



MONEY: ENDS & TRENDS

For resources on “endtime economics” and to subscribe to the free newsletter, *Eternal Value Review*, visit Wilfred’s website www.eternalvalue.com or contact him at: staff@eternalvalue.com

Demonization of Bankers & Jews

By Wilfred Hahn

The Economist magazine earlier this year published a most curiously-entitled article: “The Dangers of Demonology” (January 7, 2012). Since this is a widely respected global business magazine, we wondered just what this article would really be about. As it turned out, the message of the article was this: “Hatred of bankers is one of the world’s oldest and most dangerous prejudices.” This caught our attention. The “oldest” and “most dangerous prejudice” is the hatred of bankers? Just who are these bankers that are so hated, and does this qualify as demonology?



It proved to be a most misleading article, in our view. Yet, to the discerning, it packed an ominous warning.

Spiritually-Blind Media

Just what did the *Economist* article say? To begin, it commented upon the “social uprisings” around the world, specifically the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement and its various offshoots that are claiming that “a malign 1% [the rich], many of them bankers, are ripping off the virtuous 99% [poor].”

Quoting the *Economist* further on this point:

Anger is understandable. The financial crisis of 2007-08 has produced the deepest recession since the 1930s. Most of the financiers at the heart of it have got off scot-free. The biggest banks are bigger than ever. Bonuses are flowing once again. The old saw about bankers—that they believe in capitalism when it comes to pocketing the profits and socialism when it comes to paying for the losses—is too true for comfort.



Indeed, this is all too true. In fact, many prominent “Wall Streeters” themselves would agree. We have long lamented the growing corruption and hugely imbalanced incentives in the world’s money-related industries. What we see are the natural lusts of mankind playing out; the condition of the human heart being at fault.

As societies have taken more liberal stances (for better or worse) and the external constraints of law, regulations, and accountability are removed, the unbridled impulses and lusts of humanity become all too apparent. Since the day of Creation, the key worldly vulnerabilities and desires of mankind have remained the same. “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world” (1 John 2:16). Just as the force of the earth’s gravity will always exert a constant downward pull on mass, so money lures humans to particular actions. The capstone of these mentioned proclivities is the innate lure and obeisance to Mammon, which is the love of money. “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).

As such, oversized compensation incentives in any business will test the ethical fortitude of its executives, no matter how virtuous they may be. In the case of enterprises involved in the industry of credit and debt—these being closest to the ancient metaphysical furnaces of Mammon—the collateral damage of greed and corruption is much larger. Malfeasance in “money” industries casts a much wider swathe of damage; credit creates its own destruction if it is allowed to run rampant. It is always surprising how few career bankers even realize this fact.

When the inevitable forces of over-indebtedness strike, particularly in the

present era of a “one worldwide monetary system,” the results are catastrophic and sudden. Not only is hardship imposed on a large number of households (deserving or not), massive transfers of wealth take place. Invariably, these sudden wealth shifts feed the powers of an emerging class of elites.

Unfairly Deserved

There is a belief that democratic societies get the politicians and governments that they deserve. Therefore, the same must also apply to a society’s financial systems and the demeanor of its business enterprises. It follows that societies then deserve the destruction that results from systemic financial corruption. Why? Because the human societal values that allow or create the conditions for such unbridled corruption to occur, do not happen in a vacuum.

These occur only because they are accepted. The subtle changes in values are shifts away from “eternal values” to the increasing adoption of the humanist creed.

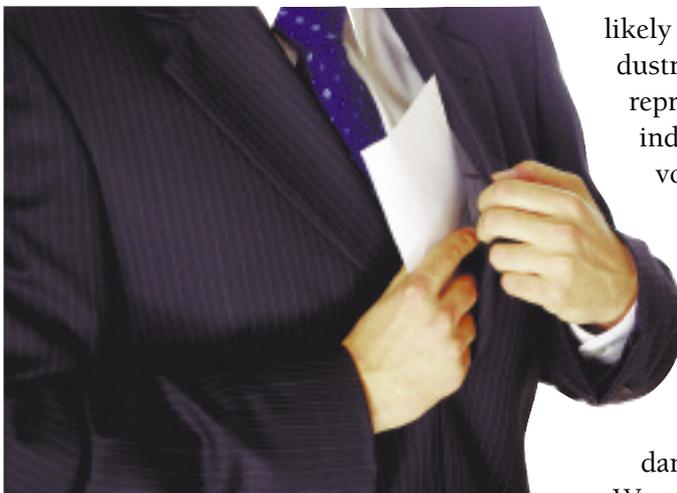
The only difference in this parallel we draw between democracy and wealth stratification is that one can vote politicians out of office, but not corrupt financial elites (to take one example), nor an extremely imbalanced wealth skew. Generally, those that become rich (whether righteously or not) do not willingly give up their advantageous positions. Viewing history, whenever such conditions of extreme wealth distribution have become criti-

Just as the force of the earth’s gravity will always exert a constant downward pull on mass, so money lures humans to particular actions.





