

Since I was 10 or 12 years old in the mid to late fifties, I've listened to people ritually reinforce their beliefs about Godly America, free markets, competition, the rights of the rich and all the rest. At first I found the repetitions curious and a little amusing. But mostly I was perplexed. It was a long time before I realized the source of their odd behaviors and came to understand why it was happening and who benefited from it. Movies and TV could have been a source of truth and edification. But propaganda prevailed.

### **Faith: The Market is self regulating.**

“I believe in the free market!”

“You mean like you have faith in God? You don't know exactly who or what He is. His ways and means are a mystery. His purposes are hidden from you and unknowable by one who is so much less than Him. You believe He loves you. He loves not just life in general but you individually. God knows and loves you. Like God, rich free market capitalists love and care for you. Is that what you believe? Yes. I see. The rich and their corporations are our salvation. We must have faith if we are to be saved.”

“If I'm smarter or quicker than others, I deserve the money I make off of them.”

“So there's no such thing as fraud? Con artists aren't criminals, they're just smarter than we ordinary people? Caveat emptor is the whole of the law? If you're quicker, stronger than me and intimidate me in such a way that I give you what you want of me, is that exchange based on the threat of violence not a crime?”

### **Dogma:**

**Most stocks are owned by ordinary people's pension funds etc.**

In the linked article, Yves Smith isn't clear about who owns what. It muddies the waters, at first, though I don't believe that was her intention. It does say clearly that not many holders vote their stocks. That's how she debunks a study that claims 147 entities control 40% of the stock. She points out that few institutions, custodians or individual investors that own or control stocks actually vote them.

If so, who does exercise control over 'publicly' owned corporations and are they even a smaller clique than the flawed study asserted? If ten percent of the population has two thirds of the wealth and 90% have little or even [mostly] negative net worth, then who must have stocks that more than offset their debts? And most of them or their controllers don't vote the stocks. At the end she says even if the study is flawed it makes interesting observations. These are extensively reported, by Yves, but not until after the inspection of the flaws in the work she's 'debunking' have created a skeptical perspective.

Note: I have tremendous respect for Yves and her blog. They're an outstanding source of truth, in a world of programmed foolishness.

<http://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2011/08/study-asserts-world%E2%80%99s-stocks-controlled-by-select-few-bad-studies-that-confirm-conventional-wisdom-refuse-to-die-edition.html>

NC-Who-owns\_controls-the-stocks-8-22-11

**Competition [choice] in the for profit market will result in better quality and lower prices.**

Once sold on the idea that choice and competition in the free market are the panacea for all the world's problems, then its easy to convince the majority that it's we who must tighten our belts and suffer austerity, so that the corporations and the über investors that own them may succeed in the global market they've created for their own benefit. We must have less so they can compete and make a profit.

Has it ever been any different since the first priest, king, tyrant or other thug led a community to his or her own enrichment?

In 2003 Medicare was revamped with Part C, Medicare Advantage, which diverted coverage to private for profit insurance companies. To encourage its use in place of government Parts A and B insurance, Republicans encoded ~15% more money for gov to pay towards coverage if privatized Medicare was chosen. The result has been many confusing competing plans to choose from and difficulty in comprehending price differences, value, what's covered, copay and deductible costs and their effect on the bottom line. In spite of the hypothesis that competition would decrease costs, healthcare profits and prices have continued to skyrocket at increasing exponential rates.

Part D, prescription drug coverage also came in at this time and was the cover for the entire 'reform' of Medicare. It demands that all plans be private and that Medicare not negotiate lower prices for bulk drug purchases from big pharma. The price of drugs for the patients has been dramatically reduced as the CEO compensation and investor profits have soared along with costs to the government.

### **For profit reality**

“. . . Prices for many older medicines are low until the drugs are in short supply; then prices soar. But these higher prices do little to encourage more supply, because it can be difficult and expensive to overcome the technical and regulatory hurdles. And if supplies return to normal, prices plunge.

