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THE GREATEST THEFT IN HUMAN HISTORY

New Book Quantifies How Banks and the US Government Will Steal At Least \$1.40 Million From the Median American Worker —

Four Independent AI Systems Confirm: Fractional Reserve Banking + Government Taxes + SS COLA Gap = 58% of Lifetime Earnings Extracted

PETERBOROUGH, NH — The Art of Liberty Foundation today releases its new book, [*The Greatest Theft in Human History*](#) — *How the Banks and “Government” Will Steal at Least \$1.40 MILLION from the Typical Worker... “Legally”* by founder and executive director [Etienne de la Boetie](#)² (now available in paperback and ePub at [Greatest-Theft.com](#)), the most comprehensive public accounting ever attempted of how the fractional reserve banking system and government systematically extract wealth from ordinary American workers — documented with primary-source evidence, independent calculations from four separate AI systems, and quantified in specific dollar figures for workers at every income level. Beginning with this release, the book is available free with an annual membership to [Voluntaryist.News](#), the Foundation’s new censorship-resistant publishing platform.

YOUR MISSING MILLIONS — BY INCOME LEVEL (OFFICIAL 2% CPI)						
40-year career · Three banking-extraction mechanisms · CORRECTED FOUR-AI CONSENSUS FIGURES · v2.4 · June 2026						
Annual Income	Lifetime Earnings	Inflation Tax CPI-understatement shortfall (Tier B)	Cantillon Effect first-money advantage (Tier C)	Compound Trap interest on bank-created money (Tier B)	FRB TOTAL EXTRACTED banking mechanisms only — before taxes & SS COLA gap	% of Lifetime banking share
\$35K	\$1.40M	\$125K	\$42K	\$182K	\$349K	25.0%
\$60K ★	\$2.40M	\$215K	\$72K	\$308K	\$595K	24.8%
\$120K	\$4.80M	\$430K	\$144K	\$610K	\$1.18M	24.7%
\$250K	\$10.0M	\$895K	\$300K	\$1.26M	\$2.46M	24.6%
\$500K	\$20.0M	\$1.79M	\$600K	\$2.52M	\$4.91M	24.6%
\$1M	\$40.0M	\$3.58M	\$1.20M	\$3.59M	\$8.37M	20.9%
\$5M †	\$200.0M	\$17.9M	\$6.00M	\$12.3M	\$36.2M	18.1%
\$10M †	\$400.0M	\$35.8M	\$12.0M	\$24.4M	\$72.2M	18.1%
★ Median worker at \$60K: \$215,000 + \$72,000 + \$307,669 = \$594,669 (24.8% of \$2.4M lifetime earnings). The banking share is roughly flat — 18-25% at every income level: the banks take about a quarter from everyone. Banking mechanisms only. Government taxes and the SS COLA gap are excluded here — with them, the median worker’s complete extraction is ~\$1.49M (62%); see the full extraction table. Δ Reality Index sensitivity: at the measured ~0.7pp gap, FRB totals rise ~13% (e.g., \$595K → ~\$673K for \$60K). † \$5M/\$10M tiers: compound-trap model coverage thins above \$500K — totals indicative. Sources: FDIC · Federal Reserve H.6 · BLS CPI · Reality Index (realityindex.co) · Four-AI cross-verification — June 2026						
ArtOfLiberty.org/Inflation					Banking Extraction Only · Official BLS 2% CPI Baseline	

KEY FINDINGS

- **\$594,669 (official 2% CPI) — rising ~13% to ~\$673,000 once the Reality Index’s measured ~0.7-point CPI-understatement gap is applied:** The amount the median American worker (\$60K/yr) loses over a 40-year career to the fractional reserve banking system alone in inflation tax + Cantillon Effect + Compound Trap — confirmed independently by Claude Fable 5 Max (Anthropic), SuperGrok (xAI), Gemini 3.1 Pro Extended(Google), and GPT-5.5 High (OpenAI).
- **\$1.40 Million (58% of lifetime earnings):** The median worker’s total extraction — banking mechanisms (~\$595K), federal, state and payroll taxes (~\$785K), and the Social Security COLA gap (~\$16K using the BLS’s CPI-E, ~\$70K using the Reality Index) — equal to **58% of \$2.40M** in lifetime earnings, on the conservative official-CPI baseline.

