



## MMA FREE WEEKLY COMMENTSFOR THE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 17, 2017 ©

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### REVIEW

*The U.S. military dropped one of the largest nonnuclear bombs in its arsenal Thursday on an Islamic State tunnel and cave complex in Eastern Afghanistan, the Pentagon said... Mr. Trump, when asked if the action served as a warning to North Korea, said, "I don't know if this sends a message, it doesn't make any difference if it does or not. North Korea is a problem, the problem will be taken care of." Jessica Donati, Ben Kesling, and Dion Nissenbaum, "U.S. Drops 'Mother' Bomb on ISIS in Afghanistan," Wall Street Journal, April 14, 2017.*

*North Korea upped its warmongering with Donald Trump today in a series of menacing boasts threatening to 'ravage' US troops amid fears the two countries are heading for war. The secretive state vowed to 'pulverize' US bases and the South Korean capital Seoul if it was threatened by the US military, which is carrying out drills on the Korean peninsula. A US aircraft carrier group is steaming towards the region. It claimed it would 'ruthlessly ravage' the US if Washington attacked. China warned the region could go to war 'at any moment'. Jessica Chia and David Burke, "North Korea Makes Menacing Boost It Will Take on Donald Trump," [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), April 14, 2017.*

*George Washington's words may seem hard and cold today, but history has proven him right again and again. "To be prepared for war," he said, "is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." – Ronald Reagan, "Address to the Nation on National Security," February 26, 1986, [www.reagan2020.us](http://www.reagan2020.us).*

Good thing Mercury is now retrograde. Venus too. The combination, which only lasts April 9-15, coincided with a rather surreal week in which it suddenly seemed that the world is really going mad, and that once again, in the words of former USA President Jimmy Carter, "*The only impediment to world peace is world leaders.*" Or, perhaps, we should simply comply with the more current and popular thought that "*...peace is only attainable through military strength.*"

The flurry of military threats throughout the world was not well received by several equity markets late last week, but very favorable to precious metals and U.S. treasury markets. Many equity markets had been doing quite well until April 13. The Netherlands AEX, for example, soared to 521.48 on April 12, its highest mark since December 2007. On Thursday, April 13, after

the launch of the “mother bomb,” the AEX gapped down. No other European markets made new monthly highs last week, for a case of intermarket bearish divergence in the region. The ASX index in Australia, also fared quite well, soaring to a new 8-year high last week.

In Russia and Japan, it was just the opposite. The Russian MICEX index fell to 1913 on April 14, its lowest level since early August and far below its all-time high of 2293.99 recorded on January 3, 2017. Prior to Venus turning retrograde six weeks ago, many expected the new Trump presidency to benefit Russia. Clearly, this has not been the case. Maybe that will change again as Venus turns direct this weekend. In Japan, the Nikkei fell to 18,285 on Friday, April 14, its lowest mark since December 5, 2016.

In the USA, both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the NASDAQ Composite continued falling from their all-time highs of March 1 and April 5 respectively.

In other markets, Gold rallied to 1290.70 and Silver to 1860, their highest levels since the election, and in line with our long-term thoughts expressed in January’s 2017 webinar and Forecast Book, where we provide our upside price targets for the year. U.S. Treasuries also soared to new cycle highs as a safe haven, and also as President Trump expressed his desire for interest rates to remain low and the U.S. Dollar to fall further.

## **SHORT-TERM GEOCOSMICS AND LONGER-TERM THOUGHTS**

*In his separate comments, Putin also claimed that Russia had information that chemical weapons would be planted in Syria in order to discredit Assad's regime. He repeated his call for an independent U.N. investigation into last week's suspect gas attack, near Idlib ... " Vladimir Putin went further, comparing America's accusations of a chemical attack in Syria to its justification of the Iraq invasion. "We saw this before," Russia's president told reporters. "It reminds me of the events of 2003." Alexey Eremenko, Alastair Jamieson & Abigail Williams, “Russia Declares US Relations in ‘Worst Period’ Since the Cold War,” April 11, 2017, [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).*

To say that last week was both meaningful and full of uncertainties (and probably misrepresentation of facts) would be an understatement. However, it would be quite consistent with the themes of both Mercury and Venus retrograde at the same time, plus the Sun making its conjunction with Uranus in Aries, as part of the cardinal T-square involving both Jupiter and Pluto. The suddenly escalating war themes are, of course, related to the Sun/Uranus conjunction in Aries. This conjunction can also coincide with sudden eruptions from Mother Nature in the form of fires, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, and tornadoes. However, the conjunction ends this weekend, so the high level of fear and stress on the planet may begin to recede. With Venus in Pisces, we can always wish for peace. However, Venus will also remain in a square aspect to Saturn through April 21, so our Piscean wishes may not come to fruition, as regards peace or love.

