

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## The big picture: federal taxes

Americans may not want to believe it, but we pay less in total taxes than citizens of any other industrial country.

About a quarter of the nation's annual production of goods and services goes to pay for government.

Denmark, France and Sweden spend about 45 percent of their domestic product for government. The British and Canadians devote a little less than a third of their economy to government. In return, they get services, like universal health care, that we don't.

In the United States, mandatory

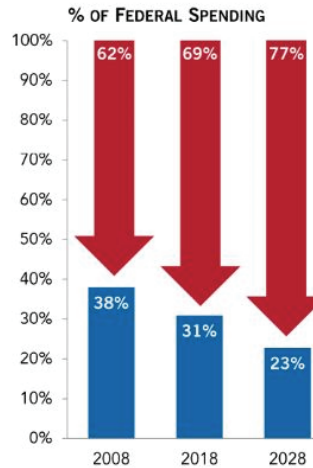
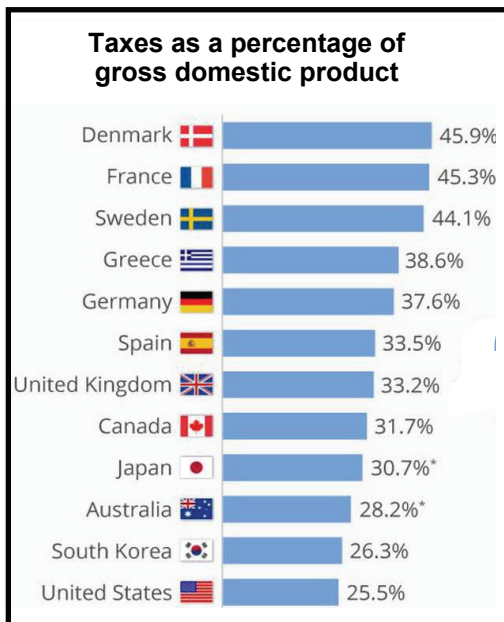
federal spending for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and interest on the national debt is skyrocketing.

As the nation ages, more than three-quarters of federal spending will go for just these programs within 10 years. Already they consume 69 percent of the federal budget.

The chart at bottom shows where the rest of the money goes.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton



**Mandatory spending for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and interest (red arrows, above) will grow from 69% of the federal budget this year to 77% in 2028.**

