

WELCOME TO EFFONTERRE, a post-industrial town in the climate haven of Upstate New York, home to trees, alcoholism, decaying factories and the Triplet Rivers mall. Effonterre was once the nations 3rd leading producer of steel, but not a soul would guess so looking at what the town has since deteriorated into. This little town would become plastered all over social media and national television within a few short days.

The Triplet Rivers mall had been slowly dying since the financial crisis of '08, but it is still the hottest place to shop in a 50 mile radius. The decline was accelerated by *The Decade of Pandemics*. Sears, Macy's, JcPenney, and most of the retail giants expected to be in every mall across the nation have vanished in the past decade. Despite it's lameness, it is still a hangout for bored families to take a stroll on the weekends, rarely buying anything and contributing to the economy, due to both their financial situations and that there is little of interest to the people in the remaining stores that were clinging on for dear life.

The last remaining corporate giant of the mall was Best Buy. Kids loved to play with the display laptops and phones of which their parents couldn't afford to get them for holidays or birthdays, nor could they gather the allowance. Due to over-mining and planned obsolescence, the rare earth materials necessary to create such technological marvels are in a critical shortage. The cheapest one could get a low-end laptop that is barely usable for anything but browsing the internet, was \$2475.

On a finite planet, so are its resources, but that was little concern to corporations that were manufacturing these products. The smartphones, laptops, etc were designed to break easily and deteriorate after a few years so that people would go on to buy new ones, creating a never ending gravy train. It was also fashionable to have the latest technological products, those who could afford it always had the newest iPhone, Galaxy, Pixel, Oneplus, or whatever team they chose.

In the waning years of *The Era of Great Abundance*, Americans would constantly divide themselves up among consumer choices. People took great pride in the mobile operating

system they used. There were only two major operating systems that were used on mobile devices, Apple's iOS and Google's Android. There were others that attempted to break the duopoly, but they eventually crashed and burned. Some examples include Windows Phone, Firefox OS, Tizen, Ubuntu Phone, and others.

iOS was designed for the devices of Apple, and the operating system was closed source, only the portable computers that Apple designed and produced were allowed to have this operating system on it. Google was kind enough to allow Android to be open source, meaning that anybody could use this operating system. However, Google had established an ecosystem, not as thorough as Apple's, but one that was quintessential to the experience of the user.

If Google, and maybe the American Empire too, had a problem with a company, or the country of which the company is from, they could cut off this ecosystem and make buying a mobile device from a company much less appealing, as all of their favorite services wouldn't be available.

This actually happened once, when the Chinese smartphone company Huawei was intruding too much into the American market share of mobile devices. The President of the United States at the time, Donald J. Trump did not like this, despite constant feuding with American tech giants, he still preferred they do well than corporations of a country that was recently made enemy, China, do well. So he banned any U.S. corporations from doing business with a list of Chinese corporations, including Huawei. To justify this, a questionable claim of spying on Americans by the Huawei Corporation was made.

There is rarely a need for evidence when American politicians claim the country that poses the greatest threat to America's economic dominance is spying on Americans. Americans will voluntarily put every aspect of their private life on social media for the whole world to see, yet Huawei and Xi Jinping are spying on what Huawei smartphone user

#2467344, Eric Martin of Sioux, South Dakota, United States of America, Earth is doing with their lives.

The silicon valley liberals cheered on the President that they pretended to hate's decision to ban Huawei, as the Chinese were no longer threats to their profits for a few more years.

Without Google Play Services, Huawei suffered and few Westerners would be interested in buying phones without such services, this is because leaving an ecosystem is something that nobody wants to do, to upend their whole lives. This is why few people will switch from iOS to Android. This is why Huawei being banned from using Google Play Services on their products was so damaging.

Despite humanity technologically regressing due to shortages, the grapes kept on growing to be turned into wine. Due to a warming planet, grape vines overtook Northern Canada and Siberia. Wild grape wine from formerly arctic areas were all the rage and in great abundance and very frugal. There were hundreds, possibly thousands of virtually the same drink in Triplet Rivers Wine & Spirits, which happened to be right across the street from the Triplet Rivers mall. There was, however, a shortage of spirits as there were massive grain shortages which have been increasingly sweeping the planet and threatening food supply. As people had less food to stuff in their bellies, they turned to wine.

Alcoholism has increased more than tenfold since 2020. Doctors were less worried as over two thirds of the alcohol consumed was red wild grape wine from the former arctic. It was a wonderful source of anthocyanins, antioxidants which are good for the heart. The negative effects of the alcohol and anthocyanins were believed to cancel out, meaning the effect on the heart was neutral. Most doctors propagated this, and recommended drinking this wild grape wine to all healthy adults. The truth of these claims is uncertain, but it was surely a damn good advertising campaign.

The arctic wild grapes were richer in sugar, nutrients, and anthocyanins than the traditional wine grapes, and the yeasts that were used were genetically modified and could tolerate alcohol by volume levels up to 35% percent. Due to the obscene sweetness of these grapes, if older yeasts, which would die at around 10-15 percent alcohol by volume, were used, the wine would spoil easily and taste almost like a soda pop. This new wine was as alcoholic as a weak vodka or whiskey.

The wild grape wine was treated as an elixir of the new era, a brobdingnagian business which raked in cash for the new northern superpowers, Canada and Russia. The two countries were close allies. Both nations After the United States of America lost its global hegemony, China arose as the global superpower. The United States fell into a great depression