|  |
| --- |
| Jihad Report May 19, 2018 -May 25, 2018 |
| Attacks | **34** |
| Killed | **154** |
| Injured | **153** |
| Suicide Blasts | **5** |
| Countries | **11** |

**Deep State Generals Panicked**

The Globalist Deep State I call the Clinton Crime Syndicate was the enemy of peace in my latest best selling book, Charm of Favor. As fast I could write, within a few days the actions I was revealing were coming to light. It was almost like I was writing history before it happened. The spies they utilize throughout their organization are recruited and managed just like a criminal gang. One of the most ruthless and aggressive managers is a man named John Brennan.

They counted on Hillary winning the election. In fact, as the primaries began to build momentum in the press, they took risks that would turn out to be fatal flaws in this assumption. If Hillary won, the crimes they were committing would never come to light. But she didn’t win. Now, those illegal actions taken by these generals, including murder, blackmail, espionage, selling influence, and even physical spying and wiretapping are now exposed.

John Brennan, President Obama’s former CIA director, again used his verified Twitter account Saturday to lash out at President Trump, this time by threatening House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

“Senator McConnell & Speaker Ryan: If Mr. Trump continues along this disastrous path, you will bear major responsibility for the harm done to our democracy,” Brennan’s ominous tweet read. “You do a great disservice to our Nation & the Republican Party if you continue to enable Mr. Trump’s self-serving actions”:

@JohnBrennan

Brennan did not explain what “major responsibility” Ryan and McConnell will “bear,” but as America’s former chief spy, Brennan probably has all kinds of Deep State ties, methods, and contacts at his disposal.

Brennan’s threat was in response to President Trump’s ordering the Justice Department to look into the Obama administration’s spying on his 2016 presidential campaign, an unprecedented act that a number of anti-Trump outlets, like the Washington Post and New York Times, have confirmed.

“I hereby demand, and will do so officially tomorrow, that the Department of Justice look into whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes,” Trump tweeted, adding, “and if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!”

For whatever reason, this tweet inspired Brennan to warn Ryan and McConnell. Brennan’s overall Twitter feed is filled with angry tweets lashing out at Trump and Republicans in general, and this is not the first time he has issued a threat.

In March, Brennan threatened Trump directly and boldly, as though he had nothing to lose.

“When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America…America will triumph over you,” he angrily tweeted. I’m sure they all high-fived when they crafted this one. It was sophomoric and condescending to Trump voters, particularly.

Samantha Power, the former ambassador the UN, was pimped by Brennan to the Russians. In the end, he blackmailed her to physically go to the FISA office every day and unmask all of Donald Trump’s phone recordings they were secretly making. Apparently, she was too afraid of Brennan to refuse the order. She, perhaps in a moment of bad judgment, tweeted a warning threat of her own. “Not a good idea to piss off John Brennan.” She should know. A woman who posed on a national magazine cover in a negligee and heels as the brash and sassy new ambassador, and loved her Russian boys and some red wine, was now the whore of the deep state, doing the bidding of John Brennan like a slave.

Quoting Dan Bongino, Trump used his Twitter feed to return verbal fire at Brennan. “John Brennan is panicking. He has disgraced himself, he has disgraced the Country, he has disgraced the entire Intelligence Community. He is the one man who is largely responsible for the destruction of American’s faith in the Intelligence Community,” read the president’s lengthy quote, which required three tweets to complete:

Then, the newest Facebook Live host, Dan Bongino stated this. It cannot be said any better, so here are his words:

“John Brennan is panicking. He has disgraced himself, he has disgraced the Country, he has disgraced the entire Intelligence Community. He is the one man who is largely responsible for the destruction of American’s faith in the Intelligence Community and in some people at the top of the FBI. Brennan started this entire debacle about President Trump. We now know that Brennan had detailed knowledge of the (phony) Dossier...he knows about the Dossier, he denies knowledge of the Dossier, he briefs the Gang of 8 on the Hill about the Dossier, which they then used to start an investigation about Trump. It is that simple. This guy is the genesis of this whole Debacle. This was a Political hit job, this was not an Intelligence Investigation. Brennan has disgraced himself, he’s worried about staying out of Jail.”

He is right. John Brennan may well die of old age in prison. But, then again, he may do the right thing. There are others to consider:

James Clapper

Susan Rice

Valerie Jarrett

Ben Rhodes

The Podesta Brothers

The Awan cyber-crime gang

Human Abedene

Hillary Clinton

Bill Clinton

Loretta Lynch

Eric Holder

Barack Obama

There are so many, hundreds as a matter of fact, that it may take swift and coordinated action by the Marines to arrest them all. Their foundations, assets, files, computers, cell phones, and servers will yield the largest treasure of espionage in US history. The seizures and arrests will do more to establish world peace and restore faith in America than anything ever exercised in the name of justice.

**Privilege**

There are certain people in the world who believe that the they are owed a living. They should not be required to work. They should not only be provided food, housing, and medical care. They should also be provided spending money. And, should they accidently earn money, they should not have their “benefits” reduced.

Such is the perfect example of a former NAACP leader in Washington state whose life unraveled after she was outed as a white woman pretending to be black has been charged with welfare fraud. Yes, it turns out that she was so successful pretending to be a light-skinned black woman, that she rose to the ranks of leadership in the organization ostensibly dedicated to evening the playing field for black people in a world full of white privilege. But that is exactly what this woman thought she was; privileged.

News station KHQ-TV reports Thursday that Rachel Dolezal, who legally changed her name to Nkechi Diallo in 2016, was charged this week with theft by welfare fraud, perjury and false verification for public assistance. Court documents say she illegally received $8,747 in food assistance and $100 in child care assistance from August 2015 through November 2017.

An investigation started in March 2017 when a state investigator received information that Ms. Dolezal had written a book. Turns out she bragged a little too much about documents saying she had deposited nearly $84,000 into her bank account without reporting it. That money would mostly likely have reduced her taxpayer-funded welfare benefits. The formerly black activist told investigators she "fully disclosed her information" and declined to answer further questions. It is only a matter of time.

**Spies Like Us**

We have always been suspicious of surveillance in America. We are fierce about our privacy. Of course, most Americans admit they have nothing to hide. That is not the point. What if there was a moment when we wanted to hide something? What if someone could play back your browsing history late Saturday night? There are a million things that people do, that they want to do in private.

That was then. Now, we have spies. Yes, Donald Trump is not the only one who is gun shy today. As it turns out, the scandal over Amazon's Alexa voice-controlled personal assistant recording and sharing private conversations both with hackers and with people on the users' contact list is much more serious than the company had feared.

As Bloomberg reported, Amazon responded to a KIRO 7 news report about a couple who received a call from a friend saying "unplug your Alexa devices right now. You’re being hacked" after the company's device had shared a private conversation without explicit permission. The whole nation heard parts of that conversation, as though they were right there in the room, because of Alexa.

Amazon offered a complex, meandering "explanation" for the series of strange coincidences that triggered Alexa to record and share a couple's private conversation. It started with Alexa being triggered when it heard a word that sounded like "Alexa" - the command for the technology activate. Here are the details:

Amazon explained the series of events that triggered the episode in an emailed statement. The Echo woke after hearing a word in the couple’s conversation that sounded like "Alexa" -- the usual trigger to begin recording. The speaker later heard "send message" during the conversation, at which point the device asked, "to whom?" The pair continued talking in the background and the Echo’s system interpreted part of the chat to identify a name in the couple’s contact list. Alexa then asked aloud if they wanted to send a message to that contact and heard "right" in more background conversation.

