

The background of the entire image is a stylized illustration of a forest. In the foreground, there are several tall, dark green evergreen trees. In the background, there are rolling green mountains under a pale yellow sky with a small sun or moon visible at the top center.

EMPIRES FADE. MOUNTAINS ENDURE.

Build what lasts. Reclaim what's ours.



QUEEN CITY
SOVEREIGNTY SALON



Dollar Devaluation & Local Resilience

Queen City Sovereignty Salon
Staunton Innovation Hub · Dec 4, 2025



Agenda

01

Quick story of how the dollar got here

02

What “devaluation” looks like in real life

03

Early warning signs of serious inflation

04

How tech + social media are problematic

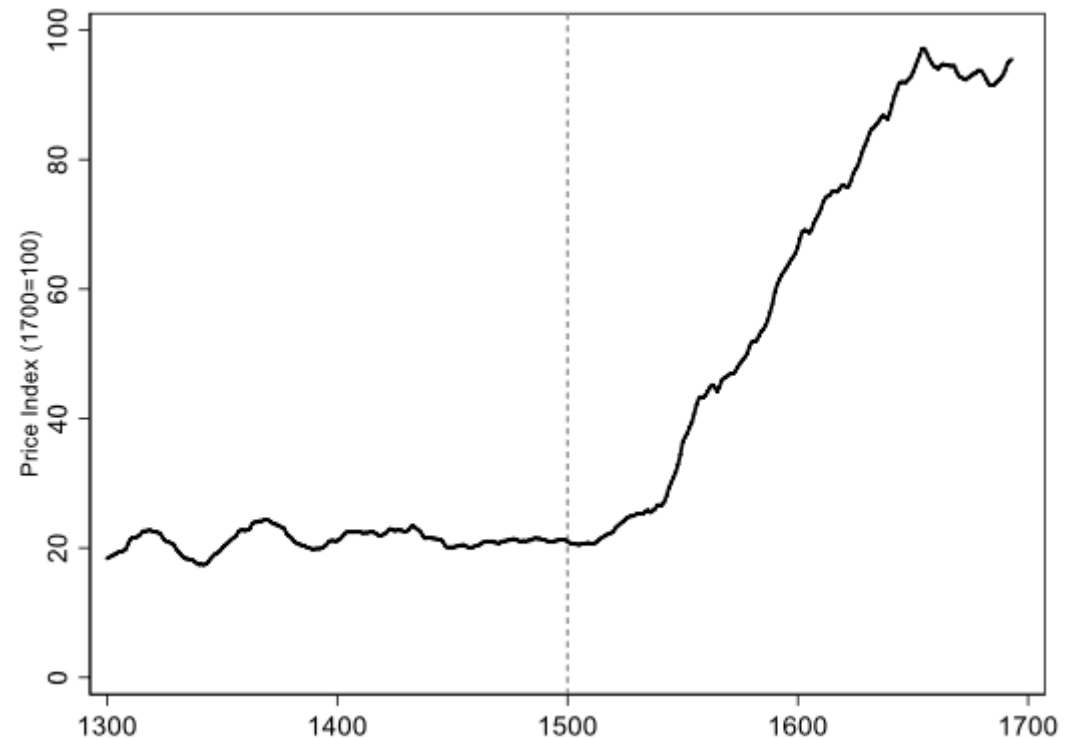
05

What we can *actually* do locally

Money Used To Be “Hard” (Very Short History)

- For most of history, money = something scarce (gold, silver, land claims)
- 1500s: Spain ships tons of New World silver home → **Price Revolution** in Europe (persistent inflation as metal supply explodes)
- Key lesson: even “hard money” can be devalued when supply jumps faster than real goods

Figure 1 Price level in England, 1300 to 1700



Source: [CEPR](#)

