

A Libertarian Investor's Dream: A Backdoor IPO Opportunity Leads to a Red-Hot Stock With \$50 Billion Potential

Dear Reader,

Change never comes at us head-on.

Perhaps it's shy... Maybe it's sneaky... Or, who knows, maybe it's blind.

But when big change is on the way, it never looks us squarely in the eye and says, "Here I come."

No, it steps up from behind and slaps us right in the ear.

I remember in 2006 when I met with the CEO of a prominent tech company. He was pitching me his plan to blanket major cities with high-speed Wi-Fi. He'd already done it in a few areas. As we sat chatting in a small restaurant near Baltimore's harbor, he reminded me that I could open my laptop and get on his company's network right there... or anywhere in the city.

It was a hot product. He was getting a lot of sales and was ready to scale it up.

The CEO was particularly proud of how his product was pushing another up-and-coming product out of the way. With his Wi-Fi service, nobody would need the "internet over power line" technology that was being installed across major cities.

But then came change, sneaking out of the shadows.

Shortly after the CEO pitched his business, **Apple** (AAPL) unveiled its iPhone... and the phone companies debuted the fast cellular signals needed to feed it.

The CEO's plan – which looked great at the time – fell apart. And these days, nobody's heard of "internet over power line."

Change smacked them in the ear. Now the same thing is happening in the financial sector.

"Scared S---less"

I've written about it at length. And our portfolio reflects the idea. (You're welcome!) Fintechs are quickly changing Wall Street. They're taking power away from the big banks, and they're pulling at the strings of traditional investing.

Things are getting so intense that, just last month, Jamie Dimon, the head of **JPMorgan Chase** (JPM), was asked whether the strength of the fintech sector is something his bank (with \$3.4 trillion in assets under its thumb) should be worried about.

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 Digest*, as well as in the pages of *Manward Letter*. He also helms the award-winning investment advisory services *Alpha Money Flow* and *Codebreaker Profits*.

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“Absolutely, we should be scared s---less about that,” he said.

To me, it sounds like Old Man Change has already tickled Dimon’s ear.

“I expect to see very, very tough, brutal competition in the next 10 years,” he went on to say. “I expect to win, so help me God.”

Change Is Here

We are living in a time of incredible change. Some of it’s not so great... Much of it is.

Cryptocurrency... fintech... a digital economy... To many, it’s scary. We’ve certainly covered the Orwellian aspects of some of this technology and the changes that come with it. But in the pages ahead, I detail the tremendous upside in an idea libertarians should love.

What’s happening in this unique – and red-hot – space is the result of a government that has grown too big, too clumsy and far too powerful for its own good.

Its success shows that the free market remains alive and well. It has found an alternative to an expensive and time-consuming process... and it is making investors a lot of money.

If you’ve ever kicked yourself for not getting in on the year’s hottest IPO... you must read this month’s feature article.

It ties directly to my stock recommendation this month. It’s a company that not only took advantage of this unique and lucrative way to hit the public market but also has ties to the disruptive ideas I mentioned.

This company isn’t necessarily a fintech... but it’s using the same sort of technology to wield the same type of disruption.

And, again, it’s making early investors a lot of money.

Checkmate...

Here’s the crazy thing... Like **Uber** (UBER) or **Airbnb** (ABNB) – two companies with the same sort of disruptive power – this company could not have existed 15 years ago.

When I met with that CEO in 2006... something like this was unimaginable. This company’s technology was not yet born.

But when one industry insider – who works for its competition – recently learned about its product and plans, he reacted much like Jamie Dimon.

“This company is playing chess,” he said. “And we’re playing checkers.”

Slaaapp... Change just walked up and blindsided someone else.

I think it will make you a lot of money.

I’m excited about this issue.

It details a bold and powerful move that’s been made by the free market. It details fresh technology and a one-of-a-kind business model that I bet you have not yet heard about.

But best of all... it offers you the very best shot at knowing what’s ahead.

We don’t always get to see change coming. But if we know where to look and when to duck... we can avoid getting blindsided.

Change is coming.

We’re not just ready for it... We’re excited about it.

Be well,

Andy

This Hot Trend Is Just Getting Started

In-the-Know Investors Are Pouring Money Into These Special Pre-IPO Stocks

I’ve got my thumb on the hottest investment opportunity of 2021.

