



[Jeremy Szafron 00:04.9] Hey, everyone, welcome back to the Vancouver resource investment conference 2026 here in beautiful B.C., Vancouver.

[Jeremy Szafron 00:11.9] As you can tell by the name of the conference now, it is wonderful outside, and it's been very interesting inside. Obviously, we're dealing with those \$5,000 gold price, \$100 silver. But volatility has returned to the currency market. We have seen the Japanese yen surge nearly 2% in a single session, coupled with reports from The Bloomberg that the New York Fed has been conducting rate cheques with major financial institutions.

[Jeremy Szafron 00:34.7] Now, in the world of central banking, a rate cheque is rarely just a casual inquiry. It often is a warning shot. It signals that the bond market is stressed, and the central banks are being forced to coordinate, possibly in the background. Now, the question for investors obviously is simple. If the system requires this level of emergency management just to remain stable, where is the true safe haven, and what does that mean for trust?

[Jeremy Szafron 00:56.6] Joining me to discuss this trust horizon and the shift in the global settlement assets is, of course, Matt Pippenberg. He's a partner of VON GREYERZ AG. Nice to see you.

[Matthew Piepenburg 01:04.9] Good to be back.

[Jeremy Szafron 01:06.3] There's so many things to talk about. You just came off stage, and I think that the base of that conversation has been around trust and what that means for the debasement trade. Before we do that, I want to start with this data because, I mean, the Japanese yen surged 1.75% On Friday, following reports of the New York Fed doing these rate cheques.

[Jeremy Szafron 01:26.0] And I guess the question is, you know, is the US preparing to intervene because they want to save the yen, or are they kind of preventing Japan from dumping US Treasuries themselves?

[Matthew Piepenburg 01:39.7] It's all connected, and it's all chaotic. Rates, currencies, spreads, yields, and debt, of course. And then, of course, that translates into the end road of all conversations. Precious metals, of course. But before I was a precious metals person, I was a risk asset person.

[Matthew Piepenburg 01:55.5] And the smartest guys in the room were always the bond guys. And I've said in almost every article I've ever written is the bond market is the thing you have to understand. Yields doesn't need to be complex, but as bond prices go down, yields go up, and yields are the cost of debt. So yields matter. And all the, you know, all the stock jocks were good, but it was the credit guys who got the best plays on equities.

[Matthew Piepenburg 02:16.7] And so how does this all tie together? To your question, I mean, look, the Japanese carry trade, everyone, most of your viewers know when there was low rate arbitrage borrowing, yen borrow at low rates, invest in foreign markets, including the S and P, pay it back at a lower interest rate and hopefully, you don't get caught in a currency squeeze.

[Matthew Piepenburg 02:32.2] So that's a very simple Japanese carry trade that works when yields are low, and the yen is cheap. Right. If the Japanese have to sell a lot of their JGBs, their Japanese government bonds, to save their yen, which is overextended in debt. So debt is all related.

[Matthew Piepenburg 02:47.9] Well, if they have to sell a lot of US Treasuries, that puts pressure on the US bond market pushes yields up. And so they have to save their yen by selling US assets to keep their yen under control. And for the first time, in what seemed impossible, yields in the Japanese yield curve, the yields are rising.

[Matthew Piepenburg 03:04.1] So that can be a massive. Well, it's a symbol of bond dysfunction, by the way. French bond markets, UK bond markets, Japanese bond markets, US bond markets, all seeing yield spikes because trust in their fundamental IOUs. When you talk about debt to GDP, Japan's off the chart, but it's not the home of the world's reserve currency.

[Matthew Piepenburg 03:20.4] They have less room. So this is a major thing. But if yields are rising and bonds are falling, that's very bad for Japan. The Japanese carry trade is very bad for the S and P because a lot of that money on the carry trade went into S and P assets. Ironically, it can be very good for gold. I know I'm saying this with my bias, selling my book, but a lot of the money used on the Japanese carry trade was used to short the gold price and use of the comics.



[Matthew Piepenburg 03:42.9] So it's so convoluted, it's so intentionally complex. But when you see rates rising or yields rising, I've always said that's a shark fin. It's a symptom of danger coming to risk asset markets. Because yields rising just means the cost of debt is rising. And everything from Japan to the UK, certainly to the US and France, is driven now more by debt than GDP, productivity, or real manufacturing.

[Matthew Piepenburg 04:08.6] So if we're a debt-based system gone way too far, and the cost of debt gets higher, that puts a lot of stress on all markets, all politicians, all policies. And they're running out of good options because the only way to get those Shark fins underwater again is to buy more bonds that no one else wants.

[Matthew Piepenburg 04:25.9] The only way to pay for that is to mouse click money at the central bank near you that debases the currency. Hence, gold and silver at all-time highs, more so. The system has gone slowly and, as Hemingway says, all at once into a crisis. The spikes we're seeing in gold and silver have a lot of reasons.

