THE END OF THE

# Dollar Empire

By Stephen K. Bannon

Volume 4: The Greatest Economic Crime in History

# American Citizens,

Over the last few years, I've become increasingly concerned by the growing economic forces that threaten our Republic and her citizens. This "economic warfare" is taking place right now on multiple fronts, both by external forces and internal factions.

The immediate goal is to undermine and replace the U.S. dollar as the Prime Reserve Currency. This de-dollarization movement is a crucial step in destroying American prosperity, and with it the removal of the United States from its historic role on the world stage.

Whether you follow economics or not, whether you are interested in economics or not, economics is interested in you. The dollar's position in the world is important to you, your country, your community, and your family. As goes the dollar, so goes your financial future – your savings, your home equity, and your investments. We aren't simply talking about the bankruptcy of our nation, but the bankruptcy of *every single one of you*.

This is the fourth in a series of Sitreps [situation reports] I've assembled on the enemies of the dollar. I'm working with our trusted partner, Birch Gold Group, to create and distribute these reports to as many clear-thinking Americans as possible. I know you will want to immerse yourself in additional information and to learn more about the critical financial and geopolitical issue. We will present more information about Birch Gold Group's services after finishing this report.

Today, we're zeroing in on the specific moment in history when the U.S. ceased to be a prosperous nation and instead settled for the *illusion of prosperity*. When the nation left the gold standard over a weekend in Camp David, Maryland in August 1971, our country started down a well-traveled path which always leads to the same destination… the road to serfdom.

Regards,

Stephen K. Bannon
Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.
September 2023

# Table of Contents

# Part 1: The First American dollar

*“In God we trust; all others pay cash.”*

After waging a long, bloody war and finally sending Cornwallis and his army back across the Atlantic, our Founding Fathers had to sit down and make hundreds of decisions about how the new republic would work.

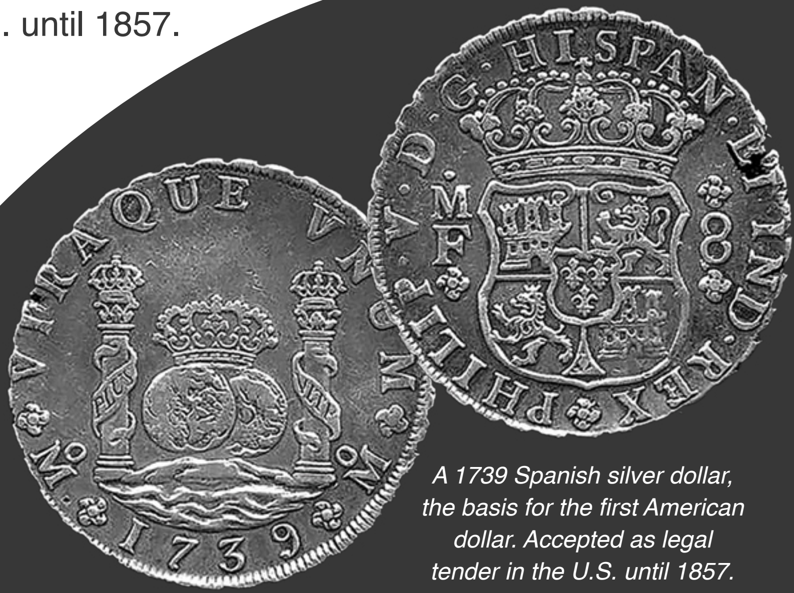
During the Revolutionary War, the U.S. had experimented with paper money. The experiment failed disastrously, with the Continental worth a mere 1/40th of its face value by 1780. You might still hear the phrase, “Not worth a continental” in everyday speech.

The Founders were determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. That’s why the Coinage Act of 1792 introduced the U.S. dollar *and defined it* as 0.77 troy oz of silver (or 0.05 troy oz gold). Not by accident, this meant the new U.S. dollar was identical to the widely-circulated Spanish silver dollar or “piece of eight.” The Spanish silver dollar was widely used as an international currency because of its uniform weight and purity.

In fact, the currency symbol for our dollar, $, is derived from the ribbon-wrapped pillar on the Spanish silver dollar.

This Spanish coin was legal tender in the U.S. until 1857.

Now, why does such a specific and concrete definition of a dollar matter?




*A 1739 Spanish silver dollar, the basis for the first American dollar. Accepted as legal tender in the U.S. until 1857.*

Even the Founding Fathers, who believed in personal responsibility and limited government, knew that a government needed to be able to do three things:

1. Maintain an army to defend the nation.
2. Collect taxes to pay for that army.
3. Define the money that those taxes would be paid in.

Almost from the birth of the nation, the dollar as a *unit of measure* was **clearly defined**. All other currencies were, too – just as the Spanish silver dollar was.

Defining currencies in this way makes global trade easy, centuries before the word "globalism" became a talking point. That's the reason Spanish "pieces of eight" and British "sovereigns" were used to settle transactions worldwide, from Pittsburgh to Peking, *for centuries*. Nations built trust and goodwill among one another, and their citizens, *by **not playing games with their money***.

**Any government that coins money will always have the temptation to *debase* their currency.** "Debase" originally meant to corrupt the currency, substituting base metals for gold or silver to make a coin with the same "face" or "nominal" value – but less precious metal content, which reduces its *intrinsic* value.

The most successful nations were those that resisted this temptation. Particularly, the British, whose worldwide empire was built on trade and who clearly saw how much more they had to lose than to gain. And the Spanish, who benefited from the spectacular productivity of their Central and South American silver mines.

