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[Black Swan Capitalists: 00:38.1] And welcome back to the programme. Today we're joined by Matthew Piepenberg, partner at VON GREYERZ's Gold Switzerland, author and one of the most consistent voices on wealth preservation, monetary history and systemic risk. Matthew, as always, it's a real pleasure.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 00:52.5] To have you back.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 00:53.6] We deeply respect your work, your discipline and your long-term perspective. Thank you for joining us again.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 00:59.4] Well, thanks for the invitation. I always enjoy speaking with you both, so never, never a lack of things to discuss, certainly these days. But I'm glad to be here.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 01:07.2] Yeah, definitely. Especially this coming year. So, I guess we could start off here. Matthew, for people that may be new to your work, how would you describe the. I'd say the current global financial environment and your current outlook on everything playing out as of now?

[Matthew Piepenburg: 01:27.3] Yeah, I was talking to someone the other day, and he was reminding me of these kind of academic things. They're called mental models, and it's a way to try and make simplified explanations of different disciplines. Right. So in physics, a mental model would be gravity.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 01:43.2] Newton, you know, an apple falls in the tree, it goes down, not up. Or in, in military a mental model would be take the high ground. Right. In economics, the mental model or the simplification that I would say is debt destroys, it destroys nations, it destroys cultures, it certainly destroys currencies.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 02:02.4] When I look backwards many years, I've been looking at markets and macros, and as I look at where we are today and certainly where we're heading, to simplify it, we have a massive debt history behind this, a debt dysfunction, I think drunk, driving malmanagement of our monetary systems and our debt systems.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 02:23.8] And there are long reasons and storeys behind that and evidence of it, and that's colliding with a currency crisis, which is obviously what happens when you monetize that debt, with mouse click money. And that's again simplifying. When you monetise money, you debase the money. They call it the debasement trade now, but it's really just nothing new in the sun in history.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 02:43.0] This is. The more things change, the more they stay the same. We've seen these cycles before, before, and the short answer is we're heading into a debt-based monetary crisis, into some form of monetary reset, which is a term that is misused and misunderstood and totally frankly unpredictable in some ways how it plays out.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 03:02.0] But it's a wealth transfer because if you've been saving in fiat money and believing in fiat money and trusting the experts and whether that's your registered investment advisor down the street, you know, your shingle advisor or your private wealth management guy at Goldman or JP Morgan or Wells Fargo, or whether it's your central banker or your senator or your president, they're not honest about the, the, the melting nature of your purchasing power and the money you measure your wealth in.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 03:30.5] Again, for so many reasons and with so many evidentiary points, that's where we are. And of course, for me, where I come into this. Having been a risk asset trader for years, I'm looking to build my wealth and the classic risk assets and trading, which they have nothing against.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 03:46.4] But you're still measuring whatever that wealth is. Whether you're trading stocks or bonds or cryptos, if you're measuring your wealth in paper money, you're running uphill in roller skates for many, like myself, who kind of made the transition.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 04:02.2] When you understand the history of the debt and the cycles we're in, you need to protect your wealth in a different way than you've been taught and that we've been taught. And that requires some contrarian thinking. And not just contrarian for contrarian sake, but informed thinking about alternatives to fiat paper money systems without becoming wacky or cook a doo about it.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 04:25.1] For decades, my partner, Egon von Greyerz, has been thinking about this. How to measure his wealth, how to preserve his wealth. A lot of hedge fund guys and bankers that are clients of mine and friends of mine had understood this before me. It took me maybe 10 years ago to recognise this.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 04:41.2] And so I looked at precious metals in general, and gold in particular, is one way to do that for myself. It's the analogue pet rock, barbarous relic, and I get that. But it still holds its purchasing power better than any paper currency, whether that's even a Swiss franc or a euro or a US dollar, Canadian, Australian, et cetera.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 05:04.7] It doesn't mean 100% concentration in just metals, and it doesn't mean that these assets can't have price volatility. But in general, since we went off the gold standard and started printing money in excess to monetise our debts, it's just an empirical reality that the dollars lost 99% versus gold.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 05:22.4] And so it just was a eureka moment for me to rethink how I save and how I spend. So I save like a central bank in the east in precious metals, and I spend in fiat when I need liquidity. Basically, the business model of what I do, Egon doesn't like when I say it.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 05:40.4] We're basically landlords and insurance salesmen. I'm a landlord in the sense that I put a lot of gold in the ground and charge a fee for it. It's a very good piece of ground. It's a very good hole in the ground. It's a, it's a bedrock vault. It's the best vault in the world. And I charge rent, and we charge rent, and then we're insurance salesmen because we're basically insuring your wealth against the the open, dying, reality-burning reality of paper fiat currencies.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 06:05.7] And so that's a simple answer. But ultimately, I have a very jaded view of our experts and the policymakers and I don't even want to say the misunderstandings, I would say the deliberate lies that they tell us, from civics in high school to MBA programmes in the us, of what is wealth, what is money, what is a currency, what is a currency versus money.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 06:29.3] How do currencies really work? That's not really. Miss. Excuse me. I don't think it's really understood and taught correctly. I think gold has been intentionally ignored and intentionally misunderstood, and it takes some real informed thinking to make that jump.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 06:44.6] You shouldn't, certainly shouldn't do it just because I said so or because I'm on the sell side of gold. I've been on the buy side most of my life. After I got out of the hedge fund space, I got that BS detector, and I look at a lot of things. So anyone listening should look at gold and silver with their own set of parameters and listen to more than one view.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 07:03.3] It's just where myself and many others have come to. And I think this debt crisis, monetary crisis, is also going to express itself in ways we can't fully predict. But what you guys know better than me is the technical architecture behind the future. And I think a big peanut butter versus jelly moment is coming, with a new currency system, and a new technological tokenomics, as you would say, smart tokenomics, inevitable tokenomics of the digitalisation and tokenisation of so many.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 07:34.7] Also part of that future. So massive changes. In short, guys are coming. You know that. A lot of your listeners know that. Certainly, all of my clients and our clients know that. And we try to be prepared rather than just psychic. None of us could predict some of the moves. We saw the speed and the exponential rise in 25 gold and silver, and the exponential, I think, fall in fiat money and distrust in fiat money.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 08:01.0] So all of these things are connected. History, currencies, monetary policy, precious metals, Technology, it's all happening very fast, and for most people, understandably, it's very confusing. And, they're looking for lighthouses in the fog to try and find their bearings here.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 08:17.2] And hopefully some have been prepared. It's never too late to get informed. That's free. But I recognise that for many Americans, many listeners anywhere in the world, they're feeling very nervous about their future, and they're very nervous about their wealth, whether it's a large amount, a small amount, or just trying to build it.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 08:34.8] It's very difficult to do in these times. But there's great opportunities in times of crisis as well. So it's important to really keep informed.



