

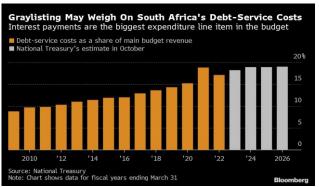
Challengers & Champions in an Uncharted World

Dr Adrian Saville | Professor in Economics, Finance and Strategy, GIBS Investment Specialist, Genera Capital

Savillea



Good Afternoon ... Here Is The Noise







Noise & News

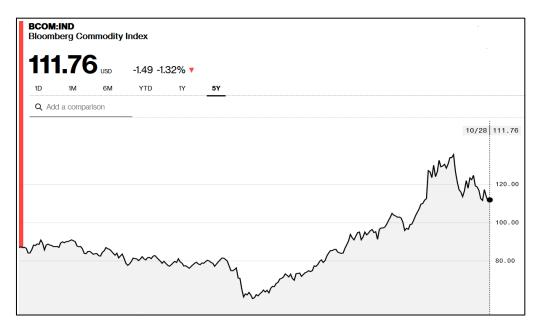
"It's all very, very noisy out there. Very hard to hear the tune ... Like a piano in the next room, it's playing your song, but unfortunately, it's out of whack, some of the strings are missing, and the pianist is tone deaf and drunk - I mean the noise! Impossible!"

Tom Stoppard, Arcadia

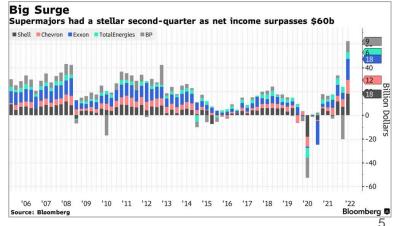




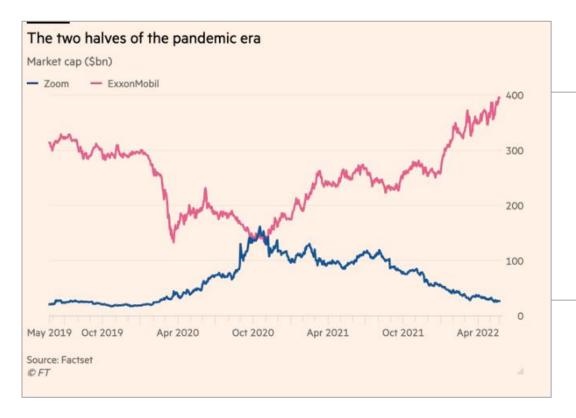
War & Oil: Same Impulse = 180^o Different

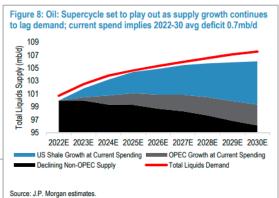






Pandemic & Panic: Same Impulse = 180^o Different





"Today, the average SPAC that de-SPAC-ed since 2020 by completing an acquisition (in each case, with the approval of its investors) is selling at \$5.25, versus its issue price of \$10.00. This is a good example of a new thing that turned out to be less dependable than investors – who fell once again for a can't-lose silver bullet – had thought."

Howard Marks (2022) Oaktree Capital



If By Magic ...

Dominant Economies Customer Business **Economies** Leading Human Leadership Processes Market of Scale & Logistics Monopoly Clusters & of Scope Capital & Analytics Share Efficiency **Networks**















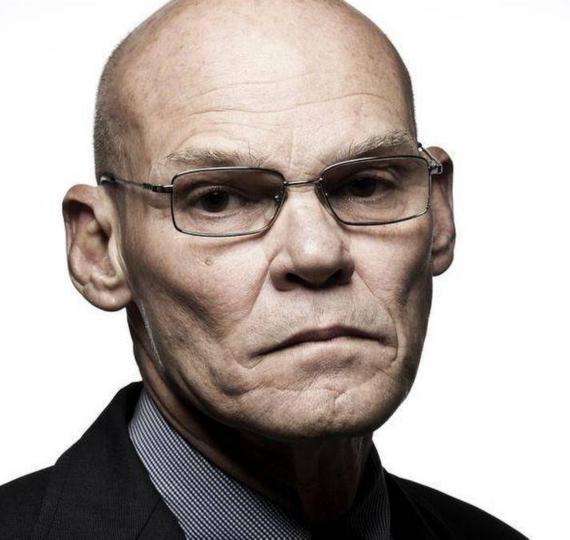








If, by magic, you were allowed to pick an ingredient to build a brilliant business, what would you choose?



