

capital gains were invested into a giant waste disposal company. That generates *lots* of money. America throws away so much stuff.” Rouge was clearly pleased with himself.

“You do certainly live for the moment, don’t you? Your family’s profits matter more than your nation’s well-being. The Rouge family fortune started as cotton growers when cotton was more than half of the total American domestic exports. That contributed to the national development. But the US mainly supplied British textile industries that made even larger profits. Then the family added textiles and clothing, increasing America’s productivity, again helping the country grow via job creation and increases in wages, but with increasing inequality between the workers and the managers and owners. But now you have closed all that productivity. Your business, still with substantial personal profit, is a sales arm of foreign suppliers of fabric and clothing to people in a fashion-hungry society that discards so freely, and the cotton grown in America has hefty federal crop subsidies. Do you not see that something is inherently unsustainable? And this scenario applies to many aspects of your Capitalism-20 business model, where profit for the individual is supreme, government subsidies or protections against major loses greatly reduce risks, and the national economic well-being is hardly considered. Rouge, you are trained as an economist. But you do not see your own complicity in the decline of America’s economic might.”

“I am a businessman,” protested Rouge. “I have other shareholders who expect profits. I work within the established laws of America, and I personally and through my companies pay thousands and thousands of dollars in taxes. For my personal income taxes, 35% is a lot of money.”

“Sure,” said the Spirit. “Take total income, subtract substantial allowed deductions, and then you pay 35% on whatever is more than \$380,000. So, of each million dollars over that amount, you get to keep \$650,000, which is about what 10 to 20 of your employees together earn in a year before taxes and living expenses.”

“Are you blaming me for the current economic problems?”

The Spirit replied slowly: “Yes. You and others like you deserve much of the blame. Not totally, but much. The collective ‘affluent you’ with your political influence have created a system that favors everything that you want. And it is going down.”

“Rubbish,” snapped Rouge angrily.

“Really?” questioned the Ghost. “Come. What does Professor Farley say? You asked him in July 2010 at his home, remember?” They transitioned into Farley’s home in Virginia.

Farley was old and seated in a lounge chair with a walker beside him, with the afternoon sun shining into the room. The Rouge of that day was seated near him, and the Ghost and Rouge were standing unseen beside them.

“Governor,” said Farley. “Governor of Oklahoma. You have done well, young man. Thanks for coming.”

“Always a pleasure to see you, Professor.”

“Maybe not this time. I am struggling with the issues of what has gone wrong these past few years. I feel some responsibility; after all I was an advisor to Alan Greenspan for many years. Alan was getting a lot of heat in 2008 and testified to Congress that he was in a state of shocked disbelief, and very distressed about the economic collapse. He said he found a flaw in the economic model of deregulated business, low taxes, and control of the money supply.”

Farley sipped from a coffee cup, and then continued. “I told him it was not just his doing. I did not see it coming either. And I said there are probably more flaws. The housing loan bubble has done its damage. There was talk of a commercial loan bubble. We already had the Savings-and-Loan crisis in the 1980s and ‘90s. And the “dot com bubble” burst in 2000. There could be several more of these unexpected time bombs coming our way. And these are 100% American-made problems, not from some financial collapse in another country, or a mega natural disaster, or a biological/disease catastrophe, or even warfare and terrorism where people are actually trying to hurt us.”

“It really has been bad,” the young Rouge told his old professor. “But I have never heard you so negative as now.”

“I have had some time to think, and I am seriously concerned. I believe that America lacks defenses against such gigantic disruptions of our economy. And even worse, the political leadership is not only devoid of solutions or even inspiration, it is divided into two ideological camps that deliberately intend to make the other one fail. It did not matter if

McCain or Obama won in 2008. Neither one had a real solution. McCain might have been like Hoover in 1930 – 32, letting the situation become worse. Or he might have done what Obama did, and then he would be blamed for the extravagant rise in the national debt. Basically, the tax cuts and increased spending of Capitalism-20 have given great prosperity that has gone mainly to the rich while making our society vulnerable to uncontrolled crashes.

