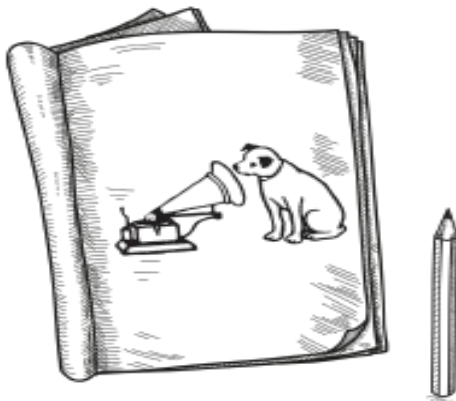


the Solari Report

Using Bitcoin and Stablecoins to Expand
Dollar Dominance
with Whitney Webb and Mark Goodwin

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Transcript



Catherine Austin Fitts: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *The Solari Report*. I'm joined today by two people who need no introduction. One is Whitney Webb, the editor and investigative journalist who leads Unlimited Hangout, and Mark Goodwin, the editor of *Bitcoin Magazine*. You two have been just doing one after amazing publications, articles, interviews, and videos. I would say during the latest round of the presidential election derangement, if it weren't for you two, I don't think I would have felt sane. You kept me sane and coherent throughout Butler's mania.

I feel like you're two of the voices who are so clear about what's going on. Whitney, I wanted to start with your wonderful two-volume book about Epstein because one of the things we're watching and all of the events that are occurring around the election, and there are many wacky financial proposals, including on Bitcoin and crypto that we're going to talk about today. It always leads back to these same money laundering networks. Of course, the mother of all money laundering networks in the last two decades is the Epstein network.

Maybe we could start by reminding everybody about your history of studying and writing the history of one of the most important factions in the rackets, American organized crime.

Whitney Webb: Essentially, one of the key takeaways from my book is that the sex crimes of Jeffrey Epstein are only half the story because he acted more throughout his very lengthy career, which precedes the sexual blackmail aspect by decades. He was essentially a financial hitman, a money launderer, an expert in tax evasion for a wealthy group of New York City oligarchs, or at least oligarchs with a major presence in New York City, where Epstein historically has been based despite the other residences in places like Palm Beach and New Mexico, but a lot of intelligence connections related to those financial abilities of Epstein.

As a result of the extreme, what I would argue, myopic focus on just the sex crimes, the salacious aspect of the Epstein story. There's been very little critical reporting on Epstein's role in the world of finance and Wall Street. Some of the things I did after my book came out, including a two-part series on Jamie Dimon that was graciously sponsored by *The Solari Report*. Essentially, Jamie Dimon traces back to the Epstein networks as well, whether it's the group around Leslie Wexner that produced New Albany, Ohio, along with Epstein,

people like John Kessler, for example. Also, the crown family that has historic ties to organized crime that runs the military contractor General Dynamics, for example, are the people that essentially installed Jamie Dimon as head of Bank One, whose merger with JP Morgan led him to be the CEO of JP Morgan.

Essentially, Jamie Dimon is a mob-made man, and Epstein was part of the same modern iteration of the mob, which is what my books are about. This shows how the actual mob that is recognized by the public as the mob has morphed into something that now the public views as philanthropists and financiers when they're still the same mob, and there's direct historical continuity. I'm showing that.

Unfortunately, in my book, I got to 1000 pages following Epstein's timeline from the beginning through 2007 because I also devoted volume one essentially in its entirety to the network that brought Epstein in. Obviously, Epstein is not an anomaly. He's part of something that's much bigger than him.

Fitts: Right. I would say it this way: He's part of a very deep network that has been producing very high margins for American business for a long, long time.

Webb: Yes, unfortunately, because I had that limitation, I was unable to put in a lot of my research that follows Epstein's activities post-2007. A lot of those are very significant as it relates to finance and what's going on right now. It includes things like Epstein's only interview about Bitcoin that he gave, which was, I believe, in 2017, when he made those very positive statements about Bitcoin as an asset class, but not a currency—essentially echoing Larry Fink's views on Bitcoin since his dramatic about-face last year as it relates to the Bitcoin ETF play.

Also, around the time Epstein was arrested in 2019, there were reports that he was advising the Treasury Department on things like digital currencies. This is very significant when you consider that he was intimately close to Joi Ito of MIT Media Lab, who had an outsized role in creating the Digital Currency Initiative, which is directly influencing the regulatory environment right now.

Fitts: We've known it was MIT. Gensler was at MIT, working with the Boston Fed on the prototype for the Fed on CBDC.

Webb: Right. I believe that the MIT Digital Currency Initiative was actually doing that.

Mark Goodwin: Yes, I believe it was called Project Hamilton. There were two official digital dollar projects: Project Hamilton, which was retail-facing, and Project Cedar, which was more about tokenized deposits.

Webb: There was also, in that same line of reporting about Epstein being an advisor or having some role with the Treasury, that also, when the UN General Assembly would meet, heads of state and finance ministers from around the world would line up outside Epstein's home. These statements have not really been scrutinized by the media. The two points I just mentioned all come from a single *Wall Street Journal* article, but the scrutiny stopped there, which is very telling. There's just so much to look into as it relates to Epstein and these networks as it relates to digital finance.

Some of our recent work has focused on looking at these networks and a lot of the connections they have to the Epstein crowd because so much of this infrastructure of digital finance is being built by Silicon Valley in large part. The biggest names in Silicon Valley all had Epstein connections, whether Peter Thiel, Google, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, or Elon Musk. Several of them were subpoenaed as part of the USVI (US Virgin Islands) JP Morgan case involving Epstein. JP Morgan paid millions to settle to keep it out of the courtroom. Even Jeff Bezos had ties to Ghislaine Maxwell. It was very extensive. Reid Hoffman, of course, is another big figure tied to Epstein. It was so many of them, and it can't be a coincidence.

Fitts: Two things are happening coming out of the financial crisis. Epstein started in the '90s, but clearly, a network that's pumping through a huge amount of money coming out of the financial crisis, we see the Bitcoin and crypto markets begin and seeded. There needs to be more information still to this day about who started it and where the early money came to prime the pump. To this day, do we know who owns the outstanding inventory of Bitcoin?

Goodwin: I think that the concept of the birth of where it came from is very obvious, and there are a lot of connections to the NSA, the CIA, and the American intelligence community. I think there's a lot of good research on why all these Manhattan Project people at Princeton in this tiny town in New Jersey, working on von Neumann publishing game theory economic pieces in '43 when he should have been working on the bomb. Why were they doing all these things? If you split the atom, you have this miracle energy source. Let's make energy money, which is essentially what they did.

John Nash is working on Ideal Money, which is the idea behind this disinflationary monetary concept, an economic policy that takes it out of the state's hands and sets it to an algorithmic deflationary system, which is obviously what Bitcoin is. Then you look at the NSA working on these encryption algorithms, SHA-256 being the one that Bitcoin uses, which the NSA developed. You see David Chaum working on digital cash. Many of the cypherpunk people had a lot of connections with US intelligence. Then you actually look at who owns all the Bitcoin now? Who really has it? It's mostly within the US. Absolutely. Especially now with the re-onshoring via the ETFs, the BlackRock one specifically.