"As unlikely as this string of events is, we are evaluating options to make this case even less likely," the company said.

The report invigorated privacy concerns as internet-connected devices like the Amazon Echo become ubiquitous in homes. Amazon in 2014 introduced the new line of devices, which can also stream music and order goods from Amazon via voice command. It has been busy introducing updated versions and adding features to sell more devices than rivals like Alphabet Inc. and Apple Inc., which offer their own versions.

The "explanation" suggests that consumers should be extremely careful of what they say around their personal assistants to the point where more users should consider deactivating the device when it's not in use. And there's plenty: more than 60 million U.S. consumers will use a smart speaker at least once a month this year, with more than 40 million of them using Amazon’s devices, according to eMarketer Inc.

Ryan Calo, an associate law professor at the University of Washington who studies the intersection of law and technology, said this incident could cause lasting damage not only to the Alexa, and thus Amazon, brand but to voice-controlled personal assistants in general (Alphabet and Apple make their own model).

People have been willing to overlook glitches in the Echo, like it turning on accidentally or without the wake word being uttered, said Ryan Calo, an associate law professor at the University of Washington who researches how law applies to technology. This incident is more alarming since a private conversation was recorded and sent to a third party, he said.

"Think about how uncomfortable the millions of people who own these things now feel," Calo said. "The real harm is the invasion into solitude people now experience in their homes."

Not to mention the damage it could do to technology more broadly, as paranoia surrounding privacy continues to intensify, according to Daniel Kahn Gillmor, the in-house technologist at the American Civil Liberties Union. Of course, Mr. Gilmore has nothing, absolutely nothing to say about the spies they placed inside at least one campaign during the 2016 election. It wasn’t the Russians. It was the Clinton Crime Syndicate.

I maintain it wasn’t just Donald Trump, either. Remember, the spying we know of—and I am being very clear when I say that we know of—began in March of 2016. There were numerous Republican and Democrat primary candidates still in the race at that time. Ted Cruz had won several States and was pushing for a brokered convention as early as February. Donald Trump did not win enough primaries to secure the nomination until May 26th. Mark my words, Earth explorers. The Clinton Crime Syndicate paid tens of millions of dollars to the FBI and to foreign intelligence services to place spies inside of the Cruz, Kasich, and Sanders campaigns to make sure they could cheat their way into the White House. Sanders had a bruise on his face the night Hillary graciously accepted the nomination. He had his donor database hacked, funds frozen, and even filed a lawsuit on June 28th against the DNC for cheating in the primary. By the way, that process server, Shawn Lucas, that gave the notice of the lawsuit to the DNC was killed a few weeks later in his own kitchen when his girlfriend went out to pick up pizza for dinner. The news reported months later that the cause of death for the 37 year old was an herbal pain remedy he was taking. Of course, we believe them.

A few days later, on July 10th, another young man, trying to set the record straight about the Clinton Crime Syndicate’s blatant bribery and blackmail during the primary to stop Bernie Sanders, was shot in the back twice on the sidewalk walking home from Lou’s City Bar in DC and died.

**The President of Freedom**

It doesn’t take a long or sharp memory to think back about Obama’s performance as a liberator. Recall honorably discharged Marine Andrew Tamooressi? He made a wrong turn and found himself across the Mexican border, so he turned around and tried to cross back into America.

He was busted in the Spring of 2014 for declaring a rifle in his truck, and spent 214 days chained to a bed in a Mexican jail. Obama would do nothing to help, because he was anti-gun and anti-Marine.

It was Donald Trump who had seen enough and decided to step in. After his freedom was secured, he wrote a personal a check $25,000 to Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi, who was recently freed from a Mexican prison after 214 days in jail.

“I really want this money to go to him, not his lawyers," he said.

Trump said that he felt badly after watching Greta Van Susteren’s interview with the Marine. He said that Tahmooressi has suffered greatly and that he hopes this money will help him get back on with his life.

“It is my great honor to send $25,000 to Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi.” #marinefreed

Van Susteren and Trump also discussed President Barack Obama’s trip to China, which Trump blasted as “disgraceful.”

He also weighed in on the midterm elections, saying that people are “tired of Obama, they’re tired of incompetence.”

Well, Trump freed three more Americans jailed in North Korea without spending any pallets of cash or trading weapons or missile technology in exchange. Now we have the story of Joshua Holt, who traveled to Venezuela from Utah in 2016 to marry a Spanish-speaking Mormon woman but soon found himself jailed and later branded the CIA's top spy in Latin America, has been set free by the anti-American Maduro government.

He says he was "overwhelmed with gratitude."

How a secret backchannel helped free Utah man from Venezuela prison

Holt and his wife, Thamara Caleno, arrived Saturday evening at Washington Dulles International Airport for a tearful reunion with his parents, Laurie and Jason Holt. A few hours later President Trump welcomed them to the White House, saying it was a "very tough ordeal." He said Holt had been through more than "most people could endure."

U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with Josh Holt, an American missionary who was released by Venezuela, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington

Mr. Trump said there have been 17 prisoners released since he became president. He specially mentioned Egyptian-American charity worker Aya Hijazi, calling her a "fantastic young woman," and the three men recently released from North Korea.

The Utah man's mother, Laurie Holt, thanked Mr. Trump and the lawmakers for her son's safe return, adding: "I also want to say thank you to President Maduro for releasing Josh and letting him to come home."

Their release came one day after Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., held a surprise meeting in Caracas with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who the Trump administration says runs a "dictatorship" and just won re-election in a "sham" vote.

Mr. Trump, in a tweet, described Holt as a "hostage." The U.S. contended Holt was held on trumped up charges.

Months of secret, backchannel talks between an aide to Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and close allies of Maduro preceded their return. Yet Holt's release had seemed unlikely even a week ago.

Joining Mr. Trump in the Oval Officer were Corker, Utah Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee and Utah Rep. Mia Love. The lawmakers thanked the president for his support.

The White House learned from Corker on Friday of Holt's impending release, according to a U.S. official who has closely followed Holt's plight and spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private talks.

Holt and his wife were reunited at the Caracas airport with her daughter from a previous relationship, and all three boarded a chartered flight to Washington. "We are on our way home," Corker tweeted.

When he departed the Caracas airport earlier, Holt told The Associated Press that the ordeal had left him "exhausted."

Venezuela's communications minister, Jorge Rodriguez, said their release was a goodwill gesture that followed months of dialogue between the Maduro government and U.S. lawmakers.

"We're praying that this type of gesture ... will allow us to strengthen what we've always sought: dialogue, harmony, respect for our independence and respect for our sovereignty," he said.

Holt, now 26, set out for the South American country in June 2016 to marry a woman he met online while looking for Spanish-speaking Mormons who could help him improve his Spanish. He had planned to spend several months in Caracas that summer with his new wife and her two daughters, to secure their visas so they could move with him to the U.S.

Instead, the couple was arrested that June 30 at her family's apartment in a government housing complex on the outskirts of Caracas. Authorities accused him of stockpiling an assault rifle and grenades, and suggested that his case was linked to other unspecified U.S. attempts to undermine Maduro's rule amid deep economic and political turbulence.

They were held in a notorious Caracas prison, run by the secret police, that also is home to dozens of top Maduro opponents jailed during the past few years of political unrest in the country. Their trial was set to begin this month after repeated delays that led the Trump administration to question the motives for his detention.

Until Mr. Trump's tweet on Saturday, the U.S. had stopped short of publicly calling Holt a "hostage."

