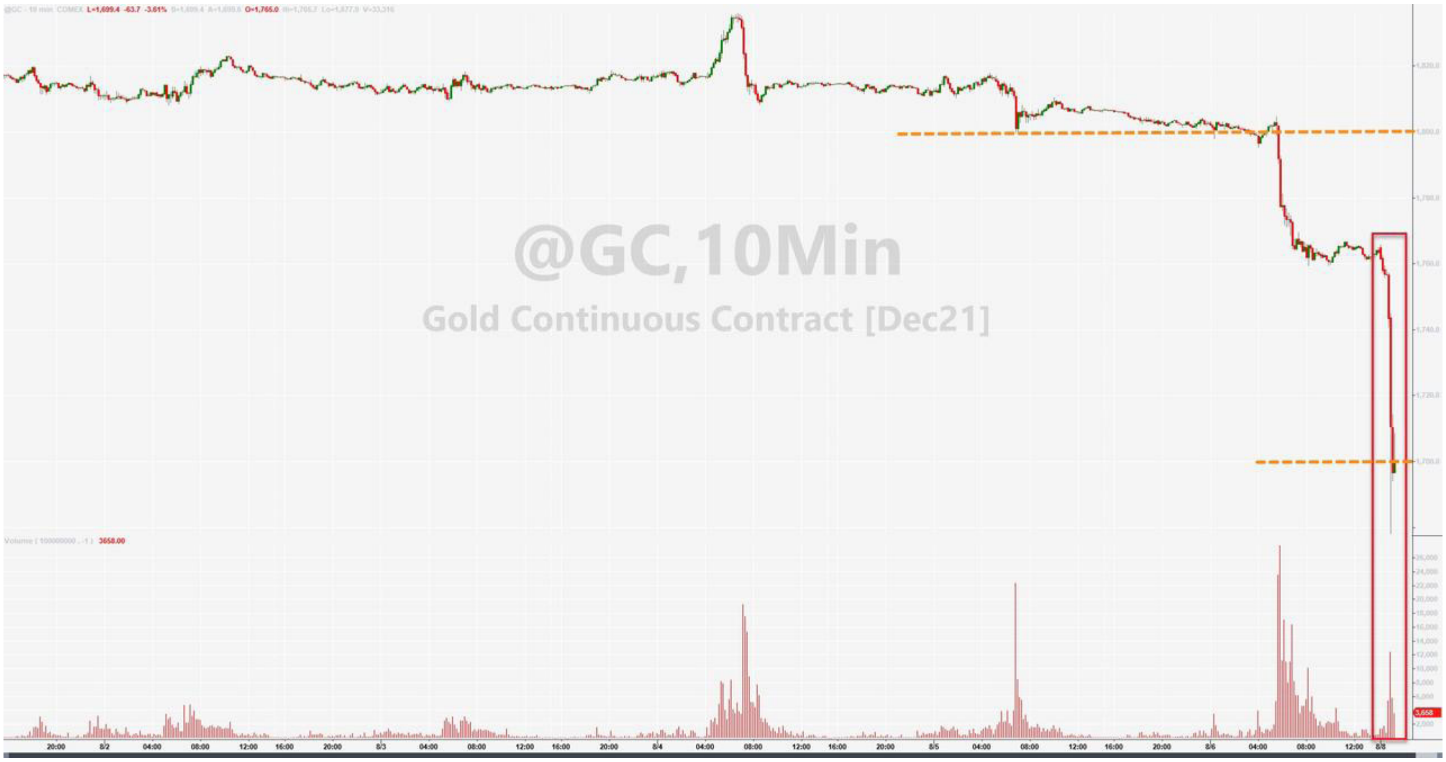
# GOLD AND SILVER MANIPULATION:

## BIG BULLION BANKS' SUPPRESSION SCHEME!

**A gold "flash crash" shocked and appalled commodity traders exactly one year after gold hit an all-time high on August 6th 2020. It wasn't an issue with gold bullion itself, but a sudden and unexpected plunge in gold paper/futures contract prices that represented the biggest two-day drop in gold (in dollar terms) since the March 2020 crash.**

How is this even allowed to happen? With no clear catalyst in the real world, gold prices plunged to as low as $1,677 or nearly $100 lower than the previous trading session's close of $1,761.50.