“And I can see other causes or contributing factors that have gathered like a perfect storm. America has been shifting from manufacturing jobs to service jobs. Micro-computers and electronics have hastened that trend, especially since the 1980s. And many manufacturing jobs have gone overseas where wages and overhead costs are much lower. Americans like lower prices but do not want the lower-paying jobs.”

“I cannot disagree about that,” Rouge said.

Professor Farley continued. “Consumers are increasingly spending on extras, and not on essentials. Conspicuous consumption, entertainment, and the ‘me’ generation attitudes are spreading to all age groups. The same applies to communities, states and the national government, so the infrastructure is going down-hill. A community neglects its sewer system while building a second or third waterpark for a few months of summer playtime for a small number of its residents.

“All of this is occurring during times of relative affluence, with no thought that hard times could be coming. The national debt has risen from 1 trillion dollars at the start of the Reagan administration to \$11.6 trillion at the end of the Bush-2 era. And Clinton only added \$1.4 trillion of that total. And although I am a staunch Republican, I must admit that the need to spend additional trillions during the Obama era was considerably for damage control of two wars and the Great Recession that Bush-2 facilitated. But Obama and the Democrats are not blameless and have largely continued the excesses of Capitalism-20. In general, Democrats want government to pay for services like health care and Republicans want it to enhance businesses, including many things ranging from crop subsidies to military expenditures.

“We Americans are spending, actually squandering, the wealth of our children and grandchildren. But even worse, our affluent lifestyles are contributing to environmental consequences that will be expensive to correct.

“America seems to need a new economic model, a new paradigm, something for the 21st century. Imagine me saying that. But what is truly frightening is that I can see causes but I do not have any solutions to propose.

“But I will work on it. I have time to think while you must do the work of a governor.” Farley smiled and wished the Governor good luck as they parted.

Rouge turned to the Ghost and said: “But he didn’t have time. He died ten days later. So, no new paradigm from Professor Farley.”

“But there are new models and actions being proposed,” replied the Ghost. “Your nephew, Jonathan, has tried to tell you, but you do not listen because the proposals are not from your mentor and do not fit your model. Come, I want to take you to a meeting that happened just yesterday in Rio.”

As they entered in the back of a reasonably-sized auditorium, the Ghost and Rouge swept past a sign:

Earth Summit Side Event

“Alternatives for the Future of America and the World”

Today: Melissa Brody discusses *“The Nehemiah Papers”*

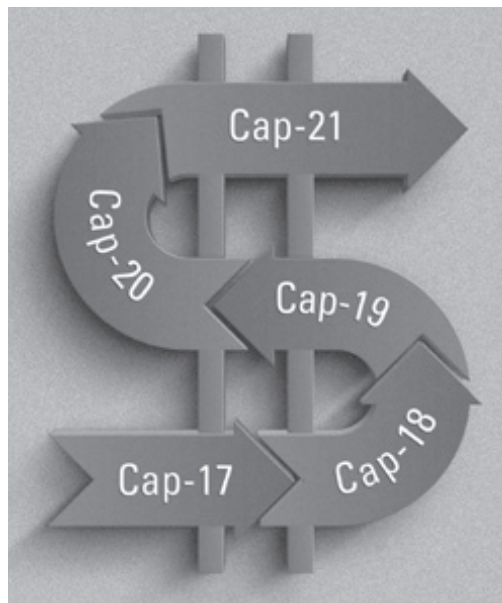
Tomorrow: Rob Mitchell discusses the *“The
Nine Proposals of I. M. Nehemiah”*

The session was not well-attended. Rouge noticed Jonathan seated in a fifth-row aisle seat, already taking notes as a cub reporter. As the session moderator came to the podium, a man in a brown striped shirt who was seated in the row in front of the unseen Rouge said in a low voice to his companion, “That’s him. That’s Rob Mitchell, the fancy Boston ultra-left economist who helps radical movements there. His business card should read ‘Devoted Communist’ or ‘American Destroyer’. He is a high tax advocate. His first name isn’t Robert; it’s Robber.” Overhearing that, Rouge chuckled but also frowned.

Rob Mitchell started to speak. “America is heading for a life-changing decline. Many can argue that the decline is already upon us. Others are still in total denial, believing their favorite political party

will solve the problems. The impending decline is the first postulate of I.M. Nehemiah. He starts from that premise, and then seeks to understand the cause of the problems, and then proposes actions to overcome the current situation.

