

# Civilizational Decline

by Earl P. Holt III

Throughout history, great civilizations have arisen and then declined and for some, their demise resulted from their own fatal errors rather than conquest at the hands of rivals. As the noted historian Arnold Toynbee pithily remarked, *"Civilizations perish from suicide, not murder."* Sometimes, this resulted from a failure to encourage and maintain capital, and America appears well on its way to such a fate.

"*Capital*" is anything that can be used to create more wealth, including money, land, tools, infrastructure, vehicles or equipment, all of which contribute to a civilization's prosperity. Healthy and prosperous societies have understood that generating capital affords greater *general* prosperity, and greater opportunities for individual citizens to raise their own standards of living. Only capitalism permits those who own large amounts of capital -- in one form or another -- to sell, lend, rent or otherwise convey excess or idle capital to others who intend more productive uses for it.

It could be said of **Great Britain** and Ancient Rome that the characteristic for which they are most renowned -- their pursuit of empire -- is what eventually precipitated their decline. The costs involved in maintaining Britain's vast empire -- captured in the phrase *"The Sun never sets on the British Isles"* -- became the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's famous poem, *"The White Man's Burden."* Although often misinterpreted as ridiculing or denigrating less advanced cultures, Kipling's actual purpose was to express his personal lament over England's loss of generations of talented and educated individuals, who were routinely dispatched to foreign lands to administer Britain's distant and myriad colonies.

The same principle also helped contribute to the decline of **Ancient Rome**, owing to the cost in blood, treasure and Roman Citizens to conquer foreign lands and maintain its distant military outposts. At its peak, the Roman Empire stretched throughout Europe, North Africa, the Mediterranean Region and the Middle East. This essentially bankrupted Rome, leaving it vulnerable to the Vandals who invaded in 476 A.D. These invaders then sacked the city and forced Rome's government to flee to what is now modern-day Istanbul, establishing the *Byzantine Empire*. **It's no coincidence that Rome's most rapid period of decline coincided with the period of its greatest geographic expansion.**



**I make no pretense of being a historian, but in my opinion the civilization whose decline most closely resembles our own -- even**

4,000 years later -- is **Ancient Egypt**. The expenditure of staggering amounts of wealth to build what would become its world-famous pyramids -- and other burial tombs of its Pharaohs -- inevitably contributed to its decline by squandering immeasurable amounts of material and human capital that were permanently lost to its economy in the process.

While the millions of engineers, artisans and laborers who built the pyramids and Pharaonic Tombs -- so-called "**human capital**" -- were thus engaged, none could apply their skills to the constructive pursuits of their normal professions. This drain on Egypt's economy is a phenomenon known to economists as an "**opportunity cost**," a term that describes the costs associated with ignoring more productive but alternative uses of resources. Many of these highly-skilled craftsmen spent their entire lives building tombs that were **dead-end uses of capital**, and that failed to benefit Ancient Egypt's economy.

**Enormous resources** were also expended in transporting billions of tons of limestone using Nile River barges, ultimately destined for Giza or the *Valley of Kings*. In addition, much of the food for workers had to be imported (or at least *transported*) to each building site. Even wood (cedar) had to be imported from what is now Lebanon, and shipped by sailing vessels across the Mediterranean to cook the food and build shelters for the workers and artisans constructing pyramids and tombs.

Finally, the immeasurable wealth in the form of **gold and bejeweled relics** that were buried with each pharaoh was an irreplaceable loss to Ancient Egypt, and represented wealth that was no longer available to the **capital streams** in its economy. When the Pharaohs were buried with treasure for their use in the afterlife, the result was a **maldistribution of resources and capital away from their civilization's dynamic economy and into a dead-end use**. Literally, much of Egypt's national wealth suffered the same fate as its deceased

pharaohs: it remained buried below ground, of no further benefit to its civilization.