[Matthew Piepenburg 04:41.5] The primary reason goes back to 1971. It's a currency crisis, it's credit crisis, and it's, I'm simplifying, but after 50 plus years of playing this game, our currency, your problem is now our currency, our problem for everyone, because we've all been living beyond our means and debt, monetizing that debt with mouse plate currencies.

[Matthew Piepenburg 04:58.4] And the currencies are trusted.

[Jeremy Szafron 05:00.0] It's interesting, I mean, you know that multi-decade high that we talked about on the Japanese yen trade, I mean, I guess we could ask you, if that is the signal that that risk-free, you know, status of Sovereign debt is. I mean, we're talking about trust, it's gone.

[Matthew Piepenburg 05:13.9] Well, think about it, think about that. Was the pillar, the two pillars of America, in any country, but certainly America was its bond and the petrodollar. But Japan, any national sovereign, It needs to have trust in its IOUs to continue to function. And when you see those rising yields, what does that mean?

[Matthew Piepenburg 05:30.1] Less trust. It needs to be a higher premium to lend to that nation. And when you see that in one-off scenarios in developing economies or emerging markets, you kind of see that movie before upside down and backwards in South America and other headlines. You see that in Japan, you see it in the UK, with the gilt crisis we saw many times already.

[Matthew Piepenburg 05:47.4] But this is, and obviously, with the US Treasury, the risk-free return of that sacred cow, the 10-year US Treasury, the basis of the world trading system, derivative system, Swift system, everything is tied to that. And when that yield is rising, and trust in that is falling, the evidence which is everywhere, well, the risk-free Return is really return-free risk.

[Matthew Piepenburg 06:08.1] And when you're measuring that yield against inflation, again, this is not sensational. Everyone I know on the street, from John Williams reports, but it's not an exaggeration, knows that Inflation is double digits. I mean, we know this, and so we're really getting no return. You're getting return-free risk for the most supposedly safer Tier 1 asset in the world.

[Matthew Piepenburg 06:25.8] And the reason is very simple. Nations with their backs against the debt wall on a corner needs to run negative real rates. That's wonky language. They need inflation to be higher than the yields, so they can inflate away their debt. They just get away with that by reporting it incorrectly at. I know that sounds sensational, but this is as old as history 101, and it's an absolute theft because they have their cake in it too.

[Matthew Piepenburg 06:46.6] They run negative real rates to inflate away their debt on the backs of everyone on the street. Top 10%, the bottom 10%. We need inflation. Don't report politically incorrect, but we just will lie about the inflation rate. It's that simple.

[Jeremy Szafron 06:57.8] So, I mean, you know, the counter, the counter when we talk about it, if the Fed comes in and, you know, stabilizes The yen at a 150, I mean, most people would say, doesn't that prove that they still have the tools to manage this? But does that just give them the ability to kick the can down a little bit further?

[Matthew Piepenburg 07:13.1] Anytime you solve a problem with mouse click money to stabilize something, technically, you can make sure that the S and P never goes below threshold, never goes below median. You can literally synthetically



make it's a deficit without tears and a market that never sees a correction. You can always mouse-click money, and so you can always support another currency or another bond market, but you will always do that at the expense of your own currency, which your mouse Clicking to support it.

[Matthew Piepenburg 07:37.6] So you're not only running out pulling roller skates, you're shooting yourself in the foot. You can do that for a decade, two decades. We've been doing it since 1971. The question is, when do you go too far? And what we're seeing, finally, in 2025 now into 2000, I think we've gone too far. Our currency, your problem is our currency.

[Matthew Piepenburg 07:53.7] Our problem. For a lot of nations, it's all tied to debt. The debt is everything. And the bond market and the yields reveal it. Yes, you can compress yields by printing money to buy bonds to keep the yields down. But when you print money, you expand credit. When you extend credit, expand credit, you expand the money Supply, you debase the currency.

[Jeremy Szafron 08:08.6] So, I mean, if you're sitting on the other side of this and you're a career politician, and you're being shown, or at least the public is starting to wake up to this, I mean, is that why there's so many talking heads right now?

[Matthew Piepenburg 08:19.3] Look, look, anyone who reads me or watches me knows the island of misfit toys that compose the Congress and the Senate, from your country to mine, the ECB, which I'm very familiar with. Most of these guys know very little about history, even less about economics, even Besant, and more so than Yellen.

[Matthew Piepenburg 08:35.2] But I'm saying certainly your average congressman or senator can't count to two. And I know that sounds dramatic. So to rely on them to solve an economic crisis this magnitude is really naive. They have to tell a narrative, certainly central bankers, but the politicians themselves have to tell a narrative to keep calm and carry on.

[Matthew Piepenburg 08:53.3] But they don't even understand the magnitude. The other thing about democracies, love them or hate them, is they think like they're careerists. They're mavens to the system. They need to think about reelection. They need to be popular. One way to be popular is to mouse-click money to pay for deficit spending. That's one-on-one stuff.

