



## Answering Your Questions

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### WHY ARE THERE NO FORMALLY EDUCATED FOREX EXPERTS?

I suppose the lack of formal education in this area of international finance stems from the fact that it was born in 1971. I have had this discussion many times with people who have just graduated and are off to take their exams. When we would hire such people, they would always want to ask me a question. I told them don't ask me anything for if you listen to anyone in the industry, you will flunk. Study what they want you to say. Pass your exams at the SEC or CFTC, and then forget what you memorized. Thereafter, your real education will begin.

There were not many of us in the '70s even interested in foreign exchange. I was aware of it as an American I suppose because my father took the family to Europe for the summer and we travelled all over from Scandinavia to the tip of Italy. You had to keep changing your currency from country to country and then learn about value all over again. When I got to Italy, it was then 1700 lira to the dollar. It certainly improved your math skills. Americans were sheltered. Our dollar had never been changed and unlike anywhere in Europe, an American dollar issued in 1863 is still legal tender today.

Learning the FOREX market was more of a self-taught field at first. Then it became really an apprenticeship as our firm and others would hire people and teach them. The shocking part is even today, the universities and colleges still do not teach FOREX concepts. There is no degree you can obtain in what has become the most important subject in economics. They just don't teach the global economy to this day. And we wonder why everyone is confused?

Even charting is not taught. There is the typical critic who proclaims he does not believe in charts and has a problem with a forecast that (1) if **X** happens, **A** will result or (2) if **Y** happens, **B** will result. People who expect clairvoyance obviously are expecting someone to do the work and they don't have to use any brain cells. They fail to understand that it is experience and knowledge that is the goal, not guru status. We all can have a hot streak and have a perfect track record for a brief period in time based upon instinct. That does not equate to consistency. If you are not interested in learning the trade to be able to

make you own intelligent decisions, then just donate your money to the NY boys and get it over with. They will take every last dime anyway.

**ALL** of the tools used in the financial industry from technical analysis, cyclical analysis, GANN, Elliot Wave, KWave, stochastics, you name it, they do not teach anything in school. They did teach the **Economic Confidence Model** at the *Citadel* in Philosophy class comparing me to Hegel, but not in economics. We do not train people to cope with the real world. People spend a fortune on MBAs and the like, but as an employer, such things only showed people were serious in the field. It did not qualify them for the trading field. Don't forget the legendary **Sidney Weinberg** (1891–1969) who began as an assistant janitor at \$3 a week and became head of **Goldman Sachs**. This is the real way the industry works. You cannot go to college to learn trading or hedging. This is a talent you have. You cannot go to Harvard for that.

It is ironic that the most important industry in the world is still not taught in school. Unfortunately, all the degrees in the world may look good on a business card and help you run for office, but they cannot make you a trader or even understand the world economy. This is why we are in such desperate shape since those in politics are really clueless for the most part, with few rare exceptions. Those who watched Lloyd Blankfein of **Goldman Sachs** testify before Congress and paid attention, noticed one thing. He had to talk down to all of them because they did not understand the industry to even pose questions. Oh they scored a few points. But they revealed their own ignorance in the process.



So if you are looking for someone with a MBA in the new world economy, good luck. There isn't a school that even teaches the subject in any practical depth. This is an **APPRENTICESHIP** industry like in Roman days. It has always been about landing a job with someone who has experience that you can learn from. I use to do 3 day workshops back in the 1980s teaching analysis and how markets traded. I have received many requests to do such events again. I'm not sure I have the energy to stand up for 3 days straight. It was really intense and grueling, although I truly enjoyed the interaction. I will think about it.

I have received many requests for speaking engagements and questions will I do a seminar on the world economic outlook. That I believe I will do perhaps this fall. I usually held them in San Diego. Perhaps it might be time to try the East Coast. Those interested can email [ArmstrongEconomics@Gmail.com](mailto:ArmstrongEconomics@Gmail.com) and I will notify you when and where.

Yes, I have been asked if I would teach at a university outside the USA. I am considering that since I suppose somebody has to get the ball rolling for this is just nuts. The most important subject is not even taught and then we expect our politicians to create a safe economic world? That's not going to happen until we start understanding the world in which we live rather than trying to dictate to the world how it should operate.