

# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

# COVID-19

# WAR



Our  
FREEDOM

MONEY  
POWER  
CONTROL



# TRENDS JOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

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## COVID WAR

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal, "COVID WAR: MONEY, POWER, CONTROL over

OUR FREEDOM."

The bottom line of the equity markets and global economy is how everything will rebound once the majority of people get vaccinated.

As we report in this issue, and what is making the news, are the side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which much of Europe has now put on hold. Nonetheless, pressures mount to keep the jab going.

That said, it's hard to believe that nations, such as Australia, released a directive to healthcare practitioners warning they risk regulatory action if they undermine the nation's AstraZeneca vaccine rollout!

This is really what the cover of this week's Trends Journal illustrates: facts and science don't matter in fighting the COVID War.

Our Freedom has been stolen from us.

Dissent is not permitted.

Money, Power, and Control are all that matters.

The more we "Think for Ourselves" and question the mainstream media narrative, the more chance we have at changing the bleak future otherwise in store for us all.

Best wishes,

*Gerald Celente, Publisher*

## INFLATION GOING HYPER

Back in the year 2000, on average what cost \$ 1000.00 back then would now cost \$1527.00, a 52.7% increase. Paper money loses value whereas back in 2000, an ounce of Gold was about \$275.00. Now, 20 years later it costs about \$1700.00 + an ounce. As the Fed creates money out of thin air by the Trillions every year, paper money loses value but Gold increases in value. Precious metals .... Gold / Silver automatically increases in value. Precious metals are insurance to protect your savings.

Back when I graduated from the University of Miami in 1965, Gold was about \$35.00 an ounce. For those who cannot afford Gold, Silver is relatively cheap [\$26.00 an ounce / spot price] and for young people it is an A - 1 investment because it is used up in industry whereas most Gold ever mined, is still on earth. Silver will become rare. Expect Gold to rise well over \$ 2000.00 an ounce in the next year. In January 2016 , the National Debt was \$18,807,078,000,000.00 Trillion. Now in January 2021 [5 years later], the National Debt was \$27,800,000,000,000.00 Trillion. And this is just the beginning of possible Hyperinflation. Arminius Aurelius

**grafherman**

## WHAT KIND OF RECOVERY?

A lot of people don't realize there's a big difference between the equities market and economy. Equities market by and sell equities while the economy is geared towards producing goods and services. If we engage in economic recovery by the

equities market then we are made in the wrong things.

**Orlando O. Spencer I™**

### **IT CAN HAPPEN HERE**

I AM WITNESSING THE SAME SOCIAL DYNAMIC BEGINNING ANEW RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES. The Gestapo was tasked with stamping out all opposition to Germany's new Chancellor and the party he brought to power one year earlier.

"April 26, 1933, the interior minister for the German state of Prussia issued a decree creating a new secret state police, or Geheime Staats Polizei, abbreviated: Gestapo.

It operated by collecting tips from ordinary citizens, including even school children. And this network of Gestapo informants changed Germans' behavior almost overnight. Even a joke about the ruling party could land you in a Gestapo interrogation room. Talking politics around your children became a dangerous gamble.

According to Erik Larson's book *In the Garden of Beasts*, 37% of denunciations "arose not from heartfelt political beliefs, but from private conflicts with the trigger often breathtakingly trivial."

**Jean Jacoby**

### **ON MASK MANDATE DECEPTIONS**

I can imagine the rage that erupts from those who read this article and who have lost their businesses, bars, restaurants, their life-time endeavors because of the covid virus and the ridiculous scare-mongering that was perpetrated to get the "sheep" around the world to

capitulate to useless "protections" such as masks and no restaurant dining. I hope people have gained some insight and wisdom in the episode we are still experiencing.

**Beverly Nelson**

### **ALTERNATIVE HEALTH SPANS CULTURES**

Traditional Chinese medicine is not the only source of health care knowledge that is out there. East Indian Ayurvedic cures / medicine, homeopathic, western herbal therapies, whole foods, nutraceuticals are some of these. How about the use of protomorphogens, which are an effective way to help in the fight against autoimmune disorders.

**a1achiropractic**

### **VACCINE MISCARRIAGES AND MORE**

There are many, many more adverse effects and even deaths but many are not reported using VAERS because it's not even known about. People are not given factual information and their doctors make money by providing the vaccine...so you won't hear it from them. I personally know of someone who had a loved one die after their second shot...but of course, as we know - no connection to the vaccine. There will be lies all around with regards to the true numbers of harm and/or deaths. I'd like to know why there aren't doctors and nurses reporting to VAERS? It seems most reports have been from the individuals themselves or family members from what I've seen of the reports.

**Kellie Auld**

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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

On the economic news front, over the past few days, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen made the media rounds to assure the Plantation Workers of Slavelandia that with governments pumping in \$2 trillion to boost the COVID-devastated economy, they will live “happily ever after.” And, despite being out of work and/or real wages sinking lower and just about everything costing a lot more... there is no need to worry about inflation.

“Policymaking is about identifying and addressing risks, and the most significant risk we face is a workforce that’s scarred by a long period of unemployment,” babbled Yellen on ABC’s “This Week.” She went on to say that the price spikes, like gasoline, are just “a temporary movement in prices.”

As for the mounting pile of U.S. government debt, which the Congressional Budget Office projects will hit nearly \$22 trillion at the end of this year, Yellen

said, “When I think about the burden of debt, I think about it mainly in terms of the interest payments that the government needs to pay on those on that debt.”

Thus, with interest rates near zero, the lower the rates, the less they have to pay to service the debt. With inflation rising, so, too, will interest rates. Thus, the higher rates go, the heavier the debt burden.

## **Totally Rigged**

As Gregory Mannarino’s writes in his new article [“INFLATE OR DIE, REVISITED,”](#)

“In the United States, debts and deficits are hyper-ballooning. Where is all of this cash coming from to fill the gap? It is being funded directly by the Federal Reserve, which has, in the literal sense, become the lender and buyer of last resort.”

What does it mean, what’s next? Be sure to read Gregory’s astute market analyses and forecasts.

As we have noted, in front of everyone’s eyes but blind to see, with Ms. Yellen, the former chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, now the U.S. Treasury Secretary, the Bankster Bandits are in complete charge of the United States.

Doubling down on their Bankster power trip, President Biden appointed Nellie Liang to serve as the Treasury’s undersecretary for domestic finance. Already working with Ms. Yellen as an advisor, Ms. Liang spent most of her career working in the Federal Reserve as an “economist.”

As for inflation, while oil prices are down today, Brent crude prices have spiked 82 percent since October. Across the spectrum, from corn to lumber, prices are skyrocketing. In fact, today, the National Association of Home Builders’ chairman told *CNBC*, “Supply shortages and high demand have caused lumber prices to jump about 200% since last April.”

Copper prices jumped 67 percent over the past year. To note, we refer to copper as “Dr. Copper” because it is reputed to have a Ph.D. in economics due to its ability to predict global-economy strength and weakness since it is used in most sectors of industry.

Inflation ahead? Higher interest rates coming?

The Federal Reserve will do all it can to keep rates low, so the gambling game on Wall Street continues. Because when the phony, propped-up, overvalued markets crash, it will be the official start of the “Greatest Depression.” As we continue to note, the illusion of a prosperous Wall Street has no connection to the economic devastation on Main Street, which was caused by politicians launching the COVID War.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have long forecast, the Bull Run markets have been driven by unprecedented stimulus spending by governments. This has, in turn, ballooned the debt bubble, thus, the fears that the fast-rising markets juiced by cheap money will spike inflation. Therefore, fund managers have been buying commodities, which are inflation hedges because the price of commodities rises in tandem with inflation.*

## **ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER RECORD FOR DOW**



Rising for six consecutive sessions, the Dow Jones Industrial Average grew 4.1 percent for the week ending 12 March and closed at 32,778.64, its best week since November.

The S&P 500 added 2.6 percent last week, and the NASDAQ gained 3.1 percent, reversing a three-week string of losses, although it remained 5.5 percent below its 12 February peak of 14,095.

The gains were driven by the passage of President Biden's \$1.9-trillion stimulus program and his news that every American will be eligible to receive a COVID vaccination by 1 May and everyone wishing to be vaccinated can be by June, analysts said.

As the week closed, investors bailed out of government bonds, forsaking safe shelter and seeking higher profits in stocks. The sell-off drove bonds' yield to 1.634 percent, its highest in more than a year.

The continuing rise in bond yields will force prices lower, hampering share prices of companies whose fortunes are tied closely to interest rates, such as tech firms, analysts expect.

Consumers' positive outlook in March rose to 83 in the University of Michigan's monthly survey of consumer sentiment, its highest in 12 months, compared to 76.8 in February.

Also in February, consumer spending grew 2.4 percent month over month, the largest bump since last August and another sign that a sustained recovery might have begun.

Today, the Dow snapped a seven-day winning streak falling 129 points over the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy announcement. As we have continually noted, the fear on The Street is that as inflation rises so, too, will interest rates, thus ending the roaring market splurge.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The word on Wall Street is that the more people get vaccinated, the stronger the economy will grow. As of today, according to the CDC, 11.5 percent of Americans have been vaccinated. Thus, while there will be more confidence among the general population to reemerge into society once most of the nation gets vaccinated, we maintain our forecast that the U.S. economy will temporarily spike higher as the nearly \$2 trillion in government money flows through the system.*

*But, again, the booming markets and economy will decline as inflation rates move higher and interest rates climb. Thus, the question remains: What new schemes undreamed of will Washington and the Federal Reserve create to keep the artificial equities bubble inflated?*

**GOLD/SILVER.** Gold, at \$1,730 per ounce, and silver at \$26 are still trading in the range they were last week.

As we continue to note, much of the investment that would be earmarked for precious metals has flowed into the cryptocurrency markets, which is “gold” for the younger generations.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Since gold’s recent decline, we have now identified its low breakout point at \$1,650 per ounce. Should it hit that level, the downside risk is around \$1,550 per ounce. As for silver, should it break below \$22 per ounce, the downside risk is in the \$17 per ounce range.*

*Considering silver is the most efficient conductor of electricity and its strategic demand in both hi-tech and heavy industry, we do not forecast it will break below that range.*

*We maintain our forecast for gold to break above \$2,100 per ounce this year and silver to move above \$50 per ounce.*

**BITCOIN.** Bitcoin, after spiking to \$60K per coin, is trading in the same range as last week. We maintain our 5 January forecast: “The downward breakout point will be hit should the price fall below \$25,000 per coin.”

**OIL.** As with gold, silver, and Bitcoin, oil prices, while down for three consecutive days, are still hovering around last week’s trading range at \$68 per barrel for Brent Crude. The pullback today is attributed to a slower than expected economic rebound in Europe after over a dozen countries stopped injecting their citizens with the AstraZeneca vaccine... which we have reported about in this issue.

And, supply continues to outstrip demand, as noted by rising oil stockpiles in the U.S. as crude inventories increased by 12.8 million barrels in the week to March 5. The Street had predicted an increase of fewer than 1 million barrels.

**TRENDPOST:** *As we have noted, should military tensions break out in the Middle East and oil prices spike toward the \$100 per barrel range, it will be a spark that could crash equity markets and drive the global economy deeper into the “Greatest Depression.” In this issue of the **Trends Journal**, we highlight some of the dangers ahead as Israel ramps up its military actions against Iran. (See [“ISRAEL TARGETS IRANIAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA.”](#))*

**TRENDPOST:** *Citing Asian economies’ continuing recovery and the U.S.’s new \$1.9 trillion in economic stimulus, the OPEC oil cartel has raised its forecast for daily global oil demand by 200,000 barrels to an average of 4.9 million barrels a day in 2021.*

*The group also added 0.3 percent to its global growth forecast for the year, raising it to 5.1 percent.*

*The 37 advanced nations belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have cut their oil oversupplies to 46 million barrels above the average from 2015 through 2019, OPEC noted.*

*An economic recovery would reduce inventories further, especially in light of OPEC’s decision earlier this month to not increase current production levels. (Russia and Kazakhstan were permitted small boosts in output.)*

*The economic collapse last March cut world oil demand by 6.9 million barrels a day, sending prices below \$30 a barrel for a time. With recovery on the horizon, prices have jumped back to pre-pandemic heights, with benchmark Brent crude closing 12 March at \$69.23.*

## VALUE STOCKS OUTPACE GROWTH STOCKS



So-called “value” stocks – those trading at low multiples of their net worth – are outperforming growth stocks, such as those in tech, by the widest margin since the tech bubble burst in 2001, Dow Jones Market Data reported.

Stocks trading at those low multiples in 2020 tended to be the ones hit hardest by the COVID War-inspired worldwide economic collapse, such as shares of banks, energy producers, and other “cyclical” stocks that rise and fall with the economy.

With the economic future brightening, stock prices for those businesses are climbing, while those of companies that benefited from the lockdowns, such as Apple and Amazon, are cooling.

The Russell 1000 Value Index has jumped 11 percent this year, while the Russell 1000 Growth Index has nudged up only 0.2 percent.

As this month began, Russell’s value index was trading at 21.89 times the previous 12 months’ earnings; the growth index was at 37.22, making value stocks a bargain by comparison.

Profits for the financial, industrial, and materials sectors are predicted to swell 89, 38, and 22 percent respectively this year, according to analysis firm FactSet; in contrast, tech profits are seen as adding 18 percent.

Among investors' newfound favorites as noted by the *Wall Street Journal*: JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America shares have gained 20 percent this year, Chevron is up 32 percent, and Exxon more than 80 percent. All four stocks sank last year.

Energy stocks have floated up on the rising price of oil, with benchmark Brent crude's price increasing 34 percent since 1 January and returning to pre-pandemic levels.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With the massive injections of monetary methadone flooding the economic system, the markets are now trending toward true value rather than expected growth potential. "There's pent-up demand driving accelerating earnings growth, especially among these value stocks that were hurt last year," Jimmy Chang, chief investment officer at the Rockefeller Global Family Office, told the Wall Street Journal. "We still have more fiscal stimulus coming, so that will further turbocharge their growth."*

*Indeed, it will be a "turbo charge" followed by a massive meltdown when the fiscal and monetary money pumping schemes begin to run dry as inflation and interest rates rise.*

## **JOBLESS CLAIMS LOWEST IN ALMOST FIVE MONTHS**



New claims for unemployment benefits dropped to 712,000 in the week ending 5 March from 754,000 the week before, the fewest new filings since early November, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

In February, U.S. employers added 379,000 jobs, the most since last October, the Department noted.

Although the trend is positive, weekly unemployment filings had never reached 700,000 until 2020's economic collapse, even during the Great Recession.

About 4.1 million jobless workers now receive state unemployment benefits; the total number of people receiving all forms of federal and state jobless payments is 20.1 million, according to the *Associated Press*.

The economy remains 9.6 million jobs smaller than it was in February 2020.

Roughly four in ten American households are still dealing with the damage done by the loss of a job or reduction in income, a recent poll by the Associated Press and NORC Center found; 25 percent of households include someone who has been laid off, and 30 percent of Americans are making do with smaller incomes today than before the pandemic.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The word on The Street remains that once society is fully vaccinated, the economy will bounce back to normal, unemployment numbers will decline and the economy will boom.*

*“To fully heal the labor market, the public health situation must be under control,” Ann Elizabeth Konkel, economist for Indeed, the online job placement service, said to the AP. “Coronavirus started this mess and continues to cause massive economic damage on a daily basis.”*

*We disagree. For example, with some 72 percent of its population overweight and 40 percent obese, the public health situation in American was rapidly deteriorating long before the COVID War. In fact, we have been writing about the cost to the nation – physical, emotionally, spiritually – for several years. (See our 11 December 2018 article, [“READY TO EXPLODE.”](#))*

*Health aside, again, there will be an economic bounce-back of some 6 to 7 percent this year in the United States as a result of the stimulus packages. And retail sales, which were down a bit in February because of the winter storms, will also rebound.*

*The boom, however, will be only temporary since the damage inflicted by the COVID War has destroyed many sectors of the economy... from restaurants, hospitality, commercial/apartment rental real estate, trade shows, tourism, concerts, entertainment, conventions, etc., which will not snap back regardless of how many people get vaccinated or how much money is injected into the economy.*

## U.S. HOUSEHOLDS' NET WORTH PASSES \$130 TRILLION



At the end of December, U.S. households measured a record net worth of \$130.2 trillion, according to an 11 March report by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Net worth is the difference between assets and liabilities.

The gain was driven by rising interest rates on bonds, housing prices that climbed 13 percent last year, and a soaring stock market that pushed up the S&P 500 by 12 percent in 2020's final quarter.

Successive rounds of the federal stimulus also buoyed household income and spending through last year's economic crisis.

The growth is likely to continue, aided by the new \$1.9-trillion stimulus pouring into the economy.

After contracting 3.5 percent last year, the U.S. economy will expand by 5.95 percent this year, according to the average forecast of economists recently surveyed by the *Wall Street Journal*; a month ago, the prediction was for a 4.87-percent jump. Goldman Sachs now predicts a 7-percent rise.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development pegs a 6.5-percent U.S. growth in 2021.

Household debt rose 4 percent last year, reaching \$16.64 trillion, compared with a 3.2-percent uptick in 2019. Debt among U.S. businesses shot up 9.1 percent last year, the Fed noted, as companies borrowed to stay afloat through the global economic shutdown.

Federal debt layered on 24 percent, ending 2020 at \$23.62 trillion, about 110 percent of 2019's GDP of \$21.43 trillion.

**TRENDPOST:** *During her interview on ABC this past Sunday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jane Yellen dismissed concerns regarding the unprecedented size of the federal debt: "In spite of the fact that the debt is increased substantially... interest payments relative to... the size of the economy has remained quite low, no higher than they were back in 2007," she said.*

*While acknowledging that "in the longer run, we need to get deficits under control to make sure that our fiscal situation is sustainable," Yellen left blank how the rocketing deficits would be controlled as the path forward indicates continuing flows of cheap money.*

## DEMOCRATS CRAFT PLAN TO "OUTCOMPETE" CHINA



Democrats in the U.S. Senate are drafting a bill designed to blunt China's technological advantage and vault the U.S. into leadership in high-tech manufacturing and other industries that will define the global economy in coming

decades.

Senate committees are working on aspects of the legislation and could have a bill ready to introduce next month, Congressional officials disclosed to *The Washington Post*.

The new bill is based on the "Endless Frontier Act" that Democrats introduced last year.

The measure proposed \$10 billion to establish regional tech hubs to incubate new businesses, particularly in manufacturing. The plan also would have

redefined the “National Science Foundation” as the “National Science and Technology Foundation” and given it \$20 million annually for five years to fund basic research, product development and testing, and small manufacturing pilot projects.

The new, broader bill also would expand the U.S. semiconductor industry and speed the spread of 5G wireless technology nationwide, among other advances, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer said in a statement quoted by *The Washington Post*.

The legislation also could address issues ranging from China’s theft of U.S. intellectual property and its currency manipulations to the Asian nation’s chokehold on the world’s supply of crucial rare earth minerals, insiders told *The Post*.