This weekend will also mark the end of Venus retrograde (March 4-April 15). The end of the retrograde is also known as the “direct” date of a planet– in this case, the date that Venus resumes its forward motion through the zodiac again. Venus direct has a very consistent correlation to the end and beginning of primary cycles in world equity and other financial markets, within an orb of 12 trading days. That is, Venus direct is one of the strongest geocosmic correlates to trend reversals in financial markets. Therefore, we need to be alert to the possibility that these lows in stocks, and highs in treasuries, crude oil, and precious metals, may be readying for a reversal. It is not uncommon for financial markets to start a counter-trend move within a few days of Venus turning retrograde, and then to end that move and resume the former trend near the direct date, as

described in the studies of [The Ultimate Book on Stock Market Timing Volume 3: Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles](#).

This particular Venus retrograde is important because it began in the middle of Aries, and ends in the latter degrees of Pisces. This is an 8-year cosmic phenomenon. That is, every 8 years, Venus will go retrograde (and direct) in nearly the same part of the zodiac. The last time Venus went retrograde in mid-Aries was 8 years ago, on March 6, 2009. That just happened to be the stock market bottom of “The Great Recession.” As speculated in this column early in the year, as well as in our [Forecast 2017 Book](#), wouldn’t it be ironic (and perfect symmetry) if the great bull market that started under the last Venus retrograde in Aries ended near to this – its next – instance of Venus retrograde in the same sign? Well, Venus went retrograde on March 4, 2017, and as of today, the all-time high still remains March 1, 2017. Not a bad call for Financial Astrology.

Now we wait for this primary cycle to end, and the next one to commence, and see if the March 1 high will hold in that next cycle. If it does, it will further underscore astrology’s value to society, and in particular, its potential role as an important tool in the important task of financial market timing, and the important process of financial planning. Even if equities make a new all-time high, this current Venus retrograde behavior still illustrates Financial Astrology’s uncanny correlation to turns in financial markets, which holds immense value to traders.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The monthly edition of the **MMA Cycles Report** will be issued this week (Tuesday-Wednesday) to all subscribers. The monthly MMA Cycles Report covers the outlook for U.S. stocks (DJIA and S&P futures), Gold, Silver, Treasuries, Euro Currency, Crude Oil and Soybeans, plus our geocosmic critical reversal dates (CRDs) and Solar/Lunar reversal dates over the next several weeks. The monthly MMA Japan Cycles report also comes out this week, and covers the Nikkei, JGB Bonds, and the Dollar-Yen. The MMA European Cycles Report will be released this week too, covering the German DAX, Swiss SMI, and Netherlands AEX. For further information, go to [http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=65\\_62](http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=65_62). If you are not a subscriber to the MMA Cycles Report and wish a copy of this month’s outlook for financial markets, consider taking out a 2-issue trial subscription for only \$55.00 (first time subscribers only). This is an excellent way to get the MMA overview on financial markets!

**MMA’S weekly and daily subscription reports** continue to be very profitable this year in almost every market analyzed -especially stock indices. If you are an active short-term trader, or even if you are an investor who likes to keep up with our current thoughts on financial markets, you will be interested in MMA’s Weekly or Daily Market reports. These weekly reports give an in-depth analysis of the DJIA, S&P and NASDAQ futures, Euro currency (cash and futures), Dollar/Yen cash and Yen futures, Euro/Yen cash, T-Notes, Soybeans, Gold and Silver, and Crude Oil, and now, **the British Pound!** The daily reports cover all stock indices listed above, as well as futures in the Euro Currency, Japanese Yen, T-Notes, Gold and Silver, plus GLD and SLV (the Gold and Silver ETF’s). Both reports provide trading strategies and recommendations for position traders and shorter-term aggressive traders. Subscription to the daily report also includes the weekly report. Excellent for ETF traders. For further information, or to subscribe, go to [http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=65\\_62](http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=65_62) or call our offices at 1-248-626-3034, for more information.

