GOLD — 1-YEAR CHART

$GOLD Gold - Continuous Contract (EOD) CME
30-Dec-2016
Open 1159.60 High 1164.30 Low 1150.30 Close 1151.70 Volume 140.8K Chg -6.40 (-0.55%) © StockCharts.com

US Money Supply (Narrow); Austrian Measure

US Money Supply (Broad); Austrian Measure
THE SHADOW (US) GOLD PRICE INDICATOR
2002-2015 (arithmetic scale)

Values in shaded column are from the date of the gold price low here

1959-2016 (log scale)
A Letter from the Editors
6

The Memory Hole
Redmond Weissenberger
7

The Big Picture
Jeff Berwick
8

A Visit to Simply Natural’s Operation in Panama
Jeff Berwick
19

TDV Report
Ed Bugos
21

TDV Groups: Mazatlán, México
Luis Fernando Mises
29

In Closing... Lysander Spooner
38
Jeff provides us with a very interesting look ahead when it comes to what is in the future for both Trump and the country at large. One of the larger points is that Trump can only succeed despite the mainstream media that has disparaged his campaign and that been almost uniformly incredulous about his election.

Not that Jeff believes there will be substantial results without an extraordinary series of anti regulatory efforts. He even compares the efforts of Trump to that of Hitler early in the 20th century. Hitler basically took over first the state and then the private sector. He mandated cooperation between them and did so in a way that made it difficult to see where one began and the other left off.

Trump has in mind a kind of neo Hitlerian approach in which the state will provide both the problem and the opportunity. This has been done in the west other times since Hitler, but never with exceptional results. For the most part, states are simply too cumbersome and burdensome. They are meant to extract things like taxes not emancipate individuals from poverty.

As well, Jeff features an interview with the founder of Simply Natural, an organic farmland investment opportunity in Panama, where Jeff visited this month.

And, this is Ed Bugos´s final column for the year, and like Jeff, he tries to summarize the year while moving ahead. He gives us a good idea not just what we might expect, but also what he might do about it. He is especially concerned that people understand he is motivated to buy and sell stocks as well as physical gold and silver.

One reason for Ed to emphasize stocks is because he thinks there will be considerable action in them in 2017. As a subscriber, you´ll want to obtain the full panoply of Ed´s and Jeff´s recommendations, and the best way to do that is to become a Premium subscriber. If the first part of 2017 is anything like 2016, you certainly won’t regret it.

As usual, Luis Mises gives us great insights into places around the world where you might want live or even settle. In this case, he is focused on Mexico and writes that his interviewee “looked at a lot of places—-Costa Rica and Panama ... But to come back to Mexico, number 1, my wife has dual citizenship, and that obviously is a big benefit. And also its proximity to the US.”

Jeff, too, is located in Mexico, and there is much good to be said about a country where the bureaucracy is so big and inefficient that it can’t get out of its own way.

Yours in liberty!
So, that was 2016. And what a year it was. The left fantasized about electing a socialist. Amerika told Hillary Clinton and establishment politics to f**k off. A reality TV star/billionaire was elected president. And that was just in the USSA.

Then there was Brexit? Remember Brexit? Seems like a lifetime ago. And Syria is now the Middle Eastern country Americans can’t locate on a map but fear. Syrian terrorists should be in all Hollywood films soon.

Also, in areas more important to those of us in the anarcho-capitalist-libertarian spectrum, bitcoin is up and gold is up. (Told you so!)

But what’s next? What can we expect from 2017, after a 2016 that defied prediction? Of course, non-stop money printing is surely ahead, as economies still insist on drowning themselves in flawed economic policy.

The arrival of the anti-establishment Trump likely signals the death of neoconservative foreign policy, a twenty-five year reign that we may never recover from. Whatever your feelings on Trump, it won’t be the status quo for the next four years.

The real area of interest in Russia/US relations. One is left to wonder if the Cold War is about to start again, or worse. President-elect Trump promised closer relations with Russia, but President Obama may have screwed him out of the gate, levying sanctions on Russia that may be difficult to reverse, handcuffing the new administration’s hopes to lower tensions with the USSA’s old enemy.

No matter what, it’s going to be a year to remember, and TDV is the best place to be to weather the crazy.

Happy New Year!

Redmond Weissenberger
What a crazy year.

We had no shortage of things to cover this year. It is certainly a time of extreme change.

A year ago Brexit was thought to be impossible. Much less nearly every other country in the EU moving towards secession (France looks to be next with Trumpesque Marine Le Pen looking to be in the lead for the election to be held on April 23, 2017). The idea of Donald Trump being President of the US has gone from being ridiculed to being violently opposed to soon becoming self-evident.

People across the world have been turning off their television programming and tuning in to the internet sparking the elites to attack “Fake News”.

The EU quickly passed legislation against “Fake News” and, as per usual, Obama signed into legislation the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) late on Friday before Christmas which included the "Countering Disinformation And Propaganda Act" which, essentially, institutes the Ministry of Truth from Orwell’s 1984.

The US military empire continued on with terrorist attacks in numerous countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen and more. And, as we reach the end of 2016, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack O’Bomber, is heightening tensions with Russia, having expelled 35 Russian diplomats in “retaliation for US election hacking”.

Of course there is zero proof of Russians hacking the US election. What there is plenty of proof of, though, is of Hillary
Clinton blatantly rigging the primary against Bernie Sanders with the leaker of that info, Conrad Rich, as per usual with Killary, gunned down in the streets.

And there is plenty of proof of the Mainstream Media, what we call real Fake News, trying to rig the election for Killary. But, like with all sociopaths and sociopathic systems they try to blame others for doing what they are doing.

But, as promised, let’s look at what to expect for 2017.

**TRUMP**

The fact that Donald Trump has a large amount of support in the US is hopeful. It means people are waking up that something is direly wrong with the system.

Unfortunately, and we hope we are wrong, they seem to have fallen yet again for the rhetoric of a politician.

The Who’s song, *Won’t Get Fooled Again*, seems very adequate here:

```
I'll tip my hat to the new constitution
Take a bow for the new revolution
Smile and grin at the change all around
Pick up my guitar and play
Just like yesterday
Then I'll get on my knees and pray
We don't get fooled again
```

Donald Trump’s big three action items that resonated with his audience were:

- Put Hillary in jail
- Build a wall and make Mexico pay for it
- Drain the swamp

Since being elected, or selected, he has stated that he is not going to prosecute Hillary, calling his long time friends, the Clintons, “good people”.

He has backtracked on the wall, now saying that it might just be a fence if at all.

