

Secular Wisdom of the

Bad Dalai Lama



Prophecy & Advice from the World's Worst Religious Leader

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Get Ready for the Coming

Permanent Recession

By GLENN CAMPBELL

Latest Incarnation of His Badliness

A recession is coming. They happen about every 10 years. This is the end of 2018, and the last worldwide downturn was in 2008, so it is reasonable to expect another one soon.

Each recession transpires differently, fueled by different triggering events, but at the core of most is human weakness: Investors, consumers and governments become too optimistic and make unsustainable commitments, so reality has to knock them down.

It is all part of the normal business cycle, right? Every boom must be followed by a bust. The trouble is, the world may have already run out of booms. If you look at the biggest business cycle of all, you may come to see that busts are all we have in our future.

The next recession could be the last. After that, the world will know only negative economic growth for decades to come. In other words, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the developed countries will never be much higher than it is today. Once the Terminal Recession begins, GDP can only fall. Economies will continue to shrink until humanity radically reorganizes itself to address the core issue.

The core issue is that the world is running out of people. Apart from a few Third World countries, not enough humans are being born to sustain each country's working population.

In nearly every country of the developed world, fertility rates—or the number of children born to each woman—has fallen well below the 2.1

required to sustain a local community.

Low fertility is the result of both modern birth control and women's liberation, which allowed women to pursue their own careers on par with men. Both trends began in the 1960s. We are experiencing their negative effects only today due to a statistical anomaly.

It turns out a lack of babies is good for an economy in the short term, because there are fewer students to educate and adults have more money to spend on themselves. This situation is called the *demographic dividend*. It is the happy condition where a country has a lot of productive workers and not many children or old people to support.

The countries of the developed world have been coasting along on their demographic dividends for decades. In the USA, for example, there was a Baby Boom from 1946 through 1964, when each woman, on average, produced nearly 4 children. As the Baby Boomers came of age, went to work and had fewer babies themselves, they powered domestic economic growth for nearly half a century.

The crisis now is that the Baby Boomers are retiring, and there aren't enough young people to replace them in the workforce. This is a multifaceted economic catastrophe, because once the Boomers get old they (1) stop generating income, (2) stop paying taxes, (3) stop buying stuff and (4) demand the pensions and medical care they were promised. You can try to raise the retirement age, but old people tend to be sick and weak and can't contribute as much to the economy as they once did.

Meanwhile, the core population of

active workers—aged 25 to 65—is stabilizing and shrinking, even as there are more seniors to support.

In other countries of the developed world, the timing may be different, but the crisis is the same: not enough babies, too many old people and a shrinking base of active workers.

Immigration isn't a magical solution, because the unskilled workers of the Third World can't be transported to the First without serious assimilation issues. Instead the richest countries are poaching the talent of their cousins. In the end, the world doesn't have enough portable talent to sustain even the rich countries.

As long as the pool of active workers in a country is shrinking, the economy has to shrink. That, by definition, is a recession, and there is no end in sight.

Now that birth control and gender equality exist, they can't be rolled back. There is no tax credit, bribe or government threat that can induce people to have more children when it isn't in their personal best interest. Couples will still have them, of course, just not at the rate necessary to save us from our economic apocalypse.

What makes it a true apocalypse is that businesses, consumers and governments have already committed themselves to permanent growth. They have borrowed money that cannot possibly be repaid. Eventually, there will be a massive default that could bring down civilization as we know it.

Are you ready for a new Dark Age?

—G.C.

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