“We need to get a bill like this to the president’s desk quickly to protect America’s long-term economic and national security,” Schumer commented in February.

“This is literally the highest potential for bipartisanship of almost any policies you can think of. I think it makes a lot of sense,” Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum and a former director of the Congressional Budget Office, commented to *the WP*.

***TREND FORECAST: Too little too late. As we have detailed over the decades, after the United States and Europe brought China into the World Trade Organization in 2001 and gave the Chinese nation all of what they needed and never had in heavy industry to hi-tech, Beijing 2021 no longer relies on the West for advancements in innovation.***

*The money earmarked by the United States is chump change in the grand scheme of research and development and, as with most of these projects, nothing of substance will be achieved and the taxpayer money will be shoveled into the pockets of Washington’s revolving door club.*

*As we have forecast: The 20th century was the American century. The 21st will be China's.*

## **RESTAURANTS OPENING BUT CUSTOMERS STILL HESITATE**



Although every state now allows indoor restaurant dining to some degree, and 22 states permit eateries to be open at full capacity, 47 percent of potential diners are not ready to enter, according to a late February poll by CivicScience.

About 37 percent of respondents were planning to eat inside a restaurant in the week following the survey, the poll found.

Orders at sit-down restaurant chains fell 37 percent year on year for the week ended 21 February, the research firm NPD Group reported.

Florida gave restaurants leave to reopen fully in September. Some restaurateurs say sales are reaching pre-pandemic levels, but in early March, statewide reservations remained about 20 percent below the same time a year earlier, according to Open Table, an online booking site.

Business at eateries in Orlando and other tourist hotspots is slow, operators told the *Wall Street Journal*.

More than 110,000 bars and restaurants shut down temporarily or permanently in 2020, the National Restaurant Association has reported.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Many of the businesses that have been lost in the industry will not return. Even in the best of times, the restaurant business has small profit margins. And now, with much of Europe still facing lockdowns and restrictions, many more restaurants will go out of business.*

*On the up note, with commercial real estate price tumbling in major cities such as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and overseas, there will be new opportunities for those who could not afford to operate at previous high rental costs.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *As we have noted, the lower the rents, the greater the opportunity for occupancy increases in dying cities. The Wall Street Journal reported that Pinko, an Italian fashion house, has sublet 4,925 square feet of space in New York's SoHo neighborhood for a year for its new U.S. flagship store. Valentino, another Italian clothier, has taken space in the district. In December, Target leased 27,500 square feet nearby.*

*Low rents have lured tenants to the trendy shopping area, brokers say, and the prospect of mass vaccinations is expected to bring tourists ready to spend.*

*More than 29 percent of SoHo's retail space was vacant at the end of last year, the Journal reported.*

*The widespread vacancies pushed rents down from \$370 per square foot in 2019 to \$290 at the end of 2020, according to Cushman & Wakefield, a real estate services firm. SoHo's rents peaked at \$556 in 2016.*

*SoHo seems to be reviving at the expense of other Manhattan neighborhoods. Pinko closed stores on West Broadway and Madison Avenue to concentrate on the SoHo spot; Valentino is abandoning its Fifth Avenue locale.*

## **CONSTRUCTION: UPS AND DOWNS**



While there is a building boom going on in much of the nation as people escape inner cities for suburbs and ex-burbs, the

employment levels in the construction industry continue to fall.

Only eight states have regained the number of construction jobs they had in February 2020 and 19 states lost building jobs in January this year, according to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGCA).

During the 12 months preceding February 2021, Texas lost 51,900 jobs, about 6.6 percent of its construction workforce. California shed 36,200 jobs, New York 26,000 jobs. Louisiana and Wyoming also suffered especially large losses.

About 34 percent of the 1,500 firms the AGCA surveyed have cut payrolls in the past 12 months, with only 20 percent adding workers.

More than 75 percent of the firms reported having projects canceled or deferred in the past year.

Only 21 percent said they had landed new projects or expansions to existing ones in December and January. During those two months, California lost another 4,000 jobs in construction; 3,200 disappeared in each of Illinois and South Carolina.

***TRENDPOST: A “new” New Deal? While Donald campaigned back in 2016 to rebuild America’s decaying infrastructure, he did not fulfill his campaign promise.***

*President Biden is also promoting an infrastructure repair movement. What will boost construction employment? AGCA officials said in the statement that the federal government should aid the industry by investing in infrastructure, ending tariffs on crucial building materials, resolving supply chain disruptions, and not imposing needless regulations.*

## NEW YORK LANDLORDS KEEP APARTMENTS OFF THE MARKET



Gambling that demand for Big Apple apartments will bounce back and rents will rise in response, some landlords are keeping empty New York City apartments off the market, *Business Insider* reported.

Last August, landlords had “warehoused” 5,563 flats, according to UrbanDigs, a real estate analysis firm. The number dropped to 1,814 in February, but that remains three times more than a year previous.

Rents in Manhattan plunged 15.5 percent in 2020 and 8.6 percent in Brooklyn and Queens, all record declines, analysis firm StreetEasy said. Manhattan’s median asking rent was \$2,750, the lowest since March 2010 during the Great Recession, and many landlords were offering as many as three months’ free rent to lure tenants.

Such deals are likely to ebb as more of the population is vaccinated and workers are scheduled to return to their offices in significant numbers, Chris Schmidt, senior vice president of apartment owner Related Companies, told *BI*.

That is likely to take the rest of this year, economist Nancy Wu with StreetEasy, commented to *BI*.

“Rents will continue to be lower than they were a year ago for the full year,” she said. “Even with the vaccine coming, it’s not going to magically make the huge glut of inventory go away. Prices will continue to fall until... more jobs are recreated from the loss of small businesses and the city returns, somewhat, back to where it was before the pandemic started.”

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## OECD: COUNT ON U.S. TO BOOST WORLD GROWTH

The surge in U.S. economic growth this year, spurred by massive government stimulus spending, will fuel a strong global rebound, according to an analysis by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The world's economy will reach pre-pandemic output levels by the middle of this year, the OECD now predicts, six months earlier than it had forecast last November.

It now sees a 5.6-percent pace of global growth this year, compared to the 4.2 percent it had foreseen four months ago.

That growth will be driven in significant measure by a U.S. GDP rise of 6.5 percent in 2021, it said, more than twice the expansion it predicted in November, and the country's largest one-year bump since 1984.

The forecast is based on President Biden's newly-approved \$1.9-trillion stimulus program working in tandem with a speedy vaccination campaign to reopen the U.S. economy quickly, according to comments by OECD chief economist Laurence Boone quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

The U.S. economy will be larger at the end of 2022 than it was expected to be when predictions were being made late in 2019, the OECD believes.

Turkey will be the only other Group of 20 economies to achieve that level of growth this year, according to the group.

The Eurozone's economy will grow 3.9 percent this year, not the 3.6 percent the OECD forecast last fall, the research organization said. China's economy will slip slightly; the group now sees the country's economy growing 7.8 percent this year, not the 8 percent it had expected in November.

India's GDP will contract by 8 percent during its current fiscal year but will balloon by 12.6 percent in the next, the OECD said.

Strong U.S. growth poses a risk to developing economies, however.

Higher bond rates in the U.S. could siphon money away from emerging markets, which drew significant foreign investment recently. That would weaken currencies in developing nations, slowing their economic recovery and making it harder for them to repay their massive dollar-denominated foreign debt, the OECD warned.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The OECD estimates are also based on the belief that mass vaccinations will reduce lockdown restrictions and restore lost business opportunities.*

*Again, while there will be a sharp rebound, many of the sectors that have been devastated by the COVID War such as hospitality, tourism, restaurants, brick and*

*mortar retail, entertainment, theater, museums, air travel, cruise ships, conventions, trade shows, concerts, etc., will only marginally bounce back.*

*And now with vaccination-on-pause policies in many European nations – and setting fear in many of the public to become injected – the Job-recovery will slow down as will expected economic growth projections.*

## **SHUTDOWN COST EUROPE 5.7 MILLION JOBS**



In the spring of 2020, 5.7 million fewer Europeans were working than at the end of 2019, according to a new report from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

In the 12 months preceding spring 2020, employment across the continent slipped 2.4 percent and the average workweek shrank by one hour, the study found.

Workers younger than 25 were more likely to be fired, while older workers were more likely to have their work hours cut, the foundation noted.

“By July 2020, nearly 50 percent of EU workers had moved to exclusive or partial telework,” the study reported, “opening up new labor market gulfs as the more highly educated and those in urban areas were better placed to work from home.”

While the Great Recession did its worst damage to the middle class, 2020’s economic crisis fell most heavily on lower-wage workers, the study revealed.

Europe’s jobless rate will average 8.6 percent this year and settle around 8 percent in 2022, the foundation predicted, both figures lower than those reached during the Great Recession.

**TREND FORECAST:** *As evidenced across the employment spectrum, regardless of the nation, it is the younger generations that are being hit the hardest by the COVID War. Whether not being able to afford higher education, as we have reported, or out of work and fed up with the ruling establishment, a “Youth Revolution 2021” has begun.*

*Beyond the protests raging against dictatorial governments, rising depression levels, increased drug use, etc., we forecast new political parties and movements led by younger generations that will challenge political old-timers.*

*And, as we keep emphasizing, the “Youth Revolution” signals the onset of OnTrendpreneur® opportunities for new looks, sounds, and styles that appeal to a mindset and culture that has yet to find its own identity.*

## **EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK: BOND-BUYING SPEED-UP**



With interest rates edging up in Europe as U.S. yields rise and the American economy readies to rebound, the European Central Bank (ECB) will accelerate its €1.85-trillion bond-buying program “at a significantly higher pace

than during the first months of the year,” ECB president Christine Lagarde said at an 11 March news conference.

The accelerated purchases, beginning immediately, are intended to hold Europe’s interest rates as low as possible while the region’s lagging economic recovery takes hold.

Market interest rates have increased in 2021, “which poses a risk to wider financing conditions,” the ECB said in a statement announcing the policy change.

“Sizeable and persistent increases in these market rates,” if not checked, “could translate into premature tightening of financial conditions for all sectors of the economy,” it warned.

The bank still has about €1 trillion left in its bond-buying budget, Lagarde noted in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Lagarde did not elaborate on whether the ECB would expand its budget for buying bonds or how much faster the bank would buy bonds. However, she did say the bank will buy bonds through March 2022, as previously planned, and could expand the scope of the program if necessary.

“If, to preserve favorable financing conditions, we need to recalibrate” the program’s budget, “we will do so,” she confirmed.

The ECB also is keeping its benchmark interest rate at -0.5 percent, Lagarde said.

Europe’s COVID vaccine campaign has been sluggish, keeping social restrictions in place in many countries and slowing the continent’s economic recovery. Italy has just entered a stringent new lockdown.

Holding interest rates low is crucial to the region’s economic stability, Lagarde indicated.

The news lowered bond rates across Europe; rates in Italy, the economy of which has been devastated by the worldwide economic collapse, dropped from 0.681 to 0.557 percent, its lowest in three weeks.

Bond rates are rising in the U.S. because investors expect the accelerating economic recovery there to spark inflation, spurring the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise rates to contain it. Bond rates are rising in Europe to attract bond-buyers who are investing in the U.S., analysts say.

Asked about the risk of inflation, Lagarde said it might rise to 2 percent due to “technical and temporary reasons” but she did not address the long-term inflation outlook.

Europe’s economy will grow at 3.9 percent this year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has predicted, while the U.S. GDP will expand by 6.5 percent. The difference reflects the U.S. government’s greater economic stimulus and speedier vaccine dissemination, the group said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The game is rigged. The central Banksters will invent whatever they can to artificially prop up overvalued equity markets and sinking economies. Short term, it will provide a boost, in the long term, it provides bullish movements for precious metals and cryptocurrencies as “investors” seek safe-haven assets to counter higher interest rates, falling currency values, and sinking equity markets.*

## **JAPAN: LESS JABS, MORE CHEAP MONEY**



After its most comprehensive policy review in five years, the Bank of Japan will continue its program of quantitative easing, Masayoshi Amamiya, the bank’s chief monetary strategist, indicated in a speech last week cited by the *Financial Times*.

The bank was mulling near-term policy changes but decided to leave its strategy unchanged because the country’s COVID vaccine campaign has been sluggish, analysts say.

The central bank has been buying government bonds since 2013 to prop up the economy and now owns debt larger than Japan’s GDP, the *FT* reported.

In 2016, the bank adopted a policy of “yield curve control,” buying the volume of bonds needed to keep ten-year interest rates near zero.

**TRENDPOST:** *As for the COVID vaccine being the key to restore economic growth in Japan, it appears unlikely since about 40 percent of a group of elderly Japanese surveyed said they are unsure whether they want to get jabbed.*

*What is holding back economic growth in Japan are economic fundamentals. The BOJ’S overnight interest rate remains at -0.1 percent. It will do what it can, as with other central banks, to buy bonds, keep interest rates artificially low, and inject as much as it can to artificially inflate its sagging economy.*

*And, there is speculation that the government will continue to impose its January state of emergency lockdown restrictions on the Tokyo and Kanagawa, Chiba, and Saitama prefecture metropolitan areas that were supposed to be lifted on Sunday.*

*Under Japan’s COVID War rules, people are told to stay home and restaurants and bars must close by 8:00 PM. Thus, the longer they stay locked down, the further economic growth will fall.*

## **JAPANESE CAR MAKERS COOL TO BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES**



In 2010, Japanese carmaker Nissan introduced the Leaf, the world’s first mass-produced fully electric car.

A decade later, that nation’s auto industry has decided to step back – sticking with hybrid gas-and-battery vehicles, a market it dominates, and leaving the work of breaking ground in the nascent all-electric market to others.

The market for hybrids will continue to grow until 2027, according to an analysis by data firm IDTechEx, despite moves by California and the U.K. to ban them in their push to end the fossil fuel era.

In contrast, fully electric vehicles (EVs) now make up only about 3 percent of global car sales, with buyers having to deal with a limited range between charges, a continuing lack of public charging stations, and long wait times while cars charge.

In 2020, Japanese EVs made up only about 5 percent of that 3 percent of global EV sales, and 65 percent of that 3-percent sliver was Leafs.

Although Toyota is in partnerships with Mazda, Subaru, and Suzuki to develop EVs, company president Akio Toyoda derided the idea that Toyota would abandon hybrids.

He accused the news media of glorifying EVs and pointed out that all-battery vehicles are no more environmentally clean than the power sources used to charge them or the factories that make them, in comments quoted by *The New York Times*.

Instead of plowing resources into an increasingly crowded EV market, Japan's government and car companies have decided to capitalize on their expertise in hybrid technology, wringing all the market share and profit they can from it, while others soften the market for EVs.

Japanese regulators have said they will soon release guidance on the future of fossil fuel vehicles in the country.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have long been reporting, there will be no major EV breakthrough unless there is a new type of battery than the current ones being used. And again, while EVs continue to make the news as the autos of the 21st century, just 3 percent of car sales in 2020 were electric vehicles.*

## 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.

The following overview of the current economic trends further paints China's socio economic future.

**CHINA BEGINS TO WITHDRAW ECONOMIC SUPPORTS.** China has become the first major nation to begin to wind down government supports instituted to prop up its economy during 2020's pandemic and global economic collapse.

As 2020 ended, China's stimulus spending totaled about 6 percent of GDP, compared to 19 percent in the U.S., according to the International Monetary Fund.

"As the economy resumes growth, we will make proper adjustments in policy but in a moderate way," Premier Li Keqiang said at an 11 March news conference.

"Some temporary policies will be phased out, but we will introduce new structural policies like tax and fee cuts to offset the impact," he added.

The country's leaders have previously expressed concern about China's housing bubble and are eager to return to the initiative begun during the Great Recession to reduce the national debt.

Regulators have imposed new rules making it harder for highly-leveraged property developers to get new loans.

In 2020, Chinese debt rose 24 percent to reach 270 percent of GDP, government data shows, with lending picking up in February after slowing for four months.

“It’s very clear that China’s policymakers intend to unwind stimulus and tighten policies,” Ding Shuang, chief China economist at Standard Chartered Bank, said to the *Wall Street Journal*, “but they’ve been treading carefully without making a sudden U-turn.”

Much depends on China’s approach to reining back its economic supports.

If it moves too quickly, China’s economic recovery could stumble, with worldwide ripple effects. Abrupt actions also could set off a wave of corporate debt defaults and spark a stock market selloff as investors already are worried that share prices may be overinflated.

Despite its cautious approach, there will be some damage, analysts say.

“As China exits supportive measures, some of the problems that got glossed over last year may show up this year,” Wang Tao, UBS’s China economist, told the *WSJ*. “We expect to see more corporate defaults and a higher bad loan ratio.”

China is beginning to end supports as the U.S. and Europe expand theirs, indicating differing views of the economic crisis, the *WSJ* noted. China sees the shutdown as a temporary disruption, while western nations view it as a long-term problem needing continuing action.

**CHINA ANNOUNCES EXPANDED HIGH-SPEED RAIL NETWORK.** By 2025, China’s railway network will have joined all of the country’s cities with 200,000 or more people and high-speed “bullet trains” will connect 98 percent of urban areas with populations of at least 500,000, Lu Dongfu, chair of the China State

Railway Group (CSRG), told the *People's Daily* newspaper during the current meeting of the National People's Congress.

Since 2016, China's rail system has expanded to include 20.9 percent more of the country, nearly doubling the number of high-speed rail routes to 37,900 kilometers or about 23,550 miles.

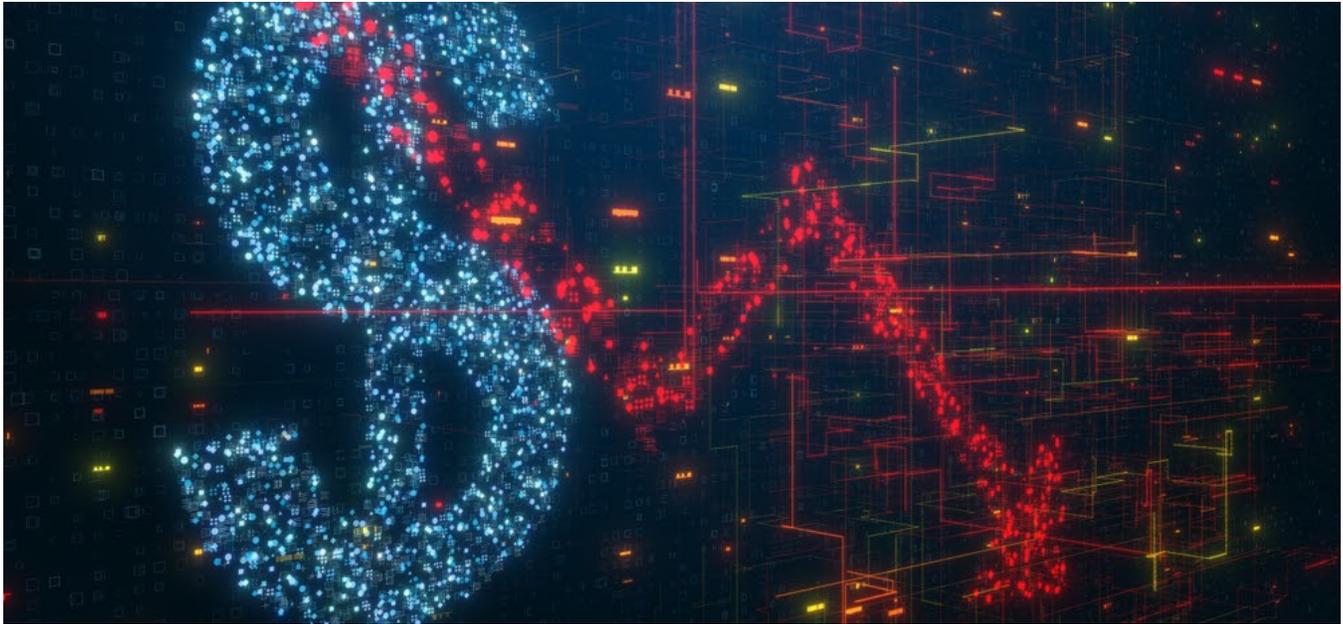
The country has completed four major east-west lines and four major north-south lines ahead of schedule and is now beginning a project to double the number in both directions, Lu said.

