



VOL. 24, No. 1 JUNE-JULY 2010 \$6.00 NANAIMO, BC CANADA

# dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

## MAGAZINE

***Has civilization  
brought us any  
closer to  
Heaven?***

**Lessons  
from Antiquity**

***The Tower of Babel***  
Painting by Pieter Bruegel, c. 1563  
Story on Page 5

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**Deadline for the next issue of dialogue:**  
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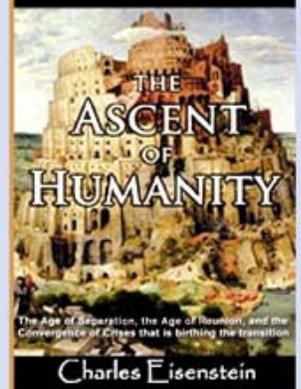
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## In focus

Civilization and the Human Sense of Self



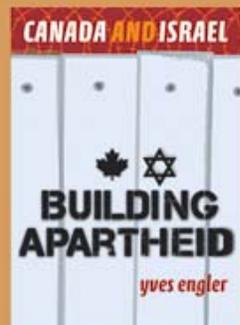
See pages 5,20 for articles by Charles Eisenstein related to his book, THE ASCENT OF HUMANITY



Charles Eisenstein



Elizabeth Trudeau shares her thoughts on language in Canada, P.34



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## A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet and Penny

This issue is somewhat later than usual, as it had to wait for us to digest and absorb an extraordinary volume of material and some exceptional and timely essays that found their way to us, thanks to our readers. In the face of relentless and recurring global crises, we are endeavouring to ensure that we include articles that help us find a wider and more inspiring perspective than is offered by disaster coverage. Yes, it is important to know what is really

going on – and it is even more vital to understand the bigger picture: which often means taking a deeper, more philosophical approach.

The unusual time in which we are living has prompted us to select an essay that is longer than what is normally featured in this periodical: *The Ascent of Humanity*, by Charles Eisenstein, p.20. We hope you will take time to sit down quietly with this thought-provoking piece. In keeping with the message on the cover of this issue, there are also a number of other articles that draw on the wisdom of the past to find workable pathways to our future. Like the Biblical “*Tower of Babel*,” we humans have constructed, over many millennia, a complex structure – of laws, economics, religions, cultures, education, theories, social and material technologies, etc. But, as Charles Eisenstein notes on p.5, it is “an edifice that reaches high indeed. We call it civilization, but are we really any closer to Heaven?” See also *Prescription for a Peaceful Society*, p.27.

While there are many profound and thought-provoking philosophical articles in this issue, you will also find the usual gritty and provocative columns and commentaries on current and recent events in Canada and around the world. The unfolding miscarriage of justice relating to the BC RAIL/CNR scandal has serious implications for all Canadians [Robin Mathew’s article, p.14].

As of the time of printing, the petition initiative to stop the implementation of the HST in BC was very close to achieving (more than) the number of signatures needed, across the province. It remains to be seen what the Government of British Columbia will do in response. Whatever transpires, *dialogue* will not be increasing its subscription price of \$30 (which currently includes GST). We are giving thoughtful consideration to revising the subscription model of this non-profit endeavour, with a view to ultimately bringing it in line with the “gifting” paradigm that is evolving: a shift from an economy of ‘how can I make the most or spend the least’ to ‘how can I best share my gifts with others.’

*Dialogue* is an independent, volunteer-produced, not-for-profit publication and has always relied on the donations of its readers to survive. If you are in a position to help at this time, your donation is very greatly appreciated. Without your support and your voices, there would be no *dialogue*! *Thank you.*

*Maurice*, volunteer publisher      *Janet*, volunteer editor/layout  
...and Penny, of course!

**QUOTE.** “Within every institution of our civilization, no matter how ugly or corrupt, there is the germ of something beautiful: *the same note at a higher octave.* Money is no exception: its original purpose is simply to connect human gifts with human needs, so that we might all live in greater abundance.” – from the introduction to the upcoming book, *Sacred Economics*, by *Charles Eisenstein.* **MORE IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**

## dialogue is...

...an independent, volunteer-produced, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers - empowering their voices and the sharing of ideas.

*dialogue*, for 23 years, has been providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and an antidote to political correctness. We encourage readers to share with others – including our politicians – the ideas and issues gleaned from these pages.

**If this is your first issue, please let us know what you think of it. If you would like to share your ideas and become a writer in**

*dialogue* magazine

**Consider this your personal invitation to participate!**

**We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue**  
(See P. 58 for details)

**We receive NO government funding & little or no advertising revenue. We rely totally on the generous support of our readers & subscribers.**

*dialogue* was founded in 1987 and is published six times a year. Maurice J. King, Volunteer Publisher  
Janet K. Hicks, Volunteer Editor

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# From Near and Far

## Singapore: A Lesson for Canada

**Melvin Smith, Fredericton NB**

Recently I read an article on the City of Singapore. Britain had an influence on these people up until 1963, when they became independent. But the thing is, in one generation, that city transformed itself into an efficient place. Why? I have read articles whereby, for one main reason, government officials are "corrupt free."

Just short of one hundred percent of people own their own homes, taxes are low, the city is clean, no homeless or slums. Now, wait a minute! What have we got here in Canada? The people of Singapore have picked up where Britain's rule left off and they have used God's laws, not ours. Need I say more? ♣

## My Compliments

**Don Keir, Dundas Ont.** [ [d\\_keir@bell.com](mailto:d_keir@bell.com) ]

The contributors to this magazine impress me as being the most thoughtful, concerned group of people that one is apt to encounter anywhere. Canada and the world would certainly be a much better place to be if such people were in charge. Can we convince someone to become the next prime minister?

Since my retirement, since about '92, I have spent a great deal of my time trying to convince people to do something to change our system of government. That is, trying to convince them that if they did not, then our descendents would live under conditions that would be no better than slaves.

I have written hundreds of letters to newspapers all across Canada. I have written to all the members of our federal government at least twice. The results have been close to zero. Even my family are sure that if what I was telling them were true it would be on the front page of the Toronto Star or they would hear it on the CBC news on the television. I cannot convince them that that will only happen when hell freezes over. That shows how much control the corporate propaganda masters have over the general populace. That is my rant for to-day. At any rate, keep up the good work.. ♣

## Surprised at the vitriol against Quebec & bilingualism

**John Thomas, Quesnel BC**

Thank you for your dedication. Excellent articles.

I'm surprised and a little disturbed at the vitriol against Quebec and bilingualism. Room for correcting imbalance, yes, definitely; however, my two daughters and their children are fluently bilingual and the doors are open for them. One of my sons is capable in English, French, German and some Russian – a great advantage. ♣

## Questions and Question Period...

**From Jeremy Arney, Saanichton BC**

**To Mr Baird, Minister of Transport.**

I heard and saw you today, 27th May 2010, in question period mocking Gerard Kennedy because he hadn't asked you a question for 175 days. You seemed surprised, as if you should be asked questions more frequently.

I first asked you a question, a very simple question, about a \$24 million interchange, 353 days ago (8th June 2009) and have still not had an answer, so maybe Mr Kennedy is as frustrated as I by the process of obtaining any sort of real response from you. Certainly today he didn't get a real response to his question did he?

I am told all Ministers have to be absolutely devout Christians in order to get their positions, so maybe I should quote to you from your book: "*And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*" **Matthew 7:3** ♣

## Profiteering, price-fixing and public gouging

**From: Kenneth Tellis, Mississauga ON**

**To: The Honourable Dan McTeague, MP**

"Profiteering, price-fixing and public gouging." There I said in just a few words what the free newspaper METRO took a whole column to say.

As long as we have corrupt politicians in Ottawa, as we have at present, nothing is going to change. Remember that if Ottawa allows the Oil Companies to freely profiteer there is a good reason. Price gouging has its merits as far as the federal government in Ottawa is concerned, because a higher price for gas means higher profits for the feds.

So what the people of Ontario (Canada) are really looking at is collusion between the Oil Companies and the Government, and it boils down to is, whatever is good for the OIL Gougers is good enough for the FEDS, because they are working together to rip off the public. Remember that Ali Baba only had 40 thieves while these people have a darn sight more. - **Kenneth T. Tellis, May 20, 2010** ♣

## Re: Dialogue magazine

**Jim Taylor, Okanagan BC**

The copy of *Dialogue* that you sent to me arrived yesterday. Thank you. ... You refer to *Dialogue* as a publication for "Canada's Independent Voices." I have to congratulate you -- you've certainly achieved a wide variety of independent voices, ranging pretty much across the political spectrum. It must be hard, sometimes, to avoid attaching some kind of editorial disclaimer to a few of the voices.

**Jim Taylor**, [jimt@quixotic.ca](mailto:jimt@quixotic.ca) or [rewrite@shaw.ca](mailto:rewrite@shaw.ca)

(Weekly columns at <http://edges.canadahomepage.net/> ) ♣

# From Near and Far

Why is the Tower of Babel on the cover of this issue?

An eloquent answer to this question is provided by author Charles Eisenstein, whose recent book, [The Ascent of Humanity](#), features, on its cover, the same painting by Pieter Bruegel\*

Why the Tower of Babel?

by Author Charles Eisenstein, Harrisburg, PA-USA  
The painting of Pieter Bruegel s featured on the cover of his book, [The Ascent of Humanity](#)\*\*

The Biblical story of the Tower of Babel provides one of the central metaphors of the book ([The Ascent of Humanity](#)). In the (biblical) story, the builders sought to build a tower that reached to heaven – a metaphor for the attempt to reach the infinite through finite means. Similarly, human beings through their technology – social and material – have sought to create a perfect world, a Utopia. Social technologies, such as systems of law, and physical technologies of energy, materials, and biota, have created an edifice that reaches high indeed. We call it civilization, but are we really any closer to Heaven? Are we better off today than the hunter-gatherer, the Roman peasant, the 1950 American? No matter how many problems we solve, the sky seems just as far away as ever.

Meanwhile, the higher we build the more problems appear in the base of our structure, as if our civilization were beginning to collapse under its own weight.

Look at Pieter Bruegel's painting. The lower sections begin to crack and crumble even as they build the tower higher. Similarly, even as technology achieves new wonders, fundamental problems as old as civilization proliferate. We have microchips and nanotechnology, yet a large and growing portion of humanity cannot meet basic human needs for food, health, and security from violence.

One look at the Tower in the painting is enough to see that the builders' project is obviously doomed. It is absurd, in fact. The higher the building goes, the greater an insulation from reality is necessary to continue the effort. Yet continue it they must, because their whole way of life is built around its construction.

Jared Diamond gives a similar answer to the question of why the Easter Islanders continued to destroy their ecosystem to erect huge monoliths, even when their doom should have been obvious. Their politics, their economy, their social organization, all depended on the construction.

We as well are addicted to the ascent of technology. Faced with the problems caused by previous technology, we know no other way to solve them but through new technologies that generate their own unintended consequences. Helplessly, we build the Tower higher.

One of two possible fates is in store for such an enterprise.

One is a stupendous collapse, when the weakened foundation can no longer bear the structure's weight. Many thinkers foresee precisely such a finale for civilization as its ecological basis degenerates.

Another possibility is that, like in the story, the builders abandon their attempt. The Babelians woke up one day to find themselves speaking different languages – a metaphor for a breakdown in communication, consensus, and comity. The grand project of civilization is fragmenting; scientific hyperspecialization renders various fields mutually unintelligible; and we are doubting the possibility and desirability of building yet higher.

Instead, people everywhere feel the pull to go back to nature, back to the land; to live more simply, more freely, more slowly. This trend points to the great irony of the all-consuming effort to build a tower to the sky – the sky is all around us already! A perfect world is available right now, and has always been available. We are no closer than our hunter-gatherer forebears, and no farther either. All that is needed is a shift of perception.

We might still build towers, but the motivation will be entirely different. To what purpose would we turn the human gifts of hand and mind – technology and culture – when we are no longer driven skyward? ♣

\* **Pieter Brugel: The Tower of Babel** is the subject of an oil painting (c.1563) by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c.1525-1569), the greatest Flemish painter of the 16th century. The painting, now at Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, depicts the construction of the Tower of Babel, which according to the **Book of Genesis** in the Bible was a tower built by a unified, mono-lingual humanity as a mark of their achievement, and to prevent them from scattering: "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.'" (Genesis 11:4). Bruegel's depiction of the architecture of the tower, with its numerous arches and other examples of Roman engineering, is deliberately reminiscent of the Roman Colosseum, which Christians of the time saw as both a symbol of hubris and of persecution. [Researched at Wikipedia] ♣

\*\* **More from [The Ascent of Humanity](#) on p. 20**  
Visit Charles Eisenstein's website:  
<http://ascentofhumanity.com/> ♣

You Were Made For This

By Clarissa Pinkola Estes, American poet, scholar, psychoanalyst and post-trauma specialist [QUOTE:]  
"My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times..." CONTINUE READING ONLINE:

[www.wanttoknow.info/youweremadeforthis](http://www.wanttoknow.info/youweremadeforthis) ♣

# Canadian Politics

## Saskatchewan and Manitoba both reject regressive sales tax

**Bill Tieleman, April 13, 2010**

*"We do not support harmonization because of the \$400-million burden of taxes that is going to go from business to consumers in this province and we think that's entirely inappropriate."* – SK Finance Minister Rod Gantefoer

[EXTRACT] There's a lot you aren't hearing about the disastrous effect the BC Liberal government's plan to impose a Harmonized Sales Tax will have on the province.

Given that Premier Gordon Campbell didn't even tell you he would jam an HST down your throat before last year's election — it's important British Columbians hear the facts.

The popular (SK Premier) Wall rejects the HST while the despised Campbell and McGuinty are about to impose an unfair new tax on July 1. Coincidence?

Here's what Campbell doesn't want you to know. First, the right-wing Saskatchewan Party government last month strongly rejected the HST because of the enormous tax hit on consumers when it transfers all the money raised to big business. Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall made that clear last August: "You know in an election campaign in 2007, I was asked about harmonization and I said that we wouldn't be going in that direction if we were elected ... we don't think it's right."

That's refreshing to British Columbians — a premier telling voters the truth both before and after an election, and keeping his word. Maybe that explains why Wall has a 56 per cent approval rating in Saskatchewan while Campbell only has the approval of 23 per cent in BC, according to a recent Angus Reid Public Opinion poll, barely ahead of Ontario Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty's 21 per cent. [...]

Second, Manitoba's left of centre New Democratic Party government has also ruled out the HST.

And while the BC Liberal government only produced a study on the impact of the HST eight months after announcing it, Manitoba actually researched the issue before deciding — another refreshing idea. [...]

So, governments on the right and left reject the HST for the same reasons — because the HST would dramatically shift taxes from big business onto consumers, hurting the economy.

Will these most obvious political calculations cause Campbell to listen to public opinion and cancel the HST?

