Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction: Why a Gold Standard Lies in Our Near Future 1

Part I  Why the Days of the Fiat Dollar Are Numbered 7

Chapter 1  The Window Closes 13

Chapter 2  Stagnation, Stagflation, and the Rise of “Darth” Volcker 23

Chapter 3  Of Bubbles and Bailouts 35

Chapter 4  Why Financial Genius Fails, or, a Forensic Study of the 2008–2009 Global Credit Crisis 41

Chapter 5  An Unstable Equilibrium 51

Chapter 6  The Inevitability of Regime Change 73

Part II  Running the Golden Gauntlet: Transition Scenarios Back to a Gold Standard 79

Chapter 7  A Golden Bolt out of the Blue 85

Chapter 8  Golden Preparations 95

Chapter 9  Long-Forgotten Suggestions for How the United States Could Return to Gold 115
Chapter 10  The Golden BRICs  125
Chapter 11  When All Else Fails, Enter the Gold Vigilantes  133

Part III  The Economic, Financial, and Investment Implications of the Coming Global Gold Standard  137

Chapter 12  The Role of Central Banking under a Gold Standard  143
Chapter 13  Valuation Fundamentals under a Gold Standard  155
Chapter 14  Estimating Risk Premia under a Gold Standard  167
Chapter 15  Golden Winners and Paper Losers  181
Chapter 16  Some Implications of the Gold Standard for Global Labor and Capital Markets  189

Conclusion: The Golden Society  193

Further Reading  199

About the Author  206

Index  207