Fitts: It looks like the ETFs are drawing more of the Bitcoin back into the US.

Goodwin: Exactly. 100%. The person who's considered the patient zero of Silicon Valley, who introduced everybody, Peter Thiel and all these other people: Wences Casares, an Argentinian, who we already brought up in this interview, but he built Xapo Bank, which was infamous for their ridiculous security measures for holding private keys. If you want to build this Bitcoin-backed system, understand Bitcoin is an energy commodity. Ultimately, they want to build the next evolution of the petrodollar system, where we artificially created a demand for dollars by creating a de facto monopoly on purchasing this underlying energy commodity?'

We recreated that exact same thing with Bitcoin. A very important part of that, obviously, is you have to have really high security for the private keys. If you want to pump this asset class to be a multi-trillion dollar asset class, you 'damn well' better secure it.

Wences Casares, having, the phrase is orange-pilled, all these billionaires, and now all of a sudden, they hold billions of dollars of Bitcoin, they all asked him, "Hey, can you figure out how to keep our Bitcoin safe?" He developed all of these things. He worked with an intelligence-linked satellite company, Satellogic, about which we've written, to put private keys, split them up, and put them into space. He built big Swiss bunkers in Gibraltar. We had all these biometric fingerprint scanners with a pulse reader on them, so you couldn't just cut off someone's hand and use it. They had to be alive. All of these very absurd things, he built this whole custodial solution and then sold it to Coinbase in 2019, which is they work with the DOJ and the marshals.

Webb: Yes, they custody the US government.

Goodwin: They custody the U.S. government's Bitcoin.

Fitts: Let me stop for a moment.

There are 90% or so of the ETFs, exchange-traded funds, on Wall Street that own Bitcoin, so instead of getting a wallet or an account on an exchange, I can go to Fidelity or Schwab, click and point, and buy Bitcoin in the form of a stock, right?

Goodwin: Yes.

Fitts: Fidelity or BlackRock have to worry about being the custodian. 90% plus of the volume of the ETFs right now are custodians at Coinbase custody. Now, and I will do this slowly and carefully, the US marshals manage the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund. The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund has seized over 200,000 Bitcoin and chose Coinbase Custody as their custodian. Now we have the Department of Justice and Wall Street sharing one custodian.

Webb: Yes, and isn't it interesting?

Fitts: Do you have any idea how frightening that feels to me?

Webb: Adding to that, when Trump was in office under Steve Mnuchin, there were direct discussions, I believe, direct meetings between the Treasury Department with Coinbase and Xapo specifically. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and top advisor, had openly discussed with Mnuchin the possibility of creating the USD currency or USDC before Circles USDC dollar Stablecoin even existed. This was coming from a Sam Altman blog post. Of course, Sam Altman is one of Peter Thiel's main proteges, who is also very involved in this space.

Wences is frequently referred to as the Peter Thiel of Latin America and has an extreme amount of connections to the so-called PayPal Mafia of which Peter Thiel is part, which is what we discussed in our last report; this Endeavor network that's tied to people like Reid Hoffman of PayPal Mafia fame and also Pierre Omidyar who bought PayPal from Peter Thiel and Elon Musk and the other co-founders of PayPal and who is the creator of eBay, which has always

been essentially very intertwined with PayPal at least for more than 20 years.

Fitts: Now, the ETFs are growing tremendously. Let's turn to Bitcoin 2024 because you wrote a fabulous article about Trump's speech. We saw RFK give a speech at Bitcoin 2024, and we saw Trump. I was thinking you were going to give a speech. You were there last year but weren't there this year.

Webb: Yes.

Fitts: Yes, there would have been a bit more sanity. I wish you could have spoken. We saw RFK give a speech, and I wrote a series of questions, and then Trump gave a speech. I did watch it. You two wrote a great article about it. Tell us what happened at Bitcoin 2024 regarding what the candidates proposed.

Goodwin: I think most interestingly, obviously, there's generally a huge signpost here. When the private sector is the mover and shakers that push around the public sector, like Larry Fink and BlackRock, come into the Bitcoin space, that was huge.

Fitts: I should mention Larry Fink and BlackRock have by far and away the largest Bitcoin ETF.

Goodwin: Yes, it is the fastest-growing ETF in the history of ETFs within the United States. Surpassed silver within weeks. 'Crazy'. Yes, fastest-growing. Very insane. That happened in January. We see that, as Whitney said, "This about-face." We see the public sector not yet jump in, but the private sector that pushes these people around is in. Now we're seeing Trump going to Truth Social, doing his thing, saying, "Hey, let's get this voter block. Let's move in." Now we're seeing, presumably, I'd say the leading candidate to be the next president, coming out and very specifically saying, "We're going to find a way to pay this \$35 trillion of debt, and we'll cut them a Bitcoin check, a crypto check," I believe was the phrase he used a couple of days after his speech. This speech was his coming out party to the Bitcoin space. Now, many of us paying attention know that he's a rhetoric versus action person.

Webb: Spoken nicely.

Goodwin: I try to be nice. While in government, he tweeted infamously, "I don't like Bitcoin. It competes with the dollar. I like the dollar. I don't like Bitcoin." What did he actually do? He brought in Mnuchin, who brought in

Brian Brooks, who worked with him at OneWest and brought in him, who, at that point, was the VP of Coinbase. Brian Brooks is the OCC and puts out a bulletin saying that banks are allowed to hold crypto assets, specifically, another bulletin on Stablecoins. Then, as Whitney brought up, Kushner talked to Mnuchin, "Hey, maybe we should look into Stablecoins."

The administration made it legal for banks to custody crypto assets. Despite what he's tweeting out, a lot of people misunderstand the rhetoric of Trump initially tweeting out being anti-Bitcoin, but really, his administration made holding crypto assets and specifically Stablecoins legal within the framework of the United States regulatory system, which, again, is the cops of the financial system of the world. They came in and said it's okay for these big administrations or, rather, these big infrastructure holders, asset holders, to custody Bitcoin and Stablecoins. In the speech, he came out and did it again; he was doing his rhetoric play. He came out and said, "We're going to ban CBDCs." The crowd went wild; everyone went crazy. They're loving it; they're eating it up. Three sentences later, he's like, "How many people have heard of Stablecoins? Raise your hand. Stablecoins, we're going to use Stablecoins." Everyone raises their hand. Everyone knows what they are.

Webb: To expand the dollar globally.

Goodwin: Right. Trump has many connections with Howard Lutnick, the CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and the largest security settler. Obviously, there's the DTCC (The Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation), which actually settles all these things, but Cantor is hugely important in the treasury market.

Fitts: I haven't looked recently, but traditionally, it's the leading dealer in the US treasury market.

Goodwin: 70% of US treasuries are Cantor

Fitts: Huge.

Goodwin: It's wild. He also made a speech there, and he holds all the T-bills, the short-duration bonds for the largest Stablecoin issuer, Tether.

