BONUS 3 · INCLUDED WITH THE DOLLAR COLLAPSE PLAYBOOK

THE CANON, CURATED

The Monetary History Reading List

Twelve books, in the right order.

DollarCollapse.com

2026 Edition

How to Use This Reading List

The Dollar Collapse Playbook is the distilled version of an argument that twelve other books make better, longer, and from twelve different angles. If you finish the Playbook wanting to understand the thesis more deeply, more systematically, and in the voice of the thinkers who built it, this is the list.

Three things to know before you start.

1. The order matters

The mistake most readers make with a list like this is starting with the hardest book and quitting by chapter three. Mises's Theory of Money and Credit is arguably the most important book on the list. It is also the one that has caused the most readers to put down an Austrian economics book for good. Do not start there. Start at book one. Each book on this list leads naturally into the next, building from narrative to synthesis to theory. By the time you reach book twelve, you will have built the framework to read through tough material without feeling frustrated.

2. None of these books are optional if you are serious

A reader who has read three of these books has a better grounding in monetary history than 99 percent of investment professionals. A reader who has read all twelve has a framework that cannot be shaken by the daily news cycle. That framework is what allows the Playbook's moves to feel obvious rather than radical. You are not reading for novelty; you are reading for foundation.

3. Some are free. Most are cheap. The time is the cost

The total dollar cost of buying every book on this list new is approximately $190. Several are available free and legally (notably Rothbard and several Mises Institute titles, which the Institute has released under Creative Commons). Used copies run 40 to 60 percent below new prices. The real cost of this list is not the books. It is the 100 to 150 hours of reading required to work through them properly. That is what makes the curation valuable. Reading the wrong twelve books, or reading the right twelve in the wrong order, wastes the time without building the framework.

> **Our Honest Caveat**
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> This is our list. Other sound-money writers would make different choices. A list made by a strict Austrian economist would cut Rickards and add more Menger; a list made by a modern macro-analyst would cut Bonner and Wiggin and add Reinhart and Rogoff. We

have chosen the twelve that we believe serve DollarCollapse readers best: a mix of narrative history, economic theory, and practical investment analysis that, taken together, builds the worldview the Playbook is written from.

The Twelve, at a Glance

The reading list in order. One line each. Detailed entries follow.

Part One: Start Here (Narrative History)

- ***1. When Money Dies*** by Adam Fergusson. Weimar hyperinflation, month by month.
- ***2. Empire of Debt*** by Bonner and Wiggin. How the American empire learned to pay itself with paper.
- ***3. Gold Wars*** by Ferdinand Lips. A Swiss banker's dissent against central bank gold manipulation.

Part Two: The Playbook Frameworks

- ***4. The Money Bubble*** by Turk and Rubino. The framework this Playbook was built from.
- ***5. Currency Wars*** by James Rickards. Monetary conflict as the defining feature of the 21st century.
- ***6. The Creature from Jekyll Island*** by G. Edward Griffin. The Federal Reserve, as a historical phenomenon.

Part Three: Primary Sources (The Austrians)

- ***7. What Has Government Done to Our Money?*** by Murray Rothbard. The best 112 pages on money ever written. Start here.
- ***8. The Road to Serfdom*** by Friedrich Hayek. Why monetary collapse and political collapse are the same event.
- ***9. The Theory of Money and Credit*** by Ludwig von Mises. The theoretical foundation. Difficult. Essential.

Part Four: Modern Applications

- ***10. The Sovereign Individual*** by Davidson and Rees-Mogg. Jurisdictional diversification, explained in 1997.
- ***11. Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises*** by Ray Dalio. A hedge fund manager's case for gold.
- ***12. The Big Drop*** by James Rickards. A practical scenario guide for the end game.

Part One: Start Here

Three books of narrative history. No economic theory. No technical jargon. Just the story of what happens to money, told by three different writers in three different centuries. These books will hook you. After them, the theory will feel like it is explaining something you already understand rather than something you are being told to believe.

BOOK 1

When Money Dies

The Nightmare of Deficit Spending, Devaluation, and Hyperinflation in Weimar Germany

Adam Fergusson · 1975, reissued 2010

Why it is first. Nothing in economic writing compares to Fergusson's documentation of what happened, month by month, as the German mark died between 1919 and 1923. The power of the book is explaining everything in experience. A loaf of bread that cost 250 marks in January 1923 cost 200 million marks by November. A briefcase full of cash would not buy a cup of coffee. Working people's life savings, accumulated over decades, became worthless in weeks. Fergusson tells it through diaries, newspaper accounts, government memoranda, and eyewitness testimony. You finish the book knowing, in a way no theoretical text can teach you, that currencies can and do die, and that the process is neither sudden nor gradual but accelerating.