"It's the economy, stupid"

James Carville (1992) Presidential Campaign Strategist

Enter The Dragon: Economic Growth & Business Miracles



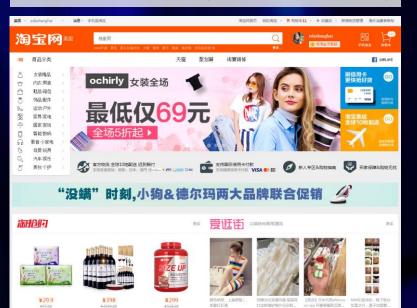


amazon



"eBay may be a shark in the ocean, but I am a crocodile in the Yangtze River."

Jack Ma (Founder Taobao & Alibaba)





The Most Valuable Driver Of Business Growth







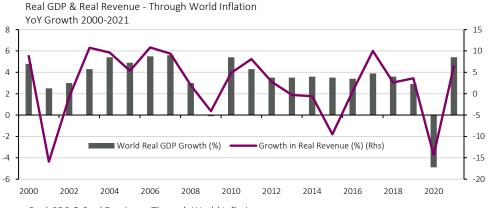




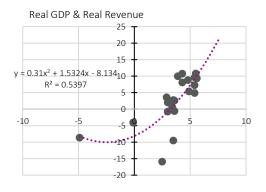


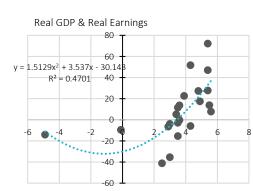
Context Matters: Growth Drives Growth

















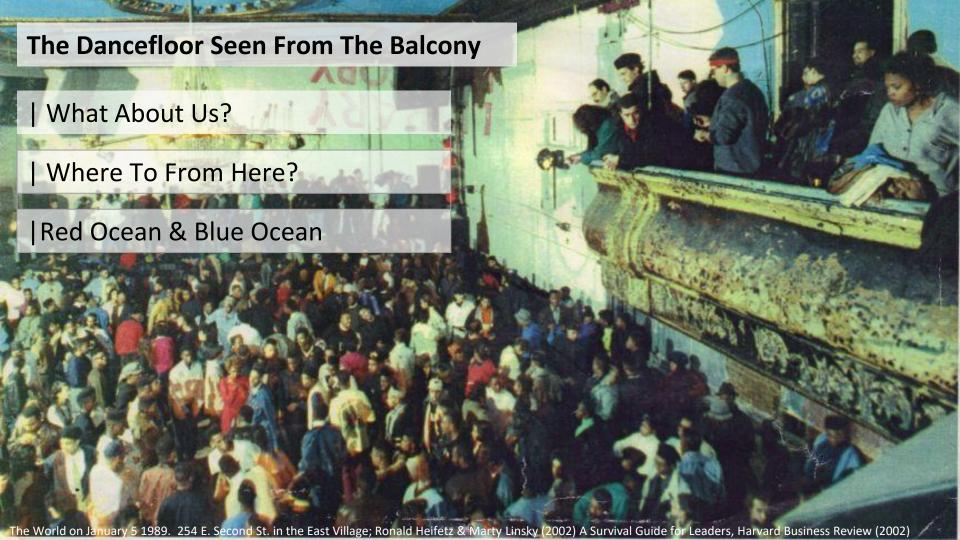




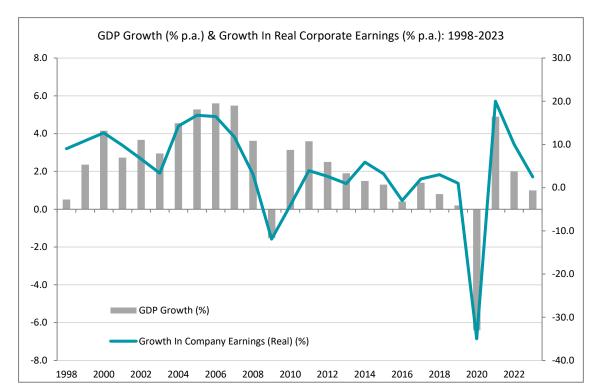


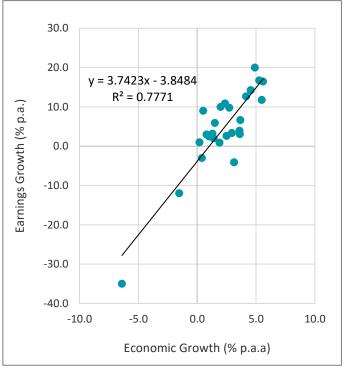


Note: Spot elasticity is the average of each year for 21 years; arc elasticity is the average from year one to year twenty-one.

