

TRENDSJOURNAL

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REALITY
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2020

MASKS VS. NO MASKS



29 September 2020

URGENT TREND FORECAST *by Gerald Celente*

DON'T CALL THEM "CRIMINALS" – THEY'RE "WHITE SHOE BOYS"!



Hail! Hail! The gang's all here.

Only imbeciles, morons, and cowards won't call it like it is.

The Wall Street Gang and the Bankster Bandits.

Criminal mobs right in front of our eyes.

Money Junkies. Addicts. They NEVER get enough.

How many times do they have to get caught stealing and never go to jail?

Step right up! Step right up to the Greatest Freak Show on Earth!

Look at them!

Here is the latest from *CNBC*:

“JPMorgan Chase is set to pay \$920 million to resolve probes from three U.S. government agencies over its role in the alleged manipulation of metal and Treasuries markets.”

The figure was released Tuesday by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in a statement from Commissioner Dan Berkovitz. Last week, news reports indicated the New York-based bank was nearing a settlement of almost \$1 billion.

For eight years, a group of traders at JPMorgan systematically ‘spoofed’ precious metals and Treasury futures markets by entering hundreds of thousands of orders with the intent to cancel them before execution,” Berkovitz said. “The Commission’s Order finds that JPMorgan manipulated these markets and failed to diligently supervise its traders.”

The language is a farce.

Government B.S. spewed out for the Presstitutes to sell.

“Resolve probes,” “alleged manipulation,” “systematically ‘spoofed’ precious metals market.”

How about: “Greedy, lowlife criminals were again caught stealing... destroying the lives and life savings of honest people who invested in precious metals.”

But don’t call them criminals.

They’re “White Shoe Boys”... and they come in all races, creeds, and colors.

One of them was President Obama’s Attorney General, Eric Holder, who, when The Banksters fleeced the American public out of trillions of dollars, he declared the “Too Big to Fail” were Too Big for Jail.

We note the government’s slap on the Banksters’ wrist with minor fines compared to the money they made and lives they ruined... and continue to ruin.

As evidenced by the numbers, the economic devastation caused by sheltering-in-place entire nations to fight the COVID War should have equity markets deep in bear territory.

But no. Just a few hours after *CNBC* ran the article that JPMorgan rigged the precious metals market, the Presstitutes followed up with this cheery headline and accompanying article from their corporate pimp:

“JPMorgan predicts a 10% rally for the S&P 500 and names the U.S. sectors to watch

Industrial and construction material stocks will be among the sectors that will benefit as U.S. markets hit fresh highs over the next year, JPMorgan Private Bank’s Grace Peters told *CNBC* Tuesday.

Peters, head of equities strategy at the wealth management arm of the U.S. bank, told *CNBC*’s ‘Squawk Box Europe’ that investors should be adding cyclical exposure to their investment portfolios in the next 12 months, to benefit from the economic recovery following the coronavirus crisis.”

Again, and again, and again... the evidence proves the game is rigged.

As George Carlin brilliantly noted back in the day, “It’s one big club, and you ain’t in it.”

Indeed, a slap on the wrist for high crimes from the JPMorgan White Shoe Boys and prosecuting to the “fullest extent of the law” for We The People.

TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKETS FRONT



The Dow ended the week 1.7 percent below where it began. The S&P rose 1.6 percent on Friday but still was down 0.6 percent for the week, failing to fully recover from stock prices' plunge in earlier trading sessions.

The NASDAQ was the week's winner, up 2.3 percent to break a three-week downtrend.

The word on the Street is that investors are concerned about the wavering U.S. and European recovery, new COVID outbreaks in Europe, the virus's possible widespread return in the U.S., and re-imposed shutdowns in various locations, analysts said.

Today, the Dow and S&P 500 fell 0.05 percent and the Nasdaq was down 0.03 percent because, according to the business media, "concern over the coronavirus outbreak in New York City."

Gold also fell last week. The business media said the price was falling because the dollar got stronger and inflation was expected to go lower.

Or... did gold prices fall because the Money Mobsters pushed down the price, so gamblers would keep placing their bets in the stock market casino?

Indeed, with the tourism industry attached to a COVID ventilator in hopes of staying alive, stocks for cruise lines – which were hammered by the shutdown – quieted last week on the news that companies began to unveil "safety measures" that will convince customers to come on board and take a trip.

On Friday, Norwegian Cruise Lines Holdings' stock price jumped 14 percent and Carnival's 9.7 percent.

Yesterday and today, gold and silver prices bounced back sharply and the dollar dropped on the news that a fiscal stimulus will be injected into the American economy. Today, gold rose to its highest in a week and silver spiked over 3 percent as the dollar weakened and hopes rose for more cheap money being pumped into the system with fiscal stimulus.

We maintain our forecast for sharply rising gold and silver prices for the foreseeable future.

Oil Blues

Falling more than 3 percent today, Brent crude oil maintained its downward \$40 range it has been drifting in for month. The reason the Presstitutes gave for it falling today was, according to CNBC, “on worries about the outlook for fuel demand as Europe and the United States grappled with a surge in new coronavirus infections.”

TREND FORECAST: Again, as detailed in this ***Trends Journal*** and many others, “cases” do not equal deaths. Moreover, considering most western nations have only partially opened up their economies after being locked up for several months, the economies have not – and, for a long time, will not – recover from those harshly imposed measures.

New draconian lockdown rules will drive nations deeper into the “Greatest Depression” while putting more downward pressure on commodities that fall as economies grow weak.

Not So Good News

Orders for durable goods rose 0.4 percent in August, the commerce department reported, weaker than gains in earlier months and less than analysts had expected.

The market “is in a bit of a holding pattern,” said David Coombs, an asset manager at Rathbone Brothers who was quoted by Dow Jones. “I don’t think there are any key factors that have changed.”

Investors will remain cautious until after the election and until Congress decides on a final version of a new stimulus package, i.e., money pumping scheme that will increase the budget deficit, push the dollar and gold and silver prices lower ... if they are not manipulated downward by the money mobster criminal gangs.

The package will come – the Fed, as well as businesses and state governments which are demanding it – but the final size is uncertain. Congressional Democrats have proposed a bundle between \$2.2 and \$2.4 trillion, Republicans have drawn a line at \$1 trillion, and President Trump says he would support a plan to spend around \$1.5 trillion.

From the crowd that was pumping the lines of a “V” shape recovery, Mr. Coombs declared, “Until we get a vaccine for the population at large, the markets will remain unpredictable.”

Financial stocks on Europe's Stoxx 600 index dropped 0.1 percent on Friday and will end the month at its worst since March. The European index has lost about 3 percent in September.

Exchanges in Italy and Germany also lost 1 percent last Friday.

Investors were spooked as the Bank of England (BOE) revealed it is mulling a negative interest rate and how it could be "implemented effectively."

TREND FORECAST: *We forecast the BOE will institute negative rates as the nation enters a new coronavirus lockdown phase and its economy sinks lower.*

More Cheap Money

Britain also has given up its current broad wage subsidy program and will adopt a more tailored, German-style plan to subsidize wages for workers who put in at least a third of their pre-pandemic hours. People who do not work will not be eligible.

Absent another money pumping scheme, some two million or more people are expected to be out of work altogether.

"I cannot save every job," said the U.K.'s treasury chief Rishi Sunak.

TRENDPOST: *Considering the dire economic fundamentals and the characters starring in the 2020 Presidential Reality Show®, we forecast a high probability of U.S. and global stock markets crashing deep into bear territory by year's end.*

TRENDPOST: *For a head-up on where the markets are going and to help you prepare for the future, be sure to read Gregory Mannarino's new article, "[MARKETS: DAY OF RECKONING](#)."*

HOME PRICES SOAR TO 14-YEAR RECORD



In August, U.S. home prices reached their highest median value ever, with sales equaling a pace not seen since December 2006.

August sales rose 2.4 percent from July, totaling six million units, a 10.4 -percent jump from August 2019. The typical home remained on the market for just 22 days, compared to 31 a year earlier. Cash offers and bidding wars with ten or more competitors in prime locales were not uncommon, realtors report.

Cash sales accounted for 18 percent of August's transactions, up from 16 percent in July. Second-home buyers and individual investors bought 14 percent of homes sold during the month.

The median price for all housing types for the month was \$310,600, gaining in every region of the country and up 11.4 percent from \$278,800 a year previous. August was the 102nd consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

Record low interest rates helped spur the market.

Also, there are not enough houses up for sale to meet demand; in August, there were 18.4 percent fewer houses on the market than a year earlier.

With many people uncertain of the economy's near-term future, millions of homeowners who might sell are waiting. Also, natural disasters along the Gulf Coast and western U.S. has destroyed thousands of homes; no ready replacements are waiting for displaced people to snap them up.

The word on the Street is the combination of high prices and fewer homes for sale is likely to persist into next year, in part because western wildfires have burned millions of acres of timber. An expected shortage of lumber will drive up prices, making homes even more expensive.

“Over recent months, we have seen lumber prices surge dramatically,” said Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist for the National Association of Realtors. “This has already led to an increase in the cost of multifamily housing and an even higher increase for single-family homes.”

“The combination of higher prices and low supply is shutting many lower-income Americans out of the market, and in some regions with the most expensive housing, even middle-income Americans can’t afford a home,” said Robert Frick, corporate economist at Navy Federal Credit Union.

TREND FORECAST: *The future of home prices will be determined by the level of the equity markets. Should the Banksters and Washington’s cheap money policies keep the markets flying high, so, too, will home prices. When the markets crash, the real estate market will crash alongside it.*

PUBLIC DEBT & PRIVATE WEALTH SOARED IN SECOND QUARTER



U.S. households added almost \$119 trillion in net worth in this year’s second quarter, a 6.8-percent gain over the first quarter.

About \$5.7 trillion of the added wealth came from stock market gains (of which 10 percent of the population owns 87 percent and 1 percent owns 52 percent); appreciation in real estate added \$500 million.

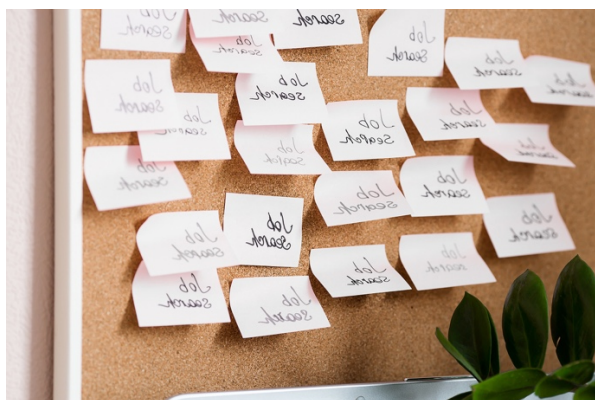
During the same time, non-mortgage consumer debt fell at 6.6 percent, the sharpest plunge since World War II.

Credit card balances stood at \$1.02 trillion before COVID struck and have since dropped to about \$953.8 billion. Auto loans increased slightly during the period.

Against this good news for consumers, government and corporate debt zoomed to \$59.3 trillion, with government debt alone rising to \$58.9 trillion as Congress passed the CARES Act and the U.S. Federal Reserve rolled out an array of loans and grants to rescue the economy.

State government debt rose 3.5 percent, the greatest amount since 2009, and debt owed by businesses outside the financial sector expanded by 14 percent, the most since at least 1980.

HIRING REMAINS STALLED



The number of new applications for unemployment benefits has held steady through September at just below 900,000 a week, indicating businesses remain unable to hire back workers or are reluctant to do so before the COVID virus is contained.

During the week ended 18 September, the number of new claims edged up to 870,000 from 866,000 the week previous.

While some businesses are hiring, others are no longer able to retain workers who they kept in hopes of a V-shaped economic recovery that has not materialized.

Many companies which have brought back workers are finding consumer demand still too soft to staff up to pre-pandemic levels.

The number of gig workers and self-employed people collecting benefits under a special federal support program for them was about 11 million at the beginning of this month, down three million from a week earlier, due largely to gains in California.

However, the number is widely seen as unreliable, due in part to allegations of fraud and abuse.

Consumer spending also slowed in August, with manufacturing and service businesses also reporting slowing demand.

TREND FORECAST: Absent a market crash, the next round of government stimulus into the public sector will again artificially pump up the retail sector from now through the Christmas season.

POWELL URGES MORE STIMULUS



The economic recovery would accelerate “if there is support coming from Congress and from the Fed,” said Jerome Powell, Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, in testimony before Congress on 23 September.

“The power of fiscal policy really is unequaled by anything else,” he contended.

Although about half of the 22 million workers who lost jobs or hours during the shutdown have returned to their jobs, “there’s still a long way to go” and “we need to stay with it, all of us,” Powell said.

The economy has recovered “very robustly,” Richard Clarida, Federal Reserve Vice Chair, said in an interview with *Bloomberg*, “but we’re still in a deep hole.”

TREND FORECAST: Yesterday, House Democrats released a \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill, and today it is reported House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will sit down and discuss it.

Republicans have refused to exceed \$1 trillion. President Trump has said he will support a package of about \$1.5 trillion.

Despite the number, again, it will only temporarily boost the economy. The larger the stimulus number, the higher gold and silver prices rise as the budget deficit widens and the dollar depreciates.

INVESTORS DUMP JUNK BONDS



Investors pulled \$4.86 billion out of junk bond funds during the week ending 23 September, the market's worst weekly sell-off since March.

BlackRock's iShares high-yield bond fund had \$2 billion taken out of it on Monday and Tuesday alone.

The average yield on U.S. junk bonds rose to 5.83 percent on 23 September to its highest in two months, a sign of investors' nervousness.

