

TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®



DRUG DEALERS & MONEY JUNKIES
SAVE THE WORLD?



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WORLD “SAVERS”

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: “DRUG DEALERS & MONEY JUNKIES:

SAVE THE WORLD?”

There are two anniversaries for us to celebrate.

One, not reported at all by the mainstream media, is the Iraq War, started 18 years ago by President George W. Bush, based on the lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and he was a deadly threat to the U.S. and the world.

The other anniversary to celebrate is the Federal Reserve frauds pumping trillions into the financial system a year ago today to prop up the diving equity markets that were being ravaged by the COVID War, which was launched by politicians across the globe.

Far beyond the virus deaths, as we continue to detail in the **Trends Journal**, the COVID War continues to take a devastating socioeconomic and geopolitical toll on life across the planet.

But the word on The Street is don't worry! Life will be back to normal when the world gets vaccinated and governments and central banks save the economy by injecting the world with endless supplies of cheap money.

But, unfortunately, we forecast that the worst is yet to come, and as you will read in this **Trends Journal**, we are doing our best to guide you into a realistic and prosperous future.

Best wishes,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

BROKEN GOVERNMENT, BROKEN MARKETS, BROKEN DREAMS

This is real nonsense. The current P/E Ratio for the S&P 500 is 40.0.

The graph of the P/E ratio indicates the last time it peaked was 2009, and before that, 2003. The reason is the same for the last two occurrences: Capital is moving into stocks because it fears and is avoiding Government, Government Bonds (Treasures), and The Banks. It's TINA all over again.

So, Institutional money managers are rendering a vote of “no confidence” on the Biden Administration, only 2 months into office. Capital is afraid and even running to bitcoin instead of gold, as bitcoin is a trading asset, not a store of value.

Everyone is trying to find an “edge” and at the same time, protect what they have. The Federal Government is coming for a bigger share of your pie with higher taxes by year end. I do not see most stocks going up from here in such a wobbly financial environment. I do see continued volatility spikes with mixed investment performance for the next few years. Unfortunately, ending the Covid lock-downs does NOT mean a return to normal by any measure. It's not going to be the Good Old Days, Once Again. Better Brace Yourselves as anything can happen.

Craig Bradley

BUYING POWER OF MONEY

Remember the real issue is buying power of money. Once inflation has set in across the economy be prepared to pay much more for any items of value. Bizarre as it sounds some items of value are now cheap such as physical silver. Rare sports cards are on fire, some older Topps complete sport sets sell more than the average wage of workers in America.

Jonathan Bosco

FATEFUL DAY IMMINENT

Let's keep our eyes and ears open to Mr. Celente and Mr. Mannarino for an indication when that fateful day is imminent.

I see no reason Celente's Cougars and Mannarino's Lions shouldn't come out on top.

Paul Sacco

JUICY INFO

Fantastic article and advice [Introducing Juicing Into Your Diet]. Best of luck with your new book. I use a NutriBullet which does a good job. Unfortunately I don't use it every day but this article is motivating me to start using it more frequently. Thank you for this valuable information.

Ivblasiotti

FORGET ABBOTT REMEMBER THE ALAMO

Looks like Texas is losing to the left's and The right's agenda which is one in the same. All the politicians are anti American.

So much for the Alamo. what a sad state of affairs. When are true Americans going to stand up and fight for all these Govt's who have stolen our Freedoms. Our fore Fathers are rolling in their graves to see what cowards Americans have become after they bled and died to Birth our Constitution and our freedoms. We deserve what's coming to us and can only blame ourselves. We outnumber them a million to one, and we do nothing!

Ronald Howell

CRUEL AND ARBITRARY

Judges are supposed to administer the law according to the constitution and the laws promulgated by the legislative branch of government. Unfortunately, judges are increasingly creating laws through judicial overreach. Moreover, judges are subjecting justice to their ideological biases. This portends the failure of the separation of the three main branches of government. Moreover, judges are showing an increasing lack of empathy towards humanity when they subject people to such cruel and arbitrary rules. The least that society should do to check the abuses of judges is to boycott them and treat them like pariahs. All in all, the injustices that the judiciary inflicts on law abiding citizens marks the failure of representative democracy on top of the failure of the legislature to represent the interests of the people instead of the interests of their corporate paymasters.

Joseph_1

CORONA FACTS AND FIGURES

Please refer to Dr Bhakdi book on Amazon, *Corona False Alarm, Facts and Figures*. He has explained in detail the dangers of the gene based vax

Ava

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

Happy New Year!

It was one year ago today, 23 March 2020, that right in front of everyone with open eyes, the United States Federal Reserve Bank (whose former head is now the U.S. Treasury Secretary) proved to the world that money junkies are running the nation's economy.

With the S&P index down some 34 percent that month and equities having lost three years of market gains, the Fed and Washington began their monetary methadone schemes, injecting trillions of dollars into the system to bail out the Wall Street Gang and the Bankster Mobs.

People call them banks. They're casinos, and they'll do whatever it takes to keep the gambling operations going.

As Wall Street On Parade wrote,

“The Federal Reserve is the regulator of the largest bank holding companies in the United States and, since December of 2007 has been shoveling trillions of dollars at the trading houses owned by these bank holding companies almost on a non-stop basis.”

They noted that the Fed's balance sheet is now at \$7.7 trillion and climbing. And, the Fed continues to buy Treasury bonds and the Bankster Mobs' mortgage-backed securities at a rate of \$120 billion a month. That will add almost \$1.5 trillion to their balance sheet this year.

Digital money printed on nothing and backed by nothing. A total fraud in the face for all to see but basically blacklisted by the Presstitute media that get paid to put out what they are told by their government whoremasters and corporate pimps.

Yes, \$7.7 trillion! It was just \$959 billion days before the Panic of '08 hit Wall Street.

It worked: drug addicts, money addicts... they're junkies who will do anything to stay on their high – rob, steal, cheat, lie, and kill.

Forget that the COVID War that has devastated the tourism, hospitality, airline, cruise ships, restaurant, conventions, trade shows, concerts, fairs, theater, and all "nonessential" businesses. That's the real world.

On the gambling scene, while Europe's stocks are lagging a bit, many equity markets across the globe are up nearly the same amount as the U.S. markets since a year ago today.

And since the monetary methadone injections accelerated last year, the S&P 500 spiked over 80 percent from its low, the NASDAQ shot up some 90 percent, and the Dow surged nearly 75 percent. According to Howard Silverblatt, a senior

index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices who was quoted by the *AP*, the last time the S&P rose this high was in 1936.

Fake World

Yes, 1936... right in the middle of the Great Depression.

It doesn't mean a damn thing to the real economy that much of Europe is in re-locking down; South America and Africa are plunging deep into the "Greatest Depression"; and most of America is still living under draconian lockdown rules made up without a scintilla of science-based, factual evidence to support them, which are destroying businesses and keeping unemployment high.

That hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods are been devastated on Main Street means nothing to the Wall Street Gang.

What's also driving up the market, as with the Dot-com boom, are rookie traders. *AP* noted a Charles Schwab analysis showing that clients under the age of 40 accounted for 35 percent of trading last month, double the rate of two years earlier.

Even though PE ratios are near record highs, stock prices have soared much faster than corporate profits, and major sectors of the economy are in depression, a new and hot money-junkie game is now the special purpose acquisition market... "SPAC."

Reminiscent of the Dot-com bust days when gamblers bet on new online businesses that made no sense, last year, SPACs raised some \$84 billion, up over six times the amount from the year before, under the guise of buying privately-held companies and then listing them on the stock exchange casino to drive up their value and cash in big.

TREND FORECAST: The End is Near? As Gregory Mannarino details in his new article, ["THE FED EXPOSED: HIDE INFLATION,"](#) it is a phony Fed fraud that is disguising the real inflation dangers ahead.

As we have been forecasting, the money-pumping schemes cannot, and will not, play on forever. The U.S. debt level is now reaching \$28 trillion, and the latest word from Washington is to pump in another fake \$3 trillion in the name of building the infrastructure and climate-change initiatives.

What will keep the markets rising and the economy growing for a while are the record-low interest rates, which the Feds say they won't rise until 2024... that is if inflation does not spike. We are, however, forecasting there will be [Dragflation](#), which means the economy will decline and interest rates will rise.

Thus, when Fed rates rise above 1.5 percent, we forecast that not only will there be a sharp pullback in the equity and credit markets, the housing boom that was jacked up by the record-low interest rates will also tank.

The Markets

Today, the Dow was down some 300 points and the Nasdaq Composite fell 1.12 percent on the news that COVID cases news that COVID cases are rising around the world and nations are, as we have reported in this **Trends Journal**, re-locking down.

Equities also went negative across Asia and Europe, except for the DAX, which barely eked out a gain over fears of rising COVID cases, a slowdown in mass vaccinations, and more government lockdowns.

GOLD/SILVER: Both gold and silver are still trading in the ranges they have been in the past three weeks. Today, they moved a bit lower as the dollar gained a bit of strength. But, again, we maintain our forecast for rising inflation, currencies sinking lower, and more cheap money pumping into the failing economic systems to artificially inflate them as they sink lower following new rounds of lockdowns and the stalling of re-openings in nations and states that have been shut down.

Also, copper prices, which jumped 67 percent over the past year, continued their decline, falling some 2.83 percent today. We note this since we refer to copper as “Dr. Copper” because it is reputed to have a Ph.D. in economics due to its ability to predict global-economy strength and weakness since it is used in most sectors of industry. Thus, the recent falls are signals of slowing economic growth.

OIL: Brent Crude got bashed today, diving nearly 6 percent to close at \$60.72 per barrel... down some \$10 from its recent \$70 per barrel high. West Texas Intermediate plummeted 6.21 percent, closing at 57.51 per barrel. As with copper, these are significant sell-offs, since they are indicators of economic weakness on the horizon... despite the massive money-pumping schemes.

Again, the fear of declining economies is based on the rising number of virus cases and the slower-than-expected vaccine injections of the masses that the mainstream media, politicians, and the general public assume will be the only solution to restoring pre-COVID War economic growth.

BITCOIN: Bitcoin, at nearly \$55,000 is trading in the same range as it has for the past three weeks. As with gold and silver, it will maintain these and higher levels as economies slow down and more monetary and fiscal stimulus is injected into them to artificially prop them up as investors seek safe-haven assets.

We maintain our 5 January forecast: “The downward breakout point will be hit should the price fall below \$25,000 per coin.”

U.S. MARKETS: EPIC BUBBLE



According to Desmond Lachman, a former deputy director of the IMF's policy and review office and former economist at Salomon Smith Barney, the U.S. investment market has become “an

‘everything’ asset and credit bubble that is very much larger and more pervasive than in the earlier housing and credit market,” the collapse of which set off the Great Recession in 2006.

Lachman made his comments in a 15 March essay in *The National Interest*.

"It is not simply that U.S. equity valuations are at the lofty levels last experienced on the eve of the 1929 stock market crash," he said, "nor is it that the dubious Bitcoin market now has a valuation over \$1 trillion.

“It is also that very risky borrowers, especially in the highly leveraged loan market and in emerging-market economies, can raise money at interest rates not much higher than those at which the U.S. government can borrow.

“When the pleasant easy money music stops and interest rates start to rise... past experience would suggest that... bubbles will start bursting,” he wrote.

“Policymakers have no excuse for not anticipating the real risk” that when the bubble bursts, it “could wreak havoc on the global economy,” Lachman concluded.

In “Waiting for the Last Dance,” a January 2021 essay published on the Grantham, Mayo, and van Otterloo investment company website, renowned British investment manager Jeremy Grantham wrote:

“The long bull market since 2009 has finally matured into a fully-fledged epic bubble, featuring extreme overvaluation, explosive price increases, frenzied issuance, and hysterically speculative investor behavior... this event will be recorded as one of the great bubbles of financial history.”

The symptoms of market frenzy include the growing number of amateur investors, sudden mass interest in obscure companies such as GameStop, and me-too market fads such as buying Tesla shares, according to Martin Wolf in a 16 March *Financial Times* essay.

Because not only stock markets but the entire global financial system now rests on cheap money doled out by central banks, when the bubble pops, it could trigger a “debt crisis that damages institutions, freezes markets, and creates mass bankruptcies,” Wolf warned.

Cheap-money policies of the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks kept markets functioning during 2020’s crisis, but “the financial system remains vulnerable to another liquidity strain, as the underlying structures and mechanisms that gave rise to the turmoil are still in place,” according to a recent review by the intergovernmental Financial Stability Board, chaired by Fed vice-chair Randal Quarles.

TRENDPOST: *We note this FT article and the facts stated since we reiterate what we have been forecasting since the COVID War began over a year ago: the entire market is a gambler’s house of cards charade that will collapse.*

INFLATION FEARS CLOUD DOLLAR’S FUTURE



The U.S. dollar has had an unexpected rally and continued strength this year. Its value shrank against other major currencies late last year, a fate we expected would continue as other nations’ economies began to rebound from the global shutdown... and trillions were being pumped into the U.S. economy.

Instead, the dollar has gained 2.5 percent so far this year against the currencies of the U.S.’s major trading partners, confounding some of the most bearish predictions that it would fall by as much as 20 percent.

Instead, rather than falling lower after the latest \$2 trillion U.S. money pumping scheme, the buck's value was propped up on the hopes the injections would greatly encourage the nation's economic expansion.

As we have forecast, however, all of those new dollars will temporarily flood the market at a time consumers are ready to let loose and satisfy a year's worth of pent-up demand. A national spending spree will drive up prices quickly, setting off inflation.

Inflation weakens the value of money; inflated prices require more cash to buy the same amount of goods.

Also, the new stimulus has added a thick, new layer to the U.S. national debt at a time when commercial interest rates are rising, which also could crimp economic activity as well as government spending on infrastructure and other stimulus measures.

The U.S. budget deficit reached 14.9 percent of GDP last year, and the total national debt reached 102 percent of GDP, which means the government owes more than the economy produces.

Although rampant inflation has been dormant in the U.S. for more than three decades, again, we forecast the vast new scale of the national debt and the annual deficit will revive it.

TRENDPOST: *From 2010 through 2014, the Fed bought 40 percent of new government debt and doubled its portfolio of treasury securities, now owning 18.9 percent of them, according to the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.*

In 2020, the Fed bought 55 percent of the new debt, the association noted.

As the government borrowed to aid the economy, the U.S. trade deficit has continued to grow; combined trade and budget deficits add to a currency's vulnerability, economists warn.

Foreign investors may sense that vulnerability: although they still own most of U.S. government debt, their purchases of the securities slowed last year. Their share of ownership of U.S. debt slipped from 35 percent to 30.

JOBLESS CLAIMS RISING



Another 770,000 workers filed new claims for unemployment benefits during the week ending 13 March, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

For the week, more than 282,000 gig workers and independent contractors also claimed benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA), a support plan separate from regular state unemployment insurance.

In each of the past 52 weeks, new PUA and unemployment claims together have topped one million. In each of those weeks, new claims have exceeded 655,000, the Great Recession's peak number reached in March 2009.

During the past 12 months, new jobless claims have topped 81.7 million, about seven times the pre-pandemic yearly average of 13 million.

The high number of claims resulted largely from glitches in state unemployment processes that forced people to file several times to maintain or renew their claims, according to the *World Socialist Web Site*.

February's jobs report showed that four million workers have been jobless for six months or longer, making up 41.5 percent of all Americans out of work and approaching the record of 45.5 percent set in April 2010.

Another two million workers have chosen, or been forced to take, early retirement during the pandemic's economic shutdown, an Oxford Economics study found.

TRENDPOST: *In America, once people are no longer collecting unemployment but are still out of work, they are no longer counted by the shyster government as being unemployed.*

For more accurate unemployment numbers, we suggest John Williams' shadowstats.com.

BIDEN MULLING TAX INCREASES



President Biden is mulling a proposal to raise taxes, *Bloomberg* has reported.

Among the steps being considered:

- For those earning \$400,000 or more annually, the personal tax rate would rise to 39.6 percent;
- For those earning \$1 million or more annually, capital gains would be taxed as regular income;
- The estate tax would rise to 45 percent on assets worth \$1 million or more;
- The corporate tax rate would rise from 21 percent to 28.

The 2017 law cutting U.S. corporate taxes to 21 percent has mostly benefited large corporations, which could afford to pay more, many economists contend.

With her counterparts in other countries, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin is working on a proposal to establish a global minimum tax for multinational businesses.

As much as 40 percent of profits multinationals earned in 2017 were cached in tax havens, according to a study from the University of California at Berkeley.

Higher taxes could help offset the cost of Biden's planned infrastructure program, which will carry a price tag of as much as \$4 trillion.

TRENDPOST: *Some of the proposed changes to the corporate tax structure could shrink U.S. GDP by 0.8 percent and wages 0.7 percent over time, according to an analysis by the Tax Foundation.*

As we have forecast, cities, states, and nations are going to push through tax increases to reverse climbing budget deficits. Beyond the obvious income and property tax increases, there will also be lists of new taxes on items and services that were previously untaxed as well as increases in sales taxes.

In response, there will strong anti-tax political movements.

FED: STRONGER ECONOMY, STEADY RATES



Last Wednesday, the U.S. Federal Reserve declared it will not raise interest rates or stop buying \$120 billion a month of government bonds and mortgage-backed securities any time soon, although the central bank sees a stronger economy emerging.

“We will continue to provide the economy the support that it needs for as long as it takes,” Fed chair Jerome Powell said at a 17 March news conference after the most recent meeting of the bank’s open market committee.

“The path of the economy will depend significantly on the course of the virus, including progress on vaccinations,” the committee said in a statement following its meeting.

“The ongoing public health crisis continues to weigh on economic activity, employment, and inflation, and poses considerable risks to the economic outlook.”

The Fed wants to see “actual progress, not forecast progress” before changing its strategy, Powell said.

The Fed’s unchanged policies “will ensure that monetary policy will continue to deliver powerful support to the economy until the recovery is complete,” he said in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

The central bank’s steadiness reflects its commitment to seeing the economy attain maximum employment and a sustained 2-percent inflation rate, Powell added.

The Fed now wants to see “inflation moderately above 2 percent for some time” before raising benchmark interest rates,” he explained.

A “transitory” rise in prices would not alter the bank’s policy,” Powell added.

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

TREND FORECAST: As we have long noted, there is nothing new in the Fed’s announced money-pumping policy. It will do all it can to keep ultra-cheap

money flowing into the system. Thus, inflation will increase as will safe-haven assets.

TRENDPOST: *Three months ago, 18 Fed officials polled estimated that an interest rate increase would be appropriate in 2024. Now, seven of the 18 foresee a hike in 2023, and four think one will be needed in 2022, based on the economy's accelerating strength.*

Inflation will be paced at 2.4 percent this year, the bank thinks, instead of the 1.8 percent it forecast in December, and will average 2.2. percent in 2022.

