

# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

## ROARING

## 21



*Bustin' Loose!*



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## ROARING 21

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: "Roaring 21: Bustin' Loose!"

There will soon be a social explosion spurred on by the young, who view COVID as an "old person's disease." They're not dying from it... and none of their friends are.

Yet, they've paid a heavy lockdown price, and our trends research shows it's Party Time.

It's all part of the "Youth Revolution," one of our "Top Trends of 2021." The protests in Myanmar and Thailand, as they were in Hong Kong, are being led by Generation Z and younger millennial compatriots seeking a future that is far better than the present. This trend is global.

This and more is in this week's Trends Journal, the only magazine in the world where you can read History Before it Happens®.

Wishing you all the best in these unprecedented times,

*Gerald Celente, Publisher*

P.S. For OnTrendpreneurs,® "Roaring 21" provides opportunities for new products, styles, messages, and services to fill the needs and desires of the "Bustin' Loose"... some of which we have already identified.

## DOCTORS ARE WARY OF VAX TOO

Professor of microbiology and immunology Dolores Cahill said that the mRNA vaccine will cause cytokine storms in response to mutated corona viruses. This will cause deaths.

As I understand in a cytokine storm, the mRNA will cause normal healthy cells to be modified to look like infected cells to the immune system T-cells. People's own immune system will attack healthy tissue.

Dr. Cahill cites a study that a SARS mRNA vaccine was tried on animals and was unsuccessful because of immune hypersensitivity. The vaccine seemed successful at first because it created antibodies.

SARS = SARS-COV-1  
Covid 19 = SARS-COV-2

The Dr. Cahill sites study is also on the NIH website.

**Chris Hirose**

## TECH CENSORSHIP TAG-TEAM

Microsoft, Intel and Adobe team up to eliminate human knowledge and halt all questions under the guise of stopping "disinformation" online

**Ivblasiotti**

## BITCOIN PRISON? THE BITCOIN "PRISON"

Lots of institutional and retail money currently going into bitcoin, resulting in a kind of "mania". It is sucking the wind out of the room and stealing Gold's Thunder

in the process. Gold can not catch a bit any longer. Gold is now the anti-bubble.

All the money invested in bitcoin will end-up being trapped in bitcoin with no way out. Once we come out with an official digital FED dollar on a blockchain in about 5 years, I expect bitcoin exchanges to be frozen and converted to FED (digital) dollars at a certain exchange rate. ( Bitcoin may be devalued, as gold was in 1933 under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.). Taxes will then be due on a lower net valuation. Taxes must by law be (exclusively) paid in U.S. Dollars.

**Craig Bradley**

### **BIG PHARMA, LIES AND SUPPLEMENTS**

Talk to anyone indoctrinated by the AMA or getting kickbacks from big pharma and they will tell you that supplements have not been tested nor are they regulated by the FDA! Hmmmmm, how much testing did they do for the warped speed Wuhan virus vaccine? Just saying, they, AMA and big pharma, will say and do anything to get more profits. It's all about the \$\$\$\$!

I have 2 autoimmune diseases and have used more supplements to maintain a somewhat healthy lifestyle than prescription meds. Prescriptions can be killers. Do your research and live healthy no matter what comes your way!

**Richard McKenzie**

### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

As I approach my 8th decade on earth, I have experienced wars, market crashes each decade, BANKSTER fraud, investor Ponzi schemes, market manipulations, Federal Reserve devaluing of currency and after all that I am witnessing the planned

destruction of all independent world currencies to make way for digital transfer of individual commerce. I guess after all these years, even though I was scrupulous about setting aside savings and purchased assets. It's going to be inevitable that economic predators side with the Central Banks Worldwide to steal all wealth accumulated by the middle class and poor!!!

I am going down fighting and will protect my wealth in any way I can when the coming final crash occurs. I am in a somewhat protective posture but it will be a very deliberate fight to survive and avoid becoming a member of the Slavelandia feudal system described by the GREAT RESET and ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION!!!

As usual, the corrupt politicians and crooks (all one and same) seem to have the upper hand but they will go down hard and experience blowback from constituents to change governance and power structures over the long run. I hope I live long enough to see that transition happen!!!

**Harlow53**

### **THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM**

Humm, I wonder why Shanghai and Beijing weren't shut down during the pandemic. I mean it spread to the whole world except it didn't spread to the rest of China.

**a1achiropractic**



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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

The COVID War. It's a gambler's dream. On the "upbeat" news that in 2020, the U.K. registered its worst economic contraction in 300 years, last week the British pound climbed to its highest level since 2018.

Today, Statistics Canada reported that the Canadian dollar shrank 5.4 percent in 2020, posting its steepest annual decline since comparable data was first recorded in 1961. Looking ahead to January, Statistics estimates 0.5 percent economic growth.

In India, a nation that was suffering several years of contracting GDP before the COVID War broke out in 2020 – and whose economy is set for its biggest annual contraction since 1952, falling 7.7 percent in the financial year ending March 2022 – saw its Sensex stock index spike up 22 percent this year. According to

UBS, Indian equities are at about 24 times the next year's earnings, and the Sensex is more highly valued than the S&P 500.

On the "good" news in the U.S., with tens of thousands of businesses going bust – airline, hospitality, convention, trade show, restaurant revenues plummeting – big cities emptying out, commercial real estate and mall values plummeting, and 8.6 million fewer employed than there were a year ago... last week, the major stock indexes ranked record high.

Riding the crest of expectations that the economy will surge fueled by COVID vaccinations, pent-up consumer demand, and assurances from the Federal Reserve that it will keep interest rates low and the reality that Washington will pump some \$2 trillion into the pockets of consumers and businesses to prop up the economy... the Dow zoomed 424 points to a record 31,961.86 on 24 February.

Last Thursday and Friday, the Dow lost nearly 1,000 points as 10-year yields spiked. Can the Fed step in to again rescue the markets and keep the artificially propped up? What will they do? Read Gregory Mannarino's new article, ["THE FED'S SILENT WAR TO GAIN MORE CONTROL."](#)

Yesterday, the same day the *American Journal of Public Health* reported that over 30,000 Americans have died due to pandemic-related unemployment, stocks surged, boosting the S&P 500 to its best day in nine months.

Today, the Dow was up most of the day but closed down 144 points, while high-flying tech stocks Apple, Facebook, Amazon, and Microsoft slid down, and Tesla dropped 4.5 percent, pushing the NASDAQ down 1.7 percent, while the S&P 500 fell 0.8 percent

## **Biden Bounce**

As the cover of this week's **Trends Journal** illustrates, much of the world, particularly the young people, are ready to bust out, break loose, party, and spend their way to happiness. As we have reported in this issue, states across

the nation are going to be fully opened. Indeed, as we went to press, Texas announced it's back to business as usual.

While life won't instantly go back to pre-COVID War normal, a new round of explosion will temporarily boost economies for months to come. Yesterday, the Institute for Supply Management reported manufacturing data had its highest growth level since August 2018.

Today, the Atlanta Federal Reserve estimates that first-quarter U.S. GDP will spike 10 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we at the ***Trends Journal*** and Gregory Mannarino attest, stock prices are detached from underlying economic realities. Prices are blown to the winds of hopes and fears, which can reverse direction in a day, as last week's market swings show. The Dow was down over 1,000 points in two days, and, in two weeks, the tech-heavy NASDAQ fell 7 percent. Thus, the prospects for sharp selloffs persist.

*We maintain our forecast that central banks will keep interest rates low, keep buying up bonds and invent more quantitative easing measures, and government stimulus will artificially inflate both equities and economies. However, when the monetary methadone injections dry up and the Wall Street money junkies can't get their fix, the markets will crash and Main Street will sink deeply into the "Greatest Depression."*

*We continue to forecast the stock bubble will burst before the year's end.*

*Beyond equities, the high-flying real estate markets that showed listing prices up 14.5 percent year-to-date – registering 28 consecutive weeks of double-digit price gains according to Realtor.com – will also move downward. As for commercial real estate, condominiums and apartment rentals in large cities that have witnessed declining populations, as people move to suburban and exurban areas, will sharply fall in value.*

**GOLD.** In early trading today, gold dropped to \$1,706 per ounce, hitting its lowest level since last June before rebounding to close at \$1,734 per ounce. After falling to a one-month low, silver was up 18 cents, closing at \$26.78 per ounce.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that while bullion is down sharply this year, the combinations of massive money printing; deepening budget deficits' corporations piling on of massive debt loads; and the artificially-propped up equity markets bubble that will eventually burst, plus rising inflation; gold prices will top \$2,100 per ounce, and silver will push above \$50 per ounce.*

**OIL.** Down some \$5.00 since last week's high, Brent Crude closed down 1.87 percent at \$62.50 per barrel, and West Texas Intermediate was off 1.78 percent closing at 59.56 per barrel.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With tensions heating up in the Middle East, as we have detailed in this and other **Trends Journals**, should military actions escalate between the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia against Iran, oil prices will spike sharply higher. This in turn will push inflation higher along with safe-haven gold and silver assets.*

**BITCOIN.** After hitting a high of \$58,341, Bitcoin sank over 10 percent last week. After bouncing back a bit, as we go to press, the cryptocurrency is selling for \$47,445.

Some of the downward pressure was from a statement by New York Attorney General Letitia James who warned buyers to beware of scams and to use "extreme caution" when buying cryptocurrencies.

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



## ARCANE BOND MOVE GIVES CLUE ABOUT INFLATION



Bond yields have risen sharply this year; stock-pickers are shifting away from glitzy tech stocks that have gained value during the pandemic and into shares of companies that will be strengthened by a reviving economy, such as airlines and hotels.

With another deluge of stimulus money on the way, the markets' message is clear, analysts say: inflation is on the rise.

Not one cranny of the bond market is suggesting that inflation's rise will not be prolonged or severe.

The message lies in the difference in yields between ordinary five-year Treasury bonds and a special category of five-year Treasuries protected against inflation (TIPS).

The difference between the two yields shows break-even inflation expectations rose about 2.4 percent last week, their highest level since May 2011, a clear signal inflation is about to be triggered.

However, shorter-term break-even rates are higher than those of longer terms – a rare event known as an inversion in the break-even curve.

When investors are more concerned about inflation in the near term than further away, it indicates that a spike in inflation is likely to fade relatively quickly.

For example, ten-year break-even rates were 2.15 percent on 26 February, compared to the 30-year rate of 2.1 percent.

The five-year rate, 2.4 percent on that date, has not exceeded the ten-year rate since July 2008, according to the data firm FactSet.

The signal is read by some to mean that the new \$1.9-trillion stimulus program will shoot prices up in the near future, but prices will settle back down once the money is spent.

Another interpretation says that the U.S. Federal Reserve, contrary to its promises, will hike interest rates quickly to tackle inflation if the rate zooms past 2 percent and shows signs of rising higher.

This view is supported by the Fed futures market, where the chance of the Fed raising interest rates by a quarter of one percent in September is now pegged at only 11 percent. The bet was zero percent a month ago.

***TRENDPOST:*** *There are at least two sides to the rising bond yields, as fears increase that with equities hitting all-time highs, market risks persist. Now with the spike in bond yields, which many on The Street believe signals higher inflation, the Fed will begin to raise interest rates and slow down their \$120 billion of bond buying each month, which will, in turn, have investors pull out of equity markets, thus crashing the markets.*

*Indeed, what has helped prop up equities is the \$414 billion that flowed into equities in just two weeks, as Egon von Greyerzn noted. This is two times the 2018 peak of \$200 billion, which was a record-high back then.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DROP FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE MONTHS



During the week ended 19 February, new claims for unemployment benefits dropped by 111,000 to 730,000, the lowest number since November 2020 and far below the

four-week moving average of 807,750, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

The new number is a tenth of the flood of claims at its peak last spring and an encouraging sign after new claims blipped up over the winter.

Continuing claims also dropped, sliding 101,000 week on week to 4.42 million, the fewest since 21 March.

One million more claims for assistance were filed for jobless payments by workers whose other benefits have run out. More than 19 million Americans were receiving some form of unemployment support during the week of 6 February.

“The trend [toward lower numbers of claims] will continue because people are spending more,” labor economist Michelle Holder at John Jay College commented to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The accelerating vaccination campaign is boosting confidence in the economy’s future, she noted.

Seventy-five percent of the week’s decrease came from California and Ohio, both of which are dealing with high numbers of fraudulent claims, indicating that their unemployment numbers could rise again when phony claims are sifted out.

Also, the ice storm across U.S. southern states in late February is likely to nudge unemployment claims back up in the short term. Still, employers will add 4.8 million jobs to the economy this year, according to economists surveyed by the *WSJ*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Unemployment numbers will drop as the Biden Bounce continues, that is, until equity markets crash, which we forecast will occur by the year’s end. Moreover, should the Banksters come up with new schemes undreamed of to keep the artificially-inflated equities on their highs, even in a best-case scenario, while old jobs will come back, new ones won’t be created. The hundreds of thousands of jobs that were lost from businesses that have*

*gone but won't be re-created, since there won't be a surge of new business creation.*

*In addition, in the hotel industry, for example, which has been hit hard by the lockdowns, according to Beechwood Real Estate Advisors, hotel execs see recovery taking two to three years. Thus, all hotels and chains of business that support them have shed employees, who will not be back at work this year and most of next.*

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME RISES IN JANUARY



U.S. household income climbed 10 percent in January from December, the U.S. Commerce Department reported, due in part to federal \$600 stimulus checks the federal government sent that month to every adult and \$300 in new weekly federal unemployment benefits.

The month-to-month gain was the largest since last April when the government sent everyone \$1,200 and added \$600 to weekly jobless payments.

As of last month, U.S. household income had risen 13 percent from February 2020, the month before the pandemic struck, and it is likely to rise again if Congress enacts President Biden's \$1.9-trillion stimulus proposal, which would give another \$1,400 to every U.S. adult.

Americans spent 2.4 percent more in January than in December, especially on costly items such as appliances.

In 2020, consumer spending swelled in the summer, eased in the fall, and tanked in November and December as stimulus money was spent and states and cities reimposed lockdowns to curb the COVID virus's return.

Household savings rose in January, reaching \$3.9 trillion, almost triple the \$1.4 trillion in savings accounts in February 2020.

“You’re going to see a pretty big consumer-led boom this year, which will spill over into next,” Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM US, said in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

He expressed the view that the U.S. economy will balloon 6.5 percent this year, compared to 2020’s 3.5-percent contraction.

Consumers also increased spending on services in January, the first such rise since October. Orders for “durable” manufactured goods – those meant to last at least three years, such as trucks and refrigerators – rose 3.4 percent to \$256.6 billion in January from December, the U.S. Commerce Department reported.

Excluding the more volatile category of transportation, which includes cars, trains, and other vehicles, the increase was 1.4 percent month-on-month, compared to a 1.7-percent rise in December.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we had forecast and this week’s **Trends Journal** cover illustrates, it will be the “Roaring 2021s” as people break loose and try their best to make up for the shelter-in-place lockdowns of the last year that sapped the joy out of lives. And with more stimulus checks coming and more to come in the future should the rebound falter, spending will continue to increase.*

*As we have forecast, however, when Wall Street crashes, so, too, will Main Street... sinking it, and much of the world, into the “Greatest Depression.”*



## FEWER JOBS, LOWER RATES



The U.S. Federal Reserve will not raise benchmark interest rates from their current levels near zero until three conditions are met, Fed chair Jerome Powell said in Congressional testimony on 24 February.

First, a broad range of statistical measures must show the labor market has returned to full strength.

Second, inflation must rise to 2 percent.

Third, forecasters must reach a consensus that inflation will remain at 2 percent or more for an extended period.

The Fed is waiting to see “actual progress, not forecast progress” toward those goals, which will “take some time” to achieve, Powell said.

Although inflation will rise this year, the Fed expects the increase will not be large, persistent, or reach “troubling levels,” he added.

The economy has improved since late 2020’s weakness, Powell noted, with interest rates up for bonds and stock prices down among companies impacted by the higher rates.

Although the official unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in January, the practical rate is about 10 percent when people who have given up hope of finding a job are included and some classification issues are corrected, Fed governor Lael Brainerd said in a 24 February speech at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

***TRENDPOST:*** Only 57.5 percent of the U.S. population is now employed, compared to 61 percent in February 2020, thus, if Powell stands by what he said,

*rates will remain low for this year and most of next year. As for the 2-percent inflation rate gage, they made that up out of thin air in 2012. It means nothing, and they will invent a new measure when needed.*

*Regarding the true inflation rate, according to [www.shadowstats.com](http://www.shadowstats.com), it is around 9 percent.*

## **FEDERAL EVICTION BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL, JUDGE SAYS**



The federal ban on evictions imposed last September by the Trump administration and CDC is unconstitutional, a federal judge in Texas has ruled.

The ruling favors a group of Texas landlords and property owners who sued in October to void the ban, contending that the federal government's executive branch lacks authority to ban evictions.

Judge John Barker agreed, adding in his ruling that Congress also had no power to halt evictions.

"The federal government has not claimed such a power at any point during our nation's history until last year," Barker wrote.

The ban crimped landlords' rights under Texas law, he said.

The ban was due to expire on 1 January but was extended through the month as part of the second stimulus plan passed in December. Upon taking office, President Joe Biden extended the moratorium through March by executive order.

The judge did not enjoin the ban but said he expects the CDC to respect his ruling and rescind the moratorium.

The Biden administration has appealed the ruling.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As of mid-January, ten million households were behind on their rent, and 16 million reported little confidence to pay their rent in February, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. We note this and other real-life data to further illustrate the disconnect between Wall Street and Main Street... and the true levels of economic despair.*

*Add this to the ten million unemployed; 2.1 million homeowners who remain 90 or more days past due on their housing payments, according to Black Knight; and the 5.9 percent who are in foreclosure since the COVID War was launched last year. Black Knight also estimates that nearly two million mortgages will be “seriously delinquent” when foreclosure moratoriums on government-backed loans end in June.*

## HIGHER MORTGAGE RATES HOBBLE HOUSING MARKET’S EXPANSION



The average interest rate on 30-year fixed mortgages rose to 2.81 percent during the week ending 18 February, the highest rate in three months, according to the Freddie Mac financing agency.

In tandem that week, various measures of mortgage and refinancing activity dropped 11.6 and 11.3 percent respectively, the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) noted.

“Rates have turned faster than many people had anticipated,” MBA chief economist Michael Fratantoni told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Rising rates threaten to discourage potential buyers during spring and early summer when more than 40 percent of home sales occur, the National Association of Realtors said.

However, rates remain near historic lows, and more people are applying for mortgages now than at the same time a year ago, the *WSJ* reported.

In 2020, lenders issued a record \$3.6 trillion worth of mortgages, more than a 50-percent increase from 2019's level of business, the MBA said, with refinancing under lowered interest rates making up 59 percent of the volume.