► **~\$25–50 Billion Per Year:** The amount the federal government saves annually by using manipulated BLS inflation figures to suppress Social Security and pension COLAs — a four-model AI consensus finding.

► **~18–25% from inflation alone — at every income level:** Inflation from fractional reserve banking and government dollar creation extracts roughly a quarter of lifetime earnings across the entire income spectrum, from **\$35K** to **\$10M** per year — the banks take about the same share from everyone.

YOUR MISSING MILLIONS — BY INCOME LEVEL (GOVERNMENT & SS COLA)							
40-year career + 20-year retirement · Four government-extraction mechanisms · LOCKED FIGURE SET v2.6 · AUGUST 2026							
Annual Income	Lifetime Earnings	SS COLA Gap CPI-E floor vs. the CPI-W used for COLAs [Tier B]	Federal Income Tax lifetime · bracket-calculated per tier	Payroll Tax — Full Burden both halves · OASDI wage-base cap applied	State & Local Tax lifetime · ITEP blended	GOVERNMENT TOTAL EXTRACTED taxes & the SS COLA gap only — before banking mechanisms	% of Lifetime government share
\$35K	\$1.40M	\$12K	\$86K	\$214K	\$161K	\$473K	33.8%
\$60K ★	\$2.40M	\$16K	\$206K	\$367K	\$211K	\$801K	33.4%
\$120K	\$4.80M	\$24K	\$722K	\$734K	\$432K	\$1.91M	39.8%
\$250K	\$10.0M	\$30K	\$2.09M	\$1.14M	\$920K	\$4.18M	41.8%
\$500K	\$20.0M	\$30K	\$5.57M	\$1.52M	\$1.92M	\$9.04M	45.2%
\$1M	\$40.0M	\$30K	\$12.9M	\$2.28M	\$3.84M	\$19.05M	47.6%
\$5M †	\$200.0M	\$30K	\$72.1M	\$8.36M	\$19.2M	\$99.69M	49.8%
\$10M †	\$400.0M	\$30K	\$146.1M	\$16.0M	\$38.4M	\$200.53M	50.1%

★ Median worker at \$60K: \$16,000 + \$206,000 + \$367,000 + \$211,000 = **\$800,800** (33.4% of \$2.4M lifetime earnings). The government share climbs with income — 33% to 50%. The banking share does the opposite, falling from 25% to 18%. Two mechanisms pulling in opposite directions, and together they take 58-70% at every single level.

How the pair adds up — median worker at \$60K. Banking extraction \$594,669 + Government extraction \$800,800 = **\$1,395,469** — 58% of \$2.40M in stated wages; ~54% of total compensation including the employer FICA half. Both denominators are shown because the payroll column below counts both halves of FICA.

Payroll tax is the largest single government line for every worker below six figures — \$214K vs. \$86K in federal income tax at \$35K, and \$367K vs. \$206K at the \$60K median. It is counted here at **full burden**: 12.4% OASDI to the wage-base cap + 2.9% Medicare + 0.9% Additional Medicare above \$200K, employer half included. The employer half is money the worker earned and never saw.

The SS COLA gap is the smallest column and the most revealing one. It is not our index — it is BLS's own experimental senior index (CPI-E), which runs ~0.25pp above the CPI-W actually used to set Social Security COLAs. Applied to a \$2,000/month benefit over a 20-year retirement, that measurement choice alone costs the median retiree ~\$16,000. The gap flattens at ~\$30K because the benefit formula's bend points cap it — **the shortfall is capped, the contribution is not**. Δ Sensitivity: at a 1pp gap the median figure rises to ~\$70K.

† \$5M and \$10M tiers model wage income taxed at ordinary bracket rates, single filer. Real earners at those levels hold most income as capital gains, qualified dividends and carried interest — taxed far lower. These two rows therefore **overstate** what the very top actually remits and are shown as the arithmetic of the stated model, not as observed effective rates. Rounding: column sums are computed from the tier figures; the combined table rounds its totals independently, so pairwise addition can differ by up to ~\$0.05M in the top tiers. Federal figures use a single-filer standard deduction (8.6% at \$60K). State & local uses an ITEP-blended rate; ITEP's national findings are ~11.4% for the poorest fifth and ~7.4% for the top 1%, so the upper tiers here sit above ITEP's measured top-end rate.

