



## CAVEAT INVESTOR

*Coping with negative rates,  
deglobalisation and the challenges  
ahead*

Dr Bob Swarup

PRINCIPAL, *Camdor Global*

AUTHOR, *Money Mania*

# Why bother?

*The only point of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable.*

J.K. Galbraith

*Logic: The art of thinking and reasoning in strict accordance with the limitations and incapacities of the human misunderstanding.*

Ambrose Bierce

*The only thing worth globalizing is dissent.*

Arundhati Roy

# An uncertain world

- An environment dominated by policymakers and uncertainty
- Questions abound:
  - Will Brexit be hard or soft?
  - Will Europe escape deflation?
  - Will China end up as the latest poster child for the perils of debt fuelled growth?
  - Is US growth sustainable?
  - How do we exit quantitative easing?
  - How big can a central bank or sovereign balance sheet get?
  - The challenge of regulation
  - Social tensions

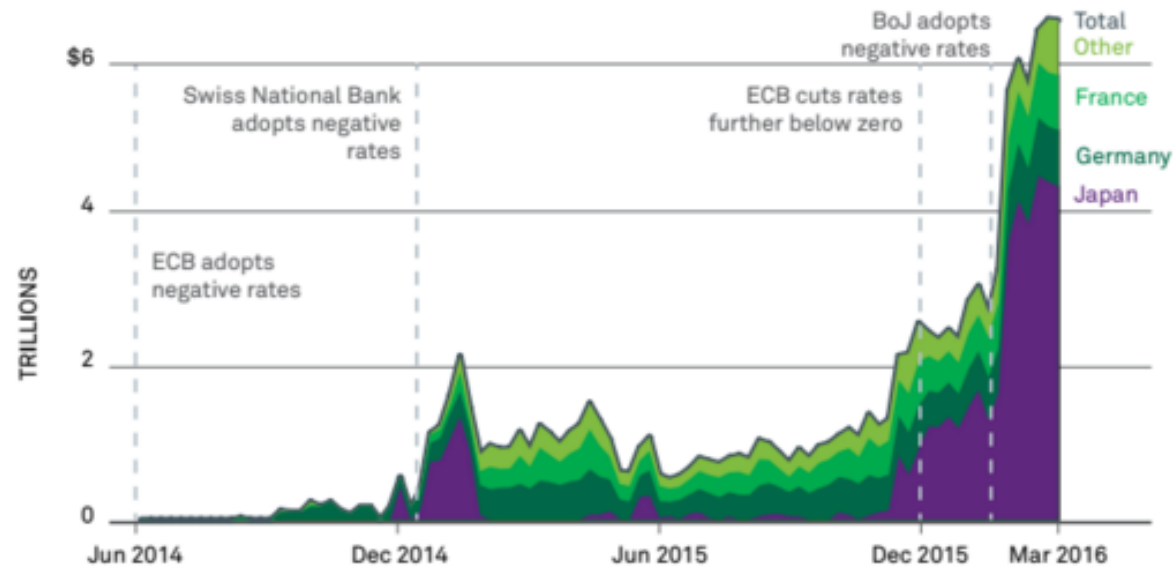
# The Moses Principle

- Why did the Jews spend forty years in the desert?
- The land of 'Milk and honey'?
- A metaphor for generational change
- As the old died out, so did their memories of Egypt
- Most Israelites would have been born in the desert
- Today, the Moses Principle lives on...
  - The world economy
  - Investors
  - Policymakers

# Onto negative rates...

## GOING NEGATIVE

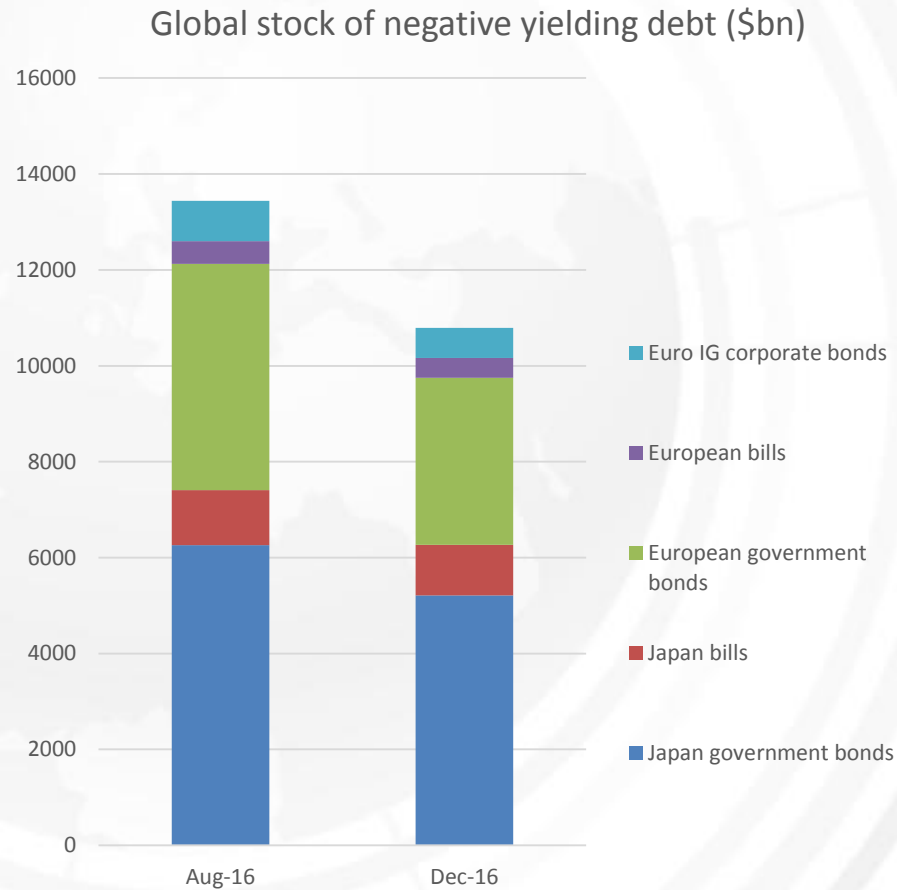
Government bonds with negative yields, 2014–2016



Sources: BlackRock Investment Institute, J.P. Morgan and Thomson Reuters, March 2016.  
Notes: the chart is based on the J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index.

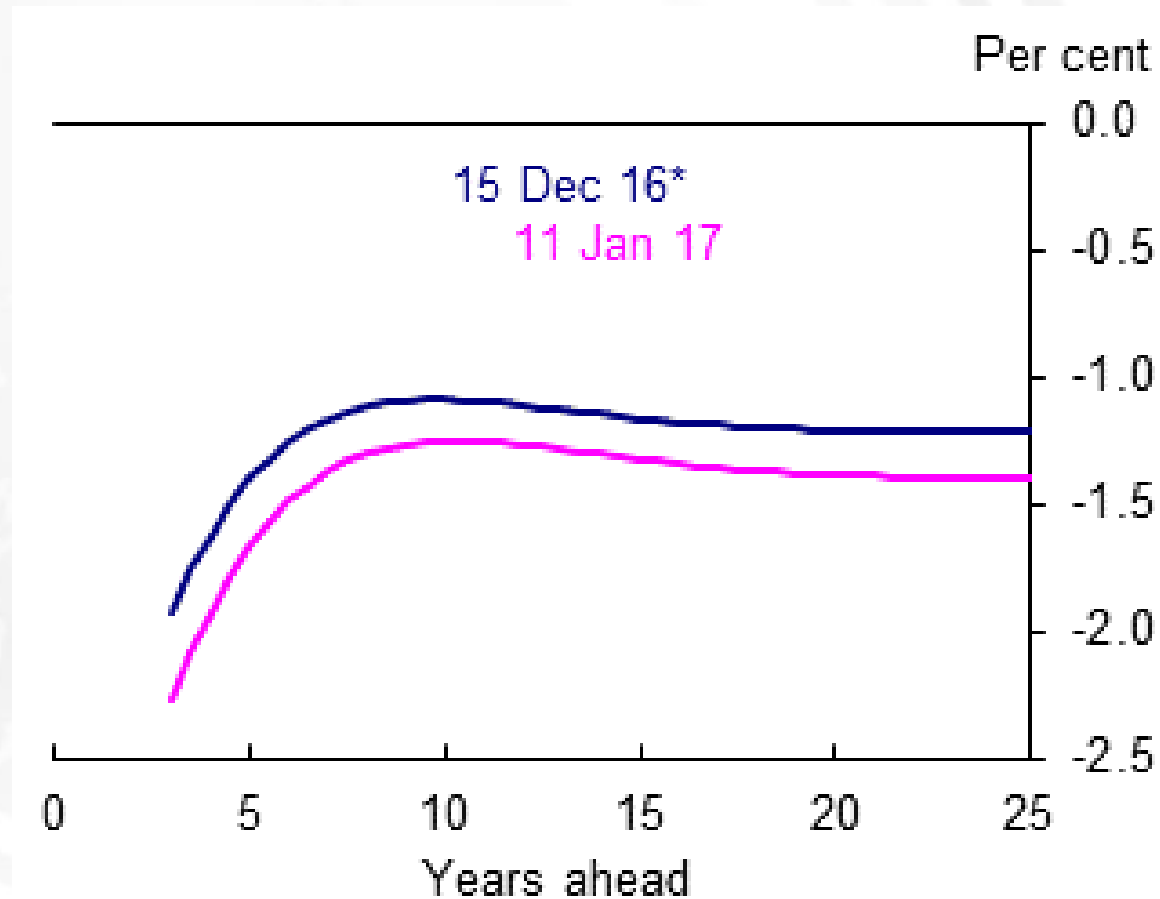
# More recently...

