

## The Friedman Gang Invades Brazil

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As a human being, Milton is deceased, but his plan to wreak havoc on the workers and poor of the world for the enrichment of the capitalist few lives on in his University of Chicago educated criminal gang.

It is heart warming to know that traces of humanity still exist in some of the most repulsive people, as many in the SS could not stomach Heydrich, so do at least some capitalists feel that giving away public resources to a private gang of looters and pillagers is just a bit too much. That explains why the Friedman Gang requires a fascistic state takeover before it can ride in and have free play enacting its depredations.

In the 1970's it was under the Chilean mass murdering Pinochet dictatorship. There social peace was established by turning over so much of the wealth of the land to the few that all the rest had to devote most of their waking lives to the maintenance of subsistence living. Brazil differs in that Bolsonaro, named president but really a dictator in that the people's choice was legally eliminated by the ruling class, has shifted the slaughter to a later date.

But capitalism is a world system and they all benefit by such regimes even if some would hesitate to shake hands with their leaders. Currently only about 12% of Brazil's GDP is generated by imports and exports. That is largely because it has 138 state owned companies designed to service the needs of the Brazilian people. Private capital disapproves of that because without being able to 'service' the people it is not in a position to rob them. Chile was once where Brazil is today but after a sell off of state assets, social welfare spending cuts, tax cuts for the rich and deregulation it was wide open for foreign exploitation. Exports and imports now constitute about 28% of the Chilean GDP.

"Nobody has better training than me", said Paulo Guedes, Bolsonaro's new Economy minister, as he sharpened his knives for a generalized assault on the Brazilian people. Stay tuned to see if he and his boss will get away with their evil plans.

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The investor class is one that can only exist and subsist in the interstices of the most advanced old growth incarnations of capitalism where capitalists, though parasites, at least must make their extraction through a process that generates something of social use and benefit. Investors are spongers off of whatever success the parasites have gained from the productive class. Achieving a significant income from investments is a key element of social control under this

system and is therefore either pushed or forced upon as many people as possible. Those with spare cash are sold on its benefits while others have their defined benefits plans dumped into IRA's where they anxiously fear lower corporate earnings will reduce what they can expect for their retirement. The sense of guilt experienced because what they are hoping for is the maximum squeezing of people like them shames them into inertia. It would be hypocritical as to condemn a system that they profit from. According to recent reports the eight main investment sources for those ill-gotten gains (stocks, bonds, commodities, etc.) are having their worst year since 1972 in that not a single one has managed a 5% gain on the year. Lack of free money strengthens the spine and that may lead to more than financial collapse.

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Growth in Q3 of the 19 full members of the EU was revised down to 0.15%, which is to say almost no growth. For the year Q3 managed all off 0.63% growth. That minuscule growth is close to French growth for the last 10.5 years. Using 1975-2008 baseline GDP the French economy grew a cumulative total 8.8% from Q1 2008 to Q3 2018. The mainstream news sources have tried to explain the recent uprising as due to increased energy costs designed to reduce greenhouse effects and save humanity from destruction -- selfish people resisting what is best for humanity. In fact the social instability throughout Europe is due to a superannuated capitalism that hasn't yet been retired and erased.

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Tax cuts and increased military spending are producing results that only a brain dead American ruling class could have failed to expect. November generated the worst deficit bump up ever recorded. \$411 billion of expenditure and only \$206 in return. A net boost in the national debt of \$205 billion in a single month. It did increase the wealth of the already wealthy and enough for most taxpayers to purchase a few extra trinkets, but with the economy weakening since its enactment, it certainly failed to meet the goals (so far, it has a ten year lifespan) announced in the public prevarications.

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Draghi of the European Bank announced that December would be the end of the QE program. That marks the total value of mostly government bond purchases along with some corporate securities at \$3 trillion over almost four years. Weak states that had to be rescued by the bank when their bond yields went through the roof because private buyers did not want them will catch a break in that the bank will continue to repurchase what they hold to the tune of about \$14 billion Euros a month. The ECB oversees the finances of nations with a total population of 512

million but their QE purchases only hold second place. For true financial craziness Japan rules the roost; a nation of 127 million and QE purchases over \$4 trillion.

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