



MMA FREE WEEKLY COMMENTS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 21, 2018 ©

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PLEASE NOTE: Due to my responsibilities as one of the directors of the May 23-29 UAC Conference in Chicago, there will be no Weekly Column issued next week. We may place an article up instead. We will continue our MMA Daily reports for subscribers during most or even all of this period. See "Announcements" below.

REVIEW AND PREVIEW

Markets already know the Federal Reserve will deliver more rate hikes this year. They're just not prepared for how much it will hurt, according to Peter Boockvar, chief investment officer of Bleakley Advisory Group. Of the last 13 rate hike cycles, 10 have resulted in a recession, says Boockvar. Markets are taking another 25 basis-point hike from the Fed at its June meeting as a near certainty, based on CME Group fed funds futures. The Fed last tweaked rates at its March meeting. The rest of the year is less clear. A third rate hike for 2018 could come in September, but the chances of a fourth in December are at less than 41 percent. Karis Lahiff, "The Fed is About to Deliver a 'Punch in the Face,' that Markets are not Prepared For," www.cnbc.com, May 12, 2018.

The cross currents between the cosmically favorable Jupiter/Neptune and Saturn/Uranus waning trine aspects, and the hard, disruptive Mars/Uranus square aspect, were on full display last week. All three of these geocosmic signatures are important, but contradictory, geocosmic signatures, and all three will remain in effect over the next 3-4 months.

Last week was especially important from the cosmic perspective because Mars and Uranus both changed signs. Uranus made its first entry into Taurus on May 15, where it will spend most of the next seven years, while Mars ingressed into Aquarius on the same day. The next day, May 16, Mars and Uranus formed a fixed 90-degree square to one another, which symbolizes disruptions and sudden events that can be very disturbing, like the volcano eruption in Hawaii, and another deadly high school shooting took that place in Texas on Friday, May 18, killing ten students. This is symbolic of Mars square Uranus, described last week as follows: "Mars square Uranus is a reminder that the world is still far from safe, and not all people will be expressing grandiose ideals, but instead acting very irrational and erratic, oftentimes contradicting their words via their behaviors. Psychopathic rage leading to violence is one possibility of expression during the Mars/Uranus aspect, so it would be wise to avoid dangerous situations and people if you are able

to sense them before they erupt." That warning remains in force through September 18 and is the polar opposite dynamic of Jupiter trine Neptune, which continues to strive for world peace. But even that effort took a turn backwards last week when North Korean leader Kim Jung-Un abruptly threatened to pull out of summit talks scheduled next month with President Donald Trump if it is to be one-sided affair where North Korea has to give up its nuclear weapons arsenal, but U.S., gives up.... what?

In spite of these geopolitical cross currents, which reflect the contradictory nature of the geocosmic alignments, most world stock indices continued their impressive rallies following their distorted primary cycle lows of March 26-April 3. This was especially notable in three of the four European indices we track. The London FTSE index matched its all-time high of 7791 on Friday, May 18, while the AEX and DAX neared their all-time highs on the same day. However, the Zurich SMI index topped out on Monday, May 14, just before the Mars/Uranus ingresses and square took place, well below their highs of January. The SMI then departed from the other indices, declining through the remainder of the week.

In Asia and Pacific Rim, it was also quite a contradictory week. The Japanese Nikkei soared to a new cycle high on Friday May 18. It has now rallied nearly 13% since its primary low of March 26, eight weeks ago. China's Shanghai Index also rallied to its highest level in five weeks on the same day. But the Indian Nifty, Australian ASX, and Hang Seng index of Hong Kong all topped out on May 15 and declined the rest of the week. The decline was most severe in India, where an important election is taking place. In Australia, May 15 is in the vicinity of a double top formation to its 10-year high of January 10.

The Americas also exhibited contradictory patterns. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and NASDAQ both made new cycle highs on Monday, May 15, and then Uranus struck on Tuesday as prices pulled back. In Argentina, the Merval Index was up all week. In Brazil, it was down all week.

As we head towards the second passage of the Jupiter/Neptune trine this week, May 25, it is not surprising the crude oil continues soaring to new 3-year highs. Both planets are the co-rulers of crude oil, and the 120° trine is considered the most favorable of all geocosmic aspects. It is possible this market will remain high until the Venus grand trine to Jupiter and Neptune on June 1-2. These days would be an excellent time for a marriage or partnership, or, at least, a special love experience in one's life – with someone other than the crude oil or stock market. It is certainly a good time to buy Gold or Silver, as the price of both is low now, and would make an excellent gift of jewelry for someone loved. Interestingly enough, Gold made a new cycle low last week, falling to 1285 on May 17, and Silver did not make a new cycle low, so a case of intermarket bullish divergence may be developing in this important geocosmic reversal zone, May 14-June 2.

