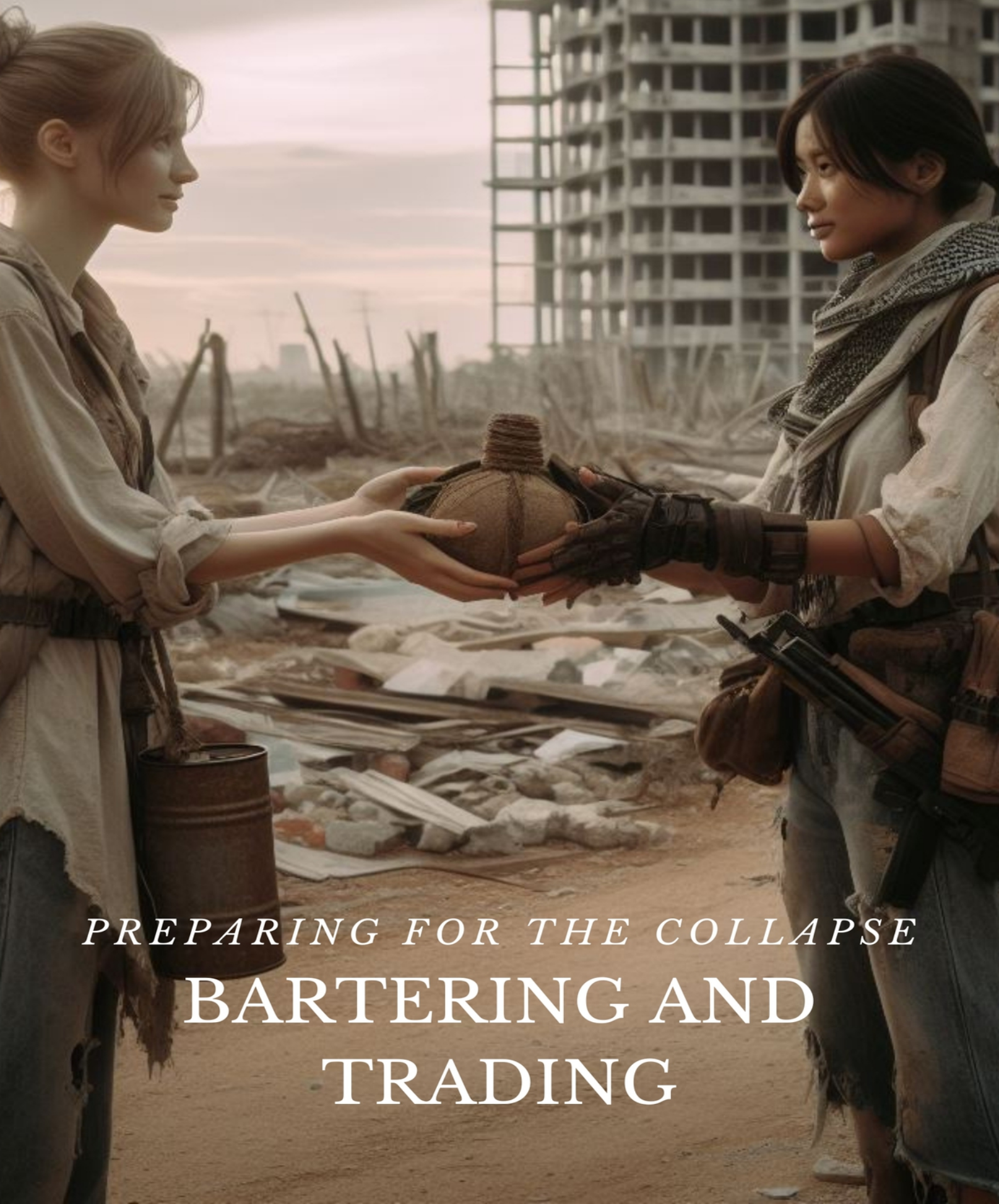


SPIRITWALKER SHIKATA



PREPARING FOR THE COLLAPSE
BARTERING AND
TRADING

Preparing for the collapse: Bartering and Trading

Preparing for the collapse: Bartering and Trading

By: Spiritwalker

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to you, the loyal fans of the "*Preparing for the Collapse*" series. Your unwavering support and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind each page, each chapter, and each book in this series. Your eagerness to learn, to prepare, and to adapt in the face of uncertainty is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. It is for you that these words are written, and it is in your hands that they find their purpose. Thank you for joining me on this journey. Here's to preparing for the future, whatever it may hold.

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the readers of the *"Preparing for the Collapse"* series. Your continued support and enthusiasm for my work have been the driving force behind each book in this series. Your commitment to learning and adapting in the face of uncertainty is truly inspiring. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey.

To the love of my life, whose unwavering support has been a beacon of light in all my endeavors, not just in writing but in every aspect of life. Your belief in me has been a source of strength and motivation. Thank you for standing by my side, cheering me on, and for being my biggest fan. And to my mother, who has stood beside me through thick and thin, no matter who I became. Your unconditional love and support have shaped me into the person I am today. You taught me the value of resilience, the importance of staying true to oneself, and the power of perseverance. Thank you for being a rock, strong and gentle both.

Writing this series has been a journey of discovery, growth, and fulfillment. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion with the world. Thank you all for being a part of this journey.

About The Author



Author Spiritwalker is a seasoned author and a beacon of wisdom in the realm of self-reliance and off-grid living. With a writing career spanning over 30 years, he has published more than 40 books that are widely available online and wherever books are sold. Spiritwalker grew up in a family of avid survival gardeners, a background that deeply influenced his understanding of self-reliance and survival. A highlighted memory from his childhood is being mentored and watched over by an Amish family, an experience that further shaped his perspective on life and survival.

His hit book collection, **“Preparing For The Collapse,”** has garnered significant attention and praise. It reflects his deep

understanding and experience of living off the grid for 10 years, raising both his daughter and grandson in this unique lifestyle. Spiritwalker's work has been featured in high-profile magazines such as *Backwoodsman*, *American Survival Guide*, *Self-Reliance Mag*, *GRIT*, and more. His insights and expertise have reached a wide audience through his seven national columns at examiner.com, including a popular column titled "Homesteading and Off Grid Living." From 2015 to 2017, Spiritwalker wrote a local column on living off the grid for a newspaper in Houston County, Missouri. His innovative spirit led him to build a cabin out of wooden scrap pallets, a project that was featured on **Tiny Homes Nation** and in several niche magazines.

His alternative building skills, which became all the rage on the homestead, have now been put to use in building out a Skoolie. This converted 36-foot 1993 Blue Bird Skoolie is designed with the ability to live off the grid for years, if necessary, showcasing Spiritwalker's commitment to sustainable and self-reliant living. As an avid herbalist, natural living expert, and prepping enthusiast, Spiritwalker has written thousands of articles on subjects such as prepping, survival, homesteading, and off-grid living. He is also the author of the book "**Using Herbal Remedies.**" In addition to his writing and off-grid living expertise, Spiritwalker is also a renowned Reiki Master, Medicine Man, ordained lay Zen Priest, Medical Specialist (BA), Spiritual Wellness Coach, and natural health guru.

He can use the land to heal himself and others as well as what the land can provide physically in the form of food or supplies. With traceable heritage back to his Cherokee and Black Feet Native American ancestors, he keeps the old ways alive in his life, in many aspects. When Spiritwalker is not writing his next bestseller, he loves spending time hiking, summiting mountains, wilderness exploring, and foraging for mushrooms and herbs to be made into medicine, all while working directly with nature as a steward of the land. Spiritwalker has an uncanny sense of survival recalled from past lives but has also had many years of current survival training in both the USA and USAF. His service includes work in the Military Counterintelligence and field and as a Combat Paramedic.

Spiritwalker's writing serves a dual purpose: helping others see the possibility of a simpler, more meaningful life, and financing his nomadic lifestyle. His journey is a testament to his belief in the power of

resilience and self-reliance. His writings are not just books, but a compass guiding readers towards a life of simplicity and meaning. His life is a testament to the fact that it is possible to live a life of simplicity and meaning, and his writings serve as a guide for those who wish to follow in his footsteps. Writing is a passion he was born with and will die with!

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Preface

In a world that is increasingly unpredictable, the ability to adapt and survive in any situation has never been more important. My passion for helping others prepare for potential apocalyptic scenarios has led me to dedicate a significant portion of my life to writing about survival, self-sufficiency, and resilience.

From living off the grid to homesteading, I have explored various aspects of survival in my series, "Preparing for the Collapse". Each book in this series is a testament to my commitment to equipping readers with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the face of adversity. Today, I am proud to present the fifth book in this series, "Preparing for the Collapse - Bartering and Trading". This book delves into the crucial skills of bartering and trading, which could become essential in a post-collapse society where traditional monetary systems may no longer apply. In this book, we will explore the nuances of barter and trade, discuss essential items and skills that hold value, and provide tips on effective negotiation techniques.

We will also speculate on the future of bartering and trading in a long-term post-collapse scenario. My hope is that this book, like its

predecessors, will serve as a valuable guide for those who seek to prepare for the unknown. It is my belief that with the right knowledge and preparation, we can face any challenge that comes our way. As I continue to work on the collector's edition of this series, I am reminded of why I embarked on this journey. It is my sincere hope that these books will inspire, educate, and empower you to prepare for the future, whatever it may hold. Thank you for joining me on this journey. Here's to preparing for the collapse, and to the resilience of the human spirit.

-Spirit

Introduction



Two men bartering

In the face of uncertainty, preparation is our greatest ally. As we navigate through the complexities of our modern world, the possibility of a societal collapse, while unsettling, cannot be entirely dismissed. It is this understanding that has led to the creation of the "Preparing for the Collapse" series, a comprehensive guide designed to equip its readers with the knowledge and skills necessary to survive and thrive in a post-collapse world. This fifth installment, "Preparing for the Collapse - Bartering and Trading", delves into an often overlooked but crucial aspect of survival - the ability to barter and trade.

In a world where traditional monetary systems may no longer be viable, the ability to exchange goods and services effectively could mean the difference between survival and despair. The concept of bartering and

trading is not new. In fact, it predates the invention of money and was the primary method of acquiring goods and services in ancient societies. However, in our modern world, where transactions are often impersonal and conducted through digital means, the art of bartering and trading has been largely forgotten. This book aims to revive that knowledge, adapting it to a post-collapse scenario. The first chapter, "Understanding Barter & Trade", provides a comprehensive overview of these two forms of exchange, highlighting their differences and their roles in a society without a formal currency system.

It serves as a foundation for the rest of the book, ensuring that readers have a solid understanding of the concepts before delving into more specific topics. In "Essential Items for Barter/Trade", we discuss the various items that hold value in a post-collapse society. From tangible goods such as food, water, and medicine, to tools and other resources, this chapter provides a guide on what to stockpile and how to assess the value of different items in a barter situation. The third chapter, "Skills as Barter/Trade Items", shifts the focus from tangible goods to knowledge and skills.

In a post-collapse world, skills such as medical knowledge, mechanical skills, and farming could become invaluable. This chapter highlights the importance of these skills and provides tips on how individuals can acquire and improve them. "Negotiation Techniques" delves into the art of negotiation, providing tips and strategies to ensure fair trade. Effective negotiation is a skill that can benefit individuals in all aspects of life, and it becomes even more crucial in a barter system where the value of goods and services can be subjective. Finally, "Future of Bartering" speculates on how barter and trade might evolve in the long term due to societal collapse. It explores potential challenges, ethical considerations, and the possible evolution of barter systems in a world where traditional economic systems have broken down.

As you journey through this book, remember that the goal is not to incite fear, but to inspire preparation. It is my hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource, empowering you with the knowledge and skills to face any challenge that may come your way. Remember, in the face of adversity, our greatest strength lies in our ability to adapt and persevere. Welcome to "Preparing for the Collapse - Bartering and Trading". Let's embark on this journey together.

