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Uncertainty dissipates...brief lesson investors need to take away...Get used to it!

The psychology of exogenous events overtakes markets...

I often use the phrases “**the market climbs a wall of worry**” but “**slides down a hill of uncertainty**” A way to truly understand “uncertainty” as it relates to financial markets is to substitute it with a phrase like “open ended”.

[The 2 primary open ended calamities facing investors have been turmoil in MENA \(Mideast/N. Africa\) and the nuclear disaster in Japan.](#)

The Saudi King’s recent speech (more cash, jobs, health care, and housing for citizens) and the developments at the U.N. regarding a no-fly-zone and “other necessary intervention” calms the MENA situation and takes us form open ended uncertainty to just worrying whether or not we can have a lasting equanimity, at least for a little while any way.

Regarding Japan, the end game may be to bury the nuke reactors. I have no idea what that takes, but it doesn’t matter. What investors care about is that the situation has moved from open ended to an eventual end of nuclear crisis. Can you think of two words that are more frightening than “nuclear crisis”?

Worrying about all manners of events...micro...macro...man made...Mother Nature...is what investors have always endured and will always continue to endure. What gets us past these concerns are whether or not we can conceive an end game to the one(s) right in front of us. This is what the news late in the week of March 14th has brought to investors...a little relief from massive uncertainty. **This is THE reason behind the rapidity of the very recent retreat and advance of global stock markets.**

Investors have always had a lot to endure to enjoy long term wealth creation. Experienced investors are used to this. They understand that dealing with uncertainty is the price they pay for future investment returns. More than ever, you must ask yourself as an investor if you're mentally prepared to deal with unforeseen and previously unthinkable events. Also, investors need to factor in these kinds of events permanently into their portfolio construction.

Up next is how the recent rise in commodities and the supply chain disruption in Japan will impact Q1 earnings. But since Q2 begins in 8 days, we can at least clearly see the end game to this one.

Thanks for reading this. Please **FORWARD** this to someone else you think may be interested in reading it.

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