TOWER TALK

AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen

"Globalism" Not Acceptable to All

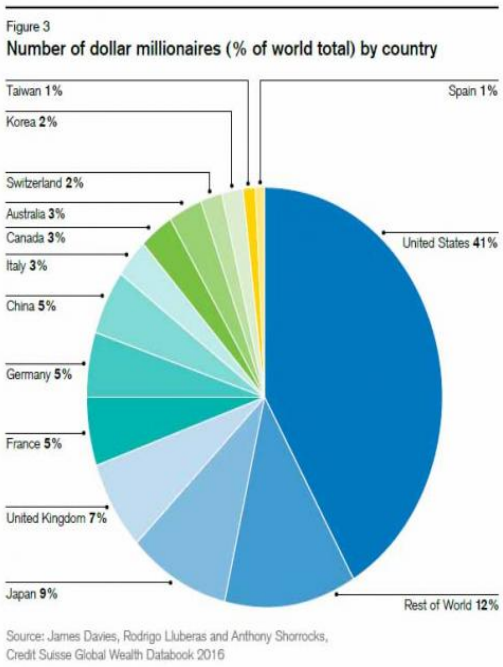
Prediction: Trump's U.S. victory is a precursor of more anti-globalism to come.

What has been hailed as the "New Globalism," championed by Obama, Merkel, Hollande and other worldwide political, financial, and media elites, is proving worrisome to large numbers of voters in Western Europe and the U.S.

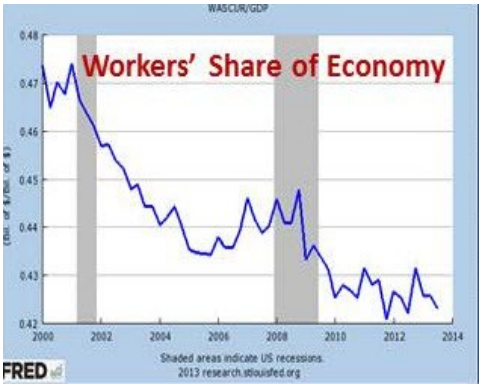
This movement, facilitated by modern electronics and worldwide communication, has been hailed as the next historic epoch, evolving inevitably from the "Information Age" and signaling the ultimate demise of resource hungry monopoly capitalism. It is a secular, egalitarian, meta-religious movement envisioning pan national government and a heavy regulatory role in wealth generation, assured individual financial and health safety nets, free trade, environmental sensitivity, and open borders for people and capital.

Trump, Brexit, and upcoming European elections are a reaction to this pan-national worldview. The negativity is substantially colored by middle and lower class perceptions that environmentalism and open borders do not work and that wealth distributions are vastly unfair and growing ever more so. Even in democracies, there is a sense that 'globalism" is rigging the system in favor of elites and not taking the populace's wellbeing into account.

A 2016 Credit Suisse annual report reveals less than 1% of households, mostly in the U. S., Europe, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, control 50% of the world's wealth, and the elites share is growing. The U.S. is the wealthiest; 41 percent of millionaires reside in the U.S.



U.S. wealth concentration is increasing (see nearby U.S. Workers' Share chart). A November 21 stock surge elevated Warren Buffet's net wealth by $11 billion. That is a one-day gain. Imagine how unemployed or minimum wage workers, few of whom own stock, react - ed to this. Overseas workers noticed too.



Most of us at SFT benefit, or at least do not suffer, from the new globalism. Many outside our sphere feel different.

Globalism and Election Outcomes

More than most, possibly excepting Bernie Sanders, Trump recognized widespread voter anxiety regarding globalism and the "New Industrial Culture." This anxiety centers upon but is broader than economic dissatisfaction.

Among the collective concerns of the anxious is a sense of individuals having lost control. Too much change too fast. Omniscient computers, job loss, media bias, automation, incomprehensible pop culture, and just plain who you see next to you in line in the local drugstore and supermarket and in ads on TV.

Anti- Globalism and Trump Tactics

Trump's two-fold strategy was simple: he strove continually to keep Clinton on the defensive over e.g., Benghazi, illegal emails, pay-for-play Clinton Foundation arrangements, her health, Obamacare, and her husband's philandering.

Second, Trump, ceaselessly appealed to working class angst regarding globalism, porous borders, Obama's performance, crime, and lost jobs.

Operationally, Clinton was thought to have a better campaign: more money: technology, volunteers, endorsements. Such is true by yesteryear's measures.

However, Trump used resources more wisely: attracting free media coverage, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to determine what TV ads were most effective and where to use what ads, and having far more accurate polling.

On CNN just prior to Election, Clinton's campaign director, Robby Mook, said polling had her ahead in FL, GA, NC, PA, WI, and MI. Trump won all Six.

Why So Many Polls Were So Wrong

Conventional pollsters got some things right. Clinton did win the popular vote, though perhaps by less than 1%, and inaccurate poll reports were often within technical margins of error.

However, pollsters made two critical errors. First, they assumed Clinton would benefit from an Obama-like voter turnout. In fact, 2016 voters were substantially fewer than four year previously; particularly African American, Latino, and women voters. In fact, if 2012 turnout had been as low as 2016, Trump could have beaten Obama.

Second, 13% of voters were undecided until the weekend before the election. Most of these, if voting at all, voted for Trump. Pollsters did not survey after the pre-election Friday. Hence errors.

