

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent. - Thomas Jefferson

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Finance and Investment Literacy - the Key to Financial Success

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This issue of Competence News contains:

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Editorial - Want Financial Freedom - or any freedom at all?

What did Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt, Thomas Edison, John F. Kennedy have in common?

They all understood money and how it is used to subvert individuals, families, groups, nations and civilization in general.

All of these leaders predicted what is happening today. And they fought to prevent this crisis.

What does this phrase "Wall Street versus Main Street really mean"?

We are witnessing the greatest harvesting of wealth since Hitler forcefully foreclosed on Europe. Wealth that was EARNED by innovation and hard work is now being confiscated with unprecedented acceleration.

Where is this wealth going, who are the "Harvesters" and how exactly do they operate?

Want to understand why we have never ending wars resulting in impossible debt which guarantees that our future generations will remain in economic slavery for generations to come?

Want to know why your real estate values have plummeted? Why you seem to be having more financial difficulty today than a few short years ago?

The [history](#) of how we arrived at this current economic crisis is [here](#).

[Truth in Equity](#)

But don't look at this data - you will risk angering the money gods.

And, of course, we will all stay on the endless financial treadmill - as will our children and grandchildren for generations to come.

BUT - if you are interested in freedom for yourself. your family your country and want a future for this civilization, check out [this link](#) and the

following up to date analysis of how the most recent crisis was orchestrated.:

[Crisis by Design - www.behindthewizardscurtain.com](http://www.behindthewizardscurtain.com) - John Truman Wolfe

So now we arrive at an important question.

Is any of this real to you? If so, what do you feel can be done about this situation?

We'd love to hear what you have to say about the current state of financial affairs.

Larry Byrnes
Editor
Competence News

"Freedom Tomorrow Requires
Financial Literacy Today"

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Good News - We are going to repeat last month's good news as the news has highlighted trends that are continuing - taxpayers are demanding improvement and savings rates are improving. Less debt and more sanity on money and finance appears to be accelerating at a grass roots level.

Please feel free to send us your own alerts on good news so we broaden our perception and variety.

Good news is, of course relative. And, with all the banner headlines about economic bad times and with various politicians rearing on their hind legs and proclaiming that they know all and are operating in our best interests, good news is not all that easy to find.

So let's take a RELATIVE view of what is now, in our view, becoming good news:

Taxpayers and voters are apparently rising from apathy to anger and demanding improvement from our leaders. This is spilling over to the political arena as can be seen from the results of this week's senatorial election in Massachusetts.

We do quite a bit of work on the net searching bulletin boards that deal with finance and investing. From our work we are seeing increasing involvement from the general public on these boards. Comments are running in excess of 80% demanding change in the financial arena.

That awareness is now increasing is a very good indicator and an actual hope that we can make positive changes in the finance and economic sectors.

News Item: "Personal savings rate has climbed to its highest level in the past 15 years." This coupled with reports that U. S. consumer outstanding credit has plunged in recent months. Having directly seen the impact of facing a recession without a cushion, many Americans appear to be thriftier and more knowledgeable in managing their money.

See this [long term graph](#) which indicates at least the beginnings of a reversal of trend.

Those that depend on putting us into debt will, of course, treat this trend change as bad news and ask us to take on more credit and spend more as a solution to current economic woes. What is the "think" behind this? Let's see, we got in to trouble by spending more than we earned and accumulating debt. So the way out is to borrow more?? Well, if you want people in general to stay on the financial treadmill from birth to death, then this is a good solution. Fortunately, it looks like people are waking up and not buying the propaganda that keeps us piling on debt.

That **IS** good news - for us, our children, friends, our country and the rest of the world.

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Basic Knowledge - OK so Money, Finance and the Economy are so complex they give a statue a headache - right?

Here is a short quiz - what is money?

- a) Something I work for and my wife spends
- b) A magnet for the tax collector
- c) Something borrowed that transfers ownership of me and my soul to the lender

d) Something bankers manufacture out of thin air and use as a socio/political control device

e) A medium of exchange

f) An idea backed by confidence

g) All the above

Money - what is it and where does it come from?

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Individual Successes

"For many years I assumed that Finance was an area looked after by others much smarter than me.

But then came a series of unexplained financial crises and it was as if I had been suddenly thrown off a ship into a tossing and confused sea ready to devour me and my family's hope for solvency and affluence. I looked around for leadership and found a pretty barren landscape. So I started to study basic texts on finance and investing and finally realized that the only leader I was going to find to show me how MY financial success could be achieved was "the man in the mirror".