How do I know? Because this oddball investment created dozens of billionaires last year... and it’s just getting started. This is extremely exciting.

Every business owner has dreamed at some point about taking his stake public. The day a company goes public,

its founders and early investors get the massive payday they've been working for.

Investors, too, dream of getting tangled up in a hot IPO. It's long been Wall Street's worst-kept secret that getting "pre-IPO" shares almost certainly equates to a big profit when shares go public.

But most folks never have the chance.

Nowhere has the mantra "It takes money to make money" been truer than in the land of IPOs. It takes big money and strong connections to get in before the masses open their wallets and make early investors rich.

But that's no longer true.

Thanks to what I'm about to detail, you can now get in some of the hottest IPOs of the year with a stake as little as \$10.

Proven Results

Take **DraftKings** (DKNG), for instance. On December 1, 2019, the pre-IPO shares that now represent the company traded for just a bit more than \$10 each. At their peak last year – after DraftKings went public – those same shares surged to over \$60 each.

It was a gain of 500% in nine months.

Or look at **QuantumScape** (QS). Just last August, you could have gotten into pre-IPO shares for \$9.89. In December – four months later – shares rocketed to more than \$130 each... a 1,200% gain.

And finally, in another sector that I expect to be red-hot this year, Richard Branson made investors a lot of money when he decided to take advantage of this IPO alternative. On January 7 of last year, the shares that now represent his prized startup **Virgin Galactic** (SPCE) sold for just \$11.36. By February 20 – thanks to the hot market phenomenon I'm about to detail in full – they sold for more than \$37.

That's a surge of 225% in just 44 days.

It's all thanks to an old trick that's seeing a massive renaissance.

It's a capitalist's delight... a libertarian's redemption... and an investor's dream come true.

A Special Investment

The traditional process for taking a company public is exhausting. It requires reams of paperwork, a lengthy roadshow and intense scrutiny from regulators. It's an expensive and daunting task.

That's why, doing what free markets do best, the market has found an alternative. It's called a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC.

The way it works is quite simple. Think of it as a publicly traded company that has just one goal... to find the very best privately owned firm and "merge" with it.

It's a quick and easy way to bring shares of a company to the stock market without all the hassles of a traditional IPO. You'll see what I mean and just how lucrative these deals have the potential to be over the next year as I get into the details.

Hot Money

Because the QuantumScape deal made its early investors gains of as much as 1,200% in just a few months, we'll use it as an example. It paints a good picture... and teaches an important lesson.

In this case, the folks at Kensington Capital were interested in a bit of a moneymaking venture. They figured if they could gather a strong management team and convince enough investors to believe in the team, they could form a SPAC and bring a young startup to its market debut.

They started Kensington Capital Acquisition Corp. It began trading under the ticker symbol KCAC last June.

Like almost all SPACs, it started out trading for just \$10 per share. And – again, like all SPACs – it came with a big promise... **If the group didn't find a suitable firm to bring to market within the next two years, investors would get their \$10 per share back.**

For the next five months or so, share price didn't rise all that much. On September 2, shares traded for \$10.58.

That means investors were risking only \$0.58... but getting a share that – at minimum – was worth \$10. The downside was limited, but the upside was infinite.

It's no wonder SPACs are becoming wildly popular. At this early "premerger" stage, investors are speculating only

on the strength of the management team. A relatively fresh and unproven team won't get much of a premium. But experienced teams with strong track records will quickly see the value of their SPACs surge – long before a target company has emerged.

For example, the SPAC known as **Bridgetown Holdings** (BTWN) has a management dream team. It has Sam Altman – the former boss at startup insider Y Combinator – and billionaire Peter Thiel running it.

Its price has surged by more than 50%... and, as I write, no deal has been inked. It's still in the premerger stage.

Clearly, investors are looking for something big. Certainly, investors at today's prices don't expect the team to not find a partner when the clock runs out. If that were the case, they'd lose significant money – getting back only \$10 per share.

For most SPACs, the exciting action comes when the team announces it's found a potential merger partner. Often it doesn't announce the name of the company at first; it just issues a press release that says a deal is in the works.

This step brings attention to the SPAC and tends to get the share price moving.

After that, of course, the SPAC announces who it will be acquiring, as well as the terms of the deal. This is the make-or-break point for early investors.

Going back to our Kensington example, shares of the SPAC doubled during this period – going from just under \$10 per share to over \$20.

