

INVESTIGATION-22 Part 20. How The Age of Transparency Blew the Scheme Up

Mon, 22 Jun 2015 17:00:00, newstips66, [category: brotopia, category: energy-dept-slush-fund, post_tag: investigation-22, post_tag: investigation-22-part-20-howthe-age-of-transparency-blewthe-scheme-up, category: netflix, category: political-bribes, category: stanford_univ_bribes, category: worldnews]

[THE XYZ CASE: AN ORGANIZED CRIME INVESTIGATION
A PEER-TO-PEER LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECT](#)

- [HOME](#)
- [BREAKING NEWS](#)
- [THE ATTACKS](#)
- [TESLA-SOLYNDRA](#)
- [CARTEL DOCUMENTS](#)

WHY COVER-UPS CAN NO LONGER WORK IN THE WORLD:

Nothing can be hidden any longer, in the modern world. The longer you cover up a crime, the worse it is, and the bigger the fall, at the end of the day. IE:

Many document leaks have taken place, and more are expected, with particularly shocking data.

Executives and politicians can now no longer hide their payments to prostitutes, their paypal or bitcoin drug transactions, their offshore tax shelters, their family stock shills, their PAC contributions, their corporate credit card uses for strip clubs, the giving or taking of bribes... Everything is visible now! It no longer matters how much money or "power" a corrupt entity thinks it has. Some of the investigators and specialists that worked on some of the following take-downs, are working on this case:

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE AND COMPANIES THAT SUDDENLY VANISHED IN SCANDAL:

BILL COSBY
FOREX
SOLYNDRA
ABOUND SOLAR
A123
ENERDEL
AMY PASCAL
E.F.HUTTON
RADIO SHACK
ENRON
MCIWORLD.COM
EASTERN AIRLINES
STANDARD OIL
ARTHUR ANDERSON
DELOREAN
PETS.COM
BEAR STEARNS
BEATRICE FOODS
HEALTHSOUTH
ALLEN STANFORD
TYCO
LANCE ARMSTRONG
PARMALAT
BANINTER
HSBC
GLOBAL CROSSING LTD.
HIH INSURANCE
IMCLONE
DEUTSCHE BANK SPY CASE
URBAN BANK
JEROME KERVIEL
BARCLAYS BANK
BRE-X
FISKER
BARINGS BANK
PATRICIA DUNN
SIEMENS AG
PETROBAS
KELLOG BROWN AND ROOT
BAE SYSTEMS
KERRY KHAN
ALCATEL-LUCENT SA
PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

SECTIONS HOME SEARCH **The New York Times**

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: Bill Cosby's Sudden Fall, Explained Sociologically

POLITICAL CALCULUS: Hispanic Voters Are Important for Republicans, but Not Indispensable

Letter From the Editor: Facing the Reality of Win-Lose Situations

TheUpshot

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

Bill Cosby's Sudden Fall, Explained Sociologically

NOV. 20, 2014



Brendan Nyhan

How did [Bill Cosby suddenly become radioactive](#)?

On Wednesday, the cable network TV Land pulled reruns of "The Cosby Show" from the air, a development that echoed decisions by NBC to [drop](#) a sitcom starring Mr. Cosby and Netflix's announcement that it would [postpone](#) the release of his new comedy special.

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What's surprising is the way that rape allegations against Mr. Cosby, which go back decades, have become so damaging to him now. According to the [research](#) of Ari Adut, a University of Texas sociologist, moral scandals like this one arise when a suspected transgression becomes common knowledge. Even if there is dispersed knowledge about the allegations (as in Mr. Cosby's case), the information may not trigger a reaction unless it receives what Mr. Adut calls "collective and focused attention."

In Mr. Cosby's case, [allegations](#) by numerous young women that he drugged and raped them were [largely ignored](#) until a [routine](#) performed last month by the comedian Hannibal Buress drew newfounded attention to the claims.

Photo Bill Cosby at a Veterans Day ceremony this month in Philadelphia. Credit Matt Rourke/Associated Press Mr. Buress's routine appears to have helped foster that collective, focused attention.