Sources: SSA OASDI · BLS CPI-W & R-CPI-E · IRS SOI · ITEP Who Pays? (7th ed.) · Tax Foundation · CBO. Companion figure: **Your Missing Millions — Banking Extraction (Official 2% CPI)**. Four-AI cross-verification + hostile-review corrections, June 2026: Claude · Grok · Gemini · GPT.

Adding confiscatory federal and state taxes and the Social Security COLA gap brings the median worker's total to about **58%** of lifetime earnings.

► **~96–97% Purchasing Power Destroyed:** The dollar has lost ~96–97% of its purchasing power since the Federal Reserve was created in 1913 — confirmed by the BLS's own CPI Calculator.

► **860×** The expansion of the M2 money supply since 1913, versus only ~41× real GDP growth (money per unit of real output). The ~21× differential represents pure monetary dilution transferred from wage earners to money creators.

"The system claims a majority of every American worker's lifetime earnings, then continues extracting through manipulated retirement benefits. These are not independent mechanisms — they are interlocking components of a single extraction architecture designed to transfer wealth from those who earn it to the banks who create the medium of exchange and, largely, fund/install the politicians who "legalize" it and the media monopolizers, academics and economists who have been covering it up."

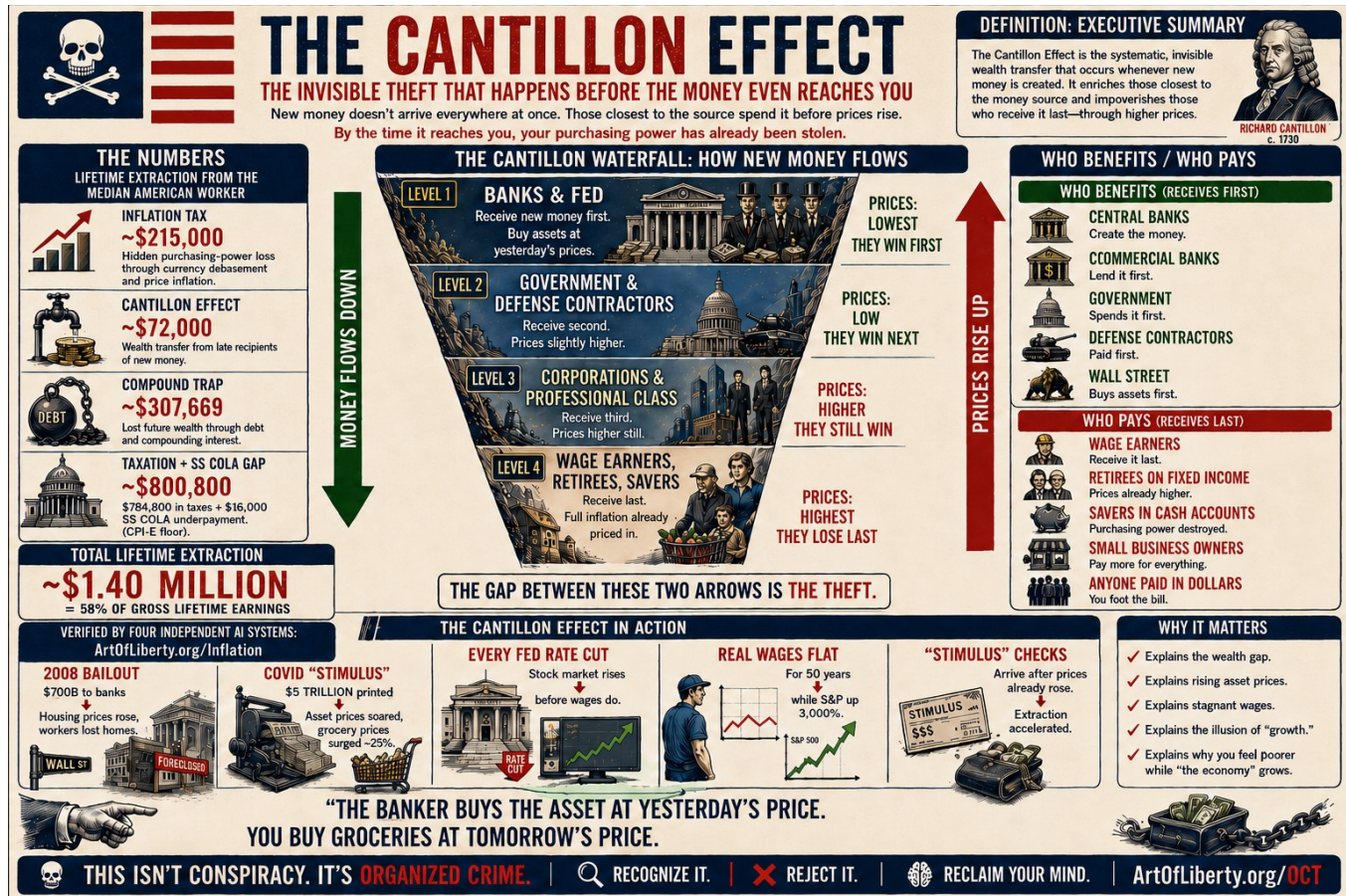
— Etienne de la Boetie², Founder, Art of Liberty Foundation

