

## Who benefits from the chaos of panic?

Around 2001 I met a doctor from Australia. He was working at St. Jude Children's Hospital and had spent time in Asia studying the flu. The person who introduced us said this guy knows more about influenza than anyone. The Aussie said that the flu comes from poor, densely populated areas in Asia where the children play in the dirt where the chickens and pigs live (bird flu, swine, etc.). He said that the flu will evolve and our immunity will evolve with it. If you don't believe that is reasonable, read no further.

If I was a grocery store owner you would recognize that I buy for the lowest possible price and sell for the highest possible price with an eye to competition. So if the risk and return seem appropriate I buy apples at ten cents and sell them for fifty cents. Competition and free choice assure the system works for all. Coercion is unacceptable.

Our nation was founded on liberty for the individual, to worship, to bear arms, to assemble peacefully. When government threatens one of these, they are all threatened. Coercion is unacceptable. It is the opposite of free to choose. If you don't believe it, read no further.

Who gets to decide? There are 2 types of economic systems. One type is where people are free to decide based on price how to allocate resources. The other type is command and control where an authoritative head makes the decisions regarding allocation of resources. They can't exist together, they are mutually exclusive. Who gets to decide what is essential? Who gets to decide what business can be open or closed? I can buy underwear at Walmart but not at Macy's?

My God fearing friends say that our faith is Above and we are to be good citizens. I'm thankful for them. But the God I serve gave me the greatest liberty anyone has ever been afforded and I can and should serve Him by expecting our people to remain free and to be informed.

My freedom to take risk is inalienable. Your freedom to avoid risk doesn't go beyond your person. In other words, you are free to minimize your risk, but not at the expense of my freedom. Coercion is unacceptable. And there is no use going into statistics. It is way too early and each faction will come up with their own. As Mark Twain said there are lies, damn lies and statistics.

As to the market, every time someone loses money, someone else makes money. The forest was a tinderbox where everything was fully priced or overvalued. How many trillions have changed hands? Wall Street is a grocery store of capital assets. The store can't buy stock at \$300 and sell at \$302. They must load the wagon with profitable goods.

One reason the poor get poorer and the rich get richer is that the government doesn't have the ability to give us sound money over long periods of time. The money is constantly losing value. The rich can invest in assets that hold value while poor people are just trying to save enough to pay the rent and buy a car. And those dollars lose value. The system can work for everyone if freedom reigns and the government gives us sound money. What the government is doing now with our money supply would have been unthinkable at our founding 245 years ago, even fifty years ago. The interest rate is a reflection of the value of the money.

Is it possible this "panic" was sparked by financial titans with help from the media moguls? No doubt fear has overwhelmed reason. It's a social media fire storm. And the politicians grandstand.

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