

If The U.S. Government Keeps Spending Money Like This We Are Doomed And If The U.S. Government Stops Spending Money Like This We Are Doomed



If you increased your credit card spending by a couple thousand dollars per month would your lifestyle improve? Of course it would. By going into large amounts of debt, it is possible to live a lifestyle that you can't really afford, at least for a while. But if you keep racking up huge amounts of credit card debt every single month, eventually it gets to a point where it is extremely difficult to even keep up with the minimum monthly payments and the credit card companies will not lend you any more money. Well, on a larger scale it is the same thing with government debt. Right now, the U.S. government is spending more than a trillion dollars more than it takes in every year. Even if the U.S. government spends all of that money on incredibly [stupid stuff](#), it still gets into the pockets of ordinary Americans. In turn, those ordinary Americans use that money to pay the mortgage, buy food, shop at the mall, etc. All of this borrowing and spending by the U.S. government has created a "false prosperity" bubble that is not real. It may feel real to you right now, but it is unsustainable by definition. If the U.S. government suddenly started spending only the money that it actually brought in every year, our economy would be doomed and all of this "false prosperity" would rapidly disappear. But if the U.S. government continues to rack up debt at this pace we are doomed as well. In fact, every dollar that gets borrowed makes our eventual collapse ever worse. We are heading down the exact same road that Greece has gone. Eventually the rest of the world is not going to lend us gigantic mountains of super cheap money anymore. When the flow of cheap money stops, it can be extremely painful. Anyone that has ever seen the interest rates on their credit cards go above 20 percent knows how this feels. If we had addressed these problems as a nation a decade or two ago, perhaps we could have found a solution. But now there is no way out under our current financial system and a devastating economic collapse is on the horizon no matter what we do.

If there was a Hollywood movie where some crooks successfully stole 150 million dollars, what would you think of those crooks?

Would you have admiration for them? Would you be disgusted with them?

Would you feel like your intelligence was insulted because nobody could ever steal 150 million dollars and get away with it? Well, right now the federal government is stealing approximately 150 million dollars from our children and our grandchildren every single hour. That's right - the U.S. government is borrowing an astounding 150 million dollars an hour that our children and our grandchildren will be expected to deal with. It is a theft so vast that it is almost unimaginable.

So what should be done? A lot of people out there think that our problems would be solved if the government would just quit borrowing so much money. Well, it is just not that simple. Look at Greece. They were forced by the EU and the IMF to dramatically reduce government spending. But when Greece reduced government spending, that caused the economy to shrink rapidly and it caused tax receipts to go down more than expected. So Greek budget deficits were even larger than anticipated and so Greece was forced to cut spending even more. But that created even more economic problems.

A recent article [by John Mauldin](#) described the nightmarish effect that this cycle has had on Greece....

And as Greece began shake and bake its way to "austerity," the very act of cutting deficits pushed the country into recession, which lowered tax revenues and increased expenses, putting the elusive goal of a balanced budget even further off. We should quickly note that this is not just a Greek problem. Spain's "draconian" cuts have meant that its 6% deficit target for the year has this week been raised to a more likely 8%, making it harder to get back to even.

For country after country, this is the Endgame. It is the end of the Debt Supercycle. Debt has grown to the size that it cannot be sustained. The market will not lend any more money on terms that can be afforded, and any efforts to cut spending and raise taxes will result in an even worse economy, in various degrees of recession, with falling revenues and rising costs.

This is what happens when a country that has been spending far beyond its means is forced to dramatically cut back.

Those that are convinced that balancing the federal budget in the United States will be relatively painless should take a close look at what is happening in Greece.

As I have written about [previously](#), the Greek economy has been plunged into a 21st century "Great Depression". In Greece, [20 percent](#) of all retail stores have already shut down, the unemployment rate for those under the age of 24 is sitting at [39 percent](#), and one third of the entire nation is living in poverty.

And this is only just the beginning for Greece. Things are going to get even worse.

Unfortunately, many believe that the United States is destined to experience far worse pain than Greece is currently experiencing. For example, Peter Schiff insists that the United States is in worse financial shape than Europe at this point. Just check out [this video](#)....

Anyone that attempts to downplay the [U.S. debt](#) problem is making a serious mistake. Yes, we are still able to borrow trillions of dollars for next to nothing, but that is going to come to an end.

Remember all of those "suckers" that signed up for mortgages at "teaser rates" that later got jacked up dramatically?

Of course you do.

So what happened to them?

When the rates went up many of them ended up losing everything.

Well, we have gotten ourselves into the exact same kind of a position. All of this cheap money has enabled us to live very nicely for now, but when the cheap money ends the nightmare will begin.

Right now, our debt is growing much, much faster than our economy is. Between 2007 and 2010, U.S. GDP grew by only 4.26%, but the U.S. national debt soared [by 61%](#) during that same time period.

What would your household finances look like if your total debt grew by 61 percent next year but your income only grew by 4 percent?

