

Hope



These are my grandchildren. They give me hope.

And we can certainly use it.

February went as expected. As usual, the cruelest month of the year (<https://allimsayincom.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/february-1.pdf>). And this February has been particularly rotten. Sure, February 2020 brought us Covid, but February 2022 is making a run as the worst February ever. Let's recap.

- Russia invaded Ukraine.
- Still no Baseball.
- A massive winter storm covers most of the country.
- The stock market is down.
- Prices are up.
- Covid hanging on.
- A worldwide war on Freedom and Democracy.

Everywhere, it seems, is gloom and doom. As my grandma used to day, ***“The world is going to hell in a hand-basket.”*** And some are saying we're living in the end times. It's the end of days!

Whoa!

Well, let everyone else wallow in the misery of February 2022. With the help of my grandchildren, a little research, my cockeyed optimistic nature and a few stiff cocktails, following are some thoughts on what lies ahead in 2022.

Focused on hope. One problem at a time.

Russia's Invasion of the Ukraine



I tend to agree with what Andrew Latham of *The Hill* writes regarding how Russia's invasion of the Ukraine will play out. Writes Latham, ***“Let's be clear: Putin's war with Ukraine will ultimately redound to Russia's great strategic disadvantage. The longer-term strategic consequences will be every bit as catastrophic as***

America's 'war of choice' in Iraq and Afghanistan. If Russia attempt to occupy the entire country, it will face the task of pacifying a hostile people with a long history of resisting foreign domination. If that sounds familiar, it should, thats the role that the Red Army's bloody occupation of Afghanistan played in the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union.”

Read the full article here:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/opinion/shattering-the-myth-of-vladimir-putin-as-a-strategic-genius/ar-AAUfuuA?li=BBnb7K>

Baseball Lockout

The players lose \$20.5 million dollars every time a regular season game is missed. Star pitcher Max Scherzer loses \$232,995 for every game cancelled. The owners benefitted from 9.9 billion dollars in revenue in 2019. Every game cancelled takes money out of the owner's pockets.

Since both players and owners are insanely greedy, they won't leave this kind of money on the table for very long. My prediction is MLB will be back playing games by Easter.



In the meantime, high school and college baseball seasons are starting very soon. Ticket prices and concessions are much more affordable. Parking is free.

For more details on the lockout, follow the link below.

<https://www.truebluel.com/2022/2/24/22948626/lockout-financial-losses-estimate>

Winter

As we all know, winter won't officially end until pitchers and catchers report to spring training (<https://allimsayincom.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/22get-off-my-lawn22-february-17-2022.pdf>).

But, thanks to climate change (formerly known as global warming) temperatures will start rising sooner than ever! Higher temperatures means more sunshine, flowers and green grass. And less snow!



Stock Market/Economy



It's crystal clear that the stock market will rebound. Read what JP Morgan's stock market analyst says:

"The absence of an inverted 2s/10s [yield] curve points more to mid-cycle consolidation, similar to the patterns that developed surrounding the 1983, 1994, 2004, and 2015 initial removal of accommodative monetary policy during the respective economic cycles."

That should clear things up! Translation: Happy days are here again!

For the full article, follow the link below:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-recent-stock-market-correction-doesnt-validate-end-of-cycle-worries-as-a-rebound-in-risk-assets-is-likely-jpmorgans-marko-kolanovic-says/ar-AAUdma0?li=BBnb7Kz>

And the outlook for the overall US economy isn't all bad either. Experts say inflation will slow, employment will continue at record highs, wages will increase, and interest rates will not rise as much as expected.

For more details, follow the link below:

<https://www.thebalance.com/us-economic-outlook-3305669>

War on Democracy

Democracy and freedom are both on a bit of a losing streak. January 6th, Russia, voter suppression, gerrymandering, Tucker Carlson, China... the list is long. But I'm ultimately confident and hopeful. Democracy and freedom have had setbacks before. But, as some folks much smarter than me have observed:

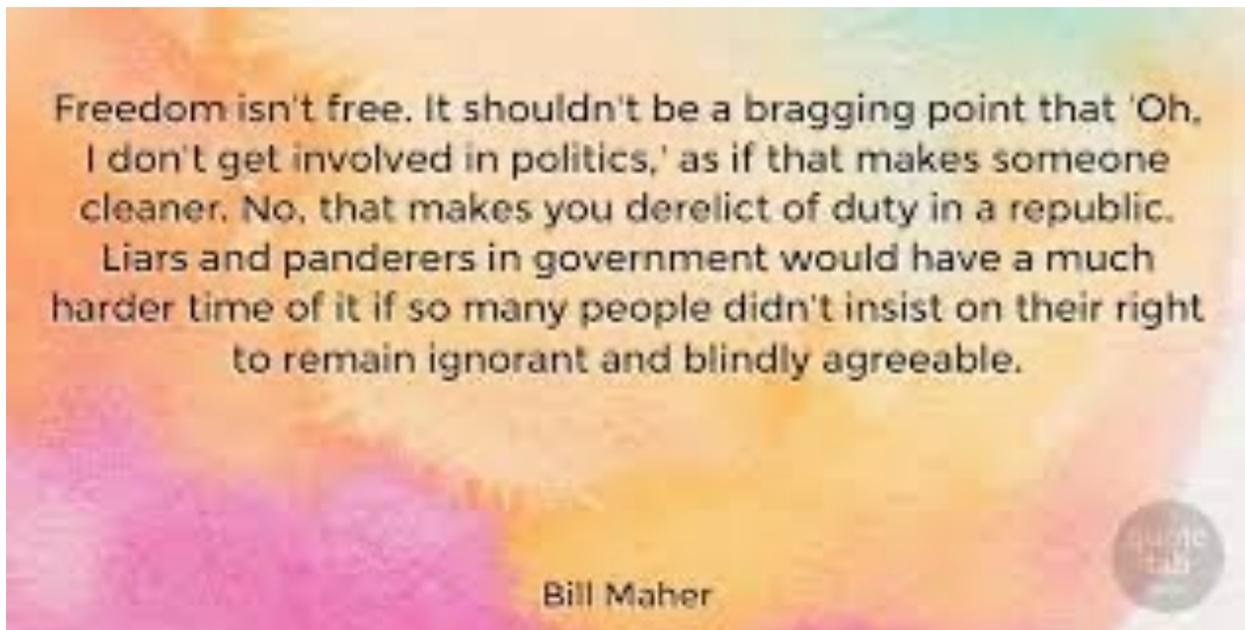
"Freedom is the most contagious virus known to man" - Hubert Humphrey

"All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin. Therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'" - John Kennedy

"Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this wall!" - Ronald Reagan

"The arc of the universe may bend towards justice, but it doesn't bend on its own," - Barack Obama.

Democracy, and Freedom, will win. With one caveat. The way democracy and freedom loses is when good people do nothing. When we don't stand up to bullies, when we keep our mouth shut, when we look the other way.



Let's do it for the kids.

That's all I'm sayin'

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