

THE GLOBAL GAME CHANGER

Who Can Save America – Who Can Save The World?

By Gerald Celente

The American Economy is in collapse. Nothing the White House, Congress or the Federal Reserve tries to do to stop the crash will stop it. Bush's TARP, Obama's stimulus and Bernanke's money-pumping schemes ... none have delivered the recovery each had promised. The digital trillions injected by the government to keep financial firms afloat put America on temporary life-support, no more than that. When the plug is pulled and the money pump stops, the US economy will go down and much of the world will sink with it.

On the war front, the story's the same. Nothing the White House, Congress or the Pentagon does will bring the results they promise. Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Libya ... Bush, Obama, Gates, Petraeus ... big talk, trillions spent, millions killed, nations destroyed, anti-American hatred seething and no victory in sight.

Undeterred by having batted zero, Republican and Democratic leaders and government lackeys defend pitiful performances with the same hollow lines: "Progress is being made; more time is needed." From the economy to war and peace, from education to health care reform, new failures are piled on old ones. Major disasters are compounded into tragic debacles.

But wait, there's hope! The 2012 campaign bandwagon is rolling. Jam-packed with a new class of Presidential candidates, this time it will be different. The cameras roll, and candidates boast that they, and only they, have what it takes to bring about prosperity and set the nation straight. And from right and left, the kids at the circus jump from their seats and cheer for the clowns.

History tells us, in the most unequivocal terms, that a vote for any Republican or Democratic party candidate in 2012 will be a vote for more of the same. Nothing, Nothing, Nothing, NOTHING that any Presidential front runner promises will bring about prosperity or "Change You Can Believe In."

DELUSION SOLUTION Come Election Day, the media and politicians will be spinning the same old tale: "Get out and vote. If you don't exercise your right to vote, you lose your right to complain."

What nincompoop made up this deceptive line, one that sounds politically correct and morally persuasive, but, in reality, is pure nonsense?

Vote for whom? Tweedle Dee or Tweedle Dum? A lesser of two evils? A choice between very dishonest and very incompetent or just plain dishonest and incompetent? What an historic day it would be if the electorate entered the polling place bewildered about having to choose between the greater of two greats. Then, and only then, would the citizen who did not vote lose their "right to complain."

Regardless of who is elected – Republican or Democrat – the only solution I can see at

this time that could save America (and be applied worldwide) is to take the power out of the hands of politicians and put it into the hands of the people.

In Switzerland, where this is practiced, it is called "Direct Democracy." The people vote on major issues that affect them locally and globally, and the elected officials (whether they agree or not) perform their duties as "public servants," carrying out the will of the people.

The US and other nations that call themselves "democratic" have "representative democracy." In theory, elected officials pledged to carry out (represent) the will of the people. But, in practice, at least in modern memory, most elected officials carry out the will of special interests whose "campaign contributions" (a.k.a. bribes and payoffs) assure their subservience.

While most everybody knows this, it's both

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tolerated and accepted as political business as usual. Only school children, the delusional and the willfully don't-know-nuthin' still believe that the officials they've elected “represent them.”



Eugene Gregan

“Dancing with Direct Democracy: The Third Party is You!”

CALL TO ACTION Virtually every day we receive emails asking us for direction on how to reverse negative trends we have identified, and how to successfully navigate the future.

Given today's dire socioeconomic and geopolitical conditions and our forecast for them to dramatically deteriorate, I believe that changing from a faux-representative democracy to Direct Democracy would be a giant step in the right direction. If the Swiss can do it successfully, why can't anyone else?

As a political atheist, I belong to no political party nor adhere to an ideology. At this early stage of the 2012 campaign (though I disagree with certain of his strict libertarian principles), I would vote for Ron Paul for his bring-home-the-troops, close-the-bases, shrink-the-military, end-the-drug-war, bring-down-the-Federal-Reserve platform.

