



**Escape**



# **Escape**

**How We Can Fix Everything  
by Fixing Our US Dollars**

Sam Gold

Self Publishing School

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To my good boy, Tyler



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# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>Introduction: Fixing It All With Money</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Poverty, Crime, Environmental Degradation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. The Collective's Problematic Gold US Dollars</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. The Collective Has A Spending Problem</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. Laundering fraudulent receipts for Gold</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5. The Collective Is Cheating Us With An Inflation Tax</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6. The Cheating Is Making Our Lives A Hell</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>7. We're Trapped By Tax and Legal Tender Statutes</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>II. Paradise Planet: Cheating with Money</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>8. Bribing Parcel Owners</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>9. Bribing Parcel Owners With Entropy Money</b>	<b>69</b>

## *Contents*

<b>10.Entropy Money Reduces Unholy Trinity</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>11.Free Entropy Money Mitigates Risk</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>12.Free Entropy Money Opens the Door to Forever</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>13.Escape</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>14.Final Destiny</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>III.Mechanizing Our Escape</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>15.A Request For Proposal</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>16.A Big Short Squeeze</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>17.Funding, Measuring, Settling and Executing</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>18.Mechanizing: Summary</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>IV. What Is to Be Done?</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>19.Is It Possible For Us To Unite To Do This?</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>20.Political Jobs</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>21.Technical and Business Jobs</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>V. Conclusion</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>22.Near-Term Results</b>	<b>203</b>

## *Contents*

<b>23.This Escape Route is Real</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>24.Further Reading</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>25.Make It So</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>VI. Appendices</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>A. Borrowing With Left Hand, Printing With Right</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>B. Simplified History of Our US Dollars</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>C. Request For Proposal</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>D. Entropy: Classical and Statistical Thermodynamics Meanings</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>E. Universal Basic Income</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>Works Cited</b>	<b>281</b>



# FIGURES AND TABLES

## List of Figures

2.1. M2, S&P500 vs. time. . . . .	10
4.1. Right hand buys debt sold by left. . . . .	20
5.1. Legacy monetary flows. . . . .	24
5.2. Since 1971, workers' real wages have remained flat. . . . .	29
5.3. Federal government debt. . . . .	31
5.4. The Ben Bernank. . . . .	35
9.1. Supply chain. . . . .	70
9.2. Gold money. . . . .	72
9.3. The amount of gold recovered (coin on right) is a measurement of entropy added to the parcel (open pit mine on left). . . . .	76
9.4. Entropy money pays landowners to not cut down their trees. . . . .	78
10.1. Entropy money puts our living world in harmony with our finan- cial world. . . . .	85
10.2. Entropy money enters circulation equitably. . . . .	88
10.3. Entropy money gets money lenders and revenueurs out of our lives. . . . .	93
10.4. Entropy money enters circulation equitably and linearly. . . . .	94
10.5. Entropy money enters circulation linearly and predictably. . . . .	99
12.1. Biodiversity pays. Left-hand side—less biodiversity. Right-hand side—more biodiversity. . . . .	115
12.2. Example: bonus paid for biodiversity. . . . .	117
12.3. Better health → more cash → better health → ... . . . .	119

## *Contents*

12.4. Death to death and taxes. . . . .	125
14.1. Uplift candidates? . . . . .	141
18.1. New way to earn money. . . . .	178
18.2. Implementation. . . . .	180
23.1. From gold to oxygen. . . . .	215
25.1. Harmony. . . . .	229
A.1. Sell IOUs and buy them back with new money. . . . .	235
B.1. Gold Reserve Act of 1934 and Presidential Proclamation 2072 de- valued our gold US dollars by 41 percent, increasing the US dollar supply by 69 percent. . . . .	251
B.2. Like the Roman denarius. . . . .	253
B.3. Disappearing USA gold hoard. . . . .	255
D.1. Higher entropy on Mars (left) or the earth's moon (center) than on the earth (right). . . . .	278
E.1. Spaceship Earth, our only home. Let's buy her a good future. . . .	280

## **List of Tables**

9.1. Entropy money makes parcels healthier . . . . .	79
A.1. We the People (Left Hand) . . . . .	236
A.2. We the People (Right Hand) . . . . .	237
A.3. The Economy . . . . .	238

## Preface

Dear Political Peer (here in one of these fifty United States of America),

I'm reaching out to you because we need to talk about money. And more than just talk about it, we need to do something about it. You may or may not have heard, but the group of us, We the People of the United States of America, is bankrupt. Our bankruptcy is causing poverty, crime, and environmental degradation, not just for us but for everyone on the planet, thanks to the de facto world reserve money status of our US dollars. Our situation is intolerable, but escape is near. Our group has the power to change our US dollars so our situation becomes not just tolerable but good, and then great.

I'm a retired aerospace engineer who spent his career designing and testing automatic, or feedback, control systems, so naturally I'm seeing a way to create a control system to fix things. Specifically, it's obvious to me we can use our US dollars as a feedback mechanism in an automatic control system that solves our money, crime, and environmental degradation problems. In my work, I used optimization techniques to design the best possible control systems. Here, we can use our federal government to implement an optimizer that (also automatically) searches for the feedback control system that does the best job possible.

I credit Ranger Rick from the National Wildlife Federation for starting me down this path. He taught me the people from the big city were hurting the woods critters and made me want to help out. Later, other authors taught me that, in addition, some of the people in the big city were hurting others in the big city, and much of the harm those city dwellers were causing was the unintentional result of complex factors. Eventually, I discovered money was involved. As I learned more, the pieces of information began fitting together like



## *Preface*

the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, forming a stunningly gorgeous picture. In this work I'll paint that picture in words, holding it up for you to see, saying "Look! We can escape, right now! We have everything we need!"

In essence, I'm proposing here that the way we save the world is we don't. Instead, we build a machine, in this case an automatic control system, to do it for us. After learning the details presented here, I sincerely hope you come to the same conclusion and help us all escape to a new and greatly improved Space-ship Earth.