Chapter 1: Understanding Barter & Trade



Two men bartering

In the grand tapestry of human history, the exchange of goods and services has been a constant thread. From the earliest civilizations to our modern global economy, the act of trading what we have for what we need has shaped societies, cultures, and lives. This chapter, "Understanding Barter & Trade", aims to explore these two fundamental forms of exchange, their differences, and their potential roles in a society where traditional currency systems may no longer exist. The concept of barter is as old as civilization itself. Before the invention of money, barter was the primary method of trade.

It involves the direct exchange of goods or services between parties without the use of a common medium of exchange like money. Imagine a farmer who has a surplus of wheat but needs tools for his

farm. He could find a blacksmith who needs wheat and is willing to trade tools for it. This is bartering in its simplest form. However, bartering has its limitations. It requires a coincidence of wants, meaning both parties must have what the other wants. It can also be difficult to determine the relative value of different goods or services. For example, how many bushels of wheat is a tool worth? These challenges led to the development of money as a common medium of exchange.

Trade, on the other hand, is a broader term that encompasses all transactions involving the exchange of goods or services. While barter is a form of trade, not all trade is barter. With the advent of money, trade became more complex and far-reaching. Money provided a common measure of value, making it easier to compare the worth of different goods and services. It also eliminated the



Two women bartering

need for a coincidence of wants, as one party could now sell their goods or services for money and then use that money to buy what they needed from someone else. In a post-collapse society, however, traditional money systems may no longer be viable. In such a scenario, barter could once again become a primary method of trade. Understanding the nuances of barter and trade, therefore, is crucial for survival. In the following sections, we will delve deeper into the mechanics of barter and trade, exploring their advantages and disadvantages, and discussing how they could be adapted to a post-collapse scenario.

We will also provide practical tips and strategies to help you navigate these forms of exchange effectively. Remember, knowledge is power. The more you understand about barter and trade, the better prepared you will be to face whatever challenges the future may hold. As we delve deeper into the world of barter and trade, it's important to understand that these systems are not just about the exchange of goods and services. They are about relationships, trust, and community. In a post-collapse society, these elements become even more crucial. In a barter system, trust is paramount. When money is no longer a reliable measure of value, we rely on our judgment of the person with whom we are trading.

We need to trust that they will uphold their end of the bargain, that the goods or services they are offering are of good quality, and that they have accurately represented their value. This reliance on trust can foster strong community ties, as individuals who trade frequently with each other can build relationships based on mutual respect and reliability. However, this reliance on trust can also present challenges. What



Gold as currency

happens when someone breaks that trust? What mechanisms are in place to prevent fraud or deception? These are questions that any effective barter system must address. Trade, while broader in scope, also hinges on trust, particularly in a post-collapse scenario. Without regulatory bodies or legal recourse, traders must trust that their trading partners will act in good faith. This can lead to the establishment of reputations, where those who consistently act honestly and fairly are preferred trading partners. In the next section, "Essential Items for Barter/Trade", we will explore what items hold value in a post-collapse society and why.

We'll discuss tangible goods such as food, water, and medicine, as well as tools and other resources. We'll also delve into how to assess the value of different items in a barter situation, a skill that can mean the

difference between a fair trade and a poor one. Remember, in a world of uncertainty, knowledge is your most valuable asset. The more you understand about barter and trade, the better equipped you will be to navigate the challenges of a post-collapse world. As we continue our exploration of barter and trade, it's worth noting that these systems are not just about survival. They are also about resilience, adaptability, and the ability to thrive in a world that has been fundamentally changed. In a post-collapse society, the items and skills that were once taken for granted can suddenly become invaluable.

A can of food, a bottle of clean water, a basic medical kit - these can become currency in a world where traditional money has lost its value. But it's not just about tangible goods. Skills like farming, carpentry, and medicine can also become highly valuable in a barter system. This



Silver as currency

brings us to an important point: preparation. The more you can do now to prepare for a potential collapse, the better off you will be. This includes stockpiling essential items, learning valuable skills, and building a network of trustworthy individuals who you can trade with. But preparation is not just about hoarding goods or learning skills. It's also about mindset. In a post-collapse world, the rules of the game have changed. Success is no longer measured by wealth or status, but by the ability to adapt, to make do with what you have, and to forge relationships based on trust and mutual respect. In the realm of barter and trade, understanding the intrinsic value of goods and services is paramount.

In a post-collapse society, the value of items shifts dramatically

from our current understanding. Items that we consider basic or even trivial in today's world, such as clean water, canned food, or simple tools, can become highly valuable commodities. Conversely, items that hold high value today, such as electronic devices or luxury goods, may become virtually worthless if they cannot be used or traded for survival necessities. Barter and trade also require a keen understanding of supply and demand. In a post-collapse scenario, the demand for survival essentials will likely be high, while the supply may be limited. This imbalance can drive up the value of these items in a barter system.

Understanding this dynamic can help you prepare effectively and ensure that you have items of value to trade. Another crucial aspect of barter and trade is negotiation. Unlike monetary transactions where prices are often fixed, barter transactions involve a degree of negotiation. The ability to negotiate effectively can help ensure that you get fair



Bartering for seed

trade for your goods or services. This involves not only understanding the value of what you're trading but also being able to communicate that value to others. It's also worth noting that barter and trade are not just about individual survival. They are also about building and maintaining community relationships. In a post-collapse society, being able to trust and cooperate with others can be just as important for survival as having essential goods and services. Barter and trade can help foster these relationships by encouraging cooperation and mutual support. In the following chapters, we will delve deeper into these topics, providing practical advice and strategies for bartering and trading in a post-collapse world.

We will discuss how to determine the value of different items, how

to negotiate effectively, and how to build and maintain a network of trustworthy trading partners. As we journey through this exploration of barter and trade, remember that preparation is key. The more knowledge and skills you have, the better equipped you will be to face whatever challenges the future may hold. So, let's continue on this journey of understanding, preparation, and resilience. Together, we can prepare for collapse and emerge stronger on the other side. While the use of money is prevalent in most parts of the world today, there are still places where barter and trade play a significant role in the local economy.

These communities offer valuable insights into how barter and trade systems function in practice and how they can foster resilience and adaptability. In the highlands of Papua New Guinea, for example, the traditional practice of "moka" involves the exchange of pigs, shells, and other goods in a complex system of



Bartering on the homestead

reciprocal giving. This is not just about the exchange of goods, but also about building social relationships and maintaining peace among different groups. Similarly, in some rural communities in Africa, barter is used alongside money, particularly for trading agricultural produce. For instance, a farmer might trade a bag of maize for a few liters of milk. This not only allows them to obtain what they need but also helps to strengthen community ties. In the aftermath of the economic crisis in Greece, some communities turned to barter networks to cope with the severe shortage of cash.

These networks allowed people to trade goods and services directly, from homegrown vegetables to plumbing or teaching services. In Argentina, following the economic collapse in 2001, barter clubs

sprang up across the country. These clubs used credit units as a form of currency, allowing members to trade goods and services without the need for cash. Even in developed countries like the United States, barter exchanges and time banks are becoming increasingly popular. These platforms allow members to trade goods and services using a system of credits, fostering a sense of community and mutual support. These examples illustrate the versatility and resilience of barter and trade systems. They show us that even in the absence of money, people can find ways to exchange goods and services, meet their needs, and build strong, supportive communities.

As we continue to explore the world of barter and trade in this book, we will draw on these real-world examples to provide practical advice and strategies. We will discuss how to adapt these systems to a post-collapse scenario, how to navigate the challenges they present, and how to leverage them to foster resilience and



“Goldbacks” as currency

adaptability. Remember, the future is uncertain, but that doesn't mean we are powerless. With knowledge, preparation, and the right mindset, we can face whatever comes our way. Barter and trade, while often used interchangeably, have distinct differences. Barter refers to the direct exchange of goods or services without the use of a common medium of exchange like money. Trade, on the other hand, is a broader term that encompasses all transactions involving the exchange of goods or services, including those that involve money. In a barter system, the value of goods or services is determined by the parties involved in the transaction.

This can be challenging as it requires a coincidence of wants, meaning both parties must have something that the other wants. It also requires an agreement on the relative value of the goods or services being exchanged. Trade, particularly when it involves money, simplifies this process. Money serves as a common measure of value, making it easier to compare the worth of different goods or services. It also eliminates the need for a coincidence of wants, as one party can sell their goods or services for money and then use that money to buy what they need from someone else. In a post-collapse scenario, however, traditional money systems may no longer be viable, and alternative forms of currency may emerge. Precious metals like gold and silver have been used as a form of currency for thousands of years and could once again become a medium of exchange in a post-collapse society.

Gold and silver have several properties that make them suitable for use as money. They are durable, divisible, portable, and scarce. They also have intrinsic value, meaning they have value in and of themselves, not just as a medium of exchange. In a post-collapse society,



Men trading items for seed

gold and silver could be used to trade for goods and services. For example, a small gold coin could be traded for a week's worth of food, or a silver coin could be traded for a tool. The exact exchange rates would likely vary based on supply and demand, as well as the perceived value of the goods and services being traded. Cash, on the other hand, could become less valuable in a post-collapse scenario. If the collapse leads to hyperinflation, as has happened in many economic crises throughout history, cash could lose its purchasing power. However, in the immediate aftermath of a collapse, cash could still be useful for trade, particularly for small, everyday transactions.

In the current economic landscape, the value of gold has reached an all-time high. As of the end of December 2023, the price of gold was

more than \$2,062 per ounce. This surge in gold prices can be attributed to several factors, one of which is the uncertain future of the US dollar. The US dollar, like most modern currencies, is a fiat currency, meaning it is not backed by a physical commodity such as gold. Instead, its value is derived from the trust and confidence people have in the stability of the US government and economy. However, this trust can be shaken by economic instability, leading to fluctuations in the value of the dollar. One of the driving forces behind the rise in gold prices is the perception that the US dollar is facing an uncertain future.

This perception is fueled by several factors, including economic instability, inflation, and geopolitical tensions. In times of uncertainty, investors often turn to gold as a safe haven because it retains its value better than fiat currencies. Furthermore, the fact that the US dollar is no longer backed by gold has led some to question its intrinsic value. Prior to 1971,



Man and woman bartering

the US dollar was backed by gold, meaning the government held gold reserves equivalent to the amount of money in circulation. However, this is no longer the case. Today, the dollar is backed by the full faith and credit of the US government, not by any physical assets. This shift from a gold standard to a fiat currency system has led to debates about the true value of the US dollar. Some argue that without a physical asset to back it up, the dollar is essentially worthless. However, others point out that the value of a currency is not solely determined by whether it is backed by gold or any other physical asset.

Instead, it is determined by a complex interplay of factors, including economic performance, inflation rates, interest rates, and investor confidence. In a post-collapse scenario, these debates could

become even more relevant. If confidence in the US dollar were to significantly decline, alternative forms of currency, such as gold or other commodities, could become more widely used in trade. This could lead to a resurgence of barter and trade systems, where goods and services are directly exchanged without the use of money. In conclusion, understanding the dynamics of barter and trade, as well as the factors that influence the value of currencies like the US dollar, is crucial for navigating a post-collapse economy. As we face an uncertain future, knowledge and preparation are our greatest allies.

Chapter 2: Essential Items for Barter/Trade



Two women trading

In the wake of a societal collapse, the world as we know it would be turned upside down. The conveniences we take for granted would vanish, replaced by a harsh reality where survival hinges on resourcefulness and preparedness. Two items that would hold immense value in such a scenario are **medicine** and **tools**.

Imagine a world where pharmacies are no longer restocking shelves and hospitals are no longer in service. In this world, medicine becomes a precious commodity.