We'll soon see but one thing is clear — if the BC Liberals win the HST battle to impose the new 12 per cent tax they will surely lose the political war that it has sparked.

Bill Tieleman is one of BC's best known political commentators and communicators. BLOG: <http://billtieleman.blogspot.com> ♣

## What's wrong with Accountability?

**Frank Blackwood, Richmond Hill, ON**

Never before in Canadian history have we had the button of active politics on mute. It is almost like the politicians feel being out of sight, out of mind is the best way to handle this matter. What is really wrong with accountability? The politicians in Ottawa are whining because the Auditor General of Canada wants to see their expense accounts. I don't understand why they are barking up a tree and not wanting to let Shelia Fraser see their accounts? It almost appears like the little crackie\* is barking at their heels because it senses something not smelling right. It is only protocol to have your business accounts done once a year to understand where our hard earned dollars are going, and to pay up if we owe the three levels of government taxes in order that our country, province, towns and cities can function well financially.

It will be Canadians who will decide the future of every politician. I think, if they hide what they spend, they should not represent us in Ottawa. They should not use this as a political football once the Auditor General does get into the depth of their spendings.

\*crackie is a Newfoundland term for a little dog

## Minister Flaherty & the Robin Hood Tax

**Larry Kazdan, Vancouver, B.C.**

RESPONSE TO: Robin Hood tax would raise \$700 million a year from bank transactions: say activists [Heather Scofield, CP] available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/24end2e>

In rejecting opposition pleas for the Robin Hood tax, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty maintains that no Canadian taxpayer money has had to be put into our banking system. Flaherty fails to mention that under the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program (IMPP) and the Extraordinary Financing Framework (EFF), the government is forecasting the purchase of \$275 billion dollars of financial assets to help the financial sector overcome its liquidity problems, the final cost of which to Canadian taxpayers has yet to be determined.

Should anyone be curious to know why banks pay no taxes on their financial transactions whereas you pay tax on your purchases of goods and services, and why the banks get direct government help with their liquidity problems whereas you get little such help with yours, remember that it's just another example of Canada's Golden Rule: He who has the gold makes the rules.

Larry Kazdan C.G.A., Vancouver, B.C.

[lkazdan@shaw.ca](mailto:lkazdan@shaw.ca) / (604) 872-4091

Footnote: Bank Bailouts and the 2009 Federal Budget:

The Untold Story of Canada's \$275-Billion Financial Bailout

ONLINE: [www.socialistproject.ca/relay/relay25\\_dasilva.pdf](http://www.socialistproject.ca/relay/relay25_dasilva.pdf) ♣

## "The Fifth Columnist"

An incredible denseness of being



**Michael Neilly, Dunrobin ON**

Liberals are stupid. They are shallow, non-thinking people whose political knowledge is a distillation of Liberal slogans, of Red Book fluff. There, I've said it.

Pierre Trudeau's Constitution Act, 1982, blatantly favours one group of people. It is a disgraceful, elitist, racist document

that concentrates power in Ottawa and allows Ottawa to discriminate based on race, creed, colour and class.

This is the essence of the Liberal Party of Canada. To identify "victimized" political classes and award them jobs, grants, contracts and power. Is there a political scientist in the house? What have I just described but collectivism? Perhaps a class society?

The word "promote" is a Liberal euphemism for 'impose', as in "promoting" the French language. It is vintage Liberalism to support fluently bilingual Supreme Court judges, or to tacitly support the fascist language laws in Quebec (no accent intended). But the mere idea of a Law 101 for Ontario that establishes the primacy of English... what, that offends you?

Looking at the credentials of Liberals, they are well-educated, accomplished individuals, far more than your average Canadian. I find it remarkable that such intelligent individuals cannot see the Liberal Party for what it is: a party that supports a phoney carbon exchange market (Kyoto) that doesn't address real pollution one iota, a party that pays lip service to poverty and peace, but then decides that speaking French is the nation's top priority. Never mind that beggars, drug addicts and the mentally ill roam our streets, never mind the threats to our air, water and earth from reckless growth, the danger that foreign investment and trade pose to our communities, forget all that; 'Do you speak French (fluently)' is their biggest concern? The Emperor's New Clothes are official bilingualism and official multiculturalism, the allocation of political power based on culture, on differences, on class membership.

I am sick to death of hearing whiney Canadians bleat that a vote for an alternative party is a "wasted vote." How will things ever change in Canada if non-thinking people vote for the Liberal party, the party about nothing at all, that preens itself with adoring coos of "Look at us, we're a moral superpower." It reminds me of Toronto bragging that it had clean streets and discos in the 1980s – we all have a good laugh over that one.

I strongly urge Canadians to take a good look at where we are going, with the shallow, dopey, elitist Liberals, that smug, evolved cadre of Toronto voters who evidently have

nothing better to do than contemplate their linty navels and vote for the intellectually bankrupt Liberal party.

People are getting fed up. They are looking around. Why not vote for an independent candidate? Vote for the person you feel will represent your community and interests.

Please discard the ridiculous notion that such a vote is a wasted vote. I submit that voting for the ruling party simply enfranchises short-sighted social policy and political opportunism. Why not, this one time, instead of watching four hours of television this evening, visit the web site of the BC Refederation Party (<http://refedbc.com/>). Think about these ideas, about real change. If you really believe that this Canada, the one you see in every downtown city street these days, is YOUR Canada, by all means vote Liberal. I, for one, have had ENOUGH.

### Klaatu – berada – nikto

An alien lands his spacecraft in Washington, D.C. It's the 1950s. He exits his ship, now surrounded by armed soldiers, tanks and howitzers, and is promptly shot. It's the beginning of my favourite movie, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. Shortly thereafter, Klaatu is held in hospital under guard, while the military tries to cut into his spacecraft and fearsome robot, Gort.

I have to wonder if God did show up, would he be shot, too? Whether he comes as a pauper or a beam of light, would we try to kill God and steal his technology? In every encounter, it's not very comforting to know that humans feel perfectly entitled to dissect anything, living or not, in order to name, understand and finally control it.

The alien in the story recovers thanks to his own advanced medicine, and escapes to learn more about our culture. He sees that, while there is some good, notably in children, most adults are selfish and fearful. After a time, he meets a famous scientist to deliver his message, that should Earth become dangerous to other planets, it would be incinerated by the galaxy's police force, of which Gort the Robot is a member. Klaatu stages a compelling demonstration of his power by stopping every machine in the world dead in its tracks for 30 minutes, hence the title of the movie.

We find out later in the film that the alien belongs to a group of planets that has given complete power over them to a race of robots, who, upon detecting aggression, destroy the aggressor and if need be their entire planet. It's a sobering message.

We have lost our way. It's true. Why don't we worship the sun, the earth and the oceans? Why isn't our every action dedicated to living within the limited resources that our world offers, without pollution, without mindless consumption and growth? We could blame the sacred book that ⇒

says that we have dominion over this planet and everything on it. Or, we could conclude that, like a child picking at a scab, we do it because we can! Might makes right!

In the book *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn, a young man responds to an ad in a newspaper, "Teacher seeks pupil, must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person." The young man meets an extraordinary teacher with a message that shakes his pupil's belief system to the core. The teacher describes two cultures, one called the Leavers and the other called the Takers.

The Takers practise what is known as totalitarian agriculture, and kill pretty much anything that interferes with their food supply. In fact, the Takers believe that human life is sacred, but anything else on the planet is dinner. Whales, tuna, cod, the earth is a giant sushi bar.

The Leavers, on the other hand, live pretty much as the animals have for thousands of years. Their philosophy is that man belongs to the world, not the reverse. It's a sustainable way of living.

It scares me to think that we were created in God's image. If so, the Maker left out some critical components. We teach our kids to respect boundaries and we establish

boundaries around ourselves. But as for our culture, the Takers' culture, there are no boundaries at all. Consume and pollute, as long as we grow.

I know that there is more. Scientists have discovered about 270 exo-planets, planets that could support life, revolving around other stars. I am convinced that there are many other truths to be revealed in time. There are unseen forces -- great and small -- that bind us, insinuate us and may eventually guide us to our destiny. However, our self-serving questions, our "right" to take anything apart and our utter lack of respect for life will truly be our undoing. Some day we will be visited, of this I'm sure. Just like in the movie *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, a superior being will show up and he will be stoned by ignorant men. The only safe god is an invisible, intangible one. The others we'll try to usurp and kill. And now even the invisible ones aren't safe. If there is a Gort out there, I hope he knocks us down a peg or two. If you don't believe in God, believe in Gort and act accordingly.

- **Mike Neilly, Dunrobin ON**

*dialogue always welcome, contact me at:*

[fifth\\_columnist@magma.ca](mailto:fifth_columnist@magma.ca) ♣

## Response to Mike Neilly's column

**From A.B. Stevens, Nanaimo BC**

**To Mike Neilly, Dunrobin ON**

Your submission in *Dialogue* April/May 2010, is of particular interest. Especially Item 22 which is a reformed personal income tax system.

Most years there is a new twist, sometimes our Masters are trying to give us a benefit in a backhanded way, but these can require mental contortions. Our agitations are not new. Back when Paul Martin was Minister of Finance about 10 years ago we wrote to him complaining about the awkwardness of the reporting system. In those days M.P.s did reply to our letters, but then referred us to another Minister who was responsible for the wording of the returns. Nothing came of this and as you are well aware the procedure becomes ever more exasperating.

We regret that the Reform Party under Preston Manning did not become a government where a 'flat tax system' could have been instituted. This may not have suited everyone but at least Preston realised a need for reform in that area.

Many here in British Columbia are sickened with the way Canada is governed. A small group of us formed the BC Refederation Party a few years ago which is an easier way to go than battling to form a Federal party. You may care to look at our website [www.refedbc.com](http://www.refedbc.com). This promotes absolute democracy, where the people control the government by voting on major issues 3 or 4 times a year.

I always read *Dialogue* from cover to cover and enjoy your columns . . . keep them coming.

- **Alastair B. Stevens** ♣

## Response to Personocratia column

**Iris Yawney, Dauphin MB**

I have been very pleased with your magazine in the last two years, especially all the good info on the dangers of all our French immersion happenings and forceful implementation by law, plus many other items on our Canadian life. Thank you!

I want to point out a danger in your plan to have a new contributor to your magazine in the form of Personocratia.

I have read *Medical Mafia* and cheered all her marvellous concepts. However, she really has "evolved" since then and I don't think you will be happy to have untruths placed in your paper under the guise of supposed deep thought.

I am referring to her two references:

1) She told her four reproductions she is not a mother. She only wants to be called a friend. Well, that's her choice, but my mother is more than a friend, she gave me life, she nurtured me, and no friend has done or could do that. Personocratia is obfuscating truth. I do not appreciate that, and the fact that she is an MD leaves me stunned that she could be so frivolous about the principle of motherhood.

2) Personocratia says she knows she is the Supreme Being incarnated in a body. To this I would say that if she would put her hand in the fire she will quickly realize she is not a Supreme Being but a mortal being. Keep it there long enough and you will die. You are a human being.

Personocratia must have had a run in with a new age guru who convinced her she is divine. This is a lie. I see that new age thought is so prevalent in our world today. Scripture does warn us that in later years, we will have itching ⇒

ears wanting to hear fantastic things (which will be lies given from the master liar), but they will entrance us. (I wonder if she spent a week at the Hoffman Institute.) Per-sonocrazia is very intelligent and I hope she can quickly

dissociate fantasy from truth. Then I think she will be an intriguing writer, and a powerful writer as she was in Medical Mafia. Thank you for taking the time to consider this.

– Iris Yawney, *Dauphin MB*

## Apathy Begone: Activating Minds and Voices

Aristotle Knew!

**David Boese, St. Catharines ON**

“Money exists not by nature but by law” – Aristotle, 335BC  
Aristotle knew! - after 2345 years we still haven't got it right. Here's what we know! **1)** Money doesn't grow on trees. **2)** Money is created out of thin air by commercial banks instead of by the Bank of Canada. **3)** If there is too much money in circulation it causes inflation **4)** If there isn't enough money in circulation it causes deflation. **5)** The banks work and live in a win-win atmosphere meaning that we lose, they win regardless the circumstances. **6)** All new money comes into existence by debt creation with interest charges accruing to the banks. **7)** There is never enough money available without going into debt to purchase 100% of the country's GDP. **8)** Debt increases exponentially by compound interest and causes unnecessary hardship to the public and all levels of government. Here is an example of how this works. From the most recent publication of Mac-

lean's come these figures, albeit in US dollars. The GDP per capita in Canada last year was \$39,088. The earnings of the middle class Canadians was \$25,340 leaving a shortfall of \$13,748 per capita. So in order to pay for the total GDP we have to borrow the difference.

**10) How can this problem be resolved?** We can go to a Guaranteed Annual Income or we can take a page out of Richard C. Cook's solution, of the government paying out a “National Dividend” equal to the shortfall. Voila– Eliminate poverty, exorbitant debt charges and a stabilized economy. Get on board and help right this ship!

**From my blog "Apathy Begone: Activating Minds and Voices":** <http://boeseblog.wordpress.com/>  
I invite you to take a look, with the hope that it will inspire you to activate your mind and give me your support / input, either positive or negative. I have to thank my wife Shirley and my editor/tech support Ashley Clayton – for without their contributions, this blog would not have been created.

**David Boese, [dash@vaxxine.com](mailto:dash@vaxxine.com) \***

## Battle to keep water public is too important to lose

*Received from Gerry Masuda, whose comments follow.*

**By Murray Dobbin** [Originally published as Special to the Vancouver Sun, Mar. 28, 10]

In Canada, as in most parts of the developed world, our civic governments have for decades run drinking water and waste water treatment systems as a public service. This is because generations have realized that water is something distinct and precious that must be managed as a public, not private, good.

However, in the last 25 years, two trends have been combining to promote the steady shift of water from a public good to private commodity.

The first of these trends is that senior governments have adopted a free-market agenda based on the belief that government should “get out of the way” of business. As a key component of this agenda, they have implemented policies to promote the privatization of many government services. In the case of public water services, they have deliberately avoided needed investments for many years. This has brought us to the present situation, in which crumbling public infrastructure has created a pressing need for massive infrastructure investments.

As a solution to this manufactured and convenient crisis, governments have promoted public-private partnerships, or P3s. A P3 is an arrangement whereby a private corporation provides some combination of financing, designing, building, and operating an infrastructure project, such as a water

treatment plant, and the government pays a yearly fee through a contract often lasting 30 or more years.

Although governments promote P3s as a way to save public money, critics have shown repeatedly that they cost more, since corporations have higher borrowing costs and also must generate a profit. Moreover, because of commercial confidentiality requirements, P3s are much less transparent and accountable.

