

Recognizing Bubbles After Creating Them
Doug Wakefield

August 22, 2013

[Obama Focuses on Risk of New Bubble Undermining Broad Recovery](#),
Bloomberg Businessweek, August 19, 2013

“President Barack Obama, who took office amid the collapse of the last financial bubble, wants to make sure his economic recovery doesn’t generate the next one.

Obama this month spoke four times in five days of the need to avoid what he called ‘artificial bubbles,’ even in an economy that’s growing at just a 1.7 percent rate and where employment and factory usage remain below pre-recession highs.

‘We have to turn the page on the bubble-and-bust mentality that created this mess,’ he said in his Aug. 10 weekly radio address.”

[Bernanke: There is no stock bubble](#), CNN Money, February 26, 2013

“Stocks have recently been hovering near a five-year high, but Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says a stock market bubble is not in the works.

‘I don't see much evidence of an equity bubble,’ Bernanke told the Senate Banking Committee in his semi-annual testimony on Tuesday....

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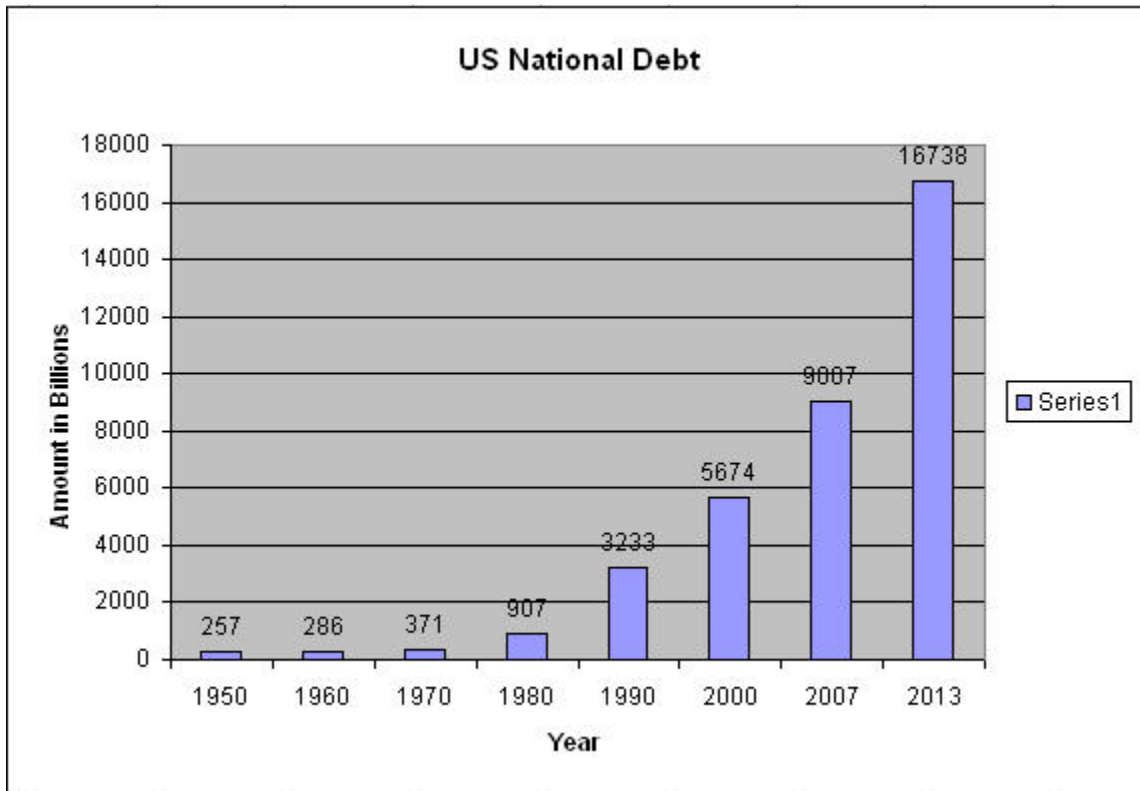
Are these two individuals, holding the most powerful political and financial offices in the United States, completely ignorant of the history they have helped create as well as the history that came before them? Do they have any idea HOW credit bubbles have been created over the last few centuries? Do the millions of Americans living around me understand that these quotes, from two publicly available articles, reveal what can only be described as “The Big Lie”?

For many, my words are not harsh enough. For others, my words are too extreme. I am not looking for acceptance or denial from the public, only to use the CURRENT platform of free speech to write about what I have learned from studying history and from living through several “first in history” events in the last two decades.



