

How to Be Positive in a Negative Economy

By Samuel Blumenfeld

There is no reason not to believe that we are headed for very difficult times. Some economists are predicting economic Armageddon, runaway inflation a la Weimar Republic, food shortages, rioting and looting in large urban areas, high levels of unemployment, defaulting on the federal debt which could create global economic chaos.

Already we are seeing symptoms of all of these trends everywhere we go. We see lots of closed stores in the strip malls. We see large retail chains going bankrupt. Home foreclosures are still increasing as more and more people cannot pay their mortgages. We see a gradual rise in prices at the super market. An item which used to cost \$1.00 now costs \$2.00, a 100 percent increase. Fuel costs are forcing people to drive less. Towns, cities, and states are grappling with tough budget problems.

Is there any sunlight at the end of this tunnel? Is this country doomed to become an economic cripple, a has-been, eclipsed by the Chinese? Not necessarily. There is still a great deal of private wealth in America, much of it based on hard assets. Assets based on stock equities will fluctuate in value, but it is unlikely that they will all go down to zero. Also, many citizens have bought gold as a hedge against runaway inflation.

So, many people are preparing for the worst. A good source of optimism is the fact that the Tea Party Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives in November 2010 and now represent a considerable obstacle to the destructive policies of the Obama socialist administration. Of course, the president still wields enormous power and is determined to continue his efforts to destroy our capitalist economy. But there is a limit to what he and the Democratic Senate can do.

And since there is not much the average individual can do to change the situation before Obama is ousted in the elections of 2012, there are lots of ways not only to survive economically, but to continue to enjoy all of the great cultural and spiritual advantages of living in America. This country is still the greatest place to live on the planet, despite its problems. Yes, Newsweek magazine chose Finland as the best place to live in the world, but I don't know of any Americans about to emigrate to Finland to enjoy their welfare-state goodies. Besides, the language is not easy to learn.

Employment is growing at Google, Facebook, and YouTube. In fact, America's unique social networking now encompasses the globe and is even indirectly responsible for the revolutions in the Muslim world. China could never create a Google, or a Facebook, or a YouTube. Cultural freedom in America has made us the world's cultural giant.

America is still a very rich country with a terribly dysfunctional federal government. It got that way because the Congress has been in the hands of the progressives for years and their aim to lead this great republic into a socialist economy. And the only way that could be done was through the gradual method of making more and more people dependent on the government's largesse for their survival.

The takeover of our public education system by the progressive socialists has also contributed to our gradual controlled drift toward socialism. Marxist professors in our institutions of higher learning have brainwashed thousands of students into believing that profit is a dirty word, and that private corporations are the source of all evil.

The curriculum in our public schools has been so greatly dumbed down that we are creating a whole generation of semi-literate and largely illiterate Americans. Even the National Endowment for the Arts sounded the alarm with their report in 2007 on the decline of American literacy. Their chairman stated:

There was a time when Congress was able to investigate the activities of the Communist Party in this country. But the progressives put a stop to that. Fortunately, we have seen the growth of many private organizations that are now investigating the activities of America's enemies. So perhaps we are even better informed today than we were during the days of Congressional investigations.