

The Controlled Demolition of the American Empire

Ross Welcome to Renegade Inc. An empire is at its most dangerous when it's failing. With less and less to lose, it continues to try to do the impossible by doubling down on past mistakes. But history tells us that empires fall from within. If so, technically, how does the modern empire meet its inevitable fate?

Ross Charlie, welcome back to Renegade Inc.

Charlie Robinson Thanks for having me. It's been about a year or so.

Ross It has. And last time you were here, this is what you were touting, The Octopus of Global Control. But you're out with a new book, aren't you?

Charlie Robinson Yeah. I had a conversation with Jeff Berwick one day, who is the founder of the Dollar Vigilante in Anarchapulco which is this large anarchist convention in Acapulco, Mexico. And I was doing his podcast and we got done filming. And he said to me, we talking about, you know, society in America and everything. And he goes, you know, it's coming down, right?. And from that conversation, we said maybe we should get into a little bit more depth about this. And so what we did is we wrote a book called The Controlled Demolition of the American Empire. We drew comparisons between the way you would take down an actual building where you would rig it. You know, you would pre-weaken the building. You would identify the support columns. You would rig the detonators. You'd figure out who wired the building, sound the alarm bell to get everybody out of the way and then push down the plunger and take the whole thing down. So we talked about that. We covered a variety of topics and made the comparison between how you would go about taking a building down and how you would go about taking the American empire down. What we're experiencing right now in the United States is that the end of the American empire is here. And it's not even so much a debate about whether or not this system is coming down because the pieces have been put into place to take this whole system down. The question really is, is it intentional?

Ross But you see, that's the moment that, let's say, rings an alarm bell for me because we can get into the realms of conspiracy theory here. Because what you're getting at is that somebody is smart enough to go and rig a building, press the plunger themselves and detonate this whole thing. From where I'm coming from, there's absolutely no one smart enough to be able to do that. Actually, the systems that have been created within the American empire, namely neo liberalism, it's the economics that push the structural changes which ultimately push this thing over the cliff. Is that too complicated, too technical?

Charlie Robinson No, we would agree with that, that there are structural issues that have destabilised the whole empire. The question is, who put the structures in there? Who created this system? Who hollowed out the value of the dollar through inflation? Who destroyed the education system through implementing new measures like Common Core? Who made the decision to spend a trillion dollars a year on a bloated military budget and then go start wars indiscriminately across the globe? So we wouldn't be in disagreement with you that it is structural. The question is, who is making the decisions to put these structures into place

because they're not serving the people that's for sure? We've become very clear of that. This is no longer America for the people. It's America for the oligarchy. So who has allowed this to take place? Who makes the decisions that allows Amazon to come in and pay no tax on their sales? So who's rigged this game? And there's a lot of blame to go along. Certainly Washington, D.C., the role of money and lobbyists and factors like that always play a role in Washington politics. And so what we've seen over the last three or four decades is this intentional gutting of the United States. We would call it intentionally, the NAFTA agreements, which take all of the industrial capacity out of the United States and export it overseas. So these things, it's like a car accident that takes 40 years to happen.

Ross Right.

Charlie Robinson And we're towards the end of it. And what we're seeing, looking back, is that it's a variety of policies and decisions that were made that's creating this system. And then the system has nothing else to do but collapse upon itself. And that's where we are right now. So what we're trying to do is look back at what decisions were made, who made them and what the plan is moving forward.

Ross And really the central thesis or the platform, if you like, that you've started out on with the book is *The Rotten Foundation*, which is the systemic issues which ultimately come the malfeasance from government, from Wall Street and from the big actors. Is that the case that the Wall Street Washington corridor, if you like, is now way too close, lobbying and rent seeking has undermined the constitution and democracy itself?