Yet, even if Paul were elected, the special interests would fight to keep what they have ... and possibly kill not to lose it. And with a viable, truly independent third party not in the cards for 2012, the only viable solution I can envisage that could reverse the trends is take the vote out of the hands of party politicians and put it in the hands of the people: Direct Democracy!

On issues ranging from federal to local – going to war, foreign aid, trade agreements,

bailouts, rescue packages, budgets, taxes, health care, oil drilling, hydro-fracking, subsidies, education, abortion, drug legalization, same sex marriage, zoning, eminent domain ... and yes, secession-

ism for all those who no longer want to be part of an increasingly imperfect and dysfunctional union ... the European or the American Way: “Let the People vote!”

Give the “public servants” the unique opportunity to truly play the role they so insistently pretend they have been playing all along ... and “serve” the public.

WHERE TO START Understanding the tremendous power that social networking played in galvanizing the revolutions of the “Arab Spring” and the uprisings and protests raging through Europe, I propose using the same model to bring about a Direct Democracy revolution.

There will be legal hurdles to jump and political obstacles erected that will need to be overcome. It is going to take passion and persistence from people with relevant skills to push the movement forward. It should never be forgotten that no law is immutable. Laws are made only to be superseded by new laws. No clearer example can be given than the wholesale raping of the Constitution by the Supreme Court and successive presidents. What better time to write a new one?

If the Founding Fathers could pull it off with horses, sheer will and quill pens, surely 21st century revolutionaries can make Direct Democracy

a reality with the strokes of a keyboard. Not only can the Internet serve as the galvanizing force to bring about Direct Democracy, it can also be used as the 21st century ballot box.

“Voting online could be subject to hacking and fraud,” the entrenched parties will argue. But casting a vote online is no more susceptible to “irregularities” than casting a vote at the polling place ... be it stuffing the ballot boxes or rigging the voting machines.

In fact, voting online, with full transparency, would prove more secure than any polling place run by party operatives. I say, “If you can bank online, buy online, gamble on line, you can vote online!” Going to vote should be easier than going to the ATM. And if you don’t have your own computer, there’s always the polling place.

It is due time Thomas Jefferson’s vision that “... *in due time the voice of the people will be heard and their latent wisdom will prevail,*” prevails.

For that vision to become a reality it will take dedicated attorneys to create the legal framework required to change old laws, make new ones, and surmount the massive roadblocks that the politically entrenched will erect to stop the movement.

And it will take inspired web programmers and designers to build the hi-tech site that provides the needed online structure, and savvy social networkers to galvanize the public.

The Trends Research Institute has taken the first step by securing the domain name DirectDemocracyNow.org.

As G.I. Gurdjieff told his students, “*I provide the leather, you make the shoes.*”

We look forward to hearing from those with the skills and dedication.

Publisher’s Note: “Representative Democracy,” the form of government we adhere to in the West, is no more than a cruel sham, a bone thrown to the proles following the overthrow of the aristocracies of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The restive public was gulled into believing that, by voting for members of political parties pledged to represent their interests, their voices would be heard.

While attractive in principle, in practice, political parties come to represent the same very rich and very powerful interests that have ruled throughout history. Only the names and ranks

have changed. No longer called Kings, Queens, Czars, Dukes and Barons, the new aristocracy is called the “too big to fail.”

My call for the institution and spread of Direct Democracy, which has been broadcast on national and international radio and TV programs, is resonating globally. While the concept is not new, the interest in it is only now gaining global traction. Thinking people everywhere are recognizing that Direct Democracy can provide a blueprint for revolution in the New Millennium. Non-violent, intellectually and philosophically sound, emotionally empowering, and potentially inexorable ... the greatest obstacle to Direct Democracy is to do nothing.

THE DD TREND

Trends are born, grow, mature, reach old age and die. While modern age Direct Democracy (DD) was born in mid-19th-century Switzerland, its success has been confined within that nation’s borders. But seeds are now being sown in other places. DD advocates in Poland, for example, disgusted with “politics as usual” and determined to break free of party chains, have launched a bold and practical initiative. Similar initiatives exist in the UK, Czech Republic, and elsewhere. These incipient movements all recognize the basic need to radically change the system, but to date, they’ve not yet gathered the necessary momentum to galvanize a mass movement.

