

# CHECKMATE



# AUGMENT & DEFEND

**PROTECT YOUR  
PORTFOLIO  
FROM ECONOMIC CHAOS**

Prepared By Ian King and Michael Carr

## Checkmate: Augment & Defend

### Protect Your Portfolio From Economic Chaos

By Ian King, Editor, *Strategic Fortunes*

**W**HEN I was a kid, my mom used to give me \$2 to pick her up a pack of Lark Lights at the 7-Eleven.

I'm still amazed they let an 8-year-old buy cigarettes, but they knew my mom. And it was a different time ... in a lot of ways.

If I could scrounge up some change, I had enough to buy myself a \$0.75 comic book.

And if I wanted a candy bar, it was \$0.30 or \$0.40.

Today, it would cost you around \$1.65 — over 300% more!

These days, you'd have to choose between a gallon of milk or a dozen eggs — because \$10 can't cover them both, *plus* tax.

And if your list has dietary restrictions, comic books or cigarettes — *forget about it!*

But it's not just the cost of the food you bring into your home that's gone up... The price of homebuying has surged.

In 1980, the average home sold for less than \$50,000. Today, the nationwide median is \$388,800.

And if you're trading in four seasons elsewhere for year-round warmth in Florida, that number rises to \$410,000.

Now, there are times when the dollar loses value a lot more quickly. When you look at highly inflationary periods like we're in now, a dollar doesn't stretch nearly as far as it did even just a few years ago in 2020.

So it's abundantly clear — the United States dollar (USD) is losing value.

One reason for that is, of course, inflation.

In the past year, we've seen it peak as high as 9.1% before recently coming down to around 4%.

But this isn't the sole reason behind the USD's depreciation. In all truth, there is no singular reason.

The world is currently in a state of financial panic brewing since we came out of the pandemic.

However, governments have *historically* used financial panics to increase centralized power.

Whether it's the bank funding program of 2023 or the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 — I could pinpoint events over the last 100 years that were a direct response to a financial panic — much like the one we see today.

Take what's going on in the regional banking system, for example.

The decline is so sharp you almost need to watch it through your fingers — *it's just that bad.*

This year alone, we've witnessed Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) collapse...

Signature Bank fail...

First Republic crumbled, losing about \$70 billion of deposits since the start of the year after Silvergate, SVB and Signature fell. Before the mess, they totaled \$176.4 billion.

And PacWest Bancorp and Western Alliance appear to be following closely behind.

So the Fed and Treasury stepped in with monetary support.

However, not before it caused a rift in traditional banking.

There's also the inflation and rising interest rate battles we've been fighting for nearly two years.

You couple that with the economic issues, chip war with China, the Russia/Ukraine conflict, and what's happening with the debt ceiling and traditional banking — Americans are scared.

They're rightfully questioning where to store their money and what to invest in.

However, I believe one unique pick is the answer — **bitcoin (BTC)**.

## The Ultimate Macro Stabilizer

Bitcoin has many qualities.

Available on most major brokerage platforms, bitcoin has nearly 70,000 ATMs in the U.S. *alone*.

It has the power to capture the 1.3 billion people in the world who choose to store currency in cash versus a bank. It also makes moving “money,” or digital value to anyone, anywhere in the world, as easy as sending a text message.

And though popular right now, in truth, it didn't start that way.

After over a decade, the early days of BTC being the hard-to-find, even harder-to-store crypto beloved by dark web users with a checkered past are gone.

However, it's since shed its shady reputation. The crypto ecosystem has changed dramatically since I bought my first bitcoin in 2013.

With over 44 million people owning it these days, BTC is much more established and largely accepted worldwide.

It can be the ultimate hedge against government overspending. Simply put, citizens of countries that spend beyond their means now have another alternative to their domestic currencies.

I've personally met with Argentinians and Venezuelans that protected their wealth by moving it to bitcoin during highly inflationary periods.

It's the ultimate antidote to government control of the money supply.

Over the next few years, we will see more central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) roll out. Essentially, these are digital dollars.

I believe that citizens who want to keep their money away from government control will be incentivized to move it into bitcoin.



In the U.S., the digital dollar is incredibly important to the Federal Reserve.

It gives them more oversight and control over the money supply. A digital dollar would allow Americans to even deposit them at the “Digital Bank of the Fed” when they’re worried about their own banks.

That’s why the Fed’s been diligently planning its so-called “Project Hamilton” for years. All along, the central bank has been trying to take more power. This has happened with every financial crisis. I’ve been warning my readers of this risk long before it became mainstream.

And now that we are facing the dawn of the digital dollar ... I believe this is a catalyst that will spark the flame that spreads bitcoin like wildfire.

## BTC As a Hedge

Up 59% since the start of the year, we’re already starting to see bitcoin climb due to many reasons, one of which is “hedging.”

A hedge is an asset you can buy that isn’t correlated to your stocks or any other investments you might have. And I believe bitcoin is potentially being used as a “hedge” against a larger dollar devaluation event.

Investors have been buying bitcoin as a hedge against geopolitical risk because, as we’ve established, it’s a decentralized currency not backed by any government.

If the dollar, for instance, loses its reserve status, which we’ve held since the 1940s, bitcoin could *significantly* benefit from that.

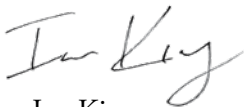
### **Action to Take: Buy Bitcoin (BTC).**

When it comes to bitcoin, I think that’s a bigger narrative we’re witnessing that we haven’t seen in the past.

Investors can diversify their fiat currency holdings with bitcoin rather than just gold, silver or the typical precious metals they did in the past.

And now, you’re seeing investors look for inflation hedges like bitcoin and gold. That, I believe, is the catalyst for buying bitcoin right now.

Regards,



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