Holt's release looked unlikely a week ago, when he appeared in a clandestinely shot video railing against the Maduro government and saying his life was threatened in a prison riot. In retaliation, socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello, a powerful Maduro ally, said on state television that Holt was the CIA's top spy in Latin America.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., spoke to Mr. Trump at length Friday night and later said the couple's release "will in no way change U.S. policy toward the dictatorship in Venezuela."

The White House press secretary issued a statement to that point Saturday night, saying policy was not changing even while thanking the government for releasing the Holts. The statement also called the recent elections "illegitimate" and urged the release of all political prisoners.

The Trump administration has threatened crippling oil sanctions on Venezuela for Maduro's decision to go forward with the presidential election last week.

The U.S. government at first avoided ratcheting up public pressure on Venezuela in light of their already strained relations, but eventually raised Holt's case with the highest levels of the Venezuelan government and decried his treatment in prison.

Corker was seen live on state TV on Friday shaking hands with Maduro and being greeted by first lady Cilia Flores as he entered the presidential palace. Corker left an hour later; neither the senator nor the president made any statements.

Laurie Holt worked feverishly to bring attention to her son's incarceration, hosting rallies, fundraisers and doing media interviews. She said her son has suffered numerous health problems in jail, including kidney stones and respiratory problems. He was depressed and at one point lost so much weight that he dropped several pant sizes, she said.

In their statement, the Holt family said, "We thank you for your collaboration during this time of anguish. We ask that you allow us to meet with our son and his wife before giving any interviews and statements. We are grateful to all who participated in this miracle."

It's the second time in less than a month Mr. Trump has welcomed prisoners home, after he helped secure the freedom of three Americans held in North Korea.

**The President of Peace**

This morning at breakfast I had a thought about the number of foreign policy victories President Donald Trump has had in his short time as president. He doesn’t mess around. He doesn’t pace the winning. He wins and then wins again, and while the fake stream Syndicate news actors are busy vomiting copy prepared for them to destroy or play down the last victory, he is well on the way to securing the next win.

They have obfuscated and played down the talks with North Korea by embellishing the oscillations in the negotiating process like bookies trying to influence the odds of the playoffs. But the truth is that the President is steadily moving forward with his agenda.

He pulled out the taxpayer bleeding TPP, the Paris Accords, and is renegotiating NAFTA. He has pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, scolded NATO, and brought the Stock Market to unprecedented heights in less than two years.

Now, as though that wasn’t enough for a pair of 4-year terms for any other president, he is ending the Korean War and is well on his way to reuniting the Korean Peninsula for a major move toward world peace. The most infamous rogue nuclear player in history is about to make the transition from global antagonist to neighbor.

Talks regarding the planned June 12 U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore are still on track and members of the U.S. administration are working to iron out the details, President Donald Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Saturday evening.

The talks “are going very, very well,” Trump said.

 “I think people want to see if we can get the meeting and get something done. We got that done and we can be successful in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, that would be a great thing for North Korea, it would be a great thing for South Korea, it would be great for Japan, it would be great for the world, it would be great for the United States, it would be great for China. A lot of people are working on it. It’s moving along very nicely,” Trump said.

A TV screen shows South Korean President Moon Jae-in, left, meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the border village of Panmunjom during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, May 26, 2018.

In North Korea, state media reported Saturday night that it’s North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s “fixed will” that a summit with the U.S. president in Singapore should go ahead.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in met Saturday afternoon with the North Korean leader near the two Koreas’ heavily militarized border.

The leaders exchanged views on how to prepare for the North’s possible summit with Trump, the South Korean presidential office said. After the meeting, South Korea’s President Moon was upbeat. South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during a press conference at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, May 27, 2018.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during a press conference at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, May 27, 2018.

“It was like an ordinary encounter between friends,” he said of his Saturday meeting with Kim Jong Un.

Moon said the North Korean leader remains committed to denuclearization.

“What’s uncertain for Kim is not his intention to denuclearize, but the U.S. stance in hostile relations with North Korea and whether the U.S. can really secure and guarantee his regime,” Moon said.

The two leaders reiterated hopes for a successful North Korea-U.S. summit after Trump abruptly canceled a meeting between the two countries planned for June 12 in Singapore. Trump cited hostile comments from top North Korean officials as his reason for scrapping the meeting, as well as concern about the country’s commitment to giving up its nuclear weapons.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Saturday in a statement, “The White House pre-advance team for Singapore will leave as scheduled in order to prepare should the summit take place.” Politico magazine reported earlier that an advance team of 30 White House and State Department officials were preparing to depart later this weekend.

Kim thanked Moon “for much effort made by him” toward the summit, and said he hoped to improve relations with Washington and “establish mechanism for permanent and durable peace.”

Leaders of North and South Korea also agreed to “meet frequently,” the North’s KCNA agency added.

**Trump Derangement Syndrome**

It doesn’t matter. Whatever he does, it is wrong. It is corrupt. It is a lie. It cannot be true. Well, another anti-Trump State official has been outed as the ultimate hypocrite. West Hollywood Mayor John Duran, who honored porn star Stormy Daniels last week for her role in leading the “resistance” to President Donald Trump, faced sexual harassment claims that led to the city paying out $500,000 on his behalf in 2016.

The Los Angeles Times reported at the time:

A former aide to West Hollywood City Councilman John Duran who sued the city and his boss alleging sexual harassment and wrongful punishment is set to receive $500,000 after settling with both parties earlier this month, according to the agreement obtained by The Times.

Under the terms of the settlement with former City Council deputy Ian Owens, Duran and the city admitted no wrongdoing. Duran has repeatedly denied the allegations, saying Owens did not accuse him of harassment until he was accused of wrongdoing himself.

Duran has acknowledged that he and Owens were intimate and that they met through Grindr. He said they became friends and that he hired Owens because his degree in finance and experience in hotel development and real estate made him well-qualified for the job.

Duran, now mayor of the city, escaped pressure to resign. The accusations and settlement happened almost two years before the “#metoo” and “Time’s Up” movements began to champion the victims of sexual harassment and violence.

Mayor Duran declared May 23 “Stormy Daniels Day” and gave her a symbolic key to the city. “Our values have been under threat by the Trump administration for the past year-and-a-half,” he said at the ceremony, praising Daniels and her attorney, Michael Avenatti, for fighting back.

One angry member of the public actually mentioned the sexual harassment claims against Duran at the event outside the Chi Chi LaRue gay sex shop on Santa Monica Boulevard.

“I think it’s complete B.S.,” she said, referring to the award ceremony, shortly before it began. “This is so ridiculous. It’s completely hypocritical. The mayor who is giving this to her has silenced people who have filed sexual harassment lawsuits against him. And what connection does this woman have to the City of West Hollywood? I would say none.”

The woman’s comments were caught on video at 4:23, below.

She added: “I’m definitely not a fan of ’45,’ however, what happened between [Stormy Daniels] and him happened about 12 years ago, so what does it matter to me now? And I don’t see her as a feminist leader.

**Theranos: The Art of Deception**

Theranos' star was shining bright going into 2015.

The darling blood-testing startup had racked up a $9 billion valuation with its big vision to test for a number of conditions off just a small sample of blood, and its CEO Elizabeth Holmes was featured on the cover of business magazines and lists of top executives. But then questions started being raised about how the company's technology worked.

As Wall Street Journal reporter John Carreyrou details in his new book, "Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup," the events leading up to the imminent downfall of the company started unraveling even years earlier. The book gives a behind the scenes look into the events propelled the biotech startup, Theranos, into chaos and deceit.