A Polish Direct Democracy group that we are in contact with emphasizes the need for DD advocates to be “very careful on the implementation of details” to clear the maze of legal, bureaucratic and political hurdles purposely set in place by the agents of “no change.”

They write, “Therefore, it is worthwhile to prepare the change into Direct Democracy carefully. We would be happy to recommend some of our very knowledgeable colleagues to any group of people that would like to make changes in their political system in the direction of Direct Democracy.” They recommend three great sources of information:

- Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe: The president of IRI is [Mr. Bruno Kauffmann](#), who “can be very helpful. He is very much involved in the ‘direct democratization’ in Iceland. He has a huge knowledge on issues of

Direct Democracy and the biggest connections network in the community.”

■ **The Centre for Democracy Studies (ZDA):** A Swiss think tank that is also active in Icelandic efforts to introduce Direct Democracy.

■ **Democracy International:** An international network for Direct Democracy.

On-Trend For Action Even with a Direct Democracy system in place, voting to elect public servants (“representatives” in pre-DD jargon) will still be necessary. To help assure that public servants serve the public’s interests rather than special interests, international financier Jim Rogers has spearheaded “**GovAtHome,**” an important step in that direction.

While the Rogers’ proposal does not entail the citizenry voting Swiss-style, directly on important individual issues, its focus is on requiring Congressmen and Senators to live and work in their home districts, out of the reach of Washington-based lobbyists who, under the present system, are the de facto lawmakers.

“Washington is full of lobbyists and nearly all laws are written by lobbyists and certainly strongly influenced by lobbyists and so the American public has little to do with how laws come out or what’s good for us,” said Rogers.

“The current system rewards corruption. When Congressmen live isolated from those they serve, and are constantly seduced and watched

by high-dollar campaign donors, is it any wonder that they are so corrupt?” asks GovatHome.

Some 40,000 registered lobbyists contributed \$3.5 billion (a.k.a. bribes) to political campaigns in 2010, with the goal of passing legislation furthering their interests. A career in government has become a stepping stone to a lucrative career in lobbying. Politicians don’t just take money from lobbyists – they become lobbyists. Thousands of former federal employees, hundreds of former White House staffers and ex-members of Congress, as well as numerous former heads of government departments have gone on to work for, or run, lobbying firms.

The Rogers’ plan would retain the requirement written into the Constitution that representatives spend a week in DC and return occasionally as needed. Otherwise, the rest of their duties would be performed in their home districts, using Internet, video conferencing, and email technology. When they cast their votes, it will be under the watchful eyes of their constituents and with complete and immediate transparency.

Until the lobbyist/corporate stranglehold is broken, the individual voter is but a slave to a system he had no say in creating, and to masters who are indifferent to the general welfare. An immediate advantage of GovAtHome is that it could be implemented without necessitating a drastic rewriting of existing constitutions.

FIGHT!

Your Life Depends on It

What prevents people from standing up, speaking out, and taking action rather than getting steam-rolled by an army of self-serving politicians and bloated bureaucrats?

Are they afraid or do they just feel powerless when – from Town Hall to Capitol Hill – it’s the power-mad that make the laws, give the orders, and mete out punishment for disobedience ... except, of course, for the privileged few and the well-connected?

“We the people” are not obliged to blindly follow orders that are designed to enrich the few at the expense of the many. At a certain juncture,

obedience itself becomes a moral crime. “*The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality,*” wrote Dante Alighieri.

Be it a local zoning change pushed through for a crooked crony or a corporate marauder, a mountain top removed for a mega-mine or toxic chemical hydrofracking approved for big energy, a Presidential dictate that leads to war, or an Executive Order that robs the people of their Constitutional Rights ... silence and submission are willful acts of self-enslavement.

Exhibit A. While the global financial wreck-