[Matthew Piepenburg 09:08.6] They will not think about the longer-term ramifications of inflation or debasement. I don't think they'd understand it, but even if they did, they would never admit it. They wouldn't admit it to their constituents. So while they're giving us a CPI scale or an inflation scale or good news about a new spending bill, that's going to solve a problem in this sector, or that they're saying that with their left hand, they're hiding their right hand, what that means to the purchasing power of the money.

[Matthew Piepenburg 09:29.7] You measure your retirement, your checking account, your portfolio. It's just an invisible theft. It's a slow death by a thousand cuts. Incremental debasement of the currency, but the incremental is now becoming exponential again. Hence, the price rise in gold is one of the key drivers. And these things are all connected, and they're meant to be diverse and hard.

[Matthew Piepenburg 09:49.2] People who have nine-to-five jobs, whether they're dentists, bricklayers, brain surgeons, Whatever, they don't have time to get into the weeds of yields, bond curves, quantitative ease, and tighten, Carney this, Powell that. Everyone has their political opinions. It's very derivative and reductionist, but it comes down to really bad, dysfunctional, drunk-driving monetary policy.

[Jeremy Szafron 10:08.2] Yeah. Amen. And it also comes down to, you know, I guess trust. And again, that brings us to gold. I mean, I know that you've been watching this run up, but let's be honest and just take it out for a second, just between two gentlemen here. I mean, what the hell happened last year? I mean, it happened quite quick.

[Jeremy Szafron 10:24.4] Quicker than most thought.

[Matthew Piepenburg 10:25.5] Yeah. Look, all of us were shocked, but not surprised. I mean, we've been talking about this for years. For years. And by the way, for those many years, well, gold was being mocked by the street as a pawnshop asset or too volatile.

[Matthew Piepenburg 10:41.0] Looking back over the last quarter of a century, it's outperformed even this S and P in total return. So there was a deliberate attempt to misunderstand precious metals. We've been talking about precious metals as



being a far better store of value, not in appreciation versus the S and P, but in holding its purchasing better than a fiat currency.

[Matthew Piepenburg 10:59.4] So what does this mean when we look at \$5,000 gold? If I had talked even a year ago here about \$100 silver that I'll sell on his book. I get it. And I totally. My BS detector, when I was allocating money to others, I was always, Where is this becoming extreme?

[Matthew Piepenburg 11:15.4] And I am very cynical and sceptical. Anyone should be listening to me or anyone else. But do your own homework and think about this, and come with your own conclusions. But what we're seeing, really, in this, what John Robino rightly called just a horizon of distrust across everything, whether it's left or right politics, whether it's globalism, whether it's immigration, whether it's social unrest.

[Matthew Piepenburg 11:32.5] We all have a different opinion. We just don't trust the decisions. And we argue about that. But I think when you look at \$5,000 Gold, you say this, this is a bubble. This looks like Nvidia, or this looks like Lucent, Qualcomm or Amazon circa 1998. I get it. But it's actually much more disturbing than that.

[Matthew Piepenburg 11:48.8] Again, take out my bias if you can. It's what we're seeing with \$5,000 gold isn't a sign of how bubbly gold is. It's in a bull market. It's a difference. The reason it's in a bull market is not that 5,000 or gold should shock you. What should shock you is how bad fiat money has got that gold has to be 5,000.

[Matthew Piepenburg 12:06.5] It's not just a bunch of retailers going crazy to follow the trend. The bulk of this demand is coming from central banks. Retail sectors hardly allocated all this. You see it on news. It's nothing compared to what Central banks are buying. And again, when did Noah build his ark? Before the rain. When do you load your gun?

[Matthew Piepenburg 12:22.0] Before combat, when you did. Do you stock up on food before the snow? What we've just been seeing since we weaponized the US Treasury and the World Reserve Currency in 2022 is a tripling of central bank gold buying. That should be a massive headline. Why are they doing that? They're building the ark before the rain.

[Matthew Piepenburg 12:37.1] They see the rain coming. Where are they building that ark with gold? I'm sorry, I may be a gold guy, but that's not a bias. The world sees this, the BIS sees this, Ray Dalio sees this. Druckenmiller politics again. It's not just the gold cat. Even Morgan Stanley sees this. So again, get past.

[Matthew Piepenburg 12:53.2] He's selling me something. Do your own homework. \$5,000 gold. Of course, it's disturbing, but as many of us, and we meant this, I'm not hoping gold gets to 10,000. I'm afraid it is. Because if gold gets to 10,000, what that sense, what that symptomizes, what the symptom of that is, is a credit system literally burning right in front of our eyes and a currency system melting.

[Matthew Piepenburg 13:14.2] It has been slowly since 1971. Now it's happening exponentially. And that's the real issue. It's the currency. It's the currency derivative of the debt market. It's the explanation of this gold market. And of course, the COMEX can't keep up.