Over the past five years, the rail system counted 14.9 billion passenger trips, 60 percent of which were on bullet trains, the CSRG reported. The numbers showed gains of 41 and 152 percent, respectively, over the loads recorded for 2011 through 2015.

China also is bringing aboard an improved generation of its "Fuxing" high-speed trains, developed by a consortium of government, private businesses, and research universities. The new trains, which travel at speeds above 200 mph, use less energy, are greener, and have more "smart" automated controls, Lu announced.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this advancement in China as America's train system sinks into Third World status... not a bullet train to be had and subways systems that rival a night in Calcutta. Also, rather than pumping money to artificially inflate equity markets and the economy as Washington has done in their fight to win the COVID War, Beijing injected stimulus into its infrastructure and small businesses.*

# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## INFLATE OR DIE, REVISITED

By *Gregory Mannarino*, [TradersChoice.net](http://TradersChoice.net)

On May 16, 2020, the **Trends Journal** published my article, [“INFLATE OR DIE.”](#)

In the article, I outlined a situation unfolding at the time, and I also made it known that the Federal Reserve has one primary goal: TO OWN IT ALL.

Since the article was published ten months ago, everything I forecast has come to be. Moreover, the mechanism of “inflate or die,” which is being utilized by central banks around the world, continues to expand exponentially.

Just this past week, the U.S. stock market again hit new, record highs. I foresaw this as well, as I noted numerous times in other articles I’ve written for the **Trends Journal**. Also forecast in my articles was that cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, which just broke over \$60,000 this past weekend, would continue to gain in value.

Regarding the Federal Reserve's balance sheet, since I wrote "INFLATE OR DIE" last May, it is now a massive 75 percent larger.

Also outlined in my articles for the **Trends Journal** is that as long as the Fed's balance sheet continues to inflate, so will the stock market. The "inflate or die" mechanism being used by the Fed, which is dictating the ever-inflating stock market bubble, will continue.

Today, stock prices have zero bearing on reality; there is no real price discovery mechanism whatsoever. Ever-increasing and epic price distortions continue to manifest themselves as a direct result of "inflate or die" across the entire spectrum of asset prices. These distortions are soon to get much worse.

In the United States, debts and deficits are hyper-ballooning. Where is all of this cash coming from to fill the gap? It is being funded directly by the Federal Reserve, which has, in the literal sense, become the lender and buyer of last resort.

To understand the current situation of "inflate or die," one must understand the end game. Since the establishment of the Federal Reserve System in 1913, *allowing private banks to take over the monetary system*, the single-minded, unrelenting goal of the Federal Reserve was to one day own it all – to be the lender and buyer of last resort.

In my 9 March article, "[THE FED: INFLATE BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY](#)," I outlined the next step the Federal Reserve would use to bring about more influence over the markets, and that is Yield Curve Control.

For the Federal Reserve and the stock market, YCC is the logical next step. YCC will allow the Federal Reserve to manage the debt market to an extreme and inflate even more. As a result, the stock market will vault higher. The cost of YCC in real terms will be the accelerated loss of the purchasing power of the dollar, which will hit consumers hard. There is also another effect: a higher-priced-in-devalued-dollars stock market.

The simplest way to counter “inflate or die” is to take the opposite side of the equation and hold assets that are being deliberately manipulated to the downside. Assets that are “on sale” as a direct result of manipulation and the “risk on” cycle of the market.

A “risk on” cycle is when cash is making its way into the stock market being fostered by another mechanism. That “other mechanism” is a hyper-inflating debt market bubble. A “risk off” cycle is when cash leaves the stock market and seeks “safety.” *A debt market meltdown will foster an epic risk-off cycle.*

Today, the risk-on market cycle is being maintained via “inflate or die,” but the central bank end game is to at one point create a massive risk-off cycle, a deliberate crisis in the debt market.

More money is made when the markets fall faster than when they rise. As I have covered in past articles, markets are driven by two factors: Fear and Greed. Fear is stronger, and when everyone goes running for the door at the same time, stock prices will plummet. When this happens, the investment banks, hedge funds, and traders will simply short, or bet against asset prices, and all that accumulated cash flooding the stock market will be transferred from one person’s reality to another. The result: a total wipeout of the Middle Class.

It’s all by design... and it’s coming.

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## SELF-DEFENSE SPRAYS

by *Bradley J. Steiner*

I have always been against mace, tear gas, pepper sprays, etc., for self-protection. This is why:

After experimenting with a relatively large number of students years ago, I found that the effectiveness of these sprays was unimpressive. They did work effectively to make some individuals stop in their tracks and cease all action save that of recovering from being sprayed, but well over half were easily able to fight through the effect of the spray and continue their attack. And those who were stopped were in a passive, non-violent state of mind and body.

After studying a large number of police reports wherein officers described their having utilized the spray their department issued (mace or pepper, etc.), it was obvious that in many cases, the individual who was sprayed showed no reaction to the spray save that of becoming enraged and continuing to resist the officers.

Every police officer with whom I spoke regarding the issue of sprays told me the only reason they carried and sometimes used them was that it was required by their department's policies, and by employing the spray, they “covered their asses.”

Well, cops might be able to afford this initial effort to stop an aggressor. After all, they carry guns. And, in most instances when sprays were used, more than one armed officer was present; so overwhelming numbers and armed force were available if and when the sprays failed.

Crazy people (i.e., truly insane and frenzied nut jobs) are virtually immune to all sprays. Sprays provide a false sense of confidence when, as is generally the case, private-citizen purchasers believe that “the spray is a great substitute if you want a self-defense weapon but don’t want to carry a gun.” Bullshit.

Over the ensuing years since my dismissal (with contempt!) of self-defense sprays, I have come to see, however, if and when backed up with firearms that may be brought into play should it become necessary, I can see a use for some of the more powerful defense sprays now available.

I began to think about this while observing the insurrectionist mob riots and looting that took place, and that, sadly, still take place now and then in urban America. While shooting rioters and looters is the obvious, sensible best way to stop them, the climate is such in our decaying culture that decent citizens may be arrested and persecuted for shooting these individuals.

Witness the instance when that couple in Missouri armed themselves and simply positioned themselves outside their home to be ready to defend their lives when a trespassing mob broke through the gate and proceeded menacingly close to them. These two completely innocent people – both lawyers, as I recall – were arrested and charged with a felony. They were disarmed by the police (who did nothing to stop the rioting mob), and face the loss of their right to own firearms if convicted of this outrageous charge.

This is atrocious, unreasonable, and contrary to the human right to self and home defense. But the prosecuting attorney where this occurred couldn't have cared less. Remember, the "law" is merely codified custom; and when those who enforce and adjudicate the law decide to spit on common sense, justice, and basic human decency, well, you're S—T OUT OF LUCK. Their interpretation of what constitutes justice now overrides objectivity.

Had this couple been my students, they would have been taught NOT to exit their homes, but to arm themselves, be ready, and call immediately for police assistance and not hang up the phone. It would have been, I believe, obviously and incontestably justifiable to use their firearms if the mob broke into and entered the couple's home.

If that couple exited their home (unwise in any case, but if they had), and if they had been in possession of powerful pepper sprays that they held harmlessly at their sides just in case, they really could never have been charged with any felony crime. If the rodents had then advanced on them, using the sprays to give themselves time to turn around and get inside their home would have been completely legal. Then, once inside their home, they could access their firearms and be prepared should a violent break-in occur.

Now, here is a thought (or more precisely, my thought) regarding sprays. It just might be wise in instances when groups of rioting rodents descend upon an area, for citizens to greet them – in numbers – armed with powerful pepper sprays, and douse the group until they are saturated with the gunk.

Quality sprays will travel 16-18 feet, and since the sprays neither maim nor kill and are legal, citizens using them when defending against attack would not face charges of unlawful firearms use. Of course, in direct defense of life and limb, should that be immediately necessary, GUNS remain the wise option. So, my advocacy of this limited use of sprays should never be construed as suggesting sprays to be an alternative to firearms.

On an individual level, a young lady who is armed with a licensed handgun and a powerful pepper spray might, if she has the warning to see one or more

scumbags approaching her with clearly criminal intentions, utilize a spray before the garbage gets within very close range.

This will: a) Disorient him/them for a second or two, and b) Give her a chance to access her firearm. Just possibly, when seeing a gun aimed at them, the trash will think better of attacking this particular lass. That will save her the trauma of needing to deal with law enforcement and the unjust “justice” system because she shot the rats. Still, if the felons continue their advance despite having been sprayed... well... she will be able to deal with that by recourse to her weapon.

You decide. If this makes sense to you, then – with the very realistic understanding of the limitations and shortcomings of spray defense devices, you might see how these might augment your armed readiness to protect yourself.

I can suggest two devices in particular:

### **Sabre Red Pepper Gel and Fox Labs 5.3M SHU Police Pepper Spray**

The input I have received from respectable sources rates those two products as high quality.

Just remember: sprays are not a substitute for firearms, and you want to have a solid backup ready for those limited occasions when you might opt for using a spray before resorting to your gun.

*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



## INTRODUCING JUICING INTO YOUR DIET

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

I've been juicing for myself and educating others about this natural way to consume maximal nutrients since I opened my first health food store, Creative Health Foods, in 1967. It also eventually had Manhattan's first juice bar.

Twenty years ago, I wrote the first edition of *The Joy of Juicing*. It was the first of my books about juicing and became a health and nutrition bestseller. (A new edition of this book will be released shortly.)

Back then, I could not have imagined that today tens of millions of individuals would be enjoying the full-spectrum benefits of fresh juice daily. Many people are now using their own extractors and blenders to make great juices and smoothies. For those who don't want to buy the produce and make it themselves, fresh-bottled juices are widely available in markets across the country. Companies such as Jamba Juice have created successful business models around juicing. Even Starbucks, which recently bought out a juice bar

chain, has set its sights on the fresh juice phenomenon. Who could have thought juicing would have evolved to where it is today?

Over the years, I have interviewed leaders in the natural health and nutrition field from all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe. A high percentage of my guests and program's listeners advocate juicing. More than ever, I hear testimonials of how people turned their health around while on a cleansing juice fast, or how individuals were able to lose weight or overcome serious medical conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, and cancer by using combinations of different juices.

It might be said that today we live in a society of temptations. Fast food, processed food, and comfort foods are at every corner if not at arm's reach. The biocides, chemical toxins, genetic altering, and industrial processing that go into these foods leave them depleted of essential nutrients and full of unhealthful fats, carbohydrates, and proteins.

Drinks are often ignored as part of this problem. For example, oversized unhealthy drinks, concentrated with processed sugars, have become completely accepted as our culture's diet contributes directly to our obesity pandemic.

Adding to this dietary crisis, many make other poor lifestyle choices: smoking, drinking alcohol, and not exercising or not exercising enough. Many suffer from work-related stress and toxic relationships. Environmental pollutants are becoming increasingly inescapable.

The unfortunate if not surprising result is a society awash with disease: heart disease, metabolic disorders, inflammatory conditions, oxidative stress, and immune conditions. Many of these conditions were almost completely absent in traditional societies until they came into contact with Western dietary norms.

Therefore, what if healthy drinks and beverages, which are so often part of our society's health problems, could be turned into a viable solution for the many illnesses our nutritionally depleted diets have brought about?

We cannot consume the necessary amount of nutrients from solid food to overcome all the ravages brought on by modernity, let alone to reach optimal health. Even when eating what may be conventionally considered a healthy diet, we may be still lacking essential micronutrients.

Yes, eat your fruits and vegetables – up to a point. Fiber is vital for the digestion process (usually up to 50 grams a day). However, in excess, digestion can become too rapid, thwarting the absorption of nutrients. In many cases, the fibrous nature of foods themselves (lignocellulose in celery being a good example) has the effect of trapping vital nutrients, thereby impeding their absorption and assimilation.

Juicing liberates and concentrates these nutrients and, therefore, enables us to consume the array of phytonutrients (polyphenols and carotenoids), vitamins, minerals, chlorophyll, and enzymes in the amounts required for optimal health that are otherwise too difficult to obtain by other means.

If it is uncontroversial that processing food depletes its nutritional value, eating raw foods might be an excellent source for a nutritious alternative. Since we typically juice with fresh, raw foods, juicing promotes all of the benefits of a raw and non-denatured diet.

A “raw food” has not been altered or damaged by any method that would change its basic chemical structure through heating over 118°F (48°C). Refraining from cooking food is also shown to preserve its enzymatic activity as well as certain vitamins (particularly C and thiamin) and minerals when compared to cooking.

A raw diet need not be taken to extremes and common sense. But, in general, take care not to overcook food. Steaming is generally preferable to boiling, boiling in one inch of water may be better than boiling in six inches, and boiling for five minutes is usually preferable to boiling for 20 minutes.

With juicing, on the other hand, we gain all the benefits of a raw food diet plus much more. When we set aside time to buy healthy foods for juicing, it is a sign

of self-worth. Juicing is telling us, “We deserve it.” It encourages us to take control of our health by being active and mindful participants in the process of food production. We are opting for – and, if necessary, advocating – produce that is organic, with the added health benefits it offers not only to us but also to our soil and the environment.

I always include juicing as an essential part of a detoxification protocol when counseling people. A healthy person can eliminate harmful substances through the liver, kidneys, and other organs. But when we subject ourselves to long-term exposure to environmental toxicants, or a diet high in unhealthy fats, refined carbohydrates, processed proteins, and sodium, the body is hampered in its ability to rid toxins. When this happens, toxins accumulate. The toxic accumulation and overload can severely depress the immune system. Therefore, detoxification may be slow at first. When toxins have had so much time to build up, their breakdown will also take time.

In general, the green vegetable juices that contain garlic, ginger, and cayenne will aid in cleansing and detoxifying the body. Fruit juices, particularly the red juices, are associated with cellular repair, rebuilding rejuvenation, energizing, initiating enzymatic processes, and antioxidant protection. Watermelon, oranges, berries, and papaya are excellent additions to the armamentarium for these purposes.

A recent study at Texas A&M University investigated different juicing methods to determine the method that best preserved fresh raw foods’ phytochemicals, antioxidants, and diverse metabolites. The researchers found that low-speed juice extractors were ideal. Unlike high-speed centrifugal juicers, the extractors produce less heat and thereby preserve higher amounts of vitamin C and other beneficial phenolic compounds.

If we juice in the morning and refrigerate the drink, it will still be fine in the evening. By adding lemon juice or vitamin C, the juice will remain fresh in the refrigerator for 24 hours. If we wait too long to drink it, the vitamins, minerals, and enzymes will start to break down and lose their potency.

Start juicing gradually and build up to multiple juices a day over a period of weeks. You can be as creative as you wish.

Finally, take time to savor and appreciate juice. Try pouring it in a wine glass and marveling at the gifts of nature. Bask in the refinement, the “ambiance” of it all.

# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## AMAZON USING DIGITAL BOOK DOMINANCE TO CENSOR

It seems every week some aspect of a classic dystopian novel jumps off the page and into the designs of the Technocracy. This week, two congressmen were shining a spotlight on Amazon’s bolder moves into censoring books.

Why does it matter? Because over the last decade, the tech behemoth has gained a de facto monopoly in digital bookselling and reading, thanks to its Kindle eBook ecosystem.

“Big Tech, including Amazon, is engaged in systematic viewpoint-based discrimination. In the unfortunate phenomenon of ‘cancel culture,’ Amazon plays a leading role in silencing and censoring the political speech of conservative Americans.”

Those objections by Reps. Jim Jordan and Ken Buck were part of a letter to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, requesting the company turn over any documents and

information related to its alleged censorship activities. Jordan is the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, while Buck is a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Antitrust.

The letter noted that Amazon has been stepping up a pattern of censorship over the past year, targeting books and authors that have conservative viewpoints.

### **“Innovative” Technology Designed to Monopolize**

Amazon’s model of “publishing” has operated much like its system of product selling. On the front end, it developed an ultra-easy platform for consumers to find and compare low-cost products and content, complete with user reviews about quality and satisfaction. On the back end, Amazon created a vendor system that made it easier to sell, with Amazon taking its cut.

But at the same time Amazon was “helping” consumers and vendors, it was gradually offering a wider selection of its products, competing with vendors. The company’s privileged access to its own data gave them a competitive edge in sourcing, pricing, and analytics, allowing them to win a rigged game of “competition.”

Many vendors have been left in an impossible situation. They have to sell on Amazon or at least try since it now commands a huge segment of online buying. But competing with the behemoth that holds all the digital cards means vendors are selling on razor-thin margins, while progressively losing market share to the very competitor they’re forced to support.

The same has increasingly been true for book publishers and authors. Peter Hildick-Smith of the research firm Codex Group has noted that Amazon Publishing operates not so much as a traditional publisher, but as a content creator feeding a subscription machine. Their low-priced and even “free books” that come with subscriptions have put a death squeeze on traditional publishers.

## A Free Hand to Censor

Amazon has also forced authors to sell their books exclusively on their platform, to be eligible for Kindle Unlimited revenues. Such moves, and not just technical innovations, have allowed the company to increasingly dominate, via a system where most authors make very little, while the tech giant profits from an ever-growing digital “library” of content.

Janet Freidman, a long-time publishing industry professional who puts out the influential “Hot Sheet” newsletter for authors, says Amazon Prime and Kindle Unlimited now earn close to \$6 billion for Amazon.

“It might be wise to think of Amazon Publishing as a Netflix or Spotify. Amazon Prime members look to Kindle First, Prime Reading, and the Kindle Owner’s Lending Library for free ebooks to maximize their subscription value; Kindle Unlimited subscribers who pay a monthly fee for access may rarely venture outside Amazon’s selection.”

Having cornered the bookselling market, Amazon has become increasingly free to censor content without worrying about opening a door to competition. Notably, while Jeff Bezos’s net worth literally doubled during the pandemic lockdowns of 2020, Amazon Kindle has refused to publish certain books challenging the efficacy of the COVID lockdowns.

