

TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

AS FORECAST:

GOLD

AND

SILVER

BOOMING

ECONOMY TO CRASH

28 July 2020

TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKET FRONT



Once upon a time, not too long ago, the U.S. dollar remained strong and was regarded a safe-haven currency because, in part, America was perceived as having the world's strongest economy.

However, now with the Federal Reserve and Washington pumping in countless trillions of digital dollars printed on nothing and back by nothing, the dollar has fallen 7.5 percent from its mid-March high.

Despite the dollar bouncing back a bit today – gold hit a new high and silver prices keep rising.

As with many commodities, the precious metals are priced in dollars, so they become cheaper for foreign investors when the dollar softens.

But, it's more than that. Yes, it's cheaper for foreign investors, but across the globe, central banks and governments are doing the same as the U.S.: flooding their countries with cheap money and in turn devaluing their currency... and precious metal buyers know it!

Also, while many analysts are bracing for inflation to gain strength, thus pushing gold prices yet higher, we disagree.

Yes, we are forecasting much higher gold prices, but not because of traditional inflation. We are forecasting, "Dragflation: economies, prices of products, and currencies will decline."

Thus, it will cost more to buy products not because they increased in price – indeed, we expect supply to overwhelm demand – but because it will take more cheap money to buy them.

As we accurately have forecast, gold and silver will continue to rise in value as governments and central banks continue to flood the world with cheap money that becomes worth even less as more pours in. The cheaper money gets, the less it is worth, and metals will float above the ocean of worthless digits.

TREND FORECAST: *In June, when silver was trading in the \$17 an ounce range, we forecast it was ready to break out, and, when it did, it would accelerate at a faster rate than gold. Silver is up over 30 percent since that time.*

We maintain our forecast that when gold strongly breaks above \$2,000 per ounce, silver will spike much higher, doubling in price to \$40 per ounce... and higher.

In fact, on 18 June 2020, Gerald Celente was a keynote speaker for the Elementum International AG conference, where he precisely forecast the Silver Bull Run. Since then, silver's price has done nothing but rise, reaching a six-year high.

In addition to it being bought for its monetary value, silver, which outshines copper as the best conductor of electricity, is also a key element in electronics, photovoltaic panels, cell phones, keyboards, etc. Therefore, with these sectors accounting for more than half of silver's market and world governments

committing more than \$50 billion worth of “green” initiatives, most in renewable energy, they are polishing silver’s future.

Moreover, unlike gold, there are no silver stockpiles.

As prices have risen, holdings of bulk silver traded on exchanges have grown 35 percent this year to about 820 million ounces worth about \$17 billion. Share prices of silver mining company Fresnillo are up 70 percent this year; Hochschild, another silver producer, has seen its stock price gain 40 percent in recent months.

Silver’s price has risen 70 percent since its March low, compared to gold’s 24-percent gain.

The spread between silver and gold prices peaked at 125 percent in March. It has eased since then, but remains well above its average of 66, making it likely that the metal’s price can climb higher.

The Oil Front

Oil prices remain relatively steady but are unlikely to settle above \$50 this year. Most producing regions, including U.S. oil shale plays, need prices higher than that to turn a profit. As we have forecast in our Geopolitical section, with tensions heating up in the Middle East, should major military conflict erupt between Egypt and Turkey and/or the U.S. and Israel vs. Iran, oil prices will sharply spike.

Should that occur, the already declining world economy will crash further into the “Greatest Depression.”

DEFICIT DANGERS



The U.S. budget deficit this fiscal year will top \$3 trillion as the federal government pours cash into the economy to save businesses and individuals from financial collapse. In fact, it may even hit \$4 trillion with more bailouts and money pumping schemes brewing in the near horizon in attempts to keep equities and the economy from crashing.

We continue to note that Washington and the Federal Reserve will do all they can to keep propping up the stock markets, since the vast majority of the population, unaware of the current and future economic dangers, will only become aware of just how bad it is when the headlines read: “STOCK MARKET CRASHES!”

Fiscal Calamity

Tax revenues have cratered since state economies were shut down and businesses closed in March, while payments for unemployment and other safety-net programs have skyrocketed.

At the same time, hundreds of billions have been dumped into economic rescue programs.

Federal spending in June totaled \$1.1 billion compared to \$342 billion in June 2019. About half of June’s outflow went into small business aid, the U.S. treasury reported.

June’s revenue was down 28 percent year-on-year to \$241 billion, due in part to the Trump administration’s decision to roll back the income tax payment deadline to mid-July.

Normally, businesses and self-employed people make quarterly tax payments in June, giving federal coffers an influx of cash.

For the first nine months of the federal government’s current fiscal year, the deficit grew to \$2.7 trillion, triple the sum for the same period last year. At the same time, revenues fell 13 percent as spending rose 49 percent.

Typically, deficits grow during recessions and shrink during expansions. But the U.S. deficit grew steadily through the expansive years leading up to the current crisis.

The 2017 federal tax cuts championed by Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have added to the red ink.

The unemployment rate will end the year at about 10.5 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office, compared to 3.5 percent in January.

The forecast has spurred Democrats in Congress to press for extending the \$600 weekly federal unemployment benefit.

However, that benefit added to states' unemployment insurance benefits boosts individual incomes above the median wage in all 50 states, a study from the American Action Forum found. That may discourage workers from looking for jobs until the federal grants run out.

TRENDPOST: *The new round of stimulus spending promises to add at least another \$1 trillion to this year's deficit, sending more cheap money into the economy. Precious metals prices will rise higher as the dollar sinks lower.*

TREND FORECAST: *As unemployment rises sharply and more businesses go bust, tax revenues will continue to dramatically decline.*

To make up for lost revenue, federal states and city governments will invent new schemes to siphon off more money in the name of taxes to keep politicians, bureaucrats, and civil servants employed.

This, in turn, will result in anti-tax movement and the formation of new political parties.

We also forecast a tsunami of cities going bankrupt, which will in turn destroy the ability to pay pensions, bond payments, etc.

STORE CLOSING COLLAPSE



U.S. retailers are on track to permanently close 25,000 stores this year, led by high-profile bankruptcies of J.C. Penney and Pier One, among others, according to Coresight Research, a global analysis firm.

The figure would set a record and more than doubles last year's 9,832 closings.

So far this year, major chains have closed or announced pending closures of more than 5,400 locations.

By 15 July, 69 percent of retailers had paid their month's rent, compared to 88 percent that had paid their March rent by the middle of that month, Datex Property Solutions reported.

Among the clothing industry, Gap will close 98 stores and Victoria's Secret 215. Modell's Sporting Goods will go dark in 153 storefronts, GameStop in 132. GNC, the nutrition emporium, will close 743 locales. Department store losses include 169 J.C. Penney sites, 42 of Kmart's, and 21 Macy's stores.

In a sign of the times, Dollar General will open 979 new stores this year; Dollar Tree, 307; and Family Dollar, 140.

SMALL BUSINESSES BLUES



This comes as no surprise to Trends Journal subscribers. Small businesses are recovering more slowly from the economic shutdown than are other sectors of the economy, reported Womply, a data and technology company with about 500,000 small-business clients.

Key reasons:

- A large proportion of small businesses rely on person-to-person contact, such as restaurants, barber shops, and stores.
- Most small businesses lack the capital to survive weeks, let alone months, with no trade or dramatically reduced trade.
- Most small businesses will use their savings or working capital to pay fixed expenses during the shutdown and will not have the funds to invest in new stock, advertising, and other needs when customer flows return to normal.

In early April, 60 percent of small-business workers who had been working in January registered no hours of work, according to Homebase, which makes scheduling software.

In contrast, employment at businesses less dependent on physical presence are returning to pre-pandemic levels, said Gusto, a firm providing payroll services to law offices, tech companies, and similar businesses.

About 1.85 million U.S. businesses closed temporarily or permanently during 2020's second quarter, reported Oxxford Economics, which tracks data on 32 million businesses around the country.

The number of businesses that will never reopen will exceed the 4.5 million that disappeared in a single year during the Great Recession, said Oxxford president Raymond Greenhill.

YELP: 60 PERCENT OF RESTAURANTS TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY



A bad situation will get terribly worse.

IHS Markit forecasts the U.S. economy contracted at an annualized rate of 35.3 percent in the quarter just ended... its sharpest quarterly crash since 1947.

As the economy goes down, so, too, will businesses.

Roughly 60 percent of the 26,160 restaurants listed on Yelp's review website that closed temporarily have now closed for good, the service reported.

The rate of permanent closures spiked 23 percent from May through June. About 44 percent of bars and clubs are permanently shuttered, Yelp noted. The shutdown ended indoor dining in about 90,000 restaurants nationwide.

For many of the eateries, government aid is ending or has been impossible to get; rent breaks from landlords and flexibility from creditors are wearing thin.

Honolulu, Las Vegas, and several cities in southern California had the highest rate of permanent closures.

Arizona has lost about 900 of its 10,000 restaurants; 2,200 of California's 81,500 restaurants have shut down. By the end of June, about 17,000 restaurants in Michigan had permanently closed, the state's hotel and restaurant association reported.

The resurgent COVID virus could force an additional 10 percent of independent food purveyors to shut down for good, reported Stephens, a financial services firm.

Some positive news: from late May through early July, searches on Yelp for black-owned restaurants soared more than 7,000 percent.

TRENDPOST: Politicians in the U.S. and around the world have destroyed businesses by not only locking them down and relocking them down for extended periods, but inventing capacity rules, mask wearing regulations, social distancing mandates, etc., that have destroyed their ability to operate profitably.

DESPERATE COLLEGES BEGIN CULLING FACULTY



Colleges, faced with vanishing revenues, have reached a point where many are considering the previously unimaginable: laying off faculty.

Colleges are dealing with rising cleaning and sanitation costs due to the virus, having to stockpile protective equipment and other supplies. At the same time, they are losing revenue from the absence of foreign students, locked-down sports programs, and miserly state budgets, as well as from a growing number of students who find higher education unaffordable and are shunning college altogether.

Schools also depend on revenue from students' room and board, bookstore sales, and purchases of incidentals, such as snacks and college clothing.

Not only are those lacking now, but also many universities and colleges are seeing a dramatically smaller enrollment this fall. Some experts predict 15 percent fewer students arriving or returning, which translates to an estimated \$23 billion in lost revenue.

To balance its books, the University of Akron laid off nearly 100 full-time professors, about 20 percent of its faculty, in mid-July. Earlier this month, the University of Texas at San Antonio dumped 69 teachers. Ohio University has conducted three rounds of firings since May, letting go more than 50 educators.

Other schools are actively considering similar measures.

Professors and other faculty members make up an average 70 percent of a college's costs.

TREND FORECAST: As we forecast in March when schools began to close down, under the New ABnormal restrictions, ending of sporting events, etc., college towns will become ghost towns... “Rust Belts 2.0.” From hotels, restaurants, taverns, retailers, renters... businesses big and small will shrink and/or go broke.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING CHANGES CALENDAR, SHOPPING LIST



With many schools not reopening until some time after Labor Day, Target, Walmart, and other companies relying on back-to-school shopping for a late summer sales bump are unlikely to see it this year, analysts and retailers said.