At first, investors who cashed out on the big, quick win patted themselves on the back. Over the next two months, shares dipped back below \$12 each.

But by the time the merger closed and Kensington officially became QuantumScape, shares rose to almost \$50 apiece. Within a month – as **Tesla** (TSLA) soared and rumors that Apple might get into the electric vehicle game spun that market to new highs – shares topped out at \$132.

(You can see it all in the chart below.)

It was an incredible run that proves the potential of investing in these “blank check” companies.

And don't think all the big gains are done.

There will be ample opportunities for triple-digit profits in the year ahead.

There are two reasons...

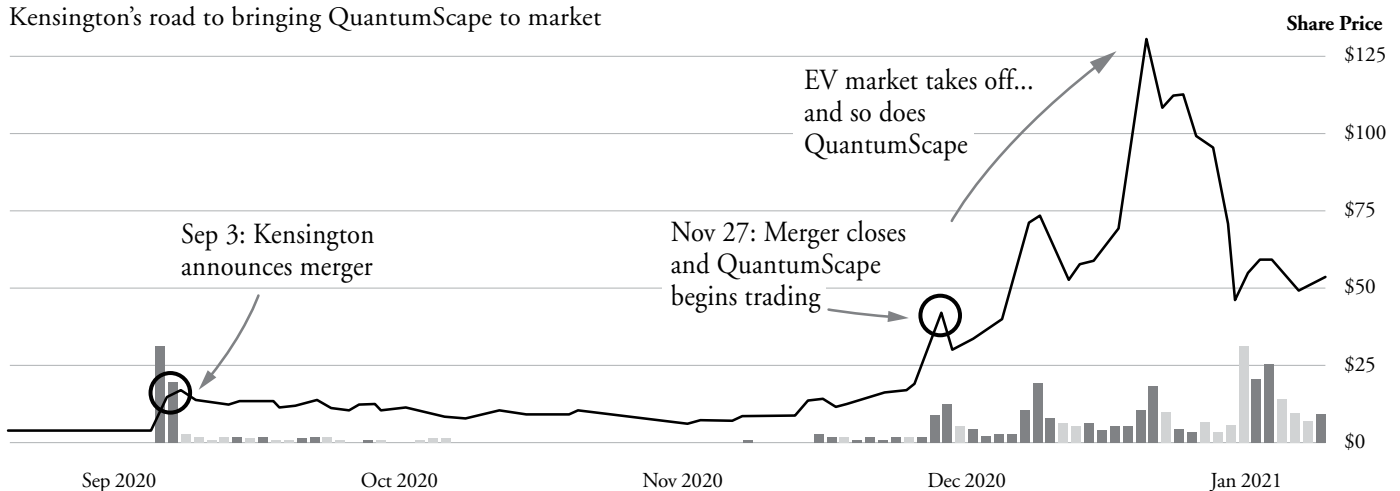
Free Beer... and Big Money

The first reason is perhaps the most obvious... Money attracts money.

With stock market valuations at record highs thanks to so much free money floating around, the traditional IPO market is red-hot. But more and more private companies

A SPAC-tacular Success Story

Kensington's road to bringing QuantumScape to market



are seeing the value and efficiency of quickly going public by merging with a SPAC.

I am not surprised when – like the hot trading platform eToro recently did – a company announces its plans to do an IPO... and says it's also considering a SPAC.

It's like putting a "free beer" sign in front of the pub. The thirsty will come knocking.

Last year, we saw SPACs raise a record \$70 billion in capital. That figure was up 44% from 2019's... a year in which capital raises, incredibly, were up 500% from 2018's.

What's important to note is that last year's SPAC figure was a full 52% of all IPO transactions in 2020.

That means it's now the favored way of going public.

And, again, as big money attracts even bigger money, the trend is likely to grow much further from here.

That's why it's so important you understand what's happening with SPACs and why.

Two Years... and Counting

The second reason the industry is set to boom even further in 2021 comes thanks to the clock on the wall.

Remember that I told you SPACs have 24 months to get a deal done?

If they don't find a suitable company to partner with in two years, the management team must hand the original equity back to shareholders.

It's rare, but it happens.

And with a huge slug of fresh SPACs hitting the market over the past 18 months, the clock is ticking for many dealmakers.

