

Thoughts on Coming Apart and the Coming Great Reset



**Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer**

Kit Webster

Unresolvable Problems

December 13, 2024

Themes and Theses - Why I'm Contemplating Out Loud

(Initially formulated in the early 90s, following decades of reading history, philosophy, psychology and a lot of contemplation, particularly on the subject of cycles. In the end, this is a relatively straightforward story about human nature and of history rhyming.)

The US will enter a period of crisis in the early 2000s. In the late 90s, I took up Strauss' and Howe's terminology of the Fourth Turning (without incorporating their generations paradigm) and agreed with Howe that the end stage of the crisis began with the Great Financial Crisis and would last into the early 2030s. We are not yet to the middle of the end stage of the crisis.

The crisis will be serious and could be existential.

Internal strife will increase, up to and including secession and civil war.

International conflicts will increase as the vacuum created by the weakening of the US is filled by other players.

There will be many threads to the crisis, but the primary thread will be debt, deficits and entitlements. Other factors include, eg, demographics, a loss of meaning and myth and a loss of self-discipline.

Politics will move leftward as citizens look for some refuge from the chaos. The US will become increasingly susceptible to a (man) on a white horse, who can come from either the left or the right.

Inflation, as the most likely way to address debt since austerity is not politically acceptable, will significantly lower standards of living, exacerbating the civil crises. Once the old rot is cleared out, and assuming continuity, there will be the basis for the establishment of a new order. (Added around 2020) The loss of faith by our youth in our founding principles means that the new order will at least partially be based on new principles. As yet, I have no visibility as to what those principles might be.

(Added in the early 00s) While humans are contributing to global warming, policies implemented to address manmade global warming will create a significant energy crisis, probably toward the end of the Fourth Turning.

(Added in 2023) The lowering / elimination of standards in education, the judiciary, law enforcement, the military and other segments of our society will create a population unable to adequately comprehend, do or respond to the challenges of democracy and culture.

Quotes to Contemplate

Critics say that America is a lie because its reality falls so short of its ideals. They are wrong. America is not a lie. It is a disappointment. But it can only be a disappointment because it is also a hope. - Samuel Huntington

Stop blaming SCOTUS. Demand more from Congress. - Sarah Isgur

Trump excels at concepts, and is pathetic on execution. - Kathleen Weber

In 100 years we have gone from teaching Latin and Greek in high school to teaching remedial English in college. - Joseph Sobran

The people on whom modernity depends are failing to reproduce themselves, which means that modernity itself is failing to reproduce itself. - Louise Perry

> Primary Ideas in This Week's Post

There are dreams that cannot be, and there are storms we cannot weather.

The revolution continues. Chess games, missiles and antimissiles everywhere you look. Some of it is people having too much time on their hands. Some if it is gamesmanship. Some of it is out of spite. Some of it is disgusting chickenshit. Reminds me of when we were in Egypt and saw how each pharaoh defaced the images of his predecessors. We are all now engaged in virtual statue destruction. The spiral downward is accelerating. We are going to run out of institutions and norms to destroy.

If you haven't broken the code, yet, wrt negotiations, Trump always comes in first and hard with ridiculous demands.

We are dependent on China, damn it. This is about to get serious.

Assad's fall is a big deal - affecting Russia and Iran negatively and creating a power vacuum.

The end-of-year market turn I have been discussing is upon us.

A sure sign that we are recovering from our social hysteria will be when you see a white married couple in a TV commercial.

> Unresolvable Problems

Last week in my article on trans as metaphor, I mentioned square pegs and round holes as well as corner cases.

When I first heard the soundtrack from *Les Misérables*, I was struck by a line in one of the opening songs, "But there are dreams that cannot be, and there are storms we cannot weather." Some problems are not solvable in any practical sense.

We are increasingly having to deal with those problems. The low-hanging fruit and even the difficult problems have been addressed. We are left with those that may be unresolvable.