When I was a little boy, the U.S. national debt was considered to be a huge national crisis. Politicians from both major political parties were promising that they would fix things.

But what has happened since then?

Well, when Ronald Reagan took office the U.S. national debt was less than [1 trillion dollars](#). Today, the U.S. national debt is over [15.2 trillion dollars](#).

During 2011, the federal government went into more debt than the U.S. government accumulated from the time that George Washington became president to the time that Ronald Reagan became president.

That may be hard to believe, but it is true.

During fiscal year 2011, the U.S. government spent [3.7 trillion dollars](#) but it only brought in [2.4 trillion dollars](#).

That is utter insanity, and yet most Americans have become convinced that this is "normal" and that there is nothing to worry about.

It is hard to grasp how much money a trillion dollars is.

If right this moment you went out and started spending one dollar every single second, it would take you [more than 31,000 years](#) to spend one trillion dollars.

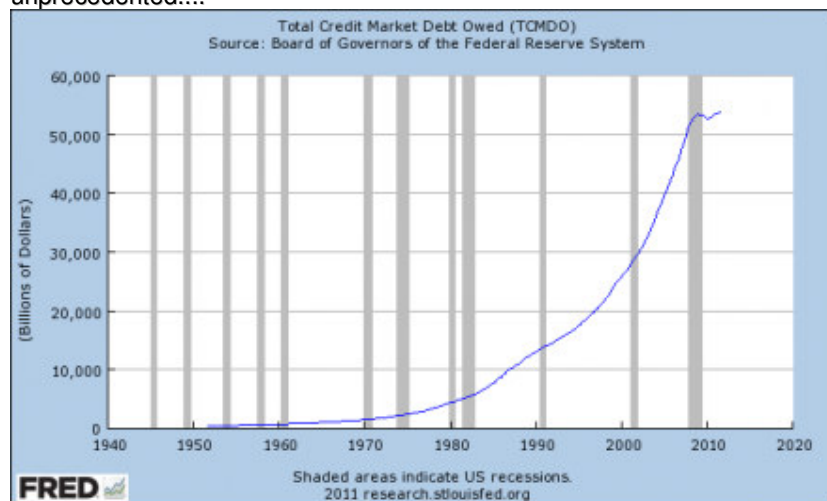
That is how much money a trillion dollars is.

And things look even worse when you look at the balance sheet of the U.S. government.

The U.S. government has total assets of [2.7 trillion dollars](#) and has total liabilities of [17.5 trillion dollars](#). Those liabilities do not even count [4.7 trillion dollars](#) of intragovernmental debt that is currently outstanding.

But it is not just the federal government that has been living a fantasy.

The chart posted below shows the growth of total debt in America over the past several decades. Consumers, businesses and government officials have been on a debt binge that is absolutely unprecedented....



The scary thing is that even with all of this borrowed money, our economy is still in the dumps.

So what in the world is it going to look like when the debt bubble totally bursts?

Even with all of this "borrowed prosperity", anger at the government is rapidly growing. A recent Gallup poll found that "satisfaction with government" in the United States is now at an all-time record low of [29 percent](#). So how angry will the American people be when all of this "borrowed prosperity" disappears? When this whole thing comes tumbling down, a lot of people are going to blame our problems on "capitalism". In fact, it is already happening. Just check out what the founder of the World Economic Forum [is saying](#)....

"We have a general morality gap, we are over-leveraged, we have neglected to invest in the future, we have undermined social coherence, and we are in danger of completely losing the confidence of future generations," said Klaus Schwab, host and founder of the annual World Economic Forum.

"Solving problems in the context of outdated and crumbling models will only dig us deeper into the hole. "We are in an era of profound change that urgently requires new ways of thinking instead of more business-as-usual," the 73-year-old said, adding that "capitalism in its current form, has no place in the world around us."

But capitalism is not the problem. Capitalism has produced the greatest eras of prosperity that the world has ever seen.

No, the real problem is our debt-based financial system that is managed and run by the central banks of the world.

You see, debt-based central banking is not capitalism. But way too many people equate the two.

A lot of people cannot even imagine this, but theoretically you could have capitalism without any debt whatsoever.

But what we have today is a financial system that has debt as the very foundation. And such a system is inevitably going to fail someday.

As I have written about so many times before, the Federal Reserve is [at the very heart](#) of our economic problems here in the United States.

The Federal Reserve was designed to be a perpetual debt machine. And it has performed that task very well. The U.S. national debt is now more than 5000 times larger than it was when the [Federal Reserve](#) was first created.

So yes, even though things seem somewhat "stable" for the moment, there are all kinds of reasons to be concerned about the viability of our economy and our financial system in the years ahead.

The other day, I was quoted in a [Reuters article](#) about our coming economic problems....

"Most people have a gut feeling that something has gone terribly wrong, but that doesn't mean that they understand what is happening," he said. "A lot of Americans sense that a massive economic storm is coming and they want to be prepared for it."

