

TRENDSJOURNAL

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REVOLUTION



STOP THE GAME !

GameStop



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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

Last week was the worst week for U.S. equity markets since October as investors grew skittish about the economy's future, especially after Fed chair Jerome Powell issued a grim near-term outlook on 27 January. Additionally, the GameStop stock scam suckered hedge funds and other investors into losing billions.

Markets saw sharp drops last Wednesday, when Powell spoke, and again on Friday.

For the week, the NASDAQ and the Dow each shed 2 percent, and the S&P 500 index 1.9 percent.

Perennial favorites Amazon, Facebook, and Tesla lost value; Alphabet and Apple took a hit as a direct result of the GameStop debacle.

For January, the Dow was off 2 percent, the S&P 1.1 percent, and the CBOE's volatility index – a marker of investors' trepidations about the future – shot up 45 percent, including a 9.5-percent jump on 29 January alone.

MARKET MANIPULATORS HIKE SILVER PRICES. Cashing out some of their winnings in the GameStop stock game, day traders have moved into silver, closing the most actively traded futures contracts 2.1 percent higher on 28 January after shooting prices up as much as 6.7 percent during the day and pushing prices for the metal close to an eight-year high.

Share prices of First Majestic Silver Corp., a mining company, gained 21 percent on the day.

The unusual moves in the silver market were sparked by a post in a trading forum suggesting a “short squeeze” in silver, in which a trader borrows an asset, sells it, then buys it back at a lower price to repay the “loaned” asset. If other traders swoop in and buy enough of the asset to force prices higher, the trader who borrowed loses money.

Yesterday, silver futures had their biggest one-day jump, spiking 11 percent to nearly \$30 an ounce.

Encouraging individual investors to push the silver price up to \$1,000, user RocketBoomGo wrote on Reddit over the weekend that, “Silver Bullion Market is one of the most manipulated on earth,” and that “Any short squeeze in silver paper shorts would be EPIC. We know [that a] billion banks are manipulating gold and silver to cover real inflation.”

While the great attack from Wall Street and the media continues that the Reddit group of young people are irresponsible in what they are doing to unjustly and

illogically shape the markets, as we noted back in the **Trends Journal** in April 2014, it's rigging as usual when the Bankster Gang is in charge:

“The U.S. dollar began to crumble in 2011 when gold hit \$1,900 per ounce. But the Federal Reserve discovered that it or its dependent bullion banks (Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase) could sell gold short and drive down the price of gold in the futures market, where the price is set.

The banks found that they could make money doing this. The short selling, sometimes massive, drove down the price of gold so much that stop-loss orders added to the selling and then margin calls on leveraged positions would cause more selling.”

Indeed, RocketBoomGo is 100 percent correct. The markets, beyond silver, are rigged. As we wrote in the **Trends Journal** back in 2015,

“In May, the Department of Justice announced that five major global banks (Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, UBS, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Barclays) agreed to cop felony pleas and pay more than \$5.6 billion in criminal, regulatory and other fines for rigging the foreign-exchange markets – for years.”

Last year, it was the Bankster bandit, JPMorgan Chase, that was caught rigging the markets. As we wrote in our 29 September **Trends Journal**:

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 Treasurys 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.”

We went on to note,

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.

New Week, New Game

Beyond the GameStop and silver frenzy that riled markets last week are the economic fundamentals we have continually detailed and which Gregory Mannarino has reported on and analyzed that defy logic. (See Greg’s new article, [“BROKERAGES, MARKETS, GOVERNMENT: A RIGGED GAME OF DECEPTION”](#) in this issue.) Much of the world has entered the “Greatest Depression.”

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

Tourism, trade shows, conventions, entertainment, hospitality, restaurant, airline... dead and dying. Hundreds of millions out of work, 90 million sinking into poverty according to the IMF.

Millions abandoning big cities, working from home as commercial real estate, rental, and condo markets tank in many nations around the world.

Brick-and-mortar retail going bust, malls empty, “For Rent” signs string the streets from Fifth Avenue to Champs-Élysées.

Day after day, week after week, the data pointing to economic decline gets worse, yet stock markets around the keep rising.

Why?

The GameStop Show shows... the game is rigged.

As Joe Doran details in this **Trends Journal**, “[SPECIAL REPORT: GAME STOP](#),” just as the “smalls” brought down the “Bigs” last week by joining to together to direct the stocks, that is virtually an everyday game played BY the Wall Street Money Junkies the mainstream media sanitizes as hedge funds, private equity groups, and “investors.”

GameStop dropped more than 60 percent today, bringing its two-day loss to 72 percent.

Markets

After a down January, February has started with a bang with the Dow closing up 229.29 points yesterday, the tech-heavy NASDAQ up 1.4 percent... and the S&P gaining 1.7 percent, pushing it back into positive territory for the year.

Today was another happy market day with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 475 points, the NASDAQ spiking 1.56 percent, and the S&P rising 1.39 percent.

GOLD/SILVER. Gold slumped \$26.60 per ounce, dragged down by the silver crash. Following the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) increasing maintenance margins on Comex 5000 Silver Futures by 17.9 percent, silver fell 9.46 percent, closed down at \$26.63 per ounce.

Despite the volatility in the precious metals sector, we maintain our forecast for gold to rise above \$2,100 per ounce and silver above \$50 per ounce.

BITCOIN. As we go to press, bitcoin, at \$35,781, is up some \$3,781 from last week. Thus, it is still finding strength despite its pullback from its recent \$41,000 high.

And, as we have reported, there is increasing pressure from central Banksters to reign in bitcoin. Most notably, the chief of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, called for international bitcoin regulation last month claiming bitcoin is “a highly speculative asset, which has conducted some funny business and some interesting and totally reprehensible money laundering activity.”

We maintain our 5 January forecast for bitcoin: “The downward breakout point will be hit should the price fall below \$25,000 per coin.” On the upside, should bitcoin again break past \$41,000 into the \$42,000 per coin range, we forecast it will spike above \$50,000 per coin.

OIL. On the oil front, oil prices rose higher on reports that OPEC+ pact will extend oil production curbs and Saudi Arabia would cut production in the first quarter by an additional one million barrels per day.

As reported by oilprice.com, OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo was delighted because of “the backwardation” at the opening of the OPEC+ panel meeting today. He said, “With the crude oil market currently switching into backwardation, we are hopeful that 2021 will be a good year for overall demand.”

They noted, “The futures curve continues to firm into backwardation, the state of the market that points to tighter supplies with the prices of the nearer futures contracts higher than those further out in time.”

Thus, as is clear by the deals made by OPEC+ Gang, in full focus for all to see and hear – as with the equity, other financial and commodity markets – the game is rigged.

2020: WORST ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN 75 YEARS



The COVID lockdowns pushed the U.S. economy down by 3.5 percent last year, the U.S. Commerce Department reported, the worst contraction since 1946 when World War II ended.

In comparison, the economy shrank 2.5 percent in 2009 at the depth of the Great Recession and expanded by 2.2 percent in 2019.

More than 18 million Americans are receiving some form of unemployment benefits; face-to-face jobs are unlikely to return in volume until the COVID virus is controlled, possibly during the third quarter, optimistic analysts say.

The greatest loss of jobs has been among women, people of color, and those without a college degree, studies show.

Consumer spending slowed for the year in all 15 categories monitored by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Funny Money

Plunging further in debt, the U.S. government pumped more cheap money into the pocketbooks of the peasants of Slavelandia.

Thus, personal income grew in 2020 from 2019, thanks to federal \$1,200 stimulus checks, federal \$600 weekly unemployment benefits, and the Paycheck Protection Program, which allowed some workers to hang onto their jobs.

Disposable personal income grew faster last year for lower-income households than for the average household, according to a joint study by the Peterson Institute for International Economics and Harvard University's Kennedy School.

Those federal dollars helped ignite an economic recovery as people spent on vehicles, household items such as furniture to make being locked down at home less unpleasant, and supplies for home offices, the *Washington Post* reported.

But those boosts faded in 2020's second half as stimulus funds were spent or banked and federal unemployment benefits disappeared.

Congress's \$900-billion rescue package passed in December gave every American another \$600 stimulus payment and extended a \$300 weekly federal unemployment payments through March.

To spark a long-lasting recovery, Democrats in Congress emphasize a need to "go big and go bold," in the words of Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, and quickly pass President Biden's \$1.9-trillion stimulus plan; Republicans are balking at the cost.

Biden has met with a group of Republican senators to discuss prospects for a compromise plan.

TREND FORECAST: *A deal will be reached with Congress, more money will be pumped into the system, and it will artificially inflate the GDP in the second quarter, third quarter, and possibly the fourth depending on unforeseen wild cards. But long term, we forecast it will decline as the "Greatest Depression" worsens.*

There will be a "Biden Bounce" – some lost jobs will recover, but new ones won't be created. Yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office forecast that the number of employed Americans won't return to its COVID War lockdown level until 2024.

Therefore, some of what is lost will come back, but true economic growth – the creation of new jobs and businesses – will not expand.

RECOVERY SLOWS IN 2020'S FOURTH QUARTER



The U.S. economic recovery slowed in the last quarter of 2020, crippled by a surge in state lockdowns and draconian restrictions on travel and gatherings during Thanksgiving and the December holiday seasons.

U.S. GDP grew only 1 percent during the quarter, according to the U.S. Commerce Department, costing jobs as unemployment claims rose in December and earlier this month.

Annualized, the quarter's growth rate is 4 percent, compared to an annualized rate of 33.4 percent during 2020's third quarter.

Spending on health care, hotel stays, restaurants, and vehicle purchases perked up a bit in the third quarter but stalled in the fourth.

Despite the fourth quarter's disappointment, U.S. GDP will be larger by July than it was in December 2019, the International Monetary Fund has predicted. The group recently raised its outlook for U.S. economic growth this year from 3.1 to 5.1 percent.

INCOME, SAVINGS RISE AS CONSUMER SPENDING SAGS



U.S. household income from salaries, wages, investments, and government aid edged up 0.6 percent in December from November, the first gain since August.

The bump came largely from a new round of \$600 federal stimulus checks to individuals and the restoration of federal unemployment benefits passed by Congress toward the end of the month, analysts report.

The government supports will continue to buoy household incomes this month.

However, despite federal largesse, a rising stock market, and soaring home values, consumers are sitting on their wallets, many still fearful of an uncertain economic future and a virus epidemic that promises to worsen before it recedes.

In December, consumer spending retreated 0.2 percent, especially on pricey items such as major appliances and vehicles.

Spending on services rose, but barely.

Consumers' reluctance to spend helped brake the economic recovery, analysts say. The U.S. GDP expanded at an annualized rate of 4 percent during 2020's final three months, compared to 33.4 percent in the third quarter.

The difference between higher incomes and less spending left Americans with savings rates in record territory; December's U.S. savings rate was 13.7 percent of income, compared to the 8-percent average before the pandemic arrived.

Collectively, U.S. households put \$1.4 trillion into savings during the first nine months of 2020, about double the amount they banked in 2019, Berenberg Economics calculated.

The savings pace was not entirely voluntary: government shutdowns of restaurants, theaters, concerts, and other places where people gather left consumers with fewer opportunities to spend.

That will help push GDP growth at a 2.8-percent rate this quarter, market research firm IHS has predicted.

TREND FORECAST: *With money to spend, given to them by the government and saving it because they are locked down and there are not a lot of places to spend it... when the world feels vaccine safe, there will be a consumer spending splurge, which in turn may also spark inflation as demand outpaces supply.*

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DROP



New claims for unemployment benefits, an indirect measure of layoffs, slipped to 847,000 in the week ending 23 January, compared to an adjusted 916,000 the week before, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

The four-week moving average for jobless claims is 868,000, up 16,250 from the previous four-week average and higher than at any time since September.

Layoffs remain far above the pre-pandemic peak of 695,000 and have remained higher longer than for any period since 1957.

Unemployment claims rose from below 800,000 a week in November to a peak of 926,000 during the week of 9 January, reflecting the impact of cold weather and an unrelenting virus on jobs and the economic recovery generally.

In contrast to new claims, continuing claims for benefits fell from 5 million to 4.8 million during the week of 16 January, far below a COVID War peak of 25.9 million last May.

TREND FORECAST: *With a cold winter setting in and draconian lockdown restrictions still in place in the larger states, we forecast a rise in unemployment. However, the current numbers are smaller than the reality on the street than the current data indicates. While some people found work, others exhausted their benefits, and in Slavelandia, USA, they are no longer counted as unemployed.*

For more accurate unemployment data, we suggest you go to www.shadowstats.com

BIDEN: “BUY AMERICAN”



President Biden has signed an executive order directing federal agencies to spend more of the government's annual \$600-billion purchasing budget with U.S. companies, particularly small and

medium-sized businesses and companies owned by minority entrepreneurs.

“Under the previous administration, federal government contracts awarded directly to foreign companies went up 30 percent,” Biden said when signing the order. “That is going to change on our watch.” Although current law directs government spending toward American businesses, the rules under the law are loose and subject to interpretation.

Biden’s order makes the rules more explicit and also establishes a “Made in America” director inside the Office of Management and Budget. The director will review requests for waivers to the more stringent rules.

The order also mandates federal agencies to make greater use of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a web of small and mid-size manufacturers around the country.

The order to work with small companies will boost fledgling tech enterprises developing artificial intelligence systems, innovative batteries, biotech, and other breakthroughs that will “sharpen America’s innovative edge in markets where global leadership is up for grabs,” Biden said.

TRENDPOST: While the “Made in America” Biden announcement made the headlines, it will do next to nothing to generate growth in the U.S. manufacturing sector, which accounts for only 12 percent of the nation’s GDP.

As we have reported, Joe Biden was a strong supporter of President Bill Clinton’s deal to bring Communist China into the World Trade Association in 2000. Just ten years later, in 2010, China overtook the United States as the world’s top manufacturer. According to the United Nations Statistics Division, China was responsible for 28 percent of global output in 2018.

FEDS: KEEP THE GAME GOING



At its meeting in late January, the U.S. Federal Reserve left interest rates and its bond-buying policies unchanged amid signs that the American economic recovery has stumbled.

“Following a sharp rebound in economic activity last summer, the pace of the recovery has moderated in recent months, with the weakness concentrated in the sectors of the economy most adversely affected by the resurgence of the virus and by greater social distancing,” Fed chair Jerome Powell said at a press conference following the meeting, quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

“The economy is a long way from our inflation and employment goals and is likely to take some time for further substantial progress to be achieved,” he acknowledged.

Fed officials believe the slowdown is temporary and will leave current loose money and bond market support policies in place because “there are people out there who have lost their jobs,” Powell said. “It is essential that we get them back to work as quickly as possible.”

Playing the vax card, as we have noted since it got rushed to market, the Fed Chair emphasized to make that happen, “nothing [is] more important to the economy right now than getting people vaccinated.”

“Getting the pandemic under control... is the single most important growth policy we can have,” he said, “getting everyone vaccinated, getting people to wear masks, and all that.”

The ongoing vaccination campaign eventually will bring airlines, hotels, restaurants, and other face-to-face businesses back to life; but the slow initial pace of the vaccine distribution means that “it’s going to be a struggle.”

Powell’s comments snuffed out conjectures that the Fed might ease its bond-buying program or nudge up interest rates any time soon.

Any talk of tapering is "premature," Powell said and reiterated his past pledge that any changes to the Fed's bond-buying program would be announced far in advance.

On 28 January, the day Powell made his comments, U.S. stock markets booked their worst day of the year, with prices sliding as Powell spoke. The S&P 500 index dropped 3 percent, its biggest one-day loss since October.

Powell said that the greatest economic pain was in the short term, implying confidence in a stronger recovery during the second half of this year.

He also added the Fed would not change policies based on any one quick improvement, even if that means allowing inflation to rise faster than the bank's stated 2-percent target.

“Frankly, we welcome slightly higher inflation,” Powell said.

Powell and Janet Yellin, Powell’s predecessor as Fed chair and now U.S. treasury secretary, have called for continued government stimulus to goose the economy now and deal later with massive deficits and the prospect of inflation.

Asked about financial stability in the wake of the GameStop stock scam and the overheated housing market, Powell said “financial stability vulnerabilities are overall moderate.”

The Fed's low-interest rates have helped drive a home-buying boom that has jacked home prices 9.5 percent year over year by November 2020, the sharpest rise since 2011, and created a shortage of available houses for sale and rising stock markets.

In his briefing, Powell attributed recent hikes in stock prices to fiscal stimulus and news of the vaccines’ distribution, not Fed policies.

Once recovery is in place and markets are stable, there are likely to be structural and employment issues for policymakers to address, he noted, saying "we're learning that technology can replace people even more than we thought."

TREND FORECAST: Before this week’s bounce, pessimism was building on The Street. There is broad acknowledgment that massive money pumping by the Fed, its purchases of \$80 billion of Treasuries, and \$40 billion of mortgage-backed securities every month and low-interest rates are artificially propping up the markets and that a bubble has been created.

A wild card event, be it war in the Middle East with Iran or unpredictable new rounds of GameStop-like maneuvers, an unexpected jolt, outside the controllable

of money junkies and Banksters, will burst the artificially-inflated bubble... crashing the markets and sinking nations swiftly and deeper into the “Greatest Depression.”

TRENDPOST: *If Chairman Powell read the **Trends Journal**, he would already know how quickly machines are taking jobs from human workers.*

Walmart has just announced plans to establish local warehouses staffed by robots in or next to existing stores to fulfill the rising tide of online grocery shopping and other orders as the company competes with Amazon.

Walmart’s online sales soared 79 percent in 2020’s third quarter compared to a year earlier, the company reported.

Robots will pull routine items, such as boxes of cereal or Xbox game controllers; people will select fresh produce and handle similarly more delicate or complex chores. Orders can be picked up by customers or delivery drivers.

Walmart also is mulling automated pickups, in which robots would shuttle orders to a hatch that a human could open by scanning with a smartphone.

The localized, automated warehouses are designed to reduce the so-called “last mile” costs, the most expensive part of order fulfillment, which gets goods from stores into customers’ hands.

Walmart estimates that robots and other forms of automation will cut the cost of filling orders by as much as 75 percent, the Wall Street Journal reported.

U.S. FINANCIERS: BYE-BYE WALL STREET



A horde of U.S. financial firms, especially those in New York, are moving to Florida.

The convergence of financial businesses on southeast Florida's "gold coast" is the greatest in any time during the last 32

years, Kelly Smallridge, president of the Palm Beach County's Business Development Board, told *Business Insider*.

One realtor is taking hedge fund executives on as many as three tours a day of available office space from Miami to West Palm Beach.

"They're not just from New York and they're not just the pre-pandemic 2,000 to 5,000-square-foot satellite offices," Stephen Rutchik with the Colliers real estate brokerage said to *Business Insider*.

Most of the interest is in spaces of 50,000 to 70,000 square feet in buildings ready to move into, Rutchik noted. "They want to make the move now for tax purposes, and do it before the end of the year," he said. The level of activity is "torrential" and "unabated."

Florida cut its corporate tax rate from 5.5 percent to 4.458 percent for tax years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The rate in New York is 6.5 percent and in Connecticut, home to many hedge funds, income is taxed at 7.5 percent.

About 99 percent of Florida-based businesses pay no state income taxes, a 2019 *Orlando Sentinel* investigation found.

Eight years ago, when financial executives began buying homes in the Miami area to escape high northern taxes, "there weren't many 'Class A' office buildings with water views to accommodate the requests," Smallridge said.

Now new arrivals are walking into turnkey office spaces that are part of the region's recent office-tower building boom.

Legendary investor Carl Icahn moved his entire company to Miami last year. JPMorgan Chase has taken space in DiVosta Towers, an 11-story luxury complex in Palm Beach Gardens; Comvest Partners and Norwest Equity Partners are settling into 360 Rosemary, a West Palm Beach campus rigged out with state-of-the-art digital technologies, including motion sensors and facial recognition systems.

As big-name companies decamp to southeast Florida and make it an even greater financial center, more will follow as a "herd mentality" takes over, Rutchik predicted.

TREND FORECAST: *With the COVID War sparking a work-at-home, Zoom World that instantly shifted businesses out of bustling cities, there is no longer a need to pay millions to work in high-tax urban centers.*

The facts are in front of all open eyes: Wall Street is Dead Street... as are all the businesses that depended on the commuters and tourists that once flooded it.

Thus, the flow to low tax, nice-climate cities by financial and other business sectors will continue.

While there will be a temporary economic "Biden Bounce," what the media and their "experts" continue to discount is that NEVER before in history has there been a work-at-home Hi-Tech trend that has collapsed commercial/business office sectors in major cities. And NEVER before have so many people – renters and owners – abandoned cities and moved to suburbs and ex-burbs en masse as they have now.

Only 14 percent of New York City's one million office workers were back in the city's office blocks in mid-January, according to data compiled by Kastle Systems, a security firm.