Elizabeth Holmes dropped out of Stanford University in 2003 at the age of 19 to start Theranos, which was then called Real-Time Cures. She was inspired both by her grandfather's medical career, and her summer 2003 internship at the Genome Institute of Singapore. Briefly after the internship she wrote up a patent application for an arm patch that had the ability to diagnose and treat medical conditions.

Shaunak Roy, a PhD student Holmes was assisting in Professor Channing Robertson's lab, joined her at Theranos in May 2004 as its first employee. Robertson joined the company's board as an adviser.

In order to raise initial funding, Holmes leveraged several family connections. The first two investors in Theranos were Tim Draper, the father of her childhood friend and former neighbor, and Victor Palmieri, one of her father's long-time friends. By the end of 2004, Holmes had raised nearly $6 million.

The initial design for the Theranos device in 2005 was a cartridge-and-reader system that was dependent on microfluidics and biochemistry. This prototype was dubbed the Theranos 1.0, and the company had plans to license the technology out to pharmaceutical firms to help them catch adverse drug reactions during clinical trials.

In November 2006, Henry Mosley was fired from the position of chief financial officer at Theranos after questioning the reliability of its technology and the honesty of the company. In August 2007, Holmes used the premature Theranos 1.0 in a patient study with terminal cancer patients in Nashville, Tennessee. Theranos also announces that it would be suing three former employees for stealing intellectual property.

Theranos developed a new prototype in September 2007, named the Edison. The device was a modification of a glue-dispensing robot from New Jersey company Fisnar. By then, Holmes had poached some of Apple's designers and put them in charge of architecting the overall look and feel of the Edison.

Sunny Balwani joined Theranos in September 2009. He had known Holmes since summer of 2002. Balwani had a background in software engineering and business.

By 2010, a startup boom had hit Silicon Valley. That year, Holmes and Balwani approached Walgreens with a business proposition to run health clinics. At the same time, Theranos was also pursuing a partnership with Safeway.

The new partnerships meant that Holmes had to create a new device that could perform more than just one class of blood tests. The miniLab was created in 2011, and was nicknamed the 4s after the iPhone model.

In early 2012, Theranos took over blood testing at a Safeway employee health clinic as a beta run. The chief medical officer of Safeway had concerns about the discrepancies and differences between the values given by Theranos. Safeway's CEO brushed it off and retired the following year. Theranos also signed a deal with Walgreens in 2012 to launch its devices in-store but continuously missed agreed-upon deadlines.

Lieutenant Colonel David Shoemaker raised concerns about Theranos' regulatory strategy to the FDA in 2012 after Holmes approached him about deploying the device in the military. The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) then did a surprise inspection, where Balwani told them that the device was still under development. After battling James Mattis, who was on the Theranos board, Shoemaker ultimately agreed to a more limited experiment.

At Theranos, things were getting tense. Ian Gibbons, a former scientist at Theranos, committed suicide in May 2013.

In September 2013, Theranos launched its 4s model with a new website and an op-ed piece by Holmes in The Wall Street Journal, despite protests from several of the company's scientists saying that the technology was not ready.

Partner Fund purchased 5.6 million shares of Theranos at a price of $17 a share in February 2014. Theranos was valued at $9 billion and Elizabeth Holmes had a net worth of almost $5 billion.

Theranos and Holmes started gaining media attention, gracing the cover of Fortune magazine in June 2014.

Wall Street Journal investigative reporter John Carreyrou got a tip about Theranos in early February 2015. On February 26, he contacted a former lab director at Theranos who told him about unethical and harmful practices there. At that time the company was operating at a limited capacity and had been generating false and unreliable results for patients. Theranos had also been thinking of conducting HIV tests before the former lab director talked Holmes and Balwani out of it.

While Carreyrou was investigating the company, business carried on as usual. In July 2015, Theranos got its first FDA approval. By this point, scientists were starting to raise some questions about the company's technology.

The headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seen in Silver Spring, Maryland Thomson Reuters.

Shortly before Holmes was scheduled to speak at a conference, Carreyrou published his first story, revealing the company's struggles to develop its blood-testing technology. Holmes went on stage and appeared on TV to defend her company over the coming weeks.

But the facts were starting to come out. In documents related to the FDA's visit to Theranos' lab, the agency told the company that it was shipping an "uncleared medical device."

By November, the partnership with Safeway had fallen through, and the Walgreens relationship was on thin ice.

By early 2016, more regulators were finding problems with Theranos. In January, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which regulate blood-testing labs, cited concerns that one of Theranos' labs posed "immediate jeopardy" to patients. Later in April, the SEC started its investigation into the company.

Blood samples wait to be processed at Biobank, the world's largest blood and urine sample freezer near Manchester, northern England, in this March 18, 2010 file picture. Phil Noble/Reuters

In May 2016, Theranos President Sunny Balwani left the company, leaving Holmes as the sole top executive.

In June, Walgreens ended its partnership with Theranos and closed all of the Wellness Centers it had opened in Arizona and California.

In July, CMS banned Holmes from the lab-testing industry for two years. Theranos later in 2017 settled with the regulatory body for $30,000. As part of the settlement, Theranos agreed not to own or operate a clinical lab until 2019.

The following month, Theranos finally presented at a scientific conference, though the details about the company's technology were still lacking. Theranos appeared to be pivoting toward focusing on its new sample processor, the miniLab.

The presentation over the summer foreshadowed Theranos' pivot just a few months later, in which the company shut down its clinical labs, laid off about 340 employees, and went to work solely on its miniLab technology.

Lawsuits then started piling up from all angles including Walgreens, investors and patients in Arizona. Those cases all ultimately got settled, with Theranos paying millions to refund patients who took its tests in Arizona.

Some of the big names on Theranos' board departed shortly after, including former US Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz. The company also went through another round of layoffs.

By the end of 2017, Theranos was in need of a cash infusion and made a deal with Fortress Investment Group for $100 million in secured debt financing to get it through 2018. The deal relied on Theranos hitting certain development milestones as it worked to get its Zika virus approved by the FDA.

Then in March, the SEC charged Holmes, Balwani, and the company with "massive fraud," though Theranos and Holmes settled. As part of the resolution, Holmes paid a fine and cannot be a director or officer of a publicly traded company for 10 years.

Facing setbacks in its Zika test development, Theranos laid off the majority of its remaining employees and appealed to investors for more funding.

Theranos said in its December letter to investors that the Department of Justice is still investigating the company, meaning that criminal charges could come to Holmes and Balwani. The company is still in danger of defaulting on its agreement with Fortress. Either event may mark the end of the 15-year-old company's saga.

Holmes settled with the S.E.C. without admitting any wrongdoing. (The Justice Department also launched an investigation into Theranos; the agency would not comment on whether its probe is ongoing). Still, plenty in Silicon Valley see what Theranos did as a blight on the industry itself. “It’s on her, it’s on the company, it’s on the investors, and the board members who didn’t ask any of the right questions,” one Silicon Valley investor told me. “Or, evidently, any questions at all.”

Another tech investor was more direct. “The race to be the biggest, in an environment that rewards taking chances [and] breaking rules can tempt people to do things they normally wouldn’t do,” they said. “If what she’s been charged with is true, she’s a criminal who should be in prison. I highly doubt Elizabeth Holmes set out to be a fraud—much in the same way that I don’t really think Bernie Madoff’s business plan from day one was to run a Ponzi scheme. Does that even matter? All founders are faced with difficult choices, and the vast majority of them make the right call, erring on the side of transparency and honesty. To dismiss her wrongdoing is to discount all the founders who, knowing they had the wrong answer for an investor, made the hard choice to tell the truth, knowing it might be the final nail for their company.”

