

It is a bright, sunshiny day for those of you in So. California, although the prices at the pump stinks. Your dad or mom, your grandparents must have spoken of WW II rationing, right? Guess what? From 1942-1945, even though there was real war, your gasoline prices did not go sky high. WHY?

Simple, tires and gasoline rationing were imposed. Among other stallworth rations, there was also a price ceiling fixed, meaning no business firm was allowed to profit. No doubt, you are noticing the gas prices going up like crazy, and we're not in a real war. That's because of the two g's: greed and gargantuan profits.

Believer it or not, recent history shows it is stylish for oil companies to blame some external event as a reason for raising prices. As linked in my ebook, the year Katrina hit, ExxonMobil amassed a record \$36B 2005 profit. Exxon earned \$116 million every 24 hours, in 2005's final quarter, a jackpot after and commensurate with the black days of Hurricane Katrina.

The fat cats said the price increase was needed for research. Every time some goofy event in history pops up, they run to raise the price. Do you think we didn't have "goofy world events" in the 1940s, 50's and 60's? Yes we had something in the 70s with the oil crunch of that decade, I remember. They did not raise, overall, the gas price to crazy record levels.

The trend lately has been for oil giants to keep making profits, records exceeding previous records. And that's not hay. According to *CNN Money*, for ex. Exxon earned \$1,300 a second in 2007. (Also in my book.) End profit for 2005 yr: \$36 billion doolars. In 2007, they danced to the tune of \$40.61 Billion. In 2009, \$45.2 Billion.

In 2018, they had a gross profit of \$64.695 Billion. Oh, don't you feel sorry for them in 2019? They had a decline of 16.86%, and it dropped to \$53B.

The final quarter of 2021, ending Dec. 31, was \$11.729 B. Gee, that's only a qtr. So how did they do for the 12 months of 2021?

Remember, you keep hearing the complains on TV about the affairs of today: The price today is xyz and compared to that a yr ago it was . . .

Right?

Well, what happen to this fact in history?: Exxon gross profit for 2021, ending Dec. 31, 2021 = \$55.182 Billion, a profit of 78.34% increase year-over-year. I say pass the word, and put a ceiling price in 2022...to help the poor people in Ukraine, and the average working American.

One final thing, which has nothing to do with gasoline. Transgressions and Ec squeeze and sanctions be damned, we are on the verge of the greatest propaganda ploy of Putin if he succeeds with the administration of people passing through certain escape corridors from besieged cities. Today everybody is repeating the same words, that it is immoral. It will turn out to be a super sly plan, and nobody is mentioning it. It leads to Belarus or Russia, that they say. But, it will be shown on State TV that people are streaming to Russia and are being liberated, and his propaganda will have a field day showing a beautiful victory.

Written on March 7, 2022 by historian Robert C. Valentine