In the same sense that Ancient Egypt's ultimate decline was precipitated by squandering its human and material capital, America has engaged in a similar pursuit: we have funded an enormously **expensive, destructive and often subversive federal government**, as draining to our economy as the pyramids and pharaonic tombs were to Egypt. Often referred to as "*The Swamp*," it currently costs \$4.5

**Trillion per year to feed its voracious appetite, and it has become a black-hole where American wealth and capital go to die.**

The federal government has grown to such gargantuan dimensions, no one man can possibly know where all its revenues are ultimately disbursed. It took seven years just to learn that the Pentagon and Anthony Fauci at the ***National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases*** contributed grants to help fund the "gain-of-function" research at China's ***Wuhan Institute of Virology***. That's where the COVID-19 Virus was engineered, which soon killed one million Americans and several millions more, worldwide.

Likewise, our current **welfare state** has cost us approximately \$27 Trillion since the mid-1960s, an amount that exceeds *America's Gross Domestic Product* at its highest levels of growth for any one year. This figure represents what are called "Transfer Payments" from U.S. taxpayers that are targeted primarily to blacks in our large urban areas. In theory, they are intended to help impoverished blacks assimilate into the middle class. Dozens of federal programs are used to feed, clothe, house and educate the black underclass and their illegitimate offspring, but they have primarily funded *Future Felons of America*.

**The only result after 60 years is that blacks have become synonymous with violent crime, property crimes, welfare, illegitimacy, drugs and functional illiteracy. Despite the \$27 Trillion the U.S. has spent on "Urban Welfare Spending" since the mid-1960s, the situation has consistently regressed. Blacks today are significantly angrier, more violent, more dependent on welfare, more likely to be fatherless, more likely to be involved with drugs, and far more likely to have been incarcerated in one of our state prison systems than 60 years ago.**

Likewise, this irresponsible spending has created a **National Debt** -- the sum of budget deficits not financed by tax revenues -- totaling **\$31**

**Trillion.** This amount is approximately 125 percent of current U.S. *Gross Domestic Product*. Our "leaders" are spending like n\*ggers with a stolen credit card, and are well on their way to bankrupting us as a nation. If that should happen, the U.\$ Dollar will cease to be the international currency -- or "*unit of account*" -- and our standard of living will decline to levels unseen since the *Great Depression*.

Enormous sums have also been lost forever to public education in America. This is particularly true of large, "urban" school systems, populated primarily by ineducable blacks. As a result, the average High School graduate of the past decade is less knowledgeable than the average Fifth Grader of 100 years ago. (See Side-Bar.)

If America is to avoid the fate of the Roman Empire or that of Ancient Egypt -- permitting a new "Dark Ages" to emerge in the form of a "New World Order" -- we must be unwavering in pursuing two reforms: First, we must profoundly defund many areas of the federal budget, and return the federal government to a more manageable size and its traditional functions as they are outlined in the Constitution.

Secondly, we must heed the advice of the late *Harvard University* professor -- and former U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-MA) -- who concluded that blacks would benefit from what he termed "**benign neglect**." This implies reducing welfare benefits to lower-class blacks,

#### Declining Education Standards

In her **EDUCATION REPORTER** some years ago, Phyllis Schlafly included test questions from an exam required for Florida students to progress from the Fifth Grade to the Sixth Grade around the year 1910. In addition to other exam questions, the test included the following two, which are the only ones I can recall:

1. ***What is the volume of a cylindrical water tower that is 30 feet high and ten feet wide?***
2. ***What are the eight elements of language?***

I would be surprised if 10 percent of recent High School graduates could answer those two questions correctly. In fact, I'd be surprised if 10% of recent college graduates could answer both correctly.

and an end to subsidizing sloth, drugs, crime, illegitimacy and ghetto behavior by replacing them with "**Work-Fare**" rather than welfare.

Ancient Rome and Ancient Egypt had little understanding of what today, we call the discipline of "*Economics*," so their misappropriation and squandering of capital is understandable. However, our "*leaders*" of today have no such excuse.