

TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®



World War
VAX



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WORLD WAR VAX

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: "WORLD WAR VAX."

Who would have thought that one year ago, when politicians launched the COVID War, it would still be raging? With the exception of China, where the virus first struck, much of the world is still fighting it.

Back then, I had said that just as governments start wars with no exit strategy, so, too, with the COVID War. I was wrong.

The exit strategy is mass vaccinations.

Go to CNN's homepage. Leading off the second section, in bold it reads: "COVID-19: 500,000 US deaths – Prepare for your shot."

Yes, a shot that many people don't want to get. As the cover of this week's Trends Journal illustrates, "World War VAX" has begun.

In the Trends Journal, which is getting larger with each issue, we cover all that's going on in the world to help you prepare for the future.

Wishing you all the best,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

FOXES RAVAGING HEN HOUSE

The Central Banks and BANKSTER Ponzi Scheme has been going on since the inception of the US Fed in 1917. I didn't fathom the extent until as an individual investor, they extracted my wealth accumulated in the stock market by shorting stocks and pump and dump schemes as part of the ponzi scheme.

With Janet Yellen at the Treasury and Powell at the Fed, the Foxes are ravaging the hen houses across the world in Central Banks. With a push to regulate Cryptocurrencies by the IMF, World Bank, NY FED, and Sovereign Funds, it may portend a hiccup of the world's monetary systems.

Everyone should be careful and protect themselves against a Bernie Madoff type Ponzi Scheme run by the Banksters and Central Banks. BUYER BEWARE!!!!

harlow53

EXPERIMENT NOT

The people who are taking the shot are basically guinea pigs

daniel chick

CRYPTO WATCH

I and many crypto investors would love Trends Journal to seriously and regularly track any forward movement from the powers that be toward them creating a digital money system and outlawing or seriously messing with the crypto world. The decentralized crypto markets surely are a competitive threat to the central control freaks in power, no matter how many corporations etc adopt Bitcoin. Other governments such as India are already menacing cryptocurrencies. If that happened the blooming market could quickly crash. TJ has done some reporting

about Yellon's recent remarks and those of that big wig European woman. It seems to me to be only a matter of time before the Fed and the US govt want to totally control all currency transactions and I want as much warning as possible so I and all of TJ readers in crypto can cash out in time! Please consider upping the ante in such research and reporting. Thank you for all you do!! Richard

Richard Grimaldi

TRUCKERS MAY BOYCOTT RETAILERS

We are a country that is rather detached from reality and from an increasingly dangerous world, including many large, U.S. Cities. Affluent suburbs are not impacted much at this time. Complacency is starting to settle back-in for now. Crime is still relatively low, as well.

I heard a rumor that Independent Truckers and Union Truckers are considering a month long work stoppage to make a point with politicians this year. If they do, food supplies at the grocery store will be short, (No T.P.), and prices would spike, as was the case last March. This time, it would be a political statement and a peaceful protest to pressure the government, suppliers and retailers alike. Better keep some extra food stocks at home just in case.

DEEPPFAKE DETECTORS

How are children going to adapt to this fake world as it develops? When we know we absolutely cannot and should not trust what we see or hear on our screens the primary tool of 'perception management' aka mind control loses much of its power. A return to immediate physical reality and local community is the only solution if one wants to stay sane.

VASSAL STATE

The USA is already a vassal state of China. Biden is the acceptable puppet (face) tutelage payments to China continue.

NSA, CIA, all the military minds can't see this fact. Or they are part of it. Beats me destroying your own home helps anyone but it's arrived.

Any patriots left will know what to do. Leave or fight, remove the foreign powers leadership. people buy into it, but also think a lot of people must think they are full of crap.

I wonder how many people will drop dead from the vaccine?

Desmond Knox

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For more info on how the MSM is trying to ban independent news sites from operating, [read here.](#)

TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET UPDATE

We forecast it before, and we continue to do so. There will be a BIG economic bounce that will be heard across the world as lockdown restrictions ease, vaccination rates increase, and continued streams of cheap government and central bank money continue to flow into the economy.

Ready to break loose and feel free, there will be sharp increases in consumer spending across the retail, entertainment, and hospitality sectors.

Tech shares sharply zoomed when, last February, the Geek Squads – the Silicon con-artists – were the first to tell their workers to work-at-home. Schools and colleges quickly followed, emptying classrooms and college dorms, and sending students online.

Following the Hi-Tech deciders, politicians declared “shelter-in-place” orders forcing people to stay home, while closing down politically-declared “non-essential business,” i.e., anyone but the big box stores and other multi-nationals.

Unable to shop until they dropped, consumers went online to buy what they needed and wanted, adding yet another level of strong growth to the 21st century online Hi-Tech world of working, learning, eating, and living.

In response, the NASDAQ rose 43.6 percent in 2020, its best year since 2009. The S&P 500 had spiked 68 percent from its March 2020 lows, and the Dow closed the year at 30,606, hitting a record high.

But now, with signs signaling a return to some sense of a New ABnormal where people will live lives outside their homes and rely less on the tech world, the NASDAQ fell below its 50-day moving average, down nearly 4 percent earlier in the day before rebounding to close down 0.5 percent at 13,465.20.

The overvalued price/earnings ratio Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 360 points in early trading, but it, too, snapped back, closing up 15.66 points.

Money Junkie

But the Dow bounced back a bit after Fed Chair Jerome Powell told Congress that inflation was “soft.” With inflation muted and the economic outlook “highly uncertain,” the word on The Street is that interest rates will remain low, thus cheap money will continue to flood the markets.

“The economy is a long way from our employment and inflation goals, and it is likely to take some time for substantial further progress to be achieved,” Powell told the Senate Banking Committee today.

And contrary to what the Fed and The Street had forecast, we have been forecasting Dragflation: declining economic growth and rising inflation.

Now, amid a sharp rise in bond yields in recent weeks as Washington makes plans for more money-pumping schemes to prop up the failing economy, inflation fears are on the rise. Thus, the higher inflation rises, the higher the likelihood of the Fed raising interest rates, which will, in turn, crash the cheap-money, artificially-propped-up equity markets.

Liars

And as we have continually detailed, the inflation numbers are rigged by Washington to limit the amount of social security and other benefits that are tied to inflation numbers.

For example, today Case-Shiller reported that December home prices had their sharpest gains in seven years, rising 10.4 percent.

However, the fact that it cost 10.4 percent more to buy a home, according to the rulers of Slavelandia, is not inflation, and the government does not count it.

Why?

Because the “experts” decided that a home is an asset and buyers will benefit when they sell it. In their world, regardless of where you live or how much you paid and put into home improvements... you’ll make money when you sell it.

That is just one example of how the real inflation numbers are cooked to appear to remain low as living costs continue to climb. For more accurate statistics, we suggest John Williams’ www.shadowstats.com.

The U.S. is not alone in rigging the inflation numbers. Yesterday, *Bloomberg* reported the Canadians are fixing the numbers as well:

Inflation Jumps in Canada After Statistics Agency Backtracks

“Statistics Canada backtracked on its decision to revise down estimates of underlying inflation, raising questions whether the agency has a full grasp of the real state of price pressures in the economy.

In a rare move, the agency said Monday it’s reversing a methodological change—unveiled only five days ago—that lowered some readings of core prices. After receiving negative feedback from economists over the change, Statistics Canada said it reverted to its old methodology and will study the matter further.

The result is an inflation picture that is more elevated than reported last week.

Bloomberg quoted Derek Holt, an economist at Bank of Nova Scotia, who noted, “We’re now left largely in the dark on what core inflation is and reliant upon if and when StatsCan publishes a revision to its revised methodology that they just retracted.”

Thus, real inflation will continue. Indeed, we have been reporting sharply rising commodity prices, shipping costs, etc. in the Trends Journal, and we forecast that as inflation sharply increases interest rates will rise, the equity markets will plummet and precious metals such as gold and silver will shine brighter.

TREND FORECAST: *While we have forecast a strong economic bounce-back this spring through autumn, it will be an artificial high, pumped up by high demand that was repressed during lockdowns.*

As we noted, while many lost jobs will begin to return, new ones won’t be created. Businesses that have gone out of business will not suddenly bloom. Moreover, there will be a slow recovery in many sectors including entertainment, events, hospitality, tourism, trade shows, conventions, cruises, and brick and mortar retail among them.

Moreover, private debt levels will continue to rise, putting more downward pressure on spending.

When will the artificial boom bust? While it is impossible to read the minds of Banksters who will do all it takes to keep the equity Ponzi scheme going and the Wall Street money junkies on their high, we maintain our forecast for a deep bear market this year.

And, most importantly, when Wall Street crashes, so, too, will Main Street, bringing the world to the reality that the “Greatest Depression” has begun.

When will the equity crash happen? Read Gregory Mannarino’s new article, [“MARKETS’ DAY OF RECKONING: COMING SOON.”](#)

GOLD/SILVER. After hitting a seven-month low at \$1,767 per ounce during trading on Friday, gold bounced back yesterday closing up more than \$30 per ounce. Today it was down \$7.45 closing at \$1,805 per ounce while silver moved up 84 cents to close at \$27.68 per ounce.

With gold off to its worst start in 30 years, as we have continued to note, as more money flows into cryptocurrencies, there will be less to gamble on precious metals.

However, we maintain our forecast that while bullion is down some 6 percent this year, the dollar will continue to weaken, inflation will increase, gold prices will top \$2,100 per ounce, and silver will push above \$50 per ounce.

And, the lower cryptocurrencies slide, the higher gold prices will go. While both markets, precious metals and cryptocurrencies, are speculative, precious metals are hard assets that are purchased by central banks to boost their monetary reserves and are used in heavy and high tech industries, respectively... while digital currencies are intangibles.

BITCOIN. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies began their dive on Monday following statements by Elon Musk – whose Tesla company had recently bought \$1.5 billion worth of bitcoin – that its price “seems high.”

As the words flowed out of his mouth, bitcoin, after hitting a high of \$58,341 sank over 10 percent.

Then, yesterday, the prices tanked again following U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's fear message of "crypto-control ahead" when she issued a warning on *CNBC* that investing in bitcoin poses dangers for society and is risky for investors. Yellen said,

"To the extent it is used, I fear it's often for illicit finance. It's an extremely inefficient way of conducting transactions, and the amount of energy that's consumed in processing those transactions is staggering."

To help push the price down further, Ms. Yellen warned that bitcoin, "It is a highly speculative asset and you know I think people should be aware it can be extremely volatile and I do worry about potential losses that investors can suffer."

And suffer they did! As we go to press, bitcoin is down over 10 percent, trading at \$48 percent at \$48,326.

TREND FORECAST: *How low can bitcoin go? How far can it fall? We maintain our 5 January forecast: "The downward breakout point will be hit should prices fall below \$25,000 per coin."*

OIL. Discounting Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's warning that U.S. economic recovery remained "uneven and far from complete," oil prices stayed on their year-long highs with Brent Crude closing up 18 cents at \$65.42 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate fell 3 cents to close at \$61.67 per barrel.

The big push up, as we had reported, came when OPEC+ made the deal to keep cutting back on supply. And now, with hopes of a vaccinated world and life returning to a New ABnormal, the vax news is good news that will have people feeling free to go out, travel, go to work... and pump petrol into their autos.

Upside – Downside

As oil prices move higher and real wages stagnate and/or fall, the increasing petrol costs will put downward pressure on consumer retail/restaurant/travel spending while pushing inflation higher.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS REACH RECORD HIGHS



As we have been forecasting, and with the data we have been providing, get ready for higher inflation.

Prices for lumber and building materials are setting new records as low-interest rates and a dearth of homes for sale

surge consumer demand for new houses. However, 2020's manufacturing slowdown and wildfires in the western U.S. have dried up the supply of building materials.

Prices have never been higher for oriented strand board, often used for walls and underlayment, Ponderosa pine for cabinetry, or southern yellow pine, often used in floors and decking, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Contracts for lumber to be delivered in March saw prices close above \$1 per board foot on 19 February for the first time, the *Journal* said, noting that futures prices have shot up 49 percent this month.

Mills that manufacture engineered wood products such as I-beams are a month behind on filling orders, the *Journal* noted.

The materials shortage also was aggravated by the sudden rush to the suburbs by work-at-home white-collar employees and shuttered restaurants building outdoor dining areas, the *Journal* said.

Winter weather has disrupted imports from Canada; wood prices in Europe also are high, offering no competition to U.S. suppliers that would push prices down.

FED WARNS OF BANKRUPTCIES, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CRASH



The U.S. Federal Reserve warned of the growing risk of business bankruptcies and plunges in commercial real estate values in its semi-annual Monetary Policy Report, delivered to the U.S. Congress on 19 February.

“Business leverage now stands near historic highs,” the report noted. “Insolvency risks at small and medium-size firms, as well as at some large firms, remain considerable.”

Businesses of all sizes have piled on debt during the last 12 months, encouraged by the Fed's record-low interest rates and investors chasing higher returns than government securities can offer.

Commercial real estate values in some areas have been near historic highs and “appear susceptible to sharp declines,” the report said, especially if the economic recovery slows or troubled companies desperate for cash dump their properties quickly for whatever prices they can get.

As we had forecast, commercial property owners are now squeezed between two trends.

As more shoppers migrate online from brick-and-mortar stores, the demand – and, therefore, rental rates – for retail space is declining; and the trend of companies sending white-collar workers to labor at home slashes the need for office space.

Also, at-home workers no longer need to live within daily commuting distance of their jobs, leading many to move farther away from urban centers where stores and other commercial properties are concentrated.

Increasingly, ex-commuters are shopping online.

The Fed also called for reforms to regulations governing investment funds that hold large amounts of public and private bonds. The funds saw hordes of investors take out their cash last March as the economy was shutting down, causing the Fed to step in with supports.

“Without structural reforms, the vulnerabilities demonstrated in March 2020 will persist and could significantly amplify future shocks,” the Fed’s report cautioned.

TREND FORECAST: *We have been warning of a sharp commercial real estate down-trend and its financial implications since March of last year, and provided hard facts and data to support our forecast... which is now being made nearly a year later by the Feds!*

As noted, under the New ABnormal, there will not be a strong rebound in return to commuting and working in cities large and small, and the trend of people leaving large cities for suburbs and ex-burbs will continue, thus putting further downward pressure on commercial real estate... and apartment rentals and home prices.

In addition, borrowing costs will rise as interest rates move higher, putting yet more pressure on deeply indebted commercial real estate owners and developers.

HOME SALES MIXED IN JANUARY



Despite surging demand among buyers for new homes, housing starts slumped 12 percent in January from December due, in part, to the scarcity of lumber, rising costs of building materials, and disruptions in supply due in part to wildfires and heavy

weather, industry analysts said.

Partly as a result, the number of new homes permitted in December but not started rose 9.6 percent from the month before and 28 percent year on year, Robert Dietz, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, said to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Higher costs of building materials will also drive new home prices higher in the months ahead. (See our new article, [“PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS REACH RECORD HIGHS.”](#))

Sales of previously owned homes edged up 0.6 percent in January from December, notching a 23.7-percent jump year over year during the traditionally slow winter sales season.

The median selling price of existing homes climbed 14.1 percent in January from a year earlier, settling at \$303,900.

The yearly gain resulted from surging demand for homes, driven by low interest rates, home-office workers leaving urban centers, and a general shortage of homes available for sale.

TREND FORECAST: *With remote work schedules, rising crime in big cities pushing more people to suburbs and ex-burbs, the cost of building new homes becoming more costly and with fewer than three months of supply of homes on*

the market, the lowest on record since the turn of the century,” according to Zillow, we forecast rising home prices in select areas of the nation.

When interest rates rise and when the equity markets plunge, so, too, will the over-priced housing market.

NYC HOME PRICES PLUNGE, SPURRING BUYERS



The Big Apple’s home prices soured in January at the fastest annual rate on record, falling 5.4 percent in Brooklyn and 6.2 percent in Manhattan, according to data firm StreetEasy.

The price plunge drove sales higher compared with a year earlier. Brooklyn closed 17.3 percent more deals than a year earlier; Manhattan sales jumped 30.8 percent.

The sales pace in Brooklyn was 82 percent brisker in 2020's fourth quarter than during the same period in 2019, a record pace made even more impressive by the fourth quarter's history as the year's slowest real estate market.

Brooklyn homes listed for sale were 14.1 percent more plentiful in January than the same month in 2020. Manhattan’s inventory was 24.7 percent higher year on year.

Because Brooklyn’s homes are cheaper per square foot than Manhattan’s, Brooklyn is becoming the city’s hottest housing market, StreetEasy economist Nancy Wu said to *Business Insider*.

In contrast, Manhattan’s home prices will continue to slide, she said, now that white-collar jobs can be done from home, enabling people to seek larger, cheaper digs elsewhere.

Also, other factors that predate the pandemic are weighing on the city's real estate market: developers built too many luxury condos and the city instituted a "mansion tax," Ms. Wu noted.

TREND FORECAST: *These factors are likely to remain in place after the COVID War subsides and the broader economy recovers. As we have been long reporting, New York City, commercially and residentially has been overbuilt, with supply far greater than demand. Indeed, from uptown to downtown, east side, west side, the hottest sections were already plastered with commercial/retail “For Rent” signs.*

And, as Ms. Wu notes, "There's been a sales slowdown in the city for the past three years." In Manhattan, and somewhat in Brooklyn, prices have been falling for a while now. With inventory levels as high they are, there is currently no end in sight when it comes to falling New York City real estate prices.

RISKY COMPANIES SNAPPING UP CHEAP LOANS



As investors seek ever-higher yields, risky companies are finding ready buyers for bonds carrying higher interest rates than U.S. treasury securities or blue-chip corporate debt can offer.

Community Health Systems, the Gannett newspaper chain, and other companies whose credit is rated below investment grade have sold \$139 billion in bonds from 1 January through 10 February, S&P Global Intelligence reported.

More than \$13 billion worth of the bonds are rated CCC or lower, the lowest rating possible before abject default, doubling the previous record amount for the riskiest of junk bonds.

On 18 February, the average rate paid by bonds listed in the ICE BofA High Yield Bond Index – which includes sinking retailers and struggling fracking companies – was 3.97 percent, compared to 1.2 percent offered by 10-year U.S. treasury bonds the same day.

“The demand exceeds the supply” of junk bonds, credit researcher David Knutson at Schroeder’s, a U.K. asset manager, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Some investors foresee endangered companies recovering as the U.S. Federal Reserve continues to prop up the bond market, the Biden administration floods the economy with more stimulus money, and the economy recovers from its pandemic-related crash.

TREND FORECAST: *It's a gambler's game. Embattled companies will still be at risk by their problems that have made them hungry for money, and many will default on their bonds when interest rates rise... as we have forecast.*

When the cheap money-pumping stops and the triple-C's can no longer access funding, they will default. Again, this gambler's game cannot be played forever.

As the WSJ reported, investors' ravenous appetite for high yields also has recently driven up prices for commodities such as copper and oil.

Mutual and exchange-traded funds focused on global stocks collected a record \$58 billion in new investments during the week ending 17 February, according to data from EFPR Global.

INVESTORS SWAP BONDS FOR STOCKS



Last week, investors traded the safety and low yields of government bonds for the promise of gains from stocks that will rise with the economy, particularly those of companies in the energy and financial industries.

The Russell 2000 small-company index gained 48.3 points, about 2.2 percent, to close the week at 2,266.69. In contrast, U.S. government bond prices fell, pushing yields to their highest points in weeks.

For the week, the Dow eked out a 0.1-percent gain, with the NASDAQ retreating 1.6 percent and the S&P 500 shrinking by 0.7 percent.

Business activity is steadily improving in both services and manufacturing, according to new government data. U.S. consumers used their recent stimulus checks to drive retail sales to their largest gains in seven months, a 17 February report by the U.S. Commerce Department said.

Consumer spending could surpass expectations for the rest of the year with more federal stimulus spending driving an economic rebound, analysts at JPMorgan Chase wrote in a research note.

TREND FORECAST: *As bond yields keep rising and with equities trading at near record-high P/E ratios and primed for a pullback, there will be more money flowing out of stock markets and into bonds.*

U.S. BOND YIELDS POST NEW GAINS

Yields on ten-year U.S. government bonds rose to 1.344 percent on 19 February from 1.286 percent the week before, the largest weekly increase since 8

January, lifting yields from the 1- to 1.2-percent range where they have traded for much of the last month.

Thirty-year bond yields edged up to 2.140 percent from 2.076 percent week on week, the highest yield in more than a year.

The rise was propelled in part by better-than-expected retail sales data from the U.S. commerce department.

The move to bonds lacked a spark from fundamental economic factors, leading analysts to refer to the higher yields as a “reflation trade” – a bet that the economy will rebound quickly enough to trigger inflation and even higher yields.

TRENDPOST: Higher government spending, as promised by President Biden’s \$1.9-trillion stimulus proposal, tends to push bond prices down and yields up by sparking economic expansion and a resulting broad rise in prices.

BIDEN STIMULUS CAN YIELD FULL EMPLOYMENT, YELLIN SAYS



President Biden’s \$1.9-trillion stimulus plan could return the U.S. economy to full employment within a year, treasury secretary Janet Yellin said in an 18 February *CNBC* interview.

Even though the economy is showing signs of gradual recovery, the full \$1.9 trillion is still essential, she argued.

“It’s very important to have a big package that addresses the pain this has caused – 15 million Americans behind on their rent, 24 million adults and 12 million children who don’t have enough to eat, small businesses failing,” she said.

The plan includes a \$1,400 payment to every U.S. adult that “will help jump-start our economy, giving people money to spend when we can get out again and go back to our former lives,” Yellen added.

“There’s a lot of families operating on the margin and these checks will really help them.”

Additional massive stimulus spending could spark inflation, she admitted, but “inflation has been very low for over a decade... it’s a risk but a risk that the Federal Reserve and others have the tools to address.”

“The greater risk is having this pandemic take a permanent, life-long toll on [people’s] lives and livelihoods.”

TREND FORECAST: *Neither Congress nor the Biden administration has offered plans to tackle the massive deficits that Biden’s and previous stimulus spending have forged.*

The U.S. budget deficit in fiscal 2021 will be \$2.3 trillion, not including any new stimulus spending not yet approved by Congress, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The higher the deficit, whether national, state, or city, politicians will push to raise taxes. Indeed, even Ms. Yellen said taxes “probably” will need to be increased to pay off the debt, saying “that would probably phase in slowly over time.”

As we have forecast, the higher the taxes rise, the stronger there will be for anti-tax, populist political movements. And, as we reported in this Trends Journal, the numbers prove a majority of the public is seeking an alternative to the establishment ruling parties.