THE THREE MECHANISMS OF EXTRACTION

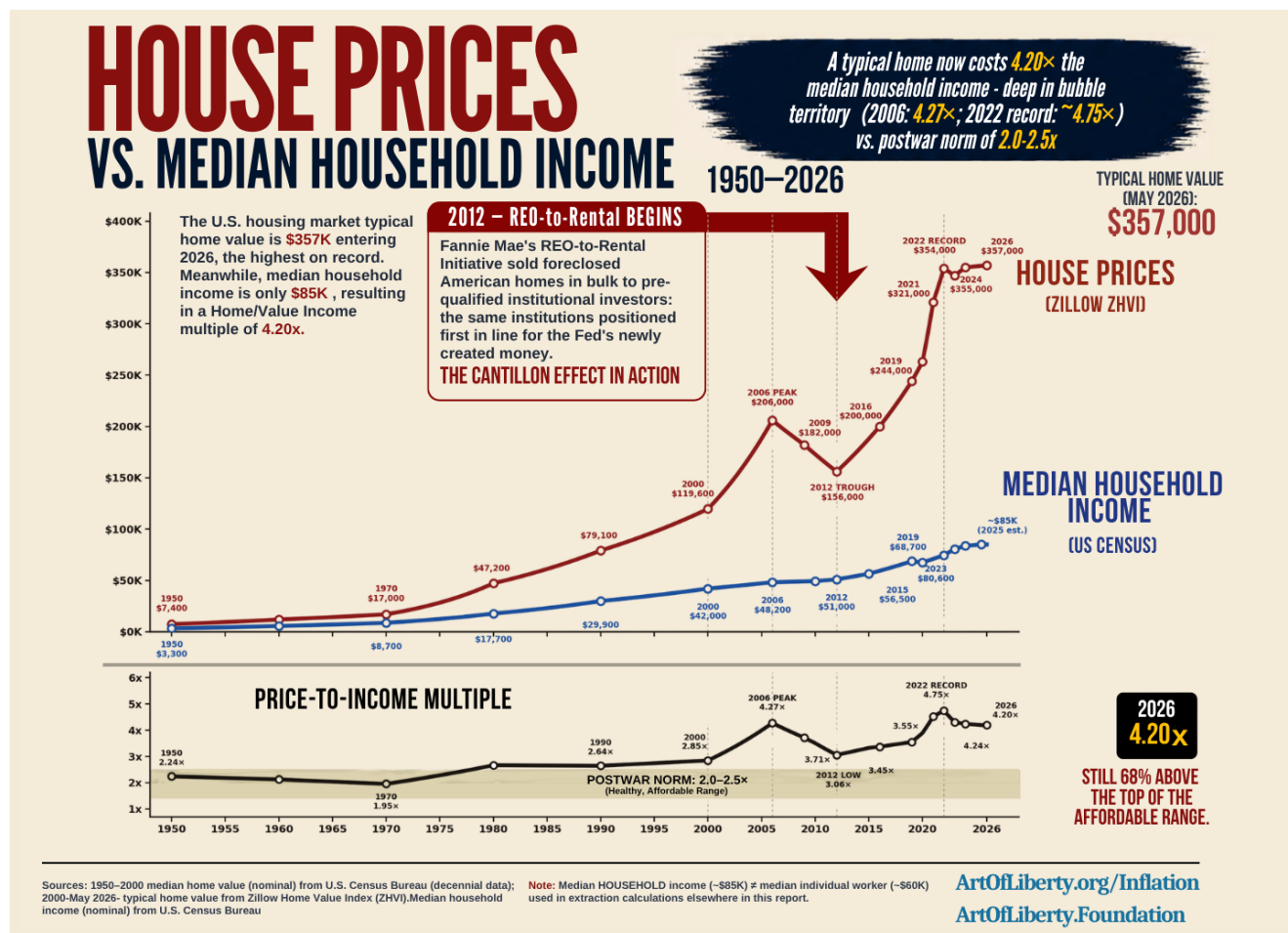
The report documents three interlocking mechanisms through which the banking system transfers purchasing power from workers:

