

Agenda: Trump reignites Trade war after U.S. Coronavirus woes

- Rhetorical virus war underway
- US election
- World of demand deficit
- Great Depression rerun?
- Market implications
- Investment Outlook



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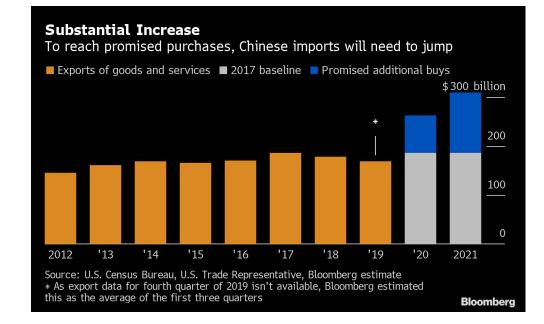
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Rhetorical virus war underway:

- "We went through the worst attack we've ever had on our country. This is really the worst attack we've ever had. This is worse than Pearl Harbor. This is worse than the World Trade Center. There's never been an attack like this. And it should have never happened. It could have been stopped at the source. It could have been stopped in China."
- Export controls for semis, moves to prevent financial flows, pressure on China to deliver on deal.
- China has no hope of delivering on the trade deal.



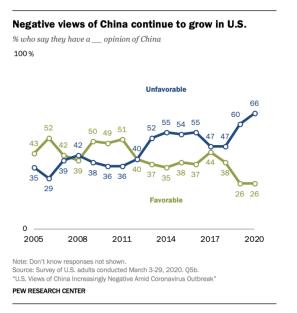


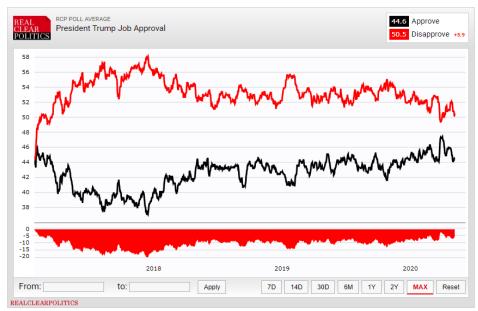
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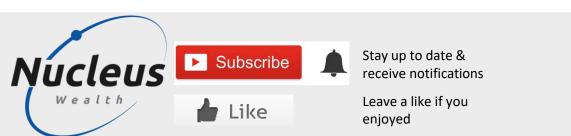


US election

- Trump approval rating is slipping on virus mismanagement.
- Recent polls have 90% of Republicans and 67% of Democrats saying China is blame for virus.
- Trump better placed to exploit anger.



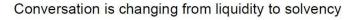


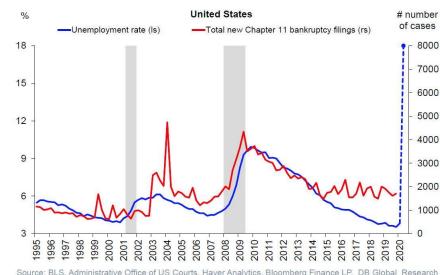


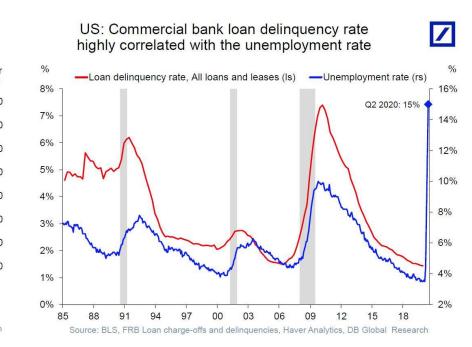


World of demand deficit

- The most enduring outcome of COVID-19 will be demand deficit and, if fiscal is retrenched then secular stagnation.
- This could benefit either party but will present ongoing trade frictions as everybody tries to externalise weak domestic demand via falling currencies.









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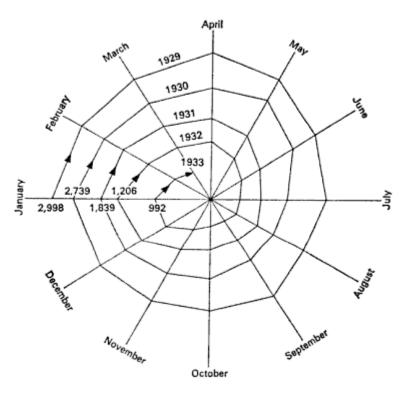
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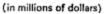


Great Depression rerun?

- Set-up remarkably similar to Great Depression.
- Fading Great Power that does not want to be economy of last resort owing to debt burden.
- Rising Great Power that does want to be economy of last resort owing to political burden.
- Easy to see trade falling victim.

Figure 10. The contracting spiral of world trade, January 1929– March 1933: Total imports of 75 countries (monthly values in terms of old U.S. gold dollars [millions]).







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Market implications

- Strong USD on tariffs, possible tariffs and rising risk. Rhetorical war is enough.
- Makes life very tough for emerging markets for usual reasons of capital flight and borrowing costs. Made worse by virus in SH.
- So no GFC recovery rerun.
- Difficult for commodities too.
- At minimum, big push against Chinese supply chains, could easily be worse.
- All slows global recovery and weighs on stocks. Trump's good behaviour bond.
- Inflation nowhere.
- Australian dollar no place to be.
- Headwind of problem for gold?



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