**Good money** was a point of national pride. A sign of a prosperous, successful country.

**Bad money**, debased or corrupted money, indicated a government in severe decline.[1]

*[1]For example, France in the early 1700s. For a compelling account of the disastrous Mississippi Bubble and its role in bringing down the Bourbon dynasty, see Charles Kinderberger's Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds, chapter 1.*

The U.S. maintained the dollar's connection to gold, virtually uninterrupted, for nearly 150 years. Former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan calls this era:

> *...a period of extraordinary global prosperity, characterised by firming productivity growth and very little inflation.*
>
> \- Gold Investor magazine, February 2017.

When he says "very little inflation," it's *very* difficult to comprehend just how little prices moved during the days of the gold standard. I remember reading somewhere that in 1798, British sailors hadn't received a pay raise *in 100 years*![2] Today, we have to index Social Security payments to inflation or else 35 million Americans would starve…

*But wait,* you're thinking, *every intelligent person knows the 19th century gold standard didn't work*. Back to Greenspan:

> *I think that's like wearing the wrong size shoes and saying the shoes are uncomfortable!*

*Wasn't there a shortage of money?* Nations that *spent money*, without producing goods or services worth buying, would definitely see a "shortage of money." This is the free market's way of telling a nation (or an individual) to *change their course*.

During that century and a half of "extraordinary global prosperity," gold was valued about $20.67 per troy oz. New money came from *mining precious metals* – and that's it.

But golden ages never last. This remarkably stable and prosperous economic system was systematically *and deliberately* dismantled, piece by piece… by the U.S. government itself, and the nation's ruling elites.

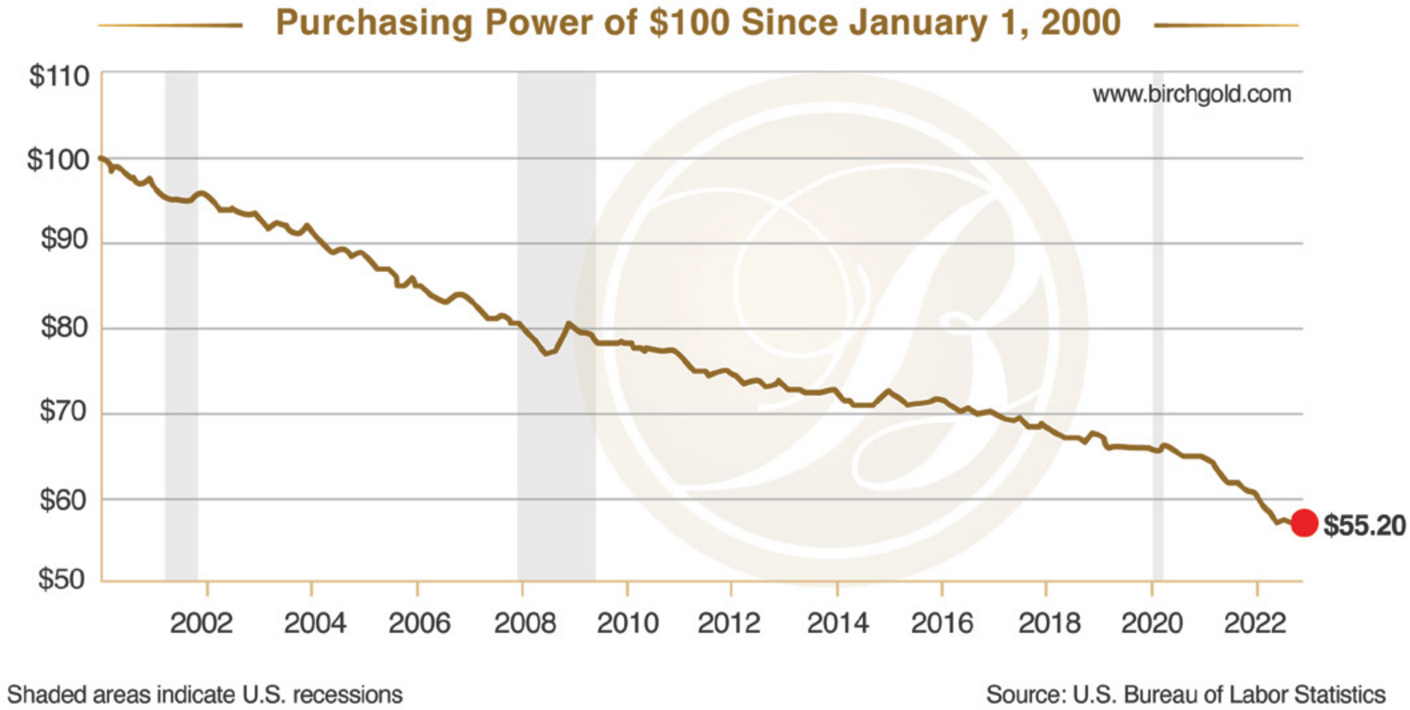
[2] *Who was Jack Tar? by Stephen Taylor, Aeon. https://aeon.co/essays/meet-jack-tar-the-sailor-with-a-nation-in-his-calloused-hands*

# Part 2: The Greatest Financial Crime of the 20th Century

***Note:*** *I focus on the executive branch of the federal government below. Even so, this crime wouldn't have been possible without the collusion of the Federal Reserve. If the Fed hadn't been co-opted in the 1960s, our nation would be very different today. To learn more, request a copy of my whitepaper* ***The End of the Dollar Empire: The Federal Reserve*** *from Birch Gold Group.*

On December 23, 1913 the Federal Reserve Act created both our nation's central bank and twelve regional subsidiary banks. The Federal Reserve dictates both the amount of dollars in circulation and short-term interest rates.