Amazon has also censored its other services. Its cloud storage platform cut off service to the social media platform Parler at a critical moment during post-election allegations of voting fraud in Democrat-controlled urban precincts in a handful of key battleground states.

## TWITTER, FB, APPLE GET A PASS WHILE TEXAS GOV. CONDEMNS GAB



Child porn and exploitation on Twitter, wholesale censorship on YouTube, and Apple doubling down on banning the resurrected Parler media social platform from its app store might all seem like worthy matters for government officials to address.

But none of that was a target this past week of Texas Governor Gregg Abbott. At a meeting with representatives of several pro-Israel groups, Abbott focused on GAB, a social media upstart that allows constitutionally protected speech on its platform. Meeting with several pro-Israel state legislators, Abbott pandered and rhetorically channeled Andrew Cuomo, “speaking” for his entire state.

“Antisemitic platforms like Gab have no place in Texas and certainly do not represent Texas values,” the Republican said in a video posted on Twitter, which notably banned former President Trump amid voter fraud controversies and protests surrounding the 2016 election.

Yes. The same Twitter trying this past week to squirm out of a lawsuit filed federal court by a child sex trafficking victim, who alleges the company refused to expeditiously remove explicit content depicting the child on its platform.

Abbott, standing in front of an Israeli flag, was convening with the legislators to promote legislation that would crack down on “anti-Semitic” speech. Apparently, any vocal opposition to Israeli policies could be viewed as “anti-Semitic” by Abbott’s dubious standard.

### **Everything’s Bigger in Texas, Including Smears**

GAB founder Andrew Torba took exception to the Governor’s smear of the platform.

“Every month 30 million people use Gab’s services to get access to the free flow of information online. Gab is the home of free speech in a world where Big Tech oligarchs have censored, deplatformed, and demonized tens of millions of good, honest, and decent people with whom they disagree politically.

Last night Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a ‘Republican,’ issued a despicable and false statement smearing Gab as an ‘anti-semitic platform that quote ‘has no place in Texas.’ This is the same Gov. Abbott who just five days ago said he was ‘taking a stand against Big Tech censorship.’

Meanwhile, last October Gov. Abbott worked to court Big Tech Amazon with a \$17 billion deal.”

Torba pointed out that Abbott has been in bed with some of the biggest tech giants (and censors) in America. For example, Abbott worked last October to attract Amazon to set up in Texas with a \$17 billion incentive deal.

Torba went on to say that Gab is not an anti-Semitic platform:

“We protect the political speech of all Americans, regardless of viewpoint, because in this age of cancel culture nobody else will. That means unpopular viewpoints may be found on the site.”

He pointed out that the site has numerous users of every political persuasion and ethnicity, and that GAB represents the most intrinsically American stance toward free speech of any social media platform in existence.

## NBC REPORTER WROTE THE PRIMER ON DIGITAL DOXXING



Investigative Journalism, the Technocracy, and Cancel Culture are sitting in a bar.

“Hey, get a load of that nerdy chick married to her cell phone in the corner,” says IJ.  
“Who is she?”

“Just a second,” says Technocracy. “Blonde, glasses, 20s. Okay, did a Same Energy search, this looks like her. Dark data scan in progress... got her phone number, property records, arrest history, Amazon wish list. All her socials incoming. Twitter, Insta.”

“She looks like a healthy Ann Coulter,” says Cancel Culture. “She’s a wall lover, I know it. I want to cancel her whiteness so bad!”

“No,” says IJ, “she’s off-limits.”

“Why?” Cancel Culture seethes.

“Because. She’s one of us.”

Jokes aside, Brandy Zadrozny is a reporter at *NBC* who’s carved out her own unique beat: digitally doxxing people for the “crime” of having political views she doesn’t like. Zadrozny wrote the book on it. According to *Revolver*, a news aggregator site that decided to turn the tables on the *NBC* political huntress, Zadrozny was a major contributor to the *Verification Handbook*, a guide on how to dox anonymous people online.

Among her techniques:

- Using paid “dark-data” search engines to clean personal records of people after inputting email addresses or social media handles; everything from

physical addresses, marital status and divorces, family relationships, debt history, and arrest records are potentially available in scrapable databases

- Scouring sites like Amazon for info on wish lists and comments in reviews, etc.
- Searching FEC data for histories of political contributions
- Picking through not only social media sites but practically any online locale where a targeted individual might have information, like a Spotify playlist of podcasts or YouTube viewing activity

If this kind of investigation was undertaken according to a standard where info sought pertained to a crime or nefarious activity of legitimate public concern, that would be one thing. But that's not Zadrozny's purpose at all. In fact, she admits her only motivation for digitally outing people behind anonymous social accounts is their views, which she finds objectionable.

## **A Doxxing Braggart**

She was quoted in Data Journalism enthusing about her work:

“My favorite kind of stories are those that reveal the real people behind influential, anonymous social media accounts. These secret accounts are less reliant on the algorithm, and more carefully crafted to be an escape from public life. They allow someone to keep tabs on and communicate with family and friends apart from their public account, or to communicate the ideas and opinions that for personal or political reasons, they dare not say out loud.”

Zadrozny bragged in 2020 when her efforts to out QAnon posters resulted in bans of accounts on Facebook. She wasn't so enthusiastic in 2018, though, when an online group exposed the activities of pedophiles. She complained at length about it in an article and tagged the group “POPSquad” as dangerous vigilantes.

Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of Zadrozny’s brand of digital dox reporting is that she’s not alone. As *Revolver* noted,

“Zadrozny is representative of dozens if not hundreds of journalists in 2020. She doesn’t seek to inform the public or fairly present issues. Instead, she is a commissar, an ideological enforcer who probes the personal lives of class enemies in an effort to intimidate, humiliate, silence, and destroy them.”

## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



### **HUGE HACK AFFECTS THOUSANDS OF SECURITY CAMERAS.**

The latest digital hack of a prominent surveillance firm reveals just how extensive online stores of sensitive personal video and audio are becoming.

Intruders were able to breach Verkada, a California-based company that provides monitoring equipment and cloud storage services to schools, hospitals, prisons, and thousands of other organizations. According to *Bloomberg*, hackers were able to obtain images and video from live source feeds of over 149,000 cameras.

The breach occurred after high-level log-in credentials were obtained and one hacker shared some of the plundered data with *The Washington Post*. One video showed a scene from a hospital intensive care unit. Another spied a family at home celebrating the completion of a puzzle.

Verkada, like other companies in its field, has developed software and services that allow consumers, companies, and even government agencies to watch live video from camera installations anywhere across the internet.

But that surveillance ability comes with a price. The privacy of more than 24,000 organizations representing a vast cross-section of American life was suddenly exposed by a single point of failure in the system.

The implications for privacy and security are as huge as the amount of data in play. And it doesn't only apply to the video accessed by the hack of a single company. Thousands of firms are currently in a "data race" to amass profitable stores of digital information about every aspect of human activity. This treasure trove hasn't escaped the notice of attackers looking to profit by their own means, by hacking into that data.

### **YOU WILL LOVE THE POLICE STATE: CHINA AI MONITORING EMOTIONS.**

While Americans surrender more and more of their Constitutional rights without much fuss, China points the way to an even bleaker future. Their latest innovation? Surveillance that will use artificial intelligence to tally even emotional states into a person's so-called "social credit score."

"Social Credit" is the euphemistic term the regime has used to mask its comprehensive control system where individuals are rewarded for adhering to desired activities, and even thoughts, and punished for any deviations.

The technology of AI surveillance is rapidly advancing in the communist power, which is bad enough for their citizens. But privacy and human rights advocates say that tech won't remain contained in China any more than the virus that originated in Wuhan did.

"China is developing an Orwellian-style state," noted Dahlia Peterson, an analyst at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology. "Domestically, the most frightening part is that many people inside China remain unaware of the true scope of surveillance, and still welcome it as a source of 'security.'"

Dahlia says the global pandemic has allowed the Chinese to peddle their surveillance wares to other governments, in a “Sharp Eyes” tech package. “In programs such as Sharp Eyes, local governments nationwide have even successfully convinced citizens to take part in surveilling each other.”

Vidushi Marda of ARTICLE 19, a human rights organization, agreed that China is fueling a global mania for highly invasive surveillance technology. She told *The Sun Online*:

“We think it is crucial to focus on China—not because it is a wildly different style of surveillance—but because Chinese tech companies have fueled an international boom in governments’ acquisition of surveillance technology.”

### **It’s Not Just Government – People Are Tracking Each Other**

In China, citizens can track each other via “lowlife” scanners that out people for things like whether they’re in debt or spend their free time playing video games.

Meanwhile, low “credit scores” have been used to ban millions of its citizens from traveling on planes and being considered for higher-level jobs, etc.

Five-year plans are still a thing in communist regimes, and China’s current one, which covers 2021 to 2025, includes even more aggressive plans to watch and control its citizenry and expand its global influence to other nations.

While cell phone data and facial recognition were being utilized in the U.S. to round up close to 400 participants in 6 January election fraud protests in Washington, D.C., China has been articulating its goals of political suppression. “We will also closely guard against, and crackdown on, the infiltration, sabotage, subversion, and separatist activities of hostile forces.”

Some of the technological means to do so involve gathering biometric data via facial recognition. The region of Xinjiang, home to the Uyghurs, an ethnic and religious minority that is being systematically persecuted and purged, has reportedly been a testing ground for the technology.

China's abuses have been termed genocide by many human rights activists. But, U.S. President Biden recently excused China's actions. In a *CNN* town hall forum, Biden dismissed the internment of dissident Uyghurs as a "different norm."

"If you know anything about Chinese history, it has always been, the time when China has been victimized by the outer world is when they haven't been unified at home... So the central—well, vastly overstated — the central principle of Xi Jinping is that there must be a united, tightly controlled China. And he uses his rationale for the things he does based on that."

Among the tests in Xinjiang are the use of scanning cameras in public places and on transport systems, which "read" people's emotions to identify whether they might be a threat to the state. Surveillance systems can already detect who people are with a near 100 percent success rate.

The "Great Firewall of China," the system that keeps citizens from accessing information freely via the internet, is also a high priority. AI is aiding initiatives like "Predictive policing," i.e., fingering or apprehending citizens before they've committed a "crime."

And a "Sharp Eyes" program outlined in China's five-year plan seeks to cover virtually every public space with a surveillance camera. The program was named after a quote from China's notorious dictator Mao Zedong, who once cast a dark side of human nature as a virtue in noting that "the people have sharp eyes" when looking out for neighbors not living up to Communist values.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



**BEYOND BITCOIN: OTHER CRYPTOS MIGHT BE FUN IN '21.** Bitcoin continues to be a main object and a target for both investor and government scrutiny. In the last few weeks, it has traded wildly up and down. It caved from a high of around \$58,000 to territory in the range of \$43,000

after negative comments by Janet Yellin. But the anticipation of and passage of a \$1.9 trillion stimulus, paid for with Central Bank IOU's, helped Bitcoin to regain ground, back to within striking distance of its all-time high.

But blockchain currency enthusiasts shouldn't just be focused on Bitcoin in 2021, according to InvestmentWatchBlog.com. In a recent article, they made the case for doing homework on other promising digital assets and technologies.

They noted that so far this year, a number of cryptos have outperformed Bitcoin. For example, Binance, a token used on the Binance Crypto Currency exchange, allows users to trade cryptos at a significant discount. Binance tokens have shot up over 700 percent in value so far in 2021. Dogecoin, a crypto Elon Musk tweeted favorably about, has also seen similar gains.

Innovative blockchain technologies that go beyond crypto tokens, including Stellar and Cardano, have also seen large gains. Here some digital players in the blockchain sphere that may be worth keeping track of in 2021:

### **Binance**

Binance operates the Binance Exchange, one of the most widely used in the world (though some states in the U.S., including New York, bar trading on Binance due to the rights it preserves for traders). Binance has developed a Binance token that can be used as a method of payment for discount trading on the exchange.

## **Dogecoin**

Dogecoin's origins might have been as a "meme" currency, championed mostly for reasons having little to do with its actual arguable value. But, perhaps thanks to its hard limit on the number of Dogecoins that can ever be created, the currency has continued to draw attention and investment activity.

## **Cardano**

Cardano represents potential uses of blockchain technology that go beyond uses as a digital currency. Designed by a consortium of engineers, mathematicians, and cryptographers, the Cardano technology can be used in solutions for supply chain interoperability, voter fraud, and legal contract tracing. Cardano has gained some notable investments lately.

## **Polkadot**

Unlike Bitcoin, Polkadot rewards digital miners for holding on to their mined coins instead of selling. It does so by rewarding mining power according to the proportion of coins held by a miner, which disincentivizes their sale.

## **Stellar**

Stellar is another technology that goes beyond retail production of digital currency, though it does have a digital coin, called Stellar Lumens. Stellar's blockchain network is focused on connecting financial institutions around the world to each other, so they can almost instantaneously exchange currencies at very low transaction rates. The efficiency potential for the technology is enormous since it currently can take several days across many intermediaries to do what Stellar can accomplish in near real-time.

Other cryptos including Chainlink, Ethereum, Tezos, and VeChain also made InvestmentBlog's list of cryptos to watch in the coming year. One crypto that didn't make the list, that investors should probably keep an eye on? Monero. It has perhaps the most extensive built-in privacy of any decentralized crypto on Earth.

**JPMORGAN QUIETLY STEERS ACTION TOWARD BITCOIN.** All the talking down of Bitcoin in February is looking less and less like an accident. JPMorgan, one of the world’s largest multinational investment banks, reportedly has been advising moves into Bitcoin since early March.

The firm has quietly told some of its clients to consider Bitcoin as a portfolio diversifier, according to Wolfie Zhao, writing for The Block.

The firm has distributed an educational deck of slides to clients of its wealth management service, to help them better assess the risks and potential benefits of Bitcoin and other crypto-assets.

One slide, titled “How others are valuing crypto?” detailed three common metrics used by market analysts, while suggesting “significant upside [of bitcoin] is possible.”

Despite the advice, the JPMorgan presentation also claimed a valuation of Bitcoin that was much lower than its current trading price. The deck’s authors also argued against viewing Bitcoin as a safe-haven asset similar to gold, at least for the time being.

“Bitcoin is not gold, nor do we think of it as such. When it comes to portfolio construction, it has diversifying properties like gold, but its volatility characteristics and correlation profile refute the comparison to the traditional safe-haven asset.”

The deck concludes that while Bitcoin shouldn’t be considered as a “protection asset,” it can diversify an investment portfolio:

“It’s difficult to conclude that outflows from gold are directly linked to inflows into Bitcoin. That said, Bitcoin doesn’t consistently trade like a protection asset or a substitute for gold. If anything in the near term,

Bitcoin is more similar to a diversifying risky asset rather than protection akin to Treasuries and gold.”

# TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



## ITALY GOING DOWN: ANOTHER LOCKDOWN

Mario Draghi, the new Prime Minister of Italy, announced on Friday that major cities, including Rome and Milan, will be locked down and schools, shops, and restaurants will again be closed in its fight to win the COVID War.

To “celebrate” Easter, Draghi declared the entire country will be considered a “red zone” over the holiday weekend, and it will be placed on complete lockdown. Draghi said he is aware of the consequences these orders will have on the public but said they are needed due to the uncertainty with the virus:

“More than a year after the start of the health emergency, we are unfortunately facing a new wave of infections... The memory of what happened last spring is vivid, and we will do everything to prevent it from happening again.”

The Prime Minister told the Italians he is “aware that today’s measures will have consequences on children’s education, on the economy, and also on the psychological state of us all.”

**TREND FORECAST:** *Indeed, Italy’s economy and its people are being destroyed economically and psychologically. The first western nation to lock down last year after the virus hit China, its economy was down 8.8 percent last year. Millions of lives and livelihoods are being devastated by the lockdowns.*

*Absent in all the media coverage is that Italy’s prior lockdown, imposed by its former Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, was a failure... as are all lockdowns. We have reported on this extensively in the **Trends Journal**. (See our 5 January article, “[COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES](#)” on the failure of lockdowns to lower virus rates.)*

*Yet, the politicians continue to do as they please with very little public resistance.*

*Also unreported is how America’s once-exalted COVID War hero, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, declared back in May that it was “shocking most new coronavirus hospitalizations are people who had been staying home”... yet, he imposed strict lockdown orders on the state.*

## **DUTCH COVID COPS BEAT LOCKDOWN PROTESTERS**



On Sunday, thousands of protesters in the Netherlands demonstrated against the country’s coronavirus lockdown they say has been unfairly implemented and is economically devastating.

To prevent protesters from gathering, who carried banners that in Dutch read, “Love & Freedom: No Dictatorship,” trains headed to the city were halted. Several people were hurt and some 20

were arrested as COVID Cop squads, dressed in full military gear, shot water cannons into the crowd, and beat protesters with batons. (See a [video of this from DutchNews.nl](#))

## **More of the Same**

The country is conducting its general election, which began yesterday and will finish on Wednesday. Prime Minister Mark Rutte, known in the country as “Teflon Mark,” is expected to hold onto his seat and win his fourth term in office. The report said Rutte has faced violent protests over his lockdown mandates, but he is still popular in the country.

“People are overwhelmingly positive about Rutte—even if you don’t vote for him,” Mariken van der Velden, a professor of political communication at VU Amsterdam told *DW.com*. The news outlet pointed to a recent survey that showed 77 percent approved of his handling of the virus.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Without new party movements – whether it be the Netherlands where images of Rutte read, “If you love the Netherlands, vote them out” or in the so-called democracy of the U.S. where the ruling class has squelched third party movements for centuries – there will no democratic change of substance that will return a semblance of “Power to the People.”*

*As evidenced by the draconian lockdown laws enforced on entire populations – regardless of their ineffectiveness in stopping the virus and their devastating socioeconomic effects, which have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions – governments are doubling down on repression.*

*It was reported in The Guardian on Sunday, for example, that a new anti-protest sentencing bill is being rushed through the U.K. parliament, which gives militaristic power to the police to crack down on protesters, and, according to some 150 organizations, would be “an attack on some of the most fundamental rights of citizens.”*

*The new British military police model will be mirrored across continents. Considering how the vast majority of citizens have obeyed their COVID War leaders, there will be scant resistance.*

## **GERMANY: MERKEL'S PARTY HIT BY DIRTY MASK DEALS**



Three German MPs from Chancellor Angela Merkel's party were forced to resign last week after it was revealed they made hundreds of thousands of euros for doing dirty government deals with coronavirus mask manufacturers.