TREND FORECAST: *In our 12 January article, “[DEMOCRATS: IMPEACH TRUMP](#),” we had forecast this is the beginning of the formation of a new political party to replace the failing Republican Party. A recent 15 February Gallop poll*

confirmed our forecast, showing that a record-high 63 percent of Republicans favor a third party.

BIDEN PPP RULES CHANGE FAVORS SMALL BUSINESSES



The Biden administration has announced changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that favors small businesses and the self-employed.

For two weeks beginning 24 February, the forgivable loan program will be open only to businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

Beginning 1 March, new eligibility rules will allow more self-employed persons to receive higher payments; previously, many were excluded or received only negligible sums because loan amounts were based on the business's number of workers.

Also, business owners with felony convictions not involving fraud can qualify to receive loans, as can persons delinquent on federal student loans and some non-citizen legal residents.

The PPP's first round lasted from March to August, offering loans to businesses that could be forgiven if at least 75 percent of the money was spent to keep workers on the job.

However, the loans were doled out by major banks that typically favored their best clients, most of which were large corporations. Entrepreneurs and small concerns saw little of the funds.

Congress revived the program in December with another \$285 billion, allotting \$12 billion for minority-owned businesses and directing the rest toward companies with fewer than 300 employees.

The PPP will close on 31 March or earlier if the money runs out.

TREND FORECAST: *To further juice the sagging economy, President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan will increase unemployment benefits by \$400 a week through the end of August.*

This latest round of cheap money pumping will, according to the Congressional Budget Office, increase federal spending by about \$163 billion through 2022. Thus, the deeper the debt, the more fake dollars printed on nothing and backed by nothing, the lower the dollar falls, and the higher precious metals and other safe-haven assets rise.

RETAIL SALES REBOUND IN JANUARY



U.S. retail sales in stores, eating and entertainment venues, and online grew 5.3 percent in January over December's lackluster holiday sales, the U.S. commerce department reported.

The sales jump marked the largest rise in consumer spending since June as shoppers spent their \$600 federal stimulus stipends, economists said.

Consumer spending comprises almost 70 percent of the U.S. economy.

The new figures prompted the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's GDPNow computer model to predict last week that the U.S. economy will grow 9.5

percent this quarter instead of the 4.5 percent the model predicted the week before.

Manufacturing output rose 1 percent in January from December, the fourth consecutive month of improvement and almost reaching its pre-pandemic production level, the U.S. Federal Reserve reported on 17 February.

TREND FORECAST: *We had forecast the more money being sent to consumers by the government, the higher retail sales, along with the general economy, will rise. However, the implications of higher inflation, U.S. debt levels rising, and the economy declining... when the money-pumping schemes end, the toll it will take on consumers and the general economy will be far more costly than what the stimulus packages temporarily provided.*

U.S. HIGHER ED SHEDS 650,000 JOBS DURING PANDEMIC



The 4,000 U.S. colleges and universities cut 13 percent of their collective workforce in the past 12 months, axing about 650,000 jobs, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Custodians, kitchen workers, and other low-wage employees took the brunt of the cuts as dorms and dining halls closed when students were ordered home last March. Many students continue learning from home now.

Student-services jobs also were eliminated, as were adjunct faculty positions. Now even tenured faculty are on the chopping block, according to *Inside Higher Ed* (IHE), a news service.

Aspiring academics may now have to scrap their career plans, IHE noted, and faculty members turfed out in mid-career may never be able to return to their posts.

Wealthy institutions often have termination support programs for faculty and staff, but most colleges and universities are unable to afford such perks, IHE reported.

The IHE called on colleges and universities to offer career retraining and job placement services at no charge to those who have lost their jobs, calling it ‘a defining moral issue for higher education right now.’”

TREND FORECAST: *Unmentioned in the mainstream news is our forecast made one year ago when colleges closed down and sent students home, of the financial and personal toll remote learning has taken on once-flourishing college towns that have now become Rust Belts 2.0.*

And with many young people – and their parents – out of work and facing a dim future, fewer people will be unwilling to go deep in debt to get a diploma that will be useless in finding them a decent-paying job.

Thus, with fewer signing up for a college education, more downward economic pressure will hit college towns.

HEDGE FUND BUYS TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER CHAIN



Tribune Publishing, which owns the *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *New York Daily News*, six other newspapers, and a news syndicate, is being taken over for \$630 million by hedge fund Alden Global Capital in a reportedly all-cash deal.

In 2019, Alden bought 32 percent of the company, becoming its largest shareholder.

Hundreds of *Tribune* staffers signed a letter protesting the latest sale, pointing to Alden's "well-documented history of extracting short-term profits from already-lean operations by cutting newsroom jobs and denying fair wages and benefits."

Soon after Alden took control, Tribune Publishing began offering buyouts to employees. It also shut down some newsrooms during 2020's economic collapse.

Alden announced plans to sell the *Tribune's* subsidiary Baltimore Sun Media Group to the nonprofit Sunlight for All Institute if two-thirds of shareholders that are not Alden agree. The sale would close in this year's second quarter.

The *Hartford Courant*, another Tribune paper, also is seeking nonprofit ownership.

Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan called the Baltimore sale "the one bright spot in the Alden/Tribune development."

TREND FORECAST: *We note this article to further illustrate the sharp decline in journalism as major firms gobble up once-thriving newspapers that have been going down and out since the onset of the digital revolution back in the mid-1990s... when they foolishly put their content online for free.*

Thus, as the Bigs get Bigger, fire more staff, and consolidate, not only will there be less fresh content and a lack of reporters covering nations, states, and cities... the messages being sent to the public will be ruled by just a few as they consolidate the profession.

One Sound

Indeed, consolidation comes in all shapes and sizes. IHeartMedia, owner of 850 radio stations in 150 markets across the U.S., will buy E.W. Scripps' Triton Digital business for \$230 million, giving the radio giant advertising and measurement capabilities as it grows its podcast division.

Triton's technology allows broadcasters to insert ads on the fly, depending on who is listening.

IHeartMedia, the largest radio broadcaster in the U.S., bought Stuff Media in 2018 in a major move into podcasting as it seeks to grow its digital, streaming, and on-demand services.

USED RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT FLOODS THE MARKET



Since February 2020, about 110,000 U.S. restaurants – about 17 percent of the total – have closed permanently, according to the National Restaurant Association (NRA).

Those failures have brought a boon to people dealing in and shopping for used commercial stoves, mixers, steam tables, and other gear.

Grafe Auction, a Minnesota firm that helps restaurants that close unload their equipment, ran 289 such auctions in 2020, compared to 203 in 2019. Last August was the firm's most profitable month since its founding in 1959, according to John Schultz, the company's marketing chief.

Some eateries have bought equipment to support outdoor dining; others that have survived are grabbing items at bargain prices in hopes of future expansion.

For the moment, however, “this is as dire a situation for the restaurant industry in this country as we’ve ever seen,” NRA executive vice-president Sean Kennedy told the Associated Press.

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to illustrate the economic severity and the personal costs inflicted upon restaurateurs by politicians who decided, without providing a shred of scientific evidence, to lock them down in their fight to win the COVID War.*

As we reported, the virus infection rate in those establishments, according to Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of New York who was among the first in the nation to lock down restaurants, is just 1.4 percent.

Also, for those wanting to go into the business to fill voids that were created, now may be a good time to purchase discounted/used restaurant equipment.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



GLOBAL SHUTDOWN COST 225 MILLION JOBS, U.N. SAYS

The COVID War that politicians have been fighting now for one year by locking down entire nations, has wiped out 225 million jobs worldwide... four times more than the Great Recession, according to a new report from United Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO).

The loss took out 8.8 percent of the economy's worked hours, using 2019's fourth quarter as a benchmark, the report calculated. Half the lost hours were attributed to reduced work schedules among people able to cling to their posts.

The lost hours reduced the world's labor income by \$3.7 trillion, equivalent to an 8.3-percent global pay cut and a 4.4-percent drop in the world's GDP, the report stated.

The ILO's official unemployment figure rose 1.1 percent, adding 33 million more people to notch a global jobless rate of 6.5 percent in 2020. Unemployment among women last year stood at 5 percent, compared to 3.9 percent among men.

Workers ages 24 and younger lost jobs at more than twice the rate of older workers, setting an unemployment rate of 8.7 percent globally, compared with 3.7 percent for older workers.

Many entry-age workers put off or gave up looking for work, raising the specter of a "lost generation," the report warned.

Another 81 million people failed to register as unemployed but "simply dropped out of the labor market," the report said.

"Their talents, their skills, their energy have been lost, lost to their families, lost to our society, lost to us all," ILO director Guy Ryder said in a statement accompanying the report.

The ILO called on governments to support unemployed populations and to channel funds to economic sectors most likely to create jobs quickly.

However, even in its most optimistic future scenario, the ILO foresees unemployment this year rising by 1.3 percent globally, erasing another 36 million full-time jobs.

TREND FORECAST: *As per the hard numbers, those age 24 and younger lost jobs at more than twice the rate of older workers, thus solidifying our forecast for the "Youth Revolution" as a Top Trend of 2021. As Gerald Celente says, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."*

And lose it they are: Myanmar, Thailand, Uganda, Spain... they are putting their lives on the line fighting military dictatorships, the royals, and the ruling class. This is class warfare. An "Off With Their Heads 2.0" revolution will escalate as the world sinks deeper into the "Greatest Depression."

Again, while many old jobs will be brought back, according to the Congressional Budget Office, they will not fully return until sometime in 2024. Thus, there will be few job openings for young people moving into the workplace. Their anger and protests will escalate, and their dreams for a stable future become a living nightmare.

The “Youth Revolution” will also be instrumental in forming new anti-establishment political movements.

CORPORATE CREDIT DOWNGRADES RISE



The number of corporations seeing their credit rating fall last year was 4.67 times more than those with rising ratings, according to ratings service DBRS Morningstar.

The pace of downgrades surpassed 2008's 3.08 ratio and approached the 5.39 mark set in 2009 at the worst of the Great Recession.

Morningstar recorded 70 downgrades in 2020, compared to 45 in 2016 when the number spiked as the method of calculating downgrades for European financial institutions was changed.

There were 74 downgrades in 2008 and 97 in 2009, DBRS said.

About 40 percent of oil companies monitored by DBRS were degraded last year. The automotive and retail sectors saw 30 percent of companies' creditworthiness knocked down.

Automotive, consumer services, energy, real estate, and retail could continue to be vulnerable to downgrades amid aftershocks of the global economic collapse, DBRS's report cautioned.

TREND FORECAST: With oil prices sharply rising there will be some respite in that sector, however, the serious economic damage of year-long low prices will not resuscitate the deep in debt.

Also true with retail and real estate, both of which have been propped up with government payout to the public and zero interest rate policy respectively.

We agree with the statement of Morningstar director Anil Passi who told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We're living in an artificial world propped up by money printing. There's going to come a day when everyone has to stand on their own two feet."

The day of reckoning will come when equity markets crash. (See Gregory Mannarino's new article, "[MARKETS' DAY OF RECKONING: COMING SOON.](#)")

EUROPE: MANUFACTURING UP, SERVICES DOWN



Europe's manufacturing economy continues to rebound while services still droop.

The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for Germany's manufacturing sector climbed to a three-year high of 60.6 in January, up from 57.1 the month before; France's PMI for the sector added 3.4 points to reach 55.

The pan-European PMI in manufacturing rose from 54.8 to 57.7 for the month.

A rating above 50 signals growth.

In contrast, Germany's service-sector PMI lost 0.8 points last month to settle at 45.9, a nine-month low. France's service index lost almost 10 percent, sinking to 43.6, its low point in the last three months.

Europe's overall service-sector PMI slid 0.7 points, from 45.4 to 44.7.

Europe's PMI for manufacturing and services combined was 48.1 in January, indicating the prospect of negative growth this quarter after the region's GDP also shrank last month.

TREND FORECAST: *As per the emerging data, and with nations across the continent having been mostly locked down since the COVID War began one year ago, Europe will sink into recession, racking up two consecutive quarters of a negative GDP.*

Yes, it will strongly bounce back from low levels in the later spring through autumn, but it will be a temporary boost. Again, we maintain our forecast that economies will stay relatively strong as interest rates stay low and governments keep pumping in artificial stimulus.. money backed by nothing, printed on nothing, further inflates the already over-inflated debt bubble.

But the money-pumping Ponzi scheme will end when the corporate/government debt bubbles burst, interest rates rise, and equity markets crash.

EUROPE'S CENTRAL BANK: MORE CHEAP MONEY



The European Central Bank (ECB) will leave its stimulus measures unchanged, the bank's governing officials decided at their January meeting, and will not react to short-term blips in inflation or nominal interest rates.

The ECB pledged to maintain “favorable financial conditions” into the future, largely through its €1.85-trillion bond-buying program.

Analysts interpreted the decision to mean that the bank will try to avoid major policy changes during 2021, according to the *Financial Times*.

In January, inflation in Europe grew at the fastest rate in more than 10 years. Interests on U.S. treasury securities also have been climbing, triggering speculation about looming inflation.

However, “a temporary boost to inflation should not be mistaken for a sustained increase, which [is] still likely to emerge only slowly,” the meeting’s minutes noted.

Also, “not every increase in nominal yields should be interpreted as an unwarranted tightening of financial conditions and trigger a corresponding policy response... what mattered from a monetary policy perspective was the evolution of real rates.”

“The ECB really is determined to do nothing for the rest of this year,” macroeconomist Carsten Brzeski at ING told the *FT*, “If there’s going to have to be any change, it will be more loosening rather than a tightening of policy.”

TREND FORECAST: According to the *FT*, if long-term bond yields rise among Eurozone countries, the ECB is unlikely to offer more stimulus if inflation expectations rise in tandem with an economic recovery.

We disagree. As we have forecast, inflation will rise, and despite it moving higher, central banks and governments will do all they can to keep the cheap money flow going.

Indeed, the 2-percent inflation rate central banks set as a standard to stop lowering rates, or to raise them, was invented in January 2012 by U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke during the Great Recession. Thus, to keep

failing economies and sinking equity markets afloat, the Banksters will invent a new inflation gauge.

CANADA FACES “INESCAPABLE” FINANCIAL RECKONING



A limping economy and massive deficits wrought by stimulus and bailout spending have created an “inescapable” fiscal reckoning for the country, a new report from the Conference Board of Canada (CBC) warns.

The government of prime minister Justin Trudeau has pledged to spend \$100 billion and up to 4 percent of GDP over the next three years to stimulate the nation’s economy

The national and provincial governments have piled on debt during the pandemic, while the devastated economy will be able to provide only modest tax revenues for years to come, the CBC contends.

Those governments have not yet formulated plans to deal with the deep deficits, Pedro Antunes, the CBC’s chief economist, said in comments quoted by The Canadian Press news service.

“Many provinces and territories, and the federal government, are going to have trouble reining in their big deficits in the near term,” he said. “When you look longer term, the situation is essentially untenable.”

The board joins other experts warning that Canada’s governments must radically alter spending plans to avoid a fiscal collapse in the years ahead.

The Trudeau administration “needs further justification” for its unaltered sizeable future spending plans, the IMF said in a report earlier this month. It added that

“if deemed unjustified, the additional spending could weaken the credibility of the fiscal framework.”

Any stimulus plan needs to be designed carefully so that it supports “full capacity growth” and prevents “permanent damage to output,” the agency said.

Reviewing Trudeau’s plan to bathe the economy in \$100 billion in stimulus spending over the next three years, Canada’s own C.D. Howe Institute said it “remains unconvinced that a large stimulus package is appropriate at this time.”

Any new spending programs should be financed by taxes, not debt, the institute added.

However, prime minister Justin Trudeau has offered no plan to cut spending and has said he is “certain” he will not call for tax hikes.

Making matters more dire, Canadian provinces and territories will be pressing the federal government for aid to rescue their devastated economies, the CBC report said. Regional governments are facing tax increases, sharp spending cuts, or both, Antunes noted.

“Rock-bottom financing rates will help governments manage the near-term financing challenges associated with the additional debt burden, but the ramifications of this massive and sudden build-up of public debt are inescapable over the longer term,” the CBC report said.

“A long-term policy objective for governments must be to stabilize and then reduce their debt as a share of GCP to enable Canada to fend off future crises, which are bound to occur,” it urged.

Canada’s federal government has predicted a \$385-billion deficit this fiscal year, with provinces and territories booking another \$92 billion in red ink. That would raise the nation’s total public deficit for 2021 to 22 percent of GDP.

That annual deficit would bring the country's total national debt to 95 percent of GDP, a level not seen since the early 1900s "when surging deficits led to nearly a decade of fiscal restraint," the CBC wrote.

"The lasting impact on revenues and expenditures suggests that governments in Canada will struggle" for years "to dig themselves out of this giant fiscal hole," the report concluded, adding that governments at all levels face stark cuts in spending or spikes in taxes.

TREND FORECAST: *As with other nations, the more money governments pump into economies and the deeper they go in debt, the further the value of the currencies will fall and the higher inflation will rise... thus costing more to buy goods and services with devalued currencies. And the higher inflation rises, the stronger the demand for safe-haven assets such as gold and silver.*

ONTARIO POSTS RECORD UNEMPLOYMENT IN 2020



Ontario, Canada's most populous province, lost 355,300 jobs in 2020, pushing the unemployment rate to 9.6 percent, its highest since 1993, the province's Financial Accountability Office reported last week.

The sheer number of jobs lost was the largest in Ontario's history.

"The rise in the unemployment rate in 2020 was tempered by a surge in individuals who left the labor force and as a result were not counted as unemployed," the report noted.

"Due to these exits, the province's labor force participation rate dropped to 63.6 per cent, down sharply from 64.9 per cent in 2019 and the lowest rate on record," it said.

The number of hours worked by those who still had jobs also fell, the agency found.

Service-sector jobs disappeared more quickly than those in manufacturing. About 27 percent of low-wage jobs vanished, while only 1.4 percent of jobs in higher-wage categories disappeared.

“More than half of the total job losses in Ontario were concentrated in industries facing significant pandemic-related restrictions, including accommodation and food services, retail trade, and transportation and warehousing,” the report said.

Young workers were also particularly affected by the pandemic, accounting for about four in 10 jobs lost in the province.

About 40 percent of jobs that disappeared were among workers in the ages of 15 and 24. Their employment rate plunged to a 20-year low as unemployment for the group soared to a record 22 percent.

Women lost more jobs than men, shedding 202,600 spots to men’s 152,600.

About 20 percent of mothers ages 25 to 54 “with children under the age of 18 were absent from work,” the report states, “more than twice the share of absence among fathers.”

The Ontario cities of Peterborough and Windsor saw the greatest loss of jobs; Barrie and London managed slight gains.

TRENDPOST: *We note this data as a reference to what is transpiring across much of the globe as a result of politicians shutting down economies and launching the COVID War. We maintain our forecast that the “Greatest Depression” has begun. The economic damage that has been wrought on hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods around the world will not be salvaged when economies begin to open up.*

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY GAINS SPEED



Japan's economy grew 3 percent in 2020's fourth quarter compared to the third, surging past expectations of a 2.3-percent expansion, figures from the government's Cabinet Office show.

The GDP grew in both domestic demand and export markets.

The quarter's GDP was just 1 percent below that of a year earlier, signaling a strong rebound from last year's economic shutdown.

Capital investment grew 4.5 percent, the first rise in three quarters; consumer spending climbed 2.2 percent on government incentives for travel, analysts said.

Because the government re-imposed a lockdown last month as COVID cases surged, economic growth this quarter is likely to sag again, analysts expect.

However, the weakness will be less than during the previous shutdown because current restrictions are less harsh, demand for Japanese exports is rising, and businesses are beginning to make capital investments once again, Naohiko Baba, Goldman Sachs' chief economist in Tokyo, said to the *Financial Times*.

TRENDPOST: *Japan's economy shrank 4.8 percent overall in 2020. While it is bouncing back, as with other nations, recovery will be temporary since much of what has been destroyed by the COVID War will not be recovered for years to come.*

SAUDIS TO BOOST OIL PRODUCTION AS PRICES STRENGTHEN



Saudi Arabia, which cut its oil production by a million barrels daily this month and next to boost oil prices, has let it be known that will reverse those cuts at the beginning of April.

The decision follows oil's price rise from \$30 a barrel last summer to more than \$60 now.

The kingdom will formally announce the hike in production when the OPEC oil cartel meets next month.

"We are in a much better place than we were a year ago," Saudi energy minister Abdulaziz bin Salman said on 17 February in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*, "but I must warn, once again, against complacency."

"Uncertainty is very high and we have to be extremely cautious," he noted, adding that the decision to increase production could be abandoned if market conditions shift.

U.S. oil inventories have dropped sharply recently, the American Petroleum Institute reported.

Rising demand in the second half of the year will erase the oil glut that was in place before the pandemic struck and lingered through much of 2020, the International Energy Agency predicted in its 11 February market report.

TRENDPOST: While rising oil prices are positive for oil-producing nations, it will hit oil-dependent nation's economies, such as India's, very hard, as it will consumers, thus deflating economic growth that will push inflation higher.

TURKEY'S CURRENCY GAINS ON THE DOLLAR



Turkey's lira has risen 6.5 percent in value against the dollar this year, reversing its steady 2020 slide and marking it as the best-performing currency among emerging markets so far in 2021.

The lira lost 20 percent of its value against the dollar last year, trading below 8 to the buck for the first time and falling below 7 late in 2020.

The gains follow Naci Agbal's November installation as the governor of Turkey's central bank. Agbal halted president Recep Erdogan's mandated interest rate cuts, a move that stanching Turkey's outflow of foreign cash reserves.

On 18 February, Agbal boosted the country's benchmark interest rate by 6.75 points to 17 percent to combat inflation and ease Turks' rush to convert their lira into dollars and other strong foreign currencies.

Turkey's January inflation rate was 15 percent compared to 12 percent a year earlier and triple the bank's target rate of 5 percent.

With interest rates two percentage points above inflation, investments denominated in lira can still eke out a profit.

Agbal's "priority is to improve inflation and this has rebuilt the bank's credibility, making the lira more attractive to foreign investors," economist Enver Erkan at Turkey's Tera Securities, commented to the *Financial Times*.

TREND FORECAST: *In the race between economic growth and inflation, the economy is losing.*

Moreover, as we have been reporting, there is growing social unrest in Turkey, especially among the younger generations.

With over 22 percent of its youth unemployed and Turkey being one of the worst-performing emerging markets in 2020, despite harsh crackdowns on dissent, with millions of young people facing bleak futures and with nothing to lose, they will take to the streets and organize new political movements to replace the establishment.

TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA



As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century – the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business; the business of America is war.

