



OFF THE NEWS

Change Is Not Always Good

Humans overindulge in the wrong diets, are overstimulated by technology, have lifestyles that have become ever more sedentary, and are in a chronic cycle of stress.

- More than 150 million people in the United States have flat feet.
- There are billions more chairs on the planet than there are humans.
- We have grown five inches in the past two hundred years.
- Seventy percent of Americans are on prescription drugs.

The pills popped each year, laid end-to-end, could orbit the planet twice.

- American feet have grown by two sizes over the past four decades.
- Our diet has changed the shape of our faces, giving us slacker jawlines, wonky teeth, and fleshy jowls.
- By the time you've finished reading this item, two people will have died of poor air quality.

from

Primate Change: How the World We Made Is Remaking Us by Vybarr Cregan-Reid (Cassell, 2018).

Yield Curve Predictor

Inverted yield curves “correctly signaled all nine recessions since 1955 and had only one false positive, in the mid-1960s, when an inversion was followed by an economic slowdown but not an official recession.”

—*San Francisco Fed*

Next Stop Default?

“**C**hinese companies now hold dollar-denominated debt of roughly \$450 billion, compared with almost none in 2009.”

—*The Economist*

Primate Change



How the world we made is remaking us.

Vybarr Cregan-Reid

Yet Pessimism Is Soaring

“For the first time in recorded history, bacteria, viruses, and other infectious agents do not cause the majority of deaths or disabilities in any region of the world. Since 2003, the number of people who die each year from HIV/AIDS has fallen by more than 40 percent. Deaths from malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrheal diseases have fallen by more than 25 percent each. In 1950, there were nearly one hundred countries, including almost every one in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, where at least one out of five children died before his or her fifth birthday, most of them from infectious diseases. Today, there are none. The average life expectancy in developing countries has risen to seventy.”

—Foreign Affairs

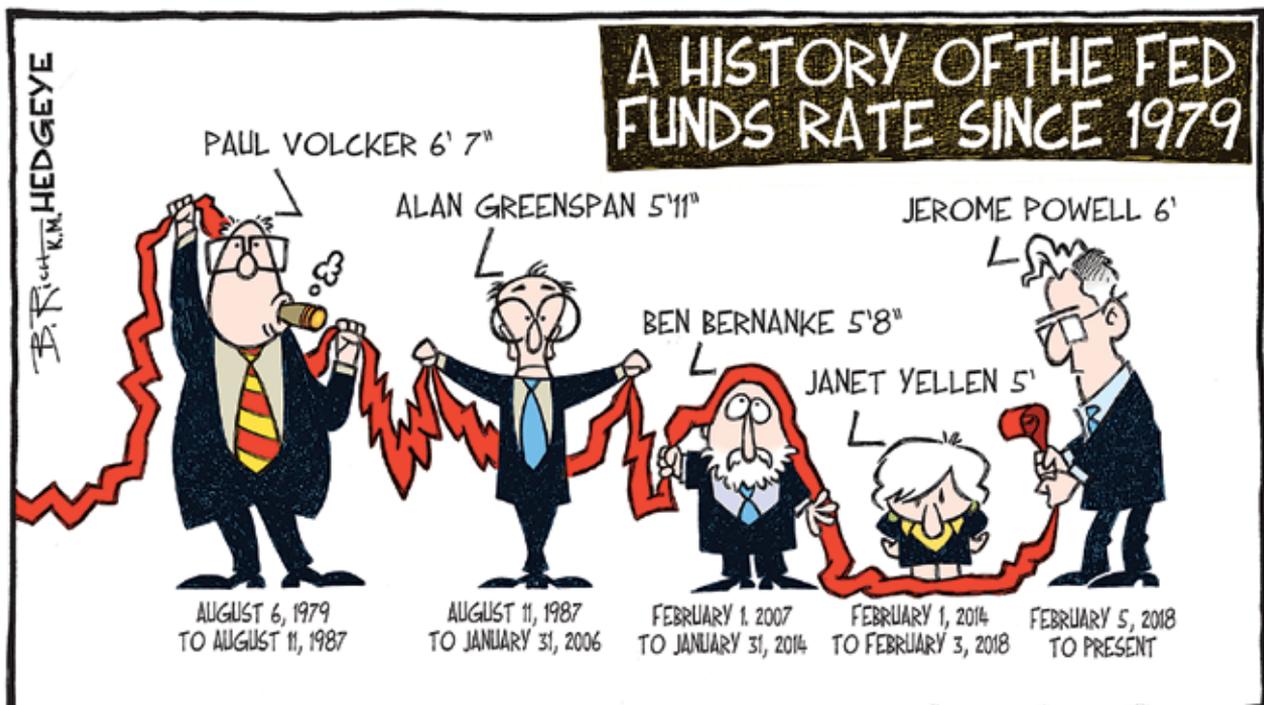
Then Why the Rise in Global Populism?

The global population living in extreme poverty has dropped below 750 million. This is a decline of roughly one billion people in the past quarter-century

—World Bank

By 2022, more than half the world will be middle class.

—Brookings Institution



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