According to Mr. Adut, this level of attention can make allegations of misconduct much more powerful by turning them into what game theorists call common knowledge. When everyone knows that everyone else knows about the claim (and so on), society can judge people and groups that do not act on that knowledge.

Sandy Yesterday Mr. Cosby freely "threw stones" at the behavior of younger generations of African-American men, without first stopping to consider whether... SA Yesterday "According to the research of Ari Adut, a University of Texas sociologist, moral scandals like this one arise when a suspected transgression... Under these circumstances, moral scandals can contaminate reputable groups and institutions that are linked to the target, forcing them to distance themselves publicly. In this case, NBC, Netflix and TV Land had previously maintained relationships with Mr. Cosby, but they quickly cut ties with him when the controversy erupted.

One useful analogy to the Cosby case is the 2002 controversy over comments by Trent Lott, the former Mississippi senator, who was [forced to step down](#) from his position as the incoming Senate majority leader after he [praised](#) the 1948 segregationist presidential campaign of Strom Thurmond.

[Continue reading the main story](#) Write A Comment Mr. Lott had [made similar comments](#) and had [lies](#) to a segregationist group, but these were largely ignored, allowing him to ascend into the G.O.P. leadership even as political norms on race changed drastically. When Mr. Lott's praise of Mr. Thurmond, a longtime South Carolina senator, became widely known, however, these actions became common knowledge, making it too costly for Republicans to keep him in leadership.

As Mr. Adut notes, a similar process took place when the radio talk show host Don Imus in 2007 made racially offensive comments about the women's basketball team at Rutgers University. Mr. Imus had [a long history](#) of similar comments, but his show continued to be broadcast by national media organizations and to feature [frequent appearances](#) by top political journalists. But once his offensive description of the Rutgers team became widely known, the pressure for media organizations to dissociate themselves from him became overwhelming, and he was [dropped from MSNBC](#) and [fired by CBS Radio](#).

While Mr. Cosby has never faced criminal charges, it is no longer possible for any organization to ignore what's being alleged against him. As the Lott and Imus controversies illustrate, that alone can be devastating.

[Brendan Nyhan](#) is an assistant professor of government at Dartmouth College. Follow him on Twitter at [@BrendanNyhan](#).

We may be witnessing THE GLOBAL RESET

Have you ever played a video game and it just hangs on some effect? Have you ever been working on a project on your computer and it just freezes? Has your car just flooded out? What Do You Do?

RESET! Turn it off, wait, and turn it back on.

Why?

Because life has taught you that resets often work.

What if a bunch of people; engineers, writers, public servants and the like, saw the world coming apart a decade, or two, ago? What if they saw this internet thing as the ultimate tool for a reset via total-transparency? What if another group saw the internet thing as the ultimate tool for harvesting human behavior for profit? What if both groups embarked on their efforts at the same time, but on totally different paths? What if one got a little ahead of the other? Would that create 2014? Could all of the ruckus and change in the world be the breaking of ALL of the paths of oppression, at the same time, as EVERYONE around the world goes for human equality at the same time? Are we witnessing THE GLOBAL RESET? The financial reset has already started and even the combined power of every nation on Earth was unable to stop it. The cultural reset has also already started but it does not stand out as much. Politicians may be able to delay things but, one has to wonder, is everything from here forward, inevitable? As the poets say, is it truly impossible to stifle the human need for freedom and independence forever? Almost every ruckus point has to do with the population waking up, seeing that they were being used by a small group of rich elites and saying: "hell, no!" Are we in the middle of The Reboot, right after The Reset? After it all shakes out, what will the New World of Total Transparency feel like? Just wonderin' if that is what all of this is about....

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Westin L- Davis University

What has already started happening in THE RESET:

- Less marriages
- More renters/less buyers
- Millennials want more proof of less corruption from candidates
- Women are over categorization (Ahem..NFL..)
- Frat Houses & "Ivy League" are now evil
- Less reliance on credit and loans
- Populations around the world want equal democracy rights
- Less willingness to be used by corporations

- No tolerance of political scams
- Campus "RAPE-CULTURE" being over-thrown
- FRAT BOY Elitist Campus male programming being over-thrown
- No babies or babies later in life
- Less tolerance for 9-5 work hours
- READERS: SEND IN MORE OBSERVATIONS...

