

TRENDEVENTS

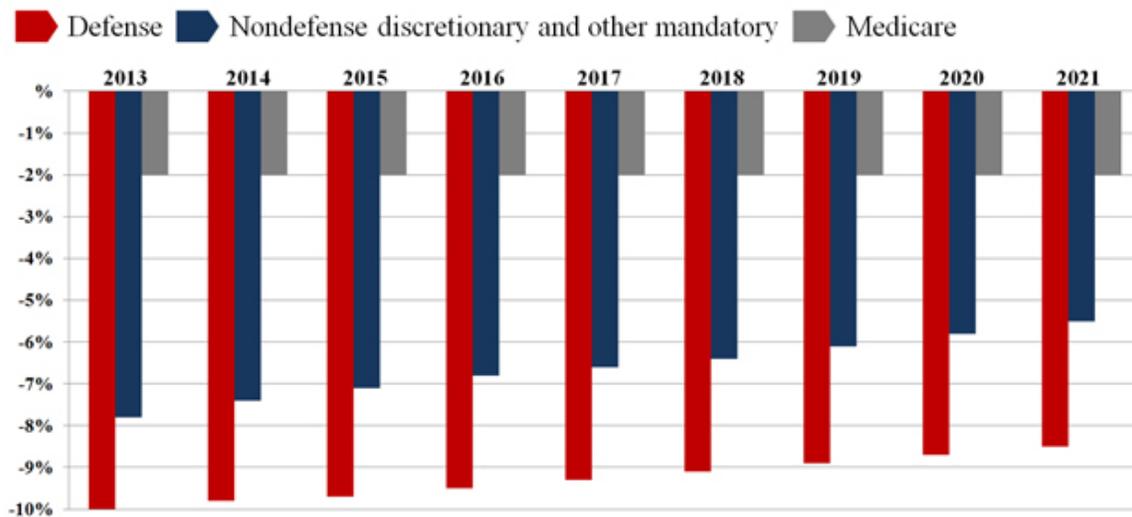
Publishing update: **TrendEvents** is resuming regular publication.

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE—U.S. Congress Frozen by Gridlock

- **Deep Philosophical Divide Underlies the Impasse**
(John Harwood, *New York Times*, 1 March 2013)

The U.S. Budget sequestration was supposed to be so dreadful that Congress would do anything to avoid it. Yet, Congressional polarization due to a deep philosophical divide has resulted in such gridlock, that no progress has been made on a budget compromise. “At bottom, it is the oldest philosophic battle of the American party system — pitting Democrats’ desire to use government to cushion market outcomes and equalize opportunity against Republicans’ desire to limit government and maximize individual liberty.” Instead of targeted, intelligent budget changes, the present political system makes near-random across-the-board cuts, disproportionately hitting science and technology funding. Technocratic governance would accomplish just the opposite: maximizing intelligent, efficient allocation of resources.

Percentage Cut to Nonexempt Budget Accounts



Source: <http://www.rpc.senate.gov/imo/media/image/sequester.jpg>

CIVIL RIGHTS—False science used to suppress women rights

- **GOP activist says pregnancies rare in rape cases**
(The Associated Press, San Jose Mercury News, 2 March 2013)

US Republicans once again use false science to smother civil rights. According to California Republican Assembly president Celeste Grieg, “Granted, the percentage of pregnancies due to rape is small because it's an act of violence, because the body is traumatized.” Unfortunately, just the opposite is true. A U.S. National Violence Against Women survey study reports that the per-incident rape-pregnancy rate was 6.4 percent versus was 3.1 percent for consensual sex per encounter. In truth, rape is twice as likely to result in pregnancy. Abuse of science moves us further away from technocratic governance.

ECONOMICS—Weak growth in Canada

- **Canada’s economy hasn’t been this weak since the recession**
(Gordon Isfeld, Financial Post, 1 march 2013)

Canadian growth remains weak. “Output slipped back into reverse last month but still managed to eke out a gain for the final quarter of 2012 and end the year with total growth of 1.8%—down from 2.6% a year earlier.” Economic threats from Europe and USA will likely drag down Canadian economy for coming year. “2013 is shaping up as another under-performing year, with the central bank calling for 2% growth, but private sector analysts are expecting a much weaker performance.” Taken together, the last two quarters represent the worst performance since the 2008-2009 recession.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **3-D Printing—A Manufacturing Revolution**

3-D printing has the potential to revolutionize manufacturing, allowing new medical advances such as tissue and organ printing. According to the U.S. National Science Foundation, 3-D printing is an innovative manufacturing technique developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Originally used to create mock-ups and prototypes, 3-D printers are now used by people from engineers to home inventors to produce whatever they can design. In the photograph (next page), a 3-D printer builds up a chess rook. Notice how the interior of the rook is hollow, illustrating how 3-D printing can produce more complicated single-piece objects than traditional injection molding.

