

# Goethe's *Faust*: A Prophecy of Modern Finance

## The Imperial Crisis



"Hier aber fehlt das Geld."  
(But what is missing here is money.)



• **The Empire is Bankrupt:** State has no money, population complaining, social unrest.



## The Devil's Solution



**Inventing Poper Money ("Zettelgeld"):**  
Creating notes guaranteed by immense, un-mined gold.

**Value is Created from a Promise:**  
Emperor signs, turning promise into circulating currency.



**The Economy is Instantly Revitalized:**  
City comes alive with trade, consumption, and prosperity.

## The Faustian Wager: The Capital Function



"Verweile doch!  
Du bist so schimi"  
(Linger a while! You are so beautiful!)

**Capital Function:**  
Money Must Make More Money

**Continuous Economic Activity & Expansion**

**System's Need for Relentless Forward Momentum**

Faust's Wager Symbolizes the No-Pausing Rule: Bet against "lingering" in a perfect moment.



**Financial System Collapses Without Growth**