

Normalcy-Fear-Panic-Anger-Change

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Normalcy

Wikipedia defines normalcy as follows:-

*The **normalcy bias**, or **normality bias**, is a belief people hold when considering the possibility of a disaster. It causes people to underestimate both the likelihood of a disaster and its possible effects, because people believe that things will always function the way things normally have functioned. This may result in situations where people fail to adequately prepare themselves for disasters, and on a larger scale, the failure of governments to include the populace in its disaster preparations. About 70% of people reportedly display normalcy bias in disasters.*

In fact many businesses and particularly large corporations are strait jacketed by their culture. The same applies to Government, institutional organisations and those who benefit directly or indirectly. Why would self-interested persons want to change a system to one that will make them redundant or much poorer. This probably is the motivation of those who are opposed to Brexit, who are content and comforted by the apparent safety within the EU (European Union).

Many people may be aware of the vulnerabilities but are either powerless or choose to ignore matters until an emergency/disaster occurs. How many times have we heard of a sudden collapse of a business or sovereign currency because the leadership have ignored the structural weaknesses in the hope that it is the next administration's problem.

As individuals and families many continue their daily struggle or live comfortably in an environment that reinforces their behaviour because most others are in a similar position. "Your Comfort Zone Will Kill You" was the graffiti I saw neatly written on a wall – obviously an educated vandal that was already aware of the precarity of society in which they lived.

Some may be of a 'half glass full' rather than a 'half glass empty' nature but if we view our money system it is a glass that has long been emptied and refilled several times with IOUs. It is these IOUs that threaten societal collapse as debt is eventually defaulted upon. That is when normalcy turns to Fear.

Fear

Fear is when we become aware of the disaster and our natural response is fight or flight. Flight is a more likely response where possible, but many will be trapped through contracts or pension regulations that prevent them escaping any monetary disaster. Those that choose flight will be one of thousands, nay millions that are headed for the same exit. Those that choose to fight by sitting on financial investments or buying the 'bottom' are likely to be trampled by the herd. This is the panic stage where anyone and everyone who can runs with the herd.

Panic

Governments and institutions will always try and prevent panic to prevent societal and/or market disorder. They will initially insist that they can stabilise the situation and may even give disinformation whilst they themselves hurriedly prepare to maintain or protect themselves. It is when the panic leads to real breakdown in markets, liquidity and people lose wealth that anger arrives.

Anger

Anger can take many forms depending upon individual circumstances. Those that maintain considerable wealth will seek legal and political redress. Those that have suffered a marked change in living standards, particularly the middle classes look for someone to blame and become much more motivated for political change. The poorest in society never had much wealth to lose but become desperate to maintain a basic existence and resort to whatever means are necessary to maintain a lifestyle. In short this is a period of societal breakdown where welfare, policing and communities break down. From this state the masses clamour for change and a return to some form of normalcy.

Change

This is where we are all headed. We cannot continue the way of the last 50 years where we have consumed our planet with exponential debt growth. Will democracy survive or will some authoritarian 'saviour' rise to power and with it bring order and some new form of normalcy.

We take our hard earned democratic rights for granted when we are just content with normalcy. We must always question the system and never be content with the status quo. This is no ordinary period in modern history but the first time since WWII where geopolitics, our financial systems and with it our democratic structures are changing. Nobody can be an island and allow societal collapse no matter how much wealth one retains. We must first look after ourselves, our families, our friends and our local communities. As individuals we may have limited influence but as strong functioning communities we can build alliances and hold the centrists to account.

The prosperity of our communities with more locally focussed services rather than corporate dominance may offer a future that is more environmentally sustainable, maintaining social stability within the framework of community safety and governance. Whether we have sound currency adopted by central government or we use an internationally accepted sound money such as gold, silver, copper or even bitcoin will facilitate trusted commerce both within and between communities.

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