Fitts: If I want to transact day-to-day with Bitcoin because the price is volatile, that could cause me problems. If I buy a Stablecoin, Stablecoin is designed to make sure the price is much less volatile. We take Tether: I buy a dollar worth

of Tether (cryptocurrency stablecoin) and that money is put in treasury bonds. It's basically collateralized by dollars. Therefore, the price is relatively stable compared to Bitcoin, right?

Goodwin: 100%.

Fitts: I would want to own a Stablecoin because I want to transact all over the world without paying wire fees or other costs. That's what a Stablecoin is and why I would want to own it. Is that correct?

Goodwin: Yes. There's a large rhetoric play of pushing Stablecoins as being this altruistic, "We are banking the unbanked. We're going to the global south that doesn't have access to our Wells Fargo accounts."

Fitts: It's a new mission.

Goodwin: Yes. It's the new mission. The new missionaries are here to help you.

Fitts: Yes, we are here to help you.

Goodwin: Tether-paid. Exactly. "Hey, look at this really cool thing that we have. You just use your smartphone. That's all you need." As if that's a good thing. "All you need is your smartphone, and you have banking access; you have dollar access. It's so great." What really is a Stablecoin? You just described the economics of the Stablecoin perfectly; a one-to-one peg of a dollar liability. What is it really? It's a survivable, programmable, seasonable digital dollar instrument. Everyone hates CBDCs because they're survivable, programmable, and seasonable. They just don't like it because the central bank and the governments: the public sector are in charge. Why is the private sector bank, which was the people that started mixing insurance and mortgages and all the 'crap' that happened in Glass Steagall, that all these people are still a part of this?

You look at the original Xapo board; it's John Reed of Citi, Larry Summers, and Dee Hock. It's many of these people that were a big part of this deregulation push. Now, these private banks that got to take advantage of the deregulation that led to the '08 crisis and all of this money printing are here and building these private bank digital currencies. For some reason, this is altruistic good; this is this wonderful instrument that we're bringing so gracefully to the global south. Again, they have a lot more ability to restrict customer access because they're in the private sector than in the public sector.

You brought up in your questions to RFK that many of these things aren't really legal. There's certain insurance things, there's certain policies that public sector banking infrastructure people have to play with, that there's constitutional protections for customers, for public sector companies. Private sector companies don't really have that. Whitney's done all of this work on how you look at who built these social networks' surveillance state. They all really started in the public sector and then moved to the private sector because it gave them more ability to push people around.

Fitts: I want to focus everybody listening or reading this. One of the reasons I love the work that Mark and Whitney have been doing and recommend it to you is they keep bringing us back to who, not just what. It's digital currency, or it's CBDC, or it's programmable currency, but who? Who's doing this? Who controls? Whose platform are you playing on? I think that's what you keep reminding people. It's not just what it is or how it works; it's who's in control. Who owns this? Who has your money? Who's in charge? I was trained in the financial system, and the first question we asked was, who? We have yet to look at the financial statements. We were like, who owns it? Who's on the board? Who governs? Who manages? Who's who? The financials were irrelevant if it didn't pass the “who” test. What you people are trying to bring your readers and your audience back to is the fact that it matters who you are doing business with. Right?

Webb: Absolutely.

Fitts: There are a whole bunch of ‘private guys’ who are even worse than the ‘public guys’.

Webb: The point here is that Tether is framed as a private issuer of dollars. It's really a public-private partnership at this point. They've onboarded the FBI and Secret Service to their platform, both of which are technically intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies.

Goodwin: They're facilitating a lot of seizures and access to information.

Webb: Yes. On behalf of the treasury and being a tool of American government sanctions and, by extension, American foreign policy. Obviously, the dollar Stablecoins that Tether issues come with a catch. They've been very explicit that their goal is to be a great partner for the US government to expand

dollar hegemony globally. There is plenty of effort from this broader PayPal group and also from Tether, which has a significant amount of overlap, to basically onboard hyper-inflating economies in Latin America, some of which are a direct consequence of American government sanctions.

Much of what's gone on in Venezuela and Argentina is due to policies either of the US government in terms of sanctions or to entities like the IMF, which are US-dominated. This economic warfare against these economies for decades is now being used to onboard a lot of the people there to a stable currency. Essentially, it's, by and large, been these dollar Stablecoins.

Fitts: Do you think Stablecoins gives them the power to do much more in the way of sanctions?

Webb: Yes, because it's programmable, survivable, seasonable currency, just like what the concerns around CBDCs are. Those same things exist with Tether and are being utilized that way by Tether. Many people, particularly in the Bitcoin media space, criticize the debt-based monetary system and fiat in general but are very keen to promote Tether, specifically because there is a lot of overlap between Tether and Bitcoin. You see it a lot in places like El Salvador, for example.

It's important to keep in mind too, that Tether, specifically, is morphing to something much more than just a Stablecoin issuer. They are now investing in brain-machine interfaces in this company that we mentioned earlier, Satellogic, which is part of the Endeavor network. Howard Lutnick of Cantor Fitzgerald is on the board. The chair of the board is Steve Mnuchin. Then also on the board is the joint Chiefs of Staff under Trump, so one of the top military officials. Under Trump is the board of the Satellogic company that as we previously reported as involved in this broader effort to impose a carbon market on Latin America and build out a shared smart power grid between North, South, and Central America.

It seems like a lot of the overlap between those networks and what's going on in El Salvador. El Salvador is in a beta test for this; it's a dollarized economy that's been coed by the CIA numerous times. It seems like it's been a beta test for much of this stuff where it's framed publicly as being like Bitcoin only or Bitcoin adoption, but it has all these ties to other entities like Tether and also to something like Algorand, which is run by a woman, Staci Warden who used to

work for Michael Milken at the Milken Institute, and I believe was a big JP Morgan debt baroness in Latin America for some time.

Fitts: In the '90s, there was an effort to get the hedge funds and the offshore funds to balloon their balance sheet with treasuries. It was really a game to create large new markets for US treasuries. It appears like they're doing the same thing with the Stablecoins. Is that correct? You're just ballooning the balance sheet?

Goodwin: They're 100% doing that. Now that the yield curve has sort of inverted where, because of a high inflationary environment where you're losing more than 2% a year in purchasing value, like the 30-year bonds, the bread and butter of the US debt market, no one's buying them anymore. There's no reason to. The yield curve is completely inverted and you're getting more money holding a 30-day T-bill, a higher yield, five and a half percent or whatever it is now versus a couple percent of these 30-year bonds. All of the buying that is in the debt market, selling these treasuries is in short duration; it's all these T-bill buyers.

Who's buying these T-bills? The fastest growing market demand of these short-duration bonds is Stablecoin issuers. They're gobbling it up. It's that insatiable. We're close to \$200 billion now. Then you look at who's our biggest creditors. It's Japan and China that are always pecking one and two back and forth, whatever. China's at \$800 billion, and I think Japan's a little over a trillion dollars.

Fitts: China's dropped from \$3 trillion, so it's been a long time coming. The biggest buyer is the US pension funds—everybody's retirement account.

Goodwin: Right. Now these Stablecoins would be, I think, the 17th largest nation-state holding.