While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure. And while America and Europe have outsourced their manufacturing to China and developing nations to increase profit margins, China's dual circulation/self-sustaining economic model is directed toward keeping jobs and trade and profits within the nation, thus relying less on global trade.

While Western nations lock, unlock, and re-lock down their economies, China, where the virus first broke out, has been completely reopened since shortly after the virus left its homeland last year.

The following overview of the current economic trends further paints the ups and downs of China's economic future.

CHINA REPLACES U.S. AS EUROPE'S TOP TRADE PARTNER. The European Union (E.U.) imported 5.6 percent more goods from China in 2020 than in 2019 and boosted exports to China by 2.2 percent, Eurostat, the E.U.'s statistics agency, reported.

The increase promoted China to Europe's top trading partner for the year, supplanting the U.S.

The expanded trade ties between Europe and China came during a year when global trade crumpled by 9 percent, according to U.N. Conference on Trade and Development's latest quarterly report.

China's GDP grew 2.3 percent last year, while the global economy contracted 3.5 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund.

China's second-quarter recovery sparked demand there for Europe's automotive and luxury products, while Europe's long lockdown raised the continent's spending on Chinese electronics, entertainment, and health care products, Jost Wuebbeke, director at consulting firm Sinolytics, commented to the Xinhua news service.

Also last year, China and the E.U. reached a major agreement on investment and trade, culminating in seven years of negotiation.

"It's in the interest of both parties to improve, further exchange, to negotiate new common grounds for the benefit of...the world," Bernard Dewit, chair of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, said to Xinhua.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long noted, the United States lost the Trade War to China. And as the data shows, the nation is moving to overtake the U.S. before the end of the decade as the world's largest economy.*

U.S. PENSION FUNDS STILL BETTING ON CHINA. U.S. pension funds and asset managers have not lost faith in their investments in China, despite being startled when the Chinese government abruptly canceled a public offering by

Ant Group, a major financial services and digital payment firm, after CEO Jack Ma publicly criticized China's financial regulation scheme.

Pension fund managers Silver Lake and Carlyle Group are among the investors who collectively put \$10 billion into Ant in 2018, agreeing to terms limiting their ability to cash out if the company did not go public.

However, pension funds contacted by the *Wall Street Journal* reported not being disturbed by the Ant flap because their exposures were small.

"You almost have no choice but to think seriously about going to parts of the world where there is a lot more growth" than in Europe and the U.S., Carlyle CEO Kewsong Lee said in comments last month to the board of the California State Teachers Retirement System that was quoted by the *Journal*.

Many pension funds find themselves underfunded as long-lived Baby Boomers continue to retire and place demands on funds' reserves; as a result, the funds often are willing to place riskier bets to cover impending shortfalls.

In recent years, growing U.S. investments in Chinese businesses have opened the door to an estimated \$13 billion in private equity deals in China by U.S.-based firms from 2010 through 2019, including \$3.78 billion in 2018 alone, the *Journal* reported.

TREND FORECAST: *The business of business is business. Yesterday, it was reported that Beijing is planning to clamp down harder on Hong Kong's pro-democracy groups by taking seats away from politicians that represent the city's district council.*

This did not make a ripple on Wall Street.

Regardless of what the communist nation does, how they do it, and to whomever they do it to, all that matters with the "investors" is the bottom line.

CHINA MAY CURB RARE EARTH MINERAL EXPORTS TO U.S. China, which holds the world's largest deposits of rare earth minerals and controls about 80 percent of their current supply, is mulling limits on mining and exporting 17 of the minerals, which are essential to components in everything from DVD players to smart bombs and MRI machines.

The limits would “protect national interest and ensure the security of strategic resources” and would be administered by the country's security and military agencies, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

Before deciding on the controls, the ministry is consulting advisors to determine how strongly Europe and the U.S. would be impacted by limits and how quickly they could arrange alternative supplies in a trade dispute, one such advisor told the *Financial Times*.

“The government wants to know if the U.S. might have trouble making F-35 fighter jets if China imposes an export ban,” the advisor said.

Building one U.S. F-35 fighter jet requires more than 900 pounds of rare earths, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Last year, China's foreign ministry said it might impose sanctions on Lockheed Martin, the F-35's maker, and other defense contractors after they sold weapons to Taiwan.

Amid tensions with China last year, Japan bought \$23 billion worth of F-35s.

The U.S. has a “real vulnerability” in its supply of rare earths, Ellen Lord, former assistant defense secretary for acquisitions, told Congress last October.

Whenever a competitor nation would plan to begin mining or producing rare earths, China would flood the market, driving down prices and making new ventures uneconomical, she said.

China holds more than a third of the world's estimated rare earth reserves; the U.S. has slightly more than a tenth of one percent, according to data from Statista.

When the U.S. does produce rare earths, they currently are sent to China for processing and refining. The U.S. lacks refining capacity because of the pollution created in processing.

TREND FORECAST: *Should geopolitical and/or trade issues ignite between China and the U.S., it is clear that the communist nation will play its rare-earth card, depriving the U.S. and its allies of these essential commodities. Moreover, China, with its Belt and Road Initiative, will continue to make inroads to exploit nations in Africa and South America that are rich in rare-earth minerals.*

CHINESE SPEND LAVISHLY DURING NEW YEAR HOLIDAY. Chinese consumers spent generously during this month's lunar new year holiday week, giving needed energy to the country's economic sector still struggling to emerge from the world's economic shutdown.

From 11 through 17 February, consumers doled out the equivalent of \$127 billion in stores and restaurants, a 29-percent hike from last year's celebration that was muted by the COVID virus's presence.

Foot traffic in stores across China's ten largest cities was three times greater than during 2020's holiday week, although still below 2019 levels, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

China's retail sales are likely to show double-digit growth during January and February this year, Betty Wang, an economist at the ANZ investment bank, said in comments quoted by the *Journal*.

Theater-goers dropped \$1.1 billion on box-office tickets, a record for the holiday week. So far this year, box office receipts have reached almost half of 2020's total, China's commerce ministry reported.

China's government had called on consumers to stay home during what is traditionally the year's busiest spending season. Those who obeyed still spent lavishing on food, gifts, and entertainment, sectors that were hard-hit last year as the virus stalked the land.

Caterers did 135 percent more business during the period than a year earlier, figures showed.

TRENDPOST: *As we reported, of all the major nations, China was the only one to report a positive GDP growth in 2020... and will mostly outshine the rest of the world in 2021.*

CHINA'S STOCK MARKETS REACH RECORDS IN POST-HOLIDAY SPREE.

China's CSI 300 index of large-company stocks jumped 2 percent to an intraday trading record on 18 February as investors returned from the country's week-long new-year holiday.

Prices rose on export goods in January for the first time in a year and consumer spending also showed returning strength during the holiday week (see related story), buoying investors' confidence in the economy's future.

The markets then lost their gusto, dropping back 0.7 percent on news that China's central bank had drawn \$40 billion of liquidity from the nation's interbank system.

Investors are drawn to China's stock markets by the country's strong rebound from its economic shutdown last spring, Alex Wolf, chief Asia strategist for JPMorgan Private Bank, told the *Financial Times*.

Also, Chinese markets are less overvalued than those in the U.S.; the CSI index is trading at 22 times the previous 12 months' earnings, while the S&P 500 is booking 32 times earnings, Wolf noted.

"You're looking at growth at a reasonable price," he said. "You don't see valuations as stretched in China."

TRENDPOST: Yesterday, China's stocks benchmark retreated from its record high with the CSI 300 index falling 3.1 percent... the sharpest drop in six months.

The assessment from The Street is that the Chinese government will begin to tighten monetary policy.

CHINESE SHOPPERS GO FOR THE GOLD. The growing ranks of China's wealthy flocked back to luxury goods stores last summer while the rest of the world was bunkered against the virus.

People queued in 30-foot lines to enter Beijing's Luis Vuitton shop over this month's New Year's holiday week, the *Global Times* reported.

Now those well-heeled consumers are buying gold.

Sales of gold items during the holiday week were 80 percent greater than the same time last year, the China Gold Association said.

China's government discouraged holiday travel this year to curb the spread of the COVID virus, so many people splurged on pricey gifts.

A Shanghai resident told the *Times* he spent the equivalent of \$5,576 on a handbag for his wife and a gold necklace for his mother.

"Currently, the growth rate and scale of commodity consumption have exceeded the level before the epidemic," Zhao Ping, a vice president of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, told the *Times*.

Consumer spending in China will grow 5 to 7 percent this year, he predicted.

TREND FORECAST: We note this article as well to illustrate that gold still shines as the dominant safe-haven asset of the Chinese. Thus, while cryptocurrencies will maintain their role in the 21st-century digital world, hard assets such as precious metals will remain in high demand.

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



AIRBUS LOSES €1.1 BILLION IN 2020.

Europe's premier aircraft builder blamed its loss on canceled or postponed orders for new jetliners as the pandemic scuttled travel.

"Global air traffic reached a low point in April 2020 at the peak of the global

pandemic," CEO Guillaume Faury said in a statement announcing the loss, adding that travel around the world is recovering slowly and at differing paces among regions that will "create uncertainties" for the company into the future.

Airbus delivered 566 airplanes last year and netted orders for 268 new jets, compared to 768 in 2019.

The company's revenues dropped to €49.9 billion last year against €70 billion in 2019.

Last June, Airbus cast off 15,000 employees, about 11 percent of its workforce.

AIR FRANCE, KLM LOSE €7.1 BILLION IN NET INCOME IN 2020. Passenger traffic plummeted a collective 67 percent last year and revenues dropped 59 percent, the carriers reported.

The conditions created "the most severe crisis ever experienced by the air transport industry," Benjamin Smith, CEO of Air France-KLM Group said in a statement quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

European governments have pledged financial support to see their airlines through the crisis.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL BOOKS \$267 MILLION LOSS IN 2020. The 92-year-old hotel chain reported its second-largest loss on record, behind the \$346 million it lost in 2009 during the Great Recession.

Marriott's fourth-quarter deficit totaled \$164 million and 50 cents a share, compared to a profit of \$279 million and 85 cents per share for the period a year earlier.

Revenues in 2020's final quarter fell 60 percent year on year to \$2.17 billion, disappointing analysts' expectations.

Last March, Marriott furloughed about two-thirds of its 4,000-strong headquarters staff, two-thirds of management outside the U.S., and tens of thousands of workers at its hotels.

Increased bookings in China "shows that demand can be resilient when the virus is perceived to be contained, progress can be slowed by significant spikes in virus cases, such as we saw in the U.S. and Europe toward the end of 2020," Stephanie Linnartz, head of Marriott's consumer operations, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER CUTS 2,000 WORKERS. The British motor works has announced that it will terminate 2,000 of its non-factory workers around the world.

A "full review" of the company's organization "is already underway," Jaguar said in a statement accompanying the announcement.

Jaguar is owned by India's Tata Motors, which lost money in three of its last four fiscal quarters.

The company has said that all new Jaguars will be all-electric by 2025 and that all vehicles it makes will be electric by 2030.

BLOOMIN' BRANDS LOSES \$14.2 MILLION IN PROFITS. The owner of the Outback Steakhouse and Carrabba's Italian Grill brands, among others, reported the fourth-quarter drop compared to profits of \$28 million a year earlier.

The quarter's revenue fell from \$1.02 billion in the 2019 period to \$812.5 million in 2020.

SUN SETS ON SOLSTICE MARKETING CONCEPTS. The self-described "second largest marketer of sunglasses in the U.S.," with 66 shops and an online store, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Store closures in key markets and stay-at-home orders sank sales to less than half of 2019's levels. The company also was unable to secure adequate government support to remain viable, it said in a statement.

Solstice will reorganize during bankruptcy and continue as a going concern, it said.

H&M MAY CLOSE 15 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIAN STORES. The Swedish global retailer of clothes and household goods has announced it may shutter seven of its 40 stores in Australia in an attempt to steer shoppers to its online site.

The company closed one store near Sydney last month.

H&M will brief staff soon on the possible closures, The Australian newspaper said.

The company has revealed plans to close 350 stores this year and open 100 new ones.

H&M's global sales fell 20 percent in 2020.

THAI AIRWAYS RESTRUCTURES TO AVOID BANKRUPTCY. Thailand's national air carrier is reducing its executive ranks from 740 workers to 500 and

cutting levels of management from eight to five as part of its last-ditch attempt to avoid bankruptcy.

The airline, a central element of Thailand's tourist industry, employs about 21,000 and carried more than 24 million passengers in 2019.

Previous reorganization plans have been rejected by creditors.

If the current restructuring plan also is rejected, the airline will have no choice but to file bankruptcy, the company said.

GUCCI'S REVENUES FALL 14 PERCENT AMID STRATEGIC SHIFT. Italian fashion house Gucci saw fourth-quarter revenues fall 14 percent year on year to 2.3 billion, the company reported, while competitor LVMH Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy SE's revenues grew by that amount over the same period.

Rival fashion works Dior also grew its revenue during the quarter.

Rolling lockdowns across Europe accounted for a portion of Gucci's slump, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, and speculated that some shoppers shunned the brand as being too ostentatious to flaunt during a worldwide economic crisis.

The revenue slide also highlighted Gucci's overdependence on Chinese tourists visiting its European boutiques, analysts say; when borders closed amid the pandemic, so did Gucci's cash registers.

The company itself attributed the weakness to an effort to restructure its image to appeal more to customers over age 40.

Gucci is taking sports logos off its products and introducing a line of handbags reminding consumers of the brand's association with Princess Diana and Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Gucci also is developing lines of watches and jewelry intended to appeal to wealthy older shoppers.

Fourth-quarter sales were weakened further by the company's decision to delay unveiling its cruise collection until late in the period, leaving it with few new products to lure shoppers.

The quarter's disappointing sales are "irrelevant" in forecasting Gucci's future performance, Francois-Henri Pinault, CEO of Gucci's parent company Kering SA, said in comments quoted by the Journal.

HONG KONG STOCK MARKET BECOMING "NASDAQ OF ASIA". Trading volumes on Hong Kong's tech-heavy stock market have quadrupled those of the London Stock Exchange, which surrendered its position as Europe's leading exchange to Amsterdam after Brexit, according to calculations by the *Financial Times*.

Hong Kong's volumes have risen to about 60 percent of those on the New York Stock Exchange, the *Times* reported.

The Chinese city's leading Hang Seng index has gained about 13 percent this year.

Chinese investors have put \$49.1 billion into the city's exchange so far this year, compared to about \$8 billion during the same span of 2019, the *Times* reported, with daily turnover averaging \$25 billion, compared to \$10 billion in early 2020 and \$9.5 billion most recently on London's exchange.

The New York exchange averages \$44 billion a day in trades.

Investors see Hong Kong's listed stocks as better bargains than those on the mainland's CSI 300 exchange, analysts say.

Hong Kong recently listed the \$5.4-billion offering of TikTok competitor Kuaishou, the largest tech IPO since Uber's in 2019.

Hong Kong's exchange "is fast being seen as the NASDAQ of Asia, thanks to the continual tech listings that are attracting new capital to Hong Kong," Angus Richardson, a trade execution manager at CitiGroup, told the *Times*.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



MARKETS' DAY OF RECKONING: COMING SOON

by *Gregory Mannarino*, TradersChoice.net

The stock market has become a hyper-bubble that is being artificially and grossly overinflated. The current debt market's bubble is its biggest yet.

If you refer back to my previous articles for the **Trends Journal** (my first was in the 30 March 2020 issue), many have a common theme:

We are existing in a deliberately engineered, extreme multi-bubble environment being fueled by a runaway central bank, the Federal Reserve. The Fed is on a mission to BUY IT ALL to become the lender and buyer of last resort.

Since the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913, they have had this single goal in mind. Not without COVID's shutting down of the world economy could the mechanism of the Fed's "buying it all" be pulled off.

The shutting down of the world economy has halted the flow of cash moving through the economies, which has allowed central banks to work in concert to inflate.

The mechanism of easy money being pumped into a dead global economy has inflated the biggest stock market bubble in history, but the real meltdown in the markets will begin in the debt market. A debt market meltdown will foster a massive crash in world stock markets, which will result in a wealth transfer on a truly epic scale.

We are already amid stock market theft on an unimaginable scale. For over a decade, artificially-suppressed rates have robbed savers (legally) of trillions of dollars in realized wealth. Thus, the Fed has no intention of stopping this mechanism. It is any surprise that the gap existing today between the rich and the poor has never been greater?

As I have explained in previous articles for the **Trends Journal**, we are in the midst of a total wipeout of the middle class and a step back in time to a feudal system.

The fact is that none of what we are witnessing in the markets is sustainable, nor is it meant to be sustained. What we will see is a debt market implosion by design, which will precede the biggest stock market crash of all time... followed by a massive legal transfer of wealth.

Most people have no idea that more money is made faster when markets fall. Most are stuck in investment vehicles that only make money when the stock market rises, and, by design, that is a trap. Investment banks, hedge funds, and traders all take full advantage of two factors that drive asset prices: FEAR and GREED. Fear is stronger.

When stock prices are driven by fear, as would be the case in a stock market freefall, investment banks, hedge funds, and traders all “short the market.” Shorting the market is a mechanism in which money is made rapidly by betting against asset prices.

With today's stock market in a hyper-bubble, when the markets' day of reckoning occurs, the vast majority, who own investments that only make money when the market rises, will be wiped out.

Meanwhile, those who will be taking advantage of the fall in asset prices will take it all, legally, by shorting the market.

Welcome to Slavelandia.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



SECURITY MATTERS

by *Bradley J. Steiner*

You need to be able to knock out, maim, and kill with your bare hands and also with various modern, personal weapons.

There is really no "nice way" of saying this effectively; especially so that decent, responsible, reasonable people like yourself get the message loud and clear. This is because people who are genuinely civilized and respectable humans are normally unfamiliar with street savagery, unprovoked criminal violence, and the modus operandi of subhuman, dangerous, ruthless predators.

But there's more to self-defense than being able to use unarmed and armed force when necessary. Ideally, sane people should strive mightily to avoid any situations in which force may be necessary and keep whatever combatives skills they possess in reserve. Such skills should be regarded as the "big guns" to be brought forth and put into play only when unavoidably necessary. The

implementation of simple yet important personal security procedures can greatly enhance the likelihood that you will avoid physically dangerous encounters.

One crucial step you must take in securing your and your family's safety is that of either avoiding social media completely or of very, very carefully insuring that nothing gets on social media that in any way might compromise your and your loved ones' security.

True story: Years ago, a married couple living in Puyallup, WA decided they were going to enjoy a nice vacation together. They had been married many years, raised children, and felt that a relaxed, recreational time together was something they needed and deserved.

The family was far from opulent. But they had a valuable diamond ring worth several thousand dollars. They decided to sell the ring and use the money for their vacation.

They placed an ad on social media. They described the ring and stated the price for which they were selling it. Shortly after posting the ad, they received a phone call from a young lady who wanted to come over and purchase the ring. They gave the young lady their address, and, at the expected time, the young lady knocked on their door.

When the couple opened their door, a group of armed, male savages burst into the home. Pointing guns and demanding that the ring be produced immediately and handed over to them, the savages shot and killed the husband (who attempted – futilely – to resist), reducing the wife and children to terrified, hysterical wrecks.

After stealing the ring and escaping (only, thank God, to be caught later on by the police) these scum left a family devastated forever.

When I read this story in the news, I remember feeling a combination of deep sadness and compassion for the victim family, combined with outrage and fury toward the rodents who carried out the crime. I also felt a sense of pointless,

hopeless frustration... recognizing the naïveté with which the couple had used social media, oblivious to the fact that living scum routinely scour social media looking for victimizable people.

Do you use social media? Frankly, I'd suggest you don't. If you must, please exercise great caution, including but not limited to:

- Using a false name,
- Do not, under any circumstances, publish your address or phone number or correct city where you live,
- If you must give out information about yourself, give out FALSE and MISLEADING information.

People who let it be known when they will not be home during a certain time, after making public their address, have often returned home to find their premises burglarized. People who publish their phone numbers, places of employment, organizations/clubs/societies to which they belong, number and ages of children they have, etc., may be doing so because of their "friendly, outgoing nature."

But friendly, outgoing natures constitute precisely what conscienceless psychopaths and thrill-seeking predatory bastards prey upon. For heaven's sake (if not your own), be close-mouthed on social media about all of your private life and business concerns.

I am, of course, a strong advocate of our second amendment, and I believe that citizens should be well-armed and properly prepared, if and when they ever must, to defend themselves and to repel any house break-ins or home invasions.

But it is no less crucial, as I see it and advocate, to go to all possible lengths to avoid any situations in which trouble may appear. Security and protective measures go a long way in self-defense planning for the urban environment. I've got this thing about social media... and I say again: Unless for some reason that you feel you "need" it, stay off and away from social media completely.

People have a knack for allowing themselves to do foolish things. There have been instances when, while driving, a motorist experiences another driver blasting his or her horn and demanding to pass – while also shouting curses and/or displaying a very rude sign with one of their fingers. The victim motorist shouts back, displays his hand sign, and possibly even follows the rude driver! Dumb, dumb, dumb. Let it go. Just get out of the way of the crackpot motorist, ignore the cursing and hand signs, and be happy when they are gone.

If you are driving or walking through an area of your city and you see flashing lights, police cars, and an obvious situation unfolding, get the hell out of there! Don't scurry up as close as possible to see what's up. Bullets do not have a mind of their own, and one that has been directed elsewhere just might hit you. This surely could happen if shots are fired.

Always, always, always, always be polite to strangers no matter how rude, abrasive, crude, or insulting they may be. Disengage as soon as possible from anyone with a prickly attitude; if you must interact with the a-hole, do so with courtesy. Do not be a monitor and attempt to discipline or advise strangers, i.e., "you should be wearing a mask," "don't litter like that," "could you make less noise?" etc.

Recently, a savage animal who was told to wear a mask when he entered an IHOP restaurant pulled a knife and slashed the "messenger."

We are not living in civilized times, and urban America is no longer a civilized place. So, in addition to being always ready to defend yourself physically – and to do so with as much extreme force as may be needed – exercise good, common-sense security and protective habits and measures.

You cannot reason with today's crop of bipedal garbage, so don't try. Just be very careful, polite, distanced, private, and non-challenging, and deal with any morons around you as though they were sensitive six-year-olds. And while most of them have not risen even to that level, it will go a long way to keep you free of the need to physically deal with anyone.

“Self-defense” is that which protects you and saves you from harm. This is self-defense... no less so than striking a blow or pulling a trigger.

In Memoriam: our beloved friend, Bradley J. Steiner, passed away 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.

In Memoriam:

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved friend, Bradley J. Steiner. May his soul rest in peace.