In the name of "price stability" and "maximum employment," the Federal Reserve destroyed over 96% of the dollar's purchasing power. If we zoom in, since the turn of the century, a single Benjamin buys about half what it used to:




## Debasing the dollar

In the throes of the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his interclique of radical Marxists, decided that the best way to cure the nation's financial woes was to *create more money*. European nations, financially devastated by World War I, had already devalued their currencies – Germany in 1924, France in 1926 and the UK in 1931.

In 1934, Roosevelt's Gold Reserve Act outlawed American ownership of gold coins and redefined the dollar as $35 per troy ounce – a **59% reduction** in the dollar's value. In addition, the law:

- Suspended the convertibility of paper currency to gold coins.
- Transferred ownership of *all monetary gold* in the U.S. to the Treasury.
- Paid citizens who turned in their gold coins in currency at the new rate of $35/troy oz.
- Criminalized "hoarding" (in other words, *ownership*) of many forms of gold.

Once they did this, they took power out of the people's hands. No convertability, gold can't flee the country.

**This was the beginning of the end of the gold standard.** Roosevelt opened the door to dollar devaluation. Simultaneously giving himself and the political class the opportunity to greatly expand the role of the federal government and its spending. Suddenly, there was precedent for all future leaders – anyone who decided the nation needed more money could simply could *simply create more money*. All they had to do is name a new gold price.[3] Note this is *necessary groundwork* for massive deficit spending – which Roosevelt immediately embarked on.

Preventing Americans from owning gold coins meant that only the federal government could actually use the nation's gold reserve. Only the government would still be able to trade with other nations. Gold remained the currency of choice when countries settled debts *between themselves*.

Gold was too important a resource, Roosevelt thought, to leave in the hands of citizens. Gold is for governments. Everyone else could use paper.

History tells us Roosevelt's experiment in Keynesian economics was a miserable failure. Government spending, even on a historically massive scale, *cannot create prosperity*. Only mobilizing the nation's economy for the second world war finally cured the depression.

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[3] *Eliminating circulating gold coins was practical – think of the confusion caused by a face value $20 St. Gaudens double eagle when its intrinsic value is now $36.21. On the other hand, removing gold coins from circulation also made future dollar devaluations easier.*

# Prosperity and plunder

In 1944, as World War II raged, the U.S. and *all 43 allied nations* agreed to an international monetary management agreement called the **Bretton Woods Agreement**.

This was an attempt to invigorate global trade and end the destructive cycle of competitive currency devaluations, using U.S. dollars as the new reserve currency. Governments and central banks could convert their dollars into gold bullion at $35 per troy ounce. This made the dollar, and by extension all the allies' currencies, as good as gold.

All things considered, this was a return to a market-based global economy, preventing governmental intervention in economies and currencies. The "dollar as reserve currency" part wasn't expected to last forever! Gold would continue to be the preferred international currency, once the market redistributed existing gold reserves.

That last part is important. By the end of World War II, the U.S. *owned two thirds of all central bank gold reserves* ***in the world***. U.S. allies (specifically the UK and USSR) repaid their lend-lease loans in precious metals.

For the next 25 years, Bretton Woods worked to some degree. Because the U.S. invested so much in rebuilding the nations devastated by the war (including Japan and even China), the world ran on dollars. They trusted the dollar in large part because they could readily exchange those dollars for gold if they had any doubts about its value. This global gold standard was part of the post-war phenomenal economic recovery.The U.S. saw *enormous prosperity* throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

Real (after-inflation) GDP grew 4.2% on average per year through the 50s, and averaged 4.5% per year through the 60s.

Here's the problem: by the time the Nixon administration came into office in 1969, they realized just how much the world economy had grown. *Everybody wanted dollars*, and the Federal Reserve was happy to supply that demand…

As a result, there were *four times* as many dollars in circulation as there was gold in the U.S. reserve. Fighting the Korean and Vietnam Wars, along with Cold War defense spending, was adding up. At the same time, spending on social welfare programs grew *twelvefold* from 1950-1975.[4] The government was convinced it could simultaneously fight a substantial war and vastly expand domestic spending. Instead of the classic trade-off between spending on "guns or butter," the government pursued *both*.

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[4]*Social Welfare Expenditures, 1950-75 by Alfred M. Skolnik and Sophie R. Dales.*

By 1960, there were more U.S. dollars overseas than there was gold to back them – not even counting the domestic money supply. This meant the U.S. dollar was *massively overvalued*. In other words, in the U.S. imports were inexpensive and overseas travel was *incredibly cheap*.

The flipside was that U.S. products were extremely expensive. The U.S. simply wasn't able to compete globally – which led to the first "trade deficit" since the 1800s. The nation spent more money on imports than it made on exports. This created a problem: The popularity of imported goods sent dollars flooding out of the country. Those dollars ultimately ended up on deposit with foreign central banks. As long as monetary inflation remained confined to the U.S., where citizens couldn't swap dollars for gold, the problem was manageable. Once those dollars went overseas, though, foreign central banks could (and did) make use of the Treasury Department's "gold window" to exchange dollars for gold at $35/oz.

The dollar supply was outrunning the U.S. gold reserve – and the world was catching on… In 1965, French prime minister Georges Pompidou proclaimed:

> *The international monetary system is functioning poorly, because [the U.S.] can afford inflation without paying for it.*

France began swapping the dollars earned selling champagne and brie to Americans for gold from the U.S. reserve.[5] Other nations jumped on the bandwagon, trading their "overvalued" dollars for gold from the U.S. reserve.

Obviously, this situation couldn't continue forever. By summer 1971, international dollar holdings were four times greater than the U.S. gold reserve. Redemptions were accelerating, too, because the world recognized that, at some point, the U.S. gold reserve would be empty *and 75% of the international dollar supply* would still exist in circulation.

