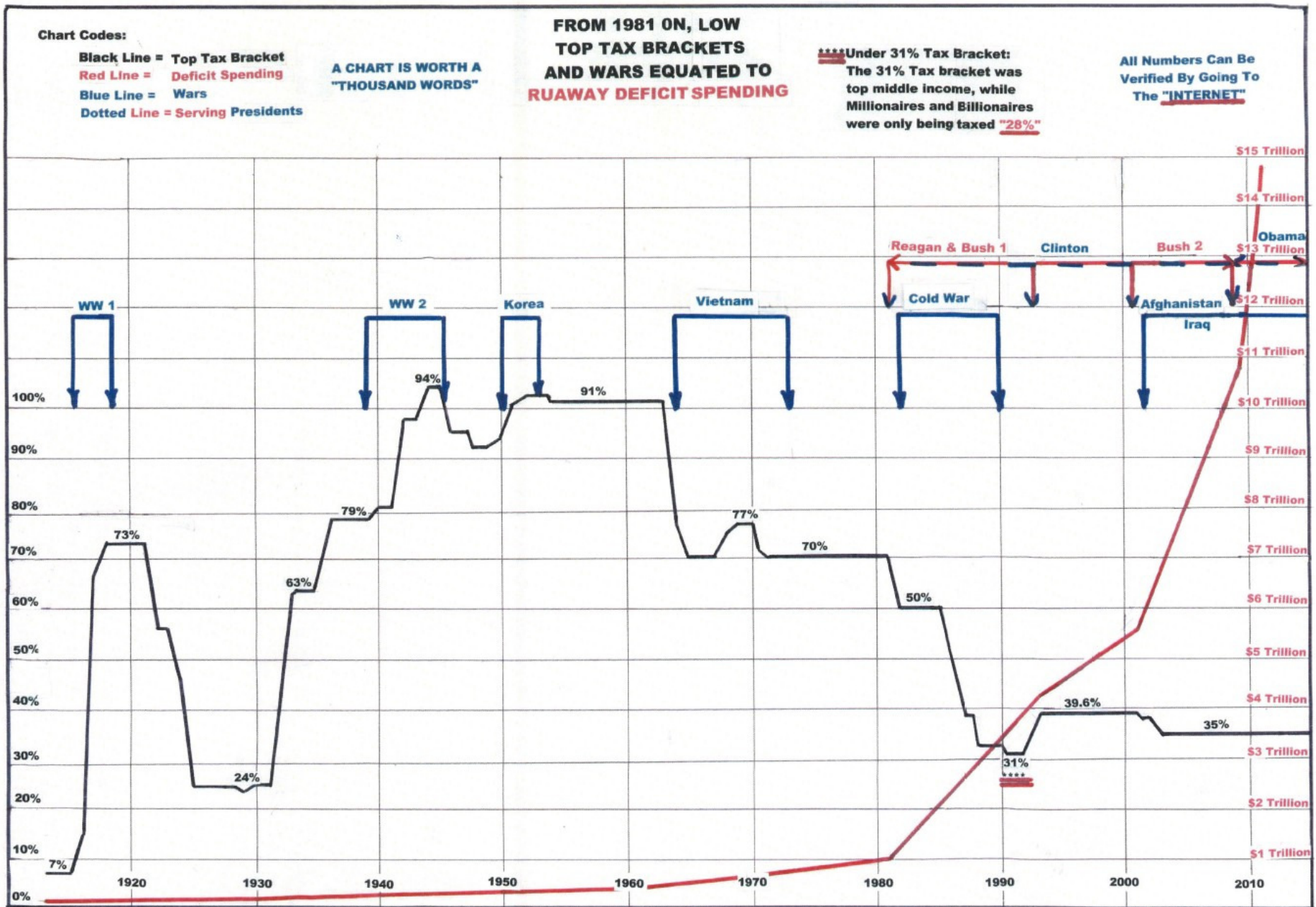


Third Saturday Seminar 2011-2012
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 04
21 January 2011

Don't (be) Panic(ked)
Curt Gibby

Current Events Segment

ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery
Conroe, Texas



21 January 2012

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked) -
 Presentation

Keeping the Fed meetings Interesting

**Records: Federal Reserve Officials Foresaw,
Joked About Housing Bubble in 2006 (Video
8 minutes)**

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/jan-june12/federalreserve_01-13.html

“GITMO”

Contrary to his promise to veto, The last thing Barack Obama did in 2011 was sign a bill that eliminates due process for anyone suspected of terrorism in America.