Of course the Reuters reporter did not even bother to spell my name correctly, but at least he got the quote right. A great economic storm is coming.

Don't let this false prosperity and this "calm before the storm" fool you.

We are living in the greatest debt bubble the world has ever seen, and no matter how it plays out there is going to be a massive amount of pain. You might want to get yourself and your family prepared for that.



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[**The Global Elite Are Hiding 18 Trillion Dollars In Offshore Banks**](#)

The Global Elite Are Hiding 18 Trillion Dollars In Offshore Banks



In recent days, the fact that Mitt Romney has millions of dollars parked down in the Cayman Islands has made headlines all over the world. But when it comes to offshore banking, what Mitt Romney is doing is small potatoes. The truth is that the global elite are hiding an almost unbelievable amount of money in offshore banks. According to shocking research done by the IMF, the global elite are holding a total of [18 trillion dollars](#) in offshore banks. And that

figure does not even count any money being held in Switzerland. That is a staggering amount of money. Keep in mind that U.S. GDP in 2010 was only 14.58 trillion dollars. So why do the global elite go to such trouble to hide their money in offshore banks? Well, there are two main reasons. One is privacy and the other is low taxation. Privacy is a big issue for those that are involved in illegal enterprises such as drug running, but the biggest reason why people move money into offshore banks is in order to avoid taxes. Some set up bank accounts in foreign nations because they want to **legally** minimize their taxes and others set up bank accounts in foreign nations because they want to **illegally** avoid taxes. You would be absolutely amazed at what some large corporations and wealthy individuals do to get out of paying taxes. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the rest of us don't have the resources or the knowledge to play these games, so we get taxed into oblivion. So why do they call it "offshore banking"?

Well, the term originally developed because the banks on the Channel Islands were "offshore" from the United Kingdom. Most "offshore banks" are still located on islands today. The Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the Isle of Man are examples of this. Other "offshore banking centers" such as Monaco are actually not "offshore" at all, but the term applies to them anyway. Traditionally, these offshore banking centers have been very attractive to both criminals and to the global elite because they would not tell anyone (including governments) about the money that anyone had parked there.

These days some governments (particularly the U.S. government) are trying to change this, but we certainly will not see the end of offshore banking any time soon. The amount of money that goes through these offshore banks is absolutely astounding. It has been estimated that [80 percent](#) of all international banking transactions take place through these offshore banks. [\\$1.4 trillion](#) is being held in offshore banks in the Cayman Islands alone. [One article in the Guardian](#) estimated that a third of all the wealth on the entire globe is being held in offshore banks, and others believe that [as much as half](#) of all the capital in the world flows through offshore banks at some point. Obviously, all of this tax avoidance means that governments around the world are missing out on a whole lot of money. It has been estimated that the U.S. government is missing out on [\\$100 billion](#) a year because of these offshore banks. Others would put that figure significantly higher. Avoiding taxes is a game that the global elite have mastered. They are playing a whole different ballgame than you and I are. They don't just sit there like idiots and get blasted with taxes. Instead, they hire the best experts and they employ every trick in the book to hold on to as much money as they possibly can. These days, taking advantage of offshore tax havens is not that complicated to do. The following is from a [recent Politico article](#)....

A plausible scenario plays out like this: I hire an accountant. Doing her job, my accountant tells me that if I sign a few legal documents and route my money through a small Caribbean island, I could keep more of my paycheck and pay a lower tax rate. I may have earned my money in the United States, but legally I can claim that it was, in fact, earned in a tax haven.

If it is legal, perhaps more of us should look into this. After all, if playing these kinds of games is good enough for Mitt Romney, then why isn't it good enough for all the rest of us?

During a campaign stop recently, Romney said the following....

"I can tell you we follow the tax laws" I certainly believe him when he says that. But it is what he said next that is troubling.... "And if there's an opportunity to save taxes, we like anybody else in this country will follow that opportunity." I certainly believe him when he says that too. ABC News recently revealed that Bain Capital has established an astounding [138](#) different offshore funds in the Cayman Islands. Something has got to work pretty well to want to do it 138 times. But Bain Capital was also very busy over in other offshore banking centers as well. One of the largest shell companies that Bain set up down in the Caribbean was called Sankaty High Yield Asset Investors Ltd. It did not have an office in Bermuda and it had no staff in Bermuda. But it helped clients of Bain Capital avoid a whole lot of taxes.

The following comes from a [2007 Los Angeles Times article](#)....

