

Introduction

by Craig R. Smith

*“We shape our tools,
and thereafter our tools shape us.”*

– **Marshall McLuhan**

When I was a boy, banks were the pillars of a community; bastions of strength and stability; institutions staffed by honorable bankers who could be trusted.

Sadly, this no longer rings true. The banks have manipulated the financial system to suit their own ends and our faith in their integrity has all but evaporated. The money for which we labor, save for college and retirement, and use to fund this great experiment we call America is no longer honest.

Since Nixon closed the gold window in 1971 — essentially ending sound money and ushering in “elastic money” — we have seen an accelerated deterioration of our society as a whole. Fear, greed and apathy are the new normal instead of vices to avoid. Buying and selling of favors has replaced moral fortitude and personal responsibility. I have long been of the opinion that every ill we face as a nation today has its roots in the devaluation of our currency.

In this book we will explore the nexus between Money, Morals and The Machine. We shaped The Machine, and it has debased our money and morals, shaping us. Our challenge now is to undo this.

Gresham’s Law states that bad money forces out good money. As the government has produced promises to pay in the form of paper money, honest money — gold and silver coins — has been forced out of the system and out of the hands of citizens.

Smith's Law states that as the value of money deteriorates, morals deteriorate, and as morals deteriorate, so does the value of money. Bad money drives out good values.

As these two laws play out, both here and abroad, those in power are willing to ignore morality in pursuit of riches. The government is hard-pressed to condemn this mindset because the Federal Reserve can, and does, merely push a button to create a trillion dollars of "wealth." It takes many millions of hours of labor by the citizens to earn the same "wealth."

When our Founders set in motion the principles that made America great, they planned for the possibility that men might become more motivated by greed and avarice than love of country or fellow citizen. They drafted a Constitution to ensure the rule of law would be equally applied to all. Slowly, that same Constitution has become more of a minor annoyance to those in power instead of the overarching compass it was intended to be.

This shift has allowed the creation of a Machine more powerful and corrupt than our Founders likely ever conceived. A system which rewards extortion and greed. A nation in which free markets, integrity and hard work are trumped by unscrupulous lawyers, back channel lobbyists, central bankers, and unethical politicians who can make consequences disappear; just ask Marc Rich.

In these pages we will expose The Machine for what it truly is and how it came to be so all-consuming. We will describe how it survives today and most importantly how to stop it and bring honesty, integrity and morality back to America.

In Chapter One we show why Great Britain, once the world's greatest empire, voted to "Brexite," to escape being colonized by a new rising empire called the European Union.

In Chapter Two we discover how the United States, which declared its own independence from the British Empire in 1776, turned from being a republic, free of entangling alliances, into an empire.

In Chapter Three we see how The Machine has taken control and imperils our Republic, our currency, our values and future.

In Chapter Four we explain Smith's Law and how "de-facing" and debasing our money has debased our morality and strength.

In Chapter Five we show how the escape hatches are being closed all around us, who is doing this, what it means, and how to break free.

In Chapter Six we see how our democratic Republic, our freedom of speech, and our other rights are being foreclosed.

In Chapters Seven and Eight we look to the future in both technology and science fiction to glimpse a dawning Age of Zero — zero cash, zero jobs, zero economic growth, zero privacy, and perhaps zero freedom.

In our Epilogue we offer ways you can still create a more secure and prosperous future for your family, as well as for our nation and world.

This book does not prescribe an easy, quick fix.

It took decades for this decay to gnaw away at the character of the nation and it will take time and sacrifice to right our ship, but we can. It will require a shift in our thinking and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

I'm excited about America. We will recover and we will return the nation to its rightful owners (We the People) and to the Constitution which guides it. Rule of law equally applied can bring accountability back to our institutions that have lost the trust of the people — the Congress, the presidency, the banks, and our manipulated markets.

A country that has been through dozens of economic calamities, two world wars, recessions, historic inflation and even depressions will overcome. Our setbacks are opportunities to get the great engine back on the track.

Will you join me on this journey? If so, read on and become part of the solution.

– CRAIG R. SMITH