The Fed predicts the U.S. GDP will expand 6.5 percent this year, no longer the 4.2 percent it forecast in December. Unemployment will fall to 4.5 percent this year, compared to the 5 percent called for in the bank's outlook at the end of 2020.

LOCKDOWNS COST U.S. \$1.1 TRILLION IN LOST TRAVEL INCOME



From airlines and restaurants to casinos and tourist attractions, 2020's economic shutdown sucked \$1.1 trillion in travel-related spending out of the U.S. economy, a 42-percent year-on-year loss, according to a report commissioned by

the U.S. Travel Association (USTA).

That loss of spending idled 5.6 million workers, about a third of the country's travel-related workforce, the study found.

It also cost governments at all levels a collective \$64 billion in tax revenues, the office of Congress member Catherine Cortez Masto has noted.

Before the pandemic, travel accounted for 11 percent of all U.S. employment, the USTA said. The industry's job loss accounts for 39 to 65 percent of all jobs lost to the economic shutdown, according to various estimates.

"It's still unclear when travel demand will be able to fully rebound on its own," USTA president Roger Dow said in a statement announcing the study.

"With the travel industry suffering such a disproportionate share of losses, policymakers need to understand that a nationwide economic recovery... hinges on a travel recovery," he added.

TREND FORECAST: While there will be a bounce-back in tourism, those businesses that have been put out of business will not return. What has been lost is lost. And, with uncertainty as to who can travel or not depending on COVID tests and vaccine passports, there will be an overall decline in the tourism sectors.

HOME PRICES UP, COMMODITY COSTS SOAR



The copper that makes up electrical wiring and plumbing pipe costs a third more now than it did in October. The price of oil, which goes into everything from vinyl flooring to roof shingles, is up more than 80 percent this year. Lumber is twice as expensive as it normally is at this time of

year.

Prices for brick, concrete blocks, granite for countertops, and insulation all have set records this year.

The rocketing price of materials has pushed the median U.S. price of newly-built homes in January to \$346,400, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

American Homes 4 Rent, which plans to build 2,000 stand-alone rental houses this year, has seen its lumber bill for a single house rise from about \$10,000 to as much as \$25,000, the company told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Rising lumber costs have added \$24,000 to the cost of the typical newly build home and \$9,000 to the cost of building a single apartment, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

“Current prices represent an intolerable, and frequently insurmountable, financial burden to home builders and contractors,” the NAHB said in a statement announcing the price rise.

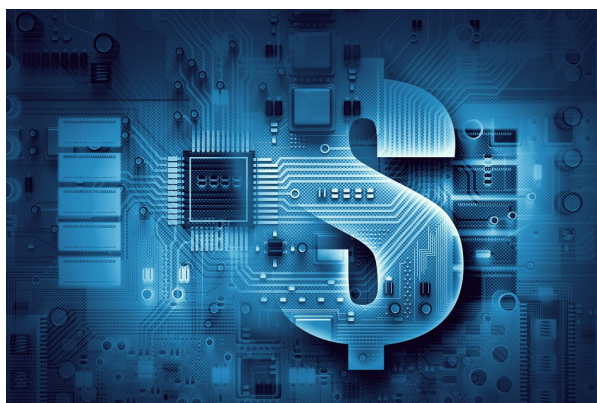
The group has urged U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimundo to take steps in increasing domestic lumber production, especially in the wake of years of devastating wildfires in the western U.S. that have slashed timber stocks.

Despite high home prices, rock-bottom interest rates have driven strong demand for new houses. However, with interest rates creeping up again, the housing market could cool, bringing prices down from their recent heights.

TREND FORECAST: *We note these dramatic price increases to illustrate how inflationary pressures are rapidly escalating but, at the same time, they are being played down by the Federal Reserve and Washington, as they promise to keep injecting more money into the economic system.*

And now, with more lockdowns across the globe and states on hold in the U.S. to open up, the economies will sink deeper, and yet more cheap money will be injected to artificially prop them up. In turn, currencies will depreciate, inflation will rise, and safe-haven assets will increase in value.

DIGITAL AND PAPER MONEY MUST COEXIST, POWELL SAYS



Any digital currency a central bank creates “needs to coexist with cash and other types of money in a flexible and innovative payment system,” Jerome Powell, chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, said in an 18 March press conference.

The Fed is experimenting in-house with digital currencies, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to research and study them.

China has extensively tested its digital currency in public trials and plans to introduce it nationally next year. Central banks in Europe also are developing national digital money.

The Fed is moving more slowly, arguing that as a steward of the world's reserve currency, it needs to innovate cautiously.

TREND FORECAST: *Led by China, the world will be going digital. Or, as we had forecast last July, [“IT’S OFFICIAL: DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH.”](#)*

On Saturday, the Peoples Bank of China announced it was ramping up its digital RMB, or e-CNY testing scheme, assuring “The protection of users’ privacy by e-CNY is at the highest level among all of the existing payment tools.”

In plain English, they know when every yuan was spent, who spent it, where it was spent, and what it was spent on so they get their taxes and can further control the population. What happens in China with digital cash will become the New ABnormal throughout the world in the coming years... and decades.

NYC EMPLOYERS: LESS RENT, WORK FROM HOME



As the economy slowly recovers, Manhattan will permanently see fewer office workers coming into the city, a survey completed early this month by the nonprofit Partnership for New York has found.

Among the survey's findings:

- 66 percent of employers will maintain a hybrid workforce, mixing days in the office with days working at home;
- Only 22 percent of employers will require employees to be in the office every day;
- 9 percent of bosses will not require workers to ever come to the office;
- 4 percent of employers said the amount of time a worker spends in the office will depend on the worker's role.

By September, only about 45 percent of Manhattan's roughly one million pre-pandemic office workers will be making forays back to the Big Apple's core, according to a consensus among respondents.

TREND FORECAST: *In the world of vaccines, masks, social distancing... and working from home, commercial real estate values will continue to decline, especially in large cities. Along with falling rents, property values will decline, as will revenues from commuter-dependent businesses.*

As we have fully detailed over the past year, in New York City, for example, there was an oversupply of commercial real estate before the COVID War began. Thus,

many of the big developers, already deep in debt, will go bankrupt as occupancy rates continue to decline.

GOOGLE GOBBLES UP OFFICE SPACE



Google will spend \$7 billion to expand its office space and data centers this year, including a \$1-billion investment in space in California, the company has announced.

The new offices will house some of the 10,000 new employees the company will hire as the economy recovers, it said.

Google's workforce numbered more than 135,000 worldwide in 2020, according to parent company Alphabet.

The plan focuses on expanding existing space but also will open new sites in Minnesota, North Carolina, and Texas, growing its footprint to 19 states.

Google will add thousands of jobs at its locales in Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

Last year, Google deferred workers' return to their offices until July 2021. It now expects employees back in their cubicles this fall on a schedule that keeps them working at home two days each week.

"Coming together to collaborate and build community is core to Google's culture," CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in an 18 March blog post, "and it will be an important part of our future."

TRENDPOST: *More important than Google gobbling up office space is to understand the sheer size of this monopoly "Alphabet" that rules much of the*

Internet world. Thus, as “average” employers are cutting back, the Bigs keep growing bigger.

BLACKSTONE & STARWOOD BUY HOTEL CHAIN



Extended Stay America, a mid-price hotel chain providing long-term guests with kitchens and more space than usual hotel rooms, is being bought for \$6 billion by a partnership of Blackstone Group and Starwood Capital Group, two of the country's largest investment management

firms.

During the pandemic, the chain catered to essential workers and health care professionals who needed to move among regions.

The company managed a 74-percent occupancy rate during 2020.

The hotel industry as a whole averaged 44 percent occupancy, less than the industry's customary 50-percent break-even point, after crashing to 22 percent last April, according to data firm STR.

The industry was averaging 65-percent occupancy pre-pandemic, STR noted.

Extended Stay owns 567 properties and franchises 82 others, with two-thirds of its inns located in the 25 most populous U.S. metro areas, according to Blackstone.

Starwood and Blackstone are betting that construction workers, contractors, and lawyers and other professionals helping the U.S. economy recover from the pandemic will fill more of the chain's rooms during 2021 as the lodging industry in general recovers.

“Corporate America is going to be a heavy investor in capital spending and this business is going to benefit from that,” Tyler Henritze, Blackstone’s chief of acquisitions in the Americas, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Blackstone led a group of investors who bought Extended Stay out of bankruptcy in 2010 and later sold its 4.9-percent stake. Starwood also bid to buy the lodging chain then and now owns almost 10 percent of the company.

Blackstone and Starwood will own Extended Stay in equal shares.

The companies are well-versed in the hotel business.

Starwood CEO Barry Sternlicht created Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, which was bought by Marriott; Blackstone bought Hilton Worldwide Holdings in 2007 and collected a \$14-billion profit when it sold the chain in 2014.

TRENDPOST: *Again, we note these mergers to illustrate how the Bigs keep getting bigger and, as we also note in this **Trends Journal**, the rich have gotten much richer while the middle class (along with mom and pop businesses) keeps shrinking. (See our new article, “\$4 TRILLION MORE FOR BILLIONAIRES AS MIDDLE CLASS SHRINKS.”)*

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



CHIP SHORTAGE HAMPERS GLOBAL MANUFACTURING

A worsening worldwide shortage of computer chips is hampering the production of everything from cars to PlayStations, according to major manufacturers.

Samsung blames a “serious imbalance” in semiconductors globally for an uncertain outlook for its phone production and may delay by a year its introduction of a new Note phone.

Volkswagen says the chip shortage has crimped its output by 100,000 cars; Honda has curtailed production at its North American plants this week because it has too few chips.

Globally, the auto industry could lose \$61 billion in sales this year because of the chip shortage, data firm AlixPartners estimates.

The shortage is due to the sudden surge in worldwide demand for electronics last spring when the global economy shut down, analysts say.

The shortage has been worsened by Apple and China, which are hoarding chips, *Bloomberg* reported.

Chipmakers say they are working as fast as possible to speed production to resupply the industry this year.

The shortage “will frustrate the supply chain in the next six months,” Charles Shum, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, told the news service.

TRENDPOST: *With new lockdowns underway, it will take longer to expand production for some kinds of specialized chips. We note this article and these circumstances since it will not only choke off the supply for consumer products industries, it will also spike prices... thus pushing up overall inflation rates higher.*

GASOLINE DEMAND PASSED ITS PEAK



Global gasoline demand has peaked and will never return to its 2019 levels, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its new five-year forecast.

Increasing fuel efficiency among new vehicles and the steady, if slow, entry of electric cars into the market will more than offset the return of demand as the world’s economy recovers from the 2020 collapse, the intergovernmental agency predicted.

About 60 million all-electric vehicles will be crowding the world’s roads by 2026, compared to 7.2 million in 2019, the IEA said.

However, demand for gas buggies, especially in the developing world, will continue for years, the agency acknowledged.

Audi and Volkswagen have ceased the development of improved internal combustion engines, the companies have announced. General Motors says its cars will be all-electric by 2035.

“E-mobility has won the race,” Herbert Diess, Volkswagen CEO, said at a press conference last week, although it will spread at different paces in different parts of the world, he noted.

U.S. consumption of gasoline as a transportation fuel will peak next year, the energy department has forecast.

Jet fuel demand will return to 2019 levels after 2023, the IEA said.

TREND FORECAST: While there will be an increase in electric vehicles, to date, according to estimates from industry tracker EV-Volumes, plug-in electric vehicles accounted for 4.2 percent of vehicles worldwide.

While the transition to multi-fuel cars is underway, the technology of electric or new-energy vehicles is not being mastered. The problem of recharging batteries, an 1800 invention, limits NEVs' mass-market acceptability.

However, we also forecast that breakthroughs in combustion-engine development and higher-efficiency motor oils that significantly increase miles per gallon and diminish pollution also will help stall the move toward NEVs.

And, EVs are more expensive to purchase than a gas-powered auto. In a comparison of two like-sized vehicles, Car and Driver noted that the gas vehicle was about \$8,000 less than a gas-powered one. As for saving money on maintenance, etc., they concluded, “So is owning an EV cheaper in the long run? All signs point to possibly. Maybe. Sometimes. But as we said, at this point in time, it’s complicated.”

TWO CANADIAN TELECOM GIANTS PLAN MERGER



Rogers Communications Inc., with 10.9 million customers for its wireless, cable TV, phone, and Internet services, announced plans to buy the \$5.34-billion Shaw Communications Inc. for \$16 billion.

The resulting company will spend C\$2 billion over five years to spread 5G wireless networks across Canada and C\$1 billion to bring high-speed Internet service to rural and remote indigenous communities, the two Canadian telecoms giants pledged in the deal's announcement.

Consumer groups have decried the merger, claiming the Canadian telecommunications market is already controlled by a few large companies and that the union of Rogers and Shaw will limit consumer choice further.

The blended companies will increase the competitiveness of Canada's economy, Rogers CEO Joe Natale countered in comments during a phone call with analysts cited by the *Wall Street Journal*.

"The conversation is really about nation-building," he said.

By February, 49 Canadian cities were networked with 5G gear, fewer than Spain, South Korea, and the U.K., according to Viavi, a telecoms service firm.

China leads the world with 341 cities networked for 5G; the U.S. has 279, Viavi reported.

5G works at speeds a hundred times faster than 4G, which developers say is necessary to manage an Internet of Things, roads with a growing number of self-driving cars, and factories staffed by robots.

TRENDPOST: We note this article for two reasons. First, to illustrate the merger of the Bigs getting bigger, and secondly, the lack of concern regarding the number of scientists that have raised concerns about 5G's apparent impacts on human health.

As we wrote in the **Trends Journal** back in December 2019:

The four major corporate U.S. corporations – Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile – have been lobbying to cash in on the new generation of wireless service craze, installing thousands of cell antennas on telephone and light poles and rooftops to sell the new, 5G compatible smartphones.

According to the FCC, “No expert health agency expressed concern about the Commission’s RF [radio frequency] exposure limits.”

This statement ignores significant evidence to the contrary. A year ago, National Toxicology Program researchers said they found “clear evidence that cell-phone radiation exposure can cause cancerous heart tumors in male rats.”

Last October, more than 240 scientists in 43 countries, who have published peer-reviewed research on the biological and health effects of nonionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF), signed the "International EMF Scientist Appeal." This document states:

“Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans.”

A recent lead article in Scientific American was titled, “We Have No Reason to Believe 5G is Safe.”

There are over 100 peer-reviewed scientific studies that claim a strong link between radiation emitted by cell phones to cancer, crib death, DNA damage, and male infertility.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY TO BUY MAJOR U.S. FREIGHT CARRIER



Calgary-based Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) will buy the Kansas City Southern railroad for \$28.9 billion in cash and stock, CP announced on 21 March.

The deal marks the first major change in North America's rail ownership in more than 20 years.

The purchase, Canadian Pacific's largest in its history, will give it control of the smallest of seven rail systems that handle most U.S. railroad freight, according to the *Financial Times*.

The combination "will create the first US-Mexico-Canada railroad" and conjoin the "two best-performing Class 1 railroads for the past three years on a revenue growth basis," Keith Creel, CP's CEO, said in announcing the deal.

Kansas City Southern is the only Class 1 U.S. railroad focused on carrying freight on north-south routes, the *FT* reported. It also operates widely in Mexico and is a half-owner of the Panama Canal Railway Company.

Canadian Pacific has agreed to pay \$275 per share for Kansas City Southern, \$90 of which will be cash and the balance in Canadian Pacific stock. To fund the purchase, CP will issue 44.5 million new shares and borrow \$8.6 billion.

Under the plan, Kansas City Southern's shareholders would own about 25 percent of CP's outstanding shares, *CNBC* calculated.

Kansas City Southern's share price closed at \$224 on Friday, 19 March, and \$249 Monday this week.

The merger must now be approved by regulators.

Past mergers have left only two major rail systems in Canada, two in the eastern U.S., and two in the western U.S.

TRENDPOST: *Once again, the trend is clear. More mergers and acquisitions equal more consolidation, and more monopolies equal more control by the few of the masses. And what is being ignored by the media is that the less competition, the less need for innovation, since the monopolies are not being threatened from losing market share by competitors with superior products and services.*

BANK OF JAPAN BROADENS STIMULUS APPROACH



Japan's central bank has expanded its acceptable range for bond yields from 2 percent on either side of zero to 2.5 percent, giving it greater flexibility to respond to changes in economic conditions.

It also abandoned the ¥6-trillion lower limit of its budget for buying exchange-traded funds but held the program's ¥12-trillion ceiling in place so the bank could intervene if markets worsen.

If the bank lowers interest rates, it will offer lending incentives to commercial banks, it said. The announcement was seen as a counter to assumptions that the bank would not lower interest rates further below zero because of the damage such a move would do to commercial banks.

The central bank altered policies in response to rising U.S. interest rates, which recently sank the yen to 109 to the dollar, down from 102.7 when the year began.

Asset prices in Japan fell late last year at the fastest rate in a decade, leaving the bank as the largest investor in both Japanese stocks and bonds.

The bank needed to make its policy approach more flexible to continue to stimulate the economy, which the bank has done since 2009. In its struggle to stabilize prices and interest rates since the Great Recession, Japan's central bank has amassed a pile of assets larger than the country's GDP.

Consumer prices fell again in February for the seventh consecutive month.

TREND FORECAST: *Following the BOJ announcement, Tokyo stocks extended their losing streak. On Monday, the 225-issue Nikkei average tumbled 617.90 points. Today, it fell 178.23 points, down for its third consecutive session.*

To further illustrate a slump in commercial real estate values, as we had forecast since the COVID War was launched last year, the government reported today that for the first time in six years, the average price of land in Japan has fallen. The three major metropolitan areas registered the sharpest commercial declines, falling on average 1.3 percent. Again, we note this trend, since it will continue to accelerate as economies decline and more people work from home.

RUSSIA BOOSTS INTEREST RATE



In a surprise move, Russia's central bank raised its benchmark interest rate from 4.25 to 4.5 percent, the first rate adjustment in more than two years.

The rise is intended to ward off inflation, which is rising faster than expected, bank governor Elvira Nabiullina explained in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

Russia's economy has rebounded faster than expected after the country declined to reimpose an economic shutdown last fall as COVID cases resurged, she said.

The spike in economic activity has driven inflation to a 5.8-percent pace, its fastest in four years.

The rise in the country's consumer price index will settle back to a 4-percent rate by mid-2022, the bank predicted, not by the end of this year as bank officials earlier had thought.

The rate hike moves the bank closer to what Nabiullina called a "neutral" rate of 5 to 6 percent, which the bank will attempt to reach this year, barring "uncertainties," she said.

"The economy is growing faster than we expected and this growth is becoming more stable," thanks to domestic consumer demand and rising global demand for the commodities that Russia exports, Nabiullina explained.

Raising rates to thwart inflation "would be consistent with a speedier return to a neutral policy stance, thus justifying expectations that more rate hikes will ensue in the months to come," Ivan Tchakarov, Citibank's chief Russia economist, wrote in a research note last week quoted by the *FT*.

