

## A LIST OF POTENTIAL SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSIONS OR FORUMS

- Death of a U.S. President - and massive cover-up
  - What was result of the second official investigation?
    - Did you even hear of it?
  - Who really killed John and Bobby Kennedy?
  - What are the best sources of information?
  - Why was it important 45 years ago?
  - Why is it *still important today*?
  
- The Drug problem in the U.S.:
  - A) Trafficking of Illegal Drugs into the U.S.
    - Political and corporate corruption as major factors
    - History of Banking institutions in the above corruption
    - Political corruption of government policies and enforcement efforts
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  - B) Corporate exploitation of “legal” drugs for illegal purposes and effects within the U.S.
    - Intertwining of corporate “for profit” and political corruption, effects in undermining public health and public interests.
  
- “Foreign Aid” provided by U.S. policies has frequently originated to benefit U.S. corporations rather than people in nations allegedly ‘benefitting.’
  - Some has been downright disastrous: such as grants for ‘Big Agriculture’ equipment that replaced hundreds of ‘subsistence farmers’ with a handful of operators ‘for profit’ ...leaving hundreds to starve.
  - Contrast results of aid for Victims of the Indonesian Tsunami (2004) and the Haitian Earthquake (2010).
  - What private or religious organizations have provided helpful assistance?
  
- GLOBAL ECONOMY - including China effect on our economy and others
  - What have been the prime drivers behind factory transfers to East Asia, and especially China?
  - Have “Buy American” efforts had any effect?
  - What will be the long-term effects on the U.S. economy?
  
- Government-owned housing projects - who are the *real* beneficiaries?
  - What was the real reason many deteriorated (...wasn’t the residents)?

- Health Care in the U.S.: problems *not just* with numbers uninsured, but also *Quality* and *Cost* of care “delivered” (or not):
  - Cost vs Results: The U.S. spends 78% higher than the *average* of ten advanced nations, and 33% above *the next highest* nation.
    - U.S. rate of “Preventable deaths” was *48% higher* than average, and 30% higher than *the next highest*; the U.S. rate was *double* that of the lowest nation – Switzerland, which has *private* mandatory insurance.
    - U.S. has only *60%* of the Hospital beds per 1,000 people compared to the average of 33 OECD nations.
    - 31 nations have higher Life Expectancy than the U.S.; highest is about 6% (4.7 years) higher; next highest is about 4.7% (3.7 years) higher than the U.S.
    - Of 12 advanced nations: 6 have 100% health insurance coverage (including Switzerland with private plans); *lowest coverage* of 5 others is 99% ...U.S. has only 90.9% covered by health insurance.
  - What are *Quality* factors that need to be considered?
    - The Surgeons ‘code’: *what you need to know* when discussing potential major procedures with surgeons *before giving your approval*.
    - What factors or sources seem to “steer” most medical care decisions in the U.S.?
    - State assistance – Medicaid - to the poor, uninsured: *End vs Initial Stages* – what has the tragic effect often been?
    - Also *not addressed* in recent years: mental health.
    - Medicare benefits and curses: *what should people learn and think about at least several years before signing up?*
  - What has *driven up* U.S. costs for ‘care’?
    - What changed in Proprietary (prescription etc.) provisions in the mid-1980’s?
    - Anti-competitive practices – in every field (*including* insurance).
    - Research Non-disclosures: What have they cost, in lives as well as money?
- Immigration into the U.S. (and elsewhere)
  - What are the primary drivers?
  - How much has it helped us ...recently?
  - What corrupt influences have fed the problem – both “legal” and “illegal” immigration

