

## Comments/Resources on Washington-Wall Street Axis described in the movie *Inside Job*

**(1) Here is a link to the Facebook page for the movie *Inside Job*:**

<http://www.facebook.com/insidejob> (facebook also has a link on this page that says "What Can I Do?") and the Sony Trailer: [Inside Job, on youtube](#)

**(2) Raymond Bellamy comments and suggested resource book:**

"Having seen this terrific anger-producing film, I can agree with all said here. I recommend as a companion piece— which fleshes out some of the roots of our failing governing style— *Winner-Take-All Politics. How Washington Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* by Yale political scientist Jacob Hatcher and Berkeley academic Paul Pierson.

(Jacob Hatcher is also the author of the much ballyhooed "public option" in healthcare reform—which was designed by him when he was at Berkeley—to cover about 120 million of us with a Medicare-like single payer plan and lead over a few years to a single payer system.)

(However), the public option became a victim of special interest big money and was gutted to irrelevance within a short time so it became a faint shadow of its former self... (it) would have covered perhaps at most 5 million of us, would not have been able to compete with the exchanges, and would have enrolled the sickest and most expensive folks, then failed.

For thirty years, politicians have pandered to Wall Street, corporations, those capable of contributing the big money they need to retain or obtain power and get elected. Now, it is all about the money in Washington... I just saw an item this (morning) about some 50 tax breaks for business corporations within the recently passed tax legislation including tax benefits for buying a race horse, etc.

**(3) Comments and resource material from John Vasconcellos:** Now retired, but long-term Senator in the California legislature, John was at the forefront of innovative, citizen-oriented legislation for three decades. Given his experience, he has created an initiative known as "Politics of Trust." See [www.politicsoftrust.net](http://www.politicsoftrust.net)

John writes: *I agree we need radical reform of both our ... traditional divisive politics and our dysfunctional governments—from their very foundations. (But, it requires ) a profound cultural transformation .... We boast of our "New Economy" and cherish our "New Demography," (but) all the while we find ourselves stuck in the same old politics—cynical, hierarchical and controlling...(still) divided and dysfunctional.*

John's strategy involves a demonstration of the humanistic values produced by

psychological research in the second half of the 20th Century. He suggests they will encourage the social transformation he sees as an a priori essential to the political transformation many sectors of society for. [Click here for a PDF on the "Politics of Trust"](#) and information for contacting the staff.

#### **(4) The little red book that swept France:**

The latest call to (non-violent) arms has turned a 93-year-old war hero into a publishing phenomenon. John Lichfield reports.

Take a book of just 13 pages, written by a relatively obscure 93-year-old man, which contains no sex, no jokes, no fine writing and no startlingly original message. A publishing disaster? No, a publishing phenomenon.

Indignez vous! (Cry out!), a slim pamphlet by a wartime French resistance hero, Stéphane Hessel, is smashing all publishing records in France. The book urges the French, and everyone else, to recapture the wartime spirit of resistance to the Nazis by rejecting the "insolent, selfish" power of money and markets and by defending the social "values of modern democracy".

The book, which costs €3, has sold 600,000 copies in three months and another 200,000 have just been printed. Its original print run was 8,000. In the run-up to Christmas, Mr Hessel's call for a "peaceful insurrection" not only topped the French bestsellers list, it sold eight times more copies than the second most popular book, a Goncourt prize-winning novel by Michel Houellebecq.

#### **A message of resistance**

\* "I would like everyone – everyone of us – to find his or her own reason to cry out. That is a precious gift. When something makes you want to cry out, as I cried out against Nazism, you become a militant, tough and committed. You become part of the great stream of history ... and this stream leads us towards more justice and more freedom but not the uncontrolled freedom of the fox in the hen-house."

\* "It's true that reasons to cry out can seem less obvious today. The world appears too complex. But in this world, there are things we should not tolerate... I say to the young, look around you a little and you will find them. The worst of all attitudes is indifference..."

\* "The productivist obsession of the West has plunged the world into a crisis which can only be resolved by a radical shift away from the 'ever more', in the world of finance but also in science and technology. It is high time that ethics, justice and a sustainable balance prevailed..."

**(5) A reminder from Brad Carrier:** "Forget the danger of the Military-Industrial Complex: the greater danger today is the Harvard/Princeton/Columbia-Wall Street-White House Complex," I would delete "Forget" and substitute "In

addition to" and then add, "and a complicit media misleading a befuddled and ill-organized citizenry."

**(6) Ellen Kahne comments:** It is interesting to receive reviews and opinions without any attribution(s). A dear friend of mine who was born in Europe said recently (in response to the Common Market protests over raising the retirement age and tuition hikes in the UK) "in Europe, the governments are afraid of the people, while here in America, people are afraid of their government."