About 79 percent of workers feel that doing their jobs at home is working well, according to PriceWaterHouseCoopers survey released this month.

Just today, the real estate company Brookfield Property Partners LP posted a \$2 billion loss as the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic caused it to reassess the value of its real estate.

They said their 2020 loss compares with net income of \$3.2 billion in 2019, a decline the company attributed to “unrealized reductions of values of certain assets within the portfolio.”

Moreover, the long-term toll of sinking real estate and shrinking populations on cities that are being abandoned will result in yet higher taxes, government bond busts, loan defaults... and rising crime.

Therefore, the long-term toll of the cities that are being abandoned will result in yet higher taxes, government bond busts, loan defaults... and rising crime.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have warned last year when politicians launched the COVID War and locked down the economy, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it." As forecast, according to a study released yesterday by the National Commission of COVID-19 and Criminal Justice, America's murder rate was "historic" and has "no modern precedent."*

Homicides jumped over 30 percent from 2019 to 2020, gun assaults climbed 8 percent, and aggravated assaults were up 6 percent, according to the study.

As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, these crime rates will rise.

BLACKROCK: INFLATION AHEAD



“It’s fair to assume we’re going back into an era of inflation,” Larry Fink, chairman and CEO of BlackRock, the world’s richest investment management company, said in comments at the Future Investment Initiative conference in Saudi Arabia and reported by *CNN*.

The global COVID vaccination campaign will create herd immunity by September, Fink said. “That will create demand for jobs and will become somewhat more inflationary.”

Also, a new global trend toward domestic buying to support national economic recoveries, exemplified by President Biden’s “Buy American” directive, is “a basic inflationary trend,” Fink noted.

The U.S. Federal Reserve’s stated policy is to allow inflation to exceed the Fed’s 2-percent target rate for brief periods during the economic recovery before it will raise interest rates to choke off inflation.

TREND FORECAST: Higher inflation will slow GDP growth. The more something costs, the fewer products people will buy. Should inflation spike, it will force central banks to raise interest rates, slowing their injections of monetary methadone, which have artificially inflated equities and economies.

We maintain our forecast for Dragflation: the economy will sink into the “Greatest Depression,” but prices of goods, services, and commodities will rise.

Prices will not rise because of supply and demand, since, as with oil, for example, there will be more supply than demand. Prices will rise because the value of currencies will decline as central banks devalue them by printing trillions

to “stimulate” sagging economies. Thus, the cheaper the currency, the more it costs to buy products.

Gold and silver will continue as the most precious metal safe-haven assets. We maintain our forecast of new rounds of artificial central bank monetary stimulus and massive amounts of government fiscal stimulus that will artificially prop up equity markets and economies.

CONSTRUCTION: SLOW RECOVERY



Although 37 states added jobs in the building trades in November and December, the total number of U.S. construction workers still lags pre-pandemic levels, according to a 26 January report by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGCA).

Construction jobs declined during the two-month span in 11 states and D.C.

However, even those recent gains are likely to be temporary, noted AGCA chief economist Ken Simonson in a statement accompanying the report.

“Participants in our association’s recent Hiring and Business Outlook Survey expect the dollar volume of most project types available to bid on in 2021 to decline,” he said.

In 34 states, there were fewer construction jobs in December than last February, the month before the U.S. began locking down its economy.

During the final 11 months of 2020, Texas and Vermont lost the most construction jobs; Alabama and Virginia added the most.

To buoy construction employment until the COVID virus is curbed by mass vaccinations, state and federal agencies should invest in infrastructure projects, put additional money into construction projects, and move quickly to forgive Paycheck Protection Loans, the AGCA's statement urged.

TREND FORECAST: *Name the industry, profession, politician, nation, state, etc., according to them all, forgotten is the devastation wrought upon the global economy by unprecedented lockdowns that have destroyed hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods. In their world, the only salvation for a return to “profit” will be “mass vaccinations.”*

The construction industry will continue to weaken as the commercial real estate sector continues to decline and home building moderately expands.

S&P MAY CUT OIL INDUSTRY'S CREDIT RATING



S&P Global Ratings may cut the credit ratings of major oil companies as the world shifts from petroleum-powered engines to electric vehicles, the agency announced last week.

General Motors has revealed plans to end the manufacture of gas- and diesel-powered vehicles by 2035, the same year that California will ban the sale of such vehicles under an executive order signed last September by governor Gavin Newsom. In December 2018, Volkswagen announced it would stop making fossil-fuel-powered cars by 2026.

Also, last August the Dow Jones Industrial Average delisted ExxonMobil, which had been a part of the index since 1928, when it was Standard Oil of New Jersey, and replaced it with Tesla.

The rating agency, one of the world's most influential, has put Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, French oil giant Total, and several Chinese oil companies on a "downgrade watch," meaning that it could cut their credit ratings in the future, although any cuts may not come soon.

When a company's credit rating is downgraded, the company typically has to pay higher interest rates to borrow because lenders see the loans as riskier. Also, some investment funds are forbidden by their own rules to buy bonds from companies with lower credit ratings.

S&P now views the entire oil and gas industry as being "moderately high risk" due to "increased and likely increasing risks for oil and gas producers."

Oil and gas producers face "significant challenges and uncertainties engendered by the energy transition, including market declines due to growth of renewables," S&P said in its announcement, citing "pressures on profitability, specifically return on capital, as a result of high dollar capital investment levels over 2005-2015 and lower average oil and gas prices since 2014."

Losing Big

With the global economic shutdown slashing demand for fossil fuels when the world already was awash in a glut of oil, Chevron reported losing \$665 million in 2020's fourth quarter, bringing its total loss for the year to \$5.5 billion.

The oil and gas giant's stock has fallen more than 23 percent in the last 12 months, still a better performance than some of its competitors.

In 2019, Chevron posted a \$3-billion profit.

TREND FORECAST: *For more than two years, we have been warning that the oil industry is becoming a more speculative, short-term game.*

As we note in our "U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW," oil prices are overtly being manipulated to artificially keep the prices higher.

And the recent announcement by General Motors of planning to sell only EVs by 2035 – which will drive down oil prices as autos go electric – is more hype than reality.

We have written in detail for several years that EV will not become reality until a higher quality invention than the current battery has been invented.

JUNK FOOD SALES TURN SUNNYSIDE UP



In 2020's fourth quarter, McDonald's U.S. sales in stores open for more than a year rose 5.5 percent compared to a year earlier, the company reported, building on November's 4.6-percent year-on-year gain.

The burger chain saw sales shrink in Europe, down 7.4 percent compared to 2019's final quarter and less bad than the third quarter's 10-percent slide.

The mixed results gave the company \$5.3 billion in revenue for the quarter, slightly below analysts' estimates, as were earnings of \$1.70 per share; analysts had expected \$1.77.

McDonald's has coped with the economic restrictions during the pandemic by offering breakfast all day, trimming its menu, and offering new items, such as the instantly popular fried-chicken sandwich.

The company also will close 325 stores with poor sales, more than half of them inside Walmarts, but will add another 1,300 locations around the world, it said.

TRENDPOST: *We note this to again emphasize the reality of the junk food trend, why people are overweight, obese, and unhealthy... and why a significant*

number of COVID-19 victims and other life-threatening killers are self-imposed: You are what you eat.

While organic movements have grown substantially over the last two decades, organic foods in 2019 accounted for only 5.8 percent of the food sold in retail channels. Indeed, a walk through any major supermarket chain store shows how small the organic sections are and how limited the scope of products are compared to the low quality, highly processed, non-organic aisles that dominate.

On the fast food front, an industry that had only \$6 billion in revenue in 1970 and surged to over \$200 billion in 2019, while major chains promise fresher ingredients with fewer additives and more vegetables, for the most part, Americans keep gobbling down burgers, fries, and other fast food junk.

TRENDPOST: *Keeping the eat more, drink more, and get unhealthy trend, Mondelez International, maker of Oreo cookies and Triscuit crackers, boosted sales by 3.2 percent last year.*

Mondelez also swallowed a larger share of Britain's chocolate market, it said in its report.

Booze it Up

Makers of wine and spirits may have lost U.S. sales in 2020 as bars and restaurants went dark for months, but people drinking at home more than made up the deficit.

U.S. sales of alcoholic drinks increased 15 percent in 2020 from 2019, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, as distillers shifted advertising to urge consumers to buy at liquor stores and online.

TREND FORECAST: *Weight loss programs will bring in great financial gains. "Whole Health Healing" is a top trend this year and for decades to come. While many will remain overweight and out of shape, new millennium "New Agers" –*

those who are financially down and physically out – will be seeking new roads to find inner peace and self-satisfaction... that money can't buy.

This will be a great OnTrendpreneur® opportunity for those with free minds to explore the world of natural healing remedies and treatments that are both easily accessible and affordable.

Looking good and feeling strong, self-confident, and self-reliant will be personal survival strategies for those wanting to move up as the world around them keeps going down.

JPMORGAN TO CREATE DIGITAL BANK



JPMorgan Chase has hired 400 people to create a digital bank in the U.K., the financial giant has disclosed.

The new bank is being tested inside the company, using employees as customers, before opening to the public later this year.

The bank will begin by offering checking and savings accounts, then move into loans and a broader range of services once the new bank is established, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The new digital bank will jostle for market share with online British entrants Starling Bank and Monzo Bank, which British regulators permitted after the Great Recession to increase competition in the country's financial sector.

“We’ve designed the bank from scratch to specifically meet the needs of customers” in the U.K., Gordon Smith, JPMorgan’s CEO of consumer and community banking, said in a statement quoted by the *Journal*.

JPMorgan considered trying to buy Starling Bank last year, insiders say.

Starling has about two million customers and £4.7 billion on deposit.

“Starling set out to disrupt the banking landscape and the fact that big banks are now copying us shows that we are succeeding, so we welcome competition,” said Starling founder Anne Boden in an interview with the *Journal*.

“Big banks don’t have a great record of creating challenger brands or building software in a cost-effective manner,” she said. “They are copying our features but they are unable to copy our cost base and culture for innovation.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long forecast, the world is going from “**DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH**,” and China will lead the charge. (See our 20 October article, “**CHINA: DIGITAL CURRENCY WORLD LEADER**.”)*

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



GOVERNMENTS CAN PILE UP HIGHER DEBT, IMF SAYS

As the COVID pandemic ends, governments should not rush to reduce their debt but “rethink” their financial policies so they continue to support recovery and reduce joblessness, Vitor Gaspar, chief of fiscal policy for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a 28 January public statement reported by the *Financial Times*.

The position is a reversal of the IMF’s view as the Great Recession was ending when the agency urged governments to slash their debt loads.

The difference? Today’s rock-bottom interest rates, Gaspar said.

In the past 30 years, public debt around the world has doubled from 60 percent to 120 percent, he acknowledged. However, borrowing costs have dropped by half, from 4 percent to 2 percent, he pointed out.

“The pressure to have debt play out is something we can let play out over a long time horizon; the adjustment in the public debt ratio” to GDP “should be mostly gradual,” he said.

“Circumstances have changed in a way that justifies the rethinking of fiscal rules and frameworks,” he added.

Countries’ first financial priority is to spend what is necessary to control the virus, Gaspar said, with debt reduction far down the list of urgent actions.

TREND FORECAST: *No, governments cannot live with higher debt. The debt bubble will burst and we maintain our forecast for rising gold, silver, and bitcoin prices.*

CANADIAN HOTELS: BUSINESS DOWN, INSURANCE COSTS SKYROCKET



Canadian hotels, financially drained after months of occupancy rates below their break-even points, have seen their property insurance premiums skyrocket.

In the province of Alberta, property insurance rates have risen 100 to 300 percent in the past year, according to the

Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association.

A group owning hotels in western Canada reported rates doubling at two of the inns, now costing \$135,000 a year each...” and you don’t have money rolling in,” noted Michael Mazepa, one of the owners.

The premium for the Westgate Motor Inn in West Edmonton, Alberta, shot from \$8,600 last year to \$34,000 this year. Owner Jay Deol says he never made a claim and doesn't understand the staggering increase.

When he shopped for a different carrier, no company would even offer a quote, he said in an interview with CBC.

Rates have ballooned for three reasons, analysts and insurance industry executives say:

- since 2005, loss payments have grown at a faster rate than premiums, the Insurance Bureau of Canada reports;
- catastrophic weather events, such as last April's flood in Fort McMurray that wreaked \$522 billion in damage and July's hailstorm in Calgary that cost property insurers almost \$1.3 billion in claims, are more frequent and more costly than previously;
- several slip-and-fall cases have spawned expensive lawsuits.

The pace of payouts is overtaking premium payments at a time of record-low interest rates. That means insurance companies are unable to bank the premiums and collect a comfortable rate of return above the amount of money they have to pay out.

"The lower the interest rates, the higher the insurance premiums because insurance companies can't make money on the investment behind the scenes," Bret Kanuka, marketing director with CMB Insurance Brokers, told CBC.

As a consequence, many hotel owners are dropping property insurance and only buying liability coverage.

"That's very scary," Nona McCreedy, owner of Aurora Underwriting Services in Edmonton, said to the CBC. "They're suddenly taking on that risk themselves."

School districts, shopping mall owners, and other property-intensive businesses also are seeing premiums jump, industry insiders told the CBC.

TORONTO RENTAL LISTINGS MORE THAN DOUBLE IN FOURTH QUARTER



The number of condominiums for rent in Canada's largest city ballooned by 132 percent in the last quarter of 2020 year over year as the city reimposed a stringent lockdown, a 27 January report from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board disclosed.

The glut of empty flats pushed rental prices down.

A one-bedroom condo was renting for \$1,845 last month, a 17-percent drop from a year earlier; two-bedroom units were priced at \$2,453, a 15-percent slide, the board reported.

The pandemic, combined with the sudden ability to work from home for white-collar employees, sent people out from the city center into the suburbs and beyond. The flight was particularly pronounced among young professionals, a key market for the condo towers marking downtown's skyline.

Toronto, Canada's financial center, has hosted a condo building boom in recent years as the city attracted well-educated workers. Many individuals bought condos to rent to young professionals. Now those investors are looking at monthly losses.

As well as rental units, the number of condos for sale in the city doubled in 2020's final three months compared to a year earlier, board figures show.

The average selling price across the Toronto metro area slipped 1.1 percent to \$610,044 and fell 2.4 percent to \$644,516 in the city's historic center.

GERMANY'S INFLATION SURGES



Germany's consumer prices rose 0.7 percent in December, then the rate more than doubled to 1.6 percent in January, the country's Federal Statistical Office reported.

Analysts had expected a modest 0.5-percent bump.

The price inflation was not due to an overall economic recovery but was caused by three factors, analysts say:

- Germany had reduced its value-added tax last year but has now restored the previous higher rate;
- a new carbon tax hiked energy costs;
- the minimum wage increased.

Also, the government changed the way it calculates inflation, giving more weight to products that have become more expensive, such as food, and less to items that have fallen in price, such as hotel room rentals.

Germany's price jump will push up Europe's overall inflation rate.

Inflation in the Eurozone will rise from -0,3 percent in December to 1.5 percent in 2021's fourth quarter, then retreat to 1.2 percent in 2022, the European Central Bank (ECB) has forecast. The bank has targeted 2-percent inflation as acceptable.

However, “I have penciled in German inflation going clearly above 2 percent this year and maybe the Eurozone also,” Carsten Brzeski, ING’s chief of macroeconomic research, told the *Financial Times*.

The bank’s challenge is not to make sudden decisions based on January’s inflation data, cautioned Frederik Ducrozet, commented to the *FT*.

“Any kind of tightening at the moment” of the ECB’s loose-money policies “would be very unwarranted at this time,” ECB president Christine Lagarde said in a public comment earlier this month quoted by the *FT*.

TREND FORECAST: *We have warned of Dragflation: prices will rise as economies go down. The reality is in the numbers, but much of the data is rigged by central banks so they can maintain historically low interest rates. We suggest going to www.shadowstats for more accurate inflation data. And, the higher inflation rises so, too, will safe-haven assets such as gold, silver, and bitcoin.*

INDIANS FEAR OF SPENDING HOBBLER ECONOMIC RECOVERY



COVID cases are dwindling in India after a severe lockdown, which shrank the economy by 15 percent from April through September. The contraction turned what had once been the world’s fastest-growing economy into one of the world’s worst performers.

However, despite infections dropping from 100,000 a day to less than 20,000 now, wary consumers have not resumed spending.

The country's household savings rate nearly tripled from 7.9 percent of income in June 2019 to 21.4 percent a year later, the country's central bank reported in November.

In December, households had 23 percent more cash on hand than a year previous, the Indian Banks Association said in a report cited by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Savings rates also zoomed in most developed countries during the pandemic but since have fallen in most; the pace of U.S. savings shot from about 7 percent before the pandemic to more than 30 percent in April but has since fallen below 14 percent.

Partly because consumers are hoarding their money, India's economy will continue contracting this quarter, but only by -1.2 percent, the financial services company Nomura has predicted.

Last week, foot traffic in and around India's main shopping and recreational areas was 27 percent less than before the pandemic and about the same as in countries still in a hard fight against the virus, such as the U.S., where traffic in similar areas is down 26 percent, according to Google's Mobility Report.

"There's this mountain of money out there" that could reignite the economy if people would spend it, Pranjul Bhandari, HSBC's chief India economist, told the *Journal*, but "there's an element of fearful savings and insecurity about...jobs."

EMERGING MARKETS PILE ON DEBT, SPARKING FUTURE DEFAULT FEARS



Developing nations' businesses and governments sold a record \$115.2 billion in bonds to foreign investors during the first 27 days of this year, Bond Radar reported. The figure eclipses the previous record of \$112.8 billion set last January as emerging markets struggled with burdensome debt.

The new debt is in addition to the \$847 billion the countries borrowed in 2020.

“This is a tsunami we’re facing now,” Sergey Goncharov, emerging markets portfolio manager at Vontobel Asset Management, said in an interview with the *Financial Times*.

Two factors are propelling the nations’ dive into deeper debt, analysts say.

First, the countries need the cash to cover the cost of caring for COVID victims and to shore up their reeling economies until global trade resumes.

Second, a recent sell-off in U.S. treasury securities pushed interest rates above 1 percent, signaling that today’s rock-bottom rates may not last much longer.

Also, investors are seeking out investments offering higher returns than developed countries, where central banks’ interest rates languish near, or below, zero. That creates a receptive market for emerging markets’ bonds, which carry higher risk and, therefore, must offer a better interest rate.

Funds investing in developing nations have been collecting new money from investors for 15 consecutive weeks through 22 January, data from Emerging Fund Portfolio Research shows.

“It’s hard to imagine the market getting any better,” Stefan Weiler, an international debt market manager at JPMorgan Chase, told the *FT*. “We probably have seen the bottom on rates.”

“From an issuer perspective, it’s hard to see market conditions improving,” he added.

Saudi Arabia sold \$5 billion worth of 40-year bonds after drawing \$20 billion in bids for the offering; the yield is 3.45 percent, just 1.3 percentage points above the current rate for U.S. government bonds, giving the kingdom markedly lower borrowing costs than available in the past.

Lower-rated borrowers such as Bahrain and Oman had no difficulty selling 30-year bond issues of \$2 billion and \$3.25 billion, respectively.

The two nations are not seen as blue-chip investments: Bahrain needed an economic bailout from Saudi Arabia in 2018 and Oman’s economy shrank 0.8 percent in 2019, with analysts expecting a 10-percent contraction last year.

Oman’s debt load was 5 percent of GDP in 2014; last year, it reached 80 percent.

Colombia, Indonesia, and Mexico also were able to secure new financing through bond sales and lock in interest rates before they move up, as expected later this year.

“We saw this same movie in the early 2010s,” Emre Tiftik, the Institute of International Finance, warned in a comment quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*. “The expectation was that the dollar would remain weak for a long time. This triggered a significant amount of debt accumulation by emerging economies.”

Instead, in 2013 U.S. bond yields rose dramatically, causing developing countries’ bondholders to yank billions from emerging markets.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have warned, this speculative gambling bubble and growing debt bubbles will burst. When and why is a guess considering the reality that central banks and governments will do anything they can to keep the money junkies high.*

We do, however, suggest that the market and speculative crash will occur in 2021.

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE EXECUTED FOR CORRUPTION

Lai Xiaomin, a former employee of Huarong Asset Management, was executed last week, three weeks after being convicted of bribery by a court in the city of Tianjin.

He was convicted of taking about \$280 million in bribes over ten years while he worked at Huarong and, before that, as a regulator at the Chinese Banking Regulatory Commission.

Death penalties are rare in white-collar crime cases but the court ruled that Lai's crimes caused serious harm to China's national interests.

