

Hello Everyone,

I ran across the below quote and thought how appropriate it was 4th of July week.

***“You never change things by fighting the existing reality.
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”***

— Buckminster Fuller

America’s founders built a new model for a nation---rejecting the calcified European monarchies. We have all benefited.

Today’s missive touches on one of the precepts of our founders—freedom of religion. Loser Nations use religion as a bludgeon to beat their citizens into submission.

I hope you find today’s thoughts edifying...and I welcome feedback.

Signed, Your Happy-Independence-Day-To-All-Of You Financial Advisor,

Greg

KKOB 07.01.2019 Loser Nations Part 5 Church and State

Bob: So, Greg, we are still on the Loser Nation theme and why investors should look at what I’ll call foundational things before investing in any country or company. So far, we’ve learned Loser Nations do these things wrong:

- They control information...censorship.
- They subjugate women.
- They don’t value hard work.
- They don’t value education, and
- They reward based on family, or clan, or race, or whatever--- rather than merit.

So how many more loser traits do we have left?

Greg: Just two. We’ll stop at seven...that’s a good number. So, let’s look at number six....and it’s a touchy subject.

Loser Nations embrace crippling religious dogmas. And before I go on, I hope by now your listeners know me. I want our leaders on their knees every night praying for guidance. I want honest, ethical, and moral behavior. And, I believe those things spring from a spiritual foundation--- not a secular one.

With that said, there must be some separation of church and state. Otherwise, you end up with leaders who say things like, "***I have been appointed by God... so questioning me is like questioning the Almighty. Off with your head.***" That thinking doesn't work if you want your nation to succeed.

Oh, and for all of you who think this is an endorsement of atheism, no, it isn't. Atheist leaders tend to enthrone *themselves* as God. That road leads to guys like Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot. I can't count the millions they killed.

And, by now some of your listeners may be thinking, "I thought this was a financial report. Why am I'm getting a theology lecture?" But please know there is a connection between spiritual and the economic. Really.

Bob: No, no. I know what you're saying. For example, I wouldn't invest in Iran---and it's supposedly run by super religious Imams. Nor would I invest in North Korea. Kim Jong Un is an atheist, but he's a nut.

Greg: Right. And both are Loser Nations.

So, what nations are doing it right?

Well, there is the Japanese model. Religiously, Japan is pretty *homogenous*. Buddhism and Shintoism dominate. Japan has a

strong moral base---but the society is still malleable enough to accept scientific advancements.

Then you have the US model. We have all kind of religions. And thankfully we are generally accepting of others' beliefs without threatening violence. Here, too, we can accept technological change without seeing our spiritual beliefs violated.

Conversely, Loser Nations can be religiously homogenous (like Japan)---yet very hostile to any outsider or disruptive idea. These nations get stuck in the timeframe of their religious founders...even if that timeframe was hundreds of years ago. You never see Nobel prizes for science or mathematics emerge from these nations. You don't see great inventions or medical contributions to mankind. Don't invest there.

Meanwhile, you can also have Loser Nations that house multiple religions. But, unlike the US, there is no tolerance among the people for another's belief. These nations spend so much time hating and fighting each other, there is no chance for advancement.

Bob: Well, you're right. You're on a touchy subject. But I can see how religion touches the economic. So, investors should at least consider it.

Greg: Right. I think it's innate that humans have a need and a desire for spiritual certainty....especially in a world where so little seems stable—especially in economics and markets. With that said, societies that are willing to accept some uncertainty, some ambiguity, some humility do better.

Societies that don't do this become overly strict and dogmatic. This leads to xenophobia, repression, oppression, and

ruthlessness. All of which leads to economic failure, which is why I brought it up this week. A nation's spiritual and ethical base will translate to its economy. So, what is good---and dare I say, holy--- must be guarded and preserved.

Therefore, as an investor, don't be afraid to look at the spiritual side of what (or where) you are investing. It matters. Just look at the Losers.

Bob: Well, these are certainly not your run-of-the mill financial reports. You navigated that pretty well. How do people reach you?

Greg: My number is 508-5550, 508-triple-five-zero. Or, go to my website at zanettifinancial.com.

By accepting this material, you acknowledge, understand and accept the following:
This material has been prepared at your request by Zanetti Financial, LLC This material is subject to change without notice. This document is for information and illustrative purposes only. It is not, and should not, be regarded as "investment advice" or as a "recommendation" regarding a course of action, including without limitation as those terms are used in any applicable law or regulation. This information is provided with the understanding that with respect to the material provided herein (i) Zanetti Financial, LLC is not acting in a fiduciary or advisory capacity under any contract with you, or any applicable law or regulation, (ii) that you will make your own independent decision with respect to any course of action in connection herewith, as to whether such course of action is appropriate or proper based on your own judgment and your specific circumstances and objectives, (iii) that you are capable of understanding and assessing the merits of a course of action and evaluating investment risks independently, and (iv) to the extent you are acting with respect to an ERISA plan, you are deemed to represent to Zanetti Financial, LLC that you qualify and shall be treated as an independent fiduciary for purposes of applicable regulation. Zanetti Financial, LLC does not purport to and does not, in any fashion, provide tax, accounting, actuarial, recordkeeping, legal, broker/dealer or any related services. You should consult your advisors with respect to these areas and the material presented herein. You may not rely on the material contained herein. Zanetti Financial, LLC shall not have any liability for any damages of any kind whatsoever relating to this material. No part of this document may be reproduced in any manner, in whole or in part, without the written permission of Zanetti Financial, LLC except for your internal use. This material is being provided to you at no cost and any fees paid by you to Zanetti Financial, LLC are solely for the provision of investment management services pursuant to a written agreement. All of the foregoing statements apply regardless of (i) whether you now currently or may in the future become a client of Zanetti Financial, LLC and (ii) the terms contained in any applicable investment management agreement or similar contract between you and Zanetti Financial, LLC.