“This has the potential to inflict long-lasting harm on the CDU,” Olav Gutting, a lawyer and politician, told the paper. He pointed to other issues the party is facing and the fact that the Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate elections are next weekend. Gutting said these problems are “really piling up.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We note this as just another example of how politicians represent their personal needs and not the public's interests. In America, politicians doing dirty deals are rewarded with “campaign contributions,” i.e., bribes and payoffs that go unreported.*

*In Germany, the "masks for money" scandal took its toll on Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), this past Sunday, with the CDU posting its worst-ever results in both states.*

*While Merkel was praised early on for her handling of the virus, the public has since become more critical of its protracted lockdown.*

*Beyond Germany, there will be growing protests throughout Europe against establishment parties as economies only temporarily revive and nations sink further into the “Greatest Depression.”*

## **CANADA LOCKDOWN: NURSING HOMES’ VICTIMS OF COVID**



Last week, *The New York Times* ran a lengthy story on long-term care residents in Canada having expressed confusion over the fact that they have been vaccinated for COVID-19, yet they have not seen a return to normal life.

“While the vaccines have given the majority of nursing-home residents protection from death by the virus, so far they have not been offered

more life,” *The Times* wrote.

It is widely known that COVID is most dangerous for the elderly and those with comorbidities. *The Lancet* reported that 80 percent of the deaths in the country tied to the virus occurred in these facilities. As of late January, COVID-19 has been blamed for 2,877 deaths in Ontario’s long-term care facilities.

Canada’s national health data agency reported in June 2020 that the country had the worst record among wealthy nations for COVID-related deaths in long-term care facilities. Many observers referred to it as a “national disgrace,” *The Lancet* report said.

Devora Greenspon, an 88-year-old resident at a long-term care home in Toronto, told the paper she received two jabs of one of the vaccines and her life has not changed one bit.

“It’s like it never happened,” she said. Ms. Greenspon still lives most of her life alone in her room and is still not able to leave the facility unless it’s for medical purposes.

“I have so many things I want to do,” she told *The Times*. “I may never get to do them. I may die before the pandemic is over.”

Isobel MacKenzie, the head of British Columbia’s Office of the Seniors Advocate, told the paper that these elderly residents experience long periods of isolation, which could contribute to a drop in cognitive function. One survey reportedly found that antipsychotic medication, given to patients who traditionally suffer from dementia, has been prescribed at a 7-percent increase over the last six months.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we keep reporting, despite the fact that the elderly in nursing homes are by far the primary victims of the virus, lockdown orders and fines for those breaking them persist.*

*Over the weekend in Nova Scotia, several people were fined \$1,000 each for breaking COVID rules. Yet, in the region of nearly one million people, 53 of the 65 deaths took place at the Northwood long-term care facility.*

*As we keep reporting, these ineffective, draconian mandates would be unenforceable were it not for COVID Cops on power trips enforcing them.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *We have reported extensively the efficacy and dangers of the vaccines in this and previous **Trends Journals**.*

*We note this article to again emphasize who is dying, why, and where from the coronavirus. Rather than addressing the most vulnerable and taking precautions to keep them safe, entire nations have been locked down, and many others are needlessly locking down again.*

*As per the data, hundreds of millions more lives and livelihoods are being destroyed by these draconian measures than are victims of the virus. Yet, these*

*facts are continually ignored by the mainstream media, which continues to sell fear and hysteria to boost their ratings.*

## **MORE COVID, LESS COLLEGE**



A recent study found that fewer U.S. high school students see themselves attending a four-year university on graduation, a drop of 20 percent in the past eight months, according to a report from the ECMG Group.

CNBC, citing the ECMC Group’s report, stated 53 percent of high schoolers polled said they plan on attending the traditional four-year university, which is down from 71 percent earlier on in the coronavirus outbreak. There are many reasons for the drop, ranging from financial uncertainty and the cost-benefit analysis of obtaining a degree.

“There is going to be a reckoning here,” Jeremy Wheaton, the president of the ECMC Group, told the network.

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center said undergraduate enrollment fell by more than 4 percent this year, and incoming freshman enrollment for fall plummeted 13 percent from a year earlier.

“It really looks from these numbers that the December and January surge in COVID-19 is keeping students out of college through the spring term, even though most colleges are online,” said Shapiro.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *While online learning is becoming the new normal, it is limited in replacing hands-on lab and other classwork that cannot be achieved remotely. Also, considering the online learning world has just been launched,*

*there are weaknesses in the current system, which has resulted in dissatisfaction among students who feel they are not getting what they want or paid for.*

*Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and die. “Interactive U,” the term coined by Gerald Celente in his 1997 book, “Trends 2000,” is just been born, and the new age of learning remotely is the future.*

*Ontrendpreneurs® who fill this market sector with products and services to meet demand will be bountifully rewarded.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *The lack of money for career training and lack of a vision of a positive future is creating another “lost generation.”*

*The lower disillusioned students fall, the higher it drives social unrest and demands for government’s school subsidies and loan forgiveness.*

*As the middle class continues to shrink in America, so, too, will college attendance. The Federal Reserve estimates that in quarter three of 2020, Americans owed more than \$1.7 trillion in student loans – an increase of nearly 4 percent compared to quarter three of 2019.*

*As we have noted since the onset of the lockdowns, with students beginning a whole new era of online learning from home, the “College Town Rustbelt 2.0” trend we had forecast will intensify.*

## **MASK POLLUTION**



One of the questions researchers at the University of Southern Denmark are asking is, “Has society recognized the huge environmental threat caused by some three million masks, most made

from plastic microfibers, being thrown away EVERY MINUTE?”

The research, published in the current journal *Frontiers of Environmental Science & Engineering*, states,

“With increasing reports on inappropriate disposal of masks, it is urgent to recognize this potential environmental threat and prevent it from becoming the next plastic problem.”

Citing this research, on 14 March, Investment Watch wrote,

“Two years ago, the notion that everyone would be wearing face masks in public would have sounded like something out of a science fiction movie. Fast forward to 2021 and face masks are the norm, not the exception. In fact, researchers find 129 billion face masks are being thrown out each month around the globe.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The world has entered a science fiction movie, indeed. Not a peep from the climate-change enthusiasts who support lockdowns and mandatory mask-wearing while discounting the disastrous health implications of “mask waste” on the planet.*

*As we’ve been showing for many months with empirical, hard data, the majority of political leaders and their so-called “health experts” have been using science fiction, not good science, to defend their physical and social lockdown edicts.*

## UNITED STATES: THE GREAT POLITICAL DIVIDE



A Pew Research poll published last 28 October showed the coronavirus has added to the political divide already existing in the U.S., and Americans see the virus through a

political lens more than any of the 12 other advanced economies surveyed.

The poll was taken in the June-August period last year when President Trump was in office and, according to the report on the Pew Research Center website, “the gap was greatest in the U.S., where about three-quarters of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said the U.S. had done a good job of handling the coronavirus outbreak, compared with only about three-in-ten among everybody else.”

While the U.S. is clearly the most politically-divided of the nations surveyed, the poll showed:

“Double-digit gaps of this nature also appear in France, Spain, the UK, Japan, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, and Belgium. This is in spite of the different approaches to dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, from strict national lockdowns in Italy and Spain to the relatively lax approach in Sweden.”

Political viewpoints determined to a great extent how citizens viewed their government’s handling of the economy. The Pew report states:

In six countries – the U.S., Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, and Japan – supporters of governing parties were more likely than non-supporters to rate their country’s current economic situation as good. This rift was largest in the U.S., where Republicans and those who lean Republican were more than three times as likely as those who do not support the party to think the U.S. economy is doing well.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In the U.S., we forecast declining support for the Republican party and strong opportunity for a third party, populist, anti-establishment, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-immigration political movement.*

*Considering the political restraints for third parties to be on state ballots in the so-called American “democracy,” it would, however, have to initially be funded by the billionaire class of political investors to achieve national success.*

*For example, instead of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg having spent a billion dollars for his ill-fated run for the White House in 2020 on the Democratic ticket, if a billion dollars was given to fund a new party, the chances of success would be far greater than the money wasted on his defeat.*

## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ADMITS RISKS TO “PANDEMIALS”



This past December, the **Trends Journal** predicted a “Youth Revolution” would explode as a result of disastrous pandemic policies that have badly damaged the prospects of an entire upcoming generation.

Lo and behold, The World Economic Forum agrees. Their recently released “Global Risks 2021” report has a chapter warning about the dangers of youth frustrations exacerbated by COVID policies the WEC has been in the forefront of advocating.

According to a cited Global Risks Perception Survey cited (GRPS), youth disillusionment is a top neglected risk that will become a critical threat to the world over the next two years. For younger respondents to the GRPS—the World Economic Forum’s Global Shapers—“youth disillusionment” is also a top blind spot.

The report, in a chapter titled “Pandemials: Youth in an Age of Lost Opportunity”, acknowledged that young adults aged 15 to 24 “will face serious challenges to their education, economic prospects and mental health.”

Predictably, the WEC report takes no responsibility for the organization pushing the indiscriminate prolonged world lockdowns, which have fomented the youth crisis. But the report admits the economic impacts aren’t going to magically disappear anytime soon. It says that “While the digital

leap forward (see Chapter 2, Error 404) unlocked opportunities for some youth, many are now entering the workforce in an employment ice age.”

Translation: elite technocrats advised a global economic freeze, and are now complaining about the results. Those same elite advisers were there in 2008, recommending absurdly large bank bailouts and stimulus spending that worsened and prolonged the so-called Great Recession that many now young adults were affected by, as wealth was sucked away from their families.

But the problem there, according the report, was not enough stimulus:

“Large-scale financial stimulus packages were insufficient for younger generations to regain their footing, and austerity measures hampered investment in education, narrowing an important channel of mobility. As a result, many young people have lingered in precarious service jobs that are vulnerable to major shocks. Pre-COVID, children and youths accounted for two-thirds of the global poor.”

By that measure, the latest Biden approved 1.9 Trillion bonanza and WEC recommended “New Green Deal” style world makeovers, no matter how radical, will likely be cited as inadequate one day in the future, too. That will be after the carnage and misery from that agenda wallops “pandemials” as they enter middle age. And the unelected, unaccountable elite funded and directed WEC will no doubt be on hand, issuing reports that avoid taking any responsibility.

## **FATHER LOSES CUSTODY OF CHILDREN FOR COVID WRONGTHINK**



An Ontario Canada Judge has ruled that a man’s anti-masking beliefs, along with his attendance of anti-lockdown protests, are cause to remove his children from his custody.

A report by [The Free Thought Project](#) detailed how the legal framework of “health and welfare” has been twisted to serve practically any government dictated political design.

“The health and welfare of the children (and by extension their principal caregiver) should not be jeopardized because of [his] public behaviour in promotion of his opinions,” Superior Court Justice George W. King opined in his ruling, according to CBC. The government broadcaster didn’t name the father involved in the case, to shield the identity of the children.

Human rights advocates north of the border mostly expressed little concern over the ruling. Ottawa-based human rights lawyer Yavar Hameed said that people do have the right to express themselves, but that expression is limited at the point where harm can come to another person.

“So it’s not just a matter of freedom of conscience, freedom of expression protected by the charter of rights and freedoms, it’s expressions that simply might relate because of the underlying actions on the safety of another person,” he said.

But what health issues are actually at stake? The case represents how selective “wrongthink” is being used to target political opposition in dangerous ways. Most people, and especially children, have near zero risk of being seriously medically affected by COVID. In fact, studies have shown that the prolonged lockdowns have had more deleterious effects on the health, well-being and education of children than the virus.

Meanwhile, the utility of masks, whether single, double or triple, is scientifically dubious. In the U.S., states which haven’t required them, have fared no worse than virtue-signaling urban enclaves in California and the Northeast.

And all that says nothing about the prospects of the childrens’ health, at being deprived of their relationship with their father.

There are factors that increase risks of serious health consequences of COVID, but they have little to do with whether states or whole countries practiced strict lockdowns and mask wearing protocols. They have to do with age and obesity. But woke concepts like “body positivity” forbid talking much about that, let alone shaping a more sensible public policy.

The Free Thought Project summed up the abusive power of the courts in suppressing political opposition to failed, socially and economically disastrous COVID policies: “Disagree with the government? We can now take your kids to keep them safe.’ See how that works?”

# TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



## NO JAB ITALY

Italy faces challenges with its vaccine rollout. The use of one batch of AstraZeneca vaccines was banned after the sudden death of a serviceman in Sicily. *Reuters* reported that another batch of the AstraZeneca shots was also banned after the death of a teacher in the country's Piedmont region on Saturday.

“It is an act of extreme prudence while we verify whether there is a connection. There have been no critical issues with the administration of vaccines to date,” Luigi Genesio Icardi, head of regional health services, said in the statement.

Draghi has spoken out in support of the vaccines and said there is no evidence that these deaths – and reports of blood clots – have any relation to the jabs. The European Union's medicines regulator, the EMA, said it is investigating a possible tie between the vaccine and these clots. Nonetheless, Draghi said,

“Whatever the final decision of the EMA, I can assure you that the vaccination campaign will continue with renewed intensity.”

CNN quoted Italy’s COVID Commissioner Paolo Figliuolo, who said, “By this summer, all Italian adults will be vaccinated.” To date, only some 3 percent of the population has gotten the jab.

**TRENDPOST:** *It should be noted that prior to the COVID War, there was a strong anti-vax movement in Italy against forcing school-age children to be vaccinated.*

*Despite the Italian people’s subservience to politicians and bureaucracies, considering how few Italians have been vaccinated, especially among health professionals, vaccine resistance movements may again ignite.*

## ANTI-VAX GROUP SUES ISRAEL, GOES NUREMBERG



Anshei Emet, the anti-vax group in Israel, filed a lawsuit last week against the country over its coronavirus vaccine distribution, which the group said is tantamount to “crimes against humanity,” *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

The group cited the 1947 Nuremberg Code that focused on medical experimentation by Nazi doctors. One report pointed to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla who said in an interview last month that Israel is essentially the “world’s lab” due to its swift vaccine rollout, according to the *Post*.

The suit was filed by Suchovolsky & Co. Law Offices. Based in Tel Aviv, it intends to:

“Present to you and detail how in the state of Israel this year, the government of Israel with its ministers at its Knesset members, heads of cities, and additional senior factors, violate the Nuremberg Code in an unlawful manner, blatant and extreme. And to our regret, not only in a single aspect but many—too many!”

The suit, filed in the International Criminal Court, claims “many” in the country who participated in the vaccination rollout were killed or seriously damaged after receiving the vaccine. The report claimed many who took part in the vax push were not informed they were taking part in an experiment.

The group wants the ICC to prevent Israel from continuing to administer the vaccine, according to the paper. Anshei Emet, which means “People of Truth,” also wants the government to stop incentivizing receiving the jabs.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a hotline co-managed by the CDC and the FDA, has received more than 1,600 reports of deaths that have occurred after a COVID vaccine was administered to a patient, but none of these deaths have been officially tied to the vaccine. (See our 19 January article, “[COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS.](#)”)*

*The Epoch Times reported that between 14 December and 19 February, there have been nearly 20,000 reports made on the hotline about adverse effects after receiving either the Pfizer or Moderna shots. The report said 5 percent of those calls were about deaths, and 8.9 percent of the deaths occurred the same day the shot was administered. Eighty-five percent of deaths occurred in those aged over 60.*

## POLITICS, NOT SCIENCE, BEHIND COVID VAX



A poll conducted by PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist, published on 11 March, reveals 78 percent of Democrats believe lockdowns need to be maintained while about 75 percent of Republicans want states to reopen economies now.

On the subject of vaccination, almost 50 percent of those saying they are Trump supporters refuse to get vaccinated, while the number of Democrats saying no to the vaccines is only 11 percent.

About two-thirds of Americans have already received a COVID shot or intend to be jabbed when the opportunity arises.

The poll showed 62 percent approve of President Biden’s handling of the COVID pandemic. In a primetime address to the nation last Thursday, Biden said,

“America is coming back... If we don’t stay vigilant and the conditions change, we may have to reinstate restrictions to get back on track—please, we don’t want to do that again... I need you to get vaccinated when it’s your turn... And to help your family, your friends, your neighbors get vaccinated as well.”

Mr. Biden also encouraged all Americans “to listen to Dr. Fauci... he has assured us, the vaccines are safe. They underwent rigorous scientific review. I know they are safe.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Presstitutes promote their government leaders as experts, never questioning the statement by President Biden that he, the brilliant one, knows the vaccines “are safe”... and the general public buy it.*

*As we have detailed in this and other **Trends Journals**, the vaccines are not “safe,” considering the latest round of AstraZeneca concerns throughout Europe.*

*There are also other articles, such as the one written by Celia Farber for The Epoch Times last week, titled, “Update: CDC Reports 1,637 Deaths Following COVID-19 Vaccinations.”*

*Ms. Farber quotes Dr. Christian Perrone, head of infectious disease at the Hôpital de Garches in France, who stated in a complaint filed in Europe, “The first vaccines they are offering us are not vaccines. They are gene therapy products. They... inject nucleic acids that will cause our own cells to produce elements of the virus.” (For the full report, click [here](#).)*

## **VACCINE HALTED IN EUROPE**



Yesterday, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Slovenia joined a growing list of European nations that put a hold on jabbing their citizens with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Germany’s health ministry tweeted, “Following reports of cerebral vein thrombosis in connection with the vaccination in Germany and Europe, the Paul Ehrlich Institute considers further investigations to be necessary.”

On Sunday, Ireland and the Netherlands warned against anyone getting this vaccine due to concerns about blood clotting.

This followed Saturday’s report from the Norwegian Medicines Agency citing four new cases of serious blood clotting soon after the administration of the AZ vaccine.

On Friday, Bulgaria and Thailand have joined in calling for a halt. March Market Watch reported that Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov said, “The suspension will last until the European Medicines Agency issues a written statement that it is safe.” This comes after a 57-year-old Bulgarian woman died after receiving her first dose.

In Thailand, the country’s Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-o-cha, canceled the event in which he was to be the first Thai to receive the AstraZeneca jab. A member of Thailand’s vaccination committee stated, “When there is an adverse event, we don’t need to be in a rush.”

The country, however, is continuing to allow injections with the Chinese-made vaccine called Sinovac.

Also, on Friday, the EU medical regulator voiced concern over 41 cases of anaphylaxis, which was reported by people who received the AstraZeneca shot. This is a serious allergic reaction that causes throat or tongue swelling, shortness of breath, vomiting, lightheadedness, and low blood pressure.

After an Italian serviceman died of a heart attack a day after getting the vaccine, the Italian government called for a halt on further use of the specific batch suspected of causing the problem. (The country is allowing other batches to be dispensed.) Austria and Romania have also banned the specific batch in question.

Last Thursday, *Euronews* reported that Denmark, Iceland, and Norway have halted all AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccinations due to blood clot issues.

Denmark’s Health Authority issued a statement that the full suspension comes as a “precautionary” move until it can be proven there is no cause-and-effect connection.

The European Medicines Agency stated that as of 9 March, 22 cases of blood clots have been reported.

*EuroNews* also noted that a number of countries have stopped all vaccinations from a certain batch of the AstraZeneca vaccine due to the death of a 49-year-old Austrian nurse from “severe blood coagulation problems” just one day after receiving the vaccine.

Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Luxemburg followed suit and banned any vaccinations from this particular batch.