And, on draining the swamp, let’s look at his selections so far:
An oil tycoon as Secretary of State - Rex Tillerson
A fast food tycoon as Secretary of Labor - Andrew Puzder
A wrestling tycoon as head of the Small Business Administration - Linda McMahon
A billionaire megadonor as Secretary of Education - Betsy DeVos
A Goldman Sachs executive as Secretary of Treasury - Steve Mnuchin
Another Goldman Sachs executive as head of the National Economic Council - Gary Cohn
Another Goldman Sachs banker as White House chief strategist - Steve Bannon
Another Goldman Sachs banker as part of the transition team - Anthony Scaramucci
A billionaire investor and faux-libertarian as part of the transition team - Peter Thiel
A billionaire investor and faux-libertarian as part of the transition team - Steve Mnuchin
A vaccine pushing big pharma advocate as Secretary of Energy - Governor Rick Perry
Trump transition team is FILLED with lobbyists
Cindy Hayden of tobacco company Altria is in charge of Homeland Security.
Steve Hart, the chairman of Williams & Jensen, is in charge of Labor. His clients include Visa, the American Council of Life Insurers, Anthem, Cheniere Energy, Coca-Cola, General Electric, HSBC, Pﬁzer, PhRMA and United Airlines. He worked at the Labor Department in the Pension Welfare Beneﬁts Program and on the Ofﬁce of Management and Budget’s ERISA Reorganization Task Force under Ronald Reagan.
For the Energy Department, Michael McKenna of MWR Strategies lobbies for Engie (formerly GDF Suez), Southern Company and Dow Chemical.
For Interior, David Bernhardt of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck lobbies for the Westlands Water District and used to represent Freeport LNG Expansion and Rosemont Copper Company. He was the Interior Department’s solicitor, deputy solicitor, deputy chief of staff, counsel to the secretary of the Interior and director of the Ofﬁce of Congressional and Legislative Affairs under George W. Bush.
Michael Torrey, who has the Agriculture portfolio, has his own ﬁrm representing the American Beverage Association and the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau.
Mira Ricardel, tasked with defense, isn’t a registered lobbyist but is a consultant for Federal Budget IQ, a government research ﬁrm. Until recently she worked for Boeing.
Dan DiMicco, overseeing the Ofﬁce of the U.S. Trade Representative, serves on Duke Energy’s board and represents steel company Nucor (of which he used to be CEO) on the U.S. Council on Competitiveness and the Coalition for a Prosperous America.
Paul Atkins, though not a lobbyist, is CEO of advisory ﬁrm Patomak Global Partners and charged with independent ﬁnancial agencies.
Ken Blackwell, in charge of domestic issues, isn’t a lobbyist but is a senior fellow of the Family Research Council, which does lobbying.

We can see from the above that whatever else the Donald’s cabinet is, it is certainly rich, white and connected. Now ordinarily we would not have much to say about it, because that is par for the course.

But this is a man who told us throughout his campaign that he intended to drain the swamp.

So we are certainly entitled to seek an explanation as to why he has so obviously changed his mind.
And here is another point: Why is Henry Kissinger hanging around the Donald. If there is one man who represents the swamp all by himself, it is Henry K., whose misdeeds go way, way back, and who has never uttered a single syllable of apology about any of it. If there is one man who can be held responsible for prolonging and deepening the Vietnam War it is Henry K., who went around the back of both Presidents Johnson and Nixon to convince the South Vietnamese to fight on. For this he got a Nobel Peace Prize, an award that was basically abrogated as North Vietnam soon stormed the South and took it over entirely.

Given the background of Henry Kissinger it is no wonder that many people do not trust him and think his advice is terminally tainted by his own self interest and those of his shadowy backers. He has said positive things about Trump, but these are doubtless to ease his own way forward.

The bottom line for Kissinger is the agenda he wishes to advance has to do with ongoing war pursued by any means necessary. The reasons do not matter, only the continued pursuit of violence for profit. A cluster of similarly minded groups surround Kissinger and back his efforts.

This is part of the so called deep state that Donald Trump vowed to vanquish during the campaign. It is one of the reasons he was considered so dangerous. It was not that he had philosophical differences with these people though he did. But on a comprehensive level he was going to cost them a good deal of money.

This is what motivated Trump during his campaign and continues to define his campaign today. He may in fact have almost entirely moved away from his initial rhetoric but those in opposition to him continue to put up a formal opposition.

They do this for a number of reasons. On the surface, they oppose what he supposedly stands for. But as already noted, what he stands for is in opposition to what he is actually doing. Therefore there are deeper reasons.

Perhaps the deepest reason has to do with pro forma opposition. Trump is dangerous because he is supposed to be dangerous. In other words the reality does not matter. This has to do with a larger Trumpian reality.

Trump is dangerous because he is not standing up to the Russians. He is dangerous because he is not formulating enough alliances, even with the Chinese. At the same time, he is supposed to keep an eye out out on China to make sure it does not get too aggressive.

Russia is the only country where there is a thorough consensus. But even here the consensus on evildoing regarding Russia is split down the middle. Probably half the population is caught up to some degree in Trump perfidy when it comes to Russia. The other half, when it comes to Russia, believes Trump’s activities are appropriate enough and that opposite statements are overblown.

This group mostly supported Trump, and it is with this group that his presidency will live or die. But here is the strange thing... the reality of the performance will not matter, only the perception.

In this as in so many other areas, Trump will be judged by adversarial media that is apt to denigrate almost anything he achieves. Not that it will be easy anyway. What Trump has in mind is a kind of neo Hitlerian approach to job generation.
The idea here is that the state itself will generate what needs to be done especially in areas of infrastructure. The state thus generates the jobs and one way or another is the final employer just as it was during Hitler’s day. The difference is that Trump is surrounded by an intractably hostile media and a very complex local and federal regulatory regime. Thus, what is accomplished will not easily be recognized while what is not accomplished will be ascribed directly to his programs rather than opposition to them.

TRUMP PREDICTIONS

My prediction for Trump is that not all that much will change under his reign.

He has already stated his intent to fight ISIS. And, if he doesn’t know that ISIS is a CIA creation and part of a larger strategy to continue to destabilize the Middle East then he is even stupider than he looks.

So, wars and occupations in the Middle East will continue. And, even possibly with Russia and China. Despite all the kind words spoken between Putin and Trump, Trump spoke from his podium (Twitter), saying this recently:

![Donald J. Trump](image)

The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes

11:50 AM - 22 Dec 2016

The only thing that might beat Trump to a serious conflagration with Russia or China is Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack O’Bomber himself who appears to be using his last few weeks trying to spark a conflict.

A journalist on Press TV recently stated the same, saying “US could go to war with Russia before January 20”.

Could O’Bomber set off a massive war in the next few weeks? Not without some sort of massive false flag attack. And, for that reason, watch for that.

What else won’t change with Trump? Well, the Federal Reserve will keep on doing what it does. And the IRS will keep on doing what it does. And those are the only two key areas that really matter.
What might change is the US police state.

Remember back in 2008 when black people thought all of the police brutality against blacks would cease thanks to Obama? So much for that. It ramped up. It’s so bad that Trump stated, “We have a situation where we have inner cities, African-Americans, Hispanics are living in hell because it’s so dangerous.”

And his answer the the world’s largest police state where there are more people in prisons per capita than any country in the history of the world? More police!

Trump has often lamented the end of “stop and frisk” in New York City. In the debates he suggested “stop and frisk”, or as they used to call it in East Germany, “Papers Please” be done countrywide.

According to Trump, the main reason for “stop and frisk” is to get guns out of the hands of “bad people”, stating, “The argument is that we have to take the guns away from these people that have them and they are bad people that shouldn’t have them.”

So, look for continued military aggression, a larger police state and stricter gun control under Trump.

But, we really won’t know until he is in office what the direct actions are... so we will definitely be on our toes this month trying to decipher what moves he makes and how to profit from them.

