Precious Metals & Market Update

Posted December 15th, 2024 - By Chuck Coppes

"With the exception only of the period of the ***gold standard****, practically all governments of history have used their exclusive power to issue money to* *defraud and plunder the people."*
Freidrich A. Hayek, Austrian Economist (1899 - 1992)
*"****Money*** *is* *the most important subject* *intellectual persons can investigate and reflect upon."*
Robert H. Hemphill, President of Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank
"Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind, none has been more effective than that which deludes them with ***paper money****."*
Senator Daniel Webster (1782 - 1852)

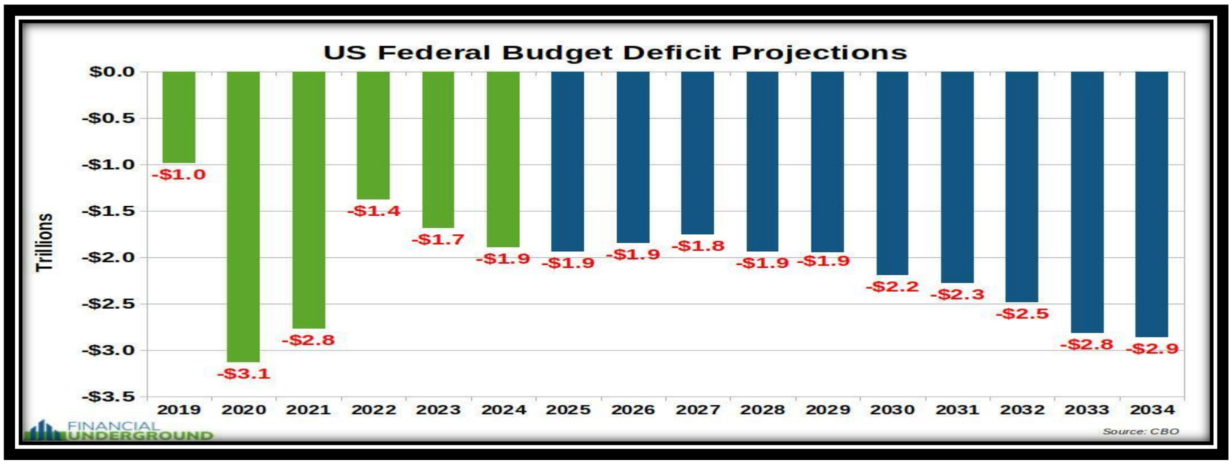
Christmas Greetings to all,

Christmastime is my favorite time of year. In our increasingly secular and godless culture it appears as a strange juxtaposition to a bygone era of Bing Crosby tunes and tinsel, but the message is timeless and a beautiful reminder that there is still hope for the world. Even though we may live in dark and uncertain times we can still turn to the **One** who said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12). **Paul** says we are to be "lights in the world" so here's wishing you a **festive holiday season** and I will have more in my conclusion.

As we come to the end of another year we are facing several challenges as a nation. A second term for **Trump** will be a welcome change from the incompetent *status quo* and woke agendas that have been afflicting our nation. Despite a hopeful new administration that is determined to curb **inflation** and make government more "efficient" this likelihood is rather doubtful. As we'll see a rising stock market is *a deceptive indicator* for the economy that is based solely on **Fed** policy and **financialization.**

Inflation & *Financialization* of the US Economy

I remember a quote from years ago by Austrian economist **Henry Hazlitt**. "No subject is so much discussed today—or so little understood—as **inflation**. The politicians in Washington talk of it as if it were some horrible visitation from without, over which they had no control—like a flood, a foreign invasion, or a plague." **He** goes on, "Yet the plain truth is that our political leaders have brought on **inflation** by their own money and fiscal policies. *They are promising to fight with their right hand the conditions they have brought on with their left*." So, there you have it. No great mystery at all. Just reckless debt and spending by the **uniparty** in **DC** and enabled by our **central bank**. It appears to me that the recent presidential election was primarily based on the **scourge of inflation** being felt by every demographic in the **US**. Elections are so often based on **economics** – but so little understood. The simple truth is that inflation is an increase in the money supply and this trend will continue. According to the **Congressional Budget Office** this is their trajectory for the next **ten years** as seen in **this chart**.



These estimates are based on no crisis, wars or unexpected events. In his usual manner, **Trump** will continue to boast about the **economy** and transforming us into *greatness* but this will not stop the debt and spending and the steady devaluation of our fiat currency. The **Fed** pretends to have several tools to work with to manage the economy, but their only tool is to print and borrow lots of "money" as the solution to all problems. As **Charles Hugh Smith** notes in a recent post this cannot be infinite.

"I know this sounds cynical, but much of what passes for government's power to transform society and the economy boils down to the power to print or borrow money on a truly immense scale*. Yes, there are all kinds of legal powers: Congress can pass new statutes, the President can issue Executive Orders and the judiciary can change society with a new interpretation of the Constitution. But beyond changing the laws, the real power of government is to collect taxes, print money and borrow money. Since paying taxes is painful, leaders prefer to print or borrow money, as the pain--the interest that must be paid in perpetuity--falls on future taxpayers, while the benefits of spending the new cash are felt immediately.* ***Printing and borrowing lots of money is the solution to all problems, until the printing and borrowing become the problem****. At that point, the government's power to solve problems by printing and borrowing lots of money vanishes, as the problems are now caused by printing and borrowing lots of money....Put another way, the government's power to maintain the purchasing power of its currency is not infinite. Printing and borrowing lots of money erodes the purchasing power of all that money if the real-world economy isn't generating equivalent increases in goods and services.* ***We call this inflation, and history offers a variety of examples of this destruction of the purchasing power of money bringing down the state and nation."***

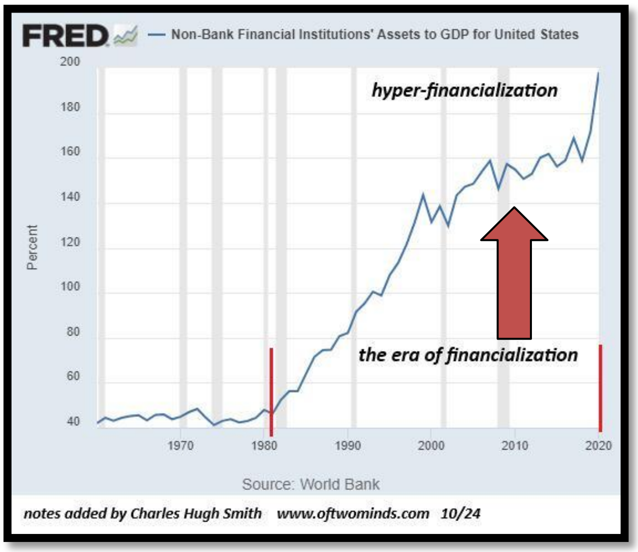
It should be obvious that "printing and borrowing" has now become a very big problem and at some point something has to give. Exactly how did we get into this mess? Although I have covered this topic in **my book** the following **video** is very instructive on how the **Fed** was created and the damage that it has done to our country since **1913**. **The Mises Institute** charges the **Fed** with being both the "**arsonist and the fireman"** as they create the boom/bust cycle and endless bailouts. The **Fed** was *created by the* ***banksters*** *for the* ***banksters*** and this **new video** explains how we got into this mess.

