

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

The collapse of the social contract

By Rob • June 14, 2020

This post is much briefer than it could be.

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Collapse doesn't tend to happen in a flash. It tends to happen like a tsunami, which is an odd metaphor because most people don't realize that tsunamis are not one huge wave, but rather a tide that keeps rising.

Complex systems ebb and flow. When complex systems collapse, they degrade more than they improve, consistently, over time.

When you think of societal collapse, don't think of a bomb exploding. Think of how the typical old person dies. They get to be the age when you know the odds are high that bad things will happen. They get a sickness that wouldn't really hurt a young person, and it persists. Maybe they check into the hospital, but then they go home. But something's just not the same. Maybe there

is a flash event, like a stroke, and they recover, but now they walk with a cane. Then they start falling. At first, it's a surprise. Then it just keeps happening. You put duct tape on the situation by installing a ramp on the steps outside and a rail in the bathroom, but soon that just isn't enough. Eventually, they have a big fall, or maybe they go in their sleep one night. That's how societal collapse goes. The system becomes incapable of overcoming the inherent risk it constantly produces.

One thing about complex systems is that they are extremely sensitive to disruption. Our society requires almost everything to work almost all the time. Seemingly small deviations can cause outsized impact.

We tend to underestimate just how far from normal almost everything in our lives is. It is very unusual--from a human perspective--that you can have all sorts of valuable things lying about in a store without having a mob of people come and steal them. It's very unusual to be able to have a huge field of ripe produce or cattle without a mob of people coming and stealing it. Once I was doing medical charity work at a church in Zimbabwe. They opened up the fenced property for us to come in and set up, and the crowds gathered on the lawn, where there were a few very large mango trees. Just a few hours later, when I left, the entire lawn was covered with trash, the mango trees were stripped bare, and there were partially eaten mangos strewn about everywhere. THAT is normal. Normal human behavior is animal behavior. It is selfish

behavior. It is criminal behavior. Everything you see in society is balanced on a razor's edge of very atypical human behavior.

A while back I wrote about the coming collapse of the social contract. I've written about how things collapse when we abandon the principles that our prosperity is based on. It's happening now, and it will get far worse.

[Here is a tweet](#) about mobs robbing freight trains.

[Here is one](#) about a moving UPS truck being robbed.

There is a lot of traffic online from truckers who are refusing to transport loads to or through

cities with active riots.

Businesses and truckers are refusing to operate in cities who defund police.

What if you live in one of these cities? Even if you don't, how many hubs can be knocked out before you are affected? One can't simply reroute train tracks. One can't easily replace a factory that happens to supply the thing you need or supplies the people who make the thing you need.

Things are accelerating. The collapse will ebb and flow. Be prepared.

Don't think that this civil war will be north against south. It will be brother against brother,

neighbor against neighbor, county against
county, state against state, ideology against
ideology.

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