

The US Leads the World

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US: Oh My God! Oh My God! Oh My God!

World (looking concerned): What's wrong?

US: Oh My God! Oh My God! Oh My God!

World (looking more concerned): Really, what's wrong?

US: Oh My God! It's time to panic! Our economy is totally screwed up! We are on the verge of another Great Depression! The credit markets are freezing up! We have totally screwed up!

World: Ok, Ok. That sounds bad. What are you going to do?

US: Oh My God! Incompetent investment bankers have invested trillions of dollars in mortgage loans that will never be paid back! All our banks have foolishly invested their net worth and then some in valueless mortgage backed securities! All our banks are about to fail!

World: That does sound bad. I'm getting kind of worried. What are you going to do?

US: Oh, My God! It is the end of civilization. Capitalism, the free market, the American way of life, it is all in danger of ending!

World: Gee. That does not sound good. Should I buy gold? What are you going to do?

US: Oh My God! Oh My God! Oh My God!

World: Yes, you said that.

US: Oh My God! Oh My God! Oh My God!

World: Yes, you said that. But what are you going to do? Are you going to lead the world out of darkness like in World War II?

US: Oh My God! Everyone should be panicking in the streets! It's the

Great Depression again. We have blown trillions of dollars in foolish real estate market speculation!

World: Well, yes, you have said this. What are you going to do? Surprise the world like you did by bringing an end to the Cold War without firing a shot?

US: There is hope! Hooray! Hooray! US Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, one of the investment bankers responsible for the mess, has a brilliant plan!

World: He does?

US: Yes, we are going to spend \$700 billion to bailout the incompetent investment bankers who created this mess so they can keep running our economy!

World: Hunh?

US: Thank God! Thank God in Heaven! Hank has come up with a brilliant plan worthy of Washington or Lincoln to save America! Look, if this plan is not passed, it is the end of the world! Another Great Depression! Panic in the streets! Runs on banks! Starvation! Famine! 1929 all over again!

World: It is really that bad?

US: Absolutely. We have screwed up like a bunch of drunken idiots! The only cure for our utter stupidity is to give the incompetent investment bankers more money!

World (looking just a little skeptical): Are you sure about that?

US: What the @\$%% is your problem? This is the only answer!

World (looking more skeptical): Are you really sure?

US: Look, we know what we are doing and we are going to spend \$700 billion to reward the nitwits responsible for this fiasco! It's our way or the highway, bub!

World (looking nervously at their portfolio filled with US Treasury bonds and dollars): Look, are you sure about this?

US: Look, our policy of rewarding incompetence is the only possible solution to this crisis! It is the end of the world as we know it! Runs on insolvent banks, mass bankruptcies, total economic collapse, did I mention panic in the streets?

World (quietly typing SELL, SELL, SELL, into their collective laptops): Yes, I definitely got that part.

US (scowling): Good!

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