With interest rates around 2.81 percent, between 16.7 and 18.1 million homeowners could qualify to lower their monthly payments by refinancing, according to data firm Black Knight.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As high-priced urban cities continue to decline as more people work from home and move to suburban and exurban areas, the real estate market will continue to moderately grow... until interest rates rise and the equity markets crash.*

*For exurban areas where housing prices were moderately low, the price declines will be moderate during the "Greatest Depression" compared to higher-priced suburbs where prices sharply spiked during the COVID War.*

## **RALPH LAUREN, LANDLORD BATTLE OVER 5TH AVENUE RENT**



In a measure of the plunging value of commercial real estate, fashion influencer Ralph Lauren is entering arbitration with the owners of 711 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Lauren leased the prime, ground-floor retail spot in 2017, agreeing to \$27 million in annual rent but since has abandoned the space.

To stanch some of its cash bleeds, Lauren has reached an agreement to sublease the storefront to Mango, the Spanish fast-fashion chain, for \$5 million annually. Mango's business is to mass-produce cheap versions of haute couture.

The partnership that owns the building blocked the sublease, claiming that Mango is not the caliber of tenant that belongs on Fifth Avenue.

Unstated was the owners' fear of agreeing to rent so low in one of the world's premier shopping meccas. By green-lighting a rent more than 80 percent below the current lease price of record, the partners could ignite a wave of demands on other property owners along the avenue to slash their asking rents or renegotiate current leases.

"Landlords are loath to contribute to massively discounted market lease comparables," Michael Glanzberg, a principal at consulting firm Sinvin Real Estate, told *Business Insider*. "With broad vaccination around the corner" and the prospect of rents edging back up, "no owner wants to [set] COVID-era rents" as a standard.

Fifth Avenue's asking rents fell from \$3,000 per square foot in 2015 to \$1,976 in January 2020 and currently to \$1,245 for empty retail space at 767 Fifth Avenue, according to Newmark Knight Frank, a real estate services firm.

Last October, elite jeweler Harry Winston renewed its 19,000-square-foot lease at 718 Fifth Avenue and added another 18,000 next door. Those familiar with the lease said that the negotiated rent settled at \$437.43 per square foot.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We note this rent war article because it is an example of the worst that is yet to come. As we have long noted, East Side, West Side, FOR RENT signs were all around the town long before the COVID War began and New York City was locked down.*



*New York and other cities across the nation and around the world that were locked down and were dependent on commuters, tourism, conventions, trade shows, concerts, theaters, etc., will take years to recover... especially as crime rates increase and more people flee to cheaper safe-havens.*

## **GOODYEAR WILL BUY COOPER TIRE FOR \$2.8 BILLION**



Goodyear Tire & Rubber, the largest U.S. tire maker, will pay \$2.8 billion in cash and stock to buy Cooper Tire & Rubber, the second largest.

The purchase would grow Goodyear to include 50 factories, a workforce of 72,000, and annual revenue of about \$17.5 billion, according to the company's presentation to investors.

The combined companies would be able to cut costs by about \$165 million annually, the presentation noted.

The marriage would particularly strengthen the company's competitive edge in China and the U.S., Goodyear CEO Richard Kramer said.

Goodyear was the world's third-largest tire company by sales in 2019, behind France's Michelin and Bridgestone in Japan, according to the trade publication *Tire Business*. Cooper ranked 13th.

Goodyear's 2020 sales slipped 16 percent to \$12.3 billion; Cooper's were down 8 percent to \$2.5 billion.

Goodyear's stock rose 21 percent on news of the deal and Cooper's 30 percent.

***TRENDPOST:*** We note this merger to further illustrate how, with the massive amounts of cheap money available for the “Bigs” to borrow, they will continue to buy out the competition, and the smalls will be left with a minuscule market share of no economic significance.

*As more wealth continues to be concentrated in the hands of the “Bigs,” more fuel will be added to the “Off With Their Heads 2.0” class warfare trend... which will also be a major platform of the “Youth Revolution.”*

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## GLOBAL TRADE REACHES PRE-COVID WAR LEVELS

Global trade shrank 5.3 percent last year but had returned to 2019 levels by November, according to CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.

The global crisis spiked the need for personal protective and medical care equipment, pushing worldwide demand up 46 percent in 2020, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported. Working and schooling at home sent demand soaring 30 percent for computers and telecom gear. People avoiding public transport bought bicycles. Families bunkered in their houses splurged on entertainment, new appliances, and remodeling projects.

***TRENDPOST:*** Government bailouts and rescue programs ensured there would be money to spend.

*That spending, however, was geographically lopsided and concentrated market share in many industries in Asia, where economies reopened sooner than elsewhere in the world.*

*China claimed 10 percent of the gain in export trade in 2020, U.N. figures show, while Taiwan and Vietnam gained even larger shares. As we have forecast, those gains will continue to accelerate. The 20th century was the American century, the 21st will be the Chinese century... and those in China's sphere will also reap the profits.*

## **BRITISH POUND CLIMBS TO THREE-YEAR HIGH VALUE**



As we noted earlier, despite the U.K. falling into its worst recession in three centuries, the British pound rose to an exchange rate of £1.41 to the dollar on 24 February, its highest value since April 2018.

The pound's value had slumped for more than a year under Brexit fears and the damage inflicted by severe serial economic closures during the COVID pandemic.

Now, with the government's benchmark of inoculating 15 million people, the news that the U.K. is touting to become the first major western nation to vaccinate much of its adult population by mid-February, the "jab in the arm news" has helped bounce up the pound.

Only Israel and the United Arab Emirates have vaccinated a higher percentage of their populations, according to OurWorldInData.org.

Also, the dollar's continued weakness is expected to send the pound's value higher still.

“There’s a re-rating by investors of the U.K. in general,” Chris Turner, chief of foreign exchange strategy at ING bank, told the *Wall Street Journal*. The pace of the vaccination campaign in Britain is “giving investors confidence in a second-quarter recovery.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *That stronger pound was also boosted by recent optimistic comments about the economy’s future by Bank of England officials, quashing fears that the bank would send interest rates below zero. Negative interest rates could weaken the pound and impinge on banks’ profitability.*

*A pricier pound, however, will make U.K. exports more expensive and will crimp profits of large companies selling internationally. Those companies make up a large share of Britain’s benchmark FTSE 100 stock index.*

*While there will be an economic bounce back, with the uncertainty of Brexit and an imperiled global economy – plus the nation’s economic destruction caused by the long lockdown – the trajectory of both the pound and the U.K.’s economy we forecast will trend downward.*

*Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed one of the harshest and longest series of lockdowns of any Western nation to fight the COVID War. Some restrictions are now slowly being relaxed, and it is reported all restrictions will be lifted by 21 June.*

*Any of these dates could change depending on interruptions in the vaccination campaign, new twists in the virus’s mutations... or for whatever reasons the government makes up to keep restrictions. In any event, the damage done by the lockdowns is irreparable.*



## INDIA'S ECONOMY REBOUNDS IN FOURTH QUARTER



India's economy grew 0.4 percent in 2020's fourth quarter, year on year, according to the National Statistics Office, compared to a 24.4-percent crash in the second quarter and a further 7.3-percent slide in the third.

Farming added 3.9 percent and manufacturing 1.6 percent, figures showed.

Investment grew 2.6 percent during the period, its first increase since December 2019, based in part on prime minister Narendra Modi's proposed array of tax incentives to revive the nation's manufacturing sector.

Modi's government also has announced an aggressive COVID vaccination plan, further boosting expectations for an economic recovery.

The fourth quarter's gains were shared unequally, with large companies listed on stock exchanges reaping record profits while small businesses languished, Mahesh Vyas, CEO of the Center for Monitoring of the Indian Economy, told *The New York Times*.

The large companies "are grabbing markets at the expense of small-scale industry," he said. "Small and medium-size companies are not able to survive."

Consumer spending, the main engine of India's economy, shrank 2.4 percent during the quarter, far less than the 11.3-percent plunge in the year's third quarter.

However, the service sector generally and financial services, in particular, performed much better than expected, South Asia economist Priyanka Kashore at Oxford Economics, said to the *NYT*.

Also, restaurants and bars are crowded on weekends, street markets are thronged with shoppers, and theaters and gyms have reopened, although face-to-face service businesses remain far from recovery, the *NYT* reported.

The Reserve Bank of India cut its repo rate by 1.15 percentage points over the past 12 months but left it unchanged at 4 percent at its most recent meeting, saying in a public statement that the economy is poised to grow again and worrisome rates of inflation are far in the future.

The bank, along with a variety of analysts and economists, projects the Indian economy to expand by more than 10 percent this year.

Rising prices for oil and other commodities pose a potential threat to India's recovery, as does a resurgence of the virus, which would do particular damage to India's vast informal economy of rickshaw drivers, day laborers, street vendors, and millions of others, observers warn.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Modi's challenge is not only to return the economy to its 6-percent annual growth rate before it began to lag in 2018 and 2019 but also to create job opportunities for the more than 600 million citizens that are under 25 years old, which accounts for more than half India's population.*

*And then there are the ongoing protests, such as the farmers' revolt that has been raging since November, plus the other insurrections that were shut down when the government imposed strict lockdowns... which will negatively affect economic growth.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Mirroring U.S. equity markets, India's stock market has detached itself from economic fundamentals and is soaring on the winds of speculation, according to Wall Street Journal analyst Mike Bird in a 22 February report.*

*As we noted in the U.S. economic section, India's benchmark Sensex stock index has gained 22 percent this year and is now valued at 24 times the next year's earnings, a bloat larger than that of the U.S. S&P 500.*

*In contrast, the country's economy shrank 10.3 percent last year and, although it grew 3.1 percent in 2020's fourth quarter, a firm economic recovery is still at least a year away, the IMF has forecast.*

*Due to last year's global economic collapse, as much as 25 percent of India's corporate loans could become delinquent this year, data gathered by India Ratings and Research shows.*

*As a nation, India owes more than \$1 trillion, Commodity.com reports, and its national debt will rise to 80 percent of GNP as it borrows about \$185 billion this fiscal year to stimulate its economy and support millions of poor farmers, according to government figures.*

## **EMERGING MARKET INVESTMENTS LOSE THEIR LUSTER AS RATES RISE**



Stock markets in developing countries have risen about 90 percent over the past 12 months and reached historic highs during the week of 19 February, according to MSCI's index of markets across 27 nations.

Now, however, investors' relentless hunt for higher returns has pushed bond prices up.

Those higher yields have helped to knock down the MSCI index by 5 percent and now are pressuring those high-debt countries with higher bond payments.

China's closely-watched CSI 300 index has dropped 6 percent from its February high, and the country's tech-centered ChiNext market has lost 13 percent. Turkey's stock market has shed 8 percent since 15 February, MSCI data shows.

“There’s no doubt that yield curve steepening worldwide is starting to spill over into other asset markets,” currency strategist Win Thin at Brown Brothers Harriman said to the *Financial Times*.

“The last thing we need is a full-blown bond and equity-market sell-off,” he added.

The pullback in emerging markets' equity prices has reminded some analysts of 2013 when investors fled those nations after the U.S. Federal Reserve said it would end extra-loose monetary policies it had imposed during the Great Recession.

***TRENDPOST:*** *How well countries survive the current market shift will depend on their ability to continue to deliver returns not based on speculation. Africa and Latin America lost direct foreign investment according to the FT, thus their economies still struggle with long-term structural obstacles present before the pandemic began.*

## PHARMA SERVICE FIRMS UNITE IN \$12-BILLION BUY



Dublin-based Icon PLC, which conducts clinical trials for drug companies and reported \$2.8 billion in 2020 sales, will buy competitor PRA Health Sciences for \$12 billion.

PRA is headquartered in Raleigh, NC.

PRA is an expert in using digital technologies to gather and report test results, allowing people to remain at home and send data to test centers over smartphones, for example.

The purchase will expand Icon's reach into Asia and especially China, a growing market for the drug industry, Icon CEO Stephen Cutler said in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

The union will spawn one of the world's largest contract research organizations. The new company will test experimental drugs in animals, run human trials, and even send nurses into people's homes to recruit test subjects and monitor results.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As with the other series of mergers and acquisitions, we continue to note these to illustrate the concentration of business ownership and decreasing competition in a variety of sectors. It should also be noted that the less competition, the less pressure to create innovative new products and services... since no contenders are fighting for market share.*

## TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA



### **HSBC ACCELERATES ITS TURN TOWARD ASIA.**

HSBC, the world's seventh-largest bank by assets, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence, is speeding its reorientation toward Asia, transferring top executives from London to Hong Kong, shutting down its retail U.S.

operations, and planning to expand further in Singapore.

The bank is relocating its chiefs of global markets, personal banking, and commercial banking to Hong Kong to cluster a critical mass of decision-makers able to seize the expanding opportunities that Asia presents, according to an unnamed bank official quoted by the *Financial Times*.

HSBC will close all of its 150 U.S. retail banks after concluding it is unable to make them adequately profitable, insiders told the *FT*.

The bank also has decided to sell its 200-bank network in France, the *FT* reported.

HSBC has been in a delicate political position after the bank, founded in Hong Kong, endorsed Beijing's strict new law for the city, limiting free expression. It also drew the ire of the Chinese government for providing information to U.S. authorities that led to the arrest of a top executive of the Huawei tech company.

***TRENDPOST: HSBC's relocation to Hong Kong is part business, part politics. By transferring key executives and operations there, the bank is signaling to Beijing where its allegiance will lie in the future. As we have detailed in this Trends Journal and others, the business of business is business. Despite China's clampdown on democracy, banks, hedge funds, and private equity groups are heading to Hong Kong... the banking capital of Asia.***

**CHINA LETS YUAN'S VALUE RISE, THREATENING EXPORTS.** China's government has not moved to slow the growth in value of its currency, even though the stronger yuan makes Chinese goods more expensive abroad and could slow an economic expansion driven by foreign demand for output from China's factories.

The yuan has gained 9 percent on the dollar since June, rising to 6.46 on the dollar, its highest mark since mid-2018, as China's factories supplied a locked-down world with manufactured goods, drawing a massive inflow of foreign funds from investors seeking high yields.

At the same time, the dollar was weakened by the shuttered American economy, the U.S. Federal Reserve's rock-bottom interest rates, and the global flood of dollars loosed on the world by the Fed, and U.S. government stimulus programs.

Still, the yuan's 8.2-percent appreciation during the second half of 2020 failed to tamp down global demand for Chinese products; China booked a \$535-billion trade surplus last year, its largest since 2015.



The yuan's appreciation adds a burden to manufacturers already dealing with the rising price of commodities and higher shipping costs. Companies will begin to pass those higher costs on to consumers, some observers say.

From 2014 through 2017, China spent \$1 trillion of its foreign cash reserves to prop up the yuan's value. China's newfound nonchalance about the yuan's changing value could grow from a strategic decision that a pricier yuan would make imports cheaper, which could spark growth in the country's still-feeble consumer economy.

Also, officials already see limits to exports' continued growth.

China's foreign currency reserves grew by \$108 billion in 2020 to a total of \$3.2 trillion, which analysts interpreted as further evidence of Beijing's casual attitude toward the yuan's rise in value.

The country's GDP will expand by 8 percent this year, many analysts have predicted.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We have been reporting on China's dual circulation policy whereby the Chinese government has set a long-term strategy to rebalance the economy.*

*Beyond its role as a major world exporter, Beijing is placing more emphasis on consumer spending. Thus, the higher the value of the yen, the cheaper it is to buy products from other nations. Also, it is moving toward creating a more self-sustaining economy by encouraging the population to buy Chinese as trends move toward a consumer-driven economy.*

## GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



**AIRBnB REPORTS 2020 LOSSES.** The room-booking company reported losing \$3.89 billion in 2020's fourth quarter, more than ten times the \$352 million it lost in the same period in 2019. Revenue for the quarter was \$859 million, down 22 percent compared to the previous year

but enough to beat analysts' expectations of \$747.6 million.

The value of "experiences" booked through Airbnb during the quarter was \$5.9 billion.

The company attributed much of the quarter's loss to the high costs of its 9 December initial stock offering.

For all of 2020, Airbnb lost \$4.6 billion, *Forbes* reported. The loss was more than expected by analysts' forecasts compiled by data company FactSet.

The company's revenue for 2020 totaled \$3.4 billion.

Airbnb has "limited visibility" about its 2021 financial outlook because of the uncertainties surrounding the COVID vaccines' acceptance and delivery and the pace of the economic recovery, the company said in a statement announcing the losses.

**BYE-BYE, FRY'S.** Fry's Electronics, the 36-year-old big-box retailer beloved by do-it-yourself tech geeks and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, has closed its 31 stores across nine states and ended operations, according to a statement on its website.

The company's demise is due to the U.S. economic shutdown that closed its stores and "changes in the retail industry," the statement said, hinting at competition from Amazon.

**12,000 U.S. MUSEUMS COULD CLOSE WITHIN 12 MONTHS.** One-third of U.S. museums could close permanently by early next year, taking 124,000 jobs with them, "without immediate financial support," the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has warned.

The typical museum had lost about \$850,000 in revenue from February through September in 2020 because the pandemic and government orders kept patrons away, according to an October study by Wilkening Consulting.

More than half of U.S. museums have less than six months' cash cushion on which to survive at current revenue levels, the study noted.

"Thirty percent of museums remain closed since the March lockdown and those that have reopened are operating on an average of 35 percent of their regular attendance—a reduction that is unsustainable long-term," AAM president Laura Lott said in a November statement publicizing the straits of American museums.

"Museum recovery will take years and without a sustained Congressional lifeline, I fear that many museums will be lost forever," Lott said in comments during the Museum Advocacy Day event on 22 and 23 February.

More than half of U.S. museums had laid off an average of 30 percent of their staff by November, according to an AAM survey.

Last August, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art cut all staff salaries by 20 percent.

Museums' plight is no better elsewhere: 95 percent of the world's museums went dark for weeks, and many for months, during last spring and summer, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) reported. More than 10 percent of museums worldwide had laid off more than half their staff.

In African, Asian, and Arab countries, 24, 27, and 39 percent of museums, respectively, fear closing permanently, according to an ICOM survey.

**MACY'S SALES DOWN.** Macy's department store chain lost \$4 billion during the first nine months of 2020 but eked out a profit over the holiday season.

Sales will improve during the last half of this year as more people receive their COVID vaccinations and normal activities resume, such as weddings, social events, and time spent at the office, CEO Jeffrey Gennette said in a statement quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

However, much of future sales growth will be online, which will account for \$10 billion of the company's sales annually by 2024, Gennette said, and which made up 44 percent of sales in 2020's final quarter.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The more business from online, the less business in the malls, thus putting more pressure on the real estate sector that had been in decline long before the COVID War was launched last year.*

# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## THE FED'S SILENT WAR TO GAIN MORE CONTROL

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

Over the past week, we witnessed a phenomenon play out that I had forecast: a rapidly-rising bond yield environment putting pressure on the stock market. Last Thursday and Friday, collectively, the Dow lost nearly 1,000 points as the 10-year yield, which is the benchmark, spiked.