**This wasn't a normal reaction to a move in the U.S. dollar or Treasury yields. It's like the oil market, where nations can simply decide to increase or decrease production based on political/economic factors.**




*Courtesy: ZeroHedge*

**This was an outright massacre, with 24,000 gold futures contracts – valued at more than $4 billion on a notional basis – being unceremoniously dumped.**

These moves have become normal in the financial markets, and particularly in the futures markets, where manipulation and suppression are established realities, even if not everyone wants to acknowledge it.

**Anyone with extensive experience in the commodity markets isn't surprised by what just happened. The fact is that big bullion banks have been using underhanded tactics to move asset prices for years.**

When we look through the scandalous history of futures contract manipulation, it becomes evident that physical bullion trades at a premium to the futures contracts for a very good reason: it has actual intrinsic value, much more than its paper counterpart.

**Actually, you could go all the way back to the London Gold Pool in 1961, which held the gold price at $35 per ounce, if you wanted to find a more obvious example of gold market rigging. This impacted the gold price until 1971 with the Nixon Shock, which resulted in a massive bullion bull market in which the price of gold rapidly appreciated to $850 in 1980.**

**Gold will continue on its upward trajectory, and physical bullion will provide growth and risk hedging for portfolios of all sizes and types. In the short term, however, the big bankers will use shady tactics to suppress paper contract prices.**

Price rigging tactics of the modern era are more sophisticated and technology-dependent than those of the early 1960s.

**They'll typically involve spoofing: putting fake orders in the futures markets to buy or sell and then withdrawing those orders before they are executed with the intention of moving the price.**

This practice has been documented for more than a decade, and while it's illegal (the Dodd-Frank Act specifically prohibits spoofing), workers at big-bank trading desks have been encouraged to move asset prices in their favor.


*Courtesy: forbes.com*

**It's so easy to do that the manipulators are downright cocky about their ability to rig the markets with ease. Case in point: on January 28, 2009, when Edward Bases was working at Deutsche Bank, he routed bids to buy 2,740 gold futures contracts valued at around $244 million over the course of 4.5 minutes.**

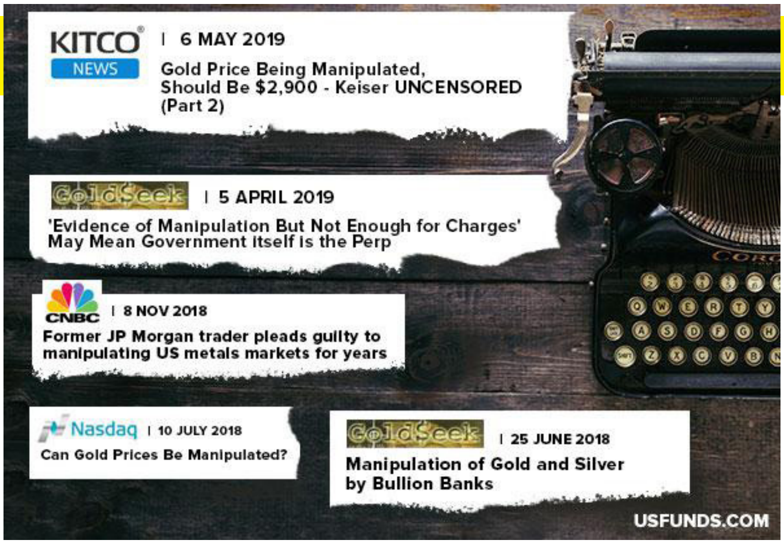
At the same time, a fellow Deutsche Bank trader coordinated with Bases and sold his 170 contracts worth $15,172,500, as the price rose.

**"That does show you how easy it is to manipulate it sometimes," Bases wrote in a chat message to the other Deutsche Bank trader minutes after the trade.**

**"I fuck the market around a lot," Bases wrote in another message.**

Bases arrogantly exploited the paper markets on behalf of not only Deutsche Bank, but also Merrill Lynch. Now, Bases and fellow Merrill Lynch trader John Pacilio are facing federal fraud charges for allegedly spoofing the futures markets from 2008 to 2014.