The Great Unraveling

[Roger Cohen](#)

It was the time of unraveling. Long afterward, in the ruins, people asked: How could it happen?

It was a time of beheadings. With a left-handed sawing motion, against a desert backdrop, in bright sunlight, a Muslim with a British accent cut off the heads of [two American journalists](#) and a [British aid worker](#). The jihadi seemed comfortable in his work, unhurried. His victims were broken. Terror is theater. Burning skyscrapers, severed heads: The terrorist takes movie images of unbearable lightness and gives them weight enough to embed themselves in the psyche.

It was a time of aggression. The leader of the largest nation on earth pronounced his country encircled, even humiliated. He annexed part of a neighboring country, the first such act in Europe since 1945, and stirred up a war on further land he coveted. His surrogates [shot down](#) a civilian passenger plane. The victims, many of them Europeans, were left to rot in the sun for days. He denied any part in the violence, like a puppeteer denying that his puppets' movements have any connection to his. He invoked the law the better to trample on it. He invoked history the better to turn it into farce. He reminded humankind that the idiom fascism knows best is untruth so grotesque it begets unreason.

It was a time of breakup. The most successful union in history, forged on an island in the North Sea in 1707, headed toward [possible dissolution](#) — not because it had failed (refugees from across the seas still clamored to get into it), nor even because of new hatreds between its peoples. The northernmost citizens were bored. They were disgruntled. They were irked, in some insidious way, by the south and its moneyed capital, an emblem to them of globalization and inequality. They imagined they had to control their National Health Service in order to save it even though they already controlled it through devolution and might well have less money for its preservation (not that it was threatened in the first place) as an independent state. The fact that the currency, the debt, the revenue, the defense, the solvency and the European Union membership of such a newborn state were all in doubt did not appear to weigh much on a decision driven by emotion, by urges, by a longing to be heard in the modern cacophony — and to heck with the day after. If all else failed, oil would come to the rescue (unless somebody else owned it or it just ran out).

It was a time of weakness. The most powerful nation on earth was tired of far-flung wars, its will and treasury depleted by absence of victory. An ungrateful world could damn well police itself. The nation had bridges to build and education systems to fix. Civil wars between Arabs could fester. Enemies might even kill other enemies, a low-cost gain. Middle Eastern borders could fade; they were artificial colonial lines on a map. Shiite could battle Sunni, and Sunni Shiite, there was no stopping them. Like Europe's decades-long religious wars, these wars had to run their course. The nation's leader mockingly derided his own ["wan, diffident, professorial"](#) approach to the world, implying he was none of these things, even if he gave that appearance. He set objectives for which he had no plan. He made commitments he did not keep. In the way of the world these things were noticed. Enemies probed. Allies were neglected, until they were needed to face the decapitators who talked of a Caliphate and called themselves a state. Words like "strength" and "resolve" returned to the leader's vocabulary. But the world was already adrift, unmoored by the retreat of its ordering power. The rule book had been ripped up.

It was a time of hatred. Anti-Semitic slogans were heard in the land that invented industrialized mass murder for Europe's Jews. Frightened European Jews removed mezuzahs from their homes. Europe's Muslims felt the ugly backlash from the depravity of the decapitators, who were adept at Facebooking their message. The fabric of society frayed. Democracy looked quaint or outmoded beside new authoritarianisms. Politicians, haunted by their incapacity, played on the fears of their populations, who were device-distracted or under device-driven stress. Dystopia was a vogue word, like utopia in the 20th century. The great rising nations of vast populations held the fate of the world in their hands but hardly seemed to care. It was a time of fever. People in [West Africa](#) bled from the eyes.

It was a time of disorientation. Nobody connected the dots or read Kipling on life's few certainties: "The Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire / And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire."

Until it was too late and people could see the Great Unraveling for what it was and what it had wrought.

Is the world going nuts?

By Fareed Zakaria

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- There is an unraveling taking place in parts of the world, writes Fareed Zakaria
- In the Middle East, people were tired of the old dictatorships
- They weren't prepared for what should follow them, Zakaria says
- Europe went through its turmoil before it became stable continent it is today, he says

Editor's note: Fareed Zakaria is the host of CNN's *Global Public Square*. Watch his interviews with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former U.S. President Bill Clinton this Sunday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET on CNN.

