


What's Up Prof?

Walter Veith & Martin Smith

The Great Reset, A Long Time Coming? Part 2, 48



What's Up  Prof

48. The Great Reset, A Long Time Coming? - Part 2

It was not the purpose of God that poverty should ever leave the world. The ranks of society were never to be equalized; for the diversity of conditions which characterizes our race is one of the means by which God has designed to prove and develop character. Many have urged with great enthusiasm that all men should have an equal share in the temporal blessings of God; but this was not the purpose of the Creator. Christ has said that we shall have the poor always with us. The poor, as well as the rich, are the purchase of His blood; and among His professed followers, in most cases, the former serve Him with singleness of purpose, while the latter are constantly fastening their affections on their earthly treasures, and Christ is forgotten. The cares of this life and the greed for riches eclipse the glory of the eternal world. It would be the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen mankind if all were to be placed upon an equality in worldly possessions. CH 230.1

Pope Francis has endorsed a universal basic income. Covid-19 could make it a reality in Europe.



In 2017, British Prime Minister Theresa May, faced with demands to increase nurses' stagnant wages, famously denied the existence of any "[magic money tree](#)." Ms. May's Conservative Party predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, had asserted that the U.K. government had no money of its own; only what it raised from the populace by taxation or borrowing. Most people probably thought this orthodoxy prudent. A budget deficit was a sign of bad governance, strenuously to be avoided.

Such apparent and long championed fiscal frugality by Conservatives has often gone unchallenged—until now. As the second Covid-19 wave swept Europe so too has a burgeoning conversation about Universal Basic Income that may require a reassessment of hoary thinking on deficit spending. In Scotland, as elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the discussion is not new but it has become more prominent—indeed urgent—as the political and economic response to the pandemic turned fraught. The idea even got an unqualified plug from Pope Francis himself. In the recently published [Let Us Dream](#), the pope endorsed an "unconditional lump-sum payment to all citizens" in the context of his regular calls for an economically and environmentally more equitable post-Covid world.

Francis's version of U.B.I. suggests that it be paid for through taxation. But there are other ideas about how to fund U.B.I. in circulation.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2020/12/15/covid-universal-basic-income-united-kingdom-pope-francis-239476>

Truth Matters YouTube Channel



<https://youtu.be/C1-0XKYAZII>

Klaus Schwab: "Great Reset" will lead to the fusion of our physical, digital and biological identity



The founder of the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab, recently said that the fourth industrial revolution within the framework of the Great Reset will "lead to a fusion of our physical, digital and biological identity". This transhumanist approach of the elites has always been dismissed by the public as a conspiracy theory.

In a speech at the Chicago Global Council on Global Affairs, the founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Klaus Schwab, said that the fourth industrial revolution in the context of the Great Reset would "lead to a fusion of our physical, digital and biological identity". In his book *Shaping the Future of the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, he writes that, for example, implantable microchips could be used to read people's thoughts.

Schwab also openly advocates something that the media still claim is only a field of discussion for conspiracy theorists, namely "active implantable microchips that break through the skin barrier of our body". The WEF explains on its website how thousands of Swedes implanted microchips into their bodies a few years ago.

Thousands of Swedish people are swapping ID cards for microchips

Thousands of Swedes are having microchips implanted into their bodies so that they don't need to carry key cards, IDs, and even train tickets.

About 3,000 people in Sweden have inserted a microchip — which is as tiny as a grain of rice — under their skin over the past three years, Agence France-Press reported.

The technology was first used in the country in 2015. The implants have already helped replace the need for a host of daily necessities. Ulrika Celsing's microchip, which is in her hand, has replaced her gym card and office key card. When she enters her workplace, the 28-year-old simply waves her hand near a small box and types in a code before the doors open, AFP said.

Last year, the state-owned SJ rail line started scanning the hands of passengers with biometric chips to collect their train fare while on board.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/05/thousands-of-people-in-sweden-are-embedding-microchips-under-their-skin-to-replace-id-cards>



Paul Schreyer: Pandemie-Planspiele – Vorbereitung einer neuen Ära? (Pandemic simulation games – preparation for a new era?)

WIR - Wissen ist relevant (Knowledge is relevant) YouTube

Politics in the Corona crisis did not come out of the blue. The "fight against viruses" began as early as the 1990s as the "fight against bio-terror". Research shows: For more than twenty years since then, pandemic scenarios have been rehearsed again and again in business games, first in the USA, later coordinated internationally, also with German participation. The titles of these exercises are reminiscent of Hollywood productions: "Dark Winter" (2001), "Global Mercury" (2003), "Atlantic Storm" (2005) or "Clade X" (2018). High-ranking officials and government representatives as well as well-known journalists were involved, most recently at "Event 201" in October 2019, including board members of large global corporations. After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a coronavirus pandemic in 2020, many of the measures that had been tried and discussed for years were implemented globally.

Passages like this appeared in the scripts 20 years ago: *"The sight of an armed military presence in American cities provokes protests against the curtailment of civil liberties (...) The question is how and to what extent we enforce these things. How much violence do you use to keep people in their homes?"* *"In the event of a pandemic," basic civil rights such as the right of assembly or freedom of movement could no longer be taken for granted*". Restrictions on freedom, but also mass vaccinations, were a regular part of the simulation games.

Content

1. Fight against terror as a political tool since 1990
2. Bioterror simulation games 1999-2005
3. The “Lock Step” scenario 2010
4. Trump and the pandemic exercises from 2017
5. The stock market quake in September 2019

- 1990 - Fall of Communism
- 1991 - Collin Powell: "I'm running out of demons. I'm running out of villains. I'm down to (Fidel) Castro and Kim Il Sung," he said, referring to the leaders of Cuba and North Korea. Powell's comments suggested the Gulf War has not solved a major problem for some Pentagon planners over the past three years - how to justify a large army and a nearly \$300 billion military budget in the post-Cold War era.
- 1993 - February 1993 Terrorist attack on World Trade Centre
- 1994 - In July 1994 Clinton published his National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement
- 1995 - March 1995 Joseph Biden, chairman of the judiciary committee of the senate, proposed a law to give more power to government and the president in case of a terror attack. Law was vehemently rejected.
- 1995 - April 1995 terrorist attack in Oklahoma City. Decisive moment on issue of terrorism.
- 1997 - Article in Los Angeles Times written by politicians not journalists, CIA director James Woolsey and Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph S. Nye: "DEFEND AGAINST THE SHADOW ENEMY" "The destruction of the federal building in Oklahoma City and the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York shocked Americans. But those tragedies would have been far worse if nuclear, biological or chemical materials had been involved. After co-chairing a yearlong study for the government, we believe it is increasingly likely they will be.
- 1997 - Defense Minister William Cohen warns of future Chemical and Biological warfare at press conference, and demonstrates anthrax threat on breakfast show.