Playing With Fire: Money, Banking and the Federal Reserve

I hope you will watch this important documentary if you have **38 minutes**. As Austrian economist **F. A. Hayek** said above, "governments use their exclusive power to issue money to defraud and plunder the people." **Andrew Jackson** was nearly killed by the evil banksters and warned that "a central bank will prostitute the government at the expense of the many for the benefit of the few." **Thorsten Polliet** writing in *The Epoch Times* compares our **fiat money system** to vampires hiding from the sun.

"The vampire and the fiat money system cannot withstand the bright light of day; both will crumble to dust when exposed to sunlight*. If people truly understood the negative effects of fiat money and the damage it causes to the world, they would likely reject it—along with the production and employment structures it creates.* ***This is likely why so little is taught about fiat money in schools and universities. Its darker aspects are concealed, with the statist education system as 'partners in crime' ensuring the bright light of knowledge does not shine on the fiat money system."***

I think this is a good analogy and the **arsonists and vampires** in our midst know that they need to conceal their evil deeds. **He** concludes, "Just as sunlight kills a vampire, sound economic knowledge would destroy the fiat money system." For sound economic knowledge from **Mises -** CLICK HERE.

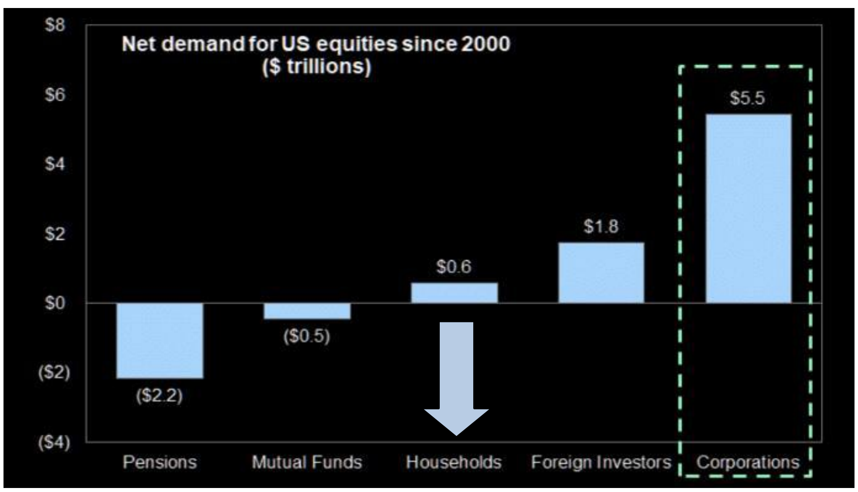


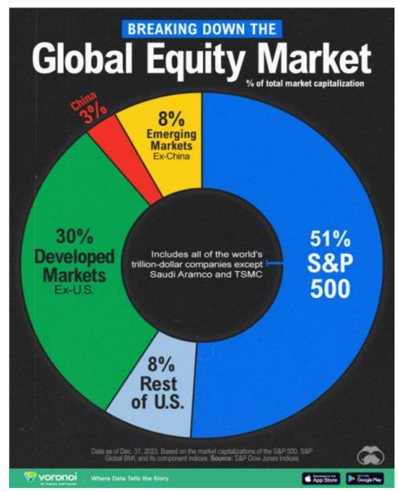
Above is the cruel reality of what **inflation** has done to **wages** in the past few years. Wages are flat as inflation always outpaces any gains! And this is why **Trump** won. Politicians may talk about fighting inflation, but it is only talk. Seriously, what can they do? As **M. N. Gordon** says, "If the federal government was really interested in whipping inflation it would have balanced its budget long ago. But the government is not interested in balancing its budget. Instead, Congress pursues welfare and warfare spending while devaluing the dollar to pay for it." Put simply, the **US** is a Welfare/Warfare State.

In addition to the **behemoth monster** that the federal government has become we also have **the era of financialization** which began about **40** years ago as you can see in the **above chart**. Financialization is a fairly new term today and not widely understood. "Financialization refers to the increase in size and importance of a country's **financial sector** relative to its overall economy," says Investopedia. "Financialization has occurred as countries have shifted away from industrial capitalism." In other words, our **GDP** is mostly pushing paper and gambling and not making stuff. **Charles Hugh Smith** refers to this as the "transmogrification" of the global economy. This is also why we hear so much about "wealth inequality" (I prefer wealth gap) because **financialization** mostly benefits the wealthy.

***"This transmogrification of the global economy into a fully financialized shadow-world took off in the early 1980s** when financiers were first given access to unlimited credit and the other tools of financialization. Non-bank financial institutions' assets soon soared from 40% of GDP to 140% of GDP, and in the final blow-off phase of* hyper-financialization *that we're experiencing now, these assets are 200% of GDP-- five times the pre-financialization era levels that were deemed widespread prosperity.* ***The wealth generated by financialization and* hyper-financialization *isn't shared; it's concentrated in the hands of those with access to credit and and the other tools of financialization**, currently epitomized by private equity."*

President-Elect Trump is trying to return the **US** back to "industrial capitalism" of the pre-**1980s** era and it isn't going to happen. Crony capitalism is too entrenched and besides our main export is not manufactured goods but an inflated **US** dollar, arms sales and porno. The **financialization** of the **US** economy has created a virtual casino on **Wall Street** and the world wants to participate as **seen here**.

