

THE LAST STRAW REPORT



**The 5 Surefire
Signs of an
Imminent Collapse**

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The Last Straw Report: 5 Surefire Signs of an Imminent Collapse

We've all heard the saying about *the straw that broke the camel's back*. In almost every case, it's used in the past tense...

And the reason for that is simple: In most cases, the people involved had no idea when something was about to happen. In their perception, things were simply going on as they usually do, and then snap... it was that last straw.

They had no system for determining *when* something important was going to take place. And without any accurate way of predicting when a potentially devastating event will occur, the knowledge that it will occur can only help you so much.



Generally speaking, this is how most Americans view the world around them. For the most part, we expect things to keep going just like they always have in the past, even if we understand that theoretically they are unsustainable.

For example, most of us take it for granted that global financial markets will continue to function, that the US will continue to be the world's leading super power, and that the rule of law will continue to prevail.

You can't blame people for not anticipating once-in-a-lifetime, cataclysmic changes. We expect normal conditions. That's why they're "normal."

And the continuation of these conditions is what we've all been taught since birth to rely on. Our government schools, media, and government have all worked to reinforce the idea that our way of life is secure. Sociological researchers refer to this mental state as the "normalcy bias."

Normalcy Bias

In short, the normalcy bias is a form of selective perception that makes it very *very* easy to underestimate the likelihood that a disaster could occur. We all have this to some degree.

For example, if you've lived in a region outside of Tornado Alley, Los Angeles for instance, it would be hard to take a tornado warning very seriously. Even though it's possible that a tornado could be on its way, it's very unlikely... FYI, you may or may not know that a tornadoes can strike virtually anywhere on the planet (they even occur in Hawaii).



This mental state is very powerful and it doesn't like to be challenged. That's why those who take precautions against devastating, yet rare, threats (i.e. preppers) are often ridiculed.

It's important to understand the normalcy bias because we all experience it to so degree, and because it constitutes one of mankind's largest blind spots...

History is littered with examples of civilizations that fell, simply because they were convinced that they would continue to prosper no matter what. They failed to adequately assess the threats they faced.

How? Well, I'll put it this way. Rome wasn't built in a day, and it didn't collapse in a day either. In fact, it took centuries...

...the straw just keep on piling up, unnoticed.

Do You Know the 5 Surefire Signs of a Global Collapse?

Here's the major fallacy with the "last straw" metaphor (the part that most people accept blindly): It's NEVER the last straw's fault.

It's the weight of ALL THE STRAW COMBINED.

Let me explain. Most patriots like us understand that the greatest threat to our way of life is a global financial collapse, much like the one we experienced in 2008, only even deeper...

Unlike most mainstream Americans, we understand that we are only a few pitchforks of straw away from a global financial catastrophe that will make 2008 look like a simple Thanksgiving with the in-laws.

In other words, as someone who was concerned enough to purchase this report, you are one of the few who truly realizes that America's finances (as well as the rest of the world's) are teetering on the brink of disaster. If you wait for the proverbial "last straw" to start preparing, as most Americans will, you'll be far, far too late.

That's why you must learn and watch for the 5 telltale signs that a global collapse is imminent.

The Early Warning System

Many media personalities have made a name for themselves by trying to put an exact date on when a global catastrophic event will take place.

Remember Y2K? The Mayan calendar's end of days? What about Harold Camping's multiple incorrect predictions of when the rapture will take place?

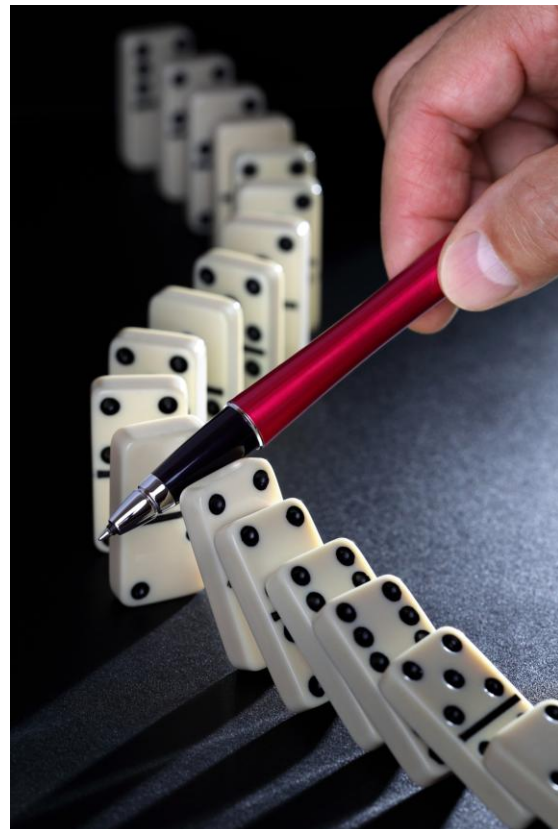
Placing a date on a manmade catastrophe is like believing you're going to win the lottery without even buying a ticket. It's a waste of time. That's because human beings aren't always predictable or rational (that's putting it mildly).

Fear is what drives financial disasters, and there's nothing very predictable about how or when a panic may occur. The key is not to look for a date, but to look for the signs that signal that fear is at an all time high.

After studying literally dozens of catastrophic financial collapses throughout history -- economic disasters that brought the proudest empires to their knees -
- I've identified 5 conditions that all of them have in common.

Even more crucial, I've applied them to what's happening in the United States today, and I don't like what I see...

Central banking scams, national defaults, currency collapses, martial law, and domestic spying... these conditions seem to go hand-in -hand throughout the history of mankind. When all 5 of these signals are present at the same time, extraordinarily hard times are all but certain...



By the end of this report, you'll see that 3 of these 5 signals have already occurred. Worse still, we're dangerously close to experiencing the other two.

Once these last two dominoes fall, the global financial collapse that many experts have predicted will lie in wait around any corner...