About 37 percent of parents already have enough school supplies and another 32 percent think it's too early to buy because of uncertainties, according to a survey by NPD Group, a market research firm.

Also, “school supplies” now may mean electronics, not pencil cases.

With almost every U.S. school and college shifting to remote learning in some form, sales of webcams, monitors, and printers soared 226 percent, 113 percent, and 50 percent, respectively, in April compared to a year earlier, NPD said.

While that benefits stores such as Staples and Best Buy, others will suffer.

Sales of school uniforms made up 6.6 percent of Land's End's revenue in 2019. Idled school sports programs are likely to dent sales of retailers such as Dick's Sporting Goods. The struggling Bed Bath & Beyond chain's website dedicated a

special section to back-to-college products; now many students are unlikely to return to campus.

TRENDPOST: *We note coverage such as this to illustrate the depth and scope of the extensive lockdown implications that have been forced upon society by politicians.*

With few exceptions, such as the elements of the tech sector, virtually every aspect of business and personal lives will be negatively affected by the draconian rules that have created the New ABnormal.

STUDENT LOAN CRISIS



Long before the COVID Pandemonium struck, there was a college debt crisis in the U.S. The 43 million Americans carrying student loan debt – averaging more than \$32,000 per borrower – were allowed to skip payments during the economic shutdown, a measure implemented as part of Congress's CARES Act bailout plan.

The reprieve ends on 1 October unless Congress renews it.

Democrats in Congress are pushing to extend the deferment, with some urging outright cancellation of \$10,000 of each borrower's debt. Republicans are mulling extending payments' suspension, but only for borrowers who have no income.

Before the economic shutdown, about 2 percent of workers with a bachelor's degree or higher were unemployed; in April, the proportion quadrupled to 8 percent. More than 85 percent are still jobless.

The U.S. education department has yet to weigh in on the proposals, saying in a statement it is “still assessing its’ options.”

TREND FORECAST: *Beyond college debt, current and former students are saturated with credit card, car, housing debt, etc. Thus, they will fall deeper in personal debt and despair as many who are out of work won’t find jobs, and those that do have jobs will lose them.*

The implications will spread across the economy – from real estate to retail, from leisure to hospitality – with all sectors dragged lower as younger generations grow poorer... and so, too, will the homeless population.

As “people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they will lose it,” thus, crime among the indebted student sector will sharply rise.

THE UGLY PENSION TREND



The Arkansas Teacher Retirement System has sued Allianz Global Investors, charging the financial management firm pursued a “reckless strategy” during the economic shutdown that cost the pension fund \$800 million.

The retirement fund says Allianz’s Alpha Funds made bets that investment markets would not lose money during the shutdowns in an attempt to cover losses due to the same strategy the company followed in February.

After losing 8.5 percent in February, the S&P500 lost 12.5 percent in March. The pension fund contends that Allianz should have managed money for safety instead of to lose money if markets fell further.

In doing so, Allianz did not just make a “bad call” but abandoned risk controls that should have buffered the pension fund’s principal, the suit charges.

Allianz said the suit “mischaracterized” the company’s behavior and “there is no basis for legal liability.”

TREND FORECAST: *We noted this particular pension fund incident since it is part of a much bigger trend. Beyond losing pensions as a result of bad investments – which we forecast will sharply accelerate as equity markets and currencies collapse – with nations, states, and cities going down and going broke, there will not be enough tax revenue to cover government employee pensions.*

HOME SALES SAIL ON RECORD-LOW INTEREST RATES



Sales of existing homes jumped 20.7 percent in June from the month before, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

It was the biggest one-month increase since 1968, when records began being kept.

However, the number was 11.3 percent lower than in June 2019, as many potential buyers, fearful of losing their jobs, or having lost them, can’t afford to buy a home.

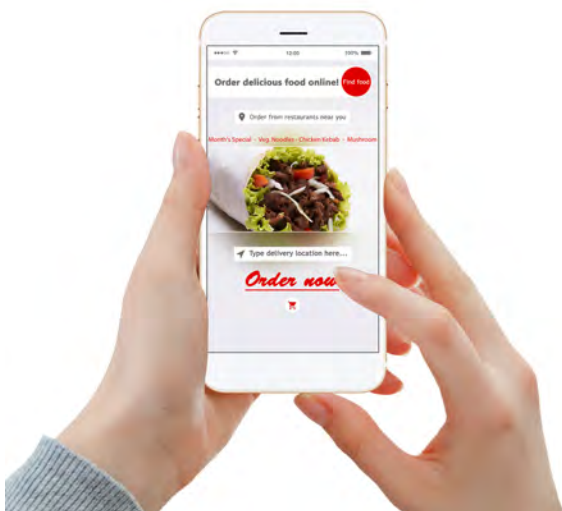
The pent-up demand came from young families moving to suburbs, apartment dwellers seeking more space, and the wealthy buying second homes, brokers said, with most of the sales occurring in suburbs and small towns.

The increase was driven by sales of homes priced between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Sales of homes in higher and lower price categories actually declined during the month.

Buyers were taking advantage of record-low mortgage rates, with 30-year fixed-rate loans charging barely above 3 percent interest.

TREND FORECAST: *As the economy declines and equity markets tumble, we forecast the Federal Reserve will move interest rates into negative territory, thus pushing mortgage rates lower. However low they go, regardless of how cheap money gets, with unemployment at “Greatest Depression” levels, home sales will dramatically decline.*

THE DIGITAL FOOD INVESTMENT



The Chipotle Mexican Grill chain reported online sales tripled during the economic shutdown, due in part to the company's previous investment in digital technologies.

Online sales made up 61 percent of revenue in this year's second quarter, compared to 26 percent in the first.

As a result, Chipotle was able to hold its second-quarter sales decline to 9.8 percent, better than the 11.5-percent fall-off analysts predicted.

Overall sales were \$1.4 billion, also ahead of analysts' expected \$1.3 billion.

To accommodate customers' worries about dining indoors near strangers, the chain also is building more restaurants with drive-through lanes. Of the 37 new eateries Chipotle built during the quarter, 21 have them.

Margins at the chain's restaurants declined to 12 percent year-on-year, due to higher beef prices, bonuses to employees, the costs of extra cleaning and sanitizing, and increased promotions.

Only 30 of Chipotle's 2,670 locations remain closed.

The company's stock price has risen about 40 percent so far this year.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Chipotle said it is adding drive-thru features to restaurants to ensure customers' safety. The reason the company needs to do that is the pervasive fear which has been created by obsessive media coverage of the virus.

From Dunkin' Donuts to Starbucks, fast food outlets around the world are closing stores and going drive-thru. Considering the virus hysteria is but a half-year old, we forecast long-term strategic decisions based on just a few months of New ABnormal behavior will be deleterious to future growth of corporations that are rapidly embracing them.

EATING CHEAP, GETTING FAT



For U.S. stores open at least one year, the pizza delivery chain Dominos reported 16-percent better sales in 2020's second quarter, compared to just a 3-percent bump a year previous.

Among Domino's 11,000 overseas outlets, sales nudged up 1.3 percent against 2.4 percent a year earlier.

During the peak of the shutdown, about 2,400 Domino's shops went dark; only about 600 remain closed now.

The company collected \$920 million in revenue for the quarter, beating analysts' target of \$915 million. Profits for the quarter were \$2.99 a share, compared to \$2.19 for 2019's second quarter.

TREND FORECAST: As we have continually noted, and do so again in the COVID section of this Trends Journal, a large segment of the people who are succumbing to the virus are suffering from pre-existing chronic conditions such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, pulmonary conditions, etc.

We also have noted that junk food addicted Americans weigh in as the most obese and overweight of all developed nations.

While the mainstream media continues to blast out that Americans are seeking healthier foods, the facts prove otherwise. In America, and in many other countries, more people are becoming addicted to fast/processed food, laden with fat, salt, sugar, and unpronounceable chemicals with devastating results (far worse than COVID-19) to health than those going all-natural.

While organic movements have grown substantially over the last two decades, and the media keeps promoting how American's food tastes have changed, organic in the U.S. accounted for only about 5.5 percent of the food sold in retail channels.

Indeed, a walk through any major supermarket chain store shows how small the organic sections are and how limited the scope of product compared to the low quality, highly processed, non-organic aisles that dominate.

However, we forecast a "Get Healthy" trend will strongly grow as more people with less money not only begin to cook for themselves, but an entire socioeconomic spectrum, fearful of succumbing to disease, will jump on the "Build Your Immune System" trend in the coming years.

NON-PERFORMING BRANDS NIXED



Coca-Cola has shut down Odwalla, a line of juice smoothies that failed to grow, and will do the same with other under-performing brands, CEO James Quincey said.

Coke will continue its shutdown-era practice of focusing on best-selling products to streamline supply chains.

The company fields about 400 different brands, many country-specific. Combined sales of more than 200 of the brands make up just 2 percent of Coke's revenue.

"We haven't been aggressive enough" in killing zombie brands, Quincey admitted.

Coke's overall sales dropped 28 percent to \$7.15 billion in the quarter that ended on 26 June, compared to \$10 billion a year earlier.

The shutdown erased sales to restaurants, sports stadiums, theaters, and other "away from home" venues accounting for about half of Coke's sales. The loss was partially offset as countries began to reopen their economies, the company said.

TRENDPOST: What Coke is doing with dropping brands, so, too, will many other large corporations across the retail, food and beverage, hotel, hospitality, restaurant sectors, etc. – also do. Cutting costs will be the number one survival strategy for many companies that are over extended and deep in debt.

While some of the dropped product lines will pick up, many will disappear, leaving less choice for consumers to select from.

QUITTING THE GYM?



About 59 percent of U.S. gym members will not renew their memberships, according to a TD Ameritrade.

More than 56 percent of respondents said the economic shutdown led them to find cheaper ways to exercise.

More Americans are jogging or walking, using workout apps, or buying home exercise equipment, according to Molly Passantino, TD Ameritrade's senior retirement specialist.

"There's also an element of uncertainty," she said. "Americans are likely questioning how gyms would work in the post-pandemic world. Will it be safe?"

In contrast, the Crunch chain of gyms has reopened 169 of its 304 U.S. locations and reports new members signing up at a brisker pace than before the virus struck.

Crunch's own April survey of 1,551 members found 47 percent were unhappy working out at home and 83 percent said they probably would return to the gyms as they re-open.

TREND FORECAST: *With a nation living in masked fear, afraid the virus germ will jump on them know matter where they are – locked up in their cars, hiking on*

empty trails, bicycling on deserted streets all masked up – they will not be going back to gyms in high numbers.

TWEETS UP, AD SALES DOWN



It's a century's old trend. One of the first cuts from business budgets when sales go down are advertising expenditures.

And when the COVID Panic struck and politicians locked down people and economies, cut-away they did.

From newspapers and TV to online media and social media sites, while viewership's are rising, ad revenue are diving.

The latest loser is Twitter. While they added 20 million new users in 2020's second quarter, revenues dropped 19 percent year-on-year... registering a \$1.2-billion loss during the quarter.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *As Trends Journal readers know, all digital publishers have been hard hit by the current crisis. Some have closed; many have laid off workers. The result, for better or worse, is fewer information sources will survive and less information will be available online.*

TOY SALES FALL. BOUNCING BACK?