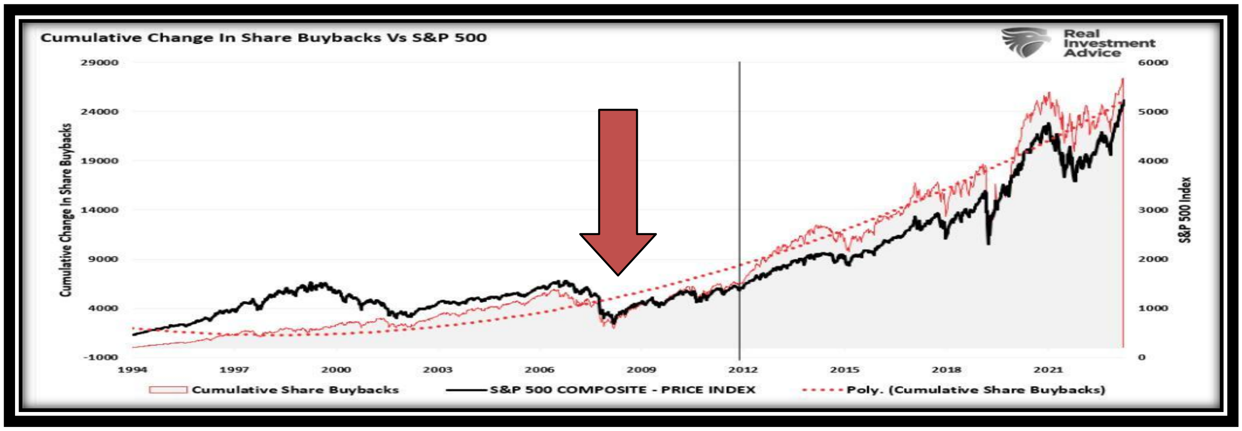




I have noted many times that **90%** of stocks are owned by ***a mere 10%*** of the population. Let that sink in. This why the stock market is a *terrible metric* for the overall economy let alone the entire **US**! But this will not stop **Trump** and his team from bragging about the stock market as soon as he takes office in **January**. After the election, **Peter Schiff** pointed out how politicians love to talk about a strong economy but it's really a "bubble economy" going back to **Greenspan** and the era of **financialization**.

"The problem was we didn't have a strong economy. We had a bubble. We had a fragile economy. In fact, we've been blowing a bubble in this economy ever since the 1990s. Greenspan is the architect of this house of cards**. He's been blowing all the air in and every president going back to Clinton has been hiding behind his bubble and has been **taking credit for the fake economic growth that has been a consequence of this ever-expanding bubble. The time to load the boat with US stocks is not when they're historically expensive. I'm waiting for blood in the streets."

In the chart below you can really see what crony capitalism looks like. There has been a steady rise in the **S&P 500 Index** since the era of **financialization** and this has been enabled by the **Fed** propping up the stock market (especially after 2008) and **corporate buybacks**. What is a stock buyback? The mainstream Investopedia states that corporations "buy back shares of their stock to increase the value of the remaining shares by reducing the supply of them." As **Lance Roberts** is quick to point out, buybacks "crowd out investments in innovation, capital expenditures, and employee compensation, contributing to long-term economic stagnation and inequality." This, my friends is **crony capitalism**.

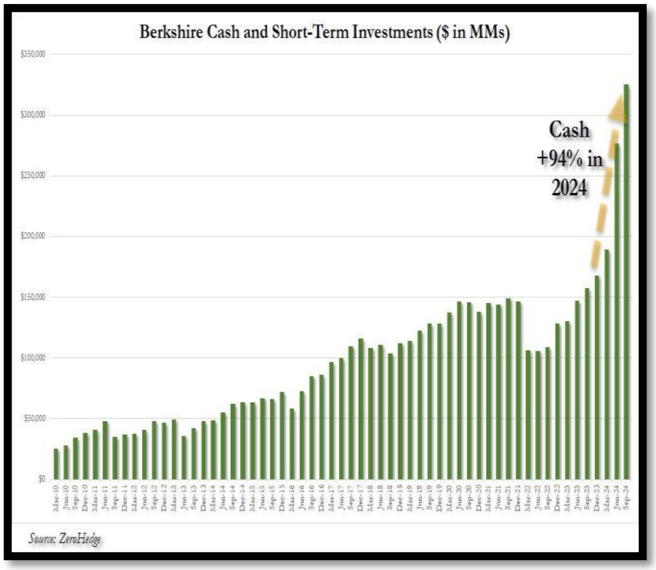


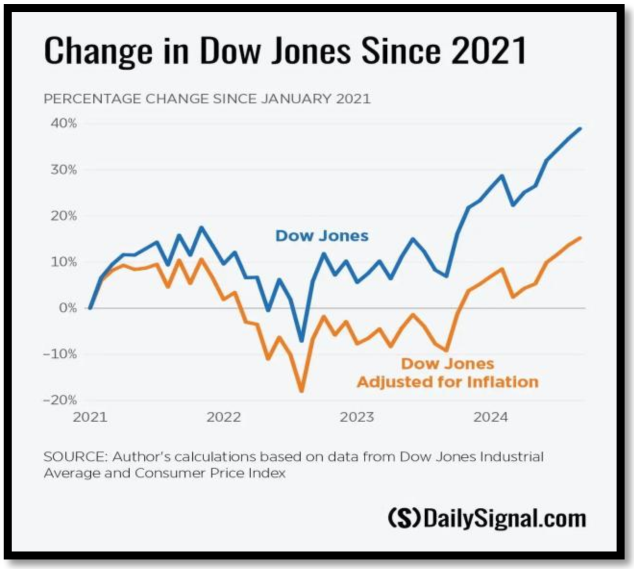
As noted, **stock buybacks** are merely a scheme to increase share value and bonuses for management and this distorts the real economy. Already we can see the **"Trump bump"** writes **M. N. Gordon.**

*"**The stock market is in full melt up. The Trump bump is powering share prices higher. Investors and speculators expect a bright future**. And their intentions are to exploit it for personal profit. **The general logic is that Trump is pro-growth and pro-business**. That his policies will unshackle the economy from the restraints of burdensome and onerous regulations. That he will stick it to foreign competitors and **Make America Great Again**. That corporate earnings will soar. And thus, stocks will become even more valuable. **The logic, unfortunately, is braindead. Stocks are already priced for perfection. Any positive effect Trump's policies may have on the economy will take several quarters or more to show up on bottom lines**. Yet share prices are increasing as if such an earnings boost will be immediate."*

It should be equally noted that these same **corporate executives** gaming **the casino** are selling their stock portfolios. This is also known as a **pump-and-dump** or the greater-fool-theory. As you can see there has been a sharp increase since the election and this does not bode well for the retail investor.

We have been in a **bubble economy** for many years and as **Schiff** warns the time to "load the boat" with **stocks** in not when they are historically expensive! The time to buy an asset is when it is undervalued (like gold and silver and mining shares) and not when it is overvalued (like stocks, BTC and other speculations). Over the years, **Warren Buffett** has learned how to play the casino. For the past year he has been **selling stocks** and now has a **$325 billion** dollar hoard and getting ready to buy when there is **blood in the streets**. This should be a warning to investors but very few are paying attention.