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 GETTING HEALTHY



HEALTH & WELL-BEING: IN YOUR OWN HANDS

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

From the early 1960s through the mid-80s, any medical physician who offered therapies that are now defined as alternative, complementary, or integrative could become a target of ridicule by the medical establishment. Board-certified physicians and registered dietitians, who had shown that a healthier dietary regimen, including nutrient supplementation, were frequently attacked and shamed by orthodox medical voices.

Then, in the mid-1970s, a woman visited me at the WMCA station in New York City where I hosted a daily broadcast. She asked if I could help her husband, Dr. James Privitera, a pioneer in darkfield microscopy who was serving a long prison sentence in California for prescribing laetrile to cancer patients. The drug, derived from the chemical amygdalin found in the nuts of apricots, almonds, peaches, and plums, and first used in Russia to treat cancer in the mid-19th century, had not been approved by the FDA.

At that time, radiation, surgery, and chemo drugs were the only treatments in the oncologist's tool kit. When I read the documents and letters, I was flabbergasted. Over 200 of his patients had requested the court to allow them to testify on the doctor's behalf and show evidence they were alive and well because of his treatments. Their requests were denied. I recall not one patient complained nor brought charges against him. Dr. Privatera did not advise his patients to avoid conventional medical interventions but to work with their physicians in a complementary manner. Nevertheless, he was found guilty.

Later, a host of physicians including some highly-respected ones such as Robert Aiken, Warren Levin, Jonathan Wright, and Emmanuel Revici fell under the scrutiny of federal officials and the American Medical Association. Their crimes? A failure to be obedient to the medical establishment's consensual protocols that were in vogue at the time. Their crime was challenging the monotheistic monopoly that ruled over American medical practice.

I knew these physicians personally and worked with them on occasion. The government's court witnesses were usually recruited from a group known as "quackbusters," hitmen for the federal and state health agencies. Among their leaders, Drs. Stephen Barrett and Wallace Sampson, whom I had the unpleasant experience of debating on television, were scientific advisors for the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH), an influential private industry front organization propagandizing on behalf of the tobacco, pesticide, fossil fuel, junk food, and pharmaceutical industries.

ACSH pretends to be a consumer protection group. The watchdog organization "Center for Science in the Public Interest" has called it a "consumer fraud... through voodoo or alchemy, bodies of scientific knowledge are transmogrified into industry-oriented position statements."

In the mid-1980s, a large assault was initiated to ban all vitamins from over-the-counter sales. The argument was that if vitamins were associated with treating certain illnesses and medical conditions, they were, therefore, unproven

drugs and need to be regulated as such. If it had succeeded, you would need a doctor's prescription to get 100 mg of Vitamin C.

I met with government officials, such as Senator Proxmire and Representative Rogers, and provided them with reams of scientific literature showing that supplements had functional value and that the standard American diet was contributing to many of the most preventable diseases.

The science proved that a healthier diet with supplementation would help to reverse these diseases. This is even more important today because of our sedentary lifestyle and an increasing percentage of Americans who are vitamin deficient. I recall Senator Proxmire telling me in his Washington office that he was having difficulty getting others to come on board because even back then, Big Pharma was funding legislators' electoral campaigns.

Based upon the FDA's logic, you are forbidden to state that any food or nutrient can prevent or treat a condition unless it has been clinically tested according to a drug-based model and then approved by the agency. Therefore, they wanted all supplements, except in very low doses, to be prescription-only. This was conducted under the ruse of protecting public health. Of course, the government's argument is nonsensical. Three juiced oranges provide Vitamin C levels that far exceed what the FDA was recommending for regulation.

Finally, our tough battles were won in 1994. Senators Orrin Hatch's and Tom Harkin's Dietary Supplement and Education Act (DSHEA) was passed. The bill defined a supplement and assured that vitamins, minerals, and medicinal herbs would be available over the counter and that they would be produced according to the best manufacturing practices.

Fast forward to today. There is again a powerful movement underway to undermine all alternative and complementary medical and healing systems. Yet, these efforts are being launched by a younger generation "quackbusters" who identify themselves as Skeptics. They are highly organized in institutions such as the Center for Inquiry, the Skeptic Society, the Society for Science Based Medicine, and throughout university medical schools.

In particular, homeopathy is facing the greatest animosity, and there seems to be a good chance it will eventually be banned altogether in the U.S. However, Skeptics' long-term agenda is to stop the practice of alternative and natural medicine altogether and to remove courses in these subjects from medical school curriculums. These are the same groups that have now hijacked the online encyclopedia Wikipedia to promulgate a metaphysical realism based upon reductionist materialism to denigrate nutritional science, acupuncture and Chinese medicine, naturopathy, chiropractic, energy medicine, and other healing modalities.

Sadly, this concerted assault on health continues to go relatively unchallenged by the alternative health community. With very few exceptions, practitioners of non-conventional medicine have become exceedingly complacent and have almost resigned themselves to a fatalism that nothing can be done to prevent the gradual whittling away of our access to healing modalities outside of the drug-based paradigm.

Clinicians, professional organizations, publications, citizen journalists, and patients who have benefitted from natural therapies need to organize to push back against these enemies of health, who have a mission to construct a Church Scientific based on and funded by the pharmaceutical industry with our federal health agencies' blessings.

Having been in this battle for five decades, on numerous occasions, I have witnessed firsthand how utilitarian medicine, a medical paradigm solely based on novel patented drugs, shareholder profits, and lobbying in Washington, contaminates and destroys the art and practice of authentic medicine, which is supposed to cure rather than simply manage disease.

The good news is that the clinical scientific literature supporting the variety of alternative medical practices listed above is increasing. Moreover, the edifices upon which the pharmaceutical model has been based during the past century are cracking. People have less faith in their physicians and synthetic drugs' promises than ever before.

If conventional medicine, however, fails to keep us healthy, we cannot expect the CDC, FDA, and the Department of Health and Human Services to wean themselves away from the pharmaceutical teat to act conscientiously on our behalf.

Thus, we will need to become increasingly responsible for our own health and well-being. It is with this in mind that my future columns in the **Trends Journal** will hopefully better educate you to learn how to take your health and well-being into your own hands.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

A HIDDEN HAND BEHIND BIG TECH CENSORSHIP

A new investigation by Dr. Joseph Mercola, a leading independent advocate of natural health, has put the spotlight on a powerful but little-talked-about player in the online censorship clampdown on points of view skeptical of COVID vaccines, lockdowns, and the so-called “Great Reset.”

In a summary of its exposé, Mercola said,

“We find connections between the drug industry, NewsGuard/HealthGuard, educational institutions, Big Tech companies like Google, Microsoft and Bing, the U.S. State Department and DoD, global technocratic institutions like the WHO, national and global NGOs like the CCDH and the World Economic Forum, and dominating health websites like WebMD and Medscape.”

Behind is one of the world’s biggest PR firms, Publicis Groupe. Publicis not only

has deep ties to legacy media and newspapers but also controls NewsGuard, the internet news credibility “authenticator” used by many tech companies. Critics contend NewsGuard’s actual record has been to act as a gatekeeper protecting corporate and government narratives while downgrading contrary news sources.

Mercola, who led fights against Monsanto over the health effects of GMOs, didn’t mince words about the tactics and strategies of a web of aligned interests who he says have little concern for the well-being of people.

He noted they smear people and ruin the lives of those opposed to their agendas. “I’ve been called an enemy of the state,” by British authorities, Mercola noted, concerning his latest battles with Big Pharma and Big Tech over the efficacy and safety of the COVID vaccines.

A detailed chronology on [mercola.com](https://www.mercola.com) follows the wide-reaching influence of Publicis and NewsGuard. In 2015, NewsGuard received a large chunk of its startup capital from Publicis. The service is connected via The Paley Center for Media to every major media in the world, including Microsoft, AOL, CBS, Fox, and Tribune Media.

Publicis, which also represents many large companies including most of the major pharmaceuticals in the world, has clear conflicts of interest concerning NewsGuard. Publicis is also a major Google and Microsoft partner, giving it even greater leverage to suppress views that might hurt its clientele. For example, in 2020 Microsoft Edge users gained access to NewsGuard for free, and Microsoft Bing gained access to NewsGuard’s data.

But the influence of one of the world’s most powerful PR firms extends even further. NewsGuard is connected to the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the WHO, says Mercola. The WHO, despite its proven role in abetting China’s cover-up and lack of transparency of the early outbreak of the so-called “Wuhan virus” in a province of that country, has been consistently held up as an authority for formulating international policies and responses to the COVID pandemic.

Publicis also exerts influence over popular websites like WebMD and entities like Medscape and the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), which has actively censored anti-Big Pharma viewpoints.

GATES LONG ON FAKE MEAT, SHORT ON CRYPTO



This past Friday, as bitcoin surpassed the one-trillion valuation mark for the first time, mega-billionaire and self-styled planet saver Bill Gates declared he wasn't a fan of digital-assets. Asked by the *Wall Street Journal* what technological advancement the world could do without,

the software tycoon didn't cite "social credit" surveillance systems, dangerous gain-of-function viral research, or any latest military super weapons. He named cryptocurrencies. Gates said,

"The way cryptocurrency works today allows for certain criminal activities. It'd be good to get rid of that... I probably should have said bio weapons. That's a really bad thing."

Gate's awkward comment came as the origin of the COVID-19 virus is still very much in dispute. There is growing evidence it escaped from a Wuhan China virology lab that was funded in part by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. With Fauci's approval, the NIHID gave a total of \$7.4 million to the lab. Gates and Fauci have worked closely together on the COVID vaccine development and roll-out, and both have financial interests in the vaccines.

The billionaire former head of Microsoft has been involved himself in incidents of unethical and criminal activity. He capitalized on perhaps the biggest tech bungle in history when IBM sold off the operating system used on its early

personal computers, believing all the profits would be in hardware. Gates licensed the software back to IBM, but as his firm made money off DOS, he never fairly compensated the original developers.

Later, Gates copped the graphical interface of Apple computers with something he called “Windows.” And, in 1998, in *United States vs. Microsoft Corporation*, Gate’s company was found liable for antitrust violations regarding a competing software web browser, Netscape.

In that case, a U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit affirmed most of a district court’s judgments that Microsoft’s actions constituted unlawful monopolization under Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act. Microsoft also used its operating system leverage and general dominance in the 1990s and 2000s to kneecap Corel, Netware, and other competitors.

Since then, Gates has attempted to rehabilitate his image by delving into “philanthropy” that has spent billions via his “Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation” to build policy power and influence around the globe. He has previously endorsed medical “death panels,” or refusing treatment to elderly sick people.

More recently, he has advocated strict worldwide lockdowns, enforced vaccinations, and has recently come out with a book recommending radical civilizational changes to deal with the “climate change crisis.” He prescribes that the developed world eats only artificial or plant-based “meat,” and, meanwhile, he has reportedly snapped up as much as 40 percent of farmland in the U.S.

Given all that, it’s perhaps easier to understand his dislike for a technology that decouples currency from the control of elites. Gates himself boasts a net worth of \$123 billion, according to *Forbes*, second only to Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, whose net worth has reportedly doubled during the pandemic and lockdowns that began in 2020.

FACEBOOK BLOCKS AUSTRALIA NEWS



Facebook, like many other tech companies, is making increasingly brazen plays to block governments from passing legislation or regulations that affect their power, money, and influence.

One of the latest showdowns is playing out in Australia, where a proposed law would require the Mark Zuckerberg social network giant to pay the country's news publishers for content. Facebook has responded by moving to block news content from being read and shared in its news feed by Australian users. Google is also facing a requirement to pay Australian news publishers.

Other countries including Poland and Hungary have also recently introduced or proposed legislation that would reign in the largely unchecked power and influence of big tech companies. The companies have grown to the point where they routinely impose revenue-generating models that have sold out privacy rights of users and offered relatively paltry streams of income to content producers. Those who complain or criticize are de-monetized and even de-platformed.

Australia Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said he had a positive discussion with Zuckerberg over the conflict, and he stated talks about the proposed media payment law would continue. “[Zuckerberg] raised a few remaining issues with the government’s news media bargaining code and we agreed to continue our conversation to try to find a pathway forward,” Frydenberg tweeted.

Google, also resisting the Australian initiative, has nonetheless just entered into deals with publishers in the U.K., Germany, and other countries regarding its “Google News Showcase” product. On Wednesday, they secured a global deal with Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp, which owns the *Wall Street Journal* and two-thirds of Australia’s major city newspapers. The deal will develop a

subscription platform and share advertising revenue.

Though Facebook has claimed publishers want their content on Facebook and freely choose to put it there, many analysts, including Emily Bell of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia Journalism School, say that's only because of Facebook's dominant online ecosystem.

GAMESTOP "CHAOS" LEADS TO CALLS FOR "DIGITAL ID"



Orwellian language is buttressing calls for a Digital ID system that would go further in tracking users and how they're spending their money in the stock market and elsewhere.

"The regulator's job is to create safe environments and to ensure that there are satisfactory controls in place such that individuals can participate of their own free will, but only when it's appropriate," Trulioo CEO Zac Cohen said in a recent interview. "It's a tough job because it's not easy to determine the rules of the game for the most part."

The game of mega hedge funds shorting targeted companies for profit with proxies on media talking down the companies was exposed by the GameStop saga. The back-door connection between Citadel Securities, one of Wall Street's largest handlers of daily stock trades, and Robinhood, the most popular "no fee" trading app, also eluded Cohen's concern.

But Cohen, whose company builds digital identity networks for businesses, focused on what he saw was the need to better regulate and verify retail investors. He contended that many of the Reddit traders who drove up prices for GME and other stocks might not have been eligible to trade due to lack of money to back their activity or being below the age of 18. He said tracking via a

Digital ID system is needed because verifying isn't an issue in the physical world, where "eyeball checks are possible." Cohen said,

"That means we have to go a little bit further in the spectrum to not only confirm that this is a real person on the other side, but that it is the right person holding that information... And so it's really a two-stage process that can be done very smoothly but has to be thought about strategically by these ecosystems and these market participants."

Cohen cast his call for a Digital ID as protection for average traders, not a new surveillance tool for rattled financial and government interests. He said zero-cost trading apps have dangerously opened the door to uninformed masses who don't have "democratized access" to needed tools to make sound investment decisions.

Truliloo has worked with crypto platforms to "increase trust and safety online," according to Cohen. "At the end of the day, we're not trying to stop participation. We're trying to model activity and protect the ecosystem."

Of course, eyeball checks in the physical world tell nothing about how much money is in someone's wallet or bank account, or how savvy they are with their investment decisions. But it's obvious that the financial world, including money printing central banks and governments that authorize them, have been rattled not only by youth insurgencies on Wall Street but also by the rapid mass adoption of digital currencies. The "volatility" introduced by bitcoin, the king of cryptos, and the move to de-centralized and even dark transactions that can't be easily monitored or controlled is a source of increasing focus.

Some states, including New York bar participation on crypto platforms like Binance, which offers trading of privacy-focused digital currencies like Monero (XMR). But even as end-users seek less tracking of their digital life, corporations and governments have a vested financial interest in knowing, controlling, and profiting in one way or another from those individual activities.

U.S. GOVERNMENT CROSSING THE CONSTITUTIONAL LINE



Journalist Glenn Greenwald is sounding the alarm about the growing willingness of lawmakers to ignore constitutional bars prohibiting the Federal government from suppressing free speech.

House Democrats have called CEOs of Google, Facebook, and Twitter to a 25 March hearing to pressure them to further censor speech on their platforms. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) said the hearings would delve into “falsehoods about the COVID-19 vaccine” and “debunked claims of election fraud.”

Pallone and several colleagues leading the hearing assert “these online platforms have allowed misinformation to spread, intensifying national crises with real-life, grim consequences for public health and safety.”

But the Federal government is breaking Constitutional law by calling for censorship according to Greenwald, who worked as a corporate lawyer before founding his civil rights and constitutional law firm in the 1990s.

“Congress violates the First Amendment when it attempts to require private companies to impose viewpoint-based speech restrictions which the government itself would be constitutionally barred from imposing,” said Greenwald. He noted that Ben Wizner, Director of the ACLU’s Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, has said it is well-established that the First Amendment governs attempts by Congress to pressure private companies to censor.

Meanwhile, tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and Jed Rubenfeld of Yale Law School warned in a January *Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed that “Using a combination of statutory inducements and regulatory threats, the Congress has co-opted Silicon Valley to do through the back door what government cannot directly accomplish under the Constitution.”

SPECIAL REPORT: GAMESTOP



By *Joe Doran*

“VIRTUAL” GAMESTOP HEARING ACCOMPLISHES LITTLE IN THE REAL WORLD

All the players in the GameStop saga were there, on screen. So were politicians on the House Financial Services Committee, teeing up questions to later highlight in video spots to their constituents. But very little of substance came from the anticipated hearing, according to analysts.

The possible collusion of intertwined Wall Street entities went unchallenged. And the illegal practice of naked shorting, which many believe is one of the most destructive and predatory practices of Wall Street, drew little scrutiny. Instead, politicians asked mostly naive questions, while hedge fund billionaires and Silicon Valley tech heads supplied long winded, evasive answers.

The virtual hearing was called following chaos in the stock markets in January revolving around Reddit traders driving up the prices of favored stocks including

GameStop. Those same stocks had been shorted by prominent hedge funds including Melvin Capital and Citadel. As much as 140-percent of GME stock was injected into trading via a practice known as naked shorting, by which more shares of a company are traded than actually exist.

When the hedge funds began hemorrhaging as GME and other stocks surged, a brokerage with deep ties to Citadel, Robinhood, shut down buys of affected stocks on its “no-fee” trading app.

At the hearing, committee Chairwoman, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., tried to get answers about whether Robinhood had liquidity problems that played a factor in their move to shut down trading. CEO Vlad Tenev denied it. He and Kenneth Griffin, the multi-billionaire behind Citadel, also disavowed any prior coordination before Robinhood snuffed out the GameStop rally. That claim went largely unchallenged.

Robinhood receives much of its funding by funneling the “no-fee” trades on its app through Citadel Securities, which handles a staggering 25-percent of the daily trade volume on Wall Street. Many believe there was almost certainly collusion between Robinhood and Citadel to halt trades.

The GameStop saga “has put a maximum spotlight on institutional practices by Wall Street firms” and potential conflicts of interest, Waters said at the start of the inquiry. “Many Americans feel that the system is stacked against them and no matter what, Wall Street always wins.”

Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., tried to press Citadel head Kenneth Griffin about the workings of “payment for order flow,” the practice of trading firms paying online brokerages to execute customers’ orders. When Griffin tried to avoid answering questions plainly, Sherman erupted “You are doing a great job of wasting my time. “If you’re going to filibuster, you should run for the Senate.”

At one point in the hearing, Vlad Tenev used the event in an attempt to rehabilitate Robinhood’s public image. “Despite the unprecedented market conditions in January, at the end of the day, what happened is unacceptable to

us.” Tenev sought to assure his client base that the online brokerage was “doing everything we can to make sure this won’t happen again.”

As for the hedge funds involved, Gabriel Plotkin of Melvin Capital said he was “humbled” when Melvin lost billions. But he and Griffin claimed they did not pressure Robinhood to suspend trading. “I want to be perfectly clear: We had no role in Robinhood’s decision to limit trading in GameStop or any other of the ‘meme’ stocks.”

Republicans at the hearing appeared mostly sour on the idea of introducing more regulations to address what happened in January. At least one Republican dismissed the event as “political theatre.”

A former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) attorney, Jerome Selvers, said about the hearing “If the SEC wanted to do something, there are adequate resources under existing statutes. The hearing will get publicity, but I don’t think any new laws, rules or regulations will come out of it.”

REDDIT SUBCULTURE LOST ON POLITICOS



Dems were more active in questioning the players involved in the GameStop stock market blow-up at the recent House Financial Services committee hearing. But most of the questioning failed to dig into possible collusion or the practice of naked shorting, focusing instead on

“gamefication” of the Robinhood app, and other misconceptions about Reddit app traders.

Reddit forum traders were represented at the hearing by Keith Gill, known by his YouTube name “Roaring Kitty”. Gill touted GameStop and other favored stocks for their value long before the January surge, and he told lawmakers he made a

profit because he did his homework on company fundamentals, not because he talked up stocks to other investors. “I did not solicit anyone to buy or sell the stock for my own profit,” Gill said. “I had no information about GameStop except what was public.”

Meanwhile, Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., asked Reddit CEO Steve Huffman whether Reddit verifies whether its users are real people. Huffman said first and foremost that the forum represented a real community. He added that the platform allows users to remain anonymous. “Something like WallStreetBets would not exist if users had to reveal their full identity, because on WallStreetBets people are revealing gains and losses, they’re effectively revealing their financial position in life.”

Overall, the politicians at the hearing seemed to have little understanding of the WallStreetBets Reddit forum subculture. The forum boasts “loss porn” concerning sometimes heady sums won and lost in market trading.

During the House hearing, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., brought up the issue of “gamification” of trading, where slick apps appear to make stock trading like a video game to a generation that grew up playing them. She said that Robinhood “seems to have perfected the gamification of trading.” Velazquez apparently has never heard of a MegaMillions lotto frenzy, or set foot in a state regulated casino.

Reddit traders being “seduced” by a slick app is hardly the central problem of the GameStop saga. Locked down, and seeing little to be optimistic about in the present future, the group exhibits an almost existential futility in the face of what they see as a rigged, dystopian landscape that offers little real longterm chances for what used to be termed “the American Dream”.

Many of them doubt they will ever have a steady well-paying job, own a home, have a family, or be part of a shrinking middle-class. There are surfs and a club of elites, and no middle ground. Their risky trades are the Youth Rebellion predicted by the Trends Journal in December 2020, just before the GameStop saga blew-up in January.

But the aftermath of GameStop has contained a “silver lining” for that youth rebellion. Though their follow-up attempt to drive silver prices up has had mixed results, more and more of them are moving into cryptos, a place where financial elites will have a much harder time crushing activity.

ROBINHOOD PRIMED THEIR LOBBYING PUMP IN 2020



The controversial brokerage Robinhood is continuing with lobbying efforts that ramped up in 2020 with four hires of outside lobbying firms. The company has recently picked up a former SEC staffer and a former congressional staffer as in-house lobbyists. The Silicon Valley firm

revealed the hires in a disclosure filed last week.

The new in-house lobbyists are Lucas Moskowitz and Beth Zorc. Moskowitz previously worked as a chief of staff at the SEC, as well as a counsel for the House Financials Services Committee and Senate Banking Committee. Zorc, meanwhile, was counsel for those same committees, and also worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Robinhood has shored up its lobbying with the apparent aim of influencing decisions on potential regulation. Democrats have introduced a bill that would introduce a financial transaction tax (FTT). Republicans, meanwhile, back legislation that would bar states from imposing a FTT on retail investors.

