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The main event is resource depletion

I sense a ripeness of time for us to get our act together...unfortunately.

For more than eight years now I have been sending out newsletters on topics of the day. Some useful on the main event but for some folk, a waste of your time and mine.

During this time I would have averaged 6 hours per day on research. Many of you actually do follow the logic of what is happening, even though it is un-remarked upon by the mainstream media. As a result of my research, my attitude towards the world and my fellow man has changed quite dramatically over recent years. It has probably been apparent in the subjects I have written on, and in the attitudes I have taken towards many issues. This newsletter explains what I have learned, why it is too late now to sit on the fence, and why it is necessary to take action to protect the interests of yourself and family for the future.

Exponential growth

John Stewart Mill in his writings on utilitarianism in 18th century Britain was among the first economists who realised that exponential growth of both population and resource utilisation cannot happen for long on a finite planet.

During a cruise around the Pacific Islands, I realised that pollution is global: the windward side of every island was covered in all manner of modern litter and the leeward side is where the population tend to reside and the sea is their common dumping ground...wind, ocean currents and waves do the rest.

Life in every Pacific island is now unsustainable without major infusions of welfare funding and materials from Australia, New Zealand, China, the European Union, the USA, IMF and World Bank etc. Over-population is endemic and each island group is rapidly losing what little remains of its inshore fishery.

Deceptive and misleading statistics

When I started looking at oil supply and demand in 2004 I started to get an appreciation that there may be something wrong with our wider global society and a realisation that major governmental institutions have grown accustomed to providing deceptive and misleading statistics on everything from oil supply prospects for the future to the daily grind of data on inflation and unemployment that get altered to "gild the lily", or suppress bad news.

No-one doubts that there will be some substitutes found for individual increasingly scarce resources or that there will be fantastic opportunities provided by new technology. But we need to understand that we are well on the road to ruin and it is people like us (who are normally too busy to do the research I have done) who will soon be victims of what must become falling living standards and a slow dieback of the human population. I cannot tell you when it will happen. I will go into why our fate is being temporarily delayed shortly. The 1% are already preparing, but 99% haven't got with the programme.

In the Pacific, by the time James Cook arrived in the 1760's, the solution to over-population was killing and eating the excess, on an island by island basis. But despite the conclusions from fact-based historians and archaeologists, we cannot seem to learn from the lessons of the past.

Our economies are being re-engineered

Instead, our economies are being re-engineered to cover for the rapid fall in energy EROEI from fossil fuels (of which the most dangerous is conventional oil depletion). The rapid escalation of credit and forced reduction of interest rates is just a band aid for the real predicament. Since 2008 the monetary measure of GDP has increased at about one third of the increase in debt and in a number of countries within the OECD the living standards and annual income for the middle classes are already falling. That can only accelerate.

Shockingly, it is the generations since WWII that have incurred 99.5% of all debts we will inflict on future generations.

Within the last six months I have come to realise that not only are our substitutes for resources such as oil failing us, they are obscuring reality. The fixes we seek for future energy shortfalls are, like our individuality, addressed to the problems we individually perceive through the distorted lens of publicly available information.

Because our global economy and financial systems depend totally on the increasing need for energy storage systems, it isn't nuclear energy, fission, LENR, or solar power that we require, but transportable/fungible energy storage systems. The world has in fact more energy than humanity can ever use but storage systems are proving slow to catch up. Fossil fuels have become critically important to everything we do and without those in increasing quantities our society will fail. The fall in oil price is not a signal that all is well with oil supplies, but that we are nearing the end game when consistency of supplies will become impossible to control. Yet we still have no batteries that can cost-effectively power our transport system and enable a move from fossil fuel to renewable electricity. In this respect we are almost out of time.

Population 7.25 billion and rising

10,000 years ago, we humans hit the 10 million mark and at AD1 our population was less than 300 million. By AD1750 humanity in Europe was running out of space and the global population was only 800 million. But that date marked the start of the industrial and agricultural revolutions. In 1912 the industrial age of oil started and the global population – despite WW1 and the Spanish flu - had surged to 2 billion people by 1921. We are now at 7.25 billion and the population is rising by between 83-85 million per year.