Blacks want to be black. Undeniably reasonable, but it actively and inevitably creates fault lines in the culture that cannot be resolved. The only way for a multicultural society to live in harmony is for each group to accept the other as it is. Some blacks are assimilating; more blacks are code switching; whites are becoming more tolerant; pop culture is becoming increasingly-but-superficially black. However, as long as the fault lines exist, there will be those who are genuinely outraged and those that will exploit the fault lines for their own purposes. And, while racism has declined dramatically, I do not believe it will be eradicated for a long time, if ever. It's just what humans do.

We have an unresolvable problem.

Muslims have a religion in which they believe passionately and sincerely. Their religion prescribes values which are fundamentally incompatible with those of Western civil society. They cannot, and should not, compromise on values which were dictated by Allah and on which their eternal lives depend.

We have an unresolvable problem.

Trans do not fit in the binary culture created to serve 99.5% of the population. If they are a male who is from their internal point of view a female, then they want to be female. By demanding to be inserted into binary space where they do not fit, women's physical sports come to mind, but perhaps also other areas like chess and the disruption of drag queen story hour, they create unresolvable problems. No solution works; there is no compromise available.

I alluded to the solution, above. We are doing the exact wrong things to achieve the best level of harmony possible. We react to the world individually, being hurt and acting out, when the only solution is acceptance. Not a solution, so much, as the best we can do. Since the issues are unresolvable, they are unresolvable.

The solution to social harmony is not diversity, but homogeneity. That horse left the barn a long time ago.

I want to mention an almost-unsolvable problem - homelessness. This one will not be solved by getting along. Homelessness is mostly mental illness and drug addiction.

Until we come to grips with those two, very difficult issues, housing, food and care will not solve the problem.

Markets

[Updated Charts](#)

> No change in outlook. We're getting close to the end-of-year turning points I have been discussing. They have the potential to be dramatic. I have also been discussing the basic tension between an inflationary boom and a fundamentally very fragile economy. The boom should prevail until the frailty breaks. First, we have to see where this downturn takes us.

> As she walks out the door, Janet Yellen says, "I am concerned about fiscal responsibility; deficits need to be brought down."

Short Takes

> So, you say you want a revolution?

Chess games, missiles and anti-missiles everywhere you look.

Mexican forces make record fentanyl bust days after Trump's tariff warning. The Los Angeles City Council on Dec. 4 formally approved a "sanctuary city" ordinance, which will prohibit resources or personnel from assisting with federal enforcement of immigration laws.

Only 6% of federal workers show up in person on a full-time basis, Senate report reveals.

A federal judge orders the FDA to release one million pages of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial documents previously sealed for 75 years. Probably not as big as the Kennedy assassination papers or the Epstein files, but right up there.

Fruit Loop sales plummeted over 50% due to RFK Jr.

Duh - Trump says he can't guarantee Americans won't pay more as a result of tariffs.

Trump says his "day 1" priorities are mass deportations, tariffs and pardoning many of the January 6 participants. Says he will definitely consider withdrawing the US from NATO. Says he will not replace Powell at the Fed. Says he will work with Democrats to come up with a plan for DREAMers (Illegals who came into the country as children). End birthright citizenship.

The owner of the *LA Times* plans to add an AI-powered "bias meter" to its news stories. Patrick Soon-Shiong is building a tool that will allow readers to "press a button and get both sides" of a story

We're not in Kansas, anymore - A Maryland judge has paused a sexual abuse lawsuit against President-elect Trump's Education secretary nominee, Linda McMahon

Boy, is it getting ugly out there - tweet from Ramaswamy - Federal agencies are starting to extend collective bargaining agreements through the following administration. This is unprecedented & breaks from past practice where agencies usually negotiate 2-year contracts.

Trump Tweet - Any person or company investing ONE BILLION DOLLARS, OR MORE, in the United States of America will receive fully expedited approvals and permits, including, but in no way limited to, all Environmental approvals. GET READY TO ROCK!!!

As an old guy who is using both, this is great for me, but bad for the country. You may remember my first war cry in the early 90s - Medicare Must Die! - It has only gotten worse since then.

“We’re going to reduce regulation, easier permitting, and we’re going to reduce the deficit,” says Senator Rick Scott on priorities for DOGE. “We’re not going to cut Medicare benefits, we’re not going to cut Social Security.”