You might think that these signs are hard to spot, or that only economists with elaborate models can detect these points. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The good news is that each of the 5 signs can be observed by any patriot that cares to enough to **pay attention** (something shockingly few people do). With these five signs, you don't have to be Nostradamus to know that a disaster is imminent.

5. International Banking Cartels Takeover the US Government



Signs to watch for: The Federal Reserve using taxpayer money to bail out “favored interests,” i.e. ultra-wealthy members of the global banking elite.

"History records that the money changers have used every form of abuse, intrigue, deceit, and violent means possible to maintain their control over governments by controlling money and its issuance."

-James Madison

The number one threat to any nation's sovereignty is its finances. International trade, government services, and even national defense will begin to crumble without funding. Soldiers must be paid, etc...

Bankers know this and they always have. In fact, rogue international banking cartels with no loyalties to any nation or government have made it their business to influence the affairs of nations for centuries. It's very profitable work, if you can get it.

This is precisely why the American Founders like James Madison were so deeply suspicious of centralizing aspects of America's

finances, from its currency to its reserves. Many of America's founders were extremely leery of creating a centralized national bank.

Controlling the flow of the government's money is tantamount to dictating the government's actions (or inaction). No one knew this better than the founder of wealthiest family in human history: Mayer Amschel Rothschild.

"Let me issue and control a nation's money and I care not who writes the laws."

- Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744-1812)

A central bank would be easy for bankers like Rothschild to infiltrate and influence, while a decentralized banking system would help to diffuse the influence of the banking cartels. That's why George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison fought against the creation of a national bank... They failed.



Most people don't know this, but the US has already had 3 central banks throughout its short history. The First Bank of the United States was eventually signed into creation in 1791, by none other than George Washington himself.

Washington was pressured to create the bank to finance his new nation's war debts. Fortunately, Congress let the First Bank of the United States expire in 1811.

The Second Bank of the United States sprang up in 1817 with the supposed goal of regulating the creation of paper money, federal or private. The bank's charter expired in 1836, after Andrew Jackson led a knock-down drag out battle to end the bank. The building that housed the bank is now a historical landmark in Philadelphia (see nearby photo).

On his deathbed, Jackson was quoted as saying that his greatest accomplishment was: “I killed the bank.” That’s how strongly he felt about it...

The reason is simple: When international banking cartels are allowed to assume control of a nation’s finances, the cartel becomes a de-facto fourth branch of government. This unconstitutional branch of government grows like a cancer, eventually holding power over all other branches.



Because Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Jackson were all students of history, they knew that ceding control to the international banking cartels was one of the 5 “straws” that would break the nation’s back. These men fought constantly against the central bank because they each understood that a central bank would create a dangerous fiat money scheme that would ultimately destroy the nation they had so recently founded.

Fast Forward to Today

As you already know, The Federal Reserve is effectively America’s third central bank. Third try’s a charm, right?

President Woodrow Wilson enthusiastically signed the Federal Reserve Act into law on December 23rd, 1913. Like many other politicians throughout history, Wilson was so taken with the opportunities created by the central bank that he dismissed all of the evil that it would bring... the manipulation of American foreign policy, interference with the US economy, and the theft of every single American for generations through designed inflation.

A few years after signing it into law, Wilson openly regretted his part in bringing the United States closer to collapse, saying:

"I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the civilized world no longer a Government by free opinion, no longer a Government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men."

Through the creation of the Federal Reserve, Wilson had unwittingly given the international banking cartels an invitation to dominate US monetary policy, economic planning, opportunity, and even military spending.

Like the First and Second Bank of the United States, the Federal Reserve's stated goal sounded altruistic: *Maximize Employment, Stabilize Prices, and Moderate Interest Rates.*

As of the writing of this report, the Federal Reserve is **failing at all 3...**

The Fed is, on the other hand, doing a first-rate job of bailing out wealthy bankers, giving handouts to cronies, and stealing wages through inflation. If those were the official goals of the Federal Reserve, it would be an unparalleled success.

The REAL Purpose of the Federal Reserve System:

"It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and money system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning."

- Henry Ford

Most people don't understand how the Fed really works, something that the Federal Reserve uses to its full advantage. The two primary goals of the Fed are:

1) To create digital money at the click of a computer keystroke and loan it out to favored institutions (read: cronies) at interest, or 2) To bail out Fed cronies in exchange for favors sometime down the road...

In both scenarios, the Fed reaps rewards and the power from the money it creates... out of thin air! For decades the Fed has been flooding the marketplace with what is essentially fake money (real money can be redeemed for precious metals at the reserve bank). This causes the dollar to decline in value and crank up the wealth-eating scourge called inflation.

In fact, this is a good chance to clarify what the term "inflation" really refers to. Inflation certainly doesn't mean that the value of your money inflates. Nor does it mean that the value of goods has inflated, because those gains are erased once they've been sold for money, which is then worth less than it was before.

Inflation means that the money supply has been inflated, i.e. the Fed has been printing money. When there is more money in the marketplace than there is demand for that money, the value of that money decreases.

As Ron Paul explains, inflation is really a "hidden tax" that allows governments to do whatever they want without having to ask for more money.

Oddly enough, while inflation hits all Americans directly pocket book, it's the second "real" purpose of the Fed that draws the most public outrage: Bailouts.

When a major business fails to plan properly for hard times in the American marketplace, it goes bankrupt... unless it has friends in high places. The Federal Reserve has stepped in to bail out several high profile companies like Chrysler and Lockheed in the past, but what it did in the Great Recession was outright theft.

The Federal Reserve used taxpayer dollars, created out of thin air, to rescue private companies such as GM, Chrysler, and Solyndra. TARP money was used to bail out dozens of large banks that had made bad mortgage loans, rather than let these businesses eat the crow they had prepared for themselves.

But that's nothing when you consider this: The biggest recipients of the historic bailout were the very companies that had put the entire economy at risk by their reckless riverboat gambling in the first place.