Charlie Robinson Oh, of course. I mean, there is a well-worn path between lower Manhattan and Washington, D.C., where they staff the big banks and then the regulatory agencies have people that are supposed to oversee the banks and then they just revolve. They just go from one place to the other. We see that in the medical industry as well. You have somebody that's the head of the CDC, like a lady like Julie Gerberding, who is overseeing the CDC vaccine programme and then immediately makes decisions that benefit Merck and then goes and takes a five million dollar a year job running Merck. So we see how these systems work. And, you know, from the casual observer that watches this, we know there's something wrong. I mean, we get a feeling that there shouldn't be this cosy relationship between the regulators and the people that are supposed to be regulated. So whether it's somebody doing this in Big Pharma or whether it's Eric Holder being the attorney general under Obama and then rotating back into Covington and, you know, as a reward for not prosecuting the big banks, we see this crony capitalism and it goes to the core of what is destroying the United States. But it's not limited to the United States. I mean, we're not naive to think that this sort of government and business intertwining is limited to the United States. We see it happen all over the place. But the difference is that in the United States we are told to believe that somehow we're better than that, that it's all just banana republics that do that and that those countries still have a lot to figure out. But we stand for something bigger. And that, of course, is a gigantic lie. We're no better than any Third World country or banana republic or whatever, you know, description Donald Trump wants to give them. We are just as bad, maybe even worse, because we pretend to be something that we really are not.

Ross So, Charlie, you're telling me that America isn't exceptional?

Charlie Robinson The myth of American exceptionalism is just that. It's a myth. We used to be great, but things have happened. You know, after 9/11, we had the sympathy of the entire world. They felt bad for us. And what did we go and do with that? Indiscriminate bombings in Afghanistan, then Iraq because of weapons of mass destruction and then exporting that to Somalia and Libya and Syria. We took all of this goodwill that we had and squandered it for what?

Video clip (G.W Bush) My fellow citizens, at this hour, American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger. On my orders, coalition forces have begun striking selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage war.

Charlie Robinson There was a time when it wasn't just a sales pitch. But I think George Carlin rightly explained, as you know, they call it the American dream because you have to be asleep to believe it.

Ross In your first book, you quote Chris Hedges, the Pulitzer prize winning journalist. He says: 'Brace yourself, the American empire is over and the descent is going to be horrifying'.

Charlie Robinson Yeah. And Chris is right. The descent is going to be terrible because America has always believed that they're somehow immune from these sorts of things. And I guess a case can be made that we have been, to a certain extent, propped up by our having the world's reserve currency and the petrodollar situation that we have. We've been able to live well beyond our means, and we didn't have to pay the price that a lot of countries had to pay in a literal sense, in a figurative sense, for our lifestyle. So when these things become unsustainable, like the infinite printing of the United States dollar, and we get to a point where you've got enough countries that no longer want to play our game and they decide they want to sell their oil in exchange for something other than than US dollars - maybe they want to sell it for gold. Well, in the past, that has led to them being invaded by us, i.e. Iraq, when Saddam Hussein wanted to to change his relationship with the way he sold oil. And also in Libya, when Gadhafi wanted to switch off the petrodollar and sell his oil in exchange for the gold dinar, you'll get invaded. This doesn't go unnoticed by the rest of the world. And I think that this policy of using the US dollar as the carrot or stick for the rest of the world is growing very old for a lot of nations. And I think the end of that is near. And when that comes, Chris Hedges projection of the descent being madness, that's where we're going to see things happen overnight. We've had riots. We've had, you know, social instability here. But when the U.S. dollar is de-pegged as the world's reserve currency, that's when you're gonna see the fireworks really start.

Ross On the next page after the Hedges quote, you talk about the Red Carpet and the Iron Curtain. And there's another quote here from none other than Mr. Vladimir Putin. And he says: 'We know year by year what's going to happen. And they know that we know. It's only you that they tell tall tales and you buy it and spread it to the citizens of your countries. You people, in turn, do not feel a sense of impending danger. This is what worries me. How do you not understand that the world is being pulled in an irreversible direction while they pretend that nothing is going on? I don't know how to get through to you anymore'.