We must first understand that the world's entire monetary system (this being based upon a fraudulent fractional reserve system) is a corruption from the start. It imparts enormous powers upon policymakers and its elites.



cal, eventually social unrest occurs and sometimes a complete societal overturn such as occurred in the French Revolution or during the 1950s in Cuba.

Financial Elites Deserve Immunity

Let us return to modern-day money lending and *The Economist*. The article takes the view that since money lending is linked with the prosperity of societies, we should not be prejudiced against bankers. Demonizing them will risk undermining the very foundations of the standards of living that we enjoy today. This analysis betrays an incorrect focus. Yes, money lending and the other pure capital formation functions that Wall Street and its sister industries around the globe may create are not bad in and of themselves. The validity of these functions is not being contested. It is the corruption of individuals to the highest levels within these businesses that is protested, as well as the subservience of households and entire real economies to the enterprises of financial speculation, “money manager capitalism” and rapacious capital (“raffendes Kapital” according to old classical German economists).

If the world and its politicians were not bought off and given over to the spirit of Mammon, they would be more

likely to reform the financial industry around the world and to reprimand those companies and individuals that were clearly involved in illegal and criminal activities. So far in the continuing Global Financial Crisis (GFC), this has not happened, at least not in a major way. But when it does, it will likely unfold in a very dangerous fashion. How so?

We must first understand that the world's entire monetary system (this being based upon a fraudulent fractional reserve system) is a corruption from the start. It imparts enormous powers upon policymakers and its elites. In a time when European banks are in dire straits, with most of them technically insolvent, vested interests will not rock the boat. They will seek to validate the status quo and to protect as many cronies in this system as possible.

Next, the article in *The Economist* gives us a further clue, opening the door to an ancient phenomenon as shown at length in the following quote:

Throughout history, moneylenders have been persecuted. Ethnic minorities—most obviously the Jews in Europe and America but also the Chinese in Asia—have clustered in the financial sector first because they were barred from more “respectable” pursuits and later because success begets success. At times, anti-banking prejudice has acquired a strong tinge of ethnic hatred. In medieval Europe Jews were persecuted not only because they were not Christians but also because killing them was a quick way to expunge debts.[...] The forgers of the ‘Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion’ wanted people to believe that Jewish financiers were engaged in a fiendish global conspiracy. Louis McFadden, the chairman of the United States



House Committee on Banking and Currency in the 1930s, claimed that 'the Gentiles have the slips of paper while the Jews have the lawful money.' The same canards have been used against Chinese minorities across Asia. This is not to say that the [OWS] protesters are guilty of ethnic prejudice: they belong to a class and a generation that is largely free from such vices. But demonization can easily mutate into new forms.

Is the *Economist* correct to take such a non-alarmist view?

We think not. The balance of history suggests that the "demonization" will in fact not mutate into new forms and that people are not free of such vices and hates. Yes, the Chinese diaspora to the rest of Asia in response to the political instabilities in China during this past century, does carry some similarities with the fate of Jews; however, there are key differences. Firstly, the Chinese diaspora has taken place over a little more than a century. For the Jews, on the other hand, this persecution has spanned a time period that is 20 times longer and has involved virtually every nation in the world. Secondly, the Jews are a people set apart from the rest of the nations of the world (the Gentiles) by God (Leviticus 20:24). Thirdly, a godless world, ruled by the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), will continue to persecute the Jews.

Even further, for the nations that rage against God (Acts 4:25) to disprove or invalidate the promises and prophecies of God, they must neutralize the Jewish race. Mainly as consequence of these factors, Jews have repeatedly and unjustifiably been the scapegoats during the difficult economic periods of many countries. As such, we should not be coaxed to take the "non-alarmist" perspective that the *Economist* promotes.

Anti-Semitism is rising sharply in North American and many other countries around the world ... from Spain to Japan.