- The benefits of Donald Trump



# What about real rates?

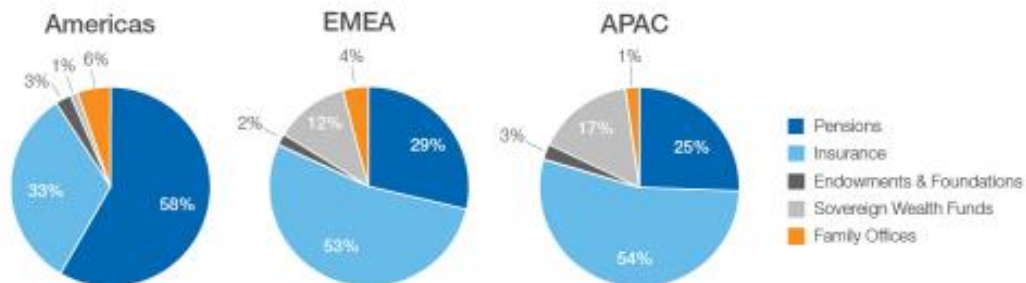
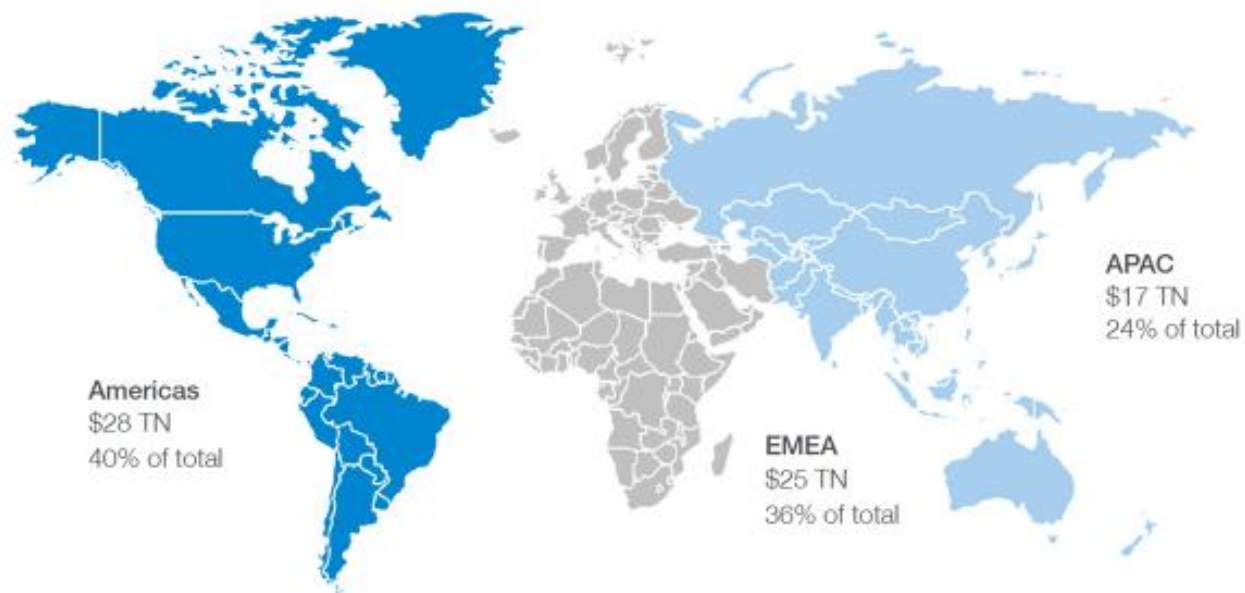
- A far greater problem for liability driven investors



Source: Bank of England

# The really big pools of capital

Figure 14: Estimated total global institutional assets under management as of 2013: \$70 trillion



Source: Oliver Wyman Global Asset Model

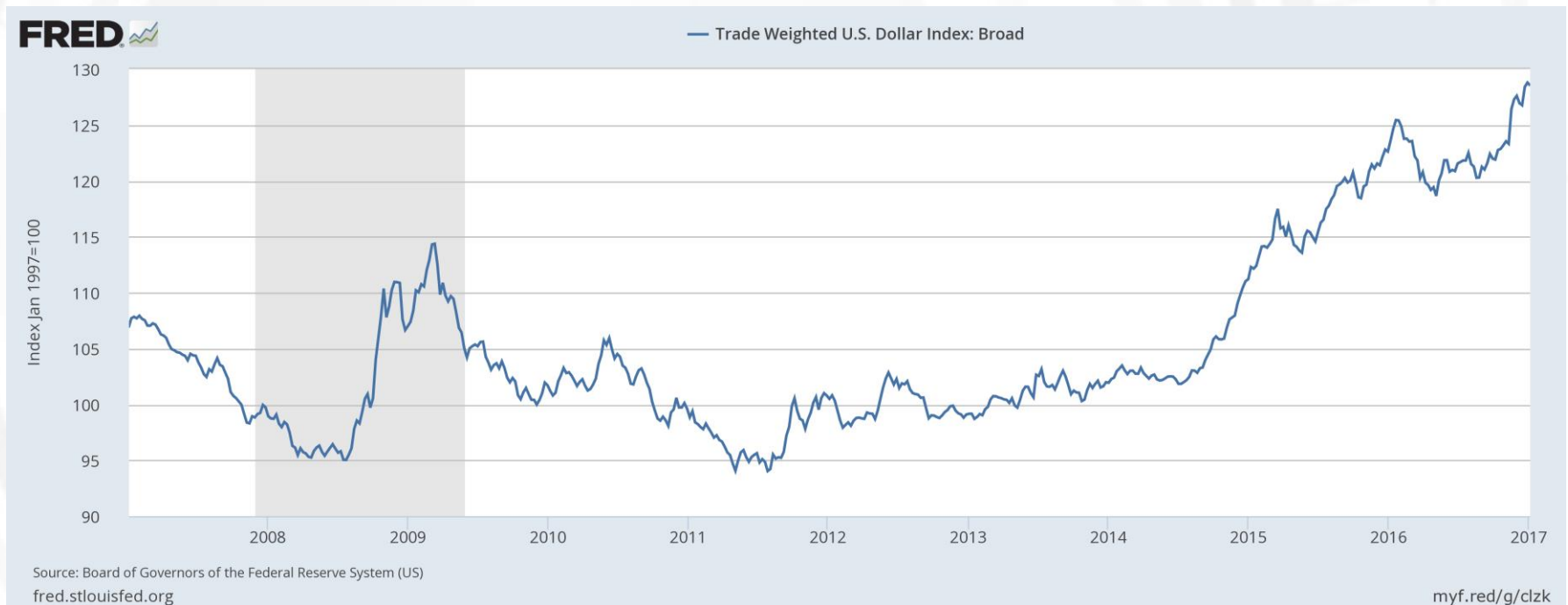


# Liability-driven investors face numerous challenges today



# The strengthening dollar

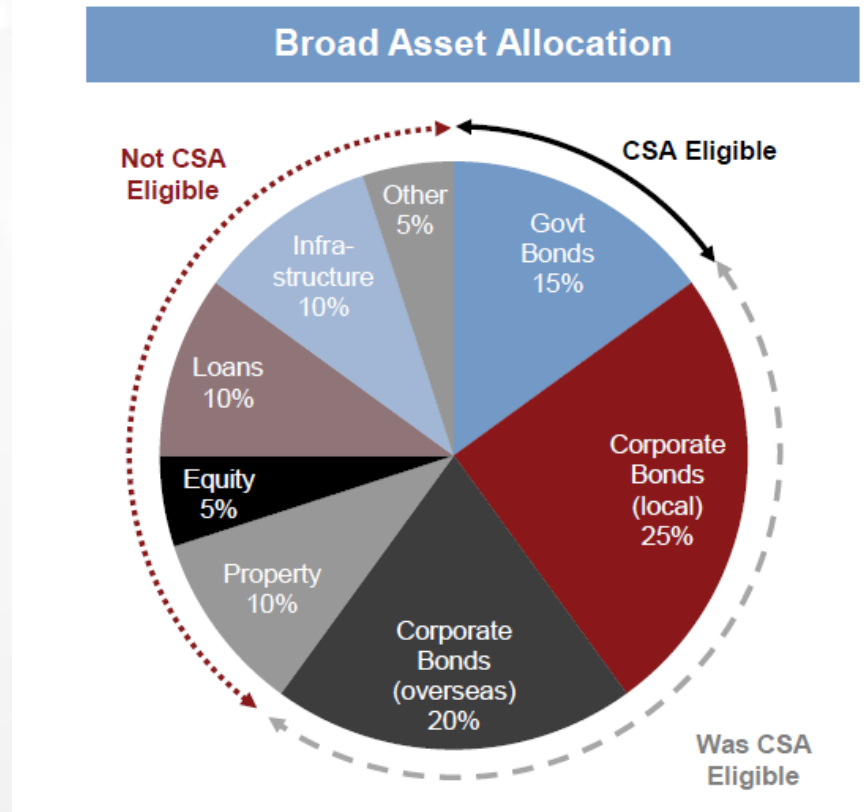
- Strong US dollar is a drag on growth - equivalent to monetary tightening through the back door
- 1937? What about EM debt and its repercussions?