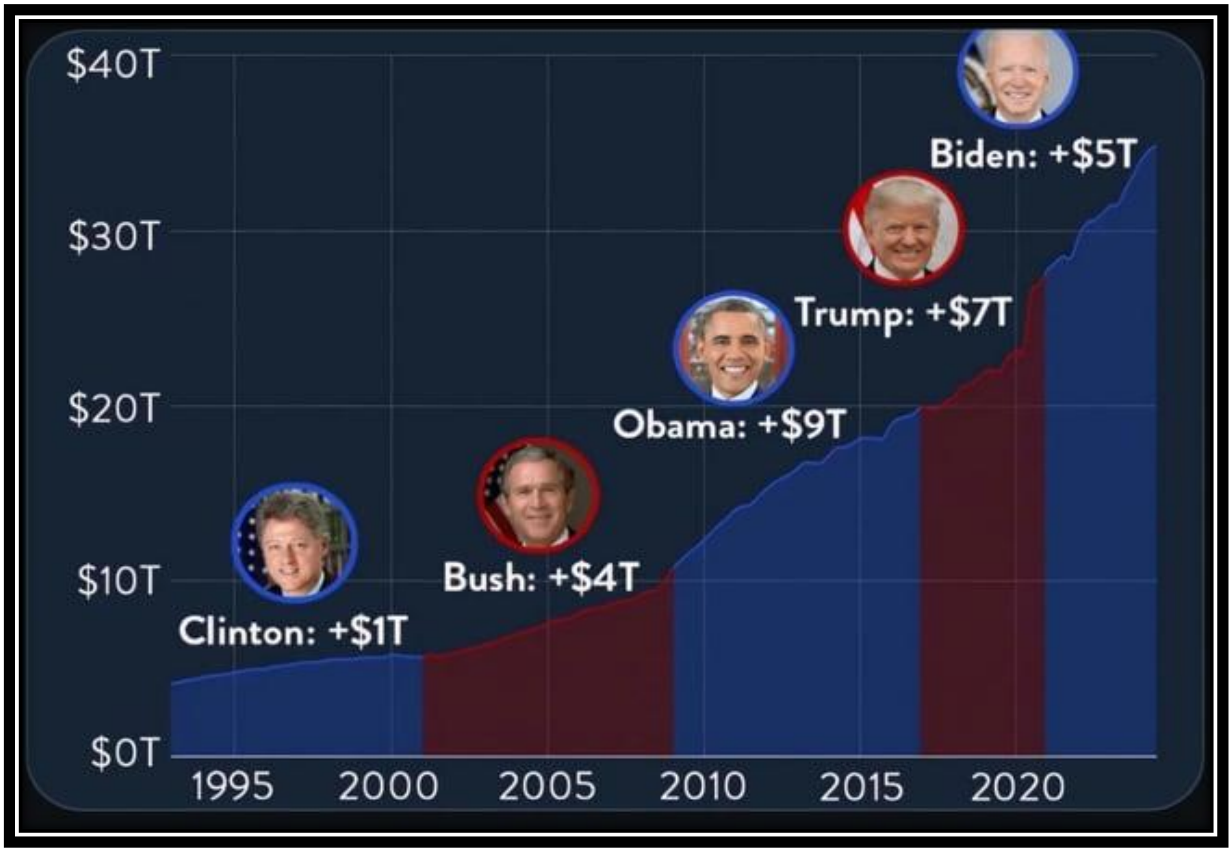




Pundits love to talk up the stock market. They never take into account **inflation** however. As seen above, the **Dow** is up *38%* in the past few years but the adjusted figure is actually *15%, or 5%* per year. With **real inflation** at *12-15%* this is a negative yield and negative **GDP** and this is the definition of an official recession. "The issue is, that attempts to lessen the impact of currency destruction have repeatedly compromised the reliability of official data," says **Daniel Lacelle**. "As the government's influence in the economy increases, technical recessions may not show up in official data, but they still affect citizens. Furthermore, deficit spending and money printing now result in both higher taxes and lower real wages in the future. Therefore, the unintended consequence of an official recession is an increase in government debt, an increase in taxes, and a decrease in purchasing power of the currency."

President	Inauguration date	S&P 500's level	Date after 3¾ years in office	S&P 500's level	Performance
George W. Bush (R)	1/20/2001	1342.54	10/10/2004	1122.14	-16.42%
George W. Bush (R)	1/20/2005	1175.41	10/10/2008	899.22	-23.50%
Barack Obama (D)	1/20/2009	805.22	10/10/2012	1432.56	77.91%
Barack Obama (D)	1/21/2013	1485.98	10/11/2016	2136.73	43.79%
Donald J. Trump (R)	1/20/2017	2271.31	10/10/2020	3477.13	53.09%
Joe Biden (D)	1/20/2021	3851.85	10/10/2024	5780.05	50.06%

As I have said, the **stock market** is *a very deceptive indicator* for the overall economy. The cruel fact is that the **US** has been in recession for years and a rising **stock market** does not benefit the middle class. Furthermore, stock performance has been nearly identical under both **Trump** and **Biden** as seen **above**, so it is a meaningless figure. Consumer debt is at record levels as Americans struggle to get by. Credit card debt is **$1.1 trillion**, auto loans have exceeded **$1.6 trillion** and defaulting student loans are at **$1.8 trillion**. Unemployment has been persistent and most are living paycheck to paycheck.

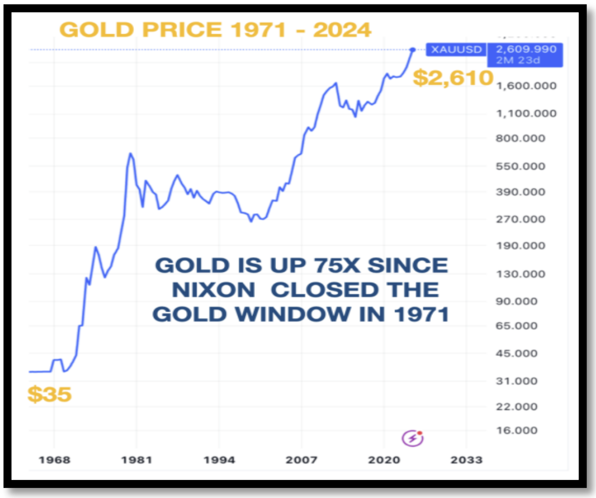


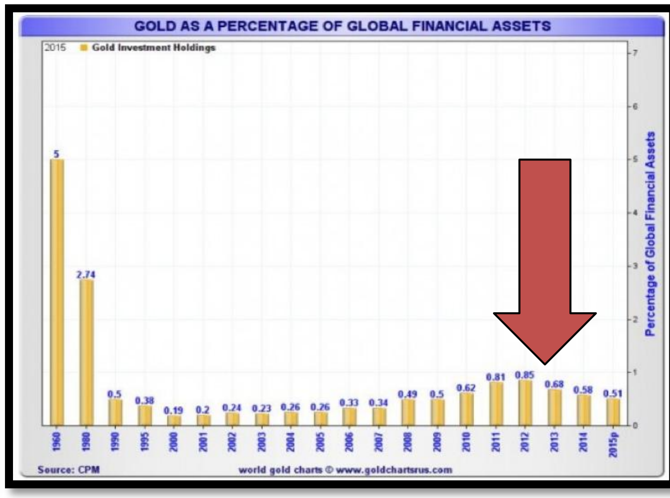
In addition to massive household debt the **uniparty** in **Washington** keeps running up our national debt which just lately exceeded **$36,000,000,000,000** with annual interest payments of **one trillion** or more! As noted earlier, many are expecting a bright future and that **Trump** is pro-growth and pro-business and he will make us great again. Irrational exuberance and "Trump dances" might be fun for now, but it will take several months to see any material affect for the voters. **Jeffrey Tucker** adds this.

