A Disclaimer:

I want to keep my word with you. I know you understand that I receive interesting and timely news items from friends all over the world. Most of these items appear to have prophetic relevance. Others are of particular interest in the field of Science, Health & Nutrition, Devotional themes and some touches of Humor.

With a bit of hesitation, I am forwarding some of these items to friends like you via email. My concern is this: some persons who will receive or read the items I choose to forward will assume that I endorse, approve or believe every "iota," and that I am endorsing the author or source. This simply is not true! As you read, you must be discerning, choosey, discriminating and use common sense. If you are going to quote someone, quote the source -- I am not the source, I am the reporter . . . --CW

Lehman Brothers Crisis: Just the Opening Act
By: Bryan Rich / Money and Markets.com / May 14, 2011

"In 2008, the failure of Lehman Brothers nearly collapsed the global financial system. To avert collapse, it required unprecedented global government bailouts, backstops and policy responses.

"These efforts bought some time -- nearly two and a half years to date. But time hasn't healed the wounds. In fact, the government responses have done nothing to avoid the ultimate fallout, . . ."

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Vortex Superstorm System Breakout Across the Globe?
The Extinction Protocol.com / May 13, 2011

"An upper level low is a region of positive vorticity. This positive vorticity can be caused by counterclockwise curvature around the upper level trough and counterclockwise shear associated with the speed shear of a jet streak. The circulation around an upper level low can build to the surface over time. In these cases, two areas of low pressure will be noticed on the surface chart. These are sometimes referred to as double-barrel low-pressure systems. Upper level lows can also decrease in intensity through time.

"There are three, possible four total systems forming on North American Continent. One Vortex Over Alaska, One Vortex in Mid West states and the Vortex on the East Coast."

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It's the End of the World -- Again!
Once more, trouble comes knocking

Just a few months into the year, and already the inhabitants of Planet Earth are reeling from a world gone seriously haywire. Most notable on the disaster barometer are Australian floods; Japanese Earthquake and flooding; meltdown in the Middle East -- and North American weather. People are shaking their heads and asking, "What in the world is going on?"

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Lehman was the fourth-largest U.S. investment bank at the time of its collapse, with 25,000 employees.

In 2008, the failure of Lehman Brothers nearly collapsed the global financial system. To avert collapse, it required unprecedented global government bailouts, backstops and policy responses.

These efforts bought some time — nearly two and a half years to date. But time hasn't healed the wounds. In fact, the government responses have done nothing to avoid the ultimate fallout, rather exacerbating it by transferring private debt into public debt, and building more and more debt in the process.

That’s why the global economy isn’t recovering despite the many calls from Wall Street. It’s only catching a breath, before the next wave hits.

The wave that promises to be …

The Main Event

As I laid out on April 16 [1] here in Money and Markets, despite all of the fanfare surrounding fiscal and monetary policy in the U.S., the next wave has all along been emanating from Europe.

And in the past week or so, we’ve finally seen the appropriate fear and a growing acceptance of what’s likely to be the “main event.” That is, sovereign debt defaults in Europe.

Harvard Professor Kenneth Rogoff’s study on historical sovereign debt crises finds that not only do sovereign debt defaults tend to follow financial crises, but they tend to be widespread.

It’s the combination and systemic nature of sovereign debt and the global banking system that make the prospects of rolling defaults far more dangerous than what was experienced in the 2008 failure of Lehman Brothers.

Consider this: Even after the problems in the PIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) were exposed early last year, European banks have done little to pare back the sovereign debt they hold of these countries.

The most recent report from the Bank for International Settlements shows total exposure of euro-zone banks still hovers around $2 trillion. With that in mind, Standard & Poor’s just said this past week that Greece would have to trim their debt by at least 50 percent for it to become sustainable — that would mean a 50 percent haircut for debt holders!

While it’s true that European banks are on the hook for the lion's share of the risk from a default of a country in Europe, the Lehman crisis made it abundantly clear that a major bank failure has acute global consequences.

Perhaps that’s why European Central Bank policymaker Jürgen Stark said that a debt restructuring in the euro zone would result in a banking crisis that would be worse than Lehman.

Warning Signs Flashing

As such, the following sequence of events that have occurred over the past two weeks should give fair warning
A week ago, rumors were flying that Greece might leave the euro. Ireland is also getting pressure to exit.

It started with a breakdown in the global commodities run — namely the contra-dollar assets. With the contra-dollar bubble pricked, cued by the purge of speculators from the silver market, the attention of global market participants then turned away from the U.S. and back to Europe.

Then followed an article from a German online magazine suggesting that Greece, fed up with the austerity forced upon it by its European neighbors, was contemplating pulling out of the euro, re-adopting its own currency and devaluing its way out of debt.

Showing just how slippery the slope is in a sovereign debt crisis, the next day a piece ran in *The Irish Times* quoting a local economist making the case that an Irish departure from the euro was the only way for national survival.

