

Myths of the Modern American Mind

MONEY?!

“We are such stuff as dreams are made on” *Tempest*

“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Luke 16

Timeline of Money

~10,000 B.C.E. Widespread trade in Obsidian

~3,000 B.C.E. Cuneiform ‘receipts’

700-600 B.C.E. first ‘minted coins’

7th Century Early banknotes in China

13th Century Mongols make widespread use of paper currency

1660s Swedish bank issues early European banknotes

1971 – World ‘officially’ converts to fiat money

Main Functions of Money: Medium of Exchange, Standard of Value, Store of Wealth/Future Value

Over 200 verses in the Bible and at least 40 verses in the Quran on money and wealth. (not many on hammers).

“Reagan . . . established a commission to consider the feasibility of a metallic basis for the U.S. currency. The commission advised against such a move. Now, three decades later, as we face the task of cleaning up the wreckage of the current Administrations policies, we propose a similar commission to investigate possible ways to set a fixed value to the dollar.” (Republican National Party Platform 2012)

A brief list of objects used as money (Commodity Money) Peppercorns, large stones, shells, hides, slaves, tobacco, salt, beads, feathers, coffee, barley, blankets, tea, metal bars, animal teeth, alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis, and decorated belts.



A Rai stone in Micronesia

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