In love and peace,

Sam Gold

16 July 2024 at 6:01 PDT

## Introduction: Fixing It All With Money

There's something each of us does every day without being aware of it: we earn and spend gold. We think we're earning and spending US dollars, and we are. Dealing with dollars, however, means dealing with gold. Each US dollar is a fixed weight of gold, by statute, treaty, and custom, and is officially referred to as a gold US dollar, or gold dollar. This language is used in official federal government documents such as, for one example, the text of the 1934 Gold Reserve Act, which states in part: "Nor shall the weight of the gold dollar be fixed in any event at more than 60 per centum of its present weight" [SEC. 12 of 1]. Our US dollars are known as gold dollars partly because they each consist of a fixed weight of gold and partly because they could consist of a fixed weight of something other than gold. For example, a US dollar could be a fixed weight of silver, as it was in the past. If that were true now, then it could be called a silver US dollar. A dollar is an unambiguous, fixed amount of something, but it doesn't have to be any particular thing, like gold or silver. It can be whatever We the People, in our capacity as a collective, say it is. We're used to thinking of earning or spending US dollars, and few of us stop to think about *what* we're using as money. For good reasons, we tend to focus exclusively on how many of them we have or need rather than what they are.

There's something else we all do that rarely or never enters our consciousness: we spend and earn dollar *bills* (*bill* is emphasized as a memory aid in the present work, because the difference between a dollar and a dollar *bill* is central to our escape) in our financial dealings, not dollars. We think we're dealing with dollars, which is true, but at the same time, it isn't true. When we spend or earn a dollar *bill*, we've spent or earned a *bill*, not a dollar. In theory, and by the full

## ***Introduction: Fixing It All With Money***

faith and credit of We the People of the fifty United States, they are equivalent—a dollar *bill* is supposed to be an IOU from We the People for a dollar. That being said, they aren't the same thing, and it is an important difference.

Our lack of awareness of these subtle and seemingly trivial details about our national money is a deep blind spot that can be exploited for our escape, *from* the bad things and *to* the good things. What we use as money has consequences, and this fact can be manipulated to our advantage.

We the People have the power to design and adopt new and improved US dollars, thereby changing *what* we use as money, and therefore also changing its consequences. We also have the power to continue to use US dollar *bills*, making it so the change to our US dollars is effectively invisible to their users, and to make those *bills* naturally electronic in form (meeting the needs of those who are comfortable using their phones and credit cards to transfer money and who need to conduct business remotely). We have the power to change our US dollars so they implement an automatic control system that sends us straight to a fabulous science-fiction future. Finally, we have the power to alter our US dollars in such a way that the actions of us all implement an optimization machine, automatically searching for the best possible automatic control system.

Here, a business proposal is made to We the People of the United States of America to exercise our powers and change our US dollars so they bring us the above benefits. It can be treated as a business proposal by deferring to the “Official Story” that, through actions of our federal government agents, We the People all come together to take actions as if we were one. This Official Story is memorialized in the traditional motto of the United States: *E pluribus unum*—Latin for “Out of many, one.” In an example relevant to this business proposal, when our US Treasury Department agents borrow money, we are acting as one and borrowing money. In another relevant example, we're in the banking business together, banking our gold US dollars in our vault at Fort Knox.

It is understood that the actual story isn't necessarily the same as the Official Story. The Official Story is used here as a way of exercising our kung fu, bending

## ***Introduction: Fixing It All With Money***

like the willow and using that Story to our advantage. If we're told we're in business together, electing representatives and "voluntarily" paying taxes for them to spend, then so be it. "We" are in business together, and "we" will be making the decisions from now on. "We" will be the "deciders," as one of us reputedly said.

Thinking of us as a collective, or perhaps more usefully as a fifty-strong committee of giant committees (one for each state), this proposal can be thought of as a motion to be put forward for consideration and a vote by the committee. Because this committee controls the production of the world reserve money, our US dollars, and because of the material reality of certain data and software available to us, we have the power to change our US dollars in such a way that the lives of everyone on this planet improve dramatically and never stop improving.

If we divide our worldwide systems of production into owners, managers, and workers, we political peers here in these fifty states are presented with the opportunity to keep focused on which group we are and behave that way. Specifically, this fifty-strong committee of committees owns the right of production of US dollars and dollar *bills*. It guards that right jealously, requiring its agents to deal swiftly and violently with any individuals who manufacture their own. Owners hire managers, who hire workers. Workers do the work, and managers do the work of getting the work done by hiring and retaining workers who do the work. Once the committee has hired a good management team, it doesn't have to do much work. This is fortuitous because, like any other committee, it can't do real work—it is only capable of making decisions, which we're here to do.

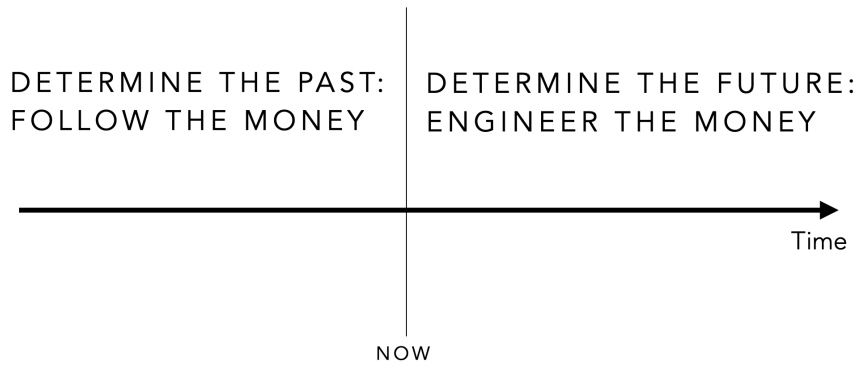
We're presented with the opportunity for the committee to make a decision about the production of our US dollars. This committee has a management team, consisting of its employees who lead the US Department of the Treasury. When we make the proposed decision, these managers will be responsible for turning the committee's decision into a reality by hiring the job out to the appropriate workers. Making this decision and thereby causing the desired change to

***Introduction: Fixing It All With Money***

our US dollars is something the committee really can accomplish—as is made clear in the following chapters, the proposed decision is one we committee members all want it to make. Miracles can happen, and We the People are going to make them happen by thinking and acting like the owners we are.

To persuade us all that we want to make the proposed decision, we'll here determine what *has happened* by following the money and what *will happen* by engineering the money, in this case our US dollars. Then, to change this from a theoretical to a real-world exercise, we'll find out how to adopt the new and improved money and what each of us can do to make it happen. We can think of our group as a team for the purpose of creating and adopting the money, with each of us doing his or her part to achieve a goal.

Our new and improved money is going to help us swiftly and surely advance into our science-fiction future on a paradise planet filled with eight billion or so healthy, happy geniuses. Curiously enough, we're also going to discover that money can grow on trees, contrary to what our parents told us. So let's follow the money, then engineer it, and look forward to meeting up on the outside.



