MANWARD letter

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Own the World... for Just $2.50

This Oddball Investment Has the Potential to Help Double America's GDP... Think You Should Own Some of It?

Some crazy things are happening on Wall Street.

It's got rising rates, craziness in Europe and a slowing domestic economy to deal with.

Normally, we'd start the issue with a bit of an introduction and an entertaining warmup.

But the team and I have a lot to say this month, and I have an investment I want you to look at right away.

It's a huge opportunity that many investors are wrongly discounting.

Many will shake their heads and walk away when they hear I'm recommending another crypto play. That's understandable. Megatrends like these often are hard to trust.

Other folks, though, will push up their glasses, get a bit closer to the facts and see just what in the world is going on.

I've long been told that I'm dangerously curious. But this time the risk seems relatively small. After all, I'm following the digital breadcrumbs of some of modern finance's biggest and savviest names.

Big Boys Go Virtual

Just as I recently did (read on for the details...), JPMorgan Chase has ventured into the metaverse.

By grabbing some key real estate in the virtual realm known as Decentraland, it became the first bank in this new economy.

It says the space will soon be a trillion-dollar opportunity.

It's not alone.

IMA Financial Group – one of the nation's 10 largest insurance brokers – just bought its own plot in Decentraland. A virtual world needs insurance too.

More specifically, IMA thinks the $1 trillion insurance industry is about to grow significantly as once-unheard-of assets like NFTs (nonfungible tokens) suddenly explode into the metaverse's $40 billion – fully insurable – market.

"We aren't content to take the 'wait and see' approach that our industry often favors," said one of the company's executives. "Society is at an inflection point."

Andy Snyder is the founder of Manward Press, the nation's premier source of unfiltered, unorthodox views on money. An American author, investor and serial entrepreneur, Andy cut his teeth at an esteemed financial firm with nearly $100 billion in assets under management.

Known for his outspoken market commentary, Andy's been a keynote speaker and panelist at events all over the world, from four-star ballrooms to Senate hearing rooms.

Today, Andy's dissident thoughts on wealth and investing can be found exclusively in *Manward Financial Digest* as well as in the pages of *Manward Letter*. He also helms the award-winning investment advisory services *Alpha Money Flow* and *Venture Fortunes*.

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To many, the metaverse sounds like another kooky social media experiment. In some ways, it is. Many of the same names that were behind social media are behind the metaverse.

But social media is far more dangerous. And someday, sooner than most folks think, we will look back at today's social media just as we do the early days of the internet and say, "Wow, it's so simple and small."

Facebook and Instagram will go the way of AOL and the bulletin boards that represented the first generation of the internet.

The Last Generation?

Many call what's happening today Web3 – the third generation of the internet. It's a fair way of looking at things. But it greatly discounts the massive growth that separates the web's first and second generations... from what's coming next.

At first, the internet was quite cumbersome. Simply opening a page with a picture on it was slow and wonky... even after the web's commercial debut. Many folks believed it was a fad.

Clearly, it wasn't. Because then came the second generation of the web. I can remember where I was when I first saw a smartphone – the middle of the woods in Alaska. The gap between mobile technology and the first version of the internet (which came hardly a decade earlier) was enormous.

Having a wireless connection to all the data in the world changed the economy in ways few folks expected.

The latest figures show the internet adds $2.1 trillion to U.S. GDP each year. It's directly responsible for 6 million jobs and indirectly supports another 13 million. All told, it accounts for about 12% of the nation's job market.

But I say those numbers are low. Heaven help all of us if the web were to disappear overnight.

It'd be more than $2 trillion that disappeared from the economy... and there would be far more than 13 million people looking for an unemployment check.

But the next generation of the internet – Web3 – stands to provide an exponentially larger leap forward than the second generation did.

Some say it could double the nation's GDP. And I stand right beside them, wondering if even that estimate is too small.

What's happening in Decentraland is just the beginning of a "virtual" economy that could soon mirror today's "real" economy.

Two Worlds... One BIG Economy

Digital Andy enters the metaverse.

I put the word "virtual" in quotes above because it is dangerous to think of this economy in that way. It's not accurate. The money that's changing hands is anything but virtual. The metaverse is very real... and very big.

The cryptocurrency used within Decentraland, for example, has a market value of $4.3 billion. Each day, some $350 million of it changes hands.

And this is just the beginning.

After digging into the opportunity and being very intrigued by the numbers, I did a bit of "boots on the ground" research. I created a Decentraland account, made my avatar and entered the metaverse.