Under mounting public pressure, China began a campaign several years ago to uncover corruption and make examples of wrongdoers and to control riskier aspects of its financial markets, which the government has deemed a threat to financial stability.

Huarong had expanded aggressively, moving from handling risky loans into insurance and property development, finally drawing scrutiny from regulators.

An unnamed acquaintance of Lai's tied his draconian punishment to his closeness to individuals among China's elite. The government "wanted to set him as an example to scare other corrupt officials," the person told the *Financial Times*.

Human rights advocates have called the execution indefensible.

“To impose this kind of punishment for a non-violent crime is additionally disturbing,” said Sophie Richardson, head of Human Rights Watch in China, in a comment quoted by the *Times*.

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to compare how, in America, as detailed in this and numerous other issues of the **Trends Journal**, the White Shoe Boys and Banksters rob trillions, destroy the lives of millions, and get small fines and no jail time. But for the plantation workers of Slavelandia, U.S.A. who are convicted of a crime, they are punished by the full extent of the law. And when the “little” people are unjustly prosecuted, barely a peep from organizations professing to be human rights advocates.*

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT

AIRLINES STILL IN A TAILSPIN. American Airlines reported a 2020 loss of almost \$8.89 billion, JetBlue almost \$1.4 billion, and Southwest Air \$1.3 billion, its first annual loss in 48 years.

The losses have continued into 2021’s first quarter.

Air carriers expect their fortunes to improve only when vaccines have been taken up by enough people to persuade travelers that time on a plane is safe.

The losses, reported on 28 January, were announced a day after aircraft maker Boeing unveiled an \$11.9-billion loss in 2020, its worst year on record.

COMMERZBANK TO FIRE 10,000 WORKERS. The new CEO of Germany’s second-largest bank will lay off 10,000 of the bank’s 40,000 workers and reduce the number of branches from about 800 to 450, according to the bank’s announcement reported by *Reuters* on 28 January.

“Commerzbank needs to undergo a fundamental transformation,” Manfred Knof, the new CEO who came to the bank on 1 January, wrote in a memo obtained by *Reuters*.

A strategic restructuring at the partly government-owned bank was under discussion last year, then was halted by the resignation of key bank executives after a shareholder revolt.

“We will thoroughly reduce complexity and cut costs,” Knof vowed in a statement announcing the measures.

TOYS ‘R’ US SHUTS LAST TWO STORES. Once a retail phenomenon, the iconic toy store chain permanently closed its last two U.S. stores, blaming the loss of traffic during the pandemic and economic shutdown.

The brand was bought by the holding company Tru Kids when Toys ‘R’ Us liquidated in 2018. Tru Kids opened two small stores in late 2019, just weeks before states’ economies began shutting down.

The company still markets the brand online, with purchases made and fulfilled through Amazon.

Toy sales in 2020 reached \$25.1 billion, outpacing 2019 figures by 16 percent. However, those shoppers increasingly bought online.

SANDS REVENUE FALLS BY TWO-THIRDS. Las Vegas Sands Corp., part of the estate of the late billionaire Sheldon Adelson, saw fourth-quarter revenue plunge by two-thirds year on year, from \$315 billion in 2020 to \$115 billion in 2021.

The plunge turned the company from a \$629-million profit a year earlier to a loss of \$299 million and 37 cents a share for the period.

Las Vegas hotels and casinos have been pummeled by the loss of travelers, especially foreign tourists, during the pandemic and economic shutdown.

Casinos have been restructuring operations and slashing costs during the last ten months. The company owning the Palazzo and Venetian casinos has cut costs by 47 percent in 2020, it says.

HUDSON'S BAY FIRES HUNDREDS OF CANADIAN WORKERS. The iconic trading company, founded in 1670, is laying off more than 600 workers across Canada “due to circumstances beyond our control” as more than half of its department stores remain closed under government health mandates.

The layoffs represent only about 5 percent of the company's Canadian workforce, the *Canadian Press* news service reported.

More than 40 of the affected employees have contacted an employment law firm, complaining that they have received inadequate severance settlements, which, they argue, could constitute an unlawful dismissal.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS by Gregory Mannarino



BROKERAGES, MARKETS, GOVERNMENT: A RIGGED GAME OF DECEPTION

In America, it used to be that if you made a good investment, you would profit from it. Well, today, in the “New America,” that has changed.

This past week, with multiple brokerages restricting trades for retail investors, if you ever needed more proof that the market is a rigged game, *you just got a shocker of a wake-up call*. Moreover, it is the retail investor who is being falsely blamed!

Last Friday, with retail investors either completely shut out of trading or severely restricted, GameStop’s stock (ticker GME) put on another 67 percent. This was *not* being done by retail traders – this was INSTITUTIONAL TRADERS.

The GME story started with bad bets made by hedge funds, and it is being driven to stratospheric heights again by hedge funds... but not retail traders/investors. The issue here is much bigger. Those retail investors who got the trades right are being deliberately restricted from capitalizing on the run higher and told they can only sell. In a free market, which we no longer have, this simply cannot happen.

Think about it: *When a brokerage tells investors they cannot buy and can only sell, what happens to a stock? IT PLUNGES! This set-up allows hedge funds to buy more shares lower and run it up even higher.*

The brokerage I was using, TD Ameritrade (I have since pulled out my cash and closed my account effective last Friday), was one of the brokerages restricting trades, along with Robinhood and many others.

What does this come down to? Blatant market manipulation being aided and abetted by brokerages which are clearly helping institutional investors at the literal expense of retail traders/investors! This is a crime STILL in progress as I am writing this article.

Today's stock market is *the* most rigged, most blatantly manipulated, and most twisted in world history, and it is also the biggest stock market bubble of all time.

The entire business models of investment banks and hedge funds are patterned on committing repeated frauds, misrepresentation, and, yes, criminal enterprises. Moreover, here, right now, we have multiple brokerages assisting in all this! Yes, I am outraged. Whatever was left of a free market died this past week. Wall Street is no longer just a casino, it is a fixed, delinquent enterprise *in favor of big money*.

The entire system today is hyper-toxic, and people are reaching their breaking point.

I have been explaining to those who follow my daily video blog that a new set of rules is coming, a new paradigm, and a New World Order along with it. It is hard for someone to argue that I am wrong on this because it is now IN OUR FACES.

What can be done about it? Being that the government is in bed with Wall Street, and our representatives in Congress are for the most part bought and paid for (except for a select few), there is nearly nothing we can do.

Every effort is being made today to create a slave-dependent society, people who are reliant on the government for food and shelter... and all this is being done by design.

Just as myself and others like Gerald Celente have been warning for years, this new system was coming. Well, now it's here.

And the worst part is, it's just getting started.

by Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM by Bradley J. Steiner



EMBRACE SIMPLICITY

The field of self-defense attracts an awful lot of, shall I say, “unusual” and “strange” types. While this is true of just about every field of endeavor, it can have serious consequences – undesirable consequences – for people who want to learn self-defense and combat skills for use in emergencies they hope never arise.

One of the hallmarks of garbage in this field is complexity.

For example, I remember very well how much time and energy I foolishly wasted as a youngster when, studying ju-jitsu, we were taught many defenses against wrist, arm, and clothing grabs. These were deemed necessary by the “sensei,” and one never questioned this authority figure because... hmmm... to tell you the truth, I don't know. For some idiotic reason, the mystique of the martial arts

places too many who should be asked plenty of questions about that which they teach on a kind of pedestal. These “anointed ones” apparently are to be regarded – like the Pope – as infallible!

Bullshit.

I welcome questions and encourage them. So does Mark Bryans. And here I will say something about that which I will not tolerate.... and no teacher should. That is, not being asked questions; but being questioned, per se.

Do your due diligence before you enroll with a teacher. But, once enrolled, do not skeptically whine and snivel about everything he advocates and instructs you in. If you are not confident in your teacher, he shouldn't be your teacher! Legitimate questions are another story. You should feel 100% comfortable about asking for clarification or explanations concerning the mechanics and effects of techniques, and anything and everything that pertains to your acquiring expertise in that which you are being taught.

What all good teachers in the field of close combat and self-defense know and will emphasize is that simplicity is a great virtue, and they will characterize all you are taught to the exact extent that what you are being taught is reliable and practical.

Going back to the curriculum I was subjected to in ju-jutsu. A very logical question is, “Why is it necessary to learn dozens of techniques against the simplest and most obvious of aggressive gestures?”

The answer is, of course, it is not necessary (even if some teachers believe it is). “They are needed because those simple attacks are very common,” might be one reason they believe it. Or, “Those techniques make it easy to master the many wrist and arm articulations and manipulations, and also the throws, that you need to master.”

For the sake of pure art, and forgetting about practicality, I can accept those answers. For realism and reliable countering of actual criminal violence, I will tell you those answers are hogwash, pure and simple.

If certain attacks are very common, then the fewest possible counterattacks should be thoroughly developed, and they should be simple, very basic yet destructively decisive actions. Learning 40 ways to stop some lout who seizes you by the wrist, arm, or clothing is absurd. Simple, fast kicks and chops and heel-of-hand or other damaging blows to vital targets will quickly eliminate the unskilled hold. In a one-hour private lesson, I could teach anyone the fundamental concepts and some very reliable techniques for handling grabs and simple holds against the limbs or on one's clothing.

Remember this, please: no wrist or arm grab or lapel/collar/clothing seizure needs to be broken – or even seriously dealt with, *per se*. It is that which the scumbag who has grabbed you will then proceed to do to you, following his acquisition of the grip(s), which is the *real attack*.

The very second such a seizure is employed against you by a hostile, violent offender, STRIKE BACK! Knee or kick him in the testicles, stomp-kick his knee; or if he has grabbed only one limb (or sleeve), chop him across the side of his neck, bridge of his nose, or the point below his nose (the philtrum). Or ram your extended fingers into his eyes, slam the heel of your hand into his nose, butt him in the face with your forehead. Growl and shout and grimace as you attack. If you react immediately, the hold will be gone, the attacker will be shocked, and you will have either dropped the dirtbag to the ground or set the stage where a few more well-placed attacking actions will easily achieve that end.

Never, ever hesitate, wait, try to reason before you act, or otherwise impose any obstacle whatsoever in front of your IMMEDIATE retaliatory attack – once a hand is raised against you. Ever! The time to strike mightily to avoid violence is before a hand is raised against you. Once subject to violence, ATTACK! And keep on attacking until you are safe.

In [American Combato](#), we teach specific actions and encourage hard and persistent drilling in them to train the motor nerves and embed quality techniques in the motor-memory. But this article's purpose is to quickly impart some useful, fundamental concepts and tactics that will work well if you lack formal training. You can improvise. Use the actions we've explained in your own way. If you want thorough training in close combat, you can order my [DVD course](#). But, if you're not interested in that, okay. Just absorb the fundamental concepts and avoid being sidetracked by inferior approaches that can get you maimed or killed if you attempt to use them.

The individual who will work at minimum develop a powerful, fast front and side kick; the open hand chopping attack; the heel-of-hand chin jab blow; fingertips thrusting to the eyes; and a fast, powerful knee to both the testicles and the face (when an opponent is doubled over) will have a decent selection of natural weapons and their use (which is always simple and direct) for an emergency.

You can see these techniques demonstrated on my YouTube channel "[American Combato](#)" and by following Prof. Bryans' instructions. You won't become highly skilled, and I tell you honestly that there will be types of attacks and predicaments with which that limited array of skills will not adequately prepare you for. But you'll have something. And I will tell you very sincerely if I had known this and had developed the actions I just described (which could have been done within a week or two of practice), I would have been better equipped to defend myself back then than I was after six or more months of ju-jutsu!

Simplicity is the key. Look for the quickest and most damaging way to solve a self-defense problem. Nevermind the spectacular and the acrobatic. If you've got to be under 50, in great shape, and limbered up and dressed in a training uniform and working with a cooperative partner in a cleared, safe, matted area for the skills to work... FORGET THEM!

Simplicity applies to your mindset as well.

What – REALLY – does your mindset have to be to prepare you to defend yourself against a dangerous criminal attacker? This may be resented by some, and it surely is politically incorrect. But it is as true as true can be:

You need to be able to shift instantly from a peaceful, “normal,” passive state of civilized conduct to a state of furious, vicious, merciless violent aggression.

You need to reduce to the barest minimum of a fraction of a second the time it requires for you to go violently and determinedly after your attacker with fierce and very damaging actions. No hesitation. No reluctance to do harm. No concern about “making him angry” or “hurting him too badly,” etc. And no worrying about being hurt. You will be hurt in any violent attack by any dangerous violent offender. Accept it. Forget it. Concentrate on attacking him!

To paraphrase one of America’s greatest generals in WWII, George Patton:
“Don’t worry about the violent offender hurting you. Let the goddamn scumbag worry about you hurting him!”

Neither I nor anyone else can guarantee you victory in any self-defense emergency. To do so is to confess the fraudulence of one's knowledge of violent combat and the realities of self-defense. However, I am certainly able to convey to you the simple truth about what does and does not work, and encourage you to accept and, if necessary, use with all of your might your will and the simple, effective actions that do.

In Memoriam: our beloved friend, Bradley J. Steiner, passed on December 5, 2020.

In his legacy, we are fighting the “Brad Steiner fight” – the good fight. The fight for each person to be the person they want to be and to protect themselves when their lives are being viciously threatened by enemies of Freedom, Peace, and Justice.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By **Joe Doran**

HOW ENCRYPTED SOCIAL MEDIA MAY DISRUPT THE WORLD

During the Wall Street “GameStop” furor this week, there were various attempts to clamp down on the activity of traders on the Reddit group Wall Street Bets. The NYSE halted trading of GameStop stock, and even when they relented, Robinhood and other popular trading apps disabled and limited trades, or experienced mysterious disruptions in service.

A Discord server hosting communications for insurgent traders on a “Wall Street Bets” board was taken down. For a while, the Wall Street Bets subreddit itself went private, as powerful financial interests and allies in the media and politics called for it to be shut down.

The story of how a mass of young app traders turned the tables on major hedge fund speculators is far from over. The politically connected firms taking billions in losses will be leveraging every resource to stop the insurgency, so they can resume their ‘game as usual’.

Social media platforms offering encrypted communications, such as Telegram and Signal, might be one avenue of response, if a heavy hand continues to come down on forums like Wall Street Bets. Many savvy young users are already ditching apps like Snapchat and WhatsApp for more secure alternatives.

Telegram offers encrypted messaging and has features that might make it a viable alternative to more public, less secure forums, including groups with up to 200,000 members, self-destructing messages, and schedule messages.

Signal, another encrypted messaging app, has only a thousand-person limit for group chats. But more features may come. Signal is developed by a non-profit foundation, not a tech company, and is funded by donations. According to howtogeek.com, “All communications on Signal – including one-to-one messages, group messages, file transfers, photos, voice calls, and video calls –are end-to-end encrypted. Only the people involved in the communication can see them.”

Not even a government subpoena would turn up much information about user communications on Signal, due to the nature of its encryption technology, Signal could reveal only a user’s account phone number, last connection date, and account creation time.

YOUTUBE DEMONETIZES THE EPOCH TIMES

The ability of insurgent media companies to gain followers and generate income via social media platforms took another hit this week. *The Epoch Times*, a Washington-based newspaper offering counter-narratives to Jeff Bezos’s *Washington Post*, has found itself demonetized by YouTube. The change means they can no longer make money from videos they post on the world’s largest video platform.

“YouTube demonetized *The Epoch Times* and related accounts last week,” confirmed *Epoch Times* publisher Stephen Gregory. “This is the latest example

of big tech suppression of free speech, a step on the road to communist-style censorship.”

A YouTube spokesperson asserted that the tech giant had demonetized the publication’s channel due to issues related to harmful or sensitive content. The spokesman cited unspecific violations related to YouTube “Community Guidelines.”

Some states have begun doing more than talk about regulating what many see as patently biased tech companies skirting laws to wield undue influence on policymakers and American politics in general.

In mid-January, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued civil investigative demands to Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon Web Services, and Apple. Paxton is seeking info on company policies and practices regarding content moderation that appears, among other things, to undercut competitors and manipulate and control discourse and public opinion and policymaking. Paxton initiated the actions of Texas following the coordinated tech takedown of Parler, a social media competitor to Twitter.

TECH GIANTS AND NATION STATES: WHO CONTROLS WHO?

At a virtual Davos agenda meeting of the World Economic Forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted that technology corporations are rivaling the power of nation states. “These are not just economic giants. In some areas they are already de facto competing with the state,” Putin said in an address.

Russia is currently accelerating regulatory pressure on foreign internet companies, which have so far proved beyond the kind of state control that the country exerts on its media outlets.

Putin objected to global tech giant “attempts to crudely, at their own discretion, control society,” adding “We just saw it all in the United States.”

The dynamics between mega tech corporations and more traditional power-wielding politicians is playing out across the globe in various ways. The recent U.S. presidential election proved tech giants had reached a tipping point where they could wield enormous influence on the political process.

World leaders are taking more notice of the political power of tech companies. European leaders spoke out in early January when Twitter silenced Donald Trump, though many of them were hardly allies of the now former American president.

As for the new Biden administration, Silicon Valley has been conducting an intense strategy to place tech-friendly executives in positions of political power. According to *CNBC*, “executives and employees at tech companies such as Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Microsoft are pushing to place candidates in senior roles at government agencies.”

A January article by The New York Post chronicled just some of the tech players embedded in the new administration. Among the players:

- Jessica Hertz, former Facebook lawyer, serving as Biden’s White House staff secretary
- Emily Horne of Twitter, tapped spokesperson and senior director for press for the White House National Security Council; the NSC, with a staff located on White House grounds, helps set defense and foreign affairs policies
- Mark Schwartz from Amazon Web Services, has helped screen appointments to the White House Office of Management and Budget
- Eric Schmidt, former Google chief exec, reportedly recommended appointments for the Department of Defense, even as his former company seeks military contracts and defense work
- Deon Scott, Google global program manager, reviewed applicants to the Department of Homeland Security
- Zaid Zaid, of Facebook strategic response, joined the Biden vetting team for State Department jobs

- Facebook associate general counsel Christopher Upperman is working on the Small Business Administration
- Amazon international tax director Tom Sullivan helped select State Department appointments

TRENDPOST: *Aligning with different national political parties and global institutions, it's clear that international tech corporations are employing a wide array of methods to expand their political influence and power.*

SPECIAL REPORT: GAMESTOP



By **Joe Doran**

Game on! Young traders rattle the financial status quo with GameStop...

This past week witnessed an earthquake on Wall Street and in markets around the world that few saw coming. The “Youth Revolution,” forecast by Gerald Celente, happened on a front few expected: not via riots in the streets but with a risky, collective powerplay executed via agile trading apps against some of the biggest powers on Wall Street. Following is a deep-dive into the many angles of the story that might just change how the game is played.

TOP TREND 2021: “YOUTH REBELLION” – GAMESTOP POPULIST INSURGENCY TERRIFIES WALL STREET. As we have forecast, 2021 is already seeing a youth revolution that is shaking Wall Street, the halls of Congress, and the entire world.

A “Youth Revolution”, one of our Top Trends of 2021, detailed this past December, noted that young people would finally be fed up with the “can’ts” of 2020: “Can’t go to college, can’t get a job, can’t move out of your parent’s

house, can't pay off your debts, can't buy a new car... The American Dream, or the dream of any youngster around the world, has become a COVID nightmare."

The frustration found an explosive outlet in the saga of GameStop, the week's biggest story. Millions of day traders used cheap trading apps like Robinhood to buy up shares of a company that was shorted by huge Wall Street hedge funds. In a matter of a few weeks, they turned a \$14 stock into a \$400 phenom and forced huge losses on some of Wall Street's biggest speculators. A new front was suddenly opened in the war of populism versus the power elites, this time centered in global finance.

"SLACK" DAY TRADERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE AND TAKE OVER. In early January, GameStop, a video gaming store that many 20-somethings grew up with, was wallowing, along with countless other brick-and-mortars. Their business model seemed outmoded, especially in the time of COVID lockdown. There was some potential upside. They had decent cash on hand, and Ryan Cohen, a co-founder of Chewy, a successful online seller of pet supplies, joined its board. Investors see Ryan Cohen helping GameStop's digital transformation. But analysts were still dim on the company's prospects. Some saw it heading for a slow death, like the Blockbuster video chain in the early 2000s.

Then something changed. A loose-knit group of day traders on a Reddit forum called "Wall Street Bets" found out that major hedge funds had placed "short bets" on GameStop stock shares. The hedge funds stood to gain big if the company's stock continued to slide.

That's when a two-million strong band of merry young app-wielding slackers swung into action. Using cheap trading apps including one titled "Robinhood" (take from the rich, give to the poor), the "degenerates," as they officially refer to themselves on Reddit, went on a GameStop buying spree. In a matter of a few weeks, they drove up the price of the company's stock almost 2,000 percent. They also started buying shorted stocks of other companies, including Bed Bath & Beyond and AMC.

