

- 31** Population growth is favorable in the sense of its impact on GDP growth. There are other issues to consider, notably environmental impact.
- 32** Data for China is not as current as for the other countries in the Big 7 because it is slower in releasing it.
- 33** Note that the term 'private debt' is a misnomer when used in the context of China, since much of the debt is state-owned. For our purposes, it means debt tied to the balance sheets of households, non-profit institutions serving households, and non-financial businesses including state-owned enterprises.
- 34** Comparisons also raise questions as to whether to use a currency exchange method or a purchasing power parity method, how to properly account for inequity in wealth distribution, whether valuations of privately held stocks are comparable to publicly traded stocks, and this list goes on. Fortunately, there has been much noteworthy scholarship where revised valuations have been established for many of these issues. Such debates will long continue, with the outcome of better data and more instructive and useful analysis.
- 35** More complete comparative data of total country net worth and other line items is available in supplemental Appendix H. Comparison of Big 7 Net Worth, available online at paradoxofdebt.org.
- 36** Both approaches can be seen in supplemental Appendix I. Big 7 Charts by Purchasing Power Parity and Currency Exchange, available online at paradoxofdebt.org.
- 37** Insurance and pension assets are shown in Appendix G online at paradoxofdebt.org.
- 38** As of this writing, the US balance sheet and income statement for the fourth quarter of 2022 and full year-end figures were not yet available. Stocks for the full year were down 8.8 percent.
- 39** It should be noted that this ratio went haywire in 1931, 1932, and 1933, due to the collapse of the denominator, GDP.
- 40** Despite my misgivings, I use the term 'cycle' in this chapter to describe the general, recurring processes of GDP growth and debt growth. The term is too well established in the economic literature to discard it altogether.
- 41** The War of 1812 cost the US between \$90 and \$160 million – a lot, but less than the cost of the Revolutionary War. US GDP had increased sixfold between the end of the Revolution and the War of 1812, so the costs of this war were also much more manageable to bear.
- 42** Readers interested in a more extensive discussion of debt relief and forgiveness may refer to my 2021 book, *The Case for a Debt Jubilee*.

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