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“Who Controls the Past Controls the Future”

George Orwell, 1984

By Dr. Jim Haas

For 30 million visitors a year, the Smithsonian Institute’s free museums are a highlight of Washington, D.C. Established in 1846 with money willed to the U.S. by Englishman James Smithson for “an Establishment for the increase & diffusion of knowledge among men,” the first of 21 museum buildings (pictured) opened on the Mall in 1855. The Smithsonian is one of the world’s great museums and vividly illustrates the remarkable history of the United States.

History is the record of what happened in the past, why, and the consequences, both good and bad. Historians study two kinds of evidence: primary (contemporary sources such as eyewitness accounts, recordings, documents, and artifacts) and secondary (analysis, modification, or interpretation of primary sources). Both kinds of evidence need to be carefully examined for biases, ideological agendas, unverified evidence, selective omissions, and other distortions. Done well, the result is a narrative—a story—that explains events and ideas within the context of the time as accurately as the evidence allows.

History narratives can be books, lectures and discussions, specialized scholarly papers, school texts, audio and visual recordings, and descriptions of museum exhibits. Depending on the historian’s skill, they can be dry as dust or lively stories told with passion that place the topic within a larger, meaningful context.

Historians see the world through various lenses depending on their expertise and interests: political, economic, social, religious, intellectual, artistic. Fifty years ago and more, school texts tended to focus on political matters—wars, treaties, politicians—but important as these are, there has been a growing focus on social and economic issues and the condition of ordinary citizens, often called “history from the bottom up” rather than from the top down. The Smithsonian recently



opened museums dedicated to the experience of African Americans and of the American Indian and plans two new museums about the American Latino and women in America.

Now comes a president complaining on social media: “Museums all over the country are “the last remaining segment of “WOKE.” The Smithsonian is OUT OF CONTROL, where everything discussed is how horrible our Country is, how bad slavery was, and how unaccomplished the downtrodden have been—nothing about Success, nothing about Brightness, nothing about the Future.”

Incorrect English aside, Mr. Trump writes as if he has never been in a Smithsonian museum or given serious thought to the vast evidence about the horrors of slavery and the subsequent evils of Jim Crow, redlining, lynching, and the ongoing resistance to voting rights. In fact, he toured the Smithsonian’s new National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2017, saying that it “tells of the great struggle for freedom and equality that prevailed against the sins of slavery and the injustice of discrimination.” It seems his

memory has faded since then. And his values.

He also seems unfamiliar with the thousands of exhibits describing American “Success” from the Wright brothers to moon landings, the Internet, and, since he longs for “Brightness,” Edison’s first light bulb. As to the “Future,” museums, like history, illuminate the past through evidence. There is no evidence about the future.

Trump wants to whitewash history (pun intended), hiding our sins to invent a pseudo-history he thinks more inspiring. A free people deserve not propaganda, but the truth—the whole truth—from their museums, their schoolbooks, and their government. *That* is inspiring.

Truthful history has been called “history, warts and all.” Award-winning author Peter Beagle offered one example: “We are raised to honor all the wrong explorers and discoverers—thieves planting flags, murderers carrying crosses.” Surely the native Americans who were here when Balboa and Cortez arrived uninvited deserve both our sympathy and our respect in the American story.



By Sharon Hoover

It's really too pretty to be sitting at a computer, so I'll be short and sweet with upcoming events.

The Turner Community Library is hosting "Stargazing through Mayan Eyes" in the Turner Recreation Gymnasium on September 6 at 11am. Step into the ancient skies of the Mayan in this immersive planetarium experience. For children, teens and adults. Registration required. www.kckpl.org.

On September 9, The Turner

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Community Library hosts "Food Around the World - Tacos, Jamaica, & Salsa" at Turner Community Garden at 4:00- 5:30pm. Discover the art of Spanish cooking. They'll guide you through whipping up a delicious and budget friendly meal. Adults Registration Required. www.kckpl.org.

On September 10, The Turner Community Library hosts "Story-time & Sips" at The Windmill KC at 10am. Little ones enjoy three stories while grown-ups sip on something warm and wonderful. No registration required.

The Main Library, 625 Minnesota Ave is hosting a Literacy Fair for

ages 0-5 on Wednesday, September 17 from 4pm-7pm. Enjoy literacy games, activities and hot dogs. No registration required.