Generally, when cash leaves the bond market yields rise, and that cash usually makes its way into the stock market. However, when rates rise rapidly, as we have seen this past week, it rattles the stock market, and equities sell off.

In the same way artificially-suppressed rates/bond yields have inflated massive bubbles in both the stock market and real estate, a rapidly rising rate/bond-yield environment will have the opposite effect, leading to a tremendous **drop** in the stock market and real estate prices.

Since 2008's stock market meltdown, the Federal Reserve has been involved in quantitative easing (QE), a mechanism whereby tremendous amounts of cash are made available to the market by keeping rates suppressed. Indeed, this mechanism has worked to re-inflate stock market and real estate bubbles.

QE is also a process whereby the Fed targets what is known as the "Federal Funds Rate" (FFR), which currently sits between 0.00 and 0.25 percent. The FFR is the rate that commercial banks lend cash to each other overnight.

For many months, the Fed has floated out the suggestion of "Yield Curve Control" (YCC). YCC goes way beyond the rigging of the FFR. When a central bank utilizes YCC, it sets yield targets either on a specific part of the yield curve or the entire curve itself.

As an example, the Fed could say, "We want to keep the 10-year yield at 1.35 percent." Once the Fed establishes a target, they buy bonds to keep the yield exactly there, or close to it, by adjusting their purchases accordingly. If the Fed chooses to target the entire curve, the number of bond purchases they would have to make would be astronomical in dollar terms.

## **Silent War**

YCC would allow the Federal Reserve to gain complete control over the debt market, and, in doing so, would allow them to VASTLY inflate. If you have been reading my columns, you know the ultimate goal of the Fed is to "own it all." The single product of a central bank is debt, so the more debt they issue, the exponentially more powerful they become.

Today, we are in the middle of a silent war, so to speak. A war in which world central banks are working in concert to "buy it all."

YCC is yet another mechanism central banks can, and will, utilize to fulfill their end game: to be the buyer and lender of last resort.



# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

by *Bradley J. Steiner*

The difference between that which one once had to prepare to be ready to defend oneself against in urban America and that which one now must prepare to defend oneself against is considerable.

I am old enough to remember when fights – even those started by troublemakers and bullies – were resolved with an element of fairness.

There's nothing “fair” about starting trouble or bullying another person, but there was a time when, believe it or not, kicking was just about never seen in a fistfight. Nor was hitting a person once he was down. Two against one was never heard of. If and when one party gave up, the other party stopped, at once. Knives or guns were never drawn. True enough, those who were victimized by punks, troublemakers, and bullies were being violated unconscionably, but the

victimization had limits, and fights that erupted between individuals erupted due to some vague “reason.”

Today, everything is different. Thus, preparation for an emergency in which self-defense is required must be different.

We are now living in the age of pre-reason. Whereas there once needed to be a reason (however dumb) for an individual to start a fight with or attack another individual, this is no longer true. In today’s world of lunacy and indulgence, every low-life feels entitled... and that means entitled to lash out at, to swing on, to assault, to insult, to shove, to draw a weapon on, etc., whoever the hell they feel the impulse to violate. These creatures have not the humanity or the brains to think of it as a “violation.”

Because you looked at some case of arrested development cross-eyed, some hyper-sensitive drug abuser feels you “dissed” him, or perhaps because you aren’t wearing your mask as the damn intrusive SOB believes you should, you deserve (in the alleged “mind” of this useless freak) to be physically assaulted.

That’s one problem. The other is the very nature of the violence you can anticipate encountering if, God forbid, you are ever set upon by one of our 21st-century urban predators. Expect weapons to be drawn.

Expect to be stomped if you are down. Expect to be brutalized... and never mind if you willingly surrender your money or car keys. Nope, the scum isn’t satisfied until or unless it vents all of its asinine, unjustifiable, pent-up, inexcusable, envy, jealousy, resentment, and self-loathing on you. Today, when violence erupts, it’s deuces wild. The living sewage knows no restraints, needs no “reasons” or “justifications” – not even rationalizations – to run wild and amok and beat, maim, or kill.

Sadly, you see in this element of evidence pointing to the dissolution of the once-greatest Nation ever to come upon planet earth: the United States of America.

So, I hope I've shaken you a bit. Now, let's be clear regarding what you need to do to be ready to cope with this outrage.

You need to be ever-ready, anticipatory of, and undismayed by the sudden arrival of the unexpected, which you must learn to EXPECT.

Your mindset must be like that of a person living in a jungle populated by wild beasts. You are you, and the beasts are unlike you. Rather, they are mindless, worthless, subhuman, evil monsters. Never mind that you mind your own business, bothering no one, stay out of seedy places, and conduct yourself with manners and with thoughtfulness for others. In today's world, that's not enough. Now, like the Morlock in H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, who prey and who feed on the Eloi, the modern urban predators, may suddenly surface to target you and yours.

Why? Just because that's their nature.

Be ready not to ask some lout why he is initiating aggression against you; why is it you he has chosen to play the "knockout game" with; why is he pulling that blade on you; why is this POS attempting to violate you like that, etc.?

Instead... remember real self-defense! The second some ten-for-a-penny chunk of sewer-rot makes clear his intention to violate you, GO GET HIM! GO FOR HIS EYES! SMASH HIM IN THE THROAT! KICK HIM IN THE TESTICLES OR BREAK HIS KNEE! JAB YOUR UMBRELLA'S END INTO HIS EYE! Use the technical methods of unarmed combat or armed defense if necessary at once!

You will not be the victim! Not this time, dammit! You act and you act fast, and you act without mercy or hesitation!

If you heed this counsel, your chances of surviving and emerging relatively unharmed are excellent. This is not the time to be humane, decent, caring, forbearing, merciful, sporting, or in any way anything but a vicious, all-out attacking dervish! Do not hesitate to seize the initiative and ATTACK THAT

GODDAMN ATTACKER! You are not on this earth to serve as fodder for bipedal scum. Take him off guard! Do the worst damage of which you are capable, and do it RIGHT AWAY!

Only the simplest techniques are needed. But they must be used with the force you would employ to tear down a door to save your newborn infant from a murderer. Ram your fingers right through the attacker's eyes. Smash him with your bodyweight behind it using the heel of your hand under his jaw or the edge of your hand across his neck or throat. Turn and lash out with a vicious kick to his knee using your heel. Knee him in the testicles. Drive your hand, formed in a claw, straight into his face; then kick him repeatedly. Use any object at hand to smash, bash, stab, jab, rip across, cut, beat, or grind the eyes out of that rodent who presumes to violate you. THAT'S IT! NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT!

The message, which I pray I've gotten across, is that we are living in an age when the norms of human decency and conduct simply do not apply, as far as society's underclass of predatory vermin is concerned. To deal with and protect yourself against this scum, you need to **expect the unexpected**.

Yes, you just might be set upon for no apparent reason. In today's urban jungle, that's par for the course. If that should occur, you will not be taken in a state of utter bewilderment. You will be immediately ready and conditioned to explode with fury and be your would-be victimizer's worst nightmare. Should this phenomenon of unexpected violence come to you, it will be your attacker who will be found on the sidewalk – never yourself.

I know I'm an "extremist." That's because unexpected violence that leaves innocent human beings maimed or dead is a rather extreme problem.

Kapish?

*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



## DEBUNKING THE FLUORIDE MYTH

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

In the 1964 satirical black comedy film *Dr. Strangelove*, there is the iconic scene where the rogue general Jack D. Ripper, played by Sterling Hayden, tells Peter Sellers' character, "Ever hear of the fluoridation of water? Do you realize that fluoridation is the most monstrously conceived and dangerous Communist plot we ever had to face?"

From that day to the present, the entire pharmaceutical and dental industries, public health officials, and the mainstream media have assumed that fluoride is absolutely safe. Anyone who dares to criticize water fluoridation and its dental use is a loon or conspiracy theorist who threatens national health.

Yet, as with so many medical and health challenges we face, the dominant consensus is wrong. The large body of evidence to support anti-fluoridation



advocacy is substantial and continues to grow. In fact, throughout the U.S. and other nations, concerned citizens, consumer activists, and whistleblowers are putting pressure on state and local governments and public utilities to cease and desist in spiking our drinking water with fluoride.

Finally, the pushback against decades of lies, misinformation, and media propaganda to seduce us into accepting corporate and government-sponsored junk science supporting fluoridation is reaching a tipping point towards public safety.

In 2019, an alliance of public health organizations and watch groups filed suit against the EPA in a federal court trial to bring an end to fluoridation once and for all. A recent judge's ruling permitted the suit, represented by two distinguished attorneys – Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Michel Connett – to continue “the merits in light of the substantial scientific evidence proffered at trial.”

And this past August, researchers at Mount Sinai School of Medicine [announced their findings](#) that low-level chronic exposure to fluoride in drinking water induces adverse changes in kidney and liver function in young people.

The evidence against fluoride continues to pile up.

According to Wikipedia, sodium fluoride is the 215th most-prescribed medication in the U.S. This benevolent description is posted without any context and states as a matter-of-fact that orally-consumed fluoride has no proven adverse effect on dental health aside from causing dental fluorosis, an unsightly mottling of the teeth. [Studies that suggest](#) this can be a sign of fluoride-induced brain damage are ignored. Also missing are the scientific warnings about fluoride's detrimental effects on nearly every system of the human body, which have been repeatedly studied and confirmed.

Actually, sodium fluoride is rarely used in the U.S. for fluoridating water. Instead, hexafluorosilicic acid and sodium hexafluorosilicate (SiFs), toxic byproducts of phosphate fertilizer and aluminum manufacturing, are used. Both are deemed

industrial pollutants if released into the air via factory smokestacks or into the environment via drainpipes. Yet, when deliberately added to drinking water, they are classified as benevolent. These fluoride compounds have never been approved or even tested by the FDA for safety. [Studies have shown](#) that SiFs can double or even triple the rate of lead uptake in children's bloodstreams.

Adding SiFs to drinking water lowers its pH, rendering it more corrosive and thus more likely to leach lead and other contaminants as it flows through pipes. Even when a neutralizing agent is added, SiFs' "unique affinity for lead" can leach tiny amounts of the metal from any lead-containing pipe or fixture through which treated water flows. Used in combination with chlorine and chloramine, common disinfectants added to drinking water, the rate of lead uptake from SiF-treated water is [off the charts](#).

SiFs and lead have [a synergistic effect](#), meaning consuming both is significantly more damaging to brain tissue than consuming either alone, wreaking particular havoc in the brain's hippocampus, the area responsible for learning and memory, and causing a marked decline in IQ.

We often hear that the *only* "clear adverse effect" of water fluoridation is dental fluorosis. Hundreds of scientific studies would beg to differ. In 2018 alone, over a dozen studies were published that exposed fluoride's detrimental effects but have been categorically ignored by the mainstream media. Oddly, less developed nations are far more concerned with protecting their populations' health than our federal health agencies. A Mexican study published in *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* concluded, "Fluoride could be considered an environmental kidney toxicant." A Kenyan study published in the *American Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences* reported that auditory working memory significantly declined as fluoride concentration in drinking water increased, confirming the results of an earlier systematic review showing lower IQ in children in high-fluoride areas.

[Another Mexican study](#) found prenatal fluoride exposure positively correlated to ADHD symptoms in children as much as 12 years later, "consistent with the

growing body of evidence suggesting neurotoxicity of early-life exposure to fluoride.”

A pair of Polish studies published in the [\*International Journal of Molecular Sciences\*](#) and the [\*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health\*](#) observed strong evidence for fluoride's role in triggering and progressing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, given the substance's role in oxidative stress and inflammation.

Fluoride's toxicity extends from the skeletal system, through the endocrine system, reproductive system, and neurological system. It is criminal that Wikipedia parrots the chemical industry's claims that fluoride toxicity associated with toothpaste ingestion is rare; in fact, there are [over 23,000 reports](#) of toothpaste-related fluoride poisoning annually.

Ever since Harvard researcher Philippe Grandjean added fluoride to a list of developmental neuro-toxicants considered especially harmful to the developing brain in a 2014 paper published in *The Lancet*, our health officials have suffered from institutionalized cognitive dissonance by denying fluoride-induced illness.

As more papers identifying the adverse risks of environmental toxins, including fluoride, are added to the list of chemicals most damaging to human development, Dr. Grandjean and his colleagues have [called for the formation](#) of coordinated research into the neuro-toxicants and their role in the rising global prevalence of neurodevelopmental disabilities. Sadly, such an urgent endeavor would likely be completely ignored by the US's federal health and environmental authorities.

In the meantime, our government continues to live in the idyllic fantasy of scientific-naivety that was the public rage in the 1950s, when fluoride was the magic ingredient for whiter teeth, DDT would keep the bugs away, and humanity would be saved by the atomic bomb.

# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## **POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.A.**

The MSM has applauded. But with over 350 Capitol protesters arrested since 6 January and National Guard troops camped out in Washington, D.C. indefinitely, there's no denying a troubling line has been crossed into making political expression criminal.

That effort is quickly ramping up in the new Biden administration. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has called for a 9/11 style commission to investigate and prosecute protesters and organizers. This even though the only person killed via willful violence on 6 January was Ashlee Babbitt, an 11-year Air Force veteran who was shot at point-blank range while unarmed and not attacking anyone. The identity of her killer has been shielded by the government, and the media has not pressed for a name.

In a briefing this past Friday, Justice Department and FBI officials raised the possibility of expanding investigative and prosecutorial tools in cases of so-called “domestic terrorism,” the byword Democrats have used to smear not only Capitol protesters, but groups like the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, QAnon “plain vanilla” Trump supporters, and even senators including Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley.

Currently, a domestic terrorism statute doesn’t exist, and domestic groups have constitutional rights and protections that don’t extend to foreign groups and actors. But that may soon change if ideological partisans get their way. One senior official at the briefing admitted that current statutory definitions of domestic terrorism already “expand a lot of authorities we can use,” including nationwide search warrants, expanded law-enforcement access to tax and educational records, and harsher sentencing.

A senior Justice Department official suggested the Biden administration would consider seeking a domestic-terrorism statute, in addition to those expansive statutes. “Obviously that’s going to be a policy question for the folks that are coming in. I’m sure we’ll run a data-driven process to see whether we need additional legislative authorities in this area.”

Meanwhile, Acting Deputy Attorney General John Carlin has said the Justice Department is taking an even hand, despite no one scrutinizing the near \$100 million given to BLM during nationwide riots in 2020. Organizers there were out to pin an incident of police brutality against George Floyd in a Democrat-controlled city and state as an indictment of the Trump administration.

Carlin said the DOJ was “prioritizing the detection, disruption, and deterrence of domestic terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms.” While admitting the administration was seeking to expand powers with a purported goal of preventing radicalization and disrupting “extremist networks,” Carlin pledged that civil liberties protections would remain a priority.

## Code for Leftist Political Violence Approved by MSM

There's nothing unique about the January Capitol protesters in terms of what they did. In 2013, protesters stormed and occupied the Wisconsin state capitol for days, stopping legislators from proceedings. The mainstream media cheered them.

In 2018, a huge throng protesting Senate confirmation hearings for Justice Brett Kavanaugh occupied the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. They intimidated legislators and personnel in their offices and defied capitol police. Again, the MSM sided with the protesters, and there was zero talk of “insurrection” or obstructing or intimidating and threatening legislators.

No statute makes one Federal building in Washington, D.C. legally more sacrosanct than another.

In 2020, Federal buildings and police precincts in Portland and elsewhere were repeatedly attacked by BLM and Antifa protesters. Scores of people, including multiple police officers, were seriously injured and even killed during those riots. And hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, via looting and burning, was done to private businesses and homes. Just this month, two radical attorneys who firebombed a police car during those protests were offered a plea deal by federal prosecutors, according to the *NY Post*. (Click [here](#) for the *Post*'s article.)

Republican politicians and their loved ones, including Rand Paul, had to run a gauntlet of violent protesters when exiting the RNC convention. Paul was shoved, and along with others, faced more physical intimidation and vitriol than Alexandria Ocasio Cortez – or any other politician – during the 6 January Capitol protest.

There is a dangerous double-standard becoming the de facto law of the land when it comes to Democrat-approved protesters.



## PSYCHOHISTORY: SCI-FI LEGEND PREDICTED THE COMING FALL



The battle continues. Call it Globalists vs. Nationalists, Elites vs. Populists, Technocracy vs. Constitutional Liberty. Whatever the terms, familiar players can be seen along each divide.

A provocative analysis by Jim Quinn at the [Burning Platform](#) blog and featured in [Blacklistednews](#) says the war has already been decided. And it was all predicted by

the legendary science fiction author Issac Asimov in his greatest work, the *Foundation* trilogy. Quinn sums up the current state:

“The American Empire is crumbling under the weight of military overreach; the totalitarian synergy between Big Tech and Big Gov.; destruction of the Constitution by traitorous surveillance state apparatchiks; the burden of unpayable debts; currency debasement; cultural decay; civic degeneration; diversity and deviancy trumping common culture and normality; pervasive corruption at every level of government; globalist agendas; and the failure of myopic leaders to deal with the real problems.”

How and why have we arrived at this point? Asimov had a lot of the answers, according to Quinn. Asimov wrote *Foundation* during and after World War II, modeling his futuristic epic on current events and the history of fallen civilizations including the Roman Empire. The work chronicles a galactic American Empire called the Foundation, which is in crisis. A group of leaders including politicians and scientists is led by Hari Seldon, a Bill Gates/Anthony Fauci analog. Seldon is a master of “Psychohistory,” a way of predicting the actions of the masses to policies and events.

In the story, Seldon and his group have already foreseen the fall of what they call the first Foundation. That empire, at its best, was prosperous and expansive. But it has been weakened by far-flung conquests and disregard for its original laws and principles. Seldon and his group have secretly laid the plans for the rise of a “second Foundation,” ruled by and for technocratic elites.

Seldon’s plan is suddenly disrupted by the sudden emergence of a person known only as the “Mule.” This figure has an uncanny ability to sway people in a way unaccounted for by the elites and their predictive “psychohistory.” For a while, the Mule succeeds in assuming power over the Foundation empire. But Seldon and his cronies, operating as a nexus comprising the secret second Foundation, succeed in undermining and defeating the Mule.

Does any of that sound like the Deep State Globalist cabal, Donald Trump, and the incipient “Great Reset”? Quinn, in his article entitled, “Was Trump The Mule?” notes that Asimov was able to see the future because certain aspects of human nature and proclivities are enduring:

“Empires are created by corruptible men whose failings, flaws, and desire for power, control and wealth never change. Decades of blunders, awful decisions, incompetent leadership, dishonesty and unconcealed treachery have paved a pathway to ruin for the American Empire. The outward appearance of strength disguises the internal rot, which will be revealed when the coming storm arrives with suddenness and a surprising fierceness.”

J. R. R. Tolkien’s renowned *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy nailed the nature of power in the hands of infallible men: “No one is capable of wielding the ring of power. No one.”