But for Theranos, there was always a fresh round of funding, often from an investor outside of Silicon Valley, wooed by the company’s benevolent promises, its rapidly inflating valuation, and the eternal hunt for the next successful unicorn. Let’s not forget the voice. The Holmes voice was that of a 19-yerr-old girl. Her blue-eyes stare back at any interviewer was full of large pupils and her voice was an octave too low for any female. Anyone would swear it was a man’s voice. Or something worse.

A handful of V.C.’s privately admitted that the tech-world hype cycle, in which they are complicit, was at least in part to blame. “I actually think that the V.C. business model has changed and encourages this type of behavior. I see companies raise massive amounts of funding without even having a product and raise additional rounds as they pivot the company with greater valuations, without having once sold anything or proven a market exists,” a third investor told me. Some seem to realize that young entrepreneurs hit the market and make the rounds on Sand Hill Road before their products are fully developed. “I find many investors encourage massive growth in the marketing side of a business outside of the product side, and what happens is products are being marketed as complete that don’t exist,” this same investor told me. “On top of that, it reduces the actual price of the product to a point that it squeezes out any margin—meaning even if the product and company are successful, they won’t turn a profit.”

Other investors noted the importance of the word “white” in “white collar criminal.” One investor pointed to Parker Conrad, who ran Zenefits, an insurance-sales start-up, and who was accused by the S.E.C. of violating federal securities laws (Conrad paid a $500,000 fine and did not admit or deny wrongdoing as part of his settlement). One year after leaving Zenefits, Conrad launched another H.R. onboarding start-up called Rippling. “I don’t think she’ll ever have that kind of second chance, a redemption,” the investor told me. “Not that she should. But why did he get one?”

Though Theranos’s undoing began more than two years ago, this final blow comes at a time of reckoning for Silicon Valley as a whole. Facebook, Twitter, and Google are struggling to dig themselves out from the rubble of a disastrous P.R. crisis, weathering the disillusionment of lawmakers and consumers following their manipulation by Russian operatives. Uber, once a $70-billion behemoth, was cut down to size after a series of public foibles caused C.E.O. Travis Kalanick to resign, and the company to publicly confront its toxic, sexist workplace. Holmes is hardly the first C.E.O. to let her company spiral out of control. But her grandiose promises to revolutionize an industry that affects people’s lives so intimately—and her equally dangerous fictions about the accuracy of her results—have made her a pariah on a plane of her own.

Why did the SEC not prosecute Holmes? Why did the courts not seize her assets and put her in jail? Well, it seems that she was making all the right donations; to the Clinton Crime Syndicate. One person Holmes hasn’t lost? Hillary Clinton, apparently.

Next Monday, Holmes is hosting a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign in Palo Alto. The event includes a conversation with former First Family member Chelsea Clinton, and participants who pay $2,700 get to go to a “host reception” with Chelsea.

According to an email sent out to potential attendees, the fundraiser will take place at the Theranos Palo Alto headquarters. “Participation Levels” start at $100 a pop for students, and for “Friends” at $250. You can read more details in the invitation we’ve copied below, and we’ve reached out to the Clinton campaign for more information on whether those donations are suggested or mandatory.

Theranos’s political connections extend well beyond the Clintons. Controversial Beltway power broker and Nixon national security doyen Henry Kissinger, ex-Secretary of State George P. Schultz and former U.S senator Sam Nunn all used to serve on the Theranos board of directors. Bill Frist, a former Republican Senator who is also a trained medical doctor, still holds a seat on the board.

Previously, Holmes has participated in Clinton Foundation events, including a January 2015 “Health Matters Summit” that also included Donald Trump’s in-law and Oscar Health co-founder Josh Kushner. This past September, Holmes also spoke at the Clinton Foundation’s “Future of Impact” event in New York City. Chelsea Clinton, who has been hitting the campaign trail on her mother’s behalf, is one of the key figures at the Clinton Foundation and for the Clinton Global Initiative.

The Holmes-led fundraiser comes in the middle of a Silicon Valley and San Francisco fundraising swing for the Clinton campaign. Chelsea Clinton is also doing an event at the home of SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive (with “special guest” Michael Franti [See update at bottom]), and Hillary will be making stops on Wednesday, March 23.

The Clinton campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

**The Lost Element of Time**

A lot can happen in a second; you could meet a stranger, snap your fingers, fall in love, fall asleep, sneeze. But what is a second, really — and is it as precise as we think it is?

Right now, the most-precise clocks used to tell global time have an error of about 1 second every 300 million years — so a clock that started ticking in the time of the dinosaurs wouldn't be off by even a second today. But scientists think we can do better. [[The 18 Biggest Unsolved Mysteries in Physics](https://www.livescience.com/34052-unsolved-mysteries-physics.html)]

So, they are looking to lutetium, a neglected [rare-earth element](https://www.livescience.com/38425-lutetium.html) that has been gathering dust at the bottom of the periodic table, according to a new study published April 25 in the journal [Nature Communications](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-04079-x).

## Why is one second 1 second long?

In the olden days, a second was defined as a fraction (1/86400) of the average solar day, the 24-hour rotation of the Earth around its axis. But the rotation of the Earth can vary slightly, so scientists decided to stop scanning the heavens to calibrate our clocks and scaled things way down — to the level of atoms, the invisible building blocks of matter.

In 1967, the International Committee for Weights and Measures defined the second as the amount of time it takes for a cesium atom to absorb enough energy to be excited — that is, for its electrons to [jump from one energy state to the next](https://www.livescience.com/32660-how-does-an-atomic-clock-work.html). For this to happen, the atom must be pulsed with exactly 9,192,631,770 cycles of microwave radiation.



Researchers John P. Lowe, Robert E. Drullinger, and project leader, David J. Glaze (from left to right) stand next to a cesium atom clock they developed called NIST-7. Housed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, this clock was responsible for keeping time in the U.S. from 1993 to 1999, but has since been replaced by more accurate cesium clocks.

Though that number might seem random, it comes from measuring the frequency of microwaves needed to excite the cesium atoms in the average of the earlier definition of 1 second. These measurements were taken over a span of nearly three years, [Scientific American reported](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-does-one-arrive-at-th/).

Currently, hundreds of cesium atomic clocks are responsible for keeping global time and [controlling GPS navigation](https://www.livescience.com/33783-gps-work-llmmp.html). But in the past decade, another generation of atomic clocks has emerged, called "optical clocks," and they are 100 times more precise than the cesium variety. The new clocks work in the exact same way as the cesium ones, except they use atoms such as aluminum or ytterbium that get excited by higher [frequencies of visible light](https://www.livescience.com/50678-visible-light.html)(hence the name "optical") rather than the slower microwaves. This higher frequency adds more data points to the definition of a "second," making the measurement more precise. [[7 Strange Facts About Quarks](https://www.livescience.com/45344-facts-about-quarks.html)]

To understand this, imagine the different types of clocks as a pair of rulers, said Murray Barrett, an associate physics professor at the National University of Singapore and the lead author of the new study. If the older, "cesium" ruler measures a line that's 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) long, the more precise, "optical" ruler can measure the line also as, for example, 200 millimeters.

While optical clocks are very precise , getting them to run for a very long period of time and to remain stable in their environments can be problematic, Barrett said. A room's temperature can change the electromagnetic fields acting on the atoms, which in turn can skew the time measurement, Barrett said. So, the cesium clocks are still "much more reliable in their implementation than [the new] optical clocks," Barrett told Live Science.