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-january-3-2012/lockup-everyone>

http://12160.info/profiles/blog/show?id=2649739%3ABlogPost%3A737332&commentId=2649739%3AComment%3A746850&xg_source=activity

He justifies the signing of the NDAA as a means to combating terrorism, as part of a counter-terrorism agenda. But in substance, any American opposed to the policies of the US government can –under the provisions of the NDAA– be labeled a “suspected terrorist” and arrested under military detention.

Some of you may have noticed that for the last year or so I have closed these meeting notices with **“DON’T(be) PANIC(ked)”**, and some of you likely recognized that I had shamelessly plagiarized the **“DON’T PANIC”** from the work of Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*

I had the temerity to modify what was Douglas Adams' very satisfactory and useful phrase, by adding the “ (be)” and the “(ked)”, simply because it came to me that in this digital and media driven world, you would not be as likely to panic on your own as you would be induced to panic because to quote from the catalog course description , “our world is in interesting times and individual citizens are assaulted with a blinding array of propaganda from every conceivable source. The Third Saturday Seminar is about demystification of what is going on around us.

For your edification and for those who have read “Hitchhiker,”I have excerpted a couple explanatory paragraphs from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrases_from_The_Hitchhiker%27s_Guide_to_the_Galaxy

DON'T PANIC

DON'T PANIC (always uppercase) is a phrase written on the cover of [*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*](#).^[31] The novel explains that this was partly because the device "looked insanely complicated" to operate, and partly to keep intergalactic travelers from panicking.^[32] It is said that despite its many glaring (and occasionally fatal) inaccuracies, the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* itself has outsold the [*Encyclopedia Galactica*](#) because it is slightly cheaper, and because it has the words "DON'T PANIC" in large, friendly letters on the cover.^[31]

Arthur C. Clarke said Douglas Adams' use of "Don't panic" was perhaps the best advice that could be given to humanity.^[33]

Knowing where one's towel is

Somebody who can stay in control of virtually any situation is somebody who is said to know where his or her towel is.



The logic behind this statement is presented in Chapter 3 of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* thus:

“... a towel has immense psychological value. For some reason, if a strag (strag: nonhitchhiker) discovers that a hitchhiker has his towel with him, he will automatically assume that he is also in possession of a toothbrush, washcloth, soap, tin of biscuits, flask, compass, map, ball of string, gnat spray, wet-weather gear, space suit etc., etc. Furthermore, the strag will then happily lend the hitchhiker any of these or a dozen other items that the hitchhiker might accidentally have "lost". What the strag will think is that any man who can hitch the length and breadth of the galaxy, rough it, slum it, struggle against terrible odds, win through, and still knows where his towel is, is clearly a man to be reckoned with.”

So, fellow Seminarian grab your towel and I will attempt to share some reassuring thoughts about what's going on in our galaxy.

**Keep in mind: (That is try not to forget,
as our nation and the nations of the world
enter times even more interesting than those
we have endured and are enduring**

**"We the people of the United States, in Order
to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice,
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the
common defence, promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this
Constitution for the United States of America."**

(The preamble to our Constitution.)

Awakening (we try again)

The people of the world are on the verge of another stage of metamorphosis and awakening which is being driven by undeniable revelations that they are at best being exploited, and in many cases victimized by the authorities, leaders and institutions that were supposedly put in place to serve the needs of community, but instead have seen it as opportunity to amass wealth and power, even regardless if their scheme produce the need benefits of not.

We see this in the present worldwide debt crisis, which was brought on the by the greed of sellers and incompetence of buyers and the ready creation of debt to satisfy social needs and inflate the balance sheets of bankers

Technology is making this transparent to the masses

The Coming Accidental War with Iran, by Lyric Hughes Hale

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lyric-hughes-hale/the-coming-accidental-war_b_1170574.html

Now that America's withdrawal from Iraq has been formalized, and Osama **bin Laden**, Hosni **Mubarak**, Muammar **Gaddafi**, Ali Abdullah **Saleh**, and Zine el Abidine **Ben Ali** have all been vanquished, after a year of unbelievable changes throughout the Middle East, my prediction is that **Iran is about to regain center stage in the region**. As a result of the US withdrawal, Iraq could be prone to more violence, and the Iranian leadership must certainly have taken note that **none of the toppled leaders, including Saddam Hussein, possessed formal nuclear capabilities**.