It was like going back to 1999... with the knowledge I have in 2022.

The potential is huge. Some of the biggest brands on the planet have a presence in the metaverse. There are art galleries, information hubs, concerts and fashion shows – all this while the technology is still in its infancy.

In late March, in fact, some of the biggest names in the world of fashion – Tommy Hilfiger, Cavalli, and Dolce & Gabbana – teamed up for a major fashion show in the metaverse. At the end, there was an afterparty sponsored by Mercedes-Benz.

Clearly, this is not a game. It's turning into big business.

You've probably heard about the crazy prices of digital real estate. In Decentraland, for instance, there are 90,000 individual parcels of land.

Half of them are reserved for public spaces – trees, lakes, fountains, etc. The other half are real estate plots that now sell on the secondary market... often for obscene prices.

The owners of the land can do what they want with it. They can put up a storefront and sell digital goods. They can advertise. Or they can simply create an entertainment space... monetizing each digital eyeball that comes through.

It's just like the real economy. As more folks pour into this space for pleasure, information and, yes, even jobs... many of the things necessary in today's economy will find big value in the virtual world.

As with all real estate, of course, location matters. And the spots with the most traffic in Decentraland go for the most bucks. What's great is that unique districts are popping up. With JPMorgan's new investment, the financial district is growing quickly. Who knows... perhaps Manward will soon own some parcels of its own. (The truth has to come out in the virtual world too.)

In one of the biggest deals yet, crypto exchange Tokens.com just paid more than $2 million for parcels in Decentraland. Clearly, crypto will play a large role in the metaverse.

But when it comes to the leader of the pack right now, only one cryptocurrency counts.

It shares the name Decentraland but is better known by its symbol: **MANA**. It's an Ethereum-based token that serves as the currency within Decentraland.

Want to get some of that red-hot digital real estate? You'll need MANA.

Want to buy something on the Decentraland platform? You'll need MANA.

Better yet, want to own one of the hottest cryptos with the most real-world applications right now? You'll need MANA.

We currently have just one crypto play in our Modern Asset Portfolio. Now is the time to add another.

MANA's value depends on just one thing... demand for the currency. As more folks find out about the offerings within Decentraland – and as its real-world applications continue to expand (like insurance and financial offerings) – demand for the currency will rise.

And here's the real kicker... (My fellow buyback fans will like this part.)

Anytime something is bought or sold on the Decentraland platform – including all that valuable digital land – 2.5% of the sale price is burned.

That means, like so many of my favorite tokens, this one is deflationary. A total of 2.193 billion tokens will be created, and 612 million of them have already been burned.

Just as a stock buyback reduces the number of shares outstanding and increases the value of what remains, MANA's coin burning means units will be taken out of circulation each day, putting continuous upward pressure on the token's price.

But that's just one bullish aspect of MANA ownership. The big kicker I mentioned comes from growth. The more folks who use the Decentraland platform... the more folks who buy and sell on it... and, most importantly, the more folks who turn to the platform for things other than entertainment... the higher MANA's value will climb.

Things are quite interesting from that standpoint.

Decentraland's growth is flat-out huge. In 2021, the number of users on the platform grew by 3,300%. Those are growth numbers that companies like Facebook and Netflix could only dream of.

Even at their peaks, they hardly managed to double their number of users in a year. Decentraland use is growing exponentially faster.

Even with all that growth, MANA currently sells for less than it did last October. Put another way, despite user growth jumping 34X... the share price is up only 2X.

That tells me big gains are still to come... especially when each token is worth more of this appetizing pie every day.

With a fresh rush of folks who need MANA coming to the platform every day and a limited (and shrinking) supply of tokens, the opportunity is obvious... and quite large.

Bottom line... If a person wants in on Decentraland, they must have MANA. That's why I say we get some on the cheap now and sell it to the crowd when it gets a whole lot more expensive.

In the grand scheme of investments, this is a high-risk play. All cryptos are. But in the realm of digital currencies, MANA is one of the more conservative plays. That makes it an ideal addition to our portfolio.

It can be bought on many of the largest crypto exchanges, including Coinbase.

We don't see the birth of entire new economies all that often. The rise of the internet was big. But the long-term potential here is many times larger.

The metaverse – and realms like Decentraland – could ultimately double the size of the world's economy.

It's smart to own a small share of something with such big potential.