## Making less sensitive atomic clocks

In their new study, Barrett and his team found that a lutetium ion is less sensitive to changes in environmental temperature than are any other elements used for optical clocks, making it a strong candidate to serve as master time keeper.

Lutetium atoms can also help compensate for another problem affecting time measurement, the team found. Because the atoms used in these clocks are charged, they slightly wiggle back and forth in response to the electromagnetic fields created by the waves (visible light, microwaves, etc.) — and this can skew the time measurement. Scientists call this rapid backward and forward movement a "micromotion shift."

Because scientists must compensate for this shift, it's really difficult to develop atomic clocks with more than one ion — which would make such clocks more practical, Barrett said. But the team found that they could use a natural property in a certain type of lutetium ion to cancel out these "micromotion shifts."

However, this comes at a cost: Those atoms became more sensitive to the temperature of the room. That trade-off might limit the impact of the new finding, and the atom lutetium might not be a "real game changer," said Jérôme Lodewyck, a physicist at the Paris Observatory who was not part of the study.

But, this "high-quality work" adds another possible atomic species to the long list of timekeeper candidates that is a "wealth for metrologists" looking to compare different clocks, Lodewyck said. [[What's That? Your Physics Questions Answered](https://www.livescience.com/23342-physics-questions-answered.html)]

## Beyond telling time

Though Barrett said lutetium "is extremely promising," he doesn't think there's a big rush to redefine the second using optical clocks, as cesium clocks do just fine at things like getting us where we need to go.

But highly precise optical clocks might allow for new applications "that would simply not be possible with our current technology," Barrett said.

For example, clocks are sensitive to where they sit in the world, because time is distorted by gravity, according to Albert Einstein's [theory of general relativity](https://www.livescience.com/58245-theory-of-relativity-in-real-life.html). Right now, atomic clocks on Earth can't detect the miniscule time-warping that occurs due to Earth's gravity.  But if researchers could place highly precise optical clocks around the world, that setup could help researchers map out the gravitational field of our planet, Barrett said.

Further, highly precise atomic clocks could detect matter and energy we may not yet be able to see, Lodewyck said. That could include dark matter, [which exerts a gravitational pull](https://www.livescience.com/59814-is-dark-matter-real.html)yet does not interact with ordinary light, and dark energy, the mysterious force that seems to be [accelerating the expansion of the universe](https://www.livescience.com/59283-why-universe-is-accelerating.html), he said.

Here's how it might work: If you know the frequency needed to excite some atoms in the time frame of a second, you could use these various clocks around the world to detect any [differences beyond what you would normally expect](https://www.livescience.com/50545-most-precise-atomic-clock.html). There are "some theories that say dark matter is around us, so if we cross a chunk of dark matter, this would perturb the clock," Lodewyck told Live Science.

There may even be applications we can't think of right now, Barrett said. "Certainly, when we first started developing clocks for the purpose of ship navigation, we never imagined the idea of somebody being able to walk around and know exactly where they are in a big city."

**The Real Syrian War**

One and a half years after Russia and Turkey signed a deal to build the strategic "Turkish Stream" gas pipeline in October 2016, putting an end to a highly contentious period in Russia-Turkish relation which in late 2015 hit rock bottom after the NATO-member state shot down a Russian jet over Syria, on Saturday Russian state energy giant Gazprom and the Turkish government reached a deal on the construction of the land-based part of the Turkish Stream branch that will bring Russian gas to European consumers.

According to Reuters, the two counterparts signed a protocol that would allow the construction, which was stalled by a legal rift over gas prices, to go forward. Gazprom and Turkey’s state-owned BOTAS agreed on the terms and conditions of the project, Gazprom said in a statement, adding that the deal “allows to move to practical steps for the implementation of the project.” The actual construction would be carried out by a joint venture called TurkAkim Gaz Tasima which will be owned by Gazprom and BOTAS in equal shares, Gazprom said.

Earlier on Saturday, Turkish president Erdogan said that Gazprom and BOTAS resolved a long-running legal dispute over import prices in 2015-2016, and as a result Turkey would gain $1 billion as part of the gas-price settlement reached with Gazprom, in which Turkey and the Russian natgas giant agreed on a 10.25% price discount for gas supplied by Russia in 2015 and 2016.

"We agreed on a 10.25% reduction in the price of natural gas in 2015-2016,” Erdogan announced while speaking at a rally on Saturday. “We got our discount. We get about $ 1 billion worth of our rights before the election,” the Turkish President said, as cited by Anadolu Agency.

BOTAS had refused to approve the building of the land-based part of the pipeline until the import price issue was resolved. Until now, it only permitted Gazprom to construct the undersea part of the line. The construction is currently underway.

Russia and Turkey officially agreed on the project, which consists of two branches, in October 2016. The first branch will deliver gas to Turkish consumers, while the second one will bring it to the countries in southern and south-western Europe. The European leg is expected to decrease Russia’s dependence on transit through Ukraine. Each of the lines has a maximum capacity of 15.75 billion cubic meters a year

Gazprom finished the construction of the deep-water part of the first line of the Turkish Stream in April. The first Russian gas could start flowing through both legs of the Turkish Stream by December 2019.

The greenlighting of the Turkish Stream project is sure to infuriate the US which previously announced it was considering sanctions of European firms that would participate in the Northern Stream Russian gas pipeline.

President Trump went as far as to threaten Angela Merkel two weeks ago, telling her to either drop the Russian gas pipeline or the trade war with the US was set to begin.

How Europe reacts to US threats involving the Northern Stream and, soon, the Turkish Stream, will determine whether Europe will once again find itself a subservient vassal state to US military and energy lobbying powers, or if Brussels will side with Putin in this growing conflict, resulting in an unprecedented breach within the so-called "democratic west."

**Spygate**

You will recall a couple of weeks ago, when the news about the FBI, ONI, and the CIA being paid by the Clinton Crime Syndicate to hire and place professional spies into the Trump Campaign was made public, I told you watch closely. I was the source for the story that they also had placed spies in other campaigns.

Remember, in March of 2016, which is when we are to believe they began the investigation that has dominated the propaganda dance of the news actors, there was no Presidential nominee for the Republican Party. Cruz had lots of momentum, and Kasich was pushing for a brokered convention, which he promised Americans he could win. As it turns out, they were spying on more than just the Republicans.

It turns out failed former President Barack Hussein Obama has been busy spying on A LOT of people, not just President Trump.

Julian Assange released another bombshell within days of my story that the Trump spying was only the tip of the iceberg. The bombshell revelation from Wikileaks added that he had proof that Obama also interfered and ordered the CIA to SPY on French presidential candidate Marine LaPen. LePen mysteriously lost the election that was very close, and many around the world believed that she had the “Trump Effect,” working for her. She lost by a surprisingly significant margin.

The revelation came when Julian Assange replied to President Trump's tweet about #Spygate being the biggest political scandal in U.S. history.

In response to Trump's tweet, WikiLeaks assured President Trump that he wasn't the first presidential election to be targeted, tweeting: "Obama already did it to the French" along with a link to a CIA document, showing espionage orders that targeted Marine LaPen and other French presidential candidates.

**Enslavement: Who’s Your Daddy?**

Do you ever feel—despite the supposed economic "recovery" of recent years—that something in America is still not quite right? If so, you are not alone. After all, how can things be "OK" when nearly half the men ages 18-34 now live with their parents—the highest level since the Great Depression?

