

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY ARE SCREWING YOU, YOU ARE JUST GOING TO KEEP GETTING SCREWED



“Capitalism” is not the problem. The rich are not the problem. But the real power elite would love for you to think they are. It takes the focus off of them.

Here’s the problem:

Once upon a time, people decided they were tired of carrying around the stuff they had, looking for people who had the things they wanted and also happened to want the things they had. Some of them decided that, rather than carry around chickens and looking for someone who had lumber but wanted chickens, they would come up with something that would be easier to carry around, wouldn’t go bad, and most importantly, would serve as a common medium of exchange that people could use to trade for other things.

They came up with lots of things, from salt to seashells and spices and big-ass rocks at the bottom of the ocean that nobody could even move. Over time, people tended to prefer things like precious metals. Nobody controlled this, nobody regulated how much the metals or the salt or the seashells or big-ass rocks were worth. And for a while, nobody tried to monopolize the issuance of these things.



they found that they could do something else too: They found that if they debased the money (usually precious metals by this time), by shaving off or clipping the edges of coins, or by mixing other metals in with the gold or silver before the coins were minted, they could steal some of the money for themselves, while everyone else kept using it as if it were worth its original value.

Hundreds of years later, they are still doing it. When government monopolizes money, it is able to counterfeit that money. The government and the people it pays (think military contractors, bailout recipients, etc.) are the ones who get to use it at full value. By the time it gets down to the rest of us, it holds only a fraction of its value and we need a lot more of it to buy the things we want and need.

Eventually, governments decided that they should take over the once voluntary and grass-roots institution of money. They declared themselves the arbiters of what could and could not be used as money, and of who could issue money. Once they did this,



Meanwhile, by pumping extra money into the system, the central banks create artificial booms which later turn into very real busts. People think there is more (real) money than there actually is. The price of money (the interest rate) is lower than it should be, so people believe that it is cheaper to invest than it actually is. All kinds of people (not just “money-grubbing rich people”) invest in things, thinking the cost of doing so is cheaper than it is, and you’ve got a bubble. This is what caused the dot com bubble and bust, and it’s what caused the housing bubble and bust.



They are destroying the money supply, and the wealth that ordinary people have built up for themselves. They absolutely are profiting at our expense. But unless you understand HOW they are doing that, you’re not going to even come close to addressing the real problem. In fact, you will probably make it worse by calling for “more government regulation of the financial industry.” That would be nonsense. It is government’s involvement in the world of finance, and in money itself, that is at the source of the problem.

You are right to be outraged at those who have caused the financial mess the world is in right now. But please please please take a few moments to understand precisely who those people are and how they did it. You can go on hating capitalism and rich people all you want. But as long as you think they are the source of the problem, the problem will just get worse, while the real bad guys will be off in some back room laughing their asses off.



If you think that the banks and bankers are a big part of the problem, you’re right – but probably not for the reasons you think you are. They’re not part of the problem because they are “greedy” or because they deal in “money”. They are part of the problem because they are profiting from what is essentially counterfeiting.

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