Extent of Republican Victory

Despite contrary predictions, Trump had strong down ballot "tails."

Nationally, Republicans continue to control both House and the U.S. Senate, the latter by a narrow 52/48 margin.

Republicans now control 34 Governorships, including Bernie Sanders' home state of Vermont, and all of New England except Connecticut.

One can drive from Key West to Canada never leaving a Republican controlled state. There have never before in history been as many state elective offices held by Republicans. Republicans control 68 of 99 state legislative houses.

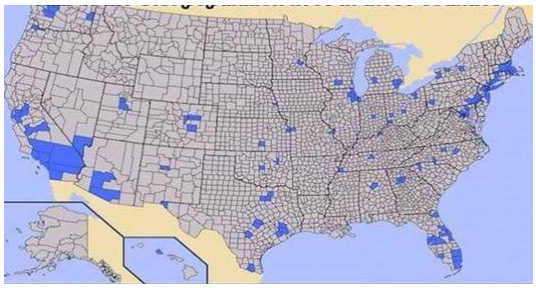
Republicans control 25 states completely, the state house and both legislative bodies. Democrats control 5 states completely.

Electoral College Controversy

Five times, a Presidential candidate has won the popular vote but lost the election. Invariably this triggers criticism of the Electoral College.

The usual Electoral College defense is that, in its absence, only four or five states would control elections and Middle America would be voiceless.

As the following map suggests, it is worse. Population concentration would enable approximately forty counties in five states, pictured below in blue, to control a nationwide election.



But Why a Recount?

Clinton publically conceded

Clinton and Stein have both proclaimed publically that they do not expect recount results to change outcomes.

Recounts have never before overturned victories of Trump's magnitude. Of the three states being mentioned, WI, MI, and PA, only PA has sufficient electoral votes to alter the election outcome.

Stein proponents slipped the Pennsylvania recount request deadline, November 21. The issue possibly is moot. Stein lawyers are suing to render the deadline declared arbitrary.

Stein has generated more funding to trigger the recount than she did to operate her entire election campaign

Trump has repeatedly criticized the recount effort.

States election outcomes are scheduled to be certified by December 13. The Electoral College votes on December 19.

What is going on here?

Democrats Future Uphill Challenge

To remain vital, Democrats must recapture their traditional working class base, much of which voted for Trump. Moreover, whatever Democrats do, they must do it quickly. Conditions loom which, if the party is not soon restored, could set Democrats back for decades.

In 2018, 35 U.S Senate seats will be up for election. Republicans in states won by Trump currently hold ten. Eight of 25 Democrat seats are in Trump-won states. If Republicans hold 60 Senate seats, they can prevent filibusters and unilaterally approve appointments.

In the next four to eight years, four Supreme Court seats could come open, Ginsburg, Kennedy, Bryer, and Thomas. Trump might have an opportunity not simply to rebalance the court, compensating for the loss of conservative Justice Scalia, but also he might have sufficient appointments, and the capacity to gain Senate approval, to set the Court's course for decades.

Following the 2020 census, legislatures and governors will redraw House electoral district boundaries. Unless Democrats make state gains in the 2018 and 2020 elections, redistricting may favor Republicans, at least until 2030.

Trump is reaching out with Cabinet appointments and the Republican Party is unifying. With history's largest phalanx of Republican public officials upon which to draw in the future, Republicans have a cadre of ambitious and experienced office holders that likely can be counted upon to run for higher office.

The Democratic leadership team and candidate bench are weakened. It presently is not clear who will lead Democrats nationally. Schumer will lead in the Senate. House and other leadership positions are up for grabs.

Entre Nous

Austin and Van Ness have been SFT residents for a decade. They live in 1501. They are tired of bickering and have agreed to talk only about non-election things. Let's listen.

Aus: *Wanna have dinner tonight?*

Van: *OK. but I am not dressing up.*

Aus: We can always do the Café.'

Van: I am NOT sitting with icky people.

Aus: Which ones?

Van: *You know. They're always there.*

Aus: We could go later.

Van: I get too hungry later.

Aus: We can use the dining room. Dressing once a day is no big deal.

Van: Dressing up is for puffy oligarchs.

Aus: Some traditions are good.

Van: For what we pay, we should be able to eat with whom we want, when we want, wearing what we want.

Aus: Try the TV dinners in the fridge and eat at 5:00 when O'Reilly is on.

Remember When

All girls had ugly gym uniforms

It took 3 minutes for a TV to warm up

A quarter was a decent allowance

You'd reach into a gutter for a penny

From Mouths of Babes

My great grandson phoned to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked how old I was. I said 82. He waited a moment, and then asked, "Did you start at 1?"

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors. I pointed at objects and asked their color. She was always correct. It was fun; I continued. At last, she said, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

After putting grandchildren to bed, a 70- ish grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. She heard the children getting noisy. She quickly threw a towel around her head, stormed into their room, and addressed them quite sternly. As she left the room, she overheard the three-year-old boy say in a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

Miscellaneous

--ESC/Episcopal Bishop trial concluded and the judge has issued a preliminary opinion. Early decision is complicated and unclear. Fat lady has not yet sung.

TT is a collection of vignettes and observations regarding residents, employees, events, conditions and triumphs in and around San Francisco Towers. TT is undertaken responsibly and never unduly critical. It is published privately and does NOT seek, carry the approval of, nor draw upon management or its resources. "Sugar Caen" is a non-de plume