BRAZIL RAISES KEY INTEREST RATE



Last week, Brazil became the world's biggest economy to raise its benchmark interest rate.

The country's central bank boosted its rate from a record-low 2 percent to 2.75 percent as inflation reached 5.2 percent, its fastest pace in four years, rising close to the top of the bank's target range.

The move exemplifies a risk for developing economies, analysts say.

Rising bond rates in the U.S. are drawing investors away from emerging markets, which pressures those countries to raise their interest rates to keep attracting investment capital.

TREND FORECAST: *Rising rates will further domestic economic growth. Brazil's currency has lost 10 percent of its value against the dollar this year while the country's fuel prices have kept climbing higher. However, with oil prices declining from their recent highs, it will slightly ease inflationary pressures.*

TURKEY'S CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR FIRED AFTER RATE HIKE



Two days after Turkey's central bank raised a benchmark interest rate, Recep Erdogan, the country's president, fired Naci Agbal, the bank's governor, whom Erdogan had appointed to the post in November.

Erdogan gave no reason for dismissing his chief banker.

After Agbal was sacked, Turkey's lira lost as much as 14 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar.

Agbal had been a surprise choice for the post: he was vocally opposed to Erdogan's policy of keeping interest rates low to spur economic growth, even as inflation skyrocketed.

After raising its benchmark one-week repo interest rate by 6.75 percentage points to 17 percent on 18 February, Turkey's central bank boosted the rate again last week, this time to 19 percent, to give investors a return higher than the country's galloping inflation rate now at 15.6 percent.

An earlier Bloomberg poll of economists found a consensus view that the bank would add only 1 percentage point to the rate.

The lira gained 2 percent on the news, strengthening to 7.31 against the dollar, although, as of 19 March, the lira remained 5 percent under its 2021 high.

The central bank's target inflation rate is 9.4 percent by the end of this year and 4 percent longer-term.

The bank "has decided to implement a front-loaded and strong additional monetary tightening," its monetary policy committee said in a statement following the rate hike.

"If you abandon a tight policy stance ... at an early stage, past experiences show that inflation moves upward again," Agbal told *Reuters* in February.

"The tight monetary policy will be maintained decisively... for an extended period until...a permanent fall in inflation and price stability," the committee's statement said.

That statement may no longer be true.

Erdogan dumped Agbal on 21 March and immediately replaced him with Sahap Kavcioglu, an economics professor who has held several posts in Erdogan's economics bureaucracy and who has opposed Agbal's policy of higher rates.

"While interest rates are close to zero in the world, opting for a rate hike for us will not solve economic problems," Kavcioglu wrote in a February newspaper commentary.

Rate hikes will "indirectly cause inflation to rise," he said, mirroring Erdogan's belief.

Kavcioglu is the bank's fourth governor in five years.

TREND FORECAST: As we note in this ***Trends Journal***, the sinking lira and rising inflation are symptoms of a much more troubling Turkish socioeconomic and geopolitical environment. (See our new article, "***TURKEY: NO POLITICAL OPPOSITION PERMITTED.***")

And, as the global economy decelerates and inflation keeps rising across the globe, there will be continued downward pressure on the lira and the Turkish economy.

BRITISH AIRWAYS MAY SELL ITS HOME OFFICE



The U.K.'s flagship air carrier may sell its nine-building campus abutting London's Heathrow Airport, the company has said.

The move would respond to employees' desire to work from home and would raise desperately-needed cash for International

Consolidated Airlines Group (ICA), the airline's parent company, which reported

a record £7.4-billion loss last year and is in the midst of a £1-billion fund-raising effort.

“One of the very positive aspects of the last 12 months is that people have adapted well to working away from their offices,” Stuart Kennedy, the company’s human resources chief, wrote in a letter to employees quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

“The experience of working at home can feel very different to the office but it’s no less productive,” he noted.

“We’ve also restructured our business and are considering whether we still have the need for such a large headquarters,” a company spokesman said to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *We note this to again illustrate how there will be a long term decrease in commercial real estate demand as the work-from-home trend become a new way of 21st-century life.*

TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA



As we reported in the Geopolitical section of this **Trends Journal**, as evidenced by last week’s meeting with U.S. and Chinese government officials, Beijing will not take orders or follow rules set by Washington. (See our new article, [“CHINA TELLS U.S TO FU.”](#))

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

While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure. The following overview of the current economic trends further paints China's socio-economic future.

CHINA'S ECONOMY SURGES IN FIRST QUARTER. Consumer spending, home sales, industrial production, and investment all boomed more than 30 percent in China during January and February this year, compared to the same period in 2020 when the country had closed down to stem the spread of the COVID virus, China's National Bureau of Statistics reported last week.

Retail sales, a gauge of consumer spending, grew 38.8 percent and home sales by 143.5 percent. Industrial production rose 35.1 percent and fixed-asset investment, such as the purchase of machinery, expanded 35 percent during the two months.

Analysts had expected even stronger growth, particularly in investment in manufacturing.

CHINESE EXPORTS RISE WITH GLOBAL ECONOMIC REVIVAL. Chinese exports grew 3.5 percent in 2020's third quarter and 14 percent in the fourth as the world's consumer economies began to stir but factories outside of Asia lagged, according to research by data firm MDS Transmodel.

Asia's proportion of global exports increased last year while the West's remained stagnant or fell, the study said.

"The shift in consumer spending from travel, vacation, and entertainment to physical goods, mainly bought online, has characterized all the major western economies, especially North American countries," Antonio Teodoro, MDS's senior consultant, said in comments quoted by CNBC. China remains "factory to the world," he said.

CHINA LEADS WORLD IN WIND POWER. China added 52 gigawatts (gw) of wind energy-generating capacity in 2020, doubling the 26 gw it installed in 2019 and giving the country more wind power than any other, according to the Belgium-based Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) trade group.

The surge in wind turbine installations was driven by a looming deadline for the end of government subsidies and exceeded the council's forecast for China by 70 percent.

Australia, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Sri Lanka also had record installation years, GWEC figures show.

North and Latin America installed 22 gw of wind capacity last year, the GWEC reported, with North America accounting for 17 gw, about 77 percent of the total.

China now has more wind energy capacity than that of Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East combined, the council said.

East Asia accounted for about 60 percent of last year's wind installations, up from 50 percent the year before.

The Chinese government's support for renewable energy projects led the GWEC to revise its current forecast for the country's wind expansion this year: instead of a major drop, the council is now forecasting only a slight decrease and expects China's new installations to deliver more than 40 new gw this year, Liang Wanliang, the GWEC's China director, said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

Government policies requiring renewable energy to be integrated into existing power grids will speed the transition to renewables more powerfully than subsidies, he said.

China's economy "needs a new kind of electrical system centered around new energy," President Xi Jinping told a Communist Party meeting on 15 March, a

comment interpreted as ensuring long-term government support for green power.

China has pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060; swapping renewable energy for its current reliance on coal will be key to reaching that goal.

PIG AND HOG PRICES SOAR AS SWINE FLU SURGES. Piglets in China now cost almost five times what they did pre-pandemic, soaring from 20 renminbi per kg (about \$6.15 per pound) to more than 93 renminbi now, equivalent to more than \$27 a pound.

Prices have spiked amid an outbreak of swine flu more contagious than the one that decimated the country's pork industry in 2009, authorities say.

Meanwhile, retail pork prices have fallen 8 percent as farmers slaughter more of their pigs to cash out before the virus makes them worthless.

The outbreak began in 2018 and peaked last year, pushing China's pork production to a 20-year low.

Authorities are predicting a gradual recovery this year, with herds growing again, but experts warn that new strains of the virus could continue to cripple production.

Production will grow 8 to 10 percent this year, according to a forecast by Rabobank cited by the *Financial Times*. The bank reduced its earlier estimate of 10 to 15 percent because of mutant virus strains now emerging.

Illegal vaccines are responsible for the variations, Chinese veterinary authorities say.

In January, an executive at the New Hope Liuhe pork company said a virus variation found in more than 1,000 of its hogs is "definitely man-made."

Chinese pig herds will need at least two years to regain their 2018 size, Wayne Johnson, a consulting veterinarian at Enable AgTech Consulting in Beijing, told the *FT*.

“There are signs that” Asian swine flu “is changing from deadly disease to chronic disease,” he said.

CHINA’S OIL IMPORTS DEFY U.S. EMBARGOES. China will import oil from Iran at a rate of about 918,000 barrels a day this month, its highest volume since the U.S. cast an oil embargo on Iran in 2019 to punish the country for violating an international nuclear treaty, data firm Kpler reported.

Also, about 85 percent of Venezuela’s oil exports this month – more than 14 million barrels – are slated for China, contrary to a U.S. ban on Venezuelan oil purchases after president Nicolas Maduro refused to relinquish his office after losing a 2018 election.

Reversing former President Trump’s high-pressure tactics on both countries, President Biden has offered to remove oil sanctions if Iran abides by its agreement to cease the development of nuclear weapons and if Venezuela holds a free and fair election.

The shipments indicate that neither country targeted by the bans is interested.

“If it sells one million barrels a day at current prices, Iran has no incentive to negotiate,” consultant Sara Vakhshouri of SVB International, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Iranian oil traders report being approached by other Asian potential oil customers who believe the Biden administration will ease or abolish sanctions on the country, the *WSJ* reported.

China also is increasingly ignoring international sanctions against North Korea and is now openly smuggling forbidden items into the failed state, U.S. officials recently said, as cited by the *WSJ*.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



THE FED EXPOSED: HIDE INFLATION

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

The Federal Reserve is about to pull a disappearing act with inflation.

It is common knowledge that for years, the numbers being reported by the Federal Reserve regarding inflation are 100% FAKE, and I don't need to expound on that. They are, however, about to pull off something that does need to be explained, so here it is...

Currently, the Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world are fully engaged in a debt-creation cycle unlike anything that has ever been seen before in the history of the world. It is something I have outlined that would happen years ago, and now it's here. It is the mission of the Federal Reserve, specifically, to own it all by becoming the lender and buyer of last resort.

The Fed's current and epic debt-creation binge has caused their balance sheet, which is monies owed to them, to increase 100% in just the last year. Truly an awesome spectacle. This creation of debt and flooding the world with dollars created from nothing certainly is creating inflation, but you are not supposed to know about it. However, here comes the next phase.

For the Federal Reserve to prevent a complete lock-up of the entire global financial system, they must continue to create debt/dollars at an ever-increasing pace – henceforth, the real reason why we are experiencing the effect of inflation. The current pace of debt creation *must* be increased, therefore, the Fed is looking for ways to hide it.

How will they attempt to do it? Look for a large spike in the price of crude oil.

Understand the game.

The high price of oil/energy is a key mechanism where the Federal Reserve hides inflation. The price of energy is considered to have a “temporary” effect on inflation, and the Federal Reserve will use the tactic of blaming the high price of energy for elevated levels of inflation.

Rising energy prices will be used as a distraction mechanism. Oh, it is not the fact that the Federal Reserve has inflated its balance sheet an astonishing 100% in just the last year, or creating trillions of dollars out of thin air, oh, no... they will blame it on energy. Therefore, watch out for some type of event to occur that will push the price of crude oil higher.

Over the past few weeks, we witnessed the price of crude oil fall, and I have gone on record saying, “Watch for an event to occur that will cause crude to rise.” Well, just this past Friday, a Saudi oil facility suffered an airstrike by Houthi rebels, and, again, just this past Sunday, the Saudis launched a retaliatory strike on Yemen.

What you must know and become very aware of is this: *nothing is what it seems to be, and nothing is by accident.*

You are a pawn in a game of global deception.

From a psychological standpoint, you are, in fact, under attack... and all war is based on deception.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



YOU CAN DO IT!

by *Bradley J. Steiner*

The *New York Daily News* online carried a great story on 30 November 2020 in which a life was saved by quick, aggressive, decisive, merciless *action!*

In Southern California, a nut broke into the home of a former girlfriend and proceeded to choke her. Her mother and sister came to the woman's rescue. Unable to pull this nut off of his victim (he was, according to the news story, too strong), a golf club and a knife saved the day! Each woman seized the weapon-at-hand and went to work on the would-be murderer. By the time the police arrived – responding to a domestic violence call – the would-be killer was dead. Finis!

Now *that's* the kind of story I enjoy reading. Incidentally, the police statement declared that the women were “well within their rights” using deadly force to save the intended victim's life.

What I love about stories like this is they make the fact obvious that people can defend themselves successfully. They also make it clear *how* they can do so. That is, by decisive, aggressive, relentless, absolutely ferocious *retaliatory action*.

Ultimately, what enabled the mother and sister to successfully defend their loved one was MINDSET. These two ladies did not hesitate when they realized that some scumbag was attacking their relative. *They went into action!*

It doesn't take long for a strong, enraged man to choke a woman to death when she cannot act in self-defense. And it didn't take long for her mother and sister to *attack the attacker*, and to resort – properly – to the use of weapons available when their physical strength fell short of that which was required.

The only unfortunate thing about the incident is that the victim herself was not armed with a handgun or shotgun, and thus could not shoot the dangerous animal when it smashed through the window of her home.

That, and it was equally unfortunate that the mother and sister had no firearm... but instead had to exert themselves considerably to stop the damn monster.

These atrocious attacks happen. It would be foolish to dismiss them as always happening to *someone else*. Remember: to other people in your community, you are “someone else.” It could happen to you.

The inspiring fact people such as these two ladies demonstrated is that it is very possible to defend against violation *if* you have a serious made-up mind to do so, and if you drop all nonsense squeamishness about "how" you'll do it.

In self-defense (real self-defense, not MMA; sparring in a dojo; or rehearsing politically-correct, feel-good B.S. with corporate partners in a self-defense class), anything goes. Anything.

Use your hands and feet in the most destructive, violent, vicious manner. Gouge, claw, rip, bite, chop, kick... preferably using quality skills of close

combat, which are readily learned and doable in an instant once committed to motor memory. Use *anything at hand to assist yourself*. It doesn't matter a damn if the scumbag who attacks you is armed or not.

He doesn't get to decide how *you* will deal with him! Don't be sidetracked by moronic thoughts of ethics, forbearance, decency, rules, and so on. Self-defense is not a game or a sport. Anyone who unjustifiably initiates violence upon another deserves the same consideration you would give a roach on a picnic table. *Destroy him!*

Anyone forcibly entering your home or apartment and attacking you is a potential murderer. *Deal with him immediately and with the most destructive degree of armed or unarmed force you can generate.*

Don't allow the beast to deprive your family of you, or possibly to deprive you of your family! Go get him! Retaliate to unprovoked criminal violence like a wild animal. Render the bastard useless, harmless, and have not the slightest tremor of hesitation about doing so. The faster and more viciously you react to violence, the greater the likelihood you will suffer little and defend yourself successfully.

Over the years, I have been accused of being "too cruel"; of teaching methods that are "too violent and dangerous" and of having "no heart about damaging and harming assailants." Frankly, I react to such nonsense accusations with mild amusement and frank contempt for the speakers. It is the violent offender who is "cruel." All violent attacks against innocent people are extremely "violent and dangerous" – often resulting in the unintended maiming or death of the victim.

And the "heartless" one is the scumbag who sees another human being as a predatory find; who goes after that other human being solely for the gratification of his insane desires.

Am I without mercy for violent criminals? *You're goddamn right I am!*
And too bad if anyone doesn't like it.

My compassion (and I am very compassionate) is for the victims of unjustifiable violence, and for their loved ones and friends who suffer horribly as a result of the criminal's act. My heart goes out to anyone who is bullied; to anyone who has been assaulted and beaten; to any victim of armed robbery, home invasion, mugging, carjacking, rape, or terroristic intimidation. *These* are the one's deserving compassion and help.

Violent offenders deserve the worst they get – in triplicate. Their lives don't matter... they are not entitled to fairness, mercy, restraint, compassion, or even medical attention in my opinion, when and if they are injured as a result of targeting the wrong person. Let 'em rot in the gutter, as far as I am concerned.

It is my ardent desire that you and yours be ready, willing, and able to handle yourselves if, God forbid, criminal violence comes to you. The time to prepare is *NOW*. *Before* it happens, when there is time to learn, alter your thinking, acquire combat mindset, obtain training in quality unarmed close combat, secure weapons and ammunition, and face reality.

The time to start is right now.

These "Survivalism" articles are a good beginning for you. Take their message to heart. No one cares more about your welfare, your survival, well-being, and prosperity than YOU.

And never forget the simple truth that YOU CAN DO IT. You need not be a helpless victim or live in fear.

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



BALANCING YOUR BODY'S pH

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

Following a vegetarian diet has been demonstrated to offer more associated health benefits than a meat-based diet. These include increased protection for a host of chronic conditions from heart disease and cancer to obesity and diabetes. It seems that every couple of months, a new study is being published that discovers a new association between meat and disease.

Researchers at the University of Leeds reported that a diet with processed meat increases the risks for dementia. When we take a look at the long list of chronic illnesses ravaging Americans today, besides our poor lifestyle habits, foods with low acidic pH, including meat, are contributing to these epidemics.

In fact, the health situation of our nation's population is so out of control, the CDC has gone on record to say that for the first time in recent history, today's youngest generations are expected to die earlier than their parents. Indeed, this

should tell us that something is seriously wrong with the way we think about health and how we are going about maintaining it and preventing illness.

It is common knowledge that an acidic environment makes us more vulnerable to disease. Given that the average American diet is heavily comprised of meat and processed foods, acidosis weakens our biological systems.

Meat's pH ranges between 5.2 and 7.0, the red meats averaging between 5.7 to 6.0. Other common foods with a high acidic pH are dairy products, processed and refined grains such as white bread, and soft drinks and sugary desserts. Among the common chronic illnesses associated with excessive acidity include cancer, diabetes, arthritis, obesity, osteoporosis, acid reflux, allergies, and premature aging.

An acidic environment also invites pathogenic infections, notably Candida. The majority of various cancer cells also increase the body's acidity because they produce lactic acid. The German Nobel laureate physician Otto Warburg observed over 80 years ago that cancer cells have difficulty surviving in an alkaline environment. Consequently, cancer patients are more than likely to have lower pH levels. Therefore, to prevent and fight cancer, it is necessary to keep our body's pH slightly in the alkaline range, the ideal being between 7.35 and 7.45. The pH scale range is between 0 to 14; 7 is considered neutral and anything below that is acidic.

No doubt health is a primary concern that leads many people to opt for and remain vegetarian or to radically increase their plant-based food consumption. It boils down to the fact that replacing fatty meats with lighter plant proteins radically shifts what is nourishing your body in a way that boosts general health and lowers the risk of contracting many diseases. By eliminating the saturated fats and cholesterol that are abundantly found in meats, for example, one depresses the chances of coming down with breast and colon cancer.