## **Part I.**

# **Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money**



# 1

## Poverty, Crime, Environmental Degradation

**F**OLLOWING the money, we all sense we're being cheated as we watch prices run away, making us work harder and harder to pay our bills. We're continuously getting pushed closer to the edge and even falling over it—one of the most disastrous things that can happen to a person [2–16].

As the prices rise and rise, and then rise more, we're watching helplessly, hoping we can earn more money in a desperate race to keep up. We anxiously watch the homeless encampments grow, more of them springing up every month, and we feel the chill wind on our necks as we hope we don't join them or the sickening horror if it has already happened. Every day more of us fall off the cliff from solvent to insolvent, and every day the rest of us dig our heels in more, knowing that, regardless, we're continually being dragged closer to the edge. The terror climbs a little higher in our throats every day as we watch the price of butter go up a little more, the price of milk a little more. We get our mail every day in dread of the landlord raising our rent beyond what we can afford or the county raising our property tax beyond what we can pay.

Yours truly recently got an earful from his automobile mechanic about his runaway price woes. He said every week parts get more expensive, and it isn't feasible to simply pass the price increases on to customers—he has to eat part



## *I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money*

of them since he knows his customers, too, are suffering from general price increases. Every year his property taxes go up—and he's one of the lucky ones who owns his property. The mechanics who rent are in even bigger trouble as their rental prices run away. Every year his federal government taxes go up. This year he repaired 25 percent more cars than last year, but his net income went down 20 percent. His labor expenses have to increase every year because his employees' rent, grocery, and medical expenses are running away. The oil recycler used to pay him \$1/gallon for used oil but now charges \$1/gallon, and his costs to recycle other consumables, such as oil filters, air filters, brake fluid, and so on, are increasing in the same way. It wasn't hard to feel the fear behind those words, as the trend didn't start just this year or last. The mechanic, and all of us, can see which way prices are headed. We know the only difference between tent-people and roofs-over-their-heads-people is a relentlessly shrinking savings account.

We may even close our eyes and hope that when we open them we'll wake up in a sane world, but we don't. We know this isn't just a bad dream. Terrifyingly and implacably, it's really happening [17]. We know from our history books that price runaways can and do ruin millions upon millions of people just like ourselves. According to a report from the CATO Institute, 17 hyperinflationary runaways, each one starting off just like the price increases we're seeing right now, happened in the twentieth century alone [18]. Hyperinflationary price runaways have affected people even in the author's small circle of friends—his friend from the Ukraine got wiped out by a hyperinflationary runaway when she was just 25 years old, with a new baby, and another friend's parents in Romania got wiped out twice.

A sense of where we're likely headed, absent some sort of course correction, can be found in just one example, involving just one individual, from just one of those terrible hyperinflationary runaways. This example took place in the Weimar Republic of Germany after World War I, and remember to multiply it

## ***Poverty, Crime, Environmental Degradation***

by millions for a real sense of the horror. From Hans Eicholz's discussion<sup>1</sup> of a tragic story from Frederick Taylor's *The Downfall of Money: Germany's Hyperinflation and the Destruction of the Middle Class* [20]:

One particularly arresting story is that of Maximilian Bern, a man of literary education exemplary of Germany's formerly middle class *Bildungsbürgertum*. In 1923, writes Taylor, he "withdrew all his savings—100,000 marks, formerly sufficient to support a modestly comfortable retirement—and purchased all it would buy by that time: a subway ticket. The old gentleman took a last ride around the city, then went back to his apartment and locked himself in."

If you are like me, you probably assumed the next sentence would conclude with suicide. No. "There he died of hunger." I had to linger over that sentence to fully grasp the reality: starvation in a society that had recently been among the most technologically and commercially advanced of any on Earth. [19]

This pervasive threat of running out of money, and therefore being exposed to the desperate crimes of others who are also running out of money, is bad enough, but unfortunately, there's more. It's not just that the ability of more and more of us human people to shelter and feed our families is being impaired directly, by causing us to run out of money, and indirectly because of poverty-induced crime. It's also being impaired indirectly by incentivizing us to harm the nonhuman people in our world, the plant and animal people, upon whom we depend completely to live. This activity threatens our lives just as much as going broke, although we may not think much about harm to our living world when we're running out of money. Upon pausing and pondering the situation, however, it becomes obvious that we don't even get to breathe without the oxygen produced by our helpful friends the plant people.

Our money problems are incentivizing us to harm our living world by forcing us to make our supply chains more productive, to produce more products to sell to get more money to pay our bills. Producing more products means consuming

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<sup>1</sup>Eicholz explained the evil of an inflating money supply in his 2014 essay *The Currency of Destruction* [19].

## *I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money*

more raw materials in the agriculture, timber, and mining sectors, leaving less for our living world. Consistent with this reality, it looks like our living world, which includes each and every one of us, is in real trouble [21–109]. The only silver lining to this cloud is that we human people are not born to be, and don't have to be, planet wreckers. The situation is rather that, as Daniel Quinn observed, we're more or less compelled to harm our world to earn a living [110].<sup>2</sup>

Worldwide, we're caught in a fatal dilemma: we have to work harder to pay our bills, but we have to stop working harder because it's killing our world.<sup>3</sup> For many of us, we don't even have time to think about how to stop killing our world because we have to spend all our time killing it, so we can pay our bills while prices are running away. The two parts of the dilemma aren't a secret, although we don't always connect them, and people have been making various attempts to fix each of them.

To fix the price runaways, we, through our government agents, have been interfering with individuals' economic decisions. We've implemented price ceilings, price floors, subsidies, tariffs, public works, and any other kind of intervention we or our government agents could dream up [112]. But the prices stubbornly continue to run away [113, 114]. Meanwhile, our growing pool of the poorest gets sicker and poorer [115], victimized by more crime, and even

---

<sup>2</sup>The September 27, 2023, proposal by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to list Natural Asset Companies (NACs) states that “Although there is significant demand to deploy financial capital toward sustainability, stewards of natural landscapes have often had little choice other than extractive development to fund their budgets or garner a return on investment [108].”

<sup>3</sup>The crux of this dilemma is captured by the arguments for and against Washington State Initiative 1631 from the 2018 general election, which is an energy tax intended to reduce pollution [111]. Proponents of the initiative argue that it will produce a cleaner, healthier future, while opponents argue that, while those are worthy ends, the initiative won't accomplish them. The opponents explain that the energy tax would increase poverty by raising prices, while not decreasing pollution because the largest polluters are exempt, and there is no accountability for the unelected public board that would administer the tax. The voter is placed in a bind: she wants to make our living world healthier but doesn't dare because it will make people poorer and less free, and the proposed tax likely won't even achieve its stated aim of making our living world healthier.