GLOBALIST PLANS

I am beginning to lean towards the idea that we are so far gone in this system that the elites have no major plans to collapse the markets and economy like they often do, as in 1929, 2000 and 2008. While we will certainly see volatility (something we haven’t had for many months now and may begin like it did last year on the first day of 2017) they may just be moving on to the end stage.

The end stage might be continual central bank money printing, zero to negative interest rates, removal of cash to get everyone into the banking system and then grinding everyone under inflation and taxes until almost all are impoverished before collapsing it all and bringing in a more one-world, global government.

In this scenario we very well could see the Dow at 40,000 in 1-2 years... but economically most people will be in dire straights. In the last 15 years this has worked quite well, fooling people by the “strength” of the stock market into thinking things are going well. They’re not. And if the Dow does go to 40,000 in the next 1-2 years the great majority of people will be in poverty.

The key in the past was controlling the media. But they have lost control of that now, which is what “Fake News” is all about and so we are in very, very interesting times.

There are plenty of reasons to look at things very optimistically at this moment in time. Thanks to the internet a large amount of people across the world aren’t buying into the same old propaganda fed to them by the mainstream media. Sure, there are still plenty who do... but they are becoming smaller by the day.
People haven’t yet caught on that nearly every major problem in the world is caused, and only possible, via the belief in big government and the actions of central banks and the system of crony capitalism that is widespread. But they slowly are. And the elites know this. They are in near panic mode.

Realistically, the only way to try to stop this awakening is a massive war blamed on a massive false flag attack combined with shutting down the internet dramatically (one of Donald Trump’s talking points) and, if worst comes to worst, shutting down the power grids via an EMP attack (something NATO and the US Department of Offense talk about and prepare for regularly).

Will they do it? Can they do it?

Somewhat symbolically, almost all of the higher level people in the globalist elites are in their 80s and 90s... and 100s!

- David Rockefeller (101)
- Henry Kissinger (93)
- Queen Elizabeth (90)
- George Soros (86)
- Jacob Rothschild (80)
- Ted Turner (78)
- David Rockefeller Jr. (75)

They are nearly artifacts of history but somehow, zombie-like, still roam on this plane.

We’ll see if they and their order followers have what it takes to “take it all the way”.

I have hope. We may have moved to a new level of consciousness on Earth. At least enough to survive through whatever they might throw at us as their last grasps.

But it won’t be easy.

As I mentioned above, the main goal is to impoverish as many as possible and depopulate Earth.

But if you are aware of these things you stand a much greater chance of not only surviving through it all, but prospering, and still being here as a new world is possibly born.

Or, alternatively, still being here as things get worse and worse.

In any case, we can only do what we can do. And we intend to do our best and survive and prosper through this period.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE MARKETS IN 2017

You’ll see further below what Ed thinks is going on from his perspective and we are generally in alignment.

Ed and I both believe that we will see somewhat of a market crash in the first half of 2017.
As far as gold and silver, I personally don’t care too much if it goes up or down 10-20%... the key is HAVING it. It is going to continue to get harder and harder to get your hands on and keep it.

JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and HSBC appear to be accumulating large quantities of physical gold. I’d follow their lead. And remember, buying ETFs is antithetical to owning bullion directly. If/when the system collapses ETFs will be worth the paper they are written on... much like fiat currencies.

Remember to read our book, *Getting Your Gold Out Of Dodge*, in the Member’s Area to see how to buy, store and internationalize your precious metals.

As for bitcoin, what a year it had. What a time it has had since we began featuring it here at $3 in 2011.

As the year ends it sits near $1,000, at $970.

While it is interesting to look at bitcoin on a standard chart, when put on a logarithmic scale chart the volatility we have seen in past doesn’t look quite so volatile.

When bitcoin was near $200 last summer I pounded the tables heard on how good of a buying opportunity it was so hopefully many of you took that advice.

But, even now, at near $1,000 I think there could be excellent near-term (1 year) upside. I would not be surprised at all to see it at $3,000+ by the end of 2017.

The last (and only) time bitcoin hit $1,000 was in 2013. Back then, for subscriber’s who may recall, I said that I had no idea where bitcoin would go from there. The rise was so fast, and dramatic, and in hindsight, too fast.

Back then I said, “BTC could go to $300 or $3,000 next”. There simply was no way to tell.

This time is different, however.
While we could certainly see a pullback from this rapid rise, perhaps as low as $750, it just as easily could go to $1,500.

If you have yet to buy some I suggest you buy at least an initial position now. If it goes lower, buy more.

And, remember, just because bitcoin is near $1,000 doesn’t mean you need $1,000 to buy it. Bitcoin is divisible down to the eighth decimal place so you can buy any portion you desire.

There has been a general upswing in most major cryptocurrencies lately as this article points out, “Not Just Bitcoin: The Top 7 Cryptocurrencies All Gained in 2016”.

You may recall we mentioned Monero as a prospective buy this summer when it was near $2. It subsequently, within weeks, hit a high of $13.50 but then fell back to near $5.

It has been skyrocketing recently and has now taken out its all-time high, currently trading at $13.50.

**CONCLUSION**

All in all our general recommendations have not changed despite everything that happened in 2016.

2017 is bound to be a wild year and we’ll have to keep on our toes to profit through it all.

If, as I am starting to surmise, we are headed headlong for hyperinflation over the next few years than we will see all of our assets outperform. Gold and silver should leapfrog the inflation rate. And, even more, the gold mining stocks which TDV’s Senior Analyst, Ed Bugos, covers for Premium subscribers. We could see returns that will shock the world.
As for cryptocurrencies, they are not going away - barring the elites somehow squashing the internet entirely or the power grids. If they don’t there is nowhere but up for the top cryptocurrencies. And bitcoin could reach valuations that also will shock the world.

Also look to internationalize your life. If you can, get out of the US or Europe which we continue to expect will be hardest hit. That’s what TDV Groups are for. And in this issue we feature a TDV’er who has defected to Mazatlan, Mexico.

And, to diversify your assets look to buy property or farmland outside of the West. In this issue I feature an interview with the founder of Simply Natural, an organic farming investment company based in Panama that we’ve featured also in past issues.

Also make sure to take advantage of our community which is currently on Facebook. I’ve been very proud of our community of TDVers across the world who always try to jump in and help with any questions newcomers might have.

Additionally, next week we’ll be announcing our own private subscriber forums at dollarvigilante.com for those who try to avoid FBI-Book.

And, don’t forget to register soon for our upcoming TDV Internationalization & Investment Summit on February 24th, 2017 in Acapulco, Mexico. We are just waiting confirmation on announcing another big name speaker, but should be announcing soon. In the meantime we already have an incredible line-up with the entire TDV crew, Roger Ver, David Morgan, Bix Weir and Bill Murphy from the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee.

And make sure to stick around afterwards for the four-day Anarchapulco conference with world changing anarcho-capitalists from across the world including the 4th day entirely devoted to bitcoin, cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies from the world’s experts called Cryptopulco.
As well, even after that (it’s an entire week of events), there is a special **TDV Pro Trading Techniques** course held by Tone Vays with one full day of instruction and a second day of actual live trading. Tone did this at a past Anarchapulco and made quite a bit of money trading bitcoin live on stage.