Robinhood’s spending tally on lobbying in 2020 was \$275,000, according to OpenSecrets.org.

TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



GERMAN BUSINESSES: OPEN UP!

The head of a hotel trade group in Germany said last week that businesses are growing “increasingly desperate and angry” since the country is keeping its strict restrictions in place, according to the *Financial Times*.

Guido Zöllick, the head of DEHOGA, a German association of hotels and restaurants, told the paper that more and more businesses “fear for their existence.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced last month the extension of the country’s coronavirus lockdown. “Now is the time to take preventative measures against the threat of this virus,” she said.

The mandate has been in effect since December and calls on school closures, limiting household interactions, a ban on drinking alcohol in public, and all nonessential shops and services to be closed. All those on public transportation are required to wear face masks with advanced respirators.

Zöllick was reportedly joined by 40 other groups representing the hotel and tourism sector in the country. The *FT* reported these groups expressed dismay that Merkel once said restrictions could be eased when the country does not exceed 50 new cases per 100,000, but that figure has since changed to 35 cases per 100,000, the report said. (The report pointed out the country currently averages 58.7 cases per 100,000.)

One head of a retail trade association called the target incidence rate of 35 per 100,000 “excessive.” He said that up to 65 percent of shops in major cities plan to close their doors for good if the lockdown continues.

TRENDPOST: *As we have reported, ignored by the mainstream media and politicians is the fact that the coronavirus is a dangerous disease for the elderly and those with comorbidities. About 89 percent of those who died from the virus in Germany were over 70 and 96 percent were over 60. Rather than destroying entire economies, businesses, ruining lives, and crushing the lives and livelihoods of millions, governments should be taking measures to protect those most vulnerable to the virus... the elderly and those suffering from pre-existing chronic conditions.*

LOCKDOWN PROTESTERS KILLED IN GABON



Two men taking part in a demonstration against coronavirus restrictions in the African country of Gabon were shot during a violent protest against travel restrictions, a report said.

Al Jazeera reported that protesters in neighborhoods across the country of 2.1 million led to violent clashes with police. Protesters were reportedly seen lobbing Molotov cocktails at law enforcement, and gunshots were heard.

Bars and restaurants have been closed for over a year

TRENDPOST: We note this incident to illustrate the actions taken by politicians on power trips that have destroyed nations' economies and ruined the lives of millions fighting the COVID War when there is no enemy on the battlefield that warrants such restrictive measures.

There are 2,259,340 living in Gabon. Over the year, the country reported the grand total of 75 deaths or 0.0033 percent of the population. Also, 35.5 percent of its population is under 15 years of age, and only 4.3 percent of its population is over 65 years old. Thus, with COVID killing mostly the elderly in this nation of young people, of which 36 percent of 15- to 24-year-olds are unemployed, being locked down and facing a futureless future will spark a "Youth Revolution."

DUTCH CURFEW EXTENDED DESPITE COURT ORDER



A court in the Netherlands ruled the country's lockdown mandate a "violation of the right to freedom of movement and privacy." Brushing off the court order, politicians passed an emergency order on Friday that extended the lockdown.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte's office quickly announced the legislation after a court in the Hague ruled that the mandated curfew did not meet the standard of "special urgency."

U.S. News reported that the countrywide curfew has been in place from 9 PM to 4:30 AM since 23 January, and the curfew has been extended until 3 March. The initial report of the curfew led to some calling the country a "police state."

The foundation Viruswaarheid, which means “virus truth,” was the group that brought the legal challenge.

Euronews.com reported that the court’s ruling and subsequent legislation has been a source of confusion in the nation. Police there “have actually stopped handing out a lot of fines over the past few days because the situation is so unclear.”

TOP 10 TREND OF 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.”*

According to the scientific data, the recovery rate among 1- to-20-year-olds is 99.997 percent and, on average, the virus recovery rate is 99.7 percent. Those aged 65 and over suffering from pre-existing chronic health conditions are most vulnerable to die from the virus.

COVID CASES SPARK COLLEGE CAMPUS FEAR



University officials at colleges in the U.S. are responding to a jump in COVID cases among students and faculty, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The report said some 779 students and faculty at the University of Virginia have been diagnosed with the virus, which prompted school officials to urge students to remain in their dorms unless they were attending class.

A spokesman told the paper that social gatherings at the university had been canceled until the end of the month. The report also said cases increased “five-fold” at Notre Dame. The school averages 34 new cases a day, the report said.

“Students were adhering to the protocols all day, then they would get back to a common area in their residence hall and they relax and they may be eating together in groups of five or six,” a university spokesman told the paper. “So we took the measure of restricting dining Hall capacity even further.”

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that more than a quarter of colleges in the U.S. are allowing some form of in-person learning this spring. *NPR* reported many schools have learned from last year and will not offer a Spring Break this year.

TRENDPOST: *While the article reported the spike in “cases,” there was not a single word on the number of virus deaths among college students or a mention of the number of those infected with the virus who will require hospitalization.*

Why?

Because among people aged 1 to 20, the recovery rate is 99.997 percent, thus counting how many students died from the virus add up to very few.

According to the most recent data, in the U.S., 711 people between the ages of 1 to 24 died of the virus out of a population in that age group of some 110 million. Thus, the percent of COVID deaths among that age group is the grand total of 0.000646 percent.

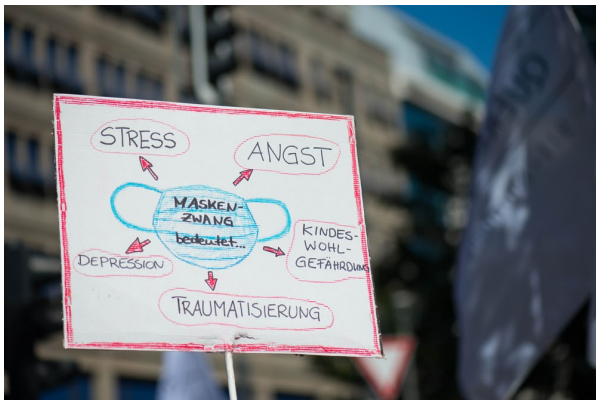
Since schools closed down a year ago to date, the monthly average of COVID deaths in the 1-24 age group is 0.0000538 percent.

Yet, despite these minuscule numbers, young peoples’ lives have been crushed by politicians and other “authorities” who have forced them to lock down, mask up, and socially-distance.

TREND FORECAST: When universities began closing down in February and March and students went to online learning, we forecast that many college towns would become ghost towns... Rust Belt 2.0 cities.

On the upside, when the COVID War ends, this locked-down, pent-up energy age group will be the spark that ignites the “Roaring 2020s.” As we had noted, astute marketers and OnTrendspreneurs® will capitalize on this trend by providing products, services, sounds, and styles to appeal to this “Roaring” demographic.

POLITICIANS CLASH ON ENDING MASK MANDATES



Much of the COVID War is marked by a political divide. Republican governors and Democratic mayors in states across the U.S. are clashing over whether now is a good time to ease mask mandates, a report said.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Iowa has seen its COVID-19 hospitalizations drop by about 80 percent since the peak in the autumn. Governor Kim Reynolds, a Republican, called for statewide mask mandates to end. She has also ended restrictions on social gatherings in the state. According to the *Journal*, Reynolds said,

“We need to make sure that we’re doing everything that we can to protect Iowans, especially our most vulnerable... But I also have to balance economies that support the individuals that are trying to sustain business or sustain their livelihoods.”

Her announcement was praised by Jessica Dunker, the president and chief executive of the Iowa Restaurant Association.

“We are happy to have more of our fate in our own hands,” she said, according to the report. She told the *Journal* that about 20 percent of the state’s bars or restaurants have been forced to close, and the industry in the state took a \$1.4 billion hit due to the outbreak.

Still, not everyone is on board with Reynolds’ decision. Frank Cownie, a Democrat, is the mayor of Des Moines who ordered the mask mandate to stay in place, claiming he fears the spread of new variants and because, without providing a trace of scientific evidence, he thinks “now is the time to be more diligent than ever.”

The *Journal* reported that Governor Doug Burgum, the Republican from North Dakota, has also dropped mask mandates due to a decrease in hospitalizations.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the head of the CDC, said on Sunday it is too soon for states to ease these restrictions.

“We still have 100,000 cases a day. We still have somewhere between 1,500 and 3,500 deaths per day,” Walensky said during an interview on *CBS*. “And yet we see some communities relaxing some of their mitigation strategies. We are nowhere out of the woods.”

Since last spring, the **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the lack of hard scientific data supporting the wearing of masks. We haven’t forgotten that just short of a year ago, the U.S. surgeon general tweeted: “Seriously people – STOP BUYING MASKS... They are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus.” (See our 21 April article, [“TREND TRACKING LESSON: ‘THINK FOR YOURSELF.’”](#))

As we reported last March, at the onset of the COVID War, Dr. Anthony Fauci, designated by the media and politicians as America’s top infectious disease expert, declared on *CBS’s 60 Minutes*:

“There’s no reason to be walking around with a mask. When you’re in the middle of an outbreak, wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better and it might even block a droplet, but it’s not providing the perfect protection that people think that it is. And, often, there are unintended consequences—people keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face.”

Doubling Down

This past Sunday, when Fauci appeared on *CNN*, he was asked when the U.S. might be able to get back to some sense of normalcy? Fauci replied that he believed masks would likely be required into 2022 but said he can’t estimate when he will be able to call off mask mandates. There were about 58,000 new cases in the U.S. per day last week. Fauci said that number is still high:

“It’s not the 300 to 400,000 that we had some time ago, but we want to get that baseline really, really, really low before we start thinking that we’re out of the woods.”

FAKE COVID TEST = \$17,000 FINE



Transport Canada, the government’s transportation arm, announced last week that it fined two individuals a total of \$17,000 for allegedly presenting “false or misleading COVID-19 tests and for making a false declaration about their health status.”

CTVNews reported that one of the passengers was fined \$10,000 and the other \$7,000. The report said the passengers were on a flight from Mexico that landed in Montreal late last month. Just days before departing, they tested positive for the virus.

Under the “Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19,” the country requires all travelers to obtain a negative test result within 72 hours of the flight.

TRENDPOST: *This is just one of the thousands in fines that have been levied across the globe on anti-COVID War draft dodgers. As detailed in our new article, “ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT,” under the New ABnormal system, there will be special privileges for the vaccinated and fines and punishment for those refusing one... or disobeying government COVID War orders.*

LOCKDOWNS CREATING CHILD OBESITY CRISIS



A 14 February *Wall Street Journal* article revealed that “pediatricians are warning the coronavirus pandemic’s protracted disruption of in-person schooling, sports, and other activities is leading to weight gain that could have long-lasting impacts

on children’s health.”

Doctors are seeing how the stress from prolonged school closings, forcing students to learn from home on computer screens, has increased snacking and has restricted physical exercise, which pediatricians well-versed in obesity issues note “is putting children at greater risk for type-two diabetes and asthma, among other health concerns.”

Dr. Hai Cao, a pediatrician in Brooklyn, NY, told the interviewer, “We’re seeing a lot of elementary school-aged kids who are gaining 20 to 30 pounds in a year.”

Staten Island physician assistant Brittany Wilson added,

“Even kids in grammar school are getting depressed. They miss their friends. A lot aren’t doing as well academically. With depression also comes weight gain. They’re bored, and I think they’re comfort-eating.”

Michael Yedidia, Research Professor and Senior Medical Sociologist at Rutgers University, helped lead a study showing that when children from low-income families attend school, they get more nutritious meals and have healthier weights. (The National School Lunch Program serves over 30 million children, and the School Breakfast Program serves over 14.7 million children.)

Also, walking to and from school along with gym classes and organized school sports greatly increases the crucial health benefits kids need from exercise and fresh air.

Dr. Sandra Hassink, director of the Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight, voiced considerable concern about food insecurity due to extended lockdowns forcing kids to eat cheap junk food with little to no nutritional value. “I sometimes think of this as the footprint COVID-19 will leave on our population—increased obesity, food insecurity, and chronic disease.”

It is not new news that extended lockdowns would cause this problem. This past 20 June, Myles Faith, a professor of psychology at the University of Buffalo whose specialty is childhood obesity, wrote:

“Depending on the duration of the lockdown, the excess weight gained may not be easily reversible and might contribute to obesity during adulthood if healthier behaviors are not re-established.”

TRENDPOST: Re-established? Junk food culture is as American as apple pie (not Mom’s home-baked, rather store-bought brands made with hydrogenated oils and saturated with chemicals).

The Trends Journal has written numerous articles detailing how the U.S. government, giant agri-business corporations, and incessant media advertising

have tens of millions of Americans hooked on junk food. (See our 26 January article, “[JUNK FOOD VS. COVID-19: THE WINNER IS?](#)”)

TRENDPOST: *Among the ignorant moves made by political leaders at the beginning of the coronavirus spread was the shutting down of playgrounds and parks. The 19 February Wall Street Journal article with the headline,*

Remote Learning During COVID-19 Is Causing Children to Gain Weight, Doctors Warn

features a large photograph from last April of a Michigan town’s closed playground, surrounded by large, yellow “Caution” tape.

As we keep reporting, the recovery rate of those aged 1 to 20 who catch the virus is 99.997 percent, yet governments are locking down youngsters and depriving them of their natural rights of growing up and living life. As the data proves, since the COVID War began a year ago, just 92 children aged 1 to 14 have died from the virus.

Yet, the lockdown lunacy prevails.

HEALTH “EXPERTS” CAUTION AGAINST ENDING NYC LOCKDOWN



Last Wednesday, nearly a year after ordering extensive shutdowns of entertainment and sports complexes, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced he will allow them to reopen on 23 February. One caveat: facilities seating over 10,000 can only allow a 10-percent capacity.

This comes after the governor permitted indoor dining to resume on 12 February with a maximum of 25 percent capacity.

But, as the 19 February *Wall Street Journal* headline revealed:

Health Experts Urge Caution as New York City Emerges from Latest Covid-19 Wave

The article, supporting the same fear-mongering, anxiety-inducing storyline of most mainstream media since the coronavirus first arrived a year ago, states:

“Some health and science experts said that such moves [to reopen] may be premature, warning that dangerous virus variants are continuing to spread and the number of people vaccinated in New York is a relatively small percentage of the state’s population.”

As the **Trends Journal** previously reported, all viruses naturally mutate into new strains, and history shows new strains are usually less virulent than the original. (See our 12 January article, [“‘MUTANT’ STRAIN: DEADLY MEDIA HYPE & FEAR.”](#))

Moreover, as spewed from the mouth of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the virus infection rate in restaurants is a mere 1.4 percent. Yet, restaurants across much of the globe are prevented from having indoor dining or do so with severe restrictions. (They are allowed enclosed outdoor dining, however, as if the virus behaves differently when people eat closed up outside.)

Despite the very low 1.4 percent infection rate, regarding allowing restaurants to reopen, one of the “health experts” quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article, Joseph Osmundson, clinical assistant professor of biology at New York University said, “I can’t imagine a good science-based argument.”

As the **Trends Journal** has been pointing out for many months, the exact opposite is closer to the truth. Lockdowns imposed by governors and local officials high on being authority figures have not presented any substantial scientific studies to support the massive shutdown of businesses and social interactions, which have wreaked havoc on tens of millions of citizens.

Flying in the face of cautions from fear-promoting health “experts” like professor Osmundson, who “can’t imagine a good science-based argument” for reopening facilities, the article points out that “cases have fallen in recent weeks.”

The article states that Governor Cuomo said, “Across the state, from hospitalizations to infection rate, our numbers are continuing to decline.”

Quoted in the article is another “expert,” Peter Chin-Hong, professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, who is concerned that not all restaurants have adequate ventilation and those attending sports events might spread droplets when cheering for their teams.

TRENDPOST: While the “experts” want to keep fighting the COVID War, millions of lives and livelihoods are being destroyed. The New York Post reported yesterday that more than 47 percent of small businesses citywide remain closed, while revenue for those that are open has dropped nearly 60 percent, according to [TrackTheRecovery.org](https://www.tracktherecovery.org/), a Harvard University-run database tracing the virus’ economic impact.

They also noted that in Lower Manhattan, commercial office leasing dropped nearly 70 percent in 2020, and 12 percent of businesses, ranging from hotels to department stores to restaurants, closed for good, as per data from the Downtown Alliance.

TRENDPOST: Soon after the announcement that indoor dining would be allowed again, on 10 February, the New York Times Editorial Board published an editorial titled, “The wrong time to ease restrictions.”

The “wrong time”?

The editors cited new strains of COVID as the reason the “plan to reopen New York City restaurants for indoor dining, at 25 percent capacity—and soon to relax other strictures, like those for weddings—is baffling.”

“Baffling”?

The editorial board, despite acknowledging that “state and local economies are hanging by a thread, and everyone is exhausted by restrictions and desperate to return to some semblance of normal life” and despite acknowledging “case counts are declining. The death rate is slowing down,” still had the audacity to write,

“This is a precarious moment in the fight against the coronavirus in the United States... the number of people who get sick or die from COVID-19 in the coming year will depend on the outcome of a desperate race that’s underway, between human vaccination and viral mutation.”

The New York Times Editorial Board then resorted to the analogy loved by mainstream media as it parrots the favored, warped world view of America’s political and business leaders: War.

The Editorial Board writes, “To get a sense of what this [reopening facilities] looks like to scientists and public health experts, imagine a military general leading the fight against a foreign enemy—and then selling that enemy deadly weapons on the side.”

FLORIDA: NO LOCKDOWN, LESS PROBLEMS



On 14 February, Dr. Anthony Fauci, now President Biden’s chief medical advisor, stated on ABC’s “This Week” that schools in the U.S. shouldn’t reopen until Congress passes additional safety features. Fauci said, “I think that schools need more resources and that’s the

reason the national relief act we’re talking about getting passed... We need that. The schools need more resources.”

But, as the media source *Blaze.com* reported, Florida, with its children back in school since September and with no significant statewide lockdown restrictions compared to most other states, has one of the lowest per capita death rates from COVID-19.

Blaze.com also noted that Florida's relatively low per-capita death rate comes despite the fact it has the second-highest percentage rate of senior citizens who are the most vulnerable to the virus.

According to data from CDC, "Florida has the nation's third largest population, but the 16th lowest increase in "all-cause deaths." The only states with fewer "excess deaths" last year were mostly those with much smaller populations.

The fact remains that Florida, a popular winter vacation destination, particularly among seniors, and with one of the country's most relaxed attitudes regarding lockdowns and masks, has a better track record against COVID than most other states.

And, as the data proves, seniors are the most susceptible to dying from the coronavirus.

The article compares Florida's success with California where Governor Gavin Newsom imposed the first lockdown in America, which was one of the nation's strictest lockdowns and mandatory mask, social distancing, and other COVID War orders.

Indeed, last June, *Microsoft News* reported that Newsom's order:

"Applies to all Californians in indoor spaces, healthcare settings, on public transportation and rideshare vehicles, and at workplaces that are visited by the public or where food is prepared for sale or distribution. Masks will also be required outdoors where people cannot maintain a distance of six feet from each other."

It was only in late January that Newsom rescinded his “stay at home” order, insisting that the timing had nothing to do with the recent push by citizen groups to recall him.

Yet, while children in Florida are back in school, avoiding the massive mental health afflictions suffered by those in states where they are being forced to learn remotely, California has only 5 percent of its children back in school.

Numbers Don’t Lie

A further comparison of the percentage of seniors who are dying shows that in 2020, while Florida had 474 COVID deaths per 100,000, California seniors suffered 573 per 100,000.

According to the COVID Tracking Project, as of 19 February, “California has the most COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the U.S.,” which they report is about twice as many as Florida.

The severe damage caused by prolonged lockdowns of schools in states such as California was revealed in a report published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* on 12 November. The study stated,

“United States primary school closures during the 2020 pandemic affected millions of children, with little understanding of the potential health outcomes associated with educational disruption.”

The report also found that “these consequences are especially dire for young children. There is little reason to believe that virtual learning environments can be effective for primary school-aged children.”

As the *Blaze.com* article noted, the JAMA study “estimated a cumulative loss of 5.53 million life years from this generation of children due to lost educational attainment.”

Still, most schools remain closed despite data now known showing, according to the JAMA report, “Young children (<10 years) appear less likely to serve as vectors for COVID-19 transmission.”

In addition to the data showing seniors and schoolchildren faring much better in Florida than California, which was locked down for most of 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that in 2020, California’s unemployment rate was 30 percent higher than Florida’s.

MAINSTREAM MEDIA = MENTAL HEALTH DECLINE



On 24 October, an article published in the *Journal of Loss and Trauma* studied the “relationships of media use and interpersonal communication as they relate to COVID-19 exposure and mental health outcomes.”

The researchers, professors in communication and social work at the Universities of Tennessee and Missouri, have found:

“Since the pandemic began, anxiety rates in the U.S. have tripled; the rate of depression has quadrupled. Now research is suggesting the media is part of the problem.”

The researchers summarized the results of their study in an article published on 16 February on the journalistic website, *The Conversation*. The article is titled, “How the Media may be Making the COVID-19 Mental Health Epidemic Worse.” The study is based on a survey of more than 1,500 American adults.

Many in the study who contracted COVID experienced mental stress and anxiety issues well after they recovered. The researchers state:

“Beyond the associations between level of disaster exposure and adverse mental health, a substantial body of research has documented problematic mental health reactions associated with paying more attention to traditional media (e.g., television, newspaper, radio) coverage of disasters.”

In addition to the anxieties heightened from watching and listening to traditional media, social media platforms exacerbated mental health issues as well. “Early research on the COVID-19 pandemic has found that among adults in China, more exposure to social media coverage of COVID-19 was related to more negative affect, anxiety, and depression.”

Among the key findings:

- “Media coverage of disasters is often ‘pervasive, continuous, and intense.’”
- “COVID-19 has resulted in an infodemic, which is characterized by an overwhelming amount of information that can be difficult for individuals to process.”
- “Results found that COVID-19 exposure was associated with depression via the indirect pathways of traditional and social media use. Media use thus appears to be the mechanism by which COVID-19-exposed participants experienced more depressive reactions. This could include media coverage of COVID-19 transmission rates, economic impacts, and more.”

The devastating mental health effect of continuous, anxiety-ridden media headlines was anticipated back in March 2020. In an article published on 3 March in *Psychology Today*, clinical psychologist Dr. David O. Clark, Professor Emeritus at the University of New Brunswick, Canada, warned:

“Media coverage of health issues is biased. The news outlets devote more time to emerging health hazards, like the COVID-19 outbreak, than common health threats. Anxious or fearful individuals tend to pay more

attention to threat-related information, which then drives up their anxiety and distress. With the media devoting so much time to the coronavirus outbreak, there's plenty of opportunity for those with elevated contamination fear to focus on the threatening aspects of the outbreak.