## ***Poverty, Crime, Environmental Degradation***

lonelier [116]. Stansberry reported in 2017 that the bottom 60 percent of people here struggle to raise even a few hundred dollars for an emergency and have saved less than \$20,000 for retirement. Their poor financial situations correspond with deteriorating health, with a 20 percent increase in premature deaths since 2000 [p. 10 of 4].

Whatever the effects of these economic interferences may be, making the great mass of people healthier and wealthier doesn't appear to be among them.

To spare our living world from harm, various groups have been helping out. Conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy have been using charitable contributions to buy land and protect it with conservation easements. Government departments, such as the US Forest Service, have been giving some forested parcel owners incentives to keep their parcels healthy by paying them for certain ecosystem services [117]. Some hunting and fishing groups have been providing similar incentives with payment to landowners for the ecosystem services of game to hunt and fish to catch. Groups like the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council have been lobbying our elected representatives to enact protective statutes<sup>4</sup> and bringing lawsuits against those who violate the statutes. The Savory Institute manages grasslands to facilitate their large-scale regeneration [120, 121], groups like American Forests [122] and the Arbor Day Foundation [123] work to get more trees planted and fewer cut down, and many, many others are working different aspects of our environmental problems.

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<sup>4</sup>Statutes are invented laws imposed on populations by princes, kings, parliaments, legislatures, big men, etc. Statutory laws can be contrasted with discovered laws, such as the Anglo-Saxon customary law traditions, the Catholic Canon law, the Jewish Mosaic law, and the Xeer tradition of Somalia. Discovered laws can come in the form of, for example, the amount of damages awarded by an Anglo-Saxon jury for assault or battery if it finds one of those has, in fact, occurred. It is a discovered law because our Anglo-Saxon ancestors discovered their lives were better without those types of behaviors [118, 119]. A well-known example of the difference between a statutory law and a discovered law is the difference between statutory rape and rape.

## *I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money*

If what all these people have been doing is helping, it's not helping enough [109]. Australian journalist Caitlin Johnstone reports that:

We are witnessing a mass extinction the likes of which we haven't seen since the end of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, with some 200 species going extinct forever every single day. The very ecosystemic context in which we evolved is vanishing underneath us. More than half the world's wildlife has vanished in forty years, and the worldwide insect population has plummeted by as much as 90 percent. Fertile soil is vanishing, and so are forests. The oceans are choking to death, 90 percent of global fish stocks are either fully fished or overfished, the seas are full of microplastics, and phytoplankton, an indispensable foundation of Earth's food chain, have been killed off by 40 percent since 1950. [124]

Worse, some of the things being done to help may instead be hurting. For one of many examples, it is hoped that solar panels and wind turbines will reduce the chance of catastrophic global warming. However, dimming that hope, they rely heavily on taxpayer subsidies [125], and reports are coming in that habitat destruction, water contamination, colonization, toxic and voluminous waste, slave labor, greenhouse gas emissions, and wars are unintended side effects of their manufacture and disposal [126–135].

Similar to our poverty reduction efforts, what we've been doing to eliminate environmental degradation isn't working, and time isn't our friend.

# 2

## The Collective's Problematic Gold US Dollars

**P**RICES are running away, causing poverty and therefore crime and environmental degradation, but why? Supply and demand changes can and do make prices change but typically can't make them change too much, and not over substantial periods. This kind of price stability is a consequence of the fact that consumers may choose to purchase lower-cost substitutes when prices rise too much. For example, they may purchase margarine if butter prices rise or see medical doctors (MD) if doctors of osteopathy (DO) prices rise. Because of this substitution effect, supply and demand issues generally aren't known to cause the kind of economy-encompassing price increases we've all been observing over the years. If supply and demand issues aren't responsible for the sustained price increases of seemingly just about everything, what could it be?

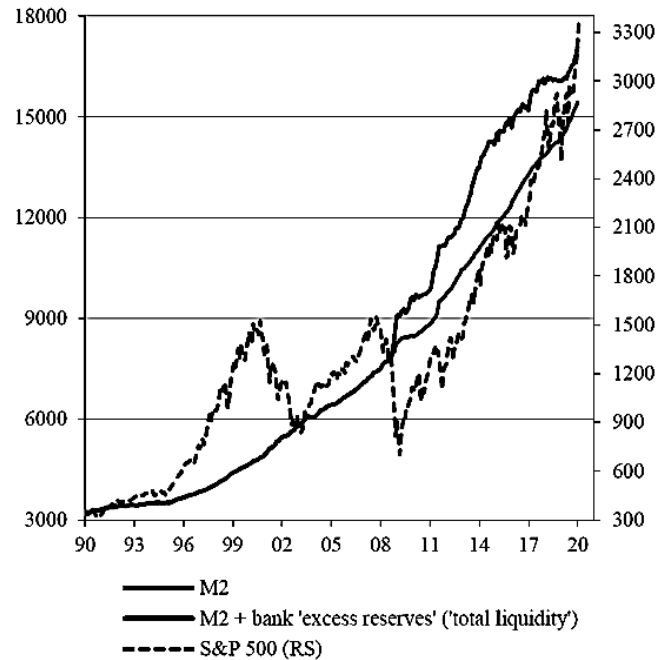
Upon observing that all prices include the common numerator of money, such as dollars/apple or dollars/orange, the culprit becomes obvious: the one thing that can make the prices of just about everything continuously rise over time is continuous increases in the quantity of money in circulation [136]. It is a simple matter of more money chasing the goods and services. More dollars means more dollars/apple and dollars/orange, all other things being equal. The previously mentioned Weimar Republic hyperinflationary runaway of 1923

## I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money

provides an infamous example of this dynamic. The amount of money in circulation ran away, and so did prices.

### More money, higher stock prices

*US M2 and 'US total liquidity' (US\$ bn) and S&P 500*



Source: Thomson Financial: own calculation.

**Figure 2.1.** M2 (left axis, US\$ bn), S&P500 (right axis, S&P500 index) vs. time. (Plot courtesy of Mises Institute, [Mises.org](https://mises.org).)

Has the number of US dollars in circulation been increasing? No, but prices have been rising anyway. How could that be? Prices have been rising because we use dollar *bills* to complete transactions, not dollars, and the number of dollar *bills* in circulation has been increasing (Figure 2.1 [137]).<sup>1</sup> A dollar *bill* is a

<sup>1</sup>M2 in Figure 2.1 is a measure of the US money supply, which includes currency, coins, savings deposits, and money market funds.