(CNN) — Is the world spinning out of control?

I get asked this question a lot these days, and for understandable reasons. Look at what's been in the news in just the last few weeks. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's execution videos, Scotland's bid for secession, Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

There is an unraveling taking place in parts of the world. In the Middle East, the old order that stretched from Libya to Syria has collapsed. In Russia, the rise of oil prices has empowered and emboldened President Vladimir Putin — and he wants a makeover on the fall of the Soviet Union. Putin is testing the stability of the old international order built after World War II, and sees that it is weaker than most people might have guessed.

But why is all this happening? In the Middle East, people were tired of the old dictatorships. They weren't prepared for what should follow them, but they wanted greater space and voice. The result has been chaos and violence, but perhaps that is the brutal, ugly phase that will force people there to find a way to make their peace with the modern world. After all, Europe went through its own religious wars, wars or nationalism, and world wars before it became the stable continent it is today.

Similarly, in Eurasia, the real driver of what has happened there is not the West or Russia, but the Ukrainian people. They decided that they didn't want to be vassals of the Kremlin. They look with longing at Poland, which in 1989 had a similar-sized economy to theirs and is now twice the size, and is a member in good standing of the European Union.

Of course there are Ukrainians who feel differently — that's what's causing the turmoil — but most, overwhelmingly, want to chart a future with the West. Whether they can remains an open question, given Putin's firm resolve to sabotage their plans. But again, this is a sign of people searching for greater connections with the civilized world.

And look at the rest of the world. India and Indonesia have elected leaders who are friendly towards markets, the West, and America — resolutely democratic and yet strong nationalists. Mexico and Colombia have reformers at the helm. In Africa, there are many governments from Ethiopia to Rwanda, where you see real progress in health and living conditions. There are many pieces of bad news coming out of that continent — from Ebola to Boko Haram — but there is also good news, growing economies, a surging middle class.

And look at the world's two largest economies. The United States remains economically vibrant, with a dynamic society, new technologies that dominate the world, and new sources of energy that will power it for a few generations. China, for all the noise, remains committed to economic development first, is embarking on anti-corruption and reform drives and has even begun to tackle pollution and climate change as an issue.

I'm not saying that all is well in the world — I'm really suggesting that we are in the midst of great global change. Much of this change is driven by good news — people's desires for greater freedom and autonomy, new information technologies, etc. But all change is disruptive, and without the institutions of freedom and the civic culture of liberty, this period of transition can be dangerous. The forces of integration will not automatically triumph over the forces of disintegration. But there are many good forces out here that are also sweeping through the world these days.

And, of course, Scotland did not end up seceding. Score one for integration.

Resetting the World!

[Change This - The World on Reset](#)

"I keep saying that this is not a recession, it is a **reset**. What amazes me is how many brilliant people I know, in the US and around the **world**, who either don't see it as anything more than a recession, or who don't want to. No one really argues with me when I say it, but more so, simply ...[changethis.com/manifesto/show/65.01.WorldReset](#)

[More from changethis.com](#)

[Is the Big Reset on 7-20-14? World Economy! - YouTube](#)

[Is the Big Reset date 7-20-2014?](#) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1N8...> Christine LaGarde discusses the **reset** and how it will take place. She did it as a set up to an official IMF forecast for "what we should expect for 2014." Why is this important now? The IMF forecast was based on ...[youtube.com/watch?v=jr43HsJdQY](#)

[More from youtube.com](#)

[Global Currency Reset | FINANCE NEWS](#)

Looking back, the last Global Currency **Reset** happened between 1944 and 1945, towards the end of **World War II**. The powers that be decided that a new global **world** reserve currency was needed, so it became the US Dollar ... [financenews.peterwillo.com/category/global-currency-reset/](#)

[More from financenews.peterwillo.com](#)

[GLOBAL CURRENCY RESET- NEW WORLD OR NEW WORLD ORDER? | What ...](#)

Great article, I recommend reading it. This unedited version was passed on to me by the author. The edited version can be purchased here nexusmagazine.com.au. Enjoy. KS The ABC news website announced on December 9, 2013 that China was calling for a new global currency. According to [...followingworldchange.wordpress.com/2014/04/29/global-currency-reset-new-worl...](http://followingworldchange.wordpress.com/2014/04/29/global-currency-reset-new-worl...)