The South Branch Library is hosting a WYCO/UG "Candidate Forum" on September 17 beginning at 5pm- 8:30pm. Candidates in the upcoming November election for the Mayoral and At-Large Commissioner positions will be attending.

The 20th Annual Lawson Roberts Butterfly Festival will be held on Saturday, September 20 beginning at 9:30 am -3pm at Wyandotte County Lake Park. Those interested in submitting pictures for the annual contest should call the F.L. Schlager

Library for details. Open to the public children, teens and adults.

The Farm School on Gibbs is holding its Farm Fest on September 20 from 2pm-6pm spotlighting "Growing Common Ground" This is a free community celebration of food, farming, fun, and friendship. 2443 S 42nd St.

I said I'd be brief, and I have been. I'm looking forward to the three day weekend. By the time you read this the holiday will be over, but I hope you will be able to enjoy your Labor Day holiday.

That's it for now. Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

Stock Market Insights

Tariffs, Debt, and Markets: Why Old Tools Still Matter for the US Economy

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management.

Tariffs have become a pawn in America's current divided political environment, but have been a financial instrument for the American economy since the First Congress enacted the Tariff of 1789 under President George Washington. At the beginning of our Republic, tariffs were the US's primary source of revenue.

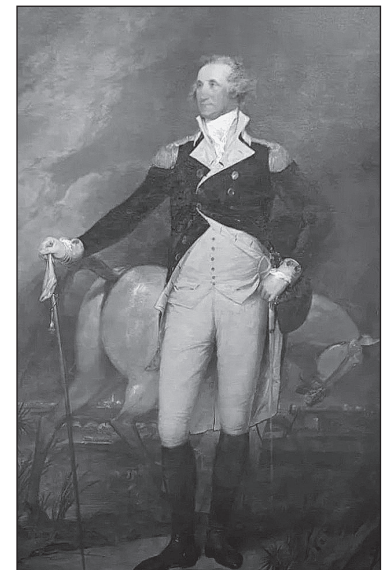
Tariffs are no longer the US's primary source of revenue, but they do generate direct revenue for the US government, providing an additional income stream to traditional taxation. The new tariff agreements are still being evaluated, but it is expected that this extra revenue will reduce the Treasury's borrowing needs. They are projected to increase revenues and decrease deficits by \$4 trillion over the next decade, according to the Treasury Department, which will be able to reduce the amount of bonds it issues.

When the Treasury Department reduces the supply of new bonds, it tends to support fixed-income prices and maintain higher yields. When a government has high debt

levels, as the US does, it's a positive sign for markets if the government can generate more revenue from sources other than taxes. The direct connection is simple: every dollar collected through tariffs is one less dollar the government needs to borrow. During periods of increasing tariffs, the Treasury reduces the sizes of auctions, particularly for shorter-duration bills and notes.

Rating agency S&P Global Ratings noted that the tariffs were credit-positive. It highlighted them as a strength to the US credit policy when it recently affirmed the US's AA+ credit rating. S&P said that the revenue-generating part of tariffs, combined with their potential to reduce trade deficits, outweighs potential short-term growth challenges.

From a market perspective, the increased tariffs create an unusual win-win dynamic for Treasury investors. On the supply side, revenue generated from tariffs directly reduces the Treasury's funding needs, which reduces bond supply through lower government borrowing. At the same time, it's increasing costs somewhere along the manufacturing/distribution/consumption process, which slows



economic growth and historically drives demand for safe-haven assets like Treasuries.

As Fed Chair Jerome Powell recently said, the effects of tariffs may not be felt all at once and will take time for tariff increases to work their way through supply chains and distribution networks. The extra revenue is great, but the new tariff income is still expected to be only a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of US debt outstand-

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A little good goes a long way: Give blood or platelets with Red Cross and PEANUTS®

The American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now to help maintain a healthy blood supply. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types O positive and B negative blood, are urged to make an appointment to keep lifesaving blood products ready the moment patients need them.

People coming together to care for one another is the humanitarian spirit shared by our Red Cross community and fans of PEANUTS. And this month, the Red Cross and PEANUTS are once again joining forces to remind people that a little good goes a long way. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of PEANUTS, those who come to give blood Aug. 29-Sept. 21, 2025, will get an exclusive Red Cross x PEANUTS mystery bag with one of four special T-shirt designs, while they last.