THE most important breakthrough I had was to recognize that I was personally responsible for my success or failure with money and finance. Money did not fall from the heavens or come from the government or from rich uncle Waldo's wallet!!

Further, I found that finance and money seemed to be made PURPOSELY complex. No wonder I thought I had to be very smart to understand money. Finding that all the complexities had a purpose and that others had a vested interest in maintaining my ignorance gave me little choice but to confront my irresponsibility and DO something about this deficiency. Why leave something so vital as money and finance to others?

I succeeded first in realizing that I had something to learn and then developing an understanding of basic financial terms How can one succeed in anything unless one understands the language? Then I learned some invaluable but very powerful lessons about attaining financial success:

- 1) Work hard at EARNING money
- 2) Spend less than you EARN
- 3) Accumulate a reserve
- 4) Repeat 1 to 3

That's it - the basics.

No I am not super rich nor as wealthy as I want to be. But I am on the way and confident about the future for myself and my family and, for me, that is what counts." **OJD** – Colorado

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Alerts - What is wrong with this picture?

		
<p>International Financial Center N.Y. U.S.A. September 11, 2001</p>	<p>World's Tallest Building Dubai - U.A.E. January 2010</p>	<p>International Financial Center Dubai - U.A.E. January 2010</p>

It has been almost 10 years since the World Trade Center in New York was taken down. There is considerable controversy over whether or not this was the act of a terrorist group or a planned action similar to other outrageous war provoking acts like the sinking of the Lusitania in WW I,

Reichstag Fire in Berlin that helped bring Hitler to power, Pearl Harbor, the Tonkin Gulf incident in Viet Nam.

Who has benefited from 911?

The contrasting pictures above would seem to suggest that the Arab World and in particular Dubai have benefitted. But when you look in detail it is NOT Dubai nor the citizens of the United Arab Emirates that factually benefited.

But let's start here in Dubai and let's follow the Money.

British, American, German, French, South African and other non-Dubai engineers, architects and professionals helped design and construct these beautiful Dubai buildings and enjoyed the highly affluent lifestyles that easy credit afforded.

[Many left](#) when the big banks suddenly pulled funding for some of these building projects and they found themselves without a job. They left quickly and some ran out on their financial obligations.

But many stayed and some of those are being blamed for the transgressions of those that left resulting in conflicts between Dubai landowner/developers and "westerners" over money.

The recent economic "meltdown" has affected the entire world. There has been an enormous wealth transfer – probably the biggest property grab since Hitler forcefully foreclosed on Europe.

The crisis reached Dubai. And the inevitable conflicts over money have accompanied this crisis.

Conflicts, including wars, are created. They don't just happen. For every war or conflict to continue there must be a promoter who benefits. And that promoter must also be relatively obscure.

This is not about the Christianity versus Islam.

Nor is it about Arabs versus Jews.

Nor is this about Republicans versus Democrats.

Nor Bush versus Obama.

Nor Liberals versus Conservatives.

Nor Jews versus Gentiles.

Nor Israelis versus Germany or Europe.

Nor Catholics versus Protestants.

Nor is it about Communists and Socialists versus Democracy and Free Enterprise.

Those are just side shows - like the coliseum in the latter days of Rome. To entertain and distract us while our "civilization" slips beneath the waves.

So who benefits from the trillions of dollars being spent on the "war on terror" which was declared in retaliation for the World Trade Centre Destruction on September 11, 2001?

For certain the money masters and those that want a super controlled police state benefit.

Walk through any airport today and observe the scene and draw your own conclusions. The security and electronic surveillance and analytics industry benefited big time. We are all assumed to be terrorists until proven innocent.

***"Any society that would give up a liberty to gain security will deserve neither and lose both."* – Benjamin Franklin**

Those that collect the enormous amounts of interest that result from funding these seemingly endless and destructive wars certainly benefit – at least financially – certainly not spiritually.

A review of the economies and financial fortunes of other groups is also worth considering.

Clearly most have suffered as in all wars. Some have suffered less economically. In general terms, who are the losers and who are the winners since Sept. 11, 2001?