[More from followingworldchange.wordpress.com](http://followingworldchange.wordpress.com)

[Bloomberg Analyst: Global Currency Reset Coming? \(VIDEO\)](#)

Could a worldwide currency **reset** be coming sooner rather than later? Bloomberg says 'yes.' ... They say that the only way out of the financial mess the **world** has gotten itself into would be to do a global "currency **reset**." [...blippitt.com/bloomberg-analyst-global-currency-reset-c...](http://blippitt.com/bloomberg-analyst-global-currency-reset-c...)

[More from blippitt.com](http://blippitt.com)

[Push 'reset' button on world, WEF founder says](#)

Push **'reset'** button on **world**, WEF founder says. It's time to press the "**reset**" button on the **world**, the founder of the **World Economic Forum** said Wednesday, addressing media ahead of the WEF's much ballyhooed annual meeting in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, that gets underway in a week's [...usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/01/15/davos-world-e...](http://usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/01/15/davos-world-e...)

[More from usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com)

[Reset the World - Tumblr](#)

"There are countless ingredients that make up the human body and mind, like all the components that make up me as an individual with my own personality." resetheworld.tumblr.com

[More from resetheworld.tumblr.com](http://resetheworld.tumblr.com)

[We're In The Midst of A Global Currency Reset | InvestmentWatch](#)

What gets in the way from time to time with regard to this Global Currency **Reset** ... backed by gold. However, Clinton mentioned in one of her speeches that Iraq will become the richest nation in the **world** due to its oil reserves. Thereby, [...investmentwatchblog.com/were-in-the-midst-of-a-global-currency-re...](http://investmentwatchblog.com/were-in-the-midst-of-a-global-currency-re...)

[More from investmentwatchblog.com](http://investmentwatchblog.com)

[Box2D Forums • View topic - "Reset" World on Click](#)

Box2D Ports » WCK ... "Hi there I wanted to ask whether there is a way to manually **reset** a **world** made with ..." "Hi. I've just been solving a related problem, which is how to set up a system for loading, resetting, and replacing levels. It looks like if you contain your level / scene objects [...box2d.org/forum/viewtopic.php?F=19&t=6361](http://box2d.org/forum/viewtopic.php?F=19&t=6361)

[More from box2d.org](http://box2d.org)

[Innovation In The Reset World - Forbes - Information for the ...](#)

For companies to survive and prosper in a slow growth **reset world**, innovation holds the key. Imagine the projects you will implement in 2009 and put those projects into three boxes. Box 1 is for "managing the present," that is to say, [...forbes.com/2009/08/27/vijay-govindarajan-innovation-...](http://forbes.com/2009/08/27/vijay-govindarajan-innovation-...)

[More from forbes.com](http://forbes.com)

["A GLOBAL RESET IS COMING" | Pragmatic Capitalism](#)

Although we are both bearish, Mark Fisher, of MBF Asset Management has a dramatically different fundamental view of the **world**: Source: CNBC pragcap.com/a-global-reset-is-coming

[More from pragcap.com](http://pragcap.com)

[The Big Reset. Don't Get Left Behind. - Resilient Communities](#)

Raoul is a Goldman Sachs alum that went on to co-manage one of the **world's** largest hedge funds in London. ... I don't think this is a **reset** but part of a permanent global recession, as the problem lies with the system itself. resilientcommunities.com/the-big-reset/

[More from resilientcommunities.com](http://resilientcommunities.com)

[Financial globalization: Retreat or reset? | McKinsey & Company](#)

For three decades, the globalization of finance appeared to be an unstoppable trend: as the **world** economy became more tightly integrated, ... Retreat or **reset**? continues the McKinsey Global Institute's ongoing series of reports on global capital markets. mckinsey.com/insights/global_capital_markets/financial...

