

# The Ruling Elites Are Not Like You and Me

*a commentary by Bill Herbst*

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First of all, what do I mean by “the ruling elites”?

Well, I mean those individuals and/or groups who wield an inordinately strong influence over determining the laws and policies that govern us.

You and I have almost no say in either law or policy, except locally. At the state and national levels, the ruling elites have almost exclusive say over these legalities and strategies.

Who are the ruling elites?

By and large, they are chief executives (CEOs, COOs, CFOs, etc., or almost any three-letter designation that begins with a “C” for Chief and ends with an “O” for Officer), board members, or 2nd-tier but still high-up executives of banks and major business corporations, officers or board members of large social institutions (educational, governmental, and regulatory), many of the ultra-out-of-sight wealthy (who aren’t necessarily visible publicly, but who own most everything and are manipulative donors to fund almost everything else), a tiny percentage of elected officials, and a still small but slightly larger percentage of appointed bureaucrats (who often command local fiefdoms, such as zoning and building codes).

These people, between 8,000 and 10,000 in number, constitute about 1 person in 30,000 in America, or .000033 percent of the population. They are the king-makers, the Movers and Shakers. Another group of perhaps 100,000 people operates in the second tier, with less but still considerable power to influence events. These people counsel and inform the king-makers, and carry out their bidding in the networks that make and implement policy. Many of the elected representatives in the executive and legislative branches of government are in this second tier. All told, these two groups amount to far less than 1% of the population.

By and large, the ruling elites work on Wall Street (New York) and inside the Beltway (Washington, D.C.), or in offices around the country that are closely connected to those two centers of power. Most of the elites are

extremely well-paid and quite wealthy. They own more than one home. They work hard and play hard, and do both in the lap of luxury, insulated from the outside world. Basically, they are members of an exclusive club whose members are internally supportive with mutually reinforced beliefs.

The primary intention and goal of the ruling elites is to keep the game of the status quo going as long as possible, and as smoothly as they can manage. Their job is to oil the machinery of commerce to avoid disruptions and discontinuities, and to correct those when they do occur as quickly as possible. More and more over the past decade, this has become a task involving tactics rather than strategies. That means that the maintenance of short-term stability increasingly outweighs considerations of long-term implications. As we approach and pass the various tipping-points where institutions falter, fail, and collapse, the desperation of short-term solutions that either don't address or actively aggravate long-term challenges becomes more blatantly evident.

Like every in-group, a bell curve of variation exists. Some of the ruling elites are very well-informed and concerned about humanity's long-term future. Others are not (although they probably don't know that). Most are smart, but for many that intelligence is more a kind of crafty cunning than mature understanding.

Do they care about all the rest of us on Main Street? Well, my best guess is yes and no. They need us, of course, but they don't necessarily like us. We in the body politic are more like the serfs who tend the fields than citizens of a republic. And we represent a beast that must be kept at bay, pacified, and caged (meaning controlled), even as the elites milk us for everything we're worth.

Here's the point of all this setup: Why would any of us expect the ruling elites to be any different? Things are as they are for a variety of reasons, but foremost among those is the problem of human nature as it has been conditioned by modern civilization. By and large, those who have power do not give it up willingly. Human beings do not like the experience of loss and seek to avoid it whenever and however possible. This includes loss of power, prestige, status, and wealth. The ruling elites can see the loss of their influence and authority looming on the horizon, so they concentrate their power, clutching it more tightly rather than distributing it. That we have witnessed over the past 30 years an increasingly draconian transfer of wealth upwards and a corresponding decrease in

social opportunities for upward mobility should come as no surprise to anyone with a modest understanding of history and psychology.

This is the natural and inevitable consequence of the vertical hierarchies and pecking order of status that have shaped human civilization for the past 10,000 years, ever since agriculture began, and with it, the concepts of ownership and exclusivity, which led to empires, domination, war, and an imbalance in society toward masculine competition rather than feminine cooperation. Those on top — whether from the divine right of kings or amassed economic/financial wealth — lord it over those below them, all rhetoric and propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Uranus-Pluto cycle has its cultural roots in The Enlightenment of the 17th and 18th centuries — especially in the radical and revolutionary notions of individual worth and social equality. Since the discovery of Uranus in 1781, the decade-long quarterly transitions in the Uranus-Pluto cycle (though we didn't yet know of Pluto's existence) have signalled a rising up of the conflict between Egalitarianism and Plutocratic rule. Especially since 1930, when we finally found Pluto during a last-quarter square to Uranus, both Uranus-Pluto quarterly transitions in the 1930s and 1960s have signified a re-focusing into bold relief of the extremes of elitism and communality, between the old order and new forms of distributing social power.

The Uranus-Pluto alignment that defines the 2010s is the most significant of all decades where those configurations occurred — more than the 1780s, with the American and French revolutions; more than the 1850s with the Communist Manifesto, second wave of the industrial revolution, and discovery of fossil fuels (oil); more than the 1930s, with the Great Depression; and more than the 1960s, with the counter-culture and social revolution. Considered from the dual perspectives of history and technical astrology, the 2010s will be the biggest Uranus-Pluto upheaval EVER.

The ruling elites will be hard-pressed to maintain their power as social, governmental, and commercial institutions lose coherence and break down. Challenges to the status quo will come from every corner: economic and financial first, but right behind those the accompanying slams of environmental upheaval, social disruption, and political revolt.

I would never be so naïve as to suggest that the ruling elites will go gently into the sunset. No, they will fight and claw, tooth and nail to maintain their power. They will work overtime (and are preparing now to do so)

not to defend and protect the populations they supposedly serve, but to control and repress us. The criminality of the ruling elites, which was subtly cloaked in the past but more plainly obvious recently, will likely become astonishingly blatant. And even when rebellion and necessity combine to cause the propaganda hologram to go belly up as the existing elites forfeit the respect previously given by a hypnotized populace in favor of sweeping and radical reforms, we will then be faced with the inevitable problem of “Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.” Still, this decade does signify an historically unprecedented collapse of the global status quo and the forced initiation toward a fundamental change in how human beings conduct their social affairs that will play out over the next 200 years.

Inevitably, the wealthy will do better as a group than the poor will during the sieges and seizures of the decade ahead. That’s simply a given. Aside from that, however, I wouldn’t want to be a member of the ruling elites at this point, because they are eerily like Cretaceous dinosaurs after the “K-T event” (geologists’ term for whatever caused that sudden and extreme global climate change — whether meteor, volcano, tektonic shifts, or something else). The current ruling elites are destined, if not for extinction, at least for a major devastation in their ranks. All the underpinnings of authority will soon be up for grabs.

Despite the anxious uncertainties we all face now and in the years upcoming, I am happier to be one of those small mammals scurrying along the forest floor 65 million years ago, waiting for our niche to emerge in the new world that awaits after the fall of the big monsters.

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