

Hello Everyone.

Do you remember the book, ***Men Are From Mars Women Are From Venus?*** I'm coming to believe stocks are from Mars and bonds are from Venus. Bond interest rates are telling investors to be careful. Stocks are telling investors it's blue skies ahead.

Despite the volatility (yes, it has increased)---the stock market is trading where it was 18 months ago, and interest rates are where they were 20 months ago. So, maybe we have the Macbeth markets---lots of sound and fury signifying nothing. Meanwhile, gold, silver, water and food are moving up.

This week's missive continues our Loser Nation series...and we will tip toward the Women-Are-From-Venus theme.

I hope you find it interesting and edifying.

Signed, Your Sometimes-I-Wonder-What-Planet-Our-Kids-Are-From Financial Advisor

Greg

KKOB 06.10.2019 Loser Nations Part 2 Subjugation of Women

Bob: So, Greg, last week we began the series about Loser Nations...and Loser Investments. In short, why do some succeed, and others fail? So far, we have determined one way to spot a loser is this----losers attempt to control the free flow of information. If you have either state or company sponsored censorship, you will not be competitive.

Greg: Great summation. So, let's move on to another characteristic of the losers.

Loser Nations subjugate women.

Bob, if a nation takes half its talent and pushes it to the sidelines, that nation won't make it in today's global economy.

And, this will matter to your investments. Let me explain.

As you know, I have been very blessed to have traveled the world. Here's what I've learned. When you land at a foreign airport, you will know within a few minutes if you want to invest there. If men and women are openly conversing. If they are respectful of one another. If you can see men and women acting as leaders---- and as followers---you should have a good first impression about doing business there.

If, however, as you wander off to baggage claim, you see the women huddled in a corner--and the men are pontificating at the bar--- you should probably do an about-face and go home.

And, it's not that the men aren't capable---or the business deal has no merit. The issue is it takes time and effort by those men to keep those women down. That means they're not focused on business. Thus, your investment will be starting with a big disadvantage. But, remember, for many men, power over a woman is the only power they will ever have. So, suggesting a change for the betterment of society, or the economy, isn't greeted warmly.

In short, subjugation of women leads to cultural, societal, and economic mediocrity. Loser Nation.

Bob: But, here in the US, we're not perfect either. I know we've come a long way since my grandmother's time, but we're not there yet.

Greg: You're right. Life in America isn't fair. However, life in America also isn't stagnant. We're working through this stuff. And Gen X is working through it differently than the Boomers did. We're trying.

And, while it's natural to focus on the injustices...and we should...don't discount the successes. We have what, five (?), six (?) women running for President--- and we don't even think about it. Do you believe that's even possible in, say, Iran or North Korea?

But, circling back to investments...

Do you want to know when our stock market really took off? Go back to the suffragette movement. When women got the right to vote decision-making became more balanced. Then, when World War II ended, and many of those women stayed in the work force, look at how our markets responded.

In many ways, women were (and are) America's economic secret weapon.

Bob: I remember when people used to say that women would take jobs from men. Or, that women would disrupt the workplace and we would become less productive.

Greg: Women did disrupt the workplace...the workplace became more productive. And, look, I'm not blind to all the other issues that came with women in the workplace. Family issues. Stress. Cultural, societal and political issues. Entire college programs are built around studying this.

And, as an aside, I'm very aware things can go too far the other way. I've seen all-women companies touted as wonderful. Don't believe it. Why dismiss male talent and abilities? I read of one all-female restaurant that charged men more for a meal in the name of "rectifying inequality". Well, after an initial flush of gushy "go get 'em girl" publicity, their business fell off--- and it eventually failed.

Bob: How long have men and women been trying to get it right?

Greg: I don't know...since Adam and Eve? Just keep in mind, competition improves performance...regardless of gender. If you'll invest in countries--and firms--that embrace that ideal, I believe you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Bob: Good report. Let's keep the series going. How do people reach you?

Greg: OK. My number is 508-5550, 508-triple-5 zero. Or, go to my website zanettifinancial.com

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