1. The Inflation Tax: Every dollar created out of thin air by fractional reserve banking and the government dilutes the purchasing power of every existing dollar — a hidden theft/tax requiring no vote and no legislation.

2. The Cantillon Effect: Banks and their borrowers receive newly created money first, at pre-inflation prices. Workers receive wages last, at post-inflation prices. The approximately 450,000 single-family homes purchased by private equity since 2012 using QE money — while median workers were locked out of the market — is the Cantillon Effect made visible.



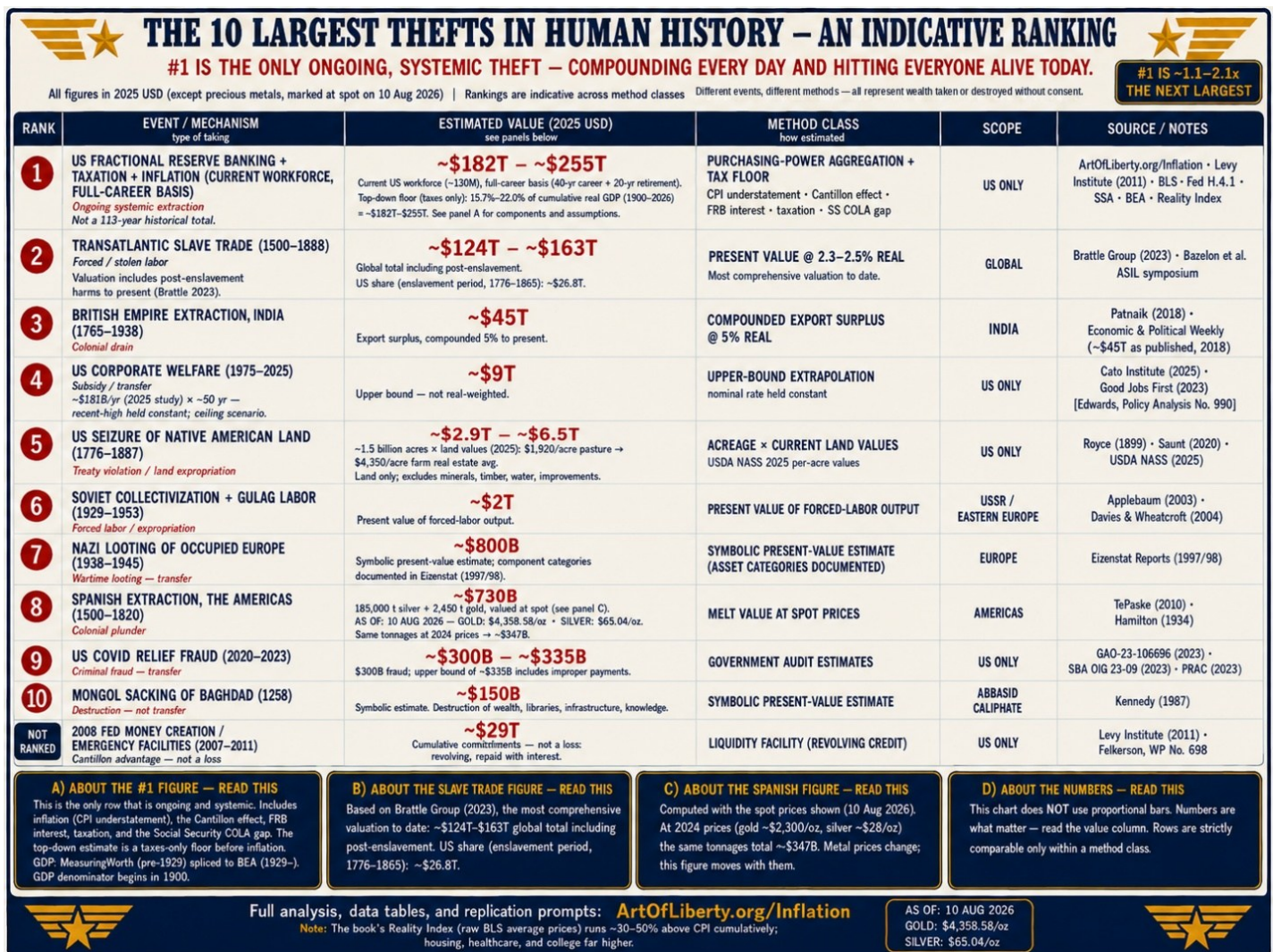
3. The Compound Trap: Inflation forces workers to borrow at interest — from the very institutions that created the inflation — to afford assets whose prices were inflated by the money-creation process. A home that cost \$25,000 in 1971 now costs \$400,000+. Not because the home is 16× better, but because the money supply expanded 860× while real GDP grew only ~41×.