Concern over the lingering effects of the economic shutdown, fears of a resurgence of the COVID virus, and uncertainty about the U.S. election made investors skittish after President Trump refused to commit to a transfer of power if he loses the election.

The strength of the U.S. economic recovery depends on continuing federal stimulus, U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and Vice Chair Richard Clarida both said last week.

BID FAREWELL TO THE BUSINESS TRAVEL ECONOMY



After talking with corporate clients, Amar Lalvani has concluded that business travel will not return to pre-pandemic levels “for multiple years.”

Lalvani, CEO of Standard International, which owns two Standard hotels in New York City, says the Standard High Line inn’s weekday business trade – the core of its business – has fallen to a typical occupancy rate of 10 to 20 percent.

American Airlines’ business travel bookings are down at least 95 percent, CEO Robert Issom told investors earlier this month. In the past, business travelers accounted for about one of every ten passengers but contributed as much as 75 percent of an airlines’ profit because they traveled so often.

More than 90 percent of companies have restricted international travel and 70 percent have suspended domestic travel, according to a September survey by the Global Business Travel Association.

Corporations’ 2021 budgets “are probably going to be 50 percent of what they were,” Lalvani notes, leaving little money for unessential travel.

Business travel may face a permanent 25-percent reduction in volume, according to Citigroup analysts, many of whom report becoming more pessimistic in recent weeks about the travel industry’s recovery.

Business travel could “languish for a decade,” Gary Kelly, Southwest Airlines’ CEO said earlier this month; Ed Bastain, CEO of Delta Airlines, said in July he no longer expects business passenger volume ever to return to 2019 levels.

“When I talk with other CFOs, they say, ‘I don’t know that my travel budget will ever snap back to where it was,’” said Jeffrey Campbell, CFO at American

Express, which reports transactions at about 85 percent below pre-pandemic volumes.

Some hotels are adapting by marketing their rooms as refuges for home-workers who need a quiet space away from kids and televisions to hold a video conference or bear down on a project.

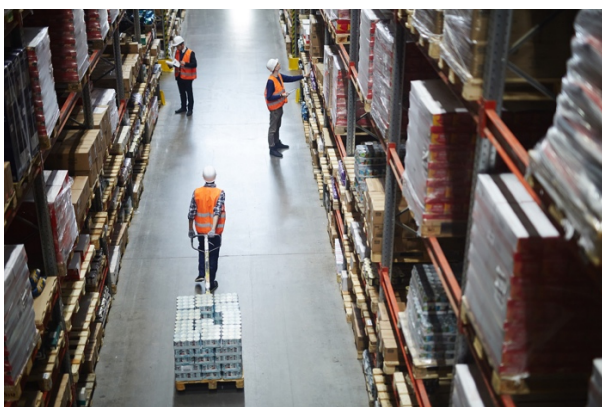
Others are offering “commuter rates” for office workers who need to stay in the city center past the last train or to be fresh and ready for an early morning meeting.

Those discounted rates, however, are unlikely to give hotels the profit margin they require in an industry where 50-percent occupancy is typically needed to break even.

TREND FORECAST: *The hospitality and tourism sectors will continue to decline with more bankruptcies and greater consolidations. Beyond travel, as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and more companies go out of business, fewer companies will control larger shares of market sectors.*

As with the “Great Depression,” there will calls for anti-trust legislation. Indeed, it may be a platform of the anti-tax/anti-vax movement.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SUBDIVIDES



As more people work from home, shop online, and avoid unessential travel, hotels, shopping malls, and office buildings are rapidly losing their value and their owners are scrambling to survive financially.

Brookfield Property Partners, one of the U.S.'s largest mall owners, is laying off 20 percent of its 2,000 employees in its retail property division.

“Our business has been frustrated, interrupted, and constrained” by the pandemic and economic shutdown,” so “after thoughtful consideration, we have reached the heavy decision to reduce the size of our workforce,” the company said in an e-mail to its workers.

But owners of warehouses catering to e-sellers, self-storage centers, and restaurants and drug stores that have adapted or transformed their business models are holding on, said Michael DeGiorgio, CEO of CREXi, an online commercial real estate agency.

“Hospitality and retail have been decimated” but “the office side is still up in the air,” said Ivan Kaufman, CEO of Arbor Realty Trust, which invests in bundles of mortgages on commercial real estate and multifamily apartments. “The complete elimination of offices is not happening. Many companies realize they still need them. It’s not all doom and gloom. It’s an adjustment.”

Jerome Powell, Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, acknowledged commercial real estate’s struggle in a 16 September press conference. He noted that, due to restrictions in their current loan contracts, some property owners are unable to refinance to take advantage of lower interest rates.

Congress has pressed the Fed and U.S. Treasury Department to loosen more aid to commercial real estate owners to give them liquidity until the economy stabilizes.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast for sharply declining commercial real estate, particularly in densely populated large cities where people are fleeing to ex-urban areas, those who work there are afraid to commute and congregate... and tourism has greatly diminished.*

HALF OF SMALL U.S. TRAVEL-RELATED BUSINESSES ON THE BRINK



About 55 percent of all small U.S. travel-related businesses will either need more than six months to recover from the economic shutdown or will never be able to recover at all, the U.S. Travel Association has warned.

Lodging and food service businesses employed one in ten Americans before the pandemic, with 95 percent of those workers employed by small businesses.

In contrast, small and medium-size businesses employ only 28 percent of U.S. manufacturing workers.

More than half of all U.S. travel-related jobs vanished from February through April. The travel industry's shutdown is projected to cost the U.S. economy \$1.2 trillion this year.

Before the pandemic, travel was a "top 10" employer in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

TREND FORECAST: Travel-related businesses will only rebound when politicians and the media declare "Mission Accomplished" – the COVID War is over.

Which direction it will go will become evident as autumn and winter set in and how the "second wave" is sold to the public.

It should be noted that restaurants in major cities, many of which are dependent on the travel, tourism, arts, and entertainment sectors are, and will be, hard hit. In New York City, for example, 87 percent of restaurants could not afford to fully pay their rent and 34 percent could not pay their rent at all according to the NYC Hospitality Alliance.

LANDLORDS SUE TO END EVICTION BANS



Landlords around the U.S. have filed at least 26 lawsuits challenging the federal ban on evictions, claiming the moratorium violates their property rights and places them under undue hardship.

Seven landlords managing more than 5,000 apartments in Memphis, TN, are suing the federal government for denying them due process and pre-empting state laws.

The National Apartment Association has joined a similar suit in Georgia and another case is pending in Ohio.

The federal eviction ban was mandated by an executive order from President Trump and enacted by the CDC on 4 September under the CDC's broad authority over public health.

Housing advocates worry that removing the ban would cause hundreds of thousands of people to become homeless in autumn and winter amid the COVID crisis.

TRENDPOST: Yesterday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo tweeted:

"The State moratorium on COVID-related residential evictions will be extended until January 1, 2021.

We must do all we can to provide stability to New Yorkers who are struggling financially so they will not be forced from their homes as a result of COVID."

Absent from his declaration of forgiveness of rent was a moratorium on landlords' state, city, and school taxes and their mortgages.

CDC BLACKLISTS BLACK FRIDAY



The CDC has warned consumers to avoid the usual crush of holiday shopping that begins on “Black Friday,” the traditional day on which shoppers push past each other and crowd together in store aisles to grab the season’s gifts of choice.

Among the CDC’s holiday guidelines for sharing the upcoming holidays with the COVID virus:

- Avoid parades, Turkey Trot races, and the usual indoor holiday parties in homes or offices that bring together people from different households;
- Opt for small gatherings, preferably outdoors, with family members or people you know well;
- Instead of a large dinner event, share mealtimes online through Zoom or similar platforms;
- Visit a pumpkin patch or apple orchard to imbibe the spirit of the season and not the virus.

Retailers are helping shoppers to comply by starting their holiday shopping seasons as early as 13 October, when Amazon and Target are offering special “deal days.” Walmart and Best Buy also announced they will unveil holiday deals next month.

TRENDPOST: *The more the government and media sell COVID War fear, the harder the economy will be hit and the deeper in debt the nation, states, cities, businesses, and individuals will fall.*

Today, BDO's biannual bankruptcy update stated, "In short, 2020 is on track to set the record for the highest number of retail bankruptcies and store closings in a single year," they wrote. "Based on the trends set through mid-August, our expectation is that more retailers will struggle to navigate the effects of the pandemic – particularly those that are highly levered and mall-based."

GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS



CANADIAN BUSINESSES FACE “L-SHAPED RECOVERY.” Canada’s small businesses will not see sales return to pre-pandemic levels until February 2022, and the hotel industry will not return to normal until 2029, if the nation’s economic recovery continues at its current “glacial” pace, warned the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) on 22 September.

A new survey showed only 30 percent of small businesses achieving September sales that rivaled last year’s.

The CFIB’s latest recovery update showed that:

- 70 per cent of small businesses are now fully open;
- 42 per cent are fully staffed;
- only 30 percent are making normal sales.

At current economic growth rates, the transport industry and medical services will return to normal by mid-2021; business services such as law and accounting will need until June 2023; and hotels and restaurants until the beginning of 2029 to see 2019 sales again.

To speed recovery, CFIB is promoting a “Small Business Every Day” movement, nurturing 61 shop-local movements around the country, such as Points for

Canada, which gives plastic-card users double reward points at locally-owned restaurants and retailers.

The Canada United program offers relief grants of up to \$5,000 to small business owners; Snapd's Business Recovery Grant Program gives grants of up to \$25,000 to help small businesses market themselves.

Without speedy, significant government aid, Canada's small businesses face an "L-shaped recovery," CFIB said.

BRITAIN'S RETAIL SALES PERK UP. Retail sales in the U.K. rose 0.8 percent in August from July, edging past analysts' expectations to log a 2.8-percent gain year-on-year.

Recovering from a stricter lockdown than that of many other countries, Britain's economic outlook has been viewed pessimistically by economists.

BRITAIN QUILTS EFFORT TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO THE OFFICE. After imposing new social strictures in response to a new surge in COVID cases, Britain has suspended its campaign to bring office workers back to urban centers and save the businesses that depend on them.

JPMorgan Chase had set a 21 September deadline for half of its 12,000 U.K. workers to return to their offices after CEO Jamie Dimon said "the work-from-home lifestyle seems to have impacted... overall productivity and 'creative combustion.'"

For now, JPMorgan's workers will remain at home.

Intermingling in the office is "important for teams, good for communities, and good for the economy," noted Kevin Ellis, U.K. chairman of the accounting giant PwC.

Now thousands of PwC employees who had already resettled in their offices were told to go back home unless an office visit is essential.

Goldman Sachs, Lloyd's, and Barclays also scrapped instructions for employees to come back downtown.

HSBC halted plans to begin to bring its 40,000 U.K. workers back to offices in seven major British cities.

Advent, a private equity firm, was paying employees' taxi fare to bring them to work safely and offered free food from its canteen. Now workers are only allowed in the office if they have tested negative for the COVID virus, have management's permission, and walk, cycle, or drive their personal cars to get there.

CHINA'S CURRENCY GAINS MORE ON THE DOLLAR. The renminbi, China's internal currency, gained another 0.1 percent against the dollar on 25 September, rising to 0.7551, its best weekly showing against the greenback since November 2019.

The unfolding recovery of China's export economy, and the willingness of its businesses and citizens to take on debt, has brought a steady flow of dollars into the country.

"With China on course for a more pronounced recovery than elsewhere, its external position the strongest in a decade, and onshore yields unusually attractive by global standards, there is room for further gains," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics.

Metal Up, Building Booming

China, which consumes half of the world's output of industrial metals, has redoubled its massive infrastructure project since March to build roads, railroads, utilities, bridges, and broadband infrastructure across its three million square miles.

As a result, global prices of metals have soared in the last five months: iron ore is up 40 percent, copper 35 percent, and nickel and zinc 25 percent.

In August, the government-owned rail system announced plans to double the size of its high-speed rail network over the next 15 years.

Overall, China's state-owned enterprises have raised their investment 14 percent this year over last, compared to just 3 percent among private businesses.

In Guangdong province alone, officials are targeting the equivalent of \$100 billion to build medical facilities, transportation infrastructure, and an extensive 5G network.

The country's industrial production grew 5.6 percent in August, year-on-year, leading analysts to declare a V-shaped recovery for the sector.

The national spending spree has doubled Chinese debt-to-GDP ratio from 10 percent in December to 20 percent now.

Retail Pull Back

China's retail sales grew just 0.5 percent in August. Excluding vehicle sales, which rose 11.8 percent for the month, the nation's retail economy showed a contraction of 0.6 percent.

The month's best-sellers were food staples and household goods, adding evidence consumers are spending cautiously now that they have satisfied a post-lockdown surge in demand.

Online sales of consumer goods and services also slowed, gaining 13.3 percent in August, compared to July's 18.8 percent growth and 19 percent in June, according to CNBC. After a June promotion, online shopping platforms JD and Taobao reported declines in their numbers of users.

Fenqile, another online shopping site, reported sales of discounted items and wellness products are rising much faster than those of nonessential and celebrity-endorsed products.

"With unemployment stress and growth headwinds persisting into the fourth quarter, any recovery in overall consumption will be mild," said analyst Imogen Page-Jarrett at The Economist Intelligence Unit.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, the 20th century belonged to the U.S.; the 21st will be China's, in part because the business of the U.S. is war and the business of China is business.*

It is interesting to note that for years, President Trump blamed rising Chinese imports because their currency, the yuan, was being artificially devalued. Thus, the cheaper their currency the less it cost to buy their products with strong currencies.