In Bermuda, Romney served as president and sole shareholder for four years of Sankaty High Yield Asset Investors Ltd. It funneled money into Bain Capital's Sankaty family of hedge funds, which invest in bonds and other debt issued by corporations, as well as bank loans. Like thousands of similar financial entities, Sankaty maintains no office or staff in Bermuda. Its only presence consists of a nameplate at a lawyer's office in downtown Hamilton, capital of the British island territory. "It's just a mail drop, essentially," said Marc B. Wolpov, who worked with Romney for nine years at Bain Capital and who set up Sankaty Ltd. in October 1997 without ever visiting Bermuda. "There's no

one doing any work down there other than lawyers." The amount of money being funneled through Sankaty today is absolutely stunning.... Today, Bain Capital manages \$60 billion in assets, according to a spokesman. The total includes \$23 billion in Sankaty debt and credit funds. Half a dozen Sankaty affiliates now are active in Bermuda, corporate registry records show. The Sankaty debt hedge funds are organized as partnerships in Delaware that produce taxable business income by investing in fixed-income bonds and other debt instruments. Under tax law, even tax-exempt U.S. institutions may face a 35% tax if they invest directly in such hedge funds. By investing instead through a Bermuda corporation, the taxes are legally blocked, experts say. Of course all of this is perfectly legal. So nobody gets into trouble for any of this. By keeping money offshore, even those managing these kinds of funds can avoid being taxed. Victor Fleischer, a tax professor at the University of Colorado Law School, [recently explained how this works](#)....

"The idea behind some of the Cayman Island strategies was that the income that the fund managers receive for managing the money would be kept offshore in the Cayman Island — and the chief benefit is that you can defer when you recognize that income until a later date and you can reinvest the money from the Cayman islands and none of those reinvested funds get taxed until you bring them back either"

So was Romney doing this?

We may never know unless he shows us his tax returns.

What we do know is that Romney has millions of dollars of his own personal wealth invested in offshore tax havens.

The following comes [from ABC News](#)....

In addition to paying the lower tax rate on his investment income, Romney has as much as \$8 million invested in at least 12 funds listed on a Cayman Islands registry. Another investment, which Romney reports as being worth between \$5 million and \$25 million, shows up on securities records as having been domiciled in the Caymans. But Romney does not just have money invested down in the Cayman Islands. Apparently his money is invested in a whole host of offshore tax havens.

The following quote comes from a [Reuters article](#)....

Bain funds in which Romney is invested are scattered from Delaware to the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, Ireland and Hong Kong, according to a Reuters analysis of securities filings.

So is there anything wrong with this? Well, it depends on how you define "wrong".

What Romney is doing is perfectly legal. But it also stinks. Washington lawyer Jack Blum recently told ABC News [the following](#) about Romney's finances.... *"His personal finances are a poster child of what's wrong with the American tax system"* So now we may have a few hints as to why Romney may not want to release his old tax returns. But as noted above, what Romney is doing is just small potatoes compared to what the ultra-wealthy do. The U.S. Congress has been trying to clamp down on offshore banking, but the ultra-wealthy are always two or three steps ahead of them. The ultra-wealthy will go to just about any extreme in order to avoid paying taxes. In fact, the Washington Post has reported that an increasing number of wealthy individuals are actually deciding [to renounce their citizenship](#) rather than face the wrath of the IRS. The ultra-wealthy aren't really concerned that much with national citizenship anyway. If they want to influence an election, they can have far more influence by donating a few million bucks to a "Super PAC" than they can by casting the few votes that they have.

In a [previous article](#), I described how the ultra-wealthy use offshore banks as a "shadow banking system" that plays by rules that most people don't even know exist.... *It is a shadow banking system that most Americans don't know anything about. Most Americans don't have the resources to be able to set up shell companies in half a dozen different countries so that they can "filter" their profits. Most Americans don't know a thing about complicated tax avoidance plans that tax lawyers use such as the "Double Irish" and the "Dutch Sandwich". Most Americans would have no idea how to eventually have most of the money that they make end up in Bermuda so that it can avoid taxes.* Most among the global elite simply do not care that [U.S. debt](#) is climbing into the stratosphere. All they care about is keeping as much of their own money in their pockets as they possibly can. Of course there are always exceptions to this rule. Warren Buffett recently wrote a check to the U.S. Treasury for a little more than [\\$49,000](#) to help pay off the national debt. But considering the fact that the U.S. national debt is increasing by more than 100 million dollars an hour, that didn't exactly do much to help.

Our system is deeply broken and the global elite are getting away with bloody murder. Over the decades, they have carefully crafted the rules so that as much wealth as possible is funneled into their pockets, and they have carefully crafted the rules so that as much wealth as possible stays in their pockets. Of course if we got rid of the personal income tax and the corporate income tax entirely and replaced them with a completely new system we could get rid of all of this game playing once and for all. But what do you think the odds are of that happening?