# What about liquidity?

- Corporate bond liquidity has reduced by circa 70% since the 2008 financial crisis
- Regulators are focussed on solving systemic risks in banking and elsewhere rather than the wider capital markets
- Retail investors are a larger part of the corporate bond market than pre-financial crisis. It is likely this money will be more “flighty” in a market crisis

# In a world of cash, we have less collateral than ever

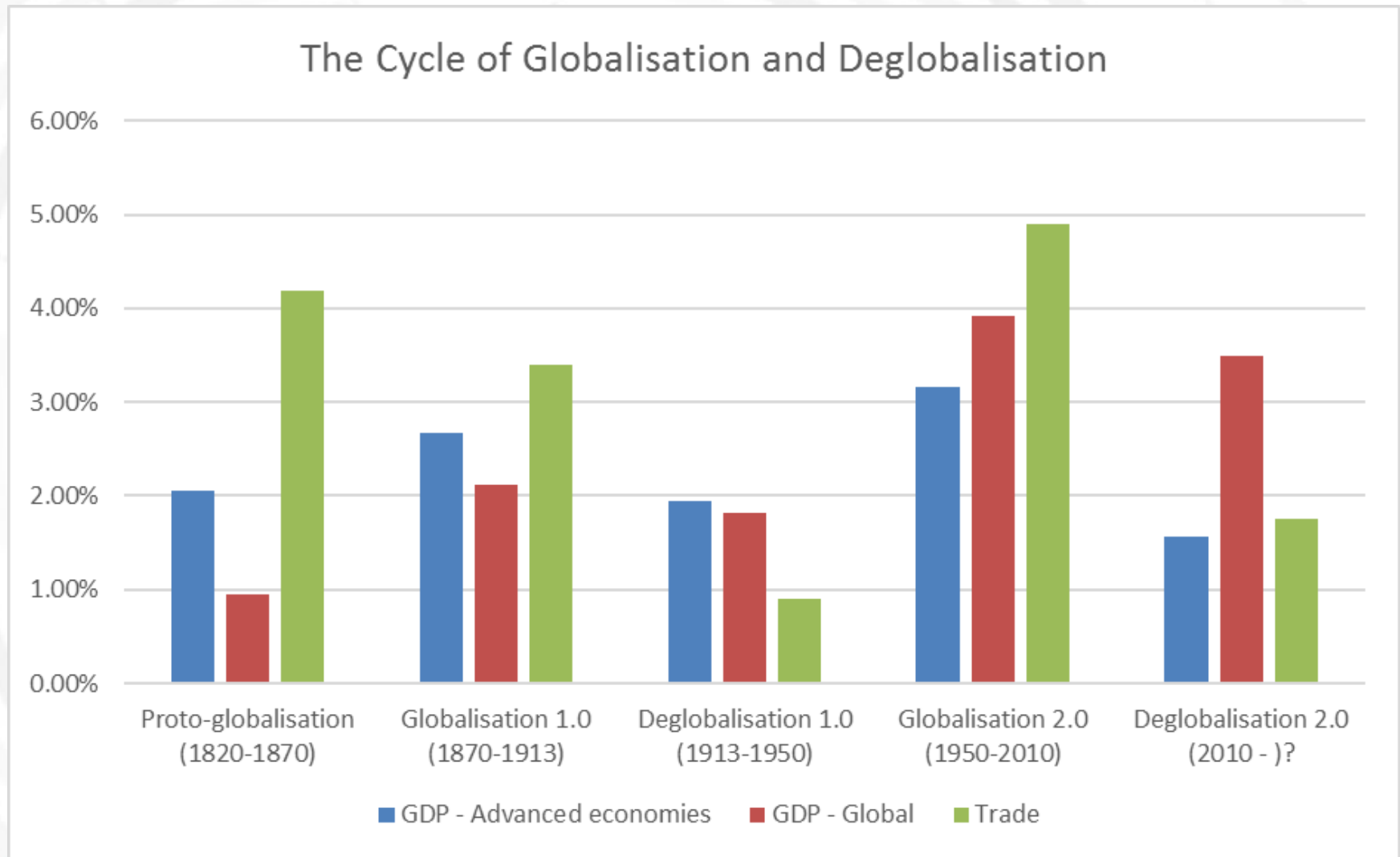


- We all love derivative overlays, but few assets provide eligible collateral for clearing
- And those that do are loved by both central banks and institutions

# The meme of globalisation

- An assumption we all take for granted
- But the underlying can change and flocks can move in new directions
- What is globalisation?
- Globalisation
  - The economic state where trade across nations (exports and imports) is growing faster than GDP
  - People interact more, transact more and create more wealth through their exchanges.
  - Also a growth in debt and inequality
- Deglobalisation?
  - By opposition, the alternate state where trade grows less than GDP
  - Countries become inward focused, international trade declines as a proportion of GDP and growth slows down as economic opportunities shrink
  - By implication, deleveraging and higher returns to labour

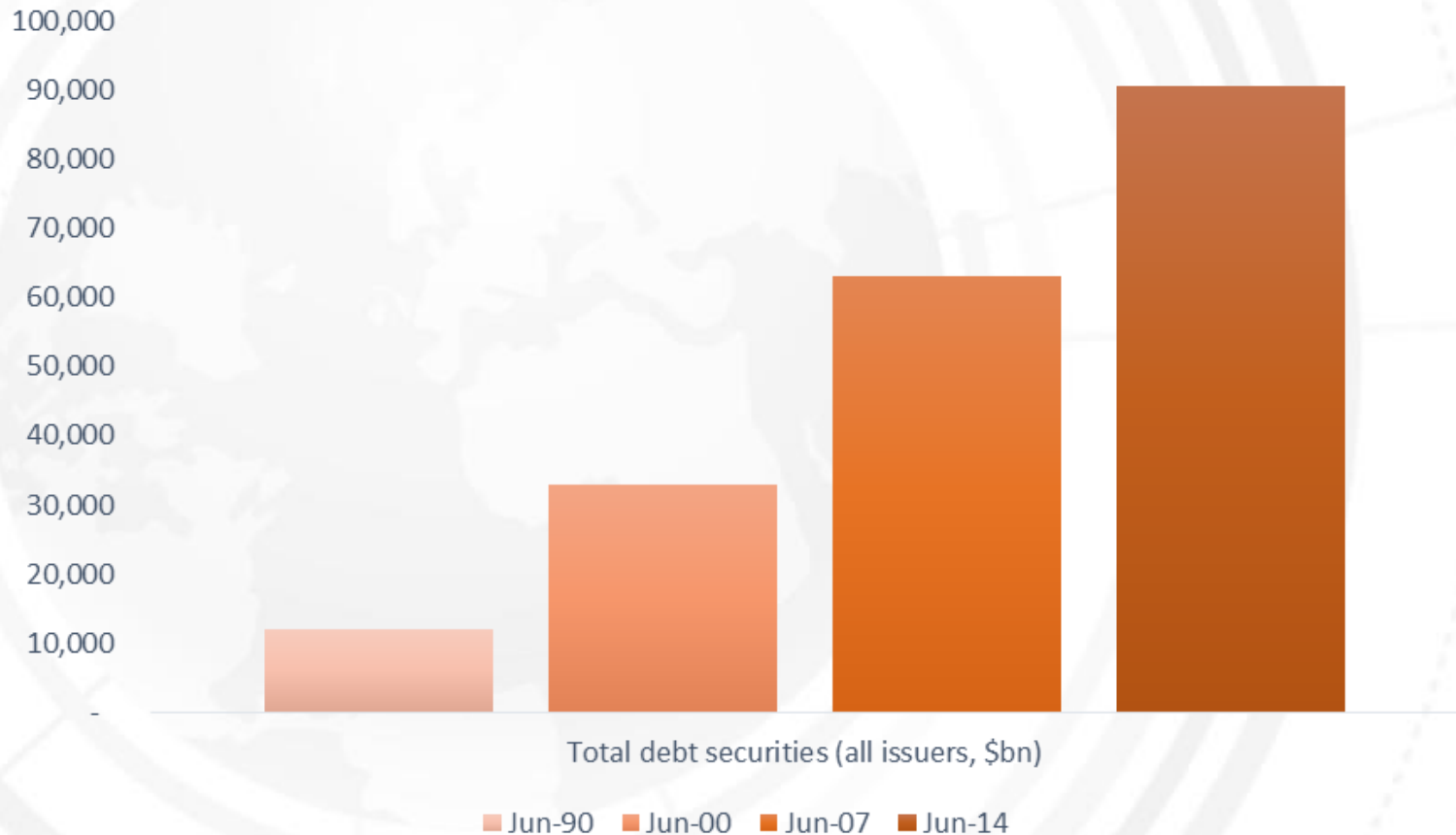
# The Cycle of Globalisation and Deglobalisation