Toymaker Mattel posted second-quarter revenues of \$732 million and a loss of 26 cents per share, beating analysts' expectations of \$679 million in revenue and a per-share loss of 34 cents.

The company also announced a gross margin of 43.8 percent, an improvement over the same period a year earlier. The company's gross margin improved on a year-over-year basis during the quarter to 43.8 percent.

Mattel's share price shot up 4 percent on the news.

Toys and games for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers fell 21 percent year-on-year, vehicles crashed 26 percent, and action figures and building sets 12 percent. Dolls lost 5 percent but Barbie sales climbed 7 percent.

Mattel's sales declines contrasted with the toy industry overall, which saw sales rise 16 percent during the first half of the year as parents tried to keep kids occupied at home.

TREND FORECAST: As children spend more time at home, be it online school or afraid to go out, from toys to hi-tech, parents will buy what they can to entertain children.

Moreover, with more parents working from home, they will do what they can and buy what they can to keep their children distracted.

GOING DOWN AND OUT



DIAMONDS LOSE THEIR SHINE. With millions out of work and weddings fallen victim to social distancing, the sale of diamonds has crashed.

Jared, "the Galleria of Diamonds," reported sales down by 40.5 percent for the quarter ended 2 May.

Alrosa, a diamond wholesaler partly owned by the Russian government, said sales of rough and polished diamonds plummeted 89.5 percent for the period, compared to the same time in 2019; De Beers' sales shrank by 95 percent.

However, the two companies reported cutting their production by only 42 and 54 percent, respectively.

India's diamond polishing center, a key industry supply channel, has been closed, creating a growing backlog of diamonds.

TREND FORECAST: *U.S marriage rates had already hit a record low two years before the COVID Panic locked down much of the nation and health officials warned of the risks of sexual context.*

We forecast as economies dive deeper into the "Greatest Depression," marriage rates will continue to fall across developed nations, thus making diamonds no longer "a girl's best friend."

As demand declines, so, too, will prices.

BIG APPLE TOURISM: VISITORS AREN'T BITING. Although New York City's tourist attractions are reopening, few tourists are visiting.

Typically, tourists spend about \$13.5 billion staying in the city's hotels and \$10.5 billion eating in its restaurants, supporting about 400,000 workers and leaving \$7 billion behind in taxes, according to marketing firm NYC & Co.

Foreign tourists are now banned from entering the U.S., people are still sheltering against the resurgent COVID virus, travelers arriving in New York City from 31 states must quarantine for two weeks, and iconic attractions from Broadway theaters to indoor restaurants remain dark.

Visitors to the Empire State Building must reserve tour times, wear face masks, and social distance.

To juice the tourist economy, NYC & Co. is promoting "hyperlocal tourism" to spur New Yorkers to visit attractions while the usual hordes of out-of-towners are absent.

TREND FORECAST: *Beyond New York, tourism across the globe is in sharp decline. The word on The Street is that tourism and the hospitality sector will not*

bounce back until there is a vaccine, which in turn will make people less fearful of traveling.

Until that time, tourist destination nations, states, and cities will suffer sharp revenue losses, real estate values will decline, unemployment will rise (as will crime) and businesses large and small will go broke.

DAIMLER DOUBLES JOB CUTS. After losing €1.68 billion in 2020's second quarter, German auto maker Daimler doubled to 30,000 the number of employees worldwide it will terminate.

The cuts are expected to be made at plants in Brazil, Finland, France, Mexico, Poland, and South Africa as well as Germany.

Although the cuts are supported by IG Metall, Germany's largest union, critics warn the cuts are the first wave of layoffs that will devastate the country's auto industry, considered the flagship of Germany's economy.

Metall IG has identified at least 300,000 additional jobs in German industry that are in danger. It has vowed to work with companies and the government to try to extend job subsidy payments for at least 24 months.

The union has not threatened strikes or other hostile job actions.

LAYOFFS, BUYOUTS FOR JOHN DEERE WORKERS. John Deere will lay off 35 workers at one Iowa plant but has canceled plans to fire 82 at another.

The company will continue to offer buyouts or "voluntary separations" to salaried workers, most of whom are older and higher-paid, who then could be replaced by younger workers who earn less.

In the second quarter, Deere's sales of forestry equipment dropped 25 percent, home equipment 20 percent, and farm equipment 18 percent year-on-year. Net income plunged 41 percent to \$666 million.

Deere has laid off hundreds of workers over the last 11 months, citing a need for "organizational efficiency."

The United Auto Workers represents 11,000 Deere employees and has worked with the company to keep plants open and workers employed throughout the

economic shutdown, even though workers at some plants have contracted the COVID virus.

RETAILER ASCENA BITES THE DUST. The conglomerate that owns clothiers Ann Taylor, Lane Bryant, LOFT, and Lou & Grey may close as many as 1,600 stores as it works through Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring.

The company, with about 40,000 employees, had run up \$1.6 billion in debt through a brand-buying spree that included Ann Inc., the parent of Ann Taylor, LOFT, and Lou & Grey. It paid more than \$2 billion for Ann Inc. in 2015, just as the market for high-end women's clothing peaked.

Now Ascena plans to end physical locations for Catherine's, its plus-size brand; Lou & Grey, a premium fashion outlet; and close most Justice stores, which clothe children.

The number of stores that will close depends on the size of rent concessions it can negotiate with landlords, the company said.

The company earlier sold casual clothier Maurice's and shuttered Dressbarn.

More than two-thirds of the company's creditors agreed to an arrangement that will reduce Ascena's debt by about \$1 billion.

LAS VEGAS SANDS CORP. REVENUE DOWN 97 PERCENT. With shutdowns and virus fears keeping gamblers away from Las Vegas and Macau, Sheldon Adelson's gambling empire reported net revenue of \$98 million for the quarter ended 30 June, compared to \$3.3 billion a year earlier.

The company reported a net loss of \$985 million, contrasting with a profit of \$1.11 billion the year before.

Government officials in Macau, China's gambling mecca where Las Vegas Sands also has casinos, reported overall gambling revenues on the island crashed 97 percent in June, year-on-year.

"In all the years I've been in Las Vegas, I've never felt more gloomy than I do now about Las Vegas in the short term," said Robert Goldstein, Las Vegas Sands' COO.

OIL SERVICES GIANTS SLASH COSTS, WORKFORCE. Schlumberger, one of the largest oilfield service companies, is incurring \$1 billion in severance costs as it fires 21,000 of its roughly 100,000 employees, leaving it with the smallest workforce since the Great Recession.

The company also is taking \$2.7 billion in impairment charges and restructuring costs.

Schlumberger's second-quarter onshore fracking and other sales were 60 percent below those of 2020's first quarter.

The cuts represent only 40 percent of Schlumberger's \$1.5-billion cost reduction target for this year, meaning another \$900 million in cuts are in the works.

"This has probably been the most challenging quarter in past decades," CEO Olivier Le Peuch said. "Subsequent waves of potential COVID-19 resurgence" could force the company to make additional cuts, he added.

Halliburton, another industry giant, took a \$2.7 billion write-down last week, causing it to report a \$1.7-billion loss for quarter ending 31 May, compared with \$75 million in profits a year before. The quarter's \$3.2 billion in revenue was 45 percent less than a year earlier.

Months of aggressive cost-cutting, however, allowed it to report an operating income of \$236 million for the period, driving its share price up 8 percent on the news.

Halliburton has announced at least 4,500 layoffs in recent months.

TRENDPOST: *Cities and towns with economies dependent on oil and gas exploration and production will see a follow-on wave of job losses, business closures, and economic devastation.*

SUR LA TABLE GOES BUST. The retailer of pricey kitchenware and cooking classes declared bankruptcy on 8 July. People adding kitchen gear as they cooked more at home could not make up for the revenue lost when stores were shut down. The company is abandoning about half of its' 120 U.S. sites and has put itself up for sale.

MUJI MINIMIZES EVEN MORE. The minimalist Japanese design firm purveying everything from sandals to mattresses to juicers is about to get even more

minimal. After filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on 9 July, the company announced it will close “a small number” of its storefronts and will focus its efforts online.

HERITAGE BRANDS ABANDON BRICK AND MORTAR. The owner of clothing brands Arrow, Calvin Klein, Izod Golf, Olga, Tommy Hilfer, Van Heusen, and Warner’s will close all of its 162 retail stores beginning next year. The brands will be sold through department stores, warehouse clubs, and online.

PVH Corp., Heritage Brands’ parent company, will lay off 450 employees, or about 12 percent of its workforce.

MEN’S WEARHOUSE, JOS. A. BANKS CLOSING STORES, SLASHING JOBS. Tailored Brands, owner of men’s clothiers Men’s Wearhouse and Jos. A. Banks, is shutting down 500 of the two brands’ 1,500 stores and slashing its corporate-level workforce by 20 percent.

Earlier in July, the company missed a \$6.1-million payment on \$600 million in debt that matures in 2022. It also reported sales were down 60 percent year-on-year in the quarter ended 30 April.

Executives blamed the trend away from formal office wear that began before the economic shutdown but gained momentum from it.

The company has not yet projected the resulting savings but has said the closings will cost it \$6 million in severance pay and other costs related to shuttering the stores.

The closings will happen “over time,” perhaps as leases run out.

Most of the company’s stores have reopened but sales have disappointed. In the week ending 5 June, sales were down an average of 65 percent at Men’s Wearhouse stores and 78 percent at Jos. A. Banks.

The company’s overall sales had fallen 60 percent in the quarter ended 2 May.

Tailored Brands has been rumored to be nearing bankruptcy for several months. Its stock price jumped almost 10 percent when the closings were announced.

CATHEY PACIFIC AIRWAYS STALLS OUT. China's largest airline has lost \$1.28 billion during the first half of this year, the company said, compared to \$1.3 billion in profits a year earlier.

In June, the company's fleet of 20 planes carried an average of 900 passengers a day, about 1 percent of its traffic year-on-year. Freight traffic by weight was 43 percent less during the period.

The carrier also said it does not expect 16 of its planes "to re-enter meaningful economic service" until next summer. Grounding those planes is mainly responsible for the company taking an impairment charge worth about \$2 billion.

Cathay Pacific plans to increase its flights from 4 percent of its regular schedule in June to 10 percent in August.

NEW YORK CITY'S TRANSIT SYSTEM TO CUT SERVICES, JOBS. The agency that runs the city's subway systems, tunnels, and other traffic arteries faces a budget shortfall of \$16.2 billion through 2024 and is planning to reduce subway schedules, cut staff, put off needed infrastructure projects, raise tolls, and borrow even more money to keep operating.

Although the city has partially reopened, subway ridership is holding steady at about 20 percent of its normal 5.5 million daily passengers.

The subway system will lose about \$5.1 billion in fares and tolls, and another \$2.1 in taxes and subsidies in 2020. Next year, the expected losses are \$3.9 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively.

The transit agency also plans a "congestion pricing schedule," charging more for drivers using bridges and tunnels to enter and leave Manhattan during peak traffic times, a move that could bring in \$1 billion annually.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have continually noted as the lockdowns intensified, the economic fallout will prove devastating to nations, cities, and states.*

In the U.S., long suffering from a rotting infrastructure and antiquated mass transit system, the sharp decline in passengers will not bounce back under the New ABnormal climate of fear of human contact.

