

Assassination America

04-16-2021

In recent weeks there have been a series of mass murders, Indianapolis has had three in a year that has yet to reach four months, and along with extra-legal mayhem there is everyday murder-by-law of unarmed persons by the police. We know that the latter are legal acts perpetrated by the gunmen of the ruling elite for social control even though at times it has the opposite effect; like when a 13 year old boy is killed because he threatened an officer with a gun even though video shows his hands up and a gun by his foot.

A young person growing up first learns a code of personal conduct from family and those in regular close contact. But once an adult and out making their life in the world thought and action is largely impressed upon the individual by the social system in which they live and work. If the advocates of the system say life is good while many are experiencing no such thing then something must be done about what's barring their happiness. If the rulers of our nation find that the actions of other nations are hindering our capitalist prosperity they act against them either by peaceful pressure or forceful actions.

Unlike lower animal life there are no causal relations in self-conscious humans thus few responses to a serious personal problem are straightforwardly imitative. When the system tries to cover up its miserable state by declaring a huge debt-driven expenditure a success when it's just a return to normal hopelessness for many, there is such a division between appearance and reality as to cause social explosions. And now the system is in danger pushing its artificial reality to the breaking point.

The major exchanges have been repeatedly breaking new records as if we are in times of unparalleled prosperity when it's mostly done with with borrowed money. According to Wall Street's Financial Industry Regulatory Authority reports that as of the end of February, investors have borrowed \$814 billion against their portfolio. That's about 49% more than one year ago, and the rate of debt growth mirrors that of 2007 and 1999 just before things went bust. Furthermore it can't be justified by economic growth that is merely getting back to where it

was at the end of 2019 when it was in near recession. Retail sales in March were up 30% in March from the previous year (21.8% against March 2019) thanks to stimulus checks. That didn't do much for industrial production which rose only 1.4%. The real economy knows that so far it's just a one off blip of growth.

But the debt situation is even worse than that reported in the mainstream press. FINRA only reports on margin debt for margin accounts held by customers at member firms – it just supervises the broker dealers owned by bank holding companies, not the the de facto swap based margin loans that banks convert into ersatz collateralized loans. Goldman Sachs has \$43 trillion in face value derivatives that can theoretically be used for that purpose.

Clearly, the only fair way to pay for pandemic expenses and the overall deterioration of infrastructure and social needs is with a large increase in corporate taxes. US corporate taxes peaked in 1950 and have steadily declined, especially after 1986. Corporate taxes were 5.3% of GDP in 1953, 1.5% in 1982, and only 1% in 2020. Meanwhile individual income taxes have been steady at 7.7%. As expected, thanks to the public gift to corporations, after tax profits have increased from 5.2% in 1980 9.1% in 2019. So are they using profits to re-invest? Nope. As a share of GDP, private non-residential fixed investment it has fallen since 1981 14.8% to 13.4% 2020. CEO to worker compensation from 21 to 1 in 1965 to 320 to 1 in 2019.

People may not know, but they certainly can smell that something is rotten in America. And the only way to end a life of pain for many is to end it in a way that the people of a nation will for a brief moment have it revealed before them in a sickening flash of death.

<http://unrealeconomy.org>