Action to Take: Buy **Decentraland** (MANA) for $3 or less. We'll add it to the Modern Asset Portfolio's Cryptocurrencies allocation.

Critical Update

What This Scale Says About America and Her Fortunes

The last few years in America have been hellish.

Some would say that condition isn't limited to the States, though. It's been hell on Earth.

The ignorant will blame a tough series of events.

They'll say contested elections, race riots, round after round of pandemic panics, a couple of economic shakeups and a war in Europe all occurring one right after the other is a mere coincidence.

The suffering was supposed to end once a new leader was chosen. Then it was supposed to end when 2020 turned into 2021. After that, 2022 was supposed to be the year of hope... after the masks came off.

But each passing day seems only to disappoint the naïve.

They're convinced, like dead-broke gamblers at a blackjack table, that the next hand is the winner.

Eventually, the casino will call them a taxi. It'll be a long, blurry-eyed ride home.

The truth is, none of this is coincidental. The chaos in the world is no more the result of chance than the success of the well-prepared man. What's the old saying... "Luck is what happens when preparedness meets opportunity"?

It's a critical idea.

What has taken place over the last three years is merely the result of the same idea... just flipped on its ugly little butt.

What we have now is what happens when a lack of preparation and thought meets reality.

Stupid Hurts

Decades of spending on all the wrong things... a floundering education system that fails to tell the world's important history – or its painful consequences... a carefully crafted system of checks and balances that's been pushed aside for feel-good laws and politics... and, perhaps the invisible killer, a social safety net that swallows its victims instead of bouncing them back to independence.

I've written about it all before.

In early 2019, I famously debuted my "Gone to Hell" scale – a unique rating system that can be used to gauge the health of not just the American economy and culture but also any government system of any scale.

Each time I bring it up, I put myself at greater risk. Folks don't want to hear this stuff. They take offense at the idea.

"How dare he say the Social Security system is a fraud?" they protest. Or "How dare he say those innocent teachers are leading our kiddos astray?"

But look in the mirror, America. That black eye isn't from some creep who came in from the back and sucker punched us. It's a self-inflicted wound. We got drunk and careless. We tripped on our own ignorant pride and fell right down the steps.

It's no coincidence that each year seems to be worse than the last. It's the result of a long string of bad choices.

We've all bashed our fingers with a hammer. It's only when we keep pounding our thumb into the board that we have a problem.

The sane recognize the pain, admit their mistakes and take action to avoid it. The sick and the ignorant pound harder and harder, thinking that eventually the pain must stop.

With that, we turn back to our "Gone to Hell" scale to see which way things are trending. Once we know how we're doing, we can take the critical first step and begin to fix what needs fixing.

Longtime readers will know the scale looks at five key criteria, grading each on a traditional A through F scale. We look at our adherence to good law, the health of our education system, our social safety nets, self-defense, and the difference in tax treatment between the rich and the poor.

Many grades have changed.

There's good news. And there's bad news. But all of it is honest and fair.

Let's take a look...

No. 1 The Rule of Law

When I first debuted the scale, immigration – which remains the subject of ongoing debate – was on the nation's mind. Back then, I homed in on the push to change the term "illegal alien" to "undocumented immigrant."

It's an ideal example of how we have laws on the books that have been created in a delicate system of checks and balances... yet are made null by a lack of enforcement or prosecution.

We see the same idea all across the nation. For several years, we've had sanctuary cities where, based on the politics of the day, certain laws are not enforced. But now we've got something even more dangerous: district attorneys who are creating their own systems of laws.

In Baltimore, Maryland, the home of Manward's offices, marijuana is illegal. But the city's district attorney has vowed not to prosecute the crime. Cops can arrest folks for weed, but they'll be pushed out the back door and never get charged with a crime.

It's the same for prostitution, public urination, trespassing and open container laws.

Each law serves a purpose... especially if it's your doorstep getting peed on. They were each voted on by a proper caucus of elected officials. But one person now stands in the way of their enforcement.

It's like that in cities all across America. But only in Baltimore has that one person also been arrested on federal charges of perjury and submitting false mortgage applications.

That's not a good sign for the rule of law.

Or take New York. The state is gearing up to allow its first-ever retail sales of marijuana.

Great. Let freedom ring.

Of course, sellers must be legally licensed. But who gets to be first in line to get these coveted licenses?

Is it the folks with the best business plans or those who have worked the hardest to get where they are?

Nope...