And here's where things get really exciting... Even if no more SPACs enter the market this year, the amount of money that is likely to be raised by these blank-check companies between now and the end of 2022 will almost certainly exceed the total value of all SPAC deals over the last decade.

It's a lot of money... more than \$300 billion.

And that's if the 80 or so dealmakers yet to make a move continue with the industry's historical 1-to-5 capital-to-final-value ratio.

As market valuations surge, the ratio is likely to rise. Numbers could soar.

Three Ways to Profit

The free market has done what it does best. It has found the most efficient way to sidestep ever-tightening regulation. In a world where IPOs are getting more expensive by the day and taking longer and longer to bring to life, SPACs are quickly becoming the path of choice by savvy startups.

Again, they're a libertarian investor's answer to a system mired with bureaucracy and red tape.

They leave three ways for investors to potentially profit – each with its own time horizon and level of risk.

The first is the shortest but perhaps least risky – investing in premerger SPACs. Again, a stake in these operationless companies can typically be had for about \$10 per share, which is returned if a deal is not done. The biggest risk is the management team not finding a deal or, worse, the deal not being worth the equity investors put into it.

In most instances, that hasn't happened, which is why a premerger SPAC investment is a strong move for speculative investors.

Find a good management team with a good history of success and hope it can make a good deal happen.

The second option is actually two options... but both involve news of a merger. As I mentioned, companies tend to announce a potential deal before they announce the actual details of the deal.

Both instances create a buying opportunity. Again, the more speculative opportunity comes sooner... when the company announces it has found a potential partner but has yet to announce who and the price.

A savvy trader – not an investor – can play the rumor mill for big bucks during this stage.

For the investor a bit more averse to risk, buying a stake after the deal is announced may be a better move. That's when the market has the details it needs to start making a fair, fundamentals-driven valuation. The name of the company the SPAC will bring to market is released, and so are its financials (including – and this is a big departure from standard IPOs – its projected future revenues).

At this stage, speculation tends to come out of the market and investors can often grab a good deal as volatility drops.

Finally, conservative investors will likely want to take advantage of the third stage of SPACs... when the deal is done and the new company is trading on its own within the secondary market.

At this point, companies are trading just like any other company, yet volatility remains elevated and any fresh news can send prices moving quickly. It's like getting into a freshly IPO'd stock, but with a lot less speculation. All the heavy guessing and strain of a market trying to reach efficiency have already been sorted out.

Because of the efficient nature of SPACs and the massive amount of freshly printed money circulating through the global economy, every investor should have exposure to the space. It will be one of the hottest and most discussed asset classes of the year.

Valuations will get rich... and so will many savvy investors.

THIS MONTH'S STOCK PICK

The Door's Open A Recent SPAC Leads Us to MAP Perfection

Is this the perfect stock for our Modern Asset Portfolio?

With several of our positions already up by 50%... 60%... and 70%... will this one soon beat them all?

Like Uber or Tesla, it's a leader in a highly disruptive technology. It's the result of the hottest SPACs and most respected investment teams. And, in a nod to last month's big prediction, it's a play on an inflation-proof sector.

Indeed... we may have found MAP perfection.

It's no secret that I'm a fan of real estate these days. In the years after the 2008 crash, there was a shortage of new home supply as builders suffered. Now that shortage is being filled as a flood of Americans rush to the suburbs with cheap money in hand.

Real estate is an ideal investment. I just bought 4 acres that adjoin a sprawling neighborhood, with plans to buy another 10 acres within the next 60 days.

Its value doesn't hinge on the latest headline... the meanderings in Washington... or the next earnings report.

But all that upside comes with a hefty downside. Buying and selling real estate is a slow, expensive process.

I bought my last piece of land without the help of a realtor, and I plan to do the same with the next. It saves thousands if not tens of thousands of dollars.

And while skipping a realtor saves money, it doesn't always help with the other big downside... time.

A lot of time goes by between when a house first hits the market and when the moving truck finally pulls up.

As I write, the average time a home spends on the market is 57.5 days. That's two months. And, get this, even that big figure sits near multiyear lows. Historically, time on market has been closer to 80 days.

Imagine if it took a 6% commission and two months to unload shares of a stock. The market would look a lot different.

And consider, perhaps the biggest deal breaker of them all, the long chain of buying and selling that it takes to make a deal happen.

I once sold a house that required three other closings to happen nearly simultaneously for the buyers to be able to get the cash they needed to close on my property.

