

# The Appriser

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## Gary Moore—a voice to consider

—Mark L. Vincent, PhD, CCNL  
CEO, Design Group International

From time to time we've been fortunate to feature Gary Moore's wisdom in some of our publications. Few people match his longevity, his awareness of complex economic dynamics, his commitment to the highest ethical values, and his investment track record as he offers counsel and investment perspective. You can learn more about his work [here](#). This is an unsolicited endorsement by the way!

In a series of recent e-mail on current economic dynamics, Gary offers perspective people rarely hear, and even when they do hear it there is too much other anxious noise that interferes with their learning. In other words, what Gary is pointing to hides in plain sight and we need to take our blinders off. Here is an excerpt:

*It simply is not correct that "America is drowning in a sea of red ink." The reason I write and speak so much about that illusion, painted by the media and politicians, is that I believe it is a major reason Americans are hoarding so much money and government bonds rather than investing it in truly wealth creating activities. It is therefore a major reason our economy is performing in a sub-par fashion.*

Gary points to a recent article in *The Economist* as evidence of this assertion: [A lighter ball and chain.](#)

And here is another of his insights:

*During the past thirty years, each time a politician has decried the federal debt, I've asked if he or she knows the value of our nation's assets. I've never found one who has known. And I've asked two congressmen who have served on key financial/economic committees in the House, which has been most vocal chamber about the debt. I mentioned this to a neighbor who was the retired chief of staff for a former Speaker of the House and he said he didn't think there were a half dozen people in congress who truly understood the federal debt, much less economics in the larger sense.*

Another way we've heard Gary address this is by asking if you know what the U.S. national assets are. Do you? Everyone talks about the debt. A few know what the debt is. Almost no one can point to the assets or guess with any measure of accuracy.

Do you want to know? Here are three estimates from different sources:

1. [\\$118 trillion](#) (2008)
2. [\\$188 trillion](#) (2009)
3. [\\$157 trillion](#) (2011)

Thank you Gary. Some of us are listening.

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