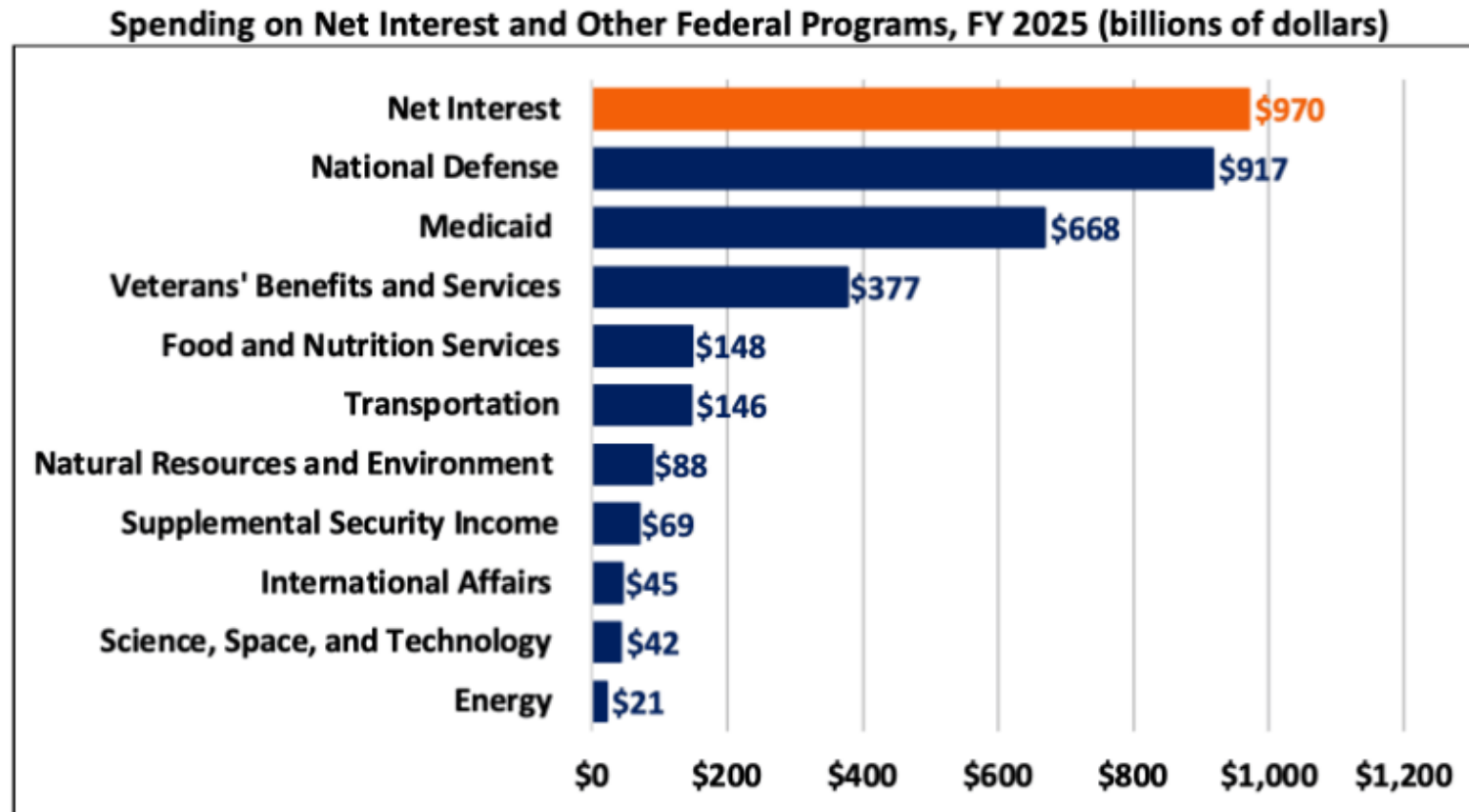
How the U.S. Dollar Became “The” Global Currency

- Early U.S.: mix of private bank notes, state currencies, and gold/silver
- 1913: **Federal Reserve** created to centralize and stabilize the banking system
- 1933: FDR’s **Executive Order 6102** forces most citizens to turn in gold; dollars become more central than gold for everyday people
- 1944: **Bretton Woods** – dollar becomes global reserve currency, tied to gold; other countries peg to the dollar
- 1971: **Nixon Shock** – U.S. closes the “gold window”; foreign governments can’t redeem dollars for gold → dollar becomes pure **fiat** (backed by law/tax power, not metal)

Where We Are Now (Debt, Money, Interest)