Hold on to your pearls. To get one of the first licenses, you or a member of your family must have been busted for a marijuana-related crime. The law-abiding aren't eligible.

It's insanity.

It's a smack in the face to all the folks who enforced the laws and devoted their lives to them... and, just as importantly, the millions of people who – even if they disagreed with them – followed the rules.

They did what was right under the law. And now somebody with a drug conviction gets ahead... simply because they broke the law.

That's not how it's supposed to work.

In fact, it's this disregard for the law from the very top that has me downgrading this category yet again – **from a D+ to a D-**. I'm convinced we're on the brink of failure.

But there is hope for a turnaround. If it continues, I may even boost this grade.

For the rule of law to live up to its weight, there must be fair and robust enforcement. For many folks, things have been less than fair. That's put a spotlight on the (we pray) few troublemaker police officers out there.

With video capturing so much of what happens in our streets and police wearing body cameras, it is tougher than ever for evil to hide.

This transparency cuts both ways, and it is an incredibly powerful force. But wielded correctly, with due caution, it could lead to a much-needed upgrade in lawfulness.

For now... the rule of law in America needs some attention.

"Gone to Hell" Scale Grade D-

No. 2 Our Education System

Oh boy... where to start. Our public education system is a mess. That's nothing new.

And, bringing the thoughts of a true expert on the subject into things, Mike Rowe recently asked why it is that our government is eager to forgive the debt on a student loan but not on a loan to an entrepreneur who took a risk to start their own business.

It's pretty silly. But something peculiar has happened over the last 24 months.

You've surely heard the phrase "Iron sharpens iron." Truly, it's the capitalist's motto. A bit of competition makes everybody stronger.

Thanks to COVID-19, that's what's happened in our schools.

It's no surprise that the number of families home-schooling their children in America grew from 5.4% in early 2020 to 11.1% last fall. Of course, as the pandemic wanes, so, too, will that number.

But not all of these kids will head back to a "real" classroom. And some folks say that now that a larger chunk of kids are accelerating through independent education, it will attract more folks to the idea.

That's good news all around. It creates badly needed competition for public schools.

Almost 25% of home-schooled children are one or more grades above their age-level peers in public schools. Their grade-level test scores are typically in the 70th to 80th percentile – by definition, well above average. And home-schooled children have significantly higher SAT scores.

Seeing these results, parents who bother to pay attention should surely be pushing for something better from the public system. But come on, this is America. It's not grades that do the talking... it's money.

This is where things get good. It's where and how real change will be made. You see, for each kid that opts out of the public system, the school system gets less money from the state. In Georgia, for instance, one school district saw 700 students pulled from its roster. That led to as much as $2 million in lost funding.

The teachers union doesn't like that.

"Hopefully, we can capture some of those kids that are in those daycares out there and we can get our enrollment up," said the public school system's chief financial officer. "If they show up in January after the first of the year, it's a little bit too late for us."

Perhaps that explains the big push for earlier publicly funded childhood education. Just follow the money.

I like the tension in the school systems. Add in the fact that more folks are able to take advantage of remote learning and the many different educational facets that have been born out of it... and there's reason for an upgrade.

I'm moving the nation's education system **up from an F- to a D+**. The less the government is involved, the better the grade will get.

"Gone to Hell" Scale Grade D+

No. 3 Social Safety Nets

This one is easy... It gets a downgrade. A big one – **from a B to a C-**.

It should be only a temporary move... a result of heavy-handed pandemic-related stimulus spending. But until the filth that covers the global economy is etched away by the sands of time, we must cast a skeptical eye on the nation's safety nets.

What started as a bold idea to protect the widows and orphans expanded into a program to help the lame and the unable. Good, most folks will say. It should be the community's job, but where a culture fails, it's fair to hope the government steps in.

But things have gone downhill fast.

Over the last two years, the American economy has deepened its addiction to handouts from deep-pocketed Uncle Sam. We've put checks in mailboxes. We've paid folks not to work. And only last month, the Federal Reserve finally made the last purchase through its quantitative easing program.

The bureaucrats should not file their forms too far away, though. The program will be back.

Over the last two years, businesses have been given money to pay their bills and students have been told not to pay back their loans. In some parts of the economy, it's impossible not to turn around and run into another free-money grant.

It's too much.

It's so much, in fact, that states haven't been able to spend it all – and that's saying something. At the end of last year, eight states had yet to spend a single dollar of the pandemic relief money handed to them by Congress – $16.5 billion in total.