If just one of those deals had gone south, the whole thing would have unraveled.

Altogether, these facts make buying and selling real estate an inefficient and expensive process.

Imagine if there were a company that could fix it.

Imagine if a company could eliminate realtors and their 6% commissions... slash the time it takes to sell a house from months to mere hours... and eradicate all the buying and selling contingencies that make as many as 20% of deals fall apart.

We'd all agree that the company would not only disrupt one of the world's most valuable and entrenched markets...

but also make a boatload of money in the process.

That company exists. And thanks to a recent SPAC... its shares have recently started trading on the open market.

Slow and Expensive... No More

Opendoor Technologies (OPEN) made its stock market debut last June thanks to a SPAC managed by Chamath Palihapitiya – a billionaire business icon.

Palihapitiya's resume is impressive.

He was an early executive at **Facebook** (FB). He invested in Peter Thiel's **Palantir** (PLTR). He had a stake in Playdom... which was bought by **Walt Disney** (DIS).

He owned a chunk of Bumptop... when it was bought by **Alphabet** (GOOGL).

After all that, many folks would have moved to the islands. But not Palihapitiya.

Have You Ever Seen a Chart Like THIS?

This Odd Pattern Appeared Before Crypto Run-Ups of 508% in 21 Days... 433% in Two Weeks... 900% in 13 Days... AND MORE

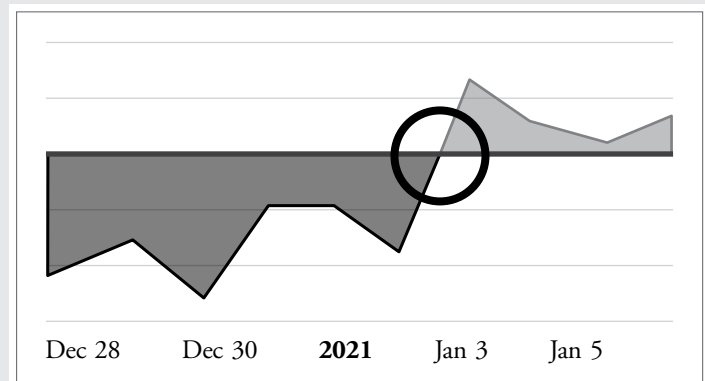
Manward Letter subscribers know that I'm bullish on crypto... and I'm on record calling for **Bitcoin** (BTC) to reach \$100K.

That's why I'm so excited to unveil the results of my latest research.

After all, in the high-flying world of digital currencies, everyone's looking for an edge. The crypto market can feel like the Wild West... *especially* to old-school investors.

But recent technical developments have finally made it possible to track what's happening in individual cryptos.

We're able to do some powerful things with the data. Just look at the chart...



See that crossover I circled? It tells us something very important about this small coin. **Investors are targeting it and pouring cash in.** And that means a big run-up could be imminent. This is huge. It's a game changer for anyone who's been looking for that elusive edge in crypto. And it's why I'm sharing it with my subscribers.

When this type of pattern appeared last year, it was followed by crypto run-ups of **508%** in 21 days... **433%** in two weeks... **900%** in 13 days... and more. It showed up on March 18, 2020... right before Bitcoin launched into its record-breaking run... and on June 8, 2020... before **Kyber** (KNC) doubled in less than a month.

In my mind, it's about as surefire a buy signal as you can get – not just in crypto, but in any potential investment. You can see what I mean at www.AlphaMoneyFlow10.com.

When you visit this secure link (which was created solely for *Manward Letter* readers), you'll learn all about this odd pattern. **PLUS: You'll get details on the three small coins it's pinpointed as the biggest potential winners of 2021.**

You can also call **800.682.5210** for all the details. Just be sure to mention priority code **GMTDX200**.

He started a venture capital (VC) firm known as the Social+Capital Partnership. That's where he helped make **Slack** (WORK), **Box** (BOX) and Yammer kingpins of the tech industry.

But it's the ride Palihapitiya started on in 2019 that may ultimately put him in Wall Street's hall of fame. That's the year his SPAC, Social Capital Hedosophia, brought Virgin Galactic to the market.

Shares have since tripled in value. And again, the VC expert didn't rest after that big win.

After Richard Branson and the folks at Virgin cashed Social Capital's check, Palihapitiya pulled another blank check out of his pocket.