The first act is already being played out in Syria, the only Arab state to align itself with Iran, and in the streets of Bahrain, its neighbor under Saudi control. The Saudis and the Israelis are mulling diplomatic as well as military options to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capability

Superfail: Why D.C.'s Fiscal Clown Show May Still Yield Results, Daniel Gross

<http://finance.yahoo.com/blogs/daniel-gross/superfail-why-d-c-fiscal-clown-show-may-133350178.html>

If Congress and the White House simply argue, grandstand, and refuse to come to an agreement over the coming year, some \$7.1 trillion in deficit reduction could be on the way. This is what *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne dubbed the [do-nothing option](#). The full details are [here](#). There's \$3.3 trillion from letting the Bush-era tax cuts on income, capital gains, and dividends expire at the end of 2012. The alternative minimum tax isn't indexed for inflation. And so each year, it catches more people up in its maw, unless Congress enacts a temporary patch. Simply doing nothing on the AMT would raise \$700 billion over the next several years. A law passed in the 1990s cut the reimbursement rate for Medicare providers.

The Upcoming Electoral Follies

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in Politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors"~ Plato

With one exception, the potential republican candidates apparently all believe they will be given imperial powers to make us great again and lower the taxes of the rich and give everybody a job, but we might have to fight some more wars, because they are very afraid of ----- what? Who should be able to beat us militarily? But we allowed ourselves to be panicked into 10 years of debilitating military-political nation reforming adventures. So now, we are ill equipped to resist or lead resistance or even provide a credible example.

We had a plan for Iraq which wasn't perfect, but could be believed to have potent anal to reestablish the infrastructure of Iraq, but the plan was abandoned, the professional classes disenfranchised because they had belonged to the Baathist party.

It was a perfect incubator for a never ending civil war, which continues to this day.

Does money buy elections?

Interview with [Stephen Dubner](#), [Marketplace for Wednesday, January 11, 2012](#)

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/economy/freakonomics-radio/does-money-buy-elections> [Transcript](#)

Yeah. No politician's going to step forward and say: 'Please don't send me your money. I don't want it. I will not use it.' Look, campaign fundraising has become an arms race, and as is any arms race, the first casualty is logic. Right? But let's **look** past New Hampshire **back to Iowa last week. Here's some good evidence for these politicians. Rick Perry spent \$4.3 million on advertising there, which is nearly triple what Romney spent -- and he got 10 percent of the vote. Rick Santorum, on the other hand, spent only \$30,000 for ads in Iowa, and he lost to Romney by just eight votes. So much for the money argument.**

MONEY BUYS ACCESS, BUT NOT ELECTIONS

That's why the big players give money to both sides

The Indefinite Detention Bill DOES Apply to American Citizens on U.S. Soil

Don't be confused by anyone claiming that the indefinite detention legislation does not apply to American citizens. It does. There is an exemption for American citizens from the mandatory detention requirement (section 1032 of the bill), but no exemption for American citizens from the authorization to use the military to indefinitely detain people without charge or trial (section 1031 of the bill). So, the result is that, under the bill, the military has the power to indefinitely imprison American citizens, but it does not have to use its power unless ordered to do so.

But you don't have to believe us. Instead, read what one of the bill's sponsors, [Sen. Lindsey Graham said about it on the Senate floor](#):
“1031, the statement of authority to detain, *does* apply to American citizens and it designates the world as the battlefield, including the homeland.”

Obama said he would veto but he signed

He justifies the signing of the NDAA as a means to combating terrorism, as part of a counter-terrorism agenda. But in substance, any American opposed to the policies of the US government can –under the provisions of the NDAA– be labeled a “suspected terrorist” and arrested under military detention.

“Moreover, I want to clarify that my Administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens. Indeed, I believe that doing so would break with our most important traditions and values as a Nation. My Administration will interpret section 1021 in a manner that ensures that any detention it authorizes complies with the Constitution, the laws of war, and all other applicable law.”