In other markets, T-Notes broke to a new 6-year cycle low, the Euro to a new cycle low, and Bitcoin fell below \$8000 on Friday, for the first time in 4 weeks. The Bitcoin decline fits with our forecast made in our new Bitcoin Report, based on our solar/lunar sign studies that were revealed in our recent webinar three weeks ago. Our forecasting model is working very well.

SHORT-TERM GEOCOSMICS AND LONGER-TERM THOUGHTS

"For decades, central banks have held the bulk of their foreign exchange reserves in the dollar... central banks held about 63% of their reserves in dollars at the end of last year, the lowest level in four years. Meanwhile, allocations to the Euro rose 20% and reserves in the Japanese Yen

rose to 4.9%." Chelsea Dulaney and Joshua Zumbrun, "Dollar Reign Faces Threat," Wall Street Journal, May 14, 2018.

American women are having children at the lowest rate on record, with the number of babies born in the U.S. last year dropping to a 30-year low. -Janet Adamy, "Births Hit Lowest Number Since 1987," Wall Street Journal, May 17, 2018.

And you know what happened to stock prices in 1987. The DJIA made an all-time high in August of that year, then fell 40% by mid-October. Well, it is an interesting one-time correlation, and no guarantee it is a cycle related to markets. What is probably more important is what these shifts mean for the future. In my way of looking at the connection between cycles of human activity and the cosmos, these are indicators of "The Great Reset" that I have written about extensively over the past two years. These cycles started in November 2016, became official with the Sun/Saturn conjunction on the Winter solstice of December 20-21, 2017, and will grow in visibility and influence into at least 2020, and probably into February 2026, +/- 1 year, when Saturn and Neptune will cross over into Aries together. I anticipate that both of these trends – the diminishing importance of the U.S. Dollar and the decline of births in the USA – will continue into then, and result in a powerful shift in world affairs, especially in the world financial structure. It is also a reason to support the view that precious metals will become more and more important in terms of world currencies, perhaps along with new forms of currencies like cryptos. I keep in mind Silver's 60-year crest cycle, due in 2040 +/- 5 years, probably along with Gold, which is a subject I will give a presentation on at the UAC conference in Chicago, May 27. I hope to see many of you there (see "Announcements" for details).

Shorter-term, we are focused on the Jupiter trine Neptune on May 25, and the transit of Venus making a grand trine to the Jupiter/Neptune trine on June 1-2, as discussed in the earlier section of this column. Crude Oil and stock markets are most related to these signatures, but currencies and treasuries may be as well, which in turn could coincide with cycle reversals in precious metals. It promises to be a rather amazing two weeks, with plenty of good news coming out too, probably about potential summit meetings between North Korea and the USA, but also between European leaders, Russia, and the USA. It is a time to give peace a chance. Or, get married. Or, have babies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE 1: NEW!!! MMTA graduate and *Time for Crude Oil* analyst, Nitin Bhandari, is now offering two new weekly reports for MMA. The first report focuses exclusively on the Indian stock market (Nifty cash). The second on Canadian Markets, including weekly analysis on the Toronto Stock Exchange Index (S&P/TSX cash) and the Canadian Dollar (USD/CAD cash). Each report comes out on the weekend, prior to the Monday open of markets. The cost of each report is \$825/year, or \$275/three months. **However, as a special introductory offer, MMA offers the rate of \$50.00 for the following reports: May 14, May 21, May 28, and June 4. This special offer ends June 4. Sign up now and take advantage of these special introductory rates!**

NOTE 2: The monthly edition of the MMA International Cycles Report (ICR) will be released this week. Each issue of ICR contains an in-depth analysis of the XAU index (Gold and Silver Mining stocks), the U.S. Dollar (DXY), British Pound (GBP), Australian Dollar (AUD), the Australian stock index (ASX), the London FTSE stock index, the Russell 2000 U.S. stock index (RUT), Corn (C) and Wheat (W). The analysis of these markets is written by three of the top graduates of the Merriman Market Timing Academy (MMTA), including Mark Shtayerman

(San Diego), Izabella Suleymanova (San Diego), Ulric Aspegren (Sweden), Paul Davison (Australia), and yours truly, Ray Merriman (Scottsdale), on the Australian stock market. These reports are excellent. If you do not subscribe to this report and would like to, please visit www.mmacycles.com, and select SERVICES > SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES.