House passes \$895 billion for Department of Defense -- \$6 billion more than DoD requested.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors just voted 3-1 to enact this policy & become a “Super Sanctuary” county, prohibiting all cooperation with ICE, even on serious crimes like rape, & going further than CA sanctuary state law.

Bill Clinton says he’s open to talk to Biden about a potential preemptive pardon for Hillary.

Christopher Wray, FBI director who has resigned, effective just before Trump is inaugurated, has already begun promoting employees among the senior executive service, those who serve within the bureau’s leadership, according to sources within the bureau who described it as an effort to burrow establishment figures deeper within the FBI.

Biden pardoned or commuted about 1,500 people in one day. For some reason, one guy convicted of having child porn and one convicted for a "kids for cash" scheme were included. More pardons likely to come.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said his province was putting together a list of retaliatory measures and would go so far as to cut off energy exports to the U.S. if President-elect Trump slaps Canadian products with a 25 percent tax as promised.

Illinois employers will be prohibited from checking to verify applicants can legally work in the US.

During the week of November 25th, CNN averaged only about 260,000 viewers per day, losing out to channels like Bravo, and The Food Network.

Pure chicken shit. Biden is selling border-wall building materials to hamper Trump's future efforts.

There is a dark side - A lawyer for Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Donald Trump's pick to helm the Department of Health and Human Services, has filed a petition to pause the distribution of 14 vaccines – including polo, hepatitis A, and other deadly diseases.

The petition also asks the agency to revoke its polio vaccine approval and end COVID-19 vaccine mandates around the country.

Sometimes he speaks truth - Trump said bringing down grocery prices, one of his key campaign promises, will be "very hard."

He said he will keep the abortion pill accessible.

He came out against port automation.

> Irony: Top Democrat on Ethics Committee Outed as Leaker of Gaetz Report

> I didn't spend much time understanding the J6 investigation committee. I thought it would be one part justice and one part kangaroo as we overly simplistically swept everyone into a single narrative. Now, the hairs on my neck start to rise: Liz Cheney warns that any lawyer who investigates members of the January 6th committee will be engaging in conduct subject to sanctions.

I have said that J6 was complicated - wheels within wheels - all the way from bad guys to people who just wanted to support Trump. I don't think the FBI aided and abetted, but it is part of the complication - The FBI had 26 confidential human sources, not undercover agents, at the Capitol on January 6, including four who entered the Capitol building and 13 who entered the "restricted area" around the Capitol, according to a just released DOJ Inspector General reporter.

> (Kit) If you haven't broken the code, yet, wrt negotiations, Trump always comes in first and hard with ridiculous demands. He has found the answer to the negotiating rule, he who mentions a number first loses.

ee cummings will never be dead. It looks like the new trend is to blog without using capital letters. I am always fascinated trying to figure out how these things get started.

> There was never any way in hell that Daniel Penny would have been convicted. It was a mean, vindictive prosecution in an era and in a city in which getting anyone prosecuted is a challenge. (I would have convicted him of negligent homicide with parole, but popular anger at the mess in the streets and on subways was always going to get in the way of a conviction.) His being arrested will slow down future interventions. Penny is being sued in civil court by the deceased's (absent) father. BLM is calling for violent revenge. He is threatening to sue the DA.

> Very interesting social dynamics around the release of Daniel Penny and the assassination of the UnitedHealthcare CEO. Hero killers everywhere. Of course it has always been thus. Bonnie and Clyde were folk heroes.

> AOC voices the curse of our era regarding the murder of UnitedHealthcare's CEO - "This is not to say that an act of violence is justified, but I think for anyone who is confused or shocked or appalled, they need to understand that ppl interpret and feel & experience denied claims as an act of violence..."

> Alexander Smirnov, a former FBI informant, agreed to plead guilty to federal charges that he falsely claimed that Biden and his son Hunter took bribes from a Ukrainian oligarch.

> The entire UK will have an indefinite ban on puberty blockers for minors with gender confusion. The left-wing UK and Scottish governments came to this decision. The Commission on Human Medicines said using it for children with gender dysphoria was an "unacceptable safety risk." This follows a landmark review by pediatrician Dr Hilary Cass, which found insufficient evidence for its effectiveness in treating gender confusion.