## *The Collective's Problematic Gold US Dollars*

note worth a dollar, so how can the number of dollar *bills* be increasing but not the number of dollars? By the full faith and credit of We the People of these fifty states, isn't a dollar *bill* as good as a dollar? It is, according to the Official Story we've all acceded to, but unfortunately, that story is a fiction.

A US dollar is defined as  $1/42^{\text{b}}$ ,<sup>2</sup> or about 1/42.22 ounces of gold [140–144], and a dollar *bill* is a note communicating ownership of a dollar. A dollar *bill* is to a dollar as the deed to your house is to the house. When we buy and sell dollar *bills*, we are theoretically buying and selling ownership of dollars, each of which is a fixed weight of gold. However, the reality doesn't match the theory, as there are many more dollar *bills* than dollars.

This situation has come about due to certain properties of gold, along with the natural desire of any energy-consuming animal to get more energy and expend less. (A less nice way of describing this desire is that it's easier to live off the work of others than to do your own work.) This desire has led some to take advantage of a societal vulnerability to which the use of gold as money has exposed us. It is the fact that our US dollars consist of gold,<sup>3</sup> combined with this natural desire to get something for nothing, that is at the root of our runaway prices and, therefore, many of our other problems.

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<sup>2</sup>The Bretton Woods Agreements Act of 1976 [SEC. 6 of 138] repealed section 2 of the 1972 Par Value Modification Act [SEC. 2 of 139], which had defined a gold US dollar as 1/38 of a fine troy ounce of gold. The 1973 reenactment of the 1972 Par Value Modification Act had subsequently defined a dollar as  $1/42^{\text{b}}$  of an ounce of gold [140], but it too was effectively repealed by the 1976 Bretton Woods Agreements Act. However, the US Department of the Treasury records a book value of  $\$42^{\text{b}}$  for each ounce of our gold [September 30, 2023 report from 141]. While it appears the representatives of We the People forgot to keep our documents up-to-date, our agents who guard our treasure implicitly recognize that every forty-two and two-ninths dollar *bills* are a claim on a fine troy ounce of gold.

<sup>3</sup>Starting with the Coinage Act of 1792, there was a bimetallic system in the United States [145, 146]. In this system, a US dollar was officially defined as both a fixed weight of silver and a fraction, 1/15, and then later, with the US Coin Act of 1834, 1/16 of that weight of gold [p. 130 of 145], and still later abandoned for a gold-only system.



## ***I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money***

The use of gold as money exposes us to many of our big problems because it has two serious shortcomings. First, it causes environmental degradation problems directly because landowners can get paid by excavating their land to recover gold and then spending it into circulation. Second, it exposes its users to price runaways (and therefore environmental degradation indirectly) as a side effect of its weight and bulk. Those properties make it inconvenient to carry, and worse, dangerous—its bulk makes it visible, and therefore makes the person carrying it a target for thieves.

In the long long ago there was still a lot of healthy land, so the first problem, damaging the earth to mine gold, wasn't considered a problem by the miners and others in their societies. But the second problem was different. Losing your gold and maybe even your life in a robbery was something to be avoided if you could. Possibly for around 3,000 years, starting in Babylon [p. 52 of 147], consumers have taken to solving gold's robbery problem by carrying paper receipts for gold instead of gold, with the gold being stored safely in a vault by a third party. If the third party is known to be trustworthy, always redeeming its receipts on demand,<sup>4</sup> users of gold tend to trust the receipts and conduct business directly with them instead of redeeming first and completing their transactions with gold.

The problem is that when users get habituated to the receipts, rarely redeeming them for gold, third parties always [145] end up taking advantage of the situation by cheating their customers [p. 53 of 147]. It is this problem with those third parties that has exposed modern-day gold users to hyperinflationary price runaways. Throughout the history of gold money, third parties have become notorious for taking advantage of the situation by surreptitiously issuing more

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<sup>4</sup>In such cases, the gold deposits in the vaults are known as *depositums* because they remain the property of the depositors when they are in the vault, entrusted to the care of the vault owner [144].

## *The Collective's Problematic Gold US Dollars*

paper receipts than there is gold in the vault [145, 148].<sup>5</sup> Since the paper receipts are being used as gold, or in other words, used as money since the gold is being used as money, more paper receipts in circulation means more money in circulation, driving prices up.<sup>6</sup>

Every third party, or bank, that issued fraudulent receipts for its gold was eventually driven out of business [148, p. 212 of 145]. The business would end with an old-school-style run in which holders of paper receipts, the gold depositors, realize what has happened and arrive at the vault at the same time and empty it, with latecomers getting stiffed because the gold is gone. We the People of these fifty states, each of us co-owners of 7,413<sup>7</sup> tonnes of gold in the vault at

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<sup>5</sup>When a vault owner promises to return an equal amount of gold upon demand, but not necessarily the same gold that was deposited, the deposit is a *mutuum*. Vault owners did this, and still do it, without notifying their depositors, who believe their gold, or paper claims to gold in the case of modern banks, remains in a situation of *depositum*. In a *mutuum*, the vault owner owns the gold while it is in his vault, and has only agreed to return the same value in gold to the depositor at a future date. The returned gold in a *mutuum* is not necessarily the same gold that had been deposited [144].

<sup>6</sup>In modern days, the problem has been compounded by the new version of the third-party vault owners—banks. Instead of storing gold, modern banks store paper receipts for gold, also known as dollar *bills*, in their vaults. In the same way that it is easier to carry paper than gold, it is easier to carry and transact with a credit card or cell phone than with paper, especially remotely. Therefore, market participants have taken to transacting with electronic claims to the paper claims to gold, and of course, these modern third-party vault owners have taken advantage of the situation. With the approval of our federal banking statutes and rules and regulations, which only require banks to hold a fraction of their book claims in physical paper in the vault, these modern vault owners credit lenders' accounts when a loan is taken out without debiting the accounts of the bank's other customers. These modern vault owners are theoretically protected from runs by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC), which guarantees deposits of up to \$250,000 per person per bank, but only about 60 percent are insured, according to FDIC data. According to G. Edward Griffin, in *The Creature from Jekyll Island*, as of 2009 the FDIC only held around 70 cents per \$100 of deposits, and that number was dropping [148]. Runs can and do still happen, as witnessed with Silicon Valley Bank and Credit Suisse, and more recently, First Republic Bank and California-based PacWest Bancorp. In these modern bank runs, instead of forming a line around the block to withdraw their paper cash, customers simply log into their bank websites and (with luck) transfer their money to a different bank.

