

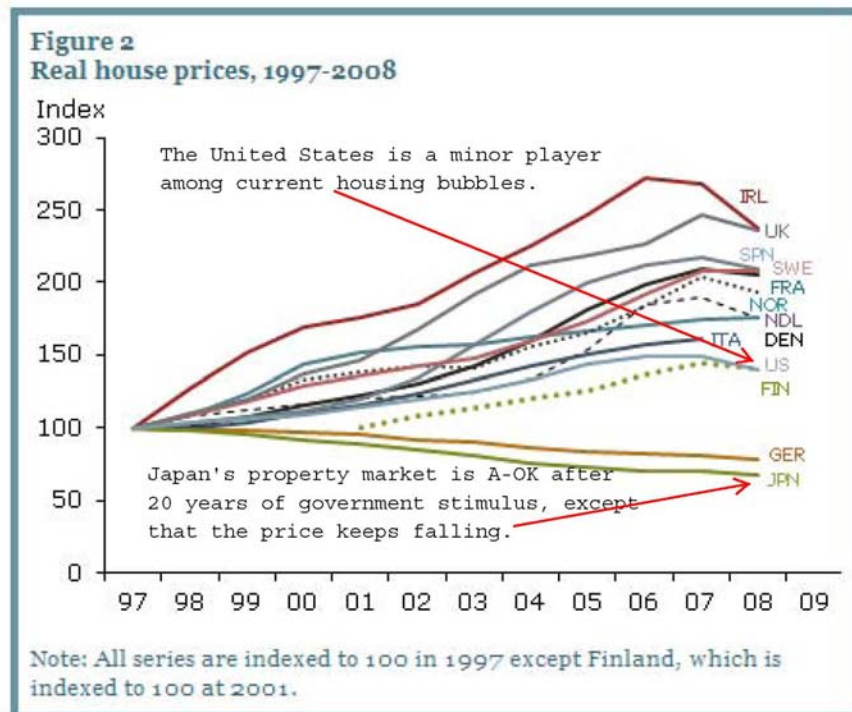
The Aftermath of the Global Housing Bubble Chokes the World Banking System. Only a Coordinated Worldwide Loan Massacre Could Defeat a Japanese-Style Dead-and-Dying-of-Debt Kamikaze. Hell Approaches Us All, But Only For An Extended Period.

By Michael David White

Sometimes the complexity of the world is a ruse, and seeing the overwhelming future of our fortunes is strangely simple. Our past and future credit crisis is but one case in point. Remember when fear and failure wrecked markets wising up to the fallout of debt given to anybody for anything, but especially for buying houses?

Naturally our financial leaders around the world took the radical steps required to reduce the debt created in a massive credit bubble. Oh, sorry, that was my fantasy world I was talking about. What our leaders are doing is correcting a severe cyclical recession. What our reporters are doing is covering a severe cyclical recession. What sublime kabuki theater.

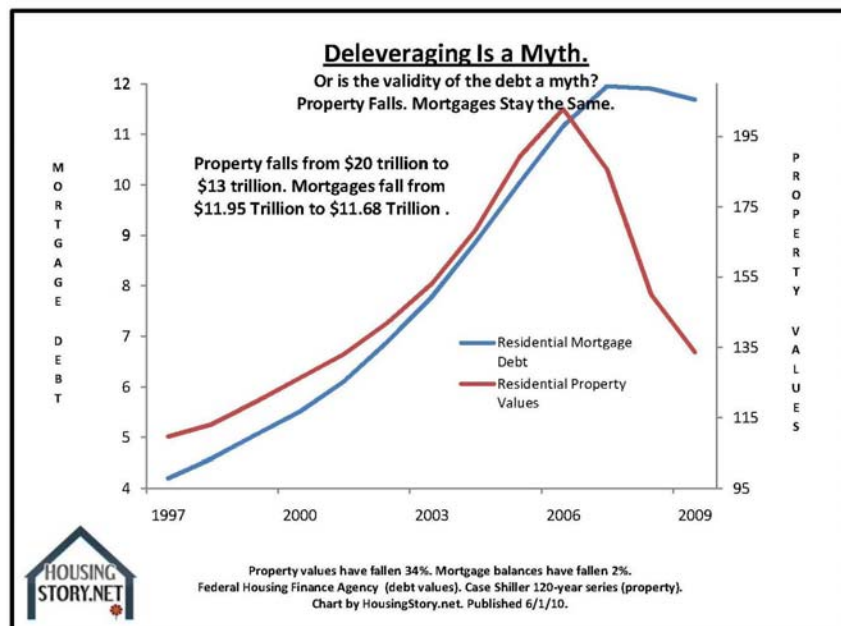
Back in the real world, the destruction of debt required to cure a credit bubble hasn't been done. That means the reason for the new credit crisis is no different than during that past time of fear and failure – except that now we have new magnificent malignant clusters of sovereign debt serving as a sort of hand-held fan covering the unclothed emperor. Does that count as cover?