In Tolkien’s work, only by rejecting the temptation of wielding power over others to “do good” would mankind avoid the ravages and rise of totalitarianism that he witnessed as a soldier in WWI and as he wrote his books in the 1940s.

Asimov's relatively overlooked masterpiece is proving just as prescient as the works of Tolkien, Orwell, Bradbury, and Huxley regarding the insights they can shed on current times.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



### **GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES OUT TO KILL DECENTRALIZED BLOCKCHAIN CURRENCIES.**

A year ago, or even six months ago, the warning signs about a possible clampdown on Bitcoin and other decentralized digital currencies weren't exactly headline news. COVID, lockdowns,

BLM, Antifa riots, and the presidential election were all front and center.

But an acceleration of stimulus policies that saw 40 percent of all money ever printed in the U.S. happen in 2020 alone has put the focus on markets, economies, inflation... and Bitcoin, the most widely-held decentralized digital asset.

Bitcoin briefly topped \$1 trillion in total valuation in February before comments by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin threw cold water on its months-long rally. Others, including Bill Gates, the second richest man in America and self-styled authority on everything, chimed in with remarks that digital currencies are especially vulnerable to use for criminal activities.

Even before that, authorities were stepping up attacks against the blockchain. In January, European Central Bank governing council member Gabriel Makhoul, not exactly an unbiased observer, said in a *Bloomberg* TV interview, "Personally, I'm not sure why people invest in those sorts of assets, but they see them as assets clearly. Our role is to make sure that consumers are protected."

ECB President Christine Lagarde derided Bitcoin as a “highly speculative asset.” At that time, Bitcoin was trading at around \$40,000. In February, it surged to more than \$58,000 before Yellin’s calculated remarks.

Since then, digital currencies as a whole have been sharply down, with Bitcoin itself trading in the \$48,000 range as of Friday.

Cue Congress and Wall Street lobbyists. In a 24 February interview with *Bloomberg*, Rebecca Patterson, a senior analyst with asset management firm Bridgewater, posited that “regulation” was required to make Bitcoin an acceptable asset for institutional investors. She said,

“Right now Bitcoin can move 10% on a tweet, that’s not exactly a store of wealth for most institutional investors. So the volatility of Bitcoin is about 10 times that of your dollar, it’s still double that of the Venezuelan bolivar.”

With a new \$1.9 trillion COVID stimulus just passed by the House, monetary inflation, and wild swings in the markets, Patterson might be whistling past a looming graveyard of the dollar as the world reserve currency. And the comment drawing a comparison of Bitcoin to Venezuela could charitably be described as disingenuous. According to the *BBC*, at one point during that currency’s death spiral, in 2018, 14,600,000 bolivars could buy you a 2.4kg chicken.

While Patterson didn’t mention any ideas of regulatory specifics, she characterized an “ecosystem” that would apply to all digital currencies:

“The more you get a real regulatory ecosystem developing around Bitcoin and other currencies, the more other types of investors are going to be comfortable coming in, that’s going to bring liquidity, that’s going to reduce the volatility. So I guess if there was one thing I were watching first, it would be seeing more regulatory certainty. I’m not sure when that’s going to come in the U.S.”

One of the biggest reasons decentralized blockchain currencies were devised was precisely to avoid control and manipulation by authorities. It’s also why they

have been seen as a desirable asset to hold against inflationary actions of central banks and governments, which appears to only be accelerating.

Patterson did acknowledge that reality, saying many investors have been looking to Bitcoin over concerns about inflation triggered by central bank money printing. She said Bitcoin was more like gold, acting as an asset hedge, than a workable currency.

# SPECIAL REPORT: GAMESTOP



By *Joe Doran*

## GAMESTOP REDUX: HERE WE GO AGAIN

A brutal week on Wall Street for tech stocks and others was further upended by new surges in so-called “meme stocks” favored by young app investors. And top of the list, again? GameStop (GME).

GameStop led a surge on Wednesday even as the market was generally going south. Shares went up over 100 percent late Wednesday, then spiked again in intraday trading on Thursday. Cue the fallout of close to two billion in mark-to-market losses for those betting against the stock.

Perhaps all too predictably at this point, many major brokerages suddenly began experiencing “outages” as a result of the high volume of trading, which seems inexplicable on technical grounds. *Zero hedge.com* ran through the list of brokerages that went offline, including Ameritrade, E-Trade, Charles Schwab, and the infamous leader in “no fee” trading apps, Robinhood.



Meanwhile, there were other reports that the sudden drive of GameStop on Wednesday was either fueled by or quickly latched on to by the traders on the Reddit WallStreetBets forum. The activity of that group appeared to have been on the wane.

In January retail traders launched a bold play, making GameStop, a relatively small brick and mortar video game vendor, the 15th highest stock traded on the market. Prominent hedge funds connected to brokerages like Robinhood took heavy losses for a period until brokerages shut down buys of several "meme stocks."

The term "meme stock" was coined to convey that the stocks were being bought based on factors seemingly unrelated to company fundamentals, etc. The whole affair triggered promises of scrutiny by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin. But her neutrality was called into question because she was paid more than \$800,000 to speak (sometimes just virtually) to Wall Street hedge funds like Citadel in 2019 and 2020, before she was appointed by the new Biden administration. The House Financial Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters, also held a recent hearing into the events of January.

The games of wildly surging and plummeting stocks still seems somewhat confined. But the mentality may spread if other stocks begin seeing wide spreads in day-to-day trading. *Business Insider* reported that Ihor Dusaniwsky, managing director of predictive analytics at S3, opined about the latest meme stock happenings, "While there were some buy-to-covers brought about by the large mark-to-market losses, they were offset by new short-sellers looking for a pullback from this volatile price move."

GameStop traded at \$148.47 on late Thursday, up 660 percent for the year. And somewhere, Roaring Kitty, the YouTube personality and Reddit forum trader who told the House committee he's enthusiastic about GameStop because he's done his homework, was probably smiling.

## LEFT SAYS GAMESTOP BUYING ESPORTS WOULD MAKE THINGS RIGHT



Late last week, a short-seller previously burned by GameStop stock surges had a suggestion that fueled further speculation about the company's potential future.

Prominent investor and noted short-seller Andrew Left of Citron Research, suggested that the brick-and-mortar gaming company should consider buying the Esports Entertainment Group online gambling firm. Stocks of Esports surged on the heels of Left's comments, which came via a tweet:

It is [the] opinion of Citron that \$GME next move is obvious and easy to justify stock price. They should buy \$GMBL. Listen to your customers... they like to gamble and they like video games. Esports Gambling - Great synergies....\$GMBL could easily go to \$50.

Quite an opinion, considering Citron's involvement in the ongoing GameStop saga.

"Some people say it would be a 'Hail Mary pass' but I think it would be a major pivot," Left added. He also made it clear that he owns shares in Esports.

The suggestion by the major Wall Street player resulted in a 27 percent rise in Esports shares. GameStop reportedly has quite a bit of cash on hand thanks to the overall increase in stock value, despite extreme volatility, and measures by brokerages at different points to limit buys of GameStop and other so-called "meme stocks" favored by many young app traders.

For its part, GameStop had no comment regarding Left's suggestion, and Esports said it has not held sale talks with GameStop. Jeff Cohen, a VP at Esports Entertainment, told *Reuters* the two companies have spoken in the past but not about an acquisition.

“We have talked to GameStop in the past about areas within Esports where we might be able to collaborate, but we haven’t had any discussions around acquisitions,” Cohen said.

In January, Left was one of the biggest names on Wall Street short-selling GME. He took losses, as did hedge funds including Melvin Capital and their backers, Citadel Securities, one of the largest handlers of stock exchange trades.

## **ANALYST: GAMESTOP COULD LEAD TO WIDER MARKET SWINGS**



Some analysts are worried there’s something other than profit motivating moves of so-called “meme stocks.” They’re blaming internet forums, young app traders who don’t share their valuations – or perhaps their values.

“The internet has allowed decentralized bands of activists to coordinate their actions in both politics and finance, and it’s difficult to say if social media-induced trading will end up being a fad like hula hoops or is here to stay.”

So says Owen Lamont, a long-time analyst with Wellington Management’s Quantitative Investment Group. His comments came in a Goldman Sachs’s “Top of Mind” newsletter published late last week.

Lamont and many others used to more traditionally-motivated moves in markets that Wall Street insiders tend to be able to project (some say direct) and profit from don’t like what GameStop might portend.

But young retail app traders appeared to have struck again, or at least jumped in on the action, when GameStop and some other favored stocks saw wild surges this past week, in a sort of reply of a January saga.

“My concern is that this may create what academics have called ‘noise trader risk,’ in which rational traders exit asset classes that are dominated by irrational traders because the risk is too high,” Lamont opined.

In plain terms, he was calling GameStop backers... well, wacked.

But are they? Keith Gill, the now-famous GameStop stock enthusiast also known as “Roaring Kitty,” testified before Congress in February that he has perfectly legitimate enthusiasm for GME and other “meme stocks.” Some might argue if traders out there are buying stocks for “irrational” reasons, a free and open stock market takes care of that sooner or later when companies don't perform.

Lamont says the irrational activity, as he sees it, is something that might metastasize and upend the markets in a big way. Nevermind that fiscal policy and pervasive lockdowns have been called out by many as downright lunacy that would have catastrophic economic consequences.

For big Wall Street financials and banks, their profit-making doesn't depend so much on whether markets are up or down, but how they time getting in and out before the rest.

And that is something that is rattling the big players. According to Lamont, traders on forums like Reddit's WallStreetBets may be operating from an ethos that is dangerous because it may be motivated by something more than just profit.

“The more that traders are motivated by something other than profit, such as excitement, group loyalty or an anti-establishment sentiment, the more likely this is to occur,” Lamont told Goldman Sachs. “I see a good chance of rolling disruptions, especially in illiquid names or in obscure corners of the market, as well as broader market flash crashes like the one we saw in 2010.”

# TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



## HEALTH “EXPERTS” SELLING COVID FEAR FOREVER

It doesn't stop. Every day, mainstream media continues to pump out anxiety-ridden headlines.

Yesterday, the *Financial Times* blasted:

### **EU must prepare for ‘era of pandemics’**

That's correct, the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, told the *FT*, “It's an era of pandemics we are entering” and that plans are underway to fight emerging threats by working on adapting vaccines to fight them.

Last Wednesday's *New York Times* headline shouted:

### **Variant Surges in California, and Threat is Unclear**

“Era of pandemics,” “Variant Surges,” “Threat”... day after day, week after week, going on for over a year now, the greatest threat to planet earth is the virus.

Air pollution that kills some 8.5 million every year and has been killing uncountable millions for centuries; trillions of tons of chemicals pumped in the ground, water and air; the pesticides, artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives injected into the foods... none of it adds up to the devastation of the COVID War, according to the Presstitutes that keeps selling it and the politicians on a power trip that have launched it.

Again, as **Trends Journal** subscribers, you know the facts of who is dying, the average ages, comorbidities, etc., which prove that the young and the healthy are rarely victims of the virus.

### ***Times of Fear***

In their fear-spreading mania, *The Times* article cites two new studies revealing new strains of COVID are showing up. As stated numerous times in the **Trends Journal**, every virus naturally mutates. This is well-known by virologists along with the fact that in most cases, the mutations are less severe than the original strain. (See our 12 January article, “[‘MUTANT’ STRAIN: DEADLY MEDIA HYPE & FEAR.](#)”)

But *The New York Times* article describes the situation this way:

“A variant first discovered in California in December is more contagious than earlier forms of the coronavirus... fueling concerns that emerging mutants like this one could hamper the sharp decline in cases overall in the state and perhaps elsewhere.”

Note the phrases “could hamper” and “perhaps elsewhere.” In other words, the intention is to issue threatening warnings despite no scientific data to support that the threats are real.



The article continues with this quote from Dr. Charles Chiu, a virologist at the University of California San Francisco: “I wish I had better news to give you—that this variant is not significant at all. But unfortunately, we just follow the science.”

Follow the science? This statement doesn’t hold up, as evidenced by fact that the article goes on to point out,

“Neither study has yet been published in a scientific journal. And experts don’t know how much of a public health threat this variant poses compared with others that are also spreading in California.”

One of the slants the article takes is revealed when it notes that one of the studies referred to “hinted that the variant may be better than others at evading the immune system—and vaccines.”

Note the use of the verb “hinted.” Scientifically supported? No. Just “hinted.”

While failing to mention anywhere in the article that the vaccines in circulation were released under the Emergency Use Authorization of the FDA and have only gone through only a short, two-month safety trial, the article again quotes virologist Dr. Chiu:

“If we can get enough people vaccinated, we will be able to deal with these variants simply because we won’t have ongoing transmission.”

***TRENDPOST:*** As we have illustrated here, facts, science, and hard data don’t matter. Instead, the motivation of the NYT article, like so many other mainstream media reports, is to keep everyone afraid of the coronavirus, anxious over the new mutation strains, and quietly accepting continued lockdown restrictions while waiting to be saved by the heroic vaccines.

## NEW ABNORMAL: “COVID IS HERE TO STAY”



Last Wednesday, *The New York Times* published an article titled:

### **COVID Zero is Unattainable; Acceptable Risk Is Their Goal**

The article is based in large part on the following information in the 16 February issue of *Nature* magazine:

“In January, *Nature* asked more than 100 immunologists, infectious-disease researchers and virologists working on the coronavirus whether it could be eradicated. Almost 90% of respondents think that the coronavirus will become endemic—meaning that it will continue to circulate in pockets of the global population for years to come.”

To emphasize the point that we are heading towards “acceptable risk” with the coronavirus, *The New York Times* article brings up the comparable risks of the common flu:

“Ten years ago, a deadly infectious disease killed more than 36,000 Americans. The next year, it killed 12,000 more. And over each of the following eight years, the same disease caused between 22,000 and 62,000 deaths. That disease is influenza—also known as the flu—and it ranks among the 15 leading causes of death in the United States.”

The article then compares the current situation in Israel to flu seasons in general:

“Here’s a useful way to think about Israel’s numbers: Only 3.5 out of every 100,000 people vaccinated there were later hospitalized with COVID symptoms. During a typical flu season in the U.S., by comparison, roughly 150 out of every 100,000 people are hospitalized with flu symptoms. And yet the seasonal flu does not grind life to a halt. It does not keep people

from flying on airplanes, eating in restaurants, visiting their friends, or going to school and work.”

The article ends with a tweet from Dr. Stefan Baral, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health commenting on COVID-19:

“Risk assessment? Absolutely! Risk mitigation? Absolutely! Risk management? Absolutely! Risk communication? Absolutely! Risk Elimination? Impossible.”

**TRENDPOST:** *For many years to come, the media, instead of warning about the coming flu season, will focus on the new, and, of course, “more deadly” coronavirus season that will plague the Earth. And the message will be clear: mass vaccination.*

*As we had forecast, there will be strong anti-vax political movements rising across the globe as nations impose laws, as evidenced by Israel’s Green Pass, permitting vaccinated freedoms that Israeli’s unvaccinated are prohibited to enjoy. (See our 23 February article, “[ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT.](#)”)*

## MEDIA UPDATE: MORE FEAR, MORE CANDLES



In the 24 February *New York Times* “Coronavirus Update,” the paper warned that “new variants threaten to overshadow encouraging news.” The encouraging news referred to was Johnson & Johnson's announcement it would deliver

100 million doses of its new COVID-19 vaccine by the end of June.

Yet, in the next sentence, the article states, “But some experts said the California variant was unlikely to create as much as a burden as the variant that originated in Britain.”

The article goes on to say:

“U.S. federal regulators are expected to allow the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be stored at standard freezer temperatures. Federal regulators have informed Pfizer and BioNTech that they plan to approve the companies’ request to store their vaccine at standard freezer temperatures instead of in ultra-cold conditions, potentially expanding the number of sites that could administer shots, according to two people familiar with the companies who spoke on condition of anonymity.”

If this is such good news, why are the people affiliated with the big pharmaceutical producers of the vaccines speaking “on condition of anonymity”?

Of the three vaccines approved so far, the Pfizer-BioNTech, when first released, had to be stored at the frigid temperature of -70 degrees C to have a good chance of being effective. As the website *Very Well Health* reported on 30 December, “Experts anticipate the Pfizer vaccine’s difficult storage requirements will pose a challenge during distribution.”

Now, only weeks later, the “challenge of distribution” is being improved after the giant pharmaceutical company requested permission from the FDA to relax the initial storage requirements. The FDA approved the request last Thursday, with *Reuters* reporting, “BioNTech has said it imposed long-term storage and transportation requirements of -70 degrees out of caution because it had started stability and durability tests on its vaccine relatively late.”

## **U.S: “We’re #1” (in COVID Deaths)**

*The New York Times* “Coronavirus Update” also cited:

“With a death toll which has edged past 500,000, the United States now accounts for 20 percent of the world’s known coronavirus deaths. This has resulted in the largest downturn in life expectancy since World War II.”

The update concluded with a reaction from Jeffrey Shaman, professor of environmental health sciences at Columbia University, on the news that the death toll in the U.S. from COVID-19 reached 500,000: “The magnitude of it is just horrifying. The scale of loss was not inevitable, but the result of the failure to control the spread in the United States.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *On 22 February, President Biden and Vice President Harris held a solemn, televised ceremony described by Microsoft News: “Five hundred candles glowed around President Joe Biden as he stood outside the White House in a moment of silence to honor the lives of the more than 500,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19.”*

*Where’s the ceremony for the tens of millions of teenage and adult Americans who, according to the CDC, are struggling with significant mental health issues due to the social isolation and economic loss from the extensive lockdowns? Where is the solemn moment of silence for the approximately 54 million Americans, 11 million of them children, suffering from food insecurity, in large part because of the extended lockdowns in so many states? (As per Truthout.org.)*

*Amidst the solemn candle-lighting for 500,000 Americans dead from COVID-19, not a word from the President about why the U.S., despite spending more on healthcare by far than any other country, leads the world in coronavirus deaths.*

***Trends Journal*** readers know why because we’ve written about it numerous times: the U.S. is the fattest country on Earth. Data shows that obesity makes it 60 percent more likely someone who contracts COVID will die from it. (See our 25 August article, [“THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM,”](#) and our 6 October article, [“FAT CHANCE COVID WON’T KILL YOU.”](#))

*And where is the solemn candle-lit ceremony for the more than 8.7 million people worldwide who die each year from breathing polluted air containing particles from fossil fuel emissions? (See our 23 February article, “[AIR POLLUTION KILLING 3.5 TIMES MORE THAN COVID.](#)”)*

## EVAPORATED FLU



Since the COVID War was launched a year ago, the flu, which, according to the WHO, estimated the annual mortality burden to be 250,000 to 500,000 all-cause deaths globally, has suddenly vanished!

Actually, the number of flu deaths was much higher, according to the *Journal of Global Health*, which states,

“A 2017 study indicated a substantially higher mortality burden, at 290,000-650,000 influenza-associated deaths from respiratory causes alone, and a 2019 study estimated 99,000-200,000 deaths from lower respiratory tract infections directly caused by influenza.”