<p>The Losers?</p> <p>Iraq</p> <p><u>How many innocent civilians have</u></p>	<p>The Winners?</p> <p>"Wealth Harvesters"</p> <p><u>Wall Street bonuses soar, even while lending rates</u></p>
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[been killed or injured?](#)

Afghanistan

[How many innocent civilians have been killed or injured?](#)

US, UK and Other Military

[How many American, British and other coalition forces lives have been lost?](#)

And what about their families – women and children?

The U.S. Taxpayer

[The Iraq War Will Cost Us \\$3 Trillion, and Much More](#)

Washington Post - Sunday, March 9, 2008--

"There is no such thing as a free lunch, and there is no such thing as a free war. The Iraq adventure has seriously weakened the U.S. economy, whose woes now go far beyond loose mortgage lending."

[\\$4.8 trillion - Interest on U.S. debt](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com)
December 20, 2009: --

"Here's a new way to think about the U.S. government's epic borrowing: More than half of the \$9 trillion in debt that Uncle Sam is expected to build up over the next decade will be interest."

More than half. In fact, \$4.8

[plummet](#)

CBS News - February 24, 2010 at 11:51 AM

"The average Wall Street worker took home a \$124,000 bonus last year, up 25 percent from 2008, according to the New York state comptroller. At some banks, the bonuses were much higher:

- *Morgan Stanley: \$253,000 average bonus*
- *JP Morgan Chase: \$378,500 average bonus*
- *Goldman Sachs: \$461,000 average bonus.*

Banks may be rewarding themselves richly, but they're still not lending. The FDIC says lending fell by half a trillion dollars last year, the biggest decline since the 1940s."

Banks not lending? Not quite true.

The banks may not be lending to businesses and individuals but they ARE lending trillions to governments who borrow from them and disguise the increased debt using the misdirector term "stimulus".

trillion."

Dubai

Time Magazine's [Top 10 Worst Biz Deals of 2009](#)



"Of the seven members of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai has the least oil. So to which emirate have banks such as Barclays and Citi lent the most money? Yup, the one with the most distressed real estate — Dubai's total debts exceed \$80 billion. We've seen how this movie ends. "

Time Magazine alters the importance of the magnificent architectural achievements in Dubai by implying that banks should only lend to oil rich countries.

But that is not the real point.

Ask millions of American Homeowners how this "movie ends". It ends with the Banks owning your property and you on the Financial Treadmill and under control forever.

Will these "world's biggest and

The "government" issues paper to the banks in the form of promises that the U.S. taxpayer will pay the bill.

See the brilliant "logic"? We got into trouble by too much borrowing so the solution is to borrow more!

These same banks obviously control the US government and political system.

How else would you explain the government rewarding the very individuals and banks that caused the worldwide economic crisis with hundreds of billions of taxpayer funded "bailout" money?

Also Winners?

It appears as though, the Bankers have not quite figured out how to take over the following two major geopolitical players - yet.

Or have they?

China

Guardian UK
[China's economy grows by 10.7%](#)

"Experts believe China is likely to leapfrog Japan this

best" buildings be owned by the big banks?

Foreigners working in Dubai

Many professionals from Europe and America did not bail out but instead stayed in Dubai. They continued to believe in the dream put forth by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. A dream that a world class city and international financial center could be built in the middle of a desert and set a good example of innovation and cooperation for the world to emulate.



[The Emirates Financial Towers signs contract to build the largest automated car parking facility in the world](#)

In some instances, trust between the individuals was damaged by the promoted conflict over money and some friends were turned into adversaries.

United Kingdom

[British economy will take years to recover despite end of recession, says CBI](#)

year to become the world's second largest economy."

Israel

American Israeli Chamber of Commerce - Feb 2010

["Start Up Nation - the Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" with Dan Senor, Co-author](#)

China and Israel?

Haretz.com August 25, 2009

['Israeli Miracle' is developing strong ties with Communist China](#)

"...

Zhou Hui, the commercial attache at China's Embassy in Tel Aviv, confirms that his government encourages Chinese firms to come to Israel. He says that the amount of trade between the two countries has increased dramatically since diplomatic relations were established - from \$50 million in 1992 to about \$4.5 billion in 2007. The balance of trade remains highly uneven: China exports goods and services amounting to some \$3.5 billion to Israel, whereas it imports only about \$1 billion-worth from Israel.

"China's presence in Israel as an

Telegraph.co.uk Thursday 25 Feb 2010

"Britain's economy will take until 2012 to get back to where it was before the financial crisis, despite the end of Britain's worst recession since the 1930s, the CBI has warned."