"The last straw," writes Peter Bernstein, "came during the week of August 9, 1971. In a note of extraordinary irony, the British economic representative [to Washington] came in person to the Treasury and asked for $3 billion in gold."[6]

That's ***2,666 tons of gold*** – more than a quarter of the *entire* remaining gold reserve.

That presented a major problem. Actually, several problems…

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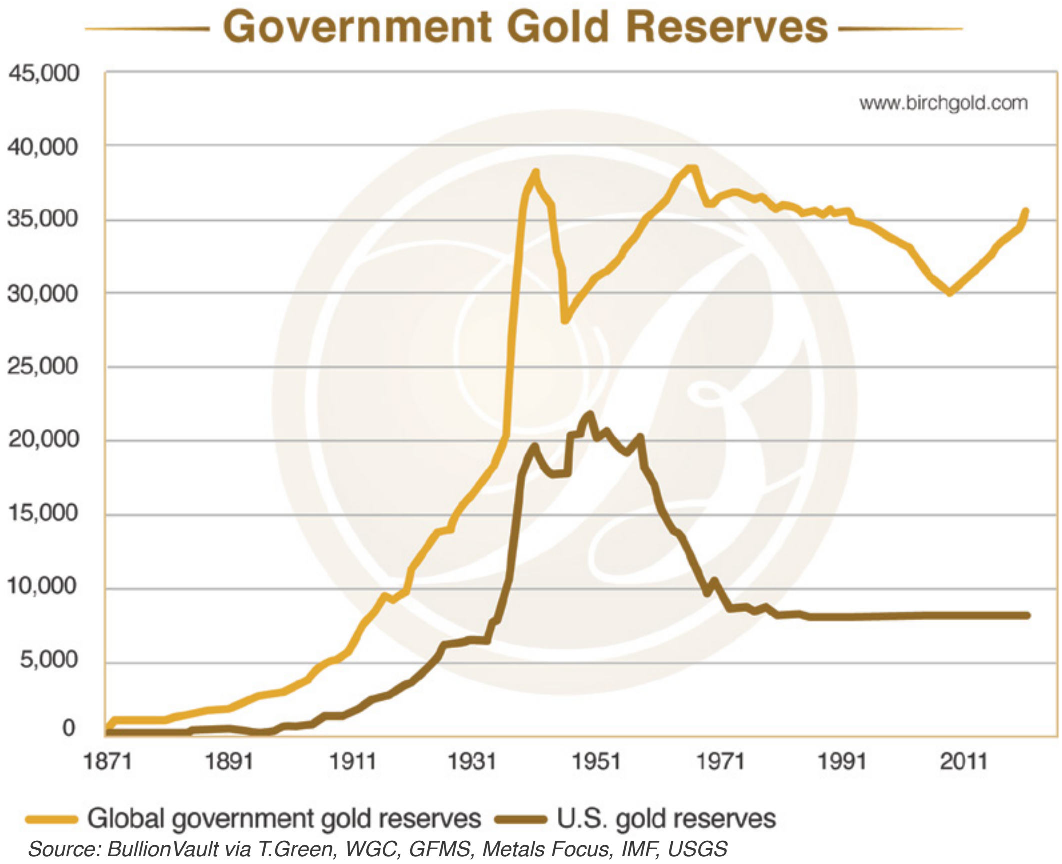
*[5]For a well-researched but excessively sympathetic perspective on Nixon's decision, see Three Days at Camp David: How a Secret Meeting in 1971 Transformed the Global Economy by Jeffrey E. Garten, published by Harper in 2021.*

*[6]From The Power of Gold: A History of Obsession, by Peter L. Bernstein, second edition published by Wiley in 2012.*

**First,** the UK (steadfast American ally through two world wars and the Cold War) was clearly losing confidence in the U.S. dollar. If our *closest friends* were starting to doubt the nation's solvency, how much more skeptical would the rest of the world be?

The U.S. had already redeemed *the majority* of the nation's gold reserves – some 14,000 tons of gold were *already gone*.




**Second,** by fulfilling this massive request, the U.S. would make it very clear to the rest of the world just how close to bankruptcy the nation really was.

Remember, the world still ran on dollars – which had value for exactly one reason:

**Because they were redeemable for gold**.

When the gold was gone, dollars would just be pieces of paper. *Especially* overseas. Federal law can declare dollars "legal tender for all debts, public and private," *but that law only applies within U.S. borders*.

Not even the president of the United States, the leader of the free world, captain of the world's largest economy and commander in chief of the armed forces, could strongarm other nations into continuing to use dollars…

Put yourself in Nixon's shoes. What are your options?

1. **Pay up.** Attempt to stabilize the dollar's value with the fraction of the gold reserve remaining – but with a significant percentage of the gold reserve gone, the odds of an old-fashioned run on the bank increased to near certainty. What would a dollar be worth when *all the gold* was gone?

2. **Devalue the dollar.** As Roosevelt had done forty years before – but remember, the dollar supply was *four times* the nation's gold supply. Every dollar would have to be marked down by 75%.

3. **Own up to the American people.** "We've been living beyond our means for some time now, borrowing money from the rest of the world to subsidize our lifestyles. From now on, champagne and brie and trips to Italy are going to be more expensive, but we'll be setting the nation on a course for long-term prosperity." Austerity is never popular, though…

4. **Bait and switch.** Promise the British their gold was on the way, collect their dollar payment and then have an empty cargo ship torpedoed just outside Lower New York Bay. "Gee, sorry, hope you had insurance…"

5. **Default.** Break the U.S. promise to the world, and simply choose not to pay.

The weekend of the 13th of August 1971, Nixon gathered a handful of his closest advisors at Camp David, the presidential hideaway in the wooded hills of Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland. Together they hashed out a plan to preserve, *at all costs*, the illusion of prosperity. They didn't want to explain that imports were cheap because of massive money-printing. Or that the nation couldn't continue to expand *both* its guns-and-butter spending indefinitely. Inflation? The global loss of trust in the dollar? Anonymous "speculators" and domestic trade unions were behind it.