Source: BIS, Camdor Global

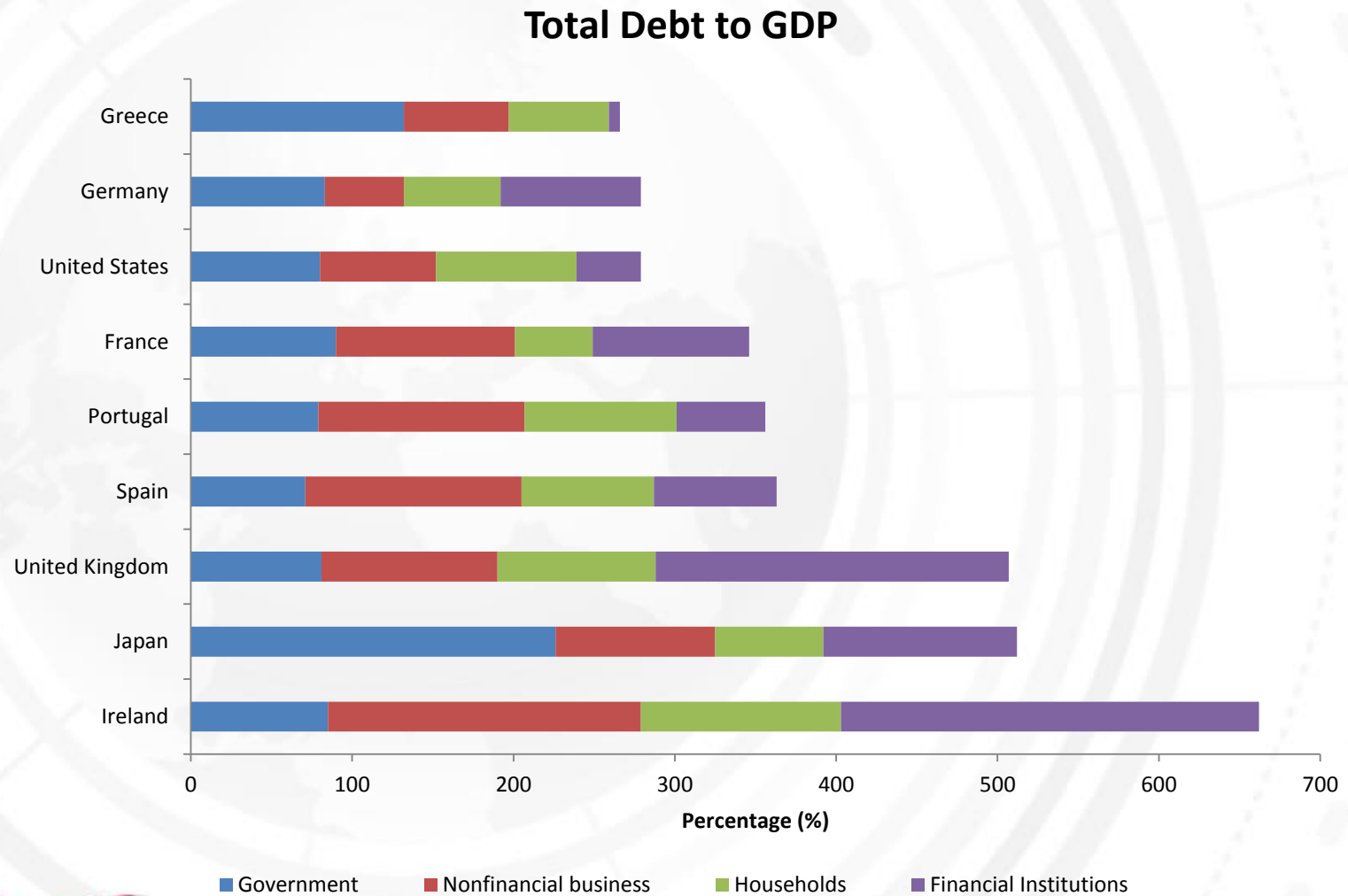
# Globalisation grows debt markets

**Total debt securities globally (all issuers, \$bn)**



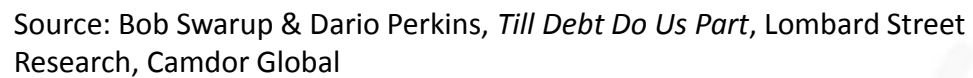
Source: BIS, Camdor Global

# Which become pervasive over time



Source: McKinsey Global Institute

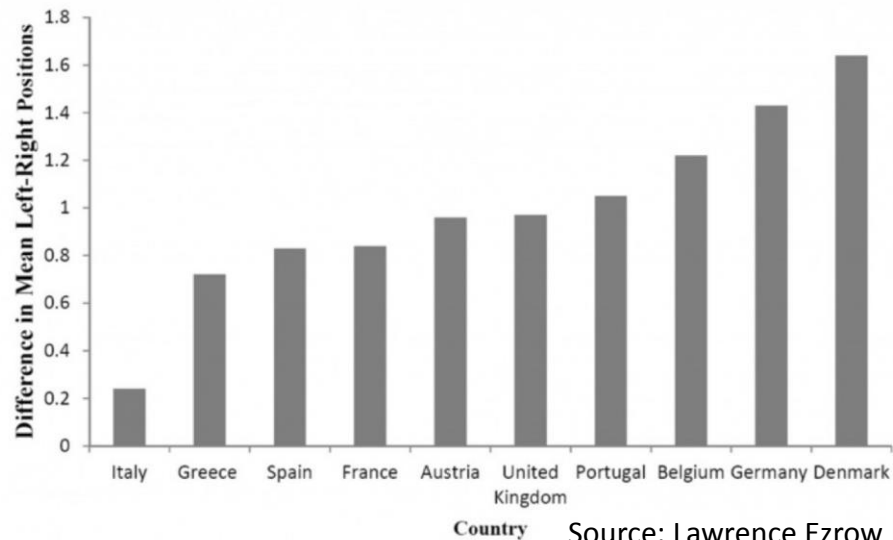




# How do politicians lose touch with voters?

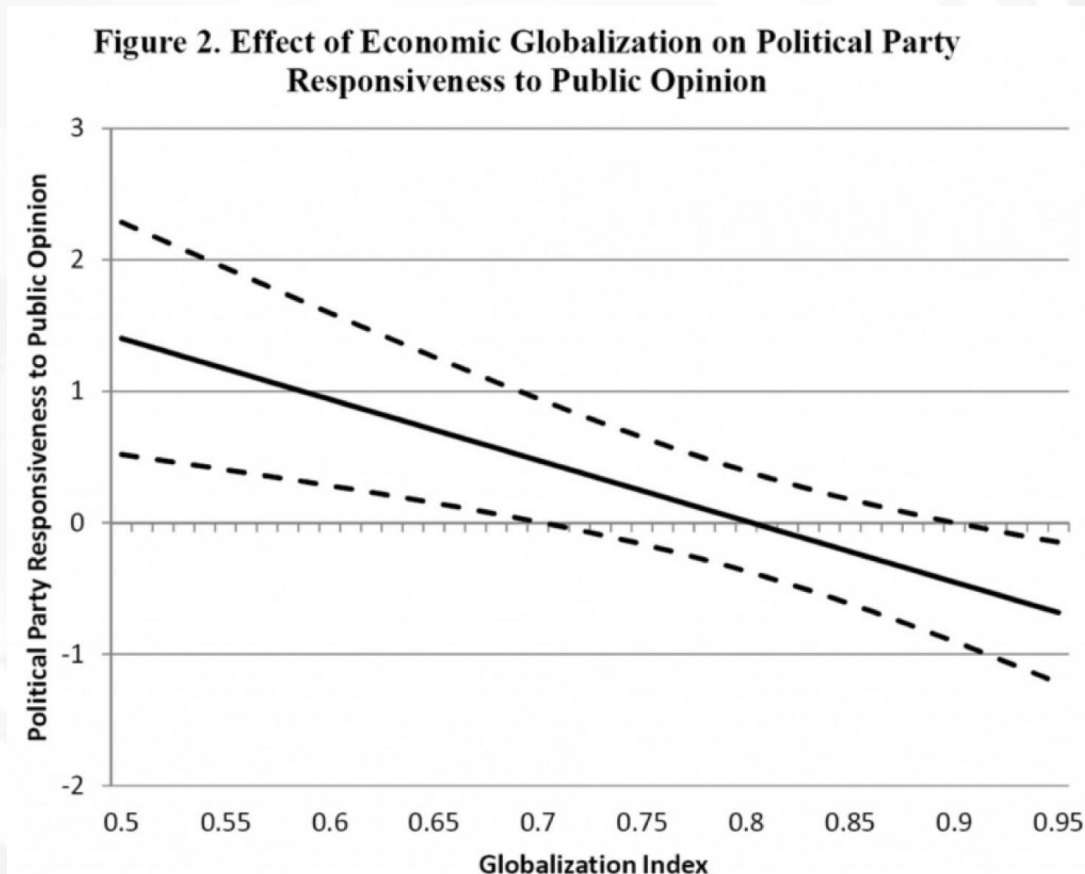
- Policymakers respond to:
  - Voters
  - External markets
- The two are not always in unison
- Elections motivate them to respond to voters
- Economic interdependence motivates them to respond to markets