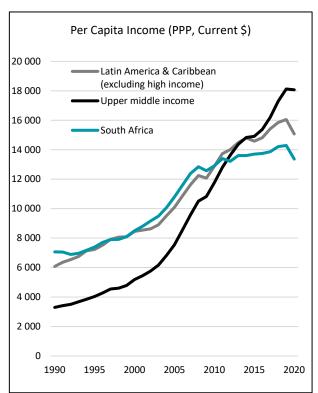


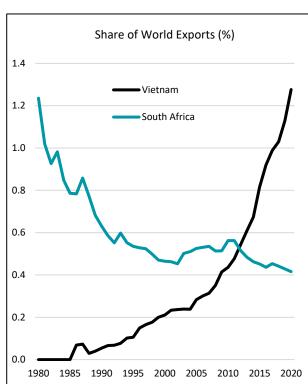
The Macroeconomic Context & Business

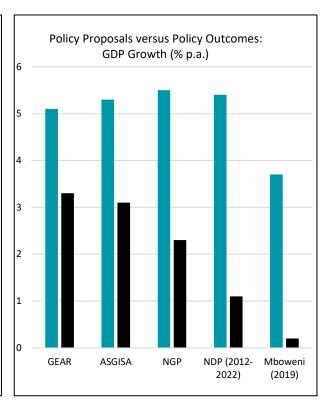




Policy Promises & Delayed Delivery

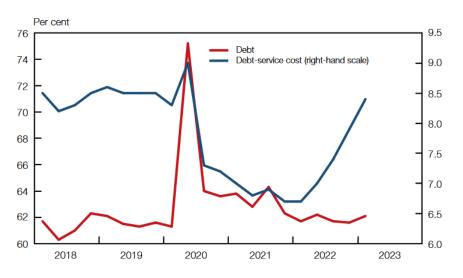






Stresses & Sectoral Strain

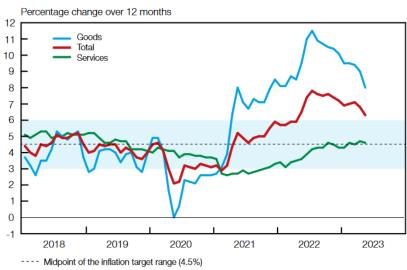
Household debt and debt-service cost as a ratio of disposable income



Greylisting and load shedding (end 2024)

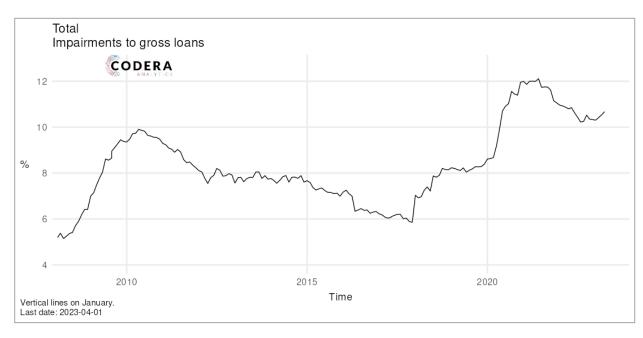
- Lady R; geopolitical stance and BRICs
- Elevated unemployment, and stagnant income
- Inflation erosion; rising debt-service costs; and pass-through inflation via currency
- Credit choke and NPLs; sets the scene for distressed M&A and rescue