However, China's exports are still rising as their currency grows stronger and its economy is forecast to be the only one of major nations whose GDP will grow this year.

In part, we attribute the nation's economic strength as a result of the government stimulus to build its infrastructure, money being pumped into small business sectors, thus creating jobs, and its move toward a self-sustaining economy.

JAPAN: BYE, BYE BUSINESSES. More than 500 small and medium-size Japanese businesses have permanently closed as a result of the economic shutdown, according to data from credit research firms.

The city of Tokyo has recorded 120 business bankruptcies since the shutdown began, largely due to the city's astronomical rents.

An economic rescue plan launched by Shinzo Abe, the previous prime minister, has had mixed success, although saving businesses was the plan's chief mission. The parliament agreed to a second round of stimulus in June, but the money did not start flowing until early August.

The hardest-hit category of shuttered enterprises is restaurants, with at least 70 shut down, followed by at least 54 clothing stores.

"I've lost my motivation to continue the business," said the owner of a now-defunct French restaurant that had been serving meals for 45 years.

The new government of prime minister Yoshihide Suga is mulling a new stimulus measure.

TRENDPOST: *Japan's economy was heading into recession last year when the world's third largest economy's GDP fell 6.3 percent in the last quarter of 2019.*

Following the global lockdowns, Japan's GDP suffered its worst postwar contraction, falling 28.1 percent in the April-June second quarter.

And, it should be noted, Japan did not lockdown its economy as hard as did most nations.

BUSINESSES FLEE ARGENTINA. Chilean retail chain Falabella has joined German chemical company BASF, pharmaceutical maker Pierre Fabre, glass company St.-Gobain, and Axalta, the U.S. auto parts maker, among others, in slashing investments in Argentina or leaving the country altogether.

LatAm, the region's largest airline, halted service in Argentina in July.

The corporations have protested increasingly tight government controls over capital in its attempt to hold onto shrinking foreign exchange reserves.

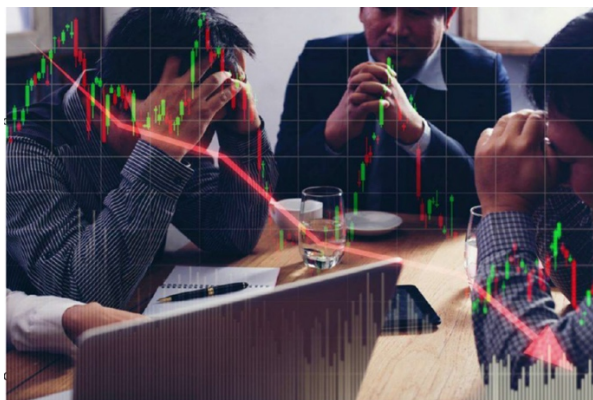
“Companies are grappling with an increasingly interventionist policy” that “may worsen as economic conditions worsen,” said Kezia McKeague, an advisor at McClarty Associates.

Argentina remains under one of the world’s strictest lockdowns.

TREND FORECAST: Before imposing one of the world’s strictest lockdowns, Argentina was already facing a third year of recession in 2020. Now, according to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and development, its GDP is expected to contract 10 percent this year.

As the economy worsens, as they are throughout Latin America, social unrest will escalate throughout the region. Not only will more businesses leave, so too will floods of citizens seeking to escape poverty, rising crime and government corruption.

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



How bad is it in the current world of businesses, careers, jobs, and professions... and how low will it go?

Here is our latest overview of those suffering from the draconian economic lockdowns imposed upon society.

RETAILERS CONTINUE TO SHED JOBS. Up-market clothier Ralph Lauren will lop 15 percent of its global workforce of more than 20,000, after losing \$127.7 million in the quarter ending 27 June, compared to a profit of \$117.1 million during the same period in 2019.

Revenue for the period fell to \$487.5 million, against \$1.45 billion a year earlier.

Earlier this month, the Kohl's department store chain announced it will dispense with 15 percent of its corporate staff.

In June, Macy's said it was laying off 3,900 workers at its corporate level.

NEW YORK HOTELS: NO RELIEF. Several major New York City hotels, including the Hilton Times Square and Omni Berkshire Place, have closed permanently and more than 25,000 hotel workers remain unemployed six months after the economic shutdown was imposed.

Autumn – with the U.N. General Assembly followed by Thanksgiving and the December holiday season – is the industry's busiest in the city.

But this year, "that whole season is going to be a wipeout," said Douglas Hercher, managing director of the Robert Douglas investment banking firm that specializes in hotels.

Earlier, the City's inns were optimistic the shutdown would pass quickly. Then, in June, Governor Andrew Cuomo mandated that visitors from, ultimately, 34 states must quarantine for two weeks on arriving in the state. With international travel already halted, the effective ban on domestic visitors "put the dagger to the throat," said Vijay Dandapani, president of the 300-member Hotel Association of New York City.

Hotels have tentatively scheduled reopening dates, only to have to move them back month by month.

Reopening depends on lifting the quarantine and welcoming international travelers again, said Thomas Blundell, general manager of New York's Hyatt Centric.

"That would get us back to a place where we could really fight for survival," he said. "With those things in place, there's really not a fight to put up."

In a typical year, New York City's hotels generate more than \$3 billion in local taxes and \$450 million for the state.

MET CANCELS SEASON. The iconic New York Metropolitan Opera Company has canceled its 2020-21 season, meaning its hall will remain silent for at least another 12 months.

The Met had planned to reopen New Year's Eve.

The Met has been closed since mid-March, losing about \$150 million in revenue and leaving 1,000 workers without pay since April

This decision by the U.S.'s largest performing arts organization pressures arts and entertainment venues across the country that are struggling with the question of when, or whether, to reopen any time soon.

Opera companies are, in some ways, uniquely vulnerable to damage from the economic shutdown: their audiences tend to be older, a demographic particularly susceptible to the COVID virus; and productions are so expensive to mount that playing to reduced audiences guarantees a financial loss.

AUSTRALIA'S LIVE MUSIC INDUSTRY MAY NOT SURVIVE. Seventy percent of Australia's live music venues will be out of business within six months, and 40 percent of those will be forced to shutter by Christmas, without immediate government aid, according to two new national surveys.

Among 50 top venues in Sydney, 42 expect to close permanently by the end of the year.

A survey of the industry in the state of New South Wales found 47 leading concert halls there have collectively lost \$70 million in revenue due to the shutdown.

Among performance theaters that are open, most see an average of 15 percent of the seats filled for any event.

The national government's JobKeeper program, which pays employers \$1,500 every two weeks for every qualified worker kept on the payroll, expires 27 September.

New South Wales' live music industry has launched Save Our Stages, a campaign to pressure the state's government to offer an aid program to theaters, as have governments in Queensland and Victoria already.

"Live music in New South Wales is on the verge of collapse," a statement from Save Our Venues said. "We call on" the state's government "to work with industry representatives to devise a stimulus package that will ensure the ongoing survival of our venues."

The industry also is in crisis talks with the national government.

SIZZLER FILES CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY. One of the original U.S. steakhouse chains, Sizzler, filed bankruptcy for the 14 restaurants the company owns, not the more than 90 owned by franchisees.

The chain complained its landlords would not negotiate delayed or lower rents, forcing the bankruptcy. The chain also has been eclipsed by newer entries in the market, such as Applebee's and TGI Friday's.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*

MARKETS: DAY OF RECKONING



In my previous article, [“THE MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT & THE FED: A CRIME IN PROGRESS,”](#) I detailed how the middle class is being financially destroyed via the mechanism of suppressed rates and literally robbed, in broad daylight, of trillions of dollars in realized wealth.

This scheme has caused the stock market to massively balloon along with real estate, both existing today in epic, distorted bubbles.

The fraud is simple. Politicians proudly exclaim, “Look at the stock market – it’s at near all-time record highs!” and “Look at housing prices that continue to move higher!”

Many people equate the stock market with the economy. Yet, nothing could be farther from the truth.

THE STOCK MARKET IS NOT THE ECONOMY!

The **middle class** is the real economy, and that real economy is in a terrible meltdown, an extermination, which is completely detached from the stock and real estate markets. Moreover, the middle class is being set up to lose again, even bigger.

In previous articles for the **Trends Journal**, I have covered the topic of “paper wealth,” which is unrealized gains via stock market portfolios and real estate.

Investors with holdings in stocks and real estate are very happy watching their “investments” gain value. But, I will tell you this: only a fraction of these investors has the understanding, or even the ability, to liquidate their stock portfolios and/or real estate holdings quickly enough to make those “unrealized” (paper gains) real. Sadly, most will lose the vast majority of their paper gains when the bubbles burst.

Cold, Hard Truth

The fact is most people today with unrealized gains in the markets and real estate will suffer devastating losses, by design, when all this becomes real... and it will get very real at one point.

The current stock market and real estate valuations are not sustainable. But that doesn't mean the current price action of these “assets” are not going to inflate further.

Quite the contrary, I believe the value of the market will inflate along with the Federal Reserve's balance sheet(s) and a falling dollar.

Regarding the dollar, which has gained strength as of late, I forecast it will continue a downward spiral in regard to its purchasing power, again, by design. A weak dollar is very stock market positive, in that it takes more weaker dollars to buy anything, even shares of stock. This mechanism is manifested in higher market prices; the same goes for real estate.

The bottom line is pretty straightforward: as I look at where the markets are headed, I estimate some 90 percent of people holding paper/unrealized wealth in both the stock market and real estate will never see those gains realized. Instead, as I wrote about in last week's article, at some point soon, they will watch those paper gains evaporate when the markets attain fair value.

What is fair value for the stock market and real estate?

Much lower than the current valuations. The distortions existing today across the entire spectrum of asset classes are enormous. Since the financial crisis of 2008, the mechanism of artificially suppressed rates has created a false reality regarding the value of the stock market and real estate especially, and the devastation which will be left in the bursting of this mega-bubble's wake will be beyond anything ever seen before.

It will be... the Day of Reckoning. Are you prepared?

In my articles for the **Trends Journal** and in my blog, *TradersChoice.net*, I will do all I can to give you fair warning.

by Gregory Mannarino

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM *by Bradley J. Steiner*

ACQUIRING SELF-CONFIDENCE



Man does battle and engages in war – on the national or individual level – primarily with his *mind*. It is from the confidence and assurance that one's equipment and weaponry is the best and with the inner certainty one knows how to employ it and one *will* employ it effectively when needed, from which the warrior's self-confidence comes.

Right now, YOU are the warrior about whom I am speaking. I assure you that **self-confidence** is one of the greatest rewards and gifts training in preparedness and readiness-to-do-battle if necessary provides. But for you to enjoy true, solid, reliable it-will-be-there-when-I-need-it-most self-confidence, you must:

1. Train in skills and with tools that have been *war* and *street* proven.
2. Establish the mental certainty that *you indeed will use* those skills should you ever be called upon to do so.

Remember, self-defense is no sport. Thus, training in and perfecting competition and sporting type techniques, tactics, mindset, and strategies can – at best – provide only a *partially adaptable* capacity and repertoire for actual combat.

Also, remember, in this regard, that hard-fought competition is a young man's game. Its doctrine has a shelf life. When it comes to self-defense, there is no telling when, where, at what age, and in what physical/health condition you will be in when you need it. Competitors retire from competition. No one can retire from the status of being a possible target for criminal attack.

Classical martial arts and real world, practical, *modern* self-defense are worlds apart. Yes, classical martial arts experts often are well able to defend themselves. But these are generally upper-level practitioners with *decades* of serious training, who are not yet in their late 60s or older.

Statistically, *very, very* few who train in a classical art ever reach such a reliable level of proficiency – or are able to retain whatever proficiency they have achieved unless they keep training hard and for many hours every week.

You must not look to television and movies for reliable instruction or for depictions of what is possible and practical. Don't confuse choreographed fantasy with practical reality.

The skills you need, and which I have been certain to build my program, *American Combato*, around, are war-proven and also street-proven. Nothing I teach and advocate is untested, unproven, "merely theoretical," demanding of youthful age or peak physical condition, or acrobatic flexibility and agility.

Real world self-defense techniques and tools (i.e. weapons), including tactics, strategies, and attitudinal changes *all* must be readily understandable, adaptable, reliable, usable, and effective for persons in normal (or sometimes poor) physical condition, of all ages, and of either gender. Naturally, it is desirable to be in good shape, strong, and agile; *but my point is quality skills and tools must not **depend** entirely upon these things for effective use.* I mention this for anyone looking for worthwhile instruction.

Simplicity is the hallmark of quality, proven combat methods. If you need to be an acrobat, contortionist, be on a mat or polished wooden floor, cleared area, etc., for the skills to work, or you require loose clothing and 45 minutes of warming up before you can perform, *forget it!*

When you train in simple, functional skills which, for real world self-defense, must be dangerous, damaging, and harmful (not merely “painful”), automatically, you come to see their great merit and applicational possibilities. You gain confidence in what you are learning and practicing – and that is halfway to your full and total acquisition of solid self-confidence.

Never criticize or think poorly of techniques that are easily mastered, are simple, and that inflict serious injury immediately. To fault such skills for their simplicity is like criticizing a knife because its blade is sharp!

After the acquisition of quality techniques and tools, next in line is **mindset**.

Knowing and feeling that no doubt exists about your commitment to *employ* that which you have acquired, and to do so with every ounce of determination, speed, force, will power, and relentless drive, when the balloon goes up.