Modern humans outside of Africa typically carry around 1-2% of Neanderthal DNA in their genomes, meaning that a small portion of our genetic makeup comes from interbreeding with Neanderthals in the past.

> Milei is a marvel. It is a measure of Argentinian desperation that he has not been shot. It turns out that humans have to be desperate to correct failings that lead to ever-more goodies. - Efficiency Cuts Deliver Argentina's First Budget Surplus in 123 Years. (Kit) There will be a reaction - there always is - but maybe they get some fundamental things fixed first.

> The Fifth Circuit en banc, in an opinion by Judge Andrew Oldham, holds that the SEC acted unlawfully in approving a Nasdaq policy that forces corporate boards to implement an identity-based diversity quota that looks at race, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity, or provide a written explanation for why they failed to meet the quota.

Lies, damned lies and statistics - part of the NFL hype is that Saquan Barkley may overtake Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record. In 1984, when Dickerson set the record, the season was 16 games long; today it is 17. (Most sports records are skewed this way as seasons get longer in most sports.) Barkely is having an outstanding year, but perhaps not truly record breaking.

We have so lost our way - A Bay Area food bank's expansion plans are being held up in court by an environmental review lawsuit alleging that the expansion will destroy an 'historic parking lot.'" And a company providing \$700-a-month sleeping pods is

being shut down by San Francisco for not aligning with “affordable housing” regulations.

> Our tax code is very, very broken, but the UK's is worse:

United Kingdom: 17,000+ pages

United States: 6,800 pages

Australia: 5,000 pages

Canada: 3,000 pages

Germany: 1,700 pages

France: 1,500 pages

Spain: 1,000 pages

Italy: 800 pages

Netherlands: 400 pages

Sweden: 100 pages

> IF YOU ARE NOT FOCUSING ON THIS, IT IS TIME TO START

Things are going to become very serious - we literally cannot get along without parts and materials from China - Manufacturers in China recently began limiting sales to the US and Europe of key components used to build unmanned aerial vehicles, according to multiple people with knowledge of the developments, who asked not to be identified discussing sensitive information," the report says.

"The moves are a prelude to broader export restrictions on drone parts that western officials expect Beijing to enforce in the new year, the people said," it continues.

"Those rules could take the form of license approvals based on the intended use of the components or softer requirements for Chinese companies to notify the government of their shipment plans, according to one of the people."

Sources further described that "Chinese producers of motors, batteries and flight controllers have capped the quantities they deliver or stopped shipments altogether" as part of the ratcheting Beijing-Washington tit-for-tat conflict on trade policy.

This comes in the context of recent months of Chinese retaliatory sanctions targeting US firms which supply the Pentagon. Increasingly these firms are seeing access to vital Chinese-produced components.

> Similarly, it will be difficult to get the nuclear fission revolution under way without Russian-processed fuel - they supply about 70% of the market.

> Politics ... something, something ... strange bedfellows - Bernie Sanders is considering supporting Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for HHS Secretary.

> A sure sign that we are recovering from our social hysteria will be when you see a white married couple in a TV commercial.

> Multiple SUV-sized drone sightings over New Jersey.

Officially, nobody knows anything.

I have no idea what is going on - it's very strange. But think about it for a second -

If they were a threat, there would have been a military response; there has not been.

They are covered with multiple lights, which they turn off if anyone gets near. Why turn them on in the first place? It's as if they are trying to attract attention.

Somebody knows, but the real mystery is why those people are being silent.

(Except for a congressman who attributed the drones to an "Iranian mothership" located off the East Coast.)

Evidently one of the drones "fell from the sky" today. Can't wait to hear what the drone is all about - if anyone will say.

> The rot is spreading -

One of my constant discussions is about our broken education system. The consequences of not teaching and not learning eventually percolate into the culture as a whole.

From *The Wall Street Journal* -

The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies was given to 31 industrialized countries or economic regions. A total of about 160,000 adults took the exam, including 4,600 in the U.S. It has been administered three times, once between 2012 and 2014, again in 2017, and this most recent iteration in 2023.