Phew. Lots going on!

And the great thing about our upcoming TDV conference is it is happening right after Donald Trump becomes President of the US... so there will be LOTS to talk about in terms of strategy.

In closing, I’d like to thank you all for subscribing. It’s been a banner year at TDV and we are by far the fastest growing (and maybe largest now) financial newsletter in the world. We’ve had nearly 10 million views on Youtube in the last few years and the traffic is growing dramatically.

And we couldn’t do it without you. So, thank you! I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. And I’ll hope to meet many of you in Acapulco in the last week of February.

![J Beavick](image)

*Vigilante’s View — Acapulco, Mexico...Happy New Year!*
A Visit to Simply Natural’s Operation in Panama

Jeff Berwick

We have featured Simply Natural a few times in past issues but I never had the opportunity to go and see their operations in person until this month.

Simply put (no pun intended), I was very impressed at what I saw.

Many people know a farmer or two who have worked very hard their entire lives and ended up with a nice nest egg... sometimes even quite wealthy. While farming is a tough business it also brings solid rewards year after year. And, no matter what economic climate, food is always in demand.

The difficulty for investors who don’t want to spend the rest of their life on a tractor, though, is finding ways to profit from farming. I’ve personally been looking for opportunities to invest in farming for years but never found something that fit my needs.

Simply Natural, though, is one of the few companies that have ticked all the boxes I’ve looked for in a farmland investment opportunity.

Some of those boxes include:

- Direct investment (as opposed to investing in a farm equipment company)
- Located outside of the US or Europe (to diversify against risk of those large, bureaucratic governments and their taxes and regulations)
- Actual ownership of the land itself (as opposed to investing in shares of a public company)
- A good track record of success
- Organic farming (which I consider to be a growing industry)
- A turn-key management operation (ie. you don’t have to do anything)
Simply Natural meets all of these requirements plus has expected returns of investment, after all preparation work on the land is complete, of 17% per year. And, that 17% per annum could, theoretically, continue on for decades and decades.

17% per year, year over year, adds up very quickly. In fact, an investment that returns 17% per year is almost unheard of.

Plus it comes with the added security of knowing you own land in a foreign country... always a good thing for international diversification.

Additionally, entry-level investment costs can be quite low... certainly incredibly low compared to actually buying pre-existing farmland or trying to develop your own farm yourself. For the neighborhood of $40,000 you can own one hectare. And, obviously you can buy more.

I sat down for an exclusive interview with Brian Angiuli, the founder of Simply Natural to discuss the entire operation and opportunity.

This interview is exclusive for TDV subscribers and you can see it here:

For more information on Simply Natural you can go to their website.

As well, Simply Natural Investments will be speaking and presenting at our upcoming TDV Internationalization and Investment Summit on February 24, 2017. So, if you’d like to meet them in person that would be a good way. Or contact them to go for a tour of their project. It is only about an hour outside of Panama City. And, as always, do your own due diligence.
Two days before Christmas, IAMGOLD Corp (IAG), shown on the right above in US dollars, acquired its joint venture junior explorer, Merrex Gold (MXI:TSXV), shown on the left in Canadian dollars.

[The USD/CAD exchange rate is at 1.34 and has fluctuated around that level for about a year.]

The companies signed a definitive agreement for IAMGOLD to purchase the remainder of the 199 million shares that it doesn’t own (IAG already controls 23% of the issued equity and 50% of the claims in Mali that host the discovery assets) in an all share swap at a ratio of 0.0433 IAMGOLD shares for each one of Merrex’s shares, and whatever option value there is at the time of acquisition. The deal still has to meet the approval of the majority of shareholders (as well as a majority of shareholders excluding IAMGOLD) who will decide sometime in the next month. The management and insider group controls about 19% of the issued share capital and has agreed to vote for the C$41 million deal (at the time of announcement).

That makes it about 42% including IAMGOLD’s stake - i.e., “Together with the shares owned by Iamgold, holders of approximately 42 per cent of the shares have agreed to vote in favour of the arrangement.”

This deal is going down without a fight for very good reason: IAMGOLD has a controlling interest, it’s capitalized, and has been diluting Merrex out of the project since the Mali coup of 2012. I rallied hard in
Merrex’s corner when its shares were beaten down to a nickel, and I argued that they were then worth 15 cents, maybe 25-50 cents if they proved that the Diakha discovery is a 2 million ounce deposit.

It was only half that size it turns out. But the exploration potential of the claims is still rather unrealized.

The JV has spent over $40 million on the claims since 2006 to be sure, but most of it has been spent on delineating the two discoveries rather than exploring the project as widely as we hoped.

Merrex fought back by acquiring 100% interest in a strategic set of claims in the neighboring country, Guinea, which intruded between IAMGOLD’s Boto discovery - made a few years ago in Senegal - to the north and the IAG/MXI 50/50 JV in Mali on the south side. The claims are likely to be prospective too, but Merrex never really was able to raise enough money to keep up with commitments that IAMGOLD held it to on the Siribaya project alone, and was unable to find resources to proving up a new project.

Ultimately the deal is valuing the ~2 million ounces discovered by Merrex at about $40-50 per ounce - the higher number imputes the Malian government’s interest at production - of the known “global” resource.

When I began following this company in 2010 I forecast that the Siribaya claims in Mali would ultimately host 5-10 million ounces of gold. But we were not expecting such a funding drought that would put its exploration program at the mercy of IAMGOLD, who picked it off cheap, just like it did when it acquired Orezone’s Essakane in 2008. They bought it for the same price in fact. The ratio was two times higher: at .08 share of IAG for every share of Orezone. But Essakane had twice the ounces proved up and was set to go into production. So they may be paying a little more for Merrex’s ounces but both deals were exploitive, and if Siribaya-Boto has as much potential as I think, it will be one of the larger mining operations in the region, making it value accretive to IAMGOLD in the long run. Essakane became a flagship operation for IAG in the years following. Merrex likewise will prove to be IAMGOLD’s second best decision since 2008.

We made a few hundred percent from the 5-10 cents we were recommending Merrex at in 2013 after the coup. But we are down 50% so far on the financing that we helped arrange in 2010. However, since we are taking shares in a cheap mid tier gold producer that will benefit from the assets, we are likely to be up on that value too within a year or so, or whenever gold prices run back up to the $2k level. IAMGOLD’s stock was at ~$20 the last time gold was up at that value. So our chances of gaining from this are still very high.

**Recommendation:** don’t do anything, hold the shares until you receive IAMGOLD’s shares, which are also part of the TDV portfolio. With management agreeing to the acquisition and 42% of the deal locked up there is unlikely to be any competing bids or outcries for higher prices. If there are, and you hold, then you’ll gain from it. If there isn’t then your gain/loss will be tied to the performance of IAMGOLD’s shares.

Since we are bullish on IAMGOLD and the underlying value of the deal for the company I suggest holding on to your IAMGOLD shares at least until I find a better opportunity to allocate some of the proceeds into.

