

# Moses Solemon

## Answers Five Questions about World Politics and Business Affairs Today

The World lives now a strange state of a muted World War, associated with many huge challenges. Some of such challenges are the greatest since human race dwelled this planet. And Apart from the climate change crisis (CCC) the rest are all man made.

In his quiet and remote office in Ottawa the Canadian capital, Moses Solemon the Chairman and CEO of Canada Business Holdings sat to answer the questions about the political and business affairs that are most challenging today. The following is the interview proceedings.

### • What's happening in this world?

The world is turning again for the third time in the last 150 years of human civilization history to a very dangerous place. The same party that ignited world wars one and two are also pushing us towards World War III. Such silent war had started already when Russia decided to attack Ukraine under severe pressure.

The global hotspots can change rapidly due to political, economic, social, and environmental factors. The top ten issues for concern are:

**1. Ukraine/Russia:** Tensions between Ukraine and Russia have been ongoing, especially in the eastern regions of Ukraine. The situation remains volatile, with periodic escalations.



**2. Middle East:** The Middle East continues to be a region of concern due to conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and ongoing tensions between Israel and Palestine, as well as broader geopolitical rivalries involving Iran and Saudi Arabia.

**3. South China Sea:** Territorial disputes involving China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and other Southeast Asian nations continue to simmer, raising concerns about maritime security and potential military escalation.

**4. Ethiopia Civil War:** Ongoing conflict between the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan rebels.

**5. Afghanistan:** Since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan, the situation remains unstable, with concerns about human rights, terrorism, and regional stability.

**6. Climate Change:** Climate-related events such as extreme weather, wildfires, and rising sea levels are causing humanitarian crises and geopolitical tensions, particularly in vulnerable regions like the Arctic, small island nations, and areas prone to drought.

**7. Cybersecurity:** Cyber threats, including state-sponsored hacking, ransomware attacks, and cyber espionage, pose significant risks to governments, businesses, and critical infrastructure worldwide.

**8. Pandemic Response:** While the COVID-19 pandemic has receded in some regions due to vaccination efforts, ongoing outbreaks and the emergence of new variants continue to pose challenges to global health and economic stability.

**9. Africa:** Various regions in Africa face challenges such as political instability, terrorism, ethnic conflicts, and economic issues, including in countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**10. North Korea:** The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains tense due to North Korea's nuclear program and its relationship with South Korea and the United States.

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• **Which are the problems that keep you awake at night?**

In fact, there are a few of them that worries me. The main issue are:

Geopolitical confrontations

- The cost of living crisis. There are 40% of US citizens, for example, a leading G7 economy, that can not save US\$400 for emergency. This is a ridiculous thing to happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in the richest nation in the world.
- Natural disasters and extreme weather events
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- The war in Ukraine and other geopolitical conflicts
- The rise of AI and how it will affect jobs and industries
- Disinformation and bias in the news
- The growth of regulation of the internet and social media platforms
- The increasing importance of government affairs
- The need to stay informed about current events around the world
- The need to consider the views of employees in different regions and countries

• **How do you see the solution for such a complex global paradox?**

I believe the key strategies that could contribute to solutions for these global paradoxes are:

**1. Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution:** Prioritizing diplomatic solutions to resolve conflicts and mitigate tensions in hotspots like Ukraine, the Middle East, and the South China Sea is crucial. Dialogue, negotiation, and mediation can help prevent escalation and promote peaceful resolutions.

**2. International Cooperation:** Strengthening international cooperation mechanisms, such as the United Nations and regional organizations, to address common challenges collectively. This includes cooperation on issues like climate change, cybersecurity, public health, and humanitarian crises.

**3. Promoting Human Rights and Rule of Law:** Upholding human rights, promoting democratic governance, and strengthening the rule of law are essential for fostering stability, justice, and inclusivity in societies facing internal strife or authoritarian regimes.

**4. Climate Action:** Taking ambitious action to mitigate climate change, adapt to its impacts, and transition to sustainable and resilient societies. This includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions, investing in renewable energy and green technologies, and supporting vulnerable communities.

**5. Cybersecurity Measures:** Enhancing cybersecurity measures at national and international levels to protect critical infrastructure, prevent cyber attacks, and promote responsible behavior in cyberspace.

**6. Global Health Initiatives:** Strengthening global health systems, improving pandemic preparedness, and ensuring equitable access to vaccines, treatments, and healthcare services, particularly in low-income countries.

**7. Promoting Economic Development and Social Equity:** Addressing economic inequality, promoting inclusive growth, and supporting sustainable development to reduce poverty, social unrest, and grievances that can fuel conflicts and instability.