In the latest test, the U.S. ranked 14th in literacy, 15th in adaptive problem solving and 24th in numeracy. The same eight countries were tops in all three categories: Finland, Japan, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Estonia, Belgium and Denmark.

> Slowly and then suddenly - from X - If you think about stock exchange panics, preference cascades, bank runs, military collapses like what seems to be happening in Syria right now, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989-1991, etc. they all seem to be instances of the same general phenomenon. This general phenomenon can be described roughly like this: people become convinced that most people around them believe something or will behave in a certain way, which turns into a self-fulfilling prophecy. (Kit - coming to a country near you during the Fourth Turning.)

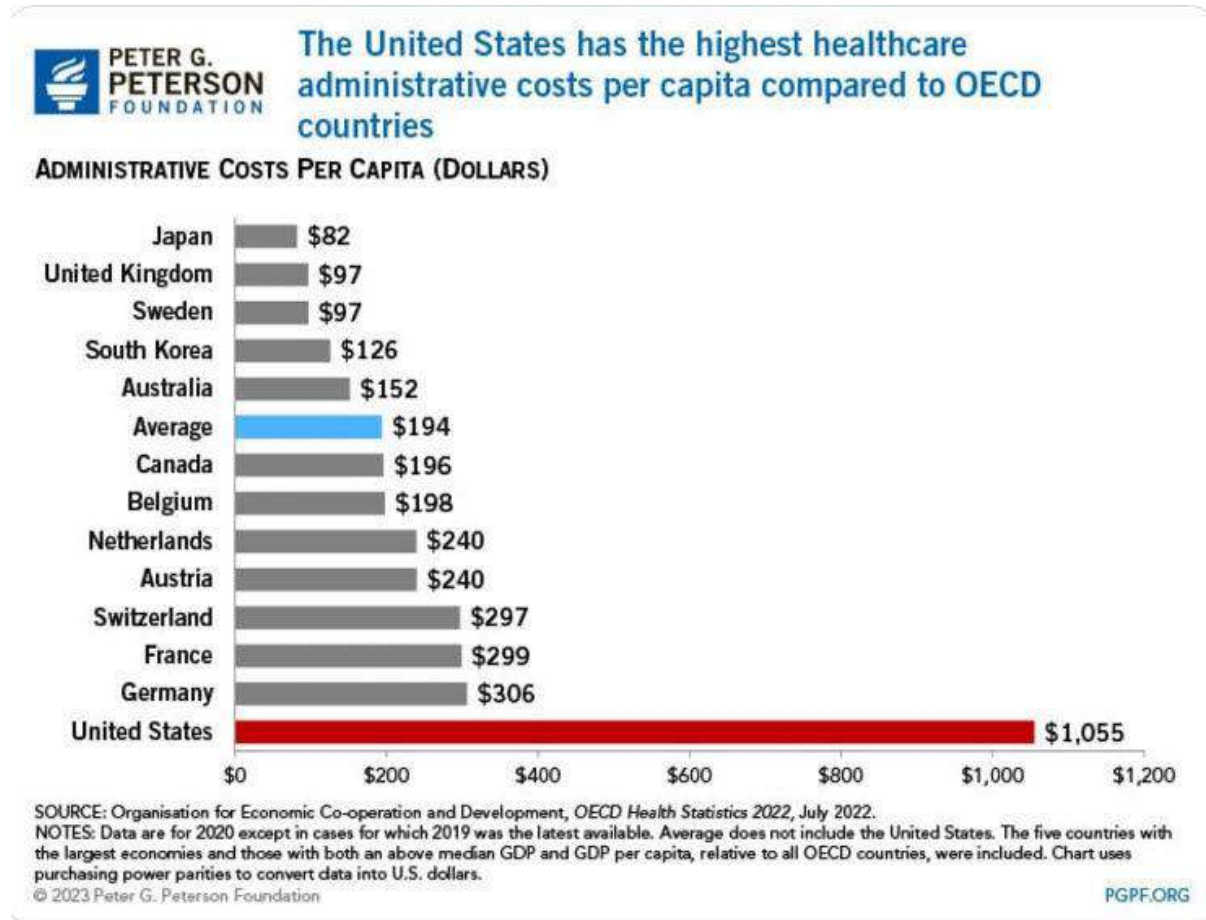
> Gangs now using child assassins after Sweden passes law making it illegal to prosecute kids for crime..