Mega hedge funds including Melvin Capital ended up taking multi-billion dollar losses. By 28 January, the financial world was reeling. The NYSE briefly stopped trades of GameStop. Massachusetts state regulator William Galvin went further, calling for the NYSE to suspend GameStop trading for 30 days.

Angry behemoths on Wall Street called for crackdowns on Reddit, and a Discord server hosting communications for trading groups was taken down. But Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian voiced support for the Wall Street Bets forum. He described the GameStop saga as a turning point in the U.S. investing landscape.

“The frenzy raises all sorts of questions with respect to possible market manipulation,” Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at retail broker CMC Markets UK, claimed. “It is already illegal for institutions to coordinate in the manner currently being seen in moving prices on these stocks, raising questions about the legality of what is currently taking place right now on these forums.”

But despite the howling of pundits and burned players who are used to winning, there’s currently no law that precludes individual small investors from agreeing with each other to buy stocks of various companies.

HOW THE “YOUTH REVOLUTION” EXECUTED A “SHORT SQUEEZE” ON THE BIGS OF WALL STREET. When major hedge funds decided to short GameStop stock, they obviously had no idea they were setting themselves up for a fall. Shorting companies with poor prospects or balance sheets was hardly an innovation for the mega speculators.

Shorts are a way of making money off a company whose stock is going nowhere. A stock is “shorted” via a few steps:

1. First, shares of stock are borrowed from an existing owner
2. The stock is sold for cash proceeds
3. When the stock dips as hoped for, the stock is repurchased at a lower price

4. Shares are returned to the original owner(s), and speculators pocket the price difference as profit

But in borrowing an asset, speculators have to pay interest on that debt. Even if a stock drops, it might not go low enough to cover interest costs. And if the stock goes up, it gets even worse.

That's exactly what happened to giant hedge funds in the GameStop blow-out. App traders on the Wall Street Bets Reddit group realized they could pull off what's called a "short squeeze." They bought up GameStop stock and refused to sell it. The result, when short positions came due, was crushing losses for the Wall Street Bigs.

Reuters reported that losses on short positions in U.S. firms have topped \$70 billion just since the beginning of 2021. That figure was according to Ortex, a financial analytics firm, which sources short interest data from submissions by agent lenders, prime brokers, and broker-dealers. GameStop alone has accounted for at least five billion of those losses.

THE KITTY WHO ROARED: GAMESTOP RALLY CALLED BY YOUTUBER. A 34-year-old financial analyst with a YouTube channel called "Roaring Kitty" is being reported as one of the main figures behind rallying others to buy GameStop stock. Keith Patrick Gill, who also posts on the Wall Street Bets subreddit with the username DeepF***ingValue, was an early and consistent proselytiser for GameStop, according to *The New York Times*.

Gill, a Massachusetts native, appears to be holding the line despite the wild ups and downs of the stock. He recently posted screenshots that showed he had lost \$14 million in a Thursday sell-off. But he is staying with his long position, which is still up by over \$30 million from his original \$53 thousand investment.

GameStop has been at the center of an ongoing battle between mega hedge funds who have shorted the stock, and masses of young traders who are buying

and holding it, possibly profit, but definitely to inflict damage on the Wall Street Bigs.

Contacted by the media by phone, Gill's mother said only "I'm proud," before hanging up. Gill himself has so far declined comment on the saga. But his "Loss Porn" post on Reddit (a term the group uses for reports of negative numbers from dogged risk-taking) garnered cheers and support on the forum. "If he's in, we're in," many users made clear.

D.C. "SHERIFFS" GO AFTER ROBINHOOD OVER GAMESTOP TRADING

LIMIT. A bipartisan group of lawmakers last week criticized the Robinhood app after it announced that it limited the trade of stocks like GameStop that surged after a tidal wave of investments from amateur investors.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted, "This is unacceptable. We now need to know more about @RobinhoodApp's decision to block retail investors from purchasing stock while hedge funds are freely able to trade the stock they see fit. As a member of the Financial Service cmte, I'd support a hearing if necessary."

Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas who is usually at odds with the New York Democrat, tweeted, "Fully agree."

Robinhood cited "recent market volatility" as the reason why it limited the purchase of stocks that *CNN* called "Reddit darlings." These stocks include GameStop, AMC, and Nokia. The report said that part of the anger comes from those who believe that the app intentionally limited the trading to protect hedge funds on Wall Street that shorted the stock.

Melvin Capital Management bet against GameStop and was bailed out after the hedge fund Citadel, provided \$2 billion in liquidity. The *CNN* report said that Citadel is also a "major source of revenue for Robinhood."

Representative Rashida Tlaib, another Democrat, called Robinhood's move "market manipulation."

Arizona Rep Paul Gosar had a more forceful take, calling for a DOJ investigation. He said Robinhood's actions were taken "in a concerted effort to de-platform and silence individual investors."

Citing a *Bloomberg* news article that confirmed about 40 percent of Robinhood's revenue owed to Citadel and other large Wall Street hedge funds, Gosar said the evident conflict of interest cried out for scrutiny.

A statement by Robinhood claimed their move in shutting down trades of GameStop and other hedge fund shorted stocks seeing surges was out of a desire to protect its users. "We're committed to helping our customers navigate this uncertainty," the firm claimed.

The statement was met with withering criticism by many including Gosar, who was quick to point out that Robinhood seemed more concerned with Wall Street backers than millions of small-time day traders. Robinhood's revenue stream in 2020 relied heavily on selling orders to hedge funds like Citadel. Citadel happens to be the entity that bailed out Melvin Capital, which took the biggest loss from their institutional gamble to short GameStop.

"Knowing the involvement Citadel has with Robinhood, it is clear that the actions taken today were motivated by anti-competitive reasons, not for concerns of volatility claimed by Robinhood," said Gosar. "Because of this blatant conflict of interest and obvious monopolistic activity, I am calling on an immediate investigation by the US Department of Justice into Robinhood and the hedge fund of Citadel LLC."

Members from both parties have agreed that hearings would be necessary after the events that unfolded last week and it seems as though Robinhood is planning for a fight on its hands. *Business Insider* reported the company posted a new job opportunity for a new position: manager for federal affairs. The report

said the company is looking for a person with experience working for a member of Congress or on a Congressional committee.

Donald Trump Jr. took to Twitter and said any Republican in Washington, D.C. “worth a damn” should be calling for an investigation into Robinhood and Citadel.

“And while they’re at it, subpoena Janet Yellen & let’s find out if there was pressure coming from the Biden Admin to protect their cronies on Wall Street,” he wrote.

NEW SEC HEAD HAS YET TO GET INTO THE GAME. Gary Gensler, President Biden’s selection to lead the Security and Exchange Commission, will be forced to hit the ground running when he is eventually confirmed for the post.

Bloomberg reported that his confirmation, however, is “nowhere in sight.”

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Gensler has been teaching finance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a focus on cryptocurrencies. The surge in GameStop’s stock price due to the pooled funding of “inexperienced” investors has put hedge funds on the defensive and raised new questions about the pricing of stocks in general.

Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote a letter to the SEC and lamented the “wild fluctuations” of stocks and said they are “just the latest indication that many private equity firms, hedge funds, and other investors, big and small, are treating the stock market like a casino, giving little consideration to the companies, communities, workers, and consumers that may be affected by these risky bets.”

The paper pointed to a video lecture by Gensler that talked briefly about the business model of the Robinhood app, which has been credited for starting the trend of not charging a commission for trades.

The *Journal* reported in 2018 that Robinhood makes its money “in part, by sending customer orders to high-frequency traders in exchange for cash.”

YELLIN EARNED OVER \$800K SPEAKING TO HEDGE FUND INVOLVED IN GAMESTOP STORY. As the GameStop app trader insurgency rattled Wall Street, President Joe Biden’s Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced she was monitoring the situation. But whether Yellen could be counted on to act with an even hand was called into question, after it was revealed she had previously been paid to speak to a hedge fund affected by the GameStop saga.

Fox News reported on January 28th that Yellen earned some \$810,000 in speaking fees from the Citadel hedge fund in 2019 and 2020. Citadel bailed out Melvin Capital, one of the biggest losers in the recent GameStop frenzy. The Senate had just confirmed Yellen to the Treasury Secretary post on Monday. She previously led the Federal Reserve during former President Barack Obama’s administration.

When asked at a Thursday press conference whether Yellen would recuse herself from advising President Biden on GameStop, Psaki did not have an answer.

During a Friday press briefing, Psaki had even less to offer. Asked about market volatility, she pointed reporters to the Securities and Exchange Commission. “They are closely monitoring this situation but it is under their purview at this point of time.”

Yellin’s problems continued to grow though, as *Politico*, *Fox News*, and others reported more “speaking fees” Yellin took from Wall Street connected financial firms. In just two years, she earned over seven million dollars from entities including Citi, PIMCO, Barclays (BCS), Citadel, BNP Paribas, UBS (UBS), Credit Suisse (CS), ING, Standard Chartered Bank, City National Bank, Goldman Sachs, UBS, Citadel LLC, and Barclays.

Some of those lucrative engagements didn't even involve travel or standing in front of an audience but were "virtual," given from her home.

Concerning Yellin's speaking fees, the press secretary said, "I don't have anything further for you on it, except for to say, separate from this GameStop issue, the Treasury Secretary is a world-renowned expert on the economy. It should not be a surprise to anyone that she was paid to give her expert advice before she came into office."

BILLIONAIRE GOES ON ANGRY TIRADE OVER "LAZY" GAMESTOP TRADERS. It was the worst of times for billionaires like Leon Cooperman. The CEO of Omega Advisors hurled insults and epithets during an appearance on *CNBC's Fast Money*, in the wake of the GameStop frenzy.

He lamented at being shafted by "lazy people" spending government checks courtesy of his taxes, to buy company stocks shorted by Wall Street mega players like himself. He didn't mention that the amount of the latest round of government checks to people devastated by endless COVID lockdowns was \$600.

After lambasting day trade slackers, Cooperman panned President Biden's proposed capital gains tax hikes, and called his notion of fair taxes "bullshit." "I'm willing to work six months a year for the government, and six months for myself – which means a marginal tax rate of 50 percent. If you live in California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, you're already well past that. This fair share is a bullshit concept. It's just a way of attacking wealthy people."

CNN PUZZLED BY "EXTREMISM" OF REDDIT FORUM. *CNN* quickly generated an "expose" of Wall Street Bets, the Reddit group shaking the foundations of vested powers. A story entitled "Inside the Reddit army that's crushing Wall Street" painted young app traders as conspiracy-minded shysters.

The story opened with the sad story of “Omar,” a physics tutor who lost a bundle after reading something on the Reddit group in August of 2020 that he took as investment advice. “I would not have traded options if I had not found WallStreetBets,” the tutor lamented.

The *CNN* article alluded to the discontent of young app traders fueled by the confines and dictates surrounding the prolonged COVID lockdowns:

“But while millions are now discovering WallStreetBets for the first time, it has been building momentum throughout the pandemic. One can trace its epic rise to a perfect storm of favorable conditions: the exponential growth of the app Robinhood and its no-fee options trading, the extreme volatility Covid-19 brought to the markets, the stimulus checks mailed to millions of Americans, the lack of televised sports for much of the year, and the unwanted free time stuck at home the pandemic has forced on many people.”

While acknowledging the populist sentiment to turn the tables on more traditional powerful speculators on Wall Street, *CNN* couldn’t help bringing up trigger words like “extremism” and “4chan”:

“... fringe online movements have shown that internet culture can lead to extreme behaviors, making radical ideas palatable for people raised on memes and 4chan in a way that they likely wouldn’t be, at least at first, if presented in a straightforward manner. In the case of WallStreetBets that extremism has a real financial impact.”

The world of the subreddit, with its arcane language and protocols, will obviously be much scrutinized from here on out by the media and politicians. The wild risk-taking, the animus toward “normie” culture and values, together with the ability to act collectively, has got everyone’s attention.

“These guys can move markets,” said Jeremy Blackburn, an assistant professor of computer science at Binghamton University who studies extremist communities on the web.

And “Omar”? He told *CNN Business* that he’d recouped some of his losses from August by purchasing a GameStop option. “There is a pandemic. There is nothing to do. I can’t party. I can’t go outside, and the prospect of making a little money sounds really good.”

AND THE WALL STREET BETS INSURGENCY ONLY GROWS. Even as politicians and the masters of Wall Street tried to get a handle on what was happening with the upending of the financial markets, app traders widened the revolution. Wall Street Bets moved into cryptocurrencies, and in the space of 24 hours between Thursday and Friday, Dogecoin blew up eight-fold in value.

Trading app Robinhood, already in hot water for halting trades on GameStop and other Reddit forum-fueled companies, shut things down again, this time restricting crypto trading.

“Due to extraordinary market conditions, we’ve temporarily turned off Instant buying power for crypto,” a Robinhood spokesperson said. “Customers can still use settled funds to buy crypto. We’ll keep monitoring market conditions and communicating with our customers.”

Some analysts are predicting companies like Robinhood will face legal issues for preventing purchases, which itself could easily be viewed as market manipulation, putting downward pressure on targeted stocks and currencies.

At least Robinhood didn’t have to worry about the thousands of one-star reviews piling up for their trading app on the Google Play app store for Android. Google stepped in and deleted nearly 100,000 poor reviews.

Google claimed it was taking action regarding reviews it felt violated policies against “manipulation.” The tech giant confirmed they were the one doing the deleting, saying companies do not have the ability to delete reviews themselves.

GAMESTOP: STOPPING THE ELITES ON WALL STREET PROVES MORE THAN JUST A FINANCIAL STORY.

By the end of last week, the larger implications of the “Youth Revolution” forecast by Gerald Celente in December 2020, was being contemplated by the likes of Tucker Carlson and many others.

The underemployed degenerates, stripped of so much of normal life, found a way to strike back. No doubt they were fed up with being underemployed, and told they were of no consequence, “non-essential.”

“Hedge fund managers live in the past, and continue to look down upon the retail investors,” was the way one WallStreetBets commenter put it. “This is the world they want to live in. This was the past.”

The “Youth Revolution” has made a major move to take that world down.

As Sam Faddis wrote in *The Federalist*, “It’s not that Wall Street dislikes retail investors, it’s that Wall Street views them as little more than commission factories for the big brokerage houses. Those rubes don’t know anything. They’re not sophisticated. They don’t have the credentials or pedigrees of the geniuses who simultaneously destroyed the housing market and economy in 2008.”

Rich Repetto, a research analyst at Piper Sandler, acknowledged, “We have different behavior now. Will trading be as elevated? Maybe not, but we are not going back to 2019. We have a whole new generation that has been introduced to the market through apps.”

The degenerates, having banded together successfully, may just be getting started. At least for the moment, they’ve flipped the script on who wins and who loses.

This isn’t going to stop with GameStop,” says Faddis. “It’s going to replicate itself within and toward every major institution of American, and global, life from here on out, whether it manifests in protests or riots or crazy elections or entire nation-states removing themselves from global super-governments.”

SOME BELIEVE RIVAL FACTIONS MANIPULATED REDDIT INVESTORS.

Some people with deep knowledge of the stock market are suggesting Reddit investors on Wall Street Bets may have been subject to manipulation from larger players intent on driving up GameStop stock.

“The overarching question will be: did any of the big players engage in a direct role on Reddit or incentivize the people posting on the Reddit message board, WallStreetBets, to hawk the shares of GameStop,” wrote Pam and Russ Marten, of wallstreetonparade.com.

They pointed to large investors that happened to take large upside stakes in GameStop, in the months before the stock started to skyrocket. Among the players are Ryan Cohen’s RC Ventures, which increased its position in GameStop to 9,001,000 shares on 10 January, Senvest Management, and Permit Capital.

It’s also been pointed out that Kathy Vrabeck, Chair of GameStop’s Board of Directors, sold 50,000 shares on 13 January for \$1.4 million, at prices ranging between \$26.74 to \$30.94. The 50,000 shares represented 22 percent of her holdings at the time. GameStop has traded close to \$400, though it was in the \$15 range at the start of January.

TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



UNHAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY: IDIOT'S DELIGHT

Love is apparently in the air in New York City. At least for 25 percent... or less.

Last Friday, the supreme leader of New York State, Governor Andrew Cuomo, declared that restaurants in the Big Apple could resume indoor dining at 25 percent capacity beginning Valentine's Day as long as the city's COVID-positivity rate remains in check.

According to *ABC 7*, Cuomo said,

"We make decisions based on facts, based on the numbers. New York City numbers are down. But facts change. It sounds inconsistent. We like to think a fact is always a fact. No, facts change. COVID facts change dramatically, and they change often... If there are facts, and the facts change, we will have a different situation. One state response that is a

given, if any areas hospital capacity hits 85%, then we go back to restrictions.”

With NYC’s positivity rate at 4.65 percent, Cuomo said if the numbers continue to decline, he would consider increasing the maximum capacity inside these restaurants.

TRENDPOST: *The “facts” do not count. As we have quoted from the mouth of Cuomo, back in December, when he ordered New York City’s restaurants to stop serving meals indoors, he said only 1.4 percent of virus cases could be traced to restaurants and bars.*

Yes, the grand total of 1.4 percent, that’s it. So why prohibit indoor dining for two months during the spring and for the last two months?

And, why on Valentine’s Day? Why not February 12th or 9th?

Why? Because they are making this crap up!

As we have detailed since the politicians launched the COVID War, there is no science-based evidence to make these decisions. It is the ego of politicians in charge – around the world – that destroyed millions of businesses and tens of millions of lives with their draconian lockdown orders.

And, again, despite this very low virus infection rate, severe restrictions have been placed on the restaurant business while the ruling Kings and Queens permit mass gatherings and big box stores to remain open with few restrictions.

Yet, the mainstream media never question these arbitrary rules nor demand scientific data. Actually, the opposite is their mission, condemning those of us who do want the facts as “conspiracy theorists,” “right-wingers,” and/or “populists.”

Magic Number Percent Stupidity

An analysis of restaurant capacities and how many people can sit at a table or bar, as we have noted, are made up by politicians. For example, in Arizona, indoor capacity is 50 percent with a maximum of ten people at a table. In Arkansas, they allow 66-percent capacity and ten people.

Connecticut is at 50 percent but only six people per table. Yet, in Delaware, it's 30 percent capacity and the maximum number of guests per table is four adults.

New Jersey is 25-percent capacity with a maximum of eight guests per table, but it's unlimited for members of the same family or from the same household.

Philadelphia has allowed 25-percent capacity inside restaurants since 16 January, and Chicago and Michigan approved a 25-percent dining capacity last week.

Again, we note the variety of numbers to exemplify the factual stupidity of the draconian rules that are being imposed on businesses around the world without scientific data. Name the city, the state, or nation, politicians make up the marching orders to fight the COVID War.

Liar Newsom

The first in the U.S. to launch COVID War last year, California Governor Gavin Newsom said from the start that his COVID policy decisions would be driven by data, which would be available to the public.

A year later, Newsom refuses to deliver what he promised with the line that the people are too stupid to understand the facts. Or as reported by *AP*, "State health officials said they rely on a very complex set of measurements that would confuse and potentially mislead the public if they were made public."

Whether it's California or South Africa... states, nations, cities, and politicians do what they wish to fight the COVID War. Facts don't matter, power does.

LOCKDOWN BLOWBACK



The Washington Post reported that dozens of restaurants in Michigan defied state COVID-19 orders and are opening. These owners say there is no data to support the lockdown. The paper reported these establishments have benefited from law enforcement unwilling to fine them and

patrons who are willing to travel far distances to support them.

“If we didn’t open, we would have shuttered,” David Koloski, the owner of a diner in the state, told the paper. “Doors closed. Out of the house, out of a job, out of a car. Me and the rest of my staff.”

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced in late January that the state would allow limited dine-in services, and, like New York City, would be limited to 25 percent capacity and must close at 10 PM.

The grassroots movement “Stand Up Michigan” keeps a list of restaurants that have remained open despite the statewide ban. The group releases data that supports the safety of indoor dining. The report also pointed to an interaction between a restaurant owner in the state and a sheriff’s deputy.

The deputy visited the establishment to tell the owner that phones at the office were ringing off the hook about his restaurant being open. The deputy informed the owner about the code. The owner responded, “Well, what happens next with you?”

The deputy, who was a frequent customer at the diner, responded, “Nothing. I’ll be seeing you tomorrow for coffee and breakfast.”

Randall Scot, the owner, told the paper that a trip to Florida convinced him to ignore the restrictions. The paper reported that Florida allows restaurants to operate at 100-percent capacity. “I decided at that point of time I’ll never shut my dining room down again,” he said.

The *New York Post* reported some restaurant owners lashed out at Cuomo’s capacity restrictions. These owners point to other restaurants throughout the state that are allowed to serve customers at 50-percent capacity.

