

Escape

From poverty, crime, and sickness To wealth, morality, and health

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“I don’t have to tell you things are bad, everybody knows things are bad.” Thus spoke network news anchor Howard Beale in the 1976 satirical black comedy-drama *Network*. Anchor Beale said he didn’t know what to do about the depression and the inflation and the Russians and the crime in the streets. He said all he knew was that first, “you’ve got to get mad!” He advised his viewers to open their windows and yell out, “I’m as mad as hell, and I’m not going to take it anymore!” Unfortunately, things are still bad, and we’re still trying to figure out what to do about it.

In recent articles, various authors have shared many helpful recommendations. The reader has been advised to “take small but wise risks in your youth,” “pursue sound financial practices,” and that we all “[bar the Fed from buying mortgage-backed securities](#),” “learn economics—real economics,” “[join the fight for liberty](#),” “[take advantage of the growing distrust of government to further spread the ideas of liberty](#),” or “[vibecode a ‘How to End the Fed’ game](#).” One author advised that an action recommended by

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others won't get us the results we want, saying "If we're ever going to truly escape this awful status quo. . . it won't come from a policy like voter ID. **It will happen once 'both sides' understand that they are losing.**" Other articles have provided helpful analysis, letting us know "state capitalism" is "devouring itself," we need to understand our "dire need for revolution in the heart of the empire," and advising us that "trade cannot be understood in isolation from money," and "wealth comes from production, exchange, and saving, not from printing."

In addition to helpful analyses and problem solving action recommendations such as those, I think we can do more. In fact, I think there's something We, the People, of these fifty united States of America can do as a group, if we become so inclined, that will amplify our problem solving efforts and help us fix just about everything that's fixable. Side-stepping the classic blunder of using command and control hierarchies to achieve goals, the action I have in mind will solve all our major problems with a decentralized organising principle; that is, without any one of us knowing how, in the same way we manufacture number two wood pencils without any one person knowing how (à la *I, Pencil*, Leonard E. Read, 1958). I believe We, the People, can literally buy our way out of trouble. In the following, as Grandfather Zed recommended in Terry Goodkind's *Sword of Truth* series, we'll "think of solutions not problems."

What I perceive has been substantially missing from most studies on problems and solutions, and what has been bothering me ever since Ranger Rick showed me the harm our civilization has been causing our fellow living creatures when I was little, is how? How do we make our living world a healthy paradise planet? Not just fixing a few problems, here and there, for a few people, but how do we actually fix it all? How do we get everything on our planet moving the right way meaningfully and promptly? Thinking generally, how do we quickly (and painlessly) eliminate poverty, crime, and environmental degradation (sickness) from our lives? Many of us, demoralised by the downward trajectory our world seems to be following, especially in recent decades, may want to throw up their hands in despair and say it's impossible. If that describes you, I'm here to tell you maybe you're right, and maybe you're wrong, and it doesn't much matter which because the alternative to restoring our once-beautiful world to its past and potential glory is simply unthinkable.

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Here, in three articles, I will propose a way out of our troubles, in the form of a political solution. I propose We, the People, of these fifty united States of America unite politically to take a specific administrative action. That's it, that's the whole proposed solution. I claim there is an easy administrative action We, the People, can take that will solve all our problems—again, without any one of us knowing how. In this first article, I'll present a technical modification We can make to our US dollars and show how that one modification will automatically reduce [poverty](#), crime, and [environmental degradation](#). In the second article I'll propose a further change We can make to our US dollars that will supercharge them, and send us straight to our science-fiction future (*Jetsons*, not *Bladerunner*). Finally, in the third article, I'll further explore the benefits of modifying our US dollars as proposed, spell out the proposed administrative action We all can take as a collective to make our proposed technical modification happen—again, if we become so inclined—and what you, the reader, can do to make it happen. So, here in the first article, what is this proposed technical modification to our US dollars, and what good will it do us?

As noted, the goal here is solutions, specifically to what could be called the unholy trinity of poverty, crime, and environmental degradation, which is obviously a lot of problems on our plate. Because it is such a plateful, the solution method proposed here is to triage, and start with environmental degradation. Environmental degradation, or the declining health of our living world, is the logical first triage point because poverty and crime are generally less important to you if your health, here generalised to the health of the world, gets bad enough, especially if it gets as bad as death. In other words, I propose we proceed like we're on an airplane, by putting the oxygen mask over our own faces first. As we'll quickly find out, starting with our health leads us to a solution that simultaneously makes us wealthy and moral.