Maybe you didn't notice that massive financial firms like Goldman Sachs, AIG, and JP Morgan Chase got bailout money first. That's no coincidence... that's why the Fed exists, to help out the other members of the international banking cartel... with our money. One hand washes the other.



4. Government Implements Total Surveillance



Signs to watch for: Unjustifiable blanket domestic spying programs that store the personal data of every US person (like the NSA's PRISM program).

“The National Security Agency’s capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn’t matter. There would be no place to hide. If a dictator ever took over, the N.S.A. could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back.”

— Frank Church, US Senator

Throughout history, governments have employed espionage in order to intercept the communications of their rivals, enemies, and even their allies. They do this by whatever means of communications is fashionable at the time, courier, telegraph, or even carrier pigeon.

To deny this fact is worse than naïve, it’s foolish. However, when the scope of a government’s spying grows to include all of its citizens, it signals a dangerous level of paranoia within that government. Iran monitors its citizens private communications, so does North Korea...

but nations based on First World principles are prohibited from doing so.

In fact, it worth pointing out that both Iran and North Korea (along with many other sinister governments) are failed states. These nations have collapsed.

In the United States, our Constitution prevents warrantless wiretapping, especially in a blanket fashion. Thus, spying on American citizens without concrete evidence is highly illegal, not to mention unethical.

For a government to cross that line, to take that kind of risk, it must be desperate to monitor and manipulate the opinions held by the public. Who would do such a thing?

Enter Leaked NSA Spying Program: PRISM

In early 2013, documents leaked to the press revealed an unprecedented NSA spying program that “listens in” on the communications of all Americans indiscriminately. PRISM, as the operation was known, confirmed what many concerned Americans sensed had been happening for years: The NSA is recording all of your calls, emails, and text messages.



It's not a paranoid fantasy... it's really happening. And now there's proof.

Thanks to mobile technology, almost everything you do now leaves a trail of digital breadcrumbs. The goal of PRISM is simply to collect and catalog all of these breadcrumbs for later use... These aren't just the breadcrumbs left by potential terrorists, or even petty criminals; these are the breadcrumbs left by ordinary, law-abiding American citizens...

When you send a digital message, even a simple text message, the data-trail you leave behind reveals all sorts of information (known as “metadata”) that snoops can use to determine when you sent the message, where you were when you sent the message, and even what type of device you were using.

In other words, your smart phone has been hijacked by the NSA. It’s now being used as a tracking device, reporting all of your digital activities to a government database. Is this data properly secured? Can hackers and foreign governments steal this data from the NSA? Who’s to say for sure... but now that hackers know this data exists, it’s only a matter of time until the NSA’s database gets breached.

Whether or not you agree with how ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden decided to reveal the classified information about this covert operation, I’m pretty sure that you do agree with the 4th Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects you from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Unfortunately, the US government today doesn’t feel the same way...

For those in the government, violating the Constitution has simply become a way of life. That’s why all of the data you’ve sent across digital networks since 2007 has been hacked... by the US government.

And instead of shutting down the unconstitutional spying operation known as PRISM, the politicians in Washington have simply opted to launch a worldwide manhunt for the leaker. That’s about how much they respect your right to privacy.

You Are Your Only Hope for Privacy

By and large, most Americans treasure their right to privacy. Not that most of us are doing anything illegal or suspicious, we simply treasure the peace of mind that comes from knowing that the secret police aren’t spying on your every move. Domestic spying is very common... in the third-world.

In many third-world nations, citizens live in fear of the secret police every single day. They know that at any moment they could be taken

away from their families for questioning, or taken as a political prisoner and sent to a concentration camp.

In third-world systems, infractions need not be proven in a court of law. They can be extremely arbitrary. For example, an informant can simply say that they saw you reading subversive literature, or talking to another subversive... and that's all it takes. You're sent to the gulag.

There is no due process of law or constitution, no 4th Amendment, no limits to that government's power.

Unfortunately, this is the direction that our leaders in the US are trying to take us. They want to burn through the constitutional firewall that has protected Americans for 225 years. Only, they're not doing it with guns or revolutions. Instead, they're bold new forms of technology. By snooping through your phone records, text messages, emails, and other sensitive information, the NSA can find out more about you than was ever possible a decade ago... *in just milliseconds*.

Google, Apple, Facebook, Yahoo, Skype...

You've heard of these companies, right? Well, what if I told you that they were in on it, as in, they were voluntarily giving the NSA access to your data. In fact, these companies literally made operation PRISM possible.

That's because these companies process the vast majority of the data on planet earth. These technology companies own incomprehensibly massive reserves of user data. That's exactly why NSA targeted them. It says so in Slide #4 of the presentation that Edward Snowden leaked (see photo).

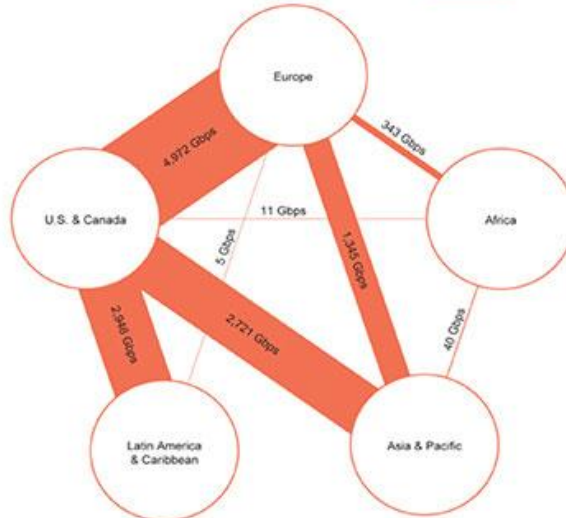


(TS//SI//NF) Introduction

U.S. as World's Telecommunications Backbone



- Much of the world's communications flow through the U.S.
- A target's phone call, e-mail or chat will take the **cheapest** path, **not the physically most direct** path – you can't always predict the path.
- Your target's communications could easily be flowing into and through the U.S.