[More from mckinsey.com](http://mckinsey.com)

[The world is reset! - Free Online Library](#)

Free Online Library: The **world is reset!**(Generators ...) by "PS, the Preventive Maintenance Monthly"; Transportation industry Military and naval

science thefreelibrary.com/The+world+is+reset!-a0167178497

[More from thefreelibrary.com](http://thefreelibrary.com)

[World Reset? | Official Chucklefish Forums!](#)

I just made a new character to take advantage of the patch changes, so I obviously got a new starter **world**. However, when I traveled to Alpha Umbrexion 1207 II to get my first gun, I noticed that the planet kept the changes made by my previous characters, ie the platforms to access the ship were [...community.playstarbound.com/index.php?threads/world-reset-56234/](http://community.playstarbound.com/index.php?threads/world-reset-56234/)

[More from community.playstarbound.com](http://community.playstarbound.com)

[Hillary Clinton stands by 'Russian reset' in face of recent...](#)

That is **the** argument former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made during a Thursday interview about her much ... Hillary Clinton stands by 'Russian **reset**' in face of recent events. ... Russia has stepped up its aggressiveness on the **world** stage and the country's relations with [...politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/07/24/hillary-clinton-stands-by-russ...](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/07/24/hillary-clinton-stands-by-russ...)

[More from politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com)

[Global Currency Reset Coming: As Seen on Bloomberg News \(VIDEO\)](#)

The only way out of this financial mess is to initiate a "global currency **reset**." This aired on Bloomberg TV on July 25th. ... I think a **reset** would be very healthy for the **world**. Cancel all debts, everyone forgive each other and just start over fresh with a global currency. godlikeproductions.com/forum1/message1942187/pg1

[More from godlikeproductions.com](http://godlikeproductions.com)

[NESARA- REPUBLIC NOW - GALACTIC NEWS: Global Reset and ...](#)

This is an Awareness Blog to consider the future of your **world**. Actions are being done now to restore our **world**. Watch and become AWARE! Send comments/news to johnmachaffie@gmail.com 51 MILLION VIEWS, 3.5 MILLION PER MONTH Use CTRL & MOUSE WHEEL to widen view BACKUP [...nesaranews.blogspot.com/2013/07/global-reset-and-currency-revalua...](http://nesaranews.blogspot.com/2013/07/global-reset-and-currency-revalua...)

[More from nesaranews.blogspot.com](http://nesaranews.blogspot.com)

[The Global Currency Reset | Freedom News](#)

4.) What gets in the way from time to time with regard to this Global Currency **Reset** (as has happened the entire month of July) is the security of the entire **world**, along with the security of the people across the globe and the security of the new systems being implemented and readied [...jonwizardnews.wordpress.com/2013/07/18/the-global-currency-reset/](http://jonwizardnews.wordpress.com/2013/07/18/the-global-currency-reset/)

[More from jonwizardnews.wordpress.com](http://jonwizardnews.wordpress.com)

[» Push 'reset' button on world, WEF founder says Alex...](#)

Push **'reset'** button on **world**, WEF founder says. 14 27 0. Kim Hjelgaard USA Today January 21, 2014. **World Economic Forum** airfield. / Photo: kecko, via Flickr. infowars.com/push-reset-button-on-world-wef-founder-says/

[More from infowars.com](http://infowars.com)

Independent presidential bids, a third party, and other big changes may be just over the midterm horizon.

By [Ron Fournier](#)

October 21, 2014 From [time](#) to [time](#) in this column, I predict that the United States is entering an era of great political disruption, a bottom-up revolution on the scale of what upended the music, television, movie, media, and retail industries. Fueled by the radical connectivity of the [Internet](#), abrupt new actors in those fields dismantled the status quo, shifted power downward, and created an explosion of options for consumers.

Consider what just one change wrought. You can now choose any musician's song from any album, download it instantly and from virtually anywhere on earth for less than the price of a candy bar, and store it on a device with thousands of other tracks from just as many different singers. That's *power*.

