

Introduction

Something has gone wrong with the U.S. economy.

Executives and workers in American manufacturing industries have been warning for years that it was unwise for the country to have such a cavalier attitude about the loss of U.S. industrial capability. Manufacturers argued that massive trade imbalances were dangerously sapping the wealth of the country. Unfortunately, they were proven to be right.

In the American economy, a once robust system of “traditional” engineering — the invention, design and manufacture of products — has been replaced by financial engineering. Without a robust manufacturing base, without wealth being produced in the United States, Wall Street created money it did not have and Americans spent money they did not have. Americans stopped making products they continued to buy: clothing, computers, consumer electronics, flat-screen TVs, household items and millions of automobiles. None of these were “buggywhip” industries made obsolete with time.

Economists and the financial community have rationalized the loss of U.S. production by saying that Americans are saving money “with low prices.” They argue that a manufacturing sector is no longer needed; that the United States can prosper with a “service” economy.

What they didn’t say was that the economic system was a giant Ponzi scheme on a scale that dwarfed the one run by Bernie Madoff. Americans have borrowed money from the same countries that make the products they buy.

Manufacturing a Better Future for America is a book written by academic and industry experts that can help set the foundation for a new economic era based on the necessity of creating millions of good-paying jobs in the private sector.

Only with a revitalized manufacturing base can America assure itself a prosperous and hopeful future.

