MEB'S BEST - RANKED

We've been publishing papers, books and blog posts for over 20 years covering everything from asset allocation strategies and global value investing, to farmland investing, to startups, and even the question of whether or not institutions and endowments should just be managed by a robot. With thousands of pieces of content, we thought it was time to sift through them all and try to rank the best! So here we go, starting with a countdown from 30….what will be the winner at #1?

30. We just celebrated the 10-year anniversary of The Meb Faber Show Podcast. Since 2016, Meb has talked with top investors and entrepreneurs to bring you insights on today's market and help you grow your wealth through smarter investing decisions. Here's 5 of our favorite episodes:

- Ed Thorp
- Sam Zell
- Kenneth French
- Cliff Asness
- Whitney Baker

29. At the depths of the Global Financial Crisis back in March of 2009, we asked a simple question… was it "Time to do a Templeton?" Turns out it was a GREAT idea…

28. "T-Bills and Chill" sounds great when cash yields 5%. But when should investors take more bond risk? In "T-Bills and Chill…Most of the Time," we use yield spreads to ask when riskier bonds offer enough margin of safety — and when investors should simply chill.

27. Bonds are supposed to be boring. But boring doesn't mean risk-free — a lesson investors learned the hard way in 2022. In "Following the Trend: A Systematic Framework for Fixed Income Investing," we apply our old trend-following playbook to bonds and ask a simple question: can you make the "safe" part of the portfolio a little safer?

26. It's hard to invest during drawdowns, yet all asset classes go through them (it's a feature, not a bug!). So, we might as well look at strategies to help during those periods. We talk about bond drawdowns in "When Things Go on Sale, People Run Out of The Store".

25. Investors often spend countless hours on their investment portfolio. But is that time well spent? How much extra return are you getting on the hours you're scrutinizing 10Ks? Might there be a better way to use your time? We believe so, which we explore in, "The Best Way to Add Yield To Your Portfolio".

24. Right now, there are decent odds that there's a lump sum of money out there to which you're entitled. Yes, you – at this moment. We've found millions for our followers over the years and highlighted how in "Sidewalk Money". Drop us an email or tweet how much you found!

23. We don’t spend a ton of time on politics and policy ideas but when politics overlaps with money management, some concepts are so basic and obvious that it’s hard to argue against them. We should be encouraging everyone to become an investor and participate through inclusive capitalism. Here are few of our ideas in “How to Narrow the Wealth and Income Gap”. Since that piece, we also talked with Brad Gerstner about Invest America — the simple idea that every kid should have a stake in capitalism early — which later became the Trump Accounts program.

22. We’re often asked about the best books when it comes to learning how to invest. Here are our favorites in, “Learning How to Invest”.

21. We talk extensively about the importance of having an investing plan (yet many still don’t). Years like 2020 remind us just how important keeping your cool can be when things go crazy. We penned the piece “Investing in the Time of Corona” during the depths of the pandemic. It walks through some thoughts on how to seek opportunities from other people’s mistakes. Two other pieces on the theme include “Office Hours Summary: You Are Not Alone” and “The Zero Budget Portfolio”.

20. People often assume that an expensive market that continues to climb, getting more expensive (like today’s market, perhaps?) means a value approach no longer works. We believe differently, and discuss avoiding expensive markets in the piece “You Would Have Missed 961% In Gains Using The CAPE Ratio, And That’s A Good Thing”.

19. Investors often ignore the impact of taxes until it’s too late. Many implement a high yielding dividend strategy in a taxable account without ever considering if the strategy outperforms after taxes. Is there a better way to invest in taxable accounts while avoiding high dividend yielding stocks? We think so, and outline the approach in “Is the Best Dividend Strategy to Avoid Them?”. PS – There is very little in the academic literature on this topic.

18. Investors often assume bonds are risk free, with many believing their bond portfolios couldn’t suffer major drawdowns. Neither is true. We take a look at how to attempt to thoughtfully build a low risk portfolio in the piece “The Stay Rich Portfolio”.

17. Investors often hold legacy portfolios with big embedded gains. Selling can mean a painful tax bill, but doing nothing can leave them exposed to unwanted concentration risk. We walk through one of the more interesting tools in tax-aware investing: the 351 ETF conversion, where diversified securities may be contributed to a newly formed ETF in exchange for ETF shares without an immediate taxable event. Taxes matter, friends. Sometimes a lot.

16. Fees are one of the most impactful determinants of portfolio performance, yet are woefully overlooked by the average investor. We tackled this topic in a few short pieces, “Would You Pay Your Advisor $1,000,000 in Fees?” and “Paying For A Filet, And Getting Bologna”.

15. Most investors have a hilariously short time horizon for their investments. In the piece “How Long Can You Handle Underperforming?” We tackle just how much pain you have to accept to outperform. It’s more than you think, and you may be surprised by Professor Ken French on the podcast about how long it takes to judge the skill of an active manager.

14. Institutional money managers direct the flow of enormous sums of capital. Often their approach is needlessly complicated and complex, and riddled with high fee funds. But does it have to be that way? We tackle the topic in a series of articles:

- "Should Harvard's Endowment be Managed by a Robot?"
- "Institutional Investors, They're Just Like Us!"
- "Which Institution Has the Best Asset Allocation Model?"
- "Cloning the Largest Hedge Fund in the World: Bridgewater's All Weather"
- "Should A Robot Be Managing CalPERS Portfolio?"