For a lack of a better word, the meat sold in this country's grocery stores and restaurants is from animals so "shot up" with hormones, antibiotics, tranquilizers, preservatives, additives, and pesticides that it is more

pharmaceutical than nutritional food. These added toxic chemicals, such as the deadly organophosphate pesticides, also lower the body's pH and have been linked to long-term adverse effects on health.

It is critically important to maintain a biological equilibrium by balancing and then sustaining our body's pH. In his book *Your Health: A Professional User's Guide*, Dr. Russell Jaffe writes,

“When an alkaline environment is maintained in the body, metabolic, enzymatic, immunologic, and repair mechanisms function at their best. Maintenance of this state is a dynamic, not static, process mediated moment to moment by numerous reactions that produce acid products. For necessary reactions and functions to occur, our body must maintain a proper pH.”

Jaffe goes on to say,

“The acid-forming metabolics of stress and inflammation and of high fat and high protein foods are adequately and effectively neutralized only when sufficient mineral-buffering reserves are present. Mineral-buffering reserves are the gift that alkaline-forming foods give to our body. A diet that is predominantly alkaline-forming is essential to the maintenance of sustained health. Most vegetables and fruits contain higher proportions of alkaline-forming elements than other foods.”

I always suggest to people that they remove themselves from those foods listed above that contribute to inflammation and pH imbalances and will shorten one's life by a wide margin. One thing to keep in mind is that maximal health depends on reconnecting ourselves with that which is natural for our bodies. And that begins with eliminating everything unnatural, such as foods that are heavily processed. As we develop towards embodying this principle into our daily lives, including our diets, we can truly create a healthy life for ourselves as well as contribute to the health of our planet.

To optimize the prevention and healing of chronic diseases, I recommend that our diet should consist of 80% alkaline-forming foods. It is not surprising that given a plant-based diet's multiple health benefits, we would find the most alkaline foods are plant-based. Since our body's cells have a difficult task to produce sufficient energy in an acidic environment because it deprives them of available oxygen, a plant-based diet is also energy-producing.

Among the most common alkalizing foods are:

Vegetables: Artichokes, asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbages, carrots, celery, cauliflower, chard, cucumber, dill, dulse, eggplant, endive, garlic, horseradish, Jerusalem artichokes, kale, leeks, lettuce, mushrooms, okra, onions, parsley, parsnips, peas, bell peppers, potatoes, pumpkin, radish, romaine lettuce, sauerkraut, spinach, sprouts, squash, sweet potatoes, turnips, watercress, and yams

Beans/Legumes: Green beans, lima beans, peas, soybeans, sprouted beans, tempeh (fermented), and tofu (fermented)

Nuts & Seeds: Almonds, Brazil nuts, chestnuts, chia seeds, coconuts, and sesame

Whole Grains: Amaranth, buckwheat, millet, quinoa, and tef

Fruits: Apples, apricots, avocados, bananas, berries, dates, figs, grapefruit, grapes, kiwis, lemons, limes, mangoes, melons, nectarines, olives, papayas, peaches, pears, persimmons, raisins, and watermelon

I would give particular attention to several plant foods that are the superstars for balancing the body's pH, notably beet greens. Despite this not being a particularly popular vegetable, beet greens are the world's most alkaline food. Other highly alkaline foods are spinach, kale, and chard; however, since you are unlikely to begin your day with a bowl of steamed spinach and kale unless you start with a fresh vegetable juice, I recommend a good, tall glass of fresh-squeezed lemon water.

Although lemon is highly acidic, it has a powerful alkalinizing effect on the body, especially the “potential renal acid load,” which determines how much your kidneys can process and excrete acids. Lemons therefore significantly reduce the amount of acidity that burdens the kidneys because of their high in minerals, such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorous. These minerals help raise your urine’s pH. This is why lemons are so often an essential ingredient in detoxification diets and programs.

So, to reach maximal health, adopt that which nourishes health and toss out that which threatens it. Normalizing our body’s pH is one avenue on the road to preventing disease, and we can begin that journey by adopting a more plant-based diet.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

WEF TAGS AGING POPULATION AS “LOOMING CRISIS”

The World Economic Forum is touting the need for “solutions” again. This time it’s not a virus or global warming, or even the tribulations faced by black women who wear “natural” hairstyles in the workplace. It’s old people.

The same entity that has been on the forefront, along with other globalist orgs, in proselytizing for population control and abortion, has suddenly noticed the next few decades may see a marked shift in demographics that spells trouble.

According to a new WEF report:

There will be a shift in the global ageing population from 7% today to 20% in the next few decades. This growth will be one of the greatest social, economic, and political transformations of our time. It will force changes in systems, have impact on families, and will require new solutions.

Though older adults are a reigning economic segment, the attitudes and stereotypes about ageing still persist and market innovation to meet their needs is lagging behind.

Collaboration among policy-makers, civil society, academia, and the private-sector is crucial to creating holistic solutions that promote the safety, autonomy, well-being, and dignity of older adults.

What “dignity” means to the powers behind the WEF is anyone’s guess. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum claims it is “tied to no political, partisan or national interests.” But one brief visit to their website homepage quickly gives away that game.

The WEF report did place some focus on economic opportunities that might present as a result of the graying of America and other parts of the world. It pointed out that baby boomers in the U.S. are projected to have 70 percent of disposable income over the next five years.

With less than 10 percent of advertising currently being targeted to that demographic, obvious opportunities exist to serve – and sell – to elderly buyers. Health services and technology used for senior monitoring were high on the organization’s list of things that are likely to see growth as the population shift accelerates.

Some of the items and areas of economic potential mentioned included:

- Telemedicine
- Tablets for communication and entertainment
- “Smart” platforms that integrate electronic medical records (EMRs) and electronic health records with AI and analytics
- Wearables
- Voice, touch, motion, and other assistive technologies
- Technologies for safety (monitoring and alert devices)
- Gig economy services (e.g., meal delivery)
- Self-driving cars

- Robots

The WEF is known as an incubator for the radical agendas of elitists like Klaus Schwab, the literal author of “The Great Reset.” The forum recently had to pull a video from its Twitter feed extolling the benefits of the 2020 pandemic lockdowns for the Earth, as they were lampooned for a prospectus of what the world will be like in 2030, showing a smiling young man while overprinting the message: “You will possess nothing. And you will be happy.”

In that light, almost anything they say that seems to call for valuing and respecting aging populations should probably be taken with a huge grain of salt.

EVENT 201: THE COVID-19 BLUEPRINT



In 2018, the World Economic Forum, in conjunction with groups including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, organized a hypothetical simulation of a worldwide pandemic. The exercise was titled “Event 201.” Today, the synopsis reads like an eerie blueprint for the

COVID-19 pandemic of 2020:

Event 201 simulates an outbreak of a novel zoonotic coronavirus transmitted from bats to pigs to people that eventually becomes efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic. The pathogen and the disease it causes are modeled largely on SARS, but it is more transmissible in the community setting by people with mild symptoms.

The disease starts in pig farms in Brazil, quietly and slowly at first, but then it starts to spread more rapidly in healthcare settings. When it starts to

spread efficiently from person to person in the low-income, densely packed neighborhoods of some of the megacities in South America, the epidemic explodes. It is first exported by air travel to Portugal, the United States, and China and then to many other countries. Although at first, some countries can control it, it continues to spread and be reintroduced, and eventually, no country can maintain control.

There is no possibility of a vaccine being available in the first year. There is a fictional antiviral drug that can help the sick but not significantly limit the spread of the disease.

Since the whole human population is susceptible, during the initial months of the pandemic, the cumulative number of cases increases exponentially, doubling every week. And as the cases and deaths accumulate, the economic and societal consequences become increasingly severe.

The scenario ends at the 18-month point, with 65 million deaths. The pandemic is beginning to slow due to the decreasing number of susceptible people. The pandemic will continue at some rate until there is an effective vaccine or until 80-90% of the global population has been exposed.

(source: The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org>)

Unelected and unaccountable elites, whether at the WHO or the CDC, or roving authorities like Dr. Anthony Fauci and non-scientist vax savior Bill Gates, all seized a murky, sensationalized outbreak in Wuhan, China in early 2020. They brought the entire world to a lurching halt, almost as if they'd game-planned the entire thing. And, actually, they had.

In retrospect, "Event 201" served as a scientific "model" that could be pointed to as a justification for the emergency declarations and actions that clamped down the world.

Nevermind that real data continues to expose the lies about the actual lethality of the virus. A mid-March study reported by UPI found that coronavirus cases in the U.S. may have been underestimated by as much as half. That means the already minuscule virus death rates for anyone under the age of 70 are that much smaller.

Other studies are showing that states such as Florida, and nations like Sweden, which opted out of draconian lockdown measures, fared no worse in terms of pandemic spread and death than heavily-lockdown states and nations such as California or Spain. And their economies, which also factor into people's lives and health, have fared much better.

The Divide Between the Elites and “Slavelandia” Grows Wider

On the whole, the COVID pandemic has been a boon for the Technocracy. The elites who united in co-opting “science” to justify a whole new level of control have drained enormous wealth from the benighted masses.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, the Walmart heirs, and Google execs all saw their fortunes explode, while masses of average people were driven out of work and quality schooling. Meanwhile, government workers were relatively protected and fared much better than private-sector employees of small- and medium-sized businesses.

In September 2020, Chuck Collins, director of the Institute for Policy Studies' Program on Inequality, said the COVID crisis was “supercharging” America's existing inequalities.

“I would have thought maybe six months into this that things would have shaken out—that everybody would take a hit. The difference is stark between profits for billionaires and the widespread economic misery in our nation. It sort of dramatizes the unequal sacrifice and profiteering element of the wealth accumulation at the top.”

Pharmaceuticals and the healthcare industry have obscenely profited off the pandemic, receiving bounties for “COVID” deaths, and bilking taxpayers for vaccines that, thanks to restrictions on travel and activities, are becoming forced in all but name.

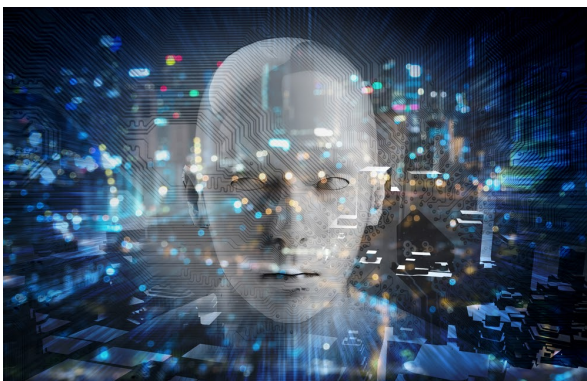
Failures Breed Censorship

The pandemic presaged by “Event 201” hasn’t really been about effectively combating a virus for the general benefit of humanity. Seen in that light, it’s more obvious why the failures of its proscriptions, instead of being addressed, have been covered up by censorship and Stalinist mind games. Literally, thousands of accounts on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook have been banned for not toeing the line on vaccine and pandemic propaganda.

The refusal of the technocracy to address failures or allow contrary perspectives and data is proof that their object hasn’t been to formulate sensible measures to stem a deadly viral outbreak. They revile and smear regions, states, and leaders who have opposed their agenda, no matter how successful the outcomes, if those policies contradict their agenda.

At the end of 2019, America, despite the rancid politics, was economically resurgent and less prone to foreign entanglements. The Event 201 inspired “plandemic” reversed that trajectory. By that measure alone, it has been an astounding technocratic success.

FACEBOOK EXEC EXPLAINS DYSTOPIAN AI FUTURE



A Project Veritas exposé video released last week made headlines at *Breitbart* and other alt news outlets, mostly for an exec’s comments regarding Mark Zuckerberg’s outsized power and influence.

But less covered were some astounding comments regarding AI technology made by Benny Thomas, the company's head of Global Planning. He said the day is coming when AI will be as far removed from human capabilities as ants are to humans. And at that point, AI will care about humans as much as humans care about ants when taking a stroll.

"It's going to go beyond human intelligence, and at that point, humans are expendable," Thomas said. "I might be killing hundreds of ants when I walk in the park, I don't know and I don't care... We will be like those ants."

Thomas made the comments to an undercover Project Veritas reporter. He mostly described his own misgivings regarding the power of the tech giant employing him. He said he believes Facebook is "doing a lot of damage in the world" and compared the power of vast tech companies to nations.

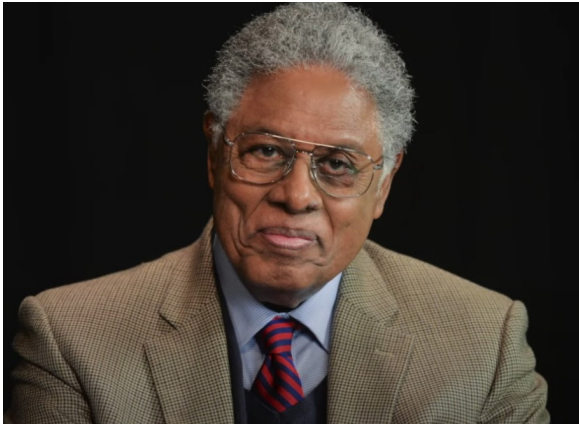
"I would break up Facebook, which means I would make less money probably—but I don't care. Like that's what needs to be done. Instagram, Facebook Messenger, Oculus, WhatsApp—they all need to be separate companies. It's too much power when they're all one together."

One positive about the power of Facebook, in Thomas's view, was the influence the tech giant exerted in the 2020 American presidential election. He said he believed that his company working to register over four million likely Democrat voters was one of the reasons Joe Biden won the election.

"One of the things I worked on, which made me happy, was a voter registration drive. These are the kinds of things—this is the good side of Facebook. This is the kind of thing that you can only do with a company that has the sheer scale and reach of Facebook."

When the Project Veritas reporter revealed her credentials and asked if Thomas wished to clarify his comments, the Facebook exec declined further comment.

SAGE OF THE TECHNOCRATIC MINDSET: THOMAS SOWELL



The technocratic mindset is not defined by a hubris that a privileged or elite group or class can better decide the course of human “progress” than the relatively freely chosen interactions and choices of billions of the world’s inhabitants.

The notion is not particularly new. In some ways, it’s as old as mankind and rooted ultimately in a dark facet of human nature that desires the power of others. Before there were “technocratic” elites, relying on predictive modeling and analytics of AI and supercomputers and information networks, there were “rational” elitists. And before that, there were “Sun Kings,” closer to the gods and therefore more deserving of decision-making power and status.

The economist and political philosopher Thomas Sowell identified the latter as a kind of organic meta “intelligence.” It can be seen in the economic performance of free markets vs. directed economies. It can also be evidenced in the quality of civic life of free societies vs. totalitarian regimes.

Sowell described the characteristic pattern for the way elites acquire a political mandate for controlling and directing society and carry out their agenda. His insights are all the more prescient, considering how the COVID pandemic has played out. Sowell named four typical stages of elite intervention:

Stage 1: “The Crisis”

Stage 2: “The Solution”

Stage 3: “The Results”

Stage 4: “The Response”

The “Crisis” stage is an opportunity never to be wasted, to further the aims of the technocratic elites. A crisis can be a chance or unforeseen occurrence that

can be exploited. Think of a sensational video appearing to show a black man being suffocated with a knee on the neck by a white police officer. Or a crisis can be something brought into public awareness via a steady, coordinated effort of organizations and interests with something to gain by changes to policies. Think “climate change.”

The “Solution” stage is where elites have defined the crisis and achieved a certain level of public acquiesce and roll out desired policies, which often have only the most tangential relationship to the actual “crisis.” Consider the Federal government’s latest \$1.9 Trillion “COVID” relief spending spree.

The “Results” stage is where policies instituted by elites, while empowering and enriching favored entities, have usually very obviously failed in successfully smiting the original “Crisis.” Think vaccines and the eventual, inevitable news that protection conferred is ephemeral.

The “Response” is when elites use the very failure of their policies as a reason to double down on further policies to combat the ongoing, interminable “crisis.” Think “more COVID vaccinations” or future lockdowns to combat global climate change, which precipitated the easy spread of the COVID virus, etc., etc.

Limits of the Technocratically “Enlightened”

Sowell’s essential point is that no group of oligarchs, however “enlightened,” will ultimately make disinterested decisions. Given enormous power, they will be corrupted by that power, according to very infallible human nature.

And even if they could act dispassionately, the “mass intelligence” of millions of relatively free people interacting and making compacts with each other will always outperform the proscriptions of a few “wise” elites.

One could argue that Sowell’s analysis did not foresee the capabilities of supercomputers and modeling to capture and synthesize vast amounts of data.

But even if the capabilities approached the meta-understanding of the “mass human intelligence” Sowell described, the concentration of power in the hands of a few humans would still be the point of failure. And in the hands of artificial intelligence? As envisioned in many dystopian novels and movies, as well as by some people currently working in the upper echelons of tech giants, the results might be even more catastrophic.

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



MYANMAR PROTESTERS FEAR AI FUELED CRACKDOWN. CCTV cameras, facial recognition technology, digital tracking, and arrests of political dissidents. It's becoming a familiar story, playing out in hotspots around the world, as regimes are getting more and more aggressive in

leveraging technology to crush political dissent.

This time it's Myanmar. Long-time activist and incumbent President Aung San Suu Kyi appeared to win victory in a November 2020 election. But the country's military, citing election fraud, took power in February.

Anti-coup protesters have shown that Kyi continues to command popular support. Despite more than 200 people being killed in violent clashes, protests in the country have continued to grow.

Human rights groups are now warning that artificial intelligence and other technology are being employed to quell the unrest and deprive citizens of their rights to protest. Suppression efforts have targeted the cities of Yangon and Mandalay. Hundreds of CCTV cameras had been installed during Kyi's time in power, as part of a program “to improve governance and curb crime.”

“Even before the protests, the CCTVs were a concern for us, so we would try and avoid them—by taking different routes to go home, for example,” Win Pe Myaing, a protester in Yangon, told *Reuters*. “We believe the police and the military are using the system to track demonstrations and protests. It’s like a digital dictatorship—the regime is using technology to track and arrest citizens, and that’s dangerous.”

Unsurprisingly, China’s fingerprints are all over the equipment being used to surveil Myanmar protesters. “Safe City,” a system used to combat “crime” in big cities but which can just as easily be used to track virtually anyone for any reason, comes from Huawei, the Communist government-connected technology firm. Huawei has previously earned scrutiny from the U.K., during bidding for 5G technology.

In another bit of irony, *Reuters* looked askance in January 2020, when the outgoing Trump administration enacted restrictions on Huawei’s U.S. suppliers, shortly before Joe Biden was inaugurated. President Trump had previously issued an executive order in early 2019, effectively banning the company from U.S. communications networks.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



BEHIND THE DIGITAL CURRENCY BULL RUN. Central bank policies around the world are a big part of what’s driving more widespread moves into crypto-currencies. That’s according to Yoni Assia, CEO of EToro, who spoke recently to Cointelegraph.com.

EToro bills itself as the “world’s leading social trading and investing platform.” The company sports a popular app, complete with Alec Baldwin (“put the coffee down”) as a pitchman.

