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Better-Management Newsletter 21 September 2015

The origin of the species / Russians and Chinese chase gold / Blame the Fed / Greece: déjà vu

The origin of the species - a mixture of fact, conjecture and loopie personal opinion

<http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2015/09/everything-we-have-been-taught-about-human-origins-is-a-lie-3215350.html>

Human narratives about our origins started with ignorant men (and women) deciding a convenient god existed to regulate the affairs of humanity, and then they started extrapolating and documenting a raft of rules relating to everything from the origin of the species to morality, conduct and spirituality. Often the true worth of one's chosen deity was only measured by success in battle. With limited knowledge, the origin of our species was considered to have started around 4,000BC to align with the stories written about their deity. Like Christianity the rule systems of Judaism and Islam are similar and are echoed by earlier faiths. The ignorance of early man may have come from the lack of development of the human brain or from the fact that 99.9% of effort was associated with survival in a hostile world. Their simply wasn't time to think, just to react and survive.

Scientific evidence exists that the universe is 13.7 billion years old, the earth about 4 billion years old and that many of our hydrocarbons date from as far back as 400 million years. Scientific evidence exists to support the passage of extra-terrestrial items hitting the earth and of cyclic ice ages – and inter-glacial periods of 10-15,000 years at a time. Evolutionary theories and archaeological artefacts date humanistic remains from about 200,000 years ago.

Today we are 13,000 years into an inter-glacial period. Humans and our livestock comprise more than 97% of land mammals and in OECD countries we have only 4% associated with finding food etc and the balance doing pretty much whatever they like – including having more scientists probing new theories and ideas (alive today) than have ever existed and died previously in the last 200,000 years. Our global population is coasting past 7.3 billion souls and we are exponentially increasing our use of the world's finite resources. It isn't surprising to find that China is now using half of the world's consumption of many mineral resources, or that in the last three years, China as used as much cement as the USA did during the entire 21st century.

It is therefore my opinion that in between the periods of ice ages and a variety of extinction events it is entirely possible that other species similar to us roamed the earth's surface, then disappeared due to some catastrophe or another.

I think it is also possible that our current human species could go extinct at some point, leaving strange echoes of what we were for some future archaeologists. As of today, we have no

formula for dealing with inevitable limits to growth of population and our artificial global economy. So die-back of our species is once again inevitable.

If you doubt these opinions, may I direct your reading to two fine works (which I found absolutely persuasive) – the first by Joseph Tainter called “The Collapse of Complex Societies” and the second by Meadows, Randers and Meadows, called, “Limits to Growth” (Just the 2004 edition which also reviewed the 1972 edition).

OK, so I agree in part with the heading of the link above that everything we are taught about our origins is a lie. But also everything we are taught at school about our history is simply a convenient fabrication. In a recent note to me, Peter passed the following line “*Those who don’t learn from history are doomed to repeat it*”. With so many scientists trying to find a cure for the effects of what ails modern civilisation, I feel it is most unlikely we will in sufficient time find a cure for causation. Right now, too few people are interested in the human predicament. The hubris of those who believe they can cure all our ills with new technology to deal with effects rather than causes, never fails to astonish me.

The folk who are doing something to create the technologies that will help us survive are our heroes, but there is no doubt that the decreasing marginal utility of inventions is going to be a problem. That phenomenon was noted in Tainter’s work but this is the latest comment I have seen...we may be living our lives differently these days but the important things are still the same...

<http://physics.ucsd.edu/do-the-math/2015/09/you-call-this-progress/>

Russians and Chinese chase gold

What is most significant is that both Russia and China have no concern about dwindling foreign exchange reserves and are chasing gold – regardless...

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3521786-major-september-buying-by-russian-and-chinese-central-banks-suggests-gold-market-still-has-long-term-glimmer?source=email_macro_view_gol_pre_met_1_9&ifp=0

See if you can join the dots? I wonder if the Russian bear is up to something?

<http://www.rt.com/op-edge/315731-russia-kommersant-moscow-kremlin/>

Blame the Fed

Just about every article I have read since Friday blames the Fed because it is no longer in absolute denial of reality – denial yes – but they do seem to realise that they may not have any solutions to what really ails the US economy... in part of his spiel, Peter Boockvar of the Lindsey Group, had this to say...

“Lastly and sorry to speak from my soap box to those who don’t care to hear it but, I’m sorry to the retirees that have saved their whole lives. I’m sorry to the generation of young people that don’t know what the benefits of saving [are]. I’m sorry to the free markets that best allocate capital. I’m sorry to pension funds that can’t grow assets to match their liabilities. I’m sorry to the successful companies that are

competing against those that are only still alive because of cheap credit. I'm sorry to the US banking system, [which] has been hoping for higher interest rates for years. I'm sorry to those industries that have seen a pile of capital (aka, energy sector) enter their industry and have been or will see the consequences of too much capacity. I'm sorry to investors who continue to be bullied into making decisions they wouldn't have made otherwise. I'm sorry for the bubbles that continue to be blown. Again, I'm sorry to those who don't want to hear this."

These were the problems created when the Fed took action to bail out the world's 23 biggest banks. But had they not done so, then we would have seen the entire global economy crash and burn in 2008...not just the GFC but the end of the global financial system as we know it.

The problem is that can was just kicked down the road. The above quote was contained in a Mauldin piece that contains some sensible observations on the fate of the European Union...

http://ggc-mauldin-images.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/pdf/150919_TFTF.pdf

As with all Mauldin's writing these days, he is in denial about what the inevitable outcome for the global economy will be. You can't blame a guy for that because that result will not be pretty....

Greece: déjà vu

The public has approved Tsipras' handling of events and now his battle begins in earnest...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34307795>