

# **Crisis In Confidence**

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The point of the Crisis in Confidence Game is not so much to assess blame on the one who killed confidence, though it does that handily and easily, as it is to see whether there is a solution or not to the morass.

The Game is simple enough. You ask questions of the characters, hoping they will not take the Fifth, although they always do. It has numerous individuals who use various means in an assortment of places to wreak havoc on the population. The disease spreads from the bedroom to the boardroom.

Was it the Accountant with a pencil in the study?

Was it the Martha Stewart with a knife in the kitchen?

Was it the Priest with a pillow in the library?

Was it the Terrorist with a bomb in the stateroom?

Was it the Executive with a shovel in the boardroom?

Was it the Analyst with a tie in the dressing room?

They have all publicly conjoined in an array of greed, hate, destruction, and death over the last few years. Their actions and cover-ups went hidden for years, but they make headlines weekly now.

Where have our morals gone? Whatever happened to ethics? The integrity of these people is nonexistent. Our institutions and icons are in crisis, attacked by the very people who benefited the most from them, from our trust, belief, openness, and tolerance.

Look at what has been destroying our sense of confidence in the future over the

last two years.

NATIONAL DEFENSE Terrorists attacked us on our home soil, something that has not happened since 1941.

RELIGION The Catholic Church is in upheaval, joining the exposed televangelists of other denominations over the last few years.

WALL STREET Investors large and small have been losing money in droves, while some executives have been lying and cheating and reaping millions. Those executives unfairly and without regard to other shareholders or employees used stock options, unearned bonuses, and insider knowledge to prosper even as others would suffer tremendously. Think of Enron, Imclone, Dynergy, WorldCom, and all the other dotcoms. It goes on and on.

The questions pile up faster than the disclosures. Who knew what and when? Who told what to whom? We hear of bishops protecting priests and insiders bailing out their buddies right before the stock plunges and corporate boards looking askance. The little guy cannot get a break.

So, which one was it? Or was it all of them? We know where to lay the blame, but now what?

Confidence is the stuff with which we use to build our tomorrows. Without it we shrink, pulling in womb like, hoarding what we can. Our confidence has been shaken and punched and shocked from many directions. We thought we could trust the executives, the priests, the safety nets, and the numbers. Numbers do not lie, yet accounting has been. Honest lies between friends they say.

The solution starts with exposure, bringing these things to light, admitting there is a

problem. They thought they could get away with it in secret, but it is not hidden any more and now we will deal with the people and the system. Who did it is followed by what will we do about it? We are a future oriented society, which has done us well for more than two hundred years. Our confidence may be shaken, but as we punish the offenders, establish new laws, and remember our ethics, our confidence will grow strong once again. In short, our system works and the future will brighten.