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[Black Swan Capitalists: 08:42.9] Yeah, you've often said we. Yeah, we agree with you, definitely. You've often said that gold isn't really rising in value, it's fiat currencies that are falling and.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 08:53.3] Right.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 08:53.9] You know, for some of our audience, I think it's important that you explain why this distinction is so important. Because many of the investors, they still treat this as a speculative asset.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 09:04.5] Sure. And you can't blame them. I did for many years. When I was coming up in Wall Street, and certainly when I was running a hedge fund during the dot com bubble in the late 90s, early 2000s, out of San Francisco and then New York, everything was dot com.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 09:19.9] This, valuation, that trend, this gold wasn't on anyone's minds. This was the best of times. Certainly, in grad school and in the banks that we brokered through or the banks that I worked in, no one really allocated the gold.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 09:35.2] It was, again, I think at that time I felt just unimportant, given the opportunity costs and so many other ways to make money. It was the pre-Bitcoin boom, but it was the dot-com boom that was IPOs. Pre IPOs. It was Robbie Stevens.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 09:50.2] They were spitting out IPOs every minute. In my case, my partner and I bought an IPO from Goldman Sachs. Pre ipo. We didn't even do any due diligence. It was lunch. But that was how it was. And those IPOs did very well. So we weren't thinking about preservation, not just because we were young, but because this was a moment in that time in history where there was so much easier money to be made in the NASDAQ or in equities, or in IPOs, or in structured products.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 10:14.9] And so why would you be thinking about gold in your 20s, and why would you be thinking about it anyway? There was so much money. The shoeshine boy quote, unquote. Knew you should buy Qualcomm or Lucent, you know, and commerce, won or what was big at the time. And I think with that mentality at that time, there just wasn't a consideration of wealth preservation.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 10:33.0] There wasn't a fear that your inflation was slowly eating away at the purchasing power of your money. So it was kind of out of sight, out of mind. But I think the larger, more cynical reason is that look, governments run on fiat money, which means they run on debt, and they need debt to sustain themselves.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 10:48.9] Especially the US by 2000, when it outsourced the American dream to China. When CEOs decided, Hey, I get cheaper labour overseas, the WTO allows it, I'll kill the Rust Belt in the US, and I'll start hiring much cheaper labour in Central America, but primarily in eastern China.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 11:04.9] And I'll get better earnings, better margins and better share Prices and Better 2nd 3rd homes in Nantucket or Long Island because it's just easier to do debt, and easy money was the thing. And that's true of CEOs; it's also true of governments. The US Fed can print money to monetise decisions.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 11:22.1] Whoever's in the White House, left, right, red or blue. It's been true since Nixon in 71 that you know, there's no longer a golden chaperone to your currency. So you can create as much of it as you want, and then you can take as much debt as you want, and then you can export that debt or that inflation outside of the world because the world's buying your US Treasuries, they're buying your dollars through all sorts of mechanisms, including the petrodollar, which we can talk about.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 11:46.1] But that's the exorbitant privilege of having a fiat paper currency as a world reserve currency. And so you're not taught about currency debasement or the hidden, invisible tax of currency destruction. It happens by a thousand cuts. It's death by a thousand cuts. Again, gold versus the dollar is clearly outperformed because the dollar has just gotten weaker from overproduction, too much credit expansion from low rates since the eighties and zero bound for many years.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 12:12.7] So you have this clear credit expansion, debt expansion, which is debt-based growth, which to me is an oxymoron. It's not real growth. But while you're enjoying the euphoria in the good times, the temporary prosperity, as Hemingway called it, you don't think about those things, and the government doesn't want you to think about these things.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 12:31.4] The Fed doesn't want you to think about these things because rising gold, when it becomes very clear, is really an open middle finger to failed paper fiat money systems. And so you downplay gold, you call it a pawn shop asset, describe it as too volatile.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 12:47.8] There's a million excuses that the sell side has been given to gold for decades. It's ironic because in the last 25 years, gold has outperformed the S and P in the Dow and an annualised return, total return. So it's hardly a pawn shop asset anymore.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 13:03.2] It's hardly considered a too volatile asset. And I think there's a deliberate desire on the street, on the sell side and certainly the central banks and commercial banks, to push gold aside. You also can't churn it and lever it in a private wealth arm and get fees off it in the same way you can charging for stock and bond portfolios or private equity pool 1, 2 or 3 or venture capital pool 6, 7 and 8.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 13:27.1] These are how banks make their money. They're much more profitable than just giving you amount of gold that you can put anywhere or putting into an etf. It's not as profitable for them. So there's a number of reasons. I think gold has been misunderstood, deliberately so. But you know, again, you step back from your perspective of I'm a stock guy in my 20s, or the world doesn't understand gold, or the government doesn't want you to get it, or the sell side can't profit off it.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 13:52.4] I never took the time to really read Thomas Gresham or David Hume in those days, or von Mises or Reinhardt and Rogoff for God's sakes. Because what I would have learned is eventually, when you have a system of that kind of debt, at some point. We learned this in the 1500s, the 1600s, the 1900s, the 2000s.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 14:11.4] Eventually, bad money is replaced by good money. Eventually, folks look for alternatives to bad money. What we're seeing in the gold and silver price this year, what we're seeing in central bank gold stacking, what we're seeing at the BIS, what we're seeing even at Morgan Stanley with their gold allocations now, is clients and people are now seeing the devaluation of the money.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 14:31.7] They feel their inflation, even if it's not reported accurately at all. And they're looking now for anti-fiat assets because they are looking for better money, right? Real money, because paper money is just a currency. It's backed by literally nothing, and it's created literally out of thin air.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 14:47.8] I'm simplifying again, but it's fascinating. And yes, to your point, gold's not really doing anything but do what it always does, hold its purchasing power. Well, the dollar and the euro and other currency have been very busy debasing themselves to monetise the debt that's created by their quote, unquote, expert leadership at a central bank or a White House near you.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 15:09.6] And that's important because the most misunderstood aspect of modern finance is that when money is created, it's not entering society evenly. It's tilted in their favour. So it goes through the banks first, the institutions. And what they do is use that as a mechanism to consolidate assets and keep the system solvent by inflating those assets.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 15:31.2] That's the Cantillon Effect.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 15:32.7] Right, Exactly. I was going to say that's Richard Cantillon and that inflation is not colorblind and it's not class blind, really benefits the top 10%, as Cantelon said, because when you do debase the currency, you certainly when. And certainly when you print money.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 15:47.9] We saw the correlation between QE 1, 2, 3, 4. Operation Twist is a direct correlation between monetary mouse click money at the Fed and the stock market. Direct markets are very Pavlovian when you're printing trillions. Of course, that's going to go into the markets directly and indirectly.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 16:03.9] When you're keeping rates repressed, that's going to make the borrowing costs for S and P companies cheaper to buy back their own shares to leverage. And that inflation in the stock market is actually temporary prosperity, primarily for the top 10%. Really, the top 10% owns more than 80% of stock market wealth in the US.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 16:23.2] As the Cantillon Effect says, if you already have real estate and stocks, and then you debase the money, and you see inflation in real estate and inflation in equities, you're going to actually get richer on paper. What's very