This time he took aim at Opendoor. Once you know more about the company, you'll know exactly why the billionaire said this: "These guys are my next 10X idea."

A Game Changer

Opendoor solves all of the problems that I previously outlined. It gives sellers an instant cash offer on their home.

That means no more listing hassles... no more open houses... no more realtor headaches... and no more confusing dealmaking.

The seller simply enters his address and gets a competitive offer on his home in seconds. If the seller agrees to the price, he signs a purchase agreement, which jump-starts the next process – an in-person inspection.

From there, it's a done deal. The seller merely needs to schedule a closing that works for his schedule.

The process eliminates the biggest hassles with home selling. But what about buying?

That's just as easy... and where the sort of technology I've written so much about – especially with our **Alarm.com** (ALRM) play – comes in.

Because Opendoor takes possession of homes before selling them, it's able to show them without the hassle of involving a realtor.

Simply load its app on your phone and drop by any of its homes between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Click the "unlock" button in the app on your phone and, boom, the door opens, inviting you to take a self-guided tour.

If you like it, get out your phone again and start making an offer with a few clicks. Buyers can even team up with a local realtor to help guide them through the buying and inspection process.

World-Class Leadership Opens Doors

Chamath Palihapitiya may be the man responsible for bringing Opendoor to the market, but he's not the man who runs it. His job is done. But it's clear that he put his money on a world-class leadership team.

Just look at this pedigree...

The company's CEO is Eric Wu... He used to be the head of product at Trulia.

Opendoor co-founder and current chief technology officer is Ian Wong, the former head of data science at **Square** (SQ).

Carrie Wheeler is the chief financial officer. She was formerly a partner at the elite VC firm **TPG** (TPGY). It specializes in leveraged buyouts and growth capital – perfect for a company in this stage of life.

The president of the company's Homes and Services group is a former leader at Amazon and Airbnb. (No wonder the comparisons are obvious.)

And finally, Opendoor's chief product officer is Tom Willerer, a former vice president of product for Netflix – a company known for its blockbuster product lineup.

With Opendoor, we're investing in not only an industry-rattling business model... but also industry-leading talent.

A First Mover

This sales model is still in its infancy. That's why I like the potential of this stock so much.

The company was founded in just 2017. But it's already seeing incredible, industry-rattling success. In 2019, for instance, the company sold 19 million homes, four times that of the nearest competitor. In all, the company saw close to \$5 billion in sales.

But here's the thing... The company is just getting started.

Right now, its services are available in just a few cities in 12 states. It's a total of just 21 markets.

That is just a sliver of the available market share. That's why the company is aiming to be in 100 markets within a few years... leading to projections of \$50 billion in sales.

That's massive.

The Bottom Line

Of course, sales are one thing... Profits are another.

How does Opendoor make money?

The overall strategy is obvious: Buy low, sell high. Just by boosting market efficiency and slashing several middlemen, the company has a leg up on the traditional real estate model. But Opendoor takes it further.

After buying a home, the company sends in a team of contractors to make repairs, repaint walls and upgrade critical fixtures. And because it's doing this with nearly 20 million homes each year, it can take advantage of massive scale.

Doing some digging, for instance, I found out the company gets an average of a 40% discount on its building supplies.

With that sort of scale and ability to undercut its competition, Opendoor is clearly the Amazon of the real estate world.

It's big... and its scale ensures it will keep getting bigger.

Over the next few years, I expect to see the company expanding its efforts in the realm of mortgages, titles and brokerages. It will ultimately become a behemoth with monopolylike power.

Again... see Amazon and what it's done to the retail industry and overall economy.

Opendoor has the potential to be a "deflation leader" with the ability to produce a similar impact.

It's an ideal business to own in a realm of zero interest rates. When money is virtually free, companies like this can explode in growth.

I say we jump in now while the company is still young and most investors don't yet know what's about to hit the real estate industry.

MAP Theory Defined

Deflation leader

A company that is making prices fall across its industry.

Action to Take: Buy shares of **Opendoor Technologies** (Nasdaq: OPEN) at the market's price. We'll use a 25% trailing stop on the play and add it to the "Deflation Leaders" portion of our Modern Asset Portfolio.

My Answers to Your Biggest Questions

As the value of our mission grows and our subscriber roster swells to record levels, we've received more questions than ever. Here are my answers to some of the most frequent questions. Keep them coming. Send an email to mailbag@mandwardpress.com.

