



Chaos Everywhere

Everywhere I look these days, there's chaos. There's chaos in Afghanistan of course. There's chaos at the southern border. There's chaos in big cities. There's chaos in schools. There's chaos in the workplace with millions of unfilled jobs. There's chaos among renters and landlords. There's chaos among consumer prices.

Whoa! That's a lot of chaos! Did I miss something?!

The Afghanistan situation is especially tragic.

The former Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, was right when he said Joe Biden has been on the wrong side of every major foreign policy decision for the last 47 years! He's right (by the way, Gates served under both Republican and Democrat administrations).

Furthermore, Barack Obama and Osama Bin Laden agreed on one thing. If Joe Biden was ever in charge, he'd screw things up. Bin Laden specifically instructed his operatives not to harm Biden if they had a chance. Bin Laden wanted Biden in charge. He knew it would be a disaster in the making.

Joe Biden is will go down has having bungled the Afghanistan situation big-time. It will live on in history forever. I suspect there will be no redemption for Biden. It will define his presidency. It's a toxic presidency to be sure.

While Joe Biden assured Americans and the world there would be no Saigon moment, for me the image below is what will be seared into my consciousness for the rest of my days.



Joe Biden was right. It's not Saigon. It's much worse.

There's another stunning series of events that has occurred too. First, Biden gets up and says a bunch of stuff that is either misinformed or an outright lie. For example, the administration said for days no one was stuck in Afghanistan that wanted to get out. Then there's plenty of stories published in real-time of people being stuck such as a group of school kids and their families from San Diego.

Right after Biden says a bunch of gibberish, he's entirely contradicted by his own generals, press secretary (who has been caught flat footed a few times), and other officials at the Pentagon.

When does *that* ever happen?

The Vice President is toxic too. She stated she was the last one in the room when the withdrawal decisions were made. Kamala Harris owns this debacle too.

The worst part of all of this is that both Biden and Harris laugh when confronted with legitimate questions about the crisis in Afghanistan. What's so funny?

Actually, there's something worse than the laughing. The U.S. purportedly gave a list of people to the Taliban that helped the Americans. This is the height of incompetence.

We have a duty to get Americans out of harm's way. We have a moral obligation to protect those that help us.

Biden has failed on both fronts.

The following image is the defining picture of Biden's presidency that will also forever be seared into my consciousness.



He's a broken, old, senile, man. It's not his fault he's senile. It happens to millions of people. However, those millions of people are not the Commander in Chief.

Sadly, this man is being used.

That makes me wonder what's really going on here. I am not a conspiracy theorist. I do not read conspiracy websites. I do not watch conspiracy videos. I'm not a Trump fanboy.

I do use critical thinking skills I have developed over a lifetime.

If you've read my book *Unbounded Wealth*, you know that I hardly watch the news at all. These days, I only watch the news because I write this newsletter. The news also has zero impact on my investing philosophy.

Our allies have been sandbagged. Our security has been compromised. Threats to other areas of the world such as Taiwan have increased.

It appears to me this was all done on purpose.

The Democrats have a bad look when Nancy Pelosi tweets about Women's Rights Day and Bernie Sanders talks about the \$3.5 trillion spending bill and his plan to travel to Republican strongholds to sell the idea on the very same day that at least 13 Americans were killed. What about women's rights in Afghanistan?

How tone deaf is it to try to sell a massive spending package when Americans are dying from a botched operation?

I suspect this was a political calculation because most Americans wanted out of Afghanistan. We did not have a big presence though. We had about 2,500 troops which kept the whole country together. We've had nearly 30,000 troops in South Korea for 70 years. What was the rush to run for the exits?

Afghanistan is not a topic that was top of mind for most people. Foreign policy rarely is the focus of major elections. That might not be the case this time around.

It will be interesting to see what impact the Afghanistan debacle has on the domestic agenda. The Afghanistan disaster may have no impact at all. The Democrats are certainly acting that way.

However, the number one job of politicians is to get re-elected. A couple of issues ago, I predicted that Joe Biden would be a lame duck just nine months into his term because after the \$5 trillion spending bills are voted on, people in his own party will turn their back on him to run in the mid-term elections.

Maybe the \$5 trillion still gets through. Maybe not.

The country is turning its back on Biden. So is the media. Until now, the toughest question Biden had to answer was whether he had chocolate or vanilla ice cream for his mid-day snack. Now, the coverage on CNN is decidedly negative. Let's be clear, CNN is not a news organization. It's State Media. Biden is in big trouble for now.

What impact has all this chaos had on the markets?

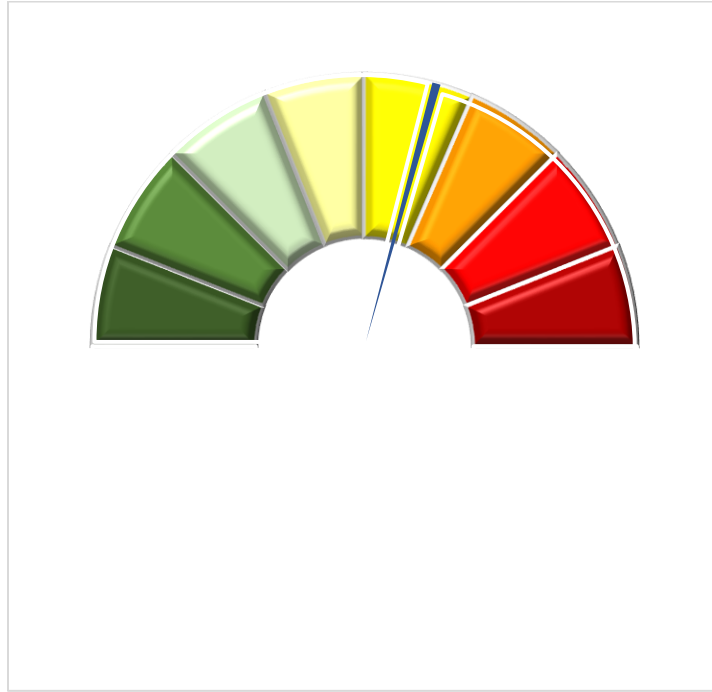
Not much!

The *Risk-O-Meter* remains on a buy signal. Actually, risks eased off a bit last week. The only screaming sell signal in the model is from the credit risk component. Credit risk is important since credit markets tend to be better at identifying big risks than the stock market. However, the *Risk-O-Meter* remains on a buy for now.

In addition, the USD has held up well. I have talked before about how the performance of the Dollar is what matters most. It keeps the whole enchilada wrapped together. When there's a major crisis and the Dollar sinks, we need to have a very serious and

focused conversation on what to do with our hard-earned capital. We are not there yet. Keep an eye on the Dollar though. I will too.

It's a heartbreaking situation. May God have mercy on everyone's souls who has been affected by this travesty.



Best,

John

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