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My View: (500 words)

Our nation's over \$9 trillion in debt. Add another \$21 trillion in entitlements and encumbrances. For almost six years, Republicans — who have controlled all three branches of government — have given lie to their stated core belief of fiscal responsibility by annually passing \$500 billion deficit budgets.

Our country cannot continue to pile debt onto our national credit card. Soon, our creditors, in this case foreign bond buyers, will cease supporting us. Then our economy will rapidly collapse.

Almost five years ago our nation was attacked on 9/11. Yet those responsible are still at large in Afghanistan, where we **had** a token force of troops. Our troops are elsewhere. The 9/11 attack was used as an excuse to launch an unprovoked invasion and occupation of a nation that was no threat to us, to keep their oil fields from production, and drive oil prices up. Iraq has the second largest known oil reserves in the world, and to this day virtually none of their oil's being pumped out of the ground.

We were assured this Iraqi oil would pay all the costs for the invasion, occupation and reconstruction of Iraq. You suckers! All it has cost you is a couple of trillion dollars, over 2,900 American lives, tens of thousands of wounded, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi dead, and millions of very, very angry Muslims. A terrorist breeding and training ground where none existed before. And no end in sight. The winner in all of this has been Osama bin Forgotten.

9/11 has been used by our government to spy on us: From airport strip searches to illegal searches of all our personal records from banking, to phone calls, to e-mails, to Internet sites visited, to purchases Americans have been arrested, thrown in jail for years, held *incommunicado*, without charges, without access to an attorney, without court appearances Tossed in a hole along with the Constitution.

This is the result of government. Unrestrained government. It's not the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. Both are the Washington Party. Working cooperatively. Dedicated to milking the taxpayer out of as much of their labor as possible, and monitoring Americans closely before they can object forcefully.

Tragically, with our huge national debt, there's no way our economy, even as robust as it is, can recover. There will be an enormous collapse, rivaling the Depression. There can be no other outcome for \$30 trillion in rising debt. The middle class will be destroyed, and have to rebuild itself.

The collapse is imminent and will become obvious before Bush leaves office. Nothing can prevent this. But you can minimize the period between the collapse and the recovery, or you can allow government to continue to prolong the misery by prolonging

the recovery as it did in the 1930's. To start down the road to recovery requires removing those responsible for this mess in the first place. Then assuring the infrastructure that allowed their thieving can never return.

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