[Jeremy Szafron 13:26.1] No, no, and we need to get into COMEX and talk about this squeeze on this. I want to talk because you keep talking about that gold is currency, and I mean, we've been talking about this for a long time. You have a specific thesis that the next phase might not be gold is currency that we spend in a store, but you know, the settlement asset for trade.

[Jeremy Szafron 13:41.7] So I mean, break this down. What does that actually look like?

[Matthew Piepenburg 13:44.1] Well, here it is. I mean in a way we're getting our, we're getting our signals from the East, not the West. And whether you like them or... I have no desire, as I said many times, live in St. Petersburg, I'm not a shill for Shanghai, I'm a capitalist, I'm an American, I live in Europe, I'm binational, I love the West, and I love capitalism.

[Matthew Piepenburg 14:01.3] But look, you look at the BRICS Enbridge, all these discussions de dollarization that's been here since the 2022, we all get it. It was never going to be a BRICS-backed currency, a gold-backed BRICS currency that all the BRICS nations, what they did because the BRICS countries don't necessarily trust each other, but they do trust gold.



[Matthew Piepenburg 14:19.4] And what they're coming up with solely but surely in the laboratories of their long-term thinking is making gold 40% of any net trade settlement in the BRICS world. So they'll do regional currencies and regional trades on anything from energy to widgets, and then they'll net settle that in gold, which is a brilliant idea.

[Matthew Piepenburg 14:35.5] That way, each nation has the right to still debase its own currency. Because every debt-strapped nation eventually wants the freedom to debase its currency in an emergency. If you have a gold-backed currency in those nations, you can't do it. So that's being realistic. But if you're going to trade, You've got to have a real asset, a coverage, and that's gold.

[Matthew Piepenburg 14:54.1] Even the imf, during the COVID hysteria, when they were talking about the New Bretton Woods 2.0, they said in their little chart, if you watch their video, at the bottom of that chart is gold in the new central bank digital currency dystopia. The only good part of that, for it to have any credibility, it has to have some gold coverage.

[Matthew Piepenburg 15:10.2] So gold doesn't become a new currency, but it becomes part of the ratio, and it's emerging everywhere. And again, that explains why the bad guys are stacking up. Watch what they do, not what they say. I'm not a fan of any of these parties, but you can't deny. Don't fight the Feds, don't fight the central banks.

[Matthew Piepenburg 15:25.3] They're stacking for a reason. It's not just because it's a trend.

[Jeremy Szafron 15:27.7] And I mean distinguish between, I guess we'd call it transferring debt, which is fiat, versus paying it off, which is gold.

[Matthew Piepenburg 15:35.1] Well, you could reprice gold. You could take the 260 million ounces in the US, reprice from \$42 to whatever price at spot or maybe higher. And that's a little QE with gold that takes some of your debt level dents down. That's a whole other conversation. But in the meantime, Gold will give them some liquidity.

[Matthew Piepenburg 15:52.0] But what they'll probably do is they'll just inflate away their debt by debasing the currency and lying about inflation. That's the current mode. And then eventually we'll make it more digital.

[Jeremy Szafron 16:00.6] Yes, see that type of, some type.

[Matthew Piepenburg 16:03.5] Of dysfunctional reset, where Bretton Woods comes in, and we say they'll blame it on anything but themselves. Before it was COVID, then it was Putin. Next will be Venezuela. Who knows? There'll be a bad guy. It will never be the bathroom mirror of the very policymakers who for decades have driven us into this wall, in particularly the US and the Fed,

[Jeremy Szafron 16:21.5] Especially going into an election on the midterms. I mean, that hybrid system that we've talked about, I mean, does the dollar have to die for that to happen? It doesn't.

[Matthew Piepenburg 16:30.4] It just has to be repriced. Who's going to replace the dollar for the world's reserve currency? Who has a better bond market than even our bond market? China doesn't. Who has more? Even with us, even with Trump and all the distrust, the US has some more credibility than any other nation. It also has the cognitive the memory of it, the muscle memory of it.

[Matthew Piepenburg 16:47.3] But its share of FX reserves is getting lower and lower. But it's still a major part of FX swaps. It's still critical of the U.S. treasury is critical to driven trade, which is another topic of risk. But no, the dollar is not going to be replaced. The Chinese and Russians aren't stupid.

[Matthew Piepenburg 17:02.6] They're not going to try and beat the dollar. They're going to go around the dollar just like a good army would do. If they hit a wall, like the Maginot Line, they just go around it. They flank it.

[Jeremy Szafron 17:11.3] So we'll use dollars for commerce, but we'll, you know. Well, central banks will use gold for collateral.