From antibiotics to pain relievers, from insulin to antiseptics, these life-saving substances would be worth their weight in gold. Stockpiling medicine, therefore, becomes a crucial survival strategy. But how does one go about it?

Firstly, it's important to have a broad spectrum of over-the-counter drugs and first-aid supplies. These can handle a variety of common ailments and injuries. Secondly, for those with chronic conditions, having an ample supply of necessary prescription medications is vital. Lastly, knowledge is power. Understanding how to use these medicines effectively and safely, or even knowing how to create homemade remedies from natural resources, could make the difference between life and death. Now, let's consider tools.

In a post-collapse society, the ability to repair and create would be invaluable. Tools would be the keys to self-sufficiency, enabling us to build shelters, repair equipment, hunt, farm, and defend ourselves. A well-stocked toolbox is a treasure chest in a world where there are no hardware stores around the corner. Stockpiling tools involves more than just hoarding hammers and screwdrivers. It



Seeds are a great barter and trade item

means having the right tools for the right jobs - from carpentry and masonry to mechanical and electrical work. It also means taking care of these tools, keeping them in good working order, and knowing how to use them effectively. Moreover, it involves learning and passing on the skills to use these tools, as they would be the lifeblood of a post-collapse society. Medicine and tools would be two of the most valuable commodities in a post-collapse world. Stockpiling them wisely and learning how to use them effectively could mean the difference between merely surviving and truly thriving in a world forever changed.

As we delve deeper into this topic, we will explore more such items and strategies, preparing ourselves not just for the worst, but also for a new beginning. Proper storage of over the counter (OTC) and

prescription medications is crucial for maintaining their efficacy and safety. Both types of medications should be stored in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and out of reach of children. It's important to keep them in their original containers with the labels intact, as this provides vital information such as the name of the medication, dosage instructions, expiration date, and any special storage instructions. For OTC medications, it's advisable to stock a variety of common drugs such as pain relievers, antihistamines, antacids, and cold and flu medications.

These can handle a range of minor ailments and provide relief until medical help can be sought. Prescription medications, on the other hand, are specific to the individual and their health condition. It's important to have an ample supply of these, especially for those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, or asthma. However, stockpiling



Weapons are a great barter and trade item

prescription medications can be challenging due to regulations and the fact that these medications often have a shorter shelf life. So, it is very important that you store these medications at the lowest temperature possible. Right now, that is a freezer. However, for some, it could only be a root cellar. This brings us to the importance of rotating the stock. Medications, like any other product, have an expiration date beyond which their effectiveness can't be guaranteed. Therefore, it's important to use the older stock first and replace it with new stock. This rotation ensures that the medications you have on hand are always within their shelf life and therefore safe and effective to use.

In a post-collapse scenario, getting new stock might not be possible buy right now, rotation is very important so that when the time

does come, you have the best supply. However, once SHTF, while it's not ideal, most medications can still be used for a period of time beyond their expiration date. The effectiveness might be reduced, but they could still provide some benefit. As we continue our exploration into the world of bartering and trading in a post-collapse society, let's turn our attention to two more items of immense value - **seeds** and **knowledge**. In a world where supermarkets are a thing of the past, the ability to grow your own food becomes not just a hobby, but a necessity for survival.

This is where seeds come into play. Seeds are the beginning of life, the starting point of every meal. They are tiny packages of potential, ready to burst forth into a variety of fruits, vegetables, and grains that can sustain a family or a community. Stockpiling seeds, however, is not as simple as buying a few packets from the store. You need to consider the variety of



Gold will always be a great barter and trade item

crops, their nutritional value, and their suitability to the local climate and soil. It's also important to choose heirloom or open-pollinated varieties, which will produce seeds that can be saved and replanted year after year, ensuring a sustainable food source. In today's world there are genetically modified seeds which produce GMO crops. These seeds were created in a laboratory so that certain Biotech companies could place a patent on them and actually own the food that is meant for you. They produce the seed, patent the seed, and then challenge the farmers to either buy their GMO seeds or simply shut them down. There is NO other option in many parts of the world, such as Mexico.

The US, however, the farmers who refuse to take the GMO seed are taken to court to either shut them down or sue them for GMO crops

that somehow grew in their fields. Usually, the wind and birds spread the seed, but the power-hungry biotech companies do not care and only care about their bottom dollar. There is so much misinformation about GMO seeds, food crops etc. that many people do not know what to believe. These companies want you to believe that the seed will save the world by feeding everyone. Some of the seed modified is made to grow where heirloom seed will not. However, ever since the beginning of the GMO revolution, their words have fallen on deaf ears and taken a huge hit when they simply did not work as planned.

Now, most of the seed in the world is owned by these “demons” and they are also created so that no one can simply grow a crop, collect the seed, and grow more. Terminator seeds are what they are called. It simply means that the seed is modified so that it terminates instead of remaining viable. So, you tell me, how on



Coins will always be a good barter and trade item

earth is this supposed to be the future of humanity when all mother nature has to do is wipe the GMO's, which has replaced the heirloom seeds? GMO seeds can not be saved and replanted, it is a dead-end game and done so on purpose. So, **MAKE SURE** to use and save only heirloom seed! Storing seeds properly is also crucial. They need to be kept in a cool, dry place, and some varieties may even require freezing. As with medications, rotating your seed stock is important. Planting and saving seeds each year ensures their viability and maintains the diversity of your food supply. Now, let's consider **knowledge**. In a post-collapse society, knowledge is power.

The more skills and information you possess, the more valuable you become. Knowledge can't be stolen or lost, and it doesn't take up

any physical space. It's the one resource that increases in value the more you use it. In such a scenario, practical, hands-on skills would be worth their weight in gold. Knowing how to grow food, build a shelter, repair a vehicle, administer first aid, or purify water could mean the difference between life and death. But knowledge is not just about survival. It's also about improving quality of life, maintaining morale, and building a sense of community. Skills like cooking, teaching, music, or storytelling can bring comfort, joy, and a sense of normalcy in a world turned upside down.

In a world where Google is no longer at our fingertips, **books** become an invaluable resource. A well-stocked library, with books on a wide range of topics, can be a treasure trove of information. From DIY guides and cookbooks to medical manuals and farming handbooks, these books can provide the knowledge needed to navigate a post-collapse world. In essence, seeds



Security/manpower will be a great barter/trade service

and knowledge represent the twin pillars of survival - sustenance and wisdom. As we continue on this journey of preparedness, we will delve deeper into these and other items of value, equipping ourselves for a world where self-reliance is not just an option, but a necessity. The road ahead is long and full of challenges, but with careful planning and foresight, we can face the future with confidence and hope. As we delve deeper into the realm of bartering and trading in a post-collapse society, let's consider two more invaluable items - **fuel** and **clothing**. In a world where traditional energy sources are scarce or non-existent, fuel becomes a lifeline.

It powers our vehicles, heats our homes, cooks our food, and provides light in the darkness. Whether it's gasoline, diesel, propane, or

wood, having a stockpile of fuel can make life in a post-collapse world more bearable. However, storing fuel is not without its challenges. It's volatile, has a limited shelf life, and requires special storage containers and conditions. Safety is paramount when dealing with fuel. Proper ventilation, regular inspection for leaks, and safe handling practices are all crucial. Despite these challenges, the benefits of having a fuel supply far outweigh the risks. In a post-collapse society, fuel becomes a highly valuable commodity, not just for personal use but also for trading and bartering.

Having a secret natural gas well could be a game-changer. Natural gas is a versatile fuel source that can be used for heating, cooking, and generating electricity. If you have the knowledge and equipment to safely extract and bottle the gas, you could have a steady supply of energy for your own needs and a valuable commodity for trade. Propane, another



Beer, and other alcohol is a great barter/trade item

type of gas, can also be stored and used in a similar manner. It's commonly used for heating and cooking, and it's relatively easy to store in tanks. However, extracting propane from natural gas requires specialized knowledge and equipment, as it involves separating the propane from the other gases and pressurizing it into a liquid form. Another potential source of fuel is biodiesel, which can be made at home from used cooking oil or animal fats. The process involves a chemical reaction called transesterification, which separates the glycerin from the fat or oil, leaving behind two products - biodiesel and glycerin, a byproduct that can be used to make soap.

Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine without modifications, making it a valuable commodity in a post-collapse society. Methane, a

potent greenhouse gas, can also be produced at home through the process of anaerobic digestion. This involves the breakdown of organic material, such as food waste or animal manure, in an oxygen-free environment. The resulting biogas is primarily composed of methane and can be used as a fuel source. A home biogas system can provide a sustainable source of fuel for cooking and heating, and the residual slurry can be used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer. In conclusion, having the ability to produce your own fuel not only ensures your survival but also provides you with valuable commodities for bartering.

However, it's important to remember that these processes involve flammable materials and should be undertaken with caution. Safety should always be the top priority. Next, let's consider clothing. In a post-collapse society, clothing is more than just a fashion statement - it's a necessity for survival. It protects us from



Food/Meals are a great barter/trade item

the elements, help regulate our body temperature, and can even provide a sense of identity and normalcy in a chaotic world. Stockpiling clothing involves more than just having extra pairs of jeans and t-shirts. You need to consider a variety of factors such as the local climate, the durability of the materials, and the versatility of the clothing items. It's also important to have a range of sizes to accommodate growing children or changes in body weight. Moreover, knowing how to repair and make your own clothing can be an invaluable skill. A sewing kit, complete with needles, thread, and spare buttons, can extend the life of your clothing and save valuable resources.

In addition, skills like knitting or weaving can allow you to create your own clothing items from raw materials. If there is one thing that

must not be overlooked when it comes to bartering with clothing, it is just how important it will be to actually know how to tan animal hide, make that into clothing and know it's worth in a trade or barter system. In essence, fuel and clothing are two more items that hold immense value in a post-collapse society. They meet basic human needs and can greatly improve the quality of life in a challenging environment. As we continue to explore this topic, we will uncover more such items and delve into strategies for stockpiling and using them effectively. The journey of preparedness is a continuous one, and every step we take brings us closer to being ready for whatever the future holds. So, let's keep going, learning, and preparing, because the more we know, the better we can face whatever comes our way.

Chapter 3: Skills as Barter/Trade Items



Skills will always be a great barter/trade service

So, here we go. In a post-apocalyptic situation, there will be communities that will rise up and restart civilization as we knew it before the situation, at hand. However, the gates will be guarded and not just any “ole joe or Jane” will be let in. You will have to prove your worth in this situation. Why? Well, it’s simple. There won’t be

much. Supplies will dwindle and soon there will only be enough for a few. Communities will come together and help each other but they will have security and will protect what they have with everything they can. So, let's pretend a moment that we are trying to get into a community after the US has been hit by a few nukes and there is no government, society, or power grid, for that matter. We walk up to a guarded gate, hands in the air to show we are friendly. They cock and aim as would be normal and say, what do you all want. What skills would you have to barter your entry with? Nothing? Then I am sure you will be turned away. Well, now that you understand just how important it will be, let's get right into my top 10 skills that can be used for barter and trade.

1. **Medical Knowledge:** In a post-apocalyptic world, medical professionals would be in high demand. Skills like wound treatment, disease diagnosis, and knowledge of herbal remedies could be invaluable.
2. **Farming and Gardening:** The ability to grow food is crucial when supply chains break down. Knowledge of local soil conditions, crop rotation, and natural pest control methods would be highly sought after.
3. **Hunting and Fishing:** These skills would provide a source of protein and make a person a valuable member of



Trading mechanical skills for fresh produce

any community.

4. **Mechanical Skills:** People who can repair machinery, especially without access to modern tools, would be incredibly useful. This includes everything from fixing a bicycle to keeping a generator running.
5. **Construction:** Skills in building shelters or fortifying existing structures would be important for survival and security.
6. **Water Purification:** Knowing how to find and purify water would be a lifesaving skill when clean water isn't readily available.
7. **Sewing:** The ability to mend clothing and other fabric items would extend their use and conserve resources.
8. **Cooking and Food Preservation:** Knowing how to

prepare and preserve food, especially using limited and non-standard ingredients, would be a valuable skill.

