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Greek crunch contamination?

It seems the posturing is coming to a close with the ECB/IMF/EU troika and Greece still miles apart. It may well be that the Greek government of Tsipras & Co always intended to dishonour their debts and reset. This article seems to indicate that will be the path...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11543730/Grexit-dangers-mount-as-Greeces-Yanis-Varoufakis-warns-of-liquidity-asphyxiation.html>

and

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11545636/Looming-Greek-crunch-threatens-fresh-global-crisis-warns-Osborne.html>

Under the circumstances the ECB, IMF and US Fed will be likely standing by with fire extinguishers at the ready to douse any fires to the volatile derivatives shambles that will happen if there is either a dishonouring, or a Grexit. Meantime the Greek Government are not just bunnies and they have done a pretty good deal with Vladimir...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11546965/Russian-gas-deal-will-net-Greece-5bn-and-turn-the-tide.html>

We also need to remember that Iceland did well by taking the choice of repudiating bank debt. I suspect Greece may also be better off by doing so.

Who will buy US assets now?

This article debates the end of the petrodollar and the ability of oil exporters to take back their assets expressed as US dollar denominated investments...

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-04-15/collapse-petrodollar-oil-exporters-are-dumping-us-assets-record-pace>

No longer will China or Russia invest in US dollar denominated assets because they are playing the game of exchanging surplus US dollars for gold and other non-financial assets.

Slowly but progressively, the USA is being painted into a corner. Meantime the view of Hoisington is that deflationary trends seem likely to continue in USA

http://d21uq3hx4esec9.cloudfront.net/uploads/pdf/OTB_Apr_17_2015.pdf

Resource/commodity prices

This week, while most metals and other commodities remain beaten down the oil price has improved...but not by much and the future short term trend remains uncertain..

WTI today is at USD56.14 per barrel

Brent today is at USD63.72 per barrel

Gold is stable around USD1,204/oz.

I wonder what will happen in the coming week?

South African xenophobic attacks

It is sad to see a continued drift into lawlessness in South Africa...

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32347305>

Meanwhile Yemen is in disaster territory with every man, woman and child in mortal danger. The world will regret the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, because Salman is proving to be a real nut job!