*"**Behind this new exuberance, however, is a grim economic reality. There is no sense in which the economy is healthy. No matter what data you examine, you see some very dark clouds**. The debt addiction by government, Wall Street, institutions, and households is palpable and, once you examine the numbers, truly scary. **Adjusting retail sales for inflation, for example, yields no real increase at all in years. In fact, once adjusted for inflation, there has been a net decline in retail sales.** Business inventories reflect the same. They are not really increasing, despite all reports. What you hear on the news is **merely higher prices**, which is not the same thing as economic growth. Industrial production is extremely weak, reflecting continued loss of manufacturing energy and entrepreneurial weakness. **What does an incoming administration do with an economy mired in an unannounced inflationary recession, a weak production sector, and a debt overhang the likes of which the world has never seen? A good mood and Trump dances only get a nation so far.**"*

The **US** is in an "inflationary recession" or stagflation. Some **very dark clouds** are gathering and the other grim reality is the threat of **nuclear war** in our future if we are not careful. **Trump** is proposing stiff **import tariffs** against **China** and others and this is not only inflationary for consumers, according to **The Mises Institute** it was **tariffs** that caused the **Great Depression in 1929** – read it **HERE**. As they say, if goods don't cross borders then armies do. We are entering a dangerous period with risk everywhere and all the more reason to consider the safety of **gold and silver**, which we will now do.

The *Bullish Outlook* for Gold & Silver in 2025

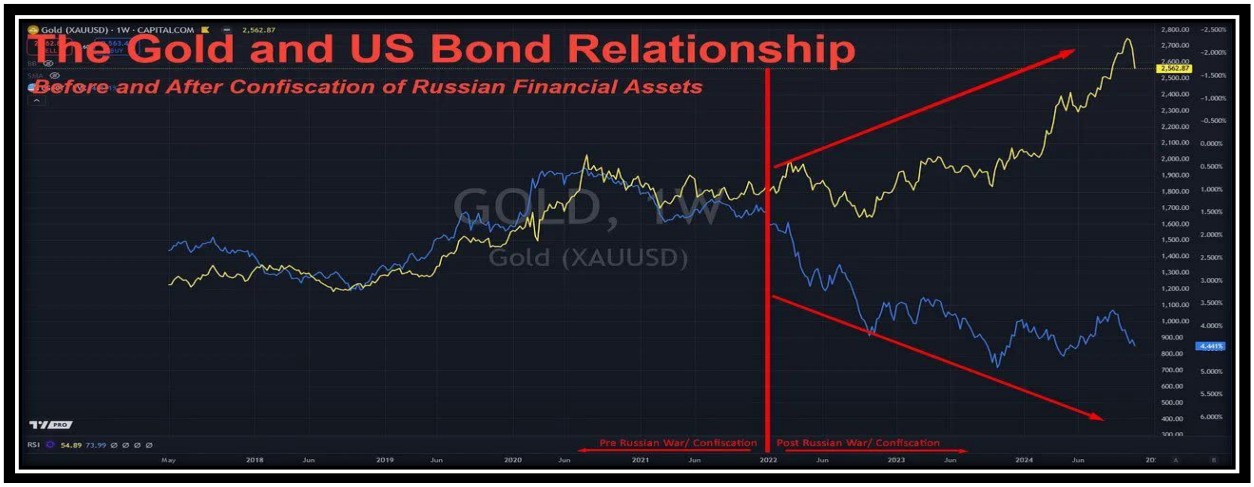




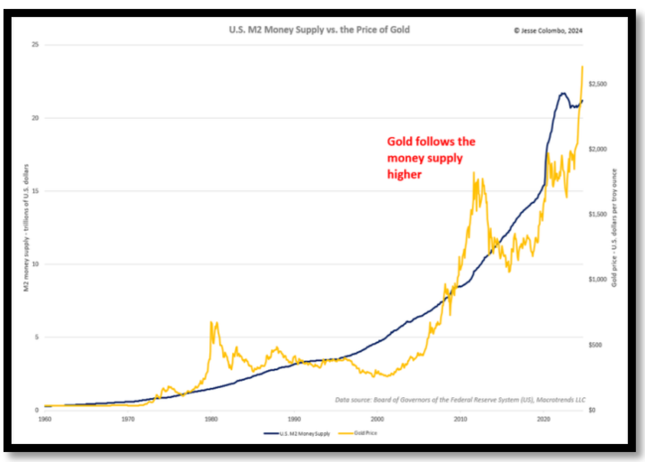
Above is an historical chart for the price of gold since 1971. It is important to understand that this is when the **US** decoupled **gold** from the **US dollar**. This has led to currency debasement, debt and a rising **gold** price despite suppression schemes by the **evil banksters**. The past year has seen the **gold** price increase by **34%** yet you hear very little about this. Financial advisers generally discourage **gold** or **silver** which comprise a small percentage of global financial assets as **Egon von Greyerz** illustrates.

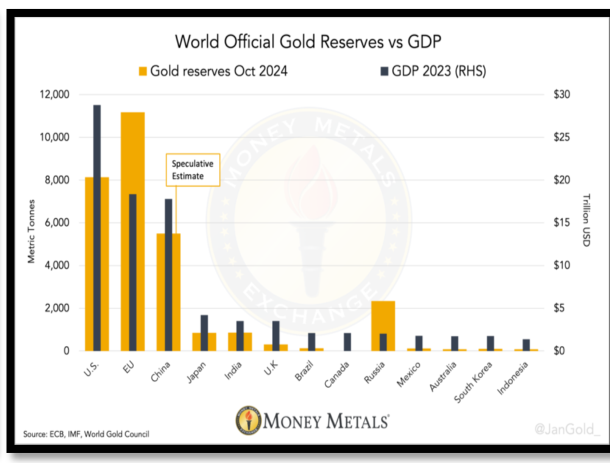
*“**With only 0.5% of global financial assets invested in gold today, any significant increase in demand cannot be satisfied by physical gold, at anywhere near current prices.** The mines produce around 3,000 tonnes of gold annually. That amount of gold is absorbed annually, and there are no surplus stocks. **There are, in fact, major shortages of physical gold.** If paper gold buyers one day ask for delivery on a bigger scale, the whole Futures and LBMA markets will collapse. They cannot deliver physical gold against the massive amounts of worthless gold paper that they have issued. **Only 0.5% of global financial assets are invested in gold – only $3.6 trillion – which represents 43 thousand tonnes. If gold investments increased to the 1980 level of financial assets (at today’s gold price), that would involve a requirement for 230,000 tonnes of gold. That is roughly equal to the total amount of gold that has ever been produced in history.”***