What it will do to you. This is the book that turns the thesis from an intellectual position into a visceral certainty. Readers frequently report that they made their first precious metals purchase within a week of finishing it. The book does not preach this action; it simply makes the hedge feel like obvious common sense rather than a defensive measure.

How to read it. Cover to cover. It is shorter and more readable than you expect, roughly 280 pages of pure narrative. No background required. Out of print for decades, reissued in 2010 after the financial crisis made it suddenly relevant again. Available new from Public Affairs Press or used on AbeBooks and Alibris for $8 to $12.

BOOK 2

Empire of Debt

The Rise of an Epic Financial Crisis

Bill Bonner and Addison Wiggin · 2005

Why it is second. If Fergusson shows you what monetary collapse looks like, Bonner and Wiggin show you what empire looks like on the way there. Written in 2005 with an accuracy that feels almost unfair two decades later, Empire of Debt traces the arc of the American empire from its post-World-War-II peak through its financialization into what the authors correctly predicted would be a debt-driven unraveling. The book is not grim; it is darkly funny. Bonner's voice is sardonic, skeptical, and relentlessly humane. You finish it feeling like you have been having a long dinner conversation with two writers who are ahead of you on every subject and generous enough to bring you along.

What it will do to you. This is the book that reframes US politics as monetary politics. Every news story you read afterward gets reinterpreted through the lens of empire-maintenance via currency debasement. Arguments you used to find partisan become structural. Debates you used to follow closely start to look like surface noise above a deeper trend. That shift in perspective is the whole point.

How to read it. Leisurely. The book rewards slow reading and is full of set-pieces (Rome, Britain, the Japanese bubble) that you will want to savor. Approximately 400 pages. Still in print as of 2026, new for $18 to $22 from Wiley or used for $5 to $10.

BOOK 3

Gold Wars

The Battle Against Sound Money as Seen from a Swiss Perspective

Ferdinand Lips · 2001

Why it is third. Ferdinand Lips was a Swiss private banker and one of the founders of the Zurich-based Rothschild Bank AG. He spent the last decade of his life writing Gold Wars as a deliberate act of testimony: the view from inside the European private banking system on how gold was systematically suppressed from 1968 through 2001 by coordinated Western central bank action. The book is less well-known than Fergusson or Bonner, partly because it is written with the dry precision of a Swiss banker rather than the narrative flair of a historian. But it is the single best account of why gold did not rise as it should have during the first three decades after the end of Bretton Woods, and it is written by someone who was in the rooms where the decisions happened.

What it will do to you. This book will end any lingering belief you may have that gold's price reflects free market supply and demand. Lips documents, in painful detail, the mechanisms by which Western central banks leased, sold, and suppressed gold prices to support the dollar-based monetary system. The book explains why gold underperformed during periods when fundamentals said it should have soared, and it explains the structural reasons the suppression could not continue indefinitely. Much of what is now well-known in the gold community (the Washington Agreement, the London Gold Pool, the central bank gold sales of the 1990s) is documented here first.

How to read it. Selectively. The book is long (roughly 300 pages) and Lips was not a natural stylist. The middle third on specific European central bank transactions is dense. Skip when you need to; the opening chapters and the closing arguments are worth reading twice. Out of print in English and genuinely hard to find. Used copies on AbeBooks run $40 to $80 when available. A PDF of the book has circulated in the sound money community for years; respect the copyright situation.

Part Two: The Playbook Frameworks

Three books that build the analytical framework the Dollar Collapse Playbook operates within. You have the narrative from Part One; these three give you the lenses to see it. Each one reorganizes your understanding of monetary systems in a specific way, and together they form the scaffolding that supports the rest of the list.

BOOK 4

The Money Bubble

What To Do Before It Pops

James Turk and John Rubino · 2014

Why it is fourth. This is the book the Playbook was built from. Turk and Rubino spent a combined half-century analyzing monetary systems before writing The Money Bubble, and the book is the distillation of that work. It covers the 'why' (the mechanics of central bank-driven asset inflation), the 'what' (the likely resolution scenarios), and the 'how' (a specific set of moves readers can make to protect themselves). The Playbook you are reading now is, in significant part, an update and expansion of the moves in Chapters 19 through 27 of this book.