*Only **you** know when and if that mindset has been established.* You must work on it. You must remember how desperately your loved ones depend upon you; you must remember that you have a *right* to be left alone and *not* to be set upon; you must reinforce – every day – your contempt and hatred for troublemakers, bullies, and related scum. Read the papers. Watch the news. Follow crime reports of incidents in your city. Let the hatred grow and simmer! Nevermind the soft souls and morons who live in a fantasy world. *They will never be able to cope with that which you are determined to cope with.* Get angry. Keep that rage in the back of your mind, and let it encourage you to act at once and with total commitment should the need arise.

If you follow this advice and adhere to the mandates I provide, you will be three laps ahead of those who refuse to face reality and who believe that soft words will suffice to reform subhuman swine.

But, most important... the likelihood is that you will be ahead of the predatory lowlifes who infect our once-great cities, and you'll likely *not* become one of the statistics in a report of their activities.

by Bradley J. Steiner

2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT

MARSEILLE BRISTLES AT NEW LOCKDOWN



Residents and business owners in Marseille, a port city in southern France, have lashed out at the country's latest COVID lockdown orders they say will crush restaurants and destroy the economy for an unproven approach that may do little to affect the virus' spread.

The French government – like others in Europe – has been grappling with a record high level of coronavirus infections in recent weeks. But residents in Marseille have protested the latest measures from Paris, have vowed not to adhere to them, and have promised lawsuits. They say the restrictions are too severe.

The *Associated Press* reported last week that these residents have followed the lead of Rensaud Muselier, the president of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. Muselier said the new restrictions from Paris would restrict “the exercise of the freedom to do business in a disproportionate way.”

The second lockdown resulted in a two-week shutdown for all bars, restaurants, and gyms in the city. The *Daily Mail* reported the decision was in response to the country's 16,000 new infections in 24 hours.

Critics insist the infection rate is higher because more people without symptoms are being tested.

Marseille Mayor Michèle Rubirola, a doctor, told local media the decision from Paris left her “astonished and angry.” She said local officials were not consulted and the situation on the ground does not justify the action. She told news network *France 24* two weeks ago that the numbers in her city have been improving.

“I won’t allow the people of Marseille to become the victims of political decisions that no one understands,” she said, according to the *Daily Mail*.

“It is hard to understand: how will it prevent the spread of the virus? How will the fact that we can no longer exercise help us, while sport is an important part of keeping us healthy with strong immune systems?” she asked.

Bernard Marty, a member of a union that represents the hotel industry, warned of insurrection and told local news stations that many restaurant owners promised not to adhere to any new shutdown guidelines.

France is working on how to best to respond to the virus that some officials say could be evolving.

Didier Raoult, a microbiologist who heads IHU Méditerranée Infection in Marseilles, said last week that health experts have discovered the coronavirus is mutating.

“They are less severe, so something is happening with this virus, which makes it different,” Raoult said. “The mutations we have are a rather degraded version of the initial form. At least that is our impression.”

TRENDPOST: *As we have noted, with the coronavirus death rates peaking in April, to keep the fear and hysteria going, day after day, country after country, politicians and Presstitutes have been hyping the increase in cases.*

According the CDC, the odds of catching the virus and dying from it are minimal. And, as per CDC reports, 94 percent of the virus victims had an average of 2.6 comorbidities. Even with that high percentage, the survival rates are extremely high.

CDC survival rates:

Age Group	Probability of Survival
0-19	99.997 percent
20-49	99.98 percent
50-69	99.5 percent
70+	94.6 percent

Yet, across the land and around the world, these facts are ignored by the *media while governments plaster the landscape with “Wear Masks,” “Socially Distance,” and “No Social Gatherings.”*

Even the business media, never letting a good crisis go to waste, is playing up the “case” game to get more gamblers to by their hype. This is yesterday’s Barron’s headline: “Cases Are Surging in Europe. These 22 Stocks Could Withstand a Second Wave.”

*Again, what is absent in their so-called reporting is the inaccuracy of the tests, as we report in this and previous issues of the **Trends Journal**. (See our 9 September article, “[BUY THE COVID HYPE, AVOID THE FACTS](#).”)*

Yesterday, the “Cartoon News Network” (CNN) ran this scary headline: “New York City’s spike in cases shows coronavirus is still ‘a force to be reckoned with,’ governor says.”

At the end of their 455-word article, they went on to say, “New York City had reported 237,971 of the state’s 455,626 cases. But with a seven-day average of 224 new daily cases last week, the city is still nowhere near its April peak, when more than 5,000 new cases were reported every day.”

Yes, “nowhere near its April peak” and no mention of the death rate from the virus in New York State, which, according to Worldometer, was zero Sunday and yesterday.

YOUNG PEOPLE: NO PARTYING ALLOWED



Last week, after a recent increase in cases linked to off-campus parties, the University of Colorado banned all public gatherings that include 18- to 22-year-olds after the Boulder County Health Department handed down new guidelines to help fight the spread of COVID in the area.

Matthew Parone, a senior at the school, told *CBS Denver*, “Everyone feels trapped.” He called the guidelines “absolutely crazy” because they target “college-age students, whether you go to college or not.”

As noted, the virus is known to be particularly dangerous for the elderly community, while college-aged individuals have little risk of serious infection.

The state’s health department reported that the new coronavirus cases in the county originated at off-campus group homes. The department said it “has determined the majority of COVID-19 transmission within Boulder County is due to social gatherings among persons aged between 18 and 22 years in the city of Boulder, during which many individuals failed to comply with public health face covering and social distancing orders.”

The order said the guidelines include all outdoor, indoor, on-campus, and off-campus locations. The guidelines went into effect on Thursday and will continue until noon on 8 October, when it will be reevaluated. In-person learning has also been suspended at the university for at least two weeks.

Phil DiStefano, the chancellor at the University of Colorado, told the students the school is going to focus on “virtual events that we can create for students, and any other support they may need while they are experiencing college life in such an altered way.”

The *Denver Post* reported the school has seen a surge of students withdrawing since the beginning of the school year. The report said about 570 students – double the number compared to last year – have withdrawn from the school.

Todd Saliman, the school’s chief financial officer, told the paper, “While the number of withdrawals are, thankfully, modest they’re still impactful and it means the campus is going to have to take actions to address the budget gaps. The campus has plans to do that but no one wants to implement those plans because they’re reductions.”

The CBS Denver report said some of the students at the school say they feel like they've been scammed. "Our hands are tied, and there's nothing we can do, because we already paid for tuition," Parone said.

Blame the Young

Last week, Governor Tony Evers – without a vote from the legislature who are fictitious representatives of We the People – issued an executive order mandating face masks and declared the reason cases were rising was because they were going up primarily among 18- to 24-year-olds.

TREND FORECAST: *Once again, the same class of imbecilic school administrators who had kids hiding under their desks in case an atom bomb went off during the Cold War are making up useless rules to follow and regulations to obey during the COVID War.*

As we had reported in February, many once-thriving college towns will become Rust Belt ghost towns if the strict COVID War rules persist.

Beyond having online classes only and restrictions that keep young people inside and not allowed to go out and party... more teens and twenty-somethings will be unwilling to go deep in debt to get a diploma that will be useless in finding them a decent paying job.

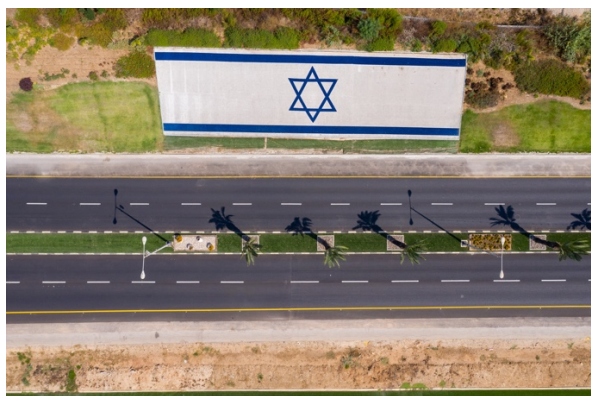
Inside Higher Ed estimates 78 percent of colleges said they would increase recruitment of transfer students to make up for high attrition numbers for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The economic impact to small and large businesses in college cities and towns will worsen as enrollments decrease and financial pressures from the "Greatest Depression" increase.

TREND FORECAST: *Just as the Roaring '20s followed the Spanish Flu, we forecast a "Roaring 2020s" to follow COVID-19 as locked down youngsters hit the streets to let loose and party.*

From going to speakeasys during the lockdowns and then out to clubs when they are again permitted, there will be numerous OnTrendpreneur opportunities to create new night club scenes and sounds in the upcoming "Roaring 2020s."

NETANYAHU CRITICIZED FOR LOCKDOWN



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week announced a three-week lockdown in the country to fight the spread of the coronavirus and has received swift backlash from critics against the measures, which affect the Jewish high holiday season.

Among the lockdown restrictions in effect, schools, restaurants, and hotels are forced to shut down at least until 11 October, and outdoor gatherings are limited to 20 people with no one attending permitted to travel over 1,000 meters (about 1,100 yards) from their homes to get there.

The report, citing Shira Greenberg, the finance ministry chief economist, said the three-week lockdown will likely cost the economy about 12 billion shekels (\$3.5 billion).

Bloomberg's "QuickTake" Twitter account showed empty beaches and roads in the heart of Tel Aviv. Another Twitter account showed travelers packing Ben Gurion Airport a day before the shutdown was to be implemented.

"Our goal is to stop the increase (in cases) and lower morbidity," Netanyahu said in a nationally broadcast statement, according to *DW.com*. "I know that these steps come at a difficult price for all of us. This is not the holiday we are used to."

Netanyahu wrote on Twitter, "Lockdown is not a punishment – it is a rescue, I call on everyone to abide by the rules." He told the Israeli cabinet, "We have heard from the experts that if we do not take tough and immediate measures, we will reach the edge of the abyss."

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *Totally absent in all of the reporting is that while 1,466 Israelis died of the virus as of Sunday, out of a nation of 8.844 million, it equals the grand totals of 0.02 percent.*

Haaretz reported that worshippers in the country can only attend prayer services within 1,000 meters of where they live during the high holy days. The report said the number of people who can attend synagogue worship depends on the local infection rate.

The new restrictions did not sit well with many citizens, and there are planned protests including one on Facebook Live that had more than 25,000 subscribed demonstrators. A *Reuters* report said there is a car convoy being prepared to drive past Netanyahu's residence.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported Netanyahu was criticized after proposing children receive a microchip when they return to schools amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"I spoke with our heads of technology in order to find measures Israel is good at, such as sensors. For instance, every person, every kid – I want it on kids first – would have a sensor that would sound an alarm when you get too close, like the ones on cars," the prime minister said, according to the paper.

Einat Meron, a cyber-resilience expert, told *Ynet* that "microchipping children will not pass any test – both practically and legally."

TRENDPOST: *As with leaders of other nations where demonstrations were raging prior to the COVID War (see our 10 December 2019 Top Trend, "[2020 NEW WORLD DISORDER](#)"), Netanyahu, who has been indicted for bribery, fraud, and breach of trust, is now using lockdown rules to stop the three months of protests that have been raging against him.*

Despite being faced with arrests for breaking the virus restrictions, an estimated 18,000 Israeli citizens jammed into Jerusalem on Sunday demanding Prime Minister Netanyahu resign.

There were reports of long lines of cars as people from all over the country joined the protests, gathering outside the Prime Minister's residence despite restrictions that citizens cannot protest farther than 1000 meters (0.6 mile) from their homes.

EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON'T WORK



The **Trends Journal** has been reporting for months that Sweden, the only European country to not order a strict lockdown, has been showing one of the lowest death rates on the continent since June.

On 29 July, Sweden's top epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, publicly voiced skepticism that wearing masks is effective at controlling the spread of COVID-19. He pointed to the fact that countries like Spain and Belgium, which had strong mask-wearing mandates, were continuing to see rising numbers of cases and deaths.

The most recent data confirms Dr. Tegnell's assertion. Last Thursday, *Business Insider* reported that "France and the UK set all-time records for daily coronavirus infections" and Spain experienced a record number of cases the day before. Those countries have various mask-wearing mandates imposed on their citizens.

On 31 August, Dr. Tegnell was quoted on the MedicalXpres website that there was a lack of scientific evidence to support mask wearing: "There are at least three heavyweight reports – from the World Health Organization, the ECDC [EU health agency] and The Lancet report that the WHO cites – which all state the scientific evidence is weak."

More EU Countries Say "NO" to Masks

As reported on 6 August in the Fee Foundation for Economic Education, there are a number of European nations agreeing with Dr. Tengnell: "Europe's Top Health Officials Say Masks Aren't Helpful in Beating COVID-19."

In Denmark, which has one of the lowest death rates from coronavirus in all of Europe (647 deaths as of last Thursday in a country of 5.8 million or 0.01 percent),

Dr. Henning Bundgaard, a leading Danish cardiologist, said on 27 July, “All these countries recommending face masks haven’t made their decisions based on new studies.”

Currently, the Danish government encourages but doesn’t require wearing masks on public transit with crowded conditions where people can’t move about.

The Fee Foundation cites data from Statista.com on 28 June, showing that “80-90 percent of people in Finland and Holland say they ‘never’ wear masks when they go out, a sharp contrast to the 80-90 percent of people in Spain and Italy who say they ‘always’ wear masks when they go out.”

In the Netherlands, the Minister for Medical Care, Tamara van Ark, stated on 29 July, “Because from a medical perspective there is no proven effectiveness of masks, the Cabinet has decided that there will be no national obligation for wearing non-medical masks.”

The Dutch minister’s analysis was supported by the spokesperson for the country’s Public Health and the Environment, Coen Berends, who said on 1 August, “Face masks in public places are not necessary, based on all the current evidence.” The Netherlands has reported 6,328 deaths from coronavirus out of a population of 17.28 million or 0.036 percent.

