

Civilizational Decline

by Earl P. Holt III

Throughout history, great civilizations have evolved and then declined, and for many, their demise resulted from their own fatal errors rather than conquest at the hands of enemies. As the celebrated historian Arnold Toynbee famously remarked, *“Civilizations perish from suicide, not murder.”* In some instances, their decline resulted from their failure to recognize the necessity of generating and preserving capital. 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 any civilization's prosperity. Healthy and prosperous societies have recognized that generating and preserving capital affords greater *general* prosperity, and greater opportunities for every citizen to improve 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 and idle capital to others who intend more productive uses of it.**

It could be said of **Great Britain** and Ancient Rome that the single characteristic for which they are most renowned, their pursuit of empire, is what eventually contributed to 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 the affairs of 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 citizens of Rome to equip and maintain armies able to conquer foreign lands and staff its distant military outposts. At its peak, the Roman Empire stretched throughout Europe, North Africa, the Mediterranean Region and the Middle East. This eventually 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 is 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 its world-famous pyramids would inevitably contribute 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 -- so-called "**human capital**" -- were thus engaged, none could apply their skills to the constructive activities of their normal economies. 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, literally, **dead-end uses of capital** that failed to benefit Ancient Egypt's overall economy.

Enormous resources were expended in transporting billions of tons of limestone using Nile River barges, ultimately destined for Saqqara, Giza, the *Valley of Kings*, and dozens of other burial sites. 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 each pyramid.

Finally, immeasurable wealth in the form of **gold and bejeweled relics** were buried with each pharaoh. This was an irreplaceable loss to Ancient Egypt, and represented wealth that was permanently denied to the **capital streams** of its economy. When its 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 entombed below ground and of no further benefit to its civilization.



In the same sense that Ancient Egypt's ultimate decline was initiated 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 great a drain on our economy as the pyramids were to Egypt. Often referred to as "*The Swamp*," it currently costs more than \$7 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 comprehend where all its revenues are ultimately disbursed. It took Congress seven years just to learn that the *Pentagon* and Anthony Fauci at the ***National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases*** (NIAID) contributed multi-million-dollar 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 seven million more people, worldwide.

Likewise, our current **welfare state** has cost us approximately \$35 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 primarily targeted at blacks in our large urban areas. More than 90 federal programs are used to feed, clothe, house and educate the black underclass and their illegitimate offspring. In theory, the intent of such programs is to help impoverished blacks assimilate into the middle class, but in reality, they have primarily funded state-run lotteries, drug-dealers, liquor stores, the cable TV industry, and "*Future Felons of America.*"

The net result after 60 years is that blacks have become synonymous with violent crime, property crimes, welfare, illegitimacy, addiction and functional illiteracy. Despite that \$35 Trillion the U.S. has spent on "Urban Welfare Spending" since the mid-1960s, the situation has consistently regressed. Today, blacks are significantly angrier, more violent, more dependent on welfare, more likely to be illegitimate, 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.



Nigs Doin' "They Thing"

Likewise, this irresponsible spending has created a **National Debt** -- the sum of budget deficits not financed by tax revenues -- totaling **\$35 Trillion**. This amount is approximately 140 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 recognized as the world's reserve currency, 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. We have spent tens of trillions of dollars attempting to eradicate an "*academic achievement gap*" between black and white students that is **IRREMEDIAL** because it is the result of genetics, and thus predetermined. In the process, we have destroyed public education in America, where the average High School graduate of recent decades is less knowledgeable than the average Fifth Grader of 100 years ago.

In addition, Joe Biden -- that shell of a human being wrongly occupying the White House -- recently pledged that the U.S. would spend \$375 Billion to fight "*climate change*" over the next 10 years. That capital will be squandered, and would actually do less harm if it were burned rather than used to subsidize ludicrously expensive and inefficient "**green**" industries that cannot exist without federal subsidies.

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 Marxist "*New World Order*" -- we must be unwavering in pursuing two reforms: First, we must profoundly de-fund **VAST** 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 U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-MA) -- who concluded that American blacks would benefit from what he termed "**benign neglect**." This implies reducing welfare benefits to lower-class blacks by replacing welfare with "**Work-Fare**", and putting an end to subsidizing sloth, drugs, crime, illegitimacy and ghetto behavior.



Ghetto Behavior: "It's a Black Thing..."

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 excusable. However, our "**leaders**" of today have no such excuse.