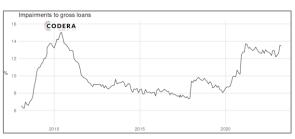
Headline consumer prices

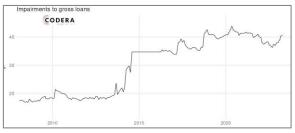


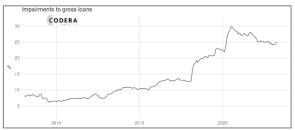
Source: Stats SA

Stresses & Sectoral Strain







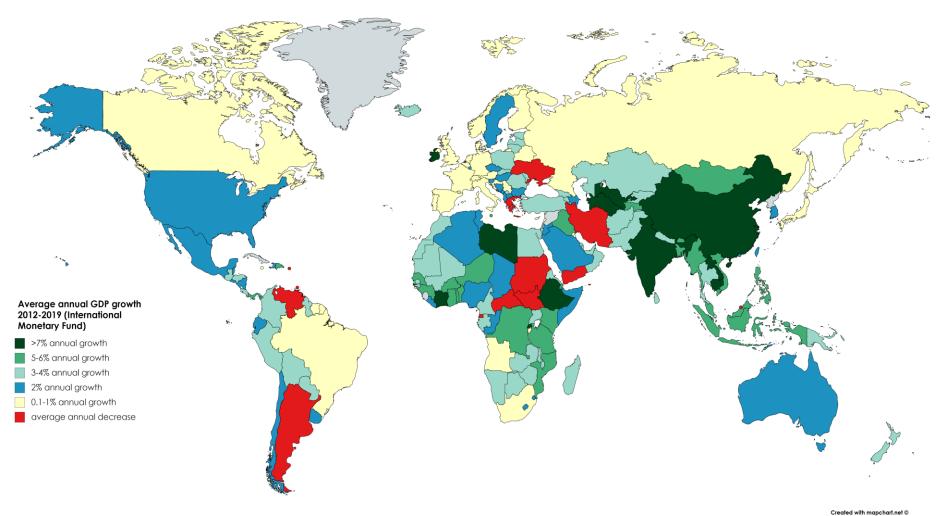


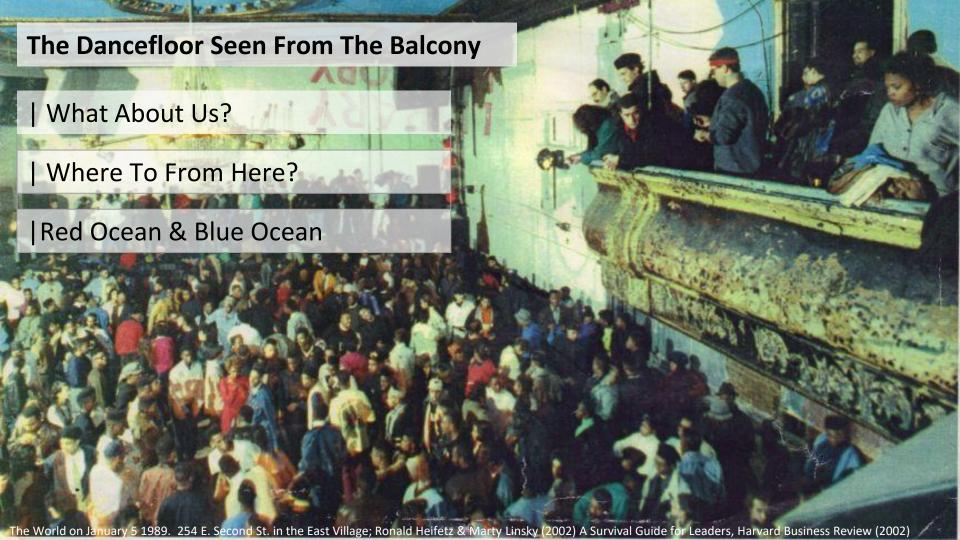
Stresses & Stars



Transaction

Capital







Strategic Perspective



Caracas, Venezuela

1,9x

11,4mn 28,8mn

> \$1,014 \$1,936

Buenos Aires, Argentina

9,0x 23,9mn 44,3mn

\$1,322 \$11,683

Santiago, Chile

19,0x 10,0mn 18,9mn

\$922 \$15,923



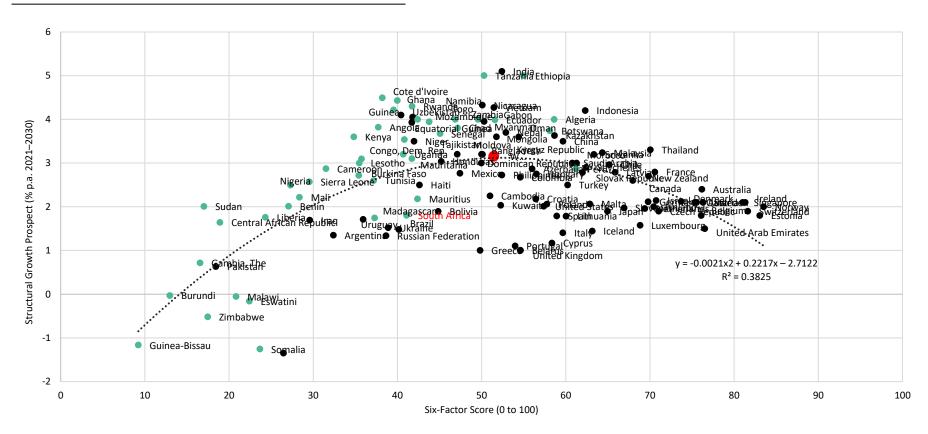


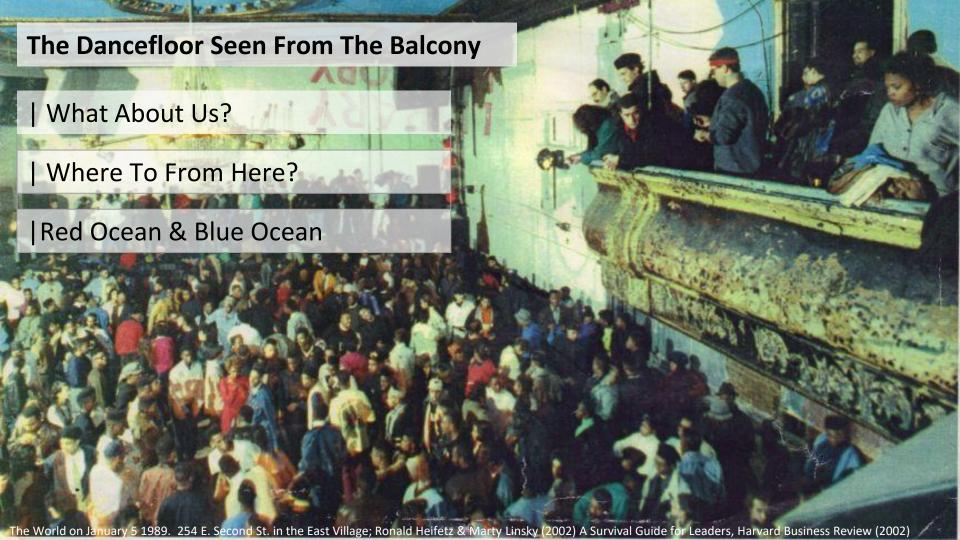
The State Of Nations

	\ \ \ \ \ \ \	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	$\checkmark\checkmark\checkmark$	
	Argentina	Chile	Venezuela	South Africa
Nature	Small, open	Small, open	Small, open	Small, open
Primary Activity	Soft commodities	Copper & ores	Petroleum	Metals & minerals
Government	Flawed democracy	Full democracy	Authoritarian regime	Flawed democracy
GDP Growth*	1,0	3,1	-5,5	1,1
Price Inflation*	15,4	3,0	79,0	5,1
Unemployment	9,5	6,9	44,3	34,4
GINI	41,2	46,6	46,9	63,0
Debt:GDP	86,2	25,6	215,0	77,1
Saving-Investment*	15,8	21,0	8,9	15,8

^{*} Five-year average, otherwise latest data (World Bank, 2020); Alberto Fernández (2019); Sebastián Piñera (2018); and Juan Guaidó (2019-) and Nicolás Maduro (2013-); Argentina is in the throes of its 22nd IMF bailout; Venezuela is gripped in a presidential crisis since 10 January 2019