With those threats on the table, all of a sudden European officials are considering the only option left to possibly delay the impact from the sovereign debt crisis … relaxing the conditions on their rescue loans. This is where it gets even more dangerous.

Such a move would expose who has the real position of strength in the euro-zone crisis: Not the strong (i.e. Germany). But the weak (the PIGS)!

As Keynes said (my paraphrase), “If you owe the bank $1,000, you have a problem. If you own the bank $100 million, the bank has a problem.”

Given the exposure of German banks to PIGS debt, the country made a decision last June to go “all-in” to keep the euro zone together by offering Greece rescue funds. It’s clear though, neither Germany nor the rest of Europe have a plan for solving the problem, other than denying the ultimate outcome and trying desperately to keep it all going.

Moreover, they’re downplaying a critical point …

**The Problems in the Euro Zone Are All Rooted in Their Single Currency: The Euro!**

The euro-member countries are in trouble for all of the reasons Milton Friedman, one of the most influential economists of the 20th century, cited prior to that currency’s inception over twelve years ago.

- A “one size fits all” monetary policy doesn’t give the member countries the flexibility needed to stimulate their economies.
A fractured fiscal policy forced to adhere to rigid EU rules doesn't enable member governments to navigate their country-specific problems, such as deficit spending and public works projects.

Nationalism will emerge. Healthier countries will not see fit to spend their hard earned money to bail out their less responsible neighbors.

A common currency can act as handcuffs in perilous times. Exchange rates can be used as a tool to revalue debt and improve competitiveness of one’s economy.

Friedman predicted the euro would succumb to these flaws and fail within 10 years. It seems he might not have been too far off.

What does it all mean? It's time to play defense, not offense when it comes to your investments.

Regards,

Bryan

Bryan Rich began his currency trading career with a $600 million family office hedge fund in London. Later, he was a senior trader for a $750 million leading global hedge fund in South Florida. There, he helped manage and trade a multi-billion dollar foreign exchange options portfolio. Today, Bryan is the editor of World Currency Trader[2], a service designed to give you everything you need to trade currencies that offer the greatest profit potential with the least amount of risk.

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Vortex superstorm system breakout across the globe?

Posted on May 13, 2011 by The Extinction Protocol

May 13, 2011 – An upper level low is a region of positive vorticity. This positive vorticity can be caused by counterclockwise curvature around the upper level trough and counterclockwise shear associated with the speed shear of a jet streak. The circulation around an upper level low can build to the surface over time. In these cases, two areas of low pressure will be noticed on the surface chart. These are sometimes referred to as double-barrel low-pressure systems. Upper level lows can also decrease in intensity through time. There are three, possible four total systems forming on North American Continent. One Vortex Over Alaska, One Vortex in Mid West states and the Vortex on the East Coast. -Crisis Boom

 Uploaded by Mr2Tuff  

See also planetary superstorms contributed by David
It's the End of the World—Again!
Once more, trouble comes knocking

Just a few months into the year, and already the inhabitants of Planet Earth are reeling from a world gone seriously haywire. Most notable on the disaster barometer are Australian floods; Japanese Earthquake and flooding; meltdown in the Middle East—and North American weather. People are shaking their heads and asking, “What in the world is going on?”

It's often so much easier to tolerate famine, flood and earthquake when it's “over there.” All we need do is write a check to our favorite charity, turn off the TV, set the dishwasher and coffee-maker, turn out the light and lay our heads on our comfy pillows, safe in the knowledge that the morning will come and our “normal” will continue just like it did today. Eat, drink and be as merry as possible.

Ten years ago this year a new “normal” came knocking when the Towers in New York crumbled to the ground. The world has never been the same since. Thousands of lives later, we are still trying to mop up from a sink that won’t stop spilling over. But as long as it’s “our boys” “over there” keeping the hotheads busy, we can sleep safe in our beds—right?

But have you noticed? The unruly weather and unruly hotheads are getting closer to our own backyards. Planet Earth has become an even more dangerous place to live lately; and it doesn’t look much like stopping, and no one brought some corn for popping. A couple of years past one of the worst financial collapses the planet has ever known we are still wondering how to maintain the constant military monitoring of people with a cause other than ours.

Recently, while the State of Texas burned to the sandy ground, a gigantic weather system made its way across the Southern States. Alabama was the hardest hit and suffered the worst American casualties inflicted by Mother Nature since Katrina hit the coast. After a few minutes of looking at the pictures and watching the footage, the mind takes on a numbness of overload. Many Alabama streets look like a ticker-tape parade just went through, leaving just the debris for the clean-up crews to take care of. Mercifully, the tornadoes went just a little north of us, and we were spared—for now.

The end of the world may not have come by your door, yet. But it will, and one day the end of the world will be here to stay—forever! Things may seem pretty scary right now, but this may be as good as it’s going to get for a while. If you have work to do, now would be a good time to be about it.

"It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you will be when you can’t help it."  

~Oscar Wilde~

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