We cannot continue or replicate that population growth on earth because, like an educated swarm of locusts, we cannot hope to resource it. Our global fishery cannot grow. Growing fish farms requires as many nutrients to be fed to farmed stock as can be taken out by their harvest (at best) and wild fisheries are still being fished to extinction in most seas and oceans. The result of fish farming is pollution on a scale that doesn't occur in the wild. Since AD1 our population of people and livestock has risen from 4-7% of land mammals to reach more than 97% today.

Gaia's revenge

On a global basis, our soils are depleted due to reliance on chemicals, our fresh water reservoirs are depleted to the point where there is a race between Sao Paulo and Las Vegas to see which major city will be abandoned first, due to failing fresh water supplies. Sana'a will probably be the first capital city to be abandoned. How many farms in the USA will be abandoned this year due to the extending dustbowl (yes let's blame climate change. Whatever). We now live in the age of the Anthropocene when humanity calls the shots. But as they say, "nature bats last". It isn't the climate that is forcing farmers in California and the Southern mid West off the land, but the depletion of the Californian water systems and Ogallala aquifer due to over-exploitation, added to the use of synthetic chemicals to leach all natural nutrients from the soil. (James Lovelock refers to this as Gaia's revenge.)

Despite what optimists say and despite what is being achieved at last with some battery gains, the rate at which humanity is now expanding will not allow for technological solutions (unless you count a one-way flight to Mars). Despite the hundred million or so scientists of today, most are devoted to money-making science and very few to providing real solutions for the threats to our species. The range of resource depletion and pollution issues is growing even faster than our capability to deal with them.

Increased control by the state

The problems and predicaments I talk of above will be dealt with by the gradual hollowing out of societal wealth and the trend to increased control by the state. We will, within the next ten years, see the consequential fall-out of the financial debacle that has led to the G20 and BIS controls now being imposed over our bank accounts and actions. It won't be pretty. But the worst news is that aside from doing the "prepper" stuff, there is not much we as individuals can do about what is coming.

Bigger problems means tighter and more intrusive governmental controls over our freedoms.

We must save ourselves

Governments won't save our kids from this mess our generations have caused, we must save ourselves.

My suggestions and observations are simply as follows.

1. There are many books you can read to educate yourselves... that a few may have been smart enough to read already. There two that every responsible parent must read.... Joseph Tainter's book "The collapse of Complex Societies" provides the best historical examples for us. The book by Donella Meadows, Jorgen Randers and Dennis Meadows

of MIT, “Limits to Growth: the 30 Year Update,” provides all the evidence anyone could ever want that we are on a collision course with harsh reality.

2. The events in Europe, Japan, China and USA, are symptoms of the need to substitute credit for the low cost energy and resources that our society has been built on. The days of free “bread and circuses” in Ancient Rome were similar indicators of collapse to what we are seeing; and it is a debt-based collapse just like that of ancient Rome. In our case, gross global debts are now over the USD1 quadrillion mark but the concealment of contingent liabilities makes it increasingly difficult to know the true total figure in relation to total assets (expressed at fair market values). Safe to say that none of the major OECD economies can ever meet their debt obligations.
3. Central banks and governments are now – by their actions – in panic mode. Money from nothing and credit for free.
4. To take personal action, there are already several million active “preppers” who provide ample information on their own chosen courses of action... on the internet. The only problem is that the only solutions that will work are those best tailored for each individual. Many turn out to be hard work and rather impractical – but idealistic.
5. Whether it is how sharemarkets perform or how empires collapse, there is an old saying...“The bull climbs the stairs, the bear jumps out the window”. So collapse is invariably very fast after a period of slow decay.

How long do we have?

Perhaps “time may be of the essence”, but perhaps not. Watch for the start of a financial collapse as a prelude to the systemic collapse.

I cannot tell how long until the financial collapse gets geared up. As for the most appropriate action, of course it depends to a large extent on where you live, your age and your personal circumstances. But if I lived in a large city, it would likely be a case of 'get out of Dodge'.