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Warning Signs That We Should Prepare For The Worst



The warning signs are all around us. All we have to do is open up our eyes and look at them. Almost every single day there are more prominent voices in the financial world telling us that a massive economic crisis is coming and that we need to prepare for the worst. On Wednesday, it was the World Bank itself that issued a very chilling warning. In an absolutely [startling report](#), the World Bank revised GDP growth estimates for 2012 downward very sharply, warned that Europe could be on the verge of a devastating financial crisis, and declared that the rest of the world better "prepare for the worst." You would expect to hear this kind of thing on [The Economic Collapse Blog](#), but this is not the kind of language that you would normally expect to hear from the stuffed suits at the World Bank. Obviously things have gotten bad enough that nobody is even really trying to deny it anymore. Andrew Burns, the lead author of [the report](#), said that if the sovereign debt crisis gets even worse we could be looking at an economic crisis that could be even worse than the last one: "An escalation of the crisis would spare no-one. Developed- and developing-country growth rates could fall by as much or more than in 2008/09." Burns also stated that the "importance of contingency planning cannot be stressed enough." In other words, Burns is saying that it is time to prepare for the worst. So are you ready? But of course it isn't just the World Bank that is warning about these things. The chorus of voices that is warning about the next great financial crisis just seems to grow by the day. Some of these voices were profiled in a Bloomberg article the other day entitled "[Apocalypse How? Dire '12 Forecasts](#)". The following is just a sampling of quotes from that article....

-John Mauldin, president of Millennium Wave Advisors: "We've got a cancer. That cancer is debt"

-Mark Spitznagel of Universa Investments: "Too much malinvestment has been kept alive, and history shows an inevitable wipeout, which started in 2000."

-Michael Panzner of Financial Armageddon: "The fundamental outlook is even worse now than it was a few weeks ago, given (the lack of positive) developments in Europe and growing evidence that the economies of major countries around the world are deteriorating fast."

If you have time, you should go check out the rest of that article. It really is fascinating. When this crisis is over, all sorts of people are going to be running around claiming that they predicted it. But it does not take a genius to see what is coming. All you have to do is open up your eyes and look at the flashing red warning signs. So what should we all be looking for next? March 20th is a key date to keep your eye on. That is the day when Greece will either makes its 14.5 billion euro bond payment or it will default. Greece does not have a prayer of making that payment without help. If Greece can convince the EU and the IMF to release the next scheduled bailout payment and if Greece can reach a satisfactory deal with private bondholders, then the coming [Greek default](#) might be "orderly". But if something goes wrong, the coming Greek default might be quite "disorderly". At this point, almost everyone in the financial world is anticipating a Greek default of one form or another....

-Edward Parker, the managing director for Fitch's sovereign and supranational group in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, recently declared that a Greek default [is inevitable](#)....
"It is going to happen. Greece is insolvent so it will default."

-Moritz Kraemer, the head of S&P's European sovereign ratings unit, made the following statement on Bloomberg Television [on Monday](#):

"Greece will default very shortly. Whether there will be a solution at the end of the current rocky negotiations I cannot say."

-Richard McGuire, a strategist at Dutch bank Rabobank, was recently quoted [by CNBC](#) as saying the following....

"People often ask if Greece is going to default which ... is a misnomer because Greece is (already) defaulting"

-Diane Swonk, the chief economist at Mesirov Financial in Chicago, says that the default by Greece will probably be an "orderly" one but that the situation [could change at any moment](#)....

"It appears at the moment that the market is accepting a Greek default as inevitable, and it will be an orderly default. But that can change on a dime."

But whether there is a default or not, the reality is that Greece is already experiencing a full-blown economic depression. In Greece, [20 percent](#) of all retail stores have already shut down. The unemployment rate for those under the age of 24 is now at [39 percent](#). Large numbers of Greeks are trying to get themselves and their money out of the country while they still can. Pessimism regarding Greece is at an all-time high. Michael Fuchs, the deputy leader of Angela Merkel's political party, recently made [the following statement](#)....

"I don't think that Greece, in its current condition, can be saved." But of course Greece is not the only declining economy in Europe by a long shot. Italy has a much larger economy, and if Italy totally collapses it will be an absolute nightmare for the entire globe. Right now, the Bank of Italy is forecasting a significant recession for the Italian economy in 2012. The following is from a statement that Bank of Italy has just released....

"The uncertainty that surrounds the medium-term perspectives of the Italian economy ... are extraordinarily high and are directly linked to the evolution of the eurozone debt crisis"

Italy's youth unemployment rate has hit [the highest level ever](#), and nearly all sectors of the Italian economy are showing signs of slowing down. Plus there is the looming problem of Italian debt. As I wrote about [yesterday](#), when you add the maturing debt that the Italian government must roll over in 2012 to their projected budget deficit, it comes to [23.1 percent](#) of Italy's GDP. Originally it was hoped that the economic problems in Europe could be contained to just a few countries. But now it has become clear that is just not going to happen.

Trends forecaster Gerald Celente recently explained to ABC Australia that much of Europe is already [essentially experiencing an economic depression](#)....