They needed a plausible narrative where the money-printing, deficit-spending government was cast as the good guy. Going up against shadowy, unnamed cabals who were determined to undermine the American economy…

**In short, they decided perception mattered more than reality.**

How could they convince struggling American households that the stagflationary economy was, in fact, just fine? How about dusting off an emergency wartime strategy – in this case, a 90-day wage and price freeze? By the way, this was *the first* non-wartime price freeze in U.S. history.

Another emergency wartime strategy, employed by nations during the previous World Wars: Suspending the convertibility of dollars to gold.

Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th President of the United States, decided that emergency wartime economic interventions were the appropriate course of action. He authorized the federal government to take steps *not seen since World War II* to prop up the illusion of American prosperity. Over the course of a three-day weekend. With fewer charts and research than I've put into this whitepaper.

His advisors encouraged Nixon to announce these decisions immediately – but, according to Bernstein's *Power of Gold*, Nixon:

> *…hesitated to make his speech on Sunday evening for fear of irritating the public by pre-empting Bonanza, one of the most popular programs of the era.*

The man wasn't worried about taking a page out of Stalin's book, meddling in the free market – as if inflation and unemployment were the disease, rather than its symptoms. He didn't want anyone to miss *Bonanza*.

Eventually, his advisors prevailed – and on Sunday, August 15 1971, despite *Bonanza's* popularity, Nixon went on television.

"In recent weeks, the speculators have been waging an all-out war on the American dollar," Nixon told America in his 15-minute announcement, titled *The Challenge of Peace*.

> *Accordingly, I have directed the Secretary of the Treasury to take the action necessary to defend the dollar against the speculators...[and] suspend temporarily the convertibility of the American dollar except in amounts and conditions determined to be in the interest of monetary stability and in the best interests of the United States.*[7]

The challenge of peace, according to Nixon, required putting the U.S. economy on a wartime footing. To default on our obligations to our allies. And to shatter the only constraint on government suspending.

These emergency measures have lasted ***52 years*** – as long as eight World War II's, ten times longer than World War I, *thirteen times* longer than the U.S. Civil War.

During wartime, no one questions massive government spending. Fiscal responsibility, getting back to normal, can wait until the enemy is defeated.

In this case, though, the enemy was ***the federal government itself***. That's where the deficits and money-printing and rising debt came from *in the first place*.

Instead of playing straight with the American people, instead of waging war against irresponsible spending and bureaucratic bloat, Nixon chose to attack the fundamental basis of American prosperity.

The U.S. gold standard, "a period of extraordinary global prosperity," to use Greenspan's words, was no more.

The war against American prosperity continues – and we're living in its rubble today.

[7] *Statistical Appendix to Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972.*

# Part 3: Life in the Trenches

The dollar, originally defined as 0.77 troy oz of silver or 0.05 troy oz of gold by the Coinage Act of 1792, is now defined as…***Nothing.***

*Now, if you're thinking, What about the petrodollar? There are a couple of things you should know. First, the "petrodollar" is the result of a secret agreement between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the OPEC cartel with Nixon's legendary Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. Essentially, the U.S. agreed to extend military and political protection to the OPEC bloc. In exchange, OPEC would exclusively sell, and price, their oil in dollars – which would create a need for many nations to own and use dollars.. Second, this agreement wasn't formed until 1973, two years after the U.S. abandoned the gold standard. Last but certainly not least, the petrodollar agreement didn't back the dollar with oil. Rather, it merely priced oil in dollars.*

There's no legally-defined value for today's Federal Reserve Notes. Each one costs between 5 and 10 cents to print[8] – beyond that? Its value is *completely imaginary*.

The U.S. government has followed the ancient tradition of *debasing* the currency in the interests of creating even more currency and in creating more currency, creating the ability to spend even more. When Nixon defaulted on the dollar's convertibility to gold, there were 685 billion dollars in the entire world. Now, fifty years later, there are about ***21 trillion dollars***.

The global supply of dollars has grown ***nearly 30-fold.***[9] Now ask yourself has there been a "real" 30-fold increase in value created. For you as an American citizen who has not had a real wage increase since 1973, has there been a 30-fold value increase for you?

