

www.better-management.org provides invaluable insights that will help you understand and deliver better organizational performance.

Better-Management Newsletter 16 Mar 2015

What is Putin real strategy? / The Global Recession deepens / Growth is for the sake of growth now / How are the BRICS tracking? / We must change... / Oil is a finite, master resource / Nuclear back to pre-Fukushima levels / Elections: he who pays the piper...

Last week I went AWOL sailing around the Hauraki Gulf...but where has Vladimir Putin disappeared to? How boring that it appears he only had the flu...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/vladimir-putin/11473389/Vladimir-Putin-in-bed-with-a-bad-cold-watching-Crimea-documentary.html>

What is Putin real strategy?

I suppose Putin's end as PM of the Russian Federation will come sooner, rather than later. With guys like Medvedev and Sechin in the background, they will be wondering what Vladimir was smoking when he gave these interviews to the Crimean documentary...*(Editor's note: how extraordinary that anyone still believes words uttered by our leaders are anything other than propaganda for the world's gullible MSM to amplify.)*

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/41873ed2-cb60-11e4-8ad9-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3UVEZWb9S>

Already, the US and EU have determined Putin is too untrustworthy, so they need evidence that Russia is complying with the Ukrainian peace initiatives before backing down on sanctions. Admissions about Russian troops in Crimea now beg the question over the shooting down of the Malaysian airliner and the Russian tanks and troops facing off against Ukraine regular forces, in the present invasion of the Donbas region of Ukraine. There is no valid historical precedent for what Russia and Mr Putin is trying to do in Ukraine. Also it is too risky...

https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/gaming-russian-offensive?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_term=article&utm_campaign=20150312&mc_cid=77b88aadf8&mc_eid=f6520e17b6

Mr Putin is putting at risk all the gains made under his leadership of Russia. Most unwise. After all, there are plenty of ex KGB alpha males who may like to roll him. *(Another Editor's note: there are also numerous alternative 'conspiracy theories', such as the one that Putin has turned his back on the major NWO manipulators who are now furious, and is working with China on an Eastern-based NWO. However, the BRICS' economies are now looking dodgy [see link below]. Take your pick - only time will tell.)*

The Global Recession deepens

...but try finding someone to admit that

According to David Uren's "The Australian" article, the level of household debt in Australia is becoming worrisome at 130% of GDP by comparison with a global average of 78%. And we thought all Australians were thrifty?

So, here we are – still banging the same drum about global finances...we could take in a parable from an atheist perhaps?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejzBB8SnW20&feature=player_detailpage

Humanity and her slaves grew from 5% of the earth's land mammals to over 97% in 2,000 years and from 10 million people to 7.25 billion people in 5,000 years. If we are honest with ourselves we can look back and see where we have come from. But where are we headed in a world we are starting to outgrow?

Growth is for the sake of growth now

Seems individual nations are competing with currency wars and using statistics to restate reality. Growth is for the sake of growth now...not to actually achieve something.

Last week the European Central Bank started her QE and the Euro fell towards parity with the US dollar. This led a number of other countries to feel the strain...from Seeking Alpha...

"Adding to global currency woes, Denmark's krone and Turkey's lira are also facing trouble, as political pressure and monetary policy trigger more turbulence in the foreign exchange market. Denmark has spent the last eight weeks fighting back conjecture it would pull a Switzerland and abandon its ties to the euro, while Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu will hold a meeting with cabinet ministers and the country's central bank later today to discuss the lira's more than 10% loss against the dollar since the beginning of the year."

We know that Greece is still having trouble getting its emergency temporary funding signed off...but we also know the approximately USD300 billion they owe cannot be written off by the already heavily illiquid European banks.

How are the BRICS tracking?

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3001506-broken-brics-a-shifting-center-of-gravity-among-the-emerging-market-giants?source=email_macro_view_mar_out_0_1&ifp=0

Basically, the world is still going to the dogs where money is provided for nothing and people are paying for the right to save...

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3001466-bill-gross-going-to-the-dogs?source=email_macro_view_edipic_0_0&ifp=0

We must change...

As Bill Gross says, we must change before we destroy the foundation for our capitalist society – that is if we haven't already done so.

Our fatal flaw is our unwillingness to accept and act to remedy bad news...

<http://www.economic-undertow.com/2015/02/09/fatal-ignorance/>

Oil is a finite, master resource

Yet we continue to want to use more of it and due to the lower price, demand is now picking up in the OECD – largely for non-productive purposes... Don't we want there to be much oil left for our grandchildren? The story that US oil repositories are full, doesn't entirely bear scrutiny...yet stories about storage issues have started causing prices to tank, once again...

<http://www.energytrendsinsider.com/2015/03/11/is-the-u-s-running-out-of-crude-oil-storage/>

We are in the late stages of the swing season, just before the US spring and summer demand kicks in. So what is the latest on the US shale ponzi...will it be a bust?

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3001576-the-u-s-oil-bust-just-got-worse?source=email_macro_view_com_1_12&ifp=0

Sorry, but this article uses terms that may overstate the position. Even so, the stats are valuable even if the commentary is suspect.

Oil companies are compromising with their banks wherever they can and a few are putting themselves up for sale – with mountains of debt.

http://seekingalpha.com/article/3001636-u-s-government-plans-to-bail-out-oil-industry-consumers-to-pay?source=email_macro_view_com_0_11&ifp=0

The USA is no longer capable of being a “swing producer” like Saudi Arabia has been because the fracked oil is both high cost and limited in its uses by refineries. More importantly the US producers cannot afford to turn production on or off, they must go for broke and produce every barrel, come what may.

Meantime, fracked crude is a different sort of oil to what many US refineries use. So the portion of the world's oil that is going into storage is mainly American crude and the US oil industry is heading for a bust as a result. I expect the differential between WTI/HLO and Brent to expand as the price of American oiltanks.

Nuclear back to pre-Fukushima levels

The nuclear power industry elsewhere is slowly returning to normal....

<http://resourceclips.com/2015/03/10/nuclear-energy%E2%80%99s-back-to-pre-fukushima-levels-russian-source-states/>

Elections: he who pays the piper...

Even in democracies, elections are a sort of charade because anyone elected must be funded by the folk who in turn determine the elected parties' views on all significant issues. The recent spat between Hezbollah and Israel which led to rockets crossing the borders, shows the

way the Israeli elections effect neighbours who want to take advantage of temporary indecision. And so it will likely be in the USA as Mr Obama's term slowly comes to an end and the potential candidates start their posturing and preening...

<https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/paradox-americas-electoral-reform>