Fitts: It's growing fast, isn't it?

Goodwin: Super-fast; unbelievably quickly. In 2020, Tether's market cap was \$10 billion, and now they're at like \$150 billion, in this short period of time.

Fitts: What I heard Trump say at Bitcoin 2024 is we're going to use Stablecoin to sell US treasuries to the world, and we're going to take over the world with US treasuries that are fronted by Stablecoin. That's what I heard.

Goodwin: Yes, I think so. I think the CBDC played because it's so publicly; the rhetoric is that everyone hates CBDCs. It's a very obvious thing; it's a very, "Oh, it's so Orwellian for the government to have capital creation." The government doesn't want to do that; they're lazy. They don't want to have retail-facing accounts. There are all these companies that are 'chomping at the bit' to have more dollars and more retail accounts, and more ability to have private capital creation. That's what the dollar system is; the dollar system has been digital for a very long time, and the dollar creation has been in the hands of private banks for a very long time. What they back them with are treasuries. Now the treasury has a newfound buyer. They don't have to spend any of this money having an 1800 number or a hotline for, "Oh, hey. I lost my wallet." You don't have to do any of that. They just give it to PayPal, they give it to Tether, or they give it to Bank of America. What will happen is we will have an incoming boom of highly regulated Stablecoins.

We're positioning as if we're looking at PYUSD, which is PayPal Stablecoin. You look at the way PayPal has been acquiring companies. They just acquired Zoom, Z-O-O-M, which is one of the largest cross-border payment companies. They acquired Venmo. With a 'flip of a switch', they can take all the dollars in your e-mail and your Venmo account, and your Zoom account and turn them into a Stablecoin, and they'll be able to buy up all the treasuries and get a 5.5% yield that they don't have to transfer to the consumer; they can hold onto those, in the case of all of these major Stablecoin providers.

Fitts: It's a rigged arbitrage.

Goodwin: They make all this money, and then they get to keep that yield. Anytime they want to create more dollars and print more, they buy more treasuries. Then as Whitney brought up, this is the private-public partnership because you talked about, "Does this give more opportunity for sanction?" Of course, it does, but also, if Tether wants to hold, or Cantor Fitzgerald wants to hold \$100 billion of treasury's debt from the US government, they better 'play ball' with the US government, or the US government can seize it.

Fitts: Absolutely.

Goodwin: Just stop selling them. They become, in effect, an arm of the US treasury system.

Fitts: How many of those are going to be a custodian at the same custody? How much is Coinbase Custody going to be just one cloud?

Webb: It's looking that way?

Goodwin: I think so.

Fitts: This is looking highly centralized.

Goodwin: This is that rhetoric play of, "Hey, Bitcoin's decentralized. It's defanging the central banks; it's doing.." No. Where does it really push the control? It pushes it to infrastructure providers; it pushes it towards who runs the ISPs, who runs the data centers, who produces the chips, and who produces the energy that the chips run on. That's the decentralized market. The energy game has been run by centralized forces forever. The internet service is becoming more centralized every day because they're laying all these fiber optic cables. Facebook, Amazon, and Google are not losing their head start because it gets more and more centralized as they gain more and more power. They buy out more and more of these ISPs across the world. Facebook is wrapping Africa basically in fiber optic cables and running their whole infrastructure play of the whole continent.

Fitts: One of the things that was interesting was that RFK did not mention it, but Trump did mention that this was going to require huge amounts of energy. He was going to solve the problem by 'drill baby drill' and nuclear power.

Webb: Nuclear!

Fitts: He did admit that there is energy consumption. One of the stories we're covering on *Money and Markets* is Microsoft's doubled energy use between 2020 and 2023.

Webb: Interesting. How much of that is from this generative AI thing, though? I wonder.

Fitts: I think it's mostly AI is my guess. So I want to talk about Trojan Horse reforms because one of the great things you've made so clear in the last month is we see so many people saying, "Oh, Trump's against central financial control. He is against CBDC." To do any central control, you need a digital ID. Trump is out there promoting digital ID as a solution to immigration. There was some

talk about election fraud, but they seem to have settled on immigration. Tell us a little about who's saying what about the digital ID.

Webb: Trump, when he was in office the first time, is the only president thus far to issue an executive order to advance the biometric entry-exit tracking system for American citizens, and also non-citizens coming and leaving the country that was originally part of the policy package of the Patriot Act. It advanced a good deal under Trump, and he's made it very explicit that he plans to advance it much more. Much of this is going to come to fruition through the so-called Smart Wall on the US-Mexico border because when Trump was in office for the first time, he abandoned the pledge for a physical barrier on the US-Mexico border and embraced the Smart Wall, which previously had been the Democrats answer to Trump's physical barrier policy. Actually, it's a bipartisan policy and has been for some time. Its biggest advocates in Congress seem to have a rather unusual habit of having previously been analysts for the CIA; what do you know?

Fitts: Isn't Thiel's Company going to do the sensors?

Webb: A company that's intimately tied to Peter Thiel, that's funded by Peter Thiel has one of Peter Thiel's top lieutenants, if you will. Founders Fund Trae Stephens is a co-founder of it. The other co-founder is a Thiel fellow named Palmer Luckey, who produced the virtual reality system, Oculus Rift that was sold to Facebook, which Peter Thiel intimately connected with the rise of Facebook and was on the board of Facebook when that acquisition was made. Palmer Luckey and Trae Stephens teamed up during the Trump administration to produce their defense contractor, Anduril, which not only produces the virtual border wall but also produces autonomous drones that are being used in Ukraine. They interface with another Thiel-linked company called Clearview AI, which has scraped Facebook again, which is connected to both Luckey and Thiel for everyone's picture to develop their very Orwellian facial recognition database, and in their sales pitch, brag about helping law enforcement identify everyone that was at the Capitol on January 6th, 2021. Essentially, these are companies that I have argued act as honeypots or honey traps, if you will.

Fitts: I would describe them as defense contractors.

Webb: -for Trump supporters

Fitts: Their business is defense and control.

Goodwin: Sure.

Webb: They're very bipartisan.

Fitts: It's war and control.

Webb: Palmer Luckey's Anduril, not unlike Palantir, is also in this network. They frame themselves as America first, and we love the military, and we are pro-Western, but they're very bipartisan. Anduril also praised the Biden administration because both parties gave them insanely lucrative contracts. It's a bipartisan thing, even though they've linked themselves up more visibly publicly with maybe the Trump sphere, they're very much 'in bed' with both parties, regardless of who's in power, they receive extensive contracts.

Goodwin: I think the bipartisan push towards the biometric surveillance state is that. They've done such a good job at controlling the narrative that now, the right, which was so against all of this in the COVID era, is now begging for smart walls and drones that scan people's faces and digital IDs at the border as they framed this as an invasion.

Fitts: It's not just the border, but everyone.

Webb: It's framed as a military-style invasion.

Fitts: If I say, "I'm going to take everybody who's here illegally and throw them out," that means I have to scan everybody and everything, right?

Webb: Yes.

Fitts: It's everywhere.