'Executives at Premier, a hospital buying cooperative, said that in April and May its members received hundreds of offers from obscure drug wholesalers to sell drugs in short supply at vastly inflated prices. Of the 636 offers that included a price, 45 percent were at least 10 times the normal rate and 27 percent were at least 20 times normal. . . .' Gardiner Harris, NYTimes August 19, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/20/health/policy/20drug.html>

NYT-Harris-Pharma-fraud-8-19-11

On WA Journal, 8-29-11, Harris spoke of withholding production and supply to manipulate price and doctors and hospitals that opt for more profitable procedures whether or not they're more effective. He said there's no conspiracy in this. He was also sure to inject the word regulation each time a free market negative, and most of the free market artifacts in the article were negative. was mentioned. Did his editor insist on that coupling?

Also exposed: ten percent of the pharmaceutical dollar goes to buy generic drugs that are 75% of sales. Ninety percent of the money is spent on the 25% of drugs sold that have [heavily advertised] name brands. Almost all drugs made in Asia, mostly China. Last US antibiotics production, Bristol-Meyers Rochester NY, closed in 2004.

### **In a global marketplace, those good jobs are gone forever for Americans.**

Now we can't even afford the shit at Walmart. They only care about theirs and the ten percent who have it. Competition and trade are good only for them. They don't believe they need us anymore, even as consumers as they more and more market overseas where they produce. See anti tax bullshit below.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/152134>

[Make It in America](#)

AN-Holland-Make-It-Here-8-22-11

### **Private for profit services are always better quality and lower cost than [wasteful] government doing it of, by and for the public on a non profit basis.**

How does it work to put another mouth at the trough? Medical, insurance, pharmaceutical, HCA and other including energy get benefits of gov funded research and profits too? All manner of costs to

corporations are externalized to government and we pay while they pocket.

**Government regulations and taxes are crippling the economy.**

See offshore production and marketing above and think about the cash they've stashed in offshore banks that the Republicans claim will be invested in jobs here if they're given a tax break to repatriate what originally came from we, who are being sacrificed, are soon to be in poverty and are about to die, consumers. [about to die in service to the glorious free market and its owners, our masters.]

Bernie Sanders on 10 biggest corporate tax avoiders.

<http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/653635>

<http://blog.buzzflash.com/node/12533>

BF-Sanders-corp-tax-avoidance-3-27-11

**Programming: Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.'**

**The size and spending of government is destroying individuals ability to prosper.**

**The legitimate functions of government are defense and the enforcement of contracts, especially debt.**

**Fiat money is a principal threat to economic security.**

[Note that concentration of wealth, corporate profits and greed, the real threat to America and the World, are not mentioned by our conservative friends. They see no evil in the masters they wannabe accepted by some day.]

Does gold money have intrinsic value? It has subjective value, if I believe religiously in gold or hoard shiny things in my nest like crows.

If I sell my house for gold, the value of the house is represented by the gold. Irregardless of any intrinsic value of gold, my gold's value is that of the house I sold. The gold represents a debt, contracted and settled by the buyer of the house.

If I now want another house, I may use the gold to buy it. I can contract the purchase, create a debt instrument in exchange for the house that may be redeemed with gold or any other form of currency that represents the value of the house I buy and is acceptable to the seller or mortgage holder.

In either the selling or buying of goods and services with gold money, the value is in the goods and services bought or sold. It's not in the gold. The same is true for any money. Money represents wealth. Money's not wealth itself.

But the gold fetish the disinformation about the nature of money are not the only specious thoughts that are programmed and ritually reinforced. The origins of debt and taxes are found in one sort of tyranny, another or both starting at least 5000 years ago.

See NC interview with David Graeber, Economic Anthropologist, linked below. Also check out theories about what money is: Circuitism; Chartalism; Commodity Fetishism.

Extracted from the interview of Graeber:

“Historically, there seem to have been two possibilities.