- 1998 - Homeland Security's Biodefense Programs Director Lt. Col. Robert Kadlec contributes chapter 9 called "Twenty-First Century Germ Warfare" in a Pentagon internal strategy paper called "Battlefield of the Future: 21st Century Warfare Issues".
- 1998 - Center for Civilian Bio Defense founded, today called Center for Health security at the Johns Hopkins University (Sounds familiar?) funded by the Sloan Foundation. They started from 1999 to 2005 with bioterror simulation games.
- 1999 - Simulation games start - First National Symposium on Medical and Public Health Response to Bioterrorism sponsored by Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies, US Department of Health and Human Services, Infectious Diseases Society of America. Richard A. Clarke said: "first time the Department of Health and Human Services is part of the national security apparatus of the United States."
- 1999 - Project Bacchus launched in Nevada. Covert investigation by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency US Defense Department to determine whether it is possible to construct a bioweapons production facility with off-the-shelf equipment.
- 2000 - Second Symposium by same organizers: "Epidemic Response Scenario: Decision Making in a Time of Plague"
- 2001 - January 2001 George W. Bush and Dick Cheney elected president and vice president.

- 2001 - June 2001 Third major bioterror exercise: "Dark Winter – A Smallpox Exercise" sponsored by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and took place at Andrew's Airforce Base, where previous 2 was in conference rooms. Key players in their actual positions, real media with journalists and Robert Kadlec(see 1999) who is now in 2020/21 also important advisor to the US.
- 2001 - September 2001 attack on Twin Towers.
- 2001 - October 2001 Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy, who opposed Patriot act, receive white powder threat letters. Gave up their resistance and law was passed.
- 2001 - Global Health Security Initiative founded. Using Anthrax letters as justification.
- 2002 - December 2002 Health Ministers Launch Initiatives to Improve Health Security Globally Now they test not only for biowarfare but also flu pandemic. Beginning of international level exercises.
- 2003 - Operation Global Mercury. "was a command-post exercise involving the GHSAG nations plus the World Health Organization and the European Commission. Conducted over a 56-hour period between 8 and 10 September 2003, the exercise aimed to evaluate the communications protocols between and among GHSAG members in the face of an outbreak of an infectious disease."
- 2005 - Operation Atlantic Storm. Madeleine Albright played the president of US. "not about smallpox per se. Rather, the exercise was designed to highlight the numerous complicated global challenges that would arise in the event of any large-scale epidemic of infectious disease, whether caused by a bioterrorist attack or a naturally occurring outbreak."

In all these exercises it was not only about a health crisis and who had the sovereignty, it was also about abolition of fundamental rights, mass vaccination and authoritarian politics without parliaments.

2008 - 2007-2008 Financial Crisis

2009 - Swine Flu Pandemic

2010 - Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development by Rockefeller Foundation – 4 scenarios of which 1 was “Lock Step Scenario”: “A world of tighter top-down government control and more authoritarian leadership, with limited innovation and growing citizen pushback.” “During the pandemic, national leaders around the world flexed their authority and imposed airtight rules and restrictions, from the mandatory wearing of face masks to body-temperature checks at the entries to communal spaces like train stations and supermarkets.” “Even after the pandemic faded, this more authoritarian control and oversight of citizens and their activities stuck and even intensified.”

2016 - Trump President

2017 - February 2017 - Munich Security Conference:

John McCain said “I refuse to accept the demise of our world order.”

Bill Gates said: “We need to prepare for epidemics the way the military prepares for war.”

“We may not know if that weapon is man-made or a product of nature. But one thing we can be almost certain of. A highly lethal global pandemic will occur in our lifetimes.”

Immediately afterward the exercises started again.

- 2017 - May 2017 - G20 Health Ministers, met for the first time ever in Berlin, Germany. Exercising a pandemic scenario of a "Mountain Associated Respiratory Syndrome (MARS)" virus.
- 2017 - August 2017 - founding of International Advisory Board on Global Health – Jeremy Farrar of Wellcome Trust and Christopher Elias of Gates Foundation are members.
- 2018 - May 2018 – "Clade X" Exercise. Scenario: "High ranking elitist sect develop virus to reduce world's population." Thomas Daschle (one of anthrax letter receivers in 2001) took part.
- 2019 - 17 September 2019 – Short circuit in the financial system. Had nothing to do with Coronavirus because that effect came January 2020.
- 2019 - October 2019 "Event 201" The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation hosted Event 201, a high-level coronavirus pandemic exercise.
Some of the players were:
 - * Christopher Elias – Gates Foundation,
 - * George F. Gao, Director-General, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
 - * Adrian Thomas, Vice President Global Public Health, at Johnson & Johnson.
 - * Matthew Harrington, global chief operating officer at Edelman
 - * Sofia Borges, the UN Foundation's Senior Vice President
 - * Martin Knuchel, Senior Director and Head of Crisis, Emergency & Business Continuity Management, for Lufthansa Group Airlines.
 - * Avril Haines, former Deputy Director of the CIA, law degree from Georgetown.

centerforhealthsecurity YouTube Channel 2018



<https://youtu.be/rsha-Ui2Cww>

centerforhealthsecurity YouTube Channel
2018



<https://youtu.be/rsha-Ui2Cww>

centerforhealthsecurity YouTube Channel

2018

GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS



<https://youtu.be/rsha-Ui2Cww>

centerforhealthsecurity YouTube Channel



<https://youtu.be/rsha-Ui2Cww>



Before Corona: EU developed action plan for comprehensive vaccination of the population

Two years before the corona pandemic, the EU Commission had drawn up a "road map for vaccination" for public health. Among the objectives were: "Intensive monitoring of vaccination readiness in all age groups, including healthcare workers. (...) Combating the dissemination of false information in the digital age, which is also disseminated across national borders" and the introduction of a "common vaccination card that can be shared electronically across borders".

