

All Gone

By [Vigdor Schreiber](#)

No more bailouts for Wall Street while Main Street gets the shaft. "**Prosperity is not just going to trickle down**" Senator Obama emphasized in Debate II, "We've got to help the middle class." What is urgently needed is **Born-Again Democracy** as proposed by William Greider, in *The Nation* (Oct. 20, 2008).

Many articles in the global media confirm: The Wall Street bailout has been rejected by economists; The market, itself, has rejected the rationale of the bailout program; All that remains is a bailout pandering to narrow Wall Street self-interest with Henry Paulson writing billion dollar checks for selected persons at will. This bailout program is nothing but looting of the US Government Treasury, on mind boggling scale, to support the reckless conduct of the finance industry. In a report published in [Truthdig](#) (Dec 4, 2008), Stanley Kutler writes:

"The 2008 bank bailout tab so far is more than \$4.6 trillion, which is more than the total expenditures (in current dollars) for the Marshall Plan, the Louisiana Purchase, the S&L failures of the 1980s, the New Deal, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq war, the moon landing, and all the NASA budgets combined. There you have it: Republican small government redefined."

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson must be removed from office together with virtually all the global centers of power that govern us who produced this global financial disaster guided by the morality of market fundamentalism that is now dead and discredited by events.

The New York Times Op-Ed Columnist Thomas L. Friedman provided an inventory of all the people who were in on the subprime mortgage disaster, in his column **All Fall Down** (Nov. 25, 2008). This included: "the total unabashed complicity of the upper class of American capitalism... a near total breakdown of responsibility at every link in our financial chain... " This is the total values breakdown of decadent capitalism that must be transformed to rescue the American civilization from its disastrous stupidity and corruptions!

An existential state of **interlinked crises** now grips the world. The old institutional order is breaking down captured by an **incommensurable values-gap** that is beyond mere repair or reform. This is a fundamental existential crossroads that humankind must confront for basic changes in the levels of existence.¹ The world awaits the **Moral Imagination** for **A Deeply Transformative New Deal**.

¹ C.W. Graves, "Human Nature Prepares for a Momentous Leap," in THE FUTURIST, April 1974, p.72 ("man must solve certain hierarchically ordered existential problems which are crucial to him in his existence." at p. 77).

Don't hold your breath waiting for any such democratic transformation without deliberate guidance by society. The sovereign English monarchy gave way to the sovereign American citizen, with the birth of the United States of America. Nevertheless, as the late French philosopher Michel Foucault observed, "At bottom, despite the differences in epochs and objectives, the representation of power has remained under the spell of monarchy. In political thought and analysis, we still have not cut off the head of the king."

The recent financial meltdown has not produced any move toward democratization; rather, it has been used to consolidate the power of strategically located institutions, strengthening Wall Street with hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies, tightening their stranglehold over Main Street. The mere espousal of democratic transformation of the monarch in England and France required violent insurrection. More than two centuries later, sovereign American citizens still await the enactment of a viable democratic infrastructure that could emancipate the creative powers of citizens who constitute the most underdeveloped resource in the world.

In truth, the old promise of democracy is a Goddamned lie offered as a fraudulent claim to legitimacy, to provide cover for the great mess that free enterprise imposes on the world, in the absence of a real democratic value system, for the benefit of the few..

Virtually all political discussion and debate remains trapped in an ancient style of manipulative **crowd politics** that today gives rise to **America the Illiterate** exacerbated by virtual total control over political communications by mass media moguls and the law of Internet chaos. This communications scheme is guaranteed to annihilate the sovereign democratic powers of common citizens who would engage in meaningful dialogue.

A desirable future that is viable obviously cannot be predicated upon the values that produced the current disaster. The bailout of the finance industry that embraces those disastrous values is ludicrous. The logical sequel to **All Fall Down** is **All Gone**. The old value system must be buried to make way for serious commitment to the new.

Humankind is not without a choice. Citizens can assert their free will to be masters of the situation and not mere slaves of capital. In **A Deeply Transformative New Deal** based on meaningful planetary dialogue, citizen groups can turn away from evolution by natural selection, rejecting "survival of the fittest" and control by elites toward **The Frankenstein Civilization** in which we presently exist.

Instead, "**a more perfect Union**" of the whole people can animate our collective will to live the first principle of democracy prescribed by the Preamble to the US Constitution. Global citizens can deliberately guide their own cultural and social evolution,² toward realization of the ideal of **One World**, as suggested by World Citizen Barack Obama at the Brandenburg Gate, in Berlin, Germany, July 24, 2008; indeed, after his election as President of the USA on Nov. 4, 2008, President-elect Obama was praised as **The World President**.

² B.H. Banathy, *Guided Evolution of Society: A Systems View* (Plenum Publishers, New York, Boston, Dordrecht, Moscow, 2000).

Let us commit ourselves to these principles, which promise not a return to monarch, paternalism, and rule by the few but leadership of the many. Union of the whole people is the true source of power in a democracy, needed to realize the purposes of democracy.

Is this a list of delusions, dire necessities, or real possibilities? A compelling case can be made for all three.

The technological civilization of humankind is based on a distinctly interdependent existential state, bound by inescapable ecological needs in a finite world that cannot be fulfilled by the ideological fictions of decadent capitalism, sharply revealed to the world most vividly during recent periods. The conflict between decadent capitalism and democratic sustainability clearly illustrated by the [LoD Values Transformation Matrix](#) marks the incommensurable character of the split personality of humankind.

These conditions certainly do not mandate a need for regulatory "first aid"; rather, '[A NEW MINDSET IS REQUIRED](#)' *Spiegel Online International* (11//12/08), correctly underscores. The absolutely mandatory role of directly affected citizen value-direction not means-experts, *with or without their Nobel Prize Medals*, is the true source of wisdom and effective knowledge management in a democracy. Either we shall become robotic administrators of failed societies leading inexorably toward the extinction of human civilization, governed by the Wall Street philosophy of greed, *with or without regulation*, or we shall move forward to celebrate a democratic "Union" of the whole people and "One World" made possible by the unvanquishable striving spirit of humankind.

The door is now wide open for the creative engagement in this spectacular spiritual enterprise of everyone everywhere in the Planet Earth, which is, itself, astonishingly [designed for life](#). These are the improbable dreams now being realized by scientific research and development in our time with [A Technology of Democracy](#) for the betterment of humankind, in the [New Agora of Philanthropolis](#).

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Cornelia P. Atchley, artist,
Portrait of Vigdor in blue 2001