**8. Multilateralism and Multistakeholder Engagement:** Embracing multilateralism and engaging diverse stakeholders, including governments, civil society, businesses, academia, and communities, to tackle complex global challenges collaboratively.

**9. Education and Empowerment:** Investing in education, capacity building, and empowerment initiatives to enhance resilience, foster critical thinking, and empower individuals and communities to contribute to positive change.

**10. Cultural Exchange and Understanding:** Promoting cultural exchange, dialogue, and mutual understanding to bridge divides, combat stereotypes, and build trust and cooperation among nations and peoples.

Such strategies can offer a long-term comprehensive solutions. They may provide a framework for addressing the root causes of global paradoxes and therefore help us move forward towards a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.



- Which are the best world location for investing today?

Identifying the best locations for investment depends on many factors such as economic stability, growth prospects, political climate, regulatory environment, and industry trends. I believe the top ones now are:

**1. United States:** Despite occasional fluctuations, the U.S. remains a top destination for investment due to its large and diverse economy, technological innovation, strong rule of law, and relatively stable political environment.

**2. China:** China's rapidly growing middle class, massive market size, and ongoing economic reforms make it an appealing investment destination, although investors should consider regulatory risks and geopolitical tensions.

**3. India:** It has a young and increasingly skilled workforce, India offers significant growth potential across various sectors. Reforms make it easier to do business and infrastructure development further enhance its attractiveness.

**4. Southeast Asia:** Countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam are experiencing robust economic growth driven by urbanization, rising consumer spending, and increasing foreign investment.

**5. Europe:** Despite economic challenges, countries like Germany, the UK, and France offer stable investment environments, advanced infrastructure, and access to highly skilled talent. Emerging markets in Eastern Europe also present opportunities.

**6. Middle East:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar offer attractive investment opportunities, particularly in infrastructure, real estate, and technology, supported by government-led diversification efforts.

- What are the top business sectors for capital investment?

The answer to this question depends on several factors. Many sectors tend to attract significant capital investment due to their growth potential in a certain country and their ability to generate returns. However, I see that some of the good areas for investment are:

**1. Technology:** Continuously evolving, the technology sector encompasses a wide range of opportunities, including software development, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and e-commerce. Tech companies often offer innovative solutions with high growth potential, attracting substantial capital investment.

**2. Healthcare and Biotechnology:** With aging populations and increasing healthcare spending worldwide, the healthcare and biotechnology sectors offer promising investment opportunities. This includes pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biopharmaceuticals, telemedicine, and healthcare IT.

**3. Renewable Energy and Clean Technology:** Concerns about climate change and the transition to sustainable energy sources drive investment in renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power. Clean technology sectors like energy storage, electric vehicles, and sustainable agriculture also attract capital.

**4. Consumer Goods and Retail:** Despite market fluctuations, consumer spending remains a significant driver of economic growth. Investors often target consumer goods companies, including food and beverage, apparel, personal care, and retail brands, especially those leveraging e-commerce and direct-to-consumer models.

**5. Infrastructure:** Investment in infrastructure projects such as transportation (roads, railways, airports), energy (power plants, pipelines), telecommunications (broadband networks), and utilities (water, sanitation) provides long-term stable returns, often backed by government initiatives and public-private partnerships.

**6. Financial Services and Fintech:** The financial services sector always offer innovative investment opportunities, disrupting the industry with innovations like digital payments, blockchain, peer-to-peer lending, and robo-advisors.

**7. Real Estate:** Real estate investment encompasses residential, commercial, industrial, and hospitality properties, as well as real estate investment trusts (REITs).

**8. Telecommunications:** Opportunities include investments in 5G networks, fiber optics, satellite communications, and internet service providers.

**9. Education and EdTech:** There is strong growth in this sector due to the growing demand for skills development and lifelong learning. EdTech startups leveraging technology to enhance education delivery are particularly appealing.

**10. Industrial and Manufacturing:** Despite challenges such as trade tensions and supply chain disruptions, the industrial and manufacturing sectors offer investment opportunities in areas like advanced manufacturing, robotics, automation, aerospace, and defense.

Investors can find out the risks and rewards in each market thorough due diligence, assess risk factors, and align investments with their financial goals and risk tolerance. Diversification across multiple sectors and geographies is a key for success.

- **What is your message to the business leaders?**

My messages that the business leaders should be peace-builders, and advocates for peace always. War is not the solution for conflict resolution. The world has so much resources and markets for sharing. Peace building comes at a much lower cost and faster progress than bloody wars and lost opportunities.

Over several centuries, the greed for power has destroyed empires and dynasties. No nation is an exception, no matter how powerful or prevailing they are. When their time comes it is the end. Those in doubt can ask the history about the fate of the Pharos and the Romans.

