

# The Gorilla and the Mouse

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*The Government Sachs Gorilla and the Government Motors Mouse, a fable for our time.*

*The Outraged Conservative is standing on a small chair looking terrified. A giant 800 pound gorilla with fangs is devouring a side of beef behind the Outraged Conservative. The gorilla is wearing a double breasted suit, a white shirt, and a silk tie. The gorilla carries a fancy black laptop case with the words "Wall Street" on one side and "Government Sachs" on the other side.*

**The Outraged Conservative (outraged):** Socialism! It's socialism! SOCIALISM! SOCIALISM!!!

**The Average American (rushing in, looking worriedly at the giant gorilla tearing a piece of meat off the side of beef and slobbering):** Are you OK?

**The Outraged Conservative (pointing down fearfully at a small mouse nibbling on a piece of cheese.):** Save me. Save me! SAVE ME!!! It is socialism! The end of freedom, democracy and most importantly market-based policies in America!!!!

**The Average American (looking astonished as the Outraged Conservative continues to shake his finger at the mouse. The mouse is wearing a T-shirt with "UAW" on the front and "Government Motors" on the back):** Look, I don't think you need to worry about that mouse.

**The Outraged Conservative (trying to step on the mouse which keeps darting out of the way and shaking its tiny fist):** Help me kill it before it hurts me! It's socialism! SOCIALISM! SOCIALISM!!!

## *The Gorilla and the Mouse*

*The mouse takes another bite from its piece of cheese and shakes its fist defiantly at the Outraged Conservative. The gorilla hurls a rib, stripped bare, at the Average American, who ducks.*

**The Average American:** Shouldn't you be worried about the 800 pound gorilla? He is almost finished eating and he still looks hungry.

**The Outraged Conservative (glancing over his shoulder):** Who, him?

**The Average American (puzzled):** Yep.

*The gorilla hurls another rib at the Average American, who ducks again. The rib whistles past the Average American's ear.*

**The Outraged Conservative (astounded):** Of course not! What are you thinking? He *is* the free market! The free market is our friend!!

**The Average American (glancing nervously at the gorilla which is tearing off another piece of meat):** Are you sure? He looks a lot like one of those corrupt government fiascoes that you are always warning me about!

**The Outraged Conservative:** Of course I am sure. Look, you must help me step on this mouse! We are talking about socialism here! The survival of America as a free, democratic, and most importantly market-based society depends on it!

*At that moment, the gorilla finishes its side of beef.*

**The Gorilla: WHERE IS THE BEEF! FEED ME! FEED ME!! FEED ME!!!**

**The Average American:** Shouldn't we get out of here?

**The Outraged Conservative:** Are you kidding? I am afraid to get off this chair! The mouse may bite me!

**The Gorilla (jumping up and down angrily): FEED ME! FEED ME!! FEED ME!!! I NEED FDIC GUARANTEES, FEDERAL RESERVE NO INTEREST LOANS! BELOW MARKET US TREASURY LOANS! EXEMPTIONS FROM FDIC RESTRICTIONS ON RECKLESS SPECULATION! MORE! MORE!! MORE!!!**

## *The Gorilla and the Mouse*

**The Average American:** I really think we should get out of here. I wouldn't worry about the mouse.

*At this moment, Ben Bernanke, Timothy Geithner, and Barack Obama rush into the room carrying several more sides of raw beef, dripping fluids on the floor.*

**The Gorilla (swiping a side of beef from Barack Obama): GIMME THAT! COMMIE!**

**Barack Obama (speaking sternly):** Now, that was not very nice Mr. Gorilla. This is America. We are a team, without racial and class divisions as exemplified by my inclusive diverse post-racial, post-class Presidency. I hope that you will change your nasty ways.

**The Gorilla: SHADDAP!**

*Crestfallen, Barack Obama walks over to Ben Bernanke and Timothy Geithner who are watching the gorilla nervously.*

**Barack Obama (shaking his head):** I went to Punahou, Columbia, and Harvard! I am the ultimate post-racial preppie President. He's treating me like I am not a member of the club! It...it's offensive. My diversity is not being respected!

**Ben Bernanke:** I don't think he cares about diversity.

**Timothy Geithner:** He's almost finished with that side of beef. We'd better give him these two!

**The Gorilla: WHERE IS THE BEEF! FEED ME! FEED ME!! FEED ME!!!**

*Timothy Geithner and Ben Bernanke toss the remaining two sides of beef to the gorilla which begins devouring them. The gorilla pauses occasionally to type on its laptop with surprising dexterity: TRADE! SPECULATE! BUY TRIPLE LEVERAGED INVERTED HYPER-OPTIONS! SELL CONFUSING QUADRUPLE LEVERAGED WARRANTS FOR TRASH OPTIONS! BUY OIL FUTURES! SELL OIL FUTURES! BUY OPTIONS TO FORECLOSE ON SINGLE FAMILY HOMES! SELL OPTIONS TO FORECLOSE ON SINGLE FAMILY HOMES!*

