

The Monetocracy - how they exercise power over us

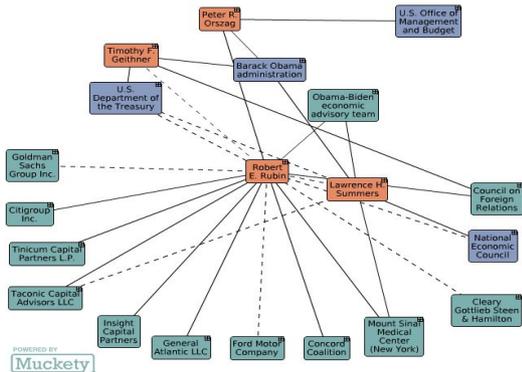
Power is best thought of as the ability to pursue purposes and see them through successfully. To pursue their purposes the Monetocracy have all the cards and ordinary people very few. These purposes have common features that assume that life is about the accumulation and enjoyment of money - and with it status, power and influence over us.

They are well resourced

The 1% own a fifth of all the wealth in the UK and the average income of people in the top 1% was £149,000 in 2007/2008. They can pull together much larger sums of purchasing power to pursue their projects for the other reasons described here - for example they will know bankers who can create money through credit extension, politicians to get state support and other rich people....

They are well connected

Powerful people operate in closely knit networks consisting of other powerful people - politicians and key officials, business people, academics in elite institutions, key journalists. They visit the same clubs, holiday on each other's yachts and meet at the same conferences like the *World Economic Forum*. A "revolving door" system means journalists or officials become politicians or vice versa and sit on the boards of businesses or banks. Senior employees of regulatory agencies go to work for the organisations that they were earlier supposed to police. Despite shifting loyalties clubs of power look after each other.



They are well informed

Knowledge is power...and money too. In elite circles hire elite academics and pay university departments, set up think tanks and research agencies, work closely with journalists and media organisations. The revolving door between government and business creates a collegiate relationship across agencies that supply each other with information and lean over backwards to ensure that fellow members of the elite are invited to consult over proposed changes that might matter.

They are well publicised and promoted

What the power elite wants is well prepared for public consumption and acceptance. Powerful people own and run media organisations and newspapers and advertise in them, exercising indirect influence over the slant on what is said and written. The propaganda industry (renamed Public Relations when the Nazi, Dr Joseph Goebbels, gave the word 'propaganda' a tarnished reputation) is one of the biggest economic players - in the UK over 61,000 people work in the PR industry and it has a turnover of £7.5 billion a year. This is about the same number, possibly more, than the number of journalists. The PR industry issues news releases and sets media agendas behind the scenes - eg manipulating perceptions to get the public to support an invasion of Iraq. It helps in dirty tricks, advises on cleaning up tarnished images and passing the blame.

They are well represented

Through direct lobbying of officials and politicians the power elite are well represented. There are an estimated 15,000 lobbyists in Brussels, most representing the interests of big business. Elite law firms represent the rich and powerful in court where it is possible to bully critics through launching expensive legal campaigns.



They are well hidden when they want to be

A global network of tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions enables the elite to develop and execute their plans unobserved. Shadow markets and special purpose companies are run through the havens where tax evasion money is parked or money that has been looted or stolen is deposited without anyone asking questions. Swiss banking laws jail whistle blowers on elite crime. In the Cayman Islands you can be prosecuted merely for asking for information.

They are well protected when need be

Pursuing purposes when other peoples' interests are hurt can create conflict and violence. Elite groups are guarded however, when needed, in gated communities, with security companies providing protection. Also, when they play for very high stakes they can launch military action by developing geopolitical strategies that match their interests - prepared in the mass media by the PR industry and in government together with the armaments, defence, logistics, and private security agencies (mercenaries). Meanwhile critics and opponents of power agendas can and are undermined by police tactics that discourage protests (like kettling), by surveillance, by infiltration of police spies into even very tame campaigns and harassment by legal agencies.

