

Financial Times Issues Tremonti Death Threat

Tony Barber, writing in the *Financial Times* online edition April 8, issued a not-so-subtle death threat against Italian economist Giulio Tremonti, under the title “Tremonti and the Serpent’s Egg.”

Quoting Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar.” Barber urges free-trade advocates to look at Act II Scene I, where “Brutus, when looking for a reason to justify Caesar’s assassination, said that the point wasn’t Caesar’s actions so far, but the future danger Caesar represented. And therefore, ‘think him as a serpents egg/ Which, hatch’d, would as his kind grow mischievous,/ And kill him in the shell.’”

Barber begins by noting that when they first met in 2003, Tremonti was wearing braces (suspenders), smoking a cigar, and looking the part of a finance minister. He lambastes Tremonti’s recent book, *Fear and Hope*, which “lashes out at globalisation and condemns the dictatorship of the market,” and calls for “a new Bretton Woods.” And then Barber ends, “So the message to Tremonti must be: Giulio, wear those braces if you must, but we can’t let the serpent’s egg of protectionism grow to full size.”