Figure 1. Ideological Bias between Economic Elites and Mass Publics, 2007



# Globalisation creates disconnects

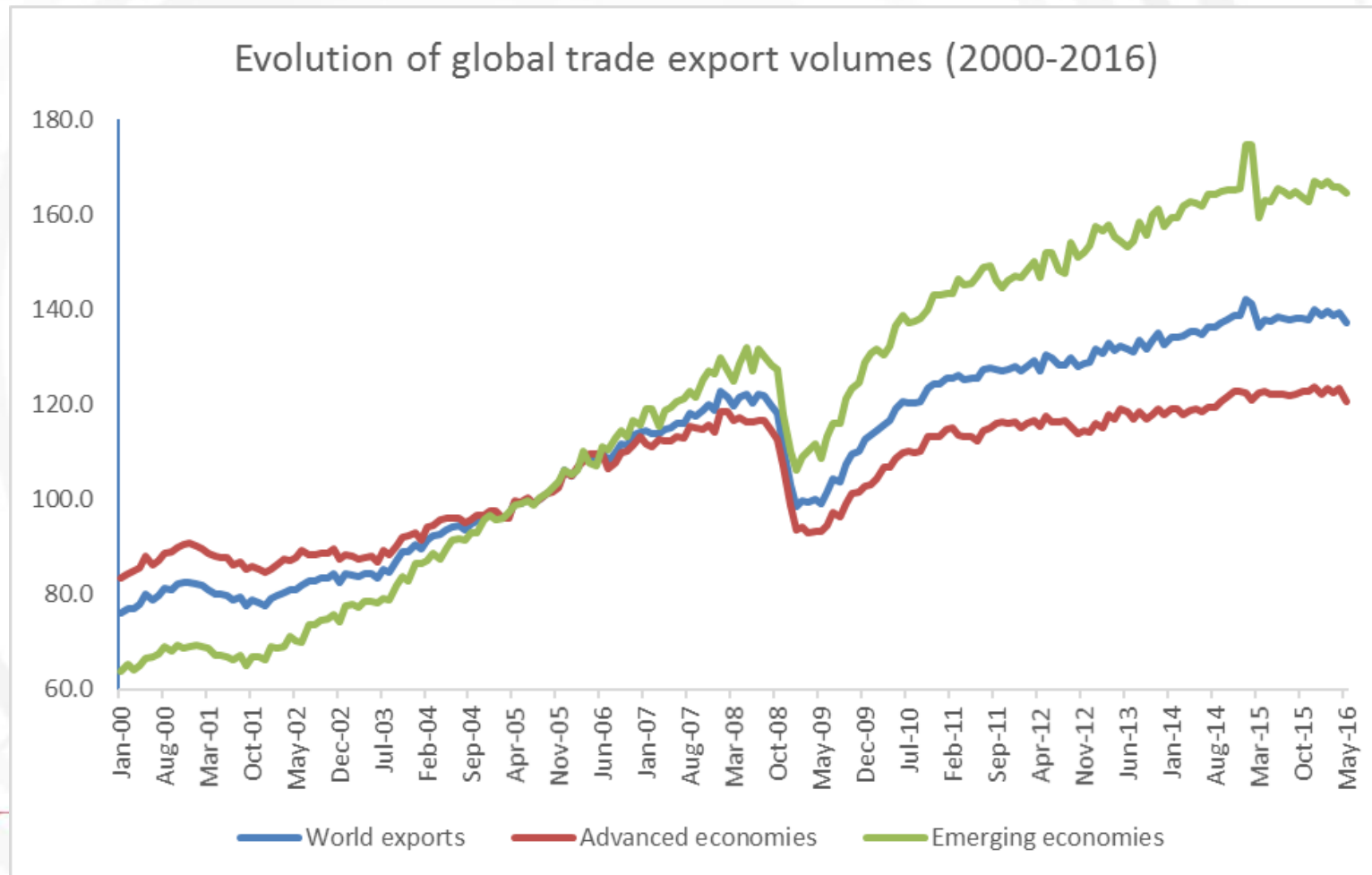
- Policymakers become less sensitive to their public and focused to their detriment on markets and external players
- True also of urban 'elites'



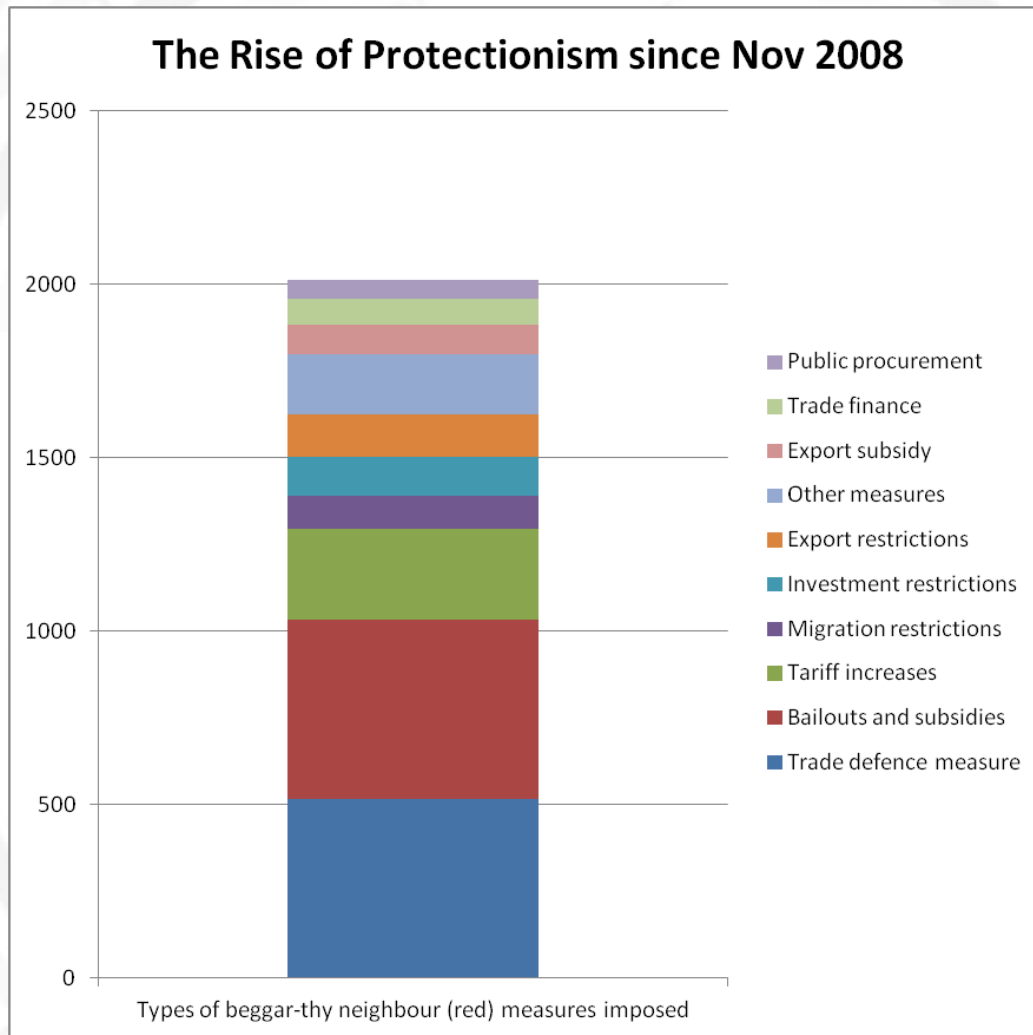
Source: Timothy Hellwig

# Today we are in Deglobalisation 2.0

- The fractures of globalisation and the rush to economic nationalism



# The consequences of fear



- 50% increase between 2014 and 2015
- 80% of protectionist measures from G20 countries

Source: Global Trade Alert, Camdor Global

# The bubble in acronyms

## Basel III

Capital requirement: scheduled to increase until 2019  
Leverage constraint (LR): 3%  
Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)  
Net stable funding ratio (NSFR)

## Dodd-Frank Act Title VII

Trade Reporting: completed  
Mandatory execution: completed  
Mandatory clearing: completed  
Margining requirements non-cleared: phasing in since Sep-2016

## Brexit

EEA, EFTA, WTO market access?  
Equivalence of capital models?