We have seen an increase in demand for **physical gold** this past year, but any significant demand or diversification into **gold** will be extremely bullish and likely not even available. According to **The Bank of America** the current market cap for global stocks and bonds is roughly **$225 trillion** and there is little **gold** and even **less silver**. According to the latest estimate, **$100 billion** would buy all of the available **silver** in the world and I’ll have more in this in a minute. So why has **gold** been steadily rising along with **silver** in the past year? **Chris Powell** from **GATA** provides this perspective. “It’s because central banks are no longer united on gold price suppression policy. Two years ago their association, the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, declared gold to be a so-called Tier 1 asset, equivalent to U.S. treasuries and cash, an asset for which regulated banks need not hold any collateral. This classification of gold as a Tier 1 asset has spurred the trend away from the dollar and toward gold as a central bank and commercial bank reserve. This trend was accelerated by the seizure of Russia assets by the United States and NATO countries when Russia invaded Ukraine to keep NATO out. The weaponizing of the dollar gave governments and central banks a powerful incentive to get out of the dollar and U.S. debt and to buy gold.”



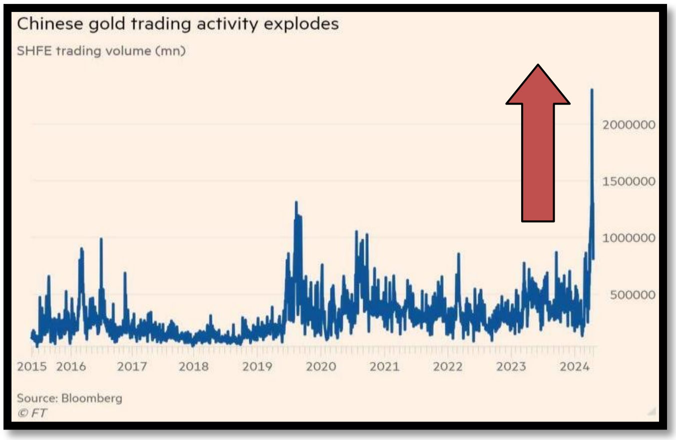
[**Powell** makes an important observation that central banks are not united on **gold** suppression and have become **net buyers** along with many others]. The real trigger seems to be when the **US** confiscated **Russian** financial assets in **2022** and weaponized the **US** dollar. As seen **above**, as **gold** has risen there is less demand for low-yielding **US** bonds. British economist **Ambrose Evans-Pritchard** [highlights the demand for **physical gold**]. "The G7 decision to freeze $300bn of Russian reserves in **2022** stunned the Global South. So did Russia's expulsion from the Swift payments system, accompanied by the threat of secondary sanctions against any bank or company, anywhere. It told every authoritarian across the planet to diversify out of US treasuries, gilts, bonds, and into physical gold, held in vaults beyond the long arm of the West….There is a school of thought that we are starting to see defensive action by the holders of wealth against runaway public debts in America, Europe and Japan."



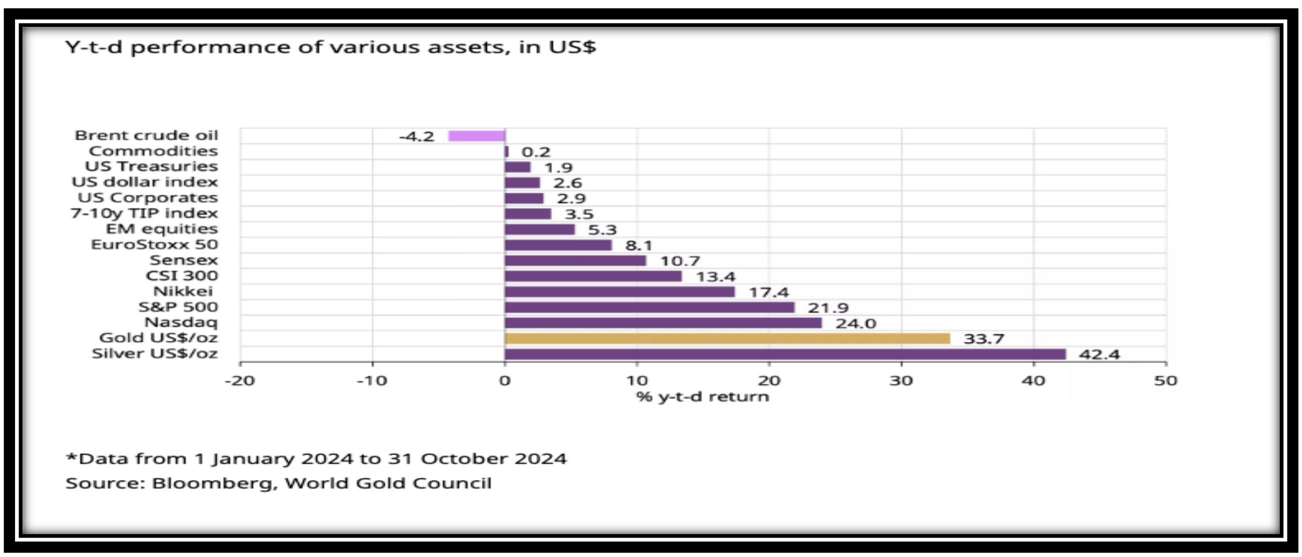


[We have a saying in my business]. [**Gold** (and silver) is not getting ***expensive***, the currency is getting ***cheaper***]. As central banks increase the money supply (inflation) the bids get higher for **gold** and silver. As seen in **this chart**, the largest **gold reserves** are in the **US, EU** and **China**. [It is very doubtful that the **US** has **8,000** tons of **gold** at **Fort Knox**] and the **Chinese** probably have ***30,000*** *tons* as the largest producer and importer of gold! The **EU** actually has more **gold** than their **GDP**! **Ronan Manly** is a metals analyst out of **Hong Kong** [and he comments], "The spot gold price has experienced rapid and remarkable increases since March 2024, and has recorded consistent new all-time highs across all major fiat currencies. This gold price bull market of 2024 is being driven by a broad and varied array of factors, and is now 'firing on all cylinders'. Specifically, the surge in gold prices is being driven by a combination of increased geopolitical concerns, conflict in the middle east and