9. **Fire Making:** The ability to start a fire for warmth, cooking, and protection would be essential.

10.

Military Skills: Skills acquired in the military such as strategic planning, survival techniques, self-defense, and firearms handling could be extremely valuable in a post-apocalyptic scenario.

Each of these skills could potentially be bartered for goods or services in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Remember, the value of a skill can greatly depend on the needs and resources of the community. It's always a good idea to have a diverse set of skills to offer. Beginning with **Medical Knowledge**. It could be a highly valuable barter/trade item. Here's how it could be used:

1. **Direct Exchange:** Medical services could be directly exchanged for goods or services. For example, treating a



Doctor using skills as barter and trade

person's injury could be traded for food, water, or other supplies.

2. **Community Entry:** Medical skills could be a ticket into a post-apocalyptic community. Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with medical knowledge, as they can help ensure the health and survival of the group.
3. **Teaching:** Medical knowledge could be shared with others in exchange for goods or services. This could also help to improve the overall health of the community.
4. **Creating Medical Supplies and Natural Medicines:** With the right knowledge, common items could potentially be turned into medical supplies (like turning alcohol into a disinfectant). Those with advanced knowledge of natural medicine would certainly know how to create natural

medicines in the form of salves, tinctures, decoctions, and infusions. This skill could be particularly valuable if conventional medicine becomes scarce or unavailable.

5. **Preventive Care:** Providing advice on preventive health care could reduce the incidence of disease in a community, making the individual with medical knowledge a valuable member.
6. **Advanced Knowledge of Natural Medicine:** In a post-apocalyptic world, conventional medicine might be scarce or unavailable. An individual with advanced knowledge of natural medicine, including the identification and use of medicinal plants, could be extremely valuable. They could treat various ailments using natural remedies, reducing the community's reliance on traditional medicine. Additionally, this person could offer training sessions to other members of the community, further



Hunter offering skills for entry to a PAC

increasing their value.

7. **Individuals with advanced medical training**, such as those who have served as **medics in the US Army**, would bring a wealth of knowledge and skills that would be extremely valuable in a post-apocalyptic scenario. *Here's how these skills could be used:*

1. *Intravenous Therapy*: Trained medics would know how to create and administer IVs, which can be used for hydration, administering medication, or transfusing blood. This skill could be lifesaving in emergency situations.
2. *Wound Dressing and Care*: Medics are trained in wound care, including cleaning wounds, applying dressings, and monitoring for signs of infection. They would also know

- how to create dressings from available materials.
3. *Field Surgery*: In extreme cases, a trained medic would have the knowledge to perform field surgery. This could include procedures like setting broken bones, suturing wounds, or even performing amputations if necessary.
 4. *Triage and Emergency Response*: Medics are trained to assess and prioritize injuries under high-stress conditions. This skill would be crucial in a disaster scenario where resources are limited.
 5. *Training Others*: A medic could pass on their knowledge to others in the community, increasing the overall level of medical expertise available.

Remember, in a post-apocalyptic scenario, trust and relationships would be just as important as the goods or services being exchanged. It would be crucial to establish a reputation as a fair and reliable trading partner. Also, it's important to



Welder offering skills for trade of animal hide

note that while medical knowledge can be a powerful bartering tool, it also comes with a responsibility to do no harm and to use this knowledge ethically. **Farming and Gardening** would be essential skills in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how these skills could be used:

1. **Food Production:** The most obvious use of farming and gardening skills is to grow food. This would be crucial in a post-apocalyptic scenario where traditional food sources might be unavailable or severely limited.
2. **Seed Saving:** Knowledge of how to save and store seeds for future planting seasons would ensure a sustainable food source. This could also be a valuable barter item.
3. **Soil Management:** Understanding soil types, nutrient

requirements, and natural fertilization methods would be key to successful farming and gardening.

4. **Pest and Disease Management:** Knowledge of natural methods to control pests and diseases in plants would be vital in the absence of commercial pesticides and fungicides.
5. **Crop Rotation:** Understanding and implementing crop rotation techniques could help maintain soil fertility and crop health, leading to more successful harvests.
6. **Foraging:** In addition to growing food, knowledge of local edible plants and fungi could supplement diets and provide variety.
7. **Medicinal Plants:** Knowledge of medicinal plants and their uses could be extremely valuable, especially if conventional medicine is scarce.
8. **Teaching Others:** Those with farming and gardening skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-



Farmer offering skills for entry to a homesteading PAC

sufficiency.

Let's delve deeper into how advanced farming and gardening knowledge would be an asset in a post-apocalyptic community:

Rabbit Farming: Rabbits are indeed a reliable source of lean protein and have the world's fastest record of "feed to food" conversion. A rabbit farmer would be a true asset in a post-apocalyptic community. Rabbits reproduce quickly, require little space, and can be fed with garden scraps. Their manure can also be used as a rich fertilizer, contributing to the sustainability of the community's farming efforts.

Soil Creation Using Organic Compost: Knowledge of composting would be invaluable in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Composting is a

natural process that turns organic material like kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich soil conditioner. This would be particularly useful when commercial fertilizers are no longer available. It would improve soil structure, provide essential nutrients for plant growth, and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Ancient Farming Techniques: Knowledge of ancient farming techniques could also be extremely beneficial. These techniques, which have been honed over thousands of years, are often more sustainable and adapted to local conditions than modern industrial farming methods. For example, techniques such as terracing, companion planting, and crop rotation could increase yields, improve soil health, and reduce pest problems.

Medicinal Plant Cultivation: In addition to food crops, a knowledgeable gardener or farmer might cultivate medicinal plants.



Lady offering sewing/homemaking skills for entry to a PAC

These could be used to treat a variety of ailments, particularly when conventional medicine might not be readily available.

Seed Saving and Plant Breeding: A skilled gardener or farmer would know how to save seeds from year to year, preserving the community's ability to grow its own food. They might also have knowledge of plant breeding techniques, allowing them to develop new varieties adapted to their specific post-apocalyptic conditions. Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community.

Hunting and Fishing skills would be invaluable in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how these skills could be used:

1. **Food Source:** The most obvious benefit of hunting and fishing skills is the ability to provide a reliable source of protein. This would be crucial in a post-apocalyptic scenario where traditional food sources might be unavailable or severely limited.
2. **Trading Goods:** The fruits of hunting and fishing - meat, fish, hides, bones, etc., could be traded for other goods or services. For example, a successful hunter or fisher could trade surplus catch for other necessities like medical services, farming supplies, or protection.
3. **Teaching Others:** Those with hunting and fishing skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item.
4. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with hunting and fishing skills, as they can help ensure the



Construction worker offering skills for animal hides

community's food security.

5. **Tool Creation:** Knowledge of how to create and repair hunting and fishing gear from available materials would also be a valuable skill. These tools could also be used as barter items.
6. **Knowledge of Local Wildlife:** An experienced hunter or fisher would have knowledge of local wildlife habits and habitats, which could be used to protect the community from potential threats.

of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic

community. In a post-apocalyptic community (PAC), hunting and fishing skills would likely be at the top of the list for admission. These skills directly address one of the most fundamental needs of any community: food security. A skilled hunter or fisher can provide a reliable source of protein, which is crucial for maintaining health and strength. Furthermore, these individuals would have a deep understanding of local ecosystems, which could be invaluable for the community's overall survival strategy. They could help the community avoid dangerous areas, identify safe sources of water, and even predict weather changes based on animal behavior. Additionally, their ability to create and repair hunting and fishing gear from available materials would also be a valuable asset.

Therefore, individuals with these skills would not only be highly sought after for their ability to contribute to the community's food supply, but also for their broader knowledge and abilities that can contribute to the community's overall resilience and survival. In a PAC scenario, where survival is the primary concern, hunting and fishing skills would be among



Herbalist trading goods for gold

the most valuable skills one could possess. Therefore, they would likely be at the top of the list for admission into a PAC. **Mechanical Skills** would be incredibly valuable in a post-apocalyptic scenario, where modern conveniences like computers, internet, and cell phones are no longer available:

1. **Repair and Maintenance:** In a world without modern technology, the ability to repair and maintain simple machinery and equipment becomes even more crucial. This could range from fixing a bicycle, which could be a primary mode of transportation, to keeping a windmill or water mill operational for power generation or food production.

2. **Resourcefulness:** Without the ability to order new parts online or visit a hardware store, resourcefulness becomes key. A skilled mechanic in a post-apocalyptic world would need to be able to repurpose available materials to solve problems. For example, they might need to fashion replacement parts from scrap metal or rig up a makeshift repair to keep a crucial piece of equipment running.
3. **Construction:** Mechanical skills would be invaluable in constructing shelters, fortifications, or other structures. This could also extend to the creation of tools or other useful items. For example, a skilled mechanic might be able to construct a water wheel to harness the power of a local stream, providing a source of renewable energy for the community.
4. **Transportation:** In a world without modern transportation infrastructure, the ability to repair and maintain simple vehicles like bicycles or horse-drawn carts would be crucial. These could be used for everything from gathering resources



Hunter offering a kill for trade of furs

to relocating the community if necessary.

5. **Teaching Others:** Those with mechanical skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item. For example, a skilled mechanic might offer to teach others in exchange for food or other necessities.
6. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with mechanical skills, as they can help ensure the community's functionality and survival. A skilled mechanic could contribute to everything from maintaining the community's shelters to keeping its energy sources running.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community. **Construction** skills would be incredibly valuable in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how these skills could be used:

1. **Shelter Building:** In a world without modern technology, the ability to construct sturdy, weather-resistant shelters from available materials would be crucial. This could range from repairing existing structures to building new ones. Without the aid of power tools or hardware stores, this would require a deep understanding of traditional construction techniques and the ability to work with hand tools.
2. **Fortifications:** In a post-apocalyptic world, security could become a major concern. Skills in building fortifications, such as walls or barricades, could help protect a



Trading Medical Skills For Food

community from potential threats. This could involve using locally available materials, such as earth, stone, or wood, and would require a good understanding of defensive design principles.

- 3. Resourcefulness:** Much like mechanical skills, construction skills often come with a degree of resourcefulness. The ability to adapt and repurpose available materials to solve problems would be highly sought after. For example, they might need to fashion replacement parts from scrap metal or rig up a makeshift repair to keep a crucial piece of equipment running.
- 4. Infrastructure:** Beyond shelters, construction skills could

be used to build other important infrastructure, like storage facilities, animal pens, or defensive towers. This could also extend to the creation of tools or other useful items. For example, a skilled constructor might be able to construct a water wheel to harness the power of a local stream, providing a source of renewable energy for the community.

5. **Teaching Others:** Those with construction skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item. For example, a skilled constructor might offer to teach others in exchange for food or other necessities.
6. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with construction skills, as they can help ensure the community's functionality and survival. A skilled constructor could contribute to everything from maintaining the community's shelters to keeping its energy sources



Barter or Trade

running.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community. **Water Purification** is a critical skill in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how this skill could be used:

1. **Basic Water Purification:** The ability to purify water using basic methods such as boiling, distillation, or filtration would be crucial. This could involve creating a simple charcoal filter or distilling water using heat.
2. **Advanced Water Purification:** Those with advanced knowledge, such as military training, would know how to

purify water that has been contaminated with biological agents and other pollutants. This could involve the use of specific chemicals or advanced filtration systems.

