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UPDATE: Closer Look At Asia Driving Bond Gains

The past few days of tariff-related rhetoric are fueling a classic "risk-off" trade with stocks selling and bonds rallying. To hear most news articles say it, the latest round of brinksmanship was "unexpected" relative to the initial \$50bln in Chinese tariffs. Combine that with several markets, including China, closed yesterday for the Dragon Boat Festival, and today has seen the rubber band snap back a bit.

Granted, the Nikkei was open yesterday, and Japan isn't at the center of the trade dispute, but the Nikkei is nonetheless the leading barometer for Asian equities markets. All that to justify its inclusion in the following chart (if I charted Chinese equities/futures, we wouldn't get to see as much correlation early in the overnight session due to opening times).



The previous chart shows how Asian markets set the tone right from the outset. The **Shanghai** stock exchange opens 2 hours later on any given night. The following chart shows how it would stack up to the chart above in terms of relative movement in recent weeks.

MBS & Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.0	99.37	+0.02
MBS GNMA 5.0	99.93	+0.02
10 YR Treasury	3.9068	+0.0029
30 YR Treasury	4.1960	+0.0028
Pricing as of: 9/17:34PM EST		

Average Mortgage Rates

	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News I	Daily		
30 Yr. Fixed	6.43%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.95%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	5.82%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.62%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.28%	-0.01	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.35%	-0.51	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.51%	-0.65	0.00
Mortgage Banke	rs Assoc.		
30 Yr. Fixed	6.44%	-0.06	0.54
15 Yr. Fixed	5.88%	-0.16	0.68
30 Yr. FHA	6.36%	-0.06	0.85
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.75%	+0.07	0.39
5/1 ARM	5.98%	-0.27	0.65
Rates as of: 8/30			

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Bottom line: yesterday's tariff drama was a big deal for Chinese equities markets--big enough to send shockwaves throughout global equities markets (which are spilling over into safe-haven demand for bonds).

Notably, the best levels of the day for bonds coincided with the close for Chinese equities trading. We've been drifting gradually higher in yield since then. Point being, if you already have rates for the day, and if they are noticeably improved versus yesterday (as they should be) keep an eye out for a continuation of the weaker trend this morning.



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