“One is what you found in Egypt: a strong centralized state and administration extracting taxes from everyone else.

...

“For most of Egyptian history they never developed the habit of lending money at interest. Presumably, they didn't have to.

“One could tell the history like this: eventually the Egyptian approach (taxes) and Mesopotamian approach (usury) fuse together, people have to borrow to pay their taxes and debt becomes institutionalized.

...

“Taxes are also key to creating the first markets that operate on cash, since coinage seems to be invented or at least widely popularized to pay soldiers – more or less simultaneously in China, India, and the Mediterranean, where governments find the easiest way to provision the troops is to issue them standard-issue bits of gold or silver and then demand everyone else in the kingdom give them one of those coins back again. . . .

...

“Mesopotamia was different . . . there were giant bureaucratic temples, then also palace complexes, but they weren't exactly governments and they didn't extract direct taxes – these were considered appropriate only for conquered populations. Rather they were huge industrial complexes with their own land, flocks and factories. This is where money begins as a unit of account; it's used for allocating resources within these complexes. Interest-bearing loans, in turn, probably originated in deals between the administrators and merchants who carried, say, the woollen goods produced in temple factories (which in the very earliest period were at least partly charitable enterprises, homes for orphans, refugees or disabled people for instance) and traded them to faraway lands for metal, timber, or lapis lazuli. The first markets form on the fringes of these complexes and appear to operate largely on credit, using the temples' units of account. But this gave the merchants and temple administrators and other well-off types the opportunity to make consumer loans to farmers, and then, if say the harvest was bad, everybody would start falling into debt-traps.

“This was the great social evil of antiquity – families would have to start pawning off their flocks, fields and before long, their wives and children would be taken off into debt peonage. Often people would start abandoning the cities entirely, joining semi-nomadic bands, threatening to come back in force and overturn the existing order entirely. Rulers would regularly conclude the only way to prevent complete social breakdown was to declare a clean slate or ‘washing of the tablets,’ they'd cancel all consumer debt and just start over. In fact, the first recorded word for ‘freedom’ in any human language is the Sumerian amargi, a word for debt-freedom, and by extension freedom more generally, which literally means ‘return to mother,’ since when they declared a clean slate, all the debt peons would get to go home. . . .”

<http://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2011/08/what-is-debt-%e2%80%93-an-interview-with-economic-anthropologist-david-graeber.html>

NC-Graeber-debt-money-8-26-11

Also see Leviticus on Jubilee.

### **Welfare [not banks, CEOs, and über investors] is robbing middle class and individual wannabes of wealth.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.' See that the greatest social spending, SS and Medicare, are self funded and solvent except that the trust fund has been borrowed and spent on MIC contractors and other privatization scams that dwarf even SS. Military spending is so much greater than welfare and food stamps that these social expenditures are negligible. By the way, slumlords, supermarkets, Giga Agribusiness and probably commodities speculators are not likely to support the end of such subsidies. After all, they, along with low paying employers like Walmart, are the final recipients of the subsidies. [That is: externalizations made possible by subsidies in the case of Walmart and many others.] How else can they profit from those who can't otherwise consume the products in which they deal?

#### **It's unAmerican!**

##### **0 Unions of criminal socialists are a threat to America.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought' has it that those who want get a fair share from the rich who have it all are a threat to the wannabes potential [or hypothetical] success at the goal of becoming rich by having others work/slave for the would be master.

##### **1 Only socialists want to redistribute wealth by taxing the rich.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.' The oft referenced 'founding fathers' saw it differently than those who presume to represent them today. The tariffs and property taxes that they used to finance federal and state governments were redistributive. They had enough sense to get the money from where it is and use it to keep the game going.

Today, growth or even maintenance of the economy is precluded by the concentration of wealth that conservatives defend. They refuse to allow the redistribution necessary if we are to continue to have an economy in America. If the treacherous rich all move to China with their money and property, where does that leave the rest of us? Of course the conned [Tea Party] supporters of corporatocracy see only their pitifully small hoard of money and [probably mortgaged beyond its market value] property. Thus they self destructively choose sides with the rich masters.