3. **Resourcefulness:** Much like other skills, water purification often requires a degree of resourcefulness. The ability to adapt and repurpose available materials to create effective water purification systems would be highly sought after.
4. **Teaching Others:** Those with water purification skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item.
5. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with water purification skills, as they can help ensure the community's health and survival.
6. **Creating Water Purification Supplies:** With the right knowledge, common items could potentially be turned into water purification



Farmers working to stay at a PAC

supplies. These supplies could then be bartered.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community. **Sewing** would be a highly valuable skill in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how this skill could be used:

1. **Clothing Repair:** The ability to mend clothing would be crucial. This could extend the life of garments and conserve resources.
2. **Creating New Items and Textile Skills:** Beyond repair, sewing skills could be used to create new items from available materials. This could include clothing, but also

other useful items like bags, blankets, or shelter materials. Additionally, those who know how to spin wool and other fabrics into yarn and crochet or knit clothing from that would have a highly valuable skill. They could create warm, durable clothing and other items, which would be particularly important in a post-apocalyptic world where manufactured clothing might not be available.

3. **Resourcefulness:** Much like other skills, sewing often requires a degree of resourcefulness. The ability to adapt and repurpose available materials to create useful items would be highly sought after.
4. **Teaching Others:** Those with sewing skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item.
5. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with sewing skills, as they can help ensure the



Hunters trading furs for meat

community's functionality and survival.

6. **Barter and Trade:** Handmade items, such as clothing or bags, could be traded for other goods or services.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community. **Cooking and Food Preservation** skills would be incredibly valuable in a post-apocalyptic community (PAC) for several reasons:

1. **Nutrition:** Skilled cooks can create nutritious meals using limited or non-standard ingredients, which is crucial for

maintaining health in a post-apocalyptic scenario.

2. **Morale:** Good food can boost morale, making life in a PAC more bearable. A skilled cook who can create enjoyable meals from limited resources could be a significant asset.
3. **Food Preservation:** Knowledge of food preservation techniques such as canning, smoking, drying, and fermenting would be invaluable. These methods can extend the shelf life of food, ensuring a stable food supply during times when fresh food is scarce.
4. **Resource Management:** Skilled cooks often have a good understanding of how to manage resources efficiently, reducing waste and making the most of available food supplies.
5. **Barter or Trade:** Both cooked meals and preserved foods could be valuable commodities for barter or trade. A skilled cook could trade their services or the food they produce for other goods or services.
6. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting



Herbalist preparing seed for trade

individuals with cooking and food preservation skills, as they can contribute significantly to the community's food security and quality of life.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a PAC. **Fire Making** is a fundamental survival skill, especially in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Here's how advanced fire-making skills could be used:

1. **Friction-Based Fire Making:** This is one of the most primitive methods of making fire and requires significant skill and patience. Techniques include the hand drill, bow drill, and fire plow.

2. **Flint and Steel:** This method involves striking a hard piece of steel against a piece of flint or quartzite to create sparks. It requires less effort than friction-based methods but still requires practice to master.
3. **Fire from Ice:** In cold environments, a clear piece of ice can be shaped into a lens and used to focus sunlight onto tinder. This requires a good understanding of optics and the right conditions.
4. **Fire Piston:** A fire piston uses the principle of rapid compression of air to ignite a piece of tinder. This method requires a specific tool and the knowledge to use it effectively.
5. **Chemical Fire:** Certain chemicals react violently when mixed and can create fire. However, this method requires a good knowledge of chemistry and access to specific chemicals.
6. **Teaching Others:** Those with fire-making skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item.



Lady offering clothes making skills for entry to a PAC

7. Community Entry: Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with fire-making skills, as they can help ensure the community's warmth, protection, and ability to cook food.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a post-apocalyptic community. **Military Skills** would be highly valuable in a post-apocalyptic community (PAC). Here's how these skills could be used:

- 1. Radio Operating Skills:** In a world without internet or cell phones, the ability to operate a radio could be crucial for

communication. This could be used for everything from coordinating resource gathering efforts to establishing contact with other communities.

2. **Security:** Military training often includes a strong focus on security. Skills such as perimeter defense, sentry duty, and threat assessment would be invaluable in a PAC.
3. **Hand-to-Hand Combat:** In a post-apocalyptic world, conflict could be a reality. The ability to defend oneself and others without relying on firearms or other weapons could be a significant asset.
4. **Sentry Removal:** In a hostile situation, the ability to remove sentries without raising an alarm could be a valuable skill. This requires a high level of physical fitness, stealth, and hand-to-hand combat skills.
5. **Medics:** Military medics have training in trauma care, often under difficult conditions. This could be lifesaving in a PAC, where medical facilities and supplies may be limited.



Trapper setting up a trade/barter line with a PAC

6. **Leadership:** Military training often includes leadership skills. The ability to coordinate a group, make tough decisions under pressure, and inspire others could be crucial in a PAC.
7. **Survival Skills:** Many military personnel are trained in survival skills, such as navigation, foraging, and shelter building. These skills would be highly valuable in a PAC.
8. **Teaching Others:** Those with military skills could pass on their knowledge to others, increasing the community's self-sufficiency. This could also be a valuable barter item.
9. **Community Entry:** Communities would likely prioritize admitting individuals with military skills, as they can contribute significantly to the community's security and

functionality.

Each of these skills would not only be valuable for barter or trade but could also be crucial for the survival and sustainability of a PAC. In conclusion, the value of skills in a post-apocalyptic scenario cannot be overstated. From medical knowledge to mechanical skills, from farming to fire-making, each skill carries the potential to not only ensure individual survival but also to contribute to the sustainability of a community. These skills can serve as powerful barter items, providing access to goods, services, and even community membership.

However, it's important to remember that in such a scenario, trust and relationships would be just as important as the goods or services being exchanged. Therefore, it's crucial to establish a reputation as a fair and reliable trading partner. As we navigate through this uncertain future, the most valuable asset may well be our skills and how we use



Learning skills at any age will benefit you

them to help ourselves and those around us. Remember, in a world where the grid has gone down, your skills are your currency.

Chapter 4: Negotiation Techniques



Two men negotiating a trade or barter

In the aftermath of a cataclysmic event, the world as we know it ceases to exist. Traditional currencies lose their value, and the concept of trade reverts back to its most primal form - bartering. In this new world, negotiation becomes more than just a skill; it becomes a lifeline. This chapter, “Negotiation Techniques”, aims to equip you with tips and strategies for effective negotiation, ensuring fair trades that could mean the difference between survival and demise in a post-

apocalyptic scenario. Let's delve deeper into some negotiation tips and techniques:

1. Understand the Value: In a post-apocalyptic world, traditional monetary systems may no longer apply. The value of goods and services becomes subjective and can vary greatly depending on the situation. A gallon of clean water could be worth more than a diamond ring if clean water is scarce. Therefore, it's crucial to understand the value of what you're offering and what you're receiving in return.

2. Be Prepared: Preparation is key in any negotiation. Know your needs and wants, and also try to anticipate the needs and wants of the other party. This will help you propose a trade that is attractive to both parties.

3. Communicate Clearly: Clear communication is essential in negotiation. Be clear about what you're offering and what you expect in return. Misunderstandings can lead to conflict, which is something you want to avoid in a survival situation.

4. Show Respect: Respect goes a long way in any interaction, including negotiation. Treat the other party with respect. This not only helps in maintaining peaceful relations, but people are more likely to



Practice with those you trust before it's too late

trade with those they respect.

5. Be Patient: Negotiations take time. Don't rush the process. The other party might need time to consider your proposal. Patience can lead to a more favorable outcome.

6. Be Ready to Walk Away: Don't be afraid to walk away if the trade isn't fair. There will always be other opportunities to trade. Remember, a bad trade could put you in a worse situation.

7. Practice Empathy: Try to understand the situation from the other party's perspective. This can help you propose a trade that is fair and acceptable to both parties.

8. Build Relationships: Building positive relationships with others can lead to more successful trades in the future. People are more likely to trade with those they trust.

9. Be Flexible: Be open to different kinds of trades. What you need today might be different from what you need tomorrow. Flexibility can open up more opportunities for trade.

10. Learn from Experience: Every trade is a learning opportunity. Reflect on what went well and what could be improved for future trades. This will help you become a better negotiator over time. Remember, the goal of negotiation in a post-apocalyptic world is not to 'win', but to ensure survival. A successful negotiation is one where both parties feel they've traded something of equal value. In this new world, your negotiation skills could be just as important as your physical survival skills.

So, practice these techniques and be prepared for whatever comes your way. Understanding the value of what you're trading is crucial. In a world where traditional monetary systems may no longer apply, the value of goods and services can vary greatly. Preparation is key in any negotiation. Knowing your



Negotiate with both people's needs in mind

needs and wants, and also trying to anticipate the needs and wants of the other party, can help you propose a trade that is attractive to both parties. Clear communication is essential in negotiation. Be clear about what you're offering and what you expect in return. Misunderstandings can lead to conflict, which is something you want to avoid in a survival situation. Respect goes a long way in any interaction, including negotiation. Treat the other party with respect. This not only helps in maintaining peaceful relations, but people are more likely to trade with those they respect. Negotiations take time. Don't rush the process. The other party might need time to consider your proposal.

Patience can lead to a more favorable outcome. Don't be afraid to walk away if the trade isn't fair. There will always be other opportunities

to trade. Remember, a bad trade could put you in a worse situation. Try to understand the situation from the other party's perspective. This can help you propose a trade that is fair and acceptable to both parties. Building positive relationships with others can lead to more successful trades in the future. People are more likely to trade with those they trust. Be open to different kinds of trades. What you need today might be different from what you need tomorrow. Flexibility can open up more opportunities for trade. Every trade is a learning opportunity. Reflect on what went well and what could be improved for future trades.

This will help you become a better negotiator over time. In the post-apocalyptic world, negotiation is not just about trading goods and services. It's also about exchanging information. Information is a valuable commodity. It can provide you with the knowledge of nearby resources, potential dangers, safe



Before negotiation time, prepare yourself

routes, and much more. Therefore, don't underestimate the value of information in a trade. Another important aspect of negotiation is the environment in which the negotiation takes place. The location and timing of the negotiation can have a significant impact on the outcome. For instance, negotiating at your own camp may give you a home advantage, but it could also expose your resources and defenses to the other party. On the other hand, negotiating in a neutral location can provide a level playing field. Timing is also crucial. The urgency of need can tip the scales of a negotiation. If you're in desperate need of a particular resource, the other party may use that to their advantage.

Therefore, if possible, try to negotiate before you reach a point of desperation. Lastly, remember that negotiation is a skill that improves

with practice. The more you negotiate, the better you'll get at it. So, seize every opportunity to negotiate. Even small trades can provide you with valuable experience. Negotiation in a post-apocalyptic world is a complex process that involves understanding value, clear communication, respect, patience, empathy, preparation, and practice. By mastering these techniques, you can ensure fair trade and improve your chances of survival in the new world. In the post-apocalyptic world, the power dynamics of negotiation can often shift rapidly.

A sudden change in weather, the discovery of a new resource, or the arrival of a new group can drastically alter the value of goods and services. Therefore, staying informed and adaptable is crucial. Moreover, in this new world, your reputation can significantly influence your negotiation outcomes. Honesty and fairness in trades can earn you a good



Don't be afraid to ask for what it's truly worth

reputation, leading to more favorable trades in the future. Conversely, deceitful practices can harm your reputation and make others wary of trading with you. Additionally, while it's important to strive for win-win outcomes, it's equally important to prepare for scenarios where negotiations fail. Having a backup plan can provide you with the confidence to walk away from unfair trades. Lastly, it's important to remember that negotiation is not just a transaction, but a relationship-building process. Every interaction is an opportunity to build trust and establish long-term trading relationships.

Approaching negotiations with empathy and respect can go far in ensuring your survival. In conclusion, mastering negotiation techniques can significantly enhance your ability to navigate the challenging

landscape of a post-apocalyptic world. It's not just about getting the best trade, but also about building alliances, fostering mutual respect, and ensuring your long-term survival.