There's no rush to spend the money. They've got until 2024 to unload it. That means it wasn't a pandemic safety net at all. It was a free money giveaway disguised as relief.

For proof… let's turn to my personal email inbox.

As an owner of farmland, I just received an email from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the headline "American Rescue Plan Technical Assistance to Benefit Underserved Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Landowners."

It's a program that helps folks apply for grants.

It's free money chasing free money. And, of course, "There is no anticipated overall maximum funding level." The five-year plan (yes, taking us to more than seven years after the nation needed "rescued") offers grants "normally ranging from $500,000 to $3.5 million."

None of it is aimed at building anything new or researching anything novel. It's all aimed at helping to give more money away.

It's insane spending. That's why I've downgraded this category. It's not that we don't catch the folks who are falling. It's that we also catch the folks who merely slipped or were starting to slow down. We can't afford it. And the effects on the economy are far too wide… far wider than the folks in charge care to admit.

"Gone to Hell" Scale Grade C-

No. 4 National Defense

The last time I wrote about this criterion, I mentioned some news that had just been released. We'd found out that it took a two-person team just one hour to gain access to a critical weapons system. It took them just one day to gain full control of it.

In a digital world, with cyberthreats growing by the minute, that's a big letdown. But it's true that we can't prove a negative. And we don't know what we don't know – or what's still classified.

Just last month, Microsoft worked in tandem with the folks in D.C. to detect and thwart a sizable attack. Even with all the angst over Russia, our systems have yet to be struck in any major way. That's good. We must give our systems credit.

Yes, there was some embarrassment in Afghanistan. The scene we created was not good. But we got our troops home and have shrunk our defense footprint.

We have more aircraft than any other country. We have the best special forces. We're No. 5 in the world when it comes to military-aged population (a crucial fact as our enemies face rapidly aging populations). And, of course, we spend like no other.

At the end of the day, I would want to be protected by no other country's military. It's not perfect, but our shores are safer than any others.

For that, I'll upgrade this category **from a D+ to a C**.

"Gone to Hell" Scale Grade C

No. 5 Taxes

This category isn't just about the obvious. It's not limited to how much the man takes from our pockets. Those numbers have consistently been record-breaking.

Corporate tax revenues, for instance, hit $370 billion in fiscal 2021 – an all-time high.

They'll be even higher this year. In all, the federal government collected $4.05 trillion in fiscal 2021.

That's a fifth of the nation's entire GDP. And through the first five months of fiscal 2022, taxation has shot even higher... A record-shattering $1.8 trillion has been collected so far.

(The government spent $2.3 trillion during the same time frame.)

It's far too much for a free and independent economy. It's proof that Washington's sticky hand has grown far too large.

But this failing grade comes down to what I wrote when I first debuted this scale...

> *History from ancient Rome to modern Russia shows that as the gap between the rich and the poor widens (no matter the actual dollars changing hands), it's hell on a government and the nation it represents. That's because it's one of the clearest signs of crony capitalism and political perversion.*

Despite rich campaign promises and all sorts of rhetoric, nothing has changed.

Worse, thanks to the pandemic, the income gap between the rich and the poor has widened to a degree seen few times before, tearing open the wound and pouring a gallon of taxpayer-funded salt into it.

Adding to the issue, the IRS is fatter and slower than ever.

As I'm writing this, the feds are warning that this year's tax returns are likely to be seriously delayed. The agency is still working on returns from 2020.

And don't think the IRS will be going high-tech anytime soon.

The agency is having a heck of a time updating its 60-year-old system. As of now, the new system is not expected to be finished until 2030 (just in time for all-digital money) and already has a price tag that's four times higher than was first announced.

Worse yet, the new system is no longer slated to be a full replacement. It'll just upgrade the core components.

Unbelievable.

Anything but a failing grade for the nation's tax system and everything that surrounds it would be a farce.

This one remains a big, bold **F**.

"Gone to Hell" Scale Grade F

We're better than most countries. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. But we sure should focus on getting our grades up.

They're not good. And that, no coincidence, leads to trouble.

Manward contributor Joel Salatin calls himself a Christian libertarian environmentalist capitalist lunatic farmer. Others call him the most famous farmer in the world, the high priest of the pasture and the most eclectic thinker from Virginia since Thomas Jefferson. He's been featured in radio, TV and print – everything from Food, Inc.*, and* The Omnivore's Dilemma *to* National Geographic *and* The Washington Post*.*

The Only Way to Keep the Government Out of Your Pocket

Joel Salatin

When it comes to things we'd prefer to keep private, how we spend our money is right up there with our sex lives and the identities of our close friends.