> Speaking of Sweden, a new law allows police to seize expensive goods even from people who are not under investigation for a crime, if they cannot prove they acquired them lawfully. Police could arrest a teenager sporting a gold watch, or someone

driving a Porsche who they know is on the dole, and confiscate their swag. The idea is to undermine gang leaders who recruit youngsters by dangling such wares.

> Assad's fall is a big deal. Iranian and Russian support were not enough. A vacuum has been created in the middle of the Middle East. With Hezbollah, Hamas and Syria down, Iran will have to rethink its strategy.

> Only one part of a fundamentally broken system –

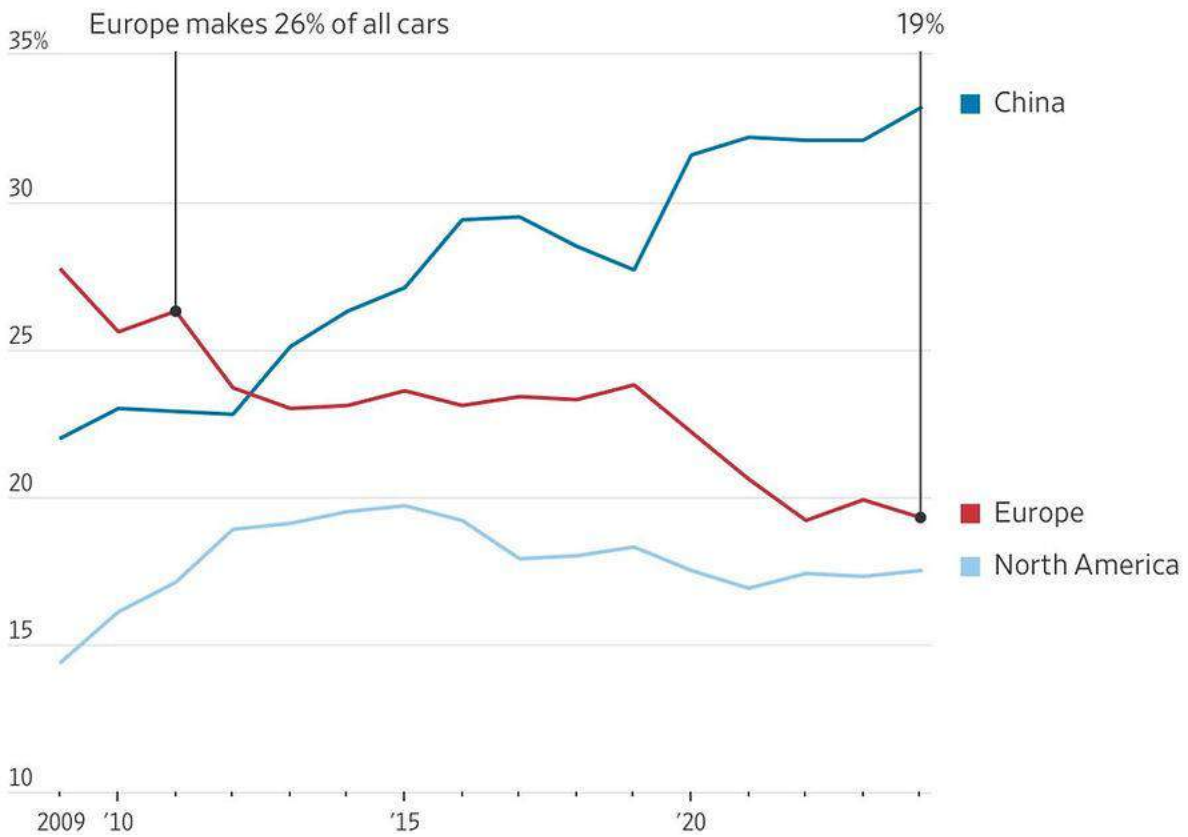


> Profoundly important bit that politicians, and citizens, ignore as they fight to the death for short term gain –



> This is big

Share of global light-vehicle production



> High school diploma for Charles Murray's mother in 1924 - now that's an education!