The divide in Europe over mask wearing mandates is also reflected in the United States where according to Brinknews.com, as of 31 August, “More than half of the 50 states in the United States have enforced statewide mask mandates” despite no federal mandate.

Globally, more than 100 countries, over half the total in the world, still have mandatory mask wearing rules in place.

TRENDPOST: As the cover of this week’s ***Trends Journal*** clearly illustrates, the 2020 Presidential Reality Show® will be “MASKS VS. NO MASKS.”

In setting the stage for tonight’s presidential debate – and the election – the mainstream media in Joe Biden’s camp has flooded the airwaves with their select “experts” promoting the need to wear masks in public.

According to a newly released Washington Post poll, some 78 percent of their respondents support the government’s right to implement mask wearing mandates.

As we have detailed, President Trump has to win the swing states. To do so, he must bring out voters, many who did not turn out in the 2016 race, who are anti-lockdown/anti-maskers.

COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE “WORTHLESS”



On 29 August, *The New York Times* published an article with the headline: “Your Coronavirus Test Is Positive. Maybe It Shouldn’t Be.”

The Times analyzed testing data from Massachusetts, New York, and Nevada and concluded that “up to 90 percent of people testing positive carried barely any virus.” The article goes on to state the growing concern among leading U.S. health officials that so many of those testing “positive” are misdiagnosed since they have such a small amount of the virus they are not contagious.

Suspicion over the “false positive” readings of the standard COVID-19 PCR Testing, referred to as the “gold standard” by the CDC, has been growing for many months.

On 16 July, Statnews.com reported, “The U.S. should invest \$75 billion in order to fix its badly flawed system of diagnostic testing for Covid-19, according to a bipartisan committee of industry experts, investors, scientists, and former federal health officials assembled by the Rockefeller Foundation.”

In a recent report on the controversy surrounding the accuracy of the PCR Test program, including the analysis in *The New York Times*, veteran investigative journalist Jon Rappaport wrote, “COVID-19’s PCR Test Shows an Overwhelming Number of False Positives and is Essentially Worthless.” The article went on to say, “Truth is, the PCR test is not able to produce ANY reliable number that reflects how much virus a person is carrying. A lot, a little, it doesn’t matter.”

Mr. Rappaport wrote, “The issue appears to be the ballooning sensitivity of the PCR test. It’s so sensitive that it picks up inconsequential tiny, tiny amounts of virus that couldn’t harm a flea – and it calls these amounts ‘positive.’ Therefore, millions of people are labeled ‘positive/infected’ who carry so little virus that no harm would come to them or anyone they come in contact with.”

Hypocrisy 2.0

The growing evidence of misleading test results didn’t stop some politicians from advocating for more. On 21 June, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, criticizing President Trump for not advocating more testing, stated on her official website, “The President’s efforts to slow down desperately needed testing to hide the true extent of the virus means more Americans will lose their lives.”

Yet, just weeks before publishing her “more testing required” remarks, Politico.com reported Ms. Pelosi had not been tested herself based on the advice of the official Capitol physician. Even after reporting to the doctor that she had been in the same room as someone diagnosed with COVID, she stated, “I said to the doctor, should I be having a test? He said no, you don’t have any symptoms.”

In addition to *The Times* analysis, the gross inaccuracies of the standard PCR test were also noted in an article published on 18 August by MedRxiv, a medical health website founded by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Yale University; and BMJ, a global healthcare knowledge provider.

The article states, “Data on PCR-based tests for similar viruses show that PCR-based testing produces enough false positive results to make positive results highly unreliable over a broad range of real-world scenarios. This has clinical and case management implications, and affects an array of epidemiological statistics, including the asymptomatic ratio, prevalence, and hospitalization and death rates.”

More Confusion

On 27 August, the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the Trump administration ordered 150 million new “Rapid Tests” from Abbott Laboratories, a test based on analyzing antigens in the body that can give results in 15 minutes.

In the official release, HHS Secretary Alex Azar wrote, “The introduction of Abbott’s antigen test is another incredibly valuable result of President Trump’s all-of-America approach to constructing our world-leading COVID-19 testing

capacity. By strategically distributing 150 million of these tests to where they're needed most, we can track the virus like never before and protect millions of Americans at risk in especially vulnerable situations."

While the new rapid test is less expensive and easier to administer, on 25 August, just a few days before the HHS release, *USA Today* ran the headline: "Inaccurate results from rapid COVID-19 tests raise concerns about widespread screening." The report cited a test case in Vermont where dozens of people getting positive findings from the rapid test turned out not to have the virus after submitting to a more thorough lab test. While this rapid test was produced by a different company than Abbott Laboratories, it used the same protocols.

The lack of accuracy of all the current available tests was summed up by Dr. Robert H. Schmerling, Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, who wrote on 10 August, "Unfortunately, it's not clear exactly how accurate any of these tests are."

TRENDPOST: *Despite the inaccuracy of the virus tests, each day throughout the western world, the mainstream media leads off the daily news with the soaring amount of new virus cases, easily spreading more fear and anxiety to a locked-down society.*

LOCKDOWN RESULTS: A "MENTAL HEALTH TSUNAMI"



A new study by a team of researchers from Tulane University, based on Google Trends, looked at mental health trends in the U.S. over the months of the imposed lockdowns. Lead researcher Michael Hoerger, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulane, described what he called a "mental health tsunami" as a result of burnout, isolation, and unemployment.

As reported on Tulane University's website, the research team "found a major jump in web searches related to anxiety, panic attacks and treatments for panic attacks, especially remote and self-care techniques, in the weeks following the pandemic declaration."

The study was first published on 13 August in the journal *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice and Policy*.

Professor Hoerger stated, "Our analyses from shortly after the pandemic declaration are the tip of the iceberg. Over time... this will likely include more depression, PTSD, community violence, suicide, and complex bereavement."

This recent study confirms previous reports looking at the same issue. On 13 July, David Sbarra, PhD in clinical psychology and Professor at the University of Arizona, commenting on the mental health pressures caused by the lockdowns, stated, "We've reached a bit of a mental health breaking point. We're stressed, isolated, lonely, burned out, and more depressed and anxious than we've been in a long time."

He added that data from the Census Bureau in May showed almost one-third of all Americans were reporting symptoms of depression and anxiety.

(Note: According to *U.S. News & World Report*, on 27 May, the Census Bureau study stated, "34.4% of adults reported symptoms of either anxiety or depression.... with 30% reporting signs of anxiety and 24.1% reporting symptoms of depression.")

Dr. Sbarra said, "It's not hard to see what's driving this distress. We have mass unemployment and economic uncertainty. With the closures of schools, child care centers and summer camps, many of us are pulled between the worlds of work and caregiving in ways that were unimaginable just a few months ago. Older adults and others at the greatest risk are increasingly isolated from their loved ones, making loneliness especially common. On top of all this, the U.S. is facing an epic failure in its ability to get the virus under control and, as a consequence, uncertainty and despair are looming large in our everyday consciousness."

Summing up the traumatic effects of the extended lockdowns, Dr. Sbarra concludes, "Some experts are beginning to argue that one of our next big challenges in facing COVID will be to "flatten the mental health curve."

MENTAL STRESS IS GLOBAL



On 6 August, *Medical News Today* reported on a new U.K. study showing significant mental health deterioration as a result of the coronavirus lockdowns. The study, conducted by two leading psychologists at the University of Bath, stated in its introduction/abstract: “Sampling over a 10-day period in the early ‘lockdown’ phase of the pandemic showed around a quarter of participants demonstrated significantly elevated anxiety and depression, with 14.8% reaching clinical cutoff for health anxiety.”

The devastating mental health effects of lockdown impositions have been predicted since the early months of the coronavirus spread. The *Medical News Today* article cites a report on 15 April, published in the highly regarded medical journal *The Lancet*, “The team concluded that a significant negative effect is an expected consequence of the various lockdowns that governments have implemented around the world.”

The mental health crisis caused by harsh government-imposed lockdowns are summed up by the lead author of the University of Bath study, Dr. Hannah Rettie: “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused global uncertainty, which has had a direct, detrimental effect on so many people across the U.K. and around the world. People have been unsure when they would see relatives again, job security has been rocked, there is an increased threat to many people’s health, and government guidance is continuously changing, leading to much uncertainty and anxiety.”

On 9 April, the World Economic Forum published an article by Dr. Elke van Hoof, a renowned clinical psychologist and leading expert for the European Parliament. The article was titled, “Lockdown is the world’s biggest psychological experiment – and we will pay the price.” Dr. van Hoof noted three main points:

- “With some 2.6 billion people around the world in some kind of lockdown, we are conducting arguably the largest psychological experiment ever.
- This will result in a secondary epidemic of burnouts and stress-related absenteeism in the latter half of 2020.
- Taking action now can mitigate the toxic effects of COVID-19 lockdowns.”

TRENDPOST: *When the COVID War began, we had noted that just as with all other wars started by politicians, the implications are ignored and exit strategies do not exist. The long-lasting effects the COVID War, as with all the other wars launched by them, will be devastating to billions of people whose lives and livelihoods have been destroyed.*

VIRUS: KILLING WHO, WHERE?



Two policy analysts at the Heritage Foundation have concluded, “Just 1% of U.S. counties have had nearly half of all COVID-19 deaths.”

In an article published on 22 September, the analysts, Drew Gonshorowski and Norbert Michel, point out that focusing on infection rates for specific counties, rather than just states in general, gives a clearer picture of just how concentrated the spread has been in small geographic clusters.

Bringing the latest data into focus, the article states:

“As of Sept. 15, the 30 counties with the most COVID-19 deaths accounted for 26% of all the cases in the U.S. and 40% of all deaths, much greater than those counties’ share of the population (18.4%).

That is, just 1% of the counties in the U.S., representing just over 18% of the population, are responsible for almost half of the country's COVID-19 deaths.”

Note: There are 3,141 counties in the U.S.

Focusing in even more closely, the analysts write:

“The five counties with the most COVID-19 deaths represent just 0.2% of all counties, but they account for 16% of all COVID-19 deaths in the U.S., nearly three times their population share. These five counties are Kings County, NY; Queens County, NY; Los Angeles County; Cook County, Illinois; and Bronx County, NY.”

Turning the focus the other way, the analysts provide data showing the majority of counties across the country account for only a small amount of total deaths from the virus:

“As of Sept. 15, 60.6% of all counties are reporting 10 or fewer deaths. These counties represent 13.1% of the population, and account for only 2.7% of total COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.”

New York City Tips the Scales

The analysts cite just how dramatically the high coronavirus death rate in New York City has skewed the overall picture in the U.S: “In fact, New York City has exerted an outsized influence on the national COVID-19-related death rate. Removing New York City's deaths moves the U.S. from eighth place in the world in deaths per million to 13th place.”

Making the case even stronger that NYC's outsized death rate from the virus had a huge impact on how the virus was perceived nationally, the article states, “The New York City metropolitan statistical area's death rate is more than triple those of Phoenix and Miami – two cities that have recorded higher rates of infection than New York. It is four and a half times that of Los Angeles and nearly six times that of Houston.”

A Closer Look: New York City Lockdown Didn't Work

In addition to making the claim that NYC in particular, and a small number of other counties in general, are responsible for a disproportionate amount of coronavirus

deaths in the U.S., the report provides a link to another Heritage Foundation analysis published on 17 September, titled, “COVID-19: Still a New York Story.”

This report makes the case that the mainstream media were wrong in extolling the skillful managing of the outbreak in NYC through harsh lockdowns and strong enforcement of rules.

This report was co-authored by Norbert Michel along with Doug Badger, Visiting Fellow in Domestic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, which concluded, “While New York City was largely locked down until late July, its population-adjusted death rate remains far worse than any other place in the nation.”

In a summary of the findings, the analysts write, “The prevailing narrative about the COVID-19 pandemic is that New York and the Northeast were especially hard hit during the spring but the lockdown orders and diligent social distancing subdued the contagion.”

They conclude, “Moreover, a growing body of research suggests that government lockdowns have only a marginal effect on affecting behavior that facilitates viral transmission.”

TRENDPOST: *We have continually reported in the **Trends Journal** about the ineffectiveness of lockdowns, yet they persist and are generally accepted by both the public and politicians.*

Considering who is dying, where, and why, the new rounds of restrictions being placed on young people (ex. not allowing them to party) and the rules of mask wearing, temperature checks, virus tests, social distancing, contact tracing, etc., being imposed on those attending schools from kindergarten to PhDs, is not only unscientific, it is unwarranted and mentally destructive.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN LONDON



Anti-lockdown frustration and growing anti-government anger spilled over during the last week in three major global cities.

In London, last Saturday, for the third time since 29 August, thousands took to the streets of Trafalgar Square to protest the continuing freedom restrictions imposed to stop the spread of COVID. Physical confrontations between demonstrators and police led to 16 arrests and serious injuries to nine police and three protestors.

The rally was organized under the theme, “We Do Not Consent.”

Police said afterward that failure to adhere to social distance rules and risk assessment rules led to the attempt to clear the streets, prompting a number of demonstrators to throw bottles at them. Few protestors were wearing masks.

London’s Mayor Sadiq Kha made it clear that violation of the rules would not be tolerated: “We cannot let the sacrifices Londoners have made be undermined by the selfish behavior of a small number. Violence of this kind towards officers will not be tolerated and perpetrators will feel the full force of the law.”

