

The Sovereign Ascendant: Financial Collapse, Social Anxiety, and the Rebirth of the Sovereign Citizens Movement

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As many scholars have noted, periods of economic or social unrest often bring about the growth or resurgence of extremist social movements on both the political left and the right. The 1990s saw the rise of the American militia movement, largely in response to the emergence of international organizations such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and an increasingly internationalist American administration. Earlier still, during the financial collapse and subsequent Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s, the chaotic social, political and economic order proved to be fertile ground for the resurgent Ku Klux Klan. In the years immediately following