Other Anti-Semitic Voices Gain Credence

An Op-Ed article that recently appeared in the *Financial Times* by Mahathir Mohamad entitled "West needs to go back to capitalist basics," sounds some similar alarms, at least for those who know something about this man (January 11, 2012, www.ft.com). We admired Mahathir for the economic policies that he enforced during his time as President of Malaysia during the Asian Financial Crisis of the late 1990s, although his policies were very controversial at the time. (I remember that time clearly, as many millions in Malaysian investments that I was responsible for as Chief Investment Officer of a large international investment institution were frozen.) Although his policies were eventually vindicated, there is strong reason to be suspicious of his religious bias.

The perspectives Mahathir expresses in the Op-Ed article are not entirely without merit. He argues that the western world, not able to compete in goods trade with the rest of the world, opted instead to promote the alchemies of financial markets. As he states in the article, "Getting greedy, they abused the system, manipulating the market for greater profits." We would not vigorously disagree with this statement. Then he comes to the nub of his analysis, as we see it; he claims that "currency trading" is at the root of the problem.

While some might think that these are the rantings of an 86-year-old man who is reliving the glories of the time in 1998, in which he rebuked cross-border investors (so-called currency traders) that he believed were driving down the

Even further, for the nations that rage against God (Acts 4:25) to disprove or invalidate the promises and prophecies of God, they must neutralize the Jewish race.



As has often occurred down through the past two millennia in many countries around the world, Jews have ended up being convenient but hated scapegoats during difficult economic times. The “love of money” and “hatred of the Jew” have frequently proven mutually evil.

ringgit (Malaysia’s currency), there is much more behind his euphemism of “currency traders.” Just who specifically does Mahathir mean when he assigns the blame to “currency traders”? Allow us to quote from some of his statements in the past.

In late 1997, Mahathir claimed to have “definite information” that financier George Soros, whom he identified as a Jew, was responsible for Malaysia’s currency problems. He stated: “We do not want to say that this is a plot by the Jews, but in reality it is a Jew who triggered the currency plunge, and coincidentally Soros is a Jew. It is also a coincidence that Malaysians are mostly Moslem. Indeed, the Jews are not happy to see Moslems progress. If it were Palestine, the Jews would rob Palestinians. Thus this is what they are doing to our country.”

In his 1970 book *The Malay Dilemma*, Mahathir wrote: “Jewish stinginess and financial wizardry gained them commercial control of Europe and provoked anti-Semitism which waxed and waned in Europe throughout the ages.” He also wrote that “the Jews for example are not merely hook-nosed, but understand money instinctively” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, October 17, 1997).

Mahathir also has made utterly reprehensible statements that have suggested that the periodic persecutions and killings of the Jews are deserved. On October 16, 2003, in a speech to the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia, he said “The Muslims will forever be oppressed and dominated by the Europeans and the Jews.” The *Financial Times* (a blue-blood Anglo publication with huge international influence) makes no mention of Mahathir’s religious bias, though these are well known and public. Given his virulently anti-Semitic and anti-European statements, we wonder why the *Financial Times* (headquartered in Britain)

would even print an Op-Ed written by this man.

Thoughts to Ponder

Concluding, we again quote the *Economist* article:

Railing against the 1%—particularly when so many of them work for companies with names like Goldman Sachs and N.M. Rothschild—can unleash emotions that are difficult to cage. A survey in the *Boston Review* in 2009 found that 25% of non-Jewish Americans blamed Jews for the financial crisis, with a higher percentage among Democrats than Republicans. [...] Today, the combination of hard times and harsh rhetoric could also produce something nasty.

What would be nasty? The Bible and history tell us. “I will pursue them with the sword, famine and plague and will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth, a curse and an object of horror, of scorn and reproach, among all the nations where I drive them” (Jeremiah 29:18).

As has often occurred down through the past two millennia in many countries around the world, Jews have ended up being convenient but hated scapegoats during difficult economic times. The “love of money” and “hatred of the Jew” have frequently proven mutually evil.

We urge readers to read Chapter 10 in our most recent book, *Global Financial Apocalypse Prophesied: Preserving True Riches in an Age of Deception and Trouble*. [Please consider ordering this book from Midnight Call Ministries at 1-800-845-2420.] Anti-Semitism is surging dangerously. Christians need to be aware of the agendas underway and the ancient plot that has played out repeatedly over the millennia. Christians should have no part in this; even more, we are obliged to pray for and protect our brother the Jew. (MC)