**(7) Ex-Goldman Sachs Employee and Author Nomi Prins:** Her recent book illuminates behind-the-scene realities: **It Takes a Pillage: Behind the Bailouts, Bonuses, and Backroom Deals from Washington to Wall Street**

**(8) Oregon Congressman Peter Fazio holds strong views on current USG fiscal and monetary policy:**

<<http://www.defazio.house.gov/>> This from a recent press conference:

"Today, the U.S. Senate voted to endorse the deal cut by President Obama and the Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, I think it's a bad deal. It will add \$858 billion to our deficit over the next two years. This is done under the premise that these sorts of tax cuts, trickle down tax cuts -- on estates over \$10 million, incomes over \$250,000, and 100% expensing for wealthy corporations who are sitting on huge piles of cash -- are necessary to put Americans back to work. I think we could have taken many more effective measures at much less cost to put Americans back to work.

**(9) An iconoclastic view (12/15/10) by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. at the following URL:** <<http://www.larouchepac.com/node/16929>>

This report presents and analyzes crucial facts, bearing on those urgently needed, immediate changes in U.S. policy which must be adopted, if we are to equip our republic with those means provided by the intent of our U.S. Federal Constitution, means which must be mustered, now, to prevent the early destruction of our republic by a presently accelerating, hyperinflationary, implicitly global, breakdown-crisis.

**(10) A thoughtful commentary from Perry in Canada:**

I am gratified that there is still enough freedom in your country that those who would make such a damning movie could actually make it, distribute it and live.

Along with the Wikileaks and other disclosers who are sure to come forward, perhaps a moment of reckoning will occur that will finally result in the ship being righted.

It seems 2011 is shaping up to be a year of revelation of truth. It is my hope that Obama is astute enough to see where things are going and be ahead of the curve of what should be a growing demand for real change.

If he acts properly in the next 18 months he could get back much of the support he lost in the last 2 years and then be in position to campaign from a position of strength against what could be a very energized opposition.

Time is running out for a more humane way of changing things. These criminals may one day be facing physical threat to themselves and their families if they do not return what they stole (which of course they won't) and as such could end up much like the French elite did during the revolution. They will end up living in the Emirates and other such places if they want to keep their stolen loot.

The world needs a stable US now more than ever with the rise of China, India, and countries like Iran and North Korea.

## **(11) Reactions From Barbara Stokes**

Congressional leaders must feel the pain of the people. One of the few hopes I see for this is to recommend a website and movement that is "for the people" searching for answers: <http://www.fixcongressfirst.org/> founded by Lawrence Lessig and Joe Trippi who are "Fighting the influence of money in politics by working to pass a hybrid of small-dollar donations and public financing of elections". Lessig is "director of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics at Harvard University and a professor of law at Harvard Law School. Prior to rejoining Harvard, he was a professor of law at Stanford Law School. You can read his bio at <http://www.lawrencelessig.com/>.

The first component for change would be to support an organization like the above that has the power, intelligence and resources to both unite the people and change the status quo. If we can get people united around election reform and this organization, it will allow this organization to speak for the masses and get the attention of Congress. From a position of power for the people, this organization or one like it can create a movement of government reform.

The other major component needed is that of intelligent and compassionate people holding a vision of peace and justice for all. This might be called spiritual activism, a movement that would focus consciousness on quality of life for ALL people of the world. The power of this is that it does not need organization, a physical place, or powerful leaders, but rather a willing commitment to begin a major shift in the

personal and collective consciousness.

**(12) Preface to an e-book by Eugene Elander:**

***EMPOWERMENT: Taking Charge of Your Life***

*The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.*

*What is called resignation is confirmed desperation.*

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, Chapter 1, 1854

Thoreau asserted that the quiet desperation of most people is a reality, whereas this book on empowerment asserts that it is not an inevitability. Indeed, following some introductory analysis, each chapter provides clear and specific information which readers can use to overcome the odds against them and take charge of their lives. Each and every one of us can become empowered in the many frameworks and environments in which we operate.

After mentally considering, and rejecting, several options, I began to focus on what was really important, what would really make a difference in my quality of life for the remainder of that life. To determine those answers required that I be both honest and realistic with myself. Starting a movie career, winning a Nobel prize, or becoming a university president were not likely to be in my cards or stars.

Then it suddenly came to me that no such unrealistic new directions were necessary.... All I really had to do was to take charge of my life by reducing or eliminating the outside sources and forces controlling me, or seeking such control. Those controls came under several headings, ranging from personal to financial to job-related, and so on. I vowed that none of them would dominate me in the future, nor would those forces even be allowed undue influence over my life.

Instead, I would become, in the words of British author William Ernest Henley's poem *Invictus: the master of my fate, the captain of my soul*. While it took some time to achieve such empowerment, the results have been well worth the efforts. Now, the necessary techniques are being shared with you.