



How to save the economy

FALL AND RISE: Gordon Styles grew up in Middlesbrough, lost everything and opened a factory in China, below

KELLEY PRICE talks to a successful boss launching a one-man campaign to help Britain towards economic growth

FORMER Teesside businessman Gordon Styles is so incensed with the state of the UK's economy he's spent a small fortune advertising his own ten-point plan on how to fix it.

So why exactly did Gordon Styles pay £10,000 to publish an open letter to David Cameron in the Financial Times?

One word - anger.

"UK industry and manufacturing is falling into the sea," he claims.

"I wanted to drive a knife into the underbelly of the beast."

He believes the UK's monetary woes all boil down to one simple fact, and it's the "best-kept secret in the world" - the M4 broad money supply.

After seven years running a business in China, he says the country has a far tighter grip on its broad money supply - the total monetary assets in an economy - and that's the reason it is more robust.

"While the West was on the brink of absolute economic collapse, China's economy slowed a little - and it's all to do with money supply," he said.

"In the UK, we've had boom and bust for the last 800 years.

"In China, they have a reserve and

keep adding coal to the fire at a certain rate."

He says now is the time for radical change and huge investment in infrastructure and skills, not austerity and "tinkering with the system".

"It might seem like quite a technical term, but people are prepared to learn technical words when it's the name of the cancer they've got," he said.

"This country has a cancer, and the technical term is the lack of control over the M4 money supply."

Gordon's fallen from the top of the ladder, hit rock bottom and clawed his way back up again, so he believes he's got the credentials to back up his views.

The rapid processing boss, who grew up in Middlesbrough, lost everything and opened a factory in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, in 2005 - and he's never looked back.

Born in green and leafy Wimbleton, Gordon got his first glimpse of the grey cooling towers of the Teesside skyline in 1975 after his father relocated his business from the Royal stables at Hampton Court Palace.

By 1983 Gordon had joined his father's precision machining business - Styles Precision Components Ltd on Teesside Industrial Estate, Thornaby.

Once he took over, he managed to grow the business to a £4m turnover.

He sold to a Japanese corporation before ploughing his money into a start-up - Springer Rapid - in Rotherham, because it was the "only place in the North where money was available for manufacturing".

He invested £2m, which was everything he had, but lost it all when orders disappeared to rival compan-

Gordon Styles' ten-point plan to fix the economy

1: The entire Cabinet should be made up of skilled technologists.

2: The nation should be educated to appreciate that industry, manufacturing, construction and running a trade surplus are the main creators of national wealth.

3: Ban fractional reserve banking (the process by which banks invent money out of thin air: the main cause

10-point plan

of boom-and-bust and the 2008 crash).

4: The Treasury should create and control all UK money.

5: New Treasury money should be metered into the economy through

state owned industrial banks.

6: Tightly regulate the currency exchange rate.

7: Cut the top rate of tax to 25% and raise the threshold for personal tax to £25,000.

8: Further develop the UK's specialist technical universities.

9: Invest hugely in technical trade apprentice schools.

10: Open hundreds of overseas promotion offices in foreign markets.



ies and the company had to fold.

Becoming increasingly disenchanted with the British Government's approach to inward investment, Gordon had also been keeping one eye on the housing price boom - and predicted a huge collapse.

"It became clear to me that Britain was basing its economy purely on the expansion of credit for mortgages," he says, "manufacturing simply couldn't get any money."

A roomful of business people jeered at him when he stood up and told them the country was facing the "largest single economic collapse in history".

"Nobody outside of engineering and manufacturing could see it coming," he said.

"People from the banking and Government sector booed, while others were on their feet applauding me - I've never seen a room so divided."

He arrived in China seven years ago with nothing, and over the last few years has built up Star Prototype, a £6m business that exports worldwide and employs 100.

Gordon married his wife, Wen Ling Ling, this April and with three children each living in China, Leeds and Ingleby Barwick, he travels to the UK regularly.

But his children aren't the only thing he misses about the UK.

"I really miss Teesside workers, the lads I worked with here are second to none.

"The work ethic in the North-east is awesome, that's why it's so sad that the Government hasn't got its act together."

"This is a fantastic place for industry and manufacturing - but only if you can get the money.

"Manufacturing on Teesside is very tough and you have to fight for every single penny you can get."

So what's the answer?
"It's simple," he says, "we control the M4 money supply or we'll have boom and bust for eternity."