

Escape

(Synopsis)

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"In every game of con there is always an opponent, and there is always a victim. The trick is to know when you're the latter, so you can become the former."

~ *Jake Green* [1]

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Abstract: A decentralised autonomous ledger (DAL) that automatically adds new units to a given land owner's account in proportion to certain ecosystem services provided by that land can be used to pay for those services.¹ If such units have a market price, the consequence will be a decrease in poverty and environmental degradation as land owners receive income for their healthy land. Proper scaling and mass adoption of the ledger units as money, along with the introduction of market competition, will quickly and permanently eliminate the unholy trinity of poverty, crime and environmental degradation.

In *Escape: How We Can Fix Everything by Fixing Our Money*, author Sam Gold makes the case that our major problems in the world, summarised as poverty [3–26], crime [3, 4, 19, 27–32], and environmental degradation [30, 31, 33–133, pp. 365 - 381 of 134], are almost entirely due to the human manufactured products we use as money. He conducts an analysis showing a way to re-engineer the world's reserve money, our US dollars, so those problems are not just removed from our lives, but reversed. Specifically, he proposes we invert the energy flow of our US dollars, and shows how just this one step will cause humanity to transition rapidly into its much-awaited-for science fiction future (*Jetsons*, not *Blade Runner*), without any one of us knowing how [135]. Gold proposes We, the People, of the uSA² engineer and adopt newly redesigned US dollars per this monetary analysis, and shows in detail how to do that, profitably. He concludes by asking for specific actions from the reader to make this god-step happen.

The information presented in *Escape* is backed up by 564 references, with further explanations given in five appendices. Appendix A provides an example illustrating the accounting used to justify printing unbacked paper money, Appendix B gives a simplified history of our US dollars, and Appendix C presents a formal set of requirements for our proposed new US

¹Land owners can already get paid for some ecosystem services, such as for example timber and wild game. However the most basic ecosystem services, like breathable air and drinkable water, have not yet been incorporated into human financial accounting systems [2].

²A small u is used in deference to the title of the Declaration of Independence, which reads: "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America."

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dollars. Finally, Appendix D provides a brief explanation of the physical concept of entropy as related to the proposed new money, and Appendix E closes with a short note about Universal Basic Income (UBI).

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