**To a certain extent, U.S. federal regulators have been successful in cracking down on these practices. For instance, the Commodity Futures and Trading Commission (CFTC) fined Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc. (MLCI) $25 million back in 2019.**

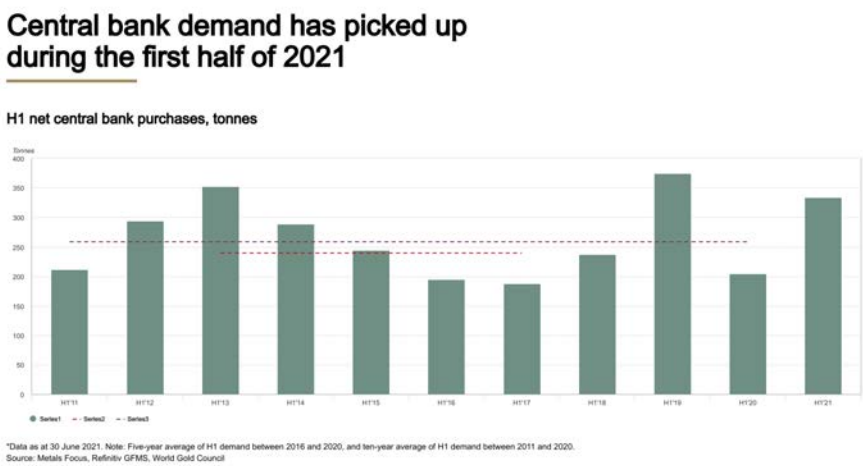



*Courtesy: usfunds.com*

They caught one trader writing in an electronic chat: "Guys, the algos are really geared up in here. If you spoof this, it really moves."

**James McDonald, the CFTC Director of Enforcement, basically admitted that gold and silver prices could be significantly higher if it weren't for the illegal price manipulation: "If left unchecked, this sort of misconduct can undermine the integrity of the price discovery process."**

Of course, $25 million is pocket change for a massive financial institution like Merrill Lynch. Still, the crackdowns and fines could knock the wind out of the manipulators. Central banks know this, and they're preparing for the next move higher:



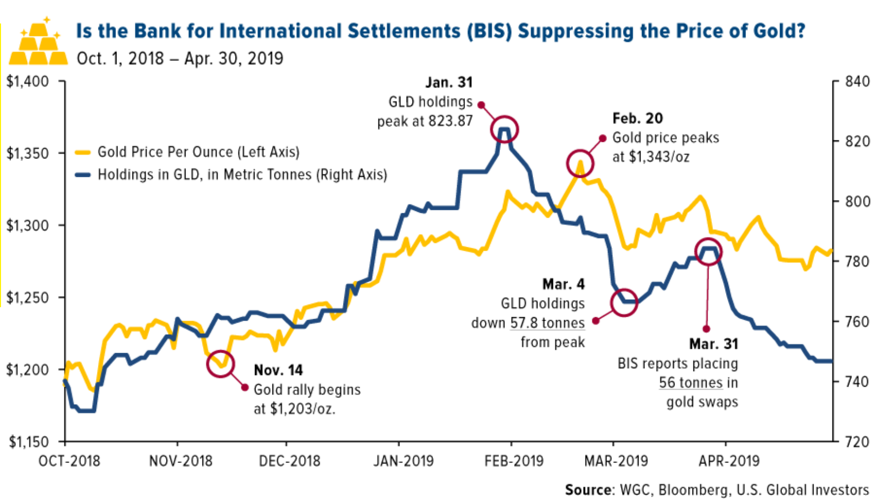

*Courtesy: usfunds.com*

**The perpetrators are being caught and punished, slowly but surely. Among the most notorious offenders is JPMorgan, which actually admitted wrongdoing and agreed to pay more than $920 million to resolve market manipulation charges involving two of the bank's trading desks.**

Again, the arrogance was on full display. In a November 2012 chat, one trader described using "a little razzle dazzle to juke the algos" in order to manipulate paper contract prices.

**The crackdown and punishment were administered late last year and marked the largest spoofing-related sanction on record. It sets a precedent that, hopefully, regulators will seek out and punish wrongdoers even at the highest levels of the big-bank hierarchy.**

Along with government scrutiny, banking regulations known as Basel III, recommended by the Bank for International Settlements, could help put an end to gold and silver price suppression.




*Courtesy: U.S. Global Investors*

**With Basel III, the regulations could make the use of unallocated/paper metal prohibitively expensive for big banks, and without the vast supplies of imaginary gold and silver, price suppression will be impractical or impossible.**

The London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) has protested the enactment of Basel III (as cited by GATA), but the LBMA banks are the ones that create the paper gold for price suppression purposes.

**In any case, the days of the great gold and silver heist – in the form of paper contract manipulation, which went on for at least a decade – will be recorded in the history books as a dark chapter in the financial markets.**

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