What it will do to you. If you have read and internalized the Playbook, The Money Bubble will feel both familiar and expansive. Familiar, because the framework is the same. Expansive, because Turk and Rubino devote 350 pages to building an argument the Playbook compresses into 90. Every Playbook move has a chapter's worth of explanation in the source material. If a specific Playbook move does not make sense to you, go find the corresponding chapter in The Money Bubble and read Turk and Rubino's fuller treatment.

How to read it. Chapters 1 through 18 at whatever pace suits you; Chapters 19 through 27 slowly, marking up the book as you go. Out of print as a mass market paperback but widely available used for $6 to $15. A copy should sit on your shelf as a reference for decades.

BOOK 5

Currency Wars

The Making of the Next Global Crisis

James Rickards · 2011

Why it is fifth. Rickards comes from a different intellectual tradition than Turk and Rubino. He is a former CIA consultant, a senior financial insider, and an Austrian-school sympathizer who has spent time inside the institutions he critiques. Currency Wars introduces the central analytical frame that monetary competition between sovereign states is now the primary geopolitical dynamic of the 21st century, and that the post-Bretton-Woods era will end not with reform but with conflict over the reserve currency itself. The book is organized around the 2009 war-game exercise Rickards participated in at the Pentagon, which makes it read more like a thriller than an economics text.

What it will do to you. Rickards will reshape how you think about geopolitics. After reading Currency Wars, the dollar's declining share of global reserves is more than a macroeconomic trend; it is a strategic event. Chinese gold accumulation is not a portfolio decision; it is a pre-positioning move. The ambiguity you might have felt about whether a reserve-currency transition would be 'gradual' is replaced by an understanding that it will more likely be sudden, orchestrated, and reflect the winners of a conflict that has already been underway for years.

How to read it. Cover to cover. The war-game opening chapter is unforgettable. Approximately 300 pages, in print with Penguin, new for $18 or used for $5 to $8. Rickards has written several follow-on books; Currency Wars is the foundational one to start with.

BOOK 6

The Creature from Jekyll Island

A Second Look at the Federal Reserve

G. Edward Griffin · 1994, updated through 2010

Why it is sixth. Griffin's book occupies a specific niche in the sound-money canon: it is the detailed institutional history of the Federal Reserve, written from a perspective critical of the Fed's founding and operations. The book is long (over 600 pages) and at times polemical, but it contains the most thorough publicly-available account of the 1910 Jekyll Island meeting where the Federal Reserve was designed, the political maneuvering that produced the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, and the century of monetary history that followed. Some of Griffin's broader historical claims are contested by mainstream economic historians; the foundational material on the Fed's origins and mechanics is documented thoroughly and is worth reading regardless of what you think of his larger interpretive framework.

What it will do to you. After this book, you will never again think of the Federal Reserve as a neutral technocratic institution. You will understand it as a political body with specific founding sponsors, specific original goals, and specific constituencies whose interests it was designed to serve. That understanding is uncomfortable but necessary. The Fed is not good or evil; it is an institution with a specific design that produces specific outcomes, and those outcomes are the primary driver of every monetary problem the Playbook is written to address.

How to read it. Slowly, and with some patience for Griffin's rhetorical tendencies. Not every chapter is equally strong. The chapters on the founding (Part One) and the mechanics of Fed operations (Part Four) are essential; some of the material on the Warburgs and the broader political economy veers into territory where mainstream sources disagree. Read critically; keep what you find well-sourced. Approximately 600 pages. Still in print; new for $20 to $25 from American Media or used for $10 to $15.

Part Three: Primary Sources

You have the narrative. You have the frameworks. Now you read the thinkers who built the frameworks themselves. These three books are harder than the first six. Each one will reward the effort, and each one will change the way you think about economic questions for the rest of your life. If you read nothing else on this list, read these three.

BOOK 7

What Has Government Done to Our Money?

Murray N. Rothbard · 1963, revised 1990

Why it is seventh. 112 pages. The most accessible introduction to Austrian monetary theory ever written, by the most readable of the major Austrian economists. Rothbard takes you from first principles (what is money, why did it emerge, how does it function in a free market) through the mechanics of banking, the invention of central banking, the twentieth-century abandonment of the gold standard, and the consequences of fiat currency. The book is mercifully short, clearly written, and dense with ideas that will rewire how you think about every financial topic you ever encounter afterward.