This will cause a spike in fear and anxiety about the disease. In response, non-infected individuals with OCD-like contamination fear might restore to extraordinary measures to deal with their fear, like self-quarantine or washing with toxic disinfectants.”

TRENDPOST: *Yes, selling fear, misery, and hysteria is the bottom line for mainstream media. In the 7 July issue of the **Trends Journal**, we wrote:*

*For the three months ending in June, CNN attracted its largest audience since it first went on the air 40 years ago. No surprise. Go back to 10 March and take a look at our **Trends Journal** cover: COVID-19: PRESSTITUTES & PUPPET MASTERS PEDDLING HYSTERIA. It paid off.*

On a recent conference call, CNN chief Jeff Zucker urged editors and producers at the network not to shift focus from coronavirus new updates despite weeks of wall-to-wall coverage of the pandemic. “You need to stay on the news,” Mr. Zucker said, according to a person who listened. “People are coming to CNN for the news right now.”

We noted back in March that when CNN and other major media began hyping the coronavirus, their ratings – like the corporate pimps who run the operations and the Presstitutes who get paid to put out for them – were in the toilet.

Now, CNN’s weekday, primetime audience is up 120 percent compared to the same time a year ago, with close to two million tuning in.

In response to the rising ratings, CNN’s chief executive Jeff Zucker crowed, “All of our research shows we are the most trusted name in news.”

He added, “We are a news organization that is built for this kind of time.”

It also points out that “government briefly seized the high ground... when people entrusted it with leading the fight against COVID-19 and restoring economic health. But government failed the test and squandered that trust bubble.”

One of the most prominent examples of a government leader “squandering that trust bubble” was New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. Last spring, Cuomo was heralded nationwide as one of the most dynamic and successful political leaders against the spread of the coronavirus, receiving an Emmy Award for his “masterful” COVID-19 press briefings.

Yet, now, in the deep muck of his deadly orders to move recovering COVID patients back into nursing homes, causing a spike in nursing home deaths and then ordering his staff to lie about the death toll, the Emmy award-winning Governor is subject to headlines such as CNBC’s: “Cuomo under fire over COVID death probe, bullying accusations.”

TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT

It's official. Israel announced last week the requirement for citizens to get a Green Passport if they want to shop, go to gyms, theaters, hotels, sporting/music events, etc. The only way to get the passport is to get two COVID Jabs or provide medical proof of having recovered from the virus... or else your banned.

Last Thursday, Yuli Edelstein, Israel's Minister of Health, announced, "There will soon be jobs where, in order to work, the workers will have to either be vaccinated or undergo a COVID-19 test every 48 hours." While refusing to identify which jobs will require vaccination proof as a requirement for employment, he said everyone must get the shot so that life could become "almost normal."

Mr. Edelstein added that a number of fake documents claiming the holder had been vaccinated had been found by authorities and that anyone caught with a fake certificate will be subject to time in jail.

Lifting weights at a gym in Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv late Saturday, according to the *Times of Israel*, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, “Go and get vaccinated... Get the Green Pass and start to return to life.”

Green Pass holders will be able to download the app from the country’s health ministry, which will link to their personalized medical files.

With about half of its population having received the first dose of the COVID vaccine, to date, Israel is a global leader in vaccination rates.

This past Sunday, *Microsoft News* reported, “Israel’s green pass scheme is being closely-watched as a possible model for how other economies might re-open once a substantial part of the population is vaccinated, while stirring controversy over unequal access for those who opt out of the jab.”

TREND FORECAST: *Israel has set the trend. No COVID Jab, no Freedom. To date, according to an article published in the Jerusalem Post on 18 February, 87 percent of the COVID death rate in Israel are people aged 65 or older. In the nation of over nine million, some 5,000 died from the virus or 0.06 percent of the population. Yet, as with most other nations, the country had been locked down, and there is a mass push for vaccinations.*

We maintain our forecast for strong anti-vax political movements in nations across the globe.

COVID JAB FROM HEAVEN



Getting a COVID Vaccine has become a religious belief. Last week, we reported on a pastor in Boston at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist, Reverend Miniard Culpepper, who met with other pastors and came up with a plan to sell the COVID vaccine to parishioners.

As part of the sale, he and other pastors publicly took the jab. When followers of the congregation saw them get vaccinated, they signed up for the shot. Martini Shaw, a pastor of Philadelphia's St. Thomas Episcopal Church, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "The church has always been the focal point of where people have been able to come in terms of joyous times and celebratory times, but also in times of need."

Reuters reported that Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, governor of Vatican City, issued a decree stating the "responsible choice" was to get vaccinated or otherwise risk harming others. The decree included threats that those working for the Vatican not willing to get the vaccination could be subject to "varying degrees of consequences that could lead to dismissal."

The decree followed the Pope's statement on 9 January:

"I believe that ethically everyone should take the vaccine. It is not an option, it is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others."

Pope Francis, 84 years old, also generated a media event five days later when he was shown getting the shot.

But the Cardinal bowed to public criticism of his decree just a few days later after a large number of Italian citizens, according to *Reuters*, "took to Twitter to

criticize it, with some saying it was contrary to Pope Francis' general call for mercy."

Cardinal Bertello then softened his previous statements, saying "alternative solutions" would be made available for those unwilling to take the shot.

Only 246 people live within the walls of Vatican City. To date, there have been 27 cases of coronavirus and zero deaths.

TRENDPOST: *As we continue to note, never a peep from the mainstream media, politicians, or the reported religious orders about natural healing solutions that may prevent catching the coronavirus.*

To help build your immune system and stay healthy, we've added a new column to the Trends Journal, "Trends in Getting Healthy" by Gary Null. (See this week's new article, "[HEALTH & WELL-BEING: IN YOUR OWN HANDS.](#)")

NO JAB = NO JOB



A waitress who was concerned that getting the COVID-19 vaccine may hurt her chances of getting pregnant was fired for refusing the shot. The waitress, Bonnie Jacobson, had been working at the Red Hook Tavern in Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Jacobson made it clear in interviews that she was not an anti-vaxxer and has supported others who want to get the shot. But she was fired despite letting her boss know of her concerns that the vaccines' safety trials included no pregnant women.

She remarked, "The way I see it, getting the vaccine is for me. It protects me. If I am not getting it, it's my choice."

The CDC makes it clear on its website that for pregnant women or those seeking to get pregnant, getting vaccinated is a “personal choice.” They added, “A conversation between pregnant patients and their clinicians may help them decide whether to get vaccinated with a vaccine that has been authorized for use under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).”

But the owner of the Red Hook Tavern saw it differently. After New York State included restaurant staff on its list of those eligible for the shot on 2 February, employees at the Red Hook Tavern were sent emails stating that vaccination was “mandatory” unless “your own personal health or disability prohibits you from obtaining this vaccination.”

NEW TREND: “JAB HECTORING”



The debate continues among U.S. and global corporations as to the most effective ways to convince employees to get vaccinated. The *Financial Times* reported on 18 February that the head of the U.S. Business Roundtable, Joshua Bolten, made his opinion clear that it would be “counterproductive” for executives to get too coercive.

The approximately 200 Business Roundtable members include CEOs of JPMorgan, Amazon, and General Motors. Mr. Bolten specifically used the word “hectoring” to describe the pressure some employees are feeling about the need to get vaccinated.

The article points out that intimidating workers to get vaccinated might be highest in the U.K. where some companies are instituting “no jab, no job” contracts. As an example, *Reuters* reported on 18 January about a large London plumbing company:

“Pimlico Plumbers, with a workforce of more than 400, has been talking to its lawyers about making the vaccine mandatory for new hires within a few months, founder Charlie Mullins said.”

While confirming the vaccine mandate would only apply to new hires, Mr. Mullins made clear his “hectoring” proclivities when he told *Reuters*,

“We wouldn’t dream of forcing anybody but I’m pretty much certain that 99% of our staff would jump at the opportunity. Who in their right mind would turn down one needle or one jab that could save your life?”

Mr. Mullins also stated his belief that proof of being vaccinated would eventually become mandatory for air travel or attending large events. He predicted most people will come to accept “no jab, no job” policies.

In the U.S., large business groups such as the Business Roundtable are creating promotional pushes to fight against vaccine hesitancy. Mr. Bolton confirmed, “All of our companies want as many of their employees to get vaccinated as possible.”

The Health Action Alliance, a powerful coalition of businesses, communication companies, and public health organizations (including Walmart, ViacomCBS, and Bank of America), is putting together an extensive campaign of ads to encourage Americans, particularly minorities, to get vaccinated.

But as Lisa Sherman, who heads the Ad Council, admitted, about 50 percent of the American public were holding off due to safety concerns over “Operation Warp Speed” and the rush to get these vaccines out through the Emergency Use Authorization.

She did, however, point out that a study by the Edelman Trust Barometer, an annual survey done by the Edelman public relations and marketing firm, shows just over 70 percent of Americans have confidence their bosses are giving them good information.

TRENDPOST: *Checking out the Edelman Trust Barometer website, here is their opening statement:*

“After a year of unprecedented disaster and turbulence—the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crises, the global outcry over systemic racism and political instability—the 2021 Edelman Trust Barometer reveals an epidemic of misinformation and widespread mistrust of societal institutions and leaders around the world.

Adding to this is a failing trust ecosystem unable to confront the rampant infodemic, leaving the four institutions—business, government, NGOs, and media—in an environment of information bankruptcy and a mandate to rebuild trust and chart a new path forward.”

U.S. MILITARY: DON'T SHOOT ME WITH VAX



CNN reported last Wednesday that one-third of all U.S. military service members who are on the eligibility list for the COVID-19 vaccine have chosen not to get it. This is about the same percentage as seen among all U.S. citizens.

This information came out as Pentagon officials were called into a House Armed Services Committee hearing on Wednesday.

The top Republican on the house committee, Representative Mike Rogers of Alabama, stated, “It’s critical for our national security that every service member, as well as DOD [Department of Defense] civilian personnel and contractors, receive vaccines as soon as possible.”

Major General Jeff Taliaferro, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the committee, “The vaccine is the right thing to do, it’s clearly safe for service members.”

But Brig. General Paul Friedrichs, chief medical advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed that the armed forces can’t force troop members to get the shots since the vaccine hasn’t been fully approved by the FDA (despite it being released under Emergency Use Authorization). He specifically referred to “a real limit legally that we have to make it mandatory for our troops and or families.”

Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby commented that the number of military personnel refusing the vaccine is a “concern” of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, but that “he’s also mindful that it’s a voluntary program.” Kirby added, “While [Secretary of Defense Austin] has taken the vaccine because he believes it was the right thing to do for him and for his health and for his family and his ability to do the job, he recognizes that this is a personal decision that everybody has to make.”

Assuring the House Armed Services Committee, Major General Taliaferro said, “We need to continue to educate our force and help them understand the benefits and ensure there’s leadership involvement in the discussion of the benefits of the vaccine.”

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to illustrate partisanship Presstitute reporting. For example, Silicon Valley, along with mainstream media, has banned all those opposed to COVID Vaccines and demeans them as conspiracy theorists and essentially ignorant, as Major General Taliaferro states, “of the benefits of the vaccine.”*

However, when soldiers of the military refuse to take the shot, they are not belittled as are most of those unwilling to do so.

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS: DON'T TAKE THE COVID VAX, PART ONE



Many of the same people who argued for medical “death panels” not so long ago are the same ones crushing any dissent on the efficacy or safety of the COVID 19 vaccines. Bill Gates is one example. Another is oncologist Ezekiel Emanuel, who famously argued life should end at

75. Emanuel now sits on President Biden’s COVID-19 advisory team.

Numerous aspects of the COVID “pandemic” are unprecedented and strange, and there is no denying that fact. So says Dr.

Paul Craig Roberts, longtime scholar and journalist. Roberts says that logic, as well as data, should give anyone thinking of taking the current COVID vaccines pause.

On [Dr. Roberts’s website](#), he featured an article contribution by media analyst Mike Whitney that took a deep dive into the strangeness surrounding the pandemic and saving vaccines.

In the article, Whitney noted,

“Everything about the Covid vaccine is wrong, just like everything about Covid-mania is wrong. It’s all unprecedented, suspicious, and, frankly, weird. None of it passes the smell test, none of it.”

He listed some of the extraordinary measures and events that would have been unimaginable just a year ago, including:

- Locking down 300 million healthy people in the U.S. alone
- Orders to shut down businesses and schools, pushing the economy into the worst contraction since the Great Depression

- Forcing everyone to wear masks and “socially distance” - even within their own homes
- Politicians short-circuiting constitutional powers of state legislatures to rule by fiat
- Media and tech giants de-personing scientists, epidemiologists, virologists, and statisticians because their professional views conflicted with government COVID advisor and admitted liar, Dr. Anthony Fauci

Dr. Roberts believes the nexus of powerful institutions, corporations, and government authorities suppressing criticism of the pandemic and vax-pushing policies is something no one should consider acceptable.

Roberts himself has a long experience and credentials as a journalist and economic expert. He served as associate editor and columnist for the *Wall Street Journal* and columnist for *Business Week* and the *Scripps Howard News Service*. Before that, in 1987, he was awarded the Treasury Department’s Meritorious Service Award for “his outstanding contributions to the formulation of United States economic policy.”

Roberts pointed to Whitney’s analysis as an example of the kind of reporting that is sadly absent in today’s MSM. Whitney himself asserts it’s not “conspiracy” thinking to question Big Pharma and corporate elites who have been unfairly enriched, while billions around the world suffer economic catastrophe and a quarantine existence. The comprehensive upending of normal life, for a virus that statistically is dangerous primarily to very elderly people, suggests that some more nefarious objective may be at stake.

“Ask yourself this: Who is touting this new wonder drug and insisting that all seven billion people on the planet get inoculated? Is it the scientists, virologists, and epidemiologists who have no dog in the fight and whose judgments are based on the science alone? Or is it the conflicted state bureaucrats, the public health toadies, and do-good billionaires who seek

access to the personal biology of all humanity to effect the changes they believe will trim the world's population and reverse the projected acceleration of climate change? Which is it?"

The agenda of the Great Reset dovetails so perfectly with the set-up of a world-wide "crisis pandemic" that the narrative begs questioning and suspicion. And vaccines are the perfect gateway to the boundless authority needed to achieve those ambitions, Whitney posits.

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS: DON'T TAKE THE COVID VAX, PART TWO



In an interview with Dr. Chris Shaw, Ph.D., a specialist in Neuroplasticity and Neuropathology, he outlined serious potential problems with novel mRNA vaccine technology:

“The mRNA lipid-coated PEG-construct—by Moderna’s own study—does not stay localized but spreads throughout the body including the brain. Found in animal studies in bone marrow, brain, lymph nodes, heart, kidneys liver, lungs, etc., doctors are saying that the vaccine does NOT cross the blood-brain barrier, but that is NOT true....

If it reaches the brain there will be an autoimmune response that will cause inflammation. What characterizes virtually all neuro-degenerative diseases is this misfolded protein that is characteristic to Lou Gehrig’s disease, to Alzheimer’s, to Parkinson’s, to Huntington’s, etc. They are different proteins, but they tend to form these sheets of misfolded proteins called Beta Sheets. Now you are asking cells in various parts of the body—including the brain—to make a lot of these proteins and release them to the outside, and, are we sure that’s what it’s all doing? Are you getting clusters of misfolded proteins inside neurons? That would be a bad

thing to do...”

Media analyst Mike Whitney argued that the view of many medical professionals casts serious doubt on the efficacy and safety of the COVID vaccines being administered to millions.

“We know that reputable professionals have warned us that these zombie injections could impact fertility health and mortality,” said Whitney. But since those views have been systematically purged and silenced, vast portions of the population aren’t getting the news.

Even prominent politicians like Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who not so long ago was an inspiration to activists on the left for his critiques against the vaccine agenda of giant pharmaceutical corporations, has been a casualty of the new “right-think.”

Kennedy himself has spoken about the dangers of trying to vaccinate against coronaviruses:

“What we know about coronavirus from 30 years of experience is that a coronavirus vaccine has a unique peculiarity, which is any attempted making of the vaccine has resulted in the creation of a class of antibodies that actually make vaccinated people sicker when they ultimately suffer exposure to the wild virus.

Following the SARS epidemic that began in 2002, China launched a concerted effort to develop a coronavirus vaccine. They succeeded in developing 30 promising models, and they chose the four “best in class” to fabricate and then test on ferrets, the animal most analogous to human beings when it comes to upper respiratory infections.”

Kennedy’s long experience on the subject of vaccines and the agendas behind them are suddenly verboten. In a detailed exposition by Whitney, he laid out

troubling assessments by experts including Kennedy, not crackpots, that should give any thinking person pause about taking a COVID vaccine. Another example covered by Whitney included a research paper on a condition called Antibody-dependent Enhancement, published in the periodical *Nature* in July 2020:

“Antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of disease is a general concern for the development of vaccines and antibody therapies because the mechanisms that underlie antibody protection against any virus have a theoretical potential to amplify the infection or trigger harmful immunopathology. This possibility requires careful consideration at this critical point in the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).”

There is no shortage of clinical and expert medical opinion warning about the possible near- and long-term consequences of submitting to a COVID vaccine. Especially for anyone not elderly and in general good health, there would seem to be no logical reason to take it. Spread of virus to others should not be a concern, if those vulnerable others have taken the vaccine themselves. And it has been well established that persons not experiencing symptoms such as a fever or coughing are not liable to spread the virus.

Whitney said he is not an “anti-vaxxer.” But he said it only makes sense to be a careful vaxxer:

“Let’s follow the science. We are in way over our heads because those that control are pushing these vaccines. Fear and money and power are huge motivators. The vaccines may be a bit helpful for now; but long term, I have significant concerns here. For obvious reasons.”

COVID VACCINE SKEWS MAMMOGRAMS



Doctors from Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities are saying women who receive a COVID vaccine should delay mammogram

tests. Common adverse reactions from the vaccine, which can include swollen lymph nodes, can lead to false positives on mammogram tests, according to Dr. Lisa Mullen, Assistant Professor of Radiology at Johns Hopkins, and Dr. LaTasha Perkins, Physician and Professor at Georgetown.

Lymph nodes, which are a home for white blood cells in the body, can become enlarged when fighting off the infection-like symptoms from the COVID vaccine.

“You see it a lot and when you’re being vaccinated for a virus like the flu or COVID-19, you also can see it when you get vaccinated for HPV or a tetanus shot,” according to Perkins. She claimed swollen lymph nodes were not a cause for concern, though it’s been documented that some people have hyper-immune reactions that can have severe effects.

The admission that the COVID vaccines being administered in the U.S. can affect mammogram screenings is not insignificant. Breast cancer is the third-deadliest form of cancer, just behind lung and colo-rectal cancer. Estimated breast cancer deaths in 2019 were over 41,760 out of over 268,000 cases.

“When we started seeing patients who had had the COVID vaccine,” said Dr. Mullen, “We were noticing that they had larger than usual lymph nodes on the side where they had been vaccinated.”

Because tests were being affected by the vaccine, the Society of Breast Imaging has published guidelines for scheduling mammograms to try to avoid potential

false positives.

For providers, they recommend, “If possible, and when it does not unduly delay care, consider scheduling screening exams prior to the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination or 4-6 weeks following the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination.”

UK & FRENCH LEADERS PLEDGE TO SHARE VAX WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD



U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron are both pledging that their Euro nations will send a portion of their vaccine supplies to developing nations. Mr. Macron, along with Johnson, announced similar plans ahead of a G7 virtual World Summit and explained that dispensing vaccines needed to be distributed “fairly” to combat global inequality.

“We’re not talking about billions of doses immediately, or billions and billions of euros,” said Mr. Macron. “It’s about much more rapidly allocating 4-5% of the doses we have.”

As some have blanched at the Euro leaders’ timing their announcements for the maximum press, others, including Ngozi Okonjo- Iweala, the new head of the World Trade Organization, suggested the help was inadequate and urged more.

“I don’t think we should wait to get surplus when other people have been served,” Ms. Okonjo-Iweala said. “I think that any donations that are coming must come now. The reason is very simple. It’s in the interest of rich countries as well as poor countries to have equitable access.”

The WTO leader’s comments came after Boris Johnson said the U.K. would

donate most of its surplus supply to poorer nations.

It has become fashionable in critical race theory to deconstruct and discourage cultural “narratives” of whites acting as saviors, but the Caucasian leaders of at least two European nations apparently haven’t gotten the memo. Perhaps the casting of the help as rich nation/poor nation is enough of an escape clause to excuse Macron and Johnson’s channeling of Atticus Finch.

ZUCKERBERG DOESN'T TRUST THE COVID VACCINES?



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was caught on video voicing a distinct lack of trust in the COVID vaccines. The video was released by the investigative organization Project Veritas this past week.

In the footage from a meeting in the summer of 2020, Zuckerberg voiced doubts about the safety of the vaccines being rushed through production and mass release. Zuckerberg said,

“I do just want to make sure that I share some caution on this because we just don’t know the long-term side effects of basically modifying people’s DNA and RNA.”

Veritas founder James O’Keefe noted that Zuckerberg later lied to the public about his concerns in an interview with vaccine program pusher Dr. Anthony Fauci in November. “And, just to clear up one point, my understanding is that these vaccines do not modify your DNA or RNA,” Zuckerberg assured Fauci.

“DNA is inherent in your own nucleus cell. Sticking in anything foreign will ultimately get cleared,” Fauci assured the Facebook CEO.

At the same time Zuckerberg was expressing his views doubting the vaccines, anti-vax groups were being purged from Facebook.

PHARMA EXECUTIVES REAP WINDFALL PROFITS FROM VACCINES



Executives and directors at pharmaceutical firms Pfizer, Moderna, and 11 other drug companies sold more than 8.5 million shares of the firms' stocks, reaping \$496 million as share prices rose last year on news of positive developments in COVID vaccine

development, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on 18 February.

In contrast, executives at those companies sold 4.7 million shares in 2019, collecting \$132 million, data from research firm Kaleidoscope shows.

At Moderna, executives unloaded \$321 million worth of shares in more than 700 individual sales, data revealed. Merck & Co. insiders sold \$58 million worth of stock. Novavax bosses collected \$40 million from personal stock sales as the firm's vaccine research yielded positive news last August and September.

Albert Bourla, Pfizer's CEO, sold about 60 percent of his company stock for about \$5.6 million the same day in November the firm announced positive results in its vaccine development.

Many of the sales were made as part of executives' 10b5-1 compensation plans that were in place before the COVID vaccines' development began, companies said.