Most of us think it's nobody's business what goes on in our bedroom or who our close friends are. But perhaps nothing represents us better than what we buy.

Our expenditures are as intimate an expression of our selves as just about anything we do. Where we give our money, what we buy and from whom we buy are some of the most confidential decisions in our lives.

Show me a person's bank record, and I can tell you how he votes, what he believes and what he values.

A free and open society demands an ability to make nonpublic financial transactions.

The fallout from the recent Canadian protests is a harsh example of what can happen when a tyrannical state decides to attack suspect beliefs.

The confiscation of both personal property and bank accounts, without a warrant, reveals a totalitarian demon most of us would have thought impossible a mere three years ago. And yet here it is.

How many of these Canadians now wish they had buried all their money in the backyard?

Obviously it wasn't safe in banks. If this kind of attack can be orchestrated this easily and comprehensively within our current financial systems, imagine what could be done if we adopted a digital dollar.

Tracked and Hacked

In full transparency, I'm the world's least credible writer about digital currencies. I've never bought any crypto and have no idea how to buy it. I don't even have a smartphone.

Technology has both an upside and a downside. Sometimes we can become too sophisticated for our own good. Convenience can be a trap. As we've all learned, everything in the digital space, from email to social media, can be tracked and hacked.

As a true caveman Luddite, I have no interest in a digital dollar and am trying to figure out the best approach to maintain my ability to make confidential transactions.

If the Canadian government can intercept GoFundMe donations, certainly nothing in the digital space is beyond the grasp of authorities. (Is anything beyond their grasp?)

With the breakdown of civil law and order, of course, any of us could be exterminated.

But at least before now, the government's ability to track down unacceptable beliefs required espionage. The government needed informants and a broad-based investigative network to find its enemies.

In order to identify enemies of the state, totalitarian regimes needed a lot of boots on the ground to see where people went, what they did and with whom they hung out.

With a digitized currency, however, all this espionage and financial tracking can be done from a central bunker.

When a government can know the story behind every penny spent, it can almost identify the thoughts behind every financial decision.

People lose their anonymity in such a system.

Surveillance doesn't require local gumshoes. It doesn't require a broad-based system of government agents. Necessary intelligence flows into a central hub by default, erasing the ability of anyone to get lost in the crowd.

This kind of future makes me shudder. I can either get ulcers thinking about it or try to create a counter-universe.

In a system such as ours, what offers privacy and identity protection?

Place Your Bets

I'll bet on cash before I bet on cryptocurrency. Once things bounce around in the electronic universe, they're subject to every kind of manipulation imaginable.

While You're Here... Take a Close Look at THIS

We just put the finishing touches on something BIG. It's our most ambitious and potentially lucrative project to date. And anyone lucky enough to spot *this* ad – like YOU – has the chance to be among the first to see it.

Don't miss out. If you want to see how to take your wealth to a new level, go to **www.TheGenWealthSummit.com** right now.

Or call **844.201.1980** or **443.541.4636** for more details. Just be sure to mention priority code **GMXBY401**.

At least, that's what my pea brain thinks.

The one thing that continues to defy government knowledge is cash. It's nontraceable and anonymous. While cash is subject to inflation, so is any fiat currency.

While the crypto evangelists argue that their option is secure against inflation, they trade having their every move tracked for value.

Which is worse, losing value or being surveilled? I'll take inflation over Big Brother.

Then there's gold and silver. They've been confiscated and outlawed.

Even today, when someone tries to use either one as currency, it's like a huge strobe light signaling devious and conspiratorial thoughts.

Want to be known as a rebel? As a misfit? As a witch? Just try buying things with gold or silver.

At least crypto is hip. Using gold or silver is akin to terrorism.

I'm ready to go back to seashells and wampum. But even those can be measured, outlawed or confiscated if some government official deems them an enemy of the state.

This all brings me to Chris Martenson's book *Peak Prosperity*. He espouses nonmonetary forms of wealth like knowledge, health, skills and relationships.

Look Back to Move Forward

I remember well, back in the hippie days of the early 1970s, a groundswell movement called "Barter Fairs."

Coming long before the internet, their organization was clunky. But even with just phone calls and snail mail, they offered fascinating options for trade.