Chapter 5: The Evolution of Bartering



More food being grown will change the barter scene

In the immediate aftermath of a societal collapse, we might see a return to the most basic form of economy: bartering. This system of direct exchange of goods and services could be the lifeline that pulls humanity through the initial stages of recovery. However, as communities begin to rebuild and stabilize, we could witness the evolution of this rudimentary system into something more complex. One possibility is the emergence of local currencies. These would be backed by resources readily available within the community and could serve as a standard measure of value, simplifying trades and reducing the need for direct barter.

Alongside this, we might see the rise of specialization and division of labor. As communities grow and stabilize, individuals could begin to specialize in certain trades or crafts. This would lead to a more efficient division of labor, with individuals trading their specialized goods and services. The growth of communities could also give rise to the development of trade networks. Different communities might establish these networks to exchange goods that are abundant in one area but scarce in another. This could lead to the development of trade routes and even marketplaces. As trade becomes more complex, communities might find the need to develop laws and norms to regulate it.

Standards for weights and measures, dispute resolution mechanisms, and norms against deceitful trading practices could all evolve as part of this process. Depending on the level of technological knowledge that survives the collapse, communities might also develop new technologies to facilitate trade. These



Small post-apocalyptic barter and trade community

could range from simple machines for manufacturing goods to systems for recording and tracking trades. While a societal collapse would undoubtedly disrupt traditional economic systems, it could also lead to the emergence of new forms of trade and barter. These new systems would be characterized by their adaptability, resilience, and community orientation, reflecting the values and realities of the new world. In this new world, your negotiation skills could be just as important as your physical survival skills. So, practice these techniques and be prepared for

whatever comes your way. Let's delve deeper into some of these points:

Local Currencies: In a post-apocalyptic world, communities might create their own forms of currency, backed by locally available resources. For instance, a community with an abundance of grain might use grain as a form of currency. This local currency could simplify trade within the community, as people would have a common understanding of the value of a grain. However, this could also lead to challenges in trading with other communities, who might value different resources.

Specialization and Division of Labor: As communities stabilize, individuals might specialize in certain trades or crafts. For example, one person might become skilled at farming, while another might become adept at building shelters. This division of labor could lead to more efficient use of resources and time, as individuals would be able to focus on what they do best. However, it could also lead to increased interdependence within the community, as individuals would rely on others for goods and services outside their area of expertise.

Trade Networks: Over time, different communities might establish trade networks. These networks would allow communities to exchange goods that are abundant in one area but scarce in



Barter and trade community in an intentional commune setting

another. For example, a community located near a forest might trade wood for grain with a community located in a fertile plain. These trade

networks could lead to increased interdependence between communities but could also make communities more vulnerable to disruptions in the network.

Trade Laws and Norms: As trade becomes more complex, communities might develop laws and norms to regulate it. These could include standards for weights and measures, to ensure fairness in trade, and dispute resolution mechanisms, to handle disagreements over trades. These laws and norms would provide a framework for trade but enforcing them could be challenging in a post-apocalyptic world.

Technological Innovations: Depending on the level of technological knowledge that survives the collapse, communities might develop new technologies to facilitate trade. For example, they might develop simple machines to increase production efficiency, or systems for recording and tracking trades. These technologies could greatly enhance trade but could also lead to disparities between communities with different levels of technological advancement. In the immediate aftermath of an apocalyptic event, survival would be the primary concern for most individuals. As such, essential commodities would likely become the “hard currency” of this new economy.

Food and Water: These are the most basic necessities for survival. Clean water would be particularly valuable, as it’s needed for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. Non-perishable food items, such as canned goods or dried foods, would also be highly sought after. The reason for this is that in a post-apocalyptic world, traditional sources of clean water and food might be contaminated or destroyed. Additionally, the infrastructure for food production and



What an EMP/Nuke strike may look like

water purification would likely be severely damaged, making these resources scarce. Just as a point to those who are not thinking directly. We live in a world that is 100% computerized and electrical. All it takes to disable the entire grid of any country is a nuke exploded in the air above cities. That would be easier than landing them on the ground. This would create an electrical magnetic pulse (EMP). Everything that is electrical, computerized etc. would be dead forever, not temporarily.

Medical Supplies: In a post-apocalyptic world, medical facilities would likely be destroyed or abandoned, and the production of new medical supplies would be halted due to the collapse of the pharmaceutical industry. An EMP could disrupt or permanently damage electrical and electronic systems, including those used in the production and storage of medical supplies. This could lead to a severe shortage of essential medical items. Furthermore, without electricity, refrigerated medicines like insulin could spoil, and equipment like ventilators could fail.

Ammunition and Weapons: In a lawless world, personal safety could become a major concern. Ammunition and weapons would be valuable not just for hunting food, but also for self-defense. However, an EMP could potentially disable some modern firearms or render them useless by frying their electronic components. Furthermore, the production of new ammunition would be severely impacted due to the potential destruction of manufacturing facilities.

Fuel: Sources of fuel, such as gasoline, would be crucial for powering vehicles and generators. However, an EMP could stop the extraction, refinement, distribution, and sale of fossil fuels. Whatever gas you have on hand could be all the gas you get for years. The more highly a fuel is refined, the shorter its storage life. Diesel, being less refined than unleaded, stores longer.



Barter and trade community in an IC setting

But without electricity, the pumps at gas stations would no longer work, making it difficult to access any remaining fuel.

Light and Heat Sources: Items like candles, matches, lighters, and firewood would be essential for providing light and heat. In a post-EMP world, traditional sources of light and heat such as electricity would likely be unavailable. Furthermore, an EMP could potentially damage or destroy electrical appliances and lighting systems, making it even more challenging to generate light and heat. An electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the United States could have catastrophic consequences, given our heavy reliance on electronic systems and the electrical grid. Here's a detailed look at the potential impact:

Power Grid: The U.S. power grid is extremely vulnerable to an EMP attack. An EMP's three-stage attack could destroy any part of the grid within line of sight of the explosion. A high-altitude EMP (HEMP) could disrupt most microelectronic-based and online systems within the HEMP footprint. This could lead to a nationwide blackout of the electric power

grid and a shutdown of critical infrastructure reliant on the grid.

Communications: An EMP could disrupt communication networks, including cell towers and internet service providers. This could isolate individuals and communities, making it difficult to coordinate responses to the crisis.

Transportation: Modern vehicles rely heavily on electronic systems, which could be disabled by an EMP. This could bring transportation to a standstill, affecting everything from individual travel to the delivery of goods and services.

Healthcare: Medical facilities rely on electronic equipment for patient care. An EMP could cause this equipment to fail, leading to a healthcare crisis. Additionally, refrigerated medicines like insulin could spoil without electricity.



Image depicting the failure of power during an EMP

Food and Water Supply: The systems that purify water and produce food are largely automated and rely on the power grid. An EMP could disrupt these systems, leading to shortages of food and clean water.

Financial Systems: Banks and financial markets rely on electronic networks. An EMP could disrupt these systems, leading to economic chaos.

Military and Emergency Services: An EMP could disrupt military command and control systems, potentially hampering defense, and

emergency response efforts.

Despite these vulnerabilities, the U.S. government has been working to mitigate the consequences of an EMP attack. However, experts warn that more needs to be done to protect the nation's critical infrastructure. It's important to note that while the potential impact of an EMP attack is severe, such an attack would be a significant escalation of hostilities and is therefore considered unlikely. But, "better safe than sorry", is a motto I live by and is smarter than thinking it could never happen here in the US.

Chapter 6: Importance of Community in a Barter Economy



Post apocalyptic barter and trade community

The success of a barter system heavily relies on the strength and cohesion of the community engaging in it. In a post-collapse society where, traditional currency may no longer hold value, communities can become the backbone of a new economy based on mutual support, trust, and cooperation. A strong sense of community fosters trust among its members, which is essential for a successful barter system. Trust reduces the perceived risk in transactions and ensures that participants are more likely to engage in fair and honest trades.

Establishing personal relationships within the community can lead to more reliable and frequent exchanges, as individuals are more willing to trade with those they know and trust. In a community-based barter system, members can support each other by sharing resources and skills. This mutual support helps ensure that everyone has access to essential

goods and services, even when individual resources are limited. For example, a farmer with an abundance of produce can trade with a mechanic who can repair farming equipment, creating a symbiotic relationship where both parties benefit. A tight-knit community can also provide a sense of security that is crucial in a barter economy. Members of a community are more likely to look out for each other, reducing the risk of theft or fraud.

This communal vigilance can help deter dishonest behavior and ensure that bartering remains a safe and viable option for all participants. Communities that engage in bartering can achieve a more efficient allocation of resources. By trading goods and services directly, members can ensure that items are distributed according to need and availability, rather



An image depicting the failure of a powerplant during an EMP

than being hoarded or wasted. This efficiency can be particularly important in a post-collapse scenario, where resources are likely to be scarce. When challenges arise, a community can come together to find collective solutions. Whether it's dealing with a shortage of essential items, resolving disputes, or organizing barter events, the collaborative efforts of a community can lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes. This collective problem-solving capability is a significant advantage in maintaining a functional and resilient barter system. Communities can organize regular barter events or markets where members can come together to trade goods and services in a centralized

location. These events provide a structured environment for bartering, making it easier for participants to find trading partners and negotiate deals.

Additionally, barter markets can become social hubs that strengthen community bonds and foster a sense of belonging. Establishing a formal barter network within the community can further enhance the effectiveness of the barter system. This network can include a directory of available goods and services, making it easier for members to find what they need and offer what they have. A well-organized barter network can streamline the process of matching supply with demand, ensuring that trades are conducted smoothly and efficiently. Such a network can also serve as a platform for sharing information and resources, helping members stay informed about upcoming barter events and opportunities.

The development and sharing of valuable skills are another crucial aspect of a community-focused barter system. By recognizing the importance of skills as barter items, community members may be more motivated to learn and teach new abilities, such as gardening, repair work, or medical knowledge. This emphasis on skill development not only benefits the



Image depicting the failure of a water treatment plant due to an EMP

individuals involved but also strengthens the overall resilience and self-sufficiency of the community. In a post-collapse world, practical skills

can become some of the most valuable assets, and a community that prioritizes skill-sharing will be better equipped to thrive. In addition to practical considerations, fostering a positive community culture is essential for the success of a barter system. Encouraging values such as fairness, honesty, and mutual respect can help create an environment where members feel safe and supported in their trading activities. Conflict resolution mechanisms should be established to address disputes fairly and promptly, ensuring that issues do not escalate and undermine trust within the community. The psychological and social aspects of bartering also play a significant role in its success.

Participants must be mentally prepared for the shift from a currency-based economy to a barter system. This shift requires a mindset of adaptability, resilience, and cooperation. Understanding the social dynamics of bartering, such as the importance of reciprocity and the potential for forming strong social bonds, can help individuals navigate this new economic landscape more effectively. Case studies and examples of successful barter communities can provide valuable insights and inspiration. Learning from the experiences of others can highlight best practices and potential pitfalls, helping new barter communities avoid common mistakes and build on proven strategies.

These examples can also serve as a source of motivation, showing what is possible when a community comes together to support one another through bartering. The role of the community in ensuring the success of a barter system cannot be overstated. A strong, cohesive community provides the trust, support,



Image depicting the failure of a modern-day gas station due to EMP

security, and organization necessary for a functional and sustainable barter economy. By working together, sharing resources, and building relationships, community members can create a resilient and adaptable system that meets their needs in a post-collapse world. Through mutual support, efficient resource allocation, and the fostering of valuable skills, a community-based barter system can thrive and provide a robust alternative to traditional currency-based economies. Organizing barter events or markets within a community can be a powerful way to facilitate trade and strengthen social bonds. These events provide a structured environment where members can come together to exchange goods and services, making it easier for participants to find trading partners and negotiate deals.