Webb: I think that's part of the play. The whole rhetoric around it is that the border's been porous for a long time, including when Trump was in office before and, of course, under Biden. It's a crisis that's been allowed to happen, but only in a shorter time; the media has put rhetoric around it and framed it in these military terms, which I would argue is aimed at manufacturing consent for military-style solutions. Since the right, the Republican party, historically, their main talking points are about being tough on crime, tough on immigration, and all that. Those are the metrics under which they plan to sell digital IDs, as well

as rampant concerns throughout the Republican base about voter fraud.

A few months ago, you had one of Trump's campaign lawyers going on a significantly large podcast talking about the need to have biometric facial scans for voter ID, which would solve the voter ID issue. Why can't we just use driver's licenses or physical IDs like we've had for a long time? That could also solve the problem without inviting in all this Orwellian garbage. Unfortunately, Trump, like every other candidate, regardless of the party, is beholden to Silicon Valley billionaires who want this digital grid in place, and both parties are committed to fulfilling Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals, which fund digital ID.

Fitts: I have to bring this up: We don't have to cover it because I wrote out all my questions for RFK. Trump's speech was very bullish about Bitcoin and Stablecoin, but in terms of real specific governmental policies, he only proposed that the marshals stop selling in the asset forfeiture fund. In that, you're supposed to sell as soon as you can. He said no, he would stop and have them keep it. RFK came up with a series of proposals, as far as I know, that are illegal: Radical violations of constitutional and financial management laws, which were so flaky that they were unbelievable. He was proposing to take massive amounts of taxpayers' money, which is 100% of the people, their retirement savings, and their taxes, and put it all in Bitcoin, which is owned by a relatively much smaller portion of the population, thus enabling whoever the large holders still are, to get out.

It was a refinance; let's refinance the big holders out in a way that drives the market up. He proposed that his proposals would send the market up over an exponential increase of 100 times or more than 100 times. Which is, in my world, when you talk about pumping a market that way with taxpayer's money, you're considered to be the Wolf of Wall Street behavior. Trump was very bullish and did not promise any hard currency. RFK made some rather wild hard currency proposals. Do you think, who in the world talked him into doing this? I keep going back to Silicon Valley.

Goodwin: Yes. Look at his VP choice (RFK's): Nicole Shanahan, who was formerly involved with Sergey Brin.

Webb: Married to Sergey Brin.

Goodwin: Married to Sergey Brin, has some connections with Elon as well, but is currently married to an ex-executive at Lightning Labs, which is a Bitcoin infrastructure provider who's building specifically the Lightning Network that is the payments Layer 2 solution to Bitcoin. That is specifically the product they're working on, which is bringing stable coins to Bitcoin, and doing the Finky and the Larry Fink narrative of using Bitcoin as a ledger for asset storage rather than, "Hey, it's not really a currency, it's a storage value, so we're going to use the ledger." That's all Bitcoin is; it's just a database. That's all money really is; it's just a ledger. "Here is a new novel decentralized ledger, and we're going to use the little ledger brackets basically, where you can put bits and bytes." Normally, you would put the spending conditions of your transaction, but in this case, Lightning Labs specifically inscribed in these data entry plots in the ledger an ability to hold dollar-tokenized instruments within Bitcoin itself.

Fitts: Let me get your help with this so that the people who are newer to the topic understand. Bitcoin transacts with the blockchain approximately seven transactions a second. Is that right?

Goodwin: Yes. Something like that. If you're doing basically full-condition expense, something like that, more or less.

Fitts: Visa can do 24,000 a second.

Goodwin: Yes.

Fitts: The goal of the Lightning Network is to close the gap, so to speak. Is that fair to say?

Goodwin: Yes, that's a good way to put it. Basically, instead of doing one transaction on Bitcoin every time you want to settle anything, with Lightning, you open up payment channels so two or three parties can transact together.

Fitts: So you could do many little transactions quickly.

Goodwin: Exactly; millions, infinitely. It's however fast the latency between the two parties can ping. Basically, you create a new ledger on top of Bitcoin, and you have infinite little IOUs back and forth, and then whenever you want to settle, you settle back down. Bitcoin is considered scaling in layers. Lightning is built on top of a Bitcoin transaction, and then there are little IOUs that pass back and forth, and then you settle back to Bitcoin.

Fitts: Now, is it fair to say that Silicon Valley is an important source of campaign donations?

Goodwin: Hugely so.

Webb: They dominate. Like Pierre Omidyar, Reid Hoffman, eBay, and PayPal Mafia dominate a lot of Democratic party donations. On the Republican side, you have what I tend to call the Peter Thiel Vance, which now includes Elon Musk and David Sacks. Thiel himself isn't directly donating to Trump, but one of his proteges is his VP pick, J.D. Vance. His influence is sizable. You have Republicans or Silicon Valley donors on both sides. In the case of RFK, you have a Silicon Valley-linked VP pick again. Also, I believe one of his top donors is Tim Mellon, a member of the Mellon Banking Dynasty.

Goodwin: We know it's a purple party. We've always known it's not red versus blue; it's a purple party. We have the blues: who's running Biden's tech administration? It's Eric Schmidt. Then Trump says, "I don't have a computer. Someone prints out my e-mails, and I read them with a Diet Coke in the morning." He has this whole thing of being this grandpa who doesn't know how computers work, but his group knows how computers work. That's basically Thiel-Vance. You have Schmidt and Thiel being the red versus blue.

Fitts: They're both on the steering committee of Bilderberg Meetings (promoting free market capitalism around the globe).

Goodwin: Exactly. It's this total false dichotomy, always. The purple party goes on and does whatever they want.

Fitts: At Bitcoin 2024, I felt like I was watching an auction. The candidates were auctioning off the federal credit to please the purple party.

Goodwin: I would say they're going to do whatever they want. I think that's something that this is about manufacturing consent for what they're going to do anyway. Do they want to manufacture consent for the alt-right? The people with guns are the Christian national group in the United States. They want to buy their consent for biometric IDs, Digital surveillance, and currencies.

Webb: With the armed resistance, you make them think they've won. Their guy is in office; the person they want in office who will support them is in power. In reality, both parties are owned by Wall Street and Silicon Valley, which are

coming increasingly together in the world of FinTech. It's important to remember that in 2008, with the first round of bailouts, since the new millennium was Blackrock.

I was about to talk about Trump. In 2008, after the financial crisis, Obama, a Democrat, 'hope and change' Democrat, was a big part of BlackRock's bailouts. Then Trump is in office. He's 'hope and change', but the Republican's flavor in the 2016 election. When there's a crisis, which started before COVID, but with the repo market collapse at the end of 2019. Through COVID, BlackRock came into play to essentially design what will happen. It's a good indicator, I would argue, of how both parties are really beholden to this apparatus.

