

While the press distributes sob-stories about shortages of soap and other consumer goods in the Soviet Union, the Soviets are outproducing America in heavy industrial goods and surpassing our production of military hardware by several-fold.

If Americans rely upon "appearances" for their safety, they will most probably lose their freedom.

## PROFIT IN CRISIS

Several years ago I gave a talk at a conference at which the primary theme was investing in today's dangerous world. The audience was made up of moderately wealthy Americans. Most of them were interested in preserving their wealth and in making more money from the "coming collapse."

The thesis of my talk was the same then as it would be today. My advice is of little interest to the merchants of doom who are busily peddling investments which they promise will profit handsomely from the collapse of Western civilization.

First, you cannot profit from the demise of Western civilization. You might not even physically survive the collapse of Western civilization, although good civil defense preparations give you and your family a "Fighting Chance."

Second, in the economic gyrations which are likely to come over the next decade, most investors will lose wealth whether or not a general collapse occurs. There are too many fleet-footed professionals on the other side of virtually any investment one may make. It is naive to expect that the majority of ordinary Americans will end up as something other than losers.

Third, if one avoids debt entirely, then losses can be managed. Even if one buys rather unwisely, losses are limited. For example a small farm, survival food, and a sturdy vehicle may all drop sharply in value (or they may rise - depending on the times), but they will not go to zero value unless the United States disappears along with its guarantee of property rights.

My advice therefore was that one should buy the things one will want to have over the next 10 to 20 years without incurring debt. For the relatively wealthy this can easily be accomplished, and most people can do more than they realize. Then, after providing this economic insurance and (in the case of civil defense) life insurance, forget about accumulating more wealth. Instead, just have an enjoyable and productive life.

You will probably lose less than if you had engaged in leveraged investments in a futile desire to acquire more. You will gain substantially in free time. Perhaps you will even decide to use some of that time to promote homeland defense and to take the other steps that might prevent the collapse and/or war which would mean great suffering for us all.