International Internet Regional Bandwidth Capacity in 2011
Source: Telegeography Research

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN

Bear in mind, this is a classified presentation, presumably for training new NSA operatives and contractors. It's basically a blueprint of how the world's data flows into the US (where the NSA illegally collects it) from all corners of the globe.

The slide even lists all of the communications networks that are participating, or at least complying with the NSA's efforts. It reads like a list of corporate sponsors. These are companies that you know well and probably trust (or trusted) with sensitive information.

These companies process billions of messages on a daily basis. Many of these messages, as you know, are incredibly personal: Bank statements, conversations between loved ones, discussions about family finances, divorce, mental health, transactions, you name it.

Below is a full list of the service provider that the NSA has its hooks into, and what kind of data the National Security Administration is harvesting:



Gmail

facebook

msn

Hotmail

YAHOO!

Google



skype

paltalk.com

YouTube

AOL mail

(TS//SI//NF) PRISM Collection Details



Current Providers

- Microsoft (Hotmail, etc.)
- Google
- Yahoo!
- Facebook
- PalTalk
- YouTube
- Skype
- AOL
- Apple



What Will You Receive in Collection (Surveillance and Stored Comms)?

It varies by provider. In general:

- E-mail
- Chat – video, voice
- Videos
- Photos
- Stored data
- VoIP
- File transfers
- Video Conferencing
- Notifications of target activity – logins, etc.
- Online Social Networking details
- **Special Requests**

Complete list and details on PRISM web page:
Go PRISMFAA

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN

So what do these trusted corporations have to say for themselves?
The following is quoted directly from Wikipedia:

Microsoft: "We provide customer data only when we receive a legally binding order or subpoena to do so, and never on a voluntary basis. In addition we only ever comply with orders for requests about specific accounts or identifiers. If the government has a broader voluntary national security program to gather customer data we don't participate in it."

Yahoo!: "Yahoo! takes users' privacy very seriously. We do not provide the government with direct access to our servers, systems, or network." [29] "Of the hundreds of millions of users we serve, an infinitesimal percentage will ever be the subject of a government data collection directive."

Facebook: "We do not provide any government organization with direct access to Facebook servers. When Facebook is asked for data or information about specific individuals, we carefully scrutinize any such request for compliance with all

applicable laws, and provide information only to the extent required by law."

Google: "Google cares deeply about the security of our users' data. We disclose user data to government in accordance with the law, and we review all such requests carefully. From time to time, people allege that we have created a government 'back door' into our systems, but Google does not have a backdoor for the government to access private user data." [29] "[A]ny suggestion that Google is disclosing information about our users' Internet activity on such a scale is completely false."

Apple: "We have never heard of PRISM. We do not provide any government agency with direct access to our servers, and any government agency requesting customer data must get a court order."

Despite the emphatic denials, the information *is* being accessed, and has been since PRISM launched in late 2007. Why else would the US State Department spend every ounce of its political capital to hunt Snowden down?

So why have Apple, Google, Facebook, etc., denied their involvement? The answer may lie in something that Mark Rumold, attorney for the Electronics Frontier Foundation, told ABC News:

"If these companies received an order under the FISA amendments act, they are forbidden by law from disclosing having received the order and disclosing any information about the order at all."

What the heck is "Metadata?"

As the politicians ran damage control, suddenly they all started using the word "metadata," instead of "information," when discussing operation PRISM.

Apparently they thought that they'd get less pushback if they called it "metadata." Most people feel they have the right to privacy when it comes to their information, but metadata... well, before this incident most people didn't know they even had metadata.

In the word's of Senator Dianne Feinstein, "This is just metadata. There is no content involved." Senator Feinstein argues that the government has obtained critical, lifesaving data as a result of these unconstitutional spying programs. Conveniently for her, all of the terrorist plots that are being foiled by domestic spying programs are classified... so we may never know if PRISM has been effective, or not.

In many cases, the metadata is the most vital information you could possibly transmit. For example, you might send a text that says, "On my way." Those three words make up the content of that message, but they're nearly meaningless without context. In this example, the metadata could reveal where you were going when you sent the message.

Until recently, the word "metadata" was most commonly used in libraries and other storage centers. Library cards, for example, are metadata. They're not the book itself, but they have information about where the book is located within the library and who checked it out.

Most of us are familiar with the concept of leaving a paper trail. These trails consist of information that we leave behind as we go about our lives. If we were ever to come under investigation for anything, a judge could subpoena that information to be used against you in court. Otherwise, it's just sitting there, harmless and inert.

Part of what the government has been collecting from you and me through our mobile phones is similar. It's a very broad spectrum of information about a broad spectrum of the population.

However, if they feel the need to investigate you for any reason, they can zoom in YOUR information and tell exactly where you were when you sent a text message on April 2nd at 3:21 PM... who it was addressed to... and what it said.

Suffice to say, our "data trail" is like a paper trail on steroids. Most of update our data-trail every hour, if not more frequently.

The answer to the question, what can we do about it, is to cover your tracks on a daily basis. Don't worry, you don't need to start living like you're in a spy novel... you simply need to adopt new technology habits that obscure your trail.

What the Constitution Says About PRISM



Since the whole operation is classified, it's hard to know just how deeply invasive the PRISM operation really is. However, we do know that the 4th Amendment to the Constitution protects us from unreasonable searches. So it's important to recognize what exactly how the courts define what a "search" is.

According to the courts, a "search" occurs when 1) *a person expects privacy in the thing searched* and 2) *society believes that expectation to be reasonable*.

The precedent in this case was set in *Katz v. United States* in 1967, when the government recorded a phone call made in a public telephone booth. Because the public expects that calls placed in a telephone booth are private, the government's wiretapping was ruled to be a "search."

Because Katz didn't intend to conversation to be broadcast to a wider audience, and because his expectation was deemed reasonable, the search had been illegal and the recording had to be thrown out.

Are THEY Really Listening to My Boring Calls?

So, how does this impact you and me? As usual, the devil's in the details...

