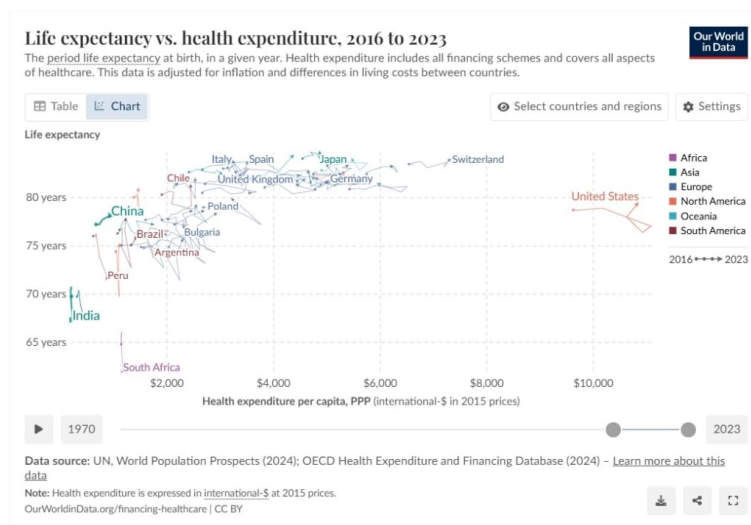


# THIS IS YOUR SOCIAL SAFETY NET ON DOGE

[NB: check the byline, thanks. /~Rayne]

Elon Musk has repeatedly said government functions should be privatized.

You already know how that works out for the U.S., because it's one of the biggest single differences between the cost of living in other first world countries and the U.S.



It's also one of the biggest differences in life expectancy between other first world countries and the U.S.

Healthcare in the EU, for example, costs much less than it does in the U.S., and outcomes measured in life expectancy are far better.

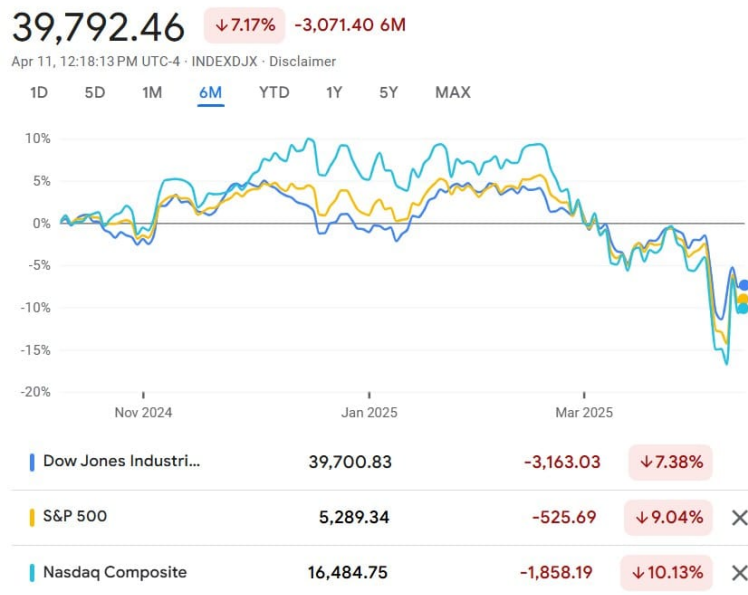
But healthcare in the EU is not fully privatized; though not identical across all EU members, it's based on universal access and publicly subsidized.

Ditto for Canada and Greenland, the countries Trump wants to seize. Better that they seize us and bring their healthcare systems with them.

But this month has also demonstrated the risk of taking Elon Musk seriously when it comes to privatization.

Imagine this is our social security system:

### Dow Jones Industrial Average



Who's not going to get their checks if the bottom drops out even further? Why should Americans who've paid into Social Security over a lifetime of work have to worry about additional risk to their futures because unelected and unconstitutionally appointed Musk believes exposure to the market is what Americans need?

It's bad enough that Americans' cost of daily living expenses is further exposed to market risks because of Trump's misbegotten, ill-considered tariffs. Musk believes Americans' retirement years should be even more deeply risky.

It makes zero sense to listen to a man who has no empathy for others' concerns, who has no experience dealing with a limited income and trying to make ends meet. He doesn't have adequate background let alone personal history to make such judgments about what will work best for the American people; he doesn't even view his children's health as personal obligations (ex. recent public pleas by two of his children's mothers for assistance with healthcare matters).

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What really takes the cake is the silence of the business world.

Of course the financial industry is silently slaving over the chance to get their grubby mitts on our Social Security, and they're staying quiet about it because they know they dare not set off the American public.

But Jeff Bezos' Amazon-derived fortune was made in no small part off the subsidy that the U.S. Postal Service has been to American business.

USPS is the fallback for shipping nearly anything nearly anywhere in the U.S.; Bezos didn't have to worry about whether his books would sell in North Utter Remote, Outer Territory USA. There was a post office nearby where purchasers could pick up their orders if they couldn't be delivered to their door by USPS carriers on foot.

Bezos didn't have to negotiate that. Didn't have to buy sorter equipment, trucks, hire and train personnel, build sorting facilities, so on. All of that was on our dime when it wasn't paid for by postage, until Amazon was successful enough to consider reducing shipping and handling costs further with their own trucks.

Furthermore, Bezos knew what the competitive rate for shipping a majority of Amazon's products would be based on USPS rates – rates set by USPS bidding out trucking and equipment purchases. When Amazon started buying its own trucks, Amazon knew its costs had to be no more than USPS' costs to deliver.

In short, our tax dollars and our volume of postage helped underwrite Jeff Bezos' billions.

And he's just going to sit there smug and mum, enjoying his irrational wealth while Musk shoots off his mouth about privatizing government.

Because Bezos will probably ensure the next billions he makes off our backs is from Amazon Postal Service.

Can't begin to imagine how much our health care will cost once Amazon has the contract both for postal delivery of medications and health care insurance.

You can only imagine when Musk takes his chainsaw to Amtrak what will happen next: he'll claim only his vaporware Hyperloop is the alternative, and American people should pay him billions to implement it instead of a long-proven passenger rail system.

Privatization will not yield better outcomes for the American people and you already know that. Don't wait until Musk uses DOGE to shut off funds to the USPS; he's already targeted USPS personnel. Contact your representative and senators and insist that government should NOT be privatized.

Not our Social Security, not our mail delivery, not a single government service which could end up becoming a pricey-to-us privatized profit center for billionaires.