- Drug trafficking and related criminal enterprises.
    - “Legitimate” employers exploiting illegal status of some employees.
    - “Legitimate” employers ‘gaming the system’ to use ‘legal’ immigrants to undercut wages, salaries, and benefits for ‘native’ employees.
  - Can we “help the less fortunate” in some nations by efforts to improve their situation *where they live* rather than by ‘transplanting’ them?
- Increase in Large-Scale Shooting incidents - What has CHANGED?
  - TWO-THIRDS of the largest multiple-shooting incidents in the U.S. over the past 70 years have occurred just within the LAST 20 years. Why?
  - What has changed during that recent period?.....between 1948 to 1998 versus 1999 to the present?
    - Degree – or absence – of mental health care provided to troubled individuals?
    - Media and “entertainment / *gaming*” effects of desensitizing or encouraging individuals to violence against others?
    - Encouragement of “copy-cat” actions?
    - Changes in “teaching” and “standards” for “accepting personal responsibility” versus “blaming others” or “situations” for concerns?
    - Availability of high capacity weapons?
    - Absence of responsibility by various individuals or officials in sharing or acting on information known in advance about intentions?
  - Learn about an informal Congressional “forum” held **only 3 months** after the Sandy Hook School shooting .....a “best source” for MUCH related information that seems VERY LITTLE known about.
- Information and News Media: no lack of distressing or alarming news in today’s world. What resources exist to identify problems, causes and factors, in our society now after major changes over the past few years?
  - TV “news magazines” investigating corporate and/or governmental corruption:
    - 25 years ago: CBS’ 60 Minutes, A&E Investigative Reports, ABC’s 20/20 and Primetime Live, NBC’s Dateline, and PBS Frontline.
    - Only CBS’ 60 Minutes and PBS Frontline remain – shallow in coverage.
    - One “new kid” in serious investigations – do you know who it is?
    - TV broadcast news.

- ABC, CBS, NBC national news: 30 minutes per day typical: 10 minutes commercials; 10 minutes “human interest”; 10 minutes serious topics. Not enough for seriousness of U.S. national problems and concerns.
    - CNN type 24-hr “news”: mostly political comment or “breaking news”, little serious investigation effort or results.
  - Print “news magazines”
    - 20 to 30 years ago: Newsweek, TIME, and U.S. News & World Report had weekly print editions: on newsstands or by subscription.
    - Now: all three available “online” – if you have ‘the right web browser’; verification of information can be a real challenge.
  - Newspapers: many “died out” or withdrawing from service:
    - Opinion columns: typical tyranny of “200 word limit” for non-staff input
  - Web-based information: very much subject to browser ‘search bias’ and exclusion
    - Example: Google doesn’t “find” electronic editions of Newsweek, TIME, and U.S. News & World Report
- Israel and Palestinians – things most Americans don’t know
  - Palestinian exodus – what was the primary cause?
  - Israel’s vanished Arab villages
    - How many vanished?
    - What happened to them? And why?
  - What happened to the numbers in Christian communities under Israeli control?
  - Israel’s government and economy – and their effects
    - How do these affect any likely “peace process”?
  - Who was the first to inflict significant casualties on Americans in the Middle East?
- Larger U.S. Middle-East Policies
  - How has the above affected U.S. image in the Middle East?
  - What U.S. blunders worsened our relations in the Middle East?
  - What has been a primary underlying factor in U.S. blunders?
- Lobbyist influence on government outcomes versus citizens’ interests
  - What have been the trends in ratio of lobbyists to legislators?
  - What has been the effect of “fund-raising requirements” and attention, relative to “national business”?

- Mexico – significant political and economic history you probably didn't know
  - What form of government did Mexico have for most of the past 100 years?
  - What were the effects of that on Mexico's economy, and economic justice?
  
- Monetary basics and U.S. Currency – what do you really know?
  - What's the root cause of inflation?
  - What are injustices related to the above?
  - What has been the effect of past financial "bailouts"?
  
- North Korea – what do ordinary citizens suffer?
  
- Our Food Supply - recent changes and effects mostly unseen
  - How do they affect our cost?
  - How do they affect our health?
  
- U.S. corporations – what are variations in tax rates and codes?
  - What have effects been on multinational corporation relocations?