There's no question that most of us expect that our data will be kept private, but the way the NSA is collecting data gives the government a loophole. Because the data is not tied to specific individuals, but the entire nation, and because it's top secret, we simply can't challenge the espionage legally.

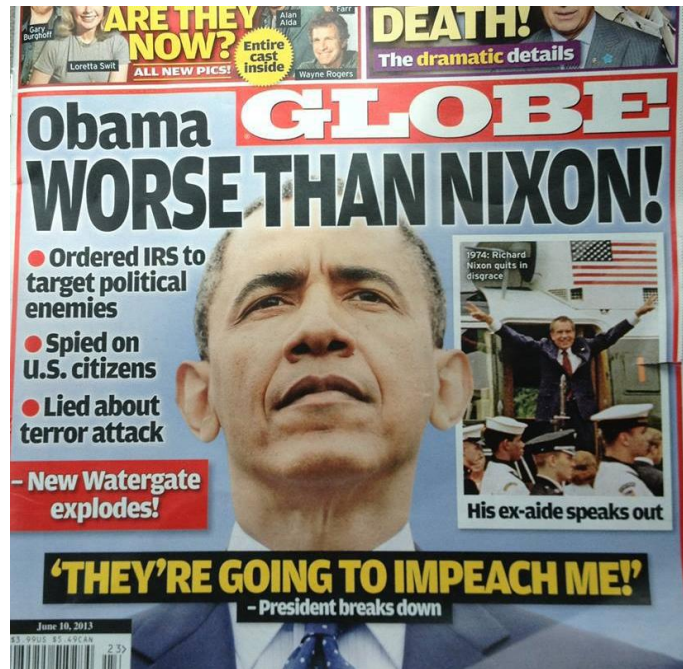
As long as you're not charged with a crime and this data is used as evidence, you'll never have a chance to face the government in a court of law.

We may never know how deeply our rights have been violated, or what the data is being used for.

The simple fact is that we can't really trust that our private information truly is... *private*.

We have two options 1) We can either give up on all mobile communications (very inconvenient, but possible) or 2) we can change the way we operate online.

3. Major Scandals Destroy Faith in Government



Signs to watch for: Frequent major scandals that prove that the government is failing to control its own sensitive information.

In 1973, President Nixon resigned after being tied to a scandal in which his operatives broke into a hotel to spy on the Democratic National Committee. The President stood accused of using the FBI, CIA, and even the IRS to harass his political enemies... Sounds familiar doesn't it?

The only difference is the names, the particulars, and the fact that President Obama, despite presiding over the greatest rat's nest of scandals in American history, has not been forced out of office.

It's not 1973 anymore, folks. Presidential administrations have gotten much better at covering their tracks. They learned from the Nixon debacle. Dirty tricks like the ones Nixon used are now carried out in a much more discreet and untraceable manner. The information is more tightly controlled than ever before. It's almost impossible to tie these dirty tricks back to the President...

So when sensitive intelligence about the Obama Administration leaks out, you can bet that someone is doing it on purpose. At the very least, the administration is failing to control its own information, a sign that advanced rot and decay are eating the Obama government from within.

You may think it's strange that I've chosen to include political scandals in my list of the top 5 signs of an imminent collapse, but I assure you it makes sense if you retrace my logic. Just as confidence is necessary to keep our financial system afloat -- confidence in the US economy, confidence in dollar, etc. -- confidence in the government's leadership is also crucial.

If American citizens don't have confidence in their government, they'll quickly lose faith in the systems that the government regulates. Foreign investors also keep close tabs on the government as they decide where to invest their capital. As scandals rock the public's confidence in Washington, financial and business leaders will be less willing to participate in the economy.

When confidence is in crisis, the entire economy becomes shaky and erratic, prone to sudden crashes and corrections.

What's Worse Than Scandals?

Yet there's another reason that scandals are a sign of major instability, one that I hinted at earlier. Leaks form when an organization is no longer able to control its own information, and public scandals are the result.

In fact, the main reason that governments hate scandals isn't because of the controversial information that escapes. Instead, what Washington truly hates is the fact that it can't control sensitive information. All of government's dirty secrets may go public at any time... They hate it.

What's more, other major organizations all around the world know that Washington has a leak -- it's losing control. Thus, America's allies are reluctant to share sensitive information, lest it get leaked to

the media. This is the loss of institutional confidence in the government.

Let's take a look at a few of the largest scandals that have recently emerged from the Obama regime.

NSA Spying

I've already covered this one extensively in Sign #2, but the fact that the NSA spying program was leaked is just as important that the fact that the PRISM program existed.

If there's anything that the government would like to keep secret, that's *how* it illegally collects information and *who* it spies on.

As the scandal has worn on, the list of targets has grown to include many of our allies, such as the French government, Brazil, and even German Chancellor Angel Merkel's cell phone. Needless to say, that's highly damaging information.



IRS Targeting of Tea Party Groups

Taking a page directly out of the Nixon administration's playbook, the IRS has been used to target the Obama administration's political enemies. In the case of the Obama administration, the IRS has been used to make life difficult for Tea Party organizations.

Even after it was uncovered that conservative political groups were specifically denied tax-exempt status, no heads have rolled. In fact, the IRS operative at the center of the scandal, Louis Lerner, was allowed to retire with full pension only a few months after pleading the 5th during the congressional hearing.

Benghazi

The response to the attack on the American embassy in Benghazi was an outrage, both during and after the crisis. No help was given to the occupants of the embassy during the attack, and officials in the State Department downplayed the attacks, blaming the whole incident on a YouTube movie that no one had ever watched...

Why? The Obama administration was in the midst of a re-election campaign, arguing, "Al Qaeda is on the run." Tell that to the four Americans who died in the attack.