You could bring some eggs and trade them to a chiropractor for treatment. Some pork chops could get you accounting services.

People of all trades convened for a day or two and simply bartered.

It infuriated the IRS because nothing entered the government system.

It was completely outside of regulated platforms.

Unfortunately, the movement fizzled out as fast as it had flared up, but in today's e-revolution, it seems like some version of it could be resurrected.

An electronic Barter Fair offering every service and item imaginable could loosen the stranglehold financial institutions have over exchange.

"The one thing that continues to defy government knowledge is cash. It's nontraceable and anonymous."

It would make government bean counters fuss and fume.

The idea of building a completely voluntary universe of exchange, free of surveillance, would attract millions of folks who just want some control over their own lives. (Currently, my wife, Teresa, and I exchange meat for acupuncture treatments.)

While bartering may be cumbersome and inconvenient, it is entirely outside the realm of spying and tracking.

"Where did you get that?" becomes a question the government can't answer.

Few things make me as happy as outmaneuvering the machinations of government control.

While I'm not naïve enough to think such an option could replace currency, I'm not pessimistic enough to think that it couldn't take a bite out of the centralized machine.

In 1930, the U.S. became home to thousands of currencies as localities developed their own trading coupons. Rather than look to crypto, perhaps the best solution now is to look back.

Perhaps it can be found in the kind of trade that took place between the Mandan Native Americans and French fur traders along the banks of the Illinois River a few centuries ago.

Perhaps a community organized around shared values, using convenient electronic communication, can preserve financial anonymity even while the bankers and globalists collude to control everyone.

Thinking about and preparing to create a parallel universe that honors personal privacy and anonymity seems like one of the best investments we can make. ■

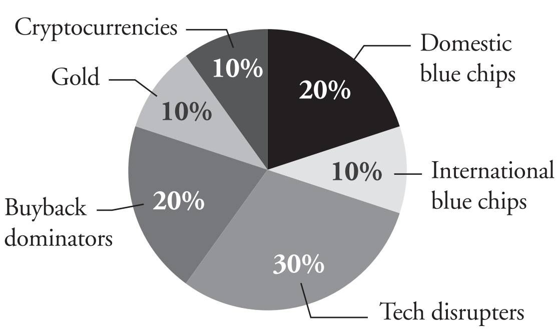
Modern Asset Portfolio

Negative Real Interest Rates

Company/Symbol	Rec. Date	Rec. Price	Curr. Price	Rating	Trailing Stop	Total Gains	Category
ABB (NYSE: ABB)	May-21	$32.42	$35.51	Buy	$29.25	8.91%	Buyback Dominators
Ares Capital (Nasdaq: ARCC)	Mar-22	$21.47	$20.80	Buy	$16.27	-1.02%	Domestic Blue Chips
CME Group (Nasdaq: CME)	Jun-20	$178.90	$247.99	Buy	$188.07	45.83%	Domestic Blue Chips
CSX Corp. (Nasdaq: CSX)	Mar-21	$30.60	$36.78	Buy	$28.28	21.44%	Buyback Dominators and Domestic Blue Chips
Decentraland (MANA)	**Apr-22**	**New**	**New**	**Buy**	**None**	**New**	**Cryptos**
EastGroup Properties (NYSE: EGP)	Nov-21	$198.92	$196.11	Buy	$170.89	-0.86%	Tech Disrupters
Gartner (NYSE: IT)	Jun-21	$233.70	$300.45	Buy	$254.77	28.56%	Buyback Dominators and Domestic Blue Chips
Hercules Capital (NYSE: HTGC)	Sep-21	$16.61	$18.01	Buy	$13.51	13.73%	Domestic Blue Chips
KBR (NYSE: KBR)	Apr-20	$21.45	$52.16	Buy	$41.56	147.18%	Domestic Blue Chips
Kearny Financial (Nasdaq: KRNY)	Aug-21	$12.06	$13.33	Buy	$10.29	13.18%	Buyback Dominators
Monero (XMR)	Oct-20	$95.52	$194.16	Buy	None	103.26%	Cryptos
Qiagen (NYSE: QGEN)	**Apr-21**	**$49.78**	**$43.72***	**Sell**	**$42.62**	**-12.17%**	**International Blue Chips**
Sandstorm Gold (NYSE: SAND)	Oct-21	$5.47	$8.02	Buy	$6.25	46.91%	Gold
Silvergate Capital (NYSE: SI)	Jan-22	$150.12	$151.19	Buy	$93.01	0.71%	Cryptos and Tech Disrupters
Unity Software (NYSE: U)	**Feb-22**	**$104.83**	**$81.80***	**Sell**	**$86.63**	**-7.09%**	**Tech Disrupters**
Physical Gold							Gold

