Peter Zeihan: The End of the World Is Just the Beginning

Peter Zeihan is an expert in geopolitics. He has been featured in numerous newspapers and broadcasting outlets including: *The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, AP, Bloomberg, CNN, The New York Times, Fox News,* and *Marketwatch*. Peter is also an author of numerous books including: *The End of the World Is Just the Beginning* and *The Accidental Superpower*.

Peter began speaking about how Stalin is the most important person in the past half century. Our reaction is what created the current state that we live in, which is the crux of globalization. This has changed many facets of life, but nothing more than finance.

As you get older, your net worth increases, however, the real magic happens around 55-65. At 55 most are child-free but still remain in the workforce through 65 when most start to retire.

Peter begins talking about the age demographics throughout different countries and what that means for the outlook of their workforce. With a normal pyramid demonstration, you would see the largest consumption, high inflation and taxes at the base.

However, as people decided to have fewer children the demographic changes throughout the country. Currently, the generation known as boomers are the largest generation, and over one half of have entered retirement. The replacement workforce is the generation of zoomers which is the smallest generation to date. Zeihan reiterates that there will be a workforce shortage even as we continue to need more output.

He specifically mentions this being a more pressing issue in countries like South Korea, Germany, and China. In China specifically he begins to mention how an aging population will affect their total global holdings. Stating that the country has built an excess of near 1.3 billion apartments that are vacant throughout the country. With a shrinking population this will reduce the countries imports on steel and materials as the country slows on building.

Zooming out, he mentioned that the period of disinflation that the world knew until recently is gone. The Chinese and German workforce is decreasing. If consumers are going to want stuff, countries like the U.S. and Mexico will have to double the size of our workforce.