How can it be "normal" when in one of America's richest cities (Seattle) there are now 400 unauthorized homeless camps under bridges and along freeway medians? How can it be a "recovery" when 78% of the U.S. population now lives paycheck to paycheck, with essentially zero savings?

How can you explain things like the dramatic rise of the militant left-wing group ‘Antifa'... the resurgence of White Supremacists... and the booming popularity of the Democratic Socialists—they've doubled membership in recent months.

Sure, some people—CEOs, tech entrepreneurs, and other members of the "1%"—are doing great. There's never been a better time for wealthy Americans. But the truth is, for most people, the situation is getting much, much worse.

There is a secret reason why working class Americans have gotten dramatically poorer over the past 40 years, and it may be too late to reverse the trend. It is clear to almost everyone, that we are in dire need of a "reset" to the financial system in ways most Americans can't imagine—and for most, it will be a national nightmare.

First, let me ask you,” Why are so many Americans so angry?”

You've seen it in the riots and protests in Charlottesville, Ferguson, Milwaukee, and Baltimore. You've seen it in mass shootings... the attacks on college campuses... the arguments about immigration... and the refusal of NFL players to stand for the national anthem. These uprisings and protests are represented to be about race or police brutality, or Donald Trump, but they are not. What they're really about, underneath it all, is money... and hopelessness.

Now, you might hear the mainstream press and politicians talking about "wealth inequality" when referencing our country's social problems and political polarization. But what they don't tell you is that the growing disparity between rich and poor in America is a symptom of our problem... not the root cause. Why does 75% of the wealth of America belong to barely 10% of the people? Why the income inequality? There is one main reason. One word. Debt.

It is not that a small number of Americans have done well. The real problem is how they've done well. This is what's driving the anger, the radical politics, and the growing racism in our society. You see, while the rich are getting richer, everyone else is losing ground. The globalists have worked for millennia to evaporate and prevent the formation of a middle class. They are seen as competitors, not consumers or customer.

The foundation of the middle class in America was a long history of consistently rising wages. For millions of Americans, life got a little better, year after year, as the value of their wages increased and our economy grew into the world's largest. But this stopped happening during the Clinton and Obama years. Low income earners now make LESS in real terms than they did in 1980! And middle income earners make just 6% more than they made back in 1980. That's an increase of just 0.00172% a year!

Can you imagine your boss telling you for 34 straight years that you're never getting more than a 0.00172% raise each year? They've been going to work, year after year, but instead of earning more over time, they've actually been earning less, in terms of what their wages can buy.

Despite the boom in the U.S. economy and financial assets over the past 30 years—which boosted the wealth and incomes of the wealthiest Americans like never before—average Americans are actually worse off than they were decades ago. And so, they've been forced to borrow more and more money simply to have a home, a car (which has been doubled, doubled, and tripled in price by the DOT since 1980).

It gets worse. Americans now have more than $1.5 trillion in college debt, for example. And it's not just college loans that have soared. Americans also have more than $1 trillion in credit card debt, and more than $1 trillion in auto loan debt—all record highs. It's gotten so bad, 73% of Americans now die of old age with debt... with an average total of more than $60,000!

And, to make matters even more impossible, the banking community has written new rules and created a slave score. It is your duty to be in debt. It is good behavior to be in debt. If you have the right amounts and types of debt, and you are dutifully sending the recommended 41% of your gross income to faithfully debtors, you are rewarded with a high slave score.

Being in debt is an incredibly stressful way to live. You're in a hole and there is simply no way out. So it's no surprise that deaths by drugs and poisoning for the bottom 60% of American's population have doubled since the year 2000... and suicide rates have skyrocketed.

If you are successful and work your way to up to make enough money to meet your needs, pay off those debts, and live within your means, you are severely penalized. I tried unsuccessfully to buy a new truck this weekend. My slave score was zero. Zero. I have not had to borrow money from anyone for more than 13 years. The ultimate goal of everyone who sweats themselves awake worrying about how to make their house payment, or car payment, or minimum credit card payment. But now, according to the banks, regardless of my significant balance, I am worthless. A zero.

Think about how the middle class became successful through a lifetime of faithful work in times past. Ford—and his employees—got rich boosting productivity. A new book by Porter Stansberry explains why only corporate executives get rich today.

Think about Henry Ford himself.

He got rich making the automobile affordable with the assembly line—a huge increase in productivity. And these gains in productivity flowed directly to Ford's employees. Ford made headlines across the nation when he more than doubled his minimum pay, overnight, in 1914.

But that doesn't happen anymore. Real wages have declined for most Americans, despite huge gains in productivity over the last several decades. It's not that computers are destroying our jobs. Or that we've moved jobs overseas. Or that robots are taking our jobs.

As you can see, back in Henry Ford's days and decades after, productivity—a measure of how efficient we are at producing goods and services—and income gains moved hand in hand.

But then, something happened. As the Economic Policy Institute States:

"From 1973 to 2016, net productivity rose 73.7 percent, while the hourly pay essentially stagnated—increasing only 12.5 percent over 43 years... This means although Americans are working more productively than ever, the fruits of their labors have primarily accrued to those at the top and to corporate profits, especially in recent years."

You'll notice that the divergence begins around 1971... the year President Nixon removed the U.S. dollar from gold.

Why is this important?

Because paper money printed out of thin air doesn't transmit gains in productivity like real, sound money should. When money is sound and reliable, it doesn't lose value over time. In fact, quite the opposite—it buys more and more, because of increases in productivity and efficiency.

But the link between productivity and wages was permanently changed in the early 1970s when Nixon forever broke the link between our dollar and gold. As a result, today our monetary system isn't sound or reliable. One of two things is going to happen.

We may have to return the minting of dollars to the US Treasury and go back the gold standard to establish a value based on rarity. Our politicians and the Federal Reserve monkey around with the money supply constantly. They increase the amount of money by huge amounts, in response to demands from powerful groups—especially banks. Speculators like George Soros made billions riding this fluctuation between currencies.

And, as a result, the things you need to live a regular life—such as gasoline, milk, housing, and medical care—constantly get more expensive. These prices go up, year after year, even when wages don't. In other words, even though there's been an enormous amount of wealth created by our economy (look at all the huge new houses, condos, skyscrapers... and electronic cars), life for average Americans hasn't improved one bit. The average worker has gotten poorer.

Again: That's not because our economy hasn't gotten better. Our economy has boomed to more than $20 trillion annually, through enormous increases in productivity—technologies like personal computers, cell phones, the Internet, RFID tags (for inventory control), gene sequencing, GPS, and fantastic increases to fuel efficiency.

That's been great for investors and for tech-savvy engineers. But what about the average American that does not have a portfolio? These terrific gains haven't impacted most wage earners because the gains in productivity and technology didn't flow through our entire economy the way they should... the way they used to.

That's because, no matter how big the gains in productivity are, the government—politicians and their minions at the Federal Reserve—have always created more money. Sometimes they do it by creating a lot of new credit. And sometimes by simply printing trillions of new dollars out of thin air. This is real way inflation occurs. Not through productivity. Only through unfunded mandates and printing money.

So most Americans have been forced to borrow—in a way that is unprecedented in our history. U.S. consumers now have nearly $13 trillion in total debt... the highest total ever, even more than was owed right before the crash in 2007... in order to pay for food, housing, cars, education, healthcare, and other basic expenses.