[Matthew Piepenburg 17:16.2] So what I do, I save it gold. And I spend in fiat. When I need to buy something, if I have a big purchase, I'll take some of that gold and I'll liquidate it into fiat, which is functional. I can't go into a Costco with a 100-grand bar or a 100-ounce bar. But I understand, I respect it. I don't see it being money, but I see it as being a better store of value.



[Matthew Piepenburg 17:32.2] Just like the banks and the BIS say it is. Just like the evidence shows, again, why central banks have more of it than Treasuries, and they've been building that for years. They're saving in it because saving in US Treasury, in US Dollars, is saving in an ice cube that's melting. And you're even, even the petro trade, the volatility with that US, with that petrodollar, it was so much less when they had a gold backing.

[Matthew Piepenburg 17:53.8] So even that's getting a little weaker. There's cracks in the oil trade. That's a, that's another hour. But it's fascinating, too.

[Jeremy Szafron 17:59.8] Yeah, it's interesting. You know, you and I were chatting a little bit about. You've been in this industry a long time, and obviously, you have a lot of clients. I'm sure more coming to you. How many of them are waking up to supply squeezes? Comex, LBMA?

[Matthew Piepenburg 18:11.4] Well, look, as we were talking before this, things like quantitative easing, swaps, derivatives, the Comex, they're meant to be incredibly complex and kind of wonky, and they make your eyes roll. And so a lot of people don't see what I think. Was the headline of the year last year?

[Matthew Piepenburg 18:28.0] Was the dysfunction in the comments, as they should. They wouldn't see that. Why would they? I don't understand thoracic surgery, but if I had a lump in my throat or my heart, it was causing palpitations. Some experts probably explain it. So again, the COMEX is the headline. Most clients aren't necessarily coming in with a sophisticated notion of the comex, but they've read and seen enough of our reports that they get the main theme.

[Matthew Piepenburg 18:48.6] I think this is for your listeners, important. Probably many of them already know this. Some will know the COMEX better than us, some won't know anything about it. But I'm not exaggerating. The comic is very simply is, where Derivatives are used by a handful of banks to legally and artificially repress the price of gold and silver by going short.

[Matthew Piepenburg 19:05.3] These levered contracts with 4% gold or silver and 96% paper, they do it every morning. And it's been going on since the 70s. Why? Because gold and silver are the antagonists of fiat money. So it's very important to keep gold and silver under control because it's embarrassing when it rises.

[Matthew Piepenburg 19:21.5] It's a middle finger to the fiat monetary system. And so for years, the COMEX was in the London exchange have been very powerful with this. That's why they created it right after we got off the dollar, gold backing they needed immediately to keep gold suppressed. What happened in 2025 in the silver and the gold markets and the Comex? Again, it is meant to be misunderstood.

[Matthew Piepenburg 19:41.1] Even if it was on the headlines, you wouldn't want to read it because it's too boring. All it came down to, I'm simplifying, dramatically, insulting many of your Comics experts, is there wasn't enough allocated segregated post Basel III gold and silver on these London and New York exchanges for them to even do the shorts they were used to being doing.

[Matthew Piepenburg 19:58.7] If you can't short, you can't manipulate the price. Very simply, that means there's actually a hint of free price discovery and gold and silver. So, as this debt crisis and currency crisis collided and pushed Gold up, the COMEX wasn't there to put it back down again. And that's what was really unique about the price moves in 25.

[Matthew Piepenburg 20:15.7] And look, I've been a trader for decades. I've never seen the lease rate in silver, for example, go above 2. It went to 5. The COMEX in the gold market this summer, literally, it's 1%, stands for living. It just gets levered and rolled over.

[Matthew Piepenburg 20:31.0] Levered and read over, that's the COMEX this summer has 100% delivery for gold. The counterparties on the COMEX wanted physical gold. That's extraordinary. It's extraordinary again for those who don't know the comics doesn't mean anything. But what that signifies is after decades of price fixing, people would. The counterpart would just rather have the gold again because they see the rain, they're building their ark.

[Matthew Piepenburg 20:52.4] They have to. So what can the comics do? And what I think in the silver markets do, they've tried to manipulate. They don't have the silver, so now they press up the margin prices they're trying to come up anyway. Maybe they have limit orders, maybe they'll make it sell only. But what that is saying is they're running out of bullets. And



when that happens, and I think, and this is just a theory, is I think they're going to have a failure to delivery on the comex and silver.

[Matthew Piepenburg 21:16.7] And what that means again, this is wonky to anyone else. The COMEX is supposed to be able to deliver the counterparty the silver if they want to take it out. Not designed for that. It was designed for left, not designed for a run, not for example. And it's like, what's going to happen is going to be a cash settlement only, not an actual delivery. When that happens, that's effectively saying the COMEX has failed.

[Matthew Piepenburg 21:34.9] It's what it's contractually obligated to do. That a futures contract is not a contract at all, it's a cash-settled, bogus contract. That would have a contagion effect on other futures contracts. Probably next in gold, then maybe in wheat. That could be that type of domino 08 kind of moment.

