

Societal Cycles

Through out history, almost all species have gone through population cycles. Briefly stated, when food is plentiful and competition low, the species thrives, producing more progeny, growing healthier and living longer. As the resources become scarcer and competition increases for food, etc., there is a die back, usually of the weaker, older and young. With a sparse population, the food chain has a chance to rebound, returning to the original condition. This is true for deer, rodents, birds, fish, and at one time, even for humans.

Then humans, due to their greater ability to reason, found ways to break the population cycle for their species. If one village ran out of wood, they traded with another that had the wood for a commodity they had plenty of (wheat, iron, water, etc.). In this fashion, small communities could thrive on insufficient resources indefinitely. As transportation and communication got better and better, mankind expanded everywhere, avoiding the boom to bust cycle of all other species until today, you can call to the other side of the world and have goods shipped to you within a matter of days. The human boom-bust cycle is now at a world wide level instead of a small community size level.

During this process, ever more complex human societies evolved. These societies always seemed to follow a similar pattern. My synopsis of this cycle is: when young, the societies create leaders to protect the resources and people from predation by other communities (feudalism) that eventually band together with alliances to protect larger territories. With the stated goal of offering protection to it's citizens, these larger hegemonies often provide security at the cost of freedom and liberty of the individual. Eventually, the individuals tire of those in power having rights and privileges not provided to the working class and rebel, overthrowing the government and setting up a government that better suits the needs of the individual, with the ideal of fairness and equality for all. In that paradigm, those who amass the most money and wealth hold the most power. This works well for quite a while until one of three things happens:

1. An external force threatens to destroy the society and people allow the loss of their liberty and freedom in the hope of security (A military leader assumes power to destroy the threat but usually never decides to relinquish the power once they have it.)
2. Some of the resources dry up and become scarcer (food, oil, water, whatever) and those who have amassed the most wealth and power make a power play to ensure that they retain access to the resources and money (usually at the expense of the masses) so they can retain their power.
3. The government that was setup with the goal of serving and protecting the peoples liberty and equality gets subverted and becomes a vehicle for meeting the agenda of a small segment of the society.

The end result of any of these three scenarios usually ends up in a dictatorship. Whether it devolves into an oligarchy for a while, then fascism, then ultimately martial law as the power holders try and retain power while the people begin to rebel, to it's final form, some form of dictatorship. This lasts until the people finally unite, overthrowing the dictatorship, redistributing the resources, and setting up a new government all over again to protect the rights of the individual. In most human societies, this a 200-300 year cycle from beginning to end.

In Circa 2000, civilization and human society has grown to cover pretty much the whole world.

The population boom to bust cycle has been put off for over several thousand years in most surviving cultures. A world-wide bust cycle has not yet been seen, but many older countries have gone through the societal rise and fall of governments.

America today, in 2007, has reached a critical mass. Huge corporate entities with their own agenda of amassing wealth, resources, and ultimately power, control the government (by inserting a majority into all 3 branches of the government that is beholden to their wealth and power) and these corporate super powers (The Haliburtons, Carlisles, General Dynamics, Oil conglomerates, pharmaceuticals, etc.). have successfully destroyed the bill of rights, stripped Americans of their unalienable rights (Habeas Corpus, illegal search and seizure, torture, they even can take your goods and wealth if they determine you are impeding their war effort in Iraq). These large corporate conglomerate owners, called “the merchant princes” in past ages, in this era are poised and have set up an elaborate infrastructure to declare marshal law in the near future, to achieve their objectives. Through use of fear, deception, and control of the 3 branches of government to do whatever they so wish, they have taken control and hijacked this countries government and have no intention of giving up what they have gained by either fleeing or having their wealth taken from them and going to prison. They have been forced to either play their hand and go all the way, or else flee for their collective skins.

So how are they going to successfully fulfill their agenda of: 1. Not stymying the economy so they can maintain their accumulation of wealth. 2. Retaining their control of the 3 branches of government. 3. Staying in Iraq (oil and money interests). 4. Getting us into a war with Iran (oil and money interests). 5. Keeping the masses afraid enough to continue giving up their liberty in the hopes of security. 6. And lastly, keeping the population too busy surviving and reacting to care about anything but themselves.

Suffice it too say that we are at the end of the peak oil era, positioned in a global sized society, with finite supply and infinite demand. The equation of boom to bust has been held at bay for far too long, causing a quick cycle collapse and with that part of the cycle in full gear, the merchant princes are deciding who are the haves and have nots. It is end-game of a huge boom-bust cycle which is playing out fast and hard. May the muses smile upon us all.

T&F