Fast and Furious

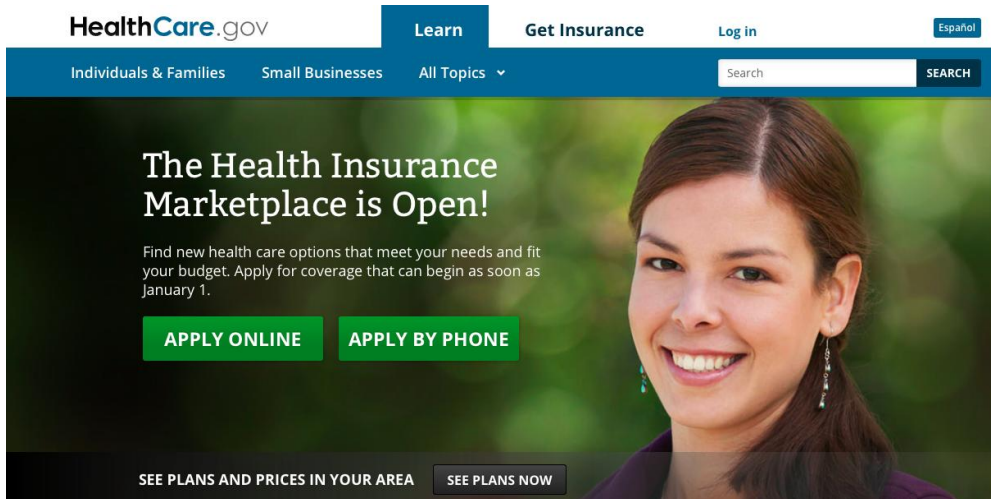
For a man who's made it his life's goal to disarm law-abiding citizens, Attorney General Eric sure has no problem arming the Mexican drug cartels that are terrorizing the communities along the Mexican border.

His gunrunning operation (codename: Fast and Furious) was supposed to be a "sting," but instead the ATF lost track of the weapons, one of which ended up being used on an American border agent. In case you're wondering, yes, this is the same Eric Holder who played a pivotal role in orchestrating the disasters at Waco and Ruby Ridge.

Obamacare

Many legal scholars believe the "individual mandate," the centerpiece of the Affordable Care Act, to be unconstitutional. However, after the Supreme Court narrowly upheld the nightmarish healthcare law, it seemed that nothing could stand in Obamacare's way...

Well, never underestimate government incompetence. After spending 3 years and \$500M to create the website designed to enroll America's un-insured, the website itself has become the greatest setback to implementing the healthcare law.



With more squandered taxpayer money, unhappy citizens desperately seeking health insurance, and Health & Human Services officials making endless excuses, the malfunctioning website has become yet another major sign of government incompetence.

Outcome

As I write this, polls show faith in the US government at an all time low. American citizens have lost not only their faith in the government to behave honorably, but also to competently cover up its own dirty dealings.

When a global superpower is unable to conduct its business in good faith or hide its flaws, these are surely signs of a major decline. By the time that mainstream Americans begin to wake up to the fact that their leaders are helplessly corrupt, their allies will have already abandoned the US. The realization that the US is a power in rapid decline will come quickly. Expect a rapid descent into panic.

Fear breeds irrationality, and the momentum of an American public gripped by fear may result in demonstrations, financial turmoil, and crisis.

Fortunately, many Americans like you will have already read the signs that America as we know it is collapsing. This will give you precious time to take action. Watch the headlines for news about the public losing faith in government, civil disobedience, and mass demonstrations.

2. Martial Law



Signs to watch for: The use of armored vehicles, SWAT teams, and other overwhelming shows of force, disproportionate to the crisis at hand.

“Today Americans would be outraged if U.N. troops entered Los Angeles to restore order; tomorrow they will be grateful! This is especially true if they were told there was an outside threat from beyond whether real or promulgated, that threatened our very existence.”

- Henry Kissinger

As you know, domestic surveillance and martial law are two sides of the same coin. Government officials, concerned about the weakness of their heavily indebted government, will justify a massive spying program in order to determine what the public is saying about them.

The pretense for the spying will be to capture intelligence about suspected terror cells. One of the ulterior motives, of course, will be to identify “enemies of the state.” That way, should they ever need to declare martial law, they will know who to detain first.

In 2013, we watched two massive exercises that can only be explained as training events for a police state crackdown. First, it was revealed that the NSA was collecting personal data on every single US citizen, using a massive digital dragnet. Second, of course, was the federal response to the Boston Marathon Bombing.

The response to this bombing was historic in size and scope, several times greater than what was needed to apprehend two malicious thugs. The reason for the overwhelming response was simple: It was a conditioning experiment...

Boston Lockdown: Martial Law Conditioning

As we watched the Boston manhunt unfold, most Americans gave authorities the benefit of the doubt. Surely, there must be more bombs planted throughout the city... more bombers... or a highly organized and dangerous terror network.

If, at some point on that fateful Friday, as we watched the manhunt unfold on live TV, most Americans thought: Surely, goal of this unprecedented show of force isn't to apprehend a single, potentially armed 19 year-old... *and they were completely right.*

No, I'm not going to go all "black helicopter" on you here. Instead, I'm going to propose something even more controversial. Since 9-11, authorities have been transforming law enforcement entities into what is more-or-less a domestic branch of the military.

City, state, and county law enforcement officials have been given incredible resources, in terms of both technology and training. These aren't simple crowd control resources, but rather equipment, training, and technology that are designed for a theater of war.



WANTED
BY THE FBI

Suspect in Boston Marathon Bombings

DZHOKAR TSARNAEV


Captured Captured

Multimedia: Images

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: July 22, 1993 Sex: Male
Age: 19 years old Race: White
Height: 5'9"

CAUTION

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is seeking the location of, and information about, Dzhokar Tsarnaev, a suspect in the bombings at the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. These bombings resulted in the deaths of three victims and the injuries of more than 170 people.

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

Many pieces of this law enforcement grid are dedicated to imposing lockdowns that could be best described as “martial law.”

Simply put, the government officials, politicians, and authorities that direct these new resources think of this new militarization of the police as a good thing. They want to show off their new capabilities.