On 26 August, *NPR* reported:

“This year’s flu season in the Southern Hemisphere was weirdly mild. A surprisingly small number of people in the Southern Hemisphere have gotten the flu this year, probably because the public health measures put in place to fight COVID-19 have also limited the spread of influenza... That makes public health experts hopeful that the U.S. and other northern countries might be spared the double whammy of COVID-19 and a bad flu season this winter.”

Now, with the northern hemisphere in mid-winter flu season, *Summit News* reported this headline last Tuesday:



## **UK: Health Authorities Announce Not a Single Case of Flu Detected This Year**

Two days later, *U.S. News & World Report* published the headline:

### **Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Flu Has Disappeared in the U.S.**

It includes a statement from Dr. Nate Mick, who said, “At Maine Medical Center in Portland, the state’s largest hospital, I have seen zero documented flu cases this winter.” The article adds, “Ditto in Oregon’s capital city where the outpatient respiratory clinics affiliated with Salem Hospital have not seen any confirmed flu cases.”

The article also confirmed that flu activity had dropped to “very low levels in China, Europe, and elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere.”

### **The Party Line**

In its 23 February article titled, “UK: Health Authorities Announce Not a Single Case of Flu Detected This Year,” *Summit News* quotes Christina Pagel, a professor of operational research at University College London. Ms. Pagel said,

“The social restrictions brought in to curb transmission of coronavirus, combined with an increased uptake of flu vaccine, have both been credited with driving down infections... It would be worthwhile to encourage mask wearing every winter.”

The U.K. government’s “Weekly National Influenza Report” had cited thousands of infections per week during weeks leading up to the arrival of the coronavirus last year. But now, it has fallen way down to zero this year?

Even in the U.S., for example, last year, there were 100 confirmed hospitalizations in Maine’s largest hospital the year before – but now they are down to zero?

## Why the Flu Drop Off?

On 23 February, *Summit News*, which stated the above findings, wrote,

“As we previously highlighted, other health experts have suggested that flu cases are so dramatically low because influenza cases are being falsely counted as COVID-19 cases.”

Last month, top epidemiologist Knut Wittkowski, who earned a doctorate in both computer science and biometry, asserted,

“Influenza has been re-named COVID-19 in large part. According to the CDC, the cumulative positive influenza test rate from late September into the week of 19 December was just 0.2 percent compared to 8.7 percent from a year before....

There may be quite a number of influenza cases included in the ‘presumed COVID-19’ category of people who have COVID-19 symptoms (which Influenza symptoms can be mistaken for), but are not tested for SARS RNA.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *In the new world of Censorship 2.0, only the official “establishment” point of view is permitted. The New York Post reported last 16 May:*

*“Dr. Knut M. Wittkowski, former head of biostatistics, epidemiology and research design at Rockefeller University, says YouTube removed a video of him talking about the virus that had racked up more than 1.3 million views. Wittkowski, 65, is a ferocious critic of the nation’s current steps to fight the coronavirus. He has derided social distancing, saying it only prolongs the virus’ existence and has attacked the current lockdown as mostly unnecessary.”*

## U.K.: ELDERCARE RESIDENTS NOT PROTECTED



In early January, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, pointing to the potential dangers of new variants of COVID-19, again locked down the nation: “It is clear that we need to do more to bring this new variant under control. That means the government is once again instructing

you to stay at home.”

Despite harsh lockdowns and massive vaccination campaigns, the *World Socialist Web Site* wrote on 22 February,

“The prolonged and deadlier second wave of the pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on care homes, with the UK’s overall death toll ballooning to almost 130,000 where COVID-19 is recorded on the death certificate. This is double the number of deaths in only three months since early November....

The true number of deaths in care settings, however, is now well over 50,000. Researchers at the University of Manchester have found that COVID-19 deaths were ‘hugely underestimated’ in the first wave, when 10,000 fatalities went unrecorded in England alone, due to the tardy introduction of mass testing.”

As we have been reporting, and absent in the mainstream news, according to the hard data, the elder population overall and particularly those residing in eldercare facilities make up a significantly large percentage of the COVID-19 deaths.

Indeed, back in April, the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* released data showing: “The overall death rate from COVID-19 has been estimated at 0.66%, rising

sharply to 7.8% in people aged over 80 and declining to 0.0016% in children aged 9 and under.”

## Swedish Comparison

Unlike the U.K., where eldercare residents continue dying at increasing rates, Sweden, which never locked down nor issued any mandatory mask edicts, is doing considerably better than the U.K. regarding eldercare residents.

A *BMJ* report quoted Soren Riis Paludan, professor of biomedicine at Aarhus University in Denmark, who praised the Swedish results: “Now we don’t have to go into lockdown but know where to be more careful, particularly with the elderly.”

## Learned from Mistakes

The *BMJ* report also included:

“Statistics show that 89% of Sweden’s COVID-19 deaths were in people over 69. During the first six months of 2020, over 2000 people died in nursing homes as a result of what Sweden’s Health and Social Care Inspectorate, Ivo, described as ‘serious failings,’ including a lack of protective equipment and inadequate access to doctors.”

Those failings, once understood, have been effectively addressed, as we reported in the **Trends Journal**:

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

(For more, see our 28 July article, [“SWEDEN GOT IT RIGHT.”](#))

**TREND FORECAST:** *As for the U.K., we had reported on 9 February, “Since the virus broke out last February, now, a year later, according to the U.K.’s National Health Service, only 388 people aged under 60 with no underlying health conditions have died from COVID. (See our article, [“U.K.: LOCK DOWN OR OPEN UP.”](#))*

*As the data from Sweden verifies, some 90 percent of Sweden’s COVID deaths are people over 69 years of age.*

*On the home-front of reality, the hard number reinforces the pent-up demand for young people to break loose and ignite a “Roaring 2021” explosion. To them, COVID is an “old person’s disease.” Thus, never in recent history have there been unique marketing opportunities and new product sounds and styles that will present themselves in the Roaring 2021s and beyond.*

## **FRANCE: ANOTHER LOCKDOWN NEEDED**



Last Wednesday, while the French government said it was waiting to see about a new lockdown based on how well vaccinations were going, the official of one of the country’s leading hospitals called for a new lockdown immediately.

Philippe Juvin, speaking from the George Pompidou European Hospital in Paris, stated, “I do not understand what we are waiting for... As we get closer to an epidemic peak, each day spent without taking a decision comes with a heavy price.”

He was referring to reports of just over 25,000 new cases last week, up from 22,500 the week before, which French health authorities attributed to the new

variant. (Note: To date, France has had 86,000 deaths out of a country of about 65 million or 0.1 percent.)

Once again, political leaders and their health “experts” like Mr. Juvin quoted above demanding a new national lockdown point to the threat of new variants, which are increasing the number of cases. But as Dr. William Moss, infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University, clarified on 1 January when new mutations were being promoted as threatening, “All viruses mutate, and RNA viruses mutate particularly, so this virus has always been mutating, just slowly and kind of steadily.”

Yet *Reuters* reports that the city of Paris “has for its part pressed on with a proposal to enforce a strict three-week lockdown and then consider reopening businesses, including bars, restaurants, and cultural venues that have been closed since October.”

Mr. Juvin, the hospital health official, said he would continue to lobby the government to impose more restrictions: “We will not avoid a new lockdown. And the longer we wait to make such a decision, the longer it will last.”

## **NEW ZEALAND CALLS FOR LOCKDOWN AFTER ONE CASE**



Following one man in Auckland testing positive for COVID, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, famous for her severe lockdowns after any new cases, called the latest order of a new, seven-day lockdown “unfortunate but necessary.”

The *News Daily* reported last week that the individual, a 21-year-old identified as “Case M,” could have been infected for over a week before his official diagnosis. There is fear he could have spread the virus within the community.



The country had previously ordered a three-day lockdown in early February. Ardern vowed police action over those who disregard self-isolation orders.

*Reuters* reported that the new lockdown in the city is considered Level 3, which means people can leave their homes only to conduct essential business and shopping. The rest of the country is under Level 2 lockdowns, which limit social gatherings.

The *Reuters* report pointed out that some on social media called Ardern's move to order a lockdown over one case "insane."

Ardern said the latest case had a link to another person, outside his family, who came down with the virus, according to the *New Zealand Herald*. She said the interaction should have never happened:

"This was a family who was already identified as having COVID, and so was part of contact tracing and did not identify that they did have contact with this family... So that means we go back, we re-interview and say, 'Now that we have identified that this has happened, we haven't had all of your contacts, are there others?' And we do all we can to identify whether or not there's anyone else that there's been contact with."

***TRENDPOST:*** *Since the COVID War began a year ago, the nation of nearly five million has registered just 25 virus deaths. That equals the grand total of 0.0005 percent of the population who have died from the virus. Over a year, that's 0.00004167 percent of COVID deaths per month.*

*As we had written two weeks ago, with just three cases – not deaths – the Prime Minister ordered an "Alert Level 2" lockdown, which is the second-highest level. Movie theaters and gyms will be forced to close, and a "border" will be set up around Auckland. Residents will need permission to exit the city.*

*Not a mention in the media of the question of where the scientific information is that provides essential data to impose a three-day lockdown back then.*

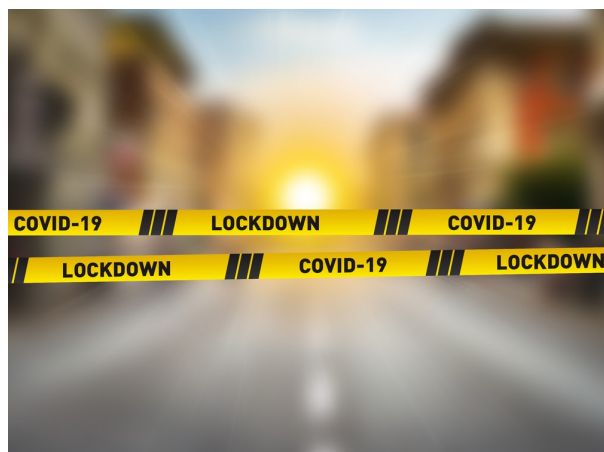
*As we had written, why not a two-day or six-day lockdown? Does the virus disappear exactly after three days?*

*Apparently, it does, because now with one case, it is a seven-day lockdown of Auckland.*

*Indeed, it is the same with politicians inventing curfew and restaurant times that vary around the world and have no scientific basis to support them.*

*Be it New Zealand or New York, COVID Panic persists and governments impose draconian orders and seize more control over the people... and the majority of the population buys what it is sold and marches off to orders.*

## **GREECE, CZECHIA, THE U.S.: LOCKDOWN UPDATES**



**GREECE.** A number of the Greek islands and towns are now going back into lockdown, forcing schools and non-essential businesses to close. Meanwhile, Athens, the capital and largest city, has been in a full lockdown since early February.

“Greece extended lockdown restrictions to more areas of the country as the pandemic showed no signs of waning, exactly one year after its first coronavirus infection was detected,” *Reuters* reported.

**TRENDPOST:** *Greece’s unemployment rate is nearly 17 percent. Its economy contracted by some 10.5 percent in 2020 and is expected to grow only 3.5 percent this year. With the new lockdowns imposed and fear of a new virus variant spreading, the nation, of which 18 percent of GDP is tourism-driven, will endure another year of economic downward pressure.*

**CZECHIA.** The Czech government has called a new state of emergency for 30 days, which started this past Sunday, gaining the power to curb people's movements as it looks to sharply tighten restrictions. The government plans to ban movement between regions, with exceptions for travel to work or to look after a relative. Nurseries, schools, and some of the shops that had been allowed to open will be forced to shut again.

As with many other nations, the threat of new virus variants and rising cases prompted the shutdown.

**UNITED STATES.** A COVID Civil War has been launched as many state governors want to unlock but the Federal government and the CDC want them to slow down their opening up.

President Biden's administration is trying to temper state expectations of returning to a post-COVID life, and his top health officials have been warning about the possibility of a fourth wave across the country along with new variants.

"Things are tenuous," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director said, according to *The New York Times*. "Now is not the time to relax restrictions."

The paper, citing its database, reported the country has seen a decline in cases in recent weeks, but that number appeared to steady. There was a seven-day average of 69,450 cases last week. The virus has been blamed for 510,000 deaths in the U.S.

The CDC reported last week there was a 61-percent decline in hospitalizations last week, and the current seven-day average of deaths in the country is 2,047, which is a 23.8 percent decrease from the previous seven-day average.

*The Times* reported that Governor Greg Abbott of Texas said he was considering dropping the statewide mask mandate. Governors in Mississippi and South Carolina have also considered dropping some mandates due to the fall in cases.

The paper reported that Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson lifted most of his state's restrictions, including restaurant capacity limits.

The paper pointed to last month's "Conservative Political Action Conference" in Orlando and how Republicans mocked mask rules in place by the hotel that was hosting the event. The report said a chant of "freedom" broke out.

New York also joined states that are set to ease restrictions at the beginning of the month. Movie theaters in New York City can reopen and operate at a 25-percent capacity, however, health officials have warned that these loosened restrictions can change. They've already predicted an increase in cases in the next few weeks due to virus variants.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Business pressure on politicians will increase for states to reopen. A majority of states across the nation will re-open, lifting capacity limitations, mask-wearing, and social distancing orders by late spring to early summer. Thus, we maintain our forecast of a "Biden Bounce" in the economy.*

## **38% OF AMERICANS WOULD GIVE UP SEX TO TRAVEL**



So much for joining the mile-high club.

A survey released last week revealed that 38 percent of Americans would be willing to give up sex for a year just to be able to travel again.

Trivago, the travel search engine, reported that 48 percent of those polled would quit their jobs, and 20 percent said they would leave their current partner just to fly away.

The report did not indicate what exactly is defined as “sex.” (Where’s Bill Clinton when you need him?)

The travel and hotel industries have been among the most impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Expedia, another travel website, said its revenue sank 57 percent last year, and its bookings fell 66 percent. Peter Kern, the CEO of the company, told *GeekWire* that he sees signs of hope with the vaccine rollout and hospitalizations decreasing.

“As a result, Q4 did not show any real sequential progress other than some signs of modest improvement around the holidays that carried into the early part of 2021,” he said in a statement.

## CONSTANT ZOOM MEETINGS HARMING PSYCHE



As schools and office buildings closed down last year to help prevent the spread of COVID, students and remote workers used video-streaming to bring classrooms and conference rooms into their homes.

Companies that many never heard of, such as Zoom, quickly became household names. But researchers at California’s Stanford University have now identified “Zoom fatigue,” which includes “excessive amounts of close-up eye gaze” and an “increased self-evaluation” from seeing yourself in the video feed.

The *Financial Times* reported that Jeremy Bailenson, a professor of communication at the school, wrote that by using these apps, users see more of “themselves at a frequency and duration” that has not been “seen before in the history of media.”

The paper reported that Bailenson's study was published in the journal *Technology, Mind, and Behavior*. The report said it is the first study that has been peer-reviewed, which “systematically deconstructs Zoom fatigue from a psychological perspective.”

Bailenson noted some factors that contribute to “Zoom fatigue.” He said the eye contact is “highly intense,” and during these meetings, everyone watches everyone else the entire time. He said seeing yourself constantly in real-time is fatiguing. He added,

“In the real world, if somebody was following you around with a mirror constantly – so that while you were talking to people, making decisions, giving feedback, getting feedback – you were seeing yourself in a mirror, that would just be crazy. No one would ever consider that.”

Bailenson is working on additional studies and said there is a “strong theoretical reason to predict” women are more impacted from seeing themselves in Zoom chats for long periods.

## **DESANTIS: “FLORIDA GOT IT RIGHT”**



Florida has gotten it right in its COVID-19 response compared to “lockdown” states such as New York, Michigan, and California. So said Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis in a speech this past Friday that kicked off the annual Conservative Political Action Conference

(CPAC) gathering in Orlando.

Florida, an overall high-population state with densely populated cities like Jacksonville and Miami, has exercised comparatively light restrictions on its citizens and businesses during much of the course of the coronavirus pandemic.



They did not enforce strict economic lockdowns and gathering limits, for example.

A year after many states took drastic measures that have yet to be rescinded, Florida has enjoyed an increase of new residents, and its economy has weathered the pandemic better than others.

“Florida got it right, and the lockdown states got it wrong,” DeSantis touted as a possible 2024 Republican presidential candidate during his speech. The governor’s stance has aligned with that of former-President Trump, now a full-time resident of Palm Beach.

After taking the advice of medical experts during the initial months of the COVID outbreak, Trump bucked the recommendations of Dr. Anthony Fauci and others, saying the costs of keeping states and the nation under lockdown was “worse than the cure.”

The position of DeSantis has been bolstered by the fact that Floridians have not statistically suffered more from COVID-19 cases or fatalities than states that have enforced heavy-handed dictates, which many argue are unconstitutional.

“We cannot, we will not, go back to the days of the failed Republican establishment of yesteryear,” DeSantis told the CPAC audience. “The question is: When the klieg lights get hot, when the Left comes after you, do you stand strong or will you fold?”

***TREND FORECAST:*** Our 23 February article, “**FLORIDA: NO LOCKDOWN, LESS PROBLEMS**” detailed Florida’s success in dealing with the virus compared to other states. With its economy booming compared to much of the rest of the nation, and its population growing as people escape for a freer lifestyle and less state tax, we forecast that DeSantis will be a prime candidate in the 2024 Presidential Reality Show®.

## WEF PULLS VIDEO TOUTING LOCKDOWN “BENEFITS”



No, it's not a conspiracy theory: the World Economic Forum produced a video extolling the benefits of a world in lockdown. The suppression of human activity, and, indeed, humans, has been made crystal clear by the video, which

was tweeted this past week. Shortly thereafter, it was taken down after triggering outrage and being excoriated by commenters.

The near-minute-long clip showed mostly empty streets, vistas, and landscapes, along with accompanying text bullet points:

- Earth's seismic noise has been the lowest in decades due to lockdowns
- Scientists saw a 'wave of quiet' around the world in 2020
- Ambient noise in some cities fell 50% as fewer people used transport and factories closed
- The quiet enabled scientists to record small earthquakes they would usually miss and improved their understanding of seismic activity so they can predict larger earthquakes in the future
- There were also record falls in air pollution
- Clearing city skies from Asia to America
- But by late 2020, it had returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Carbon emissions were also down 7% last year
- But the drop won't stop climate change unless we lock in emissions
- How quiet was your local area?

“Lock in.” *Get the drift?*

WEC leader Klaus Schwab is one of the authors of the so-called “Great Reset”. His book, titled, *The Great Reset* advocates radical changes to society to be implemented by fiat of elite coordination of global entities. Most people haven't

read the book, of course. But the 55-second video certainly opened many eyes. (Click [here](#) to watch the video.)

## FAUCI THE FAKE: THE ROOT OF ALL PANDEMIC LIES



Trust the science.