I ask you, how long until Americans recognized they're no less equipped to disrupt politics and government? How soon before we stop settling for an inferior product in Washington and at statehouses? When do we demand more and better from the Democratic and Republican parties—or create new political organizations that usurp the old? I don't know the answers. I do believe it's a matter of *when*, not *if*. Because, while we may be a presidential cycle or two away from the Great Disruption, you can already spot green shoots of populism emerging from an otherwise bleak midterm landscape.

Unsatisfied consumers: Disruption thrives when the status quo is not serving the needs of a changing public. Netflix, Amazon, and BuzzFeed wouldn't exist if people had been satisfied with the way the entertainment, retail, and media industries were operating. The same American public that forced change on those industries is equally, if not more, annoyed with the political system.

A majority of Americans hold a negative view of the GOP, according to an NBC/*Wall Street Journal* [survey](#). The Democratic Party's image is underwater, meaning that more people disapprove than approve of the party. The percentage of Americans identifying themselves as independents is rising steadily, from 31 percent in 2004 to 44 percent in September, according to a Gallup study cited by Democratic consultant Doug Sosnik.

"Americans' long-brewing discontent shows clear signs of reaching a boiling point," Sosnik wrote a year ago. "And when it happens, the country will judge its politicians through a new filter—one that asks, 'Which side of the barricade are you on?'"

While many independents will vote Democratic or Republican, they're doing so out of a lack of choice. Last year, NBC/*Esquire* commissioned a nonpartisan [analysis](#) of the electorate and determined that a full majority, 51 percent, make up a "New American Center," voters whose attitudes and ideologies leave them without a natural home inside either the GOP or the Democratic Party. These voters share common values that run counter to the polarized, zero-sum ways of the two major parties.

Exacerbating this disconnect between the parties and the people is the public's sour mood. Huge majorities of Americans say the country is on the wrong track. They see a grim future for themselves, their children, and their country. They believe their political leaders are selfish, greedy, and short-sighted—unable and/or unwilling to shield most people from wrenching economic and social change.

Ambitious disruptors: A handful of politicians are looking over the horizon and offering themselves as an alternative to the GOP and the Democratic Party. Independent candidate Greg Orman threatens to unseat GOP Sen. Pat Roberts in heavily Republican Kansas. Republican-turned-independent Larry Pressler has put the South Dakota race into play. A libertarian pizza delivery man may gobble up enough voters to determine the Senate race in North Carolina. In Alaska, Democrats are backing an independent Republican for governor. In governor's

racers, [nearly a dozen incumbents](#) are in various levels of danger; their challengers seizing the mantle of change.

Still, this year's elections won't result in a wave of newly elected independents, nor will a record number of incumbents lose their jobs. The Old Guard will conclude that the status quo is safe. But the Old Guard is a ship of fools, living on borrowed time. They remind me of smug newspaper publishers, music moguls, and bookstore-chain operators who were abruptly disrupted out of business.

"Look beneath the surface, and you'll see this is more of an anti-incumbent, anti-establishment year than people realize," said Joe Trippi, who helped bring modern technology to the political system while running a 2004 Democratic presidential campaign for Howard Dean. "Change is coming. Big change."

Young disruptors: The ranks of the congressional candidates include a dozen or so millennials, people who came of age after 9/11. They include Elise Stefanik, 30, a Republican who helped me research a 2006 book about leadership when she was a Harvard undergraduate. Nick Troiano, 25, is running as an independent in Pennsylvania. "If I win, it will send a signal to Washington that you'd better watch out, that there's a huge generation of millennials poised to disrupt politics as usual," Troiano [told me](#) in April.

Even if the Old Guard defeats Stefanik, Troiano, and every other young candidate in November, they can't stop the changes millennials would make to the system. This generation of Americans is relatively civic-minded, pragmatic, tolerant, diverse, and less interested in ideology than results. The only thing that can stop millennials from disrupting the system is the generation itself; young Americans are deeply disillusioned with politics and government, and their inclination to solve problems outside of traditional institutions could create a severe [brain drain](#) in Washington.

Conventional wisdom argues against even the remote possibility of an independent presidential bid; against the dismantling of old party structures and the creation of new ones; and against any structural reform to government. I get it. There are thousands of reasons why you might place your bets on the status quo.

I'll put my money on the people. Trippi is right. Change is coming.

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