<sup>7</sup>According to the US Department of the Treasury, our gold treasure consists of 261,498,926.241 troy ounces, or 7,413.37 tonnes [141]. A tonne is a metric ton, which is 1,000 kilograms, or 2,204.6 pounds, as opposed to a US, or short ton, which is 2,000 pounds.

## ***I. Hell on Earth: Cheated with Money***

Fort Knox, are currently in this late-game situation in which we've issued many more receipts than there is gold.<sup>8</sup> We've been cheating our customers by printing excess paper claims on our gold and spending them into circulation. The same as for previous cheating vault owners, our day of reckoning looms.

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<sup>8</sup>According to some accounts from people who are likely in the know, around half of our gold is in the vault beneath the New York Federal Reserve building and is encumbered. In his 1973 book *The Day the Dollar Dies*, Cantelon reported there are over a hundred thousand gold bars in that vault, marked with the stamps of the central banks of over seventy foreign countries [p. 44 of 147]. Lips reported in 2002 that the US gold reserve has never been audited independently since 1955, and that in September of 2000, more than 54 million ounces of gold were switched from the "Gold Bullion Reserve" category to the "Custodial Gold Bullion" category in the Treasury Report, with no explanation given. He said that subsequently, in the May 2001 Treasury Report, the "Reserve" and "Custodial" gold categories had been replaced with a "Deep Storage Gold" category, and that, at the time, then Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill had not yet responded to any questions about the matter [p. 227 of 146]. For the purposes of settling our bankruptcy, as will be described later, the important part is that we find out exactly how much gold We the People truly own, so we can give our creditors the correct haircut.

# 23

## This Escape Route is Real

**T**o review our situation, we have practically everything we need, practically right at our fingertips, for our escape from poverty, crime, and environmental degradation.

We have land health or ecosystem service data. Take a look at the images presented on Google Earth, and imagine counting green pixels on those images with parcel boundaries overlaid on them. We're almost certainly just a few hundred lines of software away from utilizing those images' data sources for the purpose of estimating oxygen production rates by parcel, with improved data from FLuorescence EXplorer-type [247] satellites already beginning in 2025. We also have land parcel ownership data, again with only a relatively small amount of computer code needed to associate it with parcel oxygen production rates.

We have over a dozen years of experience in the production, operation, and maintenance of decentralized autonomous networks (DANs) that enable users to reliably transfer electronic ledger units among one another, without the need to trust any human intermediaries. We now also have many years of experience interfacing these electronic ledgers with the physical world, enabling people to transfer ownership of things such as gold, real estate, securities, and retail goods securely and with no need to trust anyone to not cheat. Again, we're almost certainly just a few hundred lines of software away from interfacing a version

## V. Conclusion

of the most reliable DAN currently in existence (*retail* bitcoin) with land parcel owners and oxygen production rates.

Software technology to identify individuals reliably is already well developed, and our Google Earth engineers are almost certainly only a few hundred lines of code away from enhancing their product to allow individuals to persuade an algorithm that they are who they say they are and live where they say they live and then sign MOAs. We now have something close to the text of our MOAs, we have something close to the final text of an RFP, including a set of formal requirements, and we have the basis for computations that can be used by a DAN to convert oxygen production rates into parcel owner spendable US dollar ledger entries. We have precedent to change our US dollars and a great need to do it right now and save as many lives as possible. Working together, this is something the team can initiate almost overnight.

In addition to possessing all the technical tools we need, we're privileged to be part of a political group that can muster up 90 percent support to make a lifesaving change to its money. When you first hear the number, 90 percent may seem impossible, making any effort to attain it a waste of our time. The fact is that maybe it's impossible and maybe it isn't, and it doesn't matter which—the alternative to fixing things at the deep and underlying level of our money is too awful to contemplate. We simply must fix our US dollars. Eliminating any excuses, it's very easy to do.

It's apparently possible for so many of us to agree, at least on some topics. More than 90 percent of us certainly agree that we all need our most precious resource, breathable air [408], and we all agree that none of us is getting younger. In a way, pretty much all of us agree that agreeing is impossible. Here in the mid-2020s, 90 percent of us probably agree that 90 percent of us can't agree on anything. To be fair, at the time of writing, during the time when we all agree that we can't all agree, it does seem daunting, even impossible.

That being said, more than a century ago the White Queen of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass* explained that impossible isn't as scary as it sounds:

### *This Escape Route is Real*

Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said. "One can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast. There goes the shawl again!" [409]

And where is it written that the weak can't come together to dominate the powerful? As recounted in Chapter 19, our ancestors did it. At least one modern journalist understands that we, combined into the royal We, can choose anything we like:

The only thing keeping the powerful powerful, keeping money operating the way it operates, and keeping government running the way it runs is the stories we all agree to tell each other about those things. If everyone collectively decided today that poker chips are the new currency and Kim Kardashian is the Supreme Ruler of the Entire World, those stories would be the new reality, and tomorrow we'd all be doing whatever Empress Kim commands and Las Vegas would be the new Wall Street. [410]

By 90 percent of us signing the MOAs, we're collectively going to decide that free entropy money is the type of our new US dollars, and each one of us is the Supreme Ruler of our own lives. Tomorrow, we'll all be doing whatever We Ourselves command, and old-growth forests will be the new gold mines.

For any to whom messing around with the world's reserve money seems daft regardless of all the strong arguments for doing it, think about where we are and who among us wants this.

Where we are, if even a fraction of the literature is correct, is on a dying world swirling around the drain of a totalitarian nightmare world government, with a few Übermensch dominating a great mass of poverty-stricken, wailing souls [411]. If we're smart and swallow our egos, what once seemed crazy may be worth a second look.

## V. Conclusion

Who wants this is just about every constituency out there. We know 90 percent is a conservative number because these new and improved entropy-type US dollars meet so many needs:

- They meet the needs of us all by eliminating concentrated power. People can't cause trouble for others without controlling the levers of power. If there is no concentrated power, then individuals or groups can't cause problems for the rest of us, no matter what they say or do—they won't have the ability; it simply won't be possible. As Ellen Ripley said in the movie *Aliens*, it's the only way to be sure [412]. As Daniel Quinn said, a king without an army is just a windbag in fancy clothes. Compared to our troubled legacy world, in a world free from concentrated power we'll have:
  1. Better security
  2. Better dispute resolution
  3. Better roads
  4. Better social harmony
- They meet the needs of us all by eliminating USA federal government revenue.
- They meet the needs of us all by making our world healthier [413].
- They meet the needs of us all by giving us great flexibility in ways to make our world healthier. For instance, a money could be produced that used a measure of global warming to gain up everyone's oxygen dollar payments, creating incentive for us all to work together to reduce global warming.
- They meet the needs of us all by making us all wealthy.
- They meet the needs of poor people by making us all wealthy.