“The restaurants are packed in Nassau, and I feel like I’m going to f---ing shoot myself,” Rocco Sacramento, the owner of Trattoria L’Incontro in Astoria, NY, told the paper.

Questioning the reasoning for capacity limits and the 10 PM mandatory closing time, Andrew Rigie, the director of the New York City hospitality alliance, told *The New York Times*, “Unfortunately, once again the state standards are being applied inequitably in the five boroughs without a transparent and data-driven system for further reopening the city’s restaurant economy.”

King Cuomo also declared, again without providing scientific data for the made-up date and capacity numbers, that beginning 15 March, he would permit weddings of up to 150 guests, providing all attending get tested and the wedding receives approval from local health officials.

TRENDPOST: *Inconsistency has been a problem with lockdowns during the pandemic. For example, Nassau County, which is part of New York’s Long Island, has been allowed to serve indoor dining at 50-percent capacity despite a 6.5 percent positivity rate compared to a 5.8 percent rate in neighboring Queens.*

And, again, why was Valentine’s Day chosen to be the day restaurants can partially re-open and not any other day before or after that day?

Cuomo’s decision to blame facts is particularly stinging because the only fact is that 140,000 jobs have been lost in the industry in NYC to stop a 1.4 percent-infection rate blamed on bars and restaurants.

SOVIET STATES OF AMERIKA: LOCKDOWN DICTATORS



In America, the nation which starts wars that kill millions and has cost taxpayers scores of trillions since the end of World War II under the guise of bringing “Freedom and Democracy” to the nation... has now become a nation of dictators.

As evidenced by “Executive Orders” declared by governors across the nation, the Constitution and Bill of Rights have been decimated.

Judge Andrew Napolitano – the keynote speaker at the Occupy Peace & Restore Freedom Rally organized by Gerald Celente this past Fourth of July – noted the loss of these freedoms last May in a *Fox News* broadcast. Judge Napolitano said,

“I have been taking some heat from friends and colleagues for my steadfast defense of personal liberties and my arguments that the Constitution – when interpreted in accordance with the plain meaning of its words, and informed by history – does not permit the government to infringe upon personal freedoms, no matter the emergency or pandemic.

The purpose of the Constitution is to establish the government and to limit it. Some of the limitations are written in the Constitution itself. Most of the limitations that pertain to personal freedoms are found in the Bill of Rights – the first ten Amendments.”

Noting the loss of freedoms, the Judge pointed to the Founding Fathers:

“Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that government derives all its powers from the consent of the governed. And Madison understood the Ninth Amendment to declare that our personal choices are insulated from government interference so long as their exercise does not impair another’s rights.

From this, it follows that if governments interfere with our personal choices – and we have not consented to their power to interfere – the interference is invalid, unlawful and, because our personal choices are essentially protected from governmental interference by the Bill of Rights, unconstitutional.”

Robbed of Our Rights

In summation, Judge Napolitano stated,

“Today, we are governed by dangerous men and women. For they have taken away our ability to make personal choices, and they have used force to compel compliance.

In doing that, they have not only violated their oaths to uphold the Bill of Rights, they also have committed the criminal acts of nullifying our rights. By using the powers of state governments to do this, they have made themselves candidates for federal criminal prosecutions when saner days return.”

TRENDPOST: *Regardless of the so-called “free nations” of the world, from Belgium to Argentina, from Canada to Austria, the Constitutional Rights of citizens have been robbed by politicians declaring “Executive Orders” and the squads of COVID Cops who enforce them.*

For the complete transcript of Judge Andrew Napolitano’s statement regarding the loss of Constitutions, [click here](#).

KILLER CUOMO: MISREPRESENTED COVID NURSING HOME DEATHS



New York's Attorney General Letitia James announced last week that the death toll in state nursing homes tied to coronavirus infections could be more than 50 percent higher than thought due to Governor Cuomo's administration underreporting the number of deaths inside these facilities.

The *New York Post* reported that James' office said the current tally of 8,711 deaths could be higher than 13,000. The report was based on a survey of 62 nursing homes that found the state undercounted the number of deaths by an average of 56 percent.

"While we cannot bring back the individuals we lost to this crisis, this report seeks to offer transparency that the public deserves and to spur increased action to protect our most vulnerable residents," James said. "Nursing homes residents and workers deserve to live and work in safe environments."

NBC News pointed out last month that over 39 percent of deaths tied to COVID involved nursing home residents and staffers.

Cuomo's office has been criticized for its decision to require these facilities to accept coronavirus-positive patients to ease the pressure on NYC hospitals during the onset of the outbreak.

"No resident shall be denied readmission or admission to the [nursing home] solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19," the original advisory said.

James' report claimed Cuomo's team left out the deaths of COVID-19 patients who were transferred from nursing facilities and died at hospitals in the state.

Who Cares?

Cuomo faced swift criticism for his response to the underreporting of nursing home deaths. For example, the *NY Post* blared the headline:

Cuomo Callously Addresses COVID Nursing Home Report: 'Who Cares!'

The report said Cuomo was referring to New York's numbers compared to the rest of the country and said the state is still below the national average in nursing home fatalities.

TRENDPOST: *As we have been reporting, while Andrew Cuomo is celebrated as a national hero, he brags about the state's nursing home numbers being below national averages while ignoring the hard fact that NYS ranks second in COVID deaths, with virus deaths at 219 per 100,000.*

As the American media champions Cuomo and continually demonizes Sweden for not locking down, the Nordic nation's death rate is half that of New York State, at 109 virus deaths per 100,000.

It should also be noted that Cuomo, for his "skills" in fighting the COVID War, got a deal from Crown books to write all about it. Cuomo's book is entitled, "American Crisis: Leadership Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Cuomo refuses to reveal how much Crown paid him for the COVID book deal. Some three years ago, he got \$738,000 from HarperCollins for his memoir, which sold only 3,200 copies, according to Buffalo News.

Again, as the legendary comedian George Carlin made clear, "It's one big club, and you ain't in it."

CALIFORNIA: OUTDOOR DINING NOW OK



Locked down since November, the King of California, Governor Gavin Newsom, declared last week that outdoor restaurant dining can resume in Los Angeles so long as establishments follow new COVID-19 guidelines. Again, lacking scientific data, restaurants cannot turn on televisions, and

employees have to wear face masks and shields. Tables must be placed eight feet apart.

Hilda Solis, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair, proclaimed, “The situation can change overnight. As we’ve seen before, more restrictions could be needed if non-compliance leads to more transmission and hospitalizations.”

TRENDPOST: Again, totally absent in the coverage is the fact that the virus infection rate from restaurants is said to be 1.4 percent.

*As reported in this and other editions of the **Trends Journal**, we have long noted that lockdown orders have been implemented from nations' capitals to statehouses without the support of scientific data. Simply stated, politicians and their lackeys make up rules.*

For example, it is OK to eat with a mask off but it must go on when standing up or going to the restroom. So, would a person in a wheelchair not have to wear a mask on their way to the restroom since they are at table height?

Is there a shred of scientific evidence that proves you can’t catch the virus when sitting down, but you can when standing up?

Newsom hit resistance in November when he banned outdoor dining in Los Angeles County. He was challenged in court by the California Restaurant

Association and a restaurant in Los Angeles, according to the Daily News. The judge ruled at the time that the county acted arbitrarily and could not provide sufficient data to support the banning of outdoor dining.

Newsom, who was widely criticized after he was caught partying in a posh restaurant in Napa, continues to face a recall effort in the state. (See our 19 January article, “[ANOTHER COVID FRAUDSTER CAUGHT.](#)”)

TRENDPOST: *Cynthia Ariosta, the owner of a pizzeria in St. Helena, CA, was part of a lawsuit against Newsom and State Public Health Officer Tomás Aragón that has since been shelved after Newsom’s approval for outdoor dining. Ms. Ariosta told SFGATE, “The guns are loaded and ready to go if they try to do this again without any data or science to back up that this is a risky activity.”*

Politicians do not miss any paychecks no matter how many businesses they close, and their decision to focus on restaurants (where there is a 1.4-percent transmission rate) would be laughable if so many Americans were not suffering due to these mandates.

DOUBLE UP ON YOUR MASK



Starting 11:59 PM yesterday, in response to the President Joe Biden’s mandate, the CDC decreed that anyone using any form of public transportation while traveling into, within, and out of the United States must wear a face mask.

Masks must be worn while waiting, boarding, traveling, and disembarking, it said. And travelers must be doubly masked with at least two layers of fabric. Those wearing scarves or bandanas will not be permitted to get on board.

Stupid Standards

Again, making crap up and lacking scientific evidence, the CDC declared it is OK to remove masks to eat and drink... but only briefly, and, in the name of Big Pharma, to take medication.

The COVID Cops will be on the job according to the CDC, which said they will enforce their order with criminal penalties.

TRENDPOST: *The new must-wear-mask is an “Executive Order” signed by President Joe Biden last week that requires travelers to wear a mask for the first 100 days of his term.*

We note this again to show the arbitrary stupidity of these “orders.” Why 100 days? Why not 90 or 113?

Why? Because these are the same power-hungry, nitwitted politicians who had children hiding under their desks in fire drills during the Cold War in case Russia dropped an atom bomb down the block.

SHINING LIGHT ON LOCKDOWN FUTILITY



Despite rules that lock down people in their homes, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) reported on 5 January that research showed beneficial effects of sunlight on slowing down the spread of COVID.

The article, “Global evidence for ultraviolet radiation decreasing COVID-19 growth rates” was written by five environmental scientists – two from Harvard,

two from the University of California, and one from the École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay.

One of the authors, Jonathan Proctor from Harvard's Data Science Initiative, stated,

“We find that ultraviolet (UV) radiation has a statistically significant effect on daily COVID-19 growth rates... Our findings are consistent with the hypothesis that UV radiation alters COVID-19 transmission rates by more rapidly deactivating the SARS-CoV-2 virus residing on surfaces or in aerosol form, as suggested by recent laboratory studies.”

The study confirms that related strains of coronavirus and influenza are inactivated by UV radiation. And a recent laboratory study suggests a similar role whereby UV of a spectral distribution to sunlight inactivates SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces.

Lockdowns Made People Sicker

Earlier studies have shown the beneficial effects of being outside in the sun during the COVID War.

On 4 September, the *American Journal of Infection Control* published an article that concluded, “Our study demonstrated the effectiveness of 222-nm UVC irradiation on viable SARS-CoV-2. Our results suggest that this technology could be used for infection prevention and control against COVID-19.”

On 5 June, a study was published by the scientific journal *Photochemistry and Photobiology* in which experienced researchers concluded that exposure to sunlight helps to inactivate COVID-19. The researchers harshly criticized the political pressure that has frightened citizens into staying indoors:

“Forcing people to remain indoors may have increased (or assured) contagion of COVID-19 among same household dwellers and among patients and personnel inside the same hospital or geriatric facilities. In

contrast, healthy people outdoors receiving sunlight could have been exposed to lower viral dose with more chances for mounting an efficient immune response. This argument supports considering the results of two opposed containment approaches to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.”

TRENDPOST: *As for locking people down, as we have continually reported, this past May, Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State’s lockdown czar, had said, “Overwhelmingly, the people were at home... We thought maybe they were taking public transportation, and we’ve taken special precautions on public transportation, but actually no, because these people were literally at home.”*

Despite the overt failure of these lockdown laws, they persist, and, in many nations, those protesting them are arrested and fined for disobeying these draconian, unscientifically-based rules.

LOCKDOWN LUNACY: POLITICIAN BLINDED BY THE LIGHT



Despite a number of scientifically-verifiable studies showing the positive health effects of being out in the sun during the spread of the coronavirus, it has not stopped governors from scaring people indoors all summer long... and continuing to this day:

- On 23 June, Texas Governor Greg Abbott told his fellow Texans, “Because the spread is so rampant right now, there is never a reason for you to have to leave your home unless you do need to go out. The safest place for you is at your home.”
- On 22 May, *The Hill* reported, “Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer extended her state’s stay-at-home order through June 12 as the Wolverine State continues to grapple with its coronavirus outbreak.” Her executive order was given the title, “Stay home, stay safe.”

- On 20 March, an upstate New York newspaper, the *Independent Sentinel*, wrote, “Governor Cuomo has implemented a stringent stay-at-home order to keep New Yorkers safe. If you want to meet with even one person outside or inside, you are violating Governor Cuomo’s order.”
- And just to prove that arrogant political autocrats never learn, as recently as 7 December, this headline could be seen in California, where Governor Gavin Newsom will likely be facing a recall:

More than 33 million Californians are now under a shelter-at-home order that could extend through Christmas.

The idiocy of forcing people indoors to protect them from COVID was a global phenomenon noted by the **Trends Journal** back on 7 April.

Some examples we noted:

- In the United Kingdom, coronavirus legislation was rushed through parliament that gives the government the authority to detain any citizen and force them into isolation, ban all public gatherings, and close ports of entry with no time limit attached. Silkie Carlo, Director of the citizens’ rights group Big Brother Watch, called these new provisions “draconian.”
- In France, no one is allowed out of their homes without filling out a form explaining why they are going outside. Some 10,000 police have been ordered to issue fines to anyone not presenting a valid form.
- Spanish police have arrested nearly 2,000 and imposed fines on over 200,000 for violating the country’s “containment laws,” often with the help of online videos and photos posted by residents. As of Sunday, 4,313 people had died from coronavirus.
- In Norway, anyone breaking isolation rules can be fined up to \$2,000 or spend 15 days in jail.

(For more, see our article, “[OBEY YOUR NEW WORLD ORDERS!](#)”)

TRENDPOST: *Despite bona fide scientific studies that point to the health benefits of getting out in the sun as an antidote to the coronavirus, when have you heard a political leader or any of their so-called health experts recommend it?*

Instead, citizens last March were forced to endure headlines such as:

All Florida State Parks closed due to COVID-19 pandemic

– ClickOrlando.com, 23 March

Pressure Mounts for National Parks Closure Amid Coronavirus

– The Hill, 31 March

***Newsom to order all beaches and state parks to be closed
as of May 1 – SFGATE, 29 April***

But the anti-health government edicts to discourage people from getting fresh air, sunshine, and the healing effects of being out in nature continued through the summer into fall and to the end of last year:

Howell, N.J. closes 16 town parks due to COVID-19 uptick

– Eyewitness News, 17 October

11 state parks were still closed to the public in California

– California Department of Parks and Recreation, 31 December

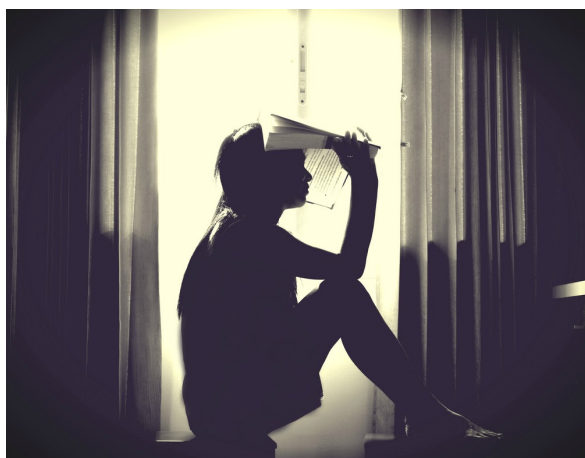
TRENDPOST: *Back in March, Good Housekeeping Magazine, typical of virtually all of the mainstream media, set the ignorant tone with this headline and sub-headline:*

***Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Other National Parks Close
Due to Coronavirus***

The National Park System has closed or limited the public's access to a majority of park sites to curb the spread of COVID-19, but you can still enjoy many of these sites through live-streaming.

Yes, it is the dead-of-life geek world of the 21st century: be satisfied with a virtual look at the beauty of nature from indoors, well out of the reach of fresh air and healthy sunshine and life on earth.

SCHOOL LOCKDOWNS KILLING STUDENTS



The 24 January *New York Times* headline read:

Surge of Student Suicides Pushes Las Vegas Schools to Reopen

Note the word “pushes.” It has taken a rash of both attempted and actual teen suicides to “push” authorities into getting young people back in school.

As the article points out, “Since schools shut their doors in March, an early-warning system that monitors students’ mental health episodes has sent more than 3,100 alerts to district officials, raising alarms about suicidal thoughts, possible self-harm, or cries for care. By December, 18 students had taken their own lives.” This was just in Las Vegas and its immediate surrounding area of Clark County. The youngest was just nine years old.

The school superintendent for Clark County stated, “When we started to see the uptick in children taking their lives, we knew it wasn’t just the COVID numbers we need to look at anymore. We have to find a way to put our hands on our kids,

to see them, to look at them. They've got to start seeing some movement, some hope."

The rise in adolescent suicides tied directly to the lockdown of schools is a national trend. The shutdown of so many schools across the country has revealed just how much children and their parents are suffering from a lack of normal contact with and access to school mental health counselors.

As *The New York Times* article states,

"This fall, when most school districts decided not to reopen, more parents began to speak out. The parents of a 14-year-old boy in Maryland who killed himself in October gave up after his district decided not to return in the fall. In December, an 11-year-old boy in Sacramento shot himself during his Zoom class. Weeks later, the father of a teenager in Maine attributed his son's suicide to the isolation of the pandemic."

Warnings were made over the summer if schools didn't reopen in the fall. At a 24 July press conference, Dr. Robert Redfield, then head of the CDC, said:

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all parts of our society, including our school systems. The unique and critical role that schools play makes it a priority to open schools safely this fall and to help them stay open. This will enable students to receive both academic instruction and support, as well as other critical services."

It's clear now what the consequences are due to the absence of those "critical services," especially mental health counseling.

Ignoring the Data

At the same press conference where Dr. Redfield advocated for reopening schools, Dr. Erin Sauger-Schatz, who leads the CDC Division of Injury Prevention, confirmed:

“The data we currently have about COVID-19 among children suggest that children are less likely to get COVID-19 than adults – and when they do get COVID-19 – they generally have less serious illness. To put this in perspective, as of July 21st, 6.6% of all COVID-19 cases in the United States – that’s 192,760 cases – were among those under the age of 18. Turning to the death data, less than 0.1% of all COVID-19-related fatalities in the U.S. have been among children under 18.”

But, in the fall, teacher unions across the country threatened to strike if schools were reopened, complaining of safety issues. As the *Newsweek* headline on 31 July made clear:

Largest U.S. Teachers Union Will Support Affiliate Strikes if School Re-openings Push Ahead

As for the excuse that while young people may not show serious effects from COVID, they can spread it to adults, research came out as far back as 23 June when *Bloomberg News* published the article, “School Children Don’t Spread Coronavirus, French Study Shows.”

There has been a growing set of research to confirm this. In just one example, on 23 December, New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian stated at a news conference, “Children under 12 have been proven not to be carriers or transmitters of the disease.” And a New South Wales health spokesperson confirmed that “children under 12 are not included in visitor numbers as they are generally less likely to transmit the virus that causes COVID-19, both to other children and to adults outside their own households”.

Closed Minds, Closed Schools

As of last Wednesday, the two largest national teachers’ unions still refuse to support the reopening of schools, disregarding the CDC and other prevalent data showing schools are not significantly spreading COVID.

President Biden's chief of staff, Ron Klain, defended the decision of the teachers' unions. When asked why these powerful unions were ignoring the data showing kids are not spreading COVID, Mr. Klain dodged the facts and defended their decision: "I don't think teacher' unions are overruling studies. I think that what you're seeing is that schools haven't made the investments to keep students safe."

"Keep students safe"?

Dr. Jesus Jara, superintendent of schools in the Las Vegas region, responding to the growing number of panic phone calls he has been getting from parents who see the rise in adolescent suicides due to schools being closed, said, "I can't sleep with my phone nearby anymore. It's like a 24-hour reminder that we need to get our schools open."

TRENDPOST: It should also be noted that according to the CDC, the coronavirus recovery rate for a person aged 1 to 20 is 99.997 percent. Yet, throughout the world, there are mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing, plastic shield coverings, and other COVID rules being made up and enforced on children.

Absent in the media coverage are reports on the short-and long-term physical and psychological effects of young children that have been drafted into fighting the COVID War.

LOCKDOWN PROTESTS RAGING. NEW LOCKDOWN ORDERS



Protests continue to break out in Europe over COVID restrictions that put strict limits on public gatherings and indoor dining. These protesters say the lockdowns have been ineffective in limiting the virus's spread and damaging

to economies and lives across the continent.

As we have continued to detail since the COVID War was launched last year, we noted the infection rate for each country and the age and pre-existing health conditions of those who died from the virus. Essentially, the victims are elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions, as the CDC verifies.

But these facts and data are ignored by the mainstream media, intent on selling fear and hysteria to boost their ratings and power-hungry politicians who launched the COVID War to gain Executive Order control.