As reported last week in the **Trends Journal**, the new “Rule of Six” imposed on 14 September bans any gathering of more than six people with exceptions for work and education. According to the London Met Police website, “There is an exemption for a gathering organized by certain types of body (such as a political body, business or a charity), having carried out a full risk assessment and taken all reasonable measures to limit the transmission of the virus.”

Police claimed the demonstration on Saturday did not mean the risk assessment requirements.

A number of the police, when dispersing protesters, also removed sound equipment set up for speeches prompting some demonstrators to throw bottles at them. Police went after some protesters with batons as chants of “Pick Your Side” were heard. Two police required hospitalization.

Met Police issued this statement on Saturday afternoon: “We have informed the event organizers they are no longer exempt from the regulations.”

TREND FORECAST: *The longer lockdowns persist, the stronger protest movements will grow. As Gerald Celente long notes, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”*

With hundreds of millions across the globe having lost their livelihoods, tens of millions losing their businesses, and billions losing their freedom, with nothing left to lose, they’ll be taking to the streets to battle the ruling class.

“EXCESS DEATHS” IN U.K. A RESULT OF LOCKDOWNS



When the COVID War began in February, the **Trends Journal** was the only magazine to forecast the numerous socioeconomic and geopolitical effects of the draconian measures promoted by so-called “health officials” and politicians.

Beyond the economic devastation and increased levels of drug addiction, murder rates, and violence, a study published last week sounded the alarm about one of the unintended side effects of the widespread virus lockdown in the U.K. The study said since last March, there have been 30,000 “excess deaths” in people’s homes since the start of the pandemic.

The *Daily Mail* reported that a study published last week in the *Heart* medical journal projects a total of 75,000 deaths directly as a result of lockdown orders.

“These are deaths that should not have happened. We were in full lockdown and the message to stay at home was taken literally. People were not seeking care and many died as a result,” Chris Gale, a research professor and cardiologist at the University of Leeds, said, according to the report.

The CDC defines “excess deaths” as “deaths [that] could represent misclassified COVID-19 deaths or potentially could be indirectly related to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., deaths from other causes occurring in the context of health care shortages or overburdened health care systems).”

The *Daily Mail*’s report said doctors have been warning since the beginning of the outbreak that fewer people have been seeking medical attention at hospitals. As a result, people have died from heart issues inside private homes by an increase of one-third from March to June.

Neil Mortensen, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, said in August that the country’s health-care system should not be a “coronavirus-only service.”

“We have to deal first with the most clinically urgent patients, and then as soon as possible with those who have been waiting the longest,” he told *The Telegraph*.

David Leon, Professor of Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, told the *Guardian* he does not consider the coronavirus itself driving the number in excess deaths but rather the hesitation to seek medical care for many patients who are sick with other ailments.

The paper reported the 30,000 excess deaths at home mark a 43 percent jump from 2019. The *Guardian*’s report pointed out that fewer than one in ten of those deaths were the result of COVID.

“So what we see is probably more to do with decisions that are being taken by families, by individuals, their GPs and also hospitals’ willingness to admit,” he said, according to the paper.

SWEDEN'S SUCCESS DOWNPLAYED BY U.K. HEALTH OFFICIALS



Dr. Gabriel Scally, President of Epidemiology at the U.K.'s Royal Society of Medicine, said last week that he is concerned Britain may be trying to emulate the Swedish model in its approach during the second wave of infections.

Scally called the Swedish approach, under the leadership of Anders Tegnell, the country's chief epidemiologist, "ineffective" and a poor model to emulate, according to *The Independent* newspaper.

The paper pointed out that Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with Dr. Tegnell earlier this week during a Zoom conference. Dr. Tegnell has been both praised and vilified for bucking the universal approach to the virus, which included economy-crushing lockdowns. Instead, he called on personal responsibility and likened other responses to trying to kill a housefly with a hammer.

Business Insider reported Johnson's new restrictions amid the second wave of infections and after the Tengell meeting "stopped short of much tougher measures reportedly being pushed by his own chief medical adviser."

Scally said that praise for Tegnell has been overstated.

"We believe it is ineffective," he said, according to the paper. "Sweden has had an enormous number of deaths per head of population: 5,880 deaths, representing 580 deaths per million population. Compared to its neighbors, it has been unsuccessful in preventing deaths. Finland, for example, has had exactly 343 deaths, which equals 62 deaths per million population."

The theory is that Stockholm has experienced a sufficient level of immunity to ward off a severe second wave but Scally called it "irresponsible and unethical to try."

TRENDPOST: To date, Sweden's coronavirus death rate per its population is 0.0573 percent compared to the U.K.'s, which is 0.0618 percent.

Scally and the media ignored this fact, as well as ignoring that Sweden, which did not lockdown and rob businesses and its people of their livelihoods and freedom, has a lower COVID-19 death rate than France, Spain, Italy, and many other nations.

Also absent in the Scally mouth-off is that Sweden's COVID-19 infection and death rates have been low for weeks despite rising numbers in other European nations.

While pointing out Sweden had a higher virus death rate than neighboring Nordic nations, Scally did not mention that unlike most of the Western nations, Nordic citizens are not wearing masks nor is the government mandating they must do so.

TRENDPOST: As we have noted, in Sweden, as in much of the world, over half of its virus deaths were individuals in nursing homes. Dr. Tegnell has been criticized, as have many other epidemiologists and politicians, for their slow response to prevent the virus from infecting and killing the most vulnerable sector of society.

Indeed, New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo, as we have reported, demanded that elderly COVID-19 patients be taken out of hospitals where they were being treated and sent to nursing homes where they spread the virus.

What is not being emphasized in the COVID War is the lack of measures being taken by governments to quarantine and take health measures to protect those most vulnerable to the virus... rather than universal lockdown dictates imposed on all of society.

TREND FORECAST: The COVID War between the "Old vs. Young" has begun. Politicians and the media across the Western world now single out young people as a major threat to society when it comes to disease transmission.

For example, Reuters reported 3,000 students were in lockdown in the U.K. and the health minister left open the chance that they may be forced to stay on campus over the Christmas holiday to prevent the virus' spread.

"We understand how difficult and stressful this situation is," the University of Glasgow said on Twitter. "We are here to support you through it."

Again, as we are forecasting, the “Old vs. Young” battle for freedom will ignite new social, artistic, entertainment, and business opportunities for OnTrendpreneurs® who will be building blocks for new anti-establishment third parties.

CASES AT ALABAMA U. SURGE YET HOSPITALIZATIONS AT ZERO



Daniel Horowitz, a writer for TheBlaze.com, penned a column earlier this month arguing against the “panicked headlines” emerging from colleges reopening across the U.S. amid the virus pandemic. He pointed to the University of Alabama as an example of the fear-mongering-gone-wild in the media.

As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, data proves COVID is rarely dangerous for the young people it infects. Horowitz noted the university reported 1,368 positive case cases since the start of the school year, which, on its own, may seem like a staggering number. What has not been reported, however, is that not one student ended up in the hospital due to virus symptoms.

Horowitz pointed out that a *New York Times* article noted 90 percent of positive cases have either too low a virus load to transmit infections or the virus is already considered to be dead in its host.

He wrote what the country is likely experiencing is a “casedemic,” which he defined as an epidemic “that can only be identified by mass testing” because of the relatively low amount of deaths and hospitalizations.

Horowitz’s report cited Dr. Ricky Friend, Dean of the University of Alabama’s College of Community Health Sciences, who said there is no evidence of “virus transmission due to in-person class instruction.”

Horowitz pointed out the mental toll that some of these restrictions have inflicted can have a detrimental effect on college-aged students. The CDC said 62.9 percent of these students have suffered from some kind of anxiety or depression.

Fear Sells

Allegations of the media selling a “casedemic” is not unique to the U.S.

Citizens in Ireland have lashed out at lockdowns due to the “spike in infections.” Alanna Lavery, who recently spoke at a protest Northern Ireland, said, “Each media outlet seems to have the same script. When they bombard us with daily new cases, I would love them to provide us with figures of those who are isolating at home with no symptoms or mild symptoms, how many are in hospital care and how many are in ICU?”

TRENDPOST: Ms. Lavery is echoing what we have said since the start of the draconian lockdown orders and Judge Andrew Napolitano emphasized at our “Unite for Peace and Restore Freedom” 4th of July Rally: Health officials are dictating the terms to elected officials who rule without any oversight by state or local legislators. And, the lockdowns are based on the number of cases and not hospitalizations or those in need of medical intervention.

FLORIDA OPENS UP: FREE AT LAST



It was the big Presstitute news since the COVID War broke out.

Florida’s Governor, Ron DeSantis, a Republican, did not impose strict lockdown rules on the state, as opposed to the stringent lockdown enforced on the people and businesses of New York State by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Indeed, the media and politicians chastised DeSantis for his measures taken since the COVID War broke out and still applauds Cuomo's actions, ignoring the hard fact that Florida, with a population of 21.5 million has, to date, registered 14,043 COVID-19 deaths compared to New York State, with a population of 19.5 million and 33,225 virus death.

These were some of the Florida fear headlines back then:

- “Coronavirus may have caused hundreds of additional deaths in Florida” — *Tampa Bay Times*, 20 May
- “Does Thursday's coronavirus spike reset the clock on Gov. DeSantis' plan to reopen the economy?” — FloridaPolitics.com, 24 April

And here is how the media referred to New York Governor Cuomo's handling of the virus:

- “Siena poll: Cuomo job rating ‘best ever’” — NewsBreak.com, 27 April
- “How Cuomo, Once on Sidelines, Became the Politician of the Moment. With his coronavirus briefings, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has emerged as an authoritative voice in the crisis.” — *The New York Times*, 24 March

Last week, DeSantis announced the state would move to its Phase 3 reopening, meaning restaurants, hotels, and bars can begin operating again at full capacity under state law.

“Every business has a right to operate... you can't just say no after six months and have people twisting in the wind,” DeSantis said, according to *Spectrum News*. The report, citing DeSantis, said COVID survival rates in the state reached 94 percent and hospitalizations were also down.

DeSantis said he believes removing the restrictions are “very important” to the restaurant industry.

Restaurants and bars in the state could see some local restrictions, however, and DeSantis said local governments can limit some capacity as long as these establishments can operate at over 50 percent.

This compares to New York City where indoor restaurant capacity is limited to 25 percent, and bars across the state are not permitted to serve just drinks to

customers and where strict mask wearing and social distancing rules are enforced.

While other states were locking down whole sectors of the economy, DeSantis has faced criticism for being too loose with his restrictions.

On His Side

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said in an emailed statement to *News4Jax* that his office continues to work with the governor “in his smart and safe approach to reopening our state. We ask for the continued vigilance of our citizens and establishments that helped slow the spread of COVID-19.”

Phase 3 of the state’s reopening means those 65+ and those with underlying conditions can resume public interactions, gyms can open at full capacity, theme parks can return to normal operations, and retail stores can operate at full capacity.

Dr. Marissa J. Levine, Professor of Public Health at the University of South Florida, said, “I think if the message that comes across is we can just go back to the way that it was, we have the potential for significant trouble,” according to WFLA.com.

WSVN interviewed Mike Penrod, the owner of Elbo Room, a beach bar in Fort Lauderdale. The report said the bar has been closed for more than six months. “Six months [closed] has been a nightmare, like everyone else,” Mr. Penrod told the station. “It’s really been difficult for everybody: our employees and our friends and families, and our customers.”

TREND FORECAST: *Day after day, media source after media source, rather than reporting the socioeconomic misery imposed on Main Street by the lockdowns, instead, they focus on and applaud the record-breaking market gains by Wall Street... as the Bigs get bigger and small businesses perish.*

As reported by Reuters, surveys from small business networking group Alignable and online review site Yelp forecast a dim future for small businesses.

“The impact has been too deep for too long. And it’s taking its toll,” Alignable spokesman Chuck Casto said after the group’s poll of more than 6,300 small businesses released Wednesday found more than 40 percent believe they won’t have enough money to stay in business by year’s end.

Being one of America's major states, to analyze where the economy in the U.S. is going and how fast it will sink or temporarily rebound, keep abreast of Florida's GDP data.

NYC: OUTDOOR EATING GOOD, INDOOR BAD



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced last week that he will allow restaurants to continue curbside dining even after, if and when, the COVID War ends.

The so-called Open Restaurants program, which was introduced in June, was seen as a moderate success to keep many in the struggling industry to make some much-needed income.

Many restaurants in NYC have shuttered for good. *The Times* pointed out that nearly nine out of every ten restaurants failed to pay a full month's rent in August. The paper, citing the City's Hospitality Alliance, said about one-third paid no rent during the month.

The paper also reported that half of the city's 300,000 restaurant workers have been laid off since the beginning of the outbreak.

"We will make the Open Restaurants initiative permanent and year-round," de Blasio said, according to the *New York Post*. "I want us to really take this model and make it part of the life of New York City for years and generations to come. This has been, I think, an extraordinarily positive experiment."

The paper reported bars and restaurants would be allowed to continue to operate outside on sidewalks – and, in some cases, alleyways – in the winter months.

These restaurants could use heat lamps and tents, the report said. The program was a much-needed success story, and it is estimated to have saved 80,000 jobs.

KABC-TV reported the “Open Restaurants” program started during the City’s Phase 2 reopening. The report said the City is about to increase the number of indoor diners to 25 percent capacity by sometime next week.

Sachiko Koyama, manager of the restaurant Narita, told the news affiliate it has been a trying time for restaurants, and the new capacity limit will not help small restaurants.

According to booking site OpenTable.com, foot traffic to U.S. restaurants and stores has shown moderate improvement, as estimates of seated diners at restaurants fell for the second week, remaining at some 60 percent of levels since early March.