There is a prism I use to see the world. It is in houses. Look immediately above to see housing prices acting strangely in many advanced economies (the global housing bubble chart). Let me tell what I see when I look at this: We had one wicked housing bubble in the United States, but apparently we were the conservative party poopers. It looks like the funner countries are Ireland, Britain, Spain, Sweden, France, Norway, Denmark and Italy.

I know mortgages are used to buy houses. Yet they also represent not just the largest financial asset category, but the use of debt to buy anything including companies and commercial real estate and credit-card receivables. What are the futures of these debt assets? If we know the fate of mortgages do we know the fate of them all?

Oh and I also wonder about the sovereign kind? Luckily those debts are backed by the likes of honest hard-working Greeks who live to protect their impeccable reputation for being always good-and-true to their word ("Pass the Ouzo Aristotle. Do you have a cigarette? I hope you didn't have to pay any taxes this year.").



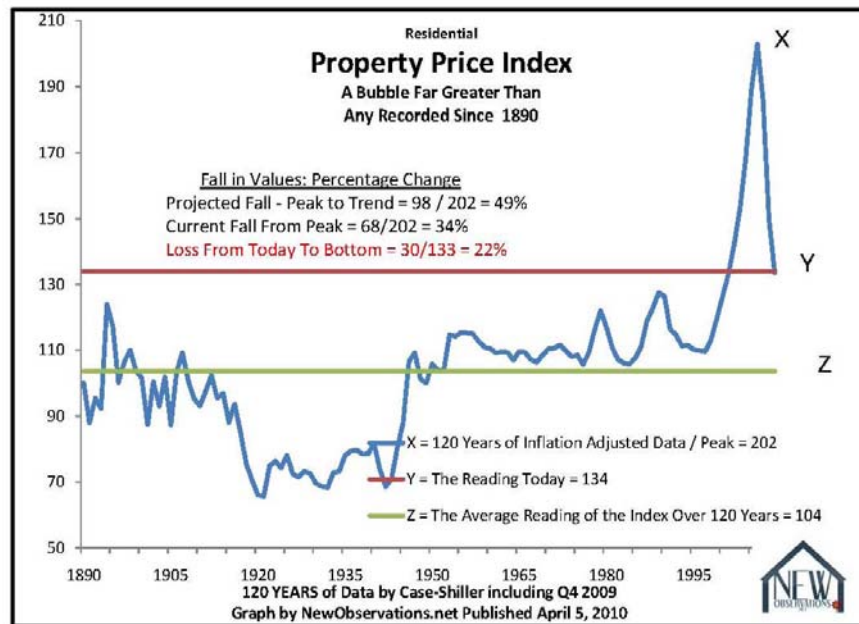
Mortgage Bubble – Pray-it-is-true accounting is a global trend, as was the housing bubble, as is the housing crash, and as will be the next panic and crisis. Repeat and repeat the crisis cycles until garbage debt gets written off and goes bye-bye.

The strange case (Or is it the normal case?) is the residential mortgage market in the United States. Look immediately above. Values of the equity asset have fallen more than 30 percent, but the values of the debt asset (mortgages) used to buy the equity asset (homes) have fallen two percent. Both of these investments

have a right to title to the same asset, but one has fallen FIFTEEN TIMES further than the other. Is this the real world or is it make believe?