One of our Top Trends for 2021 was the “Youth Revolution.” Across Europe, many of those taking to the streets are the young who view COVID as an “old person’s disease.” Thus, they believe the rest of society should be permitted to live freely.

The others opposing the lockdowns are business people and workers who are going broke and out of work, along with those who know the facts and want their freedom.

AUSTRIA. Yesterday, some 10,000 demonstrators staged a protest against the government’s COVID-19 curfew restrictions and the locking down of schools, hotels, restaurants, and so-called “non-essential” businesses across the country.

The protests reportedly were encouraged by Austria’s FPÖ party, which has described the ban on protests as “scandalous.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast since the outbreak of the COVID War, anti-vax, anti-lockdown, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment political parties will be strong forces as the “Greatest Depression” worsens.*

DENMARK. Last week, some of the most violent confrontations between police and protesters occurred in Copenhagen. These protesters have been critical of the country’s newly-imposed curfew.

This past weekend's protest took place in the city of Aarhus, according to *EuroWeeklyNews.com*. There is an anti-lockdown movement in the country called "Men in Black" and these protesters chanted, "Freedom for Denmark – we've had enough!"

FRANCE. An open-air disco broke out in the French city of Perpignan on Saturday in what was supposed to be a protest over COVID restrictions, according to *Euronews.com*. The event was attended by about 200 revelers without masks. The report said the protest was intended to be in support of the country's culture workers, who have been out of work due to COVID-19 restrictions, but it turned into a party.

Yesterday, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire warned restaurant owners that if they opened up and defied the lockdown orders, which have been in place since 30 October, they would be heavily fined and risk losing COVID-related financial aid.

Despite the Minister's threats, *Euronews* reported thousands, including several chefs, have backed a French restaurateur who plans to serve protest meals on Monday. Police reported there were 25 restaurants in Paris operating on Thursday and Friday in violation of the lockdown rules.

On the Battle Front

Sky News reported that protesters against these restrictions joined another group of demonstrators in Paris on Saturday to voice their disapproval of the country's controversial privacy law. The report said police used water cannons to disperse the crowd in the city's Place de la Republique.

The report said the protest started with about 6,000 people opposed to the country's security law, and then it attracted others who were intent on airing their grievances about other issues. Many criticized the country's latest 12-hour curfew from 6 PM to 6 AM.

POLAND PARTIES. Police in Wroclaw and Rybnik were forced to respond Sunday to discos that were being illegally operated, according to *The Guardian*.

The country implemented a “national quarantine” that spanned from mid-December until last week and decided to extend the restrictions until 14 February.

The paper reported the country has a population of 38 million and has diagnosed a total of 1.5 million cases. The country also recorded 37,000 deaths tied to the virus. *First News* reported that 1.1 million Poles have been vaccinated.

TOP 10 TREND FOR 2021: “ROARING 2021”: *Can’t go to college, can’t get a job, can’t move out of your parent’s house, can’t pay off your debts, can’t buy a new car... can’t, can’t, can’t. The American Dream, or the dream of any youngster around the world, has become a COVID nightmare. As we have forecast, there will be strong anti-lockdown, go-out-and-play, speakeasy, Roaring ‘21 movements launched by 18-to 29-year-olds who view COVID as an “old person’s disease.”*

ITALY. The Italian government is said to be “bucking the trend” of European lockdowns, announcing an easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Walter Ricciardi, a public health expert who advises health officials in the country, said Rome made its decision based on the fact that it is “extremely difficult to propose stricter measures due to resistance from both politicians and public opinion.”

SPAIN. About 1,000 people protested on the popular Balearic Islands after Madrid announced that bars and restaurants in the country will be closed until at least 15 February, according to *The Guardian*.

The report said the Islands rely heavily on tourism and have been economically ruined by the virus and subsequent lockdowns. Last week, Spain recorded

94,000 new cases, and the incidence of the virus increased to 885 cases per 100,000 people.

BELGIUM. Police in Brussels clashed with protesters on Sunday. A police spokesman told *The Guardian* there were at least 200 arrests.

The report said Belgium has had one of the highest death rates and has ordered restaurants and bars in the country to close since October. The total number of those infected in the country of 11.46 million is 710,000. The *Brussels Times* reported on Sunday there were 1,787 patients hospitalized and 315 in intensive care. On average, about 50 people die each day from the virus.

HUNGARY. Workers from the country's hospitality sector gathered in Budapest on Sunday to call on the government to consider alternatives to knee-jerk lockdown orders. Similar to restaurants in some parts of Italy, those at the protest called on business owners to disregard coronavirus mandates and open anyway.

"Every tool that we have used until now has been completed so, beginning now, every business should open in the spirit of civil disobedience," Aron Ecsenyi, the organizer of the protest, told *The Guardian*.

The country extended the closure of restaurants until at least 1 March, which includes an 8 PM curfew.

Hungary made headlines last week when it became the first European country to approve the Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccine.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said, "The Chinese have known this virus for the longest time, hence probably they know most about it, so I will wait for my turn and when I choose I will want the Chinese vaccine."

Reuters noted Hungary has about ten million people and recorded 12,374 deaths from the virus.

GREECE. Athen's government prompted swift backlash from its critics after announcing last week the ban of any COVID-19 protest attended by more than 100 people, the *Associated Press* reported.

Despite the one-week ban, several thousand protesters took to the streets last Thursday, risking fines up to \$3,650 for individuals and \$6,000 for organizations.

The country has been under lockdown-type restrictions since early November.

The opposition Syriza party called the government's ban "arbitrary and undemocratic," and the ban on protests, attended by more than 100 people, officially ended yesterday.

The country of about 11 million recorded 5,724 deaths. This compares to the state of Michigan, with a population of 9.9 million and 15,536 coronavirus deaths. Michigan's governor has imposed draconian lockdown orders since the COVID War began.

2 MILLION PEOPLE, 1 CASE: WESTERN AUSTRALIA LOCKDOWN LUNACY



Premier Mark McGowan announced Sunday that parts of Western Australia will have to enter a five-day lockdown period. Why? Because a security guard at a hotel in the region tested positive for COVID-19.

McGowan ordered the Perth metropolitan area and neighboring areas to go into "full lockdown."

"This is a very serious situation and each and every one of us has to do everything we personally can to help stop the spread in the community," he said, according to the report. *7News.com.au* reported the security guard who tested

positive is believed to have attended more than a dozen venues while he was infected with the virus.

The report said the two million people affected by the lockdown are expected to stay home unless they have to shop for essential items. The report said schools that were supposed to open on Monday will have to stay closed another week.

For report identified the security guard as a man in his 20s who worked at the Sheraton Four Points hotel in Perth.

Peter Dutton, the Home Affairs Minister, said McGowan overreacted with his order. Dutton told *Sky News* there is a “political dynamic at play.”

Dutton said, “As we saw in Queensland, there was a bit of panic in the lead-up to an election. Western Australia’s going into an election in March and premiers don’t want this virus getting away,” according to the *Daily Mail*. The report pointed out that McGowan is considered a heavy favorite to be elected to another four years in office.

TRENDPOST: Essentially all of the major media applauded the Premier’s lockdown order, never once questioning the lunacy of locking up two million people and closing down business when just one person tested positive for the virus.

Never questioned is, as we have been reporting with hard data and scientific facts, despite the completely inconclusive value of the PCR test, it remains the “gold standard” for confirming the anxiety-producing reports of infection used to justify the destruction of economies around the world.

As Dr. Michael Mina, a leading epidemiologist at the Harvard School of Public Health, described the PCR test,

“The threshold is so high that it detects people with the live virus as well as those with a few genetic fragments left over from a past infection that no longer poses a risk. It’s like finding a hair in a room after a person left it.”

CANADA IMPOSES QUARANTINE, SUSPENDS FLIGHTS. “In the coming weeks,” Canada is suspending all airline flights to Mexico and the Caribbean and will require incoming foreign visitors to quarantine in a designated hotel at their own expense, prime minister Justin Trudeau announced on 28 January.

In addition to COVID-testing travelers boarding flights, Canada now will require arriving visitors to be tested for the virus and pay the cost of waiting in a hotel room for three days until their test results are known. The cost of the brief quarantine could be as much as \$2,000, including the cost of keeping hotel workers safe from contagion, he said.

Those who test positive will be transferred to a government facility; Canadians testing negative will then be quarantined for a longer period at home “under significantly increased surveillance and enforcement,” he added.

TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS

As the the vaccine rollout continues, here's a snapshot of some of the latest stats:

- More than 90.8 million shots have been administered worldwide
- The U.S. has administered 28.9 million doses, including an average of 1.3 million doses per day over the past week
- 8.8 doses have been administered for every 100 people in the U.S., and 59 percent of the shots delivered to states have been administered
- 5.02 million people in the U.S. have completed the two-dose vaccination regimen
- The Dakotas, Maine, Alaska, New Mexico, and West Virginia continue to see the highest rates of vaccination
- Nevada, Idaho, and Alabama have the lowest rates of vaccination
- Globally, Israel continues to far outpace other countries; 50 percent of its population has received the vaccination

- The United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom have also seen rates high rates of vaccination in their populations

VACCINE UPDATE: INJURIES & DEATHS. Each week, we have been reporting on the health implications of Operation Warp Speed, former President Donald Trump's deal with Big Pharma to rapidly accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) was established in 1990 and is overseen by both the CDC and the FDA.

According to the CDC's website, "VAERS serves as an early warning system to detect possible safety issues with U.S. vaccines by collecting information about adverse events [possible side effects or health problems] that occur after vaccination."

The website HPV-Vaccine-Side Effects.com provided a snapshot of the updated VAERS report last Thursday. It showed that in the U.S., as of last Thursday, there were 320 deaths and 9,845 significant side effects as a result of COVID-19 vaccination.

The data was broken down into age groups. Of those who died, over 50 percent were 75 and older, about 13 percent were 65 to 75, and 15 percent 44 to 65.

Of those injured, the frequency and age group were quite different: almost half of the injuries reported were in the 17-to 44-year range.

According to the CatholicCitizens.org website, VAERS shows that in the U.S., "people have reported 96 life-threatening events following COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as 24 permanent disabilities, 225 hospitalizations and 1,388 emergency room visits."

As of 15 January, some 10.5 million Americans have received at least one COVID vaccination.

Severe Allergic Reactions: Much Worse than Flu Vaccine

After two of the first group of U.K. citizens receiving a COVID vaccination suffered severe allergic reactions, the U.K. health authority issued a warning that anyone with a “significant history of allergic reactions” avoids getting the shot.

Nancy Messonnier, director of the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said on 6 January that “severe allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccines were happening at a rate of 11.1 per million vaccinations, compared to the rate of 1.3 per 1 million flu shots.”

She was reacting to the article published earlier that week in the CDC journal *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, which analyzed 21 cases of anaphylaxis occurring after a COVID-19 vaccination. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can cause death. Symptoms range from minor afflictions such as itchy rashes to more serious reactions including tongue swelling, trouble breathing, and a sharp drop in blood pressure.

Ms. Messonnier stated that despite concerns over allergic reactions, “I would say it’s still a good value proposition for someone to get vaccinated.”

The CDC recommends to all sites where the vaccinations take place that they should be prepared to quickly handle anaphylaxis cases. They suggest anyone getting vaccinated be monitored for at least 15 minutes and expand that to a 30-minute observation of anyone with a history of allergies.

An article published by *Science* magazine on 1 January stated:

“Severe allergy-like reactions in people who received the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNTech in December 2020 may be due to a compound in the packaging of the messenger RNA (mRNA) that forms the vaccine’s main ingredient, scientists say. A similar mRNA vaccine developed by Moderna also contains the compound, polyethylene glycol (PEG). PEG has never been used before in an approved vaccine, but it is

found in many drugs, some of which have occasionally triggered anaphylaxis – a potentially life-threatening reaction.”

TRENDPOST: *As noted in last week's **Trends Journal**, when we reported on the death of baseball legend Hank Aaron, who died some two weeks after receiving a COVID vaccine, those who believed his death was vaccine-related were demeaned by the mainstream media.*

One of Newsweek's Presstitutes wrote,

“Following Aaron's death, a number of conspiracy theorists and anti-vaxxers shared the Braves legend's death as a warning about perceived dangers of the COVID vaccine. Children's Health Defense [a non-profit founded by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.], an organization that has shared other anti-vax propaganda, highlighted Aaron's vaccination and indicated that a cause of death was not shared.”

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that major anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment political movements will emerge in nations across the globe.*

X-RAY TECHNICIAN DIES SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING VAX. The Orange County Register reported that a 60-year-old California X-ray technician died after falling ill at South Coast Global Medical Center, hours after receiving a second jab of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Tim Zook, a married father of three who worked at the center, had announced his vaccination on Facebook. “Never been so excited to get a shot before. I am now fully vaccinated after receiving my 2nd Pfizer dose.”

The technician's rapid health decline death left his wife searching for answers. “We are not blaming any pharmaceutical company,” his wife said. “But when someone gets symptoms 2 1/2 hours after a vaccine, that's a reaction. What else could have happened?”

WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ASKS CDC TO STUDY VACCINE-RELATED DEATHS.

Officials have been assuring the general public that they aren't concerned the approved Covid-19 vaccines are having adverse effects on large numbers of recipients. But the White House COVID-19 task force has now charged the CDC with conducting a study to determine how many Americans have died since receiving the vaccine and the circumstances leading to death.

According to reports, the goal of the study is to provide the federal government a more complete picture of mortality in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic.

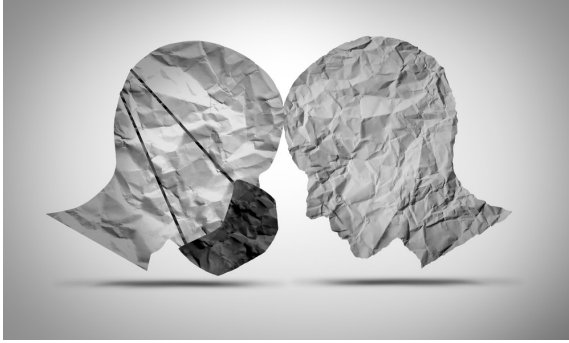
Even as the study was ordered, officials gave caveats about what the data might reveal. It was pointed out that statistically, about 3 percent of 75-year-olds die within their next year of life. With millions of elderly receiving the vaccine, they say it stands to reason that some will die within a matter of weeks or months, for reasons that may not have anything to do with COVID-19.

Presently, the CDC and FDA only track deaths or adverse events that occur after vaccinations, by using a "self-reporting" method. People can enter information into the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) database. The system is widely considered to be inadequate.

More than 9,000 reports of adverse events have been recorded through the VAERS system since the COVID-19 vaccine rollout began. Though that represents a small percentage, considering overall vaccinations administered, the call for the CDC study on vaccine deaths signals that authorities don't consider VAERS data to accurately capture the whole story.

The new study would almost certainly have to gather information from state health departments. But many of them say they are already swamped with data collection requirements related to COVID-19 testing, case positivity, hospitalizations, and vaccine distribution.

CONFLICTING ADVICE, MORE REVERSALS



Since the coronavirus was widely reported in China over a year ago, and throughout its spread across the globe, major health agencies and political leaders have put out confusing, conflicting, and, in many instances, conclusions that have since

been proven dead wrong.

As a prime example, the two leading public health agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have given contradictory advice over the last year on both the efficacy of wearing masks and how the coronavirus is transmitted.

This trend continues with the COVID-19 vaccines, rushed into circulation via the Emergency Use Authorization Act, which allows a vaccine to be administered to the general public despite only a few months of safety trials. This time it concerns pregnant women.

As the 29 January article in *The New York Times* wrote, “Neither organization explicitly forbids or encourages immunizing pregnant women. But weighing the same limited studies, they provide different recommendations.”

Perhaps the most damning aspect of the present conflict is if the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines pose a threat to expecting mothers and their fetuses is this line from *The Times* article: “The difference of opinion between the C.D.C. and the W.H.O. is not rooted in scientific evidence, but the lack of it.”

TRENDPOST: *Traditionally, clinical safety trials for a vaccine can't use pregnant women since the potential dangers of the vaccine aren't yet known. So, there's no way to know at this juncture whether or not either of the two approved vaccines poses a threat to a fetus or its pregnant mother.*

W.H.O. Knows What? Another Reversal

The WHO has stirred up more confusion. As of last Tuesday, it officially recommended that pregnant women not get the COVID vaccine unless they have chronic health issues.

But, last Friday, the WHO suddenly reversed its decision, issuing the statement: “Based on what we know about this kind of vaccine, we don’t have any specific reason to believe there will be specific risks that would outweigh the benefits of vaccination for pregnant women.”

What did WHO experts know last Friday that they didn’t know earlier in the week? It’s not clear. What is clear is that the reversal came after the organization was hit with a barrage of harsh criticism from medical sources pushing for pregnant women to get vaccinated.

As *The New York Times* reported,

“After the W.H.O. advised against the vaccine being given to pregnant women last Tuesday, it ‘stirred uncertainty’ among women and doctors on social media. Several experts expressed dismay at the WHO stance, saying the risks to pregnant women from COVID-19 were far greater than any theoretical harm from the vaccines.”

“Theoretical harm”?

Given the lack of scientific data as to whether these vaccines have long-term health consequences for pregnant women and their developing fetuses, isn’t it just as “theoretical” to assume there won’t be any severe consequences?

Nonetheless, after a rash of criticism, the WHO now supports pregnant women getting injected, much to the applause, according to *The New York Times* article, of “many women’s health organizations that had urged Pfizer and Moderna to speed up vaccine tests in pregnant women.”

The article quotes Dr. Denise Jamieson, an obstetrician at Emory University and a member of a large women's pro-vaccine health organization:

“The more permissive W.H.O. language provides an important opportunity for pregnant women to get vaccinated and protect themselves from the severe risks of Covid-19. This impressively rapid revision by W.H.O. is good news for pregnant women and their babies.”

Meanwhile, the CDC has been a strong advocate for pregnant women to get vaccinated. Last Thursday, it issued a statement confirming its opinion that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines “are unlikely to pose a specific risk for pregnant women.”

Yet, despite the strong push, Carleigh Krubiner, a researcher with the Pregnancy Research Ethics for Vaccines, Epidemics and the New Technologies notes, “The reality is that we don't yet have the data on these vaccinations in pregnancy, and it's very difficult without that data to come out and give a full-throated recommendation in support.”

SECRET VAX DEALS: TAXPAYER ROBBERY



As *USA Today* and other news sources reported last Thursday,

“Governments have poured billions of dollars into helping drug companies develop vaccines and are spending billions extra to purchase doses. However,

the particulars of these offers largely stay secret, with governments and public well-being organizations acquiescing to drug firm calls for secrecy.”

Also, the government signed contracts offering Big Pharma “liability shields” that protect the drug manufacturers in case their vaccines turn out to cause severe

health consequences. The contracts also give drug companies favorable ownership rights through lucrative patents and provide language stating a commitment to keep the details secret.

The *USA Today* report stated, “In some situations, nations are prohibited from donating or re-selling doses, a ban that would hamper efforts to get vaccines to poor nations.”

Drug Lords Reap Billions

Going back to 30 March, when it became clear the U.S. had the most confirmed coronavirus cases in the world, *Forbes* reported, “The Trump administration is spending nearly half a billion dollars on one company in the race to find a coronavirus vaccine.” The company, Johnson & Johnson’s Pharmaceuticals, hadn’t even started any clinical trials at the time.

By 22 July, *CNN* published the headline:

The U.S. government and Pfizer reach \$1.95 billion deal to produce millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses

The article quoted Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla: “We’ve been committed to making the impossible possible by working tirelessly to develop and produce in record time a safe and effective vaccine to help bring an end to this global health crisis.”

As for making a profit, Bourla said last summer at a conference, “I think that the price of the vaccine was something that I never thought [about] because as I said we never put calculations – this is how much it will cost us, this is how much we are going to make. We only put calculations that we may save the world.”

Just four days later, the Pfizer CEO reacted angrily in a *Barron’s* interview to the notion that his company shouldn’t profit handsomely for creating a vaccine:

“I think it’s very wrong. You need to be very fanatic and radical to say something like that right now... Who is finding the solution? The private sector found the solution for diagnostics, and the private sector found the solution for therapeutics and is along [the] way to find more solutions for therapeutics and vaccines. So how can you say something like that? Doesn’t make sense.”

TRENDPOST: *Dr. Bourla failed to mention the free government money vaccine producers receive and the secret agreements to overcharge that the government ignores.*

According to Pfizer’s website, the CEO of the vaccine producer, Dr. Albert Bourla, quoted above, is a doctor of veterinary medicine who “began his role at Pfizer in 1993 in the Animal Health Division... He held positions of increasing responsibility within Animal Health across Europe before moving to Pfizer’s New York Global Headquarters in 2001.”