sad is for those that are in their 30s, like my children, who think they're failing somehow because they don't have a house and a two-car garage at 35 or 30 or 28, like I could in my generation, is they think it's their fault, but it's not.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 16:50.2] And certainly for the middle class who've been savers, who followed the rules, who kept, who tried to save and tried to avoid extravagant spending and live within their means and put their money in a checking account and hopefully not a credit card at 22% interest rates, which are brutal when a checking account gives them 2%.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 17:10.7] But those who even tried to save, what have they got? Nothing for that. The invisible tax of inflation is just eating away at that saving in a compounding way. And that is a wealth transfer from the poor to the rich, and the rich stay richer.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 17:25.9] I wrote a book called [*Rigged to Fail*](#) in 2019. A lot of it was about what an insider trade, the entire system really is. And that sounds very sensational, but I saw it. I saw even with myself, my insider contacts, legal at Goldman Sachs, made it easier for someone educated and surrounded by other people's money to make more.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 17:46.3] And for people who are hard working, middle class, where I came from in the Midwest, blue collar families, you're not getting that information, you're not getting that advice, you're certainly, you're not getting those opportunities. And no one's talking about the Cotillon effect, of Toledo, Ohio, wealth management office.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 18:02.0] They're just saying, buy this portfolio, buy this bond and bite a stick if things go wrong. But again, so much of middle-class America doesn't have the luxury to even look at a 401 (k). They don't have one. And even if they did, they wouldn't even see the risk facing those assets right now.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 18:20.0] And they wouldn't go to gold or silver because someone they trust told them they didn't need to. Not because they're stupid, because most people are very trusting, they're very good, and they trust the experts. And one of the things you learn on Wall Street and life, I guess, as you get more cynical, is don't trust the experts, not all of them, that includes myself.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 18:40.2] But I think, you know, it's like you've got a BS detect on your own. I learned that the hard way. And then you find the right mentors, and then you see the light sometimes. I certainly did with Egon and others who taught me about sound money, and certainly other managers who told me what to read and what not to read.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 18:56.7] But yeah, inflation is not fair to all people. It doesn't affect them equally. Ultimately, it hurts everyone. Even the high net worth clients that we have at VON GRAYEYER's are worried about inflation, and certainly it affects them, but not in the way it hurts someone making a middle class salary with two kids in school and bills to pay.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 19:16.9] They're absolutely getting gut-punched right now, and even the gold price for them is becoming more and more prohibitive. And if they're trying to get in now, I respect it because they've trusted me for so long not to. And now there's a sudden FOMO, and Then there's a sudden spike. There's a fear that they've reach peak gold or even if they could afford gold, they can't.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 19:35.6] So it's a lot of cross currents of trust and mistrust and unfounded trust and naive trust, but not stupid trust. I think people are generally good. They wouldn't imagine that Nixon or Powell or Volcker or anyone else could be telling them anything but the brilliant truth.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 19:54.6] And I think we're discovering now that trust across the horizon in politics and markets and currencies is starting to be questioned. Most people just don't know who to ask. They just know things feel bad, they can't afford as much as they could before, and they can't quite figure out who to blame or what to blame.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 20:11.5] So there's a lot of splinteredness in the country right now, correct?

[Black Swan Capitalists: 20:16.1] Yeah, yeah, definitely. Totally agree with you, Matthew. I did have one follow-up question because you touched on gold for a second. Now I know you've been obviously seeing gold go on this parabolic run in recent months, and pretty much it's sitting at all-time highs.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 20:34.8] But that parabolic move alone, which is not very common, what is that signalling to you? Does that say that, okay, there's a light towards safety because of inflation fears, or is this really a complete breakdown of trust in the currency fiat currency system?



[Black Swan Capitalists: 20:54.7] Or is that central banks? I mean, what do you think is going on?

[Matthew Piepenburg: 20:58.4] I think it's much more of the latter, you know, and I think, look, obviously, if you're one of many who have been thinking about gold and silver for years, and many of your listeners have, some haven't, it's fine. Anyone who's gotten into gold, even the last four or five years, we're all very happy to see the price move.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 21:17.2] Again, it's somewhat paradoxical because it's a price move measured in melting ice cubes in a broken scale of fiat, money. I'd measure it more in how many barrels of oil or what kind of real estate or how many chickens can I buy with my gold, not what's the dollar price, but clearly, you know, we'd be disingenuous not to say we're not happy to see it or that we expected this.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 21:36.1] I didn't expect it to move this fast in one year, but it doesn't surprise me or anyone else in the space. What does it really signal other than good news for the top and bottom line? For people that were thinking ahead, fine, but that's great for a very small minority. Most people don't have gold. What it really means, beyond, the selfish bottom line benefit as many who were in it early, what it really means is a neon flashing signal that the credit system is breaking down, that there is a turning in the global credit markets and then in the liquidity of these markets.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 22:07.0] That sounds kind of wonky, but what it really means is there is a flight away from currencies, paper currencies, in particular the US dollar, the world reserve currency. And that's never a good thing because it's a signal of a major transition, it's a needed transition away from the dishonesty and the mismanagement and the abuse of the dollar system, really, since 44 and particularly since 71, I'd say, since 1913 when the Fed came into fruition.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 22:33.0] But there is a needed change, but that change is usually messy. There are winners and losers. Most of the winners are on the inside. Most of the losers are in the middle class or the trusting masses. The first to get drafted and the first to get shafted. They're the plankton of all these experiments of the Wall Street whales.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 22:51.0] So when you see gold rising it's because there is less need and trust in the prior kind of sacred cows, which was the US 10 year as that risk return asset that everyone had to get in the petrodollar system that was a big pillar, and in the US dollar and for a number of reasons and you spend hours on each.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 23:12.6] The world is especially the central banks of the world in the east are for various reasons dumping those U.S. treasuries and stacking gold. Not because they want more jewellery or dental work, or it's just a buzz in the gold space.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 23:27.8] It is a structural sign that trust in the old system is declining and breaking. And that usually leads to a lot of chaos. And there's all kinds of symptoms of the chaos. That is why, again, right now the gold price is moving predominantly on central bank institutional purchases.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 23:47.6] It still makes up less than 2% 1% of retail allocations, global allocations. We don't even have the big move yet. I think in the past we've seen median and ranges of gold ownership. It's 6% of allocations, 5%, 4%.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 24:03.2] Right now, we're not even at 1%. So when the retail side or the Main street side or the, you know, non-institutional, non-central bank shadow banking side discovers gold in a more meaningful way, that will just be another tailwind for this metal. But right now, what's even scarier is the real driver are the old usual suspects.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 24:22.7] The central banks, sovereign wealth funds, the ultra high net worth, the ones who do know the history, the ones who have been advised and ones who have the storeys and the data in front of them and look at their wealth measured in currencies, fiat, currencies as a melting ice cube and are now stacking the gold.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 24:40.9] When you see central bankers, since 2014, really is when it began, it became exponential after 2022, when we weaponised the world reserve currency against a major nuclear power, the R in BRICS, doing trade arrangements with the C in BRICS. Those are two major powers you can't push around like Venezuela or Iran.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 25:00.3] And so trust in that weaponised, already over indebted sacred 10 year US treasury and US dollar and the system behind it failed. Whether you were friend, enemy or somewhere in the middle against the US when that world reserve currency became weaponised, trust in it fell even more.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 25:17.8] And now you're seeing the consequences of that. And I wasn't the first or the only at all to see that. But March, February of 2022 was as big a turning point for the US dollar and the monetary system is 1971, August because that was a breaking point in we've gone too far.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 25:36.6] The US had already gone too far in debt. Its balance sheet when I was born was 250 billion, today it's 38 trillion. The Fed's balance sheet is, excuse me, not the Fed's balance sheet. Public debt has become absurd. The trillions are unpayable, they're unsustainable. That was known before we weaponised the dollar.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 25:52.8] When we added on to that debt distrusted IOU from Uncle Sam, the fact that we could then weaponise it and bully with it, well, that was a bridge too far, I think. And what we've seen since 2022 is the slow and steady rise of gold and the slow and steady dumping of U.S. treasuries. And that has massive implications. The U.S. gets desperate when no one's buying its U.S. treasuries. The U.S. gets desperate; no one wants its U.S. dollar. Social policies inside the nation get crazy, and foreign policies get crazy.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 26:25.2] And what we just saw in Venezuela is a classic example of that because the petrodollar and the US treasury are the two pillars to hegemony. And both of those things are wobbling right now, and they've been wobbling for years. And I don't know the future, but I see the direction, and the direction is slow and steady.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 26:43.1] It's not the end of the world, reserve currency dollar today or tomorrow or next week. But there is a growing move to go around that dollar. Not replace it, just reprice it. And that's why gold and silver are rising.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 26:54.7] Yeah, can I add something to that real quick? That's why I think it's so important when we look at the stable coins, because the stable coins are now becoming the largest buyers of treasury bills. And what's very interesting and more troubling is that when you look at the stablecoin issuance, they generate some revenue.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 27:11.6] And what they've been doing with that revenue is using it to buy gold as well, while at the same time trying to publicly reinforce the dollar dominance. So it's very interesting how they're trying to use this as a mechanism to extend the dollar system so they can buy up all the assets.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 27:28.5] You know, versatile. Isn't that just a classic magic trick? Look at the left.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 27:31.9] Magic trick.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 27:33.1] Look at the left hand while I gut punch you with the right hand. I mean, it's actually the genius act. It is. It's quite brilliant. It's quite devious. But you have to give him credit. It's quite brilliant. And again, the average citizen or buyer of stablecoins in Turkey or Argentina isn't supposed to kind of look under the hood and see how it really works.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 27:51.3] It's just, hey, it's an E\$. It's great. It's liquid, it's fast, it's efficient, it's transparent. It's great. It's better than my Lear. It's better than my peso. I'll do it. But to your point, look a little deeper. It is brilliant. Like I said, Uncle Sam needs buyers for its unloved dollar. And it's unloved U.S.