While it's possible that this anomaly may hold, the 14 percent of residential mortgage borrowers who are now behind points toward the debt mortgage balances and the equity home values moving closer to each other.

That's a complicated way of saying that mortgage balances logically should fall in value in a ratio very much like the fall in value of the house asset itself. Has not happened yet, but isn't it true that the world at some point returns to earth?



Price Trends / 120 Years -- We estimate values will fall 22 percent nationwide from current levels. The primary assumption is that prices will return to a trend predating 1990 when property prices were flat for 100 years after counting inflation.

We know that the fall in property values is real and we know that the United States bubble in values was far greater than any bubble of the last 120 years (See chart above and pay close attention to the amazing "X" bubble. That's historical Jack.). Thus now do you see the pattern of Armageddon gathering force and deciding when and where to explode and paint a picture of gore all across the world.

The American market in housing went totally off the deep end. A flood of negative equity now invades our land. Foreclosures in progress are at a record. Yet look yonder to strange and distant shores. Look at Italy and Denmark and Norway and France and Sweden and Spain and Great Britain and Ireland.

Their real estate market got bubbled worse than ours, but surely their central bank and treasury are more honest, courageous, and knowledgeable than ours?

Oh, I'm sorry. That's another scary presumption. Admit ruthless incompetence of the Fed and the Treasury in the management of our massive credit bubble, in the sense that they had not the slightest comprehension of their role as debt-destroyer-of-first-resort, but give them credit for being rather like the publishers of Consumer Reports where their evasions, deceptions, and ignorance are likely trivial when compared to old world masters like Italy and Spain who publish Penthouse and unending internet offshoots. Did you read the prospectus sir or just look at the pictures?

FORECLOSED HOMES ON THE MARKET as of July 16, 2010			
Location	Repossessed Homes	Repossessed Homes on the Market	Repossessed Homes Over \$300K on the Market
Cook County, IL	28,829	1,292	29
Miami-Dade County, FL	10,858	983	11
Orange County, CA	6,270	227	85
Bergen County, NJ	615	31	4
Cincinnati, OH	2,914	184	1
Seattle, WA	946	51	8
Nashville, TN	1,350	102	1
Denver, CO	2,782	223	10
St. Louis, MO	2,323	312	2
Phoenix, AZ	10,613	1,144	16

The Real Estate Channel

Just when you think it's impossible for dishonesty to be taken to the next level in the American housing market, you see a chart like this one, which, if true, means that bank-owned properties are being held like abandoned castles and that the next level has been achieved (The chart above shows huge numbers of bank-owned properties lying hidden in your local bank's burka. The banks own the properties, but they don't sell the properties, probably because it means death to the seller.).

I had always assumed that the shadow inventory was just bungling bankers failing to stay on top of their foreclosure cases. I didn't think of the sale of a foreclosure as a banker chugging boiling poison and embracing certain instant death. The bankers have a nice PR line out there saying that the wise wealthy collateral takers are waiting for the market to turn so they can reap greater rewards when they sell their foreclosures. Then I saw this chart, realized that I had been taken for a fool. I interpreted the chart as an executioner's song with a country-music theme. The title is "My Bank Sold My Shack to the Sheriff and Went Belly Up Big Time and Ain't Pay Back a Bitch Mr. Richy Rich."

One on top of the other, I then saw then unbelievable headline in Forbes: "Six Giant Banks Made \$51 Billion Last Year; The Other 980 Lost Money."

And then I said to myself: "Well, if I owned a bank and my bank would go out of business if I sold my foreclosure collateral, would I just hold it then to live for another day?" The answer was obvious: Yes, I would just hold it like an old abandoned castle. Shame on me for believing the garbage about the bankers waiting for the market to turn back around. Are you telling me there is even one banker in the world that wouldn't sell collateral now and today if the price worked?

It takes me aback. It staggers me. Our housing market is a true obstacle course for an honest thinker.