“In Nehemiah Paper No. 5 on Economics and Capitalism, he describes how capitalism has changed over the past four centuries. This diagram of the evolution on capitalism emphasizes its sequential development.” He points to the presentation screen showing a large dollar-sign consisting of arrows with labels Cap-17 through Cap-21.



The Evolution of Capitalism

“In America today,” continued Mitchell, “the current version is Capitalism-20, with a disproportionate distribution of wealth that incorrectly dominates American democracy and weakens the country. In response, the impending decline can be averted through democratic revisions of America’s laws, placing service as a currency to balance the power of money, and by implementing Capitalism-21.”

The man in the brown-striped shirt leaned over and said to his friend, “I’d bet that Mitchell is one of those Nehemiah authors.”

“Here to speak to us about these ideas from the *Nehemiah Papers*

is Ms. Melissa Brody, Associate Professor of History at East Lincoln Junior College.”

Ms. Brody was in her mid-50s, plump, with thick glasses, and plain clothes. Her strong, clear voice was her greatest qualification.

“A growing number of us have become interested in the writings of I.M. Nehemiah that are subtitled ‘Building a better America and a better World.’ The actual author or authors chose to remain unknown for personal reasons and to focus all attention onto the issues and not upon themselves.

“There are thirteen *Nehemiah Papers*. [Editor’s note: In 2016, four “Articles” are added and they became Paper 14.] Following initial publication on the www.capitalism21.org website, these Papers remain virtually unread, yet their content is more applicable today than when they were first written in 2008. We are seeking to bring them to light and discussion.

“To provide you with the briefest summary of the focus of the *Nehemiah Papers*, I will quote with minor changes from the introductory Nehemiah Paper No. 1.” As she read in a strong voice with appropriate intonations, a series of PowerPoint slides with key words were shown on the large screen.

“The *Nehemiah Papers* are directed towards Americans and are about America’s future in both domestic and international affairs. The following eight statements comprise a very condensed summation that unfortunately runs the danger of being overly simplified.

- “1. **America is facing an impending (or already started?) decline with massive consequences.** The nation needs actions different from the standard alternatives currently offered by the two major American political parties.
- “2. **The proposed actions borrow the best from both political parties and reject the worst from each.**
- “3. **Concerning economic issues,** American capitalism presents a dilemma with two sides: Better services (education, health, security, infrastructure) but lower taxes while avoiding debt.
- “4. **Concerning issues of governance,** American lifestyles (including religious, moral and legal-protection issues) present

another dilemma with two sides: More “lifestyle latitude” but more morality.

- “5. **The Nehemiah writings advocate a combination** that is primarily liberal left on the economic (capitalism) aspects and primarily conservative right on the life-style (democracy) aspects. That might seem like a strange combination, but there are rational explanations in the Papers.
- “6. **The Nehemiah proposals reject the extremists** at both ends of discussions about capitalism and about democracy.
- “7. In the final analysis, **the Nehemiah Papers are about controlling a range of excesses, both in capitalist economics and in democratically-definable social behavior.** The extra revenues (tax reform with targeted deductions) from the excesses of capitalism can be used to resolve the critical social ills of American society. Volunteerism is to be raised to new heights in America, including **compulsory national service** for all men and women who do not volunteer. **Strict term limits** on elected officials are needed.
- “8. **The international implications** of these approaches should be notably beneficial to every person and nation that collaborates with the efforts for 21st Century reforms of democracy and capitalism.”

Melissa Brody stopped for a sip of water.

“Idealism, but no specifics.” said Rouge. “Do I have to listen to this stuff?”

“No. We could go now, but you would miss the parts about action plans and the Five Realms of Power. She will be brief because she can only give short summaries of Nehemiah’s detailed writings. Shall we go?” asked the Ghost.

“We can stick around a bit longer.”