Not surprisingly, ordinary citizens have been vigorously fighting P3s wherever they've been proposed. One of the biggest P3 battles in Canada was fought in 2001 over the Seymour-Capilano water filtration plant. The regional government proposed developing the project with a corporate partner, but the citizens of Metro Vancouver were steadfastly opposed. More than a thousand citizens packed a town-hall meeting demanding that the plant be developed as a public project. In the end, citizens won a significant victory and the Seymour filtration plant was developed as a public project.

Those fighting to keep water public know that corporations involved in the water business have strong government allies ideologically committed to the P3 agenda. For example, both the Canadian and B.C. governments have mandated that the P3 option must at least be considered for any public infrastructure projects over a certain budget. In Victoria, the Capital Regional District is embroiled in a debate over a possible P3 for a waste water treatment system. ⇒

Kim Manton of CUPE says, "From the beginning this sewage project has been in the crosshairs of the B.C. government's privatization agenda."

The second trend fuelling the commodification of water is bottled water. The bottled-water companies have been promoting their product with slick marketing campaigns designed to convince people that bottled water is better than tap water. Companies such as Coke, Pepsi and Nestle take public water, re-filter it, bottle it and sell to consumers at massive profits. Bottled water sales help establish the notion that water is a commodity like any other, and the production and transport of the bottled water creates huge amounts of greenhouse gas and plastic garbage.

New and emerging threats are trade deals under negotiation with the United States and Europe. These deals may well facilitate further privatization of Canada's water resources and water infrastructure by American and European corporations. Not surprisingly, the anti-democratic Harper government is not even consulting Canadians on the issue or submitting the agreements to Parliament for approval.

It often seems a daunting task to try to keep water under public control. Despite the enormity of the challenge, concerned citizens must continue to fight privatization because the battle over water is just too important to lose. We can either allow ourselves to be bamboozled by a powerful corporate water cartel (and their government collaborators),

which wants to profit off something essential to life, or we can reassert democratic, public control over water and our public services. – *Murray Dobbin* ♣

Response re article on water, P3s by Murray Dobbin (**above**)

**From Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC**

*Mr Dobbin. I have a question for you.*

It seems that *We the People* are always fighting the P3ing of some infrastructure project. It seems to me that the legislative requirement to consider the P3 as the preferred option is the basic problem. The federal government and BC governments have special agencies to ensure that P3s are considered.

It seems to me that the most fundamental action required is to disband these agencies, not have any requirements to set up P3s, and not tie government funding for infrastructure projects to consideration of P3s.

If a valid cost-benefit analysis indicates that the preferred option is a P3, this is OK. However, to tie government funding to consideration of the P3 as the preferred option is wrong. There is now enough experience to prove that P3s are frequently not the best way to go.

My question to you is why unions, municipalities, organizations such as the Council of Canadians are not trying to eliminate the special agencies requiring consideration for P3s? ♣



Jeremy Arney

## Bill C-9 and Liberal acquiescence

**From Jeremy Arney, Saanichton BC  
To Michael Ignatieff, Liberal Party Leader**

Dear Mr Ignatieff,

When I went to hear you speak at a packed Spectrum School in Victoria BC last year, you led us all to believe that Canadian democracy and the Canadian people were what you and the Liberal party were all about. At that time I asked you why you had allowed the 2009 budget to pass with so many other Acts (14 in all) amended within it, and your response basically was because of the EI payments and the importance of getting that money out to the unemployed.... As you must be aware those payments were not honoured.

I have written to you since then urging you to trust the Canadian people, that being honest and being straight forward with your motives you would get support.

You are now planning to allow another Budget Bill C-9 to pass, again with a series of measures disastrous for Canada and Canadians within it: **Sale of Canada Post, Sale of AECL, Destruction of Environmental Protection Agency, Deregulating of the Credit Unions, and of course the raiding of the EI funds and closing of EI offices** (the opposite effect of your reason for support last year - remember?), to mention just a few of those non budgetary measures.

Mr. Ignatieff, Canadians are expecting you to stand up for

them, their interests and their well being. They are not happy that you are not doing that, but are instead trying to buy time for you and your party to gain popularity.

To allow this government to include in this Budget for 2010 such measures that should be presented to parliament on their own merit (or not) for debate and discussion, is NOT in the best interest of Canadians.

To allow this to happen is, in my view, your indication to the Canadian people that they do not matter to either you or the Liberal party, or in other words that there is no difference between your party and the present Alliance/Reform government.

The threat of an election is hollow as there is also the option of a coalition government - if you can persuade the other two parties to reorganise along side of you - which would give you 2 years or more to establish whether or not you are the prime minister of the future.

If you are forced into an election then so be it. The fact you stand up for the Canadian people will stand you in good stead.

Whilst you are dithering, the NDP and Bloc are opposing this bill, making motions to extract the extraneous non budget matters and backing Canadians' best interests.

Where are you and the Liberal party and why should you be voted for? [EMAIL: [iamjema@gmail.com](mailto:iamjema@gmail.com) ] ♣

# "Prévoyance"

## Observations from Erik Andersen, Gabriola Island BC



Erik Andersen

### 2010 Annual Report by the CPP Investment Board

**From: Erik Andersen, Economist**

To: The Honourable James Flaherty;  
Minister of Finance, The Members of the  
Standing Committee on Finance et al

*Dear Parliamentarians;*

The CPP IB has now delivered its Annual Statement for the year ending March 31, 2010. Total assets were at \$140.3 billion, an increase of 25% over the amount for 2009. Total liabilities also increased from \$7 billion in 2009 to nearly \$13 billion in 2010. This was an increase in liabilities by 83%.

Also reported were the various annual operating expenses for the Fund. These expenses (external management fees, transaction costs, operating expenses) increased from \$665 million to \$910 million or plus 37%. Interestingly, this new amount is about twice what it costs to run parliament if the publicly quoted number of \$544 million is correct.

Private market investments are now reported to total \$22.8 billion with a stated intension to taking private equity investments to \$33 billion.

Foreign currency assets now total 57% or \$72.8 billion.

A number of recent initiatives are worth mentioning. The CPP IB has committed \$3 billion for investment in US 1st mortgage pools. Other reported US real estate investments (news releases April 21, 2010 and May 10, 2010) as owner (not secured by mortgages) amount to nearly US\$2 billion initially. By announcement February 3, 2010 the CPP IB is doubling its initial \$400 million investment with a venture capital partner Northleaf Capital.

One last "vector" to mention is in the nature of the Fund's Actuarial report that it is sound for the next 75 years. I read this figure in most of your correspondence on the CPP topic. The Actuary makes several assumptions in preparing this statement that are no longer reflective of reality.

I think it is instructive to look at the various financial "vectors" as shown by a reading of the financial statements. It is probably the best way of deciding if the CPP IB is conducting itself in the best interests of the beneficiaries. "Vectors" indicate both direction and scale.

**Firstly** is the matter of turning the CPP Fund into a "margin" account. It is a common understanding that "margin" accounts introduce more risk than non-margin accounts. Instead of using the \$6.1 billion in new cash to pay off debt, the CPP IB increased debt by almost double and seemingly used the new money to make non-income generating and speculative investments. At the very time when a large portion of the world struggles with too much debt the CPP IB is proceeding in the direction that might compromise its

ability to meet future obligations to beneficiaries.

**Secondly**, the disquieting operating cost "vector" demonstrates growing complexity which in and of itself is a companion to heightening risk.

**Thirdly**, the growing portion described as "private market" investments adds hugely to investment portfolio risk because valuations are in the main established by those who were partly responsible for their original purchase. Risk in this case is driven by the absence of third party authentication and an absence of liquidity. It is my contention that the nearly \$23 billion is probably only worth \$13 billion in a true "mark-to-market" test. I did ask you last year to conduct a few trial tests of specific assets in this category, but I noticed this was avoided.

**Fourthly**, foreign currency assets approximate 60% of the whole portfolio. Considering that all liabilities are to be in Canadian dollars it will be instructive to read what the Fund Actuary has to say about this contradictory "vector" and risk. It is a reality that when "futures" contracts are priced the historical price volatility features importantly in the determination of the "premium" and that is the expressed reason the CPP IB avoids currency hedging. There is a negative correlation between exchange volatility and the "futures risk" premium. Should you need to see foreign currency charts to help you appreciate the seriousness of this risk factor please ask me.

**Fifthly**, the most recent public announcements by the CPP IB indicate a growing appetite for US real estate investments. Besides appearing to demonstrate the characteristics of "the investor of last resort"; these should rightly be described as speculations. They are not in keeping with the intended character of CPP Fund as they rely heavily upon the belief that the US economy is on the mend. This is not a widely shared opinion thus making these investments very risky if for no other reason that higher interest rates are generally thought to be in our future. As you well know there is a negative correlation between higher interest rates and real estate valuations. To compound the risk "vector" here is the fact that they are being made with borrowed money.

**Lastly**, please recognize that the CPP Fund does not function as an investor, different from the many others in North America. For the three California public employee pension plans (Cal PERS, Cal STRS, UCERS) their Actuary has currently projected a shortfall of US\$56 billion. To make this projection, much in the way it is done in Ottawa, the Actuary has assumed future annualized investment returns of 7.5-8%. The Stanford Institute of Economic Policy Research reviewed this assumption and reframed the future ⇒

investment returns to reflect current market realities and the history of recent pension fund return rates. Their estimate was that the likeliest rate of return would be 4.14% which in turn translates into a revised pension fund shortfall of US\$425.2 billion or ten times greater. The financial “vector” here is the very large revision downward of expected investment returns and the unintended consequences of an impossible account shortfall. I fail to see how the CPP IB or the Actuary could make a more promising case.

As before; I am asking on behalf of CPP Fund beneficiaries that the Minister intercede at the CPP IB to stop activities that are increasing portfolio risk. Please stop being spectators before it is too late, if indeed it might already be.

*Sincerely, Erik Andersen; Economist ♣*

## Fraud by Goldman Sachs

**Erik Andersen, April 17, 2010:** This week the US Securities and Exchange Commission filed fraud charges against the New York based financial giant, Goldman Sachs. The basis for these charges is the failure by Goldman to fully disclose a condition of conflict of interest to mortgage-backed securities investors.

This firm’s actions are not unique but symptomatic of business conduct by the global financial sector. While bringing charges is a great cosmetic and news worthy event, public reports already describe the likelihood of a behind closed doors settlement where no fundamental change in business conduct will be imposed on Goldman or the industry.

There are two conditions that need correcting before better business conduct can be expected. The first is in matters of speculation by banks. They must be restricted to only using their shareholders’ capital. This would mean those banks continuing to be addicted to the “fractional reserve” model would have to give up the privilege of having the public insure deposits.

The second is that banks would be prohibited from acting simultaneously as principals and agents. Promises of good behaviour is not sufficient, only out right prohibition will do. There is no prize for guessing which interest will trump the other in conflicting conditions. The intricacies and details of the Goldman Sachs affair ably demonstrate exactly what is referred to here.

Until changes of the kind suggested are made there will only be more examples of bad business conduct for those willing to look for it. The public cares not a jot when folks speculate and lose their own money. They do, however, care when called upon to bail out private corporations as has been the case in recent times. Understandably this is because these bail outs eventually translate into higher taxes such as the HST. Bank shareholders can hide behind the “limited liability” privilege. Citizens are not as lucky as the public’s liabilities are only limited by their entire net worth and that of other publicly owned assets.

## Goldman Sachs to plan sell-off of Ontario assets

Just in case you weren't watching here is the latest episode of the pillaging of Canadian public assets and access to a monopoly. The formula is simple; encumber the crown corporation with excessive debt and future onerous contractual obligations; create a government deficit after reducing corporate taxes which in turn creates the believable prospect of increased taxes for the population (mostly in the form of unavoidable consumption taxes and property taxes); then serve up this unappetizing dish to the public at the same time public asset sales are presented as a partial but essential solution.

Right out of the Australian playbook of a decade ago and managed by the rape and pillage folks well known to the world. It is hard to think that any good will come out of doing business with Goldman Sachs but if someone knows of an example please share it with everyone else.

“Goldman Sachs to plan sell-off of Ontario assets” by Ish Theilheimer. Huge and controversial banking firm has a history of playing both sides in privatization deals. Read at: [www.publicvalues.ca/ViewArticle.cfm?Ref=00656](http://www.publicvalues.ca/ViewArticle.cfm?Ref=00656) ♣

## Manipulation of gold and silver prices

(The Intelligence Daily) For a long time many of us have had very serious suspicions that the prices of gold and silver were being highly manipulated. But now, thanks to the mind blowing testimony of one very brave whistle blower, the blatant manipulation of the world gold and silver markets is being blown wide open. What you are about to read below is absolutely staggering. Once the American people learn how incredibly corrupt the world financial system is, it is going to change everything. The government that we are all trusting to guard the integrity of the financial system is failing to do that job. It turns out that the Commodities Futures Trading Commission has been sitting on solid evidence that the elite banking powers have been openly and blatantly manipulating the price of gold and silver. Even though they were basically handed a “smoking gun”, they have done absolutely nothing with it. But now the information has gone public and the CFTC is red-faced.

**ONLINE:** [www.inteldaily.com/2010/04/gold-manipulation/](http://www.inteldaily.com/2010/04/gold-manipulation/)

*Erik Andersen, Economist ♣*

P.S. People around the world are cranky for a number of reasons that all are symptoms of the same condition; democratic deficits. – *Erik*

**Received from Erik Andersen/Chris Cook:**

The Canadian ‘good banks’ myth

**ONLINE:** <http://murraydobbins.ca/2010/05/22/the-canadian-good-banks-myth/> ♣

## "ONE MAN'S OPINION"

### What is Freedom?



#### **Ken Clark, Fergus ON**

Before anyone can possibly begin to define what freedom is, they must first understand what freedom is not. Firstly, freedom is not free, and secondly, freedom is not necessarily forever. The price of freedom is for people to

constantly protect those freedoms they have acquired over time, and to continue to seek out new freedoms still denied to them. There are, and will always be, countries, governments, institutions and individuals who possess an ongoing goal and desire to take from others.

The dictionary defines "Freedom" as the power or right to act, speak, or think freely. However, as with most dictionary definitions, they are too brief and have limitations. One does not have the right to act unlawfully, speak hatefully or think maliciously. The term "Freedom from" is defined in the dictionary as the state of not being subject to or affected by something undesirable. This suggests to me that the people should have been a direct contributor to the writing of the Charter or, at the very least, have the right to recommend amendments to it over time.

Since Canada was formed, in 1867, the Common Law was the basis for our Constitution, which briefly stated, allowed the people to do anything that was not prohibited by law. Then, in 1982 The Charter of Rights and Freedoms was enacted and Canadians lost some of their freedoms. In this Charter, rights and freedoms now became specified, and were not subject to approval by the people. For example, a prior right of the people, the right to own property, was not specified in The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982.

Since this omission was first realized there has been no attempt, to my knowledge, to have the Charter amended accordingly; so much for the right of freedom of expression.