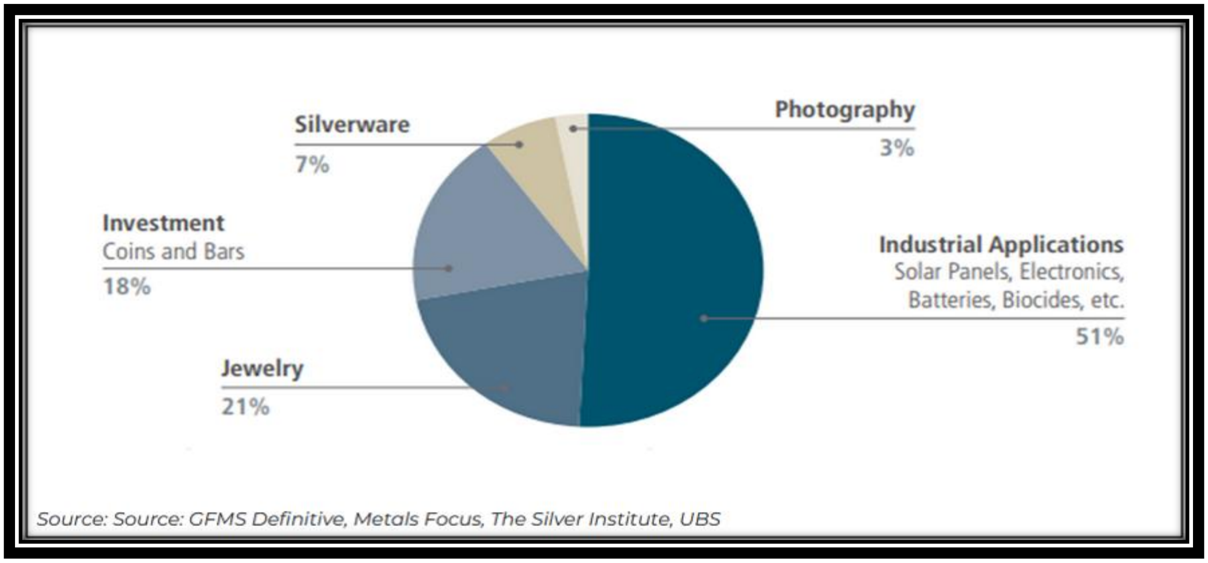
Ukraine/Russia, a shift in central bank monetary policy to a rate cutting cycle, rising inflation fears, a de-dollarisation trend, and speculative activity on gold derivatives exchanges. The breadth of contributing factors and the fact that most of these factors are non-temporary adds credence to the argument that this gold price rally is not temporary, but that it's just beginning."



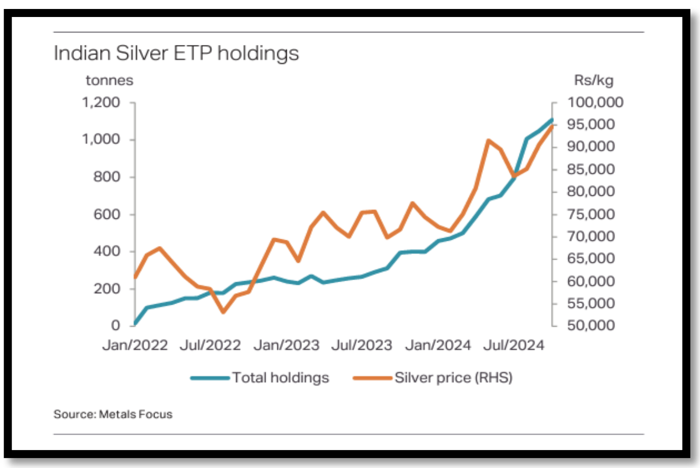
This "gold price rally" is just the beginning of an **epic bull market**. Just look at **this chart** for **gold** demand in **China**! This is being driven not only by the **Chinese** central bank but the **people** as well with growing anxiety about their **collapsing real estate prices** in major cities as seen here. "China's economic struggles and increasing reliance on stimulus add further support to the bullish outlook for gold," writes **Jesse Colombo**. "As global debt and inflationary pressures rise, and with Chinese physical gold investors and consumers likely to return in droves once they recognize that high gold prices are here to stay, the conditions are primed for an explosive phase in the gold market. This momentum, driven by both domestic factors in China and international dynamics, is likely just the beginning of an even greater upward trend." Below is a chart for **YTD gold** performance in **2024**.



We see can see that the trend for **gold** has been strong and **beating most stock indices** around the world. Again, this fact is consistently downplayed on **Wall Street** and the financial media. Even more noteworthy has been the performance of **silver** in the past year with considerably more upside potential in **2025**. The current **silver to gold** ratio is **85:1** and this should be a closer to **30:1** and eventually even **15:1**, which would make **silver $176/oz**. today. As I mentioned, **silver** is a much smaller market.

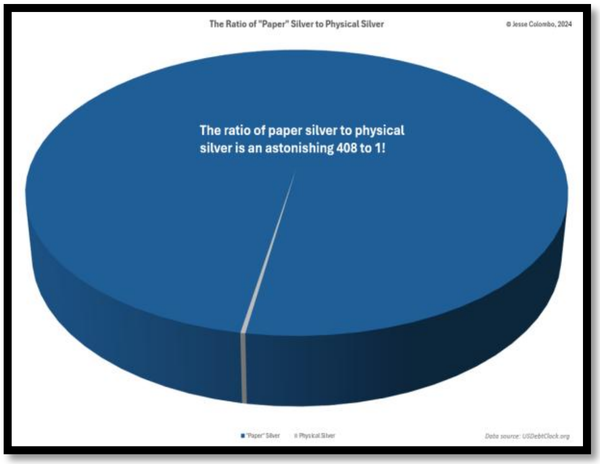


According to **The Silver Institute** there is about a billion ounces of **silver** mined each year. Due to heavy demand by investors and industrial applications for electronics and solar panels there have been *supply deficits* for the past four years. **Silver** is a by-product of copper mining and only **18%** remains for investors (as seen above). This is extremely bullish for **silver.** In addition, there has been massive buying by **India** this year because they placed an import tariff on **gold** and this buying will continue as seen here. Finally, there has been repeated **naked short-selling** by the **evil banksters** to discourage any interest in **physical silver**, but the dam is about to break as **Jesse Colombo** explains below.



"As the asset's price rises, these traders become increasingly desperate to buy it back to close their positions, which in turn fuels the rally even further. If the buying is aggressive enough, this can lead to a short squeeze, amplifying the upward momentum," **writes** **Jesse Colombo**. "A key condition for a short squeeze is the presence of unusually heavy short positioning in the asset. This is currently the case in **COMEX** silver futures, where swap dealers—mainly bullion bank trading desks—hold their largest net short position in eight years, totaling 38,832 contracts. This is equivalent to 194.43 million ounces of silver, or roughly **23%** of the annual global silver production—*a staggering figure*. Many analysts believe that bullion banks like **JPMorgan** and **UBS** are engaging in aggressive naked short-selling—dumping silver futures without actually holding the physical silver to back them up—in an effort to manipulate silver prices downward. There is a strong chance that these banks will end up on the wrong side of the trade as this rally continues, triggering a powerful silver short squeeze."