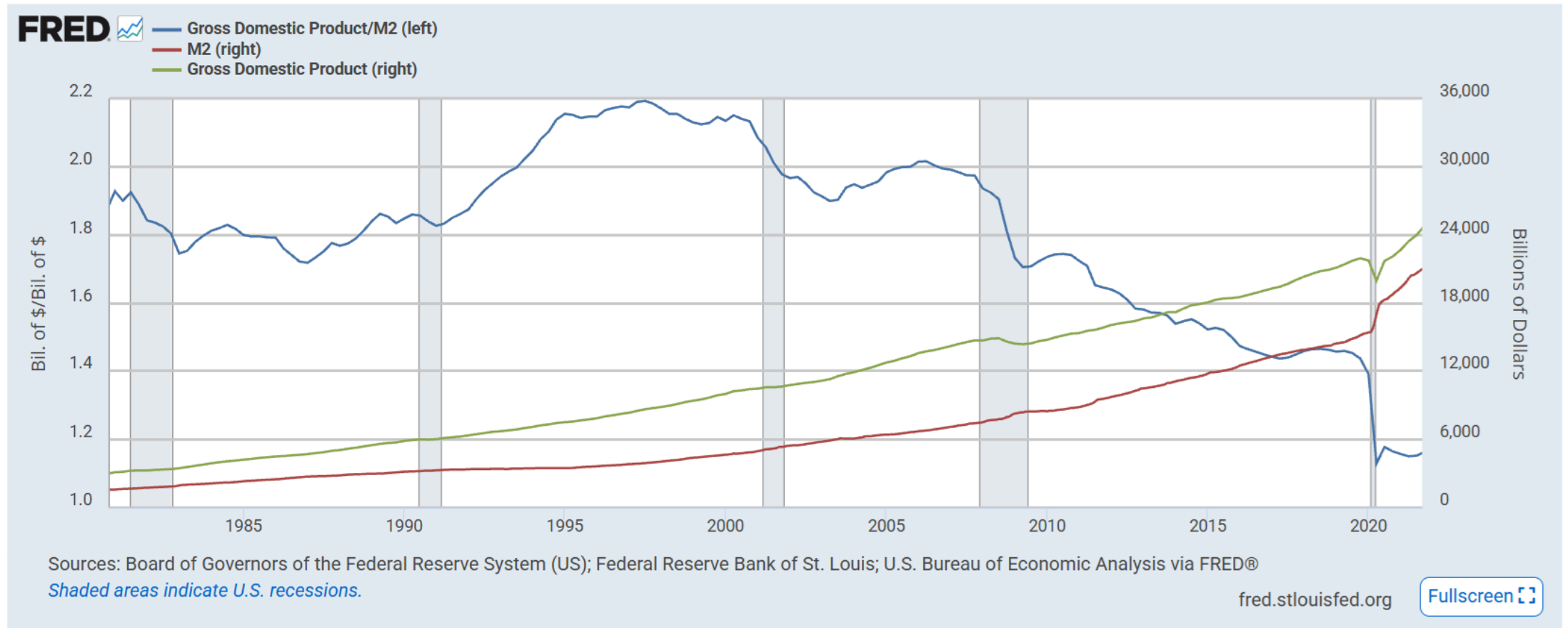
- Since the 1970s, money supply and federal debt have grown much faster than most wages or savings
- 2025: U.S. net **interest payments on the national debt (~\$970B) now exceed defense spending (~\$917B)**
- More of the federal budget goes just to “paying interest on the credit card”
- Politically easiest path:
 - Keep issuing debt
 - Let **inflation + low real interest rates** quietly erode the value of savings

Spending on Net Interest (Oct. 2025)



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Gross Domestic Product / M2 Money Supply



Source: [FRED](#)

What “Devaluation” Usually Feels Like

- It's not usually a single Hollywood crash
- It looks like:
 - Prices drifting up faster than your pay over many years
 - Assets (housing, stocks) inflating, shutting out younger or poorer buyers
 - Savings in plain cash losing purchasing power
- In the background
 - Central banks + governments quietly choosing inflation over default