What it will do to you. This is the book that makes Austrian economics click. The framework Rothbard builds in the first 50 pages is the one most sound-money analysts still use today, including Turk, Rubino, Rickards, and the DollarCollapse. Once you have Rothbard's framework in your head, most modern monetary commentary becomes either a confirmation of his argument or a specific instance of one of the distortions he predicted. Reading it feels like being given a pair of corrective glasses that clarifies everything you look at afterward.

How to read it. Slowly, with a highlighter. The book is too short to rush and too dense to skim. 112 pages, but each chapter deserves a second reading. Available FREE as a legal PDF from the Mises Institute at mises.org/library/book/what-has-government-done-our-money, which removes any excuse for not reading it. Also available in print for about $8 from the Mises Institute or $10 from Amazon.

BOOK 8

The Road to Serfdom

Friedrich A. Hayek · 1944

Why it is eighth. Hayek's argument is not, strictly speaking, about money. It is about the political economy of centralized control and its inevitable tendency to undermine individual freedom. But the book belongs on this list because it makes explicit the connection the Playbook implicitly assumes: monetary policy is political policy, and unsound money is a mechanism by which political freedom is gradually eroded. Hayek writes from the vantage point of 1944, with the wreckage of European totalitarianism fresh in memory and the British Labour Party's postwar socialist program looming. The argument he makes, that collectivist economic planning produces collectivist political outcomes regardless of the planners' intentions, applies directly to the monetary central planning the Playbook critiques.

What it will do to you. This book gives you the political framework to complement the economic framework from Rothbard. After reading Hayek, you will understand why sound money is not merely an economic preference but a political requirement. Free markets in money are a necessary condition for free societies; centrally planned money produces centrally planned everything else, on a lag. This is not a partisan claim; Hayek makes it carefully and with substantial documentation. It is why sound-money advocates have historically included thinkers from across the political spectrum.

How to read it. Cover to cover. The writing is clear and forceful; Hayek is a more accessible stylist than most twentieth-century economists. Approximately 260 pages. The definitive modern edition is the University of Chicago Press 'Definitive Edition' (2007) which includes Hayek's own later commentary. $15 to $18 new, $5 to $8 used

BOOK 9

The Theory of Money and Credit

Ludwig von Mises · 1912, translated to English 1934

Why it is ninth. Mises's Theory of Money and Credit is the foundational work of Austrian monetary theory and, by extension, the foundational work behind everything in the sound money tradition that followed. Rothbard, Hayek, Hazlitt, Rickards, and Turk all build on frameworks Mises established in 1912. The book develops the Austrian theory of money from first principles: why money exists, how its value is determined, how credit expansion distorts prices and production, and what the consequences of sustained monetary debasement are. It is the most technically demanding book on this list and the most theoretically important.

What it will do to you. If you have read the first eight books on this list, Mises will feel less like new material than like a detailed theoretical grounding for arguments you already find intuitive. Most of what Rothbard, Hayek, and Rickards argue is, at bottom, a specific application or extension of Mises's framework. Reading Mises directly lets you evaluate derivative works critically, because you can tell when a later writer is being faithful to Mises's framework and when they are modifying it or extending it.

How to read it. Slowly, and only after the first eight books on this list. Mises is a demanding writer; the prose is technical, the argument is cumulative, and the reader is expected to follow logical chains across dozens of pages. Approximately 500 pages in the standard English edition. Available FREE as a legal PDF from the Mises Institute (mises.org/library/book/theory-money-and-credit), or in print for $30 to $40 from the Mises Institute or Liberty Fund editions. Skip chapters that are not clicking; come back to them later. Do not let Mises defeat you. Many readers work through this book over multiple attempts across several years; that is the correct pace for a book of this density.

Part Four: Modern Applications

You have the history, the frameworks, and the primary theoretical sources. The last three books apply all of the above to specific modern questions: jurisdictional diversification, debt-cycle mechanics, and scenario planning for what comes next. These three will feel like the easiest reading on the list after what you have just worked through, and they will be the most directly useful for specific Playbook moves.

BOOK 10

The Sovereign Individual

Mastering the Transition to the Information Age

James Dale Davidson and Lord William Rees-Mogg · 1997

Why it is tenth. Published in 1997, this book describes the world of 2026 with a prescience that is almost unsettling. Davidson and Rees-Mogg argue that the digital revolution would gradually erode the ability of nation-states to tax and control wealth, that encryption and digital finance would enable individuals to route around state control of their capital, and that geographic arbitrage (what the Playbook calls internationalization) would become the defining wealth-preservation strategy of the 21st century. They predicted the rise of digital money, the decline of state fiscal capacity, and the migration of wealth to friendlier jurisdictions, all written a decade before Bitcoin was invented.