treasury. Why not force the buying of stablecoin? Not force the buying, but it's a kingmaker too, by the way. You get these fintech issuers of these stable coins or these banks like JP Morgan, they get to, you know, they get to take a dollar from you, give you an E dollar back.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 28:25.4] They take your dollar. They do have to buy US Treasuries. That's a win for Uncle Sam. But they get the yield on those US treasuries that you don't get. You just get the E\$, which is great, but they get the yield. They make billions on the yield. You get nothing but the E dollar. And then they reinvest that into Something better than the dollar.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 28:42.1] It's classic. So they're asking you to buy their dollar, but what they're doing with the profits from that dollar is look for something better than that dollar. And that, of course, is real money. And you know, it doesn't mean gold and silver, a straight line, or gold's a straight line asset, but it holds its value better. So the insiders are taking your money, giving you an E dollar, making some yield on the 10-year or the treasury, wherever they buy it, and then investing in gold or something else.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 29:03.8] It is a classic. It is genius.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 29:05.8] It is genius.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 29:06.6] Extremely, extremely devious. But again, the dental hygienist, the, you know, the school teacher, the hard-working, you know, Ford Motor plant guy throwing his money into a 401k isn't supposed to ask these questions or know how this is working. He isn't supposed to, yeah, I've got a bonus this year.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 29:23.2] I got an extra, what, thousand, \$5,000. But that \$5,000 buys you so much less. You're being suckered. And again, the inflation rate, the target rate, it's a whole other subject, but it's a lie. I mean, the compounding rate of inflation is so much higher than the targeted rate.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 29:40.5] But that's another, like you mentioned, the Kentillion effect. There was a great economist, Charles, Goodhart came out in the 70s, and it's not sensational. I mean, I've looked at this in the CPI within employment. But he said when you politicise data, whether it's growth or employment or rates, certainly inflation, he literally showed you it's literally almost always a lie because it's not politicised.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 30:01.2] And again, that's an exaggeration. But the stablecoin ruse, and the inflation is contained ruse has kept the average American just openly robbed because they trust, they trust, and they believe. But at some point, they realise that 20 bucks doesn't buy nearly what it did five years ago.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 30:19.5] I don't care what the CPI scale says, I don't care what my congressman or my president says. I feel it.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 30:24.7] The core issue with the whole Stablecoin thing is that they're backed by the same toxic assets.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 30:29.8] It is crazy, devious, genius. And to your point, it's even more simple in a lot of ways because look, the inflation rate just is a lie. It's an open lie. But there's a devious reason for that, too. There's the famous European Commission president, Jean Claude Juncker, who said it a few years back, when the data is really bad.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 30:49.0] We lie. We just lie. We make it up. But think about it. If you're a debtor like the US and you're issuing constant unlimited amounts of IOUs to keep the rotten wings wind beneath the wings of your growth going, you need to constantly find buyers of your debt, and you need to pay for that debt.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 31:07.3] But if you have to pay for that debt, you want to pay for that debt in a debased currency. You want to weaken your currency, to debase your currency, to inflate it away because it inflates away your debt at a much higher rate. It's much better to be a debtor in inflation than a lender. If you're buying US Treasuries, you're a lender, you're the sucker.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 31:24.7] If you're issuing U.S. treasuries, you're the winner. But of course, if you're issuing treasuries at the Fed or at the U.S. Treasury Department or the White House, you want it to be debased, but you don't want to out loud admit that you're doing this in inflationary way. You don't want to admit inflation.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 31:41.0] You want inflation to be much higher than the interest rate on your debt. In other words, negative real rates. That's the wonky term. You want your inflation rate to be much higher than the yield on the 10-year or the cost of your debt because that's easier to repay. It's gut-punching the middle class and savers, but that's how Uncle Sam does it.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 31:59.0] But the trick is inflation's politically very embarrassing, and you can't get reelected in a high inflationary market. So you don't want to admit to the inflation. So what do you do? You run negative real rates in practise, but in substance, but in form, you'd say we've got inflation contained or that it's transitory.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 32:18.1] But you really want 8 to 10% inflation, 3%, 4% yields in the 10-year. So you have a 7 or 6, or 8% negative yield running to help you get out of debt faster. It's great for Uncle Sam, it's great for this debt-destroyed nation, but it's terrible for the citizens because they're getting the debasement, they're getting the inflation, the invisible tax on top of their actual taxes.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 32:40.0] And again, you throw on that invisible tax that compounds year after year. It's brutal on your savings, it's brutal on your ability to grow out of anything to get for your, the younger generation to save for a house to qualify for a loan. It's brutal, and it is an invisible wealth transfer.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 32:58.6] It's feudalism. I call it neo-feudalism. We don't have titles like marquis or baron, deus or fondness in the U.S., but we have lords and serfs. It's, you know, the plusage. The more things change, the more they stay the same. And I think that makes many citizens angry, as we start off the beginning that inflation causes a lot of social unrest.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 33:20.1] It causes a lot of finger-pointing, a lot of resentment. It causes all kinds of tensions. It divides the country, and they're fighting with each other, but the people to point the finger out of the actual folks at the top, the quote-unquote experts, the elites. It's not a revolutionary statement. It's nothing new in history.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 33:37.1] Yeah, yeah, absolutely. And as Mark Twain says, history doesn't always repeat, but it tends to often rhyme. And I think, I think we're seeing the same vicious cycle playing out with this empire in a modern-day age. Pretty much all we have to do is look at history.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 33:54.8] Very true.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 33:55.6] But you know, I want to add to your point. Speaking of transitory and temporary inflation, as essential banks like to tell the public, I mean, that's what Nixon said when he went off the gold standard, right? They were saying it was temporary, we'll be back on.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 34:10.9] It's been well over 50 years now.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 34:13.1] So, he also said, he also said that your \$\$ will be worth just as much tomorrow as today. And it's.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 34:20.6] Oh, he did.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 34:22.9] And you know what's funny is the Treasury Secretary and the Fed chairman at the time were making the rounds of Congress before the announcement, saying, look, don't worry, it's actually gonna make the dollar stronger and gold's gonna get tanked, it's gonna get shellacked. Gold's gone up over 8,000% since 1971. So these weren't mistakes; they were lies.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 34:39.7] And I really. Sensational. There's a lot of sensational in the gold space. I don't think Egon or myself are having to be sensational, but I think I can say with a straight face that the transitory inflation was a lie.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 34:54.9] And I said it when it was out in 2022. I wrote about it many times. The redefinition of a recession in 2022 under Powell's higher for longer policies was a lie. We had a recession. I feel like the data shows we've been in a recession.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 35:10.1] Most, most listeners in the middle class, the working poor, know they're in a recession. So you know, whether it was transitory inflation recession, whether it's the CPI scale itself, which is an open fiction, whether it's the Bureau of Labour Statistics metrics for measuring or downward revising employment, I think guys like Nick, Eberstadt, or you know, there's another one, gosh, I wish, Eugene Ludwig.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 35:33.9] I read a lot of Eugene Ludwig and Nick Eberstadt stuff. It takes too long to get into the details, but they literally do measure these things far better than Bureau of Labour Statistics. And we're looking at at least double-digit unemployment right now. And we're looking at at least double-digit inflation.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 35:49.8] That sounds extraordinary. But I think most people listening know that, you know, and so, and most people struggling know that even most people that are living well kind of look around, they take a drive and they see that. I certainly see it when I go back to the States. I see the haves and the have-nots. It's very obvious who's struggling more than the others.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 36:07.1] The data, when we had the shutdown in the Bureau of Labour Statistics, the BLS. I always joke, you take the L out of the BLS, and you get the real data. It's the BS department. And it's fascinating because then you had groups like Challenger, Grey and Christmas, private source data, unemployment.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 36:25.2] And that was far more honest than the bls. It was far more damaging. Or the Beverage curve, which is the ratio of job openings to unemployment. That has always defined a recession, and we are smack dab in it. So again, you can't say I'm data, I'm picking my own data points.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 36:42.0] I think I'm just picking more honest information. And so yeah, this inflation data, all this stuff is. Charles Goodhart said it's frankly manipulated data. But keep calm, carry on, believe in our narrative and don't blame us for the inflation that's killing you and the dollar that's melting in your hand.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 37:00.6] And that's really sad. Again, all comes back to why gold is rising right now. It doesn't mean it rises in a straight line. It doesn't mean there won't be manipulation on the COMEX or the LBMA markets and all those other wonky devices and mechanizations. But to your other question, Vandal, I mean, when you see gold and silver rising like this, that's usually not a, in fact, it's never a good sign when it's at this level, at these record highs.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 37:22.4] That is a screaming signpost that the system is cracking and, I think the evidence of that is fairly obvious.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 37:31.8] No, I agree with you. Go ahead.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 37:34.3] I was just going to say that it's important to really just call it for what it is. I mean, the central banks and the dollar, what they've been doing is they've been engineering a wealth gap, and they're using the dollar as a weapon, really, to inflate assets, like you said, export inflation, strip the purchasing power, and they're using it to buy assets themselves because they can just print out thin air.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 37:58.8] Yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 37:59.8] And when you start to look at the world right now going into 2026, it's almost like everything is accelerating. And the global financial system, you debase the currency, you debase society. And we're seeing the world leaders meet at Davos at the World Economic Forum this week.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 38:16.5] You know, there's also this growing trend now for tokenisation and. Sadly, a lot of the younger generation, they look at blockchain, and they see that it's decentralised and it's freedom. But what they're not paying attention to is how they control the flow of money.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 38:33.0] They're pushing people on chain, on and off ramps, the regulatory bodies. So I don't see it as decentralisation. I see it as consolidation and transfer of ownership under a new interface.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 38:45.0] Well, listen, I completely agree. And again, backing up, this too is nothing new in history. The technology is very new and very powerful, and very dangerous in some ways. In other ways, it can be liberating. Other ways, it can be incredibly dangerous. But just backing up to your thesis, you know, the Davos is the classic example of centralisation.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 39:07.0] Insiders, few, you know, lords and serfs, feudalism insiders, etc. I know a lot of folks who go to Davos. I know some of them personally. The Young Leadership Programme. I knew them in grad school. I knew them personally, and I won't obviously drop any names.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 39:22.6] Not one of them had a real social, altruistic bone in their body. This was a pure opportunism play. They're not there to change the world; they're there to change their balance sheets and their networking. And as one famous, highly politicised Wall Street politician that I saw at a private party said, I don't care if we're right or wrong, I just want to be on the inside.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 39:41.5] You'd be surprised who that was. I won't say it, but it'd surprise you. To me, that's a metaphor. For the whole mentality. But what we're seeing, as history as a guide again, going from ancient Rome to, you know, Weimar, Yugoslavia, the 90s, South America and different banana republics, certainly Portugal in the 1500s, whatever, the Dutch, the British.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 40:01.9] What we're seeing is whenever there is a debt problem of this magnitude, it does lead to a currency crisis and inflation and then social unrest, right-haves and have-nots. The. And that is followed by extreme centralisation from the extreme left or right.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 40:17.7] Again, pick your time in history, pick your moment. You'll see that centralisation, when that centralisation now has the extra advantage of a technological tool, certain technologies in the architecture of that technology and that tokenisation.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 40:34.0] You guys have forgotten more than I'll ever know. But that's what you know better than most. And that's where the risks are. Whether there are opportunities there and escape hatches and good tokenomics versus dangerous tokenomics, that's what's going to be determined. But certainly having programmable, trackable money, and controllable money, certainly central bank digital currency, whether it's issued by a central banker or by a FinTech Company or JP Morgan, it's still very controllable and programmable, as we saw even an example, of course, in Trudeau and Covid.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 41:04.6] And what can happen to anyone who disagrees with the system or has a different view or publishes the wrong book, hangs out with the wrong political group, when that money is tokenised, and controlled, there's. That's certainly a more greater form of centralisation under the masquerade that it's more efficient and more speedy, as Francis Hunt and I were talking about in South Africa.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 41:28.2] Well, I know I'm going to be a slave. I might as well be a rich slave, though. I gotta pick. I got it is what it is.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 41:33.0] He said that?