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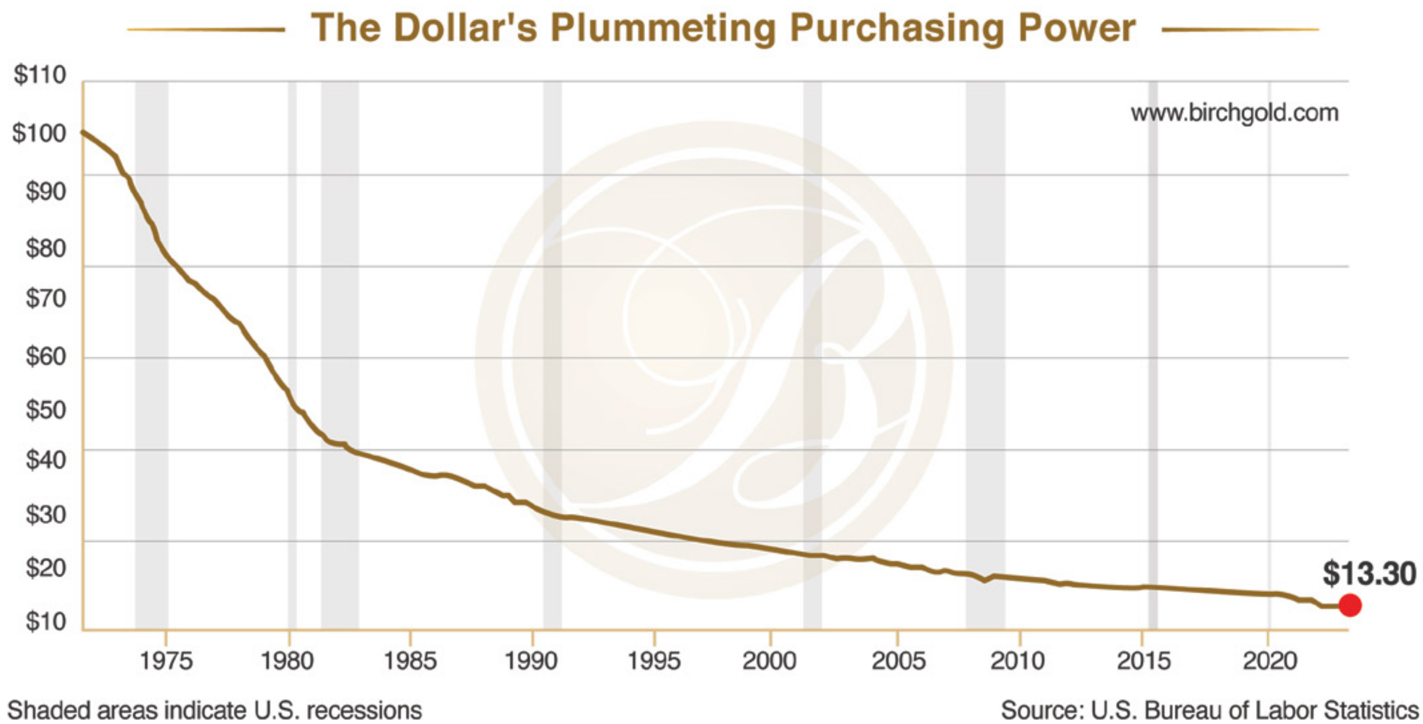
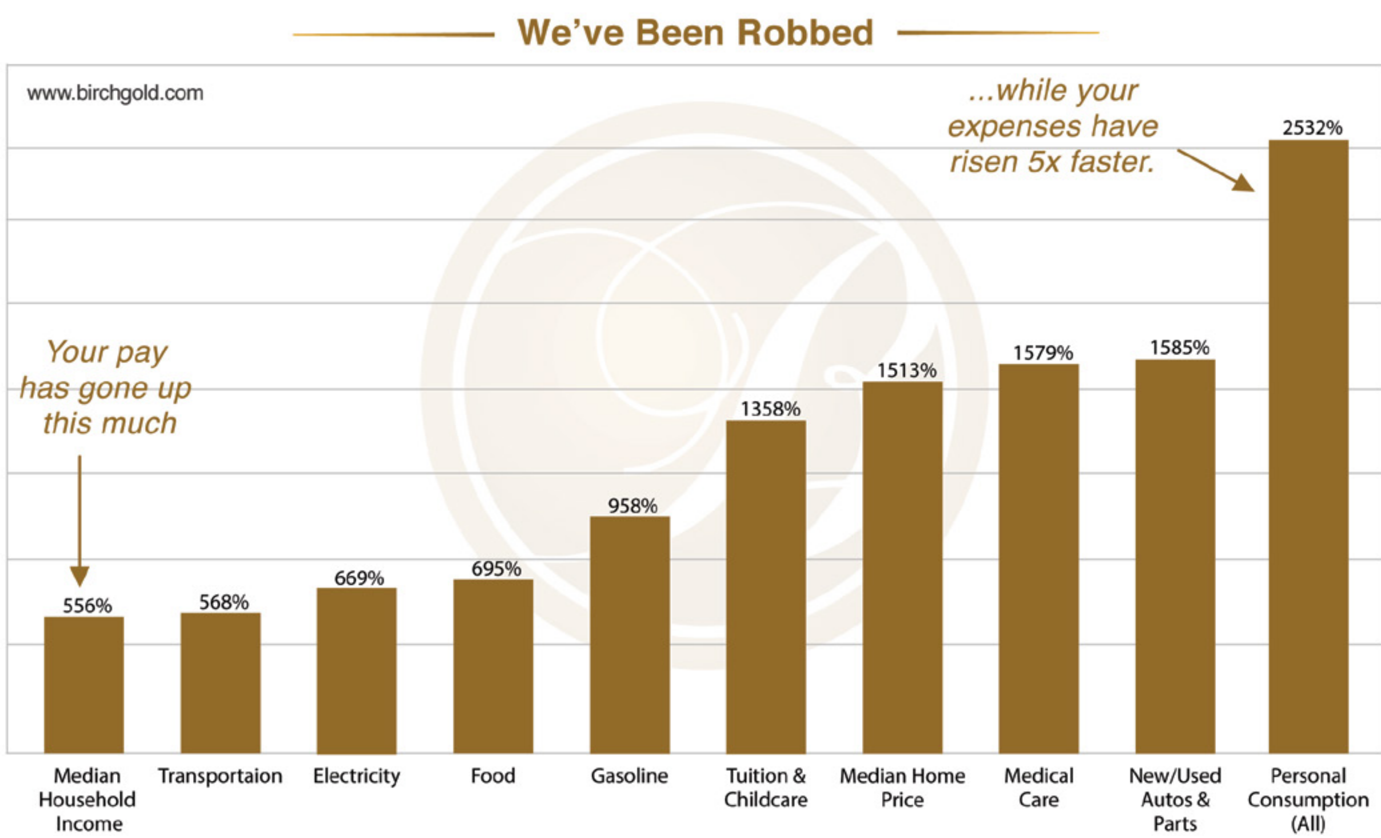
*[8]Federal Reserve FAQs, https://www.federalreserve.gov/faqs/currency_12771.htm*

*[9]Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US), M2 [M2SL], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/M2SL as of July 20, 2023.*

Your dollar has lost more than 86% of its purchasing power:




If you work for a living, your purchasing power is virtually flat over the last 40 years. Your expenses, however, are not:




*Source: Median household income via U.S. Census Bureau. All other data via Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.*

In inflation-adjusted terms, income peaked more than 45 years ago. And while our purchasing power has gone nowhere, prices have gone nowhere but up.