[Matthew Piepenburg 21:51.7] I'm not saying it will happen, but I think it very likely could. And if you see a failure delivery on the Comex, that would be extraordinary because the derivative markets are sick. It's 10 times higher than it was pre-08. And we have 4.4 times derivatives, and we do actual assets in the world, everything's financialized, extended and pretended, papered and levered.

[Matthew Piepenburg 22:13.6] That is a complete clown show. And it only works as long as Everything is going smoothly. As soon as a counterparty fails or delivery fails, and no one, myself included, can time it's not sensational. We've seen this movie before. Can happen again, only this time in a much more dangerous macro environment where banks are 10 times more levered than they were in 08.

[Matthew Piepenburg 22:32.2] Despite Dodd-Frank, they learned nothing from 08. It's extraordinary.

[Jeremy Szafron 22:35.9] Yeah, I mean, if they did learn. Does that mean that this would happen? You know, they're trying not to make this happen. I mean, would this happen this year?

[Matthew Piepenburg 22:43.1] How do I know? You know, how do I know? Even the dot-com bubble, I knew it was over. I didn't know when it was going to pop. On April 14, 2000, I just got out. I did. No one can time it. And my mentors in the risk asset space where I gave money, where I was mentor was guys like Jeremy Grantham. He's far smarter than me. Dalio knows these assets.

[Matthew Piepenburg 22:59.6] But as Grantham said, you can identify a bubble all day long. No one can time one. And there's so many needles pointing to this. It could be an interest rate spike, it could be an official recession by the NBER, a deflationary moment. It could be a failure in the derivatives market, it could be banking failures.

[Matthew Piepenburg 23:15.2] You've got 800, what is it, 800 million ounces coming out of the ground. And silver, silver, you've got banks with 4.4 billion ounces of shorts against it. Those banks get in the short squeeze. On silver, they're going to fail. Does that ever happen before? Yes, we've learned nothing. It's out of sight, out of mind. I know this sounds.

[Jeremy Szafron 23:29.8] But it's, I mean, history does repeat itself. That's just a fact. You know, what about, you know, we started, we talked a little bit about lease rates here, we're talking about backwardation, we were talking about the Shanghai exchange in comparison to the. Is it still East versus West? I mean, it's still arbitraging everything going east.

[Matthew Piepenburg 23:45.0] Well, look, think about it. I mean, when you see silver \$10 higher in Shanghai than you do in London, that's a problem. And look, if I were a nefarious leader in the East, I'd say, and I'm in a currency war with the West and I am playing these type of games, I'd say if New York and London can't give you fair price discovery, the 200 moving day average in gold and Silver is X.

[Matthew Piepenburg 24:07.1] And we can give you real price discovery. Of course, you're going to change the banks, so to speak, you're going to change exchanges, that's going to bring flows to East. So that's what tactically would be the right thing to do. But remember, China and Russia, they may be smart, but they're not without their own problems and their own need to repress gold and silver for their own reasons to stack it.

[Matthew Piepenburg 24:24.8] It's not like they're more moral than London or New York. But they are more clever. They playing chess here and we're playing checkers. They're stacking gold, and we're issuing paper IOUs. And they've been



sharpening their knives waiting for this, but it doesn't mean they don't have their own problems. But I think there'll be a fair place there.

[Matthew Piepenburg 24:41.8] The problem is, will you trust the contracts? Will you trust the counterparties? Will you trust the liquidity? Will you trust the regulation? Although the OTC market here is unregulated, self-regulated, will you trust China? That will take a learning curve. But if they want to win hearts and minds, they've got to give better price discovery. So we'll see.

[Matthew Piepenburg 24:57.3] So none of us know. It's fascinating.

[Jeremy Szafron 24:58.8] You know, everyone here at Vrick, obviously, it's a little bit of a different attitude. I feel like I was saying to Randy Smollett just earlier that Last year, it felt like a \$3,000 gold. Everyone thought, when's it going to come to an end? This year at 5,000, it's here.

[Matthew Piepenburg 25:11.7] And look. And you get no credibility if you're a serious precious metals trader or investor. If you were to say, well, it just goes up and to the right from here, or this is the new floor, you will get no credibility. But on a technical and fundamental basis, what I can say, we've seen 2.8x moves in my lifetime already.

[Matthew Piepenburg 25:31.3] In the gold price, I think the first time was in 70, 79. Again, this is bear trough to bull high. 8x move 79. Another one happened in 2001. 8x move from bear trough to bull high.

[Matthew Piepenburg 25:47.3] The last bear trough technically was 2015 with gold to 1050. Well, we're in that now. Even when closing at 4500 last year, that's only a 4x move. We still have another forex to go. Technically, fundamentally, the gold-silver ratio, the direction of central banks.