**LAST WEEK! VENUS RETROGRADE SPECIAL OFFER ON MMA’S MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL CYCLES REPORT!!!** Use promotion code **SALE17** when ordering. Sign up now through April 17 and receive a special 10% discount on any subscription schedule of the

monthly MMA International Cycles Report (ICR), including the issue that was just sent out on Wednesday, March 29. *And now each issue includes a special analysis of the Australian stock market (ASX) and Australian Dollar (AUD) written by Raymond Merriman!* In addition to Merriman's outlook on the Australian markets, each issue of ICR contains excellent in-depth analyses of the XAU index (Gold and Silver Mining stocks), the U.S. Dollar (DXY), British Pound (GBP), the London FTSE stock index, the Russell 2000 U.S. stock index (RUT), Corn (C) and Wheat (W). These markets are covered by three of the top graduates of the Merriman Market Timing Academy (MMTA), including Mark Shtayerman (San Diego), Izabella Suleymanova (San Diego), and Ulric Aspegren (Sweden). If you do not subscribe to this report now is an excellent time to do so. For more information, please go to [www.mmacycles.com](http://www.mmacycles.com), and select SERVICES or SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES and then MMTA International Cycles report. Or, [http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/product&path=65\\_62&product\\_id=166](http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/product&path=65_62&product_id=166), and make sure when checking out to put promo code SALE17.

We will host our **MMA Mid-Year 2017 Financial Markets Webinar** on Saturday, June 3, at 3:00 PM, EDT. Participation to the live event will be limited, to 100 people, as always. This will be the second of three webinars we will host this year. The subject of this webinar will be an update on the outlook for the stock market, precious metals, US Dollar, crude oil, soybeans and possibly other markets and other economic and geopolitical matters of interest at this time, including the forthcoming solar eclipse, conjunct Mars on August 21, that will fall on Donald Trump's natal Mars and Ascendant (and opposite Janet Yellen's natal Moon). The cost is \$45.00. All webinars have sold out in the past, so **SIGN UP NOW** to make sure you have a place reserved in this special live webinar event. For further information or sign up, go to our website at visit [http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=64\\_69](http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=64_69) or call 1-248-626-3034, 1-800-662-3349, or email [ordersmma@msn.com](mailto:ordersmma@msn.com).

## EVENTS

**June 3, 2017: The MMA Mid-Year 2017 Financial Markets Webinar!** The subject of this webinar will be an update on the outlook for the stock market, precious metals, US Dollar, crude oil, soybeans and possibly other markets and other economic and geopolitical matters of interest at this time, including the forthcoming solar eclipse, conjunct Mars on August 21, that will fall on Donald Trump's natal Mars and Ascendant (and opposite Janet Yellen's natal Moon). The cost is \$45.00. All webinars have sold out in the past, so register early to make sure you have a place reserved in this special live webinar event. For information or registration, go to [http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/product&path=64\\_69&product\\_id=235](http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/product&path=64_69&product_id=235), or email [ordersmma@msn.com](mailto:ordersmma@msn.com), or call 1-248-626-3034.

Disclaimer and statement of purpose: The purpose of this column is not to predict the future movement of various financial markets. However, that is the purpose of the MMA (Merriman Market Analyst) *subscription* services. This column is not a subscription service. It is a *free* service, except in those cases where a fee may be assessed to cover the cost of translating this column from English into a non-English language. This weekly report is written with the intent to educate the reader on the relationship between astrological factors and collective human activities as they are happening. In this regard, this report will oftentimes report what happened in various stock and financial markets throughout the world in the past week, and discuss that movement in light of the geocosmic signatures that were in effect. It will then identify the geocosmic factors that will be in effect in the next week, or even month, or even years, and the author's understanding of how these signatures will likely affect human activity in the times to come. The author (Merriman) will do this from a perspective of a cycles' analyst looking at the military, political, economic, and even financial markets of the world. It is possible that some forecasts will be made based on these factors. However, the primary goal is to both educate and alert the reader as to the psychological climate we are in, from an astrological perspective. The hope is that it will help the reader understand the psychological dynamics that underlie (or coincide with) the news events and hence financial markets of the day.

No guarantee as to the accuracy of this report is being made here. Any decisions in financial markets are solely the responsibility of the reader, and neither the author nor the publishers assume any responsibility at all for those individual decisions. Reader should understand that futures and options trading are considered high risk.