**Nouriel Roubini Primer**

Throughout the ongoing crisis Dr. Roubini has been a major contributor of economic thought on a variety of different topics and issues that have either emerged or become more conspicuous. Prior to the global pandemic, Dr. Roubini spoke extensively on the heightening instability in America, the Sino-American decoupling and the risk of the loss of US geopolitical hegemony, the irrationality of financial market exuberance, risks of negative supply shocks, and the regulation pathways for cryptocurrencies, to name a few. As should be expected, many of the risks that were prominent prior to the discovery of the coronavirus still exist and have since become exacerbated. As Dr. Roubini noted in a mid-to-late 2018 article titled “The Makings of a 2020 Recession and Financial Crisis”1, the escalation of US-China tensions were becoming a principle source of fragility in the global economy and threatened the formation of a crisis in the near-term. Despite the proliferation of an antithetic catalyst for a crisis in 2020, an economic crisis and brief financial crisis did indeed ensue. Issues such as trade wars, foreign direct investment, global supply chain disruptions, and migration restrictions press heavily on a global economy that has seen economic activity slow drastically. While these issues have been somewhat sidelined in prioritizing the recovery in global health, they nonetheless will return to the forefront in a post-pandemic world that has seen an unequivocal trend towards de-globalisation and potentially lasting damage in the labor market.

Dr. Roubini often takes a global macro perspective to analyze the greater risks that threaten the global economy, and has expressed the view that the 2020’s decade will be defined by a period of intensified fragility and instability driven by “the balkanization of the global economy, the persistent threat of populist authoritarianism amid deepening inequality, the threat of AI-led technology unemployment, rising geopolitical conflicts, and increasingly frequent and severe man-made disasters driven by global climate change and zoonotic pandemics”2. Furthermore, the intensifying Sino-American decoupling presents a serious threat to an effective reversal of de-globalisation, as extreme negative supply shocks impact the global economy. This, as Dr. Roubini alludes to, makes the outlook for trade and migration increasingly uncertain as the race to control major frontier technologies such as 5G, AI/ML, and big data, may further contribute to a divisive macroeconomy. Dr. Roubini places great focus on how this race will sequentially play into growing inequality and a more fragile macroeconomy whereby emerging economies will be forced to effectively side with one of the two major superpowers. This, as Dr. Roubini describes, presents the risk of the loss of US geopolitical hegemony which would inevitably depreciate the dollar and limit its external attractiveness as the global reserve currency and further create a string of indelible economic challenges for policymakers in advanced and emerging economies alike3. In this webinar we will cover many of the issues highlighted above, drawing the discussion back to the impact that monetary and fiscal policy response will have in the global economic recovery, the risks of stagflation, and the imminent threats that loom heavily over the macroeconomy over the next decade.

**References**

[**1**] <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/financial-crisis-in-2020-worse-than-2008-by-nouriel-roubini-and-brunello-rosa-2018-09?barrier=accesspaylog>

[**2**] <https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/fragile-global-and-us-recovery-in-2021-by-nouriel-roubini-2021-01>

[**3**] <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/us-dollar-position-as-global-reserve-currency-over-short-and-long-term-by-nouriel-roubini-2020-08?barrier=accesspaylog>