In the U.K., which has one of the most aggressive vaccination campaigns in the world and where the AstraZeneca vaccine has been widely used, the country’s medicines regulator stated there was no proof the blood clots were caused by the shots and that “people should still go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when asked to do so.”

### **Not So Fast!**

A very different reaction came from Hendrik Streeck, a professor of virology at the University of Bonn, who confirmed the Danish decision to halt all AstraZeneca vaccines was a proper precaution.

On 23 January, AstraZeneca informed the EU that deliveries of the vaccine would need to be reduced by 60 percent due to “production problems.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *On 4 December, the Healthline website published the article, “What to Know About the AstraZeneca Vaccine Controversy.” This included:*

*“AstraZeneca announced that its vaccine is 70 percent effective, but a major dosing error during the trials may have affected the overall efficacy.*

*Some clinical trial participants were mistakenly given half a dose rather than a full dose in their first round of shots.*

*Researchers discovered that those who were given the weaker dosage produced a better immune response.”*

*We note this AstraZeneca article to emphasize the fact that these “Operation Warp Speed” vaccinations have been rushed into the marketplace with no scientific efficacy as to what long- and short-term adverse health effects may occur.*

*In addition, according to Wall Street and politicians, much of the economic recovery is based on mass COVID vaccination of the population.*

*While the U.K., Israel, and the U.S. are in the race for mass vaccinations, the vaccine rates per population in Europe remain low, and they will continue to lag as reports of negative aftereffects increase. Thus, the slower the vaccine rate, the longer lockdowns will persist and the further economies will fall.*

## **EU VACCINE PASSPORT: TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT**



On 17 March, the European Union will offer details about its proposed vaccine passport, the EU version of the Israeli “Green Pass.” (See our 23 February article, [“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT.”](#))

But, proof of being vaccinated will not be enough to qualify for the passport. The vaccine has to be one of the current four officially approved by the EU: Pfizer-BioNtech, AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. (Note: the Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccine was just approved by the European Medicines Agency last Thursday.)

According to a 12 March report in *Euronews*, EU justice commissioner Didier Reynders made it clear that while member states were free to get their citizens vaccinated by other products, they would not be allocated a licensed travel certificate.

It was also reported that according to the proposal, even those who comply and get a vaccination passport will not be given full freedom to move around. An EU source confirmed that “tests and quarantine will continue to be the enablers of free movement. Thus, vaccination does not become a precondition for free movement.”

*Euronews* wrote,

“[Reynders] indicated Thursday that data protection and possible discrimination remained key concerns for the European Commission working on a proposal for a COVID-19 travel certificate. But Friday’s leak shows that there is a focus on vaccination selection... Reynders is aiming to fast-track the proposal at the European Parliament, leading to a ‘binding instrument’ for all member states before the summer.”

There is no unified consensus among EU members. While Spain, Portugal, and Greece, three nations highly-dependent on tourism, strongly favor the “Green Pass,” Germany and other northern countries have expressed less enthusiastic support.

On 2 March, the news outlet *DW* published the article titled,

### **EU Vaccine Passport: An Ethical and Legal Minefield?**

The sub-headline reads:

“Looking at the European Commission’s track record in tackling the pandemic, you might be forgiven for thinking that it may have bitten off more than it can chew with its latest proposal for a vaccination document.”

The article quotes Melinda Mills, director of the Leverhulme Center for Demographic Science at the University of Oxford:

“A central ethical concern is to first determine who you would exclude if certificates were introduced. There are certain people who are unable to

have vaccines for medical reasons such as those with allergies or pregnant women. In some countries, certain ethnic minorities are more vaccine hesitant, which would mean that this group could be inadvertently excluded.”

Revealing the uncertainty around the overall effectiveness of the approved vaccines, all rushed into circulation bypassing the standard length of time for studying both their efficacy and safety, is this statement from Oxford professor of epidemiology Chris Dye:

“At the most basic level, we are still gathering data on exactly how effective each vaccine is in preventing infection and transmission and on how long the immunity will last.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The Wall Street Journal reported last Thursday that despite all the hype around getting vaccinated, to date, only 8 percent of people in Germany, Italy, and France have received their first shot. The Journal said, “Much of Europe has been in lockdown for months, hitting the region’s troubled economy and drawing protests in some countries. On Wednesday, [German] Chancellor Angela Merkel warned her country faces three tough months ahead.”*

*Thus, we forecast there will be strong anti-Green Passport movements in the coming months. Long term, however, many nations will follow the Chinese rule of complete government dominance: The “authorities” will know who has been vaccinated and will ban all those from entering their nation who have not been injected.*

## NEW STUDY: TROUBLING SIGNS FOR VACCINES



On 8 March, *Yahoo News* reported a recent lab study revealed “troubling signs” regarding the effectiveness of both Pfizer and Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccines.

The lab study, published in *Nature* on 25 February, tested the two vaccines against a new South African variant. The results showed a sharp drop in effectiveness compared to results against the original strain of coronavirus.

The variant from South Africa has spread around the globe, including in 20 U.S. states. It’s well known that all viruses mutate, and one of the key reasons it’s challenging to create a vaccine that works well is that the developers are trying to hit a “moving target.” By the time any vaccine is produced and tested, the specific virus it was developed to neutralize will have mutated into a new strain.

As reported in *Yahoo News*, in the experiment, scientists took ten blood samples from people who had received two doses of Pfizer’s vaccine 28 days after their second dose, and 12 samples from those who had received two doses of Moderna’s vaccine 43 days after their second dose. They then compared how well antibodies in the blood samples “neutralized” the original coronavirus, compared to real-life B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 coronavirus variants.

Noting the very small sample, the article added that Pfizer had conducted petri-dish tests against a similar variant, which showed less effectiveness.

*Insider News* reported on 25 January that Moderna, the Massachusetts company producing one of the vaccines in circulation, “is now tailoring a version of its vaccine to that strain, first found in South Africa.” This booster shot still has to undergo testing.

Also on 25 January, Dr. Anthony Fauci, who mainstream media refer to as “the U.S. top infectious disease expert,” stated all shots being administered were effective against current strains of the virus, though he said, “We really need to make sure that we begin, and we already have, to prepare, if it’s necessary, to upgrade the vaccines.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *While promoting for nearly a year that everyone should stay at home and accept the lockdown of millions of businesses and jobs until a vaccine is available, the fear and anxiety continue unabated despite the circulation of a number of “approved” vaccines.*

*On 8 March, the CDC published its “Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People” on their website. It states:*

***“Fully vaccinated people can:***

- *Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing*
- *Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing*
- *Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic*

***For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:***

- *Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing*
- *Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an*

*unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease*

- *Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households*
- *Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings.”*

*Despite these insignificant reductions in lockdown-mode/mask-wearing/social distance restrictions, a number of scientists came out and stated any relaxation of precautions would be, according to a Newsweek article published last Tuesday, “asking for trouble.” They quoted several scientists including Lawrence Young, professor of molecular oncology at the Warwick Medical School in the U.K., who declared:*

*“Allowing fully vaccinated people to meet with those who are not vaccinated is asking for trouble—even if the unvaccinated folk are not at high risk... It just creates more opportunities for the virus to spread and for people to be generally less vigilant at a time when there are concerns about the spread of virus variants which might be more resistant to the current vaccines.”*

*None of these scientists talk about the fact that it’s well known all viruses mutate, and by the time a vaccine is produced, new variants will already exist. And none of these scientists breathe a word about the legitimate scientific concern that vaccines, while protecting individuals from getting the most serious effects of a virus, may in the long run create more potent viruses in the future.*

*Back on 10 May 2018, Quanta magazine published the article titled, “Vaccines Are Pushing Pathogens to Evolve.” It stated, “Just as antibiotics breed resistance in bacteria, vaccines can incite changes that enable diseases to escape their control.”*

**TREND FORECAST:** *We still hear nothing from political leaders, their health “experts,” or mainstream media about the most natural, self-controlling safety feature against any virus: Keeping one’s immune system strong through healthy eating, exercise, and activities that bring joy and beauty into one’s life.*

*Moreover, the vaccines were promoted by politicians and the media as a passport to COVID Freedom, meaning if you got the vaccination, you were safe from catching the virus.*

*But that is no longer the message, meaning, as with the flu vaccine, there will be ongoing pressure each year to get re-vaccinated.*

### **CANADIAN DOC: “DON’T THINK FOR YOURSELF”**



A family physician in Newfoundland, Dr. Peter Morry, who has been posting comments on his Facebook page critical of the government’s lockdown and mandatory mask edicts, is feeling pressure to stop.

The critical force is coming from Newfoundland and Labrador’s medical regulator who specifically warned Dr. Morry to cease posting information that influences readers to ignore the health orders handed down by Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, the Province’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

According to the report on the website of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Dr. Morry has been “posting COVID-19-related misinformation on his Facebook account.”

Misinformation?

Some of the posts coming under fire by the medical establishment in the province include:

“The world is starting to wake up. They know that the corona statistics are exaggerated and that there is a cure.... It is time we had Newfoundland stood up and stop wearing our masks and said enough is enough.

We as a society are being battered by the deep state. They are taking away our freedoms. We are losing our free speech. We are losing the right to control what happens with our own bodies by overbearing governments and people who were too dumb to know that they’re being manipulated.

The mandatory wearing of the mask ordinance coming up is a huge loss of freedom. The next loss of freedom will be the mandatory forcing of you to take a vaccine. Step-by-step we will lose our freedoms and we have none at all.

Evidence worldwide shows that COVID-19 is not much worse than influenza.”

The **Trends Journal** has published numerous articles confirming much of what Dr. Morry is being criticized for.

As for “corona statistics are exaggerated,” on 14 April, we published the article, [“THE NUMBERS DON’T ADD UP.”](#) On 10 November, we published the article, [“COVID CASE 'SURGE' HYPE.”](#)

As for “We as a society are being battered by the deep state,” see our 10 November article [“LOCKDOWN MADNESS: CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE,”](#) which confirms Dr. Morry’s statement with hard data.

As for Dr. Morry’s statement, “Evidence worldwide shows that COVID-19 is not much worse than influence,” in our 9 June article, [“PRESSTITUTES: HIDE FACTS, SELL FEAR,”](#) we quoted Dr. John Ioannides, Professor of Disease Prevention at Stanford University’s School of Medicine, showing how COVID-19

data was being manipulated. Dr. Ioannides reported that an accurate Infection Fatality Rate (IFR) of the coronavirus in more than half the categories showed it to be roughly equivalent to influenza.

Also see our 10 November article, [“COVID COMPARED TO SEASONAL FLU,”](#) which details how the fatality rate for COVID-19 “is over 24 times LOWER than the WHO’s ‘provisional figure’ of 3.4 percent back in March.”

Compare this to Dr. Morry’s posting, “We as a society are being battered by the deep state. They are taking away our freedoms,” which is under fire from the Canadian medical regulator and being described by the *CBC* media website as “misinformation.”

As for Dr. Morry’s statement, “The mandatory wearing of the mask ordinance coming up is a huge loss of freedom,” in last week’s **Trends Journal**, we cited four previous articles detailing the ineffectiveness of masks and health issues caused by mandatory mask edicts:

[UNMASKING THE TRUTH \(PART I\)](#)

[EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON’T WORK](#)

[MASK UP AND DIE?](#)

[DANISH STUDY: MASKS OFFER VERY LIMITED PROTECTION](#)

Asked by *CBC News* for a response, Dr. Morry, according to the report, “feels there are physicians who are being silenced because of their medical opinions and simply for asking questions.”

## CDC: KEEP MASKS ON KIDS, IGNORE EMOTIONAL SCARRING



According to the official USA.gov website,

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect

their health through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.”

As we reported last week, according to new CDC findings, mask mandates were associated with an average 1.32 percent decrease in the rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths during the first 100 days after the mask policy was implemented.

That’s it.

Despite the measly 1.32 percent decrease in stopping the coronavirus from spreading, much of the nation and most of the world have imposed strict mask-wearing mandates. In addition, as we have long been reporting, scientific data shows mask-wearing can be dangerous to your health.

Board-certified neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock, in reviewing 17 scientific studies, found evidence that wearing a face mask for an extended period has shown to cause serious health problems:

“A recent careful examination of the literature, in which 17 of the best studies were analyzed, concluded that, ‘None of the studies established a conclusive relationship between mask/respirator use and protection against influenza infection. Keep in mind, no studies have been done to demonstrate that either a cloth mask or the N95 mask has any effect on transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

The importance of these findings is that the wearing of a mask for prolonged periods of time often causes a drop in oxygen levels (hypoxia) and is associated with an impairment in immunity. Studies have shown that hypoxia can inhibit the type of main immune cells used to fight viral infections called the CD4+ T-lymphocyte. The studies also found an elevation in blood CO<sub>2</sub> can cause a health condition called hypercapnia [carbon dioxide toxicity].

There is another danger to wearing these masks on a daily basis, especially if worn for several hours. When a person is infected with a respiratory virus, they will expel some of the virus with each breath. If they are wearing a mask, especially an N95 mask or other tightly fitting mask, they will be constantly rebreathing the viruses, raising the concentration of the virus in the lungs and the nasal passages.

Newer evidence suggests that in some cases the virus can enter the brain. In most instances, it enters the brain by way of the olfactory nerves (smell nerves), which connect directly with the area of the brain dealing with recent memory and memory consolidation. By wearing a mask, the exhaled viruses will not be able to escape and will concentrate in the nasal passages, enter the olfactory nerves and travel into the brain.”

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in some cases, mask-wearing could be deadly because inhaling high levels of carbon dioxide may be life-threatening. This can also cause headaches, vertigo, double vision, inability to concentrate, tinnitus (a ringing or buzzing in the ears), seizures, or suffocation due to displacement of air.

“Wearing a face mask makes the exhaled air go into the eyes,” wrote Dr. Antonio Lazzarino, an epidemiologist at University College London, regarding the side effects of face masks. “This generates an uncomfortable feeling and an impulse to touch your eyes. If your hands are contaminated, you are infecting yourself.”

On 21 May, an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine by doctors and medical experts from Harvard Medical School; the Division of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute; and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA, stated:

“We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.”

This is just one of several articles in the **Trends Journal** that detail both the dangers and ineffectiveness of mask-wearing.

Yet, despite these facts and ample data showing the vast majority of children do not get sick from this virus nor do they spread it (the recovery rate of those aged 1-20 is 99.997 percent, according to the CDC), the CDC continues to recommend children wear masks nearly all of the time.

The CDC director, Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, according to the “Coronavirus Update” in this past Saturday's *New York Times*, said, “Children older than two should wear masks except when eating or sleeping.”

Dr. Walensky noted the importance of opening up more child-care supervision, Head Start programs, and pre-school activities. She referenced the \$1.9 trillion relief program passed last week by Congress, which allocated \$24 billion for “COVID-19 prevention strategies” including money to support the child care industry. President Biden referred to it as the largest investment in child care since WWII.

## **What They're Not Saying**

All the back-slapping and cheerleading for the huge sums of money targeted to child care ignores the underlying reality revealed by Executive Director of UNICEF Henrietta Fore:

“One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has gone backward across virtually every key measure of childhood.”

While the CDC is still advocating mask-wearing and COVID vaccinations to protect children, they ignore the massive harm caused by continued lockdown restrictions, including the slow, fearful attitude regarding the full opening up of child care.

As Ms. Fore makes painfully clear since the lockdowns were initiated across the globe,

“The number of children who are hungry, isolated, abused, anxious, living in poverty, and forced into marriage has increased. At the same time, their access to education, socialization, and essential services including health, nutrition, and protection has decreased. The signs that children will bear the scars of the pandemic for years to come are unmistakable.”

According to UNICEF, among the devastating effects on children from the year-long lockdowns so strongly advocated by the CDC include:

“In developing countries, child poverty is expected to increase by around 15 percent. An additional 140 million children in these countries are also already projected to be in households living below the poverty line.

Schools for more than 168 million school children globally have been closed for almost a year. Two-thirds of countries with full or partial closures are in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At least 1 in 3 schoolchildren has been unable to access remote learning while their schools were closed.

At least 1 in 7 children and young people has lived under stay-at-home policies for most of the last year, leading to feelings of anxiety, depression, and isolation.”

**TRENDPOST:** *Despite the facts listed above and the numerous articles we have written regarding the ineffectiveness and dangers of mask-wearing, they are ignored by the media. Moreover, young, masked-up children are being raised in a constant state of health fear by being forced to mask up; social distance; and obey unscientific, draconian rules that are robbing them of the freedoms of growing up and running wild.*

## VACCINE FAST FACTS



The latest numbers of adverse events recorded in CDC’s VAERS reporting system include 1,637 deaths related to COVID mRNA vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna. Numbers from the system as of March 9 include:

- At least 31,079 total adverse events
- 1,637 deaths following injections
- 1,072 life-threatening incidents
- 630 permanent disabilities
- 5,781 emergency room visits
- 3,470 hospitalizations

Meanwhile, many countries in Europe have halted vaccinating people with the British made AstraZeneca version, following incidents of fatal blood clots following the injections. Thailand has also stopped use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is not currently authorized for use in the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to deny that any of the deaths following COVID vaccinations are related to the vaccines. That's despite the latest story of a by all accounts completely healthy 39-year-old mother who suffered severe systemic organ deterioration, especially of her liver, within days of receiving the Moderna vaccine. *The Epoch Times* reported on her death, just four days after receiving her second dose of the vaccine.

“A review of available clinical information including death certificates, autopsy, and medical records revealed no evidence that vaccination contributed to patient deaths,” the CDC has asserted. The CDC has been previously ridiculed for counting deaths from accidents, including falls of ladders and motorcycle deaths, as COVID deaths. They've also admitted that well under 10-percent of counted COVID deaths stem from the virus alone, without serious morbidity co-factors like diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

### **Current Vaccination Counts**

According to the CDC, as of March 12th 101 million doses of vaccine have been administered in the U.S. Roughly half the states have given 30-thousand or more doses per 100-thousand in population. California, Utah, Idaho, and a southern belt of states from Texas to Georgia, are currently less vaccinated than the rest of the nation.

Worldwide, 345 million doses have been given. Interestingly, China continues to lag other technologically advanced nations in administering COVID vaccines. Just 3.2 out of a hundred citizens in China have received at least one dose of vaccine.

The U.S., much of Europe, Israel, UAE, Bahrain and Chile continue to outpace the rest of the world in vaccinations. By now, it's fairly well established that much of the African continent, as well as much of Asia, has been less susceptible to the COVID virus than other regions and populations.

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## MYANMAR PROTESTS: 39 PROTESTERS KILLED ON SUNDAY

As we have reported in our 9 March article, [“PROTESTS RAGE IN MYANMAR DESPITE MILITARY CRACKDOWN,”](#) protesters have continued to face off against the military-backed police in the country to voice opposition against the military coup last month.

The protesters are demanding the release of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and others arrested by the military, as well as for the civilian government to be put back in power. The generals 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 general election.

*Reuters* reported that at least 39 pro-democracy protesters were killed Sunday during clashes in and around Yangon, the country’s largest city. On Monday, security forces opened fire again, killing at least five.