What it will do to you. This book reframes what jurisdictional diversification is. It is not a paranoid hedge; it is a rational response to a structural transition the authors identified 25 years before it became obvious. After reading The Sovereign Individual, every second-residency article and offshore banking discussion reads differently. You are not running from anything; you are joining a trend that sophisticated capital has been acting on for a generation.

How to read it. Cover to cover, at leisure. The authors have a sweeping historical style that rewards slow reading. Approximately 450 pages, out of print for years but reissued in 2020 after sustained demand, available new for $18 to $22 or used for $8 to $12. Our copy has been re-read roughly every five years and gets more prescient each time.

BOOK 11

Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises

Ray Dalio · 2018

Why it is eleventh. Ray Dalio is the founder of Bridgewater Associates, the largest hedge fund in the world. He is not a member of the sound-money intellectual tradition that produced Mises, Rothbard, and Rickards. He is, however, a first-rank analyst of debt cycles who has managed institutional money through multiple crises and whose frameworks are taken seriously by central banks, sovereign wealth funds, and major institutional investors globally. Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises is his systematic study of 48 separate debt crises across modern history, analyzed according to a common framework to identify the patterns that repeat. Dalio's conclusion, reached independently of the Austrian tradition, converges substantially with it on the major points. That convergence is itself significant evidence.

What it will do to you. Reading Dalio after reading the Austrians provides a powerful triangulation: two different intellectual traditions, approaching the same historical data from different angles, reaching overlapping conclusions about what causes debt crises, how they unfold, and what resolves them. Dalio's explicit recommendation of a 15 percent gold allocation across his published work is not a concession to goldbug sentiment; it is the conclusion of a quantitative study by one of the most respected institutional analysts of the modern era. After this book, you will understand that the Playbook's position is not fringe. It is the conclusion that any sufficiently rigorous analysis of debt cycles reaches, regardless of the analyst's starting ideology.

How to read it. The book is available as a FREE download (legally) from Bridgewater and Principles.com, or in print for $30 from Amazon. The print edition is a single volume; the free download is in three parts (the archetypal framework, detailed case studies, and historical reference data). For first reading, start with Part One (the framework). Part Two (the case studies) is useful for specific historical comparisons. Part Three (the reference tables) is for serious research. Approximately 470 pages of substantive content plus another 100+ of reference material.

BOOK 12

The Big Drop

How to Grow Your Wealth During the Coming Collapse

James Rickards · 2014

Why it is twelfth. Rickards returns at the end of the list with a scenario-planning exercise rather than a theoretical argument. The Big Drop walks through specific scenarios for how the current international monetary system could unravel, what each scenario implies for different asset classes, and what specific positioning makes sense under which conditions. It is the most practical book on this list after Turk and Rubino, and it deliberately avoids the theoretical background (covered in Currency Wars) to focus on execution. Read as the final book on the list, it ties together the historical, theoretical, and framework material from the previous eleven into specific actionable scenarios.

What it will do to you. Finishing this book will leave you with the intellectual position that underlies the Playbook fully built out. You will have the historical understanding (Fergusson, Bonner, Lips), the theoretical foundation (Rothbard, Hayek, Mises), the institutional analysis (Griffin, Dalio), the framework (Turk and Rubino, Rickards's Currency Wars), and the practical modern application (Davidson and Rees-Mogg, Rickards's The Big Drop). What was a collection of Playbook moves becomes a cohesive worldview you can defend in any conversation and act on with confidence regardless of what the daily news is doing.

How to read it. Quickly. After the previous eleven books, The Big Drop is the easiest read on the list; most of its theoretical scaffolding is already in your head. Approximately 220 pages. In print from Portfolio/Penguin, new for $16 to $20 or used for $4 to $8.

A Twelve-Month Reading Schedule

If you want a structure to work through the list at a sustainable pace without the project stalling out, here is the schedule we recommend. One book per month for the shorter, more narrative titles. Two months for Mises. Total time: approximately twelve months, 100 to 150 hours of active reading.

Months 1 through 3: Part One (Narrative History)

- Month 1: When Money Dies (Fergusson).
- Month 2: Empire of Debt (Bonner and Wiggin).
- Month 3: Gold Wars (Lips).