The sales prompted some regulators to call for "cooling-off" periods between the announcement of market-moving news and executives cashing out stock holdings.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY TO KEEP AFGHAN WAR GOING

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, former Army General and Board member of Defense contractor Raytheon, is in “no hurry” to pull U.S. troops out of Afghanistan.

Austin met with NATO officials in Brussels last week to discuss troop deployment as he saw a troubling increase in violence in the country. Austin said he will “not undertake a hasty or disorderly withdrawal from Afghanistan” that puts NATO forces in danger.

Austin’s comment came days after Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban deputy leader, urged the U.S. to withdraw troops from the country and make good on its promise to leave by 1 May.

Austin said the U.S. is “mindful of the looming deadlines, but we want to do this methodically and deliberately. But we’re focused on making sure that we make the right decisions, and we’ll go through this process deliberately.”

October will mark the 20th anniversary of the United States’ invasion of Afghanistan. The war was launched under the guise of capturing Osama bin Laden and ridding the nation of its Taliban leadership because they both were, allegedly, responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

As we have extensively reported in the **Trends Journal**, not one shred of evidence was provided to support that claim, and then-President George W. Bush refused to negotiate with the ruling Taliban government.

The war is the longest in American history, costing American taxpayers trillions and has killed over 157,000 people, and left hundreds of thousands dying from war-related causes. Also, some 3,500 U.S. and NATO soldiers have been killed.

There are currently 2,500 U.S. service members in Afghanistan. (The same number of troops currently in Iraq.)

The *Financial Times* reported U.S. lawmakers believe a withdrawal will lead to Afghanistan’s collapse. Representative Paul Gosar said it seems “rather impossible” that the will Taliban agree to any kind of committed peace.

TRENDPOST: *Addressing the nation on the evening of 9/11, the newly-elected president, George W. Bush, said, “America was targeted for attack... because we’re the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world.”*

Nine days later, in his address to a joint session of Congress and the nation, President Bush, playing the role of Commander in Chief, set the stage for U.S. action by identifying the masterminds behind the strikes as “a radical network of terrorists” who, as “enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country.” The live audience thunderously applauded every two-bit line.

“Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking: ‘Who attacked our country?’ The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda that ‘practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism.’”

Saying that “Al Qaeda is to terror what the Mafia is to crime,” President Bush fingered “a person named Osama bin Laden” as Al Qaeda’s crime boss.

Without one shred of evidence, the people and the press swallowed the lines of rhetoric as though they were incontrovertible facts.

TRENDPOST: *Long forgotten, when George W. Bush launched the Afghan War, it was the sounding alarm that is no longer heard: the launch of the War on Terror.*

In his address to Congress, Bush said, “Our war on terror begins with Al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated.”

With that line, the audience rose to its feet in thunderous applause.

*That was it. Just a few, brief sentences about this “person named Osama bin Laden,” and his band of terrorists were responsible for attacking the “beacon for freedom.” George Bush launched “Crusades 2000,” a battle Gerald Celente had forecast in both the **Trends Journal** in 1993 and in “Trends 2000” (Warner Books, 1997) – which would be fought at the start of the new millennium.*

TRENDPOST: *The Afghanistan Papers, internal government documents released by the Washington Post in early December, exposed the lies and deceptions told to the American people by Washington and the Pentagon. The papers documented how top generals knew the war in Afghanistan was a calamity that could not be won.*

In December, we reported on the papers. Yet, despite these facts of horror, media Presstitutes, who get paid to put out what their corporate pimps and

Washington whoremasters tell them to, have essentially blacked out the Afghanistan papers from the news.

In our 9 February article, “U.S. PANEL: KEEP FIGHTING LOSING AFGHAN WAR,” we reported on a panel by the U.S. Congress, which said earlier this month that the U.S. should reconsider its 1 May deadline to withdraw forces and instead keep troops in the country.

The panel was led by General Joseph Dunford Jr., a retired four-star Marine general, who told The New York Times it is not in anyone’s best interest for a “precipitous withdrawal.”

GEORGIA: NEW CHOICE OF PM, TENSIONS RISING



Georgian Dream, the governing party of Georgia, announced last week it nominated a close associate to Bidzina Ivanishvili, the billionaire who founded the party, as the country’s next prime minister, according to a report.

The *Financial Times* reported last week that the nomination of Irakli Garibashvili, the defense minister who served as prime minister from 2013-15, will likely do little to calm growing tension in the country after its contested October parliamentary election and subsequent arrest of opposition leader Nika Melia of the United National Movement.

Melia is accused of organizing “mass violence” during protests after the election. He was placed in custody in a move his party called a political witch hunt, and he faces up to nine years in prison if convicted. He called Gharibashvili a “puppet.”

“Are you kidding? This means that new elections will be held in the country very soon,” he said, according to the *FT*. Ivanishvili’s critics claim he is the true power in the country of 3.7 million and runs the government from behind the scenes.

In October, Georgia Dream received 48.23 percent of the vote and the United National Movement (UNM) received 27.18 percent.

Giorgi Gakharia, the country’s prime minister, announced he is stepping down after disagreements within his team over Melia’s arrest. He reportedly warned that Melia’s arrest could lead to more turmoil in the country.

“Unfortunately, I was unable to reach a consensus with my team on this issue, so I have decided to resign,” Gakharia said, according to *DW.com*. He said he intends to reduce political polarization in the country.

Garibashvili’s nomination needs to be confirmed by parliament, according to *Radio Free Europe*.

TREND FORECAST: *We note this dispute since there has been external and internal conflict in Georgia following the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in the early 1990s when Georgia and Russia became independent nations.*

Back in 2008, tensions between the two nations escalated after war erupted within Georgia, when two provinces, South Ossetia in eastern Georgia and Abkhazia declared their independence.

Russia recognized both South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states after the war. Breaking further from Russia, Georgia signed an association agreement with the EU in 2014.

Internally, there have been charges of voter fraud and ongoing political unrest for decades. Most recently, Nika Melia, the chairman of the United National Movement (ENM), the country’s main opposition party was, by order, to be sent to jail by a Tbilisi court.

As reported last week by Radio Free Europe, the EU's envoy to Georgia, Carl Hartzell, warned Melia's prosecution is a "dangerous trajectory for Georgia and for Georgian democracy."

The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi said in a statement, "The current dangerous situation following the Melia ruling stems from decades-long problems with the electoral system and the judicial system."

The U.S. said, "The way to address the important issues at stake is through peaceful negotiation. We urge all involved to remain calm and avoid violence."

The nation was locked down from the end of November of last year to the end of January this year. Curfews were set from 10 PM until 5 AM, and movement of pedestrians and vehicles was restricted.

We note this since it has taken a sharp toll on the nation's economy. Thus, as the economy goes down, political tensions will increase as will civil unrest.

SOMALIA: COPS KILL PROTESTERS



This past Friday, police forces in Mogadishu fired on protesters as demonstrators took to the streets to voice their anger about a delay in the country's election, which was supposed to occur earlier this month.

A video emerged on social media showing demonstrators marching peacefully and then running for cover in the middle of the street when the sound of gunfire was heard in the background. At least one explosion was reported at an airport in the country. This comes after Mogadishu banned any public gatherings due to COVID-19 risks, the *Anadolu Agency* reported.

The U.S. Embassy said in a security alert that reports indicate as many as 20 people were “killed or injured” by the police, according to the *Associated Press*. *AP* reported that protesters said they were undeterred despite the gunfire.

“If this is what [the president] wants, he will get more of it because this is what we know best,” said Mohamed Abdi Halane, a demonstrator and militia leader for a clan in the country.

Gunfire erupted near the presidential palace in the country, the report noted. President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed is facing pressure by many in the country of about 15.5 million, who says his constitutional mandate ended on 8 February, the day the elections were supposed to be held, but he continues to illegally occupy the office.

Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the opposition leader and former president, said, “After discussing the current situation in the country, the opposition has decided to continue protests.”

The report said the unrest could help al-Shabab, the extremist group, make political inroads.

TRENDPOST: *Protests, violence, crime, corruption, military dictatorships... civil war has been taking place in Somalia for decades. In the **Trends Journal**, we have been reporting on the civil unrest erupting across the Horn of Africa and its socioeconomic and geopolitical implications.*

As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, national conflicts will escalate and spread into regional wars. In turn, there will be mass migration to European nations... which, in turn, will accelerate the currently-stalled populist movements in the EU.

YOUTH REVOLUTION 2021: PROTESTS RAGE IN BARCELONA



The arrest of the popular Spanish rapper Pablo Hasel sparked days of protests in Spain as thousands who are fighting against what they see as a stunning attack on freedom of expression laws in the country took to the streets.

Hasel was arrested on Tuesday while he was barricaded inside the University of Lleida with supporters. He is accused of insulting the Bourbon monarchy and the Spanish state. He could face up to two decades in prison if convicted for exalting terrorism.

Before the raid by police, Hasel took to Twitter and appealed to his supporters to keep “denouncing those guilty of f—king up so many lives.” While he was being led out, he reportedly yelled, “They will never silence us; death to the fascist state!”

Youth Revolution

Sky News reported that protesters took to the streets after the arrest. The report said the protesters included the youth from the country who were frustrated with its policing policies and austerity. There have been about 80 arrests since Tuesday, with more than 100 injured, the report stated.

The protests were largely peaceful, according to reports. These protesters, who called themselves the “antifascists,” chanted, “The Bourbons are thieves.” As with most protests, while the vast majority were marching peacefully, on Saturday night, a small group of rioters in Barcelona damaged and looted luxury storefronts and threw bottles at police.

Rather than focus on the peacefulness and dissent among those taking to the streets, the media, as they always do, focused on the rioters (never mentioning

they may be agents provocateurs), with headlines on Sunday such as this one from *NPR*:

Violence Erupts in Barcelona on 5th Night of Protests Over Jailed Rapper

It was reported that a petition called, “Without freedom for expression there is no Democracy” was signed by 300 artists. The petition read, “We are aware that, if we let Pablo go to jail, they can go after any of us tomorrow, until any dissenting voice is silenced.”

Amnesty International tied Hasel’s arrest to the country’s 2015 Public Security Law. The far-left Podemos party has called for Hasel to be pardoned, *RT.com* reported. The party, which reportedly props up the country’s coalition government, called it unjust detention. The Podemos party has been criticized by the conservative PP party for not condemning the violence in the streets.

Hasel has been critical of the government and called King Juan Carlos a thief. He tweeted about the country’s support of Saudi Arabia, which has been blamed for contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

As the investigation of corruption charges against Juan Carlos intensified, the “King” left Spain and has been living in the United Arab Emirates since 3 August.

“YOUTH REVOLUTION,” one of our Top 10 Trends for 2021: As we forecast in December 2020, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War would accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.

Spain’s economy shrank by 11 percent last year, according to the National Statistics Institute, which El País reported is the country’s biggest contraction since the late 1930s. Isabel Diaz Ayuso, the head of Madrid’s regional government, told the Financial Times in September about the dire economic

straits there. “We have to avoid at all costs a state of alert and above all confining people to their homes. A state of alert and confining people are an economic disaster.”

Rubén Lázaro, a set builder, told the FT last week, “The younger generations are pushing hard and this protest is to say, ‘There’s been enough of this repression, this corruption, this system that doesn’t provide a space for us.’”

The youth in Spain have realized they do not have a future under the current conditions in the country and – like in other countries – have lashed out against the status quo.

YOUTH REVOLUTION 2021: MYANMAR MILITARY VS. THE PEOPLE



As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, tens of thousands of protesters, ranging from students to government workers, have been taking to the streets in Myanmar, demanding the military release leader Aung San Suu Kyi and hand back power it seized in a coup

earlier this month. (“Burma” is the name of this country that is recognized diplomatically by the U.S.) We had also noted that when the pro-democracy protests began, they were led by social-media-savvy Generation Z.

Last week, Myanmar’s military arrested about 500 protesters and issued arrest warrants for six celebrities, as rallies continued across the country in response to the illegal coup earlier this month.

Reuters reported the six celebrities are accused of encouraging strikes that have jeopardized the country’s economic system. Most recently, a railway worker strike prompted a police crackdown. The *Associated Press* reported that some

citizens have gathered on railroad tracks to stop trains that have been commandeered by the military.

The generals in charge have declared a year-long state of emergency and ousted Myanmar's leadership, accusing Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party (NLD) of rigging last November's election. The generals claim there was widespread fraud.

Reports stated two people accused of being involved in protests have already been handed two-year prison sentences.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets on Wednesday in Yangon, the country's largest city, according to the *South China Morning Post*. Protesters reportedly chanted, "Don't attend the office, leave it. Join the civil disobedience movement. We need the U.S. Army to save our situation."

Ship workers in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, went on strike Saturday and were joined by other residents. The *AP* reported that police chased demonstrators and said one man died after he was shot in the head. The report noted another protester died after being struck in the chest.

Hackers have targeted the Myanmar Central Bank, its military, and its state-run broadcaster, according to reports.

Minorities Join Protests

Minority groups in Myanmar have staged protests despite critics who blame Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to do enough to stop the killings and rapes of the country's mostly Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017.

Ke Jung, a youth leader from the Naga minority in the country, told *Al Jazeera* some minority groups are sitting it out on the sidelines, but his group is not one of them.

“We must win this fight,” he said. “We stand together with the people. We will fight until the end of the dictatorship.”

Another protester told the news outlet that his goal is to end the dictatorship, destroy the constitution, create a federal system, and release those who had been imprisoned after the coup.

Blowing Up

In a signal to the military that the people will not fall under their control, yesterday, several hundred people took to the streets across Myanmar in response to calls by activists for a general strike.

TREND FORECAST: *Despite the peaceful protests, as we continually note, there will be violence, whether by agents provocateurs or just those who want to loot, burn, and steal what they can.*

While the violent actions will represent a small fraction of the total protesters, the ruling powers will use it to criminalize the peaceful movement and as an excuse to bring in military force to quash the protests.

Despite the U.S. and its allies condemning the Myanmar military for the coup and actions taken against protesters, the sanctions being imposed and threats made will have a minor impact on a nation that has strong economic and geopolitical bonds with neighboring China.

DRAGHI: BANKSTER CONTROL OF ITALIA



Italy's newly-anointed Prime Minister Mario Draghi – born into the upper class with long Bankster credentials – World Bank, Goldman Sachs, European Central Bank, etc. – appealed to Italians to be patient.

The government will deploy its \$240 billion European relief package and “begin a new reconstruction,” said Draghi.

Draghi noted the country is facing a financial strain not seen since World War II. As we have been reporting, Italy’s economy was stagnant before the former Prime Minister locked down the nation last March to fight the COVID War.

On a year-on-year basis, Italy's fourth-quarter GDP was down 6.6 percent. Yesterday, S&P said Italy’s GDP would climb 5.3 percent this year, and its debt is expected to rise to about 160 percent of GDP.

Carlo Bonomi, the head of Confindustria, the Italian employers’ federation, told the paper that the move to essentially “freeze work where it was” could prove to be a “profound mistake.” He said these moves to pay workers to stay home will delay corporate reorganizations, new investments, and new hires that are necessary to restart the economies.

Dead Populist Movement

Putting a nail in the populist movements that wanted to pull away from the European Union and the euro, Draghi took aim at Matteo Salvini, the head of the nationalist Northern League party, who was leading the anti-euro charge yet voted for Draghi to become Prime Minister.

In his speech to the Senate last week, Draghi said he wants to form an even closer relationship with the European Union, and the euro was here to stay:

“This government emerges on the basis of our country’s membership in the European Union and the Atlantic alliance... Supporting this government means sharing the irreversibility of the decision for the euro, it means sharing the view of an increasingly integrated European Union.”

In international relations, Draghi's government would be "firmly pro-European and Atlantic" and would be better structured to "strengthen the strategic and essential relationships with France and Germany."

TRENDPOST: As we reported in our article last week, "[DRAGHI: ITALY'S NEW BANKSTER PM](#)," the Five Star Movement and the Northern League, movements that had campaigned on breaking away from the European Union, doing away with the euro, and restoring the lira... both parties voted for Draghi to become Prime Minister. Thus, the populist movements and what they pretended to represent are dead in Italy.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



AIR POLLUTION KILLING 3.5 TIMES MORE THAN COVID

For over a year, the mainstream news and politicians have been obsessed with selling fear and hysteria of the coronavirus.

You cannot turn on mainstream news or go to any of the mainstream websites without another day of COVID Mania.

This was the headline news two days ago that was splashed across America by *Reuters*:

Americans may still need masks to fight COVID in 2022, Fauci says

“Americans may still need to wear masks in 2022 even as the country relaxes other restrictions to combat COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, said on Sunday.”

Yes, so speaks the Presstitute's self-declared "top infectious disease expert," who keeps changing his mind and is tightly tied to Big Pharma. In the Land of the Obedient, all must listen and obey.

Day after day, country after country, it's 24/7 COVID War... cases, vaccine, masks, lockdowns, etc.

To date, some 2.5 million, in a global population of 7.8 billion, are said to have died from the virus.

Remember, as we have reported, according to the medical establishment, if someone dies of another disease or fell off a ladder and broke their neck, etc., if they test positive for COVID, that's what killed them.

Media Blackout

Current research shows that poisonous pollution being pumped into the air is killing many more than COVID.

Barely reported by the Presstitutes, according to the latest study released by Harvard and the University of Birmingham, 8.7 million people globally died from fossil fuels in 2018.

In India alone, a Harvard University study revealed that over 30 percent of yearly deaths were attributed to air pollution. *The Lancet* published a study late last year that showed air pollution played a direct role in premature deaths in the country of 1.353 billion. They estimate that high levels of air pollution have cost the country's economy \$36.8 billion in 2019.

TRENDPOST: The COVID War has increased newspaper sales and boosted TV broadcast ratings... killer pollution emissions do not.

For every one COVID death, there are 3.5 deaths from air pollution... or, percentage-wise, 8,700,000 air-pollution deaths annually, which is 356 percent greater than the 2,447,000 COVID deaths year-to-date.

Yes, 3.5 times as many deaths from air pollution than the virus! Unlike the virus, which just struck last year, air pollution has been killing all living things by the tens of millions for centuries.

Aside from the many who are listed as having died from pollution, uncounted are those whose lives and health have been compromised due to years of breathing in toxic air.

AIR POLLUTION KILLING CHILDREN BEFORE THEY ARE BORN



Scientists from the University of Connecticut and China's Peking University conducted a study recently that showed about one in 15 lost pregnancies in South Asia could be contributed to air pollution in the region, according to the journal *Lancet Planetary Health*.

WSWS.org reported the study determined that some 349,680 pregnancy losses each year could be tied to “ambient air exposure of more than 40 micrograms per cubic meter of Particulate Matter” (PM2.5).

These women were exposed to levels higher than 40 micrograms of PM2.5, which accounted for “7.1 percent of the total annual pregnancy loss burden” in the region from 2000 to 2016.

The country most impacted was India.

The risk of death from indoor air pollution dropped by 64.2 percent from 1990 to 2019, but deaths due to outdoor air pollution skyrocketed 115.3 percent during the same period.

The report said that nine out of ten people breathe in air that contains more pollution than WHO guidelines. The Institute for Health and Evaluation said air quality in the county was the fifth-highest contributor to mortality in the country.

The latest report said that in 2019, New Delhi experienced an air quality that had PM2.5 levels surpassing 500 micrograms per cubic meter. The *WSWS.org* report stated New Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal compared life in the city to "living inside a gas chamber."

The main contributor to the PM2.5 volume is industrial factories and vehicle fumes, according to the study. A report released last week by the University College London found "mounting evidence that air pollution from ongoing dependence on fossil fuels is detrimental to global health."

"We can't in good conscience continue to rely on fossil fuels when we know that there are such severe effects on health and viable, cleaner alternatives," noted Eloise Marais, a professor at the school and co-author of the study.

Critics say governments do little to take bold steps in preventing fossil fuel deaths. Steven Pinker, a psychologist at Harvard, told the *Hindustan Times* that "air pollution shows errors in risk perception.... It kills millions, largely poor and minorities, but gets a tiny [percent] of the attention of hazards that killed dozens, [such as] terrorism, school shootings, police shootings of unarmed suspects."

TRENDPOST: *The WHO reported that some 91 percent of the world's population live in areas where chemicals contributing to poor air quality exceed guidelines. Yet, these facts and figures are "nonessential" in this era of COVID Hysteria.*

AIR POLLUTION IN INDIA: KILLING ONE IN FIVE



Air pollution in India has caused over one million deaths in 2019, according to a report in the medical journal *The Lancet*. The report said that air pollution causes 1.67 million premature deaths in the country each year.

The report noted the death rate tied to ambient particulate matter pollution increased by 115 percent from 1990 to 2019.

“It increases future risk for heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease for today’s children when they become adults. It is reducing children’s IQ. It will be very difficult for India to move forward socially or economically if they don’t do something about the problem,” said Philip J. Landrigan, MD, the lead researcher and professor of biology at Boston College.

India relies heavily on fossil fuel, which generated 71 percent of the country’s electricity in 2020, according to the country’s Central Electricity Authority. The country suffered \$36.8 billion in economic loss or 1.36 percent of the country’s GDP, according to *The Lancet*.

“It seems increasingly likely that coal power will plateau in the 2020s in India,” Aditya Lolla, a senior analyst for Ember, a climate and energy think tank, said, according to *Electrek*. “But, there is still a risk that India could be knocked off course. As India recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic shock, the choices it makes in the next decade will make or break its coal to clean electricity transition.”

TRENDPOST: Last 24 March, with only a few hours’ notice, hundreds of millions of people of all classes were suddenly put out of work when the government locked down the nation, causing mass migration out of big cities and making hundreds of millions jobless to fight the virus.

During the year that will end on 31 March 2021, India's economy will contract by 9 percent, said ratings agency S&P, not the 5 percent the agency had predicted earlier.

The pandemic and shutdown will rob India's GDP of 13 percent of its potential growth over the next three years, S&P added.

Moody's and Goldman Sachs both forecast a double-digit crash this year for what had been the world's fastest-growing large economy.

TRENDPOST: *To date, some 156,420 people in India have reportedly died from COVID out of a population of 1.388 billion or 0.0113 percent. In America, the land of "The Exceptionals" with a population of 330 million, there are a reported 511,113 virus victims.*

Yet, while India reopened its nation at the end of May last year and much of America is still locked down, virus deaths and cases continue to rise in the U.S. as India's decline.

TRUMP DUMPS ON MCCONNELL



A picture speaks a thousand words. For anyone looking at recent pics of Mitch McConnell – America's former Senate majority leader, now minority leader after the 2020 elections – you know this is not someone in the highest spirits.

Last week, former President Trump's team released a letter Trump had sent McConnell, whom he called "dour, sullen, and an unsmiling political hack."