[Matthew Piepenburg: 41:33.9] Yeah, I think it's.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 41:35.5] That's his mentality, and I agree with him.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 41:37.8] And, you know, Francis doesn't hold back on whatever he thinks, which is what I love about him. But I think, you know, this is. And this is where I need to get more educated. Because, you know, you guys have taught me a lot, but there's a lot about that. I know enough to be dangerous, but not enough to be helpful.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 41:53.9] But I certainly see the trend in the tokenisation of everything. I certainly see the gains behind it, the political motives behind it and the dangers behind it. But again, nothing I am going to say or do is going to change that. I know Switzerland and Sweden recently had referendums to make constitutional amendments to not go cashless, to make sure even in Switzerland it's called the Liberty movement, that we have at least you know something our constitution that doesn't outlaw notes and coins and Sweden saying the same thing because of primarily security reasons that if we're on the electronic web of everything there's hacking risk or if we, there's national security reasons to have paper coins or paper money and coins.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 42:37.2] But the move towards a cashless society is a move towards a more centralised and easily or controlled society. That's pretty simple and obvious for even someone like me to see. But again, that's why I hold an analogue pet rock acid in a hole in the ground and have been very grateful that I have.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 42:57.8] And we have clients who've been doing this for 25 years, like Egon, who bought gold at 300. I bought it at a much higher price, but I don't regret buying it at all. I trust it more. And so you know, there's always going to be pockets of resistance, minority investors, contrarian investors who aren't cuckoo contrarian but informed contrarian.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 43:16.2] And that's what you guys can do to help other people. That's what I'm trying to do. I've always said the one quote by John Kennedy, there's something immoral about abandoning your own judgment. But you have to have judgment first so you can have more confidence. Again, that's free to get informed.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 43:32.1] Doesn't mean you have to follow everything I say or that you guys say. But I think we're all kind of looking in the same direction. We're all questioning the system. Not just because we're rebellious or angry or bitter, just because we're looking at it with open eyes and we've lost that trust, and we can think critically.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 43:50.1] I don't think you need to have a degree in applied math or a background in risk assets for any listener to get more informed, get less emotional. Your best revenge is a better life. Don't trust your system. You know, back your own paper money with your own anti-fiat asset.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 44:07.6] Whether that's real estate, art, precious metals, what, whatever you think it is, cryptos, etc. Everyone has to get their own opinion. You're not going to fight the system by yourself, just complaining. You've got to protect yourself. None of us can predict the future, even the things we know.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 44:23.3] Well, we don't know entirely, but we can prepare for that future. I don't think in history it's ever been the wrong thing to prepare by having certain assets that can't be printed or overproduced and debased?