The term has reached another level of irony, as the hashtag #FireFauci trended last week on Twitter, of all places. It seems even that social platform is finally waking up about the “indispensable man” who advocated American and world-wide pandemic policies that have since proved catastrophic.

The policies of Dr. Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which works closely with the CDC and WHO, have been built on lie after lie. When it comes to that assertion, no need to “trust” the facts. Just consider them, as *Fox News* did in a recent article.

### On Mask-Wearing:

- March 2020: Fauci told Americans, “There’s no reason to be walking around with a mask.”
- March 2020: Fauci warned in a *60 Minutes* interview about the ineffectiveness of masks: “People keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face.”
- Fauci later claimed he only said not to wear a mask to reserve them early in the pandemic for healthcare workers on the front lines.
- July 2020: Fauci was caught on video not properly wearing a mask during the Washington Nationals opening baseball game.

- February 2021: Fauci now advocates wearing not one mask but two, saying, “If you have a physical covering with one layer, you put another layer on it just makes common sense that it likely would be more effective.”

### **On “Slowing The Spread”:**

Fauci, along with others, originally touted a brief emergency shutdown of the nation entitled “15 Days to Slow the Spread.” After 15 days became 30, Fauci further evolved to advocate what has become ongoing, endless lockdowns.

### **On Vaccines:**

Fauci originally said “herd immunity” (i.e., an effective drop in virus infections to near zero) would be achieved when 70 percent of the population receives vaccines.

Later, talking to *The New York Times*, Fauci changed his tune, saying “When polls said only about half of all Americans would take a vaccine, I was saying herd immunity would take 70 to 75%. Then, when newer surveys said 60% or more would take it, I thought, ‘I can nudge this up a bit,’ so I went to 80, 85.”

February 2021: After months of touting vaccines as a way back to normalcy, Fauci vacillated on *CNN* about whether the jab would confer enough safety to even gather with family. He said, “I don’t want to be making a recommendation now on public TV. I would want to sit down with the team, take a look at that.”

*RedState* contributor Jennifer Oliver O’Connell said Fauci deserves every bit of rising scrutiny and outrage directed at him. “Masks, herd immunity, lockdowns, Fauci has been inconsistent, incorrect, or has flat out lied.”

And even beyond the doctor’s many public lies remains the murky story of his authorizing funding to the Wuhan China level 4 Bio-lab, which was working on coronavirus “gain of function” research at the time COVID-19 appeared in that

same location. In the case of Dr. Anthony Fauci, it would appear more and more people are deciding not to “trust the scientist.”

# TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



## THE ROYAL SHOT?

Last Wednesday, the U.K.'s Queen Elizabeth put out a video calling for everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine: "Once you've had a vaccine you have a feeling of, you know, you're protected which I think is very important and as far as I could make out it was quite harmless."

The 94-year-old queen and her 99-year-old husband Prince Philip got their first jab in January.

What her royal highness failed to mention is that on 5 February, as reported by MedicalXpres and others:

"Regulators in Europe are at odds over whether the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine should be given to the elderly.



In the UK, the vaccine has been approved for use in adults aged 18 and up, but France, Germany, Sweden, and Austria say the vaccine should be prioritized for those under the age of 65. Poland only recommends it for those younger than 60. Italy goes one step further and only recommends it for those 55 and younger.”

## **The Prince is Dying?**

Yesterday, the *BBC* headline from the U.K. read,

### **Prince Philip transferred to second hospital for heart condition tests**

“The Duke of Edinburgh has been transferred to St Bartholomew’s Hospital for continued treatment, after 13 nights at another London hospital. Doctors are treating Prince Philip, 99, for an infection. They will also undertake testing and observation for a pre-existing heart condition, Buckingham Palace said.”

To dispel any connection to the COVID vaccine he was injected with, the article notes, “The exact reason for Philip’s initial admission has not been disclosed, but his stay is not related to coronavirus.”

Indeed, just as the COVID jab was, according to the “medical experts,” not related to Hank Arron’s death weeks after he got the shot, so, too, with the Prince.

*The New York Times*, citing the Fulton County coroner’s office, assured the public that “the COVID vaccine did not kill Hank Aaron.” And according to *NBC*, the Fulton County coroner declared that Aaron’s death was from “natural causes unrelated to the vaccine,” as per *The Defender*, Robert F. Kennedy’s site.

## **No Arron Autopsy**

Mr. Kennedy goes on to state:

“The Fulton County coroner’s office denies that any of its staff ever saw Aaron’s body, much less conducted an examination. Candace, a medical examiner investigator for the Fulton County coroner’s office, told me, “His body was never here. We declined jurisdiction. There was never any autopsy.”

Candace explained that since Aaron’s personal physician assumed his death was from “natural causes,” there was never any necropsy or postmortem investigation. By implying that the Fulton County coroner conducted an autopsy, the *New York Times* and other media outlets deceived their readers.

I contacted the Fulton County coroner’s office because the various press denunciations all cited that office as their authoritative source exculpating the vaccine. I was curious to know what cutting-edge test the medical examiner might have performed that would so definitively rule out the vaccine as a contributing culprit.

Under the best circumstances, vaccine injuries are notoriously difficult—if not impossible—to diagnose—so difficult, in fact, that doctors miss MORE than 99% of them, according to a 2010 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study.”

Yet, this information goes unreported, and, for the general public, they continue to swallow what the mainstream media feeds them. Thus, if the vaccine were responsible for Prince Phillip being hospitalized, facts or no facts, the response will be it had nothing to do with his illness.

## “HELLO” TO VACCINE CERTIFICATION, “GOODBYE” TO PRIVACY



As we reported in last week's **Trends Journal**, Israel has announced it will be requiring citizens to show proof of vaccination to get into hotels, gyms, theaters, and events. (See our article, [“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT.”](#))

The mandatory proof is given the “nice” name, “Green Passport.” The edict comes despite groups such as the Israel Public Health Union warning that sharing vaccination information is a violation of privacy.

Last week, the Knesset (Israel’s unicameral parliament) went a step further, approving a new law giving the government the power to disclose the identities of any resident not vaccinated. The law, which easily passed on a vote of 30 to 13, means that names and contact information of those hesitant to get vaccinated can be sent to authorities overseeing education, welfare, and other agencies.

The Knesset claimed the personal information shared can only be used to encourage people to get vaccinated.

Haim Katz, a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud part, responding to complaints about violation of privacy, remarking, “Is privacy more important than life itself?”

***TRENDPOST:*** As we have reported, to date, some 87 percent of those who have died from the virus in Israel are 65 years of age or older. In the nation of over nine million, some 5,000 died from the virus or just 0.06 percent of the population. Yet, the forced vaccination program is being pushed by the government, punishing those who do not want to get the jab.

## NO JAB, NO FREEDOM



Following the lead of Israel's Green Passport vaccination program, other major countries are following suit.

The U.K.'s Prime Minister Boris Johnson is advocating what will be called "immunity certificates" for anyone wishing to travel or enter public venues such as pubs.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday that Saudi Arabia "now issues an app-based health passport for those inoculated, while Iceland's government is doling out vaccine passports to facilitate foreign travel."

Among countries that have announced either specific plans for vaccine passports or enthusiastically support the concept and are looking into it include:

- Denmark
- Italy
- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Cyprus
- Estonia
- Kuwait
- Thailand

And two airlines in the Mideast Gulf countries, Emirates and Etihad, have announced they were testing a vaccine verification app.

Last Thursday, at a summit convened by the European Union, the subject of vaccine certificates was raised. *France24* reported that both Spain and Greece

were enthusiastic, and Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz voiced strong support for a green pass similar to Israel. Kurz stated,

“Those who are vaccinated should have full freedom, but so should those who just had the coronavirus and are immune, and all those who take a test and can prove through the test that they are negative.”

A few countries, such as Belgium and the Netherlands, voiced concern over privacy issues. One of those stating clear opposition to the vaccine certificate was France's President Emmanuel Macron.

In the U.S., President Biden has ordered a feasibility study on requiring vaccination certificates for traveling. In an article on the subject, *Microsoft News* published this headline on 10 February:

**Heralded as key to returning to normal, digital “vaccine passport” plans prompt Orwellian concerns**

The WHO has signaled a positive attitude towards vaccine certificates. *The Irish Times* and other media reported on 26 February that Dr. David Nabarro, special envoy on COVID-19 for the WHO, remarked that proof of vaccination “was an excellent idea and that everyone should know what vaccine they had been given, the batch number and manufacturer. Just in case they bump up against a variant.”

**More Discrimination**

As the *Wall Street Journal* noted, the “proof of vaccination” policies are “fraught with pitfalls.” It's known that minority communities are most suspicious of government mandates and are more hesitant in general to get the shots at will. Therefore, forcing them to do so is being felt like yet another form of discrimination. Data also shows young people, who are significantly less vulnerable to the coronavirus, are also less likely to get vaccinated.

The *Wall Street Journal* article notes,

“Some health authorities are worried that vaccine passports could give people a false sense of security... it isn’t clear whether vaccines stop people from being infected and spreading the disease and whether inoculations will be rendered less effective by mutations of the virus.”

**TRENDPOST:** *If it “isn’t clear whether vaccines stop people from being infected or spreading the disease,” then why mandate all must be vaccinated to achieve so-called “herd immunity,” i.e., vaccinating the “herd?”*

*Furthermore, if the vaccine is being sold (as we reported, hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on propaganda campaigns to get people vaccinated) as being safe and protecting those who got the shot from getting the virus, why should those who do not want the shot be forced to get it, since if they get it hit with the virus, it won’t transmit to those who have been vaccinated?*

*Same with masks: If those wearing masks are safe from contracting the virus, why should those who do not want to wear one be forced to do so?*

*Because when fighting wars, be it the COVID War or the War on Terror, the politicians take full control, and constitutional freedoms and Bill of Rights are abrogated.*

## INDONESIA: GET VAXED OR GET FINED



Forget the facts. Sell fear and hysteria. As the data proves, it increases views on mainstream media and enriches politicians with unchecked power.

Take Indonesia for example. A “pristine” nation where, according to UNICEF, diarrhea caused by contaminated drinking water contributed to the death of 31



percent of children between the age of one month to a year and 25 percent of children aged one- to four-years-old.

And for all those Indonesians who love to smoke, some 200,000 are killed each year by tobacco-related disease.

Now, the nation of over 275 million, where just under 40,000 died from the coronavirus, the “officials” have declared a “get vaxxed or get fined” COVID law. Despite this low number, *Reuters* reports that Indonesia “is fighting one of Asia’s biggest and most stubborn coronavirus epidemics.”

## **The Fine**

In Jakarta, Indonesia’s capital city with a population of over 10.5 million, residents refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccination are being threatened with fines up to the equivalent of \$360.

According to *Reuters*, in addition to fines, anyone refusing the shot could lose social aid.

Indonesian Health ministry official Siti Nadia Tarmizi told *Reuters*, “Sanctions are our last effort to encourage people’s participation. The target of 181.5 million people is huge.”

A strong reaction came from the director at Amnesty International Indonesia, Usman Hamid: “A blanket mandate on vaccination, especially one that includes criminal penalties, is a clear violation of human rights.”

*Reuters* reports that in a poll taken last December, only 37 percent responding said they would get the shot. 40 percent were undecided, and 17 percent were strongly opposed.

## BIDEN DOLES OUT \$4B FOR VAX VICTIMS... OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.



Big Pharma is shielded from vaccine injury lawsuits in America. Many other countries have no such laws, and some of them aren't keen on the COVID vax. What to do?

Apparently, entice them with billions of dollars funding to a program that includes compensating people adversely affected by vaccines. That is what's in COVAX, the new program of GAVI, an International vaccine organization, and WHO initiative.

GAVI was founded by and has largely been funded by Bill Gates. The WHO has designated 92 countries and economies eligible for support via the "GAVI COVAX Advance Market Commitment." A portion of that includes a no-fault injury compensation program for COVID-19 vaccines.

One of the upshots is that American taxpayers are footing the bill for COVID vaccine injuries they aren't eligible for in America. Reportedly, a major reason for the injury compensation program is to attract poorer countries, some of whom have seen negative effects in their populations as a result of previous vaccine initiatives pushed by Gates. They are deeply skeptical of the new COVID vaccines.

Commenting on the ironies of the compensation program, Robert Krakow, a New York City attorney and former prosecutor who represents persons injured by vaccines, said it notably lacks transparency.

Some speculate it's likely the program is modeled after the U.S. PREP Act Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP), which drastically limits compensation for serious vaccine injuries.

## “INEPT” VAX ROLLOUT SPURS TALK OF EURO-EXIT



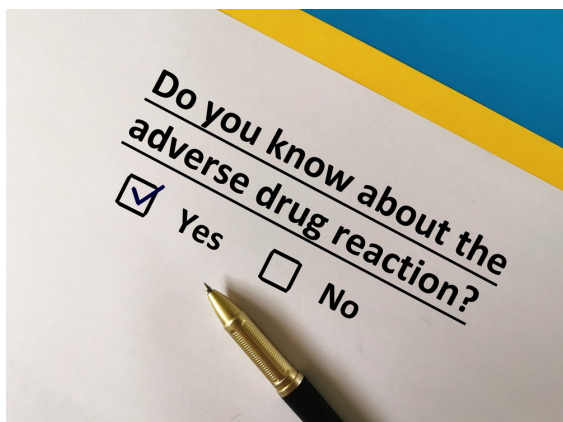
With France and Germany initiating yet another round of lockdowns, the perceived failures of the EU rollout of COVID vaccines are leading some observers to speculate that countries may seek a Brexit-style exit over the mismanagement.

The French and German governments have both expressed doubts about the safety of the British Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. Some in the U.K. believe an element of political retribution has been involved in the shunning of the AZ vaccine, stemming from antipathy over Brexit.

Robert Oulds, director of think tank The Bruges Group, told the U.K.'s *Sun News* outlet that the vaccine “crisis” could lead to an unraveling of the EU. But others say the controversy is unlikely to have that drastic of an impact.

Currently, the U.K. has vaccinated a far higher percentage of its population than the EU. An estimated 27 percent of British citizens have received at least the first dose of vaccine, compared with around 6 percent of the EU citizens. Germany reportedly has one million doses of the vax on-hand but yet unused.

## VACCINE FAST FACTS



The latest numbers of adverse events recorded in CDC's VAERS reporting system include nearly 1,100 deaths related to COVID mRNA vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna. Numbers from the system as of 18 February include:

- 19,907 total adverse events
- 1,095 deaths following injections
- 403 permanent disabilities
- 4,151 visits to Emergency Rooms
- 2,298 hospitalizations

According to the CDC, nearly 50 million Americans have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine so far, with more than 70 million total doses administered.

Residents of New Mexico and Alaska have received vaccinations in the highest percentage, followed by Wyoming, North and South Dakota, West Virginia, and Connecticut. States with comparatively low vaccinations include Texas, Missouri, and a southern belt from Arkansas to South Carolina, with Tennessee included.

Globally, more than 231 million doses have been administered across 103 countries, according to *Bloomberg*. Israel continues to lead all nations in the percentage of population vaccinated. Over 50 percent of that country has received at least one dose, and 30 percent are fully vaccinated. The UAE, Qatar, and the U.K. also have some of the highest rates of vaccination in the world currently.

The EU, while much lower, with about 6 percent of citizens vaccinated, is further along than Russia, China, Brazil, and Australia. Much of Africa and smaller nations in the far east are either very low in vaccinations or not reporting data.

Among South American countries, 16 percent of Chileans have received at least one dose of COVID vaccine. Mexico has vaccinated just one percent of its population so far.

## MODERNA EXPECTS TO REAP \$18.4 BILLION FROM VACCINE SALES



Ten-year-old Moderna Therapeutics will collect \$18.4 billion this year from COVID vaccine sales, more than half as much as the \$11.2 billion analysts have forecast and more than the \$15 billion Pfizer expects to see.

Revenues for 2021 could rise higher, Moderna said, as governments ramp up orders for vaccines and the COVAX vaccine program for developing nations progresses.

Moderna's share price closed at \$154.81 on 26 February, up 8 percent.

"We previously believed that mRNA" – the vaccine design the company used – "would lead to approved medicines," CEO Stephane Bancel said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*. "We were limited in our ambitions by the need for regular capital raises and by keeping several years of cash to manage financial risk."

Moderna's successful vaccine has eased those limitations.

"Many governments have been telling us they would like more of our vaccine, based on its high efficacy," he said.

Moderna also has developed a booster vaccine for the South African variant. The new serum will be tested in trials at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The company reported \$571 million in fourth-quarter revenue but still lost \$272 million for the year, compared to \$123 million in red ink in 2019.

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## HONG KONG CRACKDOWN

What is big news in the major media is old news to **Trends Journal** subscribers. As Gerald Celente forecast when the virus first broke out in China last January, Beijing would use COVID to achieve what they were unable to accomplish before the virus struck Wuhan: lock down Hong Kong to stop the protests.

A big story in last week's *Wall Street Journal* is that Beijing has wasted little time to flex its muscle in Hong Kong, quickly snuffing out any opposition in the former British colony.

"Everything that's happening in Hong Kong today was unimaginable a year ago," Sam Ng, a political satirist from the city, told his YouTube followers, according to the paper.

Beijing has been clear it intends to influence every branch of the city's government and keep any politician not viewed as a "patriot" from office. Being a patriot means having a willingness to follow Beijing's dictates. Xia Baolong, the



head of China's office on Hong Kong affairs, said, "Those who violate Hong Kong's national security law aren't patriots."

Last summer, the National People's Congress finalized the legislation giving China's government the authority to impose strict security measures on Hong Kong residents. Showing unanimity, the Chinese legislature passed the new control measures with only one dissent among the 2,878 votes.

Beijing said the new law was enacted to stem the influence of foreign interference in Hong Kong and to protect against a repeat of the anti-government riots that began last year. In the **Trends Journal**, we closely covered the massive street protests in Hong Kong beginning in March 2019 in reaction to the Fugitive Offenders legislation, which would have allowed China to extradite Hong Kong criminal suspects to the mainland.

The crackdown has been severe and sent dissidents fleeing the city.

The *WSJ* reported that Beijing set up a tip line in the city to report those who are considered "unpatriotic," and the phone line received 40,000 calls, the paper said. The penalties under the national security law can include life in prison. Some say these dissidents are looking for new ways to continue the fight for independence from mainland China.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Gerald Celente appeared on numerous occasions in Hong Kong media and has long forecast the protests would be stifled, freedoms would be lost, and Beijing would rule.*

*As we have reported in our economic section of the **Trends Journal**, regardless of what the communist nation does, how they do it, and whomever they do it to – as with the takeover of Hong Kong by Beijing – the business of business is business, and the Wall Street Gangs and Bankster Mobs are doing big business in Hong Kong.*

*Human rights, social problems, environmental issues, government policies, etc., while Western nations will talk a good game on the importance of such matters,*

*as evidenced by private equity groups, banks, hedge funds, etc., that are deeply invested in Hong Kong, it's all about the bottom line.*

**TRENDPOST:** *Beyond Hong Kong – from India to South Africa, from Chile to Algeria – as noted in the **Trends Journal**, nations across the globe that were in the grips of social unrest before COVID have been locked down, and the protests that were threatening ruling governments have been prohibited.*

## ISRAEL VS. IRAN: WAR DRUMS BEATING



Without providing any evidence, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Friday that an “initial assessment” of a transport ship sailing in the Gulf of Oman that was hit with a blast to its hull was the work of

Iran.