“. . . These taxes financed federal and state governments – they redistributed wealth from property owners and importers to the population as a whole. So it's a simple, indisputable fact that, like Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan, the Founding Fathers so revered by the Tea Partiers and politicians like Bachmann and Perry were very much in favor of wealth redistribution.

“Given that it's a defining function of the nation-state as we know it, in a country with a sane discourse, taking place among an informed populace, we'd only be debating whose redistributive policies have what effect on our political economy. But that's a discussion conservatives don't want to have. They don't want to oppose popular programs like Medicare on mere ideological grounds. So, like deficit hysteria or blanket claims that every progressive program is unconstitutional, they're trying to avoid that debate by vilifying the bedrock concept behind modern government – taxing the population based on what people can afford to pay, and providing public goods that are available to all, regardless of their fortunes.” - <http://www.alternet.org/story/152148/> Joshua Holland, 8/24/11

## **2 Unprivatized government services rob entrepreneurs of potential profit.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.' Of course it appeals to the specious base, who never look closely enough to see that another mouth at the trough is just another mouth at the trough.

## **3 Reduction in military spending [mostly on private contractors and wars of choice, as opposed to genuine defense, despite the shrub's distortions] is disloyal.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned thought. Seldom noted. Never questioned.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28983.htm>

<http://www.salon.com/news/terrorism/index.html?story=/opinion/greenwald/2011/08/29/terrorism>  
Eclectic-Defense-Security-Scams-threats-8-29-11

## **4 All government regulation and interference are harmful to our aristocratic rich patrons.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.' The 'aristocratic rich patrons' part is never stated. They are euphemized as the 'job creators.'

## **5 The science of man made global warming is false and is bad for business and the community.**

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thought.' [deny the existence of global warming](#) Exxon desires to continue to profit by the self destructive consumption of energy. They've induced in us the belief that it's we who desire to be destroyed in this way. The power of advertising may be second only to the “power of compound interest.”

## **Other common delusions found in the program that most Americans have internalized:**

Chomsky's article on decline, among other things, provides historical perspective on the American exceptionalism we've internalized.

'. . . The eminent American philosopher John Dewey once described politics as "the shadow cast on society by big business," warning that "attenuation of the shadow will not change the substance." Since the 1970s, the shadow has become a dark cloud enveloping society and the political system.

Corporate power, by now largely financial capital, has reached the point that both political organizations, which now barely resemble traditional parties, are far to the right of the population on the major issues under debate. . . .

"The post-Golden Age economy is enacting a nightmare envisaged by the classical economists, Adam Smith and David Ricardo. Both recognized that if British merchants and manufacturers invested abroad and relied on imports, they would profit, but England would suffer. Both hoped that these consequences would be averted by home bias, a preference to do business in the home country and see it grow and develop. Ricardo hoped that thanks to home bias, most men of property would "be satisfied with the low rate of profits in their own country, rather than seek a more advantageous employment for their wealth in foreign nations.

'In the past 30 years, the "masters of mankind," as Smith called them, have abandoned any sentimental concern for the welfare of their own society, concentrating instead on short-term gain and huge bonuses, the country be damned -- as long as the powerful nanny state remains intact to serve their interests. . . .'

**American Decline: Causes and Consequences** By Noam Chomsky August 26, 2011 "[al-Akhbar](#)"

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28957.htm>

ICH-Chomsky-American-decline-w-history-8-26-11

## **Examples of internalized speciousness, distraction, diversion, contrived attacks and other nonsense.**

### **1 Corporations are good Americans who care about their customers.**

"The corporations are the job creators. What would we do without them? They are good Americans. My boss is good to me. I won't bite the hand that feeds me. That's common sense. No intelligent person would do differently"

That's how they talk to their fellow employees. But how obsequious, weak, yielding, fawning and resigned are they when under the intimidating gaze of that boss? How schizophrenic is the reverence for the rich and their corporatocracy?