According to an article published in The Guardian on 10 November, “The US drug maker Pfizer and the German biotech firm BioNTech stand to bring in nearly \$13 billion in global sales from their coronavirus vaccine next year, which will be evenly split between the two companies, according to analysts at the US investment bank Morgan Stanley.”

TAX DOLLARS BOOST DRUG DEALER PROFITS



Last Thursday, *The New York Times* reported on governments’ secret deals with Big Pharma revealing that both the U.S. and E.U. governments are glad to “absorb some or all of the risk” to encourage for-profit drug companies to produce vaccines. “The United States, for example, committed up to \$1.6 billion

in up-front money to help the Maryland-based company Novavax develop its coronavirus vaccine.”

The list goes on of how politicians take citizens’ tax dollars and give the money to big drug companies to increase their bottom line profits: “The Massachusetts biotech company Moderna not only used government-developed technology as the foundation of its vaccine, it also received about \$1 billion in government grants to develop the drug,” *The Times* wrote.

Your Money, Our Profits

But citizens don’t share in the profits, as the government allows the drug companies to have complete ownership of their patents. One contract that got exposed stated the company “shall be entitled to exclusively exploit any such property rights.”

“Exploit,” indeed.

There have been attempts by countries such as India and South Africa, which have high percentages of poverty levels, to loosen the grip of giant, for-profit drug companies so more reasonably-priced, generic drug makers can produce vaccines. But strong opposition by U.S. and European governments has squashed any attempt to offer lower-priced vaccines.

One way the big drug companies keep their profit motives from public view is by having the price per dose it plans to charge erased in any version of the contract that can get into public view. According to *The New York Times* report, “Some drug companies have included clauses in their supply contracts that allow them to suspend deliveries if countries reveal the price.”

Thanks to a few leaks of these contracts, it was revealed just how greedy huge drug companies producing the coronavirus vaccines are. In one instance, the European Commission was charged just over two dollars for vaccine doses from AstraZeneca compared to more than double that amount, over five dollars per

dose, charged to South Africa, according to a report from *Reuters* on 21 January.

Bank Gets in On the Take

In addition to major drug companies profiting royally from favorable government contracts and hiding the profits through secrecy agreements, some banks are profiting nicely from vaccine development. BioNTech, the German biotechnology company that partnered with Pfizer on one of the COVID-19 vaccines now in circulation, received a \$100 million loan from the European Investment Bank.

Celebrating the investment, an investment officer for the bank commented,

“It really doesn’t get any better than this. The most we can contribute to the fight against COVID is to help companies, which are developing new vaccines, treatments, or diagnostic solutions. We did everything we could to help make this vaccine happen.”

He didn’t mention that his bank, according to *The New York Times*, is in line to profit handsomely from the loan:

“In addition to the interest on the loan, the European bank will receive up to \$25 million in vaccine profits, according to a redacted version of the contract that BioNTech filed with securities regulators.”

When this leaked, a bank spokesperson defended the profit arrangement as a proper reward for the risk involved in financing the vaccine project.

Offering a different opinion, Zain Rizvi, who works with the advocacy group Public Citizen, emphasized that when governments and banks work on the same side of a deal with drug companies, there’s inevitable overpricing:

“Governments are creating artificial scarcity. When the public funds knowledge that is required to end a pandemic, it shouldn’t be kept a secret.”

TRENDPOST: *In America, the “Land of the Free,” the game is rigged. Morons and imbeciles call the money special interests give to politicians running for office “campaign contributions.”*

Mature adults call them bribes and payoffs. That’s what they are and, across the spectrum, from the chemical industry to junk food processors, to drug dealers, i.e. Big Pharma to the Wall Street Gang, etc., money talks.

On the drug front, according to the JAMA Internal Medicine report, “Lobbying Expenditures and Campaign Contributions by the Pharmaceutical and Health Product Industry in the United States, 1999-2018,” money does the talking.

Their observational study, which analyzed publicly available data on campaign contributions and lobbying in the U.S. during those years, found that:

“The pharmaceutical and health product industry spent \$4.7 billion, an average of \$233 million per year, on lobbying the US federal government; \$414 million on contributions to presidential and congressional electoral candidates, national party committees, and outside spending groups; and \$877 million on contributions to state candidates and committees. Contributions were targeted at senior legislators in Congress involved in drafting health care laws and state committees that opposed or supported key referenda on drug pricing and regulation.”

Yes, “money talks, bullshit walks,” and it is money, not democracy, that rules America and most nations on earth.

VAX FACTS BANNED BY MEDIA



The Children’s Health Defense, a non-profit advocacy group founded by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is committed to “supporting not only informed consent for any medical

procedure but also the need for factual and unbiased medical information regarding benefits and risks.”

On 29 January, a letter signed by Alix Mayer, President of the California Chapter of the Children’s Health Defense, was sent to 1,100 California school superintendents calling for the reopening of schools and citing medical ethics issues around the COVID-19 vaccination program and legal issues pertaining to the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA).

Note: The EUA procedure allows the FDA to recommend that a drug or vaccine, which has only gone through only a few months of safety trials, be released to the general public. It usually takes several years to determine potential long-term health consequences.

Here are some key excerpts from the letter:

- “Protracted school closures have created an educational and mental health emergency among students, due to learning loss from remote learning and isolation from their peers, sports, cultural activities, jobs and other support systems. Teen suicides are at an all-time high.

Note that while vaccine manufacturers may be shielded from liability by 42 USC 300aa-11 and 42 USC 300aa-22, your institution is not protected. You are hereby officially on notice that if you illegally or irresponsibly mandate products on students or public-school employees, we may have no recourse but to take legal action.”

- Federal law confirms explicitly that an EUA product must be voluntary because the federal statute requires ‘the option to accept or refuse administration of the product.’ At a CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting in August 2020, ACIP Executive Secretary Amanda Cohn, MD stated: ‘I just wanted to add that, just wanted to remind everybody, that under an Emergency Use Authorization, an EUA, vaccines are not allowed to be mandatory. So,

early in this vaccination phase, individuals will have to be consented and they won't be able to be mandated.'”

- “Since the RT-PCR test Cycle threshold in the U.S. is set too high – at a Ct of 40 – it can amplify a low viral load and be erroneously conflated with infectiousness. A critical review of the seminal Corman-Drosten study which established PCR testing standards concluded: ‘In case of virus detection, >35 cycles only detects signals which do not correlate with infectious virus as determined by isolation in cell culture; if someone is tested by PCR as positive when a threshold of 35 cycles or higher is used (as is the case in most laboratories in Europe & the US), the probability that said person is actually infected is less than 3%, the probability that said result is a false positive is 97%.”
- “It is well-accepted that children have a statistically zero chance of dying from COVID. The CDC shows the K-12 mortality rate from or with COVID is .00003. Any intervention, especially one that is prophylactic, must cause fewer harms to the recipients than the infection. Since children have the lowest death rate from COVID infection, the cost-benefit of administering to children an investigational vaccine with emerging safety issues is especially difficult to justify. Therefore, it is clearly irrational to vaccinate children with a COVID vaccine to protect them from death.”
- “Compared to the positivity rate of 8.1% in the general California population in the most recently available data period (12/13/20), only 0.56% of California students tested positive for COVID, and the staff positivity rate was only 1.46%, even though teachers are daily interacting with students. This proves it is a significant mistake to assume children are asymptomatic vectors. In fact, in Germany, students are valued as the “brakes” to COVID transmission.”

Note: For confirmation of the German study showing students are not spreaders of the coronavirus, [click here](#).

- “Through January 15, 2021, 181 U.S. deaths have been reported after COVID vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)... Hundreds of catastrophic injuries – like life-threatening anaphylaxis and a bizarre shaking syndrome – and deaths have been reported in the media and on social media. Most recently baseball great Hank Aaron died 18 days after receiving the first of two experimental COVID vaccines. These vaccines use brand new mRNA technology with known complications — and we can certainly anticipate many more unforeseen complications.”
- “In fact, today there are about two dozen vaccines in use in the United States and another 66 have been withdrawn, most for safety issues, such as LymeRix, RotaShield and DTP. These fully licensed vaccines were judged as safe with government approval. This shows a vaccine withdrawal rate of 73%. If three-quarters of fully licensed vaccines are withdrawn, the probability of a warp speed experimental vaccine being withdrawn is far higher.”

The letter concludes,

“Being in the unenviable position of defending an illegal program in a court of law would certainly prove to be a distraction from your important work. We respect your position and fully appreciate your duty to educate children safely. Children’s Health Defense – California Chapter will follow up with you to ensure you understand both the law and science.”

TRENDPOST: *As we well know, and it is well documented, in the New World Order of censorship, reporting on data suggesting the dangers of Big Pharma vaccinations is prohibited by Big Tech and the mainstream media.*

The lengthy letter can be read in full [here](#).

There are 50 footnotes provided with links for those looking for confirmation of the major assertions made.

VACCINE UPDATE: INJURIES & DEATHS



Each week, we have been reporting on the health implications of Operation Warp Speed, former President Donald Trump's deal with Big Pharma to rapidly accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) was established in 1990 and is overseen by both the CDC and the FDA.

According to the CDC's website, "VAERS serves as an early warning system to detect possible safety issues with U.S. vaccines by collecting information about adverse events [possible side effects or health problems] that occur after vaccination."

The website HPV-Vaccine-Side Effects.com provided a snapshot of the updated VAERS report last Thursday. It showed that in the U.S., as of last Thursday, there were 320 deaths and 9,845 significant side effects as a result of COVID-19 vaccination.

The data was broken down into age groups. Of those who died, over 50 percent were 75 and older, about 13 percent were 65 to 75, and 15 percent 44 to 65.

Of those injured, the frequency and age group were quite different: almost half of the injuries reported were in the 17-to 44-year range.

According to the CatholicCitizens.org website, VAERS shows that in the U.S., "people have reported 96 life-threatening events following COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as 24 permanent disabilities, 225 hospitalizations and 1,388 emergency room visits."

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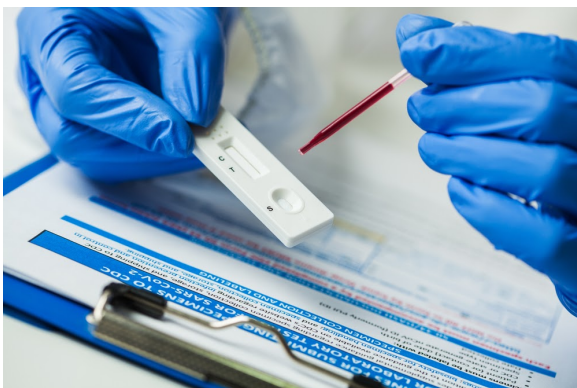
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REGNERON TOUTS EFFECTIVENESS OF “PASSIVE VACCINE” ANTIBODY COCKTAIL



An antibody cocktail engineered by Regeneron made the news after several promising studies. One showed that the REGEN-COV treatment was highly effective against the most widespread strain of the COVID-19 virus. And another

study by a Columbia University lab in conjunction with Regneron scientists demonstrated that the antibody cocktail was effective against SARS-CoV-2 variants first identified in the UK (B.1.1.7) and South Africa (B.1.351).

Regneron, based in Westchester, NY, said their treatment could be used as a “passive vaccine” to protect against the virus. REGEN-COV is still undergoing Phase 3 trials run jointly by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

In a study of the antibody cocktail on the most common COVID strain, 400 participants who were living with a COVID-19 patient experienced infection rates that were 50-percent lower than a control group. And of those infected, none experienced symptoms, and all recovered. Those participants also exhibited small viral loads and a shorter period of viral shedding.

In the Columbia University study, troubling new variants of COVID that appear to spread more easily, were tested against REGEN-COV. Researchers looked at in vitro neutralization potency of a number of COVID-19 antibodies. The REGEN-COV antibody cocktail continued to neutralize all variants tested.

BACK TO SCHOOL: NEW CDC STUDY SHOWS COVID SPREAD LOW



A new CDC study may make it harder for resistant teachers' unions to continue to oppose in-person learning until teachers can be vaccinated. The study, released by the CDC, shows that in-person learning poses no elevated threat of COVID-19 spread.

Conducted at 17 rural schools in Wisconsin, the study showed that over 13 weeks, there were only 7 school-attributed COVID cases of the 4,876 students. None of the 654 staff experience a school-related COVID case.

Teachers reported on protocols that were in place during the period of study. More than 92 percent of students wore masks, groups of students were limited to no more than 20, and staff kept a distance of at least six feet when possible. Students were also quarantined after exposure.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE SHOWS MIXED RESULTS

Johnson & Johnson has disclosed results from tests so far of its COVID-19 vaccine. Though the overall effectiveness of the vaccine was only 66 percent, inoculations did show better numbers in preventing severe cases.

One advantage of the company's vaccine is that it requires only a single dose. "In a pandemic, if you can, with a single-dose vaccine, very quickly eliminate the severe consequences of death, hospitalization, and severe disease, that's what's important for society," said Paul Stoels, Johnson & Johnson's lead scientist.

The New Jersey medical company's vaccine was found to be 85 percent effective in preventing severe COVID cases leading to hospitalization or death, though there was some variance in different populations. The global study included 44,325 participants, including 468 who developed symptomatic cases.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine, unlike the ones from Pfizer and Moderna, does not utilize a mRNA method to create an immune response in the human body. But its own approach, based on using a double-stranded DNA, is also a previously untried technology. Researchers added a gene for the coronavirus spike protein to an Adenovirus. Adenoviruses commonly cause colds or flu-like symptoms. The modified adenovirus enters cells but can't replicate inside them or cause illness, according to scientists. Their presence stimulates an immune response.

ADVOCACY GROUP: FORCED VACCINATIONS ARE ILLEGAL



Yesterday, *RT* reported, “All 78 residents at a nursing home in central Spain have tested positive for Covid-19 after being given their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and at least seven people have died, staff confirmed on Monday.”

This past Saturday, demonstrators chanting and holding banners “99.96% Survival Rate” and “End the Lockdown,” forced the closure of to Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles to close, one of the largest vaccination sites in the country, for an hour.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



MYANMAR MILITARY COUP: NOTHING NEW

Myanmar's military on Monday detained the country's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, declared a state of emergency, and took control of the government until a new election next year.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy called for her immediate release. *Reuters* reported that her whereabouts since the siege is unknown. The U.N. Security Council planned to meet on Tuesday to consider a global response.

The U.S. came out in opposition to the coup, and President Biden threatened to impose new sanctions against the country's military leaders. Biden called the takeover a "direct assault on the country's transition to democracy and the rule of law."

Greg Poling and Simon Hudes, two members of Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, told *Al Jazeera* that the sanction threat will

likely do little to deter the military leaders because they do so little business with the U.S. Singapore was the largest foreign investor in the country in 2020.

Vriens & Partners, a government affairs consultancy firm, told the *BBC* that it is likely Myanmar will turn to China if the U.S. disengages and puts new sanctions in place.

“It’s really the only country they can turn to,” he said.

“China is a friendly neighbor of Myanmar’s. We hope that all sides in Myanmar can appropriately handle their differences under the constitution and legal framework and safeguard political and social stability,” Wang Wenbin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, according to the report.

Suu Kyi’s party called on the country of 54.05 million to “protest against the coup.” The report said her party easily won the election in November, but the military has not accepted the results.

TRENDPOST: *While the media plays it up as a military coup in Myanmar, as we have been reporting in Gerald Celente’s **Trends in The News** broadcasts, while Ms. Suu Kyi won historic elections in 2015, and again last year by a landslide, she was seen as just a different face fronting for the military junta who have continually run the country.*

And as with other Noble Peace Prize winners – such as Barack “I’m Really Good At Killing People” Obama (quoted in the book “Double Down”) for his murderous drone strikes and endless wars, the current Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, who launched the Tigray war – Ms. Suu Kyi was also awarded the prize... before her supporting of the general’s murderous war against the Rohingya Muslims minority.

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN INDIA OVER FARM BILL



It happens all the time: peaceful protests turn ugly.

We note this since the Battle of Seattle, back in 1999, when demonstrators took to the streets protesting the World Trade Organization meeting that was being held

in the city. It was by far the largest demonstration in the United States when over 40,000 people marched against economic globalization, which protesters saw as the beginning of the end of domestic manufacturing.

The protests, peaceful at first, suddenly turned ugly when agent provocateurs smashed windows, blocked streets... and grabbed the headlines.

That was it. The Presstitutes grabbed the violence of a few and dismissed the cause of why so many rose against what they saw as the destruction of U.S. manufacturing.

Fast Forward

The same has now happened in India. Since November, farmers have been peacefully protesting against a new farm bill they say enriches big conglomerates and will put many of the 145 small farmers out of business.

The standoff between India's farmers and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led to a violent confrontation last week that included tens of thousands of tractors entering New Delhi to protest the bill.

The New York Times reported that police in the city fired tear gas into the crowds, and the protests got out of hand. The next day, leaders representing the farmers blamed the violence on India's Republic Day, a "dirty conspiracy" by

infiltrators to destabilize the peaceful movement. One protester was killed and 400 police officers were hurt.

“The law will take its course,” Modi said.

The violence from the protest at the country’s Red Fort threatens to split the movement. The *NYT* reported that at least two of these groups said they would leave the protest due to the outbreak of violence. To date, some 25 farmers have died during the protests, mainly due to natural causes and from being outside in the elements.

Protesters say Modi’s push for deregulations means the government could end paying a minimum support price for their goods. Farmers have blocked roads and burned their crops in response to the legislation.

Agriculture is a major part of the country’s economy and supports, directly and indirectly, more than 60 percent of the country’s population of 1.3 billion. (The report noted this represents only 15 percent of India’s economic output.)

On Saturday, farmers across the country took part in a day-long hunger strike to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Mohandas Gandhi, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The New York Times reported that many protesters vowed to fight on.

“We should not give a message that we are tired, that we are going home,” one protester told a few hundred other demonstrators. “We will start over today, with full unity.”

Censorship

Yesterday, Prime Minister Modi ordered the police and military to dig ditches and spread razor wire across main roads into New Delhi to keep the farmers from entering the capital.

To stop the protesters' words from spreading, Modi's government blocked internet and messaging services throughout the area. "The government has increased security to avoid any clash or violence when parliament is in session." The senior "official" quoted by *Al Jazeera* said it was done to "keep everyone safe and avoid any escalation in tensions," or, in plain language, quell dissent and stop the protest movement.

Making it clear he would not back down, on Sunday, Modi said, "The government is committed to modernizing agriculture and is also taking many steps in that direction."

TREND FORECAST: *Earlier this month, the world witnessed a group of angry protesters break onto the sacred ground of their government when they gathered in Washington, D.C. to protest what they claimed was a rigged presidential election.*

As with the Battle of Seattle, which we noted above, and the India protests, it was a small group that caused the damage compared to the huge masses that were protesting. The media and government rulers focused on the damage from the small groups to divert attention from the major underlying reasons for the rallies.

These Indian farmers, much like the pro-Trump protesters, believe their voices are not being heard. And, as with the Trump supporters, they, too, blame outside agitators for the violence.

As we have noted from the Battle of Seattle and the 6 January Capitol riot, ruling powers capitalize on these violent aspects of events, while the protests tend to dissolve and lose cohesion.

However, when people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it. Thus, with the Indian farmers believing the new law will devastate their future, we forecast this and other fights for economic equality will continue in India and other nations as the world sinks further into the "Greatest Depression."

PROTESTS TUNISIA: “YOUTH REVOLUTION” TOP TREND



Youth in Tunisia took to the streets last week to express their frustrations over economic woes and anger of police brutality in the country that launched the Arab Spring a decade ago when Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who ruled the country for a quarter-century, was ousted from

office.

Out of work, out of money, with the COVID War decimating business and tourism, 36.5 percent of youth are unemployed while GDP in Tunisia contracted by 8.2 percent last year.

In response to the uprisings, the government approved a “cabinet reshuffle,” and appointed nearly a dozen new ministers to lead various departments. President Kais Saied indicated he would reject the new ministers, according to *The Economist*. He claimed some had conflicts of interest, and there were no women.

Al Jazeera reported that protesters on Saturday marched into the Tunisian capital of Tunis to call out what they saw as abuses at the hands of law enforcement.

The protesters say they are concerned that the gains they won during the 2011 Arab Spring uprising could evaporate. The Saturday protest had flashes of violence, as some clashed with police, and police officers used batons to strike demonstrators.

The report said the protests have been “near-daily” since earlier this month, and more than 1,000 people have been arrested. The country’s media has reportedly

been unfavorable to the protesters and referred to them as “petty criminals” and “hooligans.”

The *FT* report said Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi tried to assuage the protesters and said they remind officials of “our priorities.” Yet, the protests have ensnared the country for weeks. Some signs read, “Police everywhere, justice nowhere.”

