Former Governor O'Malley Preaches Virtues Of Technocrat Governance

The former Governor of Maryland and Mayor of Baltimore believes that Smart City technology is the wave of future 'evidence-based' governance. In short, cities should better model themselves after Silicon Valley 'entrepreneurs' and 'innovators.' TN Editor

Western democracies have some catching up to do with consumer expectations. According to a 2015 study completed by the Pew Research Center, 65% of Americans go online to find information they need about their government — but only 11% report finding the government effective at sharing data.

If Amazon, Uber, and a host of other companies can provide better service thanks to the new technologies of the Information Age, why can't our governments? If the GPS system in my car can navigate me to the quickest route through traffic congestion and fender benders, why can't my government use these same technologies to better anticipate these routine accidents?

Technology isn't the problem. The technology is proven. Nor is cost a barrier; the availability of these new technologies is widespread and relatively inexpensive. The problem is the great human variable of leadership.

Old habits die hard. And over the course of time, public administration has developed a very slow, cautious, and risk-averse approach to embracing new technologies — the tyranny of "the way we have always done it" in public service.

In Silicon Valley, people who keep trying new things — even though they sometimes fail — are called innovators and entrepreneurs. The operative myth in government, however, is that people who try new things and fail are fired or voted out of office. What many people remember most vividly about the implementation of Obamacare was not its successful passage, but in many states, its failed launch.

But a new way of leading and governing is emerging. And it is rising up from cities.

Read full story here…

China’s Doom: Birthrate Lowest Since Founded In 1949

China’s Technocrats have sealed the nation’s ultimate destruction by killing its citizens’ desire to reproduce. Half of all Chinese families are now refusing to have more than one child, even if allowed to do so. South Korea and Japan are in the same situation. TN Editor

Hong Kong (CNN)China’s birthrate in 2019 hit its lowest level since the founding of the People’s Republic in 1949, according to official statistics released by Beijing Friday.

Chinese mothers gave birth to 14.65 million children last year, a birth rate of 10.48 babies per 1,000 people, according to figures from the National Bureau of Statistics.

China’s demographic issues could pose serious issues for the world’s second-largest economy when the current working-age population reaches retirement. Experts worry if the trend continues, or the population begins shrinking, China may get old before it gets rich.

Demographers have long pointed to China’s “one-child policy” as the culprit of the country’s current population problems. For decades, couples in China were limited to only having a single child, unless they were willing to break the law or had the money to work around the system.

Experts say the policy had dire effects on age demographics and sex ratio, as many poor, rural families who prized boys due to traditional cultural values went to extreme measures to ensure their child's sex.

More than 250 million Chinese were over 60 years old last year, the statistics released Friday reveal. They make up more than 18% of the population.

The figure is forecast to rise to a third of the population by 2050 — or 480 million people. A study published by a leading state-sponsored Chinese think tank last year found that the country will face an "unstoppable" population decline over the coming decades, with fewer and fewer workers struggling to support an increasingly aging society.

The ruling Communist Party has attempted to combat demographic issues by encouraging families to have more babies, but many middle class families are wary to do so because of financial considerations.

Read full story here…

IMF Chief Warns On Great Depression II

IMF Director Kristalina Georgieva addressed the Peterson Institute, founded by the late Trilateral Commission member, Peter G. Peterson (1926–2018). The Peterson board of directors is a Who's Who of other Trilateral members.
Trilateral Commission members (past or present) include Alan Greenspan, Frank Loy, George Shultz, Ernesto Zedillo, Robert Zoellick, Stanley Fischer, Richard N. Cooper, C. Fred Bergsten, Larry Summers, among others.

Georgieva lays much of the future blame on global warming. The moral hazard is enormous because the IMF wants to kill Capitalism and Free Enterprise, and moreover, has the power and influence to do it. The mal-investment of trillions of dollars into futile and unproductive green investments breeds a self-fulfilling prophecy. TN Editor

The head of the International Monetary Fund has warned that the global economy risks a return of the Great Depression, driven by inequality and financial sector instability.

Speaking at the Peterson Institute of International Economics in Washington, Kristalina Georgieva said new IMF research, which compares the current economy to the "roaring 1920s" that culminated in the great market crash of 1929, revealed that a similar trend was already under way.

While the inequality gap between countries had closed in the last two decades, it had increased within countries, she said, singling out the UK for particular criticism.

"In the UK, for example, the top 10% now control nearly as much wealth as the bottom 50%. This situation is mirrored across much of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), where income and wealth inequality have reached, or are near, record highs."

She added: "In some ways, this troubling trend is reminiscent of the early part of the 20th century – when the twin forces of technology and integration led to the first gilded age, the roaring 20s, and, ultimately, financial disaster."

She warned that fresh issues such as the climate emergency and increased trade protectionism meant the next 10 years were likely to be characterised by social unrest and financial market volatility.

"If I had to identify a theme at the outset of the new decade, it would be increasing uncertainty," she said.

With disputes still raging between the US and Europe, she said "the global trading system is in need of a significant upgrade".

Georgieva said uncertainty affects not only businesses but individuals, especially given the rising inequality within many countries.

She said that "excessive inequality hinders growth and … can fuel populism and political upheaval".

Eric LeCompte, the head of debt charity Jubilee USA, said: "The IMF delivered a stark message about the potential for another massive financial disaster that we last experienced during the Great Depression.

“With inequality on the rise and concerns of stability in the markets, we need to take this warning seriously.”

Read full story here…