## *The Gorilla and the Mouse*

**Ben Bernanke:** You know. I have a Ph.D. and I think he is getting bigger.

**Timothy Geithner:** I think you are right. It may be that all that food is making him grow bigger.

**Barack Obama:** Is that really possible? If you feed him, do you think he gets bigger?

**The Gorilla: FEED ME! FEED ME!!! FEED ME!!!**

**Timothy Geithner:** Oh my God! We've got to get him more.

*Bernanke, Geithner, and Obama turn and rush to the door of the room where Hu Jintao wearing an expensive black suit and several emaciated Chinese peasants are waiting with several juicy sides of beef. The Chinese peasants keep trying to help themselves to some of the beef, but Hu Jintao sternly bats their hands away from the beef. Timothy Geithner scribbles an IOU on a paper napkin: Uncle Sam owes China \$100 billion US Dollars. Hu Jintao looks skeptically at the paper napkin.*

**Hu Jintao (looking stern):** You know, I am beginning to get concerned about the value of these paper napkins you keep giving me.

**The Gorilla: WHERE IS THE BEEF! FEED ME! WHERE IS THE BEEF! I NEED MORE! MORE!! MORE!!!**

**Timothy Geithner (glancing briefly over his shoulder at the angry gorilla):** Look, Hu...I can call you Hu right? If you don't accept this latest paper napkin IOU, the value of your \$2 trillion in paper napkin IOU's will collapse. The only way to preserve the value of your paper napkin IOUs is to continue to accept more paper napkin IOU's from us! See?

**Hu Jintao (scowling):** Well, OK. But I want you to know I am not a happy camper about this.

*Timothy Geithner, Ben Bernanke, and Barack Obama rush to take the sides of beef from the emaciated Chinese peasants and feed the gorilla. The gorilla angrily throws a bone at the Average American.*

**The Average American (clasping his head):** OW! That hurt!

## *The Gorilla and the Mouse*

**Barack Obama:** Don't worry! I am going to provide free health care so you can get the very best treatment for that bump on your head! Trust me!

**The Average American:** That gorilla is getting bigger.

**The Outraged Conservative:** What are you liberal sissies talking about! Free health care! FREE HEALTH CARE!!! ARE YOU NUTS? We have to kill this mouse! It is undermining freedom, democracy, and most importantly market-based policies in the United States and bankrupting the nation with its voracious appetite for government cheese!

*The Outraged Conservative takes out a US flag on a stick and tries to swat the mouse with the flag. The mouse dodges the flag and shakes its fist angrily at the Outraged Conservative.*

**The Mouse (squeaking):** I can do that! I can provide the beef! I can do that! You don't have to go to the Chinese for the beef! The American worker can do all the work faster, better, and cheaper than the Chinese worker!

**The Outraged Conservative (still trying to swat the mouse with the US flag):** Balderdash! You lazy good-for-nothing socialist union mouse! I want beef for my good friend the Government Sachs Gorilla produced by hard working socialist slave labor in China! Ahem! Excuse me. I meant hard working free market non-union labor in China!

**The Average American (looking nervously at the gorilla devouring another side of beef):** Are you sure the gorilla is your friend?

**The Outraged Conservative:** Of course he is my friend! He *is* the free market!

**The Average American (skeptically):** Are you sure about that? He looks completely dependent on government beef to me. And are you *sure* China has a free market? I think you were right the first time. Aren't they socialists?

**The Outraged Conservative:** So long as they provide Wal Mart with subsidized junk, they are free market! Freedom! We must preserve freedom! Free-dom! Free-dom! Free-dom!

## *The Gorilla and the Mouse*

*Singing "Free-dom!" over and over again to the tune of The Star Spangled Banner, the Outraged Conservative takes another swipe at the mouse with his flag.*

**Barack Obama:** You know I think the gorilla is getting bigger.

**Ben Bernanke:** Yes, with my Ph.D. and superior mathematical skills I believe he is somewhere between 1400 and 1600 pounds now. If I were back at Princeton, I would assign a platoon of graduate students to perform a more precise measurement of his exact size.

**Timothy Geithner:** Er, um, I think he could be closer to 1800 pounds, maybe even 2000 pounds.

**Ben Bernanke:** Look here, I have the Ph.D. and I say he is between 1400 and 1600 pounds. I know! **(pulls out his Blackberry)** I can put my staff of overpaid economists at the Fed on it. They can compute his size using the very latest in statistical models! The same state of the art models that we used to detect the housing bubble!

**Barack Obama:** It looks like he is almost out of beef. He will need...

**The Gorilla: MORE! WHERE IS THE BEEF? I NEED MORE! MORE!! MORE!!!**

*Timothy Geithner, Ben Bernanke, and Barack Obama turn and flee to the door. They find a note taped to the door:*

*DON'T CALL ME. I'LL CALL YOU. HU JINTAO*

*They find a pile of IOU's written on paper napkins on the floor.*

**Timothy Geithner:** This is not good.

*Everyone turns, even the Outraged Conservative.*

**The Gorilla: WHO WANTS TO BE EATEN FIRST!**

*Will the Outraged Conservative finally step on the Government Motors Mouse? Will Barack Obama hope for more change? Will Hu Jintao and the starving Chinese peasants come back and save the day in exchange for even more IOU's written on paper napkins? Will the*

*The Gorilla and the Mouse*

*United States get its act together before it is eaten? Watch your RSS newsfeed for the next thrilling installment of **American Fiasco**.*

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