Unfortunately, there is little value to any Right or Freedom that is not agreed to, practised by, and honoured by both the government and the people.

Some may regard the above line of thinking as idealistic; I regard it as real democracy, truly being practised. If it is not democracy, then who is fooling who in Canada?

#### **I can't believe what is happening to our Country**

In March 2010, a private member's bill, Bill C-232 was passed in the House of Commons. If approved by the Senate in the coming months, future seats on the Supreme Court of Canada will be reserved only for judges who are fluently bilingual. Judges who speak only French or only English will be barred. Here again is just another example of bilingualism being a more important prerequisite for a job than, in this case, legal acumen. This is not good governance at work; this is sheer insanity. In addition, a request such as this should be struck down immediately as contrary

to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Yvon Godin who introduced the bill, insists if "we have 33 million people in our country and we cannot find nine judges who are bilingual - I think we are in trouble."

Monsieur Godin, we have been in serious trouble since 1969 when the OLA was rammed down the throats of Canadians along with the stupid belief that bilingualism is the most important asset to any job in this country. Furthermore, since the Supreme Court has so much power and passes judgement on so many critical issues, common sense dictates that the main criterion for selecting its members must be superior legal reasoning. Should this bill pass the Senate, the Supreme Court would become so unreflective of this country's people it would have no credibility as a national institution. This bill must therefore be defeated; write your MP or a Senator from your province and express your opinion.

#### **MPs stall on request to disclose work expenses**

The more politicians talk about 'openness and transparency,' the less likely it is that the public will see it come to fruition. The Auditor General, Sheila Fraser, is attempting to conduct an audit of MPs' and Senators' work expenses, estimated to be about half a billion dollars. Officially, the Board of Internal Economy, a group made up of MPs from the four political parties that oversees the administration of the House of Commons, is considering Fraser's request to conduct the audit. However, delays are being encountered because the Board already commissions an annual audit of its finances, including MP expenses, by an outside accounting firm. They argue that should be good enough for the Auditor General and for Canadians. However, Canadians know only too well that scandals within government can and do occur. Why would politicians resist such a request from the Auditor general? History records that when a politician looks or acts defensively, the press and the public become suspicious. After all it is the public's money that is involved here. ♣

### Canadian stories we haven't heard about.

#### **Paul Manly, Nanaimo BC**

The Toronto Media Coop is a chapter of the Dominion Media Coop. They have independent chapters in Halifax Montreal (Toronto is new) and Vancouver. The Vancouver chapter did some excellent coverage of the Olympics that was featured on the Real News and Democracy Now among other alt news outlets as well as having some of their video picked up by mainstream media. They put out the Dominion magazine and just released a special G20 issue. It's \$25/ year for a membership in the coop which includes a subscription to the Dominion and the ability to post your own articles. -- [paul@manlymedia.com](mailto:paul@manlymedia.com) ♣

# A Monstrous Canadian Miscarriage of Justice About To Unfold

Part Four in the series on the Gordon Campbell BC Rail Scandal.

“a system of government-protected criminality intended to transfer power from the population to the private corporations”

**Robin Mathews, Vancouver BC**

**The miscarriage of justice about to unfold is what I call “the staged trial” (set to begin May 17) as a result of the corrupt transfer of publicly-owned BC Rail to privately (in fact) U.S.-owned CNR.**

[MAY 8, 2010] Canadians sleep-walk through the take-over of their society by thugs and political adventurists. The signs are clear. In Ottawa the cynical Stephen Harper attacks the Supremacy of Parliament [the fundamental safeguard against undemocratic takeover]. His power grab is debated as a question of the need to “compromise” on solutions to the denial of essential information to elected representatives. Those men and women, elected by Canadians, stand embarrassingly naked, (simply) stripped of their power to represent the people who elect them. (And their condition is blurred, misrepresented, and misreported by the “bought” mainstream press and media.)

In Alberta, government allies itself with corporations to produce a (planned) almost unsupervised looting of community and environment – in the tar sands rape. The whole world notices what Canadians shut their eyes to. The April (Paris, France) ‘Le Monde diplomatique’ features a huge spread on the subject. [translation] “The conservatives in power in Alberta have transformed, with the aid of Ottawa, the north of the province into a supermarket of dirty oil for the profit of multinationals and the U.S. neighbour. The boreal forest is being sacrificed as are the first nations of the region.” The story concentrates on the cynical erasure of native rights – which in recent decades have been a symbol that Canadian democracy was alive and demanding universal equality.

In British Columbia I allege that the Gordon Campbell government - aided by a depressingly servile journalism (mainstream and other) – is engaged in an almost incredible collaboration with RCMP, the higher courts, and the formal political Opposition (poster-group for the failure of Opposition in Canada) - asleep, bribed, or stupid – to hand the province to thugs and political adventurists.

That involves, as we will see, the calculated destruction of law and the administration of justice in the province. Public wealth is being gifted to private corporations by sleight-of-hand, often in secret contracts, and – I allege – by criminal activity (elaborately uninvestigated by the RCMP). The tax burden is being lifted from the corpora-

tions-in-close-cooperation with the Campbell group and laid on an increasingly impoverished population. Education is being attacked. Protection of children is being slashed by calculated legislation. The new Clean Energy Act is a simple ruse to destroy the publicly accountable B.C. Utilities Commission. A slow, continuous undermining of universal health care is – to the observing – a calculated, continuous government policy.

In short, all levels of accountability to the public for the use (and misuse) of government and corporate power are being undermined or destroyed outright in British Columbia.

The Canadian scene is mirrored throughout the Western World. The meltdown of financial institutions in the last years – and the present impoverishment of whole countries - is the result of government becoming an arm of private corporate behaviour. So-called international institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, etc.) – which are in fact ruled from the U.S. - practice the destitution of nations to give advantage to private corporations.

In Venezuela – fiercely democratic – the foreign, private, corporate throttle-hold on natural wealth has been broken. Poverty levels have fallen dramatically. Health care and education for the population have increased hearteningly. The financial state of the country is better than many in the European community AND the U.S. whose massive indebtedness is disguised behind pre-eminent military power. Unable to describe Venezuela as ‘communist’, ‘terrorist’ or ‘muslim fundamentalist’ U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton urges the country to return to health and the “market economy” as the U.S. builds (in violation of the Colombian constitution) more than a dozen new military bases in Colombia to “encircle” (?) Venezuela.

The Enron disaster was followed by the private banks collapse and the now on-going Goldman Sachs investigations. Those are not the proverbial “few rotten apples in a barrel”. They represent the barrel itself, rotten, and contaminating everything inside the barrel, a system of government-protected criminality intended to transfer power from the population (in fact) to the private corporations - and to effect that transfer globally.

That, in short, describes the practice of the Gordon Campbell government in British Columbia. I insist it is “a system of government-protected criminality intended to transfer power from the population to the private corporations”, and doubtless to the delight of Hillary Clin-

ton – in B.C. they are mostly private corporations integrated with or, in fact, a part of the U.S. corporate capitalist system.

**How, you might ask ... how does the trial of three really unimportant British Columbia cabinet aides (all of whom happen to be local Sikhs) for (variously) allegations of fraud, breach of trust, and money laundering (engaging in bribery for petty personal advantage, etc.) have anything to do with the global meltdown before our eyes?**

*Draw near. Listen carefully. I will tell you.*

As the new century opened, Gordon Campbell began his manipulations towards power in the province. I believe he was involved in what I have come to call ‘the fraudulent investigation and trial of Glen Clark’, NDP premier accused of seeking benefits in the building of a ten or twelve thousand dollar sundeck on his modest Vancouver East home. Clark was ruined as the result of a protracted public RCMP investigation and a 136 day trial (which found him innocent of all allegations of wrong doing). B.C. press and media excelled themselves in yellow journalism. The RCMP investigation was highly suspicious. The NDP was left in disarray (and two former premiers called for a public inquiry into whole matter). Gordon Campbell came to power, wading through the sleaze created by what I believe were a wholly trumped-up investigation, trial, and media rape.

Campbell intended to destroy the major publicly owned sources of wealth in the province, to hand all natural wealth to private corporations, to shift taxes from those corporations to the public, and to create an increasingly disenfranchised population with a lower and lower standard of living. He has engaged in those activities since he took power. And he has built a huge tax-paid propaganda machine – as well as neutering the major press and media in the province – in order to complete his work in a fog of deception and misinformation.

Somehow he has been gifted with a formal political Opposition which appears (to me) to cooperate with his worst intentions by failing to provide effective criticism, public education, or action to bring his wrong doing to account. That Opposition concentrates on whatever is trivial in the Campbell policy, NEVER providing analyses of the kind that is written here.

The first thrust of Gordon Campbell policy to destroy the publicly-owned, viable, and long-term wealth of the province began with the corrupt transfer of BC Rail to the CNR. (I believe that undertaking involves criminal wrong doing which the RCMP refuses to investigate. Other privatizing activity of the Campbell government, I

believe, as well, involves criminal wrong doing that goes relentlessly uninvestigated by RCMP.) See the comment on my belief by RCMP Deputy Commissioner Gary Bass below.

The Campbell sleight-of-hand has been made possible by a shift of perception in the West – fostered constantly by the corporate press and media. The courts and the police have accepted – almost blindly – that “government” activity, however plainly in breach of the trust placed in government by the voting population, MUST be seen as legitimate.

In the case of the BC Rail Scandal, I have concluded after years of study and attendance at the pre-trial hearings in court that Gordon Campbell and his associates constructed a wholly false picture of BC Rail. Flying in the face of his election promise, they set to work by misrepresentation of fact, by actions to disable BC Rail efficiency, by fragmenting and disintegrating an effective structure, and by employing supporters, paid officers, and a large civil service to prepare an essentially fraudulent case for the “sale” of BC Rail to CNR. [...]

– Robin Mathews

**CONTINUE READING IN THE PRINT EDITION OF DIALOGUE, JUNE-JULY ISSUE. ♣**

### **Comment from Stephanie McDowall, sent to all MPs with the report:**

“Robin Mathews' report is about far more than B.C. Provincial politics. There is a terminal cancer eating away at Canada and her people. Are there just a few amongst you who care about this? Will you speak out? Or... are you just gatekeepers who are enjoying comfortable life styles and an eventual rich pension? Will your leaders gag you? Will you obey? I hope not.”

From: S.McDowall  
[ [stephmcdowall@telus.net](mailto:stephmcdowall@telus.net) ]

### **B.C. government devalued rail in order to sell, court hears**

**Brian Hutchinson, National Post - May 19, 2010**

Vancouver -- The British Columbia government concocted a conspiracy to devalue a provincially owned railway in order to justify its sale, jurors at a political corruption trial heard on Wednesday.

Defence lawyer Kevin McCullough also made the startling suggestion that "the fix was in" to sell B.C. Rail to Canadian National Rail Co. and to spurn other bidders. He made the remarks as he cross-examined Crown witness Martyn Brown, who is chief of staff to B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell. [...]

**READ ONLINE: <http://tinyurl.com/np3049127>**

[From June Ross, BC Mary] ♣

# A PARADIGM-CHANGING BOOK

## The Ascent of Humanity

### The Age of Separation, the Age of Reunion, and the convergence of crises that is birthing the transition

A book by Charles Eisenstein

by Charles Eisenstein, Harrisburg, PA

ONLINE: <http://ascentofhumanity.com/>

[EXTRACT] The Ascent of Humanity is about the history and future of civilization from a unique perspective: the evolution of the human sense of self. This book describes how all the expressions of our civilization – its miraculous technology as well as the pillage of earth, culture, goodness, and beauty – arise from our identity, our way of being, "the discrete and separate self". The gathering crises of our age demonstrate that this way of being is on the verge of collapse. And this collapse is setting the stage for a revolution in human beingness whose stirrings we already begin to feel.

The Ascent of Humanity is about Separation: its origins, its evolution, its ideology, its effects, its consumption and resolution, and its cosmic purpose. What is the purpose of the grandeur and the ruin we have wrought? If civilization is to collapse, Why? and What for? Will we then go back to the Stone Age, or will we be born into something entirely new? This book draws from mythological sources, as well as natural processes of birth and transformation, to offer a narrative framework for the majesty and madness of human civilization.

More than anything, The Ascent of Humanity is about how to create the more beautiful world our hearts tell us is possible. I have long found most prescriptions for "what you can do" to reverse humanity's trajectory of ruin quite empty. Recycle your bottles and turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth. Write your Congressman. What are these tiny individual actions against the juggernaut of destruction that consumes oceans, trees, soil, and culture?

This book offers an entirely different approach that begins with the reconception of our very selves. It invalidates the logic of despair that so many activists have felt, that arises inescapably from the conception of ourselves as discrete and separate subjects in a world of others. This is the ideology of separation.

The ideology that has created the human realm we know is the same ideology that has us despair we can ever change it. Wait, did I say "we"? I mean actually "you" and "I". "We" is often disempowering too, because it leads us to wish, "Oh if only everyone would

get it, then we would have a better government, better laws, and stop being so greedy." But they don't – how could I make them? – and the despair comes back. Helplessness. Frustration. This may be the only book you have ever read that fully gets the enormity of the crises facing us, yet responds neither with despair nor with fantasy suggestions about what "we" should do about it.

**BOOK TEXT IS GIFTED ONLINE BY AUTHOR  
CHARLES EISENSTEIN:**

[www.ascentofhumanity.com/text.php](http://www.ascentofhumanity.com/text.php)

[with a Voluntary Donation if desired]

### Introduction

from The Ascent of Humanity, online at:

[www.ascentofhumanity.com/introduction.php](http://www.ascentofhumanity.com/introduction.php)

**In the next issue: *Sacred Economics***, by Charles Eisenstein, an article adapted from the introduction to his upcoming book Sacred Economics, whose purpose is to make money and human economy as sacred as everything else in the universe. If you can't wait, visit: [www.countercurrents.org/eisenstein250410.htm](http://www.countercurrents.org/eisenstein250410.htm) ♣

## The Myth of the Tragedy of the Commons

by Ian Angus

[EXTRACT] Since its publication in *Science* in December 1968, "The Tragedy of the Commons" has been anthologized in at least 111 books, making it one of the most-reprinted articles ever to appear in any scientific journal.

Contrary to Hardin's claims, a community that shares fields and forests has a strong incentive to protect them to the best of its ability, even if that means not maximizing current production, because those resources will be essential to the community's survival for centuries to come. Capitalist owners have the opposite incentive, because they will not survive in business if they don't maximize short-term profit. If ethanol promises bigger and faster profits than centuries-old rain forests, the trees will fall. [...]

**READ ONLINE:**

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2008/angus250808.html> ♣

## "Mountain Murmur"

### A smile of kindness...



**Denny Z. Petrik, Clearwater BC**

Many, many years ago I stood at the edge of my father's grave. As the coffin was lowered down my whole young world seemed to be coming to an end. Across the grave stood a friend, a girl from our dancing school and she smiled.