From a document of the EU Commission (COMMISSION DEPARTMENT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS) entitled "Intensified cooperation in the fight against diseases preventable by vaccination", which was published on the 26th April 2018, it shows:

Among the most urgent challenges are increasing vaccination scepticism (late approval or rejection of vaccines despite available vaccination offers), the control of communicable diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations, maintaining a high vaccination rate and ensuring equal access to vaccinations for all ages and population groups. The financial sustainability of vaccination programs is also crucial to ensure greater support for monitoring the effects and effectiveness of vaccines, reducing the risk of bottlenecks and combating vaccination scepticism and its impact on immunization programs. Vaccination scepticism is increasingly worrying in Europe and worldwide, because there is a risk that it will undermine the value of vaccinations for public health."

[https://deutsche-wirtschafts-nachrichten.de/507873/Vor-Corona-EU-erarbeitete-Aktionsplan-zur-umfassenden-impfung-der-](https://deutsche-wirtschafts-nachrichten.de/507873/Vor-Corona-EU-erarbeitete-Aktionsplan-zur-umfassenden-impfung-der-Bevoelkerung?utm_content=link_10&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dwn_telegramm&utm_source=mid503&f_tid=1fc7237be15ba0c14faec751ed1bbb09)

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Recent balance sheet trends

Choose one of the 5 charts.

Total Assets of the Federal Reserve

The Federal Reserve's balance sheet has expanded and contracted over time. During the 2007-08 financial crisis and subsequent recession, total assets increased significantly from \$870 billion in August 2007 to \$4.5 trillion in early 2015. Then, reflecting the FOMC's balance sheet normalization program that took place between 2017 and August 2019, total assets declined to under \$3.8 trillion. Beginning in September 2019, total assets started

Zoom

From To

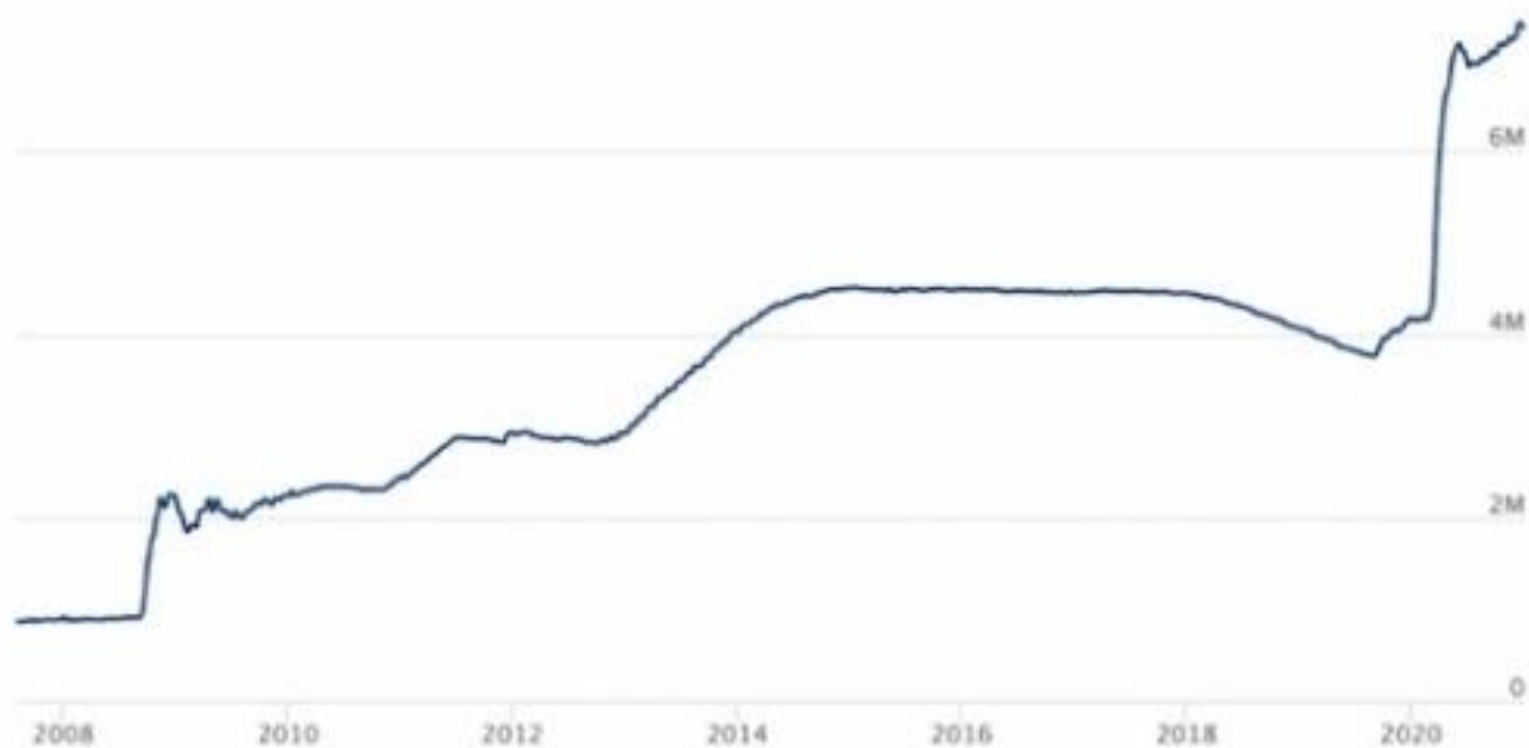
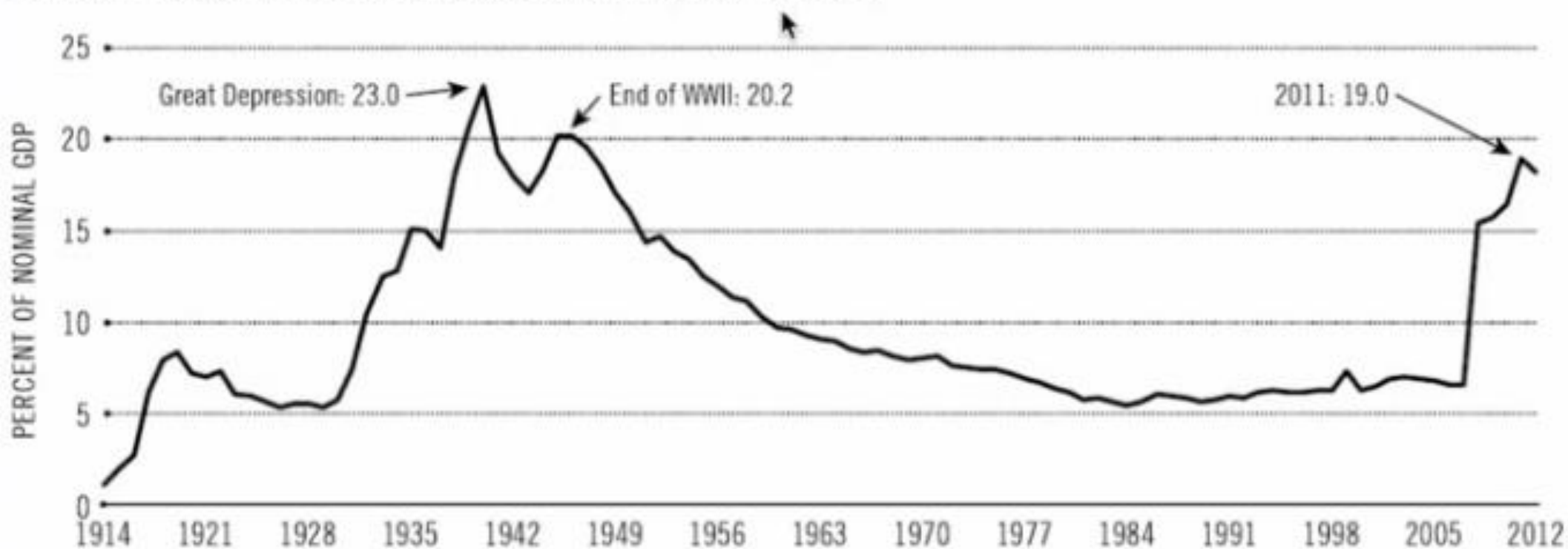