Months 4 through 6: Part Two (The Frameworks)

- Month 4: The Money Bubble (Turk and Rubino).
- Month 5: Currency Wars (Rickards).
- Month 6: The Creature from Jekyll Island (Griffin). This is a longer book; give yourself the full month.

Months 7 through 10: Part Three (Primary Sources)

- Month 7: What Has Government Done to Our Money? (Rothbard). Short, reread-worthy.
- Month 8: The Road to Serfdom (Hayek).
- Months 9 and 10: The Theory of Money and Credit (Mises). Give yourself two months; do not rush.

Months 11 and 12: Part Four (Modern Applications)

- Month 11: The Sovereign Individual (Davidson and Rees-Mogg).
- Month 12: Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises (Dalio) and The Big Drop (Rickards). These two can be read in parallel; Dalio for the framework, Rickards for the application.

An Alternative

If twelve months feels too ambitious, read four books: Fergusson (Book 1), Rothbard (Book 7), Turk and Rubino (Book 4), and Rickards's Currency Wars (Book 5). You can finish all four in six to eight weeks of casual reading. That four-book subset will give you 70 percent of the framework the full twelve-book list provides, and will make every DollarCollapse essay read differently afterward.

Sourcing the Books

A note on where to buy, in 2026. None of these recommendations is an affiliate link; we get nothing if you buy through any of the sources below.

For new copies

Amazon continues to have the best selection and pricing for new copies of books still in mainstream print. For books published by the Mises Institute (Rothbard, Mises, Hazlitt), ordering directly from mises.org gives the Institute more revenue than Amazon does, and their shipping is reliable. Bridgewater's Principles.com is the best source for Dalio's book given that the free download is the most complete version of it.

For used copies

AbeBooks and Alibris both aggregate used book inventory from hundreds of independent sellers; both have consistently delivered quality used copies at prices well below Amazon's used marketplace. For rare or hard-to-find titles (Lips's Gold Wars), these two sources often have copies when nothing else does. Thriftbooks is a third solid option for mainstream titles.

For free digital copies

Two books on this list are available legally and freely in digital form:

- ***What Has Government Done to Our Money?*** by Murray Rothbard. Free PDF from the Mises Institute at mises.org/library/book/what-has-government-done-our-money. Released under Creative Commons.
- ***The Theory of Money and Credit*** by Ludwig von Mises. Free PDF from the Mises Institute at mises.org/library/book/theory-money-and-credit.
- ***Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises*** by Ray Dalio. Free three-part PDF at principles.com/big-debt-crises.

These three free downloads save approximately $70 off the total list cost. For Mises and Rothbard in particular, the free versions are the definitive editions and the ones most serious readers use.

For audiobooks

Five of the twelve books are available as commercial audiobooks: Empire of Debt, Currency Wars, The Creature from Jekyll Island, The Sovereign Individual, and The Big Drop. Audible and Libro.fm both carry these. The Money Bubble and When Money Dies are not available as audiobooks as of early 2026. Austrian primary sources (Mises, Rothbard, Hayek) have partial audio versions through the Mises Institute but the audio quality varies; the print editions remain the standard.

A Final Word

At the start of this list, we promised that the twelve books would be worth far more to you than they cost. Here is what that promise means:

The books themselves run approximately $120 for new copies if you buy strategically (free digital copies where available, used copies where sensible), or $190 if you buy everything new. Call it a dollar range of $120 to $200 for the full collection, which is less than most serious investors spend on a single dinner meeting with their wealth advisor.

What you receive for that investment is a framework that will inform every financial decision you make for the rest of your life. A reader who has worked through this list does not get shaken by market volatility. Does not panic when a financial commentator predicts imminent collapse, or complacency when one predicts eternal calm. Does not mistake daily price moves for structural trends, or structural trends for temporary anomalies. The framework produces a particular kind of equanimity, grounded in the historical and theoretical knowledge that the current moment is neither unprecedented nor unresolvable. It has happened before; it will happen again; it can be navigated.

That equanimity is what the Playbook exists to enable at the tactical level, and what this reading list exists to enable at the intellectual level. They work together. A reader who has the moves but not the framework eventually drifts away from them under pressure. A reader who has the framework but not the moves understands the situation but has not acted on it. Both together produce the kind of investor who looks back, five or ten years from now, and finds that the last decade of monetary chaos was the period in which her family's financial position actually improved.

That is what these books are worth. Start with Fergusson.

DollarCollapse.com

Bonus 4 of the Dollar Collapse Playbook

Hard money. Real plans. 16 years of calling it right.