The New York Times reported that McConnell did not respond to the statement but he has “left little mystery about his contempt for the former president.” The paper, citing a person close to Trump, reported that the initial version of the letter was even tougher than the one ultimately released.

Trump has long complained that Republican leadership did not do enough to support his claim of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election. And the 6 January D.C. rally – where a group of Trump supporters who believed the election was stolen stormed the Capitol building – added another crisis within the Republican Party between Trump backers and those who seek to return the party to its pre-Trump days.

While McConnell voted to acquit Trump during his second impeachment trial because he believed impeaching someone who has already left office is unconstitutional, he declared there “is no question, none, that president Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day.” McConnell said,

“No question about it... The people who stormed this building believed they were acting on the wishes and instructions of their president. And having the belief was a foreseeable consequence of the growing crescendo of false statements, conspiracy theories, and reckless hyperbole which the defeated president kept shouting into the largest megaphone on planet earth.”

Trump’s letter said the Republican Party “can never again be respected or strong with political ‘leaders’ like Sen. Mitch McConnell at its helm. McConnell’s dedication to business-as-usual, status quo policies, together with his lack of political insight, wisdom, skill, and personality has rapidly driven him from Majority Leader to Minority Leader and it will only get worse.”

Trump said McConnell is weak on China and he has “no credibility” on the subject due to his family’s business ties. *Vanity Fair* reported that Elaine Chao, McConnell’s wife who served as the Transportation Secretary under Trump, has an influential Chinese family. Her father started a “shipping, trading, and finance

company” that is now run by her sister. The company is based in New York, and it is reported that 72 percent of its material is shipped to China, which “helps feed” Beijing’s “industrial machine.”

The Times reported McConnell usually calls it racist when Democrats attack his wife over her ties to Beijing.

TREND FORECAST: *In our 12 January article, “[DEMOCRATS: IMPEACH TRUMP](#),” we forecast this is the beginning of the formation of a new political party to replace the failing Republican Party. A 15 February Gallop poll confirmed our forecast, showing that a record-high 63 percent of Republicans favor a third party. The poll also showed:*

“Americans’ desire for a third party has ticked up since last fall and now sits at a high in Gallup’s trend. Sixty-two percent of U.S. adults say the ‘parties do such a poor job representing the American people that a third party is needed,’ an increase from 57% in September.”

Furthermore, just 33 percent of Americans believe the two establishment political parties adequately represent the public.

Among the platforms of a new party will be anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-immigrant, anti-war, anti-Big Brother.

The End

Yesterday, The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a final blow to Donald Trump and his Republican supporters by rejecting eight appeals that contested the 2020 presidential election.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, the political future of Donald Trump is over. He will spend much of his time attempting to salvage his business interests and fight a series of lawsuits that have been filed against him.*

Going from bad to worse, yesterday, the Supreme Court gave the OK to a New York prosecutor to obtain Mr. Trump's tax returns.

CNN: THE VOICE OF HYPOCRISY



CNN was on the defensive last week when they were forced to explain why anchor Chris Cuomo was allowed to interview his older brother, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo when it had long been against company policy.

Spewing out Presstitute B.S., the *Cartoon News Network* told *Newsweek*,

“The early months of the pandemic crisis were an extraordinary time. We felt that Chris speaking with his brother about the challenges of what millions of American families were struggling with was of significant human interest. As a result, we made an exception to a rule that we have had in place since 2013, which prevents Chris from interviewing and covering his brother, and that rule remains in place today.”

Now, with Governor Cuomo under attack for the nursing home scandal – lying about the true number of nursing home victims who died from COVID, in part from his ordering of elderly in hospitals with COVID to be sent back to nursing homes – CNN is backtracking on letting Chris Cuomo interview his big brother.

“We felt that Chris speaking with his brother about the challenges of what millions of American families were struggling with was of significant human interest,” the network told Erik Wemple, the *Washington Post*’s media reporter. “As a result, we made an exception to a rule that we have had in place since 2013, which prevents Chris from interviewing and covering his brother, and that rule remains in place today.”

The interviews between the brothers in the early days of the pandemic were mocked by detractors as an awkward comedy routine. The sets included a large cotton swab and brotherly banter that seemed to make light of the crisis emerging in the state.

The anchor, during one interview, heaped praise on his brother's COVID response, saying he was "wowed by what you did. And, more importantly, I'm wowed by how you did it."

The interviews are all the more controversial because, at the same time they were being filmed, the governor's administration had been accused of underreporting 50 percent of COVID-19 deaths to avoid the political fallout from a March directive that sent patients to nursing homes. The administration said it did nothing wrong and was following federal "guidance."

A U.S. attorney and the FBI have started a preliminary investigation into the governor's team's handling of providing data to state agencies. In the wake of Attorney General Leticia James' damning report, the administration revealed that 15,000 long-term care residents died, a significant jump from the 8,500 previously recorded.

As we reported in last week's article, ["N.Y. GOVERNOR CUOMO: LIAR-IN-CHIEF, PART 2,"](#) Melissa DeRosa, one of Cuomo's top aides, seemed to confirm to other Democrats that Cuomo's administration underreported the numbers because they were concerned former President Trump's administration would use the figures against them. She said they "froze."

Wemple, the *Post* reporter, seemed unforgiving after *CNN*'s explanation.

"You can't nullify a rule when your star anchor's brother is flying high, only to invoke it during times of scandal. You just can't," he wrote, after pointing out *CNN* reinstated the policy that the two will not continue their comedy routine.

In response to the attacks on his handling of the deadly nursing home debacle, on Sunday, Governor Cuomo said, "If anyone had the perfect answer to nursing

home deaths, and if anyone tells you they do, they're lying... Because people are going to die in nursing homes today. If you have the perfect answer, then why will people die in nursing homes in this state, and every other state, in this country?"

TRENDPOST: *Journalism is dead in America and much of the world. As we reported in our **Trends in the News** broadcast, on 10 February, the Financial Times headline read:*

Fox News plans to maintain centre-right slant

The article went on to quote Fox Corporation CEO Lachlan Murdoch, who made it 100 percent clear it is not true journalism that drives Fox News, it is the bottom line.

The Financial Times quoted Murdoch, who stated,

"We will stick where we are and we think that is exactly right and is the best thing for business. We believe where we are targeted, to the centre-right, is exactly where we should be targeted."

There it is: "the best thing for business" is their being "targeted, to the centre-right."

*Unlike the **Trend Journal**, where our motto is "Think for Yourself," for Fox Corporation, it is not about journalism, not about reporting news, but playing to an audience.*

As we reported last week, the networks targeted to the center-left, who loudly praised King Cuomo for his fighting the COVID War, promoting his book deal and celebrating his Emmy Award for his daily COVID briefings, had barely reported on the unfolding nursing home scandal. We wrote that transcripts found the words "nursing homes" and "Andrew Cuomo" were not uttered once on Thursday night during the primetime hours of 8 to 11 PM on CNN or MSNBC.

NYC: HOW TO DEAL WITH SUBWAY STABBINGS



City and state officials in New York are at odds over the best approach to make straphangers feel safer riding the rails after two fatal stabbings.

Sarah Feinberg, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's interim head, has called for the NYPD to increase its subway patrol by 1,000 officers to stem any budding crime wave. Police officials said 644 additional officers would be adequate, and any more would be excessive, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

At a press conference, Feinberg said the agency is concerned about the “uptick in certain crimes and the significant lack of mental health assistance available to those who are clearly experiencing a crisis.”

Rigoberto Lopez, known as the “A-Train Ripper,” is accused of brutally killing two homeless men, the *New York Post* reported. The paper said he has a history of mental health issues.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Malik Jackson, who police say was naked, pushed a straphanger onto the tracks. Jackson died after he landed on the third rail after a scuffle with other riders.

Kathleen O'Reilly, the head of the NYPD transit unit, said the number of policemen assaulted in January 2019 has tripled. The NYPD reported 42 felony assaults in the subway throughout January, with 15 of the victims being police officers.

The COVID outbreak has dramatically reduced the number of New Yorkers who commute to work, and ridership is down from 5.5 million each weekday to about

1.7 million, the *Journal* reported. Feinberg said the subway system will play a vital role in helping the city rebound.

TREND FORECAST: *None of this comes as a surprise to Trends Journal subscribers – when the COVID War was launched, we had forecast there would be a large spike in crime.*

As Gerald Celente has said, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And losing it they are: financially, mentally, and spiritually.

Those suffering from mental health issues can no longer be easily seen by their doctors, and living life under the constant fear of a media-generated, hyped-up contagion is pushing people to the brink. Mayor Bill de Blasio mentioned last week that five New York City public school students killed themselves since the start of the school year. He called the number “very, very painful.”

There were four suicides all of last year, and the Journal pointed out that there are still four months remaining in the school year. De Blasio said,

“It’s not easy when kids aren’t in person and that’s what’s causing so much of the problem here and it’s painful, but we really are trying to help every child... the best thing we can do is just get more and more kids back into school as quickly as possible.”

Crimes will continue to increase on subways as frustrations continue to grow. Politicians aren’t even pretending anymore that a return to normalcy is on the horizon.

“DEADLY IMPACT”? FROM WHERE?

Continuing in a long line of over-hyped, anxiety-ridden headlines by mainstream media, the *Wall Street Journal* published this last Thursday:

U.S. Life Expectancy Fell in First Half of 2020 as COVID-19

Deaths Surged

The article cites data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics that show life expectancy dropped by a full year during the first six months of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

The article states, "The one-year decline from the previous year was the largest drop since World War II, when life expectancy fell 2.9 years between 1942 and 1943. It put life expectancy at its lowest level in the U.S. since 2006."

The data shows that minorities suffered more from the coronavirus during this period than whites. "Life expectancy for Black Americans decreased 2.7 years for the first half of 2020 to 72 years, and for Hispanics, it fell 1.9 years to 79.9 years. Among non-Hispanic whites, it declined 0.8 year to 78 years."

One calculation showed the gap in life expectancy between white Americans and Blacks is wider than it's been in over 20 years. Whites are now living on average six years longer. Interestingly, Hispanics live longer than whites by almost two years.

The Punch Line

Buried toward the end of the article comes a fact that undermines the entire premise stated near the beginning where the co-author of the CDC report, Elizabeth Arias, is quoted: "It's very concerning when we see mortality increase to such a degree. It gives you a clear picture of the magnitude of the effect of the COVID pandemic."

But the picture only becomes "clear" when analyzing a fact not cited until nearly the end of the article: "An increase in drug-related deaths also contributed to the lower life expectancy early last year, Ms. Arias said."

This "increase" in drug-related deaths during the extended lockdowns in all but four U.S. states was substantial. According to [the CDC report](#):

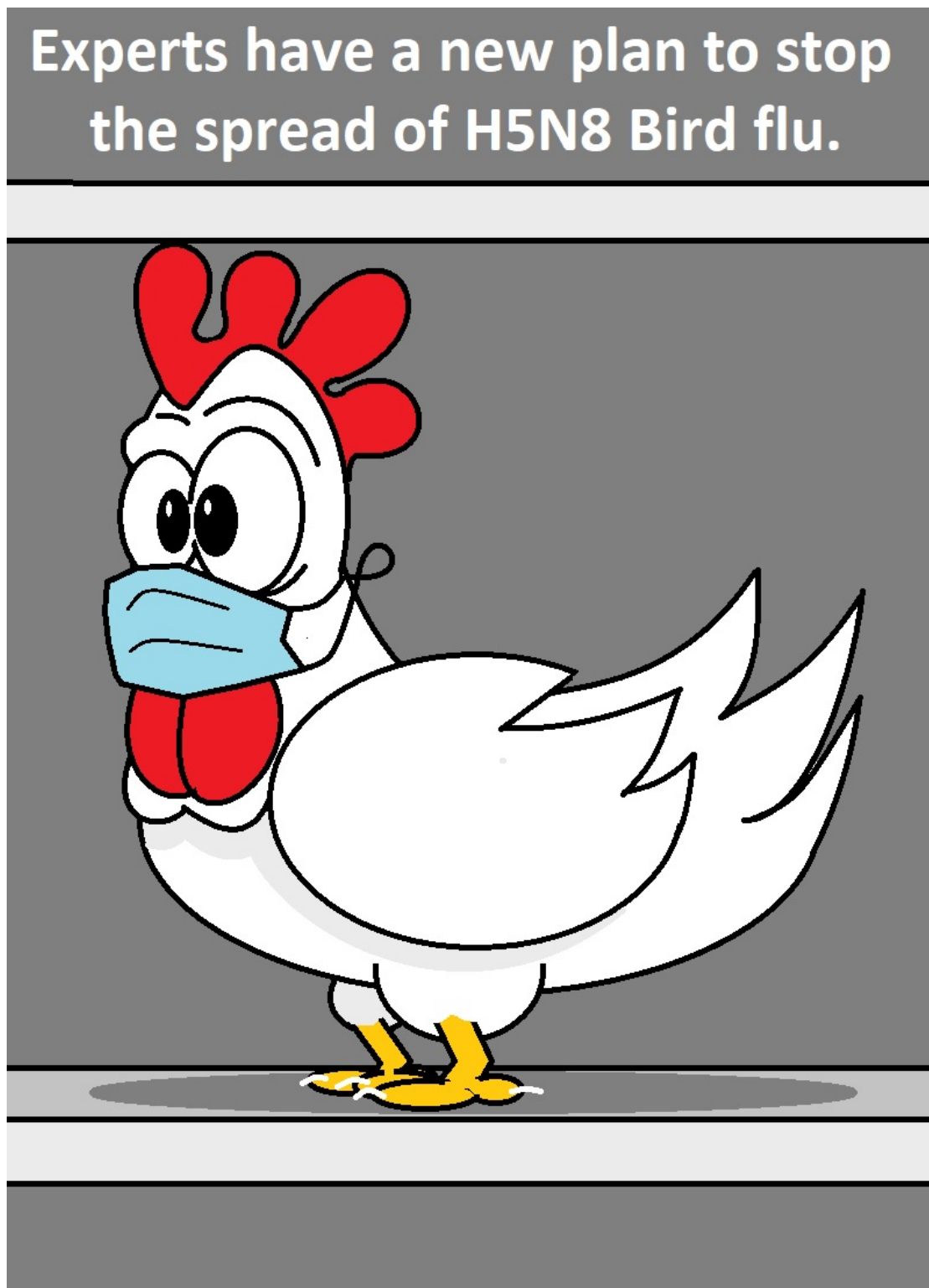
“Overdose deaths for July 2020—the latest month on record—numbered 83,544 for the preceding 12-month period, a roughly 25% increase from July of 2019. The federal agency warned that the actual number of deaths for that period could run as high as 86,000 pending more data.”

Add to this the fact that, according to the American Addiction Centers website, “The number of fatal overdoses increases with age, peaking at 45–54-years-old and then falling. Those in the 45–54 age group have the highest number of deaths out of all demographic.”

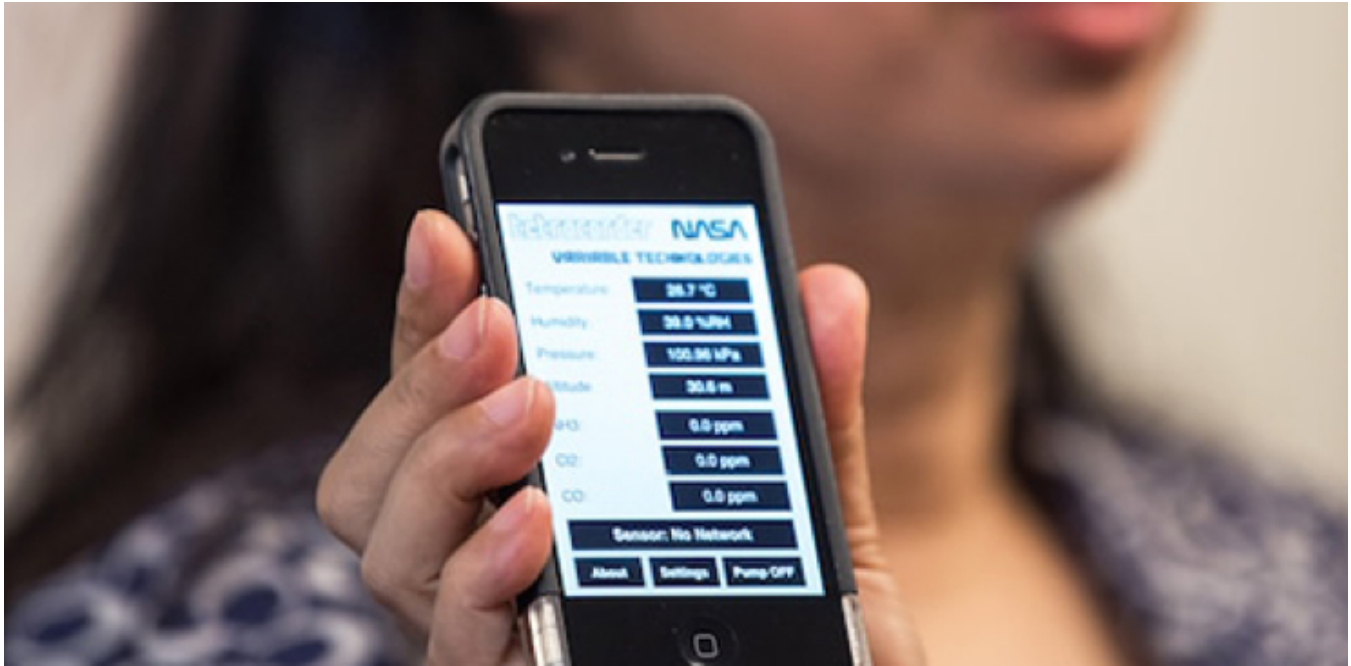
TRENDPOST: *Given that the age group with the highest drug overdose deaths is 45 to 54, and given the added stresses created by the economic and social lockdowns, which have been shown to have caused increased prescription and illegal drug use, it’s logical to conclude that the lockdowns were responsible in large part for the drop in life expectancy rates. (See our 15 September article, “COVID LOCKDOWNS INCREASE DRUG ABUSE.”)*

THE ART OF TRENDS

“Masked Chicken” by *Stephen Green*



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

NEW BREATHALYZER DETECTS AN ARRAY OF DISEASES

For a physician to determine whether you have a particular illness, you usually have to deliver a specific sample – blood, urine, feces, or even a piece of flesh.

Now NASA’s new, handheld “E-Nose” can detect the presence of various sicknesses when someone breathes on it.

The space agency developed the smartphone-like device to check on the health of astronauts spending weeks or months at the International Space Station: if someone in deep space isn’t feeling well, how can you diagnose the illness from thousands of miles away?

Fortunately, many conditions have unique chemical signatures that appear in your breath. For example, higher-than-normal concentrations of nitrogen oxide

indicate asthma, and abnormal amounts of ammonia can point to a stomach ulcer.

The E-Nose will be able to detect a range of respiratory illnesses, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular conditions in less than five minutes and likely one day will find a place in every family doctor's office.

TRENDPOST: *The combinations of technology, miniaturization, and the Internet will continue to make the diagnosis and monitoring of medical conditions easier, faster, and ultimately something that individuals can do by and for themselves.*

Photo credit: U.S. Air Force

RENEWABLE POWER SOURCES TO EDGE PAST GAS & COAL BY 2026



Electricity generated by wind and sunshine will supply more of the world's electricity than gas and coal before 2026, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has predicted in its annual report on global energy.

By then, the two forms of renewable power will produce a third of the world's electricity, equivalent to the combined usage of China and the European Union, the report said.

From now through 2025, the globe will double its wind and solar infrastructure, adding another 1,123 gigawatts, with surges in Europe and the U.S. balancing slower progress in China, India, and the ASEAN nations, the IEA forecasts.

The additions will enable wind and solar power generating capacity, coupled with hydropower and bio-based fuels, to exceed that of natural gas in 2023 and

coal's in 2024, leaving renewable power sources as the world's primary fuel for generating electricity before 2026.

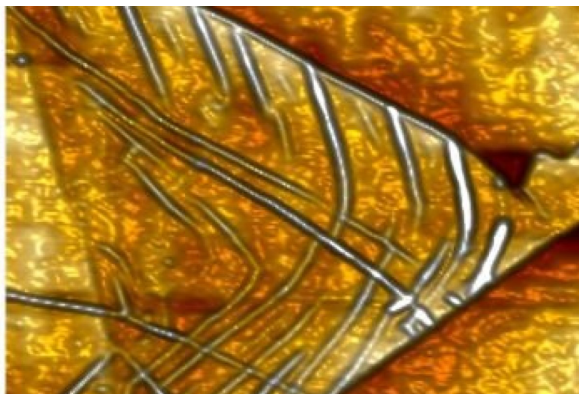
Renewable energy will account for 95 percent of new generating capacity over the next five years, the agency said.

The shift has been accelerated by 2020's economic shutdown, the IEA found. Millions of businesses shuttered for months, cutting power demand and utilities' revenue, forcing them to idle or abandon the least efficient generation plants, which usually were coal-fired.

Recent rapid developments in grid-scale battery storage technologies also will speed the electricity industry's shift from fossil fuels to renewables.

TRENDPOST: *This shift, coupled with improvements in electric vehicles' batteries and charging infrastructure, is accelerating the end of the fossil fuel era. There is no greater harbinger of that transformation than the S&P 500's decision last August to drop ExxonMobil, an index standard since 1928, and replace it with Tesla.*

CRIMPING GRAPHENE TURNS IT INTO MICROCHIPS



As artificial intelligence and other computer software become more, well, intelligent, computers are going to need a lot more processing power while still being able to fit in your pocket.

Hello, graphene.

Graphene – the seemingly miraculous sheets of carbon one atom thick – already can be configured for use as water filters, biosensors, and battery parts, among other things.

Now researchers at the University of Sussex have turned graphene into what may be the world's smallest microchips.

The experimenters were working in “straintronics,” which involves folding, crumpling, twisting, and otherwise playing with graphene’s shape to see how its properties change with its configuration.

They discovered that creasing or kinking strips of graphene made them work like little semiconductors, creating microchips as much as 100 times smaller than conventional silicon chips.

Other differences from traditional chips: the graphene versions don’t require doping with additional materials and can be fabricated at room temperatures, requiring less energy to make.

TRENDPOST: *Conventional methods of manufacturing silicon chips are reaching their practical limits of miniaturization, while computers and their users are demanding more and more processing power. The artificial intelligence revolution will expand those demands by orders of magnitude.*

The use of graphene computer chips is a breakthrough that can micro-miniaturize crucial components and carry tabletop and portable computers well into the consumer-level AI revolution.

Photo credit: University of Sussex