Assia also believes the economic effects of the COVID lockdowns on the American economy are having an impact.

“I think there is a confluence of circumstances that’s leading for this all-time high, both in crypto, as well in the stock markets. We’re seeing unprecedented monetary and fiscal sort of reactions from federal governments all around the world leading to zero interest rates, and even negative interest rates in some places.”

Bitcoin (BTC) traded below \$4,000 as recently as March 2020, when COVID was being used to shut down countries around the world. Since then, the “king” of cryptos has seen a run to as high as \$60,000, with some fits and starts. Along the way, other prominent cryptos like Ethereum have also seen their valuations skyrocket, and even relatively obscure blockchain technologies have seen investment money pour in.

As the **Trends Journal** has consistently forewarned, COVID-accelerated inflationary monetary policy is a big factor driving events. As Assia put it:

“We’re seeing an unprecedented amount of money being printed by governments all around the world—some of them in a very unique and new concept of direct stimulus checks to consumers. That has definitely raised the biggest discussion in human history about the value of money—a discussion that started very passionately within the crypto space.”

Bitcoin is designed to have a maximum supply of just 21 million coins. Its ledger can’t be altered. And it can be exchanged directly and fractionally between holders and those who want it, although many people buy and sell Bitcoin and other cryptos via exchanges.

The Bitcoin network’s built-in scarcity is a concept that average investors can understand, said Assia. In the Cointelegraph interview, he also pointed out that

crypto and stock purchases are easier to get into because of easy apps and online exchanges.

He said all those factors were behind the latest crypto bull run, noting there's a "renewed interest that hasn't been seen before since December 2017, so since crypto rally 1.0, we haven't seen so much interest in cryptocurrency as we are seeing right now with crypto rally 2.0 upon us."

TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



SOUTH AFRICA MYSTERY: WHERE DID THE VIRUS GO?

As we've been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, viruses normally mutate into different strains, which past data has shown are almost always less potent than the original. (See our 12 January article, [“‘MUTANT’ STRAIN: DEADLY MEDIA HYPE & FEAR.”](#)) Yet, the mainstream media, led by their anointed “top infectious disease expert,” Anthony Fauci, has been spreading fear and anxiety about this natural process:

Fauci: Virus mutations are a “wake-up call”

— *The Hill*, 29 January

Mutant Strains of Coronavirus Cause Mounting Concerns

— *Microsoft News*, 22 January

Variant Surging in California

— *The New York Times*, 23 February

**New Variant, New Urgency: Another Mutant Strain of the
Coronavirus is in Our Community**

— *Public Health Insider*, 11 March

And, according to media reports, the most dangerous mutant strain was from South Africa:

South African COVID Strain Raises Growing Alarm in the U.K.

— *Bloomberg News*, 4 January

**As New COVID-19 Strain Attacks South Africa, Vaccine
Experts Are “Incredibly Worried”**

— *The Observer*, 4 January

But, as the *Wall Street Journal* reported on 14 March and is basically ignored by the rest of mainstream media is the fear over the South African mutation was a false alarm:

“Earlier this year, doctors and epidemiologists in South Africa’s economic capital were bracing for the worst. A new coronavirus strain was surging across the country, thousands of holidaymakers were due to return from Covid-19 hot spots, and one in three coronavirus tests was coming back positive. Then something unexpected happened: COVID-19 cases started dropping.”

Over the past two months, the number of cases in South Africa has decreased from a record high of some 22,000 per day down to approximately 1,000. And the country has not been in a strict lockdown nor has there yet been any wide-ranging vaccine program.

The *Wall Street Journal* quoted Harry Moultrie, one of the country’s leading epidemiologists:

“Anybody who professes certainty [about why infections started dropping] is lying. There is so much uncertainty in all of this.”

The article goes on to point out: “More than a year into the pandemic, there remains much scientists don’t know about how the coronavirus moves through society.”

TRENDPOST: *Despite the quote “Anybody who professes certainty is lying. There is so much uncertainty in all of this,” Presstitutes, politicians, and bureaucrats keep “lying” about what must be done to stop the virus.*

Despite their failures, many of those in charge across the planet continue to impose draconian yet useless “shelter-in-place” lockdown laws that have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people.

Indeed, “there remains much scientists don’t know about how the coronavirus moves through society,” yet, leaders in charge and the mainstream media continue “lying” about the need to wear face masks, which we have been reporting on in detail since they were imposed last year. See some of our articles on the ineffectiveness of wearing masks include:

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

9 March: [*DOUBLE MASK? DOUBLE-DOWN FAILURE*](#)

3 November: [*FACING THE TRUTH, PART I: THE GREAT MASK-QUERADE*](#)

3 November: [*FACING THE TRUTH, PART II: MORE EVIDENCE MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE*](#)

3 November: [*MASK MADNESS*](#)

27 October: [*GERMAN DOC: MANDATORY MASK-WEARING IS “CRIMINAL”*](#)

20 October: *“MASKS ARE A POLITICAL AGENDA”*

20 October: *DOCTORS: WEAR MASKS, GET SICK*

20 October: *MORE EVIDENCE: MASKS OFFER “LITTLE, IF ANY, PROTECTION”*

6 October: *FACE MASKS: POLITICS COUNTS, SCIENCE DOESN'T*

29 September: *EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON'T WORK*

TRENDPOST: *Regardless of hard data continuing to puncture the hyperventilating of mainstream media and government health officials about dangers from mutant variants, political leaders continue to use fear and anxiety to strengthen their autocratic control.*

As we reported in our 2 March article, “HEALTH ‘EXPERTS’ SELLING COVID FEAR FOREVER”:

The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, told the Financial Times, “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.

Yet, as WebMD reported on 11 February, as the media continues to fan the flames of mutant-variant anxiety:

“In its weekly update, the World Health Organization said the 3.1 million new COVID cases were reported around the globe last week, a 17% drop from the previous week, the fourth straight week new cases numbers have gone down. That’s the lowest number of new cases in 15 weeks, since the week of Oct. 26.”

And, this was Friday’s Wall Street Journal headline:

Covid-19 Live Updates: New Reported U.S. Cases, Deaths Decline

But, again and again, hour after hour, the mainstream media and politicians keep selling fear that life from this time forward will be relegated to fighting the COVID War. This Saturday, the BBC headline declared:

Covid: Masks and social distancing ‘could last years’

Completely ignoring others who may disagree, the BBC quoted Mary Ramsay, the head of immunization at Public Health England, who said, “People may need to wear face coverings and socially distance for several years until we return to normality.”

FLORIDA DATA PROVES: SCHOOLS SAFE TO REOPEN



Since the beginning of last summer, political leaders in the U.S., backed by their health experts and amplified by a mainstream media glad to accommodate, have been putting forth the notion that schools are “super-spreader” environments requiring the need to be

extremely cautious about reopening.

For example, back on 20 August, *Healthline* published the article, “How Schools Can Easily Become ‘Super-spreaders’ of COVID-19.” It pointed out that confirmed cases of COVID-19 among children was rising across the U.S. and if schools considered reopening, they would need to put in strict preventative measures including mask-wearing, physical distancing, and staggered class schedules.

Quoted from the article: “Experts tell Healthline that schools—especially those situated in states where cases are rising—can be the perfect setting for what’s called a super-spreading event.”

In the article, Dr. Marybeth Sexton, a former public-school teacher who is now an assistant professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at Emory University in Georgia, said,

“If you don’t have masking and distancing regulations in place, and each one of those people goes on to infect two to three other people, and then they infect two to three other people, and they infect two to three other people, very quickly you’re going to have a situation where you’re going to have to shut a school down.”

Florida has proven the “super-spreader” fear to be completely made-up.

Despite scientific data from Europe that schools should be open, the 19 June *British Medical Journal* study, “Children are not COVID-19 super spreaders: time to go back to school,” and having no hard data confirming schools were potential “super-spreaders,” in the U.S., schools were generally not reopened last fall.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on 1 December:

“Most of Europe kept schools open even during a worst-on-the-planet second wave of infections this fall. And still, schools appear to be relatively safe environments, public health officials say.”

Florida on the Right Course

Now comes reporting from the 18 March *Wall Street Journal*:

**Florida Reopened Their Schools and No “Super-spreaders”
Were Triggered, Report Says**

The article points out how Florida's governor Ron DeSantis came under heavy political and media attack for allowing children back into schools too soon last August.

Commissioner Corcoran told the *WSJ* that currently, 80 percent of the state's students are back in classrooms. The updated data shows:

“Florida consistently has had lower rates of COVID-19 in schools than in the community at large, according to a data dashboard created by Brown University, data company Qualtrics and others. In the last two weeks of February, the daily case rate per 100,000 people was 22 among students and 15 among school staff, compared with 27 in the community, according to the data. In earlier periods going back to October, the student and staff rates were almost always less than half the community rate.”

Commissioner Corcoran stated the data shows, “Having kids in school is the safest place for them to be. We did have a plan and it was based on facts and science.”

It should also be noted that neither mask mandates, social distancing, or quarantines were uniformly ordered or implemented, so they can't be cited as the main reasons for the low viral spread within schools.

During the entire pandemic, Florida has recorded 41 working school employees and nine schoolchildren have died from COVID-19.

TRENDPOST: *In addition to the current news out of Florida, on 26 January, Yahoo News reported on data from Wisconsin: “CDC finds ‘little evidence’ schools have ‘contributed meaningfully’ to coronavirus spread in communities.” The report about Wisconsin schools also cited a crucial fact that goes under-reported in most media: “There were no reported instances of child-to-adult transmission.”*

It's also interesting to note the continued media use of the term, “super-spreaders,” which, by giving the virus issue a scary-sounding name, is

another way to instigate fear and anxiety. As Dr. Robert Amler, the dean of New York Medical College's School of Health Sciences and Practice stated, "‘Super-spreader’ is a conversational term and not a scientific phrase."

SOCIAL DISTANCE RULES “PULLED OUT OF THIN AIR”



Back on 7 July, the **Trends Journal** published the article [“SOCIAL DISTANCING: WHERE’S THE EVIDENCE?”](#)

In the article, we explained how there was no scientific evidence to support this new term that the Presstitutes kept spewing out and politicians enforced by making up rules that lacked scientific facts.

At the time, among the media-anointed “experts” insisting on social distancing, we quoted Dr. Jeff Martin, an epidemiologist at UC San Francisco: “‘Social distancing’ will be the key phrase in the days and weeks to come.”

Even earlier, on 21 April, the **Trends Journal** published the article, [“TREND TRACKING LESSON: “THINK FOR YOURSELF,”](#) which quoted a Facebook spokesperson: “Events that defy government’s guidance on social distancing aren’t allowed on Facebook.”

Now, after a full year of draconian lockdowns backed by haphazard, made-up rules on social distancing, *The New York Times* ran the headline last Tuesday:

Three Feet or Six? Protocols for Schools Stirs Debate

The article admits that the confusion and lack of consistent protocols “has been especially consequential for schools, many of which have not fully reopened because they do not have enough space to keep students six feet apart.”

The article states while the CDC has consistently called for six-foot social distancing across the board, including schools,

“Now, spurred by a better understanding of how the virus spreads and a growing concern about the harms of keeping children out of school, some public health experts are calling on the agency to reduce the recommended distance in schools from six feet to three.”

“Better Understanding?” How about lies, arrogance, and deception being enforced on the public without scientific data to support their mandates?

Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of Brown University School of Public Health, said, “It never struck me that six feet was particularly sensical in the context of mitigation... I wish the CDC would just come out and say this is not a major issue.”

Note: Dr. Jha was being polite when he said the CDC’s social-distancing recommendation wasn’t “particularly sensical.” In plain English, that means it’s “nonsense.”

And so are various other social-distance recommendations. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends three- to six feet of social distancing in schools, but the WHO recommends just one meter (3.3 feet).

The New York Times article then states,

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is clear and consistent in its social distancing recommendation: To reduce the risk of contracting the coronavirus, people should remain at least six feet away from others who are not in their households. The guideline holds whether you are eating in a restaurant, lifting weights at a gym, or learning long division in a fourth-grade classroom.”

Just as with mask-wearing and other made-up lockdown restrictions, mere days after the *NYT* article was published, which called the CDC “clear and consistent,” the health organization shifted its recommendation.

CDC Flips Again

On Friday, the CDC changed its mind about social distance requirements. As reported by *CNBC* on its website:

“The CDC revised its guidance on social distancing in schools, saying most students can now sit 3 feet apart instead of 6 feet so long as they are wearing masks:

The recommendation is for all K-12 students, regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate, or substantial.

In communities where transmission is high, the CDC recommends that middle school and high school students remain at least 6 feet apart if schools aren’t able to keep students and teachers in assigned groups.”

Dr. Lindsey Marr, a specialist in viral transmission at Virginia Tech, had the most accurate quote to describe the months-long insistence of the six-foot distance rule: “It’s almost like it was pulled out of thin air.”

Last Tuesday, after citing the CDC for its consistency in recommending six feet of social distancing, on Friday, *The New York Times* reported:

“There was not clear evidence that high levels of community transmission made in-person schooling riskier, said Dr. Elissa Perkins, the director of emergency medicine infectious disease management at Boston University School of Medicine, and a co-author, with Dr. Branch-Elliman, of the paper that questioned the six-foot guidance.”

Dr. Perkins added,

“I applaud the move to get elementary schools back in person regardless of community transmission... And I also understand that there is some hesitancy about applying that to middle and high school students, although I’m not sure that it is fully in keeping with the evidence that we’ve seen.”

TRENDPOST: *Readers of the **Trends Journal** have known for the better part of a year that the lockdown rules, which have destroyed the economies of the U.S. and many other countries around the globe, have been completely “pulled out of thin air” to quote viral-transmission specialist Dr. Lindsay Marr.*

*Back on 16 June, in our article “**MAKES NO SENSE RULES: THE NEW ABNORMAL**,” we wrote:*

As much of the world is unlocked from the three-month plus lockdown, as we had forecast, the vast, often contradictory, non-science based, made-up rules and regulations that are not laws, but edicts, are further destroying the already severely damaged global economy... and driving businesses and individuals deeper in poverty and desperation.

TRENDPOST: *As we noted from the onset of the COVID War, like so many other wars, it was based on outright lies.*

On the school front, we have detailed how devastating the lack of in-classroom learning has been on children and parents when it began to be enforced in February 2020.

In March 2020, the CDC said schools should be shut for eight weeks or more to lessen the impact and spread of the novel coronavirus.

Now, a year later, the same CDC that was instrumental in pushing for school closings back then is assessing the lockdown implications. As reported by Microsoft News last Friday:

“Virtual instruction might present more risks than does in-person instruction related to child and parental mental and emotional health.

The new study also described how the pandemic has increased parental responsibility and stress, with many parents—mothers in particular—having to now juggle work and schooling... parents of students in remote educational arrangements were more likely to say that they were worried about losing their jobs.

Parents whose children attended either virtual or remote learning were more likely to report that they noticed worsening mental and emotional health (24.9 percent for remote parents, 15.9 for in-person parents).

Students of color were more likely to be engaged in remote learning at about twice the rate of white students, meaning that they were more likely to suffer from the psychological effects of learning from home than were their white counterparts.”

The Microsoft News article states, “It could be years before researchers fully grasp the pandemic’s effect on the social fabric.” This is yet another example of mainstream media ignoring the clear fact that the problem is not the “pandemic’s effect on the social fabric,” but the lockdown’s effect.

FDA CHIEF: SOCIAL DISTANCE FRAUD



Go back to last year at this time, when Prostitutes and politicians launched the COVID War. As we had pointed out back then, just as with all the other wars launched, the warmongers ban those opposed to wars based on lies, while they promote those who champion them.

There is no greater an example than former FDA bureaucrat Scott Gottlieb, who was quoted on *CBS's "Face the Nation"* on 29 March 2020 that "aggressive social distancing" must be enforced:

"So 14 days after you start to see a sustained reduction in the number of daily cases, that's the point at which you can contemplate lifting some of these measures that we have in place right now, some of these very aggressive social distancing measures."

Backtrack Fraud

Now, one year later, Mr. Gottlieb, who sold his aggressive social-distancing mandate, has admitted it was made up. Appearing on *CNBC* last week, he said, "This six-foot distancing requirement... really wasn't based on clear science."

MORE KIDS DIE FROM SUICIDE THAN COVID

The American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) is the non-profit think tank that was the driving force behind the Great Barrington Declaration, a document signed by leading physicians, public health officials, and concerned citizens calling for an end to all lockdowns. (See our 13 October article, ["THE GREAT BARRINGTON DECLARATION: NO COVID FEAR."](#))

The AIER first warned of the devastating effects on mental health caused by lockdowns back in November, which the **Trends Journal** covered in our 10 November article, ["LOCKDOWN MADNESS: CURE IS WORSE THAN THE DISEASE."](#)

Not surprisingly, major political leaders and their health experts ignored the clear data, and, to this day, continue keeping the brakes on any full reopening of the global economy and social freedom. Also, not surprisingly, the devastating mental health breakdown in many countries is even worse now. And much of it is happening to young people.

Last Wednesday, AIER released updated data in an article titled, “More ‘COVID Suicides’ than COVID Deaths in Kids.”

Some of the key insights from the article, written by Micha Gartz, include:

“Before COVID, an American youth died by suicide every six hours. Suicide is a major public health threat and a leading cause of death for those aged under 25—one far bigger than COVID. And it is something that we have only made worse as we, led by politicians and ‘the science,’ deprived our youngest members of society—who constitute one-third of the US population—of educational, emotional and social development without their permission or consent for over a year.

We have sacrificed our youths’ lives and future livelihoods in a desperate attempt to save a slim minority of the elderly population who have surpassed the average US life expectancy of 78.8 years and those who were already on their way out.

Overall, deaths per 100K in this age group (5-24 years-old) jumped from 106.4 per 100K in 2019 to 131.7 per 100K during 2020. That’s an increase of 23%—and COVID only accounts for 1.2% of total deaths in ages 0–24 years.”

Proving that data was available showing a relationship between lockdowns and significantly higher suicide rates among young people, the article points out:

“Indeed, as early as July 2020—just four months into the pandemic—CDC Director Robert Redfield remarked there has been another cost that we’ve seen, particularly in high schools. We’re seeing, sadly, far greater suicides now than we are deaths from COVID. We’re seeing far greater deaths from drug overdose.

Between March and August, the National Alliance on Mental Illness HelpLine reported a 65% increase in calls and emails. The Trevor Project—which targets suicide prevention among LGBTQ youth—saw

double its usual call volume. Over 90% of those were from people under 35.”

The article quotes University of Oregon clinical psychologist Dr. Nick Allen, who specializes in how children and adolescents are affected by their environments:

“The stressor that COVID represents takes away [the] good things [in life]. You can’t go to sporting events, you can’t see your friends, you can’t go to parties... we’re taking away high points in people’s lives that give them reward and meaning... over time, the anhedonia, the loss of pleasure, is going to drive you down a lot more.”