[Matthew Piepenburg 26:03.2] There's an easy case to be made technically and fundamentally for much higher gold. But you also have to recognize that in all bull markets, secular bull markets, in gold, you can see major retracements like we saw midway through 71 to 80, where gold got kneecapped in 75 and 76. So anyone thinking about gold and silver, especially as a preservation asset, can say, "Look, I'm ready for that, I can handle it."

[Matthew Piepenburg 26:24.0] I just know my gold worth more 20 years now than what I bought it today. If you're a trader, all power to you. Good luck. Very few people do. Well, that's more risky. If you just think you can buy gold at 5 and you're never going have a problem, that's risky. But if you think you're waiting for a pullback to buy it, that too is risky.

[Matthew Piepenburg 26:39.6] So you've got to know why you're buying gold. You've got to know why.

[Jeremy Szafron 26:42.1] So I mean that fundamental that. You talked about central banks. Obviously, we see the World Gold Council, the reports, we see what People are kind of holding. Maybe not China, you know, the U.S.S. Though, maybe not the U.S.S. exactly. But I guess the question is, you know, is there finally narrative out there that the banks are the hidden hand here as the buyer from the sovereigns.

[Matthew Piepenburg 27:02.0] Yeah, yeah.

[Jeremy Szafron 27:02.9] Are they starting to accumulate this as a currency product?

[Matthew Piepenburg 27:05.2] Well, we don't really know who's taking delivery of the comics. And my guess is if I were Jamie Dimon, it'd be Jamie Dynam. He's not stupid, you know. And so that's the great mystery. First of all, let's just. Do a frickin audit. Come on. If gold is a major part of the future, whether you believe in it or not, East certainly does.

[Matthew Piepenburg 27:24.6] He who has the most gold wins, as Kissinger said. But he also said, "Be careful if you revalue gold because what if some other country, if we revalue gold at 20,000 to cover some of our M0 deficits, well then that's a new floor. But then what if China does have more gold than us? Then who has the leverage?"

[Matthew Piepenburg 27:40.1] I don't know. What does Russia really have? The World Gold Council does not tell us the. Not because they're dishonest, because they don't know. Why don't we have the audit? So it's very convoluted if we had more.

[Jeremy Szafron 27:52.2] Not this year. Not on a midterm year.



[Matthew Piepenburg 27:54.0] No, no, but that was again, not pro or anti-Trump. But that was another promise. It just hasn't been delivered. Peace in the Ukraine, not delivered. Epstein list. Not delivered. Look, I'm not anti-Trump or pro. I'm just saying. Just anti. I'm cyclical about politicians in general, but a lot of things have not been delivered.

[Matthew Piepenburg 28:09.6] But that Elon Musk. Everyone's so excited about this audit. Crickets. Crickets. Usually, there's a reason for that.

[Jeremy Szafron 28:15.2] You know, I got to ask you, I mean, you track that trust metric that we've talked about a little bit. The faith in sovereign credit. I mean, in this environment, after everything we just talked about. I mean, if the Fed is active in the foreign exchange markets. And you know, yields are rising despite these cuts.

[Jeremy Szafron 28:30.2] I mean, have we crossed that threshold? I mean, is it just math now?

[Matthew Piepenburg 28:33.9] I think it is just math. And that's the hard reality of precious metals. Again, doesn't mean you're just going to get rich overnight with gold and never goes down. But everything is a debt crisis, and that means it's a currency crisis. It's as old as History 101. They are just trying to churn and talk and speak around an inevitable sickness.

[Matthew Piepenburg 28:54.2] And so they can technically create mathematically different yields and safer flows and help bond markets, but they'll always do that at the expense of the currency. You can save the US Treasury anytime you want. You can buy them all with a mouse click, money through credit expansion, but that will slowly kill your currency.

[Matthew Piepenburg 29:14.4] And again, ancient Rome, 1500, Portugal, the Dutch, the British Empire, Weimar, Yugoslavia, the extreme examples. But even the US is not immune, has no impunity, can do it longer, but has no impunity from debasing its currency to the point where it's no longer trusted.

[Matthew Piepenburg 29:30.0] When trust dies, that's the end. Not the end of the world, just the end of that system. And so, how do you quantify trust? How do you measure trust? Is it how many riots you see every year? How many wars we involved in, how many social unrest events? I don't know. But we all kind of feel it, and we all kind of see it.

[Matthew Piepenburg 29:46.8] And the only way to avoid a real crisis is genuine constructive destruction. Austerity, dishonesty and living within our means. That's going to hurt everybody. And I don't think a politician can get elected on that. I just don't.

[Jeremy Szafron 29:59.1] Yeah, well said. You know, going into this next year, I mean, what, what is that kind of, I mean, you've literally everyone's chasing a price target here at the show, as you know, and you've called this a smoke alarm. So, I mean, you know, for an investor that doesn't watch this like you and me, what, what do you think that smoke signal is this year?