3-D printing can also help simplify energy accounting by reducing steps in the supply chain. Consumers send a request for a product to the printer, and the energy inputs are simply an energy rate (for printing time and the energy cost of the materials).

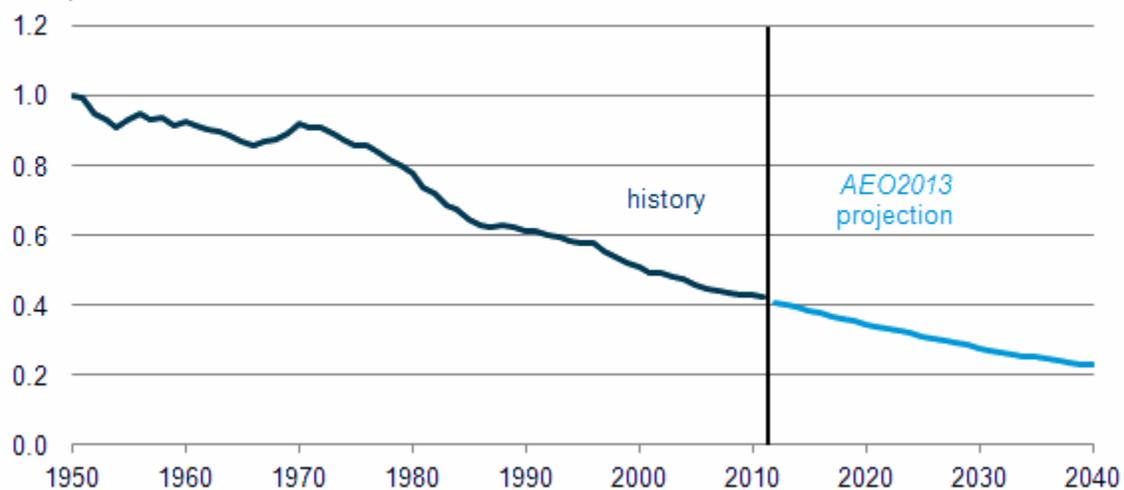


ECONOMICS, ENERGY & RESOURCE DATA DASHBOARD

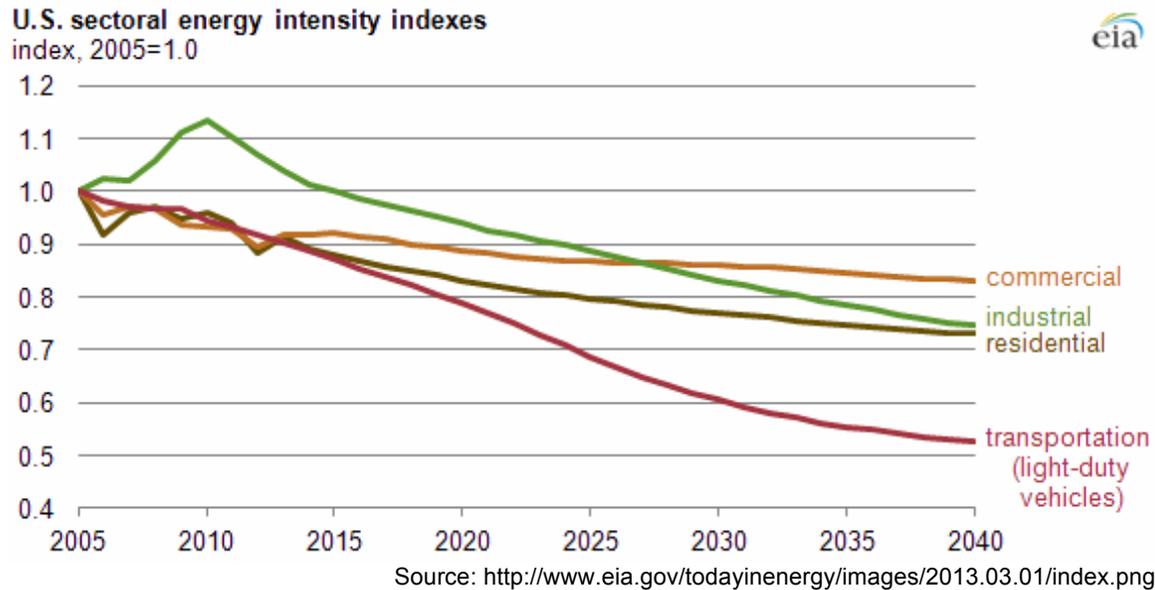
- **Energy intensity decline indicates currency to energy ratio inflation**

Updated figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) indicate magnitude of U.S. currency inflation and the removal of the monetary system from physical reality. In terms of energy, a U.S. dollar only represents about 40% of what it did in 1950. See graphs (below, next page) for details.