Six Factor Growth Model: No Economic Rescue





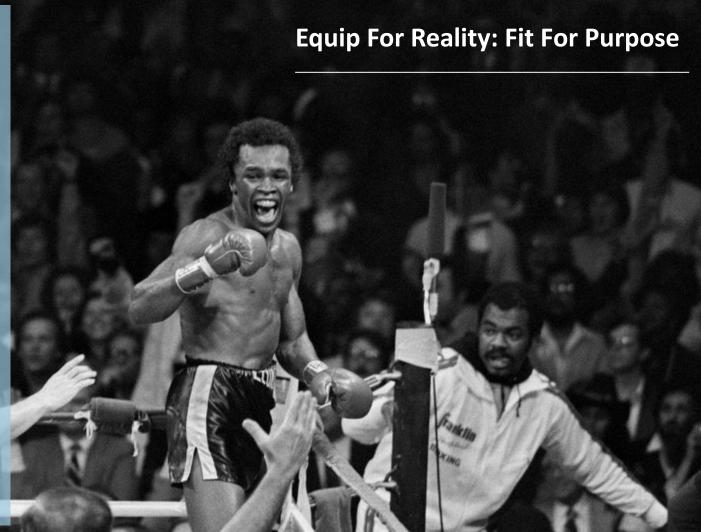
In the second round ... Leonard displayed a new ability to move, punch, grapple and infight all at the same time.

Leonard had learnt these new tricks in training with a new sparring partner who idolized Duran and imitated his style.

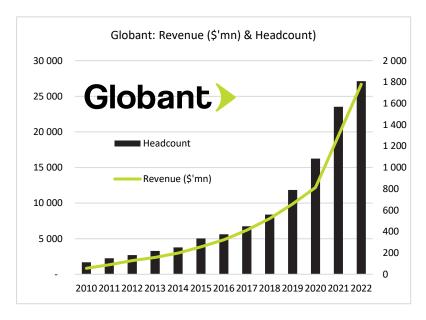
This got Leonard accustomed to Duran's rough style of infighting.

Leonard invited his new partner to fight dirty, asking him to throw elbows, headbutt and throw low blows. By the end of his camp, Leonard could fight in a phone booth.

