

Your Golden Key to New Zealand

PAYPAL founder and tech industry mogul Peter Thiel is a libertarian. He opposes most government taxation and regulation. He is a big supporter of President Trump.

He's also a citizen of New Zealand, a flourishing social democracy — or “welfare state,” if you prefer that term — where social equality and cooperation is highly prized.

Hardly the stuff of Ayn Rand.

When I first heard that Thiel had just obtained Kiwi citizenship, I laughed out loud. What hypocrisy. Mr. Libertarian tells the rest of us to do without government, then tells the government of one of the great social democracies:

I am happy to say categorically that I have found no other country that aligns more with my view of the future than New Zealand ... I am prepared to make this solemn allegiance and to hereby embrace and contribute to the life, history and culture of New Zealand.

Now, I don't blame him one bit for choosing New Zealand as a second “home.” If I met the unusually strict qualifications for residence and citizenship, I'd probably go myself.

And, unlike Thiel, who apparently has never lived there and has no plans to do so, I'd happy settle down somewhere on the North Island to surf and join an old boys' rugby club.

New Zealand is always at the top of international quality of life comparisons.

It has high-quality health care and education, low crime rates and spectacular nature. Sheep outnumber people 7-to-1. Its rugby team, the All Blacks, is the world finest ... well, that matters to me, anyway.

But that's not why Thiel chose New Zealand as his bolt-hole.

A recent *New Yorker* article revealed that dozens of U.S. “kazillionaires” are in the process of setting up safe havens in New Zealand because of the country's remoteness from the world's hot spots. As one local journalist told *The New Yorker*:

*I think, in the back of people's minds, frankly, is that, if the world really goes to s***, New Zealand is a First World country, completely self-sufficient, if necessary — energy, water, food. Life would deteriorate, but it would not collapse.*

As my father points out in his “Passport Book,” it's one of the most selective countries in the world when it comes to granting residence.

An American financier who has homes and residence in New Zealand told the magazine that he expects America to face “political turmoil, including racial tension, polarization and a rapidly aging population.”

“The country has turned into the New York area, the California area and then everyone else is wildly different in the middle,” he said.

Our shaky public finances make matters worse. “Do you default on Medicare and Social Security? Or do you print more money to give to them? What does that do to the value of the dollar? It's not a next-year problem, but it's not fifty years away, either.”

Bigwigs like Thiel get into New Zealand because they're rich and powerful. The rest of us, not so much. As my father points out in his *Passport Book*, it's one of the most selective countries in the world when it comes to granting residence.

But that doesn't mean you can't take advantage of the same security that turned Thiel into a Kiwi.

Back in the August edition of *The Bauman Letter*, I wrote about a firm called New Zealand Vault (NZV). It's a privately owned, bank-independent vaulting company run by some of that country's most accomplished financiers.

Because it's not part of a bank, it's not considered a foreign financial institution under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), so U.S. clients' precious metals holdings there aren't reportable.

NZV tells me they've been overwhelmed with business because of my report. Dozens of folks have opened accounts and either sent bullion to them or purchased gold via NZV's handy online brokerage service. They sell and buy the yellow metal as you wish.

Of course, since New Zealand is a long way off, the company's strict access protocols — which call for the physical presence of the client or his authorized representative every time a box is opened

— are combined with a representation service by international accounting firm Grant Thornton. One of their famously perfectionist staff will represent you whenever anything is deposited into, or removed from, your vault space.

People like Peter Thiel are worried about social and economic collapse in the U.S. They judge New Zealand to be one of the safest places to be if that happens.

Shouldn't your gold be there too?

I'm interested in hearing more from you. What is your No.1 concern when it comes to your assets and your freedom? Send your comments to me at baumanletter@banyanhill.com

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