Raising fares will further shrink its customer base as less people will be able to afford to pay more. And, as more people and students work from home, ridership levels will decrease.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS



E.U. ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING PLAN WORTH ALMOST €2 TRILLION.

Another day, another list of government plans to rescue nations from falling in depression.

The latest is the European money pumping scheme to reinvigorate the EU economy as many of its nation's GDP rapidly decline.

Highlights:

- The European Commission (EC) will borrow €750 billion on the open market.
- €390 billion will be given to the hardest-hit countries as grants; the balance will be available to member countries as loans.
- The EC has created a €1.1-trillion budget for 2021 through 2027 designed to stimulate the continent's economy.
- Recovery funds will aid businesses needing help to recover.
- The plan includes long-term economic reform for some member countries.

- The plan also creates mechanisms to reduce the risk of future economic disasters.

The plan makes Europe a major borrower in world money markets for the first time. The EC has promised to repay the loans by 2058.

A failure to reach agreement could have ignited a split economic recovery, with northern countries faring much better than nations of southern Europe, which lack a strong manufacturing infrastructure and rely instead on tourism and services.

Such a division would have risked the future of the euro as a currency and of the European Union itself, analysts said.

TREND FORECAST: *As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, populism movements will escalate throughout much of Europe, with demands to break away from the European Union and calls to ditch the euro and a return to national currencies.*

While the euro is gaining strength against the U.S. dollar, we forecast it will decline as nation’s debt levels soar, unemployment rises, and more monetary methadone is injected into falling economies.

This trend will also prove positive for pushing gold and silver prices higher as investors seek safe-haven assets in times of unprecedented economic turmoil.

FORECAST WORSENS FOR EUROPEAN RECESSION. Europe’s economy will contract by 8.3 percent this year, not the 7.4 percent forecast in May, the European Commission said on 21 July.

Next year, the region’s economy will grow by 5.8 percent, the commission predicted.

The economy of the Eurozone – the 19 countries sharing the Euro currency – will contract 8.7 percent this year, a full point worse than the 7.7-percent shrinkage predicted last spring.

The predictions assume lockdown measures will continue to ease at the current pace and the COVID virus will not return at strength, meaning the risk that the forecasts are too optimistic are “exceptionally high,” the commission admitted.

Recently, new lockdown measures were imposed around a German meat-packing plant and several areas of Lisbon, Portugal, after new virus cases flared.

Analysts have said economic activity around Europe, though still weak, is stronger than expected.

EUROPEAN BANKS FACE TIDAL WAVE OF LOAN DEFAULTS. Europe's banks could see as much as €800 billion in bad loans and take a €30-billion loss in revenue over the next three years, warned Oliver Wyman, a billion-dollar U.S. management consulting firm.

In the most probable case, which assumes a slow recovery and no additional shutdowns, loan defaults would reach €400 billion, about 2.5 times as many as in the previous three years.

A return of the virus and subsequent lockdowns would double the number of bad loans, bringing them to about 10 percent of banks' total loan portfolios.

Banks in Italy, Greece, and some other countries in southern Europe are still struggling to emerge from bad loans made in the past 12 years. Banks throughout Europe have not yet recovered from the Great Recession and are only about half as profitable as their U.S. counterparts.

Banks' revenues across the continent and the U.K. will shrink to €385 billion this year, Wyman predicts, a loss of €180 billion compared to last year. By 2022, revenues will still be €30 billion below 2019's.

Banks' net interest income in 2021 will fall by 8 percent, the company thinks.

TREND FORECAST: *The worst is yet to come. From developed to developing nations, the giant debt bubble that has been inflated with cheap money since the Panic of '08 is ready to burst.*

As they have before, governments will rob from the poor and give to the rich in their new 2020 too-big-to-fail bank bailout schemes.

And, as the banking crisis worsens, more cash will be withdrawn as fearful investors seek safe haven assets such as gold and silver.

DEVELOPING NATIONS HEADED FOR DEBT CLIFF. As we keep noting, as economies continue to decline, the debt bubble keeps inflating, and the debt load keeps getting heavier.

Emerging and developing nations around the world have added new debt averaging 5.4 percent of their GDPs to fight the COVID virus and recover from government-imposed economic shutdowns, according to World Bank figures.

In India, Malaysia, Poland, Qatar, South Africa, and Thailand, deficit spending related to the crisis has passed 10 percent of GDP.

In several countries, total government debt now exceeds 50 percent of national economic output.

Countries must budget aggressively to pay down these debts or face a choice between ruining their credit or social unrest due to massive social spending cuts, the bank warned.

The world's economy will lose \$12.5 trillion in total economic production between this year and next, the bank predicted, warning that most of the loss will strike lesser-developed nations.

More than a third of the bonds these governments could face default by 2022, said Adam Wolfe at Absolute Strategy Research.

Egypt, Ghana, and Zambia are most at risk, he added, but Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey, and South Africa also face heightened risk.

CHINA'S GOVERNMENT, NOT CONSUMERS, DRIVING RECOVERY. China's economy expanded in this year's second quarter due to the government's continued investment in highways and other infrastructure projects.

The national government was eager to approve local jurisdictions' bond issues to build subway tunnels and renovate train stations; it also was ready with loans to businesses on the condition they not lay off workers.

"It's all investment," said Hong Hao, Chief Strategist at the Bank of Communications International. Consumer spending "is the most sustainable part of growth" but it "is doing much less" in China, leaving the economy still weak.

Chinese consumers also are not returning to restaurants, traveling, and spending nights in hotels in large numbers.

Any consumer spending is being done by wealthier Chinese who can work at home and have savings. Consumer spending in villages, towns, and small cities still lags, figures show.

Also, unemployment has remained stubbornly high.

In response, the government is urging young people to enter graduate school and has redefined “employment” to include gray areas such as bloggers and videogamers.

The weakness is likely to soon become more apparent as Chinese factories continue to turn out consumer products faster than domestic consumers are buying them. With other countries struggling in recession and with millions of consumers out of work, foreign markets also are unable to take China’s surplus goods.

China’s veneer of apparent economic strength powered the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets to a 14-percent gain early this month, but these underlying signs of economic weakness have led analysts warn of a speculative bubble forming, resembling one that burst in late 2015 and early 2016.

TREND FORECAST: *As with all other governments, the Chinese will do what they can to artificially prop up its economy. Considering the global damage inflicted by politicians locking down entire nations, Beijing’s efforts to inflate growth as export revenues decline will be limited.*

In addition, with its debt-to-GDP ratio an estimated 317 percent (U.S.: 106.9 percent in 2019) it will prove difficult for the Chinese government to inflate its economy without putting severe downward pressure on its currency, the yuan, which has gained strength over the past two months.

Also, both trade and military tensions between China and the U.S., and friction with India and neighboring nations... plus the conflict with Hong Kong will negatively impact economic growth.

RENTS STILL FALLING IN CHINESE CITIES. Residential rents in China’s large and mid-size cities fell 2 percent in June, marking the third consecutive month of declines, according to Beijing Zhuge House Hunter Information Technology Inc.

Rents in Beijing, a city of 21 million residents, dropped 1.4 percent in June, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences reported.

In part, falling rents highlight lingering unemployment among young college graduates, still at 19.2 percent across the country.

The softness in rents, which have climbed 60 percent since 2012, also attest to the country's continuing economic uncertainty, even though the government reported second-quarter GDP galloped 11.5 percent ahead of the year's first three months.

TREND FORECAST: *With rents declining as China's housing prices continue to climb, these are early warning signs that its highly inflated housing bubble is ready to burst.*

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*

BECOME YOUR OWN CENTRAL BANK



Over a decade ago, I became a crusader of sorts, recommending people do two things:

#1. "Bet against the debt"

#2. "Become your own central bank"

The reason I began my crusade was simple. It's because I knew back then that world central banks, and none more so than the Federal Reserve, would massively inflate.

At the time, when I explained to expect the Fed would vastly grow its balance sheet, they had just over \$2 trillion on it. Today, that same balance sheet has grown over 300 percent to an astounding \$7 trillion. And we have not seen anything yet.

The Federal Reserve is also on a crusade: to have absolute control over the entire global monetary system by becoming the lender, buyer, and, therefore, the owner of it all (the World)... while getting ready to issue in a new U.S. dollar.

The Federal Reserve is on a preconceived path; a very deliberate mission to destroy the dollar in its current form to then issue in a new dollar, which will be 100 percent blockchain based.

When I began my crusade, it was crystal clear that in order to beat the grand plan of central banks, which issue only debt, we must take to the opposite side and begin holding an "anti-debt" unit priced in dollars.

To me, the solution was obvious: one must hold physical gold and silver. By holding these assets, you accomplish two things, and that brings us back to the beginning points of this article: #1. Become your own central bank, as ALL central banks hold gold; and #2, you directly bet against exploding global debt.

Gold and silver have been real money for thousands of years, and nothing can change that. When prior Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke was asked by Senator Ron Paul why central banks hold gold, Bernanke replied, "We hold it for tradition." The fact is that central banks hold gold because both gold and silver are anti-debt units... my reasoning exactly!

It all boils down to this: as the Federal Reserve continues to inflate by design, the purchasing power of gold and silver will increase.

Over the past year, the Federal Reserve has begun to issue epic amounts of debt in the form of buying assets with trillions of U.S. dollars being created out of nothing.

At the end of August 2019, the Fed balance sheet stood at \$3.8 trillion. Today, just 11 months later, it stands at \$7 trillion. The trajectory of the Fed's balance sheet is *much higher*.

Understanding this mechanism should make it easy to understand why for many years, I have not wavered from my crusade to "Become Your Own Central Bank" and "Bet Against The Debt."

I trust now you can see why.

Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net



TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM *by Bradley J. Steiner*

FIGHTING SMART



I know. A lot of you are angry. Fighting mad, in fact. But the absolute last thing I would ever want because I know what it would entail – and I want *you* to know it, too – is violence.

Yes, it looks very grim out there. What really concerns me is talk of civil war, a trend that Gerald Celente has forecast in the **Trends Journal**.

Beyond things reaching the point where, may God forbid, citizens who wish to be free once again will need to fight for their liberty as our forefathers did in the 1700s, protests and violence are spiking in what has become another trend, the “Divided States of America.”

From what I see in news reports and read in the **Trends Journal**, that situation now exists for those living in America’s largest cities. But it may well spread into the suburbs and ex-urbs as well. And, more than just an American trend, this is a global.

A terrifying underclass of dangerous, violent criminals are cashing in on their chance to garner power and wealth by looting and rioting. And, in what is unrecognized but nevertheless most assuredly, it is insurgency against this Nation. The facts and photos show it. Armed groups, opposed to each other, are facing off.

Different factions of these insurrectionist groups vandalize public and private property, injure and kill innocent people, wreak havoc and are spreading terror. At this point in history, they are getting away with it and growing more violent.

There was a time when it was understood by anyone possessing common horse sense that if you looted, broke into homes and businesses, burned down properties, rioted and attacked people... *you got shot*.