They like seeing tanks driving down suburban cul-de-sacs and foot soldiers patrolling American neighborhoods. It gives them a sense of pride, power, and control. It makes them feel important.

What’s the good of spending all of that taxpayer money on all of this urban warfare equipment and manpower if they can’t show it off?

After all, politicians don’t typically set out to build totalitarian states... they simply do what comes natural to them.

And of course, it must be said that many of their constituents were very impressed with the response. In the minds of many American’s watching the 24/7 coverage, these politicians were doing “the right thing.”

Millions watched as the citizens of Watertown applauded the armored vehicles pulled out of their neighborhoods. In a way it was touchingly patriotic... but in another sense it was entirely un-American.

The Posse Comitatus Act prevents the US Armed forces from enforcing laws within the states. However, with the inception of the post 9-11 militarization of the police, that 134 year-old law has been rendered largely symbolic.

Many Americans subscribe the following opinion:

Sure, martial law “lite” was implemented to apprehend a single 19-year old... that turned out to be unarmed. And sure, the only shooting that happened that afternoon came from police, who engaged in “contagious fire” at the boat in which Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was hiding...

But what really matters is that everything worked out in the end. The ends justify the means... It’s OK to bring daily life to a screeching halt for an entire major city for an entire day, as long as everything works out. Martial law is acceptable, as long as the good guys eventually catch the bad guy...

Is that the new American way? According to your government, the answer is *yes*.

The Martial Law Experiment

After a firefight with the bombing suspects that left one officer dead and another in critical condition, Governor Deval Patrick and Boston police announced that a “massive manhunt” was underway.

To aid in the manhunt, mass transit was suspended, and everyone in Boston was asked to *not* go into work. In fact, Governor Deval Patrick explained the Bostonians should lock their doors, stay inside, and “shelter in place.”

That’s a very interesting choice of words for the governor to use... It’s almost as if authorities expected that Americans to be prepared to “shelter in place” at a moment’s notice. *Why in the world would they assume that?*

Perhaps it’s because authorities have been preparing to use citywide lockdowns, similar to Boston’s, to handle major crises for a long time now. This is the first trial run of the new “civilian national security force” that President Obama famously talked about.

This is What American Crisis Response Looks Like

The fact that the citizens of Boston were completely unprepared to “shelter in place” for even 24-hours didn’t change the plan...

In other words, this is the type of response Americans can expect the next time a crisis occurs. And because the outcome in Boston was perceived as positive, don’t be surprised if officials in your community use the same tactics.

Curfews, transportation shutdowns, and citywide house arrests have now become “proven” tactics, as a result of the Boston experiment. If you are unprepared to shelter in place during an emergency, you are simply failing to adapt to the new martial law that’s being imposed right here in the USA (See the next article for action steps).

As much as it pains me to write this, it appears that Constitutional liberties can be suspended at the drop of a hat. “Papers please,” may soon become a common phrase in America.

Bay Area News, Flickr



And think about this, Boston residents were “asked” to shelter in place, but Watertown residents (population 32,248) were ordered to stay in their homes for an entire day... by men with body armor and automatic weapons.

Watertown residents that stepped outside to let Fido out to go pee were greeted with the wrong

end of an assault rifle. All for one 19-year-old suspect...

Imagine how long military action like this could last in the event of a larger attack? Or a natural disaster? Or civil unrest?

When the next series of nationwide demonstration break out, like the Occupy Wall Street protests, be prepared to see a disaster declaration and widespread martial law.

1. US Dollar Loses Reserve Currency Status



Signs to watch for: Shrinking confidence in the Federal Government abroad, falling dollar, US government shutdowns.

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

You may not agree with FDR’s policies, but there’s no doubt that his famous words regarding fear are as true today as they were back then, especially when applied to the economy.

Let me explain. If you were to ask an economist what makes an economy stable, they might say something like “growth” or “solvency.” But if you were to ask a history scholar, their answer would be much more revealing. Because historians know that confidence, above all else, is what makes an economy function.

In other words, it doesn’t matter if all aspects of the national budget, GDP, and debt pencil out. If fear takes hold of the markets, that fear can destroy almost any level of economic stability in a matter of days. It’s unfortunate, but true.

Confidence in the Dollar

Many Americans are unaware that the US Dollar is the world's "reserve currency," meaning that governments all over the world keep significant quantities of dollars in their foreign exchange reserves. They do this to stabilize their own currencies and economies. They also use US Dollars for many international transactions.

Why? Because the US Dollar is the most trusted, widely circulated currency on the planet, thus trading in dollars saves them money in exchange rates.

That's the same reason that all OPEC prices are quoted in US Dollars and have been since 1971. It all comes back to confidence in the US economy and the confidence in our currency.

The other thing that most Americans don't realize is how much the US Government benefits from its currency's status. If the dollar were to lose its status as the world's reserve currency, the Fed would be suddenly up a creek...

Suddenly, the demand for US bonds and other dollar-asset would plummet and the Federal Reserve would have to pay crushingly high interest rates, just to sell its bonds... and that's just to service America's over 16 trillion dollars in debt.

Fear would cause investors in BRIC and OPEC nations to sell off their dollars, causing a dollar collapse and bringing with it hyperinflation and the ruin of the American economy.

If the Fed didn't see the 2008 "credit crisis" coming, do you think it will spot the dollar collapse before its too late? I have my doubts...

Already, several OPEC nations have pulled out of the "petrodollar" system, opting to trade in Euros instead. Leaders in China and Russia have called for OPEC to move away from the dollar and adopt a "super-sovereign" reserve currency.

The fact is that several global powers have an interest in seeing the dollar replaced as the world's reserve currency. Each time that negative data about the US economy is reported, their case grows stronger.

Why Is The Dollar's Reserve Status in Jeopardy?

In a nutshell, decades of massive federal deficits have left the United States with debt that literally **no one on planet earth actually expects it to ever repay.**

However, since almost every major economy holds some of this debt, it's in their self-interest that the US continues to make its payments on time. As long as America retains its excellent credit rating, it can afford to keep the game going. If anything should disrupt these payments, the game may be up...

