

Crisis of Responsibility:
Our Cultural Addiction to Blame and How You Can Cure It

1 – Background

- a. Financial crisis
- b. But then 2016
 - a. Brexit
 - b. Trump

2 – Angst of the masses

- a. Economics
- b. Coming Apart
- c. Prima facie support – the elites failed

3 – And yet ...

- a. Blame-casting and scapegoating paint over a crisis of responsibility
- b. The inability to get this right will NOT reduce statism, elitism, globalism
 - a. Rather, it will invite MORE of all when this experiment fails

4 – Financial Crisis redux

- a. Narrative 1 – Wall Street did it
- b. Narrative 2 – The government did it
- c. Narrative 3 – The Fed did it
- d. Missing narrative – We did it!
 - a. The Swindled
 - b. **The Reckless**
 - c. **The Gamblers**
 - d. The Diligent
- e. Financial crisis as cultural
 - a. S&L comparison
 - b. Barstool bragging
 - c. Covetousness dresses different on Main Street vs. Wall Street, but that's it

5 – Bogeymen run amok

- a. Immigration
- b. Free Trade
- c. Media
- d. Wall Street
- e. Big government

6 – Policy culpability

- a. School choice
- b. Higher education

7 – The Coming Apart redux

- a. The infantilization of white adult male
- b. Marriage, children, and poverty

8– Personal antidotes

- a. Repudiate victimhood
- b. Re-engage local politics
- c. Cult of home ownership
- d. Reject social safety net
- e. Joy in production, not consumption
- f. Family as building block

9 – Cultural antidotes

- a. Stop using housing as social agenda
- b. “Skin in the game”
- c. Assimilation as heart of immigration policy
- d. Labor market dynamism
- e. End cronyism
- f. Mediating institutions (family, church, community)

10 – Conclusion

- * the free and virtuous society