It's not surprising that the top questions I receive each week focus on Bitcoin. It's one of the most powerful financial disrupters of our lifetime. And here's the question I get more than any other on the subject...

Q *Can't the government just outlaw Bitcoin and other cryptos? If Congress has given itself the sole authority to create money in the U.S., why can't it just make it illegal to own or use crypto?*

A Indeed, some lawmakers have pondered the idea of outlawing cryptos.

In 2018, for instance, California congressman Brad Sherman urged his fellow lawmakers to pass a law that would outlaw crypto purchases by Americans and “nip this in the bud.”

He made it clear that crypto was a threat to America’s currency monopoly. He said it’s the dollar’s role as the world’s reserve currency that gives us the power we have.

He’s 100% right.

And that’s why so many folks – foreign nations and American citizens alike – want an alternative.

The rabid growth of alternatives in recent months is why Washington has taken a more defeated stance.

Folks like former Senate Banking Chair Mike Crapo have pondered the idea and have come to the same conclusion I have.

The senator said that even if Washington found the resolve (or guts) to ban crypto, he’s “pretty confident we couldn’t succeed in doing that because this is a global innovation.”

In the months since he said those words, much has changed.

The Federal Reserve has printed trillions of dollars.

The nation’s debt has exploded.

And the threat of inflation has soared.

Because of it, decentralized money has become even more entrenched.

Now huge money movers like **PayPal** (PYPL) and Square have opened the door to Bitcoin, all but ensuring the currency’s too-big-to-fail status.

Yes, the government will go after the shady alternative coins (altcoins) and the coins that skirted the law, just as it has with **Ripple** (XRP).

But it’s that uncertainty that makes the market inefficient and ripe with trading opportunities.

We’re in the midst of something big. And as more folks realize it’s not going away, the profit opportunities will continue to expand.

Q *After the last few months – the elections, the fighting, etc. – I’m worried about the country and its economy. No doubt, Trump was good for stocks. But Biden and party scare me as a successful investor. Have we seen the peak? Is it time to change the way we invest?*

A This is one of the biggest questions investors have anytime power transfers from one party to another.

Fortunately, the answer is simple.

If you’ve been following the script I’ve written in recent months, you know there is no need to do anything different... no matter who is in the Oval Office.

The Modern Asset Portfolio is based on a force much more powerful than politics.

It’s built on the historically proven notion that money goes where money is treated best.

As long as we continue to focus on interest rates and how their tentacles affect the economy, we have a much more reliable indicator than anything in the political sphere.

If real interest rates (that’s the 10-year Treasury minus inflation) move above our thresholds, then we’ll change our allocation and investing style. Until then, there is no reason to make a move.

Let the reporters worry about politics. Investors must focus on the real world.

Here’s another popular question among skittish investors...

Q *In a dollar crash, with gold going up – how would one spend gold in personal possession? Who would buy (with inflated or worthless dollars) in a “worst-case scenario”? I can’t take a 1-ounce Gold Eagle to Kroger!*

A Indeed, the day we need gold to pay for food at the supermarket is not anything we should wish for. If it comes to that, the economy will be in serious trouble, and, frankly, a leisurely trip to the store isn’t likely going to be an option.

It’s the sort of thing you should prepare for... but not expect. Instead, gold must be seen as an insurance policy.

Its history as a counterweight to an eroding currency is more than enough reason to store a chunk or two of the metal in your safe.

It likely won't make you rich but will ensure that if the unexpected happens, you'll be able to purchase what you need.

Most likely, directly to the point above, you'll need to convert that gold into the currency of the day.

And, due to gold's staying power, it will buy you more and more cash as the value of that currency falls.

Q *I'm a new subscriber and am looking at your portfolio. Almost all of the stocks are up by 20% or more. Should I buy the hottest stocks... buy the ones that aren't up by as much... or just wait impatiently for your next recommendation?*

A I'll start with the clearest answer. **Don't buy a stock based on its past performance.**

If investors had shunned Apple because it had already gone up 100%... they would have missed out on it going up many more times that over the past few years.

It's the same with any stock.

Instead of trying to use past performance as an indicator, I always tell new readers to start with my most recent recommendations.

Not only have those stocks not surged by as much as some of the older plays in our portfolio (in most cases), but the catalysts that led me to them are fresher.