Not to necessarily pick on Trump more than the Democrats because they're all run by the same banking cabal, I would argue. Wall Street has bailed out Trump on multiple occasions. When he was bailed out in the early '90s by Wall Street, the bankers bailed him out, one of whom Wilbur Ross, he rewarded later by making him head of the Commerce Department. They said that the reason they bailed out Trump, even though there was no financial sense in doing so, is the Trump name; Trump is a character who was still an asset to them. I think that's a lot of what we've been seeing or what we saw in Trump's first term was Tim repaying those favors. It seems likely that he will continue to do that in the second term because it reminds me a lot of what happened with 'hope and change' and Obama, and then 'hope and change' Republicans, later Trump, where after Obama showed you who he was in the first term. You had all these people coming out and apologizing and making up all these excuses for why he didn't fulfill any of his campaign promises and did the opposite. This, of course, was before it came out that Citigroup had picked Obama's whole cabinet after they helped cause the financial crisis with the repeal of Glass-Steagall and all of that, and Robert Rubin. Then he got in and is worse. I think we'll likely see the same thing with Trump.

Fitts: I do have to bring this back to Israel because Israel has been a major player in the development of Bitcoin, a major player in Trump's life, a major player in Congress's life, and a major player in RFK and the current administration's lives. The way I see it, Israel and Netanyahu have always wanted to be leaders in the IT infrastructure for digital money and cyber security.

Webb: Absolutely.

Fitts: Right. They're in this mix, too.

Webb: I argue that's definitely true, and it goes back to, really, it's much deeper than wanting to be at the core of IT and fintech. It's being at the core of IT. This has been a major agenda of Netanyahu since he was prime minister, and it now spans decades. Obviously, there's been some breaks in there, but he's been in power more or less on and off for quite a long time. A lot of his policies are explicitly aimed at making cyber a key way in which Israel exerts influence globally.

This is particularly troubling when we consider the history of Israeli intelligence backdooring their technology products. Also, their admitted policy since 2012, again developed under Netanyahu, of using cyber security companies and other tech companies to complete projects for Mossad and Israeli intelligence that were previously done in-house by Mossad and those intelligence agencies has turned much of the cyber security sector specifically, but more broadly, the Israeli tech sector, into admitted fronts for Israeli intelligence.

Webb: This is significant when we consider the implications of financial surveillance, building all these databases, and profiling people.

Fitts: I know you know this, but a month or two ago, somebody came out and said, "Okay, if you wanted to market on Twitter, you have to send your biometrics to this company in Israel because everything goes through them."

Right. Thank you, Elon Musk. I'm always saying that anybody who wants to put a Neuralink in the back of my head and hook me up to their satellite is not somebody I'm comfortable with. Conservatives need to understand if Trump's pushing a digital ID; for all I know, that digital ID will be controlled and operated through Israeli IT.

Goodwin: Also, I think we talked plenty about how if you want to build this Bitcoin dollar system, you need to take all the security measures to cryptographically hold these keys and keep them safe. We know about all the backdooring, software scandals, etc. How are these other countries going to compete with US and Israeli intelligence, who run all the ISPs and the chip, software, and network manufacturing?

It's not only the PCs but also the network chips and the switches. How will you hold your Bitcoin safe if the US decides to inflate? They can make gold worth

\$30,000 and pay off the debt tomorrow if they want to, but who would get rich? Many other people that hold gold. If they inflate Bitcoin 100x or whatever, who's really going to get rich? Maybe a few dozen of us that they want to neuter with 'number-go-up-induced' amnesia, and make us forget to be financial revolutionaries, which is happening.

Politicians and Wall Street have totally co-opted the Bitcoin space. They're going to inflate the Bitcoin asset class. The US will dominate that. They're going to be able to pay off their debts and make a large amount of money. Anyone who wants to compete with it at a nation-state level is going to have to deal with all the realities of the hardware and software that back Bitcoin, cryptography, and being able to actually hold private keys. I think the Israel intelligence play is very interesting.

Fitts: Right. Especially if they've set up the seizure machinery.

Goodwin: Sure.

Fitts: They can be very selective about who can make those profits and who can't.

Goodwin: Absolutely.

Fitts: I don't know.

Webb: It's important to keep in mind, too, when you consider the FBI being onboarded with the Tether. One of the key groups that influence who the FBI determines to be spewing hate speech or any of these other big metrics is the Anti-Defamation League, which has historically functioned as a lobby group for the Israeli government and has many funding ties.

Some of the biggest funders of the ADL have historically been people like Leslie Wexner from the Epstein scandal or the Bronfman family, who were tied up with this Endeavor Network, had connections to the NXIVM scandal, are historically linked to organized crime, and are also the power behind people like Justin Trudeau in Canada, for example.

Fitts: I don't know if you know this; I've fallen out with RFK, who I considered a personal friend. The reason I fell out is I said, "Bobby, if you're going to let them get away with murder in Gaza, what are you going to do with them when

it comes to digital financial control and US sovereignty?"

Goodwin: Right.

Fitts: It goes back to who you are loyal to. Who's your master? Who's pulling your strings? The whole rollout of what we've seen is very unnerving. I want to bring up one other point: Trump promised he would fire Gary Gensler on day one. I could have told you that any Republican administration will fire the SEC chairman that the Democrats appointed. That's not new news. Everybody knows that's going to happen. I will say one interesting thing is that the Democrats have tolerated a fairly aggressive regulatory structure so far from the SEC.

Goodwin: I see that as being a rhetoric play. They want to basically buy the consent for what's coming next, which is deregulation.

Webb: Manufacture consent for deregulation. It's what the people want in the war on crypto.

Goodwin: Yes, and Gensler has become a punching bag. He's been very essential to the digital currency initiative. He was the sponsor for the DCI, I believe, at MIT. I've taken his course online. He understood securities law and cryptography, understood many of the angles that made the Satoshi Group, and whatever sort of work.

If this Bitcoin dollar thing is true, which I think is very likely true now, a leading presidential candidate is out there basically saying, "Hey, we're going to do it." These are the tech people. These people are basically putting in the legislation underneath, and the wealth notice is serving the people they want to serve. It's kingmaking, and then Trump is going to come in as king.

Fitts: It's absolutely kingmaking. Yes.

Goodwin: Yes, and Trump is going to come in, and they're going to deregulate everything like what they did. You look at Glass–Steagall, the deregulation of Glass–Steagall, Citigroup spent, which at the time in '97 was an insane amount of money, \$100 million in a year lobbying against the deregulation and the repeal of Glass–Steagall. Now we have the same oligarchs that hold all the Bitcoin coming out and saying that they're going to pledge Trump \$45 million a month—this whole PayPal group.

We're basically seeing the same play of, "Oh, hey. Let's pay to play. Let's get you in there, and then you appoint all these people and king-make who will be the infrastructure providers of the digital economy." We were talking about this recently: who really built the Fed? It was the infrastructure providers and the bankers; it was Morgan, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, these players.

Webb: And the railroads.

Goodwin: Right.

Webb: Who's going to make the new Fed? The people that dominate the infrastructure.

Goodwin: Right, the issue towards the people that run Ethereum, that run Bitcoin, the people that hold Bitcoin, the people that...

Fitts: The people who own those companies.

Goodwin: Yes, totally.

Fitts: Essentially, bankers believe they control at the 'end of the day'.