Charlie Robinson America is like the bully at school that has been giving kids a hard time for no good reason for a long, long time. But there always comes a day when the bully gets bullied back and gets stuffed into a locker by all the kids that are tired of dealing with him. And I fear that the United States is going to be put in a situation like that. And we will have nobody to blame but ourselves. Vladimir Putin is right about that. I mean, in the United States, he's demonised as being this criminal mastermind who's plotting to destroy the United States through elections. You know, Vladimir Putin doesn't have to do anything to destroy the United States except sit back and watch like he's accurately doing. He has seen what the rest of us are in denial about, which is that the tide has turned and the opinion towards the United States by many foreign countries out there is very different than it was 20 years ago, 30 years ago. People are waking up to the lies. You've got guys like Mike Pompeo that go on television day in and day out and just spout unbelievable lies about Russia and Iran and Venezuela and all these countries. And the average person that doesn't do much digging into it might nod their head and go, OK, we've got to be careful. But for the rest of the people with the eyes to see what's really going on, they see this as outright lies and creating the sorts of situations where wars can spring out of this. So the question is, why are they doing this? Why are we antagonising Russia? Why are we trying to start proxy wars through Syria? And the answer is, unfortunately, to draw these big countries in to starting a war against us, because when you've got a hammer, every problem looks like a nail, right? So America is all about the military. So we have to put everything in a military context and start wars because of this. This is a catastrophic decision. The biggest problem with America right now - and it's not the people, let me be clear, I'm talking about the decision makers, the policymakers and the politicians - it's our arrogance. It's our belief that somehow we're above everything. And I'm enough of a huge sports fan that I know that when a team goes into a championship game and they think they've got it wrapped up, boy, that's a really bad spot to be in because that underdog that wants it a little bit more can take you down. Our arrogance will be our undoing.

Ross So Charlie, talk about this, let's say systemic problem that you've got over in the U.S. You break it down as rotten foundation, pre-weakening of the building, talking about controlled demolition of the empire. And you attribute globalisation to that. Is that because in the U.S., you basically got rid of all your supply chains, giving it to other nations and said, actually, you just got on with supplying us and we'll lie back and reap in the profits?

Charlie Robinson Yeah, it really started with Rockefeller and Kissinger and Nixon opening up those channels through China. And they decided that China would become the manufacturing hub view of the world. And we started the process of exporting all of our industries to China in a quest for cheaper labour and reduced regulations and all these things. Now, it was sold to us as isn't this going to be great, you're going to get all of your your products cheaper, which sounds great today to the American population. But the problem is there is a price that we pay for that that we were never told about. And it took many decades for it to play out. But we're witnessing that right now. And that is our relationship with China. We no longer have our manufacturing capacity. It's all gone to the Far East. And now we have issues with supply chain management. We saw this during the corona virus situation where anything coming from China was locked down. So what we realise - of course, many of us saw this in advance - but the average American realised we've created a system that relies a little bit too much on a foreign country for getting us things like medicine, which is

almost exclusively manufactured in China and some of the consumer products that we count on.

Video clip (NBC News) The only way to regain control, Lester, is to move manufacturing back to the US. But experts tell us that private companies aren't gonna do that on their own. They're going to need the federal government's help. And Lester, that means money.

Charlie Robinson If we create enemies with this foreign nation, then we're going to have problems on a variety of levels. First of all, they own a ton of United States treasuries. So there's a problem there. But they also control the supply chain that America depends on. And any sort of disruption for that could be catastrophic. And we've seen this over the last, you know, the first half of 2020 is that when you have issues with China and when you demonise them and you call them names and you say that you have a Chinese virus, well, what you're doing is you're inflaming these tensions between the two countries. And the globalisation component that we were told was going to be such a great win for the United States, it's not looking so smart these days.

Ross You also put, when you talk about controlled demolition, identification of the support columns. So specifically, what of the support columns that have been identified that have been attacked, weakened and broken down for this building to elegantly fall?

