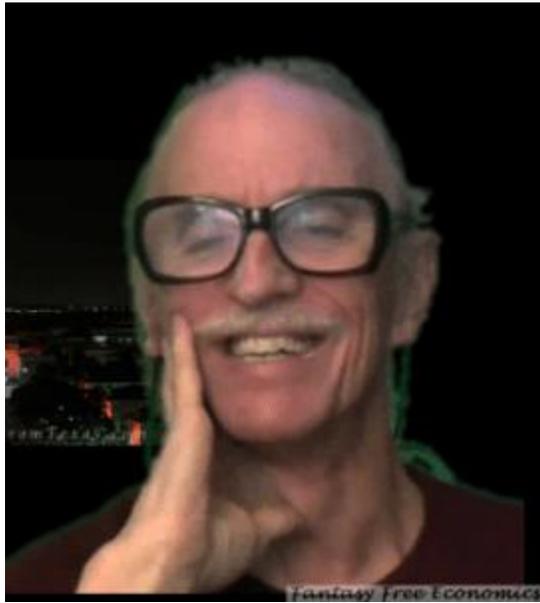


The Price Of Safety Security And Freedom

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What is interesting about safety and security is that human beings will pay almost any amount to avoid living in fear and feeling vulnerable. They will pay as high a price for the perception of safety and security as the real thing. The difference is not easily discernible.

Does government provide safety and security? It can and does sometimes but it is more likely to provide the perception only. Who knows the difference? It is the feeling that counts. Where do they look to get it? They look in the same place all animals look. That is the herd's leadership. It may be the head male in a pride of lions, or the most powerful male water buffalo. With human beings it is their government. In any case, to the ordinary herd

members, the cost is staggering.

Here is the way it works with humans. Humans pay money but with every increment of more safety and security they have to give up part of their freedom. For armed forces they give up some but it is worth it? Every time more safety and security are opted for, more freedom is given up. A guaranteed income takes away even more freedom. All of this comes at a high monetary cost. Eventually folks want the guarantee that others won't call them names. That is the case today.

The price of safety and security is so high, it is very profitable to provide these things or just their perception. Government agencies grow in size. As the agencies get large, those which sell goods and services to them lobby government for more, more and more. This is so profitable that techniques of scaring people into believing they are vulnerable emerge. Folks get out their checkbooks.

Then the private sector gets involved. New services evolve to protect people from everything from identity theft to home security. All kinds of ads that scare you start appearing.

Feeling warm and cozy whether you are actually safe or not comes at a very high price. One thing people are happy to give up is freedom. After all, what is freedom for other than achieving safety and security. So you feel warm and cozy. Who needs freedom?

After all, isn't feeling warm and cozy the goal anyway? Who needs freedom any more after a big dose of feeling safe and secure.