MAP Allocation

Negative Real Interest Rates



Interest Rate Monitor

This Month	Last Month
-0.62%	**-0.43%**

10-Year Real Interest Rate

Last Update: 3/22/22. Gains include dividends.
***Based on sell date.**

Further Reading

"Opportunities in the Metaverse," JPMorgan Chase: https://www.jpmorgan.com/content/dam/jpm/treasury-services/documents/opportunities-in-the-metaverse.pdf

"Civil War II: Has America Already Fired Her First Shots?" *Manward Letter*: https://manwardpress.com/manward-letter/letter-issues/february-2019

"New Yorkers With Marijuana Convictions Will Get First Retail Licenses," *The New York Times*: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/09/nyregion/marijuana-sellers-licenses-hochul.html

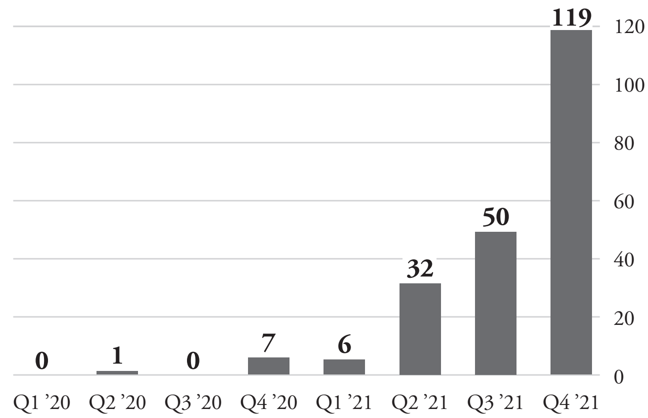
"The Pandemic Set Off a Home-Schooling Boom. Don't Be So Sure That a Bust Is Coming." Reason: https://reason.com/2022/01/28/the-pandemic-set-off-a-homeshooling-boom-dont-be-so-sure-that-a-bust-is-coming

Appendix

Gone to Hell

Rule of Law	D-
Education	D+
Social Safety Net	C-
Defense	C
Taxes	F

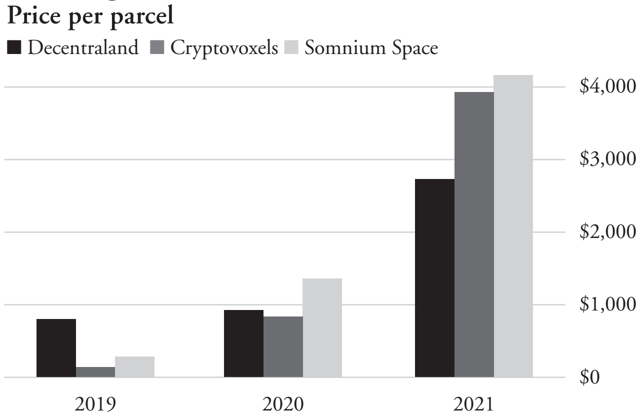
Metaverse Mentions in Earnings Transcripts



Source: GlobalData

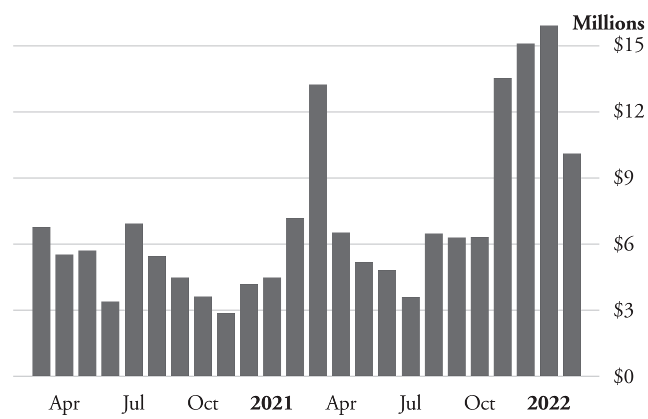
The Digital Real Estate Boom in the Metaverse

Price per parcel



Source: NonFungible.com

Decentraland Real Estate Sales per Month



Source: Dune – AMB Crypto

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