TREND FORECAST: *The recovery rate of small businesses that have been victims of the COVID lockdowns will worsen. Commercial real estate prices in large cities will continue to decline as will apartment rentals.*

EU LEADERS FACE RESISTANCE OVER NEW RESTRICTIONS



National governments in Europe have clashed with local leaders over the best approach to the second wave of COVID infections that seem to be sweeping much of the continent.

There has been debate over how significant the number of confirmed virus cases are to the public’s overall health. Countries want no new cases, but citizens opposed to restrictive lockdown orders say the only reason the number of

confirmed cases is up is because of the vast extent of testing. *Business Insider* reported that although infections have increased, the number of deaths have not seen the same jump.

Still, some health officials in Europe say the situation unfolding is even worse than “during the peak in March.”

The *Financial Times* reported many leaders are resisting lockdown measures because they remember how damaging the effects of the first lockdown were on businesses and the economy. The paper pointed to Spain and how some conservative districts have refused demands from health administrators despite the country having the region’s worst infection rate of 722 out of 100,000.

Salvador Illa, Spain’s health minister, said in a recent interview that current restrictions in the country fail to go far enough and it was “time to act with determination” to fight the virus and limit infection. But citizens in the country translate “determination” to mean they are going to have to lockdown again and be destroyed financially.

The *Associated Press* reported many residents believe Illa is unfairly targeting poor communities with restrictions.

The Times’ report also pointed to clashes in Paris and regions like Marseille, which seem to have lockdown fatigue. There were widespread protests in Marseille organized by restaurant workers opposed to the latest “two-week hospitality ban.” The ban is for 15 days and can be renewed.

The *AP*, citing local reports, said leaders from the area promised to file a legal complaint, claiming Paris is essentially restricting “the exercise of the freedom to do business... in a disproportionate way.”

Jean-Pierre Cotens, the owner of the 13 Coins bar, told *Reuters*, “We should stay open, they won’t be able to close everyone. And if there’s a fine, well, we’ll take it, but we’ll be better off working than shutting.”

Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take bolder steps in his effort to protect his citizens. Johnson called the situation a “perilous turning point” and added new restrictions that could last up to six months, according to the *BBC*.

“Ministers simply have to get a grip,” Khan said.

TREND FORECAST: As we have forecast, the COVID War will ignite strong anti-establishment, anti-vaccine nationalist/populist parties throughout Europe and North America. Their strength will grow as the “Greatest Depression” worsens.

SPANISH HEALTH OFFICIALS DON'T AGREE ON NEW LOCKDOWNS



Clashes over new virus restrictions played out in Madrid last week as local health officials refused to comply with new guidelines recommended by the country's central government, according to reports.

The health system in Spain is unique in that each of the country's 17 regional governments has its own health care system, according to the *Financial Times*. These local officials have said they would not adhere to Spain's Health Minister's Salvador Illa's urging and enforce new virus mandates to help stop the transmission rate.

“There is a serious risk for inhabitants, for the neighboring regions,” Illa said, according to the *BBC*. He said he wants local authorities to “put the health of citizens first.”

These local officials question the wisdom of the lockdown mandates and their effectiveness.

Antonio Zapatero, a top local health official, told the *FT* there have been no major developments that require a new approach to fight the virus. He said officials in Madrid are going to focus on antigen tests and adhere to the current guidelines.

Zapatero said it is important for residents to consider staying home when they can, but he said the decision to lock down needs to be based on “technical criteria.”

“If decisions need to be taken, Madrid will take them,” he said, according to the *Associated Press*.

Dr. Mike Ryan, Head of the WHO’s emergencies team, said these countries have seen a “worrying” increase of the virus but called lockdowns the option of “last resort.”

“And to think that we’re back in last-resort territory in September, that’s a pretty sobering thought,” he said, according to the report.

TRENDPOST: *As we have reported, Spain was among the early Western nations to impose the strictest lockdowns beginning in March. Yet, totally ignored in the FT article and most others is the fact that Sweden did not lock down its people nor its economy, and its virus infection rate is minimal compared to Spain.*

Moreover, there is panic in the Spanish streets as its GDP plummets, unemployment spikes, and the once tourist-rich destination suffered a tourist-less summer.

While Spain is in a lockdown battle, its virus death rate is minor compared to New York State. With 46.76 million people and 33,229 virus deaths, it accounts for 0.0672 percent of its population. This compares to New York State with 19.5 million people and 33,229 virus victims or 0.1704 percent of the state’s population.

But numbers don’t count. Spain, with a population 2.4 times the size of New York, has 1,818 less COVID deaths! Yet, New York’s Governor Andrew Cuomo has been knighted a COVID War hero by the press and the people.

Despite its low death rate, the Spanish government, as have most of those in the world, continue draconian lockdown measures to fight a virus that is low risk to the vast majority of the world’s population.

SWEDES CONTINUE TO AVOID WORST OF VIRUS OUTBREAK



The *Associated Press* last week described a scene in Stockholm, Sweden, which surely would make health officials in most Western nations squirm.

The wire service described a train pulling into a subway station in the central part of the city and groups of people bustling about without wearing those now-ubiquitous surgical masks worn across the world by mostly everyone between the ages of 2 and 102.

But the scene at the train station represented Sweden's coronavirus approach, under its chief epidemiologist, Dr. Anders Tegnell, who, as we have long been reporting, shunned the widely adopted lockdowns and curfews that were put into place by neighboring countries.

Dr. Tegnell told a local newspaper the infection rate is "slowly but surely going in the wrong direction in Sweden, even if the situation is not as serious as in other parts of Europe." Deaths have not increased significantly, reports said.

The *Washington Post* reported that before the increase, Sweden earned praise from Catherine Smallwood, a WHO official, who said Stockholm has "avoided the increase that has been seen in some of the other countries in western Europe."

The paper pointed out that Sweden has seen 38.8 new cases out of 100,000 over the past week compared to 319.7 cases per 100,000 in Spain.

TRENDPOST: Again, these facts are mostly ignored by the mainstream media, which are now selling the public to get ready for the second wave, while failing to either recognize or admit, as we have well documented, that their draconian lockdown laws have killed more businesses and destroyed millions more lives than the virus.

MELBOURNE TO EASE VIRUS LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS



Victoria's Premier Daniel Andrews announced Sunday that Melbourne's hotly contested coronavirus lockdown orders would be eased and its curfew lifted after a significant drop in new cases.

Andrews was roundly criticized for putting Melbourne and other parts of the country under a Level 4 lockdown at the beginning of August while trying to get a grip on the virus. The *Associated Press* reported the lockdown included the closure of schools and non-essential businesses and enforced a curfew.

Dozens of residents took to the streets at the time to voice their displeasure over the orders and there were arrests. The *BBC* reported the protests were tense and some demonstrators threatened police with violence. The *BBC* report called Victoria the "epicenter" of the country's COVID outbreak at the time and, at one point, made up 90 percent of the country's deaths.

Andrews shut down non-essential businesses in Victoria for six weeks, which critics say contributed to the country's GDP sinking by 7 percent in the first quarter and its first recession in nearly 30 years, according to U.S. news website Axios.

Andrews credited his orders and the citizens' willingness to follow them. He said the region was seeing 400 cases each day at its height, but Melbourne's new average is 22.1.

"It's a remarkable thing and an achievement that belongs to every single Victorian," he said in a statement. "Because with grit and with guts and with heart – we are beating this thing."

He said 127,000 residents in Melbourne will be able to go back to work. Andrews asked citizens keep their shopping to a minimum and focus on the essentials, and he said they mustn't "take their foot off the pedal" and that "masks are still mandatory."

Weddings are still limited to five people, including the couple and two witnesses. They also need to take place outdoors.

"We took a substantial step on Sunday, and we are well placed to take an even more substantial step towards that COVID normal on or about 18 or 19 October," Mr. Andrews said.

TRENDPOST: As we have reported, cases do not equal deaths, and, as the CDC numbers reflect, well over 99.7 percent of those who catch the virus recover. Moreover, Australia's Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety reported that 68 percent of all COVID-19 deaths were people in residential aged care.

Again, who is dying from the virus? There were seven more deaths confirmed on Tuesday. One was a man was in his 60s, another in his 70s, two men and a woman in their 80s, and a man and a woman in their 90s.

Yet, despite these facts, draconian lockdown rules are imposed on healthy people less likely to suffer from the virus rather than taking measures to assure those most vulnerable to the disease are protected.

TREND FORECAST: The COVID War is going to be fought between the young who want to experience life and the older generations who are afraid of dying, are in power, and are telling them what to do.

As we have forecast, there is going to be a big pushback against the establishment by younger generations, and it will be expressed predominantly in the arts.

TRENDPOST: In all of Australia, since March, when politicians launched the COVID War and imposed lockdowns, the grand total of 851 people died of the virus in a country of 25.565 million... or 0.00332 percent of the population. And as with other essential facts, this is totally ignored by the media and the ruling political parties.

AMERICANS GET COLD FEET OVER COVID-19 VACCINE



Americans seem to have reservations about being first in line for any approved vaccination for COVID-19, according to a recent Axios-Ipsos poll.

The poll showed only 13 percent of Americans would be willing to take the vaccine upon rollout. Joe Biden and his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, have raised suspicions about the reliability of any vaccine rolled out before the election.

President Trump and his campaign see an effective vaccine as a major boost to his reelection prospects. In May, President Trump announced “Operation Warp Speed,” which he compared to the U.S.’s race for the atomic bomb. The *Associated Press* reported once there is a viable vaccine, Trump said he would employ “every plane, truck and soldier” to distribute doses.

News website STAT reported that many Democrats have indicated a swift vaccine approval would be politically motivated by the White House. Harris said she would not trust a vaccine under Trump. Biden agreed with his running mate.

“I trust vaccines,” he said. “I trust the scientists, but I don’t trust Donald Trump.”

Politico reported that Trump called out Biden for “recklessly endangering lives.” Trump said, “I am calling on Biden to stop promoting his anti-vaccine theories.”

Dr. Robert Redfield, Head of the CDC, told a Senate committee last week that the U.S. is still relatively far off from a vaccine and said it could take up to July 2021 before the public is completely vaccinated. Vaccines are currently undergoing human trials.

The Axios-Ipsos poll showed there has been a rise in suspicions about taking a vaccine. Most of those polled, about 30 percent, said they would wait for the vaccine to be released and wait a few months before taking it themselves.

One interesting element about the poll was those who considered themselves to be independents seemed to be unmoved by the recent bickering between Republicans and Democrats. They saw a two-point percentage drop, to 43 percent, in those who are likely to try a vaccine as soon as one is available.

TREND FORECAST: As we have noted, from nations' capitol across the globe to Wall Street, the word is that until a COVID vaccine is made available to the public, there will be no strong economic rebound.

Therefore, the faster the vaccine hits the Main Street, we forecast resistance to get vaccinated will decrease as the major media and politicians promote getting vaccinated as the only way to win the COVID War, with virtually no mention of building up one's immune system and getting healthy.

Governments will impose educational and other restrictions on all those who refuse to get vaccinated, just as they have done in many states and nations prior to the coronavirus.

VIRUS CASES UP IN EU, HOSPITALIZATIONS DOWN



It has been widely reported that much of Europe is undergoing a second wave of coronavirus infections with more citizens being diagnosed in some areas than during the height of the first round of infections, which led to widespread lockdowns.

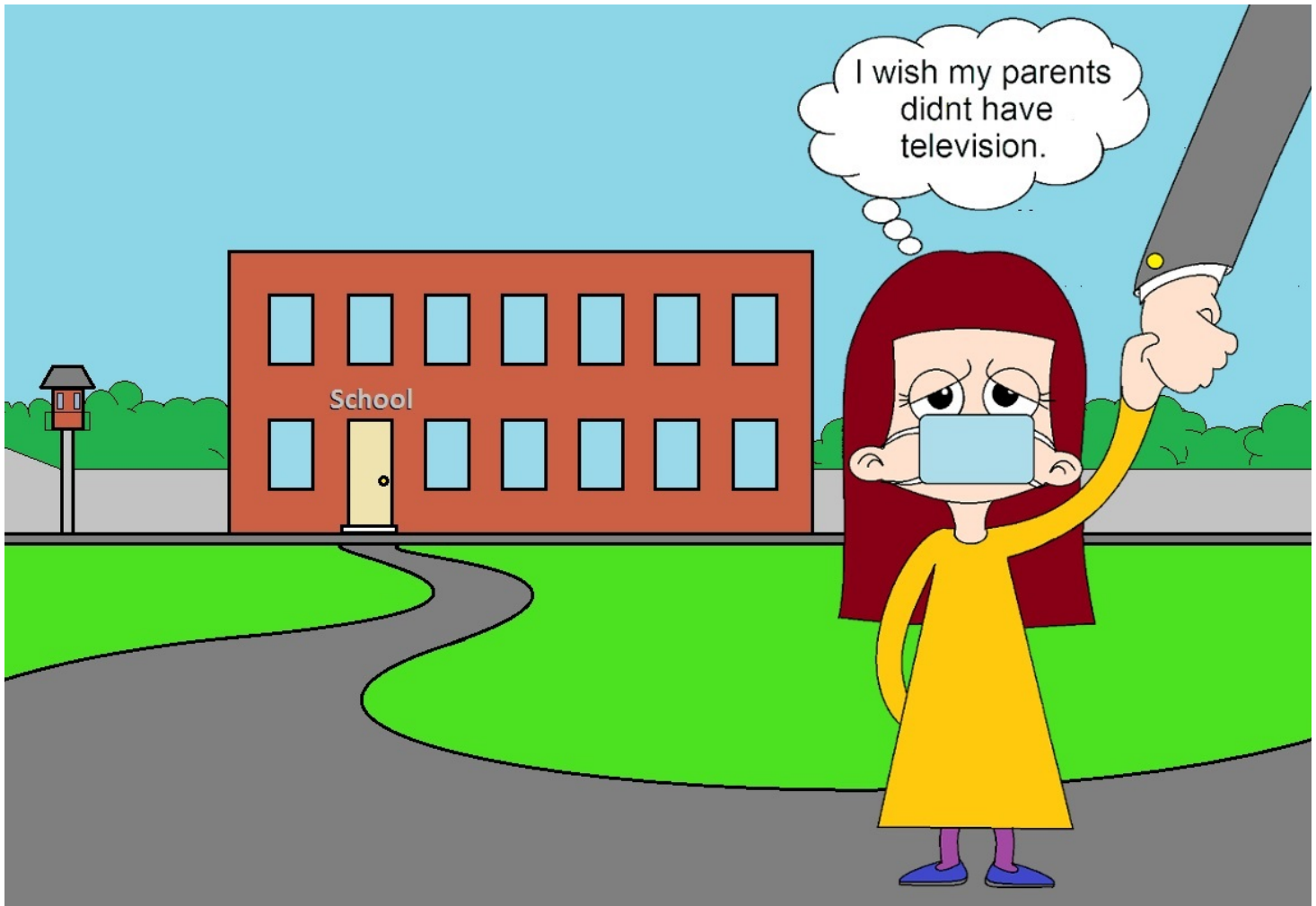
The jump in infections, however, has not translated to an increase in deaths and hospitalizations in most cases, which are seen by many health officials to be the true benchmark for evaluating the disease and the public health risk.

