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## **Eight Ways to Profit if OPEC Dumps the Dollar**

**By Keith Fitz-Gerald Contributing Editor**

Last Sunday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad [dropped a bombshell](#) in Riyadh. And while it wasn't a nuclear one, it might as well have been.

He stated on the record at a rare gathering of the heads of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries ([OPEC](#)) cartel that OPEC members have expressed a real interest in converting their cash reserves from the beleaguered U.S. greenback to the European euro. More specifically, Ahmadinejad referred to the U.S. dollar as "a worthless piece of paper."

Not surprisingly, Ahmadinejad ally and fellow [anti-U.S. hardliner Hugo Chavez](#) - the president of Venezuela - echoed a similar sentiment.

Given that the two of them are like [Frick and Frack](#) when it comes to anti-U.S. rhetoric, this was hardly unexpected.

What makes their posturing so troublesome, however, is that for the first time there was no rebuttal, or reassuring commentary from Saudi Arabia and other key U.S. [petrodollar](#) supporters, in response.

In fact, they didn't even mention concerns about the falling U.S. dollar in the summit's final declaration.

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That said, if you know that something is going to happen, there are almost always profitable plays you can make.

Let's talk challenges first.

## The Fallout From a Falling Dollar

First, OPEC members have long grumbled about the falling dollar and taking payment in euros. This is nothing new. In fact, China already pays for Iranian oil in euros, so Ahmadinejad's desire to get away from the dollar is hardly unexpected given how much he already banks on the deal. Neither is the fact that both Venezuela and Russia have joined the "euros-for-oil" party, as have Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia, I believe.

But what represents a stark change from past posturing is that this time there was no reassuring voice from countries like Saudi Arabia and Jordan, who have traditionally been our allies in keeping the petrodollar relationship intact since the early 1970s.

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So let's shift away from this gloom and doom and look, instead, at the profit opportunities this unceremonious dumping of the dollar would create. After all, making money is the reason we're here in the first place.

### Capitalizing on the Dollar's Denouncement

One thing is certain in all this: There's no way that Ahmadinejad and Chavez intended to create profit opportunities for U.S. investors. But in making the greenback an OPEC outcast, that's precisely what they'll be doing. Let's look at some of the best opportunities that I see before us.

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