In fact, I do have two new picks that might work. I will be publishing them tomorrow: one for subscribers to the basic membership and both for the premium membership. If you would like to stay up to date on all our recommendations/trades, including picks like this, consider upgrading to a Premium membership.

www.DollarVigilante.com
Cascadero Copper: Financing Completed, Delineation Drilling to Start

On the same day that Merrex’s acquisition was announced, Cascadero Copper (CCD:TSXV), our newest holding in the TDV long term defensive investor stock portfolio, completed a financing to raise C$1.04 million, slightly more than target, giving it C$1.5 million to prove up its 70% stake in the Taron Cesium discovery that it made in North Argentina a few years ago. Dollar vigilantes contributed about half of it (thank you and congratulations). The company is now waiting for the drill permits to fall into place, and expects that to occur this month. It plans to drill 29 core holes over a small portion of the mineralized showings in order to delineate a high confidence deposit that it can model as part of an economic assessment, initially, and eventually incorporate into a feasibility study, assuming it continues its drive to take the asset into production itself. I’m very excited about the drill program. Not so much for the Cesium, which is kind of a known, but for the potential surprise of a metal discovery, like silver or copper, as well.

Either way, I’m looking for a 20-25 cent target following the drilling program if it confirms what we think we know about the contained Cesium; higher in a good market backdrop; and higher yet if there are any positive silver/copper or even gold kicks in the core. Other positives may come from signing exploration or development agreements on any one of its dozen or so other properties in Argentina (and one in BC).

But the two MAJOR developments that will push this stock to the 50 cent level include,

1. Completion of positive preliminary economic model for Taron by year end 2017
2. Successful negotiation and sale of its strategic La Sarita claims to its partner First Quantum

Success at either of these even without higher gold prices should deliver promising returns.

If you weren’t able to participate in the financing, don’t forget to nibble away at the free trading shares, which have pulled back to just under 10 cents on pressure from the financing and year end tax loss selling. You won’t regret it. I see them as a buy up to 15 cents for now. A steal under a dime.

Full disclosure: I joined the company’s executive team and own shares in the company.

The Big Picture

I feel like it is important to clarify the fact that I appreciate stocks as much as gold and silver, and at times even real estate investments, all as general classes of assets capable of protecting wealth from the financial evils we harp on here at the dollar vigilante: i.e., fractional reserves, central banking, corporate welfare.

There are many other attacks against your freedom and welfare that we also cover and expose, including operations like FATCA, the war on cash, modern tirades against secession (a pet peeve of mine), gun control, elitist plans for world dominion... Although, we try to stick to the financial and economic issues.
My aim in the scheme of things is to help people navigate their investments through the chaos of financial collapse. Yet here is where the issue gets thorny for a lot of people. The word “collapse.” It is very difficult to perceive an economic collapse when stock prices are rising, let alone when unemployment is below 5%.

Here is what most people thought would happen to the US stock market after the 2008 crisis,

![Graph showing stock market performance](image)

Like the Dow, which continued to go lower following the initial 1929 crash until in 1933 when it had lost 80-90 percent of its peak 1929 bubble value, the Greek share market too lost most of its pre 2008 value.

Part of the problem was also a driving force behind my choice of career, as I have always been passionate to point out the difference between the 1929-33 Fed (or monetary system) and the present one. It is an arcane truth that when investors compare today’s monetary system to the one that existed then it is as if they ignore the fact that the two systems couldn’t be more different. To boot, there have been at least two others in between them. The contrast is evident in the chart above compared to the one below. The Greek stock market has lost most of its value while the Argentine stock market is up 20-fold in the same period.

Why is this? What is different about these? I propose the difference is similar to the difference between the present day stock market and the 1930’s: i.e., Greece does not have its own central bank and cannot choose to inflate its money supply. Just as US banks were at the mercy of the public when it came to the money supply before 1933 (since gold was money), the Greeks are at the mercy of the ECB, a foreign CB for all intents, and the ECB’s mandate did not allow it to acquire the necessary assets to inflate until 2015.

Today, however, there is no restriction on the Fed, and the US essentially thus has its own printing press.

However, that doesn’t mean the underlying economic situation is all that different. Both economies are weighed down by a bloated and corrupt government. Look, just because we still can sit on a yacht and enjoy the afternoon with refreshments in the warm sun surrounded by modern technology and luxury, does not
mean that a collapse has not begun. The Austrian economic school’s view on the business cycle suggests that it is during the boom that capital is being wasted and misdirected under pretense of growth.

As long as everyone has a job and money is easy, it seems people are easily fooled.

But what are they fooled about? They are fooled about the significance of those jobs and whether they are lasting or not. They are also confused between money and wealth, and are not able to discern real from inflationary profits and wage increases. During a boom that is created by the manipulation of money and the interest rate, a lot of the capital, i.e., the source of lasting employment, has been misdirected, wasted, and consumed due to the effects of the monetary policy on economic calculation and in decision making.

That is how you can have stock prices rising madly even during a “collapse”,

Argentina is in better hands now but the economy just went through a nearly complete collapse, as did the Venezuelan economy, and the Zimbabwe economy before 2008 when its stock market surged the most.
Granted, these share markets reflect a hyperinflation policy, and the near absolute collapse in the currency. Ludwig von Mises called the final stages of a currency collapse the “crack up boom” to reflect this peculiarity, i.e., of rising asset and commodity prices in terms of the collapsing currency.

My point is not to be fooled by this,

That is, the US financial boom very much reflects a slowly collapsing economy. But you have to remember, it is still also the world’s largest, most productive, and most diverse economy. It will take decades of this kind of capital decumulation before you will notice the “unseen” - and then only if the rest of the world advances further than us. Bastiat long ago wrote of the unseen: all the advances in wealth and technology and civilization that are sacrificed to fix a broken window. If the Fed adopts a hyperinflation policy here, which was more likely under Clinton to be sure, the stock market would continue to crack up in general.

On the other hand, if the Fed continues its attempt to reverse out of the 10 year old ZIRP policy, it will be like taking the punch bowl away at a raging party. The stock and bond manias have grown to rely on them.

Importantly, all of the waste and misdirection of capital during the boom, when everyone is feeling good about the economy, becomes apparent during the bust. This is important to understand. The waste and consumption of capital occurs during the boom. The bust in our conception is just a matter of exposing it.

Again: that is not to say there isn’t any growth at all; but it is being offset by the wasted capital caused by the central bank’s monetary policy and the fractional reserve banking system’s pyramiding on top of it.

It’s a bit like the argument that when taxpayers make up less than 50% it is bad; or when the debt/gdp ratio approaches 100% it is bad. These are arbitrary numbers. They make sense perhaps. But the numbers aren’t as important as the obvious and general problem. I don’t know if we have reached the point where the total capital pool has begun to shrink, as Frank Shostak has argued over the years since 2008. I think he is right.
But it is not relevant. What is relevant is that the policies are producing a slow collapse. It can take decades to occur. But if it continues, one day you will wake up to a world that has gone backwards.

And yet, it will only be obvious if a new world of freedom and productivity open up elsewhere.

So while you sit on your yacht and sip your espresso, satisfied in your present circumstance, remember that this is good. We want this for all of our readers. But don’t be fooled by what is going on just because your life starts to get better, especially if the reason it is getting better is because you hitch your wagon to the Fed. We aim at taking advantage of the Fed’s policies as well, and you could argue that our business model relies on exploiting the Fed’s bad monetary policy. The difference is we don’t root for the policy, we simply try to cope with it so that it does not harm us as it is intended (by syphoning your wealth/wages).