“Iran is looking to hit Israeli infrastructure and Israeli citizens. The location of the ship in relatively close proximity to Iran raises the notion, the assessment, that it is the Iranians,” he said.

The Israeli-owned and Bahamian-flagged ship, MV Helios Ray, was held at a dry dock in Dubai for repairs, the *Associated Press* reported. No crew members were hurt in the explosion. The report, citing American defense officials, said the explosion was above water level and ripped into the ship’s starboard and port sides.

The report said the ship had just unloaded cars within the Persian Gulf and was headed toward Singapore when the blast occurred. An Iranian official theorized that the ship may have been on a spying mission.

## Doubling Down

Also without providing evidence, yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of attacking the ship. “Iran is the greatest enemy of Israel, I am determined to halt it. We are hitting it in the entire region,” Netanyahu said.

In response to Netanyahu’s charges, Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman, told reporters in a press conference in Tehran on Monday:

“The occupying regime is the root cause of all insecurities and instabilities, and these projections are fully goal-oriented.

The Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman are our immediate areas of security and we will not allow them to intimidate others by these statements. The Prime Minister of the Zionist regime is suffering from a mental illness. This regime knows that in our security sphere, our response has been precise and strong.”

According to the *Fars News Agency*, Khatibzadeh also strongly dismissed Netanyahu’s allegations that Iran seeks to acquire nuclear weapons. He said, “This morbid obsessive-compulsive disorder of the Israeli Prime Minister towards Iran is nothing new.”

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

*We have also reported that since November 2019, Netanyahu has been under the pressure of a criminal indictment on charges of fraud and bribery, and he has twice failed in previous elections to put together a winning coalition.*

*This month, Israel will hold its fourth national election in less than two years.*

*This past summer, thousands of Israelis took to the streets, primarily in Jerusalem near Netanyahu's residence, demanding he step down. As tensions in the region flare up, none of this is being reported in the mainstream media.*

## **ISRAEL STRIKES SYRIA – U.S. JOINS THE FIGHT**



Two weeks ago, Israel's military chief, Lieutenant-General Amir Kohavi, said if President Biden renewed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal that President Trump abandoned, his nation may take offensive measures against Iran. Kohavi said,

“A return to the 2015 nuclear agreement, or even if it is a similar accord with several improvements, is bad and wrong from an operational and strategic point of view... In light of this fundamental analysis, I have instructed the Israel Defense Forces to prepare a number of operational plans, in addition to those already in place.”

Last Friday, while Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz was blaming Iran for targeting an Israeli-owned ship in the Gulf of Oman, he declared Israel would take action “almost weekly” in attempts to stop Iranian involvement in Syria.

Keeping his word, the Syrian government said Israel fired rockets that hit southern portions of Damascus. As we reported in December, Israel had acknowledged they had struck over 500 Syrian targets during 2020.

### **“Go To War” Biden**

In office just over a month, last week, President Biden, America's Commander in Chief, signed off on airstrikes in Syria, allegedly in response to recent rocket attacks against U.S. personnel and coalition forces in Iraq.

John Kirby, a spokesman from the Pentagon, said Biden ordered the strikes and they successfully destroyed “multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups, including Kata’ib Hezbollah and Kata’ib Sayyid al Shuhada.”

Kirby went on to say, “The operation sends an unambiguous message; President Biden will act to protect American coalition personnel. At the same time, we have acted in a deliberate manner that aims to deescalate the overall situation in both Eastern Syria and Iraq.”

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks in the Iraqi Green Zone, and the Pentagon did not name any particular group. Syria condemned the airstrike, calling it a “cowardly and systematic American aggression, for which Damascus vowed consequences.”

Mary Ellen O’Connell, a law professor at Notre Dame who is an expert on the lawful use of force, told the *Financial Times* that the strikes were “a grave violation of international law” because the initial attack occurred in Iraq and the retaliation was in Syria.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Should the U.S./Israel/Saudi alliance intensify actions against Iran that trigger war, it will be the start of World War III. The implications will be the end of life as we know it.*

*To understand how quickly it will be started and almost impossible to stop once it does... in a blink of an eye, the entire world changed when politicians marched the masses off to fight the COVID War just one year ago.*

*The politically mentally insane – power-hungry, narcissistic, pathological lying sociopaths and psychopaths – will kill, rob, and steal to stay in control and rule the masses.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Biden was criticized by politicians from both sides of the aisle after the strikes, and reports pointed to his fierce criticism of former President*

*Trump when he ordered similar strikes. Senator Tim Kaine issued a statement that called for the Biden administration to explain its rationale for the strikes and for “acting without coming to Congress.”*

*“Offensive military action without congressional approval is not constitutional absent extraordinary circumstances. Congress must be fully briefed on this matter expeditiously,” Kaine said.*

*It should be noted that while a large base of voters who supported Joe Biden for President are labeled “liberals” and “progressives” who are opposed to unjust foreign entanglements, there was no outcry against his warlike actions against Syria, parts of which the U.S. illegally occupies.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Absent in the media or from Congress is the illegality of American troops in Iraq, a nation in which the U.S. invaded, killed over a million Iraqis, and devastated on a war based on lies that Saddam Hussein, its leader, had weapons of mass destruction.*

*Moreover, Iraqis who are fighting to drive Americans from their homeland are demeaned by both Washington and the media as “terrorists”... rather than “freedom fighters” who are fighting against foreign occupiers.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *In our 26 January article, “[BIDEN PRESIDENCY = OBAMA 2021](#),” we pointed out that defense chief Lloyd Austin occupied a seat on several corporate boards including Raytheon Technologies, one of the country’s largest military contractors. Avril D. Haines, the director of National Intelligence, served as the Deputy National Security Advisor in the Obama administration, which, according to Democracy Now!, authorized drone strikes to “carry out targeted extrajudicial assassinations.”*

*RT, the state-controlled, international Russian television network, called out CNN’s gushing coverage of the airstrikes. CNN was widely mocked for saying Biden used a “scalpel instead of a sledgehammer,” suggesting the president’s move was some kind of geopolitical masterstroke.*



*Nick Patton Walsh, the CNN analyst, called the strike “minimally lethal” and “a small signal that the Biden administration is not gun shy.” (It’s not clear how much Walsh knows about recent U.S. history, but it’s worth noting that Biden was one of the most vocal supporters for the U.S. war in Iraq in 2002. Biden is known to not ever shy away from a fight... as long as someone else is doing the fighting.)*

## TOP DEMOCRAT: KEEP THE AFGHAN WAR GOING



Senator Jack Reed, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, signaled last week that the U.S. should refrain from withdrawing troops from Afghanistan to meet an agreed-upon 1 May deadline, calling the pullout

potentially destabilizing.

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on U.S. troop deployment in the country and how October will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the invasion. The U.S. launched the war in Afghanistan in 2001, which has been the longest in American history and has killed over 157,000 people and left hundreds of thousands dying from war-related causes. Also, some 3,500 U.S. and NATO soldiers have been killed.

Despite no victory in sight, according to *The New York Times*, the war cost American taxpayers \$2 trillion. (See the *NYT* article [here](#).)

Senator Reed, a former 82nd Airborne Division officer who *The Times* said visited the country on 18 occasions within the last two decades, said he anticipates an extension to remove the remaining 2,500 troops in the country.

*Defense.gov* reported those numbers are the lowest since 2001 and were a goal of the Trump administration. The report said that at its height in 2011, under the Obama administration, there were 98,000 troops in Afghanistan.

*The Times* pointed out that the Taliban had agreed to the 1 May deadline and rejected the idea of another delay. *The Times* reported the Taliban said it will disregard an earlier cease-fire agreement after the deadline. The Trump administration brokered the deal with the Taliban.

Senator Rand Paul has been a vocal critic of removing U.S. troops from the country. In July, he wrote an amendment tied to the National Defense Authorization Act that was tabled in a 60-33 vote. The bill would have removed all troops within the year and given them each a \$2,500 bonus, according to the *Hill*.

Paul said at the time, “Our amendment will finally and completely end the war in Afghanistan... It is not sustainable to keep fighting in Afghanistan generation after generation.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Going on 20 years, why the Afghan War was launched is ancient history to most Americans. Long forgotten were the lunacy lines sold by President George W. Bush who launched it and how over 80 percent of Americans swallowed his lines.*

*When George W. Bush launched the Afghan War, long forgotten as well, it was the sounding alarm that is no longer heard: the launch of the War on Terror.*

*Nine days after 9/11, on 20 September 2001, during a televised address to a joint session of Congress, Bush said, “Our war on terror begins with Al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated.”*

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

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

**TRENDPOST:** *As we noted last week, but forgotten by the media, as they promote the continuation of the COVID War, are The Afghanistan Papers, internal government documents released by the Washington Post in early December, which exposed the lies and deceptions told to the American people by Washington and the Pentagon. The papers documented how top generals knew the war in Afghanistan was a calamity that could not be won.*

*In December, we reported on the papers. Yet, despite these facts of horror, media Presstitutes, who get paid to put out what their corporate pimps and Washington whoremasters tell them to, have essentially blacked out The Afghanistan Papers from the news.*

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

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

## MYANMAR REVOLT: AT LEAST 18 DEAD



As we reported in our 9 February article, [“MYANMAR PROTESTS SURGE, JUNTA CLAMPS DOWN,”](#) on 1 February, Myanmar’s military put Aung San Suu Kyi, the country’s de facto leader, under house arrest declaring a state of emergency. Taking full control of the

government, they postponed the new election until next year.

Since the overthrow began, hundreds of thousands have been protesting in cities across the country, and work strikes have jeopardized commerce, shipping, and the general economy.

Yangon, the country’s largest city that has seen protests, experienced its fiercest police crackdown on Sunday, which included dozens of arrests. Police reportedly fired rubber bullets into crowds in various cities, and when that failed to break up the protests, they used live ammunition. At least 18 protesters were killed in the clashes, and 30 were injured, according to *Reuters*.

The U.N. Human Rights Office told the news agency that the protests occurred in Yangon, Dawei, Mandalay, Myeik, Bago, and Pokokku.

“People are protesting peacefully but they’re threatening us with weapons,” Shar Yamone, a youth activist, told *Reuters*. “We’re fighting to end this military bullying, which has been going on for generation after generation.”

Monwya, another city, saw a crackdown, and there were reports of some ten “prison buses” used to transport detainees from protests to a prison. Protesters are trying to identify those who were detained.

Prior to the bloodshed on Sunday, at least three protesters and one police officer have been killed during rallies over the past three weeks, according to the *BBC*.

The crackdown came after Kyaw Moe Tun, the country's U.N. ambassador, "publicly broke ranks" and called on his countrymen to "find a way to protest peacefully." *Reuters* reported that he flashed the three-finger sign adopted by protesters and said, "This revolution must win."

The report stated the whereabouts of Suu Kyi is no longer clear. She had been held under house arrest but has since been moved to an undisclosed location.

### **Economy on the Brink**

The *Financial Times* reported on Friday that bank employees in Myanmar have followed the lead of workers in other industries who have decided to stop showing up to work to further damage the country's economic infrastructure amid the coup.

The paper said that bank branches across the country lack tellers, making it challenging for businesses to make payroll and deposit checks. This is also making it nearly impossible for the military to keep its vow to make sure the country keeps operating economically.

"Shutdowns in the banking system—by making payments to thousands of businesses and payrolls to more than a million people nearly impossible—are more likely than anything else to bring the political stand-off to a head," Thant Myint-U, a historian and author, told the *FT*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite the U.S. and its allies condemning the Myanmar military for the coup and actions taken against protesters, the sanctions being imposed and threats made will have a minor impact on a nation that will reinforce its strong economic and geopolitical bonds with neighboring China.*

**TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”:** As we had forecast as one of our “Top Trends for 2021,” the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.. and the youth, who live in despair now and face a future of misery, will be leading the charge.

*The Guardian newspaper spoke to a 21-year-old protester named Myo who took part in a rally last Wednesday. He told the paper he was there because “the military took away my future.”*

*He said, “My work can no longer pay me. This country had barely started trying to develop and now it’s 2021. I don’t know what made them think they should stage a coup.”*

*The paper pointed out that many of the protesters were raised in a country that afforded them freedoms not available to their parents. Thinzar Shunlei Yi, a human rights activist who lives in Yangon, a city of 5.5 million, told the paper that these protesters “were ready to fly out and see things, but now they feel like their wings are being broken by these people.”*

**TREND FORECAST:** We had forecast three weeks ago that military rule will continue in Myanmar and threats by the U.N., the U.S., and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called “Democracy” to Myanmar.

*Furthermore, the more outside countries put pressure on the Myanmar government – be they in sanctions or supporting rebel movements – the greater the ruling government will strengthen its ties with its Chinese neighbor.*

*The long term is still to be determined by what measures will be taken by the Youth Revolutionaries and their elder supporters who have joined the fight for freedom.*



## ERITREAN TROOPS GUILTY OF WAR CRIMES?



We have been reporting on the escalating war in Ethiopia since it broke out in early November. It was launched by its Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) after the region held its election in September without Ahmed's approval.

As the war spread, we reported on Ethiopia bringing in troops from neighboring Eritrea to help them battle the TPLF. Prime Minister Ahmed – who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 – denied the accusation, stating there were no outside troops in the country.

### Then and Now

Last week, Amnesty International issued a report that put the spotlight on an Eritrean troop offensive in November in a town north of Mekelle, the capital of Tigray, where soldiers killed hundreds of civilians in a “coordinated and systemic” manner.

*Al Jazeera* reported that the timeframe of the atrocities ranged from 28 to 29 November. Amnesty's report said the forces killed civilians as they fled and randomly shelled buildings. These troops, some of whom wore Eritrean uniforms, entered homes and killed teenage and adult men, the report said.

The U.S. recently called for the forces to leave the country immediately.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we had forecast when the war was launched, the greater the tensions rise and the deeper the nation falls economically, the more people in this highly-populated nation will seek refuge in safe-haven European nations.*

*Since then, there have been numerous reports of migrants drowning in the Mediterranean as they try to escape their ravaged homelands for safer European shores.*

*As economies decline, civil unrest, civil wars, crime, violence, and corruption will sharply increase, further fueling the migrant crises. If there is not a peace movement to stop escalating wars across the Horn of Africa, human conditions will dangerously deteriorate.*

## **GEORGIAN UNREST INTENSIFIES**



Last week, we reported that the Georgian Dream, the governing party of Georgia, announced the nomination of Irakli Gharibashvili as the country's next prime minister. Gharibashvili is a close associate to Bidzina Ivanishvili, the billionaire who founded the party.

There was a contested parliamentary election in October and subsequent arrest of opposition leader Nika Melia of the United National Movement. Melia is accused of organizing “mass violence” during protests after the election. He was placed in custody in a move his party called a political witch hunt, and he faces up to nine years in prison if convicted.

With tensions rising, protests again erupted last week in response to Melia's arrest.

## **Putin or the West?**

Ivanishvili has strong ties to Moscow, made his fortune in Russia, and is considered the kingmaker, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Georgia has been praised for its strides over the past 15 years toward democracy and has been considered the gold standard for former Soviet satellite states, but its reaction to the election puts it in serious jeopardy of further isolation from Europe and the West.

The consolidation of power toward the Georgia Dream is seen as a turn to Moscow. The **Trends Journal** reported last week that the EU's envoy to Georgia called Melia's prosecution "a dangerous trajectory for Georgia and for Georgian democracy."

Georgia's 2008 war with Russia lasted five days, but last month, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Russia was responsible for "ill-treatment and acts of torture against Georgian prisoners of war, arbitrary detentions of Georgians and 'inhuman and degrading treatment' of 160 detained Georgian civilians," according to the *Associated Press*.

The arrest and subsequent protest prompted the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi to issue a statement condemning the "force and aggression" exhibited on protesters.

"Today, Georgia has moved backward on its path of becoming a stronger democracy in the Euro-Atlantic family of nations," the statement read.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We have been reporting on the unrest in the region, most recently between Armenia and Azerbaijan, over disputed territory, in which Turkey intervened. As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, the higher tensions will rise throughout the region, which in turn will increase tensions between Russia and Western nations as they both take sides in the conflicts.*

## PROTESTS IN YEMEN AGAINST U.S., SAUDI-LED COALITION



A massive protest broke out last Friday in Sana'a, Yemen's capital, to condemn the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting with the country's Houthis for six years.

Thousands took to the streets in Sana'a to criticize a Saudi-led blockade and the closure of an airport in the country, according to *Tasnim News Agency*. The protesters say the blockade has prevented vital medication and oil from entering the country.

Essam Al-Mutawakel, identified as an oil-company spokesman, said,

"All sectors issued a distress call that they are unable to work due to the lack of oil derivatives. Therefore, here we hold the coalition of aggression, led by the United States, as well as the United Nations participating in this blockade, fully responsible for what the situation has turned into in the past and what it will turn out into in the coming days."

The report pointed out that more than 110,000 Yemenis have been killed since the start of the war in 2015.

President Biden, who as vice president under Barack Obama strongly supported the Saudi-led war, is now saying he wants to wind it down.

Acknowledged as the worst humanitarian crisis on earth, 80 percent of its population of 28 million depend on international aid to survive. The *Tasnim News Agency* reported that the war has destroyed about half of the country's hospitals, which is all the more critical during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The U.N. humanitarian agency warned on Sunday that 16 million Yemenis would go hungry this year, and the risk of large-scale famine “has never been more acute.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have been reporting since the outbreak of the Yemen war, it was launched from Washington, D.C., by the Saudi Ambassador to the United States in March 2015.*

*Long forgotten was that President Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, were strong supporters for a war that has devastated Yemen, the poorest nation in the Middle East.*

*This is how Reuters reported America’s involvement following the Saudi announcement on 7 April, some two weeks after the Saudi’s attacked Yemen:*

### ***U.S. expedites arms shipments to coalition bombing Yemen***

*“RIYADH/ADEN (Reuters)—The United States is speeding up arms supplies and bolstering intelligence sharing with a Saudi-led alliance bombing a militia aligned with Iran in neighboring Yemen, a senior U.S. diplomat said on Tuesday.*

*U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S., a key ally of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, had also set up a coordination center in the Sunni Muslim kingdom, whose forces have led an air campaign against the Shi’ite Houthi group which rules most of Yemen.*

*‘Saudi Arabia is sending a strong message to the Houthis and their allies that they cannot overrun Yemen by force,’ he told reporters in the Saudi capital Riyadh.*

*‘As part of that effort, we have expedited weapons deliveries, we have increased our intelligence sharing, and we have established a joint coordination planning cell in the Saudi operation center,’ Blinken added.”*

*And this is from The Council on Foreign Relations six months after the Saudi's launched the war:*

*“Nevertheless, since March 25, the United States has been providing in-air refueling, combat-search-and-rescue support (including the rescue of two Saudi pilots whose helicopter crashed in the Gulf of Aden), detailing forty-five intelligence analysts to help advise on target selection, and redoubling weapons exports and contractor support to the GCC countries.”*

*Indeed, Saudi Arabia's relationship with the United States is primarily as a source of cash for weapons. From October 2010 to when he left office, the Obama administration had sold \$90.4 billion in weapons to the Gulf kingdom, according to the Congressional Research Service.*

## **BIDEN BACKTRACKS ON HOLDING SAUDI PRICE ACCOUNTABLE**



President Biden, throughout his campaign, promised he would approach Saudi Arabia differently than former President Trump and hold Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for his alleged role in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

That has not happened.