Primary energy consumption per real dollar GDP
index, 1950=1.0



Source: <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/images/2013.03.01/consumption.png>



FUNCTIONAL GOVERNMENT

By Ron Miller

DEMOCRACY

Democracy is always for sale to the highest bidder. This is not too difficult to figure out when policies that a large majority of citizens favor seem very difficult to pass into law.

Democracy is not a bad form of government. After the First World War it became very apparent to most that Monarchy had gotten us into trouble creating a huge death toll for little reason. It also concluded that the democracies had a great deal more flexibility and provided far better leadership. But, when one takes a closer look, it is apparent that most of the work of a democracy is sorting out property rights and enforcing them.

If one no longer has a price system what is one left with? The whole financial structure disappears. Banks, tax collection and disbursement, insurance companies, real-estate operations, advertizing, marketing and about ninety five percent of all crime becomes impossible to commit.

What would be left? We will certainly need the entire physical infrastructure that keeps us all alive and enjoying a high standard of living we would all be reluctant to give up. What would be a good way to organize it all so that it continues to function? Democracy? Suppose we have loaded a group of passengers on a jet liner going to a distant city. Just prior to departure all the passengers are asked to stand up, look over their fellow passengers, and then vote on who should be pilot. Does this sound like a

flight you would like to be on? Those who composed the concepts proposed by Technocracy didn't think this was a particularly good idea. If there is one thing required in such a society it is competence.

TECHNOCRACY

One thing is obvious. Those people directly connected with the work being done know the most about how it should be done and who, among them, would be best qualified to lead the work crew. The organization proposed that, when a position becomes open, that those doing the work should pick from themselves the three best people. Those people that the position reports to would pick from among those three the one who seems best able to fulfill their needs. This same procedure would apply up to the person in charge of that industry.

Industries would be organized by function. Industrial sequences such as iron and steel, automobiles and other road vehicles, aircraft, computers and so forth would be organized so that those who headed the enterprises would be in constant communication with one another. Service sequences such as education, health, recreation and so forth would be organized likewise. At the local level areas would be organized as regional divisions. A regional division would be named for the location of the southwest corner by lines of longitude and latitude. The industries and services within that area would be in contact with one another for necessary coordination.

Those who lead the sequences would sit on a continental board of governors. Their function would be to insure that everything continues to operate properly. Decisions as to how many new plants would be needed, which ones were in need of upgrading, which newly invented products need to be produced would all be addressed by the board. The board would also be charged with the defense of the area and would govern police forces charged with maintenance of social order.

No government can operate for long without, at least, the tacit assent of the governed. It would be far better to enlist the governed in improving the operation of the whole social order. A branch of Social Relation would exist in every Region District. It would not be all that difficult to use several television channels for detailed discussions of policy issues that affect people or that they simply have an interest in. Detailed, comprehensive reporting on each issue could be extensive. People could have direct input on the internet for comments, suggestions or criticism. All of this could be feed directly back to the Continental Board for action or explanation. For that matter members of the Continental Board could as well be active participants as could any other citizen.

(Article continued on next page).

VIEW FROM A PRICE SYSTEM

People can't help but look at Technocracy from the viewpoint of living in a price system. It is all they know. The first impulse that people have as they gradually wake up to the fact that the current social order is beginning to crumble is to try to find a way to fix it. The system has been "fixed" many times only to end up back in the same mess (often worse) than it was previously. The technology available today makes it possible to create a catastrophe much faster than in earlier times.

The system proposed by Technocracy would be far simpler system both in structure and operation. For the first time people would no longer have to concern themselves with food or housing. Both would be readily available to all. People, for what has to be the first time, would be truly free.

Technocracy proposed that people should work four hours a day four days a week with seventy-eight days continuous vacation per year. With that much free time a person would be free to develop one's interest to the full. With all the jobs a price system creates that will no longer be needed the amount of people required would be dramatically reduced. Much of what is left would, very likely, be rapidly automated or simply designed out of existence.

Questions that tend to arise always revolve around property ownership. For instance, what about a person who has several houses and boats? One has to remember that no one really has to work. This would very likely mean that few people would be interested in house work, being a maid or a grounds keeper. A person with several houses or a very large house would have to be very fond of housework and lawn upkeep. It seems rather more likely that people would probably gravitate toward simplicity rather quickly. For boats the same problem exists. While materials required maintaining a boat would exist, hiring someone to do the work will not be possible. On some reflection there are those who would still wish to have access to a boat. If several are interested in a particular type of boat enough could get together so that the necessary maintenance could be spread among several reducing the burden.