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *A word new to most of us, and, unfortunately, much too relevant: “anhedonia,” the technical, psychological term for “loss of pleasure.”*

The AIER article provides even more hard data to make the case that lockdown restrictions have been a much more harmful disaster than the coronavirus itself:

“Indeed, during the first eight months of 2020, suicides in Los Alamos (NM) tripled while Fresno (CA) numbers jumped 70% in June 2020 compared to the same month the previous year. Even the CDC acknowledges a 31% increase in the proportion of mental health-related ER visits for 12 to 17 year-olds between March and October last year compared to the previous year.

Suicide is already the 10th leading cause of death in the US, with one death for every 24 attempts. Yet we continue to sacrifice the well-being of 103.3 million youths—equivalent to roughly 31.5% of the US population—out of fear for a fraction of the 4% that live past the average life expectancy of 78.8 years.”

TREND FORECAST: *The devastation caused by lockdowns, which lack scientific data to support them, as we have detailed in this and numerous issues of the **Trends Journal**, goes unreported by the mainstream media and*

politicians across the globe. The draconian COVID War measures forced upon society will have long-term negative socioeconomic implications.

ELDERLY: COVID TARGETS



As we have been reporting for a year, the greatest percentage of virus victims are elderly people in nursing homes and those over 65 years of age. (See our 16 February article, [“AVERAGE AGE OF COVID DEATH VS. AVERAGE AGE OF DEATH”](#); our 19 January article, [“NY NURSING HOME](#)

[COVID DEATHS ON THE RISE”](#); and our 1 December article, [“YOUNG VS. OLD: FIGHTING THE COVID WAR.”](#)

Last 21 March, Italy’s health experts stressed, as *MacauBusiness.com* reported, “About 31 percent of the deaths were aged 70-79, about 44 percent aged 80-89, and about 14 percent aged over 90.”

Strike Two

Now, as *Reuters* reported last Wednesday, a new study from the medical journal *The Lancet* has shown, “Most people who have had coronavirus are protected from catching it again for at least six months, but those aged 65 and over are more prone to reinfection.”

The large-scale study, conducted in Denmark, revealed,

“While prior infection gave those under the age of 65 years around 80% protection against reinfection, for people aged 65 and older, it only gave 47% protection, indicating that they are more likely to catch COVID-19 again.”

The study stated there was no evidence of a decline against re-infection within the follow-up period of six months.

Dr. Steen Ethelberg, one of the researchers for *The Lancet*, stated,

“Our study confirms what a number of others appeared to suggest: reinfection with COVID-19 is rare in younger, healthy people, but the elderly are at greater risk of catching it again. Since older people are also more likely to experience severe disease symptoms, and sadly die, our findings make clear how important it is to implement policies to protect the elderly during the pandemic.”

TRENDPOST: *Once again, the data proves the elderly are most at risk of dying from COVID – and, of course, as detailed by the CDC, 94 percent of virus victims were suffering from 2.6 preexisting comorbidities – and young, healthy people are least at risk from dying from the virus. Yet, these facts are ignored by the mainstream media and politicians who continue to lock down nations rather than taking measures to protect those most vulnerable to the virus.*

ISRAEL: BIG BROTHER BRACELET



As we reported in our 23 February article, **“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT”**:

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

Continuing its government assault on the freedom of its citizens, Israel's national legislature, the Knesset, approved a new restriction. As reported by *The Jerusalem Post* last Wednesday,

“All Israelis returning from abroad can be required to wear an electronic bracelet to ensure that they isolate at home, or be quarantined in a hotel, according to a bill approved by the Knesset.”

This latest restriction comes despite new data showing the number of Israelis with significant health issues as a result of the coronavirus dropped to under 600, the lowest since last December.

The legislation gives the government authority to force those who enter the country from abroad or from specific countries to choose between wearing the monitoring device or be quarantined, except for children under 14 and other special humanitarian cases.

Those who were inoculated or who recovered abroad can be released from the quarantine if they undergo a serological test to prove their level of antibodies.

Electronic devices have already been in use for several weeks voluntarily to ensure people do not break the quarantine.

According to the bill, the operation is carried out by private companies on behalf of the ministry. The information collected is stored in servers owned by the government but maintained by the companies. It is said the info will be deleted at the end of the period if there is no report of infraction or no longer than 30 days.

The private companies involved will inform the authorities if the person appears to leave their house.

TRENDPOST: As we have reported, 87 percent of the COVID death rate in Israel are people aged 65 or older, yet Israel, a world leader in vaccinating its citizens, is imposing some of the strictest regulations.

On Sunday, it was reported that schools can ban teachers who refuse to get vaccinated or, if not jabbed, must submit to a coronavirus test when going to work.

The Jerusalem Post reported Judge Meirav Kleiman stated in the decision that the court does not believe:

“The applicant’s apparent rights outweigh the respondent’s right and duty to care for the welfare of their students, educational staff and students’ parents – and in our opinion, the balance of convenience clearly leans, at this time, to the side of the respondent who believes in the safety of all who come through its gates – working and non-working – children and adults.”

We maintain our forecast for strong anti-vax political movements in nations across the globe. Among the candidates in Israel’s Knesset election today is Aryeh Avni, an anti-vax physician heading the Rapeh (“Heal”) party.

“FREE STATES” ENJOYING BETTER ECONOMIES, BETTER HEALTH



Florida and other states that avoided heavy-handed COVID lockdowns are reaping the rewards of liberty. While New York and California remain in an economic malaise, with no discernible health benefits from strict business and gathering restrictions, the Dakotas,

Florida, and even Texas, which has vacillated between stricter and lighter measures, have fared better.

Even pro-lockdown news outlets like *CNN* have paid a grudging nod to the real-world data that is substantiating the decisions of “free state” governors like Ron DeSantis and Kristi Noem.

“A year into the pandemic, Florida is booming and Republican Gov. DeSantis is taking credit,” *CNN*’s Jeff Zeleny recently reported.

“As many parts of the country embark on an uneasy march toward normalcy, Florida is not only back in business—it’s been in business for the better part of the past year. DeSantis’ gamble to take a laissez-faire approach appears to be paying off—at least politically, at least for now, as other governors capturing attention in the opening phase of the pandemic now face steeper challenges.”

CNN noted that Florida rated in the average of states regarding COVID statistics including cases and recorded 8 percent fewer deaths per capita than the U.S. as a whole.

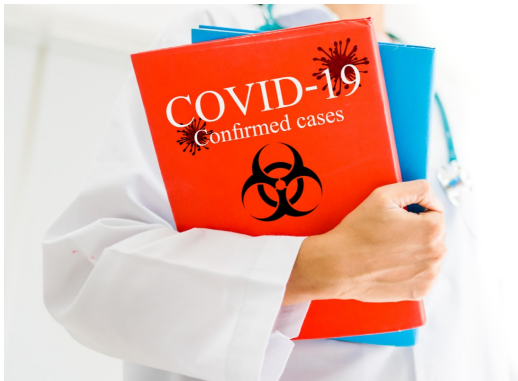
What’s true for light lockdown states has also been true for nations. In Europe, for example, Sweden earned scorn in 2020 for mostly avoiding mandatory business closures, social distancing, and mask-wearing. But by the middle of summer, while the continent was in a severe retraction, Sweden was faring better, according to the *BBC*:

“Sweden, which avoided a lockdown during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, saw its economy shrink 8.6% in the April-to-June period from the previous three months. The flash estimate from the Swedish statistics office indicated that the country had fared better than other EU nations which took stricter measures. By contrast, Spain and France, two strict lockdown Euro nations, saw economic contractions of 18.5% and 13.8% respectively.”

Currently, Florida’s unemployment rate stands at just 4.8 percent compared to 8.8 percent in New York and 9 percent in California.

Color *CNN* surprised. “DeSantis suddenly appears to be in a position of strength compared to some of his fellow governors, including many of whom took far more restrictive approaches to the fight against coronavirus that caused a trickle-down effect on the economy,” said Zeleny.

NEW STUDY: HALF OF COVID CASES UNREPORTED



Reported cases of COVID-19 may have been under-reported by as much as half, according to a [new antibody study](#). The upshot is that the lethality of the virus might be much lower than previous data suggests.

In raw numbers, the study estimated that 16 million more Americans than previously thought probably contracted COVID asymptotically as of September 2020.

“As of September, the scope of the pandemic was about double the number of reported cases,” study co-author Dr. Robert L. Stout told *UPI*. “The primary means of transmission of this virus is the asymptomatic population—the patient [who] is unaware of their infectious status and is therefore at risk of unknowing spreading the virus.”

Stout is a researcher at Lenexa Clinical Reference Laboratory, based in Kansas. The company specializes in health testing for life insurance applicants.

The study involved 62,000 people. It found that about 7 percent unknowingly had antibodies against the virus. That means they had cases they weren’t aware of since the infection did not present any symptoms that might have led them to report it or seek treatment. By some estimates, up to 80 percent of people who contract the COVID-19 virus experience little or no symptoms.

In the study, most of those with viral antibodies were in their late 30s or early 40s. Researchers hypothesized that people in that age range might be “unknowingly driving spread of the virus.”

But there are other ramifications the researchers didn’t address. If the COVID counts have been so dramatically underreported, that means the lethality rates currently accepted as “fact” are anything but. Previous to this study, it has been estimated that less than half of 1 percent of people aged 55 to 64 years old who died in 2020 died of COVID. And rates for younger ages were much lower. (Source: <https://www.heritage.org>.) The Lenexa antibodies study drives those numbers down even further.

THREE FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING NOW APPROVED



Breaking news: some molecular thing about COVID-19’s abilities to span distances – regarding K to 12 school children only – has just changed. It must be so because the CDC has suddenly updated its “science-based” guidelines for social distancing of children in school

settings.

This past Friday, federal health officials announced updated guidance on physical distancing in schools. They now say students only need to be three feet apart instead of six.

It appears even the diehard, left-leaning teachers’ unions are no longer buying the ever-evolving “science” of trusted experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci. American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said the union was concerned that the change had more to do with the lack of required physical space in schools than with “hard science” regarding aerosol exposure and transmission. Ms. Weingarten said,

“While we hope the CDC is right and these new studies convince the community that the most enduring safety standard of this pandemic—the 6-foot rule—can be jettisoned if we all wear masks, we will reserve judgment until we review them, especially as they apply in districts with high community spread and older buildings with ventilation challenges.”

Becky Pringle, president of the National Education Association, also voiced doubt about whether science was the primary driver of the CDC’s revised guidelines.

If the average non-science-expert American supposed that the new guidelines had something to do with the overall drop in COVID cases over the last two months, well, that would be mostly wrong. The CDC recommendation made clear the new guidelines are for all K-12 students, regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate, or substantial.

Even in communities where transmission is rated “high,” six feet of social distancing is now only being recommended for middle and high school students, not younger children. According to the CDC, older students are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 and spread it than younger children.

And adults in school settings? For them, the guidance remains six feet.

Explaining the changes, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said,

“CDC is committed to leading with science and updating our guidance as new evidence emerges... Safe in-person instruction gives our kids access to critical social and mental health services that prepare them for the future, in addition to the education they need to succeed.”

LOCKDOWNS = CHILD KILLERS



As we had forecast since the onset of the COVID War, the draconian lockdown rules would destroy the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions and kill more people than the virus.

A report released last week by UNICEF said the cut in essential health services in South Asia due to coronavirus restrictions may have contributed to the deaths of an additional 228,000 children under the age of five, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*.

“The generally restrictive measures taken to mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak have contributed to more deaths,” Atnafu Getachew Asfaw, the head of the UNICEF report said, according to the paper.

The *Journal* reported that in 2019, the region recorded 1.4 million deaths involving children under five. The report said the figure is expected to jump by about a quarter-million due to the lack of essential medical services that were not available. Additionally, the report said as many as 11,000 pregnant women in countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka could have died from a lack of access to health care.

MORE LOCKDOWNS & PROTESTS, NO EASTER CELEBRATIONS



France: Despite the empty bluster by French President Emmanuel Macron to resist ordering new lockdowns due to rising coronavirus cases, the country said Paris and other regions have been ordered to close up.

The *Financial Times* reported that the newly announced measures went into effect on Friday and are expected to last at least four weeks. The paper reported the country of 67 million has seen 30,000 new infections in recent days. Prime Minister Jean Castex, who has warned that the country is on the precipice of a third wave, said last week that 1,200 patients are in ICUs, which is higher than the peak at any time during the autumn's second wave.

The new lockdowns affect about a third of the country's population. *France 24* pointed out that the world has seen infections rise by 14 percent in the past week.

After the announcement of new lockdowns, Parisians were seen packing into trains to leave the city before the implementation. Trains bound for parts of the country where lockdown restrictions do not apply, like Brittany and Lyon, were booked, the *BBC* reported. There were also traffic jams heading out of the city despite traveling to other parts of the country being banned.

The French news station spoke to the mayor of a small town outside Paris who told businesses in Yerres to disregard the new orders, which he called "totally incomprehensible."

"Why would we catch COVID more in a shoe store than a bookshop?" he asked. The report pointed out that bookshops have been deemed essential during the lockdown and shoe stores nonessential.

The *FT* reported that some of the new guidelines include a strict 6 PM to 6 AM curfew, which has been in place for months, and the banning of travel between regions in the country. Schools will be able to stay open, the report said.

TRENDPOST: *As we have continued to detail since the COVID War was launched last March, we noted the infection rate for each country and the age and pre-existing health conditions of those who died from the virus. Essentially, the victims are elderly and those with 2.6 pre-existing chronic health conditions, as the CDC verifies.*

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

Austria: Despite thousands of protesters demonstrating against the government's draconian lockdown rules, on Saturday, the Austrian government declared yesterday that most of the nation will stay locked down through Easter.

Switzerland: About 8,000 protesters took to the streets in the Swiss town of Liestal to voice opposition to coronavirus lockdowns that have shuttered restaurants and bars in the city for months.

The city, which is about ten miles south of Basel, was home to a "silent protest" that included many without masks. Some wore all-white jumpsuits (similar to those you would see in a chemical lab), and "they walked in unison to somber funeral music playing in the background," according to the *AFP*.

Protesters held signs that slammed vaccines and equated mask-wearing to modern slavery. "Mask mandatory, shut your mouth," one sign read, according to the report.

Reports indicated that police did not try to confront these demonstrators.

Reuters reported the protest broke out just a day after Switzerland said it would delay plans to ease COVID-19 restrictions due to an increase in cases and a lackluster vaccine rollout.

"The risk of an uncontrolled increase in the number of cases is currently too great for further openings," the Swiss government said in a statement. "In addition, too few people have yet been vaccinated to prevent a sharp rise in hospitalizations."

The country was planning to reopen outdoor terraces for bars and restaurants on 22 March. *Swissinfo.ch* reported the only measure that has been eased in the

country is the limit on household gatherings. The number of people permitted inside homes increased from five to ten last Friday.

The *Reuters* report stated the country of 8.5 million has had a seven-day average of 1,285 cases, and new variants make up 80 percent of all new cases. Reports said the two-week running average is about 207 new cases per 100,000.

“We will have to be a bit more patient, unfortunately. We cannot justify another decision,” Alain Berset, the country’s health minister, said. “The situation is getting worse and we are at the start of a possible third wave.”

Iceland: Reykjavik, the country’s capital, announced it is back open for business for any tourist who has been vaccinated for the coronavirus.

The *Financial Times* reported that Iceland will demand all visitors prove full vaccination, which includes the vaccines from Russia and China. The report said the country is one of the first to reopen to global tourism.

France 24 reported the country’s economy relies on tourism, and the industry has been decimated. The report noted dozens of flights used to arrive daily at the country’s Keflavik International Airport, but on Thursday, only one flight from Frankfurt landed in the country with 150 passengers.

The report said tourism normally accounts for about 8.1 percent of its GDP. *France 24* reported that the country’s largest hotel chain has been forced to close six of its eight locations, and the current occupancy volume at the two is “currently lower than 10 percent.”

The country, which is a non-European Union member, already allowed vaccinated tourists to visit, and the current move is seen as an invitation to Americans and those in the U.K.

U.K.: Protesters in London gathered on Saturday to lash out at the city's coronavirus lockdown orders despite pleas from the Metropolitan Police Department.

The *Sun* reported that hundreds took to the streets and blocked traffic. The report said some of the signs read, "Stop destroying our kids' lives," and, "Yes sex is great, but have you ever been f***ed by the government?" Some of the protesters also lit flares. The protests were seen, in part, as a response to a new bill critics say will limit the rights of these kinds of demonstrations in the city.

About 60 lawmakers signed on to a letter that urged the government to allow protests during the coronavirus outbreak and called any restrictions an infringement on their freedoms, the *Associated Press* reported.

The report said the protest marks the first anniversary of when the British were told to lockdown, which was 23 March 2020.

The *Independent* newspaper reported there were 36 arrests as demonstrators clashed with city police officers. Scotland Yard told the paper that most of the arrests were due to COVID-19 infringements. The paper reported that a police official said "several" officers were injured in the clashes.

The *Independent* reported that, under the current guidelines, protesting is not an acceptable excuse to leave home.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor told the *Sun* that those who protest put all those in the city in danger of infection. He said punishment will not be limited to organizers of the protests "but participants, too." According to the *Sun*, the Commissioner said,

"By now everyone knows their part to play in stopping the spread of the virus and thousands have sacrificed much over the last 12 months to do so... We do not want to be in a position where enforcement is necessary—we would rather our officers be in London's communities, tackling local

issues. That is why I would urge people to reconsider joining a protest and stay at home.”

TRENDPOST: *We warned that governments would use coronavirus restrictions to enforce a power grab on every single aspect of citizens’ lives.*

It is particularly disturbing to witness police crack down at a vigil for a woman who was allegedly murdered by Wayne Couzens, a Metropolitan Police officer. The clash at Sarah Everard’s memorial showed officers physically removing women during the vigil, and there were subsequent calls for the chief of the department to resign. She did not.

On Sunday, thousands of protesters took the streets in the British city of Bristol over a crime bill that would rob the people of their liberties and give sweeping, new broad powers to the police to crack down on peaceful demonstrations and protests.

Germany: Hamburg announced last week it would enforce a citywide lockdown due to a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, according to reports.

The country’s second-largest city has experienced over 100 new cases per 100,000 over the past seven days, *Deutsche Welle* reported. The report said the city’s mayor, Peter Tschentscher, reversed plans to reopen the city. He said it is becoming evident that the city is dealing with its third wave of infections. He justified the lockdowns by saying they have proven to be effective in slowing the virus in the past.

The report pointed out that some of the guidelines include mandatory mask-wearing of only FFP2 masks or medical-grade coverings – not the ubiquitous cloth coverings.