Each design is iconic, and donors won't know which one they'll get until they open the bag. Additionally, there will be a number of golden tickets randomly in the mystery bags hidden throughout the country. Donors who find a golden ticket when they open their bag will have the chance to redeem it through an online form for all four T-shirts! See RedCrossBlood.org/PEanuts for details.

Be a friend to patients in need. Book a time to give by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Seasonal challenges

Routines are changing, and schedules are filling up before fall, which could keep people from coming out to help save lives. In addition, the threat of severe weather and hurricanes remains strong in late summer. As we near

National Preparedness Month, it's important to note the significant disruption weather can cause all year long. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, weather canceled about 1,500 blood drives, causing more than 40,000 blood donations to go uncollected. Making and keeping donation appointments where it's safe to do so can help patients when and wherever they need it most.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Aug. 25-Sept. 15

Kansas City Kansas

9/9/2025: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Dairy Farmers of America, 1405 N 98th St

Leawood

9/11/2025: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Reece Nichols Leawood South Office, 15133 Rosewood Dr

Lenexa

9/5/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Kaw Prairie Community Church, 9421 Meadow View Dr,

9/9/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dance Expressions, 8305 Hedge Ln Terrace

Olathe

9/8/2025: 12:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Olathe Indian Creek Library, 16100 W 135th St

Overland Park

9/13/2025: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Overland Park KS Blood Donor Center, 6301 W 135th St, Suite C

Prairie Village

9/11/2025: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Colonial Church in Prairie Village, 7039 Mission Road

Shawnee

9/4/2025: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monticello Library, 22435 W 66th St

Spring Hill

9/10/2025: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Spring Hill Community Center, 613 S. Race Street

Leavenworth

9/6/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., VFW Post 56, 519 Cherokee Street



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Market Insights...

...from page 3

ing, and won't replace the need for income taxes.

Love them or hate them, it seems that tariffs are here to stay, and that could be good for Treasury markets. Even if tariff revenue disappoints or growth impacts prove milder than expected, reduced issuance of new bonds alone could provide a supportive floor for prices.

While we haven't seen it yet, the potential for tariff-driven inflation does exist; the near- to medium-term setup appears more favorable for Treasury and bond investors now than it did without tariff revenue.

The first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, sought to utilize tariffs to repay the Revolutionary War debt while also protecting American industries. Hamilton thought it was the only way for the new country to develop its own manufacturing and become less dependent on British and European goods. We don't have Revolutionary War debt, but the US

still has a crazy amount of debt. We don't have Washington and Hamilton leading this tariff charge, but let's hope the Trump administration walks the fine line between paying down debt and reestablishing our manufacturing base ... without harming our economy.

Have a blessed week!

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Fervent Wealth Management is a financial management and services entity in Springfield, Missouri.

Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is one that can be enjoyed at breakfast or as a sweet snack; you get to decide what goes into these delicious muffins. Please bake a batch or two to share with a live-alone neighbor or friend, you'll be glad you did and it will let them know that you are thinking of them. It's an easy to make treat you will probably make again in the Fall. Please try:

APPLE CRANBERRY MUFFINS

Ingredients:

2 c Flour	1 c Sugar
1 t Baking powder	1 t Vanilla
1 t Cinnamon	2 t Grated Orange rind
1/2 t Salt	1 lg. Granny Smith Apple
2 lg. Eggs	1 c Cranberries
3/4 c Canola oil	1/2 c Chopped Pecans

Set oven to 375°. Line muffin pan with paper liners or spray with nonstick spray. In a bowl, combine and whisk together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. In a large bowl whisk the eggs and then add the sugar. Continue until mixture is light in color. Mix in the oil and the Vanilla. Add the flour mixture a little at a time. Stir together lightly*. Add the cranberries and the pecans.*Tip, try not to over mix the batter or the muffins will be tough. Fill each muffin cup half full. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Store at room temperature in an airtight container.

Variations: Add white or dark Chocolate chips or use dried cranberries instead of fresh cranberries. For a sweeter muffin, use Gala or Honey Crisp apples. Dark or golden raisins and use walnuts. Use whatever your family likes. Variety is the spice of life.

Enjoy!

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