FIGURE 2

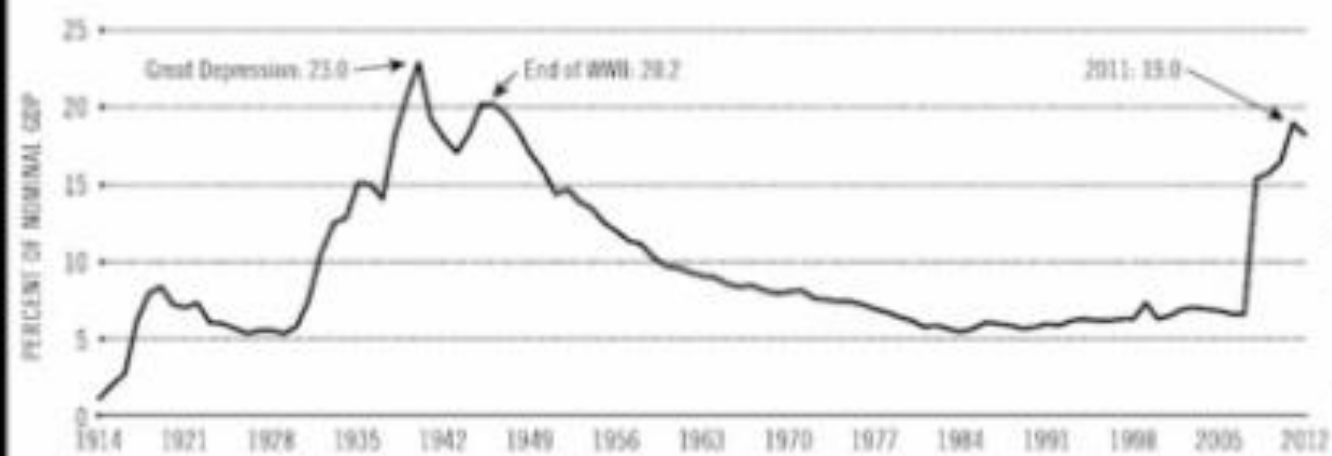
Historical View of Federal Reserve Balance Sheet



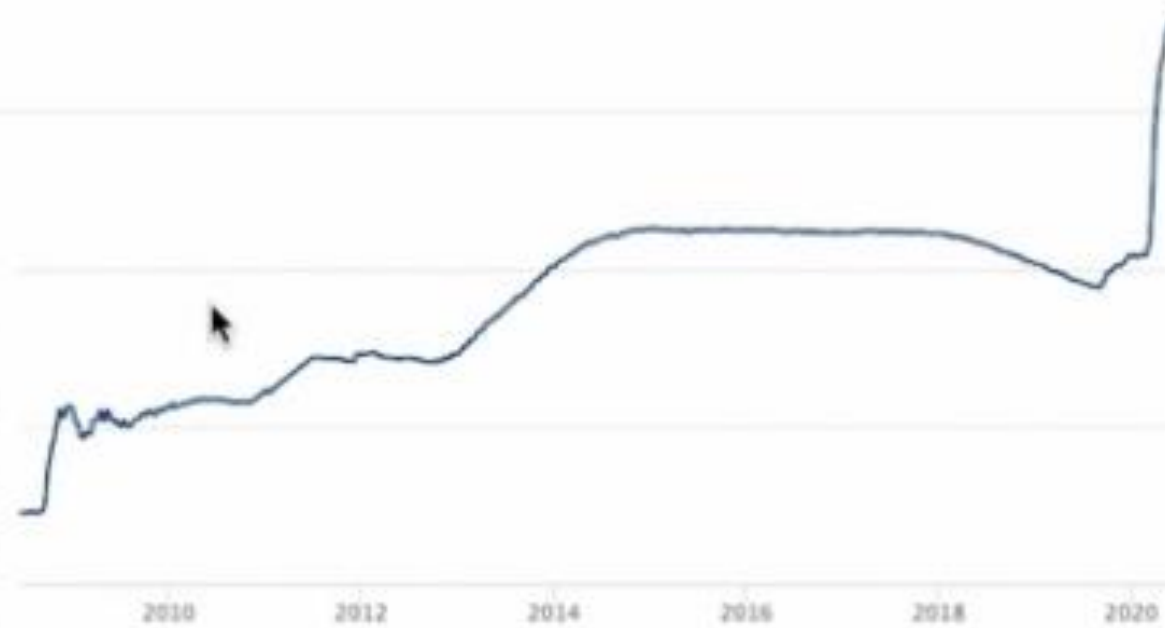
SOURCES: Federal Reserve Board, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Historical Statistics of the United States/Haver Analytics.