“One girl got shot in the head, and a boy got shot in the face,” an 18-year-old protester from Myingyan told *Reuters*. He said that he was in hiding.

## **Burning China**

Several Chinese-backed factories in the area were torched by attackers causing about \$37 million in damage, according to the report. The violence prompted China to call for the generals in the country to show restraint. Reports out of the country indicated that martial law would be imposed in some of the most violent cities, including Hlaingthaya, the Yangon suburb where 37 protesters were killed.

Prior to Sunday’s bloodshed, the death toll stemming from the protests stood at around 70 since the 1 February coup. *The New York Times* interviewed several people from the town of Myaing, where police opened fire on protesters on 11 March, killing eight. One witness told the paper the police officers were shooting protesters like they would “shoot birds.”

Amnesty International told the paper the country’s police used military-grade equipment on the protesters, which has appalled the international community. About 2,000 protesters have been detained. Joanne Mariner, the director of crisis response for the agency, said,

“These are not the actions of overwhelmed, individual officers making poor decisions. These are unrepentant commanders already implicated in crimes against humanity, deploying their troops and murderous methods in the open.”

A senior official from the Biden administration told *NPR* that the country is teetering on the brink, and a humanitarian crisis is emerging. There are about 1,600 from the country in the U.S., and they will be eligible for Temporary Protected Status for the next 18 months.

Suu Kyi’s condition in captivity has been a mystery, but *The Times* reported she has been accused by the military of illicitly receiving 25 pounds of gold and

\$600,000. She has been accused of other crimes that could mean years in prison.

## YOUTH REVOLUTION



As we pointed out in our 23 February article, [“YOUTH REVOLUTION 2021: MYANMAR MILITARY VS. THE PEOPLE,”](#) the youth in the country have been a force to be reckoned with after the military coup.

Last Thursday, the *Wall Street Journal* ran the headline:

### **Youths Take the Lead in Myanmar Protests**

In the article, the *WSJ* noted that many protesters in the country are high-schoolers and college students who refuse to give up what they see as the democratic gains the country made over the last few years.

Many of these protesters support the country’s deposed leader Suu Kyi, but the report also pointed out the movement is becoming decentralized, which has led to more nimble protests, making it increasingly difficult for police to respond.

Brian Wong, the founder of the Oxford Political Review, wrote in *Time*,

“Many [the youth] are tired of the West’s virtue signaling and lack of real support—and are equally disillusioned with Suu Kyi’s party, the National League for Democracy (NLD)... Inspired by similar protests in the region, they are attempting to develop a decentralized movement to paralyze the country and force the army to come to the table.”

The report noted some of those killed at protests included a 17-year-old high school student who suffered a gunshot wound to the chest and another to the hip and a 19-year-old woman who was shot in the head.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have forecast since the protests began early last month, the military in Myanmar will face challenges as protesters remain intent on fighting a multifront war, joined by workers across a spectrum of businesses and industries in both the public and private sectors.*

*With the backing of China, however, the Myanmar military will continue its open warfare response to quell the insurrections and will remain in full power.*

## ARGENTINIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS WORSENS



Argentinian President Alberto Fernández’s decision to increase taxes for the thriving farm sector and wealthy individuals to pull Latin America’s third-largest economy out of a three-year recession has rankled business leaders who have been reducing

their investments in the country.

The *Wall Street Journal* interviewed Javier Rotondo, a farmer, who said the country’s move to temporarily suspend food exports to limit food pricing, plus new taxes, have crippled him financially.

He told the *Journal*, “They’re implementing crazy policies that don’t make much sense.”

The paper described a desperate economic climate in the country of 48 million and said Buenos Aires’ economy is as bad as it has been since 2001 when there were deadly riots. The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco identified the

culprit of the 2001 crisis as the country's "persistent inability to reduce its high public and external debts.

"These made the economy vulnerable to adverse economic shocks and shifts in market sentiment," the report said.

The country's economy contracted by 10 percent in 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak, and its poverty rate hit 44 percent, the paper reported, citing the Catholic University. (The newspaper *El Pais* reported that in 2002, when the country collapsed, its GDP was "only slightly worse" at 10.9 percent.)

The *Journal* reported the country has about \$5 billion in cash and gold reserves, and it has debt payments that are due to the International Monetary Fund. The country's government has barred companies from reducing work staff and paid 50 percent of salaries to workers at "tens of thousands of small businesses," the paper said.

The *El Pais* report said Argentina relies on its agriculture sector, which is responsible for the employment of over two million, or 14 percent of the country's workforce. Fernández, who is a member of the nationalist Peronist movement, hopes that as the world recovers from the epidemic, the country will benefit from higher prices on grain exports, the *Journal* reported.

Martin Guzman, the country's finance minister, said at a conference last month he hopes the economy bounces back and cuts its budget deficit to about 6 percent of its annual economic output compared to 8.5 percent last year, the *Journal* reported.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Mostly forgotten and barely reported is that in 2018, under the regime of its former president Mauricio Macri, the "pro-business" leader saddled the nation with a \$57-billion debt to the IMF.*

*The Argentine peso crashed in mid-2018 after the country entered a recession in the year's second quarter. The peso lost more than half its value that year and fell more than 35 percent in 2019.*

*Before the COVID War began, Argentina's economy contracted at a rate of 3.1 percent in 2019. Inflation is rampant, reaching 52.9 percent in December. It's estimated more than 40 percent of the country's 44 million people now live in poverty.*

*According to the IMF, it "is not economically nor politically feasible" for Argentina to fully repay its more than \$100 billion foreign debt.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *When the "stimulus" money dries up, interest rates rise, equity markets crash, and the world descends into the "Greatest Depression," social unrest will escalate in Argentina and nations across the globe.*

*The wars between the people and politicians will become common battle cries as the rich continue to get richer and the masses sink lower into economic despair.*

## **SENEGAL: DEADLY CLASHES, YOUTH REVOLUTION**



Thousands of young protesters took to the streets in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, over the indictment of a popular opposition candidate and to lash out about socioeconomic conditions, according to reports.

The *Financial Times* reported last week that at least eight people were killed and military vehicles were deployed throughout the city after rape charges were filed against Ousmane Sonko, an opposition leader in the nation. He denied the charges and said they were politically motivated.

Sonko, the president of the Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (Pastef) party, was arrested on 3 March. Since then, the government has been

accused of making arbitrary arrests and opening fire with live ammunition on protesters.

“We cannot allow [President] Macky Sall to flout democracy and imprison his opponents,” a protester told *Al Jazeera*. “Ousmane Sonko represents only a hope for a better future.”

The report said the protester once worked as a tax inspector but lost his job in 2016 after raising suspicions that the brother of the country’s president had some murky tax information.

The fierce protests have taken many international observers by surprise because the country has been considered one of the region’s democratic success stories. But the *FT* reported that protesters have voiced their disapproval over France’s continued influence over the country and coronavirus restrictions, which have been blamed on damaging its economy.

Eric Humphery-Smith, a research analyst for Africa at Maplecroft, a global risk consulting firm, told Quartz Africa,

“One reason why the protests are now spreading has been the government’s reactionary response. The authorities flooded the streets with soldiers while simultaneously accusing protesters of being the source of violence.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Once again, it is a “Youth Revolution” fighting against the establishment which, in the case of Senegal, has imposed strict lockdown and curfew rules that have crippled its economy. In the nation of 16.3 million people, only 930 have died of the virus since last year... or just 0.0057 percent of the population. Over a year, 0.00048 percent of the population died each month, yet the nation has imposed far greater COVID laws and curfews than neighboring countries.*

*Thus, as economic conditions deteriorate further and with the young having dark prospects for a prosperous future, protests will escalate. As violence rises, so,*

*too, will the refugee crisis, as more people throughout Africa seek safe-haven homelands, particularly in Europe. This will, in turn, fuel anti-immigration/anti-establishment European populist movements.*

## **U.N.: YEMEN HELL**



David Beasley, the head of the U.N.'s World Food Program, told reporters last week after a visit to Yemen that the conditions on the ground in the country are "hell." Beasley underscored his point by describing a children's wing of a

hospital:

"In a children's wing or ward of the hospital, you know, you normally hear crying and laughter. There's no crying, there's no laughter, there's dead silence. This is hell. It's the worst place on earth, and it's entirely man-made."

Saudi Arabia, with the support of then-President Obama, announced the launch of the Yemen war from Washington, D.C. in 2015.

The Houthis, who were ruling large sections of the country for over a thousand years, had overthrown President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who was put in control by the Saudi's. The Houthis took control of Sana'a (Yemen's largest city) and seized the presidential palace.

The Yemen war, as we have been reporting, is considered the world's worst humanitarian disaster, killing at least 230,000. About 400,000 Yemeni children under five could die this year of hunger, reports said.

Besides allegations of indiscriminate bombings, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have been accused of enforcing a blockade that has stranded hundreds of food trucks in a port city.

The U.N. reported that over 16 million in the country are food insecure and about 50,000 are facing famine-like conditions. The agency says it needs about \$1.9 billion to avert catastrophe.

**TRENDPOST:** *The U.N. has been warning that the coronavirus outbreak and economic fallout could push up to 32 million people in the world's poorest countries into extreme poverty... and the world seems not to care.*

*Mushin Siddiquey, Oxfam's Yemen director, recently pointed to data produced from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute that showed G20 states "have exported over \$17 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia since the Kingdom entered the conflict in Yemen." ReliefWeb.int reported that UNICEF's humanitarian appeal pulled in \$237 million, which is a funding gap of almost \$300 million.*

*While the COVID War and its growing "cases" make headline news minute after minute, barely a peep from the Prostitutes of the mass murder and human suffering inflicted on innocent people by murderous politicians and their nations that sell the invaders murderous weapons and impose murderous food supply blockades.*

## ISRAEL TARGETS IRANIAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA



Israel has employed various forms of weaponry – including mines – to impede the shipment of Iranian oil to Syria and has targeted at least a dozen ships, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The report stated these attacks in the Red Sea have been occurring since 2019 and have not been previously disclosed. The paper cited unnamed officials.

“Israel stepped up the game beyond sanctions to sabotage,” Mark Dubowitz, the chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told the paper. “The Red Sea sabotage is keeping with a broader economic-warfare campaign.”

The report said Israel acted because it feared the profits from the shipments would fund extremism. The report went on to say that Israel appears to be willing to act alone on Iran, which it continues to see as an existential threat in the region. No ships have sunk, and there have been no reported fatalities. The *Journal’s* report included photographs of ships with damage from purported missile strikes.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz has blamed Iran for targeting an Israeli-owned ship in the Gulf of Oman, and he declared Israel would take action “almost weekly” in an attempt to stop Iranian involvement in Syria.

Gantz also said in an interview earlier this month that his country stands ready to act alone if Iran continues to accelerate its nuclear program and is updating its plans to strike Tehran’s nuclear facilities.

The remarks come as President Biden’s team is considering rejoining the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal that former President Trump abandoned and criticized as a gift for Tehran.

*The Jerusalem Post* reported that Tel Aviv has carried out more than 1,000 airstrikes aimed at various targets in Syria over the past five years.

## **Bombs Away**

This past Friday, Iran reported one of its cargo ships en route to Europe was hit by a “terrorist attack.”

Ali Ghiasian, speaking for the shipping group, said,

“Such terrorist acts amount to naval piracy and are contrary to international law on commercial shipping security, and legal actions will be taken to identify the perpetrators through relevant international institutions.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite Israel’s actions toward Iran, considering the U.S. had signed on with other nations to join the Iranian nuclear deal back in 2015 when Joseph Biden was VP, now that he is president, we forecast he will rejoin the nuclear deal.*

*Deal or no deal, the Middle East wild card remains Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s continued military threats against the Persian nation. Now, with Netanyahu again fighting for his “political life,” will military tensions with Iran escalate before the 23 March elections?*

*The Jerusalem Post reported that Netanyahu said he was certain a conclusive result would be reached and the fifth election in just over two years would not be initiated.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As Gerald Celente has long noted and history shows, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” We had forecast tensions would build in the Middle East, with Iran being a main target of Israel.*

*We have also reported that since November 2019, Benjamin Netanyahu has been under the pressure of a criminal indictment on three separate corruption cases: bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. Unable to form a ruling coalition, Netanyahu had wanted members to agree that as PM, he was above the law and could not be brought up on charges.*

*This past summer, thousands of Israelis took to the streets, primarily in Jerusalem near Netanyahu’s residence, demanding he step down.*

*Regardless of who wins the election, tensions with Iran will continue to escalate, and there will be no substantive peace measures taken with the Palestinians. The Israeli “settlement” trend of annexing Palestinian land will continue.*

## **MADRID: CALL FOR EARLY ELECTION**



Isabel Díaz Ayuso, who rose in popularity due to her reticence to impose strict coronavirus restrictions last year, announced last week that she would dissolve her regional assembly and called for new elections on 4 May.

Díaz Ayuso’s decision came shortly after a no-confidence motion was filed by the Socialist Party against her conservative Popular Party (PP), the newspaper *El País* reported. Reports indicated there has been a regional strain between the conservative party and Ciudadanos, its liberal coalition partner.

The *Financial Times* noted Díaz Ayuso’s move came shortly after the Ciudadanos sided with the Socialist Party against the PP in a no-confidence vote in the region of Murcia. She saw the writing on the wall and worried a similar gambit could unfold in Madrid.

“I cannot allow Madrid to be brought to a stop... for taxes to be increased, schools to be indoctrinated and businesses to be closed,” Díaz Ayuso said, according to the *FT*.

The paper pointed out that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) identified Spain as the EU economy most affected by the coronavirus outbreak. *Reuters* reported earlier this month that the country’s jobless number rose above four million last month, due in large part to an 80-percent drop in tourism.

“The rise in unemployment, caused by the 3rd wave, is bad news, reflecting the structural flaws of the labor market that are accentuated by the pandemic,” said Yolanda Diaz, the country’s labor minister, according to *Reuters*.

Diaz Ayuso reportedly acted swiftly after the Ciudadanos move in Murcia. She fired her deputy, who is a member of the Ciudadanos, and sent the regional department heads packing, according to *El País*.

Pablo Iglesias, vice president of the Spanish government and head of the political party Podemos, announced Monday that he would leave his post and face Díaz Ayuso in the 4 May election.

Iglesias released a video announcing his decision and said,

“Madrid needs a left-wing government and I think I can be useful. I have been thinking about it a lot and we have decided that if those registered want to, I will run for the elections in Madrid.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Among the European nations, Spain, of which nearly 14 percent of its GDP is tourism-related, has been hit extremely hard by COVID War lockdowns.*

*According to statista.com, the nation’s unemployment rate reached 19 percent last year and is expected to close out 2021 above 17 percent.*

*We note this to emphasize how there will be strong support of anti-tax, anti-lockdown, anti-vax, anti-establishment political movements, especially in nations such as Spain where many small businesses once thrived but have since been devastated by the COVID War.*

## EX-INTERIM PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA GOES TO JAIL



Jeanine Áñez, the former interim president of Bolivia, was arrested Saturday on charges of terrorism, sedition, and conspiracy over an alleged coup in 2019 that deposed the country's socialist President Evo Morales,

according to reports.

*Al Jazeera* reported that Áñez was arrested in Trinidad and moved to the Bolivian city of La Paz where she faced a judge. The report said that before her arrest, she tweeted, "The political persecution has begun."

She appeared in court Sunday via a video link, and prosecutors called for her to be held for six months of pretrial detention because she was deemed a flight risk. She appeared in court with two of her former ministers, Rodrigo Guzman and Alvaro Coimbra, who face the same charges.

Áñez tweeted:

"In an act of abuse and political persecution the MAS [Movement Towards Socialism] government has ordered my arrest. It is accusing me of having participated in a coup that never happened. My prayers for Bolivia and for all Bolivians."

*Reuters* reported a prosecutor told the court that Áñez and her alleged co-conspirators "rigged" events stemming from Morales' 2019 election win and subsequent protests over allegations of fraud. Morales said he was deposed in a coup he believed was backed by the U.S.

The arrest of Áñez has prompted critics in the country to speak out against President Luis Arce, a former economy minister under Morales. *CNN* reported that Áñez was president for less than a year and lost the country's October

election to Arce, who is from Morales' MAS party. After Arce's win, Morales returned to the country from a brief exile in Argentina.

Morales was the country's first indigenous native-elected president in 2005. He was credited for nationalizing the country's oil and gas reserves, the nation's number one source of revenue, while redistributing much of the revenue toward infrastructure improvement, wage increases, social security benefits, education, health and price control on food, and other social programs.

Julie Chung, Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere, tweeted on Saturday, "We urge our friends and neighbors in Bolivia to uphold all civil rights and due process guarantees of the American Convention on Human Rights and the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter."

***TRENDPOST:*** *We have been reporting on the political maneuvering and unrest in Bolivia following the disputed presidential election in October 2019.*

*Since taking office in 2006, President Morales is credited with initiating many popular and successful socialist programs. When 51 percent of Bolivian voters, however, rejected his proposal to reform the constitution to end existing term limits, he brought the issues to the Bolivian Supreme Court, which rescinded legal limits barring elected authorities from seeking re-election indefinitely.*

*Following the court's decision, protesters across the country took to the streets accusing Morales of an authoritarian power play.*

*His opponent in the current political turmoil, Carlos Mesa, is a former president who led an extended military crackdown between 2002 and 2005 against mass protests then led by Morales. Mesa is a member of the U.S.-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue and has the backing of the U.S. government.*

*President Morales and his MAS party were also being blamed for worsening economic and health conditions.*

*Workers at the largest mine in Bolivia went on strike for three weeks back in 2019, and Bolivian doctors went on strike in protest of deteriorating hospital conditions and lack of resources to deal with the spread of an Arenavirus disease caused by rodent infestation.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we reported in the **Trends Journal**, the U.N.'s Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean had warned the COVID outbreak threatens another "lost decade" for what the commission called the worst-affected developing region in the world. The commission said extreme poverty in the region is at its worst level in 20 years and impacts 78 million people.*

*We note this because as economic conditions across South America continue to decline, political unrest will escalate, and so, too, will the refugee crisis, as people risk their lives to escape poverty, violence, crime, and corruption.*

*As the United States has done in the past, it will support the militarist government and so-called socialist ones in the name of fighting drug wars, cartels, and terrorism.*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## **BRITS CALL AMERICAN DRUG ADS “POST-APOCALYPTIC”**

On 17 November 2015, the American Medical Association (AMA) called for an end to commercial ads touting prescription drugs.

At the time, the AMA posted on its website: “Physicians cited concerns that a growing proliferation of ads is driving demand for expensive treatments despite the clinical effectiveness of less costly alternatives.”

AMA Board Chair Patrice A. Harris had said,

“Today’s vote in support of an advertising ban reflects concerns among physicians about the negative impact of commercially-driven promotions, and the role that marketing costs play in fueling escalating drug prices. Direct-to-consumer advertising also inflates demand for new and more expensive drugs, even when these drugs may not be appropriate.”