If this market were allowed to discover its right level without top-down interference, i.e., if the Fed let the free market determine the right interest rate, you would see just how illusory the above is in real wealth.

Total financial wealth is definitely overstating things in the US and Canada today (and other places).

Unlike 1933 there is no limit to the inflation policy anymore. That’s what the public gave up when the Fed took the gold standard away. The public gave up its say in what constitutes the reserves of its banking system in exchange for a top down guarantee on deposits; and, of course, under forceful persuasion.

That’s why we no longer have financial deflations like 1929-33 or like what you see in Greece’s share index above. The reserves of the banking system and money supply are all made up today, practically out of thin air. In the old days they used to be gold. In Greece’s case they are out of the control of Greek bureaucrats.

The US hasn’t adopted a hyperinflationary policy yet. The current one has put it on a precipice where its policymaking bureaucrats may have to make that decision in order to avoid the requisite deflation that would put the government out of business and return the price mechanism back to a functioning project.

On the other hand, the government has too much debt to allow this and those who control it have too much of their paper wealth vested in the inflationist project. That is why we are so bearish on the dollar.

There is no way that we see a democracy like the US willing and able to accept any kind of deflationary pain today. Not only are people inclined to fear it but the central banks have heightened their fears.

Never before has the public debt been this high relative to both the economy, and given where we are in the interest rate cycle, or even compared to any other peacetime. But that is what this election was about.

Only, I don’t think Trump can do it.

I do, however, believe that there will be a financial bust; that the Fed will continue to try to exit from the ZIRP policy until a bust is triggered. I believe it will be in reaction to this bust that we will see what Trump is going to do, and what the Fed will do under Trump. It is way too early to say whether they will adopt such a policy yet or whether Americans vote in an inflationist president in the next term as a result either.
This is the great uncertainty at the moment, but I believe that when the bust happens, the market will flock to gold to inflate the premium on uncertainty. And then, from there, much will depend on whether and how the Trump administration reacts to the bust. If they let the market correct itself then gold is likely to fall again after that. But, if Trump shows any weakness, or gives into the calls to reflate in any capacity, gold will get its affirmation and continue on. So while I remain bullish on gold, I have to admit for now that the bull market in the precious metals is on hold until the bull market on Wall Street is over.

The good news is that might still be around the corner if the only reason that US stocks went to new highs was because US investors deferred selling them until 2017 to take advantage of Trump’s tax cut promise.

Regardless, in the big picture, it is important that you understand we are not simply gold bugs. I believe in equity and real estate as asset classes that are capable of wealth preservation strategies. However, there is a time for them, and it is not now. Both of the latter classes are at the high end (and long end) of historic norms in valuation (and length of their advance), and currently recommend avoiding. But not always!

Ed Bugos
Luis: Dear subscribers of the Dollar Vigilante, I am Luis Fernando Mises again here with you. I am with our friend Mike Powers. He is in Mazatlan, and we’re going to be exploring this beautiful land with him. As you know, we try to do an exciting job bringing you a lot of opportunities to be able to explore different places, and this is one of my most favorite places on the West Coast of Mexico. Mike, thank you for doing this for us.

Mike: My pleasure.

Luis: I always ask this as a first question. Where are you originally from, and from all places in the world, why did you end up in Mazatlan, Mexico?

Mike: I am originally from Ohio. I lived there for about 5 years until my parents moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and I grew up in Atlanta. I lived there for 30 years. I went to high school and college there. We had a brief stop in Chicago. My wife worked for Sears, and she got offered a job up there, so we moved up to Sears in Chicago for 3 years. After that, we were in Charlotte, North Carolina, for about 10 years before I moved to Mazatlan. And our move was last November, so we have been down there for about a year now, and we love it.

How we ended up in Mazatlan? Actually my wife and I started talking about moving abroad about 5 or 6 years ago, and one of the things I did was I subscribed to International Living magazine just to try to get as much information as I could about possible places to retire and live abroad, as far as the best places for cost-of-living and weather and all that kind of stuff.

And we looked at a lot of places—Costa Rica and Panama. A lot of those have good retirement programs, and affordable cost of living. But to come back to Mexico, number 1, my wife has dual citizenship, and that obviously is a big benefit. And also its proximity to the US, you know, we can just drive back and forth essentially. So we decided on Mexico.
Initially, we looked at Lake Chapala area, and we did make a visit down there about 5 years ago, but it turns out it was a little bit too small for us. We had a child on the way, and we wanted something bigger. We need healthcare services and pediatric services and educational services, and the area was a little too small to really accommodate our needs, I think, at that time.

We kept looking, and I was just doing research online, and Mazatlan just kept coming up in all my research. The cost of living was supposed to be low down there. It was on the beach. A lot of people were saying good things about it, so we essentially decided Mazatlan was the place we were going to go.

We sold our house—which of course this process took a couple of years. We sold our house, got rid of pretty much all of our belongings, drove down in our minivan from Charlotte, North Carolina, and moved to Mazatlan. And you know, we have never been there before, and we figured, we can go down there for a year. If we don’t like it, we can always pack our things and come back. Nothing lost really.

But then after about 2 weeks down there, I thought, this is the place, and I am ready to stay. And actually this past year, we stayed for 9 months. We left in the summertime. Everybody says it is very hot and humid in the summer, so we took the opportunity to travel and go visit relatives during the summer months. So we came back in November, and this is our second year there. At this point, I have no intention of moving back to the US. I love it down here.

Luis: That is pretty exciting, and it is also kind of gutsy to just say, “Screw everything. I’m going to go,” and you’ve never been there, no? Do you have any doubts? Was your wife okay with that also?

Mike: You know what? When I first started talking to her about moving abroad, she wasn’t really on board, but I kept talking to her, and yeah. She eventually came around to go ahead and do it, and she was as excited about doing it as I was. But the drive down—we drove down. It was my wife and I and our son. He was 4 at the time—or 3 at the time. Yeah. And our dog. And the drive from Charlotte was about 2200 miles, so it ended up being a five-day trip.

Probably the last day when we were driving through Mexico, I started thinking, what the hell am I doing? But yeah. We got there, and everything was just great. I mean, we rented a room with a lady from Airbnb for the first month, and that gave us an opportunity. We figured she could show us around, there were places to go, and she could maybe recommend places we could rent and areas to rent in. So that gave us an opportunity to kind of learn the city a little bit and find a long-term rental.
After a lot of looking, we found a great rental and a really nice neighborhood, and our initial plan was to maybe move around every year, just rent in different areas just to explore. Different areas have different things going on, but we liked the area we were in so much, we rented the same place again this year. But we love it down there. It is beautiful.

**Luis:** That is a successful story, and I am really happy for you guys. I’ve been seeing a lot of your posts on Facebook about how cheap it is to take your kids to the dentist or to get some medical work or all of that stuff. Usually in polite society, it is not acceptable to ask for prices of what you pay. You know, being that we are kind of anarchists and like screw the rules, I want to ask you, because everyone wants to know about these things, right?