Regular barter markets can become social hubs that foster a sense of belonging and cooperation, reinforcing the community's resilience. Establishing a formal barter network within the community can further enhance the effectiveness of the barter system. This network can include a directory of available goods and services, making it easier for members to find what they need and offer what they have. A well-organized barter network can streamline the process of matching supply with demand, ensuring that trades are conducted smoothly and efficiently. Such a network can also serve as a platform for sharing information and resources, helping members stay informed about upcoming barter events and opportunities. The development and sharing of valuable skills are

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Three people in a “trade triangle”

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A couple trading a dog for a goat

functional and sustainable barter economy. By working together, sharing resources, and building relationships, community members can create a resilient and adaptable system that meets their needs in a post-collapse world. Through mutual support, efficient resource allocation, and the fostering of valuable skills, a community-based barter system can thrive and provide a robust alternative to traditional currency-based economies. In addition to organizing regular barter events and establishing formal networks, communities can benefit from creating specialized barter hubs. These hubs can serve as permanent locations where members can regularly meet to trade goods and services. A barter hub might include dedicated spaces for different types of trades, such as areas for food exchange, tool lending, and skill-sharing workshops.

By centralizing barter activities, a hub can enhance the efficiency and convenience of the barter system, making it an integral part of community life. Another effective strategy is to integrate bartering with other forms of community support, such as time banks. In a time, bank system, members earn credits by providing services, which they can then use to receive services from others. This system can complement traditional bartering by providing a structured way to value and exchange services, especially for tasks that are harder to quantify with tangible goods. By incorporating time banking, a community can expand the scope of its barter system and include a wider range of skills and services. Education and training are crucial for the sustainability of a barter community.

Offering workshops and courses on essential skills can empower members and increase the value they bring to the barter system. Topics might include gardening, basic medical care, carpentry, and other practical skills that are vital in a post-collapse society. By investing in education, a community not only enhances individual



Two people trading a dog for a pig

capabilities but also strengthens the overall resilience of the barter system. The role of digital tools in supporting barter communities should not be overlooked. Online platforms and apps can facilitate the coordination of trades, manage inventories, and connect members who might not frequently attend physical barter events. These tools can help track what items and skills are available, schedule trade meetups, and

ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need. Even in a post-collapse scenario, simple digital solutions, powered by local renewable energy sources, can play a significant role in maintaining an organized and efficient barter system. Building a barter community also involves navigating legal and regulatory challenges. While bartering is generally legal, it can have tax implications depending on local laws.

Communities should educate members about any legal requirements related to bartering, such as reporting barter income for tax purposes. Establishing clear guidelines and providing resources for legal advice can help ensure that the community operates within the law and avoids potential pitfalls. Successful barter communities often emerge from a strong foundation of shared values and goals. By aligning around common principles such as sustainability, self-reliance, and mutual aid, members can create a cohesive and motivated group. Regular community meetings and decision-making processes can help reinforce these values, allowing members to collectively address challenges and adapt to changing circumstances.

Conflict resolution is another important aspect of maintaining a healthy barter community. Disputes can arise over the perceived value of goods and services, unmet expectations, or interpersonal conflicts. Having established procedures for resolving conflicts, such as mediation or community arbitration, can help



Chickens being used for barter

address issues before they escalate. Encouraging open communication and fostering a culture of respect and understanding are key to preventing and resolving conflicts. To illustrate these concepts, consider the example of a rural community that successfully implemented a barter system. Faced with economic hardship, the community came together to establish a barter network that included a weekly market, a time bank, and a digital platform for coordinating trades. They offered regular workshops on skills such as food preservation, herbal medicine, and tool maintenance. By leveraging their collective knowledge and resources, the community not only met their basic needs but also strengthened their social bonds and resilience.

In conclusion, building a successful barter community involves a multifaceted approach that includes organizing events, creating formal networks, integrating complementary systems like time banks, and investing in education and digital tools. By fostering a positive community culture, addressing legal and regulatory challenges, and establishing conflict resolution mechanisms, communities can create a resilient and adaptable barter system. Through these efforts, a community can ensure that its members are well-equipped to thrive in a post-collapse world, providing a robust alternative to traditional economic systems. Now what about the benefits of mutual support and resource sharing in a barter-based community? Mutual support and resource sharing are foundational principles that significantly enhance the well-being and resilience of the community.

These principles foster a culture of cooperation, trust, and collective responsibility, which are crucial for thriving in a post-collapse world. The numerous benefits of mutual support and resource sharing are evident in several key areas. When community members support each other and share resources, they



Two men trading corn seed for a rifle, in a failed corn field

create a safety net that can cushion the impact of unforeseen challenges. For instance, if one family faces a shortage of food due to a poor harvest, they can rely on the surplus from others within the community. This collective approach reduces the vulnerability of individuals and ensures that basic needs are met, even in times of crisis. Resource sharing leads to more efficient use of available resources. Instead of each household needing to acquire and store a full set of tools, equipment, and supplies, these items can be shared within the community. This reduces waste and redundancy, allowing for a more sustainable use of resources. For example, a single tractor can serve multiple farming families, or a community workshop can house shared tools and machinery.

Mutual support goes beyond material resources—it also includes the sharing of skills and knowledge. In a barter community, individuals can teach each other valuable skills such as gardening, carpentry, medical care, and food preservation. This exchange not only empowers individuals with new capabilities but also strengthens the overall skill set of the community, making it more self-sufficient and adaptable. Communities that practice mutual support and resource sharing tend to develop strong social bonds. Regular interactions during barter exchanges, community projects, and shared events foster relationships and build trust among members. These strong social ties are vital for maintaining cohesion and cooperation, which are essential for addressing collective challenges and achieving common goals.

By pooling resources and supporting each other, community members can enjoy a higher quality of life. Access to a wider range of goods and services, the ability to share workloads, and the emotional support from a connected community contribute to a sense of well-



Communal childcare in a post-apocalyptic situation.

being and security. For example, communal childcare or eldercare arrangements can relieve individual burdens and enhance the care provided to vulnerable members. In a barter-based economy, mutual support and resource sharing can contribute to greater economic stability. When traditional currency systems are unreliable or collapsed, a well-organized barter system can ensure that essential goods and services continue to circulate within the community. This stability can help prevent economic desperation and reduce the risk of conflict over scarce resources.

Resource sharing often aligns with sustainable practices, as it encourages the efficient use of materials and reduces the overall environmental footprint.

Communities that prioritize sustainability can implement practices such as communal gardening, renewable energy projects, and shared transportation, further enhancing their resilience and reducing dependence on external systems.

Knowing that they are part of a supportive and cooperative community can provide significant psychological and emotional benefits to individuals. The sense of belonging, purpose, and security derived from

mutual support can reduce stress and anxiety, improve mental health, and foster a positive outlook. In challenging times, the reassurance that help is available from neighbors and friends can be incredibly comforting. A culture of mutual support and resource sharing can also help prevent conflicts and facilitate resolution when disputes arise.

When community members are invested in each other's well-being and success, they are more likely to approach conflicts with empathy and a willingness to find amicable solutions. Established practices of cooperation and fairness create a solid foundation for addressing disagreements constructively. Finally, mutual support and resource sharing empower communities by fostering self-



An intentional community meal

reliance and independence. When communities can meet their own needs through collective effort, they become less vulnerable to external shocks and more capable of charting their own course. This empowerment can lead to innovative solutions and initiatives that further enhance the community's resilience and sustainability. The benefits of mutual support and resource sharing in a barter-based community are extensive and multifaceted. By working together and pooling resources, community members can create a resilient, sustainable, and supportive environment that enhances their overall quality of life. These principles not only address immediate needs but also lay the groundwork for a thriving, cohesive community capable of facing future challenges with confidence and solidarity. In practice, mutual support can take many forms within a

barter community.

One effective approach is to establish community resource centers where members can access shared tools, equipment, and materials. These centers can be stocked with items that are commonly needed but expensive for individuals to purchase on their own, such as gardening tools, construction equipment, and repair supplies. By pooling resources, the community can ensure that everyone has access to the tools they need to maintain their homes, gardens, and vehicles. Another practical strategy is to create a system for communal labor exchanges. In this system, members can trade their time and skills to help each other with various tasks. For example, one member might help with carpentry work in exchange for help with planting and harvesting crops.

This not only ensures that work gets done efficiently but also strengthens the bonds between community members as they collaborate on projects. Food production and distribution can also benefit greatly from mutual support and resource sharing. Community gardens



Post apocalyptic farm

and farms can be established to provide fresh produce for all members. By working together, the community can manage larger plots of land and achieve higher yields than individual efforts would allow. Additionally, organizing food preservation workshops can teach members how to can, dry, and store food, ensuring a stable food supply throughout the year. Health care is another area where mutual support can make a significant

difference. Communities can establish health cooperatives where members with medical training provide basic care and first aid. By pooling medical supplies and sharing knowledge, the community can ensure that everyone has access to essential health services, even when professional medical care is limited or unavailable. Education and childcare are also critical areas where mutual support can be implemented.

Community members can organize cooperative childcare arrangements, where parents take turns looking after groups of children, freeing up time for other parents to work or rest. Similarly, education cooperatives can be formed to provide homeschooling or skill-sharing classes, ensuring that children and adults alike continue to learn and develop new skills. Housing and shelter can benefit from communal efforts as well. Communities can work together on building and repairing homes, using shared materials and labor. This not only reduces costs but also creates a sense of ownership and pride in the community's living spaces. Additionally, establishing communal spaces such as kitchens, workshops, and meeting areas can enhance social interaction and cooperation.

To further strengthen the community, regular social events and gatherings can be organized. These events can include potluck dinners, festivals, and cultural celebrations that bring people together and reinforce social bonds. Such activities help to create a strong sense of



Post-apocalyptic community meeting

identity and belonging, which is crucial for maintaining a cohesive and supportive community. In terms of governance, establishing clear and fair decision-making processes is essential. Community meetings and councils can be set up to discuss and resolve issues, plan communal activities, and make decisions that affect the entire community. Ensuring that everyone has a voice in these processes helps to build trust and commitment among members. The integration of renewable energy projects is another practical aspect of mutual support and resource sharing. Communities can invest in solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on external power supplies. By sharing the costs and benefits of these projects, communities can achieve energy independence and increase their resilience to external shocks.

In conclusion, the practical implementation of mutual support and resource sharing in a barter community involves a variety of strategies that enhance resilience, sustainability, and quality of life. By establishing community resource centers, organizing labor exchanges, creating communal food production systems, providing health care and education cooperatives, and investing in renewable energy, communities can thrive in a post-collapse world. These efforts, combined with strong social bonds and fair governance, ensure that barter communities are well-equipped to face future challenges with confidence and solidarity.

Chapter 7: Establishing A Local Barter/Trade System



Announcement for implementing barter/trade system

In a post-apocalyptic world where electricity, running water, and advanced technology may be scarce, setting up a local barter network becomes essential for survival and community resilience. Here is a step-by-step guide to establishing a local barter network under such challenging conditions.

1- Assessing Community Interest & Needs

Begin by gauging the interest and needs of your community. Talk to neighbors, friends, and local groups to understand their willingness to participate and what items or services they can offer. Conducting face-to-

face surveys or organizing small gatherings can help gather this information. Knowing what resources are available and what is needed will guide the development of the barter network.

2- Forming a Planning Committee

Form a planning committee with committed individuals who can help organize and manage the network. This group should represent a diverse cross-section of the community to ensure various needs and perspectives are considered. The committee will be responsible for setting up the initial framework and making key decisions.

3- Defining the Scope and Rules

Define the scope and rules of the barter network. Decide on the types of goods and services that will be included and any restrictions or guidelines for participation. Establish clear rules for fair trading, dispute resolution, and the protection of participants. Creating a written agreement or guidelines document can help ensure everyone understands and agrees to the terms.