In February 2017, Harvard Medical School published the article titled, “Do Not Get Sold on Drug Advertising.” It stated:

“Drug marketing is a big business, and companies are willing to spend a lot of money to offer you an easy solution to a health problem you may or may not have. From 2012 to 2015, yearly spending on prescription drug advertising in all media outlets (except digital) rose from \$3.2 billion to \$5.2 billion, and that figure is expected to only go up.”

The article confirmed the U.S. is the only country in the world, except for New Zealand, that allows drug companies to market directly to consumers.

## **Drug Dealers**

This subject has come to light again after the interview Oprah Winfrey conducted with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle (the Duke and Duchess of Sussex) on 7 March, which drew an audience of over 17 million, including many U.K. viewers.

Although tuning in to hear about the controversial couple and their departure from royal duties, according to *The Insider*, “British viewers took to Twitter during Meghan Markle and Prince Harry’s bombshell interview with Oprah last night to question why pharmaceutical companies advertise directly to viewers.”

CBS paid between \$7 to 9 million to air the interview, which was paid back in profits from hiked-up charges for commercials during the broadcast, including multiple ads for prescription drugs.

Following the interview, Twitter feeds from British viewers included:

“American adverts make me feel like I’m in some post-apocalyptic world.”

“American adverts are unhinged. It’s wild how many drugs get casual ads.”

“Ask your doctor if PRIVATIZATION is right for you. (Side effects may include bankruptcy, medical treatment being denied, kids having to sell lemonade to pay for their cancer surgery, and reduced life expectancy.)”

“Only 20 minutes in and the tea is already getting hot! They’re really getting their money’s worth with these advert slots though, will never stop being wild to me that drug companies can advertise on TV in America”

“I’m watching the Meghan interview recording and yet again I can’t understand why American tv ads are like ‘ask your doctor for...’ or ‘tell your doctor...’ why the f\*\*k would you be the one to tell a DOCTOR what medicine to give you?????”

“I remember the first time I saw American TV. Drugs, cars, food. Drugs that stop your food allergy symptoms. Processed shit that replaces real food. Drugs that help dampen the other drugs' symptoms.”

Among the drugs advertised during the interview were:

- Kisqali, used to treat hormone-related breast cancer in women, whose website warns, “May cause severe or life-threatening inflammation of the lungs during treatment that may lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new or worsening symptoms.”
- Jardiance, used to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes whose website warns, “Sudden kidney injury has happened in people taking Jardiance” and “Serious urinary tract infections can occur in people taking Jardiance and may lead to hospitalization.”
- Skyrizi, a treatment for moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, whose website warns that the drug “may lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections and may increase your risk of infections.”

**TRENDPOST:** *It was under Bill Clinton’s administration in 1997 that the FDA allowed drug ads on TV – before then, they were essentially prohibited. The year before, Clinton passed the “Telecommunications Act of 1996,” which overhauled almost 62 years of regulations, allowing the Bigs to take control of the mainstream media. As a result of this act, some six companies now control over 90 percent of the entire U.S. media.*

*As for the drug ads, according to FIERCE Pharma, Direct-to-Consumer drug ads are big moneymakers. They note:*

*“Study after study finds that patients follow the well-worn DTC advice and actually ‘ask your doctor’ about a condition or a specific medicine after they’ve seen ads for a prescription drug on TV or online. A DRG study found that among patients who saw digital ads for drugs, 42% requested a specific prescription from their doctors, while 22% of people who saw TV ads did the same. Another study, by Wharton and University of Southern California professors, estimated that for every 10% increase in advertising exposure, there was a corresponding increase in the number of prescriptions purchased by about 5%.”*

**TRENDPOST:** *Beyond the negative effects many of the advertised big Pharma drugs have on the American public was well documented in previous **Trends Journal** articles.*

*In our 11 February article, “[FOREVER CHEMICALS: POISON ON TAP](#),” we detailed how huge amounts of prescription drugs were found in the water supply.*

*In our 9 March 2019 article, “[AS FORECAST: ANTIBIOTICS RESISTANCE A CRISIS](#),” we covered how gross over-prescribing of antibiotics is creating a slew of new anti-resistant bacteria.*

*In our 8 October 2019 article, “[DEA = DOA](#),” we wrote about how OxyContin, a commonly prescribed painkiller, was approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement*

*Administration to increase its production by 400 percent even though it is among the top three opioids causing overdose and death.*

*Even though in 2019, adverse reaction to prescription drugs was the fourth-leading cause of death in the U.S., killing some 128,000 Americans every year, according to the National Institute of Natural Healing, not only are these drugs allowed to be promoted through TV ads and other media outlets, the U.S. government actively finances the prescription drug industry. (See our 2 February article, [“TAX DOLLARS BOOST DRUG DEALER PROFITS.”](#))*

*And, just last Thursday, Reuters reported, “Insider alleges Eli Lilly blocked her efforts to sound alarms about U.S. drug factory.”*

*The Reuters article reveals how a human resources manager, who was maintaining records of employee complaints about Eli Lilly's manufacturing failures affecting many of the drugs being produced, had her locked desk broken into and her evidence stolen. As the article reported,*

*“In one case, according to 2018 emails among executives, company-mandated quality assurance documents were missing for Trulicity, which security filings show garnered more than \$4 billion in sales in 2019.” The human resources manager was told the company was ‘eliminating her position’...*

*On Tuesday [9 March] several days after receiving detailed questions from Reuters, Lilly announced the retirements of two senior vice presidents: Myles O’Neill, who heads Lilly’s manufacturing operations, and Melissa Barnes, who is chief ethics and compliance officer. The company claimed the timing was just a coincidence and part of Eli Lilly’s ‘robust succession planning process.’”*

## NYC \$TUPIDITY: \$447,337 FOR A YEAR IN JAIL



New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer released a report last week that revealed the city spent a staggering \$447,337 per year housing each inmate – or about \$1,226 per day – a 146-percent jump from 2014.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Stringer blamed the increase due to staffing remaining relatively unchanged at these city jails despite the drop in inmates. The Department of Corrections budget was down for the year in 2020. The city spent \$1.28 billion on the department compared to \$1.36 billion the year prior.

The report stated the city’s average daily population inside city jails was 5,841 in 2020, a 26 percent drop from 2019. This year, the average daily number of inmates stands at 4,193. Stringer said,

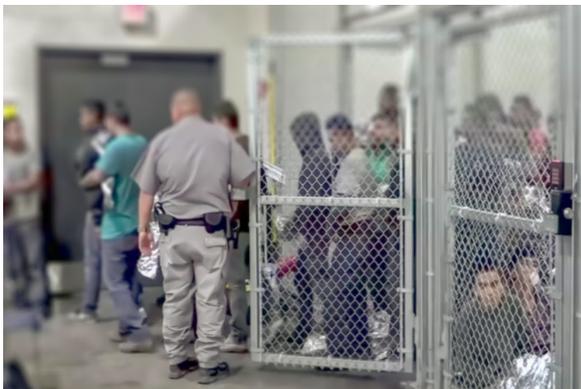
“The cost to incarcerate a single individual on Rikers has exploded even as our jail population remains near historic lows – yet rates of violence continue to climb. That means we are spending more and more money to incarcerate fewer and fewer people and reducing the safety of both officers and people in custody in the process.”

Stringer’s report found that fight and assault infractions rose by 27 percent compared to 2019, and the percentage of inmates with a mental health diagnosis has gone up, reaching 46 percent in 2020 and 54 percent in the first four months of 2021.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this outright travesty to illustrate the levels of incompetence by politicians and bureaucrats who suck off the public tit, never working a day in their lives, who are in charge of running nations, states, and*

*cities. Despite this overt waste of taxpayer money, this article never got prominent coverage and died the day it was reported.*

## **U.S. BORDER PATROL: CHILD BORDER CROSSINGS SPIKING**



The Biden administration is facing a crisis at the border with a surge of migrants – unaccompanied minors, in particular, according to reports.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that in February alone, 9,297 of these children were recorded at the border, which represents a 63-percent increase. The report said there have been 97,000 arrests in the month, and the number of families arriving at the border has doubled.

There is a confluence of reasons why the numbers at the border continue to rise, from worsening economic conditions in many Central American countries and a view by many migrants that a Biden administration is more welcoming than the previous White House.

*The Washington Post* reported that the surge at the border is creating a humanitarian emergency. The paper said the Department of Health and Human Services has been caring for 8,500 in shelters last week, and 3,500 additional minors have been held in stations operated by Border Patrol until beds begin to open up. The report stated teenage boys from Mexico and Central America account for the largest group.

FEMA announced on Sunday it would assist with caring for the overflow of migrants.

“Our goal is to ensure that unaccompanied children are transferred to HHS as quickly as possible, consistent with legal requirements and in the best interest of the children,” said Alejandro Mayorkas, the head of DHS.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, the border crisis in the United States and across the globe will escalate. We maintain our forecast for the growth of anti-immigration, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-establishment political parties.*

## NEWS MEDIA: POST-TRUMP SLUMP



News websites are trying to figure out how to attract viewers who seem to be less interested in President Biden than former President Trump.

*SimilarWeb* reported that web traffic at news websites has seen a drop in traffic by 20 percent since Trump left office. *Axios* reported there were about three times as many news stories about Trump in February of 2017 than of Biden this year.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The mainstream media makes its money one page view at a time, and former President Trump was a lightning rod of controversy adored by his supporters and reviled by his critics.*

*Either way, many media organizations saw a dramatic bump in ratings fueled by anti-Trump anger. It is clear these companies will try to keep their audiences through any means necessary.*

*In our article last week, “[CNN AGAIN ADMITS SELLING COVID BOOSTS RATINGS](#),” we noted an article quoting a top executive talking about how COVID-19 could mean big ratings:*

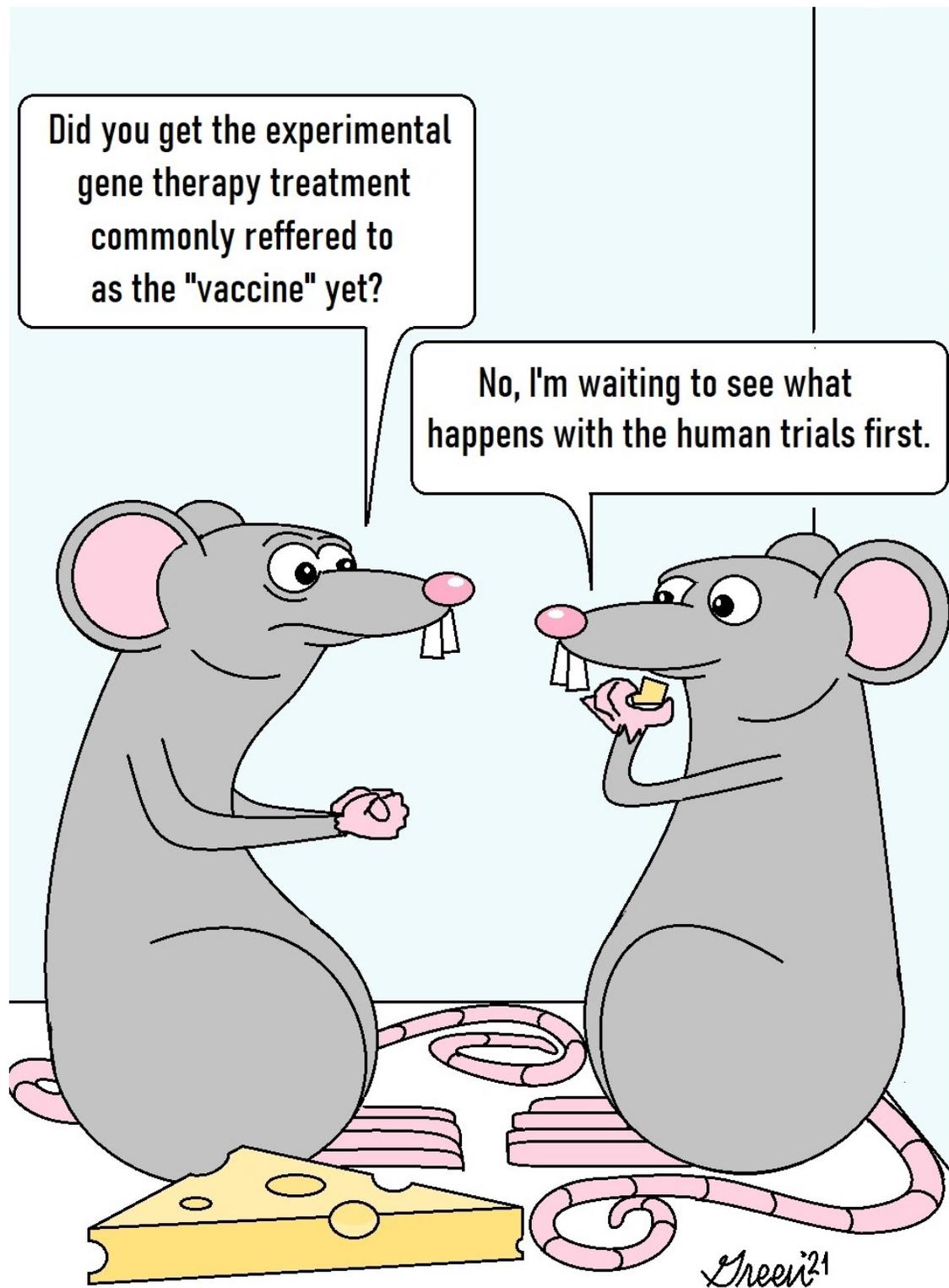
*Jason Kilar, the CEO of WarnerMedia, CNN's parent company, told a Telecom Conference, "It turns out that pandemic is a pretty big part of the news cycle, and that's not going away anytime soon... If you take a look at the ratings and the performance, it's going well. And I think it's going well because... as it turns out that the pandemic and the way that we can help inform and contextualize the pandemic, turns out it's really good for ratings."*

*Thus, to boost ratings as they keep sagging, we forecast the Presstitutes will create new, harrowing fear and hysteria models to keep both ratings and advertising revenue up.*

*The approach by networks is that news is entertainment. So, expect to see Fox News run continuous stories about Biden's mental acuity and CNN and MSNBC attempting to create another Trump-like figure in the Republican Party.*

# THE ART OF TRENDS

“Lab Rats” by *Stephen Green*



# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## **NEW BRANCH OF THE MILITARY: CYBERFORCE**

In 2018, the U.S. Congress established the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, made up of 15 professionals in technology, security, public policy, and education. The commission has just delivered its final report to Congress and the president.

Its finding: “America is not prepared to defend or compete in the AI era,” it said.

The panel recommends the country launch the U.S. Digital Service Academy, similar to existing military academies.

Recruits would attend the academy tuition-free in exchange for five years of government service after graduation. Instead of being commissioned as military officers, graduates would go to work in the Department of Defense, National Security Agency, and other federal offices to defend against cyberattacks and strengthen the country’s cyberwarfare capabilities.

After five years, graduates could join the civilian workforce, bringing their expertise to AI's evolving role in research and the economy.

Graduates also could enroll in the National Reserve Digital Corps, a cadre of weekend cyberwarriors that the commission suggests Congress authorize, similar to today's National Guard.

As the current military does, the new academy would offer free education and a path to well-paid careers to young people who lack college funds and a career direction. The faculty could be drawn from experts in engineering, computer science, business, national security, and other relevant fields.

The commission also urges Congress to create a National Technology Foundation and invest billions in coming years in research into areas in which AI will be key, including advanced manufacturing, quantum computing, renewable energy, and synthetic biology.

The U.S. Digital Service Academy could graduate its first class six years after Congress creates it, said commission member Jose-Marie Griffiths, president of Dakota State University.

***TRENDPOST:*** *A bookshelf full of reports has warned the U.S. is trailing further and further behind other countries, especially China, in the creation and transfer of technologies that will define military as well as economic success in the 21st century.*

*Warfare this century will be increasingly shaped by digital smarts, not by the biggest piles of hardware. If the U.S. is to maintain a strong national defense, immediate investment in a cyberforce is essential. A national effort to develop a robust cyber defense will spill a range of benefits into the civilian economy.*

## mRNA VACCINE EFFECTIVE AGAINST MS, PERHAPS OTHER ILLNESSES



The mRNA vaccine design effective against the COVID virus also shows promise in battling multiple sclerosis (MS), a complicated condition in which the body's immune system peels away the protein sheath surrounding nerve fibers, causing them to short-circuit.

Traditional vaccines carry a fragment of a hostile virus or a weak version of the whole bug, so a person's immune system can build up antibodies without having to fight the actual disease.

In contrast, mRNA vaccines "infect" the body's immune system cells with instructions to manufacture the protein structure that makes an invading virus identifiable, such as the spike on the surface of coronavirus cells.

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is a cell's instruction plan for a specific protein; one mRNA structure makes one protein, a different mRNA makes another.

mRNA vaccines also deliver a double blow to infections: they coax the immune system to make antibodies against the specific invader and also to make T-cells, the immune system's ninjas in fighting dangerous viruses.

After creating a COVID mRNA virus with Pfizer, the German BioNTech pharma company tested a different mRNA version in mice genetically altered to develop a condition analogous to MS in humans.

The new vaccine eased symptoms in the afflicted mice and halted the disease's progress in animals showing early stages of the condition.

Typically, MS is treated by drugs that suppress the body's entire immune system, leaving patients vulnerable to infections.

The scientists theorize that the vaccine taught the immune system to tolerate the nervous system's myelin sheath without turning off its ability to recognize and combat foreign invaders.

**TRENDPOST:** *With success against MS, mRNA vaccines may be able to be tweaked to moderate or halt other autoimmune conditions, such as arthritis. The new mRNA design also is being tested as a treatment or cure for cancer and other major diseases and could be the foundation for a broad new medical arsenal against degenerative illness.*

## CLEAN, GREEN SEAWATER BATTERIES



For all their usefulness, batteries are a toxic mess. Electrolytes, the medium that moves a battery's electric charge from one pole to the other, are a slough of sometimes-flammable toxins that can include cadmium, ammonium chloride, and sulfuric acid. When batteries are used up and thrown away, those poisons can go into soils and water reservoirs.

That's why scientists at the University of Central Florida are perfecting a battery that uses ocean water as its electrolyte.

Saltwater batteries aren't a new idea; the U.S. Army has been tinkering with them for years and finally has a version delivering enough voltage to run small household appliances.

Seawater batteries work best with a zinc anode, the pole sending electrons into the electrolyte to be harvested on the far side by the cathode. But zinc anodes typically grow barnacles of extra zinc, shortening the batteries' lifespan and limiting their practicality.

The Florida researchers have found that coating the zinc anode with a zinc-manganese nanolayer creates a barrier that doesn't let the zinc globs grow. The Florida battery has tested 1,000 hours of heavy charging and discharging with no deterioration.

The developers see their new design being used first in ocean-going vessels but are confident the technology can be equally useful ashore.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The energy revolution now underway depends on innovations in battery tech as much as on solar panels or breakthroughs in fuel cell design. Battery designs using nontoxic compounds and that forgo rare elements will be cheaper, easier to build, and will gain a market advantage.*