It was a very special smile of kindness and it literally, wordlessly said "you are not alone".

She and I have never been any more than friends, good friends and have since gone in our diverse ways. But her smile I have never forgotten. It was a sincere silent promise that she will do everything possible to help me get over the hard hurt. And indeed her friendship did just that.

There were flowers and wreaths and many condolences, some sincere and others wearing the mask of formality; there were candles and hymns, but among all that stood out that smile.

That was a long time ago. But I could not help to notice that as one travels through life one encounters many simple but meaningful smiles. They may not do much more than make a couple of people feel a little better on a rainy day, but they are priceless. Particularly in situations like the present economical and political mix. If one can find or hand out a smile, a joyful remark to disperse the ugly clouds a little, one is in a gold mine.

This is particularly true in matters of big business and/or officialdom. The duties can be performed with a starched collar or in a human manner. Upon my landing at Quebec City the customs man examined my passport and visa and decided that he would let me in. So he stamped my passport with the precious "Landed Immigrant". As he did so he jovially said, "There you go, landed immigrant". And then he looked up and down me and with a smile said, "And a tough job it was".

My waste line was a bit spread out. It was an official act with a human touch added, and we both felt a little better.

Similarly, one day I drove up the highway to a road block. It was obvious that the commercial rigs were being screened for safety. I was coasting very slowly following a walking policeman at the centre of the road. Finally, without looking at me or the vehicle his hand waved a signal to stop. When I opened the window he asked with a smile, "Did I startle you?" I said "No, I had a feeling you may wish to chat with me." Then he asked for my driver's licence. This was not a young officer, he was one of the older members

and because of that and his approach of stopping me, I dared, "Driver's licence, what's that?" And the officer went right along with it and with a smile gave me a description of the plastic card with my picture on it. Then I told him that it must be the one in my wallet, in my hip pocket and I would have to undo the seat belt to get at it. "You will not fine me for undone seatbelt, will you?" "Not as long as your vehicle is stopped. But you move two feet, it's 120 dollars." I did have a licence and I did buckle up again and off I went, smiling some. And in the rear mirror I saw a grin on an official face. Another day made a bit better.

The trouble is that such little incidences get buried in the rush and emptiness of the modern world. Firms are growing larger and larger and attention to customers scarcer and scarcer. You know how it is. Get in the store, search out what you want, hope that what it says on the box is right and make sure you pay for the thing; that soul at the end needs to hear the beep. But occasionally you will find a big store where staff respond as people. I went to Office Depot and could not readily find printer cartridges. Young fellow walked up and offered assistance. So I asked for cartridge location. And he politely asked me to follow him and led me to the section where they all were stored. The store in question is small enough that he could have easily pointed from where we met and I would have seen the desired location. But he chose a smile and "follow me" approach. It was his way of acknowledging that customers pay his salary, not the boss. And thanks to him, whenever I need something along that line that is the store where I go. I was so impressed about this service that I wrote a letter to the manager complimenting this young man. After all, if the boss talks to the chap and tells him about the letter and the chap smiles, then it was worth the stamp I had to use.

It would behove us well to duly notice such little smiles of face or gesture and steep in their magic even if only for a little while. They are not things due to us, they are gifts given to us by human kindness and generosity. And if we enjoy and appreciate them fully perhaps their after effect will help us to extend similar presents onto others more frequently. And then the little smile could assume the role of a snowball rolling down the hill and grow larger and larger till it overshadowed ugliness.

In my wildest dream I see the masses whispering to one another about the smile and the helping hand and tossing into garbage the unused tickets to a Mixed Martial Arts show. ♣



*The big problem of the present is that the dazzling lights of modern civilization obscure the view of the splendour of stars.*

# A Time-Honoured Prescription for A Peaceful Society

Received from S. McDowall, Nanaimo BC

This is a lovely report... especially on how these small people raise their children. How wonderful to live in a world such as they have created for themselves. Unfortunately with the forests being rapidly cut down, this life will end... probably quite soon. There used to be millions of Pygmies. Now there are only a very few thousand. This is definitely worth reading if you want to learn about a people who live in absolute peace and joy with one another. They have no crime at all. None. Probably because of how they raise their children. - *Stephanie*

ARTICLE ONLINE: <http://primal-page.com:80/pygmy.htm>

## A Pygmy Model for Partnership by Ushanda io Elima

The Efe Pygmies are “wholly non-aggressive,” Jean-Pierre Hallet told me. Could that be true? Since Hallet largely grew up with the Efe in equatorial Africa, and has lived with them for much of his sixty plus years, I figured he might know. And since aggressive people increasingly threaten our lives, both locally and internationally, his claim seemed worth checking out.

Whether or not humans are genetically violent, as some maintain, has significant relevance for we who are peace activists. The root causes of aggression, both interpersonal and international, matter greatly regarding effective strategy for prevention and elimination of human violence.

And, while I cannot tolerate false hope, I was feeling a need for first-hand information that could offer genuine hope of a better world for our human family. My fascination with the African Pygmies began in the 1960s, when I read The Forest People by Colin Turnbull, who had lived with the Mbuti Pygmies for three years. In the late '60s I attended Turnbull's lecture series at the Museum of Natural History in New York City. In the early 1970s I heard Jean-Pierre Hallet speak about the Efe Pygmies at the University of California in Berkeley. At that time he showed his 1972 documentary film on this indigenous African tribe. Later I read Hallet's book, Pygmy Kitabu. Hallet has lived with the culturally pure Efe Pygmies from early childhood. He gave startling evidence of the trusting, cooperative, and joyful lifestyle of these forest people. Thus I was pleased to meet with Jean-Pierre Hallet in his Malibu home. He is six feet and four inches tall, far from pygmy size, and speaks with passion. He lost his right hand while dynamiting Lake Tanganyika for fish to feed a group of starving Africans in

South Mossi. Dubbed “one of the most remarkable men of the 20th century,” he is the only white man to become a member of the Bwame Secret Society, and a blood brother of the Lega, Tutsi, and Nande tribes. He is also an initiated Maasai warrior.

Mr. Hallet was born in Belgium, but went to Zaire's Ituri Forest, where his artist father had been living, when he was only six months old. Hallet told me that, for the most part, he grew up with the Efe Pygmies. He went barefoot, wore a loincloth, and did everything that they did. He still spends time with them every year. The following account of Pygmy life draws upon my meeting with Hallet, as well as other firsthand reports from him and Colin Turnbull. What emerges is a picture of a culture based on honoring—to use a Native American concept—“all our relations.”

### Sexual Maturity and Pregnancy

The Pygmies are well aware of the connection between sex and conception, Hallet explained during our meeting, and sexual relations before marriage are accepted. If a girl becomes pregnant, she always knows who the father is, because it is customary to have

only one lover at a time. Should the couple wish to marry, they do. If they choose not to, then many men will want to marry the mother-to-be, because children are most desirable. [...] Newborn Care

According to Hallet, there is no bonding ritual, but there is a bond — “like a fruit to its branch” — a physical attachment for the first year or so. During this year, the baby is “never separated from the

mother.” In Hallet's view, this constant contact is one reason why Pygmy infants rarely cry. Pygmy babies appear to feel good. “They are satisfied in all of their requirements,” he stated. On the rare occasion when a baby does cry, it is only for a moment, because the baby's need is immediately taken care of. Often this means nursing, which satisfies the baby's necessity for close contact and attention, as well as for nourishment. Hallet remarked that the baby is usually carried in front, although sometimes on the back. In either position, Pygmies feel it is essential to maintain skin-to-skin contact, with the child naked against the mother's bare skin. If clothing is needed for warmth, the mother wraps a cloth around both herself and her child, not between them. This constant skin contact continues for at least the first six months. Thereafter, the mother continues to provide plenty of touching as well as baby-led nursing.

CONTINUE ONLINE: <http://primal-page.com:80/pygmy.htm> \*

## “Soft Edges” Column

### Saying the Wrong Thing

By Jim Taylor, Okanagan BC

I have a neurotic cat. He has an irrational compulsion to scoot through opened doors. Any open door. Into the garage. Into a broom closet. Even into the trunk of the car. One time I barely saw him in time before I slammed the lid down.

I'd call him obsessive-compulsive -- except that I might have to apply the same description to my own behaviour. Not about doors, but about words.

Every now and then, I hear my mouth saying words that I had no intention of saying, thoughts that had barely crossed my consciousness before they started coming out, words that a small voice in my skull never had a chance to tell me not to say.

And like the cat, I do it again and again, even though I should know better. It's irrational.

I don't always know the right thing to say. But somehow I know instantly when I've said the wrong thing. Perhaps it's the hurt look in a friend's eyes. Or someone's startled expression. More often it's an internal recognition -- I've said too much, gone too far, crossed some invisible line in the sand... By then it's too late.

#### SECOND THOUGHTS

Writing is so much safer. The words don't actually go out until I've taken a second look -- or a third, or fourth, or seventeenth look -- and excised that pejorative description, that unfortunate phrase, that unnecessary sarcasm... But words once spoken can't be recalled.

This is not an argument for keeping one's mouth shut. Because not saying what needs to be said can do just as much harm as saying the wrong thing. Indeed, sometimes I think most of our social troubles result from too many people trying not to say anything -- while a strident minority persuade

themselves they have the silent majority backing them.

#### EATING MY WORDS

There's a revealing incident in the biblical book of Revelation. I confess that Revelation is not my favourite text. I lose patience with those who use isolated verses to prove that a reclusive visionary, living on the island of Patmos in the Mediterranean 19 centuries ago, wrote prophecies anticipating situations in a nation that hadn't even been imagined, on a continent that no one knew existed.

Whatever John of Patmos was writing about, it was not Barack Obama's health care policies or an oil blowout in the Gulf of Mexico.

But in the midst of his apocalyptic images of a final showdown between good and evil, the writer describes an angel holding a small scroll.

He asked the angel for the scroll. The angel told him, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."

And indeed, says Eugene Peterson's translation, *The Message*, "It was like honey in my mouth, but when I swallowed, my stomach curdled."

I don't understand most of Revelation. But that description certainly resonates with my experience.

It's exactly what happens when my mouth outruns my brain. It tastes sweet to score that debating point, to puncture that pomposity, to grab that cheap laugh. But when I have to eat my words, their sweetness turns as bitter as bile.

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## “Stirring The Soup”

### LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN

Marie Gaudet, Edmonton AB

There are some basic truths in life that each of us will learn along the way and each person's lessons will be different. Some might even say that the real purpose of our existence on this planet is

to “Live, Love and Learn”, to quote an increasingly popular adage. This makes some serious sense to me. I have lived what seems like several lifetimes already since being “brought forth” [some might say spawned]<sup>(1)</sup> into this world.

Throughout my many experiences, Life, our great teacher, has taught me that there is always something more to learn around the corner. And She throws enough twists and turns at you to keep you forever watching for the next curve

ball... Lest you forget. As soon as you think you've got it all figured out, she knocks the wind right out of your sails and Lo and Behold, a whole new vista emerges, challenging your past beliefs, forcing you to review and re-examine longtime views and giving rise to questions which may shake you to the core. You are left with little option but to live and learn. And should you be fortunate enough to find love along the way, you are a lucky person indeed.

Here are a few of my greatest Life lessons learned, thus far: Children are a re-gifting opportunity. They will take what they have learned from you and pass it on to the next generation. As little people, they count on you for their emotional, physical and spiritual survival. As adolescents, they realize that you are not an all-seeing, all-knowing ⇒



Goddess and they pull away, anxious to carve their own path in the world and follow it freely. As young adults, they flounder around, trying on various and sundry personalities, trying to find one which feels comfortable to them and aids them in coping with the onslaught of responsibilities they've unexpectedly inherited. Anger and disappointment with their lot in life may cause them to lash out in anger and the recipient of these feelings will almost always be the person who loves them most... because they know she will continue loving them no matter what. In the early to middle age, they become comfortable with who they are and what they have and are then able to take responsibility for what belongs to them. Lessons taught at an early age suddenly resurface and they begin to love their life. At this point, they become the parents of tomorrow and their own children benefit from lessons passed on.

Your reason for being here – on this planet, in this life – is to prepare you for your next lifetime. There are simply too many things to learn in one lifetime, therefore the universe has created the mother of all lifelong learning plans. Great lessons are discovered, not only by schooling, work experiences and daily interactions with others and the world around us, but by undergoing situations which affect us in deep and meaningful ways. Knowledge is often gained following these intense, sometimes transformative life experiences. However, if we were to have to contend with these types of experiences constantly throughout one lifetime, we would probably be overwhelmed, to say the least.

Thus, while on another plane of existence, we choose the surroundings of our upcoming lifetime with a view to obtaining the most amount of knowledge possible, while reserving the rest for future lifetimes (of which there can be many). Between lifetimes, we return "home", where we are allowed to review and make new choices depending on what has been learned or not learned in our past lives. In this way, we really are eternal.

People who are afraid of death shouldn't be, as death is actually a re-birth – complete with the "tunnel experience (being drawn into darkness through a tunnel, at an extremely high speed, until reaching a realm of radiant golden-white light" – which sounds suspiciously like how a child is born. "This experience has been reported time and again by people who have died for a number of minutes and then returned to physical life, only to relate experiencing the same or very similar things during the period that they were clinically dead." <sup>(2)</sup>

Naturally, everyone has their own beliefs but these are mine. They are not something I have been told or taught (although with my interest piqued, I have read about this type of research) but rather a concept which has developed over time in my mind and which my soul recognizes as truth.

Respect given to others, even when unreciprocated, is

never wasted. A fundamental truth for each and every one of us is that positive feedback builds our self esteem. Being respectful of others can therefore be life-changing to them, whether they recognize it or not. Unfortunately, some people have been so thoroughly respected in life (some of my Generation Y co-workers come to mind) that they think of themselves as God's gift to mankind although reciprocating has not yet become the touchstone of their skill-set. Still, you can't go wrong by offering it – it builds up the character so that a better person is produced and you are a better person for it as well.

You don't have to be a sheep, you can march to your own drum. Our world had decided (without any input from us) that they want us to be a round peg which must arguably go into a round hole, and a host of indoctrination techniques have been put in place to advance our progression into that hole. "A school is... designed for the average person, neither too bright nor too stupid, and those who conform to this model thrive. They learn to read in the year they are supposed to learn to read, not the year after. They put up with stupid assignments and never ask why. School is all about norms. It serves to format people for work, for the kind of routine that requires no special technical or intellectual competence. Industrial society needs people who have been stupefied, who are resigned to carrying out meaningless tasks and to never seeking any kind of satisfaction except in their free time. School is a wonderful waiting room."<sup>(3)</sup> Author Corinne Maier speaks perhaps a bit tongue-in-cheek but makes some very good points nonetheless. However, there are those of us for whom following the norm is simply unacceptable – we're just not wired that way. And while I believe that there is a need and a place for "sheep" in this world too, the squareness of the atypical person should be encouraged for all of its possibilities, rather than shaved, sanded and pounded into that round hole.