[Black Swan Capitalists: 44:35.9] I mean I, I've used a lot of the crypto cycles, liquidity cycles in crypto to really take profit from a lot of speculators and spectators and kind of invest all of it into gold and silver. Yeah, I've really preserved a lot of the money that I've made over the last eight years simply by owning lots of gold and silver, and I have a majority of my portfolio in physical gold.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 44:58.1] And the technologies do play a role on the tokenisation of assets and consolidation of settlement. And that's where I did see some to what Francis Hunt was saying, pros of being inside the system because the institutional language confirms it that the tokenization of all assets, it's about creating a new asset class but more importantly putting all existing assets into one settlement rail, one language and that's Ripple Net, the XRP which is going to be used for finality.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 45:30.4] So I see some benefit by owning it. Having some skin in the game.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 45:35.7] Yeah, again, you guys know that space better than me if you can arbitrage your knowledge and then take your winnings. You know, I knew in the dot com era that the dot com stock X, Y and Z that was pre IPO was probably useless. There was probably no balance sheet to it, probably no revenues.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 45:51.9] But I did at the time have enough cynicism and luck to say I'm going to chase the trend, I'm just going to buy the trend, I'm going to follow the sentiment, and I'm going to pick my exit after my restriction period. I'm just going to sell. That's it. I don't have any faith in this underlying asset, but I had enough knowledge of the way things were moving technically and even sentiment-wise, and I also had enough knowledge to get out and put my profits into something that I knew would hold its value better.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 46:19.9] If you guys know how to do that in the architecture of the tokenisation new world coming, that's fantastic arbitrage for you, you know, and again I'm not at a point now where I know that with the same confidence you do. I think it's great if you could profit on that knowledge.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 46:36.4] And I just have to get deeper into the weeds on it. I just frankly, honestly, it's embarrassing. I've had the time a lot of the stuff I've learned about the ISO, you know, the ISO compliant blockchain technology and the highway to all Things and I learned from you guys, and that's. It's been a huge help. It's a starting point for me, but I'm so buried in precious metals these days that I haven't had a chance.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 46:55.1] But I do see the obvious trends you guys have seen coming, and I do see the risks too. The centralisation, again, to Francis's point, if you guys don't, you know, you can't change it. And if we're going to be slaves, let's be wealthier slaves.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 47:10.1] And if we're going to make some money, don't put it into a checking account measured in US dollars or Swiss, even Swiss francs which are stronger, or even euros which are strong, because they too, like all fiat money, will simply melt slowly but surely and your wages won't keep up and the inflation will eat away with it.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 47:28.3] Eat away with it far faster than anything you're going to get on a bond that your advisor is trying to sell you, across the yield curve. Not a single bond, even the junk bond space, even in the corporate space, is beating actual inflation. That bond market risk, I say all the time, the bond market is everything.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 47:44.5] When the bond market gives you no real returns, it's effectively a defaulting bond. Defaulting instrument. And that includes the U.S. Treasury from the note to the bill to the bond. Across the curve, that's a defaulting bond. Uncle Sam is technically defaulting as we speak.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 48:01.0] Yeah, that's not a good sign.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 48:03.0] I absolutely agree with you, Matthew. And I love the way you just explained it. Now, quick, add on to that. You always point to the bond market as the truth teller. So I mean, what based on it hap everything happening now? What is this signalling to you?

[Black Swan Capitalists: 48:18.3] I mean, as we speak, you know.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 48:19.7] Yeah, I mean, look, I always say, you know, and I learned this from, from investing in smarter guys than me. I always saw that the bond jocks were smarter than the stock pickers, the bond guys on the prop desks at the