Webb: The US, which is not the only country in the world, I believe, has the model it has, but the Federal Reserve, at the 'end of the day', is owned by private entities. I think the move here is eventually going to essentially wipe out central banks in places, perhaps, like Argentina under Javier Milei, but it's going to be the US under Trump. Obviously, there will be cheers to that, particularly from the libertarian-leaning crowd, but what will they put in its place?

Fitts: A different kind of private bank that's worse.

Goodwin: Totally.

Webb: I think so because if the private forces that control the Federal Reserve have all this, you could say red tape, they have to go through to dominate and control and manipulate the money supply. If you take all of that out, it goes directly to them, which is an ambition openly stated by people who created PayPal, including Peter Thiel, to take it away from the state issuance of money and give it to a small group of individuals.

Fitts: It's kind of warlord central banking, if you will.

Goodwin: It's cartel banking, 100%.

Fitts: Cartel banking, right?

Goodwin: I think essentially where they want this to go -- we wrote about it and talked about it as this phase shift dialectics where they're like, "Okay, central bank, bad Javier Milei is getting up there. He's at Davos for some reason, talking to a room of billionaires and being like they love it.

Webb: They do love it.

Goodwin: -"The free market, the free market," and everyone's cheering. It's like, "Well, yes, they're billionaires, of course, they're cheering." Now that they've plundered the world and printed trillions of dollars and bought up all the assets; they own all the wheat, oil, infrastructure for the internet, everything. Now that they own everything, we have idiots. I'm sorry, but idiots cheering for Milei say, "Delete the central bank and let's dollarize the country, and bring in outside financing to dollarize the country. Let's sell--"

Webb: Silicon Valley and putting Facebook in charge of the education department.

Goodwin: Let's dollarize and sell our lithium to Israel. Let's sell all these land rights and this stuff, and let's push towards-- they're going to try to move away from treasury-backed stablecoins and move towards commodity-backed stablecoins.

Fitts: Sure, because once you've stolen all the money, you want a deflationary system.

Goodwin: Exactly.

Fitts: You want sound money now that you have all the money.

Goodwin: Now that they have it all, they've done this dialectic, and now we're all cheering on. Everyone hates the CIA now all of a sudden. Tucker Carlson's out there saying the CIA is bad and all this stuff. Everyone hates it, but no one hates Palantir, no one hates Citigroup, no one hates information banking.

Webb: That's part of why In-Q-Tel was created. We suspect there will be this controlled demolition of the public sector. The public sector is bad and blames

everything that's happened recently, particularly COVID, on them. Then we'll move into the private sector, but we must remember that the mode of governance under which we are ruled is a public-private partnership. We are being moved from the public side to the private side which is the same type of 'ping-pong' as from Republican to Democrat; it's a false dichotomy.

Fitts: It's the takeover of fiscal policy; it's the privatization of fiscal policy that is happening.

Goodwin: Literally, yes.

Goodwin: Catherine, I want to say it's ironic that it's being positioned as this decentralized movement, but actually, at least the Fed system has a handful of people, a handful of banks, a dozen banks, whatever. If it's just Paxos, PayPal, and Tether, that's three banks, and actually, they're all controlled by BNY Mellon, and then it's all the same. It's actually more centralized than it probably is now, which is funny.

Fitts: Much more.

One of the things we know is that the way you build wealth, the more decentralized and the more decentralized banks you have that are financing growth, the more growth you get and the more wealth you get. That's not inflationary, but then the wealth isn't centrally controlled. I will stop you here, but before we end, I want you to explain your new series.

I've read *Chain of Custody*, which is fantastic, and I've read your review of Trump's speech at Bitcoin 2024, which is fantastic, but you're about to publish another one and then a series more. Tell us about the series that's underway.

Webb: *Chain of Custody* is technically the first article in this series, but it's really a network that goes back to a piece we wrote earlier. I believe it was published in early March, called Debt From Above, about this effort to build a carbon market or impose a carbon market on Latin America through contractual obligations made at the local municipal level. Build that carbon market on the Bitcoin blockchain by adding smart contract functionality to the Bitcoin blockchain, which this company, Rootstock, is doing.

Many entities involved there are directly tied to Argentina and are connected to this network, which we discuss in detail in the *Chain of Custody*. The Endeavor

Network, which ultimately goes back and mainly the people like the Bronfmans and Pierre Omidyar, are the main financial backers of Endeavor, but it's really intimately connected to the PayPal Mafia, as it were. The companies they've produced now dominate the financial infrastructure in Latin America, including Mercado Libre, often compared to the eBay or Amazon of Latin America.

Essentially, many of the payment rails for crypto transactions on the continent, including these dollar-stablecoins that are being pushed on these economies very heavily. For example, with a big focus on Brazil and Argentina, South America's largest economies. It's all coming from Mercado Libre and all of these other companies backed by Endeavor, specifically Argentina's branch of Endeavor, which is run by this oligarch that I wrote about years ago named Eduardo Elsztain, who's intimately related to the Bronfmans and also to Javier Milei and runs the Bilderberg equivalent for South America called the Yao Yao Forum.

Many of these other entities or figures we've discussed earlier, like Wences Casares, also come out of the Endeavor Network. He was the patient zero for Bitcoin and American Silicon Valley. There are a lot of connections between these two areas. In many of the plays that are happening either with Milei or with Trump, I would argue that this particular network in Argentina is a subsidiary of this more like American-based, New York-based network, the Endeavor Network.

There are efforts to build this infrastructure at the American level so that North Central and South America will all have essentially the same financial infrastructure in the future. If you go back to our Debt From Above piece, power grid infrastructure is also meant to be the same. I would argue that Javier Milei is the test case or the testing ground for policies likely to be implemented in a future Trump administration.

Goodwin: Bukele as well, I would say, from El Salvador.

Webb: I think he would definitely fall in that category as well. The piece coming out soon focuses a lot on the infrastructure, the people in the patents that have been produced, and the companies that are affecting this, like PayPal, for example. Who's really behind PayPal? The faces we know behind PayPal or the PayPal Mafia, people like Reid Hoffman and Peter Thiel and Elon Musk, et cetera, et cetera, but there are people that assured PayPal's own rise to power

and hold all the patents that all of these big Silicon Valley companies that we know are using for this play.

That's essentially what this piece is about. In the future, the last article in this series will focus on how this exact same network created the scandals or situations that have been used to justify Congress's coming regulation of the crypto space. I guess I'll let Mark add to that.

Goodwin: We did *Chain of Custody*, which is all about the Bitcoin dollar system and building. We have this deflationary economic policy that will act as a vacuum to the debt bubble that's been blown out by US fiscal policy. How do you actually make that? You must have a strong custody situation and this intimate banking connection between stablecoins, the dollar, and Bitcoin.

That was what *Chain of Custody* was about. This group that built it, everything that Whitney just said, came out of this Endeavor group. 100% this information banking is building this custodial situation. That was the last piece. This one, again, is the people in patents. We're looking at Idealab's, this Pasadena, Santa Monica, Southern California group led by this guy Bill Gross, who was the first institutional investor in PayPal.