Here's a concise explanation, published by the Daily Gains Letter:

"To begin with, we have increasing national debt. It's not very commonly said in the mainstream, but the U.S. government has the most debt, in nominal terms, than any other country in the global economy. And after Congress came to a consensus, it pretty much promised it would increase further—we will probably see such an increase in January. The debt of the U.S. economy is increasing more than the income—not a sustainable trend.

Then we have the continuous printing of the U.S. dollar through quantitative easing. Currently, the Federal Reserve prints \$85.0 billion a month in hopes of economic growth. You have to keep in mind that the more it prints, the lesser the value of the U.S. dollar will become due to its abundant supply.

All things considered, one thing that should also be kept in mind is that the reserve currency changes over time. Those who are familiar with history will know that the British sterling pound was considered a reserve currency not too long ago, before the U.S. dollar took that status after World War II."

Surgeons Replaced by Mechanics

With our extensive economic models and research, how did we get here? For several generations, Keynesian economists have been taught that the economy is a machine. That's why we always hear mainstream economists using the metaphor of an engine to describe

the economy, i.e. it needs to be *kick started*, or that it's *cranking up*, or *cooling off*.

What these economists fail to recognize is that the economy is a living organism, made up of people whose decisions aren't always predictable or rational. Thus, emotions can overwhelm the economist's best-laid plans.

Former Fed chairman Alan Greenspan admitted this oversight recently in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*. Since the collapse, Greenspan sought to answer the questions:

Why didn't the Fed predict the greatest collapse in a generation? And why didn't anyone in mainstream economics see the collapse coming?

"It all fell apart, in the sense that not a single major forecaster of note or institution caught it... The Federal Reserve has got the most elaborate econometric model, which incorporates all the newfangled models of how the world works—and it missed it completely," Greenspan explained.

According to Greenspan, his quest brought him back to something that Ayn Rand told him many years ago. According to Rand, unless Greenspan considered human nature and its irrational tendencies, Alan would "miss a very large part of how human beings behaved."



It boils down to one simple problem. Government bean counters all tend to have the same blind spot: They make policy decisions based on the idea that citizens will react a certain way. When the citizens don't behave the in the manner that was expected, the bean counters are baffled.

The Debt Ceiling Battle

The recent Tea Party influence in Congress has resulted in several bitter showdowns over the nation's finances. Debt-ceiling battles are increasing in both intensity and frequency. While the goal of these negotiations is to cut government spending, the brinksmanship comes at a cost.

Battles over America's debt-ceiling, despite the goal of setting the nation's finances in order, undermine confidence in Washington. Once again, confidence is the currency of government. When it runs out of confidence, both at home and abroad, collapse is imminent.

If the next round of budget "negotiations" goes awry, the dollar could be in for a major shock.

Follow the Billionaires' Money

It's impossible to know when all of these signs will appear at the same time, or how quickly they will accumulate into a full-blown collapse. The good news is that you have the ability to hedge against a collapse like this.

How? Simply follow the investment moves of the world's billionaire investors. These billionaires, such as Warren Buffett and George Soros are no mere investors. They have more money than most treasuries and they're privy to insider knowledge that literally no one else on earth has.

When the financial meltdown of 2008 was unfolding, these guys had a private pipeline of information on what was coming... they literally know in advance when to sell. When the bailout meetings were taking place, they knew exactly where to place their money to benefit the most. Investors like Carl Icahn and Warren Buffett scooped up stocks at rock bottom in 2008, when the DOW was under 7,000.

Now, the Dow is back over 15,000 and these investors are preparing to flee the ship before it sinks. By keeping a close eye on the words and actions of the most influential people in the country, you can learn to protect yourself against the collapse.

Icahn, Buffett, and Soros frequently give out important tidbits of information when they speak, especially when asked for the reasons behind any unorthodox or uncharacteristic financial moves. These elite investors have connections to every source of insider information, from the government to private organizations.

They have to ensure that their fortunes are at minimal risk, and they attend many high level, closed-door meetings in order to do just that...

Billionaires Are Dumping Stocks, Bonds, and Dollar Assets

Here's a quick update from Newsmax on the state of these billionaire portfolios:

“Despite the 6.5% stock market rally over the last three months, a handful of billionaires are quietly dumping their American stocks . . . and fast.

Warren Buffett, who has been a cheerleader for U.S. stocks for quite some time, is dumping shares at an alarming rate. He recently complained of “disappointing performance” in dyed-in-the-wool American companies like Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, and Kraft Foods.

In the latest filing for Buffett’s holding company Berkshire Hathaway, Buffett has been drastically reducing his exposure to stocks that depend on consumer purchasing habits. Berkshire sold roughly 19 million shares of Johnson & Johnson, and reduced his overall stake in “consumer product stocks” by 21%. Berkshire Hathaway also sold its entire stake in California-based computer parts supplier Intel.

With 70% of the U.S. economy dependent on consumer spending, Buffett’s apparent lack of faith in these companies’ future prospects is worrisome.

Unfortunately Buffett isn’t alone.

Fellow billionaire John Paulson, who made a fortune betting on the subprime mortgage meltdown, is clearing out of U.S. stocks too. During the second quarter of the year, Paulson’s hedge fund, Paulson & Co., dumped 14 million shares of JPMorgan Chase. The fund also dumped its entire position in discount retailer Family Dollar and consumer-goods maker Sara Lee.

Finally, billionaire George Soros recently sold nearly all of his bank stocks, including shares of JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Goldman Sachs. Between the three banks, Soros sold more than a million shares.”

- Newsmax, 2013 “Billionaires Dumping Stocks, Economist Knows Why”

Of all the signs of an imminent collapse, many of you may find the investment moves of billionaires the most convincing, and the most helpful. By watching what these billionaires say and do, you can more accurately determine both when a collapse is coming, and how to take evasive actions with your own investments.