FIGURE 2

Historical View of Federal Reserve Balance Sheet



SOURCES: Federal Reserve Board, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Historical Statistics of the United States/Maver Analytics.



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30
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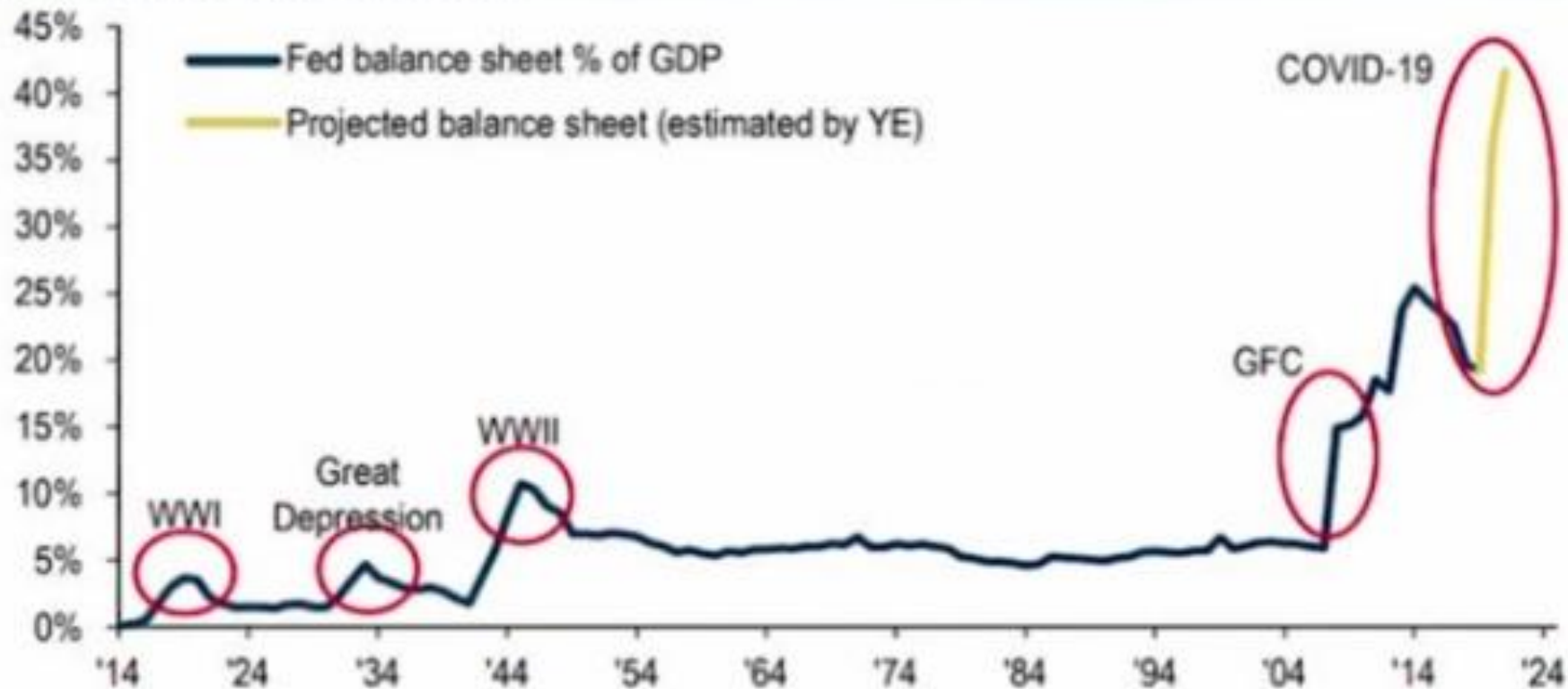
Federal Reserve Balance Sheet as % of GDP

The Federal balance sheet is expected to expand by more than 40% of GDP.