The signing statement does not in any way invalidate or modify the actual signing by President Obama of NDAA (H.R. 1540) into law.

It will be in force regardless who the next President is ...

Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense

http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf

Defend the Homeland and Provide Support to Civil Authorities. U.S. forces will continue to defend U.S. territory from direct attack by state and non-state actors. We will also come to the assistance of domestic civil authorities in the event such defense fails or in case of natural disasters, potentially in response to a very significant or even catastrophic event. Homeland defense and support to civil authorities require strong, steady.—state force readiness, to include a robust missile defense capability. Threats to the homeland may be highest when U.S. forces are engaged in conflict with an adversary abroad.

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!**

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.

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 and Water are limited resources

Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

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.

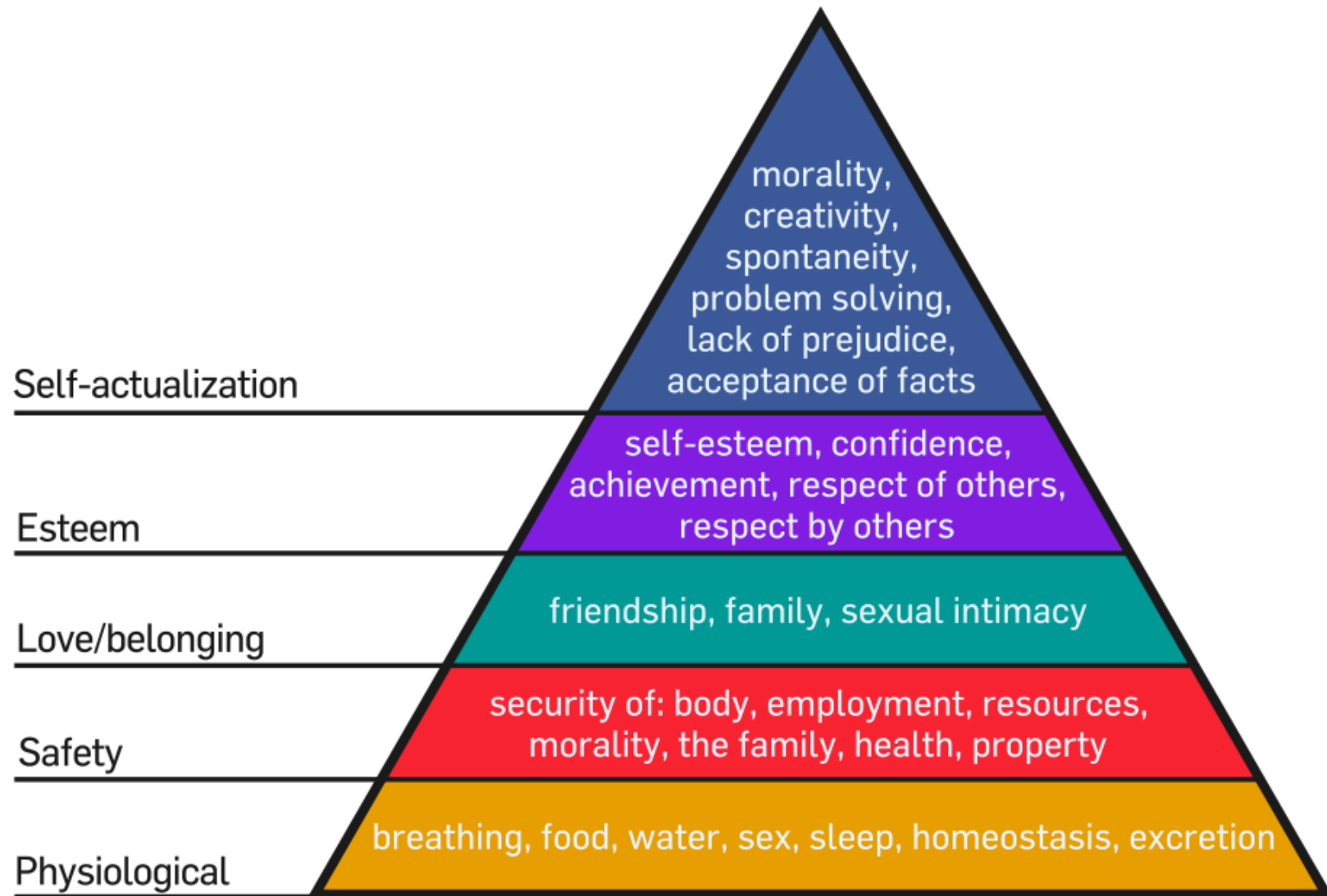
Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

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.

Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



Continuing from our last meeting... A perspective (1895) Gustave LeBon, *The Crowd*)

The true historical upheavals are not those which astonish us by their grandeur and violence. The only important changes whence the renewal of civilizations results, affect ideas, conceptions, and beliefs. The memorable events of history are the visible effects of the invisible changes of human thought. The reason these great events are so rare is that there is nothing so stable in a race as the inherited groundwork of its thoughts.

LeBon (cont.)

The present epoch is one of these critical moments in which the thought of mankind is undergoing a process of transformation.

Two fundamental factors are at the base of this transformation. The first is the destruction of those religious, political, and social beliefs in which all the elements of our civilization are rooted. The second is the creation of entirely new conditions of existence and thought as the result of modern scientific and industrial discoveries.

A “Head’s Up” (A Caution)

The ideas of the past, although half destroyed, being still very powerful, and the ideas which are to replace them being still in process of formation, the modern age represents a period of transition and anarchy.

***THE CROWD - A STUDY OF THE POPULAR MIND*
(La psychologie des foules (1895)) BY GUSTAVE LE
BON, NEW YORK, THE MACMILLAN CO. (1896)**

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

Grace Lee Boggs

DON'T PANIC!

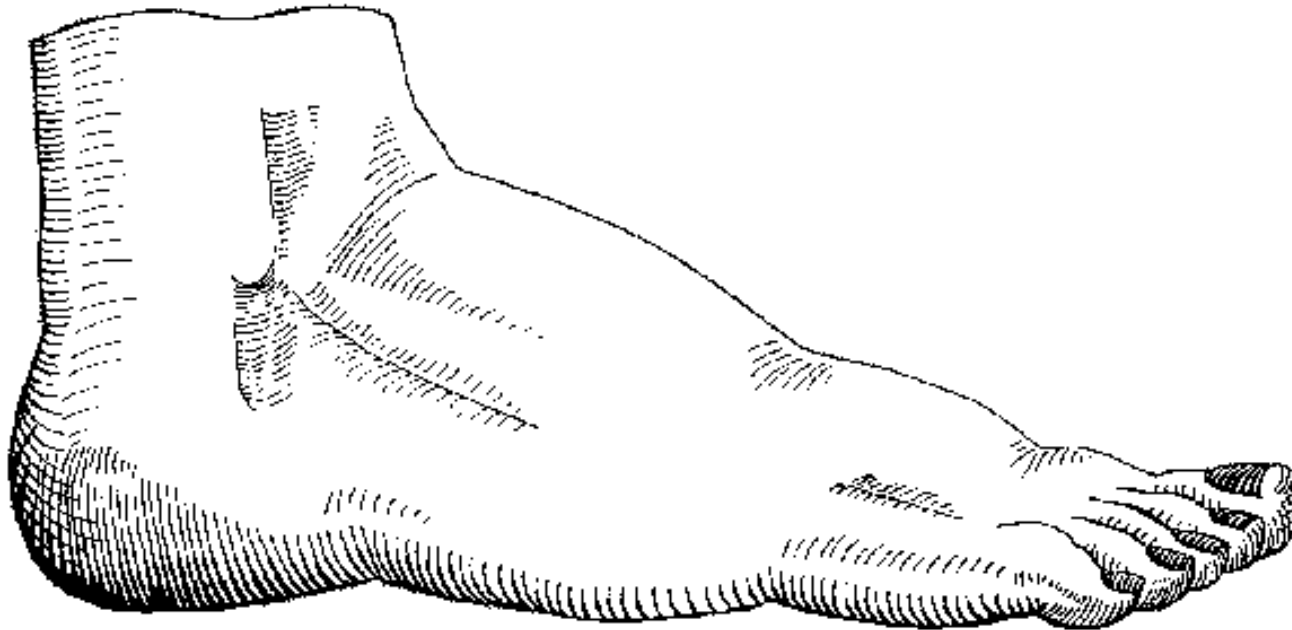
DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 18 February 2012

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.