Look at the chart above of the Dow. Look at the chart below, comparing the value of the Wilshire 5000 - the broadest measure of US publicly traded stock wealth - and the level of U.S. National Debt at major tops and bottoms in US stocks.

A Comparison of the US Nat'l Debt to US Publicly Traded Stock Wealth					
Date	24-Mar-00	10-Oct-02	11-Oct-07	6-Mar-09	5-Aug-13
Wilshire 5000	14.991	7.273	15.938	6.772	18.157
US Nat'l Debt	5.73	6.24	9.042	10.951	16.738
Ratio/Stock to Debt	2.61/1	1.16/1	1.76/1	0.61/1	1.08/1
Major top or bottom	top	bottom	top	bottom	top?
Sources - U.S. Nat'l Debt - Debt to the Penny, Treasury Direct					
Wilshire 5000 data - StockCharts, data in trillions				Best Minds Inc.	



Finally, look at the chart above, which reflects the growth of the national debt of the United States. How is it possible that these two men, holding the highest political and financial office in the United States, can say they either do not SEE a bubble, or they hope we can AVOID a bubble?

[Margin Lending Hits All Time High](#), Buy and Hedge, May 28, 2013

[A Housing Bubble Era Loan Makes a Comeback, with a Twist: More and More People Are Borrowing Against Their Brokerage Accounts to Buy Condos and Expand Their Businesses](#), CNN Money, May 29, 2013

[Deutsche Bank Hopes “ Not All Margin Calls Come At Once In Case of A Sell-Off”](#), Zero Hedge, August 13, 2013

If you want to avoid a bubble, you do not provide the fuel, i.e. flood financial markets with cheap credit, and lots of it for a few years. Otherwise, you have exactly what we are watching today, yet another bubble – or more accurately, bubbles - in history.

It is too late to AVOID a bubble, but it is not too late to tell the public that they are living in a bubble. In fact, anyone watching various markets around the world can see that bubbles have been bursting for the last few months.

[Fed Announces Unlimited QE3](#), US News and World Report, Sept 13 '12

[Junk Issuance at Record High](#), Yahoo Financial, Mar 28, '13

[Record Outflows From US Junk Bond Funds](#), CNBC, June 6 '13



[Corporate Debt Sales Hit Record](#), WSJ, December 11 '12

[US Fund Redemptions Have A Record \\$61.7 Billion in Redemptions](#), Bloomberg, June 26 '13



[Japan Prime Minister Favorite to Push “Unlimited” Easing](#), The China Post,
 Nov 16 '12

[BOJ To Pump \\$1.4 Trillion into Economy in Unprecedented Stimulus](#), Reuters,
 April 4 '13

[The Nikkei Stock Collapse Sent a Warning, and U.S. Investors Should Beware](#),
 Huffington Post, May 23 '13



[Housing Stocks Soar As Housing Battles Back](#), CNBC, April 9 '13

[Housing Stocks Fall, Facebook Jumps on Wall Street](#), Yahoo Financial, July 25 '13



As we head into the fall, and learn that the Primary Dealers are expecting the Fed to announce bond purchase reductions to begin in September, Congress is once again facing that nasty thing called a debt ceiling by the end of September, and the yield on 10 Year Treasuries has climbed from 1.66 to 2.90 between May 2nd and August 22nd - an increase of 75% in under 4 months, would it really be all that surprising to hear that the economy was slowing and that stocks were declining in the weeks and months ahead?

[The Primary Dealers Have Spoken: Taper Begins September With \\$15 Billion Trim; QE Ends June 2014](#), Zero Hedge, Aug 22 '13

[Treasury Secretary Calls on Congress to Raise Debt Ceiling](#), CBS News, Aug 22 '13

[US Treasury Yield Climbs to Highest since 2010 Against G-7 Peers](#), Live Mint, Aug 19 '13

But for this weekend, we can at least go home knowing that the Nirvana Trade is still in play, and the Dow still sits above 15,000.





“Bubbles are far more dangerous when they are fueled by debt, as in the case of the global housing price explosion of the early 2000s.” [\[This Time Is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly](#) (2011) Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff]

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Today, I released a special edition of my trading report: *Watch the Big Boys*, that makes it clear, *some very big money is still practicing the lost art of being early*. It is available to all current and new [subscribers to The Investment Mind](#).

Seven years after its release, I still refer back to my research paper [**Riders on the Storm: Short Selling in Contrary Winds**](#) (Jan '06). I would encourage you to [click here](#) to download it for free.

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