There is so much more to Life than what we have been told. We can choose to believe what we've been taught for our entire lifetimes without question. Or, we can allow our spirit to roam in search of its own truth, to search for answers which make more sense to us. There are extensive publications available to aid us in our journey. Some may confirm the path we are already walking, others may teach us new things to enhance our spiritual growth and still others may challenge us to question our beliefs altogether. After observing a brother die an agonizing death from cancer seven years ago, I needed to explore, wanting above all to "know" that he was now all right. My search took me to unaccustomed places and opened up a whole new world of possibilities. Some of these spoke to me with such wisdom that I immediately felt a soothing of my troubled soul, a peace that aided in my healing and accompanies me faithfully still.

All in all, this lifetime has been gruelling, so hopefully I will choose more of a 'walk in the park' next time. But =>

what I can say with conviction is that, difficult though it has been, I have definitely tackled Living, Loving and Learning. And come out swinging. — *Marie Gaudet*

(1) An apt observation, as the Free Dictionary defines the word “spawn” as “To produce offspring in large numbers”, generally referring

to the eggs of water animals such as fish. However, I was one of my mother’s 18 live births and was born in late February, making me a Pisces. I leave the reader to derive his/her own conclusion.

(2) Life After Life: The Investigation of a Phenomenon – Survival of Bodily Death by Dr. Raymond Moody.

(3) No Kids: 40 Good Reasons Not to have Children by Corinne Maier. ✦

## Those Heady Years Of Promise

**Gloria Cope, Chemainus BC**

I was amongst a small group of women at a workshop when a very young girl from Cambodia spoke to us about how at the age of nine she had been trafficked into a brothel in Bangkok. For the next 7 years she was forced to service up to 30 men (aka johns) a day. Not able to escape her prison, she began to use her body as an ash tray; if she felt pain she then knew she was still alive. Finally, she was rescued and after a time began to talk about her fate. I’ll never forget the burn scars on her body or the tears that spilled down her sweet young face. This event took place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, during a week-long Worldwide Anglican Encounter 17 years ago. This was my introduction into sexual slavery which ironically took place in the same city as one of the oldest Slavery Docks in the Americas is located, a place where Blacks from Africa were auctioned off as slaves.

Fifteen years ago (1995) as an Anglican Church delegate I attended the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) forum in Huairou, China, held simultaneously with the United Nations Fourth World Conference for Women then taking place in Beijing. The 12th area of concern in the Platform for Action that came out of the conference was entitled “The Girl Child” which stated the following: “Today, more than half of the world’s population of 5.7 billion is below the age of 25. About 1/3 are between the ages of 10 and 24 and 80% live in developing countries. The girl child must be protected from trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour. There should be an abolition of all forms of discrimination and cultural oppression.”

Meanwhile during those heady years of promise for women and girls, something else was taking place in Western society. Betty Friedan, author of “The Feminine Mystique” and seen by many to be the mother of modern day feminism warned us at the Beijing/Huairou conference that backlash to feminism was growing stronger, and we must never drop our guard in thinking the march toward gender equality was over.

Indeed, just a few years before the Beijing forum I became aware of an ever-growing, well organized movement against gender equality coming out of the bible-belt area of the Southern United States. The executive committee of the Southern Baptist Church (the largest in the US) was hijacked by a militant white middleclass group of men. The unsuspecting Executive, taken by surprise was not prepared to fight this kind of militancy. Once in place these men wasted no time in getting ‘rid’ of their women pastors as

well as women theologians teaching in their seminaries.

Once done, these militant Baptist right-wing Christians began to prepare for their next assault, the NGO/UN Conference for Women planned for Beijing. Their weapon of choice of course was fear mongering amongst the peoples of North America and Beijing wherever their twisted messages could reach. Their warnings consisted of messages of hate toward women in general but zeroed in on those so-called ‘radical feminist lesbians’. By April of that year (‘95) we, the delegates to the NGO conference were put on hold. By this time the officials of Beijing were afraid to host the event fearing that thousands of ‘radical feminist activists’ would turn their city upside-down...thus we ended up having the NGO conference in the tiny town of Huairou, 50 kilometers from Beijing using tents in a school yard where for 4 of the 10 days we had to put up with torrential rains and other inconveniences. While this story has been written before, I’m writing it again to remind you, where a big part of the backlash against modern day feminism began. All of this combined with other events has helped contribute to the sexual trafficking against women and girls taking place in the world today. With the help of the Bush administration being used by his right-wing Christian friends, subtle messages of anger and hatred toward women continued to filter through. Of course poverty is another.

Today, because of several administrations in the US and Canada and elsewhere pushing through unfair trade deals, we now live under an ‘oligarchy’, which is a state government run by a small group of people. This helps us to understand without doubt why the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and human rights for people around the globe are being kicked off the table.

All of this and we haven’t even begun to talk about the scourge of pornography as it fits into the picture... the dark side of the tech age where men of all ages, size, profession, religious or not watch porn on their computers and then go off in their car to buy it. You see, if you down-grade women’s worth as most right-wing religions do, it eventually leads to anger and hostility toward women going back in time to the point when women were seen as less worthy than males. I worry about the right-wing Christian people in power today in Canada. Like the Bush era, they have their daily prayer sessions in a space near parliament and have already stood to be against Women’s Choice. That secret is out! Guns are in, gays and lesbians are out, larger prisons are in. While I’m pro-choice, I am also pro-life but the right- →

wing has stolen the meaning of that phrase from me.

It is well known to some that Preston Manning and Stephen Harper are both Alliance Church adherents. I have no problem with this but what I do have a problem with is that Mr. Manning, (Mr. Harper's mentor) as head of the new Manning Centre for Building Democracy has called on right-wing religious Christians to be patient as they pursue their political agendas, whether it's opposing abortion and homosexuality or supporting capitalism and reducing the size of government. Manning has over the last few years organized a series of workshops urging conservative Christian leaders to tone down their biblical rhetoric. "How to be a stealth Christian?" is his subject. (Vancouver Sun, Aug. 18 '07 reporter Douglas Todd)... that is until they have achieved a majority parliament.

These attitudes and events all link into one very bad agenda... especially for women and liberated men in this country. It's not that long ago, women had to fight for the right to be seen as persons never mind the right to vote. Still today in some places in the world, women are still seen to be sub-human. Fundamentalist religions throughout the world have dictated such, so much so that it has been woven into cultures. Today, we are still trying to get past these attitudes never mind going backwards. All the men, pimps or johns who take part in the trafficking of sex obviously still view women through this lens.

It is useful to remind ourselves that the 'oligarchy' does not care about us, the people. Their only concern is money and power. The 'oligarchy' controls government; and what governments do not control, the mafia and biker gangs do. This leaves governments free to play around a little bit with culture or other issues that drive them on like languages or seat-belts, etc. Meanwhile, we can begin to turn things around where trafficking and prostitution is concerned by insisting governments, municipalities and city councils begin to rethink

prostitution as not being a women's problem but a man's. Keeping in mind that most women (girls) are cultivated early in life to become part of the sex trade by the use of violence, drugs, poverty, kidnappings and trafficking, very few of them are in a position to change their life style without help. History is showing that the legalization of prostitution is simply giving a green light for johns and traffickers to go for 'it'. In states and cities where this has taken place more and more women are trafficked into the area to add to those women who are registered. However, there are small pockets where positive change is really happening for the good of women. Instead of arresting the prostitutes, officials are arresting the 'johns'. Women are being removed from the streets and brothels and given an opportunity to free themselves from what for many has become a way of life or for those who have been tricked and trafficked into the trade from a young age. The johns, who until this day have never been exposed or seen as perpetrators, are now being prosecuted, exposed to their community and fined according to their incomes. This system is working well in Sweden and is spreading to other countries. The traffickers now know there is no point in sending their girls into Sweden. There are also 'john schools' being set up to educate men on what they are really engaging in when they visit a brothel or pick up a prostitute. Call this a change in culture, something governments with the political will can change. Recently on behalf of women and girls caught up in prostitution via trafficking, the media did help some by speaking out on the issue before the 2010 Olympics. Many discussions took place on how to spot 'it' and how to handle 'it'. Here in BC, especially Vancouver, the RCMP was trained on how to deal with 'it'. This was a big step in bringing awareness to the public on this issue that is often referred to as the 'oldest profession in the world'. But, that doesn't mean it can't change. - *Gloria Cope, May/2010* ♣

## Book Review - Lonely – Learning to Live with Solitude

by **Madeline Bruce, Nanaimo BC**

In her ground breaking book, Lonely – Learning to Live with Solitude, Emily White of St. John's Newfoundland has revealed a stigmatized subject that nobody wants to talk about or take seriously, including, it seems, doctors and psychiatrists. Depression is out in the open now, and generally accepted as a legitimate condition that might require medical treatment, but real, prolonged loneliness is something people hide. When they do admit it, it changes the way people view them, and it's not for the better.

When White began her serious exploration into this unpopular topic, people chided her because they saw the issue as somehow not important or even real, because temporary by definition, and something rather shameful. But being a former lawyer, she was after evidence, and she found it, in the form of scientific research in many countries, and by inter-

viewing lonely people. She has included the UCLA Loneliness Scale at the beginning of her now best selling book.

The author proceeds from her own childhood, which on the face of it might seem to preclude the danger of chronic loneliness. She was sociable, well-mannered, witty, and popular from her earliest years. A second look at her history reveals another layer that bruised her heart, and left her vulnerable to painfully lonely periods, probably for the rest of her life. Her father moved the family from the USA to Canada when White was small, and then deserted them and quickly remarried. Her mother was then disconnected from her own roots and connections in the South, and provided White with a model of loneliness that was a frosty warning. Her sisters were many years older than her, and she felt cut off from them for that reason.

A clear distinction is made between sociability and real ⇒

connection. White goes to Law School, mainly, it seems, to attach herself and become one with a certain group of people. Instead, she realizes her lack of interest in Law, and fantasizes about becoming a writer. She experiences a crisis and panic at this disconnection, and when she reaches out for help is told repeatedly that she is depressed, and then gets handed prescriptions.

White's search for the latest research on loneliness led her to Dr. John Cacioppo, a University of Chicago neuroscientist, one of the world's leading loneliness researchers. This research shows that "loneliness, in itself, can lead to dementia, early death, physical illness, and behavioral changes." Studies are showing that close to 10% of North Americans struggle with persistent loneliness – that is, millions of people.

White found herself hiding the truth of her loneliness, because it made her feel so different from everyone else. She began to tell little white lies to give the impression that her life was fuller than it was. It might seem obvious that the way out of this dilemma would be to reach out to someone, but this is not so easy. The person one discloses their loneliness to can feel blamed, as though it is their fault.

She tried other tactics, like merging with a crowd at a public swimming pool, and volunteering at a soup kitchen. She makes cross-town visits to various friends in Toronto, which provides short term relief, but what she craves is the quiet, steady presence of a person that she feels connected to. The connections she makes with others feel scanty, and glancing.

White creates a blog where she invites lonely people to communicate. Messages come streaming in from people who describe themselves as painfully lonely, often for

years, or even decades at a time.

White describes her increasing fear as her lonely state progresses. Researcher John Cacioppo points to the danger of the lonely state – "being out there by yourself in a hostile world." He describes how loneliness makes us feel "insufficient and unsafe" and he created a research project that showed that even when lonely people had the same weekly activities as the non-lonely, they felt more stressed and threatened.

Sociologist Robert Weiss of the University of Massachusetts found definite symptoms of the prolonged feeling of loneliness, a primary one being "a pressured restlessness... an inability to feel at ease with what one is doing." This discomfort translates into distractibility, a shorter attention span, and a searching for something. Human beings belong in groups, and if we think of the cavemen, we can picture just how dangerous it was to be out roaming the plains all by oneself. The increasing inability to focus causes further withdrawal from the social scene. Another feature of the prolonged lonely state is hypersensitivity to one's own behavior in interactions, and also to how one is being perceived in those interactions.

At present there are few, if any resources for the chronically lonely. More attention to the condition would result in better health for many, higher productivity, fewer health care costs, and less demand for social services.

The millions of people who suffer from chronic loneliness need some external help to make the leap from isolation to real connection.

*Any suggestions?*

~ Madeline Bruce

Lonely – Learning to Live with Solitude, by Emily White.  
McLelland & Stewart, 2010 - \$29.99.

## More Book Reviews

Canada faulted for pro-Israel bias

**REVIEW by David Heap, Special to QMI Agency**

**Of Canada and Israel: Building Apartheid,**  
by Yves Engler, Fernwood Books, \$14.95

[www.lfpres.com/entertainment/books/2010/03/05/13126781.html](http://www.lfpres.com/entertainment/books/2010/03/05/13126781.html)

Yves Engler's new book raises important issues at the centre of debates in this country and about which we all need to become better informed.

The title refers to the conditions Israel imposes on Palestinians, which some say amount to the crime of apartheid, as defined by the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

Obviously, not everyone agrees with this interpretation, and the point is one that can give rise to a healthy debate.

Engler's history of Canadian support for the formation of the state of Israel begins with an observation that "Zionism's roots are Christian, not Jewish." He shows in detail

**This book is the first critical primer about Canada's ties to Israel. It is a devastating account of Canadian complicity in 20th and 21st century colonialism, dispossession and war crimes. The book documents the history of Canadian Christian Zionism, Lester Pearson's important role in the United Nations negotiations to create a Jewish state on Palestinian land, the millions of dollars in tax-deductible donations used to expand Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service ties to Israel's Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations (Mossad).**

that long before Theodore Herzl popularized Zionism among European Jews, various Christian groups were promoting the literal interpretation of the Bible whereby there should be a Jewish homeland in the part of the Ottoman Empire known as Palestine.

Christian Restorationists like Canadian businessperson =>

Henry Wentworth Monk raised money in the 1870s and 1880s for the establishment of a "Dominion of Israel." In 1896 Monk wrote about this idea to A.J. Balfour, who later became Britain's foreign secretary and issued the Balfour Declaration pledging British support for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. Thus even before the modern Jewish political movement for settling in Palestine began, western support for the idea of the Jewish state was intertwined with Christian fundamentalism and a world view of Israel as a useful outpost of imperial power.

Engler shows that as Canada's international alignment shifted from Westminster to Washington, support for Israel remained a constant. This support often went hand in hand with hostility toward Jews in Canada. Anti-Semitic politicians like E.C. Manning and Mackenzie King supported the foundation of Israel in part as a way of reducing Jewish immigration to Canada.

Engler also documents how the UN partition plan, which gave most of historical Palestine to Israel in 1948, had significant input from Canadians. Key players included then undersecretary of state for foreign affairs Lester Pearson, and Ivan Rand, later first dean of law at the University of Western Ontario.