**Mike:** Yeah. Of course. Of course. You know, there is a list of things that we required in order to move down there. One thing was I had to live near an international airport because I am still working in the States. I do contract work for a company in Georgia, so I had to be able to apply to jobs as needed. So we had to be near a sizable airport, but the cost of living was definitely high on the priority list, as well as warm weather, because I hate cold weather.

It just turns out that Mazatlan fit all of those criteria, and in doing my research, I read one article that said Mazatlan was in the top 10 largest cities for low cost of living. It was ranked about number 4, with the fourth lowest cost-of-living for large cities in Mexico. And it is a pretty good-sized city. It is about half a million people.

Tourism is a pretty good industry, but it is not strictly tourism, like, say, Cancun or something. It is a working city, which I like. They have a lot of shrimping. That is a big business there. Sport fishing, Pacifico beer is based in Mazatlan. You know, it is a working town, as well as the tourist aspect of it, so you kind of get the best of both worlds in that aspect.

But as far as cost of living, like I said, just this last week, my wife and I, we went to the dentist. We saw an advertisement in the English paper. A lady was advertising teeth cleaning for 399 pesos, which based on the current conversion, dollar–peso exchange rate, that is about $20 for a teeth cleaning. So we go in there, and it is not like in the US if you are a first-time client, they will say, “Well, we have to do X-rays and all this other stuff, so it’ll be $175 for the whole visit.”

Well, yes. We went there. There was no X-ray requirement. We filled out a single sheet of paper with our information, and she cleaned her teeth, and the cost is $20. And then we told her we wanted our son’s teeth cleaned also, and she said, “I will only charge you 250 pesos for
that,” which is $12.50. And she is bilingual. She speaks English as well as Spanish and is a very nice lady and did a great job, and that has been typical of our experience in Mazatlan.

If you come out with US dollars, your dollar goes a long way down there. So we first moved down last November. The exchange was about 16.5 pesos to the dollar. Well now it is over 20 pesos to the dollar, so now obviously it is for your benefit to have dollars. Other things—a typical men’s haircut will cost $5, and you can get it as low as $2 if you know where to go.

Actually where we live is more in the tourist zone. They call it the Golden Zone, but if you go to Centro, where Mexicans live and work, a lot of services you can get for half the price of the tourist areas. And a haircut is one example. So we go down to a lady in Centro. Her name is Elsie and she has her salon, her barbershop, and she charges 40 pesos for a haircut. That’s $2. So yeah. Your money can go long way down there, that is for sure.

**Luis:** That is one of the things. You mentioned the whole idea of going into a business here in the States, and you end up paying like 5 times what is advertised because of all the secret or hidden costs, and that pisses me off normally. And going to Mexico to get a service or product is just so simple, and it is like what is advertised, you get, and it’s paid for, and that is it. There are not all these other charges.

Now, going from Charlotte, which is a fairly large city, let’s compare your housing costs from there to where you are at now.

**Mike:** Okay. Sure. We were in Charlotte, and we owned a home. It was a nice home in a nice neighborhood, three bedroom, two bath. Our mortgage payment was probably a little over $1200 a month. Actually, after we sold our house, we moved into an apartment until we had time to prepare to leave. So we were in an apartment right outside of Charlotte, and it was a little dumpy two-bedroom unfurnished apartment. It was about $830 a month.

The residence we found in Mazatlan is inside a gated community. It is a three-bedroom, 2 ½ bath. It is kind of like a townhome. There are 12 units in our little neighborhood area, and the units form a U shape with the community pool in the middle and a canal that leads out to the ocean on one side. So actually our unit is at the end, so we have a canal view out our kitchen window and our living room window, so it is very nice. And like I said, a gated community, very clean, well-maintained, and fully furnished. We are paying 15,000 pesos a month, which is $750 a month.

It is pretty amazing. Obviously, because we feel like we got a really good deal, and we love the place, that is one of the reasons we want to renew for this year, but if you wanted to live on the cheap down there, you can find a studio apartment 5 minutes from the beach for $250-$300 a month. And as far as housing, it ranges
the whole gamut, from very cheap to high-end—high-end condo units within oceanfront view and all of the amenities. You know, you could pay $2000 or $3000 a month for that also if you want, or you can also live on the cheap and live pretty comfortably too.

**Luis:** I love that, and then the ability to have options throughout the spectrum for whatever budget you may want to spend. I always like options, so that is pretty cool. Now, safety. Everybody is always saying, “Oh my goodness. Don’t go to Mexico, because you’re going to get kidnapped, or they are going to rob you.”

**Mike:** Sure.

**Luis:** How do you feel overall? Do you feel afraid? Is your family okay?

**Mike:** Not at all. No. We go out at night and walk around. We’ve gone out late at night, and I’ve never felt uncomfortable or unsafe. Actually anywhere I’ve been in the city, I’ve never felt uncomfortable, which I can’t say the same thing about Charlotte actually. There were places in Charlotte that I would not be comfortable going to, but crime happens in any big city. You know, it happens, but as far as safety and security, I have no problems being there.

One thing we did notice is they do cater to tourists, and tourism is a big industry there, so they have tourist police who try to keep things safe and secure, make people feel good, keep traffic flowing, and if people are parked where they shouldn’t be parked, they tell them to move on or whatever.

But the other thing you see sometimes is the *federales* riding in the pickup trucks, and they will be driving by. There might be 3 of them in the back with automatic weapons and guns and the hoods over their heads. Initially, it is a little disconcerting. I will be honest, but after you have been there for a while and you have seen them go by, it is not really a big deal.

I actually talked to a local about it, and he said they mostly do it for show, so you know, it is not a threat at all. Yeah. It is a very safe place to be, and I know we have a lot of expatriate friends from Canada and the US who have moved down there, single older ladies who go out and do their thing and have no fear of anything happening to them. So yes. It is very safe.

**Luis:** That is wonderful. And yeah, those guys just do it for show. I have seen some videos of their training, and they are so incompetent, falling out of the truck and all sorts of ridiculous things. So you are telling me something that was interesting, like the whole idea of not being at ease with that, like seeing all of these thugs with pistols and guns.

Tell me something that you see or that you notice that is uncomfortable. Because you know, it is never all rosy. I also want to show our readers that nothing is perfect, but it can be not as bad as other places. So what would you say you’ve had the most trouble with?
Mike: Things that I dislike about Mazatlan, you mean? There are really not many, and they are not deal breakers by any means. One thing I’ve noticed is people, because we have more trash on the street than in the US. People don’t pick up after themselves, or I don’t know what it is, but there is a little bit of trash on the streets sometimes.

The other thing is that especially in the tourist areas, you will get street vendors who come up to you. You’re laying on the beach, and they come selling their wares. I’m all for the entrepreneurial spirit. That is great, but one thing they do is they will come like if you’re sitting at a restaurant—a lot of the restaurants are outdoors because the weather is so nice. They will solicit to you while you are sitting there eating a meal or drinking beer or listening to a band. It is really not a big deal to say no, and they are polite. “No, gracias,” and they will move on.

Other things? Hmm. That’s about it.

Luis: I love the fact that you actually have to think about it.

Mike: I will say one other thing. There is a lot more obvious poverty down there than in some areas that you see in the States. I think the average income in Mexico is about 1/5 of what it is in the US, so you do see some impoverished areas. You don’t have to go very far to see that, but there are a lot of ex-pats that I know who are involved in community organizations that either help orphanages or do food drive or deliver food to people—that kind of thing.