Stocks are like my kids. I don't have a favorite...

and what they did yesterday certainly isn't what they're going to do today.

One more question...

Q *Bitcoin... \$40K. Your prediction for 2021 came true just days into the new year. Are you willing to make another prediction?*

A Ha... what a crazy thing. When January's "big prediction" issue went to print, Bitcoin traded for less than \$20K. A double seemed obvious, but even I didn't think it would come that fast.

In hindsight, it's clear why it surged.

Loads of institutional dollars are pouring in. Everybody from hedge funds to banks to PayPal is buying.

It started as a trickle but is quickly gaining momentum. As it snowballs, the surge is sure to get bigger and stronger.

But here's my new prediction...

The entire crypto market hit a valuation of \$1 trillion for the first time ever in early January. By the time the year ends, the total value of all coins will be \$3 trillion.

That's what happens when governments start printing money with no end in sight. The free market finds a better alternative.

Have a question? Drop me a line at mailbag@manwardpress.com. ■

An Update on the Dow 100K Portfolio and Trailing Stops

When I first debuted the Dow 100K Portfolio, I said that, in this rare case, it was prudent to push aside our standard trailing stop strategy. After all, there would be bumps in the road that could force us out of good positions that could be tough to replace.

But that was early last summer... before two more rounds of stimulus and several trillion dollars of money printing. As that trend continues, even I underestimated the number of companies that would ride this wave higher to Dow 100K.

Where it once looked like we would have a limited scope of stocks to play, I'm now seeing a sea of opportunity. It means if we are stopped out of a play, with some work and due diligence, we can likely replace it with one with equal upside.

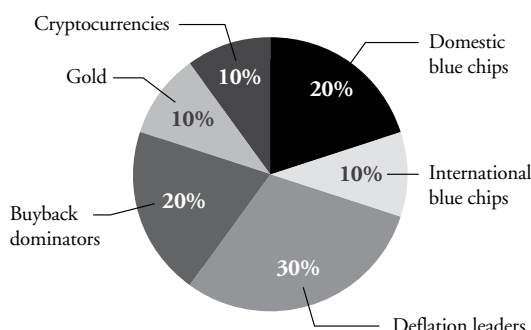
I'm adding a 25% trailing stop to all current positions and will detail the trailing stop with each new play going forward.

Modern Asset Portfolio

Negative Real Interest Rates

Company/Symbol	Rec. Date	Rec. Price	Curr. Price	Rating	Trailing Stop	Total Gains	Category
Alarm.com (Nasdaq: ALRM)	Aug-20	\$67.09	\$97.94	Buy	\$80.77	45.98%	Deflation Leaders
Avalara (NYSE: AVLRL)	Nov-20	\$146.23	\$161.52	Buy	\$137.84	10.46%	Deflation Leaders
Opendoor Technologies (Nasdaq: OPEN)	Feb-21	New	New	Buy	25% TS	New	Deflation Leaders
Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. (NYSE: SMG)	May-20	\$122.53	\$218.78	Buy	\$169.64	80.53%	Buyback Dominators
KBR (NYSE: KBR)	Apr-20	\$21.45	\$31.56	Buy	\$23.86	48.53%	Domestic Blue Chips
Afterpay (ASX: APT)	Dec-20	A\$95.30	A\$141.00	Buy	A\$105.75	47.95%	International Blue Chips
Monero (XMR)	Oct-20	\$95.52	\$157.73	Buy	\$92.56	65.13%	Cryptos
Physical Gold							Gold

MAP Allocation



Interest Rate Monitor

This Month	Last Month
-1.02%	-1.00%
10-Year Real Interest Rate	

Dow 100K Portfolio

Company/Symbol	Rec. Date	Rec. Price	Curr. Price	Rating	Trailing Stop	Total Gains
10x Genomics (Nasdaq: TXG)	Jan-21	\$141.65	\$182.22	Buy	\$136.66	28.64%
CME Group (Nasdaq: CME)	Jun-20	\$178.90	\$192.20	Buy	25%	10.26%
Fiserv (Nasdaq: FISV)	Sep-20	\$99.85	\$107.67	Buy	25%	7.83%
Logitech (Nasdaq: LOGI)	Jul-20	\$65.22	\$97.73	Buy	25%	51.19%

Note: Do not put more than 5% of your total portfolio into these positions.

Last Update: 1/19/21. Gains include dividends.