[Matthew Piepenburg 30:17.0] Well, look, I, for years and everyone asked me a price target. I always say it's not to avoid the question or evade the question. I say it's going to be meaningfully higher because paper money is going to get meaningfully weaker. And when you're measuring a price in any asset, including gold and silver in a fiat currency, it's like trying to put a hockey puck into a moving net or throw a pitch at a Catcher's glove. That's moving.

[Matthew Piepenburg 30:41.2] You're just measuring something. That's inherently melty. You can measure it in Z gun, says chickens or barrels of oil, or real estate. But again, a \$5,000 or \$7,000 goal as a price target is a smoke signal. That's really not about the gold and silver that we're price targeting.

[Matthew Piepenburg 30:56.4] It's about how much we distrust the underlying currency. And we have the muscle memory of. Most people are good. They trust their central bankers and politicians. Not because they're stupid or naive. They just assume that everyone would say the truth. When you've been in our game, a veteran of this combat long enough and looked under enough hoods, that trust died a long time ago.

[Matthew Piepenburg 31:17.6] And in a sense, you're an insider. So. And believe me, many of my clients are bankers and hedge fund managers. They're in the system. They don't trust it. So what have they been stacking for years? Gold. So when you have the advantage of being a combat veteran of that space, you know what ammo to use, which grenades don't work, which trenches are safe, which trenches are dangerous.



[Matthew Piepenburg 31:35.1] That's not genius. It's just experience. And you try to convey that to other people and, and you make them hope they believe you. But if they don't, at least look into it. Don't just be cynical. I would be cynical. I'm the first guy to question anything sold to me. But it's history more than it is economics.

[Matthew Piepenburg 31:50.7] It's basic math, and it's the history of currency destruction to monetize debt gone wild. And the fault of that lies in our policymakers exclusively. And this independent beast from Jekyll Island, it's called the Federal Reserve, which is neither federal normal, nor reserve that sits on Constitutional Avenue and is a violation of Article 1, Section 8 of our Constitution, made legal by Woodrow Wilson in 1913 against his will.

[Matthew Piepenburg 32:15.5] So it's a fascinating story. But again, most people. Most people don't have time for this. Of course not. I wouldn't. Yeah. If I were a paediatrician in State St. Joe, Michigan, I wouldn't.

[Jeremy Szafron 32:25.9] So what about it? people. There is a retail crowd there that maybe are looking at the gold price. They've seen it in the headlines. I mean, MSNBC is even talking about it at this point, for God's sakes. What if they say, what about the gold miners? I mean, we're here at Vrick. Do you think that there's still an opportunity on this run there?

[Matthew Piepenburg 32:42.0] Look, I'm not a speculator anymore. I'm not at all. And I'm not. There's a real fat pitch for the gold miners. Whether you know a lot or a little. I know a little bit. Enough to be dangerous, but not enough to be a fiduciary. But it's very simple. When the spot price is significantly higher than the cost of production, that's usually a real tailwind. JP Morgan is creating a trillion-dollar a ten-year fund to invest in minerals necessary for national interest.

[Matthew Piepenburg 33:04.3] Look, while buying the gold. Exactly. But I mean that, that space is so small. We had 270 billion in the mining space, went to 800 billion last year. That little bit of capital does a lot to push those prices up not to mention the momentum tourist trade of retailers trying to get rich quick, trying to find alpha, where they've been, where They can't find any relatives.

[Matthew Piepenburg 33:25.7] There's a lot of technical and fundamental reasons why the miners could do well. You could do the indexes, you could do your homework on the individual miners. That takes some expertise, too. Or you could just put a blindfold on, go with the long index, and you'll probably get a 2 or 3x return. But again, I can't promise that. But if we're looking at the price of gold secularly, the price of silver Secularly, the miners are going to rip.

[Matthew Piepenburg 33:46.2] But again, know your entry, know your exit and don't take my risk because I am not, I don't invest in these risk assets on the precious metal side, not because there's nothing to be had there. I just don't have enough skill, and I'm too old and too, too boring. Now I'm just a wealth preservation guy, and I'm nothing against speculation.

[Matthew Piepenburg 34:02.8] I would certainly recommend people look into the mining space, but there's the Ross Beaties and the Frank Schuster of the world and certainly the Rick Rules too, who know this space better than me and Amen.

[Jeremy Szafron 34:11.1] Well, here's the thing. We're going to have all three of those gentlemen joining me right here at Vrick this week, of course, Matt Pipenberg from VON GREYERZ. It's been so great to talk to you, but also, during this run, you know, I got to get you on every quarter, I feel like, because there's a little bit of truth here that we don't get from a lot of other people, and maybe that's for a reason.

[Jeremy Szafron 34:29.1] So I appreciate that.

[Matthew Piepenburg 34:30.4] Pleasure.

[Jeremy Szafron 34:30.8] All right, thank you so much, man.