Many factors can be at play here. The virus could be mutating, and, while it is more contagious, it may also be less deadly. Presumably, those getting tested in March and April, when the world was first being introduced to the virus, were exhibiting far worse symptoms at the time of their diagnosis than those being tested now.

Dr. Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Head of the Infectious Disease department at Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital in Paris, told *The New York Times* that the number of hospitalizations in the country seemed to slow because many elderly and the at-risk public are taking the proper precautions. He said doctors are also making gains in the early treatment for patients, for example, by increasing “high-flow oxygen” to patients before they need intubation.

TRENDPOST: As we have detailed in this and other issues of the ***Trends Journal***, virus cases do not equal deaths, and the main reason virus case are rising is because more people are getting tested.

TRENDS IN TOONS *by Stephen Green*



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TRENDS-EYE VIEW

RON PAUL SUFFERS MEDICAL EMERGENCY DURING LIVESTREAM



As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, Gerald Celente is a political atheist.

Celente has made clear that the only presidential candidate he has supported as an adult was Ron Paul because of his ant-war, pro-peace, anti-Federal Reserve big bank cartel platforms... and his avocation to return to the gold standard.

In addition to appearing on Dr. Paul's *Liberty Report* with his co-host Daniel McAdams, Mr. Celente was scheduled to be one of the keynote speakers at Dr. Paul's Peace and Prosperity Conference this year, which was cancelled because of the COVID Lockdowns.

This past Friday, Dr. Paul was hospitalized after he appeared to slur his words during a live video broadcast on his show, the *Liberty Report*. Later in the day, he announced on Twitter, "I am doing fine," while later, sitting upright in a hospital bed, he said, "Thank you for your concern."

Yesterday, he was back on the *Liberty Report*.

Ron Paul ran for president three times. *The New York Times* pointed out that in 2008 – one of those times – Dr. Paul had a memorable confrontation with Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor, when the issue turned to the 9/11 attacks. Dr. Paul said the attacks were the result of the Muslim world reacting to the U.S. military intervention around the world. Giuliani told him to retract his statement, *The Times* reported, which Ron Paul refused to do.

It should be noted Gerald Celente forecast that as a result of Washington's murderous foreign policy initiatives, there would be a retaliatory strike on the homeland in 2001. Celente's forecast was quoted in *USA Today's* 14 December 2000 article, titled, "[2001 will not be our year, trend seer says. World is against us 'dangerous' Americans.](#)"

YouTube Ban

Dr. Paul has also been an outspoken critic of Dr. Anthony Fauci, whom the Presstitutes call the country's "top disease expert." In April, Fauci mentioned the possibility of immunity cards for citizens who have had the coronavirus and have recovered.

Paul, the former Texas congressman, said these measures are an excuse by Fauci to have total "control over the people."

"The plan that they have is when things are getting back to normal, yes, people can return to their work, and they do things and go to the golf course if they get a stamp of approval. Your liberties are there if you get a proper stamp from the government," he said at the time.

As a result of his analysis of the COVID War, which contradicts the mainstream media and political establishment, it was reported in the *Liberty Report* that:

"As many of you have already heard, YouTube (owned by Google, with deep roots in the deep state), inexplicably removed our Ron Paul Liberty Report from 23 September, titled, 'Covid Whistleblowers Expose Narrative As 'Total Fraud,' and officially delivered a 'warning' to the Ron Paul Liberty Report YouTube channel. They claimed in the notice that the program... violated their 'community guidelines' regarding 'spam, deceptive practices, and scams.'"

We are in danger of having our entire channel removed if we continue in these prohibited activities, they warned. Please watch the program for yourself and attempt to identify where any of these three violations took place."

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *Having had the good fortune to have spoken at Dr. Paul's Peace and Prosperity Conference in 2018 and having spent time with him, I was very pleased to see how physically fit and strongly alive Dr. Paul was, and how*

tirelessly he works to do all he can to restore freedom and bring peace and prosperity to America.

Coincidentally, or not, the day after Liberty Report was banned from YouTube, Dr. Paul was taken to the hospital. I do hope it was not the added stress that was put upon him by the Silicon Valley Mob that caused the medical condition.

PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®

INVESTORS GIVE EDGE TO BIDEN IN 2020 ELECTION



Top money managers in the U.S. are betting that Joe Biden will defeat President Trump in 2020 and say a Biden victory would mean losses at the stock exchange.

The *Financial Times* reported last week that the poll was taken in September. The report said 60 percent of 91 investment professionals have projected a Biden win. Many national polls show Biden maintaining a healthy lead on Trump despite critics who say he should be out campaigning more and the president making inroads in the Latin community. Their first debate is set for this evening, which is expected to touch on topics such as the coronavirus outbreak, the economy, and President Trump's decision to fill the Supreme Court seat left behind after Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death.

Joyce Chang, Chair of Global Research at JPMorgan, said the winner of the election may not be determined for weeks after Election Day. The paper said that if Trump is confirmed the winner on Election Day, investors predict a bounce in the stock market.

On the other hand, if Democrats win all chambers of Congress and the presidency, 60 percent of those polled said the stock market would become

bearish, and industries such as the energy sector would take the biggest hits. The report said two-thirds say companies focused on green initiatives will likely see gains.

Rebecca Felton, a senior market strategist at Richmond, VA-based RiverFront Investment Group, told the website MarketWatch that many investors will be glued to the television to get a sense of where the candidates stand on specific issues as they relate to the economy.

The *FT* reported that 48.4 percent of those polled say the GOP will keep the Senate and 88.5 percent say Democrats will keep their majority in the House.

MarketWatch reported that many investors see a more positive reaction on Wall Street in the event of a Trump victory because he would keep his 2017 corporate tax cuts in place and push for infrastructure spending.

“If we have a Democratic administration come in, typically we would say that’s not going to be as favorable for business... but I can’t imagine we’re going to see huge changes that we think would affect the economy when the economy is suffering so much from COVID,” Victoria Fernandez, Chief Market Strategist at Houston-based Crossmark Global Investments, told the website.

TREND FORECAST: *Tonight’s first of three Presidential Reality Show® debates between Donald Trump and Joe Biden will be a significant element in determining who wins the race for President.*

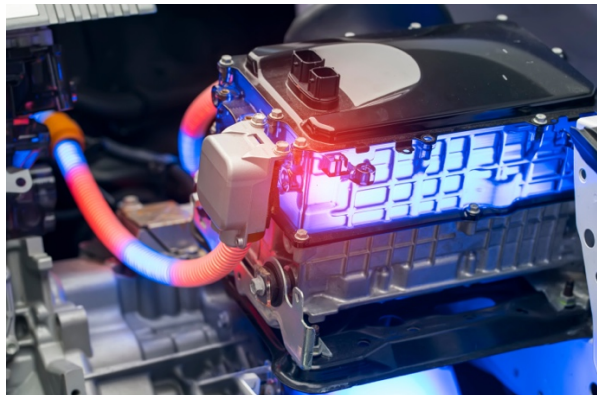
Biden has had a bumpy debate road, coming up short in his 1987 and 2007 presidential runs. As Barack Obama’s running mate, however, he beat out his Vice Presidential challengers of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin in 2008 and Representative Paul Ryan in the 2012 White House Race.

This debate and the two others will be especially critical for Donald Trump, since he is behind in the polls.

The Presidential Reality Show® champion, we forecast, will do all he can to deliver knockout punches on Biden in this and the next two debates.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE *by Bennett Davis*

NEW TECH CHARGES EV POWER PACKS IN 15 SECONDS



Electric vehicles' power packs can need eight hours or even longer to charge. But now Germany's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Skeleton Technologies, an Estonian firm, claim to be able to put a usable charge into an EV in as little as 15 seconds.

The key: pairing a standard lithium-ion battery pack with a set of supercapacitors.

Supercapacitors, a battery cousin, hold electricity as a static charge, not chemically as batteries do. As a result, they can fully charge in a few moments and dump their power just as quickly and also recover otherwise wasted energy from a vehicle's braking system.

Supercapacitors also hold much more electricity than conventional batteries and can be charged and emptied hundreds of thousands of times without wearing out, compared to batteries' useful life of around 3,000 cycles.

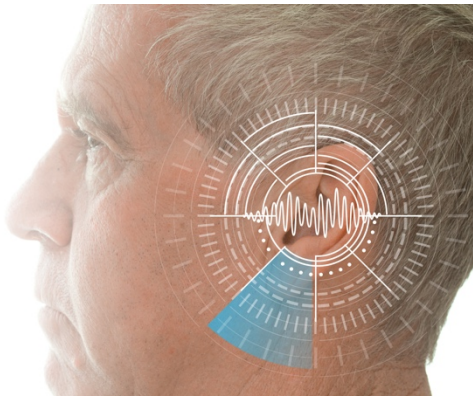
The combination of battery and supercapacitor could allow an EV to take a quick charge and continue on to a place where it could settle in for a longer fill-up, effectively extending the vehicle's range between charges.

Skeleton is already using its technology in specialized applications in trucks and buses. It says it has signed a billion-euro deal with a major manufacturer to take the technology to broader markets and is also working on an innovation that would increase an EV power pack's energy density tenfold.

The company believes that future generations of supercapacitors will eventually replace batteries in electric vehicles altogether.

TRENDPOST: *Skeleton's technology is a first step. Next, engineers are likely to devise a way for supercapacitors to take a quick charge and then continually charge a vehicle's battery pack as the EV is moving.*

THE \$1 HEARING AID



Around the world, more than 500 million people are partially or completely deaf, and that number is rising with the population of seniors. Severe hearing loss also is thought to be a contributing factor in dementia.

Solution: hearing aids. However, only 3 percent of people globally who need hearing aids, and no more than 20 percent in the U.S., have them; the typical hearing aid costs well over \$1,000.

But not Saad Bhamla's hearing aids. They could be made for about a buck apiece.

Frustrated because he couldn't afford to help his grandparents hear better, the bioengineer at the Georgia Institute of Technology worked with a hearing-impaired colleague to break hearing aids' cost barrier.

The two soldered a miniature microphone, amplifier, and frequency filter onto a tiny circuit board and added an audio jack for earbuds, battery holder, and on-off switch. The whole thing fits into a container the size of a matchbox and can be slipped into a pocket, under a hat, or hung around the neck on a string.

In tests, the gadget boosted the volume of hard-to-hear, high-pitched sounds without over-amplifying lower pitches. It also screened out much background noise and sudden, loud sounds such as car horns and improved hearing ability overall.

The invention complies with five of the six World Health Organization “preferred product recommendations” for hearing aids.

Manufactured in quantity, the hearing aids would cost about \$1 in parts.

Meanwhile, anyone can make their own for no more than \$20 and less than an hour’s time using Bhamla’s free plans on GitHub.

Bhamla is angling to qualify the device to be sold over the counter.

TRENDPOST: *Much of the world’s population can’t afford hi-tech. A thriving market in low-tech solutions, especially in health, is waiting for innovators to take advantage.*

VACCINE AGAINST DEMENTIA



A research team, led by scientists at the Institute for Molecular Medicine and University of California at Irvine, has reported success with a vaccine against Alzheimer’s dementia tested in mice.

The vaccine spurs the body to create antibodies that remove, and then prevent, the agglomeration of amyloid and tau proteins in the brain. These two proteins are thought to cause the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease by flummoxing communication among brain cells.

In mice genetically engineered to be susceptible to Alzheimer's, the vaccine, dubbed Advax, prevented the proteins' build-up when mice were injected before symptoms appeared. Advax also cleared the proteins in mice already showing symptoms.

Other attempts at vaccines have targeted either amyloid or tau proteins. Evidence hints that the proteins work together to cause dementia. Advax combines ingredients that target both.

Human trials are being planned.

TRENDPOST: Other trials have shown success in reversing Alzheimer's both by injection and by lifestyle management. With the addition of a vaccine and similar treatments, Alzheimer's will be a preventable, and curable, illness by 2035.