The federal government is making every mortgage loan to forestall radical crashing, and our local banks are pretending to solvency by going into the castle-and-museum business -- holding foreclosures as either investments or tchotchkes or as prayer beads.

My suggestion therefore is that you look in to the John Paulson subprime-mortgage trade. Read up on what that was all about. See if there is some form of echo housing-bust credit-crisis high-multiple sovereign-credit-default derivative which you can use to really get the chance to do it big this time. This is the best trade ever. It's easy. It's obvious. It's real.

The center cannot hold. America is a bubble, and no plan has been suggested to kill the bubble debt. The world is a bigger bubble, but nobody has a plan for a global debt-destruction project. It's not even on the agenda people. It's like the whole world has turned Japanese (Yes, I really think so.).

We and the world and debt behind mania will break. Hell will rule then, but remember, we will only have to live with it for an extended period.

And what if we don't break that debt in two? Then we will enjoy a Malthusian stumbling impoverishing zomby-ish period for about as long as forever is. Don't believe me? Ask the kamikaze people. They know what it's like to work side-by-side with a crushing credit-bubble balance sheet.

The kamikaze people are, of course, the Japanese. If a reader is fluent in the language, please send the translation. These are the words of the ghosts of the Japanese treasury:

"In our experience deleveraging is a fantasy in the aftermath of an extreme credit bubble. Now we know that and we watch as the world pretends we don't exist. You simply must ask the right question after a crash. You have to determine the likelihood of deleveraging. Is it logical that bubble debts issued to buy bubble assets will be paid back when bubble assets lose their bubble value?

The obvious answer in our case was 'no'. The mania was too extreme. The debt is too extreme. Which leads to the next logical step. What should we have done? We should have created a massive write-off.

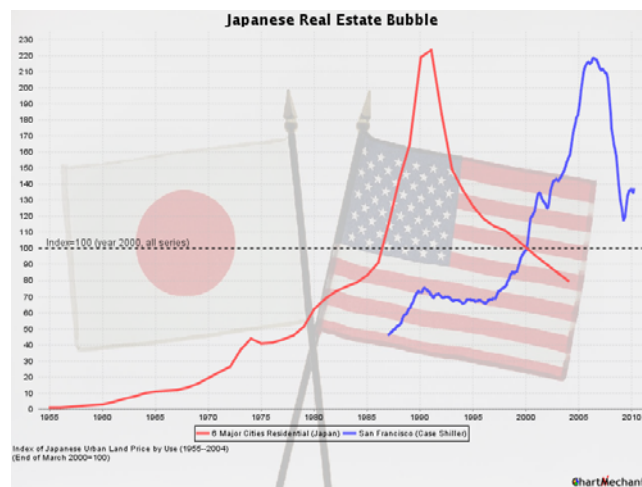
"It was our job to declare bankruptcy. We should have forced banks and insurance companies to convert debt to equity on a grand scale. We should have destroyed equity investments of millions of people and

thousands of companies. We didn't, and we are still waiting to do what we should have done. What appeared to be especially cruel then we know now would have been smart courageous and humane. We know our wealth today would be much greater. We know our debt today would be much less. If we had taken radical action in the early nineties, our economy would be leading the world right now. Instead we lied about the solution. We lied about mania. We failed to admit our failure.

"Now we fight a monster. Our hands are tied behind our back. Every year the catastrophe gets worse. And if you use the word 'stimulus' among us, we will gladly deliver you immediately to a thousand and one virgins. Their souls are in heaven and there you will meet, but their dead bodies are buried in our beautiful perfect streets paved with blood and sweat, with our diamonds and gold, and made from fantastic sovereign debt, which we have taken from our own people.

"Remember this. Mark our words. We can't be helped you ridiculous idiots."

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<http://housingstory.net/2010/07/28/the-aftermath-of-the-global-housing-bubble-chokes-the-world-banking-system/>

Thanks for carrying the story to [Business Insider](#), [Mortgage News Clips](#), [Naked Capitalism](#), [Patrick.net](#).

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