banks or at the hedge funds on the desks. There, it was the guys who understood credit markets who were getting the better returns in every asset class.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 48:37.4] Metals, currencies, stocks. They saw the correlations between low rates and high rates, cheap debt and expensive debt, what that meant for different asset classes. So, in particular, I say the bond market is everything. Rising yields, yields go up when bond prices go down.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 48:54.2] Rising yields and yields are important because they're the same thing as rates. The cost of debt, the fed funds rate, is irrelevant to me. When I look at the 10-year treasury, this is just me personally. I look at the 10-year treasury; that's the most important yield that I look at. Believe me, there are people do it far differently, and they look at spreads and arbs, but for simple stupid, which is what I can handle, the Yield on the 10-year, tracking that, watching that, that can't be manipulated by the Comex.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 49:20.6] It is what it is. It measures the supply and demand of the most sacred IOU of Uncle Sam, home of the world reserve currency and the most powerful economic nation in the world, at least technically. So I look at its cost of borrowing, I look at its premium for its debt and as you see yields rising even as they're cutting rates, that means the world wants a higher premium for Uncle Sam's IOU because they don't trust Uncle Sam because he's 38 trillion in debt and because he's weaponizing the currency and because he's invading other countries or whatever, whatever your political reason is that IOU is less trusted.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 49:51.3] Since Uncle Sam survives on debt and the issuance of IOUs, if that IOU becomes less trusted, that signals a lot of change coming again that signals either the Fed will have to become the buyer of last resort, that means more QE to the moon, that means more currency debasement, that means lower rates, yield curve controls all kinds of implications from that simple bond signal that you can track regardless of what Powell is saying or what Trump or Biden or Harris or pick your politician look at the bond market's honest.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 50:20.6] The yields are more honest, and rising yields are like shark fins. They're very scary to just about every asset class but the dollar. Because yes, the rising yields typically make a dollar stronger. We saw that 2022, 2023 and the DXY can still go up. And even if you delivered the dollar, as Brett Johnson said, if you just dump the dollar and left the dollar and de dollarized bonds would tank, yields would spike.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 50:41.8] That would actually make the dollar stronger. But again, on a relative or absolute term in Francis and I have had this debate with Brent Johnson or Henrik Zieberg. It's an important debate. I'm not saying we're right or wrong; it's an important debate. But we all agree that at some point, the dollar just gets to base to pay for the debt to keep those bond yields under control.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 51:00.6] When the 10-year yield spikes to 6, 7%, it's game over for equities, right? And the irony is gold goes up either way. Now gold's completely lost correlation with yields.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 51:10.8] And it's completely decoupled to the, decoupled the dollar, decoupled interest rates. At the end of the day, I'll be honest with you, you know, Matthew, I, I look at all these headlines and I, I, I listen to the commentators and half the people are just repeating the same thing over and over.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 51:27.1] And that's why nothing really changes. What I'm trying to say is I really believe that all monetary policy at this point, and I've, I've, I've seen through the charade at this point. So all monetary policy is theatre, it keeps people passive and having hope in confidence in the system that is already begun to fail.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 51:46.5] And it's becoming evident. So, so you should be doing what the central bankers and the 1 percenters are doing. They're buying gold, they're buying real assets. Sure, they have some position in technology for the future, but anything tied to the dollar, in my opinion, is a structural weakness at this point.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 52:05.2] I totally agree with you. And again, keep it simple. That yield says more than Powell. You'll see what his policies are going to be based on what the yields do. And if the yields spike, they will have to keep for survival. They'll have to control those yields, they'll have to buy those bonds, they'll have to expand the balance sheet of the Fed.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 52:22.9] They'll have to issue more credit. That will expand the money supply, that will debase the dollar. That will be a tailwind for certain hard assets. Once you tie these things together, they all start at the bond market. The bond market is a thing. That dollar is doomed either way. It is at this point. And the Fed is trapped either way.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 52:38.2] It doesn't have many tools or options left. It can't meaningfully raise rates to fight inflation like Volcker did. You can't raise rates with 38 trillion in debt. So again, they'll talk about data dependence and what the data says, which is another lie because the data that they're dependent on is completely manufactured data.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 52:56.1] It's flawed metrics, too.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 52:57.9] It's completely flawed metrics. And so what is the Fed gonna do? It doesn't even matter much anymore. Of course, they can buy time, and they are like a general in a losing battle. When you're in the foxhole, and your colonel is smiling and smoking the cigar, it gives you confidence even though all your friends are getting shot.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 53:14.4] It makes you braver. It makes you braver. And combat's a funny thing. And you can feel brave even when you're clearly losing because somebody's kept their head about them. Right. And Powell's job at this point, whoever comes in next is really just to be, I hate to say it, a mouthpiece of calm, so they can hide very bad math with nice words and platitudes.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 53:36.2] And I think that again sounds very cynical. But the more informed you get, the more you realise that whether it's Bernanke yelling, Allen Powell Greenspan, to me was the patient zero. But they're all the same, and they're all. Their real mandate isn't employment and inflation; it's saving the bond market because we live off issuing debt because we don't have manufacturing anymore in our country.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 53:57.1] Yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 53:57.5] And that's why they're trying to go to war now. They're trying to provoke war. As another piece to all of this, Hemingway was right.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 54:05.0] Debt-soaked nations, they always have temporary prosperity followed by the permanent ruin of currency debasement and war. And here we are, we're constantly in some type of war. That too is really sickening. It's a sick form of distraction. It's the war dividend. And yeah, again, nothing changes, the more things change, the same.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 54:22.7] That's rhyming as Twain. You marked, you know.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 54:25.5] Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I do have a follow-up question. So this is regarding the current market that we're in right now. So, okay, first of all, you mentioned the bonds, the yields, versus, and I pay heavy attention to. We cheque actually on a daily basis the 10-year minus the two-year and the 10-year minus the three-month.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 54:47.0] So we're constantly watching those. And obviously, what we notice, and I'm sure you've noticed, is a lot of people are quick to call for recession when the yield curve inverts. Right. It's really the acceleration to the upside, which is the final warning signal.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 55:02.8] Which means...

[Matthew Piepenburg: 55:03.2] Exactly.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 55:03.7] Breaking. Now what we're seeing now is the same thing we saw in 2000, before 2001. Or around that time, before the bull market rally and then the explosion and dot com bubble crash. And we're seeing the same thing on the charts in the yield, before the 2008 financial crisis.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 55:25.1] Right now, it's just teetering right there on the edge waiting to accelerate. So we're just waiting for something to happen. And basically my question is. Yeah, markets are hitting all-time highs. So my question is, since we have markets rising while systemic risk is clearly there, I mean, do you see this bull market continuing to go for a bit of time before.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 55:50.3] That yield accelerates, and then something happens and run into a crisis. I mean, how do you see these last kind of moments playing? Because we're clearly in a 43 secular end of a bull market here, and I think we're seeing in these asset prices.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 56:06.5] Look, I want to answer the questions out of my lane now, but I was a risk asset trader. I was a speculator, I was a hedge fund guy. And so, of course, I have opinions on this. And I also was a family office CIO, so I invested in smarter people than me and one of my best mentors, and I'm not name-dropping.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 56:23.8] He just was. Was Jeremy Grantham. He's brilliant. He was a GMO. He's retired now, 15 years. He certainly would answer the same way I would, with two ways. I think he'd say, first of all, I don't know when it's going to break, but it will break. And that sounds like a disingenuous answer, but let me explain why.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 56:40.3] By every metric, this is a bubble. By the yield curve signals, this is coming. It's seeming to an end. It's coming to a very technical turning point. Henrik Zieberg, who trades more. Francis, who trade more. Henrik sees a very frothy top before a Mets or a major oh moment.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 56:59.0] So again, I think we forget the valleys after the peaks when you see not just the Buffett indicator of market cap to GDP, but when you see Buffett himself at historical levels of cash, other signals, like Michael Burry.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 57:14.2] He's called 10 of the last three market crashes. He's always crying wolf, but he's very smart. A lot of smart guys, the Jeremy Granthams, the Druckenmullers, the Ray Dalios, the Gunlaks, they're just as bearish as we are on the sustainability of this market. So this isn't gold bug caution or calling and crying wolf.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 57:33.0] And yet for the last five or six years, you go back on any YouTube interview with just about anyone, they're calling it a crash, this is it. Or someone will take your interview and then put a title on it. It's the end, this is it. Yeah, you see that a lot too, which is really frustrating. I think there's so many needles.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 57:50.2] Rising rates, a recession, or just the power of Bob Farrell's mean reversion to break this market. I agree with what you're saying about the inversion of the yield curve. And then where we're boarding right now on the spreads, I think it's a very dangerous sign. I think what I think what could break this market would be a spike in rates.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 58:08.5] That's outside of the Fed's control. It's on the long end. I think the overissuance on the short end could break this market too. But I think what's sustaining it is very Pavlovian now, as David Stockman from my hometown, brilliant guy, free price discovery, natural supply and demand in these markets has died a long time ago.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 58:30.5] Balance sheets, financial statements mean less and less when you have a deformed. He called it the great deformation. And again, Jeremy Grantham would say this too. When you have a Fed, that's dovish. Markets will go up.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 58:45.7] If you have a Fed, that's hawkish. Markets will go down. It's that simple. If rates are high and in the balance sheet is tight, markets are going to react the way they did in 2022 or in March of 2020. They're just going to do that. And when the Fed cuts rates or even talks about rates being cut or even injects non qe QE like they did in December, that's a risk-on sync symptom.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 59:08.0] They're very Pavlovian markets. I think it's very tragic that markets have been reduced to that, that simple of a leverage point despite signals. And if you're a trader and investor, you can find your buys and entries, that's fine, that's very different. But in the overall direction of this market, it's very hard to time a tipping point when the markets still respond Pavlovian to Fed policy.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 59:29.2] What will be so destructive about whenever and however this market mean reverts is that the Fed will have lost its control at that point. It can't save you. It never could. It never will call a recession, it will never call a market risk until afterwards. But I think we are, and I'm not predicting the markets one in 2026.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 59:49.6] I was actually bullish in 2025 because Powell came in talk about rate cuts. I think this market's been overvalued and is way past its expiration date. But it still ploughs forward. What I am seeing that's interesting that scares me, in addition to yield curves and spreads, is I saw 1.3 trillion in stock buybacks last year in 25.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 60:08.2] That's, that's, that sustains an otherwise zombie market. 80% of the market activity was AI-driven, just like the dot-com-driven or the mortgage-driven. There's always some meme to buy time, but in addition to 1.3 trillion in stock buybacks, what we saw in 2024 and 2025 was talk about an insider trade version.