### **2 Isms.**

Ism: progressivism, liberalism, conservatism, libertarianism and all the religions, dogmas, faiths, theories or whatever provide frameworks for the development of thought. Those whose intellects are not yet developed enough to create their own understanding of the world, abstracted from the evidence of their senses, must rely on the isms for comprehension. Capitalism works for most Americans but others rely on socialism. Despite the domination by capitalism, some still use communism in the formation of thought. Most of us use such reinforced, prefabricated structures to make sense of the world from the time of our initial programming for all of the remainder of our lives.

In fact, most isms make nonsense of the world for the benefit of ruling classes. They make fools of the believers. One must believe truly in nothing but the evidence of one's senses. The senses may be extended by honest media, if such exists. But everything we have not seen, touched, heard, tasted or smelled personally, or through reliable extensions of consciousness, must be somehow tested. The truth is painful to behold but we must seek it out and embrace it, if we are ever to be free of domination by the lies of the truly greedy among us.

None of the isms have the answer. We must find it on our own. And it's not containable by any ism. Not protestantism, catholicism, buddhism, hinduism, muslimism, animism, paganism or anything else. Our salvation lies in confronting that which oppresses us, dominates and rules us. We must rid our self of the isms that threaten our existence with the lies and greed of the ruling class.

Their theories, from Rand, Friedman, Reagan, Clinton to Bush's no child will succeed if they can cut the funding and fire the teacher, have worked in the past forty to fifty years. But they never see it. Vouchers will deny poor schools sufficient funding while the rich can add to theirs for their own children. Typical of 'free market' solutions! But the morons eat that shit all day long.

Links to articles that are interesting and/or point out failed theories, propaganda ploys or other conservative and party line deceptions.

[http://www.alternet.org/story/152118/5\\_reasons\\_capitalism\\_has\\_failed](http://www.alternet.org/story/152118/5_reasons_capitalism_has_failed)

Chauncey DeVega Posted on July 18, 2011, Printed on August 25, 2011

Ritually reinforced conditioned 'thoughts.'

**Myth Number One:** The crisis over the [debt ceiling is an artificial panic](#). There will be no serious consequences if the United States does not resolve this issue by August 2, 2011.

**Myth Number Two:** Supply side, trickle-down economics are always the solution to America's financial woes.

**Myth Number Three:** Unions hurt the economy, take away jobs from American workers and impede economic growth. The way out of the Great Recession is to complete the destruction of the public sector workforce through a final demolition of unionized labor and the elimination of minimum wage laws.

**Myth Number Four:** "Job creators" are being punished by Obama's tax policies and any increase in taxes to resolve the debt crisis will further extend the Great Recession.

**Myth Number Five:** An increase in taxes on the wealthiest Americans is "class warfare" and proof of President Obama's "socialist" policies.

[5 conservative shiboleths](#)

AN-DeVega-5-shiboleths-7-18-11

notes:

{use Business Enterprise pdf below to calculate % finance, % trade and % other services v % productive industry. maybe not here but at some point the idea that more non productive business will increase competition and reduce prices while all the entrepreneurs profit is ludicrous! - Expand.}

[http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/business\\_enterprise.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/business_enterprise.html)

business-in-America-2007-census\_gov.pdf

[http://www.alternet.org/story/151303/five\\_of\\_the\\_nastiest\\_examples\\_of\\_wal-mart\\_evil](http://www.alternet.org/story/151303/five_of_the_nastiest_examples_of_wal-mart_evil)

Remember eye patch in the Epic Cafe who's lame comment on Apeshit was a criticism that since I liked Tolkein I shouldn't write allegory? If you like Volkswagens you approve of Hitler. Typical conservative 'logic' that contributes to their ad hominem arguments, the most coherent kind they're capable of mounting.