

"Governments learned in the 1930s that they couldn't afford to let the banking system go under as this brings down the entire economic system. What they may learn in our times is that they can't afford to save the banking system."

Bernard Lietaer, voormalig medewerker van de Belgische centrale bank, 2008 (door Lietaer voorgestelde complementaire geldsystemen zijn een centraal onderwerp tijdens het debat)

"Money allows the exchange of goods and services and, in doing so, becomes one of the most ingenious inventions of humankind. However, few people understand how money functions. If they did understand, we would have a quite different monetary system immediately - one which would bring more social justice, better opportunities for a healthy environment and higher stability of currencies. Dealing with this subject is really worthwhile."

Prof. Dr. Margrit Kennedy (spreker op de debatavond)

"Geldschaarste wordt door een toenemend aantal denkers gezien als de belangrijkste reden waarom de economie steeds meer nadruk krijgt op concurrentie in plaats van samenwerking. Particulieren en bedrijven concurreren niet omdat dat natuurlijk gedrag is, maar zij wedijveren om schaars werkkapitaal, een cruciale eerste levensbehoefte, die het verlangen naar samenwerking verdringt."

Anthony Migchels, Gelre Handelsnetwerken (spreker op de debatavond)

"I would argue that the most serious threat to the United States is not someone hiding in a cave in Afghanistan or Pakistan but our own fiscal irresponsibility."

David Walker, former Comptroller General of the United States, 2007

"There's a 75 percent chance of a financial crisis in the next 5 years."

"Under the placid surface, there are disturbing trends: huge imbalances, disequilibria, risks - call them what you will. Altogether the circumstances seem to me as dangerous and intractable as any I can remember, and I can remember quite a lot. What really concerns me is that there seems to be so little willingness or capacity to do much about it."

Paul Volcker, former Chairman Federal Reserve, 2004 and 2005.

"De intrinsieke waarde van goud (...) heeft tot in de jaren zestig het internationale monetaire stelsel beheerst. Het was een misschien irrationeel maar wel stabiel anker. Daarin is verandering gekomen, niet omdat ouderwetse inzichten vervangen werden door moderne, maar omdat de Verenigde Staten van Amerika de rol van de dollar in de wereld bedreigd zagen door goud"

Jelle Zijlstra, voormalig minister van financiën, directeur van de Nederlandse Bank en president van de Bank of International Settlements (BIS)

"In the absence of the gold standard, there is no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. (...) Deficit spending is simply a scheme for the confiscation of wealth."

Alan Greenspan, 1966

"The dollar is our currency, but your problem."

John Connally, Secretary of the Treasury of the USA, 1971

"We kunnen alleen maar hopen dat er een geleidelijke aanpassing komt van het tekort van de VS. Meer dan dat kunnen we niet doen. (...) De huidige situatie is gevaarlijk (...) Er gaat iets gebeuren, óf doordat de VS het beleid aanpassen óf doordat de financiële markten gaan reageren. (...) Ik ben inderdaad somber"

Wim Duisenberg, voormalig minister van financiën, directeur van de Nederlandse Bank en president van de ECB, 2004

"The power to determine the quantity of money (...) is too important, too pervasive, to be exercised by a few people, however public-spirited, if there is any feasible alternative. There is no need for such arbitrary power (...) Any system which gives so much power and so much discretion to a few men, [so] that mistakes - excusable or not - can have such far reaching effects, is a bad system. It is a bad system to believers in freedom just because it gives a few men such power without any effective check by the body politic - this is the key political argument against an independent central bank."

Milton Friedman, economist

"That is what our money system is. If there were no debts in our money system, there wouldn't be any money"

Marriner S. Eccles, chairman and governor of the Federal Reserve Board of the USA, 1941

"The modern banking system manufactures money out of nothing. The process is perhaps the most astounding piece of sleight of hand that was ever invented. Banking was conceived in iniquity and born in sin. Bankers own the Earth. Take it away from them, but leave them the power to create money, and with the flick of the pen they will create enough money to buy it back again...Take this great power away from them and all great fortunes like mine will disappear, and they ought to disappear, for then this would be a better and happier world to live in. But if you want to continue to be slaves of the banks and pay the cost of your own slavery, then let bankers continue to create money and control credit'."

Sir Josiah Stamp, President of the Bank of England from 1928 to 1941 and the 2nd richest man in Great Britain at the time

"Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation and I care not who makes its laws."

Mayer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the Rothschild banking dynasty, early 19th century

"When a government is dependent upon bankers for money, they and not the leaders of the government control the situation, since the hand that gives is above the hand that takes."

Napoleon Bonaparte, emperor of France

"We are grateful to the Washington Post, The New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subjected to the lights of publicity during those years. But, the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries."

David Rockefeller at Bilderberg group meeting in 1991 in Germany with Bill Clinton in attendance

"Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere, so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive, that they better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it".

Woodrow Wilson, the president of the USA who signed the Federal Reserve Act in 1913

"I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the civilized world - no longer a Government by free opinion, no longer a Government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men."

Woodrow Wilson, the president of the USA who signed the Federal Reserve Act in 1913

"The government should create, issue and circulate all the currency and credit needed to satisfy the spending power of the government and the buying power of consumers (...) The privilege of creating and issuing money is not only the supreme prerogative of Government, but it is the Government's greatest creative opportunity. The taxpayers will be saved immense sums of interest, discounts and exchanges. Money will cease to be the master and become the servant of humanity. Democracy will rise superior to the money power."

Abraham Lincoln, president of the USA, assassinated in 1865

"In the Colonies we issue our own money. It is called Colonial Scrip. We issue it in proper proportion to the demands of trade and industry to make the products pass easily from the producers to the consumers. In this manner, creating for ourselves our own paper money, we control its purchasing power, and we have no interest to pay no one."

Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father of the USA

"If the Nation can issue a dollar bond it can issue a dollar bill. The element that makes the bond good makes the bill good also. The difference between the bond and the bill is that the bond lets the money broker collect twice the amount of the bond and an additional 20%. Whereas the currency, the honest sort provided by the Constitution, pays nobody but those who contribute in some useful way. It is absurd to say our Country can issue bonds and cannot issue currency. Both are promises to pay, but one fattens the usurer and the other helps the People."

Thomas A. Edison, inventor of the light bulb

"Whoever controls the volume of money in our country is absolute master of all industry and commerce (...) when you realize that the entire system is very easily controlled, one way or another, by a few powerful men at the top, you will not have to be told how periods of inflation and depression originate".

James Garfield, president of the USA, assassinated in 1881

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. Already they have raised up a moneyed aristocracy that has set the Government at defiance. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs."

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president of the USA

"The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency; the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity; both bring a permanent ruin. But both are the refuge of political and economic opportunists."

Ernest Hemingway

"War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses."

Smedley Darlington Butler (1881 – 1940), Major General U.S. Marine Corps

"Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist."

Kenneth Boulding, economist, 1971