Charlie Robinson Yeah. Well, for one, we've destroyed the education system inside the United States. And that goes back to a quote from Adolf Hitler - 'If you give control of the schools, I will have control of the country within a generation'. So we've destroyed the schools in the United States. The United States used to be thought of as being the leader in education. That is, we are in the mid 20s around the world. Things like Common Core has been introduced into the United States school system by none other than Bill Gates. And there's a funny thing that happens when you have all the money in the world and you can buy everything that there is to buy. You wind up looking for things that are not for sale to buy, like the Rockefeller's and the Carnegie's did with the United States back a 100 plus years ago. They set about to control the school system and put the classrooms in straight lines and have the bells ring when the class is over so to kind of conditioned kids to go into life in the factories. And now we're sort of a post-factory, post-industrial world here in the United States. So the next big thing is the tech, you know, where we're going to prepare kids to excel in the tech industry. And so Bill Gates has introduced Common Core into the curriculum for the United States. And Common Core is a disaster. It is a educational timebomb.

Video clip (American Enterprise Institute) So what is the Common Core?

Bill Gates It's a very simple thing. It's a written explanation of what knowledge kids should achieve at various milestones in their educational career. So it's writing down in sixth grade which maths things should you know. In ninth grade, which maths things should know. In 12th grade, which maths things should you know. And you might be surprised to learn how poor those - I'll call those standards. But to be clear, it's not curriculum. It's not a textbook. It's not a way of teaching. It's just writing down, should you know this part of algebra. Should you know trigonometric functions. Should you be able to recognise a graph of this type. And doing that very well is hard because there are certain dependencies. If you teach it in the wrong order. If you're trying to teach too much at once, too much too early - which the US

was doing a lot of that - it can be very, very poor. To some degree, this is an area where if you do have commonality, it's like an electrical plug. You get more free market competition. Scale is good for free market competition. Individual state regulatory capture is not good for competition. And so this thing in terms of driving innovation, you'd think that sort of pro capitalistic market driven people would be in favour of it. But, you know, somehow it's gotten to be controversial.

Charlie Robinson Another component that, you know, a support column that you need to blow out is the critical thinking component of most Americans. And that has been gone for a while now. We are absolutely unable to look at situations and use our critical thinking because we've been trained how to not do that anymore. And then one of the support columns that needs to be destroyed is peace and truth. And we've lost that so long ago with the expansion of the military. So we've we've set ourselves up for a disaster by not taking care of the things that we need to to invest in the United States, to make sure it's it's relevant for the coming generation. In fact, if you were to be objective about it, we've done everything you can to make sure that we're irrelevant. And the next generation in the United States is going to look a whole lot different from where we are right now.

Ross So in the controlled demolition of the American empire, we've had so far is the rock and foundation, the pre weakening of the building, identification of the support columns - education being the big one. Rig the detonators. Very quickly, rig the detonators - a short, sharp insight in what rigging the detonators mean?

Charlie Robinson Well, it's how they'll do it, how they'll take this whole thing down. Debasing the currency is one way. Never ending wars is a sure fire way to do this. But the most important thing that we're seeing right now is the division of the public - to get everybody fighting with each other. It's one sure fire way to keep everybody's attention at each other and not looking up to who is really pulling the strings here.

Ross That brings us neatly on to number six, which is ringing the alarm bells. How does that work?

Charlie Robinson Well, this is what to look for before the whole system blows up. What you would look for are aspects of a society that just looked a little bit unsustainable. If you saw these things starting to pop up in your day to day life, you would know that there was a problem. Well, let's talk about one thing - wealth inequality that we have. And I'm not just talking about people that are a little bit richer than others. I'm talking about when a CEO makes a thousand times more than their employees. It creates a system of almost like a two tier system where you have the kings and the serfs and everybody battling underneath. And I don't think anybody is saying that everybody needs to be equal. We're not expecting equal outcomes - maybe equal opportunities, but certainly not equal outcomes. But the wealth inequality in the United States is, you know, just astronomical. We also have to notice that there are things happening, that there's a war on whistleblowers. And this is something that happens in all empires that are failing is that the truth tellers become the target of the government. The lies are magnified and anybody telling the truth gets stuffed into a prison cell on trumped up charges. Where have we seen that? Only with Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning and these people that come forward to expose government corruption and they are rewarded by being put in government prisons. So when you start to see these things, you see

a major disparity in the justice system where there seems to be two sets of rules - one for the rich and one for the poor. You know, you're in a civilisation that is unsustainable. And so we have this in the United States in a way that I cannot even describe.