NOTE 3: The monthly MMA Cycles Report was issued last week to all subscribers. If you subscribe to this report and didn't receive it, please let us know as soon as possible. This month's report includes the future outlook for U.S. stock indices (DJIA and S&P futures), Gold, Silver, Treasuries, Euro Currency, Crude Oil and Soybeans, plus MMA's original geocosmic critical reversal dates (CRDs) and Solar/Lunar reversal dates over the next several weeks. The monthly MMA Japan Cycles report also came out last week, covering the Nikkei, JGB Bonds, and the Dollar-Yen. The MMA European Cycles Report was released last week, covering the German DAX, Swiss SMI, and Netherlands AEX. If you are not a subscriber to the MMA Cycles Reports and wish a copy of this month's outlook for financial markets, plus a copy of the Special Stock Market Report, consider taking out a subscription NOW. For more information, visit http://new.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=65_62 or call us at 248-626-3034, or 1-800-662-3349.

NOTE 4: We are pleased to announce that the recordings of **Course 1 on MMA's Market Timing Methodology**, taught to students in Beijing, China, will now be available as of this Monday, April 9! These classes provide the basic principles for understanding the terminology and use of cycle studies, for the purpose of timing major reversals in financial markets. They also explain how trend analysis and chart patterns are used in the context of cycle studies and introduce the student to geocosmic correlations to long-term cycles in the stock market. Course 1 is taught entirely by Raymond Merriman, the creator and developer of the MMA Market Timing Methodology. The classes are given in English with Chinese translation. The cost for the entire 8 classes is \$995 (this is a savings of over \$1000 from the cost of Course 1 in MMTA). The cost includes the text of each class (in English), the webinar recordings (in English and Chinese), as well as the power point slides (in English). Classes may also be purchased individually at \$145/each. For more information and a complete description of each class, go to <https://mmacycles.com/moodle/course/index.php?categoryid=3>, visit www.mmacycles.com > Education, or, click the banner with Chinese characters to come up on the opening screen of the MMA web site. This is, without a doubt, the most comprehensive, effective, and valuable way to learn the art and science of Market Timing (the MMA way, the leader in market timing products and services, and now, education as well). Call 248-626-3034, or email MMA at customerservice@mmacycles.com for further information.

NOTE 5: The MP4 recording of the MMA Webinar on Financial Markets: Second Quarter Preview took place on Saturday, April 28. It was packed with valuable information, but we did get rushed at the end as we exceeded our 2 hours, 15-minute time limit due to so many questions. Still, the information was – is – in my opinion, very valuable for the purpose of planning trades for this summer, especially the material on stock markets and Bitcoin. The cost for the MP4 is \$45 and includes a copy of the slides that were used. To order, please visit www.mmacycles.com Products> Events> Webinar – 2018 Second Quarter Forecast Update Webinar. This may be our last webinar of the year. There will not be a summer webinar this year.

EVENTS:

May 23-29, 2018: This it! This week! The UAC (United Astrology Congress), Chicago, IL. The largest and most exciting conference for astrologers in the world takes place then. 15 tracks, over 200 of the world's top astrologers making presentations. At this huge cosmic event, I will be

giving two classes. The first is on “Introduction to Financial Astrology and Market Timing,” 9:00 AM, Friday, May 25, and “Precious Metals: Illustrating and Forecasting via the Art of Market Timing Tools,” at 11:00 AM, Sunday, May 27. Visit www.uacastrology.com for more information.

June 21-24, 2018: AAGB (Astrological Association of Great Britain's) 60th anniversary conference. Ray Merriman will be presenting a morning and afternoon workshop, Friday, June 22, on “Cosmic Cycles are Forever” - valuable tools for timing trends and changes of trends in financial markets. In this masterclass, the historical correlation of currency and gold prices to certain planetary cycles present in today’s cosmos will be examined, with an eye on what to anticipate between 2018 and 2020. Also, on June 23, Merriman will speak on “The Great Global Reset From The Cosmic Perspective, 2017-2022.” For more information, visit <https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/pages/conference/2018/merriman.php> or by email to office@astrologicalassociation.com and save big bucks!

July 12-15, 2018: GLAC (Great Lakes Astrology Conference), Ann Arbor, MI. I will be there, conducting a special pre-conference workshop on “Mundane Astrology and The Great Reset” on July 12, 10:30 AM – 1 PM. Plus, “Basic Principles of Financial Astrology,” on Saturday, 11:15 AM. I will present the Keynote speech on “The Current State of Astrology – and Why the USA is Falling Behind” on Friday evening. For more info, contact glac@greatlakesastrology.com, or call 734-434-0804.

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 often 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.

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