METHODOLOGY & VERIFICATION

The report's findings were independently calculated by four AI systems — Anthropic's Claude Fable 5 Max, xAI's SuperGrok, Google's Gemini 3.1 Pro Extended Thinking, and OpenAI's GPT-5.5 High — each prompted identically and without coordination. All four models converged on the same order of magnitude for median worker losses (approximately \$595,000 under the conservative official-CPI baseline) and on the ~\$25–50 billion annual government savings from CPI manipulation. The convergence of independently calculated estimates from models with different corporate owners and different training data itself is a central finding of the report.

All figures are sourced from primary data: FDIC Quarterly Banking Profile, Federal Reserve H.6 money supply releases, BLS CPI Calculator, GAO audit reports, SEC filings, and peer-reviewed academic literature. At \$1.40M per worker × 130 million Americans currently in the workforce, the total expected lifetime extraction across the current labor force exceeds \$182 trillion — consistent with the Foundation's 10 Largest Thefts in Human History analysis. The report distinguishes between Tier A confirmed figures (audited hard data), Tier B calculated figures (derived from confirmed inputs), and Tier C modeled estimates (clearly labeled as such).



A NOTE ON THE FIGURES: Earlier previews of this analysis circulated a higher, less conservative estimate. For the published report, the Foundation deliberately adopted the most conservative defensible methodology — correcting an overstated Social Security COLA component, removing the total extraction versus the benign deflation of a hard-money gold standard and tightening the banking-extraction model. The published **\$1.40M (58%)** figure is the conservative official-CPI floor, chosen to withstand hostile academic and media scrutiny rather than to maximize the headline.

AVAILABILITY & DISTRIBUTION

The Greatest Theft in Human History is available now in paperback (ISBN 979-8-90119-337-2) and ePub (ISBN 979-8-90119-339-6) at Greatest-Theft.com.

Free with a Liberty Membership: a copy of *The Greatest Theft in Human History* ships free with every annual membership (\$50) to Voluntaryist.News — the Art of Liberty Foundation's new censorship-resistant publishing platform, built to move its journalism beyond the reach of Big Tech deplatforming, demonetization, and shadow-banning. Members receive the book plus full access to the Foundation's reporting on publishing infrastructure it owns and controls.

Bulk orders account for more than **10%** of the foundation book sales. One early example before the official release of the book — a single customer's order of 200 copies — is being distributed to a range of recipients, including 39 sheriffs' departments in North Carolina and two justices of the North Carolina Supreme Court. *The Greatest Theft in Human History* was so well received that the customer ordered 200 more copies.

ABOUT THE ART OF LIBERTY FOUNDATION

The Art of Liberty Foundation is dedicated to exposing the illegitimacy and criminality of monopoly government and central banking and promoting voluntaryism — the only system of social organization based entirely on consent — as the alternative that would maximize both prosperity and harmony in society. The Foundation publishes books, investigative reports, the Art of Liberty Daily News, and Five Meme Friday. More information at ArtOfLiberty.org. Download the full report with links at ArtOfLiberty.org/Inflation.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: High-resolution charts, the full report PDF, and AI methodology documentation are available at ArtOfLiberty.org/Inflation