If you're not a chart type of person, let me net it out for you:

**Over the last 50 years, your expenses have outpaced your income *FIVEFOLD.***

Recently, the song "Rich Men North of Richmond" by Oliver Anthony has gone viral for its perfect depiction of the malaise afflicting the American worker.

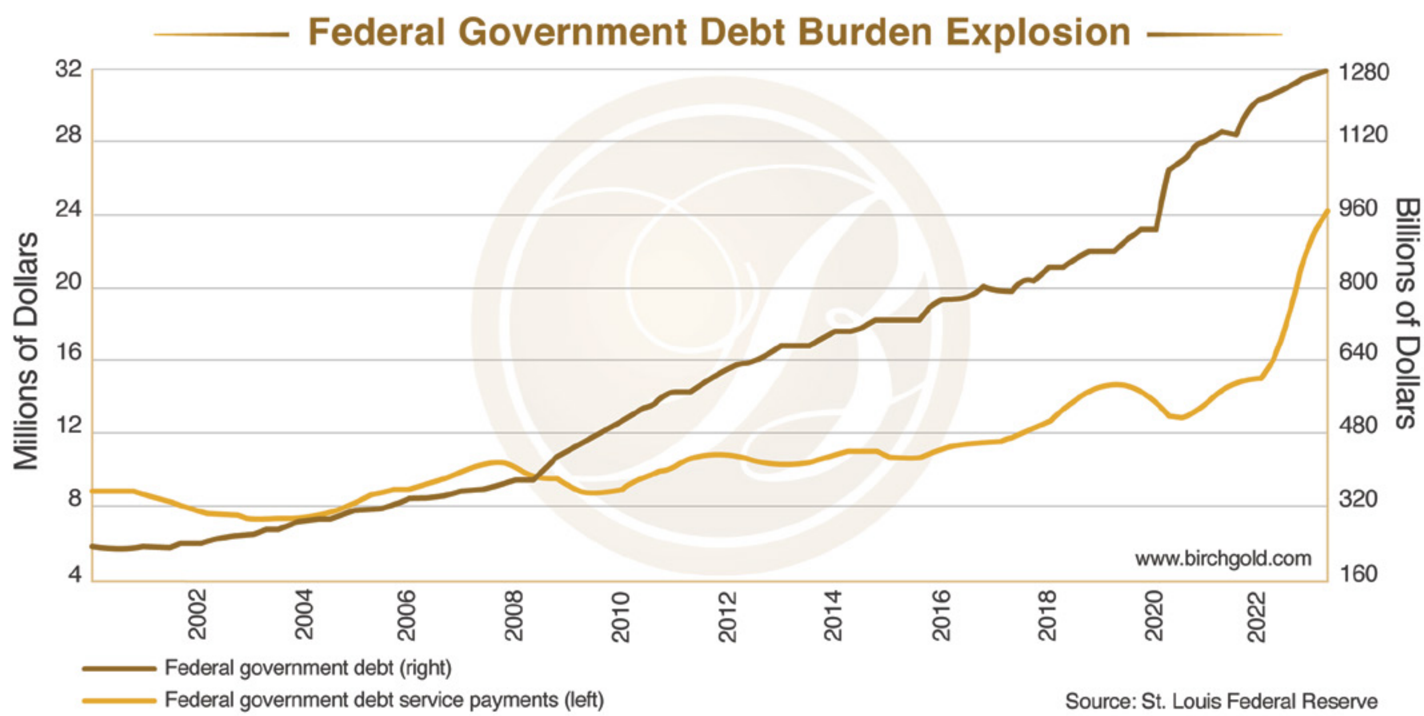
What about economic growth? Real (inflation-adjusted) GDP rose four-fold over the same period. In other words, the dollar supply has grown nearly 8x faster than the supply of goods and services to spend those dollars on.

The result? ***Everything costs more***.

Let me ask you – who benefits from the growth of the money supply?

Inflation *always* benefits debtors. (Think about it – when the inflation rate is higher than your mortgage rate, you'd be a fool to pay down your debt faster than you need to, right? Because *tomorrow's dollars will be worth less*.)

In this case, the 30-fold increase of the world's dollar supply benefits the world's biggest debtor: The federal government of the U.S. which prints new dollars to pay old debts.



Now, let me ask you – if inflation benefits the federal government, who pays the price?

**You do. I do.** Everyone whose income, or assets, are tied to the United States dollar does.

Most people don't really pay attention to this… They tend to think about the number of dollars they have, rather than what those dollars can actually do. Inflation robs us *without changing the balance of our bank accounts*.

That's probably why legendary economist John M. Keynes wrote:

> *Lenin is said to have declared that the best way to destroy the capitalist system was to [debase] the currency. By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens. By this method they not only confiscate, but they confiscate arbitrarily…*
>
> *The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner which not one man in a million is able to diagnose.*
>
> - From The Economic Consequences of the Peace, 1919

Now that you've read this – if you've understood everything I've said, congratulations – you're among Keynes's "one man in a million."

You're probably mad as hell. Well, you aren't alone. Other nations, from Japan to Switzerland, have about 1/4th of the world's dollar supply. Just like us, they've watched the purchasing power of their dollars dwindle over the decades.