## PRIIPs, CSDR, MAD / MAR, MCD, GDPR

Business conduct, custody and depository arrangements,  
market abuse, mortgage selling conduct,  
cyber security and data protection

## CRR / CRD IV [ / CRD V ]

OTC Derivatives capital costs: **Completed**

## Solvency II

Pillar 1: Valuation and risk-based capital requirements  
Pillar 2: Governance and risk management requirements,  
Pillar 3: Supervisory reporting and public disclosure.

## EMIR

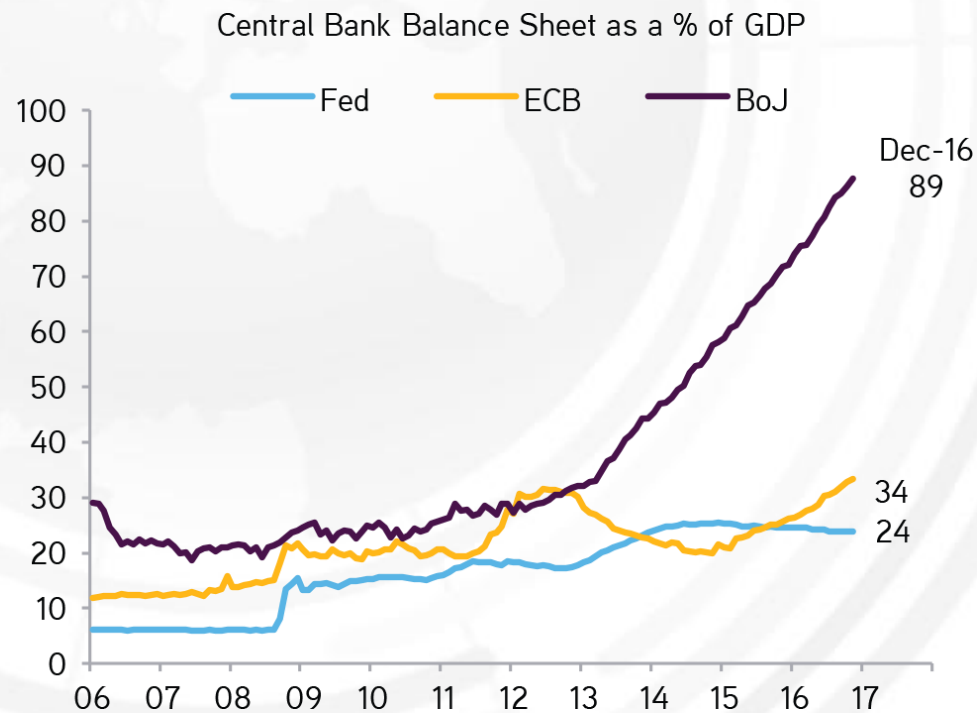
Trade Reporting: completed since 2013 (but not matching well)  
Mandatory clearing: phasing in since April 2016  
Margining requirements non-cleared: phase in Dec 2016-2019

## MiFID II / MiFIR

Market structure, execution venues,  
trade and transaction reporting,  
best execution,  
algorithmic trading: anticipated January 2018

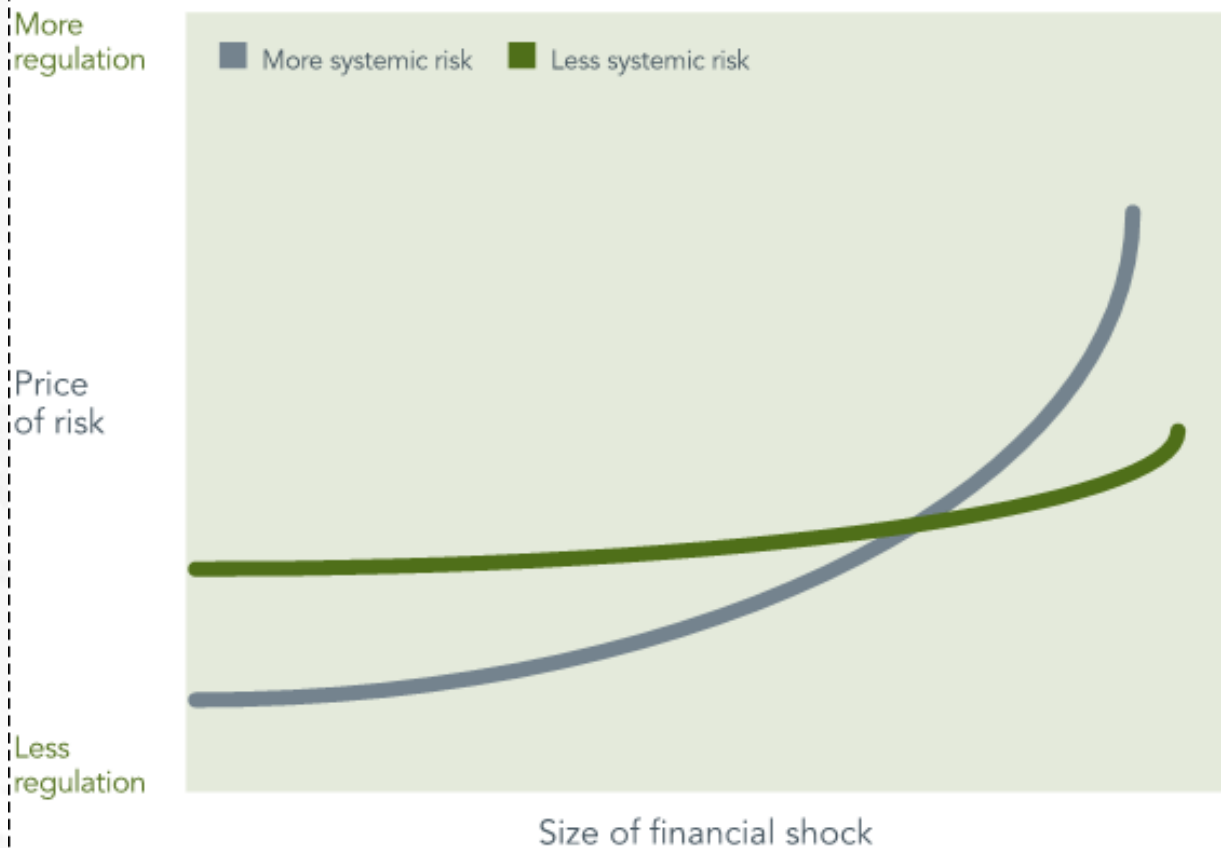
# The problem with just monetary policy

- Central banks are running out of options and reaching for ever more exotic solutions
- Japan on the cusp of direct monetisation
- Monetary easing transmuting to fiscal easing
- Policymakers will in the bulk be driven by domestic priorities



# Balancing growth and financial stability?

**Figure 1: The Trade-off Between Financial Stability and Growth<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Source: Camdor Global, based on T. Adrian, D. Covitz and N. Liang, Financial Stability Monitoring, Federal Reserve Finance and Economics Discussion Series (2013)



# The implications are important

- You cannot divorce economics from politics or society
- Left untended, a crisis of finance will always becomes one of society
- E.g. The Arab Spring, the French Revolution, etc.
- In other words, macro matters

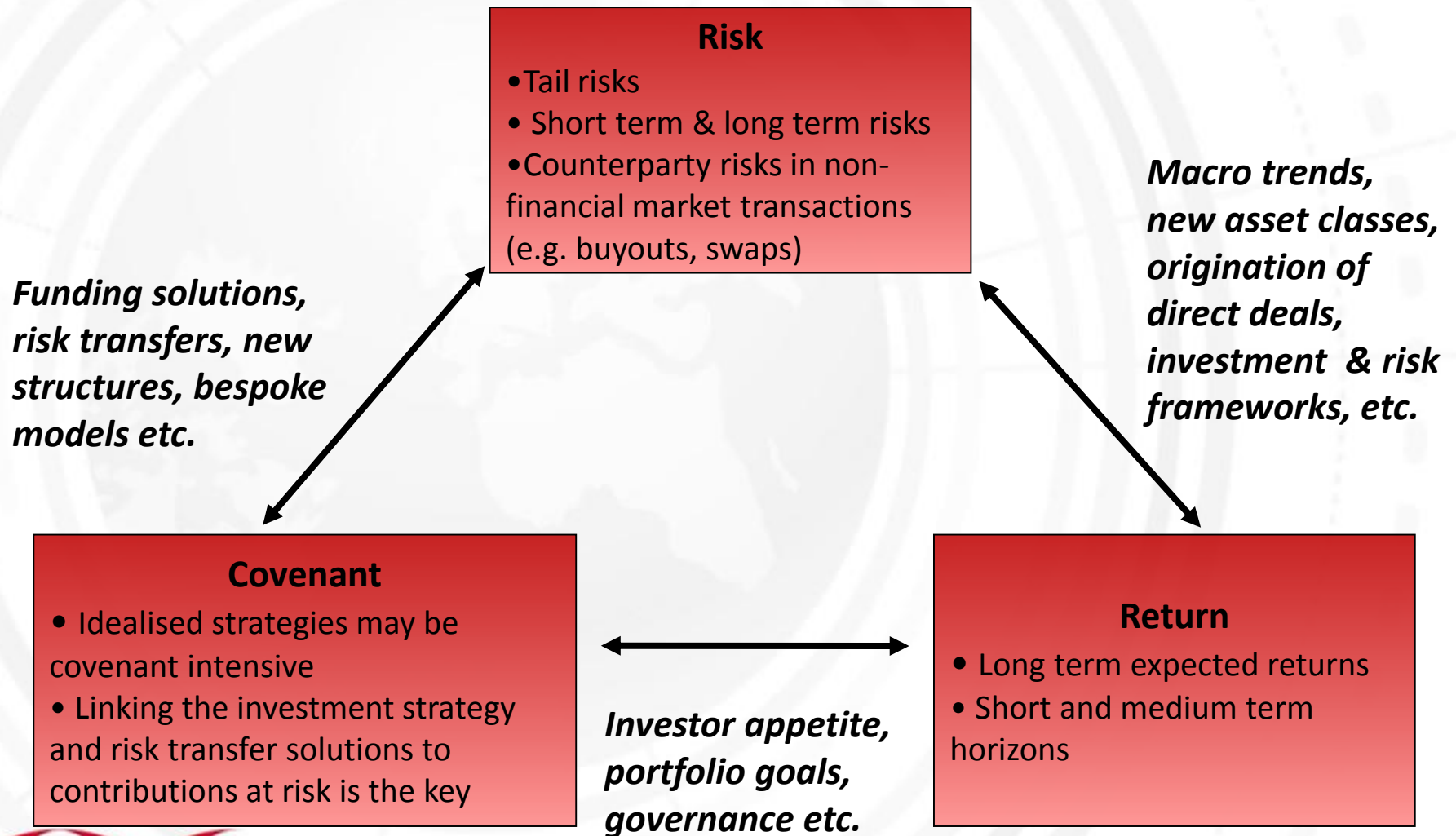
# Going forward...