One group we belong to is called Friends of Mexico, and they actually do a scholarship program for kids they can afford to pay the tuition fees to further their education. So yeah. There is a lot of that kind of volunteering going on also.

I think for the most part, the Mexicans are very welcoming of the ex-pats that live there, and we have American friends down there. We have Canadian friends, and we have Mexican friends. And in the whole age range also, so it is a really good mix of people, and I love it down there.

Luis: That was going to be my next question, like blending in and all of that stuff. Has it been kind of easy for you guys?

Mike: For me, it was easy. People just—you know, from everything I have read about moving to a new country and things like that, some people do have an issue with adjusting to the move and living in a new culture with cultural differences and being away from family and all
of that, but I never really have that. You know, we kind of fit in pretty quickly.

It does help if you know Spanish. My wife is bilingual, so she is definitely a big help for me. I speak some Spanish. I’m probably beginner to intermediate with my Spanish, but there are a lot of Canadians that I know that live down there but hardly speak any Spanish at all, and they get by pretty well. But obviously, if you know Spanish, it will help you. You will meet more people, and the experience will be much more interesting.

**Luis:** That’s fabulous. I’m really thankful for this. Let’s see. Transportation. Do you guys have a car? Do you use public transportation? Taxis? You know, they are abundant.

**Mike:** Yes. Transportation in Mazatlan is superabundant. There are buses, there are taxis, and more. Uber is down there now. We do have a vehicle, and we use it pretty extensively, and we rely on it a lot, but there are a lot of people we know who come down, and they don’t bring a vehicle, and they just use public transportation.

For example, a ride on the bus—there are 2 types of buses, air-conditioned and not air-conditioned. Air-conditioned bus is 10 pesos, which is about $.50, and a not air-conditioned bus is about 7.5 pesos, which is about $.35 or $.40—something around there.

And then cabs are very affordable. Actually, Uber just came in. The cabbies are kind of fighting it, but we recently used Uber. Actually when we went to go visit the dentist, we used Uber, and just like my experience with them in the States, very clean cars and nice drivers and a little more affordable than the taxis. So transportation is very easy now.

**Luis:** That is wonderful. I love that. That is progress that is coming to Mazatlan. A little competition never hurt. So anything you think we have missed that you want to add to this?

**Mike:** Beaches. Did I say beaches?

**Luis:** We haven’t talked about that.

**Mike:** The beaches are phenomenal. Fishing—sport fishing is great. I actually went bottom fishing last year, and we went about 2 or 3 miles off the coast and went up the coast about 30 minutes and found a great spot, and we caught about 80 or 90 fish. It was me and 3 other guys, and it was a phenomenal experience. The sport fishing there is some of the best in the world, from what I hear.

The beaches are great. The beer is cheap. There are a lot of good restaurants.

**Luis:** Do you miss foods from the States, or are you okay with what you have?
Mike: There are a couple of things you cannot get in Mazatlan or things that are harder to get, but it is not that big of a deal for me. So I really don’t miss a lot about the States, to be honest. At this point, I really don’t have any intention to move back.

And the other thing that is great about Mazatlan is they have so many festivals and events going on almost all year. The Carnaval is the third largest Carnaval in the world behind Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans. Then they have bike week. They have Semana Santa, festivals all the time, fireworks. They recently had a marathon a couple of weekends ago. They had fireworks afterwards. There are all kinds of events going on all the time.

There is a real nice theater in the Centro where they have plays and performances and stuff. There is a lot of live entertainment. There are 4 or 5 bands that play in the Golden Zone area that play 60s and 70s cover music—US, American and British bands or whatever. You know, a lot of entertainment, and I’ll never run out of things to do. That’s for sure.

Luis: That is fantastic. So what does it cost to go out to eat and have a nice weekend with the family?

Mike: What does it cost to go out?

Luis: Like you know if you’re going to go have some dinner and then maybe catch a show or something?

Mike: Right. I guess if you restrict yourself to the Golden Zone, you’re going to pay a little more because it is a tourist area. But even still, you’re paying 20% less than what you pay for a meal in the States. Again, if you go to Centro and go where the Mexicans eat, you’re going to pay maybe 50% of what you pay in the States for a meal.

So a taco, if you go to a taco stand, they’re going to cost $1.50-$2 each. We found a great stand that serves smoothies, and they cost about $2 each, words if you go to Smoothie King in the States, it is going to cost you about $6 or $7 a piece.

You have a ton of restaurants. A lot of sushi restaurants. There is barbecue. Just about anything you can find. So there are a lot of options, and food-wise, you’re probably can save at least 30% on eating out compared to the States.

Luis: Seems like a great deal all over the place, right?

Mike: It is. It is. So we actually eat out quite a bit. There is another one called Comida Economica. It is a little kitchen. You have a small storefront with about 4 tables in it, and there are several around Mazatlan, and if you go in there, you have a choice of 2 main
dishes, typically chicken and beef, and a choice of maybe 3 sides. You get 2 sides and a salad, and it costs about $3.50 for a hot meal.

So compared to that, a lot of times it is as cheap to eat out in Mazatlan as it is to cook it at home. So we do a lot more eating out. For example, we bought some chicken at the store. It was 80 pesos. It was probably 2 pounds of chicken, whereas the place down the street, you can buy 2 rotisserie chickens for 120 pesos, which is $6. So a lot of times, it is just as affordable to eat out as it is to cook in, so we definitely get our fill of that.

**Luis:** I am so happy for you guys, and you know I can tell that you are very excited and happy about being there. So I appreciate this opportunity to let us see this beautiful part of the West Coast through your eyes.

**Mike:** Yeah. Thanks. Thank you so much.

**Luis:** So we have a group in Mazatlan on the Dollar Vigilante, and I want to invite all of the readers to just send us any questions that they have. It is a wonderful place, and I hope that we can meet over there sometime soon.

**Mike:** Absolutely. If anybody is ever in town, hit me up.

**Luis:** Thank you, sir.

*If you want to join the main TDV subscribers’ only Facebook group click [HERE](#).*
*If you are interested to join the conversation at the TDV Group in Mazatlán click [HERE](#).*

*To see a list of all worldwide TDV Groups click [HERE](#).*
*If you have any questions about the groups or if you’d like to start one in your area contact Luis Fernando Mises at [lfernando@dollarvigilante.com](mailto:lfernando@dollarvigilante.com).*
Vices are those acts by which a man harms himself or his property.

Crimes are those acts by which one man harms the person or property of another.

Vices are simply the errors which a man makes in his search after his own happiness. Unlike crimes, they imply no malice toward others, and no interference with their persons or property.

In vices, the very essence of crime --- that is, the design to injure the person or property of another --- is wanting.

It is a maxim of the law that there can be no crime without a criminal intent; that is, without the intent to invade the person or property of another. But no one ever practises a vice with any such criminal intent. He practises his vice for his own happiness solely, and not from any malice toward others.

_Lysander Spooner_ was an American individualist anarchist, political philosopher, essayist, pamphlet writer, Unitarian Christian abolitionist, supporter of the labor movement, legal theorist, and entrepreneur of the nineteenth century.