We often say that gold and silver is like kryptonite to the evil banksters. Why do they do this? They are desperate to protect the **fake fiat monetary system** that is based on financial fraud, deception and perpetual inflation. This is why they are **evil**. They are creating a global humanitarian crisis when this system comes crashing down and they know it! The only thing left to do is protect yourself and participate in what could be the largest wealth transfer in history when metals are repriced to reflect genuine price discovery stripped away from **CRIMEX** and their fellow banksters. **David Jensen** is a **silver** expert and has recently commented that the **London Bullion Market Association** (LBMA) has about ***six billion ounces** of paper claims* against actual physical **silver** in London! The **LBMA** goes back to the old Gold Price Fix with the **Rothschilds** in **1919**. It is not a legitimate market. It is a crime scene. You can listen to **Jensen** at THIS LINK. The bottom line is that an epic **silver short squeeze** has been building in recent months and as **Colombo** says the rising price will only add fuel to this rally in **2025. Below is a graphic illustration** of how many paper contracts there are for every ounce of **silver** – talk about musical chairs! Back in early **2021**, the Covid hysteria caused **silver** delivery delays from the **LBMA** to **CRIMEX** in **NY** and the **CFTC Chair** admitted that he was able to "tamp down" the **silver** "price" to prevent a silver squeeze. There has been a running **joke** about it ever since in the metals space and **below** is a good depiction of what is about to happen to these crony regulators.



We can't wait for that day! And to make matters worse the nascent **BRICS** are in discussions to create a precious metals trading platform that would rival **NY** and **London**. Demand is still strong for **silver** and we have seen metals "tamped down" following the election (with USD strength), but this is presenting a buying opportunity for investors who are watching this trend. **Below** is a good chart on the upside for **silver** and **James Turk** follows with a concluding remark on the **silver** market.

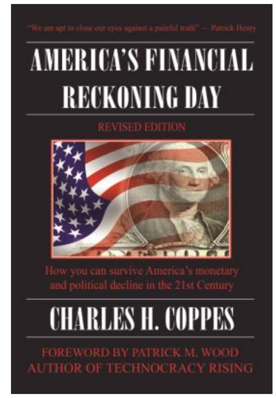
"It looks to me that $50 is days/weeks away, not months. Once $50 is hurdled, decades of base-building driven by unstoppable demand for physical silver will launch silver into a major bull market taking it toward fair value**. In a world of fiat currency, you can't use dollars or any other currency to measure fair value. We can't predict whether central banks will inflate or deflate, so we need to use gold as the standard of measure. **So the fair value of silver is a Gold/Silver ratio under 30 – and probably close to the historic ratio of 16 ounces of silver to one ounce of gold. If gold does reach my near term target of $3,000 and if – that's a big 'if' but worth thinking about – the ratio falls to 30 like it last did in 2011, $100 silver is in sight."

Most analysts agree that once **silver** breaks though **$50/oz.** it will really be off to the races. **Andrew Maguire** is a respected **London** trader and whistleblower and provided a great perspective about **silver** in this interview below at the **36:30 mark** (final four minutes). He points out that **silver** is a monetary metal and **Chinese** solar demand alone will push **silver** to a "three figure amount" as he says.

Andrew Maguire: Chinese Bullion Demand & Silver Prediction!

Perhaps you have a moment to watch this clip, and I know it has been **extremely frustrating** for those who have invested in **precious metals** for the past several years but things are changing. **Silver** is more affordable than **gold** and as **Dave Kranzler** notes, "at some point the *poor man's gold* attribute of silver will become a large factor in driving a massive amount of investor money into silver as a cheap substitute for gold." And right now **silver** is cheap and remains the most undervalued asset.

Finally, I wanted to make a comment about **Bitcoin**. I am always asked about **BTC.** In the past few months **BTC** has almost *doubled* in price as **seen above**. What is causing this? It is a combination of less anticipated regulation with **Trump**, a new **ETF** and *pure greed*. I see it as the greater-fool-theory on display and especially when you consider the fact that approximately ***92.5%*** of all **BTC** in the world is held by just ***1.86%*** of all "wallet" addresses! You read that correctly. And you can read the report RIGHT HERE. This is almost the definition of a pump-and-dump. It is particularly devious that **BTC** is promoted as decentralized and new payment system with such a huge concentration by a handful of whales. I have always argued that **BTC** has intrinsic *utility*, but not intrinsic *value* like **gold** and **silver** as a true monetary asset. Further, there is an old saying that you should not invest in things that you don't understand. Does anyone really understand what **BTC** is? What is mining? Ledgers and wallets? Cold storage? **Legendary fund manager John Paulson** provides the following advice. "I would describe crypto-currencies as a limited supply of nothing. There is no intrinsic value to any of the crypto-currencies except that there is a limited amount. Once the exuberance wears off, or liquidity dries up, they will go to **zero.** I wouldn't recommend anyone invest in crypto-currencies."



Summary & Conclusion. As we have seen, the **evil banksters** have been naked shorting the **silver market,** but this will eventually fail as industrial and investor demand exceeds supply. **Gold** is leading the way and "firing on all cylinders" and it will slowly pull **silver** along with it in **2025**. When the dam finally breaks we will achieve **some fair value**, and especially when global financial assets will be seeking a safe haven. Since it is **Christmas**, if you are interested in precious metals or a precious metals **IRA** let me know and I will send you a **free copy** of my book along with a **DVD** and some literature. With real inflation running at **12-13%**, precious metals are an excellent hedge as the economy is mired in a recession, or stagflation. The "Trump bump" is creating some optimism, but markets are grossly overvalued and the **Wall Street** casino is a house of cards. New **import tariffs** will cause more "price inflation" as costs are passed along to the consumers and **financialization** has replaced industrial capitalism in the **US**. The wealth gap is becoming wider as people struggle and our central bank continues to impoverish our nation as they create **paper money** out of thin air "Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind," said **Daniel Webster**. "None has been more effective than that which deludes them with paper money." The **Fed** has distorted the marketplace and is responsible for the boom/bust cycle that they create as **arsonists** and then pretend to be the **firemen**. Again, this is presented in that **video** that I mentioned earlier including the year that **Nixon** took us off the **gold** standard. It is entitled ***Playing With Fire*** and the link is HERE. We are living in troubled times but **Christmas** is the perfect time to remind us that there is a bright hope for the future – a bright future for those who have put their faith and trust in **Jesus the Messiah**. The governments of the world will pass away but there is **One** who will be the **King** of the world as we pray "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt. 6:10). The **Prophet Isaiah** predicted the coming of the **Messiah** with these majestic words, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the government will rest on His shoulders, and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace" (Is. 9:6-7).

The world prays for **peace**, but there will be no peace until the **Prince of Peace** returns. The most important peace we can have is **peace with God** by faith. "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). I pray that you have this peace or you can find out how at **THIS LINK** on my site. We should also pray for our new leaders in **2025** and for that copy of my book you can also click HERE. ***Have a Merry Christmas everyone!***

Until Next Time, Your Messenger from Sandpoint