- Deglobalisation is set to continue, accompanied by further deleveraging pressures
- Inflationary expectations set to rise as fiscal stimulus becomes accepted
- Domestic priorities dominate over international coordination
- Populism and geopolitics are growing drivers of economic outcomes and eventually markets
- Returns are likely to be weaker, and at risk from protectionist sentiment
- Real returns are likely to persist in negative territory

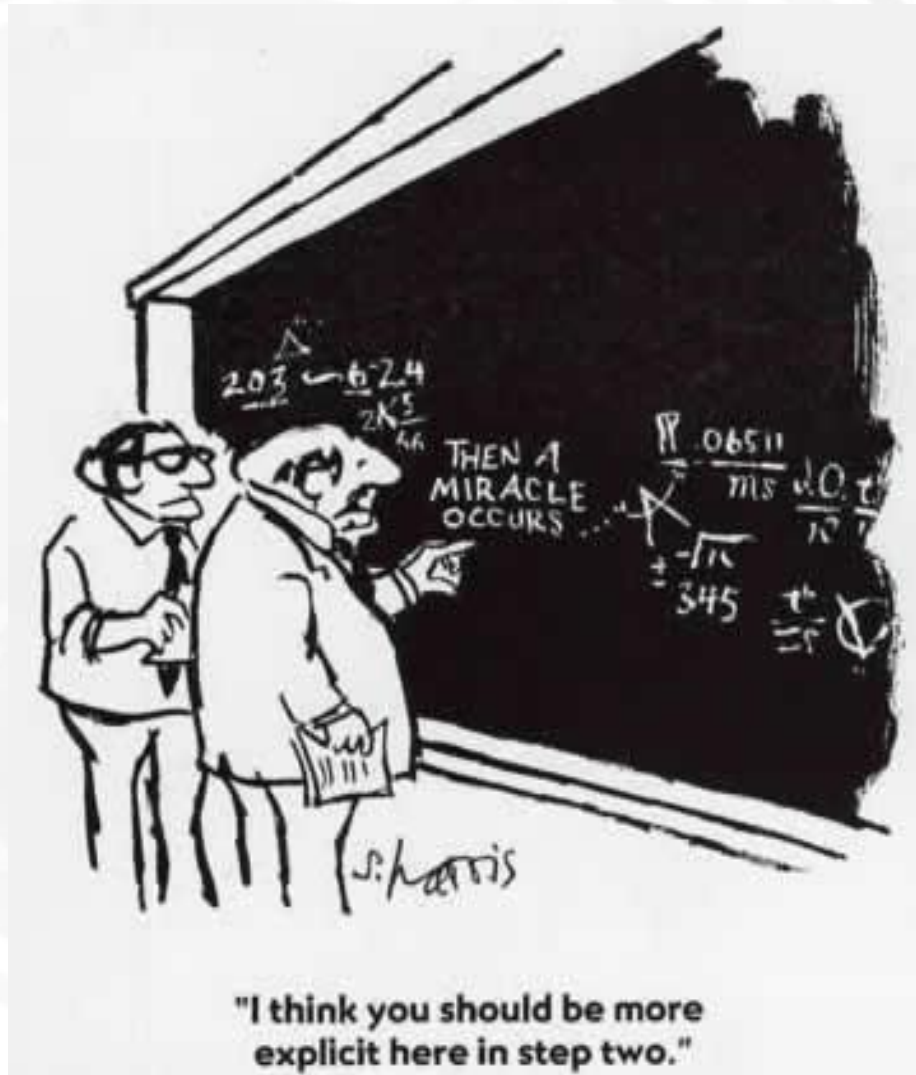
# Investor psychology is changing

- Increasing focus on uncertainty of outcomes means greater sensitivity to policymakers
- Money is much harder to make going forward
- Investors are becoming more risk averse...
- ...yet also desperate for yield and return in a low-growth world
- A likely generational change for investors over the next 10-20 years

# The ALM framework needs to be rethought



BUT hope is not a strategy



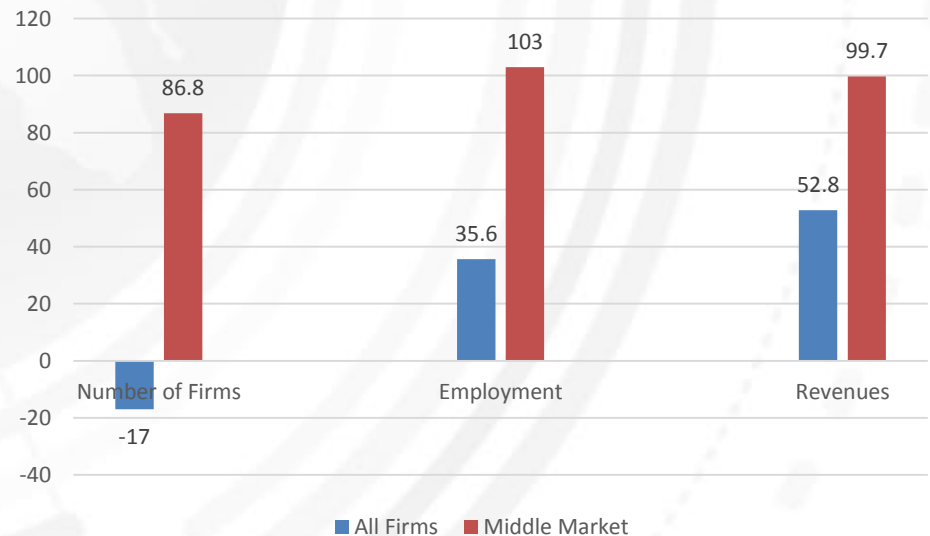
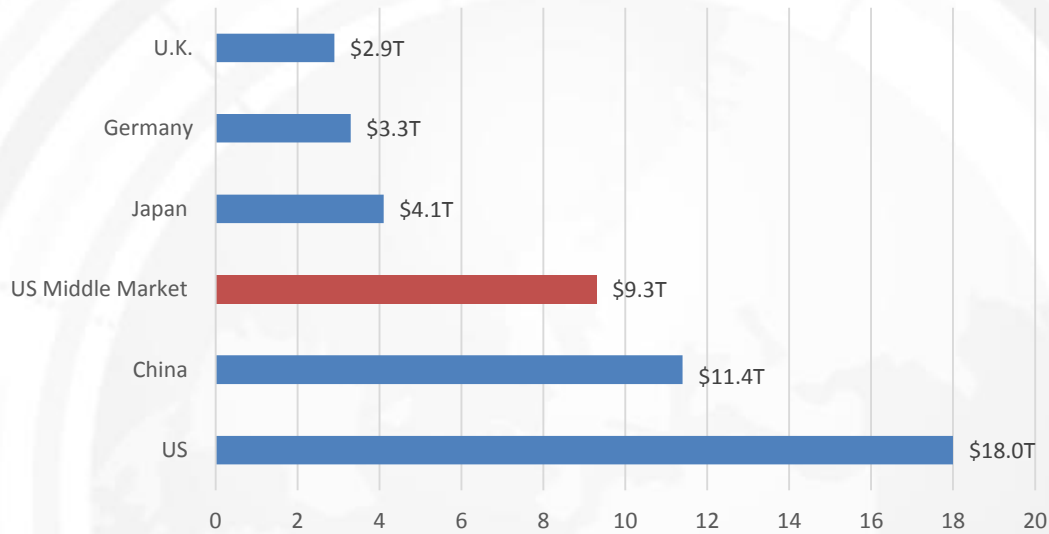
# Banking is devolving

- How do you make money in a world of negative rates and increased regulation?
- Banks are retreating from periphery to core
- Bank balance sheets are deleveraging
- Small business lending is anaemic
- Policymakers increasingly looking to pension funds and insurers as providers of alternative debt and growth capital, e.g. SME lending, infrastructure, social housing etc.