Europe

[Europe's Economic Slowdown Will Stretch Through 2009](#)

"The financial turmoil is proving deeper, wider and longer-lasting, while the downturn in the U.S. looks set to be more pronounced and protracted than assumed in the autumn forecast, the commission said in today's report".

Japan

[Japan's stagnant economy warns us that we are not yet in the clear](#)

"In 2010, we will discover if the West is also suffering from Japan-style problems."

Russia

[Russia's GDP falls 7.9%](#)

"The economy of resource-rich Russia contracted nearly 8% last year, as prices for its key commodity exports -- particularly oil -- fell sharply."

infrastructure builder is new," says Samuels. "In the past, China used to export mainly cheap labor to Israel. But in recent years Chinese companies have been realizing huge projects, including power stations, airports and railroads. A Chinese company built the subway in Tehran in the past decade. The CCECC is now building a 1,300-kilometer railroad along the entire length of Nigeria. Previously it won an \$8-billion infrastructure tender in Algeria."

...

Only recently a large team of Chinese state television employees visited Israel for a period of three weeks, to research the 'Israeli miracle.' Now they are visiting several places in the world that used to have large Jewish communities, in order to examine the Jewish community's influence on its surroundings. Their idea is to try to decipher the secret of the Jews' success."

So China and Israel are reportedly doing better economically while the

US, Europe and Japan and much of the rest of the world struggle? Is this because they are really smart? Or better at Geopolitics? Or both?

Is it possible that these three general groups have a vested interest in either controlling or curtailing Dubai's success?

- Large International Banking cartel – definitely would want, at the very least, to control the Emirates Financial Center in Dubai
- China – has its own designs for Africa and its natural resources and would most certainly want to at least influence if not control outright Dubai's role as a financial and commercial center.
- Israel – Does Israel want ANY Arab or Islamic initiative to succeed? H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum built an economic "Miracle in the Desert" in less than 2 decades. Israel has been at it 3 times as long and is not even close – apart from their out-of-proportion influence on America and its Foreign Policy.

Many wars have been fought over much less stakes than that represented by the stellar success that Dubai was having following the dream of Al Maktoum.

And, like all successful leaders that do great things, Al Maktoum and Dubai become a target for those who would rather bring a leader down or steal his work than put in the hard and honest work to achieve truly monumental and positive change in the "civilization" of our small planet.

But NO ONE ultimately benefits from war and continued conflict. Force ALWAYS recoils on the user, And, in the long run, the stupidity of war wipes out whole civilizations.

IF Israeli Intelligence were involved in the recent killing in Dubai as reported by the major media in Europe and the U.S. this would NOT be a good thing. It is one thing to take out a terrorist and quite another to direct the blame at others.

The famous [raid at Entebbe](#) was daring and hard to argue with. But leaving a trail that implicates other supposedly allied nations? What's that?

NY Times - 25 Feb 2010:

["European Press Links Israelis to Dubai Killing"](#)

Continued actions of this sort would only result in further conflict between European Countries and the Islamic World. So, IF you are involved Israel, please knock it off. There is plenty of business for Israel and China including electronic security and war-on-terror related intelligence business for your high tech firms.

Please don't assist the big bankers to further run up US, British and European debt. Don't give these wealth "harvesters" more excuses to increase their financing of both sides in the current war.

And - if the Dubai International Finance Center makes you a bit jealous - deal with it.

Or build your own.

Don't try to ruin it or steal it.

It is a nice looking building.

Could an economic boom and bust in Dubai have been orchestrated similar to the real estate scam in the U.S.?

Of course!

But, even if one did not look into the created conflict, these buildings could possibly be making the US, European and Japanese taxpayers a bit miffed when they see all that APPARENT affluence while they are struggling to make ends meet. And while they see US and European buildings get bombed.

Would these buildings make these taxpayers more likely to support an Islam versus the "West" conflict? Sort of a new "Crusade"? Would the Money Masters applaud that?

Like they did in Medieval Times?

Hmm ... Wonder if history repeats itself?

Suggested Further Resources:

[Crisis by Design](http://www.behindthewizardscurtain.com) - www.behindthewizardscurtain.com
John Truman Wolfe

Who REALLY controls America and directs its military power?

[Truth in Equity](#)

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Survey - **What would you like us to communicate in 2010?** We need your [feedback](#).

Please follow this [link](#) and take the survey:

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