Canada failed to condemn the ethnic cleansing when a large portion of the Palestinian population was forced into exile and their homes expropriated, and official Canadian support for Israel has continued with few exceptions to the present day.

Engler surveys decades of one-sided Israeli support by

Canada in areas ranging from military intelligence to the charitable status of organizations that help fund illegal West Bank settlements through tax-deductible donations in Canada. **The book contends Canada has been "the world's most pro-Israel country."**

Engler ends by examining the movement to shift our country's international relations toward "an independent-minded policy rooted in social justice." Engler's style is clear and direct. He writes with passion and careful documentation.

Learning about our country's history of contributing to the situation in that region gives us a responsibility to seek just and lasting solutions. Canadians who care about our Middle East policy would do well consider its message carefully, whatever their views on the region may be.

David Heap is associate professor at University of Western Ontario. ♣

### Engler's angle

**REVIEW by Paul Weinberg, Toronto**  
**nowtoronto.com, April 7-14, 2010 | VOL 29 NO 32**

Yves Engler's comprehensive book reminds me of the fears expressed decades ago in Toronto by Israeli military historian Meir Pa'il. He worried that his country "would become a mediocre combination of Northern Ireland and South Africa." Those prophetic words are echoed in Canada And Israel: Building Apartheid, Engler's account of Canadian diplomatic, business and military activity relating to Israel. Those, he says, have been in lockstep with Israel's major backer, the U.S., since the state's 1948 founding.

**READ FULL REVIEW ONLINE:**

[www.nowtoronto.com/books/story.cfm?content=174401](http://www.nowtoronto.com/books/story.cfm?content=174401) ♣

## The Anglosphere-Eurozone War

War without end: a setback on the European front?

Posted by **InTheseNewTimes.com**

**Cailean Bochanan, UK, 23rd May, 2010**

A quick survey of British media opinion on the Eurozone crisis reveals much about the British psyche. Firstly, thinking in Britain is a collective rather than an individual process. Secondly, there is no corrective mechanism: once we start talking shit there is nothing that can stop it.

Our gripe against Europe is based on the claim that it is a political rather than an economic project. It is both but the political aspect has come to the fore dramatically over the last week. The reason for this is that the destruction of the Eurozone is a political rather than an economic project. How else can one explain an economic crisis - in a zone which runs a trade surplus, has a real industrial and agricultural base, has a low level of private debt, has excellent infrastructure, excellent education levels and high levels of social cohesion - provoked by speculators and rating agencies operating out of a zone, the Anglosphere, which has none of these? The fall of the Euro relative to the dollar/pound has no basis in economics. The fall in the Euro is an expression of the terminal state of the economy on the

dollar/pound zone. It is the result of a final desperate attempt by the latter to maintain their only and decisive advantage: the credibility of their currencies as reserve currencies, the exchangeability of their fiat currencies on global markets.

We are at war with our friends in Europe and the pundits who are pontificating so ignorantly on Eurozone affairs are part of that war. England expects every hack, media bimbo, Colonel Blimp little-Englander and right-on leftist to do their duty and so they are all piling in, lamenting the end of Europe and by extension the triumph of the British way.

And they are simply incorrigible with headlines such as "The European Idea lies dead, killed by the credit crunch"

Apparently, "The EU will continue to muddle through, but the credit crunch has buried the European Idea. The moral authority contained in the vast achievement of binding Europe's bellicose tribes into peaceful collaboration is spent. There will be no 21st-century European superpower, just a bunch of middle-sized ex-powers arguing over a dwindling pot of devalued money. Reform or decline? =>

Europe will do both.” This sounds like hubris coming from the British basket case, bankrupt beyond human imagination, mired in disastrous war and led by a bunch of overgrown schoolboys. But why expect any objectivity? This is simply crude psychological warfare: the fog of war. Who is winning the war?

Well after Angela Merkel’s intervention on Tuesday, banning naked short trades against the Euro, my money’s on the Eurozone. Europe has shocked the markets by showing it is able to react appropriately to a full-scale assault on its own existence. France has put up only token resistance to the advance of Merkel’s panzer divisions, seemingly happy

to see Britain’s little army of speculative traders abandon Dunkirk’s beaches in a flotilla of yachts and dingies.

As William Engdahl has pointed out, the stakes are high: nothing less than the survival of the hegemonic aspirations of the Anglosphere. And so, the City and Wall Street won’t take interference with their speculative trading lying down. But last week may have been the turning point, their Al Alamein. But, for the empire, it isn’t just the beginning of the end: it’s the end.

**Cailean Bochanan** is an editorial columnist for UK-based *In These New Times*. <http://tinyurl.com/bocheuro> ♣

## Thoughts on Language in Canada and Bill C-232

**Beth Trudeau, Embrun ON** [In response to an article by John Ibbitson, <http://tinyurl.com/gmibit294> ]

[EXTRACT] Thank you for speaking out for the right of the majority of Canadians, who happen to speak English, to have the right to work in our government based on competency, skill, expertise and experience as opposed to what language they speak. It is encouraging that we are finally hearing and seeing the media speak out against the social engineering that has been occurring since the early 1970's.

However, one must go further and point out that the outcry and protest over the ridiculous and exclusionary Bill C-232, which expects Supreme Court judges to be bilingual, MUST be applied to all levels of government, where English speakers are continually discriminated against for job promotions and advancements and whom are forced to go for French language training instead of doing the job they were hired to do. They must watch their French counterparts, many of whom are not fluent in the English language, get bonuses and promotions because of the fact they speak two languages and not because of their competency at the real job they were hired to do.

Considering we are in the 21st century and we do have the technology to "Press 1 for English, 2 for French" which allows unilingual Canadians the opportunity to work for any government, it baffles the mind that politicians feel there is a need for EVERYONE in the government to speak both official languages. Were we not taught in school how our brains functioned, and that if one was good in math, they were good in sciences as well, whereas if one was good in English, one was usually good in French, Spanish and/or Latin as well as history. Of course speaking more than one language is a bonus. I had a good friend who traveled the world as an interpreter of English, French and Spanish. But considering that there are English students that need extra help learning English, for one to expect these children to excel at other languages is foolish and irrational. That does not mean these same students would not be great at other career choices such as accountants, bankers, geologists or managers.

The results of hiring based on language instead of compe-

tency for the past 20+ years is revealing itself as city, provincial and federal budgets never balance, core infrastructure such roads and bridges are in a state of disrepair everywhere while tax increases are too frequent and too much. The results of French Immersion are also being revealed as the first "guinea pigs" have now graduated from university and are in the work force. The overwhelming consensus of those who were in the second year of implementation along with my daughter, is that if you do not use it, you lose it, which the majority of them have done even though some worked retail in Ottawa. They grew up in a township that is a 50/50 split, Russell Township.

We have also witnessed the "lowering of the bar", and have universities and colleges proclaiming that students are NOT meeting the BASIC enrolment requirements in many subjects, especially English. Has this raised any flags with parents or politicians? The historical revisionism between Ottawa and the Quebec border has helped to create the illusion that French is all around. French Immersion has aided in this illusion. [...]

In Ontario, four out of every 100 people one meets speak French. Out of those, at least 1/2 are bilingual. So why are we ALL supposed to learn French? Why are they working so hard at historical revisionism and promoting the French language and culture? Is it because, as the French in Ontario claim, that they will lose their language and culture unless we are all bilingual?

But wait, the French in Quebec claim that bilingualism will kill that same language and culture, that it will assimilate them. Hence Bill 101 banning the stand alone use of the English language. So, which is it? They can't have it both ways. Oh wait, yes, they are having it both ways because the English speaking Canadians are so afraid of being called bigots and have become so apathetic that they do not stand up for their rights, unlike Howard Galganov.

Those that do believe in doing something should go to [www.languagefairness.ca](http://www.languagefairness.ca) . The **Canadians for Language Fairness** are a rapidly growing Ottawa based organization that consists of English and French Canadians who ⇒

believe in Freedom of Expression as in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and want the social engineering, historical revisionism and the waste of BILLIONS of taxpayers dollars under the guise of “bilingualism” to stop. Quebec said *Non* to bilingualism. So must the rest of Canada. ♣

## A Letter to all Senators re C-232 Jurgen Vollrath, Embrun ON

It is urgent action that is needed by your house of sober second thought on this bill ( C-232 ). The double standard that is our language nightmare must stop. Claims of a bilingual country are espoused by our elected officials from every pulpit. This false claim is so far from the truth that it defies all logic. A member of parliament from a unilingual nation presents a bill to make all superior court judges bilingual. We have already declared a nation within our own nation. How exactly does that work, pray tell?

Now we are led to believe that we need bilingual judges at the highest level. Who would be hired? We all know that the pool of eligible candidates would shrink considerably and only one province (nation within a nation) would benefit from such a disastrous legislation. There are already scores of Canadian citizens denied access to decent higher level

jobs because of language apartheid. Bill C 232 is affirmative action taken to the upper echelons of power that would tilt further legal decisions in favour of the smaller nation within our nation. Would it not be more beneficial to our nation that the smaller nation be set free, after all we are talking about 2 nations. If you were to put it to a referendum I think you would find most taxpaying Canadians would be in favour of such a move. This would open up all kinds of jobs for those unfortunate souls with great potential, university degrees and years of experience but lack the knowledge of one language spoken by the peoples of one particular smaller nation within our nation.

There are enough good quality people already denied access to upper echelon public service jobs. If all the proper people were in place, hired by merit, there would be no need to hire consultants at astronomical rates. We simply cannot afford to carry on with this lunacy on so many levels.

There is already plenty of discrimination towards the lowly unilingual Canadian. It seems as though English speakers need not apply for any positions. Aren't we 80% of the population? STOP BILL C 232. – **Jurgen Vollrath** ♣

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## BOOKS & VIDEOS ON BANKING, ECONOMICS

### A Lesson from Antiquity...

Economist Michael Hudson

**Interviewed by the Renegade Economist, UK**

Received from Richard Moore, with his comment:

Michael makes the most sense I've seen regarding the financial collapse, and finance generally. The video is from Feb. 2009, but it makes just as much sense today. Includes interesting historical context, going all the way back to Sumerian finance. **9-min video, very articulate and insightful:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pwAFohWBL4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pwAFohWBL4)

Lessons from antiquity: how the Babylonian Empire lasted 3000 years through the periodical cancellation of all debts. And the reasons why governments today choose to save the bankers instead of the economy. How the financial sector has become a deadly parasite on the economy. ♣

### We need a Clean Slate

**QUOTED FROM: Thinking the Unthinkable: A Debt Write Down, and Jubilee Year Clean Slate**

by Michael Hudson, Global Research, Sep. 24, 08

“The ‘magic of compound interest’ refers to the tendency of savings to double and redouble exponentially, with a match-

ing rise in what debtors owe on the other side of the balance sheet. These mathematics have been operated throughout history, ever since the charging of interest was invented in Sumer some time around 2750 BC. In every known society, the effect has been to concentrate wealth in the hands of people with money. In recent years, one's own money is not even necessary to do this. [...] However, the resulting mushrooming exponential growth in indebtedness must collapse at the point where its interest and other carrying charges absorb the entire economic surplus. This is the point that has been reached – and passed – today. It has been developing for many decades. But there is a great reluctance to accept the fact that debts cannot be paid. [...] I've spent much of my time looking through history to read up on how the failure to wipe out the debt overhead led to the collapse of Rome's imperial republic, and to the Ottoman Empire as what was known as “the spoiling of Egypt” and “the ruin of Persia” toward the end of the 19th century. [...] **READ ONLINE:** [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=10330](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=10330) ♣

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## The Different Face of the Third World War

**Siv O'Neill – Writer for OpEdNews**

Make no mistake. The third World War is right here. Now. It has been here for longer than you would believe. The world is at war. Unrelenting, genocidal war. Another war that is a racket, but with a different face and a different racket. A war that kills millions, as is usually

the case. There are two sides to this war, but it is not the East against the West. It's not even the South against the North. It is not a geographical war. It's a class war. It is the Poor against the Rich on all five continents. [...] **ONLINE at OpEdNews.com:** <http://tinyurl.com/28mbj64> ♣

## The Great American Bubble Machine

By **Matt Taibbi**, **Global Research**

[Aug. 4, 09, Rollingstone.com] From tech stocks to high gas prices, Goldman Sachs has engineered every major market manipulation since the Great Depression - and they're about to do it again [...] The first thing you need to know about Goldman Sachs is that it's everywhere. The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money. In fact, the history of the recent financial crisis, which doubles as a history of the rapid decline and fall of the suddenly-swindled-dry American empire, reads like a Who's Who of Goldman Sachs graduates. All that money that you're losing, it's going somewhere, and in both a literal and a figurative sense, Goldman Sachs is where it's going: The bank is a huge, highly sophisticated engine for converting the useful, deployed wealth of society into the least useful, most wasteful and insoluble substance on Earth — pure profit for rich individuals.[...] **ONLINE:** [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14637](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14637) ♣

## Bullion market Ponzi scheme

**Adrian Douglas**, **Global Research**, 5 April 2010:

Almost every day we hear of a new financial fraud that has been exposed. The gold and silver market fraud is likely to be bigger than all of them. Investors in their droves, who have purchased gold in good faith in “unallocated accounts”, are going to demand delivery of their metal. They will then discover that there is only one ounce for every one hundred ounces claimed. They will find out they are “unsecured creditors”. **Listen:** <http://wp.me/pfwuX-2Ss>  
**Commentary/transcript of the hearing:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newslog/message/2969> ♣

## Greeks, Germans and Bankers: The Return of the Ancien Régime

*“For your reading pleasure!” From Erik Andersen*

**ONLINE:** [www.counterpunch.org/wilkinson05142010.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/wilkinson05142010.html)

By **T. P. WILKINSON**, **Düsseldorf, Germany**

The German press is saturated with reports intended to verify the myth of the slovenly, lazy and corrupt Southern European countries which virtuous and hard-working northern European countries mistakenly admitted to the European Union. The role of the most felonious corporation on the planet today is trivialized since the harmless fraud investigations in the US against the “mother of all racketeers” (along with JP Morgan) are never reported in connection with their advisory and trading “services” in Greece or throughout Europe. Yet there are numerous strands to the fabric of confusion being woven in the Greek dilemma. The criminals are at large and their business continues.

Let us recall some significant facts without which the Greek condition cannot be properly understood. When the

## The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century

**Highlights of this Important Collection with Selected Excerpts; new book by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall.**

This important collection provides the reader with "a most comprehensive analysis of the various facets – especially the financial, social and military ramifications – from an outstanding list of world-class social thinkers." The complex causes as well as the devastating consequences of the economic crisis are carefully scrutinized with contributions from Ellen Brown, Tom Burghardt, Michel Chossudovsky, Richard C. Cook, Shamus Cooke, John Bellamy Foster, Michael Hudson, Tanya Cariina Hsu, Fred Magdoff, Andrew Gavin Marshall, James Petras, Peter Phillips, Peter Dale Scott, Bill Van Auken, Claudia von Werlhof and Mike Whitney. Despite the diversity of viewpoints and perspectives presented within this volume, all of the contributors ultimately come to the same conclusion: humanity is at the crossroads of the most serious economic and social crisis in modern history.