Not So Today

Too many traitors in public office have let us down. And the greatest evil of all? Those public officials who, in many cases, strive mightily to see to it private citizens' hands are tied, and they cannot take necessary action to save their communities and neighbors' persons and properties for fear of prosecution (read: persecution).

Today, the threat of violence exists everywhere and at all times in NYC, Chicago, LA, Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Detroit, and other cities throughout America... big and small. And, as economies collapse, violence will spread globally.

Because of the current social climate, you must do everything you can to *avoid engaging in violence* or you will bring down upon yourself truly awful consequences.

This does not mean you shouldn't be ready, willing, and able to defend yourself. It means *only when it is absolutely clear and necessary* that in fact you do, and only then, should you violently oppose the living garbage in the street or elsewhere. Your righteous indignation must not drive you to act according to common sense outrage.

Wonderful as it would be if the law permitted citizens to form armed bands of urban warriors and, literally, exterminate dangerous predators, this is *not* feasible. Unless there is no other option, we all must stand down until or unless danger comes imminently to ourselves. Yes, be ready for that possibility... but hold back unless it becomes a reality.

Avoid Trouble

Professionals know not only *how* to engage in combat, but also *when*. And now shifting to the possibility of needing one day to oppose anti-American

revolutionaries and their “useful idiots” (as Lenin referred to that festering, stinking refuse), as a liberty-loving, American urban dweller, remember this:

It is suicidal to directly oppose a greater force than your own. The principles of guerrilla warfare and the support of well-organized underground operations are the only possible way to successfully oppose a force superior to your own.

I am certainly not advocating guerrilla activity and unconventional warfare be initiated against anyone. I am only trying to point out that, theoretically, if push ever came to shove and populations who were not willing to submit to tyranny decided to resist, they would need to follow correct doctrine. This would mean, again, theoretically speaking only, organization and the application of proven guerrilla methods and principles of underground activity.

Fortunately, if this subject is of academic interest to you, there is a publication that can supply you with a comprehensive orientation in the mechanics of unconventional warfare. Check eBay, AbeBooks, Alibris, or Biblio.com for a copy of *Human Factors Considerations of Undergrounds in Insurgencies* by Paul J. Tompkins.

This book contains almost word for word the exact curriculum of the U.S. Army’s course in the mechanics of unconventional warfare as taught to the Special Forces at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

Another excellent reference is *Resistance to Tyranny* by Joseph P. Martino.

Whether it is one individual engaging in “war” (i.e. self-defense) against an assailant who moves on him in the street or a group of close friends and kindred spirits from the neighborhood engaging in defensive resistance against a tyrannical force that moves against their lives and their dignity, *fighting smart* is the only way for there to be any hope of success.

Again, I urge no law breaking, no violence, and no anti-social activity. I am trying to educate those who are interested in knowing how societal survival, self, and family defense can be successfully engineered in a crisis situation that demands action.

Other excellent references include:

- *150 Questions For a Guerrilla* by Gen. Alberto Bayo
- *Guerrilla Warfare* by Bert “Yank” Levy

- *The Art of Guerrilla Warfare* by Colin Gubbins
- *Partisan Leader's Handbook* by Colin Gubbins
- *Secret Forces* by Ferdinand O. Miksche
- *War of the Flea* by Robert Tabor

Times such as these we are now living through demand self-control, discipline, and mental toughness – just as they demand skills, knowledge, tradecraft, and supplies.

Be smart. Remember that stupid, hasty, foolish, emotion-dominated actions are only self-destructive and self-defeating. That is in fact the way the opposition *wants* you to react because you are then easy to identify and neutralize.

Whether battling a violent troublemaker or a violent oppressor, a cool, thinking mind coupled with the right knowledge, skills, and equipment shifts the odds enormously in your favor.

Disclaimer: *This article is offered for academic purposes only. Neither the author, nor Gerald Celente, nor the Trends Journal, nor anyone associated with the author or this publication, including its heirs or assigns, accepts any responsibility for the use, misuse, or abuse of anything contained herein. This material is presented for adults only.*

COVID-19 SPECIAL REPORT

STAY AT HOME, GET SICK



Following the lockdowns of a number of Chinese cities when the coronavirus first struck in February, on 9 March, Italy was the first major western nation to lockdown.

Shortly thereafter, nations across the globe, from rich to poor, with high or low virus death rates, followed suit with strict shelter-in-place orders.

In America, Dr. Anthony Fauci, exalted by the Presstitutes as “the nation’s leading infectious disease expert,” recommended a federally enforced nationwide stay-at-home policy. Asked specifically about it, he proclaimed, “I just don’t understand why we’re not doing that.”

Hidden News

From the onset of the coronavirus outbreak, as noted, politicians across the globe imposed draconian lockdown measures, declaring it was the best way to stop the virus from spreading and to protect their citizens.

Yet, a South Korean study conducted by epidemiologists proved lockdown measures were deadly. The following was reported by *Reuters* on 21 July, but it was barely covered by the mainstream media:

“South Korean epidemiologists have found that people were more likely to contract the new coronavirus from members of their own households than from contacts outside the home.

A study published in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on July 16 looked in detail at 5,706 ‘index patients’ who had tested positive for the coronavirus and more than 59,000 people who came into contact with them.

The findings showed that less than 2% of patients’ non-household contacts had caught the virus, while nearly 12% of patients’ household contacts had contracted the disease.”

Dictators’ Dictates Prove Deadly

On 19 March, the dictator of California, Governor Newsom, proclaimed a state of emergency and declared a shelter-in-place order.

The next day, Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered New Yorkers to lockdown inside their homes, declaring, “We’re all under quarantine now.”

This is the same arrogant, “Executive Order” King who was astonished on 6 May when he said it was “shocking” that most new coronavirus hospitalizations were people who had been staying home:

“If you notice... 66 percent of the people were at home, which is shocking to us. This is a surprise: Overwhelmingly, the people were at home... We thought maybe they were taking public transportation, and we’ve taken special precautions on public transportation, but actually no, because these people were literally at home.”

On Sunday, a headline story on *CNN* was that a 9-year-old girl in Florida, with no pre-existing health conditions, became the state's youngest coronavirus victim. When asked how the child may have contracted the virus, the parents of the young girl said she “had spent the summer at home.”

TRENDPOST: *From France’s President Emmanuel Macron forcing citizens to show a government permit to leave their home, to India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who told the nation’s 1.3 billion people, “There will be a total ban of coming out of your homes”... across the globe, dictators imposed draconian orders that were scientifically proven to be deadly for their people.*

Again and again, these facts are ignored by the mainstream media, and the general public believes what they are told and obediently follow their leaders’ orders.

According to one of the co-authors of the study, children under nine years old are the least likely to contract the virus.

MEDIA HYPE COUNTS, DATA DOESN'T



As reported in last Wednesday's *New York Times*:

“The disturbingly large numbers of coronavirus cases reported every day since the pandemic exploded may in fact be low – by a lot. A study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that the number of infected people ‘far exceeds the number of reported cases’ in some sections of the country. The study said that actual infection rates were up to 13 times higher.”

Thus, it is clear, but absent in the *Times* article, that the death rate from the virus is actually far lower than is being reported.

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, some four million Americans have been infected with the virus. With the CDC revising their estimate to be 13 times higher, that would equal 52 million infections.

Therefore, as of Sunday, with 149,200 deaths in the U.S. from the virus, 99.77 percent of the people recovered!

TRENDPOST: Each day, the headlines splashed across the mainstream media are about the rising cases, such as this one from CNBC this weekend: “Florida now has more coronavirus cases than New York and California leads the nation.”

To date, New York, with a population of 19.5 million has 32,688 deaths; Florida, with a population of 21.5 million has 5,885 deaths; and California, with a population of 40 million has 8,429 deaths.

Yet, the media and the public extol the virtues of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo for his expert management and leadership to fight the virus.

Again, virus cases do not equal deaths.

Going strictly by the data, Florida has a 1.40 percent death rate according to the “[COVID Tracking Project](#).” Yet, the media continues to hype the failure of Florida’s governor to lock down the state... as did Governor Cuomo, despite New York State’s considerably higher coronavirus death rate at 6.09 percent.

The same goes with California, where the media, as evidenced in the CNBC headline, keeps hyping virus cases. The death rate is about equal to Florida’s where its governor, unlike California’s, did not lock down its people and businesses across the state.

COVID VICTIMS: THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL



Totally absent from U.S. politicians and fear mongering mainstream media is the question as to why, when much of the world is recovering from the coronavirus outbreak, are Americans still dying from it?

First, it should again be noted that even at the worst estimate, most studies estimate that, as reported in such mainstream sources as the *Wall Street Journal*, between 0.5 percent and 0.1 percent of people who contract the virus are killed by it.

Second, some 50 percent of those who have died from the virus, both in the states and across the globe, are elderly from elder care homes suffering from pre-existing chronic conditions. And, people in their 80s are more than 20 times more likely to die than a person in their 50s.

The Victims

According to the CDC, 76.4 percent of Americans who died from the virus suffered from at least one underlying medical condition. In Massachusetts, for example, a study showed of a reported 4,071 deaths, only 73 of the victims had no reported previous illnesses.

As one of our Top Trends for 2019, “Ready to Explode,” we forecast,

Obesity is becoming an expected norm. From middle America to the military ranks, coping not only with the physical and health effects of obesity but its emotional, societal, and psychological effects and their ramifications are forming the “Ready To Explode” trend that is exploding into a public health emergency.

And now, it is readily acknowledged that those suffering from obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and heart disease (which are more prevalent in the U.S. than most other nations) are victims of the virus.

“If we had better health outcomes. If we had less diabetes, less hypertension, less cardiovascular disease, then we would probably not see the morbidity that we see today from COVID-19,” said Monique Brown, Assistant Professor of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, who was quoted in the *WSJ* article.

As we previously reported, when the virus first broke out in Wuhan, China, those suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic ailments were the primary victims of the virus.

In a study published in the medical journal *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*, they found virus deaths are at least 1.5 times higher for people suffering from diabetes, cancer, kidney, or heart or lung disease compared with those adults who were healthy. The study also concluded that more than 20 percent of hospitalized virus patients had high blood pressure and more than one in ten had diabetes.

A paper published this month by the University of Oxford and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine found that in Italy, where the average age of the those who died of the virus was 80 years old, data showed of 3,000 victims, two-thirds had three or more chronic diseases. The same findings were reported by doctors in France and the United Kingdom.

TRENDPOST: Again and again, with all of the media hype selling Fear and Hysteria, absent in their reporting is the fact that whole health healing – getting in the best physical, emotional, and spiritual shape – is the strongest defense to defeat the coronavirus... as well as many other illnesses.

BACK TO SCHOOL... FOR SOME



When the COVID Panic broke out, 186 countries forced 1.5 billion students to stay home, which represents over 91 percent of all children, according to UNESCO estimates.

Now, with the virus at its half-year mark, scores of nations, including Denmark, Germany, Austria, Norway, Finland, Singapore, South Korea, and New Zealand are sending children back to the school room. And one of Canada's largest pediatric hospitals recommended the country's schools be reopened in the fall.

To date, neither Denmark, Germany, Finland, or Norway have registered significant coronavirus cases since reopening schools.

CDC Recommends Schools Open

The CDC agrees with the reopening of schools.