Orthography, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, United States History, Vocal Music, Elocution, Rhetoric, Physiology, Civil Government, Algebra, English and American Literature, Physics, General History, Plane and Solid Geometry, Chemistry, Political Economy, Trigonometry, Drawing, Elementary Latin, Cicero, and Virgil.

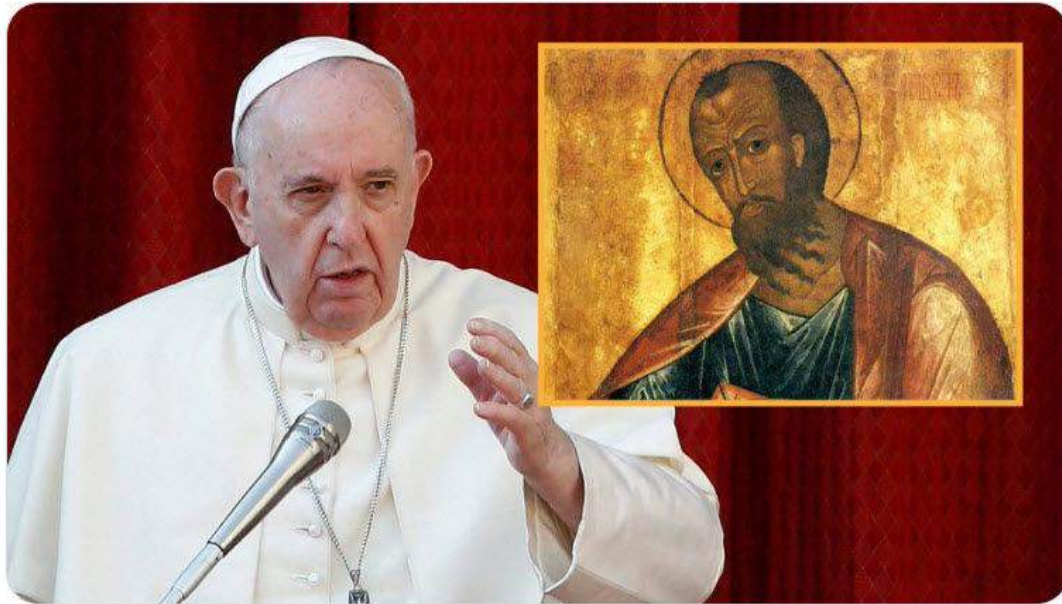
> Modernity in one fantastic meme –



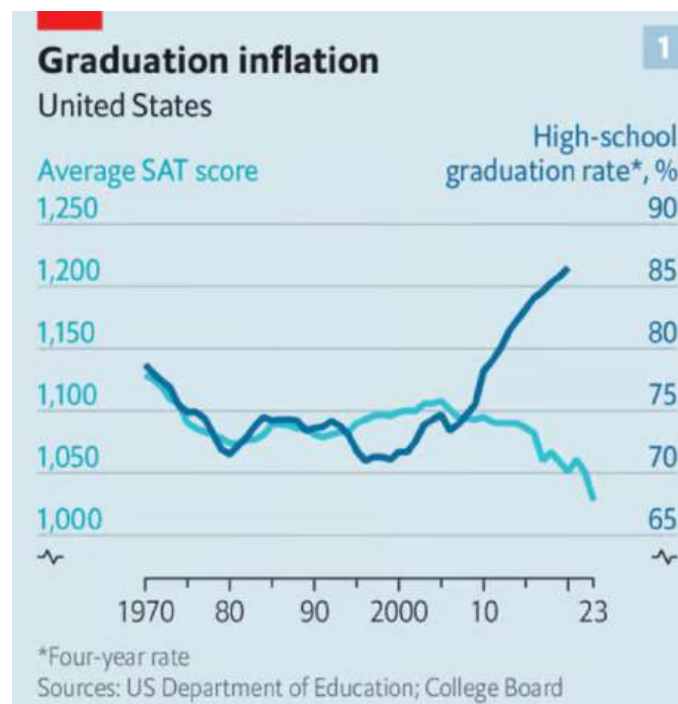
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Pope Francis Excommunicates Apostle Paul Over Outdated Views On Women, Marriage buff.ly/3TkLbdR