Off

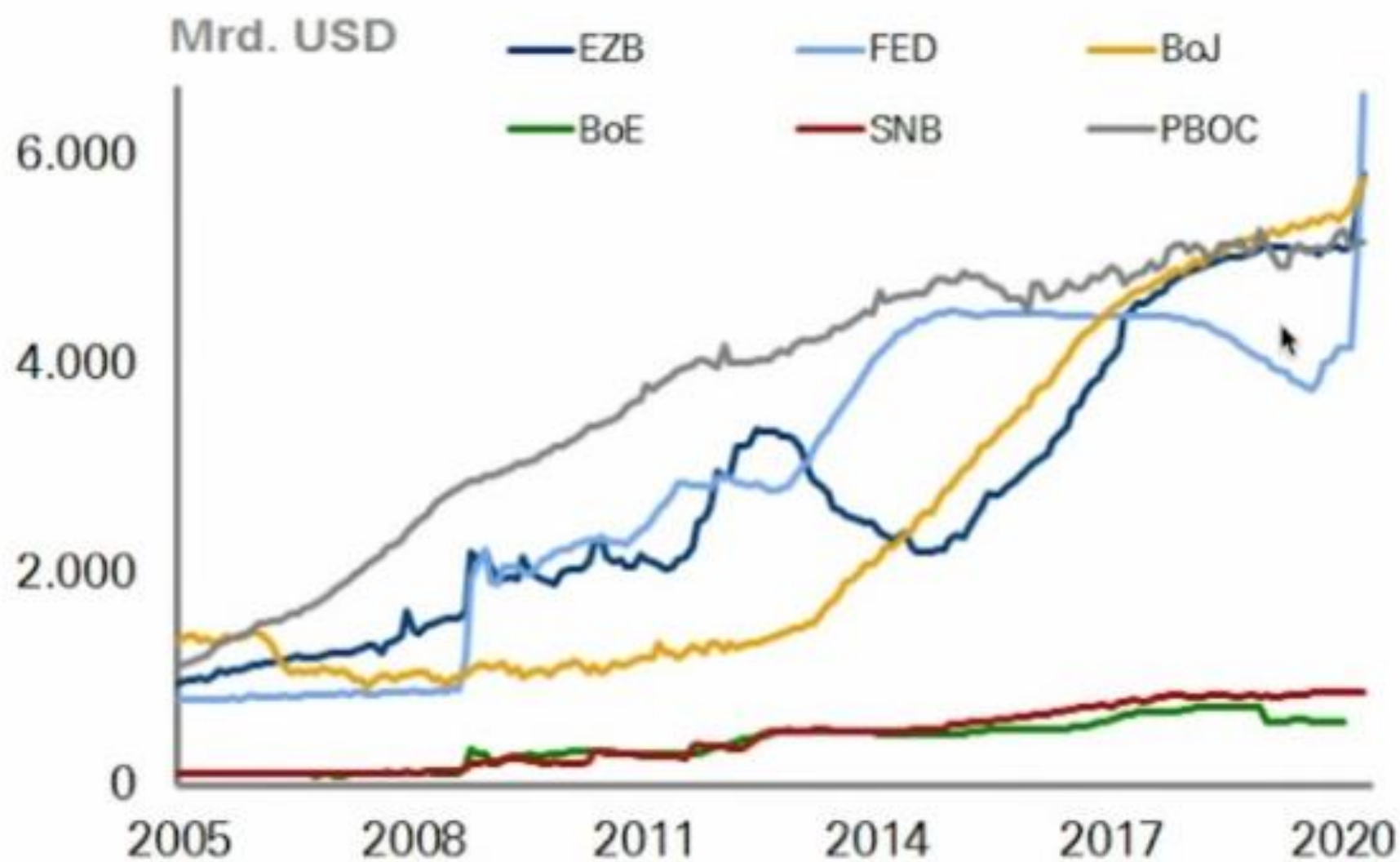
Image: BofA Global Research

Exhibit 6: The Policy Panic of 2020



Source: BofA Global Research, Haver, Federal Reserve Board, Bloomberg

Central Banks: Fed Takes The Lead Again



Sources: Bloomberg, Metzler Research

Gold standard and digital dollar: The Great Reset will create a new monetary system



The world is preparing for a new Bretton Woods moment. At the end of the current "Great Reset" will be the creation of a new monetary system. But the crucial question is: Is it possible to establish a gold-covered digital dollar as an anchor currency?

Is the pandemic crisis a turning point for international economic policy? Are the old Bretton Woods institutions ready to find a new approach? (...) The Federal Reserve (Fed) has already started its new average inflation target, while other central banks have systematically lowered their inflation targets. Given well-established inflation expectations, the Fed could let the US economy run through full employment and inflation," says the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The ORF literally: "If we are really in a historical repetition of the Bretton Woods moment, we will find that Harry Dexter White's proposals (the American position) are more influential than Keynes's ideas (the British position). The tax incentives provided worldwide are close to \$12 trillion. The central banks have lowered interest rates to zero and expanded the balance sheets by more than 7.5 trillion US dollars. This financial support must remain in place (at least until the vaccination reaches a critical mass). Early withdrawal carries the risk of economic damage, even a double drop in economic growth. A late financial crisis could return as revenge. In the meantime, debt is accumulating at record levels and there are no plans for how the world should pay for it? This must be on the agenda for 2021.

The pope's visit to the US could be an ominous sign for the stock market

Four popes have visited the United States: Pope Paul VI in 1965, Pope John Paul II seven times, Pope Benedict XVI in 2008, and Pope Francis in September 2015.

Intriguingly, three of those visits came shortly before major market downturns. John Paul II's visit in September 1987 came just over a month before the Black Monday crash, and his January 1999 visit was near the start of the tech bubble. Benedict XVI's April 2008 visit coincided with the early stages of the financial crisis.

Here's the S&P 500's adjusted closing price, with arrows indicating each US papal visit:

S&P 500 AND PAPAL VISITS



Inclusive Capitalism With The Vatican

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



Pope Francis has challenged
global business leaders to build
a more inclusive economic system.

<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



An economic system
that is fair, trustworthy

<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



Created by
**INCLUSIVE
CAPITALISM**
2019.06.10.10.00

<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



MARK CARNEY

COP26 FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER,
UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND FINANCE