And some of them recently decided, *enough is enough* – and decided to do something about it…

# Returning to the gold standard

Recently, the five BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) announced their intention to launch a new, international currency fully backed by gold. This is a deliberate attempt to replace the declining dollar with a new, inflation-resistant currency.

This is feasible for a number of reasons…

**BRICS nations are net exporters.** Their economies are organized around producing raw materials, goods and services the rest of the world *wants to buy*. Russia, for example, was Europe's gas station before the Ukraine invasion (now it's India and China's gas station). China is the world's biggest exporter *period*. Brazilian agricultural products and Indian pharmaceuticals are sold worldwide.

This means BRICS nations already enjoy a very active role in the global economy. In a seller's market, the seller dictates the terms of the sale, from price to the currency it's paid in.


**BRICS nations have a lot of gold.** Russia, China and India have the world's fifth, sixth and ninth largest *official* gold reserves.[10]

**BRICS nations are leading gold producing nations.** China is the world's leading gold mining nation – and *doesn't allow export of domestically-mined gold*. Russia comes in second. South Africa is #13 as of last year but has historically been ranked in the top 10 nations, and Brazil mines about a quarter as much gold as Russia.[11]

**BRICS nations aren't up to their eyeballs in debt.** As with individuals, the fewer debts a nation owes, the more economic freedom they enjoy.

The BRICS have enough gold, enough economic clout and enough moxie to *reshape the global financial system*.

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[10] *Gold Reserves by Country. World Gold Council, July 5, 2023. https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-reserves-by-country*

[11] *Global Mine Production. World Gold Council, June 7, 2023. https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-production-by-country*

I believe the entire world is about to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into a new gold standard economy. Now, in the long run, that's a good thing.

Here's Alan Greenspan again:

> *…if the gold standard were in place today we would not have reached the situation in which we now find ourselves… We would never have reached this position of extreme indebtedness were we on the gold standard, because the gold standard is a way of ensuring that fiscal policy never gets out of line.*
>
> - Gold Investor magazine, February 2017.

Here's what Greenspan means: Over the centuries, **the West learned a lesson about money.** About the importance of honest money between nations, and for their own citizens. I mean, the British have been using gold as money *since 1257*![12] Even after the devastation of World War I, when the war was over, *Europe returned to the gold standard*.

Why? Because gold is *honest money*. It's not a promise to pay. There's no counterparty risk. As Alan Greenspan said, it's the means by which *government spending is kept in check*.


Every single time the world has left the gold standard, we've seen complete economic chaos. Roosevelt's 1930s dalliance with dollar devaluation and nationalizing gold kept the nation in the throes of the Great Depression *for* ***years*** until the outbreak of World War II.

Even Bretton-Woods barely lasted 25 years! And it was already collapsing by the mid-1960s.

In the fifty years since, Western political and economic leaders have forgotten that the suspension of the gold standard is a *temporary emergency measure*. It's not *supposed* to be forever! The rest of the world has played along – until now.

One way or another, we're rapidly heading into a new era, where gold (once again) replaces unbacked currencies. Where "money" means *hard currency*, not IOUs or promises to pay.

[12] *John Evans, The First Gold Coins of England. The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society, Third Series, Vol. 20 (1900), pp. 218-251.*

Actually, it's not so much a new era as a return to the original, pre-1932 gold standard. Because the lesson the world has learned, time and time again, in the original J.P. Morgan's words:

> *"Gold is money. Everything else is credit."*

*All fiat currencies*, whether euro or yen or dollars, will dwindle in both value and relevance. (Who wants to be paid in promises when they can be paid in real money?)

Heavily indebted nations, like the U.S. will suffer the equivalent of an economic tsunami. The dollar's loss of global reserve currency status, and all the benefits that come with it, is likely to move a *lot faster* than anyone predicted.

I believe it's time to prepare ourselves for a *cataclysmic transition* to a new economic reality, where the U.S. and its imaginary dollar are, increasingly, marginalized and irrelevant.

# Your financial life raft

You *must* protect your **family's financial security**. No one else is going to do this for you! Yes, the federal government will print money to bail out banks – who bails out the taxpayer? No one.

We each must be prepared to bail out our own financial life rafts.

Furthermore, you *must* **understand how to protect** what you already have.

Many Americans are *woefully underprepared* to take responsibility for their own financial futures. They're sticking their heads in the sand. They're the kind of people who rely on FEMA aid stations to save them from natural disasters.

**We are not that kind of person.**

Here's what I'm recommending to all my friends and family… start diversifying away from vulnerable financial products, into physical assets like gold and silver. Birch Gold Group can help.

Since I first started working with Birch Gold Group, I've increasingly become a fan of physical precious metals. Their *simplicity* appeals to me. There's a reason gold and silver have been safe haven stores of value since Biblical times.

Or, to quote Alan Greenspan one last time:

> *I view gold as the primary global currency. It is the only currency, along with silver, that does not require a counterparty signature. Gold, however, has always been far more valuable per ounce than silver. No one refuses gold as payment to discharge an obligation. Credit instruments and fiat currency depend on the credit worthiness of a counterparty. Gold, along with silver, is one of the only currencies that has an intrinsic value. It has always been that way. No one questions its value, and it has always been a valuable commodity, first coined in Asia Minor in 600 BC.*
>
> - Gold Investor magazine, February 2017.

We don't have to wait to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the new economic era. We can front-run the BRICS nations by using the (completely unbacked!) dollars we already have to purchase "the primary global currency."

Don't put this off. Don't wait till tomorrow. Not because tomorrow will be too late, necessarily – this time. Personally, I believe in stocking my financial life raft before the storm clouds appear on the horizon.

Because, by the time the rain starts falling, it's too late to do anything but pray.