

CONSILIVM DIGNITATIS

Council of Dignity

A note on the name

This plan was developed for several months under a working title: The Prestige Plan. That name served its purpose during development — it was clear, memorable, and communicated the plan's core mechanism of recognition and reward. But before the first complete document was finalised, the etymology of the word was examined more closely. What it revealed made the name change both necessary and appropriate.

The word 'prestige' descends from the Latin *praestigium* — meaning a conjurer's trick, a sleight of hand, an illusion designed to deceive. The Roman writer Pliny used it to describe the manipulations of magicians. Over centuries the word softened in French and English into something more neutral — influence, standing, reputation — but the root remains. A plan that names itself after illusion while promising radical transparency is carrying an etymology that contradicts its own values.

The name was changed.

Where the idea came from

The original insight did not come from political theory or economics. It came from gaming.

In certain games, players who reach the highest level are offered a choice: reset and start again — at a visible cost — in exchange for a permanent mark of recognised achievement. The mechanic is called prestige. Players do not have to take it. Many do anyway. Not for the practical advantage, but for the acknowledgement. The mark says: this person went further than they had to.

The observation was this: if people will voluntarily reset years of progress simply to hold a recognised status, the same psychology operates in real life — probably more powerfully, because real contribution costs real effort. A system that formally recognises contribution across the full range of what society values would not need to compel participation. It would attract it.

That is where the strata came from. Not from a desire for hierarchy, and not from a belief that some people deserve more than others. From a behavioural observation: recognition of genuine contribution, made visible and formal, changes what people are willing to do. The strata system is that mechanic applied to a real economy.

The working title kept the word 'prestige' because the gaming concept was the seed. The name was retired when its etymology made clear it was the wrong word for what the architecture had become.

The name that replaced it

The name became *Consilium Dignitatis*. Two Latin words. Neither chosen arbitrarily.

Consilium — council · counsel · deliberate decision · considered judgement arrived at through reason

It is the root of the word for the plan's governing institution. The name and the institution share their etymology: this is not a coincidence but a coherence. Consilium implies deliberation — not impulse, not extraction, not compulsion. It implies a gathering of considered minds arriving at a conclusion together. This is the plan's spirit.

Dignitatis — dignity · worth · merit · standing · rank — all simultaneously

In Roman political thought, dignitas was the accumulated social standing that came from demonstrated contribution to the republic. It was not inherited — it was earned and publicly acknowledged. Cicero described it as the honour that accrues to a person who has served their community well. There is no better word in any language for what the strata system is designed to measure and reward.

| *"Genuine status and genuine dignity are the same thing when a society is well-ordered."*

The double meaning — dignity and status — is not accidental in the Latin. Dignitas encompasses both because the Romans understood something the modern world has largely forgotten: that genuine status and genuine dignity are the same thing when a society is well-ordered. Status without dignity is hollow. Dignity without recognition is invisible. Consilium Dignitatis makes them the same thing again.

Why Latin at all?

Latin is, in a meaningful sense, more universal than any modern national language. Portuguese would signal a Portuguese plan. English would signal an Anglophone plan. Latin belongs to no modern nation. It is the common inheritance of European civilisation and, through that civilisation's reach, of much of the wider world. Every Romance language speaker will feel the words immediately — consilium and dignitas have near-direct cognates in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, and Romanian.

The deliberate formality of Latin signals that this plan is intended to endure — not to trend, not to belong to a news cycle, not to feel like a product. It is intended to feel like an institution.

| *"A plan promising real and transparent change should not carry a name that etymologically means illusion. Consilium Dignitatis does not."*

On how this was built

This plan was not delivered complete. It was built — question by question, decision by decision, across several months of sustained development. More than twenty working documents. Economic models across economies spanning three continents, all fully scrutinised. Twenty-one critical review items, all now closed.

The process was a genuine collaboration between a human with an idea and an artificial intelligence with the capacity to model, stress-test, critique, and refine it. Neither party could have produced this alone. The human provided the central insight — that contribution and protection are not opposites but the same mechanism expressed at different ends of the same scale — and the sustained will to see it through. The AI provided the economic modelling, the institutional design, the algorithm specification, and the philosophical articulation.

The result is a plan that has been tested across economies spanning three continents. It has survived every test. It produces a surplus in every case. It adapts to every economic architecture it encounters without abandoning its core principles.

"From a single act of greatness â€” a dynasty acknowledged, and the means to rise for all mankind."

Throughout all associated working materials, any reference to 'The Prestige Plan' should be read as referring to Consilium Dignitatis. The post-nominal codes — PCV, PBF, PSE, PCA, PFE, PIC, GdP — are sector and tier references and remain unchanged. The Council is formally the Consilium Dignitatis Institute, referred to in English-language operational contexts simply as the CDI.

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