Durán vs Leonard II "No Mas" 25 November 1980



Equip For Reality: Fit For Purpose

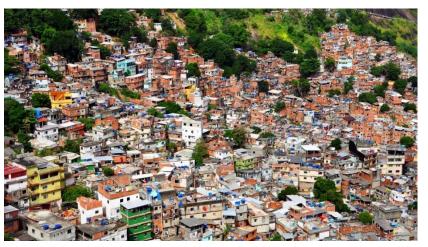




Implementation: There's Enough Money

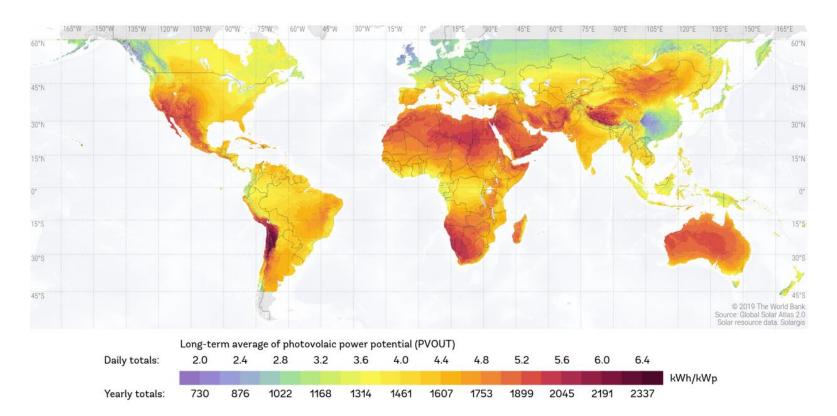
Building On Our Base





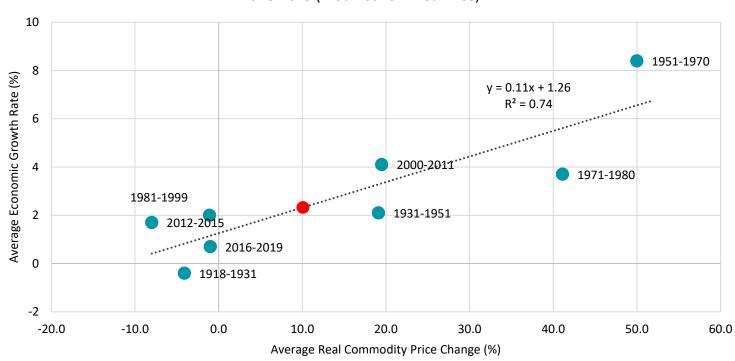






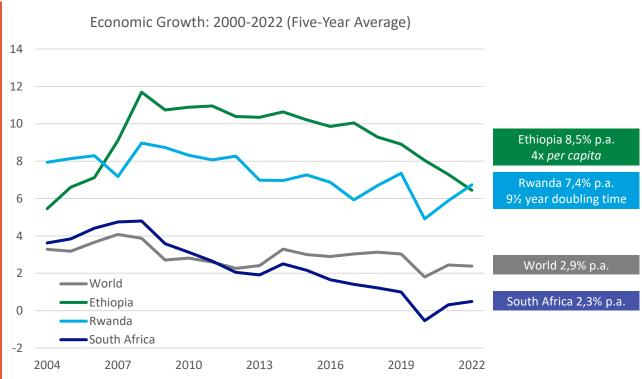
3

The Commodity Cycle & South African Economic Growth: 1918-2019 (Modified for Fixed Price)



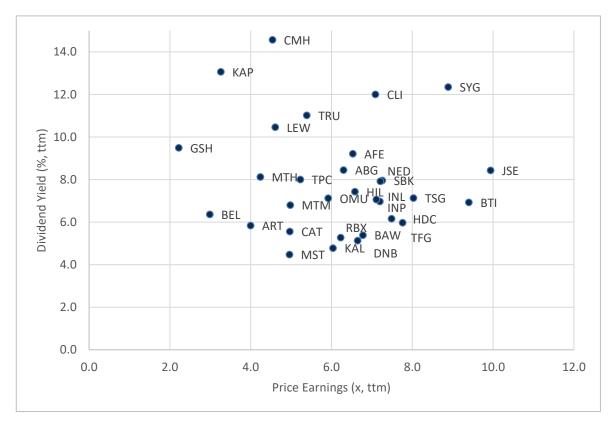
Fast Neighbours





Good Assets At Good Prices: There's Gold In Them Thar Hills

5

















INTRODUCTION

- Macro Context
 - Post lockdown
 - SA economy
 - Business rescue
- Why are there not more distressed asset sales in SA?
 - Smaller pool of creditors
 - Fewer specialist funds
 - Restructure vs foreclosure
- The international approach much more aggressive

Distressed Asset M&A July 2023 37



STAKEHOLDERS

- Getting a deal done: the stakeholders
 - Shareholders (what's in it for them)
 - Target board (personal liability)
 - Creditors (veto rights) secured v unsecured
- Not business as usual for dealmaking
- Understand where the benefits will land
 - in M&A, generally everyone gets some benefit
 - in distressed M&A some (and possibly all) stakeholders are losing
- Creditor power

Distressed Asset M&A July 2023 3



PURCHASER RISKS

- Interim period regulatory delay
- Post sale liquidation risk
 - Overturning of sale
 - Business rescue as possible solution
- 'Going naked' warranty and indemnity risks
 - W&I insurance
- Board anxiety / changes to management / business decay

Distressed Asset M&A July 2023



SHAREHOLDERS

- What is in it for shareholders?
- Institutional shareholder flight
- More diverse shareholder base = more difficult to herd
- Private companies are shareholders on the hook?
- Or else Rights issue? BR? Liquidation?
- Listed companies in BR: Companies Act v JSE approach
- Schedule 11 of the Listings Requirement

Distressed Asset M&A



PURCHASER STRATEGIES

- Buy the debt
 - negotiating from a position of strength
 - complicated process
 - value paid must be covered by security (worst case scenario)
 - plan for foreclosure
- But the party across the table can always change quickly
- BR v Threat of BR

Distressed Asset M&A



BUSINESS RESCUE

- What is BR?
- Opportunity for investors distressed assets have become a new "asset class"
- Speculations?
- BR Threaten or implement
- Interests from foreign investors?
- Examples

Distressed Asset M&A



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Business Rescue - Case Study

25 July 2023

1. Background



History

Ster-Kinekor has come a long way since its first movies were shown in South Africa in 1969. As South Africa's largest and leading cinema chain, with 65% market share, and exclusive rights to IMAX, and other market leading features. Ster-Kinekor also has operations in Namibia and 7ambia



Covid "Unicorn"

Ster Kinekor is what I and the team called a "Covid Rescue Unicorn" and by that we mean it is one of the few (only) businesses that we have worked on that was operating well until the pandemic struck – it went from a business with next to no debt, strong profitability and cash conversion to being debt laden and in significant arrears with all of its key creditors



The start of Rescue

We arrived in January 2021 when the board decided voluntarily (after a year of fighting an uphill battle during hard lock down) to file for Chapter 6 Business Rescue proceedings. Existing lenders had provided additional Covid debt facilities; however, these were insufficient to fully offset the negative trading impact of Covid.