Back in November 2019, Biden said that if elected, he would make it clear to Saudi Prince bin Salman that he would not be sold new weapons and “we were going to, in fact, make them pay the price and make them the pariah that they are.”



On Monday, Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, announced the Prince will not face any punishment from the U.S.... and it's basically Saudi business as usual.

"Our national security team believes that going after the network responsible for these actions is the best way to prevent a crime like this from ever happening again," she said.

The move comes days after a U.S. intelligence report was released that tied the Prince to Khashoggi's killing. The U.S. determined the Prince "approved" the operation, which was carried out in Istanbul. It has long been reported that Khashoggi was killed and then dismembered inside the Saudi consulate in the city.

William D. Hartung, the director of the Arms and Security Program at the Center for International Policy, wrote in *The New York Times* on Monday that President Biden's decision to not punish MBS [Mohammed bin Salman] "is morally unacceptable. It is also bad foreign policy."

He wrote that Biden should reverse course: "As a candidate for president, Joe Biden promised that America would not 'check its values at the door' when it came to dealing with the Saudi government. Now is the time to prove it."

***TRENDPOST:*** *Considering America's non-stop march to wars, the nation's "values" have long been checked at the door. As vice president from 2008 to 2016 under Barack Obama, Joe Biden strongly supported the administration's racking up eight years of non-stop wars.*

*As for Biden backtracking on his campaign pledge to hold the Saudi Prince accountable for Khashoggi's death and deal on stricter terms with Saudi Arabia ... Barack Obama lied his way into office vowing to end U.S. military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

## BIDEN'S CIA PICK: CHINA FOR THE “LONG HAUL”



As we have reported, the Biden administration has vowed to keep a close eye on China after announcing a task force last month fully devoted to countering Beijing, which President Biden has called the U.S.'s most “serious competitor.”

Last Wednesday, William J. Burns, Biden's pick to head the CIA, told the Senate Intelligence Committee that gathering intelligence on Beijing would be a top priority for the department, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Burns said, “That will mean intensified focus and urgency, continually strengthening its already impressive cadre of China specialists, expanding its language skills, aligning personnel and resource allocation for the long haul.”

He did not specify exactly what that renewed focus would look like in terms of resources.

The paper reported that Burns was well received by the panel, and, at one point, a Democrat told him the hearing risked becoming “a full-fledged bouquet-throwing contest.”

One hiccup came when Senator Marco Rubio, the panel's Republican vice chairman, inquired about Burns' position as president of the International Peace think tank. The paper reported that Burns worked there since 2014, and the think tank has ties to the Communist Party of China (CCP) via its partnership with Tsinghua University. The paper mentioned critics say the school has been accused of being a front for CCP influence efforts.

Burns, a career diplomat, agreed with others in the Biden administration and called China the “biggest geopolitical test that we face,” according to VOA News. He called Beijing’s leadership adversarial and predatory:

“Out competing China will be key to our national security in the decades ahead... The evolution of [President] Xi Jinping’s China over the last six or seven years has been a very sharp wake-up call. It’s the kind of aggressive, undisguised ambition and assertiveness that I think has made very clear the nature of the adversary that we face.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have reported over the years, the U.S. will not confront China militarily. And as we have noted, being that the U.S. has not won a war since World War II (and did so in part with the assistance of Russia), the Pentagon is well aware that war with China would be catastrophic, considering the size and power of China’s military.*

*If war did break out between the two nations, considering the depth and range of 21st-century weaponry of each nation, it will not only be the war that ends all wars, it will also be the end of life on Earth.*

*Indeed, when Albert Einstein was asked what weaponry would be used to fight World War III, he replied. “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## U.S. CAPITOL RIOTS: POLICE BLAME BAD INTEL

America, the “Land of the Free,” the world leader in wars that cost trillions and kill millions which has not won a war since World War II, lost again when it couldn’t stop un-armed rioters from storming the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on 6 January.

Steven Sund, the former head of the U.S. Capitol Police who received the brunt of the criticism over security failures, told a congressional panel last week that faulty intelligence led to the lack of security infrastructure on the day of the breach.

“A clear lack of accurate and complete intelligence across several federal agencies contributed to this event, and not poor planning by the United States Capitol Police,” he told a joint bipartisan committee of senators, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. “Based on the intelligence that we received, we planned for an increased level of violence at the Capitol and that some participants may

be armed. But none of the intelligence we received predicted what actually occurred.”

Sund resigned shortly after the riot when officials such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for his resignation, saying, “There was a failure at the top.”

Sund said he regretted his decision to step down due to new information about the security breach that emerged. He told the panel he never received an FBI report issued a day before the riot warning about the threats, and he said there were no additional warnings during a phone call the night before the protest.

## **The Failure Clubs**

The *WSJ* pointed out the FBI defended itself and said it followed standard procedures.

The riot at the Capitol stunned the nation and has serious political implications that have yet to be sorted out. Former President Trump was impeached by the House, but not convicted in the Senate, and the severity of the riot seems to vary on what are the facts, what the videos and photos show, and the political parties’ perspectives.

Granted, the clips show Capitol police letting rioters in, standing by, fully armed and armored in military drag, allowing the mob to smash windows and doing nothing to stop them.

Democrats have been accused by Republicans of trying to capitalize politically on the event and paint the GOP as a party of anarchists who refuse to accept an election result. Republicans also want to know who knew what and when. They questioned if Pelosi was aware of the threat but downplayed it for the riot to occur and end all debate on alleged election interference.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this report to again illustrate America’s oxymoron named “intelligence” agencies.*

*With unblemished track records of failure of intelligence strategies – from long before 9/11 to the recent riots – they double up on robbing citizens of their privacy, rights, and freedom by imposing strict measures in the name of “security.” Indeed, security fences now surround the White House and Capitol building, and legislators are forced to walk through metal detectors and get frisked before entering... measures completely unrelated to the riots.*

## **CUOMO: THREE SEXUAL STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT**



Last week, Governor Andrew Cuomo was accused of sexual harassment by two former aides, which prompted the embattled leader to call for an independent investigation into the allegations. On Sunday, he was hit with another harassment strike.

*The New York Times* reported on Saturday that Charlotte Bennett, who worked as his executive assistant and health policy advisor, claimed he asked her personal questions – including the age of the men she dated. Ms. Bennett said she “understood that the governor wanted to sleep with me, and I felt awfully uncomfortable and scared.”

Lindsey Boylan, another former aide, took to Medium to accuse the governor of making unwanted sexual advances. She said he once kissed her on the lips and suggested they play strip poker during a private flight in October 2017.

“The idea that someone might think I held my high-ranking position because of the Governor’s ‘crush’ on me was more demeaning than the kiss itself,” Boylan, who is running for Manhattan borough president, posted.

Cuomo’s office called Boylan’s allegations “simply false” and called Bennett a “valued member of our team during COVID.”



The governor said in a statement that he never made advances toward Ms. Bennett “nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.”

Lawmakers in the state called for an immediate investigation. Representative Elise Stefanik called Cuomo a “criminal sexual predator” who “must resign immediately.”

Then, on Sunday, a third woman has accused Cuomo of unwanted sexual advances at a wedding in 2019.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Since last March, the ***Trends Journal*** was the first to call out Governor Cuomo for his arrogance and dictatorial mandates that have destroyed tens of thousands of New York lives and livelihoods, while the mainstream media promoted him as a star, and the Hollywood clowns awarded him an Emmy for his daily COVID B.S. updates.

*Andrew Cuomo will not be re-elected. A political cast of wannabes is already lining up to challenge him in the 2022 gubernatorial race.*

*We also note that the #metoo movement has been silent on the sexual allegation charges made against Andrew Cuomo.*

## IMMIGRANT CHILDREN CRISIS AT U.S. BORDER



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) reported a jump in arrests of unaccompanied immigrant children at the southern border. The government is anticipating up to 9,000 could be taken

into custody, which could strain the system.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that arrests at the border are on pace to increase by 50 percent in February when compared to January.

“We’re seeing the highest February numbers that we’ve ever seen in the history of the [Unaccompanied Alien Child] program,” a Health and Human Services official told the news website *Axios*. Reports last week said the Biden administration has been criticized for reopening the same facilities former President Trump used.

*CBS News* reported Saturday it obtained a memo from the department’s Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that read, “With increasing numbers of children being referred to ORR for care, ORR must take steps to increase the number of available shelter beds in order to minimize the risk that children remain in CBP custody.”

The report stated 97 percent of the approximately 8,000 beds operated by the ORR are currently filled by unaccompanied minors, and care is even more challenging due to the COVID-19 outbreak and transmission concerns.

CBP told the *Wall Street Journal* it was unable to share the precise number of minors because it is a sensitive law-enforcement matter. The coronavirus outbreak and economic instability in countries such as Guatemala and Mexico contributed to the influx.

Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, said Wednesday that most migrants who arrive at the border will be turned away. She said, “Now is not the time to come.”

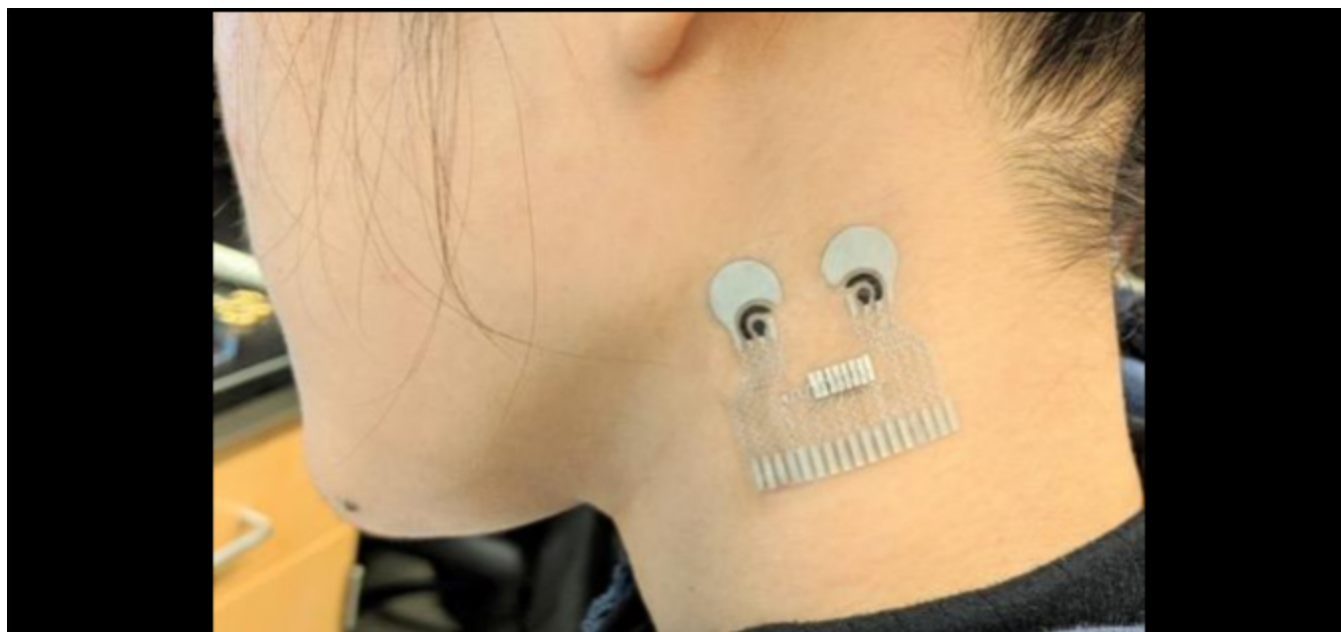
***TREND FORECAST:*** *As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, the border crisis in the United States and across the globe will escalate. We maintain our forecast for the growth of anti-immigration, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-establishment political parties.*

# THE ART OF TRENDS

“Troubled Tuber” by *Stephen Green*



# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## A WEARABLE MEDICAL LAB

Bioscientists at the University of California at San Diego have fashioned a stretchy polymer patch smaller than a business card that will monitor your blood pressure; read your sweat to measure levels of alcohol, caffeine, and lactose in your body; and track glucose levels in the fluid between your cells.

At the center of the patch, a blood pressure sensor sends ultrasound waves into the body that bounce off arteries. A computer converts the pattern of returning echoes into a blood pressure reading.

Another sensor sends compounds into the skin that cause the skin to sweat, then reads the sweat's contents; the glucose monitor zaps the wearer with a tiny electrical current that releases fluid from between cells, then takes a glucose measurement.

The developers see their creation as not only useful in hospital ICU wards where patients' vital signs have to be continually monitored, but also for people with diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions that need steady attention.

Currently, the device is wired to a tabletop reader but the designers are at work on a wireless version that, ultimately, will be able to send readings to a smartphone.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The new wearable medical lab will evolve, eventually becoming customizable to the needs of each wearer, depending on which vital signs or biochemicals need to be monitored.*

*More broadly, the confluence of miniaturization and computer power continues to drive the transfer of routine medical exams and monitoring from doctors to individuals. That eliminates time spent in waiting rooms, uncomfortable procedures, and anxiety while waiting for results.*

*The trend of transferring monitoring and data collection from doctor to patient also gives individuals more responsibility for their well-being.*

Photo credit: University of California San Diego.

## NEW FUSION ENERGY METHOD REVIVES ADVOCATES' HOPES



For decades, fusion energy has been physicists' grail of infinite, clean power. Now a completely new approach by engineers at the University of New South Wales has moved fusion power closer to practicality.

Fusion scientists have been trying to capture the same kind of energy released by the sun in the same way as the sun: by creating temperatures so hot – as hot as 27 million degrees F – that hydrogen atoms melt together, spewing vast amounts of energy as they fuse. That raw energy would then be harnessed to generate electricity.

To do that, developers have been tinkering with giant reactors the size of barn silos fitted out with lasers, giant magnets, and other gear costing tens of millions of dollars and fueled by radioactive materials such as tritium.

While some of the devices have yielded a few moments of energy greater than the vast amounts of electricity they consume, no sustained reaction has been achieved, much less a commercially viable technology.

Now HB11, a start-up from the Australian university, has re-imagined fusion from scratch and come up with a method that is not only simpler but also more promising.

Instead of relying on giant magnets and unearthly heat, HB11's reactor is a largely empty metal sphere with a pellet of boron held in the center. The sphere has openings in its sides for two lasers: one establishes a magnetic field to channel the reaction and the other propels hydrogen atoms into the boron fuel pellet with enough force to fuse.

The engineers describe the process as using hydrogen as a dart thrown by a laser. If the dart hits a boron atom, a cascading fusion reaction begins.

Better yet, the resulting flow of electricity can be sent into an existing power grid with very little processing or modification or the need for turbines or other generators, the engineers say.

Early results show a billion times more individual fusion reactions than the scientists had expected, they reported in a recent paper.



The technology yields no radioactive waste and eliminates the specter of a meltdown if things go wrong, according to the developers.

The start-up continues to develop the technology but refuses to speculate about when a commercial reactor, or even a public demonstration, will be ready – although it says the new approach will be both cheaper and faster to develop than conventional fusion attempts.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommended last week that the U.S. make an "urgent" investment to bring a commercial fusion reactor into the commercial power grid by 2040.*

*HB11's new reactor is likely to beat that deadline by years.*

*By avoiding radioactive fuels and absurdly high temperatures, HB11 has shown an entirely new concept that makes practical fusion energy possible. Because of its simplicity, the company's design also could end the nuclear power industry as it has existed for half a century.*

## NEW GMO FOODS TARGET CONSUMERS, NOT FARMERS



The first round of genetically modified foods was designed to make life easier for farmers: corn that sported genes to kill bugs or wheat that could survive in dry climates, for example.

Now a new generation of genetically altered crops is fashioning products more amenable to consumers' tastes.

The start-up Pairwise has yanked the gene out of mustard greens that give them their signature peppery taste but, the company says, the subtraction doesn't reduce the shoots' hefty cargo of copper and vitamins C and K2. The resulting

milder-tasting salad green can appeal to more consumers, boosting their nutrition while expanding farmers' consumer base.

The company already is tinkering with blackberries to produce a plant without the thorns that stab berry pickers and without the seeds that stick in your teeth. Those engineered berries will be on the market around 2025, the company thinks.

Next: by 2030, Pairwise plans to present a cherry without a pit.

And with consumers looking for more roughage in their diets, Minnesota-based Calyxt is crafting a strain of wheat with triple the normal amount of fiber. The firm has already created a soybean lower in saturated fat and with more oleic acid, yielding a (supposedly) healthier cooking oil.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The science on GMOs is mixed but hasn't turned up enough evidence to slow Big Ag in deploying them or persuading policymakers to reconsider them.*

*Despite continuing public distrust of GMO crops, the food industry won't turn back. China is leading the world in altering foods' genetic make-up to produce more bountiful crops that are easier to grow, less costly to farmers, and more appealing to consumers. Other countries will, at the least, not want to surrender ownership of this technological expertise to China without a contest.*

## RAISE A GLASS TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Every pound of cheese gives its maker nine pounds of leftover whey to get rid of. Some are turned into protein powder, pig feed, or fertilizer; but more than half of the

100 billion pounds made annually in the U.S. alone is dumped as garbage.

Now some will make their way into Wheyward Spirit, a hard liquor created by food scientist Emily Darchuk, who's worked with NASA to create "space food" for astronauts.

The booze reportedly has a light taste with oaky notes of vanilla, but Darchuk isn't in the business just to make cocktails.

Her venture is equally intended to add value for dairy farmers and cheesemakers and to ease the trash burden on locales where whey is dumped; also, distilling her spirits from whey uses less energy and less water than making spirits from grains, she says.

Perhaps more important, it's another intriguing exemplar of the steady growth of the circular economy, in which waste from one process or product becomes feedstock for another.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Darchuk's venture will draw attention not only from liquor connoisseurs but also from environmentally-aware drinkers enticed by the brand's stewardship of resources.*

*This two-pronged marketing approach will characterize products rising out of the evolving circular economy and will give them an advantage in the market, particularly in drawing younger aficionados.*

Photo credit: Wheyward Spirit