Early Warning Signs of Severe Inflation

- Small coins quietly disappear, phase out low-value coins as inflation makes them useless
- Last penny has been printed 2025, creating a “rounding tax” as prices are rounded up (Source: [Richmond FED](#)).
- Ever-larger bills, such as the \$250 or \$500 bills proposed in 2025 (Source: [Congress](#))
- **Economic data gets fuzzier, slower, or less detailed**
 - Funding cuts and political pressure have already reduced some U.S. price and jobs reporting detail
 - Monthly reports becoming quarterly
- Official narratives focus heavily on “temporary” or “transitory” inflation problems

Recent Liquidity Surge

- **Federal Reserve injected \approx US\$13.5 billion into the banking system overnight** via repo operations — the second-largest such injection since the COVID era.
- At the same time, the Fed officially **ended its “Quantitative Tightening” (QT) program** — i.e. it stopped shrinking its balance sheet as of December 1, 2025.
- More liquidity = easier credit, lower borrowing stress for banks, and smoother money-market functioning.
- Will liquidity flows push up asset prices (stocks, real estate, crypto) — and widen inequality between asset-holders and
- How will this affect inflation, debt servicing, and interest rates over the next 6–12 months? non-holders?

Why Social Media & Big Data Matter (Personalized Gouging)

- We all know someone who is addicted to social media
- We all know someone who is brainwashed by social media
- The divisions caused by social media are preventing us from seeing the situation clearly and working together.
- People are profiting from our division!
- Our phones and browsers constantly leak data
- Retailers increasingly use **dynamic and personalized pricing**
- The more data companies have, the easier it is to **price discriminate** – charging each person the max they can bear
- (Sources: [PBS](#); [Wired](#); [Reuters](#))

What This Means for Regular People

- Every store of value and medium of exchange has risks
- Real Estate = at risk of market overvaluing, which increases tax burden; imminent domain
- Gold = at risk of seizure, laws against medium of exchange (but neat art, not currency options)
- Bitcoin = at risk of volatility, forgetting key phrase
- We can't fix Fed policy or the federal budget from this room
- We can focus on:
 - Multiple ways to get essentials (food, repairs, transport, etc.)
 - Multiple ways to trade (cash, skills, barter, time banks, gold, Bitcoin)
- Stronger local relationships so that we're not alone when the systems wobble!

Nostr: Decentralized Social Media

- Nostr = “Notes and Other Stuff Transmitted by Relays”
 - Open, censorship-resistant social media protocol
 - No central company, no algorithmic feed manipulation
 - Users own their identity via public/private keys
- Built-In Bitcoin Support (“Zaps”)
 - Posts can receive instant Bitcoin micro-payments
- Why It Matters for Resilience
 - Reduces dependence on ad-driven, data-mining social networks
 - Less anxiety from legacy social media chaos-porn and doom-scrolling
 - Encourages learning Bitcoin in a low-stakes, gradual way—just receive zaps, no need to “buy in”
- Reinforces the shift from centralized infrastructure → locally owned, user-controlled systems

Local Resilience Strategies

- Food & Goods: community garden networks; bulk-buying co-ops
- Skills & Services: Time banking for sharing repair skills, etc.
- Reset digital footprint ([Ghost](#))
- Money & Exchange: Bitcoin integration option with Square terminals
- Local News: community gathering to share what's really happening (not AI!)

This is why I created this Salon! I can imagine some solutions and strategies, but together we can imagine even more!

Farmers Market 2026 Table: Proposed Concept

- A **Queen City Resilience Table** at the Staunton Farmers Market
- Simple, friendly, practical; not doom-y
- Possibilities:
 - Repair corner
 - Info on time banking / skills swap
 - Barter Board

Discussion Questions for the Group

- What signs of devaluation / inflation have *you* already noticed?
- What would make a Farmers Market table **actually useful** to you?
- What skills or tools could you bring?
- Who else should we invite into this?
- Which of these ideas excite you the most?
 - Repair clinics
 - Time banking
 - Barter board
 - Education about money / inflation
 - Nostr
 - Bitcoin

Things We Talked About After The Presentation

- GDP/M2 Max History:
https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?graph_id=851527
- Bryan's "Cross of Gold" Speech:
<https://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/>
- How a Broken Benchmark Quietly Broke America:
<https://www.yesgiveafig.com/p/part-1-my-life-is-a-lie>