Many are interested in automobiles purely for pleasure. They enjoy working on them, racing them or simply building one that is unique or experimental. There is no reason why the automotive sequence could not produce a series of kits so that people could do their own work. When it comes to the introduction of new products or simply things that people want to make for themselves there should be no problem providing work shops where people would have access to any tool they might find useful. They might have educate themselves or go get some specialized training which may very well be much more readily available than now exists.

Technocracy did not bother to outline such things because it was realized that technology and taste plus interest evolve and vary over time. It was understood that within the confines of what is possible at the time people would find a way to express

their interests and desires. An attempt to answer such questions now would be, to a degree, somewhat futile because no one really knows the shape of the future.

TRANSITION

A short study of history shows that no revolution has ever really been planned. They usually come as a big surprise to those who wished for them as to those did not. Several months ago a fairly well educated man in North Africa who could only make a living (not a good one) as a street vendor had had enough of being tormented by the police of a local monarch. Out of sheer desperation he set himself on fire in a very public place. Anger exploded all over North Africa overturning numerous governments. No one predicted such an outcome. No one saw it coming. The revolution that overturned the government of the U.S.S.R. came as a complete surprise to everyone including all the intelligence agencies of virtually all governments.

Seldom is a revolution planned. The very best one can do is to have a really good analysis of what is driving social change and, most importantly, a detailed plan for what is to come afterward. If the present government is a failure what is to take its place?

In the early 1920's when Technocracy was first being contemplated it became clear that human effort was being replaced with, mostly, electrical energy. The effect was to dramatically increase the productivity of each worker. Workers were not so much being replaced but their individual output was dramatically amplified. It was that output that made it possible to win World War Two. The U.S. could produce aircraft and ships faster than the enemy could destroy them. As the first computers were being designed and employed one of the corporate leaders in the field said that he did not see any need for more than about five computers for the world. In the 1960's the first computers began to be employed for general purposes. They could compute vast amounts of numbers much faster and more accurately than a roomful of mathematicians. In the 1980's the first desktop computers were developed. In the 1980's and 1990's the first robots came into production. Most were employed in welding. They worked very fast and accurately. At this stage they were not designed to work around people and, essentially, had to be walled off from approach unless they were not operating. Now robots are being designed not only to work around people but to do jobs that, until now, only people were capable of doing. Software is being designed to do decision making that has always required human intervention. Now machines are directly replacing people. This is what Technocracy foresaw.

Technocracy Inc. (the organization) has no assumption of power theory. In other words, the Technocrats are not going to take over the government. The organization offers the plan for how a non-price system society needs to be organized. It is not a political party.

We will still need traffic lights. People will not be able to walk into your home uninvited. An organizational structure will still be required to assign people living space and there will have to be a structure for resolving disputes. Chances are good these will be few. No doubt there will be several years of adjustment. There is also no doubt that it will produce a very different society but very likely a much more relaxed one.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & ARTICLE LINKS

Canada's economy hasn't been this weak since the recession, Isfeld, Gordon, *Financial Post*, 1 March 2013,

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/03/01/canadas-economy-hasnt-been-this-weak-since-the-recession/>

Deep Philosophical Divide Underlies the Impasse, Harwood, John, *New York Times*, 1 March 2013,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/02/us/politics/a-peek-under-the-hood-of-sequestration-politics.html?pagewanted=all&.r=1&>

GOP activist Says Pregnancies Rare Rape Cases, The Associated Press, *San Jose Mercury News*, 2 March 2013,

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_22704582/gop-activist-says-pregnancies-rare-rape-cases

U.S. energy intensity projected to continue its steady decline through 2040, U.S. Energy Information Administration, 1 March 2013,

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10191>

3-D Printing—Science of Innovation (video), U.S. National Science Foundation,

http://www.nsf.gov/news/mmg/mmg_disp.cfm?med_id=73851 (paste in browser)

This is an official publication of:

Technocracy Inc.

2475 Harksell Rd
Ferndale, WA 98249-9764

Voluntary donation of \$8 for 10 Issues of TrendEvents for U.S.
& Canadian hard copy subscriptions mailed by regular post.

E-Mail Subscriptions are free.

www.Technocracyinc.org / www.Technocracyvan.ca

Pam Gill, contributor, Ron Miller, Associate Editor & Mark Ciotola, Editor. Paul Cordsmeyer, Emeritus. This issue of Trend Events provides critical commentary on cited articles. The commentary does not necessarily represent the opinions or contents of those articles.