When they did a study in early July, they concluded just 16 of the 130,250 Americans who have died of coronavirus were children aged 5 to 14.

Yes, just 16 of 21 million 5-to-14-year-old children died from the virus!

In addition, a 19 May study from Australia's National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance found that "SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) transmission in children in schools appears considerably less than seen for other respiratory viruses, such as influenza."

Further supporting the reopening of schools, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said on 9 July, "Having the schools actually closed is a greater public health threat to the children than having the schools reopen."

TREND FORECAST: *In America, the CDC recommendation to reopen schools is characterized as a political move. For example, on 25 July, the Wall Street Journal wrote:*

"The health agency, under pressure from the White House to support the full opening of schools, added language to its previous recommendations stressing what it called the importance of students returning to classrooms. The revised material also said Covid-19 poses lower risks for children than adults and that limiting instruction to remote learning could hurt students."

As we had forecast, retail sales of back-to-school clothing, sporting goods, and the wide array of school items will sharply suffer as more students learn from home.

SCHOOL'S STILL OUT FOR OTHERS



Across America, despite strikingly infinitesimal numbers – and the scientific data that children are not vulnerable to catching the virus or are significant spreaders of it, politicians and teachers are demanding continued school lockdowns, claiming reopening would place undue risks on students and staff.

Among those representing the Fear and Hysteria of schools reopening is Los Angeles School District Superintendent Austin Beutner, who said, “A 10-year-old student might have a 30-year-old teacher, a 50-year-old bus driver, or live with a 70-year-old grandmother. All need to be protected.”

In the U.K., as in the U.S., Fear and Hysteria reign as evidenced by an open letter published last month that was signed by over 1,500 members of the U.K.’s Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Care. In the letter, it claimed allowing young people to return to school risks “scarring the life chances of a generation of young people.”

As reported last week in the **Trends Journal**, schools in America are likely to not reopen in the fall over fears of spreading the virus. We quoted New York Governor Andrew Cuomo who stated, “We are not going to use our children as guinea pigs.”

Again, ignoring hard facts and scientific data and buying into fear-inducing orders of political leaders aided by lap dog mainstream media, sound bite-addicted Americans do not support reopening schools this fall unless severe restrictions are put in place.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll reports that three out of ten surveyed think classrooms should not be allowed to reopen under any circumstances. Only 8 percent stated a preference that K-12 classes open up and resume normal in-person learning.

Forty-six percent polled said that if K-12 schools did reopen, they would need to have major restrictions in place including mandatory mask wearing and social distancing.

The poll also revealed most Americans feel the same about reopening in-person classes at colleges and universities.

Fifty-six percent of Americans polled said they were fearful that reopening schools would increase the spread of the virus in their communities.

When adding the 24 percent who are somewhat concerned, some 70 percent of the American public are afraid that letting children go back to school poses a public health danger.

TREND FORECAST: *As global economies decline and online courses increase, there will be strong, new political movements for governments to lower school taxes. The argument will be that with online learning, far fewer teachers will be needed and all costs related to brick-and-mortar school buildings will be substantially lower, thus, taxes should be sharply cut.*

TREND FORECAST: *“New Millennium” education is a mega-trend.*

As we had forecast at beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak when schools across the globe were shut down, it signaled the onset of a 21st century online learning system, which, back in 1996, Gerald Celente had forecast as “Interactive U” in his bestselling book, “Trends 2000.”

Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and then die.

“Interactive U” has just been born. The new education system that will replace the current one, which was invented by the Prussians at the onset of the Industrial Revolution, will offer great investment rewards to existing and start-up companies which create the new learning systems and continue to update them.

At this time, Indian companies are leading much of the trend, since online learning has deeper roots in that nation.

SCHOOL DAYS MASKED MADNESS



It was a top headline story on *Yahoo News* this past Friday: “Mom creates ‘virus veil’ for her kids to wear to school – experts applaud the ‘ingenuity’ but say safety tests are needed.”

Fearful her young children may go back to school this autumn and thus may be attacked by COVID, the article featured Ohio mother of five, Hilary Myers, who, inspired by the hat and veil worn by beekeepers, designed a face shield, a.k.a. “virus veil” that covers the eyes, nose, and mouth.

The mask is made of vinyl and has a drawstring to open at the mouth for eating and drinking.

Ms. Myers said, “I know it looks ridiculous. I prepared my kids to be teased incessantly. I know not everyone thinks and feels the same way I do.”

TREND FORECAST: Welcome to the New ABnormal. Ms. Myers is quoted by *Yahoo* as saying, “The politicization of masks really took the wind out of my sails.”

Nowhere in the article, as with all of the mainstream media, do they provide scientific data regarding both the ineffectiveness and dangers of wearing face masks. Moreover, just as Ms. Myers states, her children will wear the headgear even if they are “teased,” so, too, are children across the world wracked in fear as they are being raised in COVID Hysteria.

Incapable of feeling carefree at young, formative ages, children are instead being brainwashed with Fear and Hysteria. Thus, thanks to their parents' insecurity, most will be incapable of thinking for themselves.

Just as the mindless, gutless masses marched to Mussolini, saluted Stalin, and heil Hitler, so, too, they will follow the orders of their murderous, psychopathic, narcissistic leaders who march them off to Hell on Earth to fight the COVID War.

(Photo credit: <https://parentspulse.com/product/the-virus-veil/>)

***DON'T* TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME**



It was big news in America: opening day for the nation's favorite pastime, major league baseball, which usually starts at the end of March, finally kicked off last Thursday.

In another chapter in the encyclopedia of new, absurd COVID rules and regulations, fans were banned from the stadiums.

"Empty Seats, Recorded Cheers Greet Return of Baseball," blared the *Wall Street Journal's* top-of-the-page headline with an accompanying photo of an empty stadium.

Yes, "Recorded Cheers," not fans, greeted the return of baseball. Continuing to pump up the COVID Hysteria, the U.S. media accentuated the fear of restarting the baseball season:

“Baseball Enters the Unknown: The schedule is short. The stadiums will be empty. But the players’ biggest task this summer might be keeping the virus at bay.” — *New York Times*

“Nationals star Juan Soto tests positive for coronavirus, won't play.” — *ABC Eyewitness News*

“MLB Opening Day 2020: Five off-the-field questions facing the 60-game shortened season.” — *CBS Sports*

The five questions:

1. Will the season be completed?
2. Will there be more testing snafus?
3. Will more players opt out?
4. Will fans be allowed?
5. Will Major League Baseball be forced to alter plans?

The New ABnormal

Out of fear the virus might spread to teammates, among the restrictions officially put in place:

- No spitting (“including but not limited to saliva, sunflower seeds or peanut shells, or tobacco”),
- No fighting/arguing,
- Masks are required for non-players in the dugouts and bullpens,
- Fielders are “encouraged to retreat several steps away” from the base runner when the ball is out of play,
- Pitchers will be allowed to carry wet rags in their back pockets to be used for moisture instead of licking their fingers.

Also included in the new, 11-page baseball rules and regulations manual:

- Players should keep at least six feet away from one another in the clubhouse. Additional clubhouse space should be provided if needed.

- Players are “discouraged but not prohibited” from showering in the clubhouse.
- Inactive players are asked to sit six feet apart in the stands.
- Clubhouse food must be served in individual to-go containers.
- Players (or managers) who leave their positions to argue with umpires or come within six feet of them or an opposing player or manager face ejection and discipline.
- Any ball in play or touched by multiple players will be replaced.
- The traveling party will have a private check-in and entrance at hotels to avoid interactions with the public.
- Members of the traveling team are “not permitted to leave the hotel to eat or otherwise use any restaurants (in the hotel or otherwise) open to the public.” They must be provided with a private dining room at the hotel. They are permitted to use room service or food delivery services.
- Hotel room visits are permitted only for other members of a traveling party or immediate family.

TRENDPOST: We note these new “play ball” rules to emphasize how people in power impose arbitrary, non-science backed rules and regulations on society, which have sucked the joy and freedom out of life.

More than just Americans and baseball, fans across the globe have not only lost the enjoyment of their favorite sports... but the new ABnormal rules have destroyed all the businesses that depend on these seasonal sporting events.

From suppliers of food products to the sale of sports items, to local bars and restaurants surrounding the stadiums that depend on fans, entrepreneurs big and small are going broke and going out of business.

WEAR NO MASK = YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK



Forget the scientific facts we continually report in the **Trends Journal** regarding the ineffectiveness and dangers of wearing face masks.

If you don't wear one because you believe the data and think for yourself, you will be attacked by politicians, the public... and the media.

This was the 22 July headline in *Newsweek*: "Narcissists and Psychopaths Are More Likely to Refuse to Wear Masks, Says New Research."

They quoted a Polish study "seeking to link dark, psychopathic personality traits to those who refuse to comply with government orders" done in mid-March for the peer-reviewed *Personality and Individual Differences* academic journal.

The general conclusion is those who don't comply with government restrictions or failed to follow all the orders imposed had "Dark Triad" personality disorders of "narcissism, psychopathy and Machiavellianism."

The study notes, "Individuals characterized by the Dark Triad traits may be less likely to follow governmentally-enforced restrictions related to COVID-19."

The study, "Who complies with the restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19?" had this excerpt: "Being rivalrous, caring little for others, and cynical and power-seeking may create a 'perfect storm' of dispositions that lead to an unwillingness to comply in a combative way."

However, despite labeling non-mask wearers as narcissists, etc., the last lines of the *Newsweek* article noted that researchers concluded personality traits were only a small part of those who opposed the strict government rules: “While psychopaths and narcissists may be less likely to comply with coronavirus restrictions, the evidence doesn’t suggest that personality disorders are to blame for social-distancing failures and mask-mandate pushback.”

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *In other words, these “expert” psychologists theorize if you don’t follow orders that lack any substantive medical data to back them up, which are throwing tens of millions out of work, putting millions more in danger of starvation, and are creating psychological damage for millions from extended social isolation, then you must be “cynical,” “power seeking,” and display “dark” “psychopathy.”*

We suggest these psychologists put as much effort into analyzing the behavior of political control freaks who continue to expand their authority as hundreds of millions of citizens around the world continue to suffer from their inane, ignorant, destructive, and power-hungry rules.

SELL HATE, FORGET THE FACTS



“Here’s your field guide to the five main types of Pandemic deniers.”

That’s the 26 July headline of a *Salon* article republished in AlterNet.org attacking anyone who doesn’t believe their B.S. and, as noted below, accuses them of being a vicious person.

Indeed, their one-sided reporting and hypocritical bias is evidenced by how they describe themselves: “AlterNet is a politically left-leaning website that was launched in 1998 by the non-profit now known as the Independent Media Institute.”

There is nothing “Independent” about being a “left-leaning” ideologue any more so than being right wing, liberal, conservative, etc., which, by definition, is agenda-driven rather than fact-based.

This article, written with total bias and demanding us to subjugate to higher authorities, is void of any scientific data, yet it begins with, “Everyday there is more data to prove the dangers of the coronavirus. Yet, bizarrely, the more proof we have of the damage of the pandemic: the more vicious and hysterical its deniers.”

Emotion based, absent in the entire article is a scintilla of “more proof” of the “damage of the pandemic.”