We owe a trillion dollars on our credit cards—which often have interest rates as high as 28%! We've borrowed a trillion dollars to buy new cars—which plummet in value the minute you drive off the lot. And we've racked up about $1.5 trillion for college education with dubious worth.

The debt load for the working poor has nearly quadrupled in the past 20 years as a percentage of their income. And this debt can never, ever be repaid. And herein lies the problem. This group is growing, and this stress and anger is building... ultimately fueling many of today's biggest issues...

And that's why we will soon see a dramatic political and economic event, the likes of which we haven't seen in nearly 50 years...

Get ready America, The Jubilee is coming. What is a Jubilee? Very soon, millions of Americans will be calling for the government to "do something."

Specifically, they'll be calling for a clean slate... to wipe out their debts and "reset" the financial system. Consider this. I owe you $20 dollars. You owe me $20 dollars. Why don’t we just cancel those debts and call it even? Oh hell no. Both parties are in debt, and the global economy depends upon it. But what does common sense tell you?

If we forgive the debts of everyone, how long will it take for everything to get kattywompus again? How many times have you seen people use a refinance of their home to pay off their credit card debts, correcting their monthly cash flow into something that actually shows positive cash flow with a little cushion, only to see these same people $20 thousand in credit card debt four years later? So they took all those meals, tank fill-ups, clothes, and vacations and put them on a 30-year mortgage? Really?

Or worse, they have fallen for a scheme to “pay off” those cards at a discount only to end up paying enormous tax liabilities and penalties to the IRS for the “income” they realized through the discounted credit card bills.

Still the masses are begging, clamoring, and demanding a time for total forgiveness of debt, the freeing of slaves, and the returning of lands. Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian Jubilee in 1300. Since then, it's been used dozens of times, when anger among a population hits extreme levels, typically because of an explosive divide between the wealthy and the working class.

And very soon, millions will be calling for a new Debt Jubilee here in America. Believe it or not, many are already doing so.

Folks like Carla Reinhart of Harvard University and Stephen Roach of Yale have advocated for a Debt Jubilee in one form or another. So have financial pundits Barry Ritholtz and Chris Whalen.

In Congress, more than a half-dozen Jubilee-style laws have been proposed, by folks such as Rep. Kathy Castor and Senator Bill Nelson from Florida.

And many of the most powerful left-wing economic "experts" are calling for a Debt Jubilee by name...

London School of Economics Professor David Graeber says: "we are long overdue for some kind of Biblical-style Jubilee... it would relieve so much genuine human suffering."

The national affairs correspondent for The Nation says we should: "Think Jubilee, American Style... because it combines a sense of social justice with old-fashioned common sense."

Paul Kedrosky, a senior fellow at the Kaufman Foundation (a liberal think tank), says: "we need a fresh start, and we need it now... we need... a Jubilee."

A Jubilee—which wipes the slate clean for millions of the most indebted Americans and "resets" the financial system—is inevitable.

And mark my words:

This trend will accelerate. The idea of a Debt Jubilee will become THE leading political issue in the months to come.

Today, for millions of Americans, there's no more powerful political promise than a Debt Jubilee. Politicians will soon be promising it all.

I will wipe out your debts.

I will allow you to start fresh.

I will reward all of your bad decisions.

I will solve America's massive income inequality.

Who will pay for it?

You guessed it...

You, me, and millions of Americans with pensions, retirement accounts, and other types of savings. Just as in the past, the Democrats in Washington will disguise this Jubilee under a different name. They might call it a "National Restoration" or "Patriotic Solvency."

They'll pass an "Act" like they did in 1841... or invoke an Executive Order as was done in 1933 (Executive Order #6102)... or simply issue a mandate to the Secretary of the Treasury (which they did in 1971).

But it all means the same thing. The Jubilee will redistribute trillions of dollars from those who have invested and saved... to those who can no longer pay their debts.

So what could a Jubilee look like in the real world... how will it unfold in America... and what will it mean for you, your money, and your retirement? Millions of investors, pensioners, insurance customers, and creditors will lose a fortune. Stocks will collapse. Dozens of complete industries will go bankrupt.

Just one quick example of how this problem will affect EVERYONE in America...

Do you remember during the last crisis... the mortgage crisis... how many lenders never bothered to verify the income of people they were lending money to? Some referred to these as "Liar Loans," which allowed borrowers to make up whatever income figure they wanted... and get a much more expensive house than they could realistically afford.

Well... believe it or not, the same thing is happening again right now with auto loans. Car companies have to sell cars. Of course, if you have a slave score of zero, you’re still going to have to pay cash for that new car.

But you know what is happening. Just like the mortgage crisis of 2008, these loans have been packaged up into what are known as "Asset Backed Securities," and sold to hundreds of mutual funds, insurance companies, investment firms, even state pension plans. There are more than 120 entities that own these dangerous "Asset Backed Securities." Why are they dangerous? Picture a small paper bag full of dog poop, with the label Asset Backed Security on it.

Yes, dog poop. A 100% loan on a car that is worthless, once it is driven off the showroom floor, is dog poop. I'm sure you'll recognize the names of these financial institutions:

* JP Morgan Chase
* TIAA-CREF
* The State of Florida
* Blackrock
* Vanguard Group
* T Rowe Price
* Wells Fargo
* UBS
* Pacific Life Insurance Company
* Prudential Financial
* Hartford Financial Group
* Swiss RE
* Transamerica Investment Services
* London Stock Exchange Group
* Deutsche Bank
* MMM Healthcare
* Macquarie Group
* Goldman Sachs
* Invesco LTD
* Bank of New York Mellon
* Eaton Vance
* Regions Bank
* Zurich Global
* People's United Bank
* Franklin Resources
* Massachusetts Mass Mutual Insurance.
* Merrill Lynch

If politicians choose a Jubilee, everyone will freak out. And that's the biggest problem—the uncertainty. No one will know for months how it will all get sorted out. So the markets will react violently.

"You call a month-long bank holiday for the twenty largest banks, and that holds everything in place while the regulators mark down the assets and see how everybody's losses will affect everyone else.

"Then you wipe out stockholders, wipe out management, possibly some of the unsecured debt... Once everybody has taken their hit and you've wiped out existing stockholders, then the government comes in and properly, transparently recapitalizes all of them. As these new institutions gain a footing, eventually they can be sold back to the private market."

No one can know exactly how it will be done, but through one mechanism or another, the government will seek to reset the financial system... and they will start by wiping out trillions of dollars in bad debt.

Car companies, homebuilders, credit card companies, insurance firms, banks, other lending institutions, and any business operating with leverage, will take a huge hit.

Stocks will fall considerably. Banks will close. There will be trillions in losses.

In fact, at the end of the day, the losses at an institution like Wells Fargo could be enough to start a bank run. A Harvard study showed that during a Debt Jubilee in the 1930s, the U.S. government's radical changes in the financial system took more than $700 million in a single year from one segment of the population. Another change caused millions of Americans to lose 69% of their savings, practically overnight.

In 2015, for example, the Croatian government used a Jubilee to erase more than $20 million in debts for 60,000 people. This was money owed to banks, telecom operators, municipal authorities, and utility companies. Not a single person or investor was refunded for their losses. And it's probably no surprise that the stock market went down significantly over the next year.

The only other choice is for the President to offer to pay off the national debt at a discount. A “haircut” he will call it. Perhaps 30 cents on the dollar in a lump sum. Maybe 50 cents on the dollar. The savings in interest would make it possible to give business startups access to capital, which has the power to create 1 million jobs a month. Think about that. 1 million good paying jobs forming every month. What would that do for the personal debt situation? What would it do for the world?