"If you live in Greece, you're in a depression; if you live in Spain, you're in a depression; if you live in Portugal or Ireland, you're in a depression," Celente said. "If you live in Lithuania, you're running to the bank to get your money out of the bank as the bank runs go on. It's a depression. Hungary, there's a depression, and much of Eastern Europe, Romania, Bulgaria. And there are a lot of depressions going on [already]."

The troubling news out of Europe just seems to keep coming in waves. Here are some more recent examples....

-Manufacturing activity in the euro zone has fallen [for five months in a row](#).

-Germany's economy [actually contracted](#) during the 4th quarter of 2011.

-It is [being reported](#) that the Spanish economy contracted during the 4th quarter of 2011.

-Bad loans in Spain recently hit [a 17-year high](#) and the unemployment rate is at a [15-year high](#).

So will all of this economic trouble eventually spread to the United States?

Of course it will. The global economy is more interconnected today than ever. Back in 2008 the financial crisis that started on Wall Street ended up devastating economies all over the planet. The same thing will happen during this next great financial crisis.

Only this time the U.S. is in a much weaker position. The [U.S. debt](#) problem has gotten much worse since the last crisis. During 2008, our national debt crossed the 10 trillion dollar mark. Less than 4 years later, we have crossed the 15 trillion dollar mark. So what are we going to do the next time large numbers of banks fail and unemployment skyrockets?

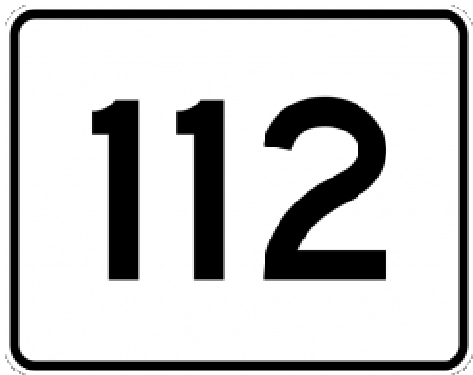
Where are we going to get the money to bail out all of those banks and to take care of all of those newly unemployed people?

Some people say that socialism is the answer, but the truth is that we are already a socialist welfare state. If you can believe it, [nearly half](#) of all Americans live in a household that receives some form of financial benefits from the U.S. government. During the next great crisis, the number of people that are dependent on the government will go even higher. If you don't want to end up dependent on the government, you should heed the warning signs and you should use this time [to prepare](#) for the hard times that are coming. When even the World Bank tells us to hope for the best but to prepare for the worst, you know that it is late in the game. Unfortunately, the vast majority of people out there only believe what they want to believe. They don't want to believe that a great economic crisis is coming, and so when it does happen they are going to be absolutely blindsided by it.



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112 Questions To Ask Yourself In 2012



The beginning of each year is a great time to evaluate the direction of your life and to ask yourself some very important questions. Often we get so busy just living life that we lose our perspective. It is important for each of us to take time once in a while to reassess how our lives are going. It is also important for all of us to reassess the direction that our nation is heading in every so often. The truth is that America has gotten badly off track. We have abandoned the principles which once made this country great, and this country is literally falling apart

all around us. Hopefully the questions below will not just get you focused on our problems. Hopefully they will also spur you to think about solutions. Both individually and as a nation, we are in a lot of trouble. We need to start asking better questions and we need to rediscover the things that once made America the greatest nation on earth. If we are willing to humble ourselves and change course then there is hope for us. If not, then the road that we are currently on will only lead to national disaster.

The following are 112 questions to ask yourself in 2012....