4- Creating a Physical Directory of Goods and Services

Develop a comprehensive directory of goods and services that members are



Security at a barter and trade tent

willing to trade. This directory should include detailed descriptions and contact information for each trade. Without digital means, this can be a

physical directory maintained in a central location such as a community bulletin board or a common meeting place. Regularly updating the directory is crucial to reflect the current availability of items and services.

5- Establishing a Communication System

Effective communication is essential. Set up a system that allows members to connect, share updates, and arrange trades. In the absence of digital platforms, bulletin boards, regular in-person meetings, and word-of-mouth communication to disseminate information. Consider establishing a central meeting point where members can leave notes and messages for each other.

6- Organizing Regular Barter Events

Hosting regular barter events provides a structured environment for members to meet, trade, and build relationships. These events can be held monthly or more frequently if needed. Choose a central and accessible location such as a community center, park, or open field. Encourage participants to bring a variety of items and services to trade and create a welcoming atmosphere with basic amenities like seating and shade if possible.

7- Promoting the Barter Network

Promote the barter network within the community to attract more participants. Use flyers, posters, word of mouth, and community meetings to spread the word. Highlight the benefits of bartering, such as resource sharing and community building. Sharing success stories and testimonials from current members can also help encourage others to join.

8- Implementing a Fair Value System

To ensure fair trade, implement a system for valuing goods and services. This can be based on mutual agreement between the parties involved. Some barter networks



Farmer with his dog and guns as two potential traders approach

use a simple credit system where members earn credits for the goods and services they provide and use those credits to obtain other items. Establishing a fair value system helps prevent disputes and ensures that all members feel they are receiving equal value for their trades.

9- Monitoring and Evaluating the Network

Regularly monitor and evaluate the barter network to identify areas for improvement and address any issues. Collect feedback from members through direct conversations and meetings to understand their experiences and suggestions. Use this information to make necessary adjustments to the rules, directory, communication systems, and events. Continuous evaluation helps keep the network relevant, efficient, and beneficial for all participants.

10-Fostering a Sense of Community

Fostering a strong sense of community is essential for the long-term success of the barter network. Encourage members to get to know each other, share their skills and knowledge, and support one another. Organize social events, workshops, and collaborative projects to build trust and camaraderie. A strong, connected community will be more resilient and able to adapt to challenges and changes over time.

By following these steps, you can establish a robust and effective local barter network that enhances the resilience and sustainability of

your community. Through mutual support, resource sharing, and cooperative effort, your community can thrive even in the face of economic challenges and uncertainties in a post-apocalyptic world.

Identifying and recruiting participants is a crucial step in establishing a successful local barter network. The goal is to create a diverse and committed group of individuals who can contribute a wide



Even children can understand the idea of a barter/trade system

range of goods and services. Here's how to effectively identify and recruit participants for your barter network:

1- Start with Your Immediate Community

Begin by reaching out to people you already know—friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. These individuals are more likely to trust and join your initiative. Share your vision for the barter network and explain how it can benefit everyone involved. Personal invitations and one-on-one conversations can be very effective in gaining initial support.

2- Host Informational Meetings

Organize small informational meetings to introduce the concept of the barter network to the wider community. These can be held at community centers, local parks, or someone's home. During the meetings, explain the benefits of bartering, the types of goods and services that can be exchanged, and how the network will operate. Provide refreshments and encourage open discussion to make the meetings inviting and engaging.

3- Use Community Bulletin Boards

Post flyers and notices on community bulletin boards in local gathering places such as libraries, grocery stores, churches, and community centers. Make sure the flyers are clear and informative, highlighting the benefits of joining the barter network and providing contact information for those interested in learning more.

4- Leverage Local Events and Markets

Attend local events, farmers' markets, and community fairs to promote the barter network. Set up a booth or table with information about the network and engage with attendees to explain how they can participate. Distributing flyers and having a sign-up sheet for interested individuals can help you gather potential participants.

5- Engage with Local Organizations



A church meeting to talk about the barter/trade implementation

Reach out to local organizations, such as schools, churches, clubs, and non-profits, to spread the word about the barter network. These organizations often have established trust within the community and can help you reach a larger audience. Offer to give a brief presentation or provide materials that they can distribute to their members.

6- Use Word of Mouth

Encourage initial participants to spread the word about the barter network to their friends, family, and acquaintances. Word of mouth can

be a powerful tool, especially in a close-knit community. Personal recommendations and testimonials from trusted individuals can significantly boost interest and participation.

7- Create a Clear Value Proposition

When recruiting participants, clearly articulate the value proposition of the barter network. Explain how it can help people save money, access essential goods and services, and build a stronger, more resilient community. Highlighting successful examples and potential benefits can motivate people to join and contribute.

8- Offer Incentives for Early Participants

Consider offering small incentives for those who join the network early. This could be in the form of extra barter credits, recognition at community meetings, or other small rewards. Incentives can encourage initial participation and help build momentum for the network.

9- Provide Easy Access to Information

Ensure that information about the barter network is easily accessible. Create simple, easy-to-understand materials that explain how the network works, the benefits of participating, and how to get involved. Having a central location where people can find this information, such as a community bulletin board or a designated meeting spot, can make it



A positive and inviting barter/trade encampment

easier for potential participants to learn more.

10- Foster a Welcoming Environment

Make the barter network welcoming and inclusive. Emphasize that everyone has something valuable to offer, whether it's goods, services, skills, or knowledge. Creating a positive, supportive environment can encourage more people to participate and contribute to the network. By following these steps, you can effectively identify and recruit participants for your local barter network. Building a diverse and committed group of members is essential for the success and sustainability of the network, ensuring that it can meet the needs of the community and provide a robust support system in challenging times.

Organizing Regular Barter Events or Markets

Regular barter events or markets are essential for maintaining an active and vibrant barter network. These events provide structured opportunities for members to trade goods and services, build relationships, and strengthen community bonds. Here are some tips on organizing successful barter events or markets, focusing on logistics such as location, security, and rules of engagement.

Choosing the Right Location

Selecting a suitable location is crucial for the success of your barter events. Here are some factors to consider:

1. **Accessibility:** Choose a central location that is easily accessible to all community members. This could be a community center, park, schoolyard, or an open field.
2. **Space:** Ensure the location has enough space to accommodate all participants and their goods. Consider areas with ample room for setting up tables, stalls, and pathways for easy movement.
3. **Shelter:** If possible, select a location with some form of shelter or shade to protect participants from harsh



A Barter/trade place with toilets and eating places

weather conditions. If not available, consider using tents or canopies.

4. **Facilities:** Access to basic facilities such as restrooms and drinking water can enhance the comfort and convenience of the event.

Ensuring Security

Security is vital to ensure the safety of participants and their belongings. Here are some security measures to consider:

1. **Community Watch:** Organize a group of trusted volunteers to act as a community watch during the event. Their presence can deter theft and help maintain order.
2. **Check-in/Check-out System:** Implement a simple check-in and check-out system where participants register upon arrival and departure. This helps keep track of attendees and their trades.
3. **Clear Boundaries:** Clearly define the boundaries of the barter area to ensure that all trading activities take place within a designated space.
4. **Emergency Plan:** Have a basic emergency plan in place, including contact information for local emergency services and first aid supplies.

Establishing Rules of Engagement

Clear rules of engagement help ensure fair and respectful trading practices. Here are some guidelines to consider:

1. **Trading Protocols:** Establish simple trading protocols to guide how trades should be conducted. For example, encourage participants to agree on the value of goods and services before making a trade.
2. **Fairness and Respect:** Emphasize the importance of fairness, honesty, and respect in all trading interactions. Encourage participants to treat each other with courtesy and to honor their agreements.
3. **Dispute Resolution:** Set up a basic dispute resolution mechanism to address any conflicts that may arise. This could involve a small committee of trusted community members who can mediate disputes.



Warning sign at the entrance of a barter/trade community

4. **Prohibited Items:** Clearly define and communicate any prohibited items that should not be traded, such as hazardous materials or items that are not allowed in your community.

Logistical Considerations

Effective logistics planning is key to a smooth and successful barter

event. Here are some logistical aspects to consider:

1. **Setup and Layout:** Plan the layout of the barter area, including designated spaces for different types of goods and services. Arrange tables and stalls in a way that allows for easy navigation and interaction.
2. **Signage:** Use clear signage to guide participants and visitors. Signs can indicate entry and exit points, trading areas, and information booths.
3. **Schedule and Duration:** Decide on the schedule and duration of the event. Ensure that the event is long enough to allow for meaningful trades but not so long that it becomes exhausting for participants.
4. **Promotion and Communication:** Promote the event through community bulletin boards, word of mouth, and local gatherings. Use simple, clear communication to inform participants about the date, time, location, and any specific guidelines.

Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere

A welcoming atmosphere can enhance the experience and encourage participation. Here are some tips to create a positive environment:

1. **Hospitality:** Offer basic refreshments such as water, tea, or snacks to make participants feel welcome and comfortable.
2. **Social Spaces:** Create areas where people can sit, relax, and socialize. This can help build community bonds and make the event more enjoyable.
3. **Activities and Entertainment:** Consider incorporating simple activities or entertainment, such as



Trading community with games and trade tents

music, games, or demonstrations of skills, to add a lively and engaging element to the event.

Post-Event Follow-Up

After the event, follow up with participants to gather feedback and suggestions for future events. This can help you identify areas for improvement and ensure that each event is better than the last. Consider holding a brief community meeting to discuss the event and plan for the next one.

By carefully planning and organizing regular barter events or markets, you can create opportunities for meaningful exchanges, foster a sense of community, and ensure the sustainability of your local barter network. Through thoughtful logistics, clear rules, and a welcoming atmosphere, your events can become a cornerstone of community resilience and cooperation.

In the aftermath of any event that would threaten the traditional systems we once relied upon, the principles of bartering and trading become crucial tools for survival and rebuilding. By understanding the basics of bartering, recognizing the value of essential items and skills, honing negotiation techniques, and building strong community networks, we can create a robust and sustainable economy that operates without conventional currency. Establishing local barter networks and organizing regular barter events will foster a sense of unity and shared purpose, empowering communities to adapt and thrive despite the challenges.

This guide serves as a practical manual for navigating the post-apocalyptic landscape, ensuring that we can support one another and rebuild our lives through the power of bartering and trade.

Appendix

Other works by this author include, but are not limited to:

<https://forgottenwisdom.etsy.com>

- Preparing For The Collapse: How To Live Off The Grid
- Preparing for the collapse: Food production basics
- Preparing For The Collapse: Growing, foraging & making natural medicine
- Preparing For The Collapse: Self Protection, Intuition & Survival
- An advanced look at Shikataikai martial arts
- An introduction to Shikataikai martial arts
- Basic meditations for beginners
- Jesus and Buddha two master's one path
- A beginner's guide to the Martial Arts-White belt
- Using herbal remedies
- Shikataikai martial arts training manual
- Understanding anxiety and depression
- Recipes, Tips and Tricks for Vegans
- The Magical Blue Butterfly
- The Mystery Of The Red Door
- The Sacred Journal- An Appalachian Trail Adventure
- Return to the AT: An Appalachian Trail Adventure
- The Healing Puppy
- Love's Unlikely Alliance: Embracing the Enemy Within
- The Homesteading Children- An Abandoned Cabin
- Eyes of The Autumn Moon
- Love's Unlikely Alliance

- Grapefruit seed Extract: Liquid Gold
- Seed Saving 101
- Recipes From The Homestead
- The Unique Book On How To Cook and Enjoy Wild Meats
- The Art Of Reading People
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Mindfulness Breathing Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Insight Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Vipassana Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Compassion Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Chant and Mantra Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Transcendental Meditation
- Basic Meditations For Beginners: Trataka Meditation