They hold all the patents that this group uses. Then you look at Palantir, which actually started as the fraud algorithm at PayPal and got bought by eBay instant settlement. That's great, but we need to have clawbacks because there are a lot of issues in an auction-based market like eBay. We have to have this fraud-based algorithm, which actually ends up becoming Palantir.

All the patents and the things held by this group are building the modern financial surveillance network. It's all advertising. The AdWords business model that Google uses to make \$50 billion a year, whatever, and I could be wrong there, I'm sorry, but that patent was actually held by this group, which Bill Gross also funded. He was the CEO of that company, and then they were acquired by Yahoo. That patent system upholds some of the largest companies; this is the American economy. It's Google, it's Facebook, it's Yahoo, and it's PayPal. They're too big to fail; they are the American economy.

These groups are intimately connected to all of these patents, and these people are part of the American economy. They are the FAANG (Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix, Google) or the MAANG (Meta, etc.), whatever it is now, this

group, and they're all intimately connected. The.com boom that happened led to eBay, PayPal, etc.

Fitts: I'm used to a financial system with tremendously high standards of disclosure, imperfect though they may be. We're talking about creating and building a financial system with very little disclosure. It's mostly unknown.

Goodwin: Yes, exactly. Many people have no idea who backed PayPal. Who was really the group that was the incubator? They called themselves an incubator and made Musk, Thiel, all these people, and Google. You look at the venture that backed the dot-com boom at the end of the '90s, and these people were heavily connected to intelligence and they hold all these patents that have basically built the digital panopticon, the surveillance network, the financial network that we all use today.

Then the last piece is basically going to be very specifically about the lobby and the people in place that are actually writing the bills. Who's writing the stablecoin bill? It's Dylan Brandt from New York, it's Senator Cynthia Lummis from Wyoming. These people are heavily lobbied and connected and paid a lot from maybe even the same Epstein network, blackmail group, NXIVM (a pyramid scheme, a sex-trafficking operation, a cult, and a sex cult.)

There are many connections that are very interesting. Then, of course, looking at PayPal specifically and their stablecoin play, and then their intimate connections to the Ethereum network. Ethereum was founded by Vitalik Buterin, who was a Thiel fellow.

The merge, which was basically taking Ethereum from being this decentralized open system to being a stakeholder system, creating two separate classes within Ethereum, where there's actually an infrastructure class and then a consumer class, basically centralizing control even further within the Ethereum network, which is where all the dollars are really issued. All these tokens that we've been talking about during this interview; stablecoins, all exist on some database and some computing network. The vast majority of them are on Ethereum.

Thiel had extreme connections to the founding of Ethereum, to the perversion of it away from being an open mind system to being a stakeholder capital system with this infrastructure class. The people that actually coded this change, the merge, are Palantir contractors. No one ever talks about that. Then how do

they actually create the regulatory consent for, "We don't want Bitcoin-backed stablecoins. We want treasury-backed stablecoins."

There was a big implosion a couple of years ago, infamous through the Terra Luna collapse, where this group built a system that used Bitcoin and an algorithmic stablecoin that imploded and caused billions of dollars of loss across the ecosystem. The way that actually happened was there was another Thiel fellow, this man, Ryan Park, who built the system that was built on top of Terra Luna called the Anchor Protocol that offered a 20% yield. They created a bubble within the Terra Luna system that popped the whole system. In the wording of the stablecoin bill by Gillibrand and Lummis, it says, "Algorithmic stablecoins are bad. We can't have them."

Why did that happen? Because this direct connection to a Thiel person who is manufacturing consent saying, "No, we need to buy treasuries. We need to do this. We need to create this very specific thing. We've actually been intimately connected to the funding of the stablecoin issuer that like Paxos since the very beginning, and now we're basically creating the environment. We're running the lobby, we're running the senators writing these bills, we're running the program and the database that upholds these stablecoins."

They're all intimately connected to Peter Thiel directly. He said it very honestly. When they started PayPal, they came to digitalize the dollar and defang the Federal Reserve System. The final piece in this series and we keep saying 'final piece', but who knows? It keeps happening. Maybe we'll tease it. It's called the chain of command. The idea is that it's all boiling down to this 30-year play from the Palantir PayPal Thiel verse.

Webb: The only thing I would add to that is that PayPal from its earliest days, admittedly by PayPal co-founders, was made in direct collaboration with pretty much every three and four-letter agency of the US government; the intelligence agencies.

This is a public-private partnership that's framed as being a private-only entity, which is a play that Thiel has done numerous times. Palantir is what he did after PayPal and it's the exact same play. You could argue that Facebook was as well.

What we're seeing here is the public-private partnership at work, seeing how it really works and how it's basically creating this new financial surveillance system

that they're going to frame as decentralized, and as a big state change, and it's going to be better for the consumer and all these different sales pitches, but really, it's greater centralized control and because of the technology, affords greater surveillance and then the issue of programmable money.

Fitts: Silicon Valley is in one sense, making a major contribution to the integration and fusion of the central banking warfare model. They are defense contractors, but they're building a new financial system and they're doing it together. We're going to find these articles at Unlimited Hangout. If you sign up at Unlimited Hangout, you'll get the email, right? You'll get notified on how we can support you in doing this, because you're doing great work and this is absolutely essential to understand our world. How do we support this effort?

Webb: Unlimited Hangout is supported 100% by subscribers. Also, there are people that make one-time donations and you can find all the available options for that or how to become a subscriber for as low as \$5 a month on our website, unlimitedhangout.com.

Goodwin: We'll put our Tether wallet at the bottom. You can send us stablecoins.

Fitts: There you go. We want everybody to have their fair share of US treasuries.

Goodwin: Exactly. That's what the decentralized revolution is all about; It's digitalizing the dollar and tokenizing treasuries and spreading them across the world. That's what it's all about.

Fitts: What an accomplishment to make a US treasury fashionable again. You have to admit it's quite a marketing accomplishment.

Goodwin: Unbelievable.

Webb: It's impressive. It is astounding how the whole marketing of Bitcoin for so long is going to stop irresponsible fiscal policy. It's going to stop hyperinflation and now it's being used to enable all of those things to never-before-seen levels.

Goodwin: Totally.

Webb: It's fascinating in a dark way.

Fitts: I felt while I was watching Bitcoin 2024 that I was watching a fusion of the disassembly of the federal credit with the *Howdy Doody* show.

Goodwin: The Howie Lutnick show. Yes, exactly.

Fitts: It's been a pleasure. You're doing absolutely great work. Just keep going.

Webb: Thank you.

Fitts: I predict great things. I do hope eventually you'll roll the series up into a book because it will absolutely be a 'smash'.

Webb: We plan to.

Fitts: Mark and Whitney, have a wonderful day. Thank you again for joining us on *The Solari Report*. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you. Please, support Mark and Whitney. Send this forward. We will have this subscriber-only for a brief period of time, but then make public. I want everybody to get this around so that you have a picture of what's happening in the financial markets. Both of you, thanks again.

Webb: Thanks so much.

Fitts: Great interview.

MODIFICATION

Transcripts are not always verbatim. Modifications are sometimes made to improve clarity, usefulness and readability, while staying true to the original intent.

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