> Speaking of broken systems



> For his Substack Very Serious, Josh Barro reflected on the life of Jordan Neely, the homeless man who died in the New York subway last year after a bystander, Daniel Penny, put him in a chokehold. “One through-line in the story is the immense amount of government resources that were thrown at trying to keep Neely out of trouble,” he wrote. “Through police, courts, jails, homeless outreach, and treatment facilities, New York’s taxpayers spent lavishly on an effort to keep Neely alive, in mental health care, and not posing a danger to the public or himself. But it didn’t work because he was insane and he was not forced to accept the care he needed—except during a stint he spent in jail on Rikers Island, when he was successfully medicated. ... I do think it would behoove progressives with pat takes about how what Neely really needed was housing and care to know that he was offered these things over and over again by that extremely well-funded apparatus. If you wanted him to have housing and care, you needed to be prepared to force them upon him; and if you weren’t, then you don’t have a solution to the problems of people like him.”

It Ain't Easy Being Green

- > Denmark received no bids in its latest offshore wind auction.
- > Europe is experiencing very high electricity costs due to calm winds.

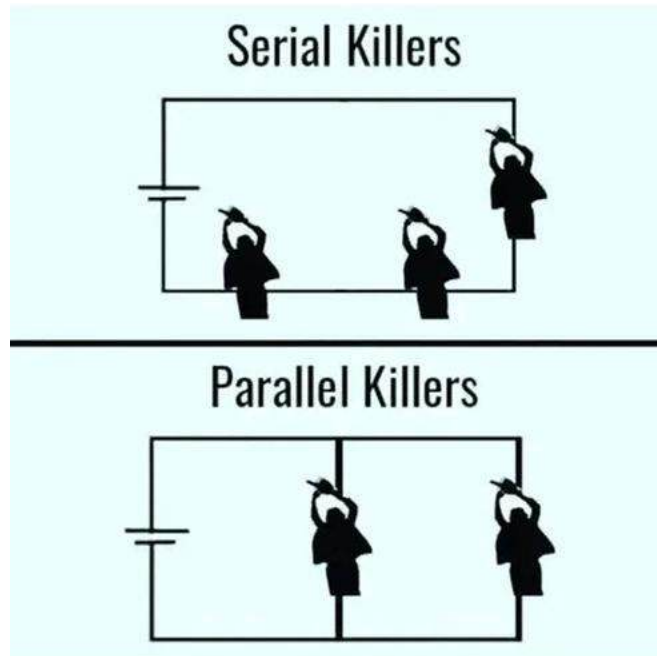
Miscellany

Pangea, the supercontinent that existed around 300 million years ago, shown with the borders of modern countries.



What did moths do before there were lights?

Because my degrees are in EE –

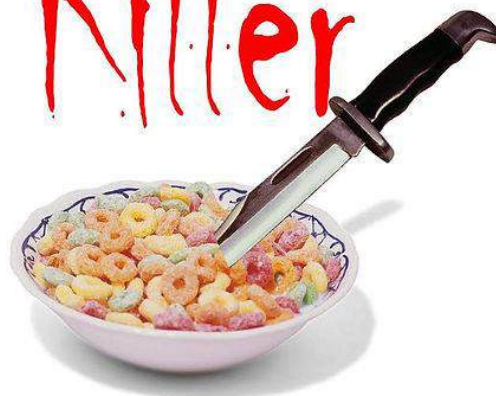


(Beth wanted me to say that there are two ways to wire circuits - serial and parallel - and she does not think this is funny.)

An oldie-but-goodie –

Cereal

Killer





Finally, something we can do to take on global warming

US NEWS

Humans may be fueling global warming by breathing: new study

By Olivia Land