<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



AJAY BANGA

MASTERCARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD & CEO

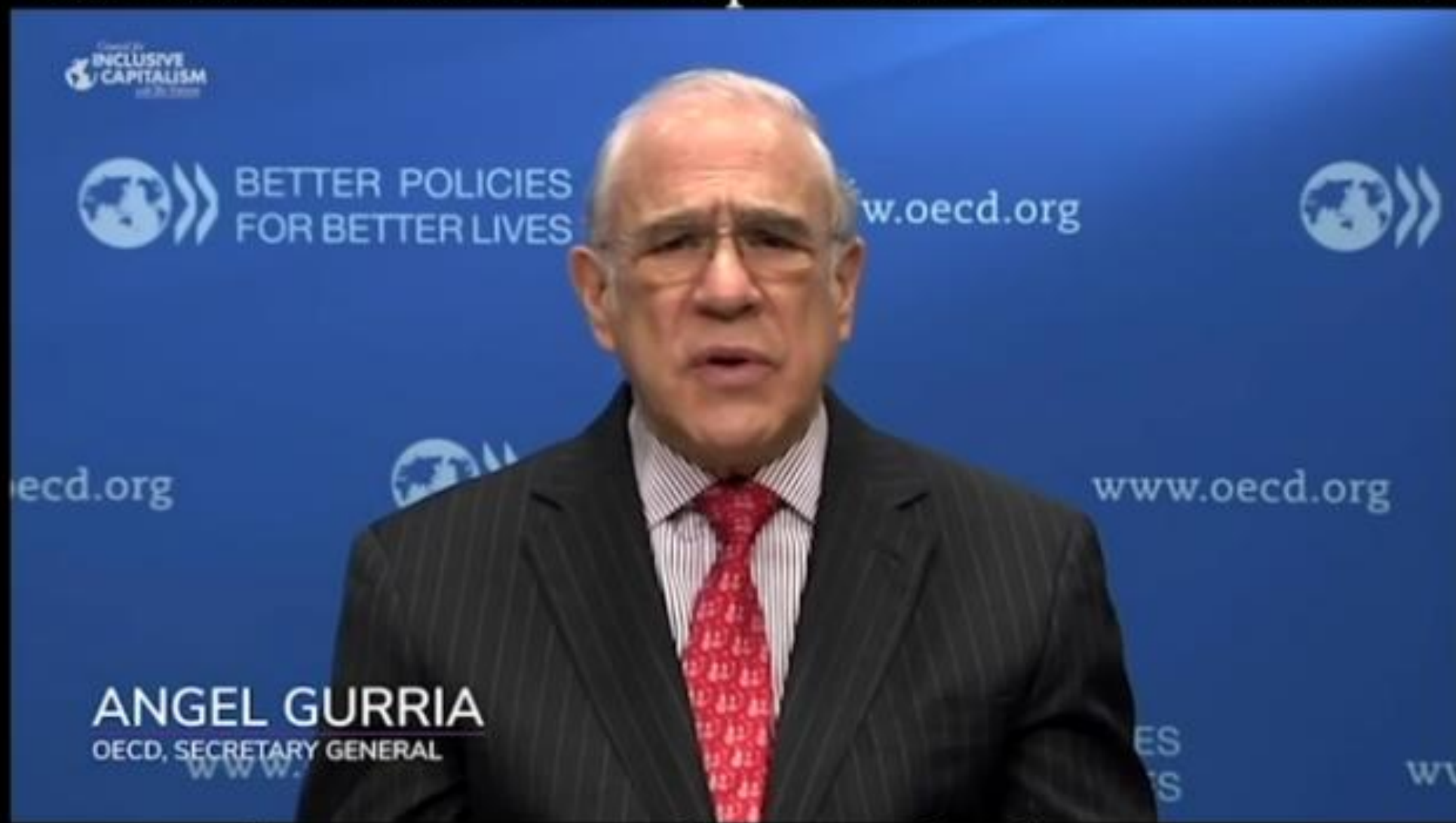
<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism YouTube Channel



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<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

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INCLUSIVECAPITALISM.COM

<https://youtu.be/uySdMbZHjms>

Big business gets its wings as leaders from major U.S. companies partner with Pope Francis

The Pope means business.

Capitalism met Catholicism on Tuesday, as some of the world's biggest business leaders announced a new partnership with Pope Francis.

The alliance, known as the Council for Inclusive Capitalism with the Vatican, aims to create a more inclusive, fair and sustainable economic landscape by taking pledges toward sustainable development goals focused on areas such as climate action, peace and justice, quality education and gender equality. "An economic system that is fair, trustworthy, and capable of addressing the most profound challenges facing humanity and our planet is urgently needed," Pope Francis said in a statement.

The Council comprises 27 core members known as the Guardians of Inclusive Capitalism, who represent companies with over \$2.1 trillion in market capitalization and 200 million workers.



<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/big-business-gets-its-wings-leaders-major-u-s-companies-n1250473>



<https://www.inclusivecapitalism.com>

Our Guardians

Using their combined imagination, influence, and resources to change capitalism

OUR MEMBERS

The Council is led by Guardian CEOs and global leaders who commit their organizations to specific actions that create long-term value for all stakeholders. To build thriving economies and societies, we invite organizations and leaders to join as Stewards. Together with the Guardians, they will make their own commitments, scaling actions to improve outcomes for people and the planet.



\$10.5 TRILLION

in assets under management



\$2.1 TRILLION

in market capitalization



Representing over

**200 MILLION
WORKERS**



Offices spread across

163 COUNTRIES

and territories

Dr. Taylor Marshall YouTube Channel



<https://youtu.be/Rv1zb1gGLWM>



January 7, 2021
The Parliament of the World's Religions Calls for Invoking the 25th Amendment of the US Constitution to Remove Donald J. Trump from Office



The Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions call on the Vice-President and the Cabinet of the United States to transmit to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unfit and therefore unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, in accordance with Article 4 of the 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Donald J. Trump has forsaken his credibility and demonstrated that he is incapable of discharging the powers and duties of the Office of the President of the United States of America. The Parliament of the World's Religions is a global institution, and recognizes the influence that the President of the United States has on the world.



January 7, 2021
The Parliament of the World's
Religions Calls for Invoking the 25th
Amendment of the US Constitution to
Remove Donald J. Trump from Office



Those with the greatest opportunity and power to affect the world have the greatest responsibility to act with unflinching moral integrity. The Parliament of the World's Religions remains committed to a culture of non-violence and a life of truthfulness, as agreed upon in our signature document Towards A Global Ethic.

"Persons who hold political power must work within the framework of a just order and commit themselves to the most non-violent, peaceful solutions possible...for the leaders of countries, politicians, and political parties, to whom we entrust our own freedoms. When they lie in the faces of their people, when they manipulate the truth, or when they are guilty of venality or ruthlessness in domestic or foreign affairs, they forsake their credibility and deserve to lose their offices and their voters. "

- Towards A Global Ethic: A Declaration of the Parliament of the World's Religions

Joe Biden has a mandate: to heal our wounded and divided nation

The fact that Mr. Biden's faith was a matter of contention mainly among Catholics and was not an impediment to his election is itself a victory for the American experiment and owes much to the pioneering efforts of the previous Catholic candidates, [Al Smith](#) and John F. Kennedy.

But the ultimate winner of the 2020 presidential election is the American people, who have countered a unique threat to the constitutional order and rid themselves of someone singularly ill-suited for the office of president. This is a victory for the entire country, and the men and women who won office must now govern for the entire country.

A clear majority of American voters have given Mr. Biden a mandate: to repair the nation's social fabric, to bind up the nation's wounds and to bring us together as one nation. It is not a mandate to legislate a radical new order, pack the U.S. Supreme Court or pursue an extreme pro-abortion agenda.