13. Investing has changed over the years, but what remains critically important is how you develop your strategy and approach. The U.S. food pyramid even got a 2026 update, another reminder that the "right" foundation evolves as the evidence compounds. What is the foundation? What else is important, but perhaps less critical? Check out our paper "The Investment Pyramid" where we cut the carbs on the way to a more thoughtful portfolio.

12. Booms and bubbles have been a feature of markets for as long as people have invested. Is there a way to ride the bubble, profit, and still survive? We tackle this question by examining historical bubbles in our paper "Learning to Love Investment Bubbles: What If Sir Isaac Newton Had Been a Trend Follower?"

11. What if you could invest in the top hedge funds? Would you? Now, what if you could invest in them for free? A pipe dream for most but as it turns out, you can do just that. *Invest with the House* examines how to copy luminary investors such as Seth Klarman, Warren Buffett, and David Tepper all the while avoiding the management fees too!

10. Many inventors have implemented the time-honored investment philosophy of investing in high yielding dividend stocks. But what if they're overlooking a powerful tweak they could make to their market approach that could goose performance? In 2024, we updated the book Shareholder Yield, which examines what we believe to be a superior strategy, offering a holistic approach to yield. Since stock buybacks – a component of this strategy – is so misunderstood, here is a FAQ on share buybacks. When presented with the historical evidence for shareholder yield, why do investors still cling to their dividend strategy? Damn good marketing.

9. While average, annual stock returns of 9% or so will make you a lot of money over the years, what if you want to go after massive returns? And in a shorter period than "decades"? We cover this concept in two pieces "The Get Rich Portfolio" and "Journey to 100x".

8. Are most of your stock holdings based here in the U.S.? If so, you're a victim of "home country bias" (most people are overweight their stock allocations to their own country's stocks). But it's a big world out there . To provide an overview, our book Global Value presents a strategy of investing in global stocks, all the while trying to avoid bubbles in any one market or markets when everything is going crazy. Our value framework was based on building 10-year price to earnings ratios for every country in the world.

While we were the first to put these together, there are now lots of resources free and paid alike. Here is a popular talk at Google highlighting this research and we still get requests for free books to this day (note: it's free to download here). We summarized some of the best research by others in 2020 in the piece "The Case for Global Investing". You'll never think about investing in just one country again!

7. Commentators love to point out how large market moves impact markets and portfolio returns, and if you just miss the best days, your returns are meager (which is true). What they miss is that most of these days tend to "cluster" together along with the worst days too. We examine outliers and their impact in "Where the Black Swans Hide & The 10 Best Days Myth."

6. Investors love sacred cows. The 60/40 portfolio. U.S. stocks. Bonds. Gold. So we decided to poke a few of them with a stick. In "What If You Replaced All of Your Bonds With…Gold?!" swapping bonds for gold in a 60/40 portfolio made almost no difference. In "What If You Owned No U.S. Stocks?" removing America from a global asset allocation portfolio didn't break the model either. Blasphemy! Or maybe just another reminder that diversification is usually more robust than our favorite stories.

5. "The Trinity Portfolio": Many investors struggle with the psychological challenge of deciding between a buy and hold and a trend following approach. This paper rejects the "one or the other" fallacy, finding a middle ground that gives investors a combination of both worlds in a practical solution.

4. "Worried About the Market? It Might Be Time for this Strategy": There's an old market saying "during a time of crisis, correlations go to 1." But is that really true? This paper examined what asset classes have generally performed well when stocks crash, and offered readers a simple tail risk system designed to help hedge that pain.

3. *Global Asset Allocation*: This book examined investment portfolios proposed by some of the most famous money managers in the world and pitted them in a horse race to discover the winner. The book reached a stunning conclusion – while the portfolios all performed nicely, one of the most significant determinants of performance is often a factor most overlook! We revisited this in "The Bear Market in Diversification," which looks at the brutal 2009–2023 stretch when the S&P 500 mowed down almost every diversified portfolio. The conclusion didn't change: diversify globally, keep costs and taxes low, rebalance, and be humble — because we never know when leadership changes.

2. *The Ivy Portfolio*: It feels like just yesterday Meb sat down to talk about the ideas in his first book, The Ivy Portfolio, with Mark Haines and Erin Burnett on the floor of CNBC. That was all the way back in 2009, but we still talk to a lot of people that were introduced to our ideas through the book. Ivy popularized some of our favorite market concepts, including endowment style investing, cloning hedge funds, tactical risk management, investing in listed hedge funds at discounts, and our famous "down in a row" mean reversion system. Fifteen years after The Ivy Portfolio, we revisited the Yale model in the piece "Can We All Invest Like Yale?" and asked what normal investors can actually copy: equity orientation, global diversification, tax awareness, and humility around expensive, illiquid alternatives

1. "A Quantitative Approach to Tactical Asset Allocation": The paper that started it all! This white paper introduced a simple trend following system in a practical and simple format. The Journal of Wealth Management published a 10-year retrospective on the original paper, which is now one of the most downloaded academic papers on SSRN in history! Readers and friends have crafted endless variants of the simple model, and we published a companion piece a few years later, "Relative Strength Strategies for Investing". During the pandemic, we penned another trend paper that many would find counterintuitive called "All Time Highs A Good Time to Invest? No. A Great Time". Lastly, some may find our whimsical "Three Way Model" a fun offshoot too.