Indeed, the greatest damage, by the numbers and the facts, is the destruction of the global economy and the ruined lives of hundreds of millions who are out of work and the millions of businesses going down and going bust.

We have detailed the death rates and who is dying of the virus to prove it is not the pandemic that Presstitutes and politicians are selling. The data is in your **Trends Journal**.

Yet, in the *AlterNet* article, they label us as “covidiot” that derives from this nation’s long resistance to expertise.”

Or, more appropriately, those who dare to question the sociopathy being projected upon them; who question authority, government rules, and biasness; and who do not march to political orders have no rights in the United Soviet States of Amerika.

MORE FAKE FACTS



The Connecticut Department of Public Health disclosed on 20 July that 90 people who were told they tested positive for the virus did not in fact have it.

A flaw was discovered in a testing system. Many of the erroneous results were with nursing home residents.

Acting Commissioner of the state's public health department, Deidre Gifford, stated, "We have notified the healthcare facilities for everyone who received a false positive test result from our state laboratory. Accurate and timely testing for the novel coronavirus is one of the pillars supporting effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

She added that all nursing home residents who received erroneous results would be retested. The flaw was reported to the company, which manufactured the testing protocol, as well as to the FDA.

SWEDEN GOT IT RIGHT



As we've been reporting for months in the **Trends Journal**, Sweden has been the target of worldwide criticism for being the only western nation not to impose a strict lockdown on its people to deal with the coronavirus.

We've also been noting that while many in the mainstream media continue emphasizing the higher death rate in Sweden compared to its neighbors Norway and Denmark, they almost never add the fact that Sweden's death rate from the virus is lower than Spain, France, the U.K.... and even Belgium, which has a slightly higher population. Here are these country's death rate percentages:

- Sweden: 7.18
- Spain: 10.44
- France: 13.71
- U.K.: 15.19
- Belgium: 14.8

From the beginning of the virus outbreak, Sweden banned gatherings of more than 50 people, but elementary, middle, and high schools remained open along with gyms, bars, restaurants, shops, and parks. And while some businesses chose to close and many curtailed social activities, most restrictions were voluntary.

Now, more than three months after the "soft" lockdown, Dr. Anders Tegnell, Sweden's state epidemiologist, announced last Tuesday that Sweden is seeing a significant decline in death rates and hospitalizations due to COVID-19. *Reuters* reports that since April, only seven deaths have been recorded and ICU use is down.

Dr. Tegnell stated, "It really is yet another sign that the Swedish strategy is working... We have managed to do it with substantially less invasive measures."

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven admitted in mid-June that where Sweden failed was not offering better protection in nursing homes and elderly at-home care, as over 70 percent of all coronavirus deaths came from those sectors. The prime minister stated, "It has to do with failings in society that we are correcting, including basic hygiene deficiencies in many care homes."

It should be noted that while Italians were banned from outdoor social gatherings and French citizens couldn't leave their homes without a government permit, Swedes jogged in parks, children played in playgrounds, and people socialized

in cafés and bars. And tens of millions weren't thrown out of work as they were throughout Europe.

Now, even with death rates declining rapidly along with hospitalizations, most of the mainstream media, amplifying the fear-inducing warnings of health “experts” around the globe, continue to attack the Swedish strategy as a failure.

One example is this headline on 9 July from *Business Insider*: “Sweden's coronavirus death toll is now approaching zero, but experts are warning others not to hail it as a success.”

COVID-19 FACTS: HOW SCIENCE AND POLITICS GOT IT WRONG



Absent in the mainstream news is the report from Swiss magazine *Die Weltwoche* (World Week) published by Dr. Beda M. Stadler, former Director of the Institute for Immunology at the University of Bern in Switzerland, titled, “Why Everyone Is/Was Wrong About the Coronavirus.”

Dr. Stadler concludes the vast majority of virologists and epidemiologists have been making erroneous statements since the coronavirus first hit and admits to also making the same incorrect assumptions at first.

A key point in the article is to counter the widely promoted claim that what makes COVID-19 so frightening is as a novel virus, humans have no natural immunity to it. As Dr. Stadler points out:

“Even Anthony Fauci, the most important advisor to the Trump administration, noted at the beginning at every public appearance that the danger of the virus lay in the fact that there was no immunity against it. Tony and I often sat next to each other at immunology seminars at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda in the US, because we worked in related fields back then. So, for a while I was pretty uncritical of his statements, since he was a respectable colleague of mine.”

Dr. Stadler followed with the fact, “In reality, nobody had a test ready to prove such a statement. That wasn’t science, but pure speculation based on a gut feeling that was then parroted by everyone.”

Stay Healthy

Among other findings, the following includes references by Dr. Stadler showing healthy immune systems can in fact defend against COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2:

- In mid-April, work was published by the group of Andreas Thiel at the Charité Berlin showing 34 percent of people who had never been in contact with the new virus had T-cells that effectively defend against both SARS-CoV-2 and other known cold viruses.
- A study by John Ioannides, Professor of Medicine, Health Research and Policy at Stanford University (previously quoted in the **Trends Journal**), revealed a much stronger antibody immune response against SARS-CoV-2 than previously thought.
- “I’ve never seen a scientific branch that maneuvered itself so much into the offside. I have also not yet understood why epidemiologists were so much more interested in the number of deaths, rather than in the numbers that could be saved.”
- “When the first statistics from China and later worldwide data showed the same trend, that is to say that almost no children under ten years old got sick, everyone should have made the argument that children clearly have to be immune. For every other disease that doesn’t afflict a certain group of people, we would come to the conclusion that that group is immune.”

As is well known, despite clear evidence early on that children were not developing serious symptoms from COVID-19, virtually all major western

countries (Sweden being the outlier), closed down all elementary, middle, and high schools.

- “The next joke that some virologists shared was the claim that those who were sick without symptoms could still spread the virus to other people. The ‘healthy’ sick would have so much of the virus in their throats that a normal conversation between two people would be enough for the ‘healthy one’ to infect the other healthy one... It is understandable that those afflicted by Covid-19 might not remember that initial scratchy throat and then go on to claim that they didn’t have any symptoms just a few days ago. But for doctors and virologists to twist this into a story of ‘healthy’ sick people, which stokes panic and was often given as a reason for stricter lockdown measures, just shows how bad the joke really is.”
- It is important to note the phenomenon of “viral debris.” As Dr. Stadler notes, “If we do a PCR corona test on an immune person, it is not a virus that is detected, but a small shattered part of the viral genome. The test comes back positive for as long as there are tiny shattered parts of the virus left... It is likely that a large number of the daily reported infection numbers are purely due to viral debris.”

Dr. Stadler concludes, “It would be good for us citizens if a few scaremongers apologized.”

The “scaremongers” he points out are alarmist doctors, media who constantly put out fear-inducing images and statements, and federal officials who keep insisting on imposing tracing apps, even though they will never work given the ignorance surrounding what it is actually measured in any effective way.

TRENDPOST: *An important fact ignored by the majority of health officials, political leaders, and the media is the basic immune response in healthy human bodies is considerably stronger than the virus.*

But this fact doesn’t play into their desire to keep the public scared and anxious and thus willing to give into the extreme shutdowns and endure severe rules that take away basic freedoms while waiting for that heroic vaccine to ride in and save the day.

THE NEW ABNORMAL: READY OR NOT



Torch Leadership Labs, a mental health consultancy with 40 psychologists and therapists, surveyed 2,000 Americans as to how they're dealing with the virus and how they see the world changing from it.

The results of the survey were published on the website of research group Study Finds in an article titled, "3 In 4 Americans Worry Life Will Never Go Back To 'Normal.'"

Seventy-five percent reported they are fearful their lives will never return to what they once considered "normal."

The major theme that emerged is the concern over changes in the very nature of work and employment. Almost 60 percent responded they would be afraid to work in a shared office space again.

Sixty-three percent predict their job will never be the same again and that they will most likely be working remotely for at least the near future. Even more, 67 percent think their employers do not take into account the challenge of working from home, particularly for those with young children.

Seventy percent of those surveyed said they are very stressed out at the thought of commuting again on public transportation.

The Future Office

Just under 50 percent agreed if offices are reopened, temperature checks need to be mandatory and virtual meetings should be more common.

Forty-one percent insist there should be no physical contact allowed.

Around 33 percent see companies downsizing; shifting to smaller offices; less business travel; and fewer office parties, events, and visitors.

TREND FORECAST: As we forecast at the outbreak of the COVID Pandemonium, commercial real estate prices in densely populated cities would dramatically decline as offices closed down, people became fearful of taking mass transit, and others left for ex-urban areas.

While there will be a movement toward the work-at-home trend, it will be limited. Human contact, the need for people to work together and strategize, cannot be replaced by Zooming or artificial intelligence.

Therefore, while extremely large centralized office locations will shrink, smaller office outposts in less populated areas will rise.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW

IT'S OFFICIAL: DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH



As evidenced in our reports in a series of Trends Journals, we forecast the world monetary system will devolve from dirty cash to digital trash.

With central banks flooding nations with trillions to artificially inflate failing economies, we forecast they would replace existing currencies with digital ones,

thus creating the illusion with a new currency replacing the old, they are wiping away the mountains of debt they have created.

After establishing footholds in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Switzerland, the Bank for International Settlements' "Innovation Hub" is opening locations in Canada, Denmark, England, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

The Innovation Hub also announced plans to create a "strategic partnership" with the U.S. Federal Reserve.

The hub's purpose is to foster and disseminate technology throughout the world's financial system, including a blockchain-based global payments ledger and facilitating the creation of digital currencies issued by nations' central banks.

Central banks in several countries are pursuing digital currencies, in part to create standard versions backed by their countries of origin instead of allowing currencies created by private entities, such as Bitcoin or Facebook's "Libra," to dominate national economies.

China is testing a digital yuan in four cities, trying out a range of 50 patented technologies that would prevent counterfeiting and give the People's Bank of China vast oversight of transactions and money's movements.

Sweden's central bank introduced its e-krona in 2017. The country has seen the use of cash dwindle to just 13 percent of transactions; about 20 percent of the country's merchants no longer accept cash.

Canada recently revealed it will be "embarking on a program of major social significance" by creating a digital currency that can be used by people who lack both a bank account and mobile phone.

Kristalina Georgieva, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, said recently that digital forms of payment are "a big winner" in the current economic crisis, in part because people believe cash can transmit COVID. She thinks the virus has possibly "accelerated the digital transformation by two or three years."

Cash transactions in the U.K. have declined 47 percent during COVID, according to Link, Britain's network of ATMs.

TRENDPOST: Just as easily as the masses obediently obeyed their masters and marched off to the COVID War, so, too, when nations introduce digital currencies, they will readily accept them.

Of course, in a digital world, governments will know who spent what where, thus enabling them to steal every penny they can from the workers of Slavelandia in the name of taxes.

Moreover, the trend toward digital trash is also a factor driving up gold and silver prices, as investors seek hard currency safe-haven assets.

The going-digital trend will also prove bullish for cryptocurrencies, particularly for younger generations who live in a digital world and are fearful of an economic future of worthless money.

GEOPOLITICAL TRENDS

U.S.: MORE WEAPONS TO POLICE, MORE MONEY FOR WAR



In Congress, the big winners last week were the police and the military.