### *This Escape Route is Real*

- They meet the needs of hungry people by making agriculture simultaneously more productive and less biologically harmful. Farmers who use ecosystem-friendly techniques may be able to produce much more food per hectare than their ecosystem-harmful competition [121, 414, 415]. Entropy money gives farmers additional incentive to use these techniques by paying them for the additional ecosystem services their lands will provide thanks to the sustainable agriculture methods they're using to increase productivity.
- They meet the needs of people who are concerned about global warming by removing greenhouse gases from our atmosphere [121, 229, 231, 298, 300–302, 413, 416, 417].
- They meet the needs of people who use money by making our money(s) stable, predictable, and valuable.
- They meet the needs of people who are concerned about overpopulation. In a truly free world, entrepreneurs concerned about overpopulation may invent a take-it-and-forget-it contraceptive, as envisioned by Russ Finley [418]. This would be a reversible contraceptive, taken once to activate. Once a person has taken the contraceptive, they would have to take a positive action such as ingesting a temporary antidote to be fertile, eliminating all or most unwanted pregnancies. Entrepreneurs in a truly free world may produce untold other inventions helping people coordinate among each other to have more children if the price of children is lower or fewer if the price of children is higher [419]. Such coordination of human action would be enabled by the useful price signals produced by free markets. The truly free world engendered by free entropy-type US dollars will also enable the elimination of the harsh authoritarian population control measures used in the past [419].



## V. Conclusion

- They meet the needs of people who want to see our capital resources used well. In our new world, elemental gold, and paper receipts for it, will no longer be the commonly used units of account. In the legacy world, there was a conflict between the need for people to conduct commerce remotely and the use of these physical forms of money. Banks and credit card companies filled the resulting economic niche by enabling remote commerce with the use of electronic or paper (checks) claims to paper claims to gold. In our new world, digital gold (*retail* bitcoin) and records of oxygen US dollars will be inherently electronic in nature and thus well suited for both face-to-face and remote commerce, replacing banks in that economic niche. The buildings and real estate previously consumed by the banking industry will be freed up for better uses.
- They meet the needs of people who are cautious about trying something new by hedging our bets, by eliminating the collective's monopoly on the production of money. This is what Hayek recommended [420].
- They meet the needs of people who are cautious about trying something new by building on six precedents:
  1. Changing our US dollars. We the People of the United States, in our capacity as a collective, have done this multiple times already. We changed them from silver to gold, and from 1/15 of an ounce of gold to 1/16 of an ounce [145], then to 1/20.67 (25.8 grains of gold nine-tenths pure) [262, 375], to 1/35 (15 5/21 grains of gold nine-tenths pure) [1, 421, 422], to 1/38 [SEC. 2 of 139], and finally to 1/42<sup>2</sup>/<sub>6</sub> [140–144] of an ounce. Now, for our escape, we'll change them to 38 grams of oxygen.<sup>1</sup> It's just another element on the periodic table. In the past, paper US dollar *bills* were a type of pointer to a fixed quantity of gold. With our new entropy-type US dollars tracked on a digital

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<sup>1</sup>Or whatever mass of whatever molecule, in case we choose carbon or carbon dioxide, for example.

*This Escape Route is Real*

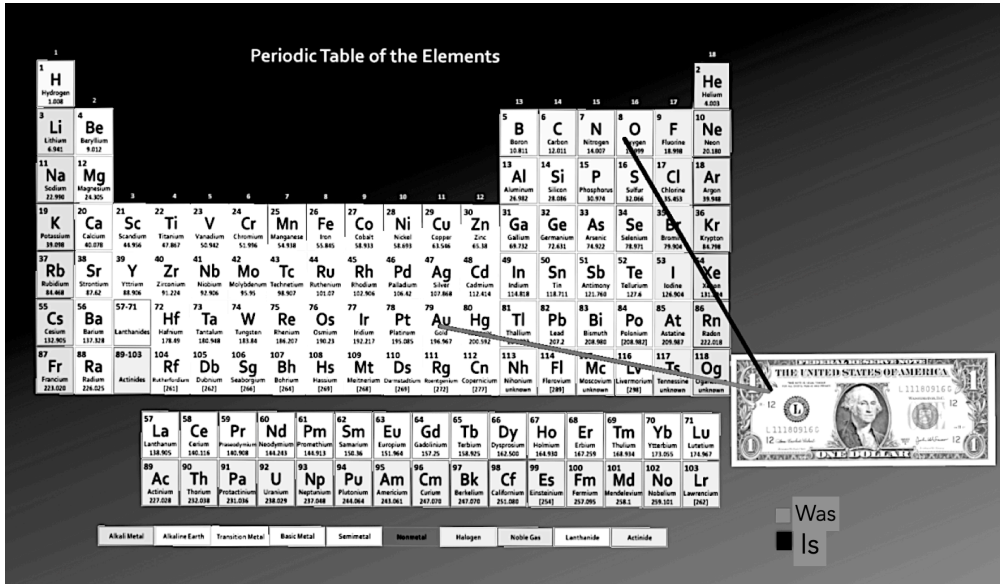


Figure 23.1. From gold to oxygen. (Graphic thanks to shadoweddimples at Fiverr.)

ledger, the ledger entry will be the equivalent of a US dollar *bill*, pointing to a fixed quantity of oxygen that has been produced by living green plants (Figure 23.1). The concept is the same, but our oxygen US dollars will use a digital ledger, in which each dollar is tracked as a number on the virtual ledger, whereas our legacy gold US dollars used a kind of physical ledger, in which each gold US dollar was tracked in the form of a paper note. For the cherry on top, it won't be possible to print these digital ledger entries, which are the equivalent of US dollar *bills*, in excess of the US dollars our living lands have produced because the DAN controlling the ledger will be incapable of doing such a thing.

- Using a nation's fiat money to acquire a stable store of value. The people and the central banks of China and other countries have been

## V. Conclusion

doing this for years by abandoning both their own fiat money and US dollar bills in favor of gold [423].