Ross As we come to the next point, pushing down the plunger. And you're saying that you're past the point of no return now in the US. It's pretty obvious that pushing down the plunger bit. But that is done collectively, isn't it? Again, it's not one person just blowing this whole thing up. It's a structural determination.

Charlie Robinson It really is, yeah. It's a combination of a lot of things. We're in a police state right now in the United States. You know, we're always talking about austerity. This is we all have to pull our weight and we have to tighten our belts and make sure that....

Ross I think you've stolen a British expression, which is we're all in it together.

Charlie Robinson Except we're really not all in it together. There are some people that are really involved in this that are feeling, you know, paying the price and feeling the brunt of the systemic inequalities. But then there are others that are most definitely not feeling that. So the lie that we're all in it together is just that - it's a lie. And once again, here we go in the United States chasing an invisible enemy. Before it was terrorism. We've got to get the terrorists before they get us. If we don't go there and get them, then they're going to come and get us and we're all going to die. Well, that has played out for about as long as it can - two decades, to be exact. And now we've moved on to a new invisible enemy - a virus.

Ross And to finish this on a hopeful note, because you've absolutely perfectly depicted how to blow this building up. I still wonder whether it's going to be a controlled demolition insofar as I think, you know, like all crashes, they're haphazard hard landings. But once that does happen, how do you clear the debris, as you put it? How do you look at the horizon above or beyond the horizon and start to rebuild and start to talk in a constructive way? Because it could be the case that you need this amount of creative destruction, if you're going to be Schumpeter about it, for you to be able to push out the deadwood and start again?

Charlie Robinson Well, there's always the opportunity for something new to come out of this. We look at the concept of a controlled burn of forest. You know, you burn out some of the old underbrush to improve the health of the forest in general. So we wonder if something great can come out of this. Clearly, things are going to change. But I think things need to change. I don't know that the current system as it exists is something that is sustainable moving forward. But where are we going to go from here? We have a decision to make. Are we going to allow maniac's in central banks to print fiat currency and trap us in these debts or are we going to look for solutions outside of that? My partner, Jeff Berwick, is involved in crypto currencies quite heavily. Will that play a role in it? It might. Are we going to rid ourselves of the establishment media? Are we going to get to a point where they're no longer relevant, that we're starting to change the way we consume information about the world? I'd say that would be a good thing. So things are going to change. They always do. This demolition of the empire is going to catch a lot of people in a bad spot and hurt them. But it's going to create massive new opportunities for the future going forward. And so how do we respond to this and how we we react to these changes and we make adjustments. We see things coming. Are we able to get out of the way? We kind of describe this as a bit of a

tsunami. You go back to the 2004 Banda Aceh quake and December 26. And one of the things that you had is when the waters receded, many people went to the shore because they'd never seen anything like that. They wandered out, you know, a mile out there. Isn't this crazy? But the people that were smart, the people that recognised the signs, the people that had experience and had seen this before, they knew better. They knew that when that water receded, it meant that something horrible was coming and they were able to head for higher ground. And we feel like that's where we are right now. We see the water receding. We're telling people to get to higher ground. You're not going to be able to stop this tsunami. Do what you can. Save yourself. Save your friends. Save your families. Get to higher ground because it's coming. And I wish we could stop it. But the next best thing to do is to really put the word out, allow people to know that what's coming is going to be very difficult to stop. Save yourself and start to plan accordingly, because you're going to have some really interesting opportunities when everything settles down.

Ross Charlie Robinson, always good to have you. Thank you very much for your time.

Charlie Robinson Thanks for having me. It's great to be back.

Ross That's it from Renegade Inc. this week. You can drop the team a mail - studio@renegadeinc.com or you can tweet us at Renegade Inc. Join us next week for more insight from those people who are thinking differently. But until then, stay curious.