- #1 Are Barack Obama and Mitt Romney really the best that America can come up with?
- #2 Right now the nations of the world are [55 trillion dollars](#) in debt. How long will it be before this system of debt totally collapses?
- #3 What things in life are you truly grateful for? Do you ever take time to thank those that have been so good to you?
- #4 In 2012, when you add the maturing debt that the Italian government must roll over to their projected budget deficit, it comes to [23.1 percent](#) of Italy's GDP. How in the world is Italy going to be able to handle that in this economic environment?
- #5 What do you feel like you are missing in life? Are you actively looking for those things?
- #6 According to a survey conducted by the National Geographic Society, only [37 percent](#) of all Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 can find Iraq on a map of the world. What does that say about our [education system](#)?
- #7 Do you give more than you take? Would you rather serve people or be served?
- #8 Why were gun sales in the United States [at record levels](#) as we entered 2012?
- #9 What are you afraid of? Are those fears rational or irrational?
- #10 168 million emails are sent [every single minute](#). Are we rapidly getting to the point of information overload?
- #11 Do you care enough about other people? Do you spend more time thinking about yourself or thinking about others?
- #12 Why are there [18.5 million](#) vacant homes in America today?
- #13 Did you spend enough time with your family last year? Will you spend enough time with them this year?
- #14 The number of Americans on food stamps has increased [by 20 million](#) over the past five years. What does that say about the state of the U.S. economy?
- #15 Is your family prepared for what is about to happen to this world?
- #16 Why do the poor in America just keep [getting poorer](#)?
- #17 After you are dead, what will people be saying about you? Will they miss you or will they be glad that you are gone?
- #18 Why have [10 million more Americans](#) fallen below the poverty line since 2006?
- #19 What do you need to change about yourself?
- #20 Should we all be concerned that doctors in India say that "incurable" cases of tuberculosis [are showing up in India](#)?
- #21 Who do you know that could use some more love?
- #22 Why is the Department of Homeland Security scanning Facebook and Twitter for "[sensitive words](#)"?
- #23 Is your country a better place because you live there?
- #24 Why is the FBI building a [massive new biometric database](#)?
- #25 What do you think your life will be like ten years from now?
- #26 [40,000 new laws](#) went into effect across the United States as 2012 began. What does that say about the culture in this nation?
- #27 If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would that be and why?
- #28 What did Mitt Romney mean when he stated that he wants to "[eliminate some of the differences, repeal the bad, and keep the good](#)" in Obamacare?
- #29 What is the best piece of advice that you have ever gotten? Are you still following it?
- #30 Is it a good thing that the wealthiest 10 percent of all Americans have [56 percent](#) of all the wealth?
- #31 What books do you need to put on your reading list this year?
- #32 [About half](#) of all Americans are now either living in poverty or are considered to be low income. So are we still a "wealthy" nation?
- #33 What are the things that you do that waste the most time?
- #34 Why aren't more Americans concerned that the trade deficit [is increasing again](#)? This is one of the things that killed the Greek economy and it is most definitely sucking the life out of our own economy. Could it be that most Americans have become so "dumbed down" that they don't even know what a trade deficit is?
- #35 What would happen to you and your family if you suddenly lost your job?
- #36 How is Germany able to build [twice as many cars](#) every year as the United States does?

- #37 Have you done anything worth remembering lately?
- #38 Why is the average age of a vehicle in America now sitting [at an all-time high](#)?
- #39 If you only had one day left to live, how would you spend that day?
- #40 How stupid are the American people for piling up [700 billion dollars](#) in credit card debt?
- #41 Is there anything that is worth giving your life for?
- #42 If Obamacare is so great for working people, then why are [so many unions](#) requesting (and getting) Obamacare waivers from the federal government?
- #43 Do you believe that you can be a hero?
- #44 Why is the government allowing genetically modified mosquitoes [to be released](#) in the United States?
- #45 What is one great decision that you can make right now?
- #46 Why is Mitt Romney [taxed at a lower rate](#) than most middle class Americans are?
- #47 If someone gave you one million dollars today, how would you spend it?
- #48 Who decided that it would be a good idea for TSA "VIPR Teams" to set up [thousands of internal checkpoints](#) across the United States every year?
- #49 What is the number one thing on your Bucket List? Why haven't you done it already?
- #50 Why is the federal government [spending billions of dollars](#) to militarize local police departments across the United States?
- #51 If it was possible, would you want to live forever?
- #52 Should we be concerned that [30% of all Americans](#) get arrested by the age of 23?
- #53 Where would you rather be than right here right now?
- #54 Why did the D.C. government pass a new law [that protects the rights of rats](#)?
- #55 Which is greater - the number of people that you love, or the number of people that you hate?
- #56 Are CEOs really [243 times more valuable](#) than the average worker is?
- #57 What will your legacy be?
- #58 Is the massive swarm of earthquakes [that New Zealand is experiencing](#) a sign that the "Ring of Fire" is becoming more active?
- #59 What would your plan be if there was a major volcanic eruption on the west coast of the United States?
- #60 If [63 percent](#) of all mortgaged properties in the state of Nevada are still "underwater", then how in the world can anyone claim that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the housing crisis?
- #61 Why is the federal government arresting people who produce raw milk?
- #62 Is the world on the verge of an [absolutely nightmarish water crisis](#)?
- #63 What are you really good at? Are you using that skill to make a difference in the lives of others?
- #64 Why is the U.S. government giving nearly half a billion dollars every 12 months to an organization that performs [about 300,000 abortions](#) a year?
- #65 What is the meaning of life?
- #66 Why are so many Planned Parenthood executives earning [well over \\$100,000 a year](#)?
- #67 How can you make tomorrow better than today?
- #68 While the TSA is groping millions of Americans at airports every year, [rampant sex trafficking](#) is going on in virtually every major American city. Isn't it time that we admitted that our allocation of law enforcement resources is very seriously flawed?
- #69 How can you make next week better than this week?
- #70 One recent survey found that only [29 percent](#) of people would describe themselves as "very happy". So what does that say about the state of our country?
- #71 Do you consider yourself to be good? If so, how did you determine that?
- #72 If we are on the verge of a [global recession](#), then why is the stock market still so high?
- #73 What would happen if government spending was cut by 50 percent?
- #74 Is the euro going to eventually fall [to parity](#) with the U.S. dollar?
- #75 If the euro fails, what will Europe do? Would national currencies make a comeback or would a new "European currency" be created?
- #76 Are we getting [dangerously close](#) to a war in the Middle East?
- #77 What would happen to the price of gasoline if foreign oil supplies from the Middle East were suddenly cut off?
- #78 Is Germany going to just stand by and watch [Greece default](#)?
- #79 Is it likely that your eating habits will send you to an early grave? If so, why not make this the year when they change?
- #80 Why aren't politicians from either major political party doing something to stop the massive flood of [blue collar](#) jobs that is pouring out of this country? Don't they care about average Americans?
- #81 Why do we spend so much time on things that simply do not matter?
- #82 Since 1971, consumer debt in the United States has increased by a whopping [1700%](#). Is that a sign of a nation that is going to be prosperous in the long run?