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**How Rothschild took over the Bank of England: Battle of Waterloo, etc.**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dntar3UJ1nA&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dntar3UJ1nA&feature=player_embedded) ♣

Second World War ended, Britain and the US intervened with overt and covert military “aid” to suppress the anti-fascist resistance in Greece, largely but by no means exclusively composed of Greek communists. This became known as the Truman Doctrine, analogous to the Monroe Doctrine. What it meant in effect was that the US claimed the right to supplant civilian democratic institutions with military dictatorships in Europe to protect its corporate interests however defined.

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[www.counterpunch.org/wilkinson05142010.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/wilkinson05142010.html)

**T. P. Wilkinson** writes and teaches politics and literature in Heinrich Heine's birthplace, Düsseldorf. He is also the author of *Church Clothes, Land, Mission and the End of Apartheid in South Africa* (Maisonneuve Press, 2003). Currently he is working on a book called: *1959: Unbecoming American*. He can be reached at [beda.v@maisonneuvepress.de](mailto:beda.v@maisonneuvepress.de) . ♣

# "Your Health Matters"

## ARE SUPPLEMENTARY VITAMINS WORTHLESS?

Derrick Lonsdale, M.D., Strongsville OH



Recently I read an article in a well known monthly periodical that supplementary vitamins were a waste of money and could be a disadvantage, if not dangerous. The answer to that is what supplements are chosen and on what basis. I can, however, give a qualified answer to the overall question. Consumption of appropriate vitamin and mineral supplements may well be the answer to all forms of disease in its early stages, providing that there is not an accrual of permanent damage and that offending substances, including some foods, have been removed. Chronic disease develops as a result of a decline in oxidative metabolism and many infections can be prevented or alleviated by top-line nutrition since body defenses are made to be more efficient. Even a genetically determined disease can be helped by "streamlining" appropriate nutrition, since the new science of epigenetics tells us that our genes can indeed be influenced through diet and lifestyle. There are thousands of commercial announcements in magazines and on line, each of which professes a "miracle cure" for a given disease. First let me state, as I have done many times in these pages that the word "cure" is a misnomer. Healing is a function of the body and all it requires is cellular energy combined with good genetics. We are "on the wrong track" in believing that resolution of symptoms by the sole means of pharmaceutical drugs solves the problem.

Vitamins and minerals are involved in the complex synthesis of cellular energy and reconstruction. Our body machinery depends on enzymes. These are proteins that are synthesized in the cells that require them and are under genetic control. An enzyme operates on a chemical metabolite to turn it into a more complicated one. In a chain of similar reactions, complex molecules such as hormones are synthesized. For example, cholesterol is converted to a series of steroid hormones that are used by the adrenal gland to meet the way that the body fights stress, hence the use of the term "stress hormones". Each of these chemical reactions would take much too long, or even not react at all, on their own and Mother Nature added enzymes to speed the reaction, still much too slow. Vitamins and minerals accelerate the reaction. That is why they are referred to technically as "cofactors to enzymes". Some enzymes, working in sequence, result in the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy currency of cellular function. Other enzymes use the energy. A simple analogy is that of a car that produces energy by combustion of fuel. The energy is transmitted through a transmission for function. The "

engines" of cells are mitochondria and the energy produced by them is used by other "energy consuming" biochemical reactions equivalent to a car transmission.

Some cofactors, such as co-enzyme Q10, are synthesized in the body but their actions are so essential to function that they are found in organic foods and are known as "conditional nutrients". As we age, our ability to synthesize them declines and they become more dietary essentials. As everyone knows, most of the essential cofactors are obtained from diet and a good diet should be the only source. That is, of course, the tragedy of our modern era. Our diet simply does not meet the needs because too much of it is artificial, supplying calories without sufficient cofactors. It can be compared with a car whose engine is choked.

What happens is that an enzyme, deprived of a sufficiency of its cofactor(s), gradually goes into decline and the reaction over which it presides slows down and can only be revived by dietary intake of the requisite cofactor. When this happens the enzyme no longer responds to the physiological dose and its cofactor then has to be taken as a "drug" in pharmacological doses. For example, beriberi has long been known to be due to an excess of carbohydrate with  $\Rightarrow$  insufficient vitamin B1. When it was discovered to be a nutritional deficiency disease it often required hundreds of milligrams of vitamin B1 over many months to restore health, although the physiological needs in health amount to about one to two milligrams a day. Examples of other classical nutritional diseases are rickets, pellagra and scurvy, depending on the actions of the missing cofactor. It is now generally and erroneously considered that all of these diseases have been totally conquered through vitamin enrichment of various foods. They have been relegated to the archives of history, so modern physicians often disregard the symptoms of a given patient as being of nutritional origin, particularly as the nutritional deficiency diseases are not appearing in their classical presentation. Nutritionists often concentrate on the 3 meals a day routine and neglect to ask about the social activities that result in "between meals" snacks and beverages that are so much associated. A recent Japanese paper reported an outbreak of classical beriberi heart disease in 17 adolescents consuming carbonated beverages at the soda fountain.

Anthropological studies have discovered that our ancestor was able to synthesize vitamin C from glucose about 40 million years ago and there are now only four animals in the animal kingdom that require their vitamin C solely from diet. We are one of those animals. We have to conclude that the synthesis of this vitamin consumed too much cellular energy. Since our ancestors were surrounded by plants that contained plenty of vitamin C, this energy consuming

synthesis could be eliminated. Whether the same process occurred with other vitamins is unknown.

There is no adequate storage of water soluble vitamins in the body so we require them on a daily basis from diet. An excess is not harmful in any way at all and the body takes what it needs and discards the rest in the urine. But it goes without saying that the first obligation is appropriate diet that must consist solely of organic foods. By organic, I mean natural foods grown out of God's good earth that is properly cultivated. The trouble with that in the modern era is that farming practices do not provide the nutrients to plants that are the major source of our vitamin and mineral complement. A gradual decline in body function then leads to a presentation of a disease state in a variety of ways and may require requisite cofactor treatment in inflated doses.

Mineral supplementation is another matter. For example, selenium was regarded as a poisonous substance until 1957 when it was discovered to be an essential nutrient. All we need, however, is a few micrograms a day, normally supplied in plants grown in selenium containing soil. It might be a surprise to many people to learn that lead, well known as a poisonous element, has been shown in animal studies to be essential to growth. The experiment was done by the construction of a completely lead-free diet that was difficult to prepare. Indeed, it is possible that we may require the entire periodic table, in vanishingly small doses, for full nutritional representation. If mineral supplementation is required, essentially a decision made by an expert nutritionist, it must be governed by what might be regarded as a "dose window", not too much and not too little, the Yin and the Yang. Water-soluble vitamins in particular, but also fat-soluble vitamins, have a surprisingly wide dose window and toxicity is rare or non-existent with pharmacological doses. The "dose window" for minerals is very narrow and toxicity is relatively easy to induce.

It should be clear that the use of cofactor supplements in the treatment of disease requires a considerable knowledge of biochemistry. It has to be in the hands of a professional, not necessarily a physician. They do not work if the diet itself is filled with empty calories and an essential part of treatment of this nature literally starts with nutritional counseling. As I have indicated a number of times in these pages, sugar and caffeine are the two most dangerous aspects of our hedonistic approach to diet and I have found repeatedly that their removal makes a colossal difference to the health and sense of wellbeing of many people. I know

that Dr Weiss wrote an article saying that all of us should be "drinking 7 or 8 cups of coffee a day because of the antioxidants". It is true that the coffee bean contains antioxidants but their benefit is outweighed by the caffeine that stimulates brain activity that consumes energy. This becomes misleading for those people that take coffee to counter their fatigue and enables them to get to work in the morning. They are consuming energy that they can ill afford since cellular energy deficiency is the cause of their fatigue.

Homo sapiens is a clever animal but has a problem in using collective wisdom. He constantly thinks that he can improve on Mother Nature who really has "all the answers". Our brains are also extremely reactive to its "pleasure zones" made up of cells that give us the typical joys derived from our senses. When we over-stimulate them we are led toward a state of addiction. Sugar and coffee craving are forms of addiction, no matter that they are not classified as such. Tobacco is better known in its addictive properties, but this knowledge has not stopped some people from smoking. Alcohol is also well known in this respect and is surprisingly similar to the addictive properties of sugar ingestion. Many alcoholics are "sugarholics" and vice versa. I have seen many patients whose symptoms and loss of wellbeing are directly related to their consumption of one or more of these potentially addictive substances. They are measured in terms of how difficult it is to discontinue them on the advice of a professional. We all recognize the effect of cocaine or heroin and the difficulty of withdrawal, but refuse to see these common manifestations of health issues in the same light. Make no mistake, a lot of poor health is directly related to our hedonism. By far and away, sugar is the common form of "fuel that chokes the engine". It is like everything else, there is nothing wrong with pleasure as long as it is not a fixation. The sense of wellbeing can be quite misleading. If there is no standard of comparison for a given individual, there may be complete ignorance of the fact that top-line wellness is not being achieved. Japanese people are the healthiest in the world because of their largely organic diet. When they come to the U.S. they succumb to the same diseases that affect us. Does that not tell you that diet is a major cause of disease?

– Derrick Lonsdale, M.D.

*Everything is connected to everything else.*

*Derrick Lonsdale is a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition and a Certified Nutrition Specialist. [www.prevmed.com](http://www.prevmed.com) ♣*

## MORE ON HEALTH (HEADLINES)

**CT scans deliver as much radiation as nearly 400 chest X-rays:** (Alliance for Natural Health, [www.anh-usa.org](http://www.anh-usa.org)) ONLINE AT: <http://tinyurl.com/anhctscan> ♣

**RE: high blood pressure & diabetes:** a video lecture on Mercola.com. View at: <http://tinyurl.com/merfruc> ♣

**Modern psychiatry wants to label independent thinking as a "disease" requiring chemical treatment:**

**NaturalNews.com:** Now anyone who isn't a mainstream idiot is considered diseased by psychiatry. Article online: [www.naturalnews.com/028803\\_psychiatry\\_disease.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/028803_psychiatry_disease.html) ♣

# POETRY & WHOLENESS

## DELUSION ~ *by Derrick Lonsdale*

Harmony, so poignant, lives within  
The realm of angels—yet it lingers on,  
An arabesque of purest tone and form.  
The soaring sound of surging music falls  
Upon the ear, like magic to the soul.  
But is it real? Or is it from within?  
A figment of the mind? Or truly sound  
That springs from instrumental source on earth?  
Can the brain distil these notes sublime?  
So what is real, and what is falsely sensed?  
The universe exists as wraith or ghost,  
And particles of light provide the form?  
Ah! Science lies until the truth is known  
For things that seem are not what we suppose,  
And God must smile when we proclaim we know  
What life is all about. The constant quest  
For truth is but the course that we must seek,  
Imagination, lightly giving lead,  
Should spur us on to feel the way ahead. ♣

Quote of the month from Jean Hudon

[www.earthrainbownetwork.com](http://www.earthrainbownetwork.com)

"The Time Has Come to let go of all our past certainties and to open ourselves to the higher callings we hear while immersed in deep meditation into the sublime reality of our Divine Self. Now is the time to let flow freely from our Higher Selves the guidance that will show us the Way ahead towards the Promised Land of the new era of Light and Love that has been the ultimate goal of all our soul-driven efforts over the past several years. We can no longer simply sit idle and hope that our current way of life based on the illusion of our separation from All That is will continue forever. It won't. While there are many signs all over the world that the various unnatural systems upon which we depend for our daily sustenance and material comfort are on the verge of collapsing, and while the quickly accelerating unraveling of much of the Earth's resilient but threatened natural systems continue unabated, numerous souls guided by a strong sense of spiritual integrity and their own self-chosen mission have been working ceaselessly to launch and implement the many-faceted solutions that can best address the manifold crises we face. We all have a unique and essential role to play towards co-creating the now imminent Golden Era of peaceful, harmonious, loving coexistence with all other life forms on Earth – including our own."

- Taken from Meditation Focus #212:

Moving to Higher Ground ♣

## Dr. Patch Adams

[www.patchadams.org/Gesundheit\\_Institute\\_speakers](http://www.patchadams.org/Gesundheit_Institute_speakers)

[EXTRACTS] Medical doctor; Clown; Performer; Social Activist; Founder and Director of the Gesundheit Institute, a holistic medical community that has provided free medical care to thousands of patients since it began in 1971; Author of Gesundheit! & House Calls. Patch Adams, the real person behind the hit movie *Patch Adams*, starring Robin Williams, is a nationally known speaker on wellness, laughter, and humor as well as on health care and health care systems.

Patch is both a medical doctor and a clown, but he is also a social activist who has devoted 30 years to changing America's health care system, a system which he describes as expensive and elitist. He believes that laughter, joy and creativity are an integral part of the healing process and therefore true health care must incorporate such life. Doctors and patients in his model relate to each other on the basis of mutual trust, and patients receive plenty of time from their doctors. Allopathic doctors and practitioners of alternative medicine will work side by side. If you think that all sounds like a utopian impossibility, it isn't. Patch and his colleagues practiced medicine at the Gesundheit Institute together in West Virginia that way for 12 years in what he calls their pilot project. They saw 15,000 patients. Patch Adams has devoted his life to the study of what makes people happy.

Through the success of this program at the Arlington, Virginia location, a model health care facility is being planned on 310 acres purchased in Pocahontas County, WV. The Institute will include a 40-bed hospital, a theater, arts and crafts shops, horticulture and vocational therapy. Over five years ago, Dr. Adams and staff temporarily stopped seeing patients so that they could coordinate plans for raising \$5 Million needed for the Institute's permanent and expanded home, a model health care community. Currently planned is an immediate phase of this dream, a \$400,000 WV facility so that their medical service to patients can resume within the next two years. [...]

Dr. Adams adds to his training as a physician, his experience as a street clown. In working with health and mental health professionals, he explores the relationship between humor and therapy using his unique blend of knowledge, showmanship and hands-on teaching techniques. Says Dr. Adams, I interpret my experience in life as being happy. I want, as a doctor, to say it does matter to your health to be happy. It may be the most important health factor in your life.

Patch Adams, M.D., approaches the issues of personal, community, and global health with zestful exuberance, according to Time Magazine. Dr. Adams believes that the most revolutionary act one can commit in our world is to be happy. **MORE AT: [www.patchadams.org](http://www.patchadams.org)** ♣

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