The votes came as violence continues to escalate in cities across the U.S.... and throughout the continent.

Over the weekend, the protest in Portland, which has been ongoing since the 25 May killing of George Floyd by a policeman in Minneapolis, violently continued.

The Portland Police Bureau officially stated, "Failure to adhere to this order may subject you to arrest or citation, or riot control agents, including, but not limited to, tear gas and/or impact weapons."

Video had shown federal law enforcement officers not wearing any ID forcing protesters into unmarked vans and taking off to undisclosed locations. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against the tactics.

As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, beyond the ongoing protests and riots, there have been pronounced increases in crime and murder since the onset of the national shutdown in response to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Indeed, as Gerald Celente has been long saying, *“When people lose everything, and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”*

On the National Front

Against this background, last Tuesday, the Senate turned down an attempt to prohibit the Pentagon from shifting military-grade weaponry to local police. The 51-44 vote could not meet the 60 votes needed to pass. The program being challenged was created in the 1990s by the Clinton administration under the guise of fighting the “War on Drugs.”

To date, over \$7 billion worth of military supplies have been transferred to police including items ranging from armored vehicles to assault weapons.

For his part, President Trump continued backing his pledge to “dominate the streets” against protesters by using paramilitary units of the Department of Homeland Security; the FBI; the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA); the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and the U.S. Marshals Service. They also include:

- Last Wednesday, the president accused “extreme politicians” for causing the rise in violence in cities across the country. His comments follow reports that federal officials will be sending hundreds of additional law enforcement personnel to Chicago and other metropolitan areas as part of the president’s “law and order” campaign message.
- Also last Wednesday, the Trump administration sent in members of the Department of Homeland Security’s Rapid Deployment Force, wearing camouflaged clothing and using tear gas and flash grenades, against demonstrators in Portland.

The city's Democratic mayor, Ted Wheeler, was loudly booed when he tried to address the protesters, a reaction to his previous strong-arm tactics that earned him the nickname, "Tear Gas Ted."

- Last Friday, the president deployed additional federal police to Detroit, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Albuquerque. The White House has released "notes" that lay out the administration's additional plans for more federal police action in a number of cities.

Keep the Killing Going

Last Tuesday, in a rare show of the political parties working together, the House soundly defeated an amendment calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, thwarting President Trump's mission statement to remove all troops from Afghanistan before the November election.

And, despite the Federal budget deficit soaring and the economy in crash mode, last Wednesday, the House passed a bill that gives a record high \$740 billion to the Defense and Energy Departments' national security programs (2019's defense budget called for \$686 billion).

The Senate agreed to the \$740 billion price tag for the military even more enthusiastically than the House, voting in favor by 86-14, with 37 Democrats casting "yea."

TRENDPOST: *There is virtually no political or public outcry to end the murderous wars launched by the United States since the onset of the 9/11 "War on Terror."*

Moreover, in these times of economic despair, with the worst yet to come, rather than redirecting resources to rebuild and/or salvage the severe economic destruction that will cause deep hardship and social unrest, we at OccupyPeaceandFreedom.org are among the few who are fighting to reverse this negative trend.

Please do what you can to help support us if you believe in Liberty, Love, Joy, and Beauty over criminal, murderous wars.

IRAN: DANGER ON THE HOME FRONT



Last Thursday, an American F-15 military jet flew within 1,000 meters (1,100 yards) of an Iranian passenger plane over Syrian air space.

The close encounter, verified by video of screaming passengers, forced the pilot of the commercial airline to take emergency measures to avoid contact.

Iran officially protested the incident to the United Nations, calling it a clear violation of international law. Mohammad Eslami, Iran's Acting Minister of Roads and Urban Development, stated, "How could a passenger plane flying along a commercial route according to aviation protocols be attacked and threatened by some country's fighter jets?"

The plane eventually landed in Beirut where five passengers were treated for injuries.

Ensure the Safety?

The American response came from Captain Bill Urban, speaking for U.S. Central Command. Captain Urban said, "An F-15 on a routine air mission... conducted a standard visual inspection of a Mahan Air passenger airliner at a safe distance of approximately 1,000 meters. The visual inspection occurred to ensure the safety of coalition personnel at Tanf garrison."

Captain Urban did not explain how the commercial airline was threatening the safety of U.S. troops stationed on the ground.

Note: Tanf garrison is a U.S. military base in Syria located near the border of both Iraq and Jordan. The outpost saw a large increase in U.S. forces in 2016, as

America led an intervention into the Syrian civil war in this area, which includes the strategically important Baghdad-Damascus highway.)

TRENDPOST: *Tensions in the Middle East are heating up. Over the past few weeks, huge fires and explosions burned several Iranian ships, a petroleum plant, an aluminum factory, and nuclear facilities for which Iran blames the U.S. and Israel.*

As the global economy sinks deeper into debt and destruction, military escalations will intensify.

Civil wars will erupt as desperate citizens take to the streets in protests of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, violence, and rising crime.

As we have forecast, civil wars will cross borders and spread into regional wars in the Middle East, Africa, and South America... and America.

LIBYA: CONTROL OF SIRTE COULD SPARK WW III



Last week, we reported in the **Trends Journal** that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi met with the leader of Libyan rebel forces and former CIA agent Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar over concerns that the U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) was making advances on the strategically significant port city of Sirte. The port is currently under control of Haftar's rebel forces.

Last Wednesday, Egypt's parliament officially backed sending troops to fight "criminal militias" and "foreign terrorist groups," setting the stage for direct conflict with Turkey, which backs the GNA.

It should be noted that President Al-Sisi, when he was a General, overthrew Egypt's democratically elected Muslim Brotherhood movement of President Mohamed Morsi (who died in prison), which Turkey supported.

Taking aim at Turkey's military intervention in Libya, Al-Sisi said he "would not stand idly by in the face of moves that pose a direct threat to security."

While it is reported that Cairo has been militarily supporting Hafta since the overthrow of Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, last week's official authorization by the Egyptian parliament to send ground forces into Libya brings the nation closer to war with Turkey. Turkey has an agreement with the Tripoli government to access the country's richest oil reserves.

TREND FORECAST: *Both nation's economies, already in dire straits – and much more so Egypt, with a poverty rate of 27 percent – will severely deteriorate as the "Greatest Depression" worsens.*

Should direct war break out between the Egypt and Turkey, it will destabilize much of the Middle East, spiking oil prices sharply. Should Brent crude double in price from its current \$43 per barrel mark, it will swiftly push much of the world deeper into depression.

Moreover, war between the two nations may prove to be the trigger point that ignites World War III as ally and axis nations take sides.

HI-TECH SCIENCE TRENDS *by Bennett Daviss*

1,000 TONS OF PLASTIC DUSTS FALLS ON NATIONAL PARKS EACH YEAR



Janice Brahney, a chemist at Utah State University, set out to study how dust carried on the winds brings nutrients to ecosystems. She collected samples from weather stations in remote spots around the U.S.

When she looked through her microscope at samples gathered from wilderness areas and national parks, she saw plastic.

She used weather data to see where the particles were coming from. Following the path of storms 48 hours before they crossed over her test sites, she found that storms that passed over large cities carried more particles than others. Through mathematical analysis of samples, she determined that storms passing from the east through Denver dropped 14 times more microplastic into Rocky Mountain National Park than storms that come from other directions.

However, most of the particles are not deposited by storms, she found, but as fine dust that settles out of dry air. Much of the plastic dust is circulated by high-altitude winds and may be picked up anywhere in the world, floating around the globe for long periods before coming to ground.

Ultimately, Brahley and her research team calculated that an average of 132 pieces of microplastic drop onto every square meter of wilderness every day. As a result, national parks and protected areas of the western U.S. are covered each year with about 1,000 tons of microplastic debris, the equivalent of 300 million plastic bottles.

TRENDPOST: *Because plastic dust is invisible to the eye, most people feel little distress about creating a plastic topsoil over the Earth that eventually enters the ground and is taken up in the crops we eat and the plants that feed animals and, eventually, us.*

Until strong legislation curbs plastic's use or disposal, humankind will continue to coat Mother Nature in plastic and be surprised by the inevitable unhappy consequences that result.

TEACHING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO SPOT DEEPFAKES



The software for creating deepfakes – AI-generated videos of people seeming to say things they never actually did – is freely available online and relatively easy to learn to use. With an election not many weeks away, we could begin to see videos of Donald Trump admitting taking bribes from Vladimir Putin or Joe Biden confessing that he despises people of color, both of which never happened but would seem to the eye and ear to be absolutely genuine.

On a more personal level, the jealous coworker you bested for a promotion could create a false video of you confessing to embezzlement.

About 15,000 deepfakes had been sneaked onto the Internet from March to October in 2019, according to cybersecurity firm DeepTrace Labs. By now, the number is probably vastly higher.

Facebook sought to fight this new scourge by issuing its Deepfake Detection Challenge last October. The company hired more than 3,400 actors to make 100,000 short videos of them speaking, some of which were turned into deepfakes by substituting other faces into the speakers' videos.

The challenge offered \$1 million in prizes for the algorithm that could sort deepfakes from the real clips most accurately.

The company has chosen, but not announced, the winners, with the top prize going to an algorithm that flagged deepfakes accurately 65 percent of the time.

To up that percentage, Facebook is releasing the 100,000 videos and the winning software as open-source. It hopes that hackers and tinkerers will take up

the challenge and find new and better ways of spotting deepfakes, perhaps using context or a video's origins as well as its content, to render a judgment.

TRENDPOST: *Deepfakes are yet another reason to not trust without question what you see or hear on social media. Hackers, fakers, paid liars, and passionate ideologues have claimed that space. Before believing or forwarding whatever appears on your social media feeds and pages, verify it first with a nonpartisan source such as FactCheck.org. The Reporters' Lab at Duke University maintains a worldwide list of fact-checking organizations at <https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking>.*

BLOOD TRANSFERS MENTAL BENEFITS OF EXERCISE



It's well-known that exercise sharpens the mind. Now researchers at the University of California San Francisco have found that blood from mice that exercise regularly can perk up the mental faculties of mice that don't.

The study was simple: researchers put exercise wheels in cages with mice. The mice ran for miles overnight. After a few weeks, the scientists took blood from those mice and injected it eight times over 21 days into mice who lacked wheels and got little exercise.

The idle mice receiving the blood did almost as well on mental tasks, such as learning the way through a maze, as did the mice that exercised.

A control group of mice that received blood from other idle mice showed no benefits.

The mice who got the blood also grew twice as many new neurons in the region of their brains involved in memory and learning, about the same gain as the mice who logged hours on their wheels.

The research team analyzed blood from the active mice to see what changed in them. They found sharp increases in a protein made in the mice's liver known as Gpld1. When they injected Gpld1 into the tail veins of inactive mice, their livers produced the protein and conveyed almost the same mental benefits as the mice who received blood from the marathon mice.

The scientists found higher Gpld1 levels in the blood of elderly people who worked out regularly than in those who didn't, indicating that the mouse results could translate to people.

TRENDPOST: *The research results open a path that could convey the mental benefits of exercise to people with injuries or disabilities that prevent them from exercising – or to people too lazy to get off the couch.*