2. Key workstreams and phases

Stabilisation

- Short term cash flow model built:
- Negotiation with lenders to draw rest of Covid loan in BR;
- Agreement with landlords for moratorium

- Integrated 3-year financial model built:
- Scenario & configuration negotiations with existing shareholders:
- Developing an accelerated M&A plan B:
 - Interested parties;
 - Investment thesis;
 - Financial & commercial Due Diligence
 - Front runner

Value Creation

- Deal structure:
- Competition commission;
- Key creditor negotiations:
 - o Banks
 - Shareholders
 - Large creditors
 - Landlords

3. Criteria for selecting preferred bidder

There was a material premium between the successful bid and the second placed bid from a trade buyer. Nonetheless, it was necessary to secure South Africa Competition Commission and South African Reserve Bank sign off.



The deal was structured in such a way that if certain hurdles were achieved a virtual minority share of the ownership of the Group would have pass to employees (many of whom were historically disadvantaged persons and further improving the BBB-EE status of the



The investor consortium ultimately selected was already invested in other cinema assets globally and therefore understood the sector, which allowed the BRP to accelerate closure of the sale process.



"Speed of closing a transaction in distressed situations is critical"

4. Business rescue and transaction complexities

Macro issues: There were significant challenges on non-availability of good new film content, even when S.A lockdowns eased, if there were spikes in the US & UK Covid infection numbers they would hold back "content" from us.

Shareholder issues: These were extensive from landlord to key suppliers versus employee and general trade creditors through to existing lenders, shareholders and potential investors.

Stabilise

- Employees worked with HR to create proactive feedback & forums:
- Assisted with living /travel costs to ensure company & employee alignment;
- Landlord forums & negotiation sessions to get alignment on "NEW DFAI"

Preservation

- Negotiation with banks & national treasury re: Covid loans:
- Existing shareholder negotiation "value break" & new money & scenarios;
- Review of operational cost saving – all areas

Value creation

- Decision to proceed with (or lose forever) V&A Waterfront 13 screen cinema lease:
- Keeping optionality for Namibia & Zambia "to sell. close or hold"

5. Ster Kinekor Business Rescue

"Anecdotes and Observations"

- 1. "Fortune Favours the Brave" (sometimes) we were faced with a major conundrum. Being the expiring lease option on the flagship V&A 13 screen new cinema build. We would lose the option forever or gamble on self-funding significant capex but risking our liquidity buffer – ultimately, we went with it & it formed a significant attraction that for new investors.
- 2. "Shrink to Grow" strategy existing shareholders were below the value break so would have needed to inject new capital – understandably their preference was to put a smaller amount in to save a reduced footprint. The benefit of having built a sophisticated financial model allowed multiple scenarios to be modelled aiding decision making & viable assessment.
- 3. "If you want to travel fast go alone, if you want to travel far go together" business rescue is a team sport. We had a strong bench supporting the BRP & BR process. This ranged from specialist real estate advice as well as myriad of complex legal issues including disputed Covid business interruption claims. We consulted widely on many matters from Competition Commission through to labour related & transaction structuring matters.

We are proud to have made a difference

- This transaction is a great understanding for **Business** Rescue as a tool to preserve value.
- We provided a safe harbour for a business with good fundamentals which was suffering due to market factors outside its control.
- Business Rescue allowed the cost base to be de-risked and avoided a value destructive liquidation.
- The **preservation** of the business as a going concern resulted in **ongoing** tax revenues for the SA fiscus



As the BRP for Ster-Kinekor it is exciting to exit Rescue and see a strong future for the business and its multiple stakeholders. We feel confident that this business is now on an exciting new growth path.

- Stefan Smyth - comments exiting Rescue