The environmental degradation reduction method proposed here is the ethical one of paying land parcel owners for the health of their lands (rather than the unethical method of rules and regulations forced on parcel owners by way of tax-subsidised brute squads). We propose to find the money for payments by using the health of the land itself *as* the money. To use the health of a land parcel as money, its health must be measured; this can be accomplished using one of the methods your doctor uses to gauge

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your health, which is to measure its respiration rate. Land parcel respiration rates can be measured by counting the number of oxygen molecules produced by the living green plants on the parcel. We can modify our US dollars so they become a fixed weight of oxygen, tracked in a decentralized electronic ledger entry spendable by the parcel owner. (Note land parcel oxygen production rate data [is readily available](#).)

This proposed modification to our US dollars makes sense when we first understand what they are currently. What is a US dollar? Early in the the Republic, a US dollar was defined as both a fixed weight of silver and a fixed weight of gold (the so-called [bi-metallic standard](#)), but later became a fixed weight of gold only. Currently, a US dollar is implicitly defined in the [U. S. Treasury's books](#) as $1/(42 \frac{2}{9})$ ounces of gold. We can modify our US dollars again, as We have in the past. We've changed them from a fixed weight of silver to a fixed weight of gold, then later to [successively smaller fixed weights of gold](#), and can now change them from a fixed weight of gold to a fixed weight of oxygen. We currently use US dollars as money by trading records of them in the form of paper dollar bills, where each dollar bill is the record of a dollar ($1/(42 \frac{2}{9})$ oz. Au) stored in our vault at Fort Knox. To implement our proposed world-wide problems triage by paying parcel owners for the health of their lands, we can track this proposed newest version of US dollars, in the form of a fixed weight of oxygen, with a record of the oxygen produced by a parcel recorded in the form of a US dollar bill. As explained in the third article in this series, there is a way to change our US dollar bills so they are naturally electronic in form, and completely decentralized.

Once We, the People, have decided to change our US dollars to be a measure of the health of the various land parcels, as measured by parcel oxygen production, the way is immediately opened for us to eliminate both federal government taxation and borrowing from our national life. This is because if We, the People, own about [202,133,000 acres of trees](#) on our national forests, parks, and monuments, and if each of those acres produces, on average, 1,060,000 grams of oxygen per year, and if our new version of a US dollar is defined as 30.6 grams of oxygen produced by a living green plant, then the trees on our national lands will produce about \$7 trillion per year, covering our national government spending budget. By changing our

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US dollars from gold to oxygen as proposed, and sizing the new dollars per this design choice, many benefits will follow.

First, the federal government Internal Revenue Service (IRS) can be dissolved, and borrowing stopped, since those two activities will no longer be necessary if our national lands are covering our national budget. Second, poverty will be reduced by shrinking the so-called inflation tax paid by users of US dollars since new money will enter circulation more equitably, through every parcel of land. Third, environmental degradation will be reduced because all land parcels, including government owned parcels, will be worth a cash flow both dead and alive. Fourth, poverty will be reduced thanks to job creation. Jobs will be created for biologists, remote-sensing specialists, satellite manufacturers, and computer programmers to measure the new US dollars and credit lawful parcel owners. Jobs will be created for arborists and foresters to help parcel owners keep their parcels healthy, and jobs will be created for lawyers to help make parcel owners whole if their land is damaged, and for speculators to trade and hedge the new money. Fifth, poverty will be reduced thanks to improved business conditions. Prices and transaction friction for both producers and consumers throughout the various supply chains will be reduced thanks to the elimination of federal government taxes and tariffs. Interest rates will become predictable and **commodity price volatility reduced** thanks to predictable entry of the new money into circulation. Producer and consumer cash flows will be improved by the elimination of tax compliance and planning costs. Sixth, poverty may be reduced due to many individuals getting ideas about freedom and reduced government spending after their success in eliminating the IRS and the money lenders. Those individuals may decide to repeal federal government Intellectual Property (IP) statutes, turning innovation rates up to **eleven** (Kinsella, *Against Intellectual Property*, 2001). Seventh, poverty-induced crime will be reduced thanks to reduced poverty. Eighth, crime will be reduced by putting the federal government on a fiscal leash. Limiting its spending by eliminating its ability to tax and borrow will be a reduction in concentrated power in the world, reducing the damage the world's most militarily powerful government can cause. Eliminating its ability to make its citizens open their financial books to it, and eliminating its ability to take control of people's property over IP disputes

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will further reduce concentrated power, and thus further reduce damage caused thereby.

We can fix everything by fixing our money, by using the health of our land parcels *as* money. Making this change to our US dollars will close a positive feedback loop between our living biological world and our human financial world, and setting the loop gain so our national lands provide for our national budget will enable the removal of both the IRS and federal government borrowing from our lives. The health of our living world will improve, the health of our individual financial worlds will improve, and we'll get to enjoy a world with less crime.

But wait, there's more. In the second article of this series we'll find another action we can cease that will effectively put our new money on steroids, while protecting us from possible problems.