[Matthew Piepenburg: 60:27.6] I mean, this is so gross. But so the CEOs are having their companies buy more shares that, you know, takes the amount of shares off the books. Your earnings per share gets better, your salary is based on share price, you get to vote yourself a raise. It's technically fraud, but it's legalised fraud.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 60:44.7] Even Buffett calls it deception, not talent. So they're publicly buying their own shares, but privately they're dumping their private shares at record levels, almost as high as 2007 when Merrill and Countrywide and those guys were dumping. And I was there for that. So the rats were leaving the ship with their own private shares.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 61:02.4] From Jamie Dimon to Bezos to Zuckerberg, they're dumping shares, but then they're having their own companies buy back shares to push the price up, up. So they're pushing the price up to get the highest valuation before they cash out. And then the suckers that are buying these, these positions in their ETFs and in their 401ks, are exposed to the real risk.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 61:20.9] When I see that, that explains why the markets still survive on these kind of insider games, which were technically illegal in the past, but are now allowed. But again, I think you guys are on to that signal from the bond market, the signal from the yield curve. But the Fed is a powerful thing.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 61:37.0] And if it injects like it did after March of 2020, when the S&P lost 38%, and what did we say to that? Unlimited QE and risk on again four.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 61:45.5] More years and then the market climbed significantly, and you had your bull market, and then it came back down, and they created a narrative insane in the.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 61:54.9] Midst of a COVID lockdown. Whatever you think of it, millions die in the end of the world, but the S and P reaching all-time highs, in a crisis. Clear disconnect. Clear disconnect. So that is another Pavlovian where I joke cryptically. You could have a nuclear mushroom cloud in Cleveland or Houston or Dallas, and the S and P would rip as long as the Fed's printing. In other words.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 62:16.1] And that sounds like an oversimplification, but we just saw examples of this, and it's so again, that's why it's very hard for me to predict on signals alone, even how much this market can take, because the Fed can distort it. And technically, they could literally buy the market. But even if they did that.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 62:31.7] It's at what expense? The currency. At the expense of the currency. So it's inflate or die. The bond market or the currency. They're going to choose the bond market. The currency is going to be sacrificed. The secular trend for anti-fiat assets like gold and silver, to me, is long-term very secular positive.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 62:48.8] I think this is the very beginning innings of a gold bull market and silver too. But not without retracements, not without pullbacks, not without mechanizations. I'm almost too confident in this asset class right now that that actually scares me. You know, it actually scared me.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:02.5] Yeah, I mean, I'm, I'm with you a hundred per cent over there. I think what they're doing is simply buying time again, at the same time using that to just like covet. It was a power grab. I mean, they consolidated so much wealth it's not even funny. I actually had to sell my shops.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:18.7] I had three brick-and-mortar stores.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:20.9] Yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:21.1] I had to get rid of it because I saw what was coming.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 63:23.3] Yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:23.6] Yeah.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 63:24.1] So it's not funny. No, it's not. It's not right.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:26.6] And I think they're trying to just consolidate the assets before rolling out the solutions that they already have in place, which is.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 63:33.1] Right.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:33.3] Digital infrastructure. It was Martin Armstrong, I'm allowed to share this, who told me versa on. They already have the solutions in place. They're just finalising some things, and there's going to be a geopolitical crisis, and



they'll introduce it. It apparently is going to be the wealth gap crisis that kind of triggers this, like, hey, we gotta make everyone on a level playing field.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 63:56.2] Here's either a CBDC or UBI or something like that.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 63:59.8] Yeah, yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 64:01.5] To my brother's point and yours Matthew, I, I simply am following the flow of where money's really going, and it is going into metals. Rick Rolly would even would say that we're in a super cycle for commodities.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 64:15.1] Yeah. Ronnie Sturflé pulled out a graph a couple years ago. I'm going to talk about it in Vancouver. He was right. And it was, he said, was this the chart of the decade, and it was just the commodity cycle versus the equity cycles and the way they were turning and hard assets are in demand because paper assets and paper currencies are just losing credibility for manifold reasons.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 64:35.7] Yeah. It's a reset.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 64:37.1] It is, it's a wealth transfer too. It's an insider trade and it's, it's somewhat chaotic, but it's also very engineered and very 100. Very disturbing if you look under the hood too much. It's not a fair world.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 64:50.8] Yeah, agreed. So, well, listen, we've already taken plenty of your time. We'll wrap it up. It's always a pleasure to talk to you. I mean, I love your work, I love your insights. So every time I go on YouTube, I'm looking up for Matthew, what he's saying.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 65:07.1] If, if you could leave people with one last, you know, guiding principle for what's ahead, what would that be?

[Matthew Piepenburg: 65:15.2] Well, I think we're heading into a liquidity crisis. And every crisis is at heart a liquidity crisis. Whether it was the mortgage-backed securities, whether it was the dot-com era, whether it was the 70s, there is simply not enough grease in the engine to keep this system going.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 65:30.5] And the only way to provide more grease is to base the currency unless and until there is a major oh moment crisis that creates an opportunity nefarious and controlling. To your point, Versan, I think that's, that's what's coming. I can't predict the date, the, the, the, the profile, this, you know, the actual event itself.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 65:51.1] But yeah, I'm not, I'm no fun at a cocktail party. I don't think it's good. There'll be winners and losers. And I would leave you with at least consider gold, and consider precious metals as one way to protect yourself. It's what we've been doing for decades, and it hasn't gone, it hasn't hurt us yet.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 66:07.5] And I think it's positioned us well. I don't think it's too late. You don't become a client of VON GREYERZ's. Our minimums are very high. Anyone listening? Whether you can afford an ounce or a kilo bar or a 400-ounce bar, you should consider these. You have to protect yourself most people.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 66:22.5] You have to think for yourself. Think critically. Do your own education. Look at views contrary to ours. But look at everything. And do your own homework. But don't just expect someone to show you what to do. Think critically.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:36.6] Agree.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:37.0] Very good. Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:39.0] Matthew.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:39.6] Yeah.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:40.0] It's always great speaking with you.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 66:41.5] Oh, it's always a pleasure for me too. So thanks, guys, for having me.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:44.7] Appreciate it. All right, everyone and please stay tuned. I'll put all the links in the description below, where you can find Matthew and his book as well, [Rigged to Fail](#).

[Matthew Piepenburg: 66:52.8] Thanks.

[Black Swan Capitalists: 66:53.3] All right, thank you, Matthew.

[Matthew Piepenburg: 66:54.7] Thanks, guys.