The American people deserve leaders as open-minded and willing to work together as they are. "The challenges facing us today," Pope Francis said in his address to the U.S. Congress in 2015, "call for a renewal of that spirit of cooperation, which has accomplished so much good throughout the history of the United States."



If Biden is to heal America, he'll need his Church



ROME – By all accounts, President-elect Joe Biden is a sincere Catholic. He's spoken openly about how his beliefs have sustained him through personal pain and loss, and while there may be debate in some circles about how coherent his politics are with his faith, few contest whether he has faith in the first place. In the wake of Wednesday's chaos at the capitol, Biden may need that faith more than ever.

Arguably, not since Lincoln's first inauguration in 1861 has an incoming American president taken office facing such a divided nation. If Biden is to govern, he'll need to find a way to begin putting the pieces back together, and drawing on the resources of the Catholic Church may be among his better options.

Inevitably, Biden will have to lead the way in this national reconciliation project. His greatest asset in doing so may turn out to be his Church – having seen him through personal tragedy, Catholicism may be poised to aid him in his defining public test.

Could Catholic moral theology light the way for a new GOP?

The party is realigning around a religious, multiethnic, working-class populism, and Catholic thought could provide an ideological foundation.

For some time now, we've heard talk about an American "Catholic moment." As far back as 2012, David Gibson, director of the [Center on Religion and Culture](#) at Jesuit Fordham University (and a former Religion News Service staffer), highlighted some astonishing facts about Catholics in public life.

Six of nine Supreme Court justices when Gibson wrote were Catholic. The current and previous speakers of the House at the time were practicing Catholics. Both vice presidential candidates going into the 2012 race (Joe Biden and Paul Ryan) were strong in their Catholic identity.

For a country founded in the midst of virulent anti-Catholicism and where Catholics imagine their own "penitential outsider status," in Gibson's words, this was a jolting set of facts.

In a matter of days, that same Catholic speaker of the House will look on as the Catholic former vice president is inaugurated the second Catholic president of the United States. Depending on how one is scoring at home (Justice Neil Gorsuch's relationship with Catholicism is apparently complex) **seven Supreme Court justices are or have been Catholic.** Should the party decide to realign around a religious, multiethnic, working-class populism — and it should — the new movement will require an ideological foundation. If 2012 was the year Catholics had come to dominate the highest levels of U.S. public life, 2021 may be the year when the highest levels of public life finally made space for the fullness of a Catholic vision.

How Biden can lead the US away from 'world war fought piecemeal'

Unprecedented global challenges set the context for incoming President-elect Joe Biden's move into the Oval Office, making his decisions about U.S. foreign policy and national security more critically important than ever. **At the same time, the crises he inherits present his administration with a rare opportunity to contribute in substantial ways to a "new post-pandemic normal" toward which Pope Francis has been incessantly directing our attention.**

As Biden launches his administration's approach to international relations and very serious security challenges, he would do well to draw deeply upon the values of Catholic social teaching and to absorb the insights of Pope Francis, starting with "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," Fratelli Tutti and the proposals of the Vatican's COVID-19 Commission.

Biden has already indicated his intention to take some action on the global stage that would be consistent with Catholic social teaching.

The COVID-19 pandemic is pointing to our deepest calling as a human family: to nurture a world of mercy, compassion, justice and care for one another rooted in the universal ethic of nonviolence. Spending hundreds of billions of dollars annually on weapons and preparations for war has undermined our ability to address this global pandemic.

U.S. President Joe Biden should listen with rapt attention to the pleading of Pope Francis, who in Fratelli Tutti called for an "alternative way of thinking ... a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family."

A Catholic Moment

For the first time in American history, no branch of our federal government will be led by a Protestant. The president will be Catholic. The Speaker of the House is Catholic. The Senate Majority Leader will be Jewish. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is Catholic (and the Court as a whole is majority Catholic).

But in another sense, these facts are emblematic of a major shift in American public life, which has been evident for several decades. **Mainline Protestantism once acted as the primary ballast in American public life – helping to steady us amidst the choppy waters that attend life in a democratic republic. That ballast is gone, and the long-term effects on American life can be felt all around.**

There was a time when some hoped that the Catholic Church could step into the space once occupied by the Mainline Protestant churches. This was the hope articulated by a then-Lutheran pastor, Richard John Neuhaus, later a convert to Rome: a Church universal enough to counter the entropy of American pluralism and with sufficient doctrinal durability to avoid the fate of the Mainline Churches, could provide a new “religiously informed, public moral philosophy.” Such a Church could provide the ballast for our public, political life. Such a Church could help define and expound the fundamental things we agree upon, which are prior to the political things we don’t agree on.

Jesuit Fr. Leo O'Donovan to deliver invocation at Biden inauguration

Jesuit Fr. Leo O'Donovan, former president of Georgetown University, will deliver the invocation at Joe Biden's presidential inauguration on Jan. 20.

O'Donovan confirmed to NCR that Biden had personally called him and invited him to offer the prayer at the inauguration, which will mark the election of the nation's second Catholic president, and that he had accepted.

O'Donovan is a longtime friend of the Biden family. In 2015, he presided at the funeral Mass for Biden's oldest son, Beau, after he died of brain cancer at the age of 46.

Biden is known to be close with a number of Jesuit priests, and while he was vice president, he occasionally attended Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. In 1992, when Biden's son Hunter was a senior at Georgetown, O'Donovan invited the then-senator from Delaware to give a lecture at the Jesuit university on his faith and public life. Biden told O'Donovan at the time it was the "toughest assignment he's ever had."

More recently, just days after his presidential election, on Nov. 12, Biden appeared at a virtual fundraiser for Jesuit Refugee Service, where O'Donovan now serves as director of mission. On that occasion, Biden announced that he would raise the annual admission target of new refugees into the United States to 125,000, marking a sharp increase to the Trump administration's cap of 15,000 individuals.

Catholics have a long history of participating in prayers for inaugural events. In 1937, Fr. John Ryan offered the benediction at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration. Cardinal Richard Cushing of Boston offered the invocation at the inauguration of the nation's first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, in 1961. More recently, in 2017, New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan provided a Scripture reading at the inauguration for President Donald Trump.