TREND FORECAST: As we reported back in 2011, two ***Trends Journal*** staff members, John Anthony West and Gary Abatelli, were in Egypt when the Arab Spring broke out in that country.

From their observations and analyses of what was being ignited and the power shifts taking place, we had forecast that the uprisings would simmer down, and any changes to existing governments would be minimal and/or temporary. In fact, Tunisia was the only lasting success from the Arab Spring.

While there were uprisings in Libya, the powers of the United Kingdom, the U.S., and France, with NATO’s backing, were responsible for the overthrow of its leader, Muammar Qaddafi, not the Arab Spring uprisings.

Indeed, America’s president at the time, Barack Obama, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, along with his appointee to the Security Council, Samantha Power, another Nobel Peace Prize winner; his Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton; and U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, had all declared, “Qaddafi has to go.”

Now, a decade later, with Libya destroyed and wracked in civil war and economies across the Middle East devastated by the COVID War, “Youth Revolution,” one of our Top Trends for 2021, will spread across the region.

Some regimes will be overthrown, some countries will descend into civil war, and others will remain under strict totalitarian control.

TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”: As we had forecast in December 2020, in 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the

world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.

In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will. Thus, we maintain our forecast that protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.

Also, as citizens by the millions flee their nations for neighboring safe havens, especially Europe, anti-immigration populist movements will accelerate, with new political parties, some youth-driven, overthrowing establishment parties.

POLAND: PRO-ABORTION PROTESTS



Thousands of Poles protested last week over Warsaw's decision to implement a constitutional court ruling considered an almost outright abortion ban, which puts new limits in place for access to abortions when there are fetal abnormalities. The government waited months to implement

the 22 October Constitutional Tribunal's ruling that essentially bans all abortions after two weeks of gestation.

As we reported in November, more than a million people across the country were angered over a court ruling that barred abortions of fetuses with congenital defects and what demonstrators claim is a patriarchal society.

Last week, protesters took to the streets despite coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings. Activists said the protests are “backlash against” the country's culture that is akin to a “fundamentalist religious state.”

The Guardian reported the country already had some of the strictest abortion laws in place. There were 1,100 abortions performed legally last year, in the country of 37 million. The report said 60 percent supported the old abortion laws compared to 15 percent in favor of the new law.

The New York Times pointed out that after the government's move to enforce the ruling, the word "apostasy" trended on Google in the country, and the level of support for churches among the young in Poland is at an all-time low.

"This decision is a declaration of war," Marta Lempart, a protest organizer, told *The Times* in a telephone interview.

"The way they are forcing through changes in the midst of the pandemic is unbelievable," Nadia Klos, a member of the Queen Tour, an LGBT group, told the paper. "It's an attempt to take away the rights of half the citizens by referring to religion when it's all about power."

Another protester told the paper this is a very similar strategy to what communists employ. "They would wait for a time when everything is collapsing and then make changes," Iwonna Kowalska, a protester with the group "Polish Grandmas," told the paper.

The Times, citing local reports, said last Thursday there were some arrests, and tension between protesters and police seemed to increase when authorities began to ask demonstrators to show identification cards.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that establishment regimes will face increasing pressure from new political movements, led particularly by younger generations.*

On the Polish front, as we reported in November when the pro-abortion protests broke out, it was not the abortion issue but a bigger trend that was forming.

We made it clear that we are not taking a position on the subject, which is very sensitive. But rather to illustrate the power of the people and that large masses

protesting government actions will often achieve what they set out to do by peacefully uniting and refusing to bow to government pressure.

U.S. BOMBERS FLY TO MIDDLE EAST TO KEEP IRAN IN CHECK



The U.S. flew a B-52H Stratofortress from a base in Louisiana over the Middle East and back to deter “any aggression in the region” and to “reassure” allies, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The move comes as tension between Washington, D.C. and Tehran continues. There has been U.S. media hype of “chatter” from “government officials” that Iran wanted to avenge the death of its General Qassem Soleimani last January, ordered by then-President Trump. And, U.S. officials blame Iranian-backed militias for missile attacks on U.S. facilities in Iraq that have caused minor damage.

The bomber flew its mission while officials in the Biden White House began to reassess the nuclear deal with Iran that was ridiculed and overturned during the Trump administration.

The paper said the bomber was expected to fly over Saudi Arabia and Jordan. A photo emerged showing it flanked by fighters from Riyadh.

Al-Monitor said a former Pentagon official noted it was unwise to continue flying these missions. (The *WSJ* reported it was the sixth such mission since November.)

General Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie has said the U.S. is not interested in a conflict with Iran, but the former Pentagon official said, “like all combatant commanders, [McKenzie] has to fight to keep his resources.”

The *Journal* reported the U.S. has kept a carrier in the region during the anniversary of Soleimani's death from an American drone strike. The report said even though there has not been any clear attack from Tehran, troops in the region are on guard.

TREND FORECAST: As forecast, tensions will build in the Middle East with Iran being a main target of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and other members of the Arab League.

Last week, Israel's military chief, Lieutenant-General Amir Kohavi, said if President Biden renewed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal that President Trump abandoned, his nation may take offensive measures against Iran. "A return to the 2015 nuclear agreement, or even if it is a similar accord with several improvements, is bad and wrong from an operational and strategic point of view," the Israeli Defense Force commander said.

He went on to say, "In light of this fundamental analysis, I have instructed the Israel Defense Forces to prepare a number of operational plans, in addition to those already in place."

In response to Kohavi's warning, Iranian army spokesperson Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi dismissed the IDF chief's warning saying it was "psychological warfare" and warned that the "slightest mistake" by Israel would lead the Islamic Republic to "level Haifa and Tel Aviv."

Power Grab

Gerald Celente has long noted, "When all else fails, they take you to war." As we have reported, since November 2019, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been under the pressure of a criminal indictment on charges of fraud and bribery, and he has twice failed in previous elections to put together a winning coalition. In March, Israel will hold its fourth national election in less than two years.

Since last summer, thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets, primarily in Jerusalem near Netanyahu's residence, demanding he step down.

CHINA'S PRESIDENT THANKS HONG KONG'S LEADER



China's President Xi Jinping held a virtual call with Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam and vowed to assist the city during its fight with COVID-19 but insisted it is important that the city is controlled by "patriots."

"Hong Kong's significant change from chaos to peace again showed an important rule: we must insist on patriots governing Hong Kong, so as to ensure the stable and long-term implementation of 'one country, two systems,'" he said, according to the *South China Morning Post*. He continued, "The motherland will always firmly back Hong Kong, and the difficulties at hand can surely be overcome."

Getting Out

In effect, when China passed a strict national security law last summer, as made clear by Xi's statement, it abrogated the 1997 agreement when the U.K. returned Hong Kong to China, which it had colonized following its Opium Wars in 1842.

Under the agreement, Hong Kong was to be a special administrative region, maintaining governing and economic systems that were independent from those of Beijing.

Now, with China in full control of Hong Kong, as reported by *ABC* yesterday, thousands of Hong Kong citizens have left and moved to the U.K. after Beijing imposed the security law. The British government estimates that over 300,000 people will take up the offer of extended residency rights in the next five years.

TRENDPOST: *As Gerald Celente forecast when the virus first broke out in China last January, Beijing would use COVID to achieve what they were unable to accomplish before the virus struck Wuhan: lock down Hong Kong to stop the protests.*

*Beyond Hong Kong – from India to South Africa, from Chile to Algeria – as noted in the **Trends Journal**, nations across the globe that were in the grips of social unrest before COVID have been locked down, and the protests that were threatening ruling governments have been prohibited.*

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



MORE CENSORSHIP

French President Emmanuel Macron said last week that unscrupulous politicians like former President Trump have used social media platforms to spread hate, which culminated in last month's storming of the U.S. Capitol.

He said these companies should have acted earlier to censor that kind of rhetoric:

"All those who allowed President Trump to succeed waited until they were entirely sure that he had no power left to then wrap themselves in dignity and now say, 'Let's take away his whistle.' Why didn't they shut down his accounts before all this happened?"

It was an about-face comment from Macron who had curried favor with Trump while he was in office. *France 24* reported that Trump and Macron seemed to have a "bromance," but the relationship seemed to cool toward the end.

Trump would brag on the campaign trail about how he pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accord.

Online censorship has been a hot topic in the U.S. since the 6 December raid at the Capitol. Twitter took the drastic step of permanently banning Trump from its platform, even though at the time, he was still the President of the United States.

Macron has faced his own backlash in France over a security law that opponents say provides too much protection for police in the country. Some 33,000 people took to the streets across the country on Saturday to voice their anger over the bill that was introduced in October. (See our 8 December article, [“PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN FRANCE OVER MACRON’S SECURITY LAW.”](#))

The country has seen unrest and assurances that Article 24 of the bill would be rewritten, which is the section that includes the restriction of publishing images of police officers on social media.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has criticized the U.S. – the so-called “Land of the Free” – which has allowed both tech companies and the mainstream corporate media to censor free speech. These companies feature who they want and sell what they want while banning opposing sides or those with different views.*

Despite claims that censorship measures were targeting “extremists” and “conspiracy theorists,” as we have detailed, America, like many nations, has been silencing voices that challenge establishment agendas. (See our 19 December 2018 article, [“MEDIA CENSORSHIP TREND TO ESCALATE.”](#))

As we had warned in [“CENSORSHIP,”](#) one of our Top Trends of 2019, governments across the globe, regardless of what political doctrine they profess, in collusion with social media giants, will accelerate the “Censorship” trend. But the opportunity exists to circumvent the media monopolies by creating alternatives.

And, as we have reported, with the Biden administration declaring a war on “domestic terrorism,” yet more Constitutional Rights will be stolen from the American public.

CHINA: SAY WHAT YOU WISH AND GO TO JAIL



Beijing sentenced over 50 individuals – many everyday Chinese people – to prison for the offense of posting unfavorable comments about President Xi Jinping or the Chinese Communist Party on foreign social media platforms, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The paper, citing court records and a database produced by free-speech activists, reported that the sentencings were seen as an attempt by Beijing to consolidate speech and punish criticism on platforms outside of the country’s internet.

The report said some of the topics ranged from discussions about Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Chinese Communist Party, and its treatment of Muslim Uighurs in the western Xinjiang region.

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said during his last day in office that he determined China is committing “genocide and crimes against humanity” in the region by targeting the ethnic group.

Yaqiu Wang, a China researcher with Human Rights Watch, told the *Journal* that Beijing “knows well from its domestic experiences that propaganda only works when it is coupled with censorship of opposing views.”

One of those sentenced was Zhou Shaoqing, who was given nine months in prison over a Twitter post in February that questioned coronavirus infections, according to the paper.

He took to Twitter and astutely posted, “The Chinese Communist Party system regards stability as its principle, and in the face of big problems, everyone protects themselves.” He went on to say that health officials and hospitals would all eventually “reduce the number of confirmed cases” for the public’s digestion.

The paper reported that later that month, three men arrived at his apartment dressed as neighborhood volunteers. Once he let them in, seven police officers rushed in and pinned him to the floor to make the arrest. He had a grand total of 300 Twitter followers at the time.

TREND FORECAST: *The Chinese police scheme of using a front to open the door and then have cops rush in and arrest the person is no different than what has long been going on in so-called western democracies such as the U.S., the U.K., France, the Netherlands, etc. Yet, the way it is reported by the Presstitute media, it appears only the Chinese use such anti-freedom/military tactics.*

Forgetting that Washington, D.C. has been taken over by the U.S. military and some 30,000 troops closed the city down on Inauguration Day to lock out protestors who believed the American election was stolen... the mainstream media attacked the Russian military squads for doing what western nations do to break up protests.

On Sunday, CBC News reporter Chris Brown, reporting from Moscow, covered the protests of Putin critic and head of Russia of the Future, Alexei Navalny, who was sent to jail when he returned to Russia on 17 January. Brown began the broadcast in a tense voice saying, “This is a line of riot police with their batons looking very intimidating indeed, on a day of unprecedented security here in Moscow.”

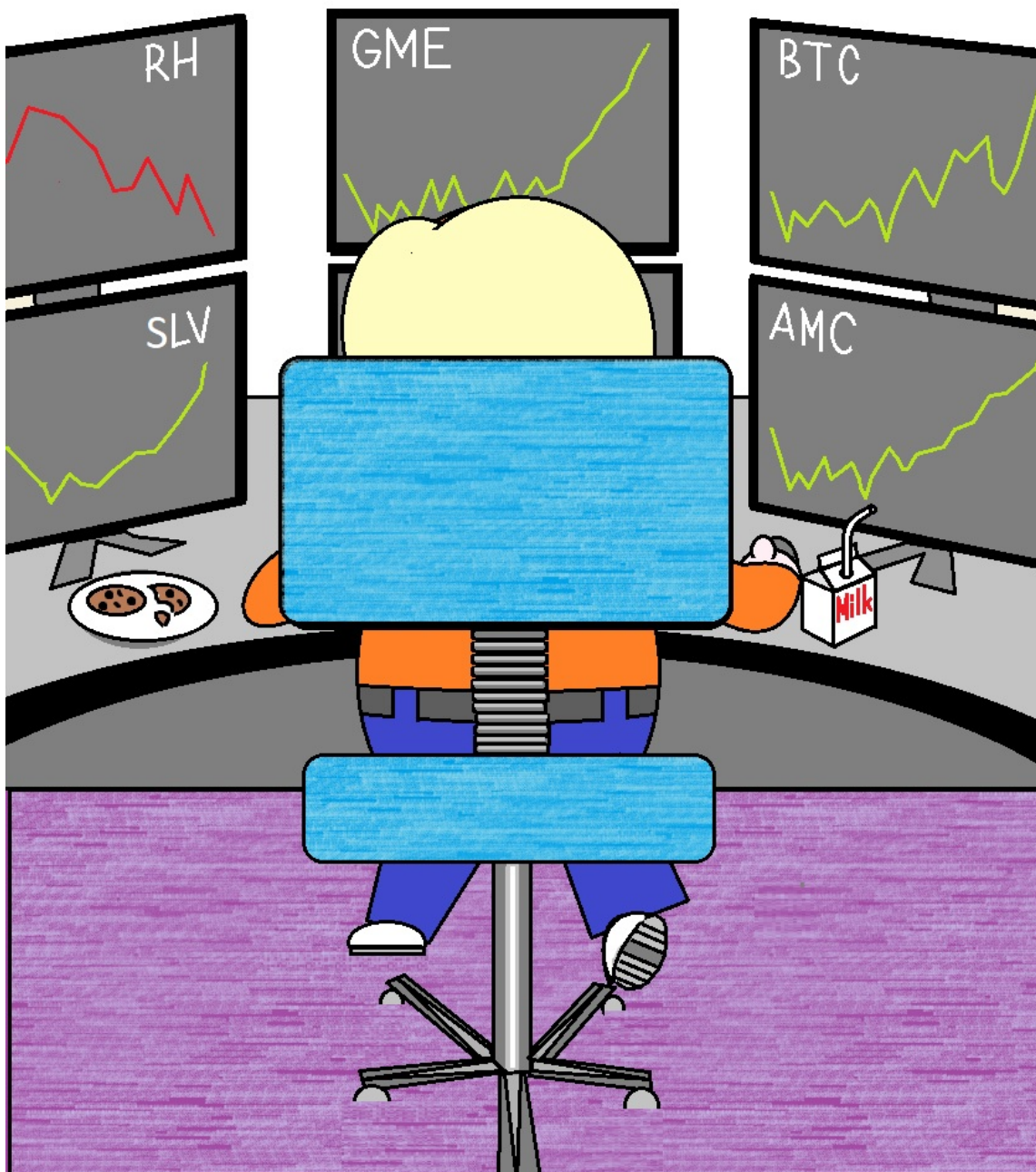
He went on, saying, “Unprecedented security, we’re talking riot police, we’re talking national guard, regular police by the thousands... you can see these riot squad officers marching toward the crowd looking very intimidating.”

Again, it is a double standard. Hate your enemies but salute those you love who commit the same brutal behavior. Rarely, if ever, do these Presstitutes display Brown’s intensity or use his kind of language when the police and military in western nations use the same tactics. And as for “unprecedented” and “intimidating,” the armored vehicles and military drag many police troops dress up in America to smash into people’s homes and break up protests is of the highest levels of dictatorial governments.

THE ART OF TRENDS

"Game On" by [Stephen Green](#)

"Mom! ... Please bring more milk and cookies,
the hedge funds are colluding with BigTech."



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By **Ben Daviss**

RESEARCHERS ELECTRONICALLY STORE COMPUTER FILES IN DNA

DNA has long been an attractive target as a medium for storing computer data: DNA can store 1,000 times as much information in the same space as a computer's hard drive – about 10 full-length movies in a space the size of a grain of salt – and, unlike hard drives, DNA is a technology unlikely to be made obsolete by a new one.

Past attempts to store data in DNA involved converting the data's strings of ones and zeros into a pattern of adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine, the four compounds that comprise DNA. Then a machine called a DNA synthesizer stitched together sequences of the four compounds to embody the specified pattern of chemicals and weave them into actual DNA strands.

Not very practical: all that is time-consuming as well as expensive, costing thousands of dollars to translate a small amount of data.

Now researchers at Columbia University figured out a way to store data in living bacteria by inserting genes that respond to an electrical charge. The genes could be considered similar to the memory bits in a chip that switch from one to zero or back again when a voltage passes through.

After inserting the genes and passing a charge through them, the scientists were able to open up and read their message by sequencing the bacteria's genes.

Also, the data can be preserved as one generation of bacteria passes its genes to the next, although genes can mutate over time.

As an early test, the scientists were able to program a bacterium so that sequencing its genome spelled out "hello, world," often the first phrase programmed by people learning to code.

TRENDPOST: *The Columbia scientists have opened a path toward faster, cheaper data storage in living organisms, although neither the timeline nor ethical questions involved have been formulated. The breakthrough lets researchers think more broadly about possible synergies among living organisms, computers, and data.*

MORE STUDIES LINK CELL PHONES TO CANCER



Incidences of breast and thyroid cancers have risen dramatically in recent years and two studies are adding to earlier evidence of the cause: cell phones.

According to a study from Taipei Medical University in Taiwan, cell phones operate at radio frequencies that "significantly increases the risk of breast cancer, especially in women 50 and older who use cell phones and laptop computers."

The study surveyed accumulating evidence from various sources that radio frequency radiation breaks DNA's helical structure and ruptures the membranes of mitochondria, the structures inside cells that generate energy.

Among the studies reviewed were some that linked breast cancer in teenage girls to their habit of keeping their cell phones tucked in their bras. One physician reported a cancerous breast mass that resembled the shape of a cell phone.

Men toting cell phones in the chest pocket of jackets likely risk the same fate, physicians have pointed out.

Another study centered at Orebro University Hospital in Sweden found a statistically clear connection between the use of hand-held smartphones and the increasing number of thyroid cancer cases in Scandinavian countries.

TRENDPOST: *Smartphones pose another instance of a technology spreading like a pandemic before its consequences can be properly evaluated and predicted. From artificial intelligence to nanotech inside the human body, we continue to face unknown risks as innovations pick us up and sweep us along. Universities, governments, think tanks, and others need to put as much effort into assessing new technologies' human and environmental risks as they do into promoting their usefulness.*

U.S. INFANTS MAY BE UNABLE TO BENEFIT FROM BREAST MILK



Pediatricians have long known that human breast milk is key to babies' development of everything from a strong immune system to proper brain and motor function.

But the majority of human infants seem to lack a vital gut bacterium that turns breast

milk into usable nutrients, according to a new study by researchers led by Stanford University.

About 97 percent of newborns studied lacked a bacterium called *B. infantis*, which is the only gut bug able to break down certain of the milk's fundamental carbohydrates, so the infant can use the resulting products to fuel proper development.

Just as alarming, the study discovered that 93 percent of the bacteria found in infants' guts that were tested were potentially dangerous, including such villains as *e. coli*, streptococcus, and salmonella.

The "bad bugs" found in the babies' guts are known to hold 325 genes among them that confer antibiotic resistance.

Researchers conducted the study because recent reliable evidence indicated a "general trend" to dysfunction in U.S. infants' gut bacteria "and associated negative acute- and long-term health consequences," the research team wrote in their study report.

Babies' gut bacteria could be disrupted by a number of sources, including mothers' nutrient-poor diets during pregnancy, environmental toxins, and the growing popularity of Caesarean deliveries, the researchers said.

The study collected fecal samples from 227 infants in California, Georgia, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

TRENDPOST: *Some studies have linked disruption in babies' gut flora to chronic inflammation and immune disorders in adulthood. With more and more health problems being linked to gut bacteria, repopulating infants' intestines with beneficial bacteria could be among the most cost-effective long-term investments we could make in human health to beat back the rise in autoimmune and chronic conditions.*