3. Monetizing an atmospheric gas. We have already done this in the form of carbon tax credits, which, in effect, pay people to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It can reasonably be argued that oxygen money is equivalent to a carbon tax credit because both are part of the same carbon dioxide to oxygen to carbon dioxide cycle of plant and animal respiration on this small spaceship. The improvement with properly calibrated oxygen money, however, is that it gets the federal government revenue out of our lives and bypasses the problems of compound interest-induced money entering circulation from a central source.
4. Monetizing energy. Taxes on energy usage have been proposed and voted on at least twice. In a speech to the US Congress, President Clinton suggested an energy tax, which he described as a BTU tax [3:28 of 424] and was to be a tax on the amount of energy that has been used. The 2018 ballot of the State of Washington asked voters if they wanted to implement an energy tax [111], which was also to be a tax on the amount of energy that has been used. Similarly, our new entropy-type US dollars monetize entropy, which is also the amount of energy that has been used. President Clinton suggested, and Washington voters were asked to decide on, a way of paying people to not consume energy. Entropy money will effectively do the same thing by paying people to produce energy, in the form of healthy living beings.
5. Paying landowners for ecosystem services [255]. Our new entropy money is an improved version of previous environmental degradation reduction attempts that have used taxes and charity to pay landowners [98, 117]. It is also a superior and possibly synergistic

### *This Escape Route is Real*

version of the latest attempt to reduce environmental degradation by monetizing ecosystem services through the use of carbon tax credits, tourism, and sustainable agriculture, which is to be accomplished with a new investment vehicle known as a Natural Asset Company (NAC) [108, 222].

6. Printing new money. All things used as money must be “printed,” or manufactured, to make them scarce and fungible. Individuals have been printing money by manufacturing blocks of salt, bags of rice, barrels of whiskey, packs of cigarettes, and so on, and by minting silver and gold coins, for a long time now. Various polities have been printing paper money for possibly as long as three millennia [p. 52 of 147], typically taking the form of claims on silver or gold coins, which themselves were “printed.” Taking the step of using entropy mined from the ground as money and measuring and tracking it is, in principle, identical to what people already do with gold. With the legacy practice of using entropy added to land as money, people remove gold from the parcel, measure it, and store it in a box. Then they trade paper claims of ownership to it, or electronic or paper claims to paper claims. With the new practice of using entropy mined from land as money, our living world removes entropy from the land, companies measure it and don’t store it in a box, and people trade the numerical results of the measurements. The two things we’ll do differently with the new money are that, first, we won’t store the oxygen in a box, but instead let it flow into the atmosphere for us animals to enjoy. Second, we’ll invert the sign of the energy flow, from the direction with gold, which removes energy from the land, to the opposite direction with oxygen, which adds energy to the land in the form of healthy living beings.

## *V. Conclusion*

- They meet the needs of people who need money because everyone will be able to participate in the front run. For many of us, it will mean we finally get to spend some quality time with our family and do the things we think need doing. Some of us will get to donate more to the charities of our choice.
- They meet the needs of people who cannot spend a lot of time creating this black swan event. For most of us, improving our money in this way will be as fast and easy as a few online button clicks.
- They meet the needs of people who don't trust others to do the right thing. The fundamental argument supporting the expected success of making such a change to our money is that it requires no one to be a saint for it to work. Phrased in terms of evolutionary biology, the new monetary paradigm will be evolutionarily stable, meaning it will function well in the presence of defectors. Defectors here would be people who try to get all the money. All anyone will need to do in the new monetary regime is what they already do, which is to continue to work to get enough money to pay the bills. The harder they work to get money, the better the system works. When concentrated power is eliminated, and the only honest way to get money is to satisfy the wants of others, and destroying our living world doesn't pay as well as in the before time, working harder to get money benefits us all.
- They meet the needs of us all by helping US dollars continue their world domination [425]. If everyone signs up for accounts, then US dollars will enter circulation almost everywhere. It will be convenient both for us in the States and for everyone else. With US dollars entering circulation everywhere and tax statutes likely simultaneously vanishing, just about everyone on the planet will probably begin trading directly using US dollars. For example, assuming that, say, the people of India repeal their

### ***This Escape Route is Real***

central government tax and legal tender statutes, they'll then be able to accept payment in US dollars from people in other countries instead of rupees, and they'll then be able to spend those US dollars anywhere on Earth. It will likely soon begin working that way all over the planet. It will help us all increase our real wealth, as all of us on the planet will get increased access to a stable, widely used monetary product. By doing this, we will have continued the work of the attendees of the July 1944 conference held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire [263–265], who endeavored to decrease world strife and increase world prosperity by giving the world a high-quality, trustable money.

- They meet the needs of people who want the *retail* bitcoin DAL to be used widely. They meet the needs of the *retail* bitcoin network masternode operators whose ambition is to be a wealthy philanthropist.
- They meet the needs of people who don't want to commit an evil act. According to Kaplan [426], no one has successfully contradicted Peter Singer's conclusion that if you spend your money on luxuries rather than on helping others who are dying, such as from famine, then you are objectively committing an evil act [427]. The rationale is the same as if you chose not to rescue a drowning child in a pond while walking by on your way to a meeting because it might get your clothes wet and dirty. These new and improved entropy-type US dollars, and the financial wealth transfer accomplished in the front run, are going to result in a new group of wealthy philanthropists, and in general, most all of us are going to have at least a little extra money we can use for charity as a result. Thanks to that, many of the innocent poor among us will finally get some charity money to provide them with much-needed aid. There's also going to be a flood of money headed toward charities protecting children, animals, and our

## *V. Conclusion*

wild living world. As noted before, other money headed toward poverty-stricken people will come in the form of more jobs. Using Singer's unsailable logic, We the People of these fifty states are morally obligated to fix our US dollars in this way.

- They meet the needs of people with youngsters, for whom the good of those youngsters is the alpha and the omega, by gifting us all a beautiful and healthy world in which to live.
- They meet the needs of people who want their loved ones in the armies to come home. If our new entropy money meets expectations of causing compulsory governments to evaporate, the soldiers will finally come home.
- They meet the needs of people who enjoy working with others to solve problems, as the reductions in poverty and concomitant increase in free time we'll all be gifted with will allow us more time to engage in our natural, problem-solving talent of dialogue [406, 407].
- They meet the spiritual needs of us all to live in a world without cruelty and without suffering, but instead with health, happiness, love, and joy. They meet the needs of us all to be happy and healthy on a paradise planet.

The one thing we all need but don't yet have (at the time of writing) is, of course, the understanding that we already have practically everything we need to acquire our new, world-saving money, and that we really, really want it.

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