TRENDPOST: *Tschentscher continues to ignore the fact that the city of 1.7 million had been reemerging from its previous lockdown, which, evidently, did little to stop the spread of the virus.*

This is a trend we have been reporting, as evidenced by the no-lockdown-laws in the state of Florida compared to the strict lockdown orders imposed on the citizens of New York State. To date, Florida, with a population of 21.5 million, has registered 32,700 virus deaths compared to New York State, with a population of 19.5 million and 49,700 virus victims since the COVID War broke out over a year ago.

German Protests

Tens of thousands took to the streets on Saturday in the German city of Kassel to express their dismay over measures imposed by the government to slow the spread of the coronavirus, according to the *Associated Press*.

The report said the protest occurred just a day after German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced the country may have to implement new restrictions due to an increase in cases.

“I had hoped that we would manage without using this emergency brake, but that won’t be possible if I look at the development of the past days,” Merkel said at a news conference on Friday.

A draft plan obtained by news agencies on Sunday said several states want to extend restrictions into April, *DW.com* reported.

“As long as testing and vaccinations aren’t in full swing, we have to postpone planned openings and take another step back into the lockdown,” Saskia Esken, the co-leader of the center-left Social Democrats said.

Markus Söder, the minister-president of Bavaria and leader of the Christian Social Union, reportedly said the pandemic could turn into an “endless wave,” the *DW* report said.

The country of 83.02 million has had a total of 74,565 deaths since the start of the outbreak and recorded 16,033 new cases on Saturday.

The report said the protest turned violent when demonstrators clashed with police and counter-protesters. The wire service, citing local news outlets, reported many of the approximately 20,000 marchers flouted mask rules and some attacked police.

Finland: Protests broke out in Helsinki to voice outrage over COVID-19 restrictions in the country, and many held placards, including one that read, “Facts and numbers don’t add up,” according to the *Associated Press*.

The small Scandinavian country, with a population of about 5.5 million, has a total of 805 deaths from the virus since the start of the outbreak. Finland’s Prime Minister Sanna Marin, who warned last year she was concerned lockdowns could lead to a societal shift to populist parties, announced earlier this month that the virus is a “bad situation and deteriorating.” (See our 1 December article, [“FINNISH LEADER: BEWARE OF ‘POPULISTS.’”](#))

TRENDPOST: *Matti Reinikainen, a health care expert in Finland who heads anesthesiology and intensive care at Kuopio University Hospital, said he noticed that less-invasive care has helped speed patients’ recovery, according to YLE.fi. This raises the question: how many COVID-19 deaths were the result of overzealous medical intervention?*

Reinikainen said doctors in the country have, at times, turned away from ventilators, and they have tried to treat patients with the corticosteroid dexamethasone to stop inflammation and prevent lung damage. (The report pointed out that this drug was also used by former President Trump.)

About 25 percent of the new ICU patients are between the ages of 70 and 79.

*As the **Trends Journal** has noted, COVID has a very low mortality rate for the very young, who have been very punished with the lockdowns. Also, there are conflicting data as to whether those who are considered asymptomatic can spread the virus.*

Romania: Bucharest was hit with anti-vaccination protests on Saturday as the country recorded its highest number of patients in ICUs since the start of the coronavirus outbreak.

The *Associated Press* reported that some of the placards read, “Parents, protect your children!” and “Block vaccination.” The report stated the far-right AUR party threw its weight behind these demonstrations against vaccines.

The country of 19.41 million currently has 1,334 patients in ICUs, according to the *AP*, and it has been seeing its highest amount of new cases in months, the report said. The country has had nearly 900,000 infections since the start of the outbreak and 22,208 deaths.

Prime Minister Florin Citu vowed that the country will not go into any national lockdowns despite the increase in cases. He said his “very clear answer is: NO.”

Bulgaria: The top health official in Bulgaria announced a new lockdown in the country due to an increase in coronavirus cases, *EuroNews* reported.

Kostadin Angelov, the health minister, said last week that hospitalizations in the country are reaching an all-time high, and 670 people are currently in ICUs. The report said all COVID wards are full, and about 50 percent of hospital beds are occupied. Just a week before announcing the new lockdowns, he called the situation in the country “serious but under control.”

He said restaurants, schools, and malls will be forced to close and stay shuttered for at least ten days. The report said only businesses deemed essential (grocery stores and pharmacies) can remain open. Angelov admitted the public may look at the guidelines as “inconsistent,” but he assured them that “all the decisions we have made up until now have been based on science and on everything that is happening around us.”

The country, which is the EU’s poorest member state, has a 4 April election, and observers have considered how politics may have played a role in the new restrictions. Prime Minister Boyko Borisov could “take advantage of this

anxiety-provoking context to win the elections,” the report said, citing analysts. The country expects a low turnout and an embrace of the familiar leadership.

The report said Borisov’s GERB party is leading in polls by about five percent against its socialist opposition. *Reuters* reported that a poll by Trend, an independent research group, showed 28.8 percent of Bulgarians plan to support GERB and 23.6 percent would support the Socialist Party.

SOUTHERN CA REOPENS THEME PARKS, SCREAMING PROHIBITED



You’ll just have to zip it up.

Parts of Southern California have moved into the so-called red tier of the state’s reopening guidelines, which means that amusement parks will be able to reopen to the public... with restrictions.

Theme parks such as Disneyland, Six Flags, and Universal Studios have been closed since March 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak but will be able to open their gates on 1 April, so long as they operate at 15-percent capacity, according to *CBS Los Angeles*. They will also accept only in-state visitors.

Enjoy the Rides, but Screaming not Allowed

A trade group representing theme parks said last week they are behind a plan that would enforce a “no screaming” rule to prevent transmission of the virus.

“Face covering usage and/or modifications to see loading patterns will be required on amusement park rides to mitigate the effects of shouting,” the California Attractions and Parks Association said in a statement. “Additionally, on rides, guests generally face in one direction.”

In July, California had banned singing and chanting inside churches due to the “increased likelihood for transmission of COVID-19 through contaminated exhaled droplets,” according to an order by the state’s Department of Public Health.

Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told the *Los Angeles Times* if the caseload in cities such as Los Angeles continues to drop, the area could move into a less-restrictive orange tier. The paper said that to move from red to orange, there must be a case rate of 3.9 or fewer per 100,000 people tested daily.

TRENDPOST: *Any reader of this magazine is aware of the many arbitrary health guidelines that have been in place for a year, which are completely made up and lack scientific data to support them. The latest, as we report on in this issue, is how the CDC now says schools can place children three feet apart rather than six. (See our new article, “[THREE FEET OF SOCIAL DISTANCING NOW APPROVED.](#)”)*

The long list of lockdown measures, again unsupported by scientific fact and/or hard data, has devastated nearly every socioeconomic aspect of society. Indeed, as proven by the facts we have presented in issue after issue since the COVID War began a year ago, the lockdown cure has been worse than the disease.

This January, we ran the article, “[COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES](#),” which points to a senior researcher at the American Institute for Economic Research (AIE), Phil Magness, who reviewed the past year of lockdowns, false claims, and failed government policies in dealing with the spread of COVID.

TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED

Unlike the majority of vaccines that have been developed to cope with childhood diseases, the data has been clear for some time that children are not nearly as vulnerable to COVID as adults.

Indeed, we have reported these facts since the COVID War was launched last March. See our November 17 articles:

[KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID](#)

[MORE EVIDENCE KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID TO ADULTS](#)

[DATA CONFIRMS SCHOOLS AREN'T SUPER-SPREADERS](#)

This hasn't stopped the multi-billion-dollar drug dealers, i.e., the pharmaceutical industry, from aggressively marketing the need for children to get vaccinated.

As *Bloomberg News* reported on 15 March:

“Children have fared better than adults in the coronavirus pandemic, a fact that makes the development of vaccines for them a unique effort in the annals of medical science.”

A “unique effort”? It’s important to note that if it were so important, why were so few children involved in the safety trial periods for the current vaccines? As *Bloomberg* stated, “While Pfizer had around 40,000 in its adult studies, it is testing a far smaller number in its trial in children: just 2,300.”

According to *Bloomberg*, a 4 March report by the American Academy of Pediatrics revealed,

“Almost 3.2 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 in 49 states that report cases by age. But at a time when more than a half-million COVID-related deaths have been reported in the U.S., only about 250 children have died in the 43 states that track mortality by age.”

TRENDPOST: *The children’s death rate is a minuscule 0.008 percent, and, as reported by the CDC, the virus recovery rate for people aged 1-20 is 99.997 percent. Moreover, the CDC’s data, published on its website, shows that in the 2019-2020 flu season, 188 children died from the flu (compared to 250 from COVID).*

As the Mayo Clinic reported on 23 February, “Most kids who are infected [by COVID-19] typically don’t become as sick as adults.”

And confirmed by Dr. Michael Hefferon, assistant professor in the pediatrics department at Queen’s University in Ontario, COVID-19 is “a disease of adults, and the older you get, the more sinister it is. Therefore, children are less relevant.”

Dr. Hefferon saw no valid reason to vaccinate kids:

“If you take it that grandma and grandpa are going to be vaccinated on a mass scale under present plans, why vaccinate children? That’s kind of a moral dilemma to be considered.”

Drug Deal

Only in America do drug companies have such an influential role in what Dr. Hefferon cites as a “moral dilemma.” (See our article from last week, [“BRITS CALL AMERICAN DRUG ADS ‘POST-APOCALYPTIC.’”](#))

Dr. Hefferon made it very clear: “The question shouldn’t just be can you inoculate children safely and effectively, but also why you’re doing it.”

Ignoring the data, billion-dollar drug companies, aided and abetted by many mainstream doctors, are pushing hard for kids to get jabbed with a vaccine, which, in addition to bypassing normal length safety trials, barely tested any children at all. Yet, *Bloomberg* reports that the American Academy of Pediatrics is on board the “get children vaccinated” express:

“In a Feb. 25 letter to the White House and top U.S. health officials, the group’s president, Lee Savio Beers, wrote that having a COVID-19 vaccine for children ‘is essential for our nation to end the pandemic.’ And she added, ‘We cannot allow children to be an afterthought when they have shared so much burden throughout this pandemic.’”

Drug companies and their medical cheerleaders are also pushing hard to get teenagers aged 12-17 vaccinated. This, even though, according to data from the American Council on Science on Health, during the first four months of the pandemic, the percentage of deaths among 5- to 14-year-olds was 0.013 percent, and the percentage among 14- to 25-year-olds was only 0.1 percent.

The updated data is just as telling. The American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) published a report last Wednesday that stated, “In fact,

preliminary data suggest COVID accounted for barely 1.2% of all deaths in the under-25 age group.”

(For more essential data from the AIER report, see our article in this issue, [“MORE KIDS DIE FROM SUICIDE THAN COVID.”](#))

One of those pushing hard for getting teenagers vaccinated is Dr. Robert Frenck, director of the Vaccine Research Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and a principal investigator for the Pfizer trial. Dr. Frenck said,

“For children 12 years of age and up, there will be a vaccine available before the next school year. Just looking at the timelines, it’s probably more likely the end of 2021 to early 2022 for younger kids, but maybe it’ll go a little faster than that.”

And, as *Bloomberg* reports,

“Meanwhile, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna Inc., and the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE partnership are all making fast progress in trials in children ages 12 to 15 at a time when mitigation measures are slipping and a new school year is just six months away.”

UPDATE: EURO “DIGITAL GREEN PASS” GAINING SPEED



On 9 March, the **Trends Journal** reported, “The European Commission introduced its plans to produce a ‘Digital Green Pass’ that would alert travel authorities if a traveler has been jabbed by a coronavirus vaccine, a report said... If all goes well, the bill could be introduced by July.” (For

more, see our article, [“EU GREEN PASS FOR VACCINATED.”](#))

Updating the plan, *Euronews* reported last Wednesday,

“The Digital Green Certificate will serve as an assurance that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result or recovered from COVID-19. It will be available, free of charge, in digital or paper format. It will include a QR code to ensure security and authenticity of the certificate.”

The EU states the purpose of the new mandate is to ensure “safe and free movement” during the pandemic.

The Digital Green Certificate will comprise three distinct certificates:

“Vaccination certificates, stating brand of the vaccine used, data and place of inoculation and number of doses administered.

Negative test certificates (either a NAAT/RT-PCR test or a rapid antigen test). Self-tests will be excluded for the time being.

Medical certificates for people who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 180 days.”

The EU clarified that “individual member states could decide whether or not they accept vaccines that EMA (European Medicines Agency) has not yet green-lighted. Countries like Hungary are already deploying shots from Sputnik V, from Russia, and Sinopharm from China.”

The most prominent part of the new Digital Green Pass will be a QR code, which the EU states will enhance “security and authenticity” and be limited to “essential information” including date of birth and a “unique identifier.”

According to *TechCrunch.com*,

“Asked after the briefing whether or not the EU system will incorporate blockchain components, a Commission spokesman sidestepped the

question, saying only: ‘The gateway will link the national public key directories for the signature keys. We cannot yet tell you who will implement this technically.’”

Among the most fervent supporters of the new mandate are countries heavily dependent on tourism such as Spain, Croatia, and Greece – whose economies have been battered by the extended lockdowns.

No Shot, No Travel?

The Digital Green Pass has not been fully supported by the WHO, which stated,

“There are still critical unknowns regarding the efficacy of vaccination such as how much jabs limit the transmission of the virus, how much they protect against asymptomatic infection, and how long the immunity lasts. Considering that there is limited availability of vaccines, preferential vaccination of travelers could result in inadequate supplies of vaccines for priority populations considered at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease.”

It’s important to note that despite the WHO criticism of the Digital Green Pass, it has plans of its own to implement a system for documenting who is and who is not vaccinated. As *Euronews* reports, Hans Kluge, WHO Europe’s regional director, said while his organization doesn’t agree that vaccination should determine international travel,

“We encourage very strongly, as with any vaccine, that there is documentation, whether it is paper-based or preferably digital, which is why WHO is working on a smart digital certificate. But this is something different than a passport.”

TRENDPOST: *This past weekend, Alan Joyce, the CEO of Australian airline Qantas, told the BBC “governments are going to insist” as “a condition of entry,” that international travelers must be jabbed before boarding.*

The WHO's director of digital health and innovation, Bernardo Mariano, told the BBC, "We don't approve the fact that a vaccinations passport should be a condition for travel."

Joyce, a clown of a CEO, a cowardly little boy who got [a pie smooshed in his face](#) by a farmer when he was giving a speech in Perth in 2017 and did nothing to defend himself or respond to the attacker, is a symbol of the arrogant boys and girls running and ruining the lives of society as they declare dictates for the masses.

Indeed, of a higher order than the peasants of Slavelandia, as reported by The New Daily newspaper, celebrities and billionaires are permitted to bypass Australia's hotel quarantine system with the sheer power of money. (See [article here.](#))

JAB UPDATE: BLOOD CLOTS & U.S. MILITARY RESISTANCE



Last week, we reported in the **Trends Journal** that blood clotting after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine caused a number of European countries to halt further shots until more data could be collected (See our article, ["VACCINE HALTED IN EUROPE."](#))

Last Saturday, Denmark reported another death and one case of blood clotting with cerebral hemorrhage from the shot. Both were hospital staff. *Reuters* reported on Saturday that the acting Director of Pharmacovigilance at the Danish Medicines Agency, Tanja Erichsen, stated,

"We prioritize reports of suspected serious side effects such as these and examine them thoroughly to assess whether there is a possible link to the vaccine."

Sweden and Norway issued statements on Friday also citing additional research was required before deciding to resume this vaccine. A Norwegian medical team, according to *Reuters*, “Concluded that the hospitalizations of three medical workers there, including one who died, were probably caused by an immune response to the vaccine.”

While Germany was among some EU countries confident enough to allow a full return to AstraZeneca shots, confusion reigns, as EU countries differ on how much to trust the opinions of EU’s Medicines Agency (EMA).

Making it Up as They Go Along

In France, *Reuters* reported on Friday that the country’s medical regulator “approved the resumption of AstraZeneca vaccinations on Friday, but in a break with guidance from the European watchdog said it should be given only to people aged 55 and older.”

Adding to the confusion, as *Reuters* reported,

“On Thursday, the European Medicines Agency said the vaccine was safe for all age groups. It said it was convinced the benefits outweighed the risks after reports of rare instances of blood clotting. However, France’s National Authority for Health (HAS) took note of evidence that the clotting affected younger people mostly, whose risk of dying from COVID-19 was lower than the elderly, and departed from the EMA’s line....

‘When it comes to AstraZeneca, I have to say I sympathize with those who struggle to make sense of it all,’ said Marie-Louise Pradin, a doctor based in the northern city of Lille.”

The *Washington Post* report last Thursday confirmed the confusion:

“The decisions to pause use of the AstraZeneca vaccine had divided both the scientific community and Europe. Some experts have argued that the extremely unusual and deadly nature of blood clots detected, even if in tiny

numbers, warrant caution. Others said hasty decisions will have an irreparable effect on confidence in the vaccine.”

TRENDPOST: To promote the use of the controversial AstraZeneca vaccine, on Friday, both U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French Prime Minister Jean Castex were given major media coverage, showing the squeamish boys with their masks on and flabby arms (supposedly) getting jabbed with the shot.

Don't Shoot Me

On Friday, CNN reported:

“Despite a massive effort by the Pentagon to promote the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, the US military’s opt-out rate for vaccinations may be far higher than the 33% figure defense officials have used publicly... Conversations with military medical officials and service members, as well as data from several bases and units around the country, suggest the current rejection rate may be closer to 50%.”

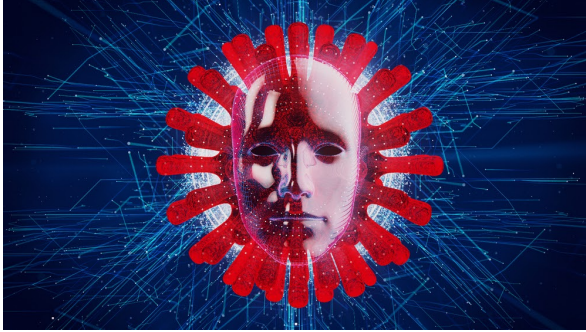
TREND FORECAST: As we have reported and the data proves, the vast majority of the coronavirus deaths are the elderly and those suffering from at least 2.6 pre existing chronic conditions. Thus, as evidenced this past weekend in Miami, where a state of emergency was called because the city could not control the masses of young people celebrating an “anything goes” Spring Break/party attitude, to them it’s an “old person’s disease.”

Same, too, with the military. Since some 50 percent of all military personnel are under the age of 25 and over 80 percent are under 35, according to CNN, most of the anti-vax resistance is coming from younger troop members. “The depressed vaccine acceptance rate is driven largely by a hesitancy among younger service members. Officials who spoke to CNN say younger troops generally feel Covid-19 poses little risk to them.”

And, since military protocol states that any vaccine released under the Emergency Use Authorization of the FDA, such as the COVID-19 vaccines,

cannot be made mandatory, that will change if/when the FDA changes the status of the vaccine to mandatory. Thus, the troops would be forced to get injected.