# The paradigm is shifting

- Core themes are deleveraging and disintermediation
- Growing emphasis on
  - Genuine diversification
  - Dynamically managing risks
  - Exploiting dislocations
  - Protecting against the downside
- But against that we need to balance
  - The impact of deglobalisation and economic nationalism
  - High valuations, growing risks, less liquidity and more constraints for the majority of investors
  - Returns are harder all round, and nominal returns likely muted for most asset classes going forward
  - Dislocations promise higher returns but may also be swamped by the wall of money looking for returns in a low growth environment
  - And how does the deleveraging occur?

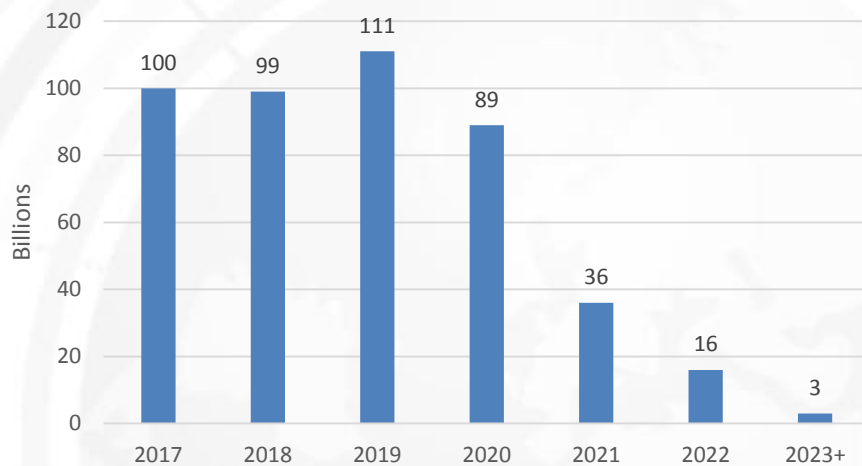
# Areas of interest – domestically focused trades



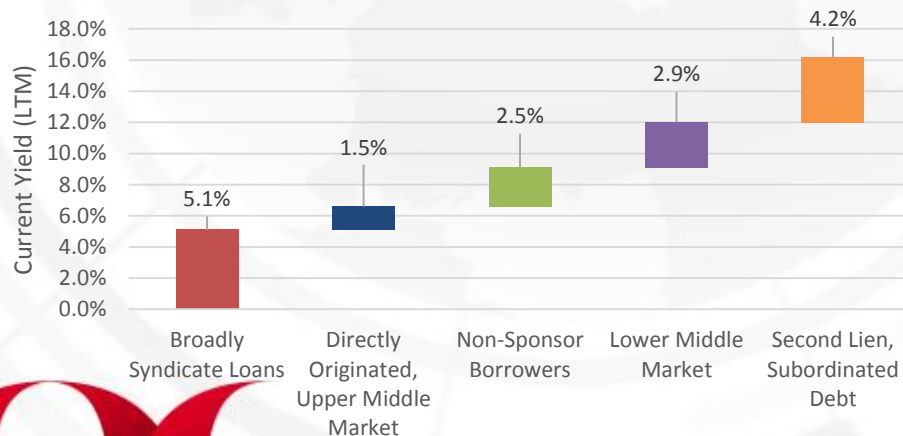


# Areas of interest – private debt

Middle market debt maturing



Risk Premiums available in direct middle market loans



Industry Average

| Product Options                                           | Up-Front Points | Current Cash Yield | PIK, OID Or Other | Equity or Warrants | Expected Return |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Levered Bank Loan                                         | 0%              | 3-7%               | NA                | NA                 | 3-7%            |
| Senior Secured Self-Originated                            | 0-3%            | 8-12%              | 0-5%              | NA                 | 12-17%          |
| Secondary Loans (1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lien) | NA              | 7-10%              | 0-5%              | NA                 | 9-15%           |
| Unitranche                                                | 0-2%            | 6-10%              | 0-2%              | NA                 | 7-10%           |
| Mezzanine Loans with Warrants                             | 0-2%            | 10-12%             | NA                | 0-5%               | 7-11%           |
| Asset-Based Lending                                       | 0-1.25%         | 3-8%               | 2-4%              | NA                 | 5-12%           |
| Venture Lending                                           | 0-3%            | 10-12%             | NA                | 0-5%               | 7-12%           |

# Other areas?

- Areas we like
  - Real assets
  - Energy and infrastructure
  - Direct transactions
  - Complex value debt and equity transactions
  - Idiosyncrasy over sectoral trades
  - Distressed investing
  - Building up cash reserves
- Areas we are less keen on
  - Public credit
  - High yield
  - Broad equity indices
  - Large-cap private equity
  - Hedge funds

# Tomorrow?

- What is alpha in a low yield, negative real return world?
- The lines are increasingly blurred today between traditional and alternative assets
- Volatility is set to rise further as countries and economies diverge
- Risk management is set to become more complex
- The importance of reinvention and rethinking
- The critical importance of careful analysis and proactive risk management

The background of the slide is a light gray with a subtle, abstract design. It features a faint globe on the left side, overlaid with several concentric circles that radiate from the center. To the right of the globe, there is a network diagram consisting of several small circles connected by thin lines, suggesting a global or interconnected theme.

# APPENDIX

# ABOUT CAMDOR GLOBAL

Camdor Global provides leading investors, financial institutions and policymakers around the world with impartial strategic advice and quality independent research on the macroeconomic environment, investment strategy, risk management, governance and regulation. Alternative investments are a particular area of specialisation.

Our guiding principle is that the world is a complex place but our brains are only three pounds. We take the big picture and use our proprietary lenses to reduce today's excess of information down to simple, clear and holistic advice across our core offerings:

- **Macroeconomic advisory:** Independent research and market intelligence that plugs the gap between global macro dynamics and investment, risk and business decisions.
- **Investment and risk implementation advisory:** Bespoke advice around implementation of investment strategy, alternatives, direct investments, integrated risk management and structuring.
- **Governance advisory:** Provision of credible independent members of risk and investment committees that bring specialist investment and risk expertise, as well as valuable added perspectives.



# ABOUT MONEY MANIA



## MONEY MANIA

BOOMS, PANICS, AND BUSTS  
FROM ANCIENT ROME TO THE GREAT  
MELTDOWN

BOB SWARUP

**Twenty-five centuries of financial bubbles, investment manias and human folly explained, with rich historical detail and an insider's financial acumen**

*"Unusually well-told, and expansive in scope. Similarities between different episodes are breath-taking... His framework provides interesting pointers."* - **Financial Times**

*"[An] excellent new book, which looks at booms, panics and busts down the ages. ... Swarup's book comes out at an opportune moment."* - **The Guardian**

*"[An] erudite history of financial speculation."* – **The Economist**

*"[A] rigorously researched history packed with great stories and insights. Swarup takes the reader through a fascinating and thought provoking analysis of emotional biases, money, credit and social complexity... The vexing question for every serious investor today is whether our uniquely complex modern society is at risk of another systemic crisis. Money Mania is a timely, well written reminder that this question should be given renewed priority."* – **Paul Tudor Jones, Tudor Investment Corporation**

# PRINCIPAL BIO

**Dr Bob Swarup** is a respected international expert on financial markets, investment strategy, alternatives, ALM and regulation. He is the founder of Camdor Global, an advisory firm that works with institutions and investors around the world on strategic investment, risk management, ALM and regulatory issues. He is also the co-founder of the Insurance Investment Exchange, the leading forum for insurers globally to debate investment issues.

Bob was formerly a partner at Pension Corporation, a leading UK-based pension buyout firm with \$20bn in assets, where he oversaw alternative investments, was Chief Risk Officer and ran the thought leadership unit. Bob has also served on the Advisory Board of Adveq, a leading Swiss PE firm; the Board of CatCo, a \$2bn reinsurance hedge fund that he helped seed in 2011; and on several committees of the Association of British Insurers.

Bob is a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Affairs; a Senior Visiting Fellow at Cass Business School; and on the Advisory Council of the Columbia Committee for Global Thought. He holds a PhD in cosmology from Imperial College London and an MA (Hons) from the University of Cambridge. Bob has written extensively on diverse topics, with his work appearing in the Financial Times, Economist, Guardian, CNBC, Bloomberg, Boston Globe and others. His latest book is the internationally acclaimed bestseller *Money Mania*, examining over two millennia of financial crises and the lessons for us to learn (Bloomsbury, 2014).



# CONTACT

**T:** +44 (0)7801 552755

**E:** [swarup@camdorglobal.com](mailto:swarup@camdorglobal.com)