- #83** Does the U.S. need a new major political party?
- #84** The [U.S. debt](#) problem continues to escalate. During the Obama administration, the U.S. government has accumulated more debt than it did from the time that George Washington took office [to the time that Bill Clinton took office](#). Very few of our politicians seem alarmed by this. Are we the stupidest generation in American history?
- #85** Does the U.S. need a new Constitutional Convention?
- #86** When we finally see the U.S. economy [collapse](#), who will be in better shape - those that have spent years [preparing](#) or those that have not prepared at all?
- #87** Are you so afraid to fail that you simply do not even try anymore?
- #88** We are facing the most horrific [retirement crisis](#) in U.S. history. Right now, more than 10,000 Baby Boomers are turning 65 every single day. So where in the world are we going to get all the money we need to pay them the retirement benefits that we have promised them? Isn't the Social Security system essentially one gigantic Ponzi scheme?
- #89** If people started following your example, would that be a good thing?
- #90** According to one Gallup survey, [7 out of every 10 Americans](#) believe that religion is losing influence in the United States. Is that good for America or bad for America?
- #91** Do you ever do anything that is outside of your comfort zone?
- #92** The U.S. dollar has lost well [over 95 percent](#) of its value since the Federal Reserve was created, the U.S. national debt is more than 5000 times larger than it was when the Federal Reserve was created and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has a track record of incompetence that is absolutely [mind blowing](#). So what possible justification is there for allowing the [Federal Reserve](#) to continue to issue our currency and run our economy?
- #93** If you lost everything that you currently own, would your life be over?
- #94** If the European financial system is going to be just fine, then why is the UK government [preparing feverishly](#) for the collapse of the euro?
- #95** When you meet someone for the first time, do you tend to instantly love them or do you tend to instantly judge them?
- #96** If the one thing that almost everyone in the Republican Party seems to agree on is that Obamacare is bad, then why is the candidate [that created the plan](#) that much of Obamacare was based upon about to run away with the race for the Republican nomination?
- #97** Do you feel like you are truly alive? If not, what can you do to change that?
- #98** Why have we allowed the "too big to fail" banks to become [even larger](#)?
- #99** Who are you living your life for? Does the answer to that question excite you or depress you?
- #100** One recent survey found that [77 percent](#) of all U.S. small businesses do not plan to hire any more workers. So where are all of the jobs for the "economic recovery" going to come from?
- #101** As you have gotten older, have you also become more loving?
- #102** Since 1964, the reelection rate for members of the U.S. House of Representatives [has never fallen below 85 percent](#). How stupid can the American people possibly be? They keep sending the exact same [Congress critters](#) back to Washington D.C. over and over and over.
- #103** Do you treat others the way that you would like to be treated?
- #104** According to a recent Pew Research Center analysis, only [51 percent](#) of all Americans that are at least 18 years old are currently married. Back in 1960, [72 percent](#) of all U.S. adults were married. Without strong family units, can America survive?
- #105** Do you prefer to forgive those that have hurt you or do you prefer to hold long grudges?
- #106** According to an analysis of Census Bureau data done by the Pew Research Center, the median net worth for households led by someone 65 years of age or older [is 47 times greater](#) than the median net worth for households led by someone under the age of 35. So why are so many young people so broke?
- #107** Do you tell your family and your friends that you love them or do you just assume that they already know?
- #108** According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, [36.4%](#) of all children that live in Philadelphia are living in poverty, [40.1%](#) of all children that live in Atlanta are living in poverty, [52.6%](#) of all children that live in Cleveland are living in poverty and [53.6%](#) of all children that live in Detroit are living in poverty. How bad are things going to be when the economy gets even worse?
- #109** If Bill Gates gave every single penny of his fortune to the U.S. government, it would only cover the U.S. budget deficit [for about 15 days](#). How in the world can we justify putting so much debt on to the backs of future generations?
- #110** How do you want the story of your life to end?
- #111** Will the years ahead find you [cowering in fear](#) or will they find you enjoying greater adventures than you ever dreamed of?
- #112** If you had the opportunity to tell everyone in America one thing, what would it be?

