## The US Debt Crisis: How the Government is Using Currency as a Form of Control By Hazel Walsh

The United States has been in debt since its beginning, starting with the Revolutionary War which cast America into seventy-five million dollars of debt on January 1, 1791. Since then, the debt has only exponentially increased, making the original seventy-five million seem minuscule. America is currently thirty-three trillion dollars in debt and has one hundred **ninety-four trillion** dollars of unfunded liabilities; however, it appears that most citizens, and politicians, are turning a blind eye to this. My question is why? How can an entire nation neglect an issue this significant? In the question lies the answer: most people ignore the debt because they do not care to find a solution for it. The ever-rising debt doesn't affect them, so why should they care? Our politicians should be concerned even if citizens are not. Some elected officials care for the United States and are trying to reduce our debt, but many are shockingly unbothered. They focus on keeping their elected positions, so they can continue to fund their luxurious lifestyles. The worst part is that voters are enabling them to continue to do so. America's budget is slowly being overtaken by debt and interest on the debt. If our debt continues to rise at this rapid rate our economy may stagnate or deflate. Other countries have experienced this including Japan. Japan had a 'Lost Decade' which was when it experienced economic stagnation in the 1990's and 2000's. It occurred when the Japanese Financial Ministry raised interest rates which led to their market crashing and a pause in economic growth. This caused Japan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to average at 1.3 percent, which was substantially lower than other G-7 countries. So, if our interest continues to be overtaken by debt, it is highly conceivable that something similar could occur within our country. However, I do not believe any changes will be made until this crisis actually occurs. Our politicians don't have an incentive to sacrifice short term benefits for long term economic security, and voters don't seem to contemplate the long term either.

The CBDB (Central Bank Digital Currency) is a new concept that has various potential benefits such as increased payment efficiency, complementing current forms of currency, deterring criminal activity, and improving international payment. A digital currency could also make bank transactions more efficient. While some of these things may be true, others are ideas the government wants you to believe. If we allow the government to make our dollars digital, we are essentially communicating that we are okay with them having total control of our money. If we allow the government to take an inch, they'll take a mile. For example, in 2022 electricity utility providers cut off electricity to three million customers because they missed one bill. The utility providers were able to cut off their air conditioning because people allowed them to install "smart thermostats" in their homes. The government would not hesitate to do the same or something similar. The government wants to slowly increase citizen exposure to this digital currency to make them more and more comfortable with the concept. Then they'll wrap it up in some nice shiny paper, and a put a bow on it to market it. They'll convince a few people to buy

into it, then they'll tell their friends, then they'll buy into it, and soon the whole nation will have their money in a digital bank, giving the government full control of their finances. Most people are followers, and the United States' government is aware of that. It is one of the many tactics they use to control people. The government wants total power and control over all of America's citizens, as do some other countries' governments, such as China's. In China the government has slowly been implementing a social credit system. Citizens may receive a lower score for things such as debt and poor driving. China has already began implementing some punishments for disobeying these rules such as restricted travel. The system is still being experimented with by local governments and it is voluntary at the moment. However, China plans to create a central algorithm that will be mandatory across the state. To summarize, if you do not comply with the government, you will be punished. That is what the American government wants to do with the digital currency bank.

Once the government has control, they will want to keep it, which is one reason why Central Bankers are publicly dismissing the value of gold. Various countries are currently buying gold for their reserves, the largest consumers being China, India, and Russia. Why would countries as big as China, India, and Russia buy and store such large amounts of gold? Gold has been used by many countries to fall back on when they've had economic crashes. Storing the mineral also improves states' GDPs. So, the question remains: why would the United States' government discourage its citizens to buy and own gold? As mentioned in the previous paragraph the American government does not want its citizens to have control of their dollars. Gold is almost a loophole around their plans. If the US dollar eventually depreciates to the point where all its value is lost, gold will help citizens to recover from their financial losses. Then the government will not be able to control those citizens whereas they will hang gold over others' heads.

If I were the sole decision maker, I would not allow the government to hang money over the citizens' heads. I would take corrective actions to improve our current monetary situation. Starting by replenishing jobs in the oil industry. Our current president, Joe Biden, has removed over one hundred twenty-thousand jobs in the oil industry (in Texas alone) all in the name of clean energy. He only cared about how those cuts would make him look in the paper. He did not consider, or perhaps chose to neglect, how that decision would impact the families who relied on those jobs to stay afloat in the vast ocean that is the inflating economy. Next, I would remove funding from the diversity quotas and LGBTQ organizations. Why do we spend so much money on facilitating diversity when the country could use those funds for much more significant purposes? Afterwards, I would stop putting significant amounts of money into funding wars that we have no part in. Supporting countries in war typically does not end well. For example, countries' alliances sparked World War I. Lastly, I would release politicians that are not working efficiently and to better America, and I would hire politicians that will defend the constitution and the moral foundations this country was built upon.

To conclude, ultimately this essay demonstrates that people are flawed and sinful. Most people let sin and their material desires control them throughout their lives. Many politicians and government officials seem especially driven by these things. They value their wealth and power over the well-being of our nation's economy and future generations. However, we should recognize that all people fall short of the glory of God, and we are all His children. We must give grace to those who sin against us, and we must fight for what we believe in. And this means that while we can show grace to the politicians who fail us, we must also hold them accountable. If we do not speak up, who will? Silence is compliance.

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