Melissa continued to address her Rio audience in 2012. “Nehemiah identifies Five Realms of Power: **Governance, Economics, Religion, Justice, and Love.** And in America each one has a “currency” that can

be measured. Democratic governance counts on votes. Capitalist economics measures money. Christian religion emphasizes prayers. Law-based justice presents fair enforcement. And caring love is expressed in service. The Nehemiah Papers discuss at length how these five realms of power are out of balance in America. Current capitalism with money has excessive influence on all the other four. Money is distorting American life.” She directed the audience attention to the large projection screen as she presented her materials.

“The five realms of power are Governance, Economics, Religion, Justice, and Love. The realms are not necessarily equally weighted, and the balances can be fluid or dynamic.

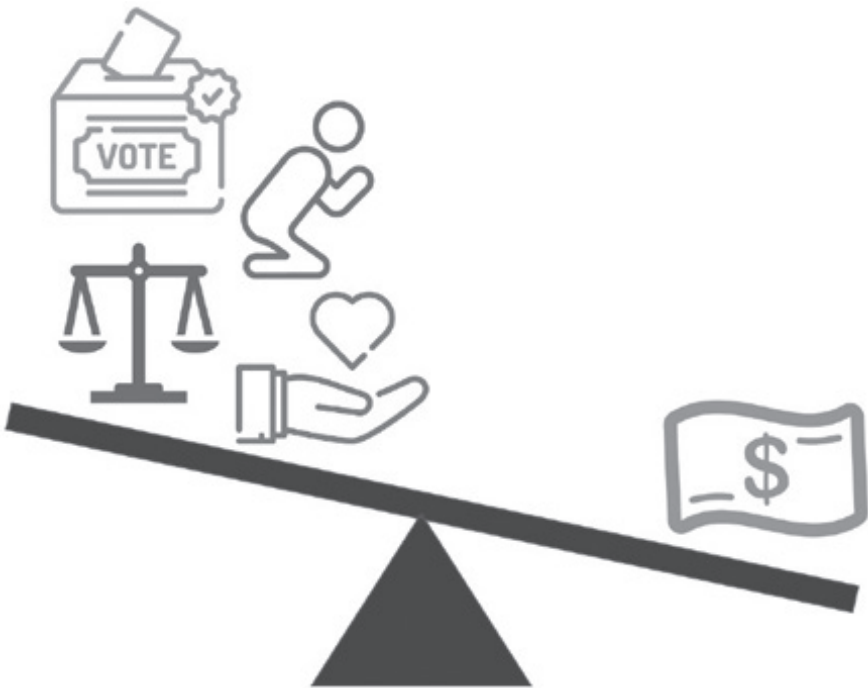
“Each realm has several expressions, and each expression has one or more ‘currencies’ which represent the most tangible and quantifiable ways to measure the amount of power in each realm. (See Table.)

TABLE OF REALMS, EXPRESSIONS AND CURRENCIES:

Realms of Power	Expressions in America	Currencies in America	Additional Expressions and Their Currencies
Governance:	Democracy	Influence by/upon Voters	Dictatorship w/ Edicts; Theocracy
Economics:	Capitalism	Money & other Capital	Socialism w/ Labor; Feudalism
Religion:	Faith: Christian	Prayers & Beliefs	Non-Christian faiths, prayers & beliefs
Justice:	Law	Enforcement	Anarchy w/ Brute force; Scriptures
Love:	Caring	Service (Helpfulness)	Selfishness w/ Self-service.; Hate / Jealousy

“The five realms of power are out of balance in America. These imbalances must be addressed to avoid cumulative, accelerating damage to the nation.

“Economics expressed as Capitalism: This is discussed first because of its dominance in America. Money is the ‘currency’ of capitalism within the economics realm of power. In America, the extraordinary power of money has tainted all other realms of power, especially our governance. Money in America severely impacts the legal system, many aspects of service, and even the religious fiber within our country. Today’s capitalism and the current abusive power of money should be modified in serious ways to become ‘Capitalism for the Twenty-first Century’, abbreviated as ‘Capitalism-21’ or simply ‘Cap-21’.



The Five Realms of Power are out of balance in America.

“Governance expressed as Democracy: Unfortunately, America’s democracy today is literally controlled by professional politicians who are repeatedly re-elected as ‘serial incumbents’ and are severely influenced by money from both the left and the right. This situation is certainly legal, not because it is correct or fair, but because the laws passed