BIG TECH HELPING BIG PHARMA PUSH VACCINES



This week, little attention was paid to a new antibody study that further downgrades the actual lethality of COVID for virtually any relatively healthy person under the age of 70. The study showed cases of COVID in the U.S. have been

undercounted by as much as half.

Instead, the focus was on making an even bigger push to get vaccinations for every demographic, no matter how minuscule the threat of the virus to their well-being. Dr. Anthony Fauci was hogging cameras and moving goalposts again for “herd immunity,” this time claiming toddlers would “probably need to be vaccinated.”

Meanwhile, former President Trump was on *Fox News* in an interview with Maria Bartiromo, exhorting his recalcitrant support base to get their shots.

But not to fear. Tech companies are quickly stepping in with apps that track all the who, what’s, and where’s of getting vaccinated. The *Wall Street Journal* detailed initiatives by various tech giants to assist Big Pharma and Big Government in pushing the vax:

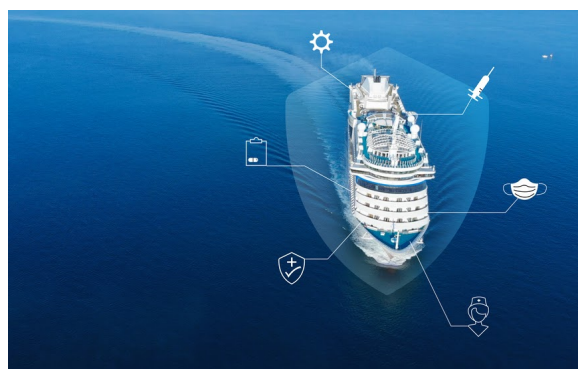
- **Apple:** In Apple Maps, users can search for vaccine locations and see local results plotted out with addresses, hours, phone numbers, and links to websites. The information comes courtesy of VaccineFinder, operated by Boston Children’s Hospital.

- **Facebook:** The pervasive social network has a dedicated “COVID-19 Information Center” that contains a vaccine-location search tool, also powered by VaccineFinder. In the mobile app, an icon leads to the COVID-19 Information Center. In a web browser, users can click “See More” in the toolbar.
- **Google:** A search for “COVID vaccines” in the Google Maps mobile app brings up a list of locations offering the vaccines, as well as eligibility information. A search of “COVID vaccine” in the Google search engine leads to a vaccine page with a breakdown of how many doses were given in the country, recent news, and other information.

Of course, none of the “helpful links” include information skeptical about any aspect of the COVID vaccines. That, despite numerous Euro nations recently halting distribution of the Astra-Zeneca version due concerns over dangerous blood clots associated with vaccinations.

For now, the media, with the help of Big Tech, is mostly suppressing the reality that soon after the masses are vaccinated, “new strains” of COVID will undoubtedly require more vaccinations, masking, and limits on human activity.

GET VAXXED TO TAKE A CRUISE



While major cruise lines have pushed their return to sea until fall, the two-ship Crystal Cruise Line, based in Hong Kong, has announced July cruises in the Bahamas.

The ships will offer easy access to U.S. voyagers but be out of reach of the CDC’s jurisdiction and its guidelines for setting to sea that larger cruise lines are abiding by.

The company's plan has been welcomed by the Bahamas, which depends on tourists for half its jobs and more than half its GDP. More than two-thirds of the islands' 7.2 million annual visitors arrive by ship.

Genting Hong Kong, the Crystal line's parent company, will welcome the cash flow.

Last August, it suspended its debt payments and warned of a \$1.5-billion loss looming in 2020. It also has been criticized for being slow to refund payments to passengers for canceled cruises.

Crystal has established its own health protocols, inspired by those of Dream Cruises, which has run local trips around Singapore and Taiwan for seven months without reporting a single resulting COVID infection.

Crystal passengers will be required to show proof of COVID vaccinations before boarding, get a Bahamian Travel Health Visa, pass a COVID test on the cruise's fifth day, and another to re-enter the U.S., the company said.

Crystal's ship will have its own COVID testing lab.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



CHINA TELLS U.S. TO FU

It's over. But you would never know it from the mainstream media. Last week in Anchorage, AK, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his team met with their Chinese counterparts.

After Blinken's opening remarks warning the Chinese to follow "rules-based international order," and the follow-up by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan who told the delegation the U.S. would not tolerate Chinese "economic and military coercion to assaults on basic values," the Chinese delegation, in Mandarin, told them to both to go "F" themselves.

The meeting was the first between the two countries since President Biden took office. It has been a source of speculation of how Biden will approach China, and if this meeting were any indicator, he will attempt to continue former President Trump's tough posture against Beijing.

As with the Trump administration, China will not submit to U.S. demands and will do as it pleases.

In a show of force, just a day before the meeting, the U.S. slapped 24 Chinese officials with economic sanctions that prompted one of the officials from Beijing to say, “This is not supposed to be the way one should welcome his guests.”

One of the key topics discussed was human rights. Blinken mentioned Xinjiang and the crackdown in Hong Kong. His Chinese counterpart mentioned the Black Lives Matter movement and how “many people in the United States actually have little confidence in the democracy of the United States.”

Yang Jiechi, the top diplomat from China, said the U.S. took a “condescending” approach to the meeting and essentially said Washington should get its house in order before accusing other countries of human rights abuses, according to *The New York Times*. He, too, pointed to the Black Lives Matter movement that gained steam after the death of George Floyd in police custody last year.

“I don’t think the overwhelming majority of countries in the world would recognize the universal values advocated by the United States, or that the opinions of the United States could represent international public opinion,” Yang said, according to *The Times*. He said he found it unlikely that the “international order” would follow the guidelines put in place by a “small number of people.”

2021 TOP TREND FORECAST: As we had forecast as one of our Top Trends for 2021, and what was clearly evident by the words and outcome of the Anchorage meeting, “CHINA 2021: THE CHINESE CENTURY,” is the new world order.

The 20th century was the American century. Throughout that century and into the 21st, the business of America is war. While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation’s businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure.

And while America and Europe have outsourced their manufacturing to China and developing nations to increase profit margins, China's dual circulation/self-sustaining economic model is directed toward keeping jobs and trade and profits within the nation, thus relying less on global trade.

It should be noted that U.S. presidents, especially Barack Obama, used to brag about "American exceptionalism." As the nation declines financially, socially, physically, and mentally, that phrase is no longer repeated by American politicians.

And, while the Western world locked down and now with some re-locking down their economies, China, where the virus first broke out, was and has been completely reopened.

On the economic front, the business of business is business. Tao Wang, Chief China Economist and Head of Asia Economic Research at UBS, told CNBC that investors from the U.S. "continue to be very interested in investing in [the] Chinese market. Especially from the bond market perspective, there is a structural increase in the interest."

So, too, with Hong Kong. As Beijing stamped down the protests and took full control of the city, we have reported the series of major financial institutions and banks moving into Hong Kong to position themselves to cash in on "The Chinese Century."

Militarily, the U.S. will not confront China, and, in time, the Chinese will take what they want and do what they want in their region.

TRENDPOST: *A senior official from the U.S. told the Financial Times last week that the Biden administration warned China it will continue to enforce sanctions against Iran as reports indicate that Beijing has been increasing its imports from Tehran "for some time now."*

The consensus being promoted by Washington is that President Biden is in favor of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal that President Trump had pulled out of, which

gave Tehran billions in sanctions relief in exchange for it suspending its nuclear program. Iran has made it clear that it wants all of the Trump-era sanctions lifted before it sits down to negotiate.

The FT reported that energy analysts say Tehran has been offering Beijing generous discounts, and the Chinese seem all too willing to take advantage of the deal. The paper, citing Kpler, the energy research company, reported that in February, China imported about 478,000 barrels of oil each day from Iran and plans to increase the number to one million in March.

We note this business deal between China and Iran to further illustrate Beijing's disregard for not only U.S. sanctions, but its willingness to do what it wishes, knowing that in the near future, China will be #1... and will be giving, not taking, world orders.

ITALY: POPULIST MOVEMENTS DEAD, PART II



The **Trends Journal** has been covering the dramatic shift in the Italian parliament and its embrace of the European Union after Mario Draghi was sworn in as the country's prime minister.

In our 23 February report, **“DRAGHI: BANKSTER CONTROL OF ITALIA,”** we pointed out that Draghi, who most recently was President of the European Central Bank, served as Vice Chairman of Goldman Sachs International, was former Governor of the Bank of Italy, and worked for the World Bank, etc., with an unblemished Bankster track record... symbolizes the destruction of the anti-euro, anti-eurozone, anti-immigration populist movements when their leaders voted Draghi into office.

After accepting the nomination, Mr. Draghi announced,

“This government emerges on the basis of our country’s membership in the European Union and the Atlantic alliance... Supporting this government means sharing the irreversibility of the decision for the euro, it means sharing the view of an increasingly integrated European Union.”

The *Financial Times* reported that Draghi’s emergence has “shaken up Italian politics,” and said, “the country’s once determinedly Eurosceptic parties are now barely recognizable.”

Repeating what we had forecast last week, the *FT* pointed out that the once-upon-a-time surge in the 2018 election for politicians who no longer wanted to rely on fiscal rules doled out from Brussels seems to be at its nadir. The two populist parties, The League party and the Five Star Movement, have taken a middle-of-the-road government path.

Roberta Pinotti, an Italian politician and member of the Democratic Party, told the *FT* that Draghi may be giving these parties a chance to rebrand themselves “in terms of ideas both to reposition themselves and work efficiently in parliament.”

Rather than calling the destruction of the populist movements, she rebranded them as a “maturing of all the political forces.”

Elena Pavan, a League mayor, told the *FT*,

“We have seen that extremism leads nowhere if you want to build something... Politics is looking for answers to concrete problems like never before, and I believe that all parties have chosen a sense of responsibility and entrusting themselves to Draghi.”

Citing unnamed sources, the *FT* reported that Five Star is working on a political makeover and will likely shed its radical ways and embrace a more mainstream position.

The Five Star Movement, an online movement founded by comedian Beppe Grillo, attracted 32.7 percent of the vote in 2018, but it has seen its support slip to about 15 percent in recent days. Following the announcement of former Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to take the leadership role, an SWG poll showed the party could now gain 6 percent.

TREND FORECAST: Earlier this month, the ***Trends Journal*** forecast that the populist movement in Italy is dead and “the Banksters are in charge of Italy.” Despite both the Five Star Movement and the Northern League, movements that had campaigned on breaking away from the European Union, doing away with the euro, and restoring the lira... both parties voted for Draghi to become Prime Minister. Thus, the populist movements and what they pretended to represent are dead in Italy.

Alessandro Zan, an MP from the Democratic party, told the FT last week that the coronavirus outbreak has played a major role in the political shifts in the country, and the “great shock” has led to a “collegiality that until a few years ago was not seen, or did not exist at all.”

With Prime Minister Draghi having now ordered much of Italy to again lock down, we forecast there will be a reinvigoration of populist movements in Italy and other locked-down nations as the socioeconomic toll of their draconian measures sinks nations deep into the “Greatest Depression.”

TURKEY: NO POLITICAL OPPOSITION PERMITTED



In our 5 January article, “**ERDOGAN POWER GRAB OR LOSING POWER?**,” we reported the Turkish president seemed intent on consolidating power when the country’s parliament passed a bill granting new government control over non-government organizations (NGOs).

The move was seen as the door slowly opening to abolish all rights groups in the country, which critics said was a clear threat to any dissent in the country that was aimed at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rule.

Last week, Ankara's push to shut down the People's Democratic Party (HDP) prompted criticism from countries in Europe and the U.S. that called the legal effort a threat to democracy. Ankara claimed the party, which has a Kurdish base, has links to extremism that puts the country at risk and jeopardizes its unity, the *Financial Times* reported.

Bekir Sahin, the chief public prosecutor, told the Supreme Court of Appeals last Wednesday there was no difference between the HDP and the PKK terror group. He called on the court to ban the group from all financial support from the country and an immediate ban on its political leaders, the *Daily Sabah* reported.

Pervin Buldan, the co-chair of the HDP, said the move will "be recorded as a black stain in Turkey's history." Ms. Buldan called the move "a coup to usurp the will of the people." Mithat Sancar, the other chair of the party, said the indictment is an attempt to distract the public from Erdogan's handling of the coronavirus outbreak.

Josep Borrell, the European Union foreign policy chief, condemned the move and said it adds to the concerns from the bloc about Turkey's "backsliding in fundamental rights."

TREND FORECAST: As Gerald Celente has long noted, "When all else fails they take you to war."

Besides suffering blowback from banning the HDP, the Turkish lira plummeted some 15 percent yesterday, falling to a near all-time low against the U.S. dollar after President Erdogan fired the central bank governor on Saturday because he raised interest rates to battle inflation. (See our new article, "[TURKEY'S CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR FIRED AFTER RATE HIKE](#).")

With the nation facing financial distress and political upheaval, Erdogan redirected the nation's attention by launching airstrikes on Ayn Issa and the surrounding areas, which is Syrian Kurdish territory. Reportedly killing a dozen Kurdish troops, Turkey has illegally occupied much of northern Syria under the guise of keeping the Kurds from threatening its border.

ALGERIANS: BACK TO THE STREETS



As we reported in the **Trends Journal** in February 2019, Algeria was being rocked by protests following the decision by then-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to run for a fifth term. His regime was accused of having taken control of revenues from the country's natural

resources and used them to pay off political cronies and financial supporters.

Pressure from protests led by the movement Hirak, also known as the Revolution of Smiles, forced Bouteflika to resign. Those protests were wholly peaceful.

Algerians, particularly the youth and poorer classes, have suffered chronic corruption, economic stagnation, and unemployment for over a decade. A steep decline in oil and gas prices has further weakened already deteriorating economic conditions.

Back to the Streets

As with many other nations where protests were raging in 2019, they were stopped by the Algerian government in the name of fighting the COVID War.

Last week, thousands of young protesters in Algeria were back on the streets holding rallies in the country demanding major reforms to its ruling system and for a press in the country that is unbiased and free, according to reports.

Reporters Without Borders identified Algeria as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to press freedom. It now ranks 146 out of 180 countries in the category, a drop of 27 places since 2015, an *AFP* report noted. The country has even clashed with international news agencies, including *France 24*, and threatened to withdraw the broadcaster.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *In America, the nation that attacks foreign countries, destroying entire nations and killing millions in the name of bringing freedom and democracy, ranks 45th in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, just ahead of Papa New Guinea.*

“Freedom means expressing myself how I want and not how you want,” one sign at a protest read, according to the *AFP*. These protesters seem to have three main goals: they want a free and unbiased press, a new ruling system, and an “independent judiciary.” The report pointed out that although Bouteflika did not run again, the government consists of many from the old guard, *IPS Journal* reported.

Some news outlets have compared the protests in Algeria to the Spring Awakening that took place in countries during the Arab Spring ten years ago.

The country has been hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak and food prices there have tripled.

TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”: *As we had forecast in December 2020, in 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.*

In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will.

Thus, we maintain our forecast that protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.

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

ISRAEL ACCUSED OF BOMBING SYRIA



The **Trends Journal** has long been reporting Israel’s escalating aggression against Syria and Iran. And now, with more bombs away over Syria last week, they are reportedly testing the limits and extents of what the Biden administration will accept.

Earlier this month, we ran the article, [“ISRAEL TARGETS IRANIAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA,”](#) which detailed Tel Aviv using various forms of weaponry, including mines, to impede the shipment of Iranian oil to Syria in an effort to hurt their economies. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Israel targeted at least a dozen of these tankers.

Last week, a Syrian military source told *The Jerusalem Post* that air defenses in Damascus responded to an airstrike from Israel near the capital city. They believed the attack occurred after there were reports of cargo shipments of weaponry between Iran and Syria, the report said. Syrian air defenses were successful in preventing any substantial damage.

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

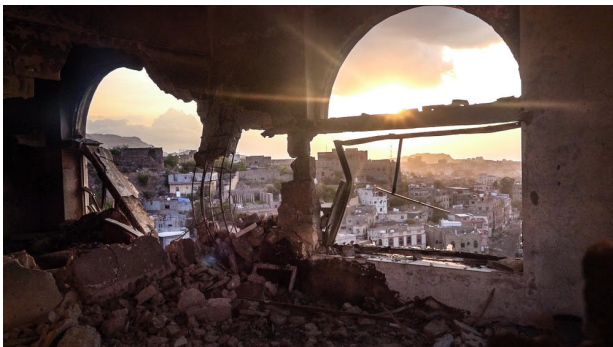
TREND FORECAST: *Israel will ramp up tensions with Syria and Iran and there will be no substantive peace measures taken with the Palestinians. The Israeli “settlement” trend of annexing Palestinian land will continue, and the Biden administration will maintain America’s unconditional support for Israel.*

How far and how fast tensions in the area escalate will also be determined today as Israelis go to the polls in their fourth election in two years. There has been a political stalemate since December 2018 when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu initiated the first election.

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.

It is suggested that Netanyahu’s priority is to retain his position as prime minister since there is a legal loophole he can jump through that allows an indicted prime minister to remain in office. And, once in office, he would introduce legislation to stop his trial from moving forward.

YEMEN WAR INTENSIFYING... OR ENDING?



escalated.

The Yemen War, which Saudi Arabia launched from Washington six years ago yesterday – with the support, armaments, and intelligence provided by the U.S. under both the Obama and Trump administrations – has recently

The battles intensified last week as the Saudi's and their allies tried to defend the pivotal city of Marib from attacks by Houthi troops, which have reportedly been emboldened by recent comments from President Biden about ending the U.S. involvement in the conflict.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week that the conflict has become a “political albatross” for both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, and, as the United Nations has noted, Yemenis are suffering the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe.

Prior to the move on Marib, the Houthis had taken control of most of the country, and they increased their launches of missiles and drones into Saudi Arabia. Just last week, they struck a major Aramco refinery in Riyadh.

Deadly

Eighty percent of the country's population of 28 million depends on international aid to survive. The *Tasnim News Agency* reported earlier this month that the war has destroyed about half of the country's hospitals, which is all the more critical during the COVID 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.”

The Start

Yemen's civil war started in 2014, when the Houthis, who were ruling large sections of Yemen for over 1,000 years, overthrew the unelected president put in control by the Saudi's, took control of Sana'a, and then seized the presidential palace.

Biden, who was vice president under President Obama when the U.S. became involved in the conflict, has recently announced a hold on arms sales to the UAE and Saudi Arabia, according to the *Journal*. President Biden also announced he

will reverse former President Trump's plan to identify the Houthis as a terror organization.

The tension in the region has hit a fever pitch. *Bloomberg* reported Saturday that Saudi-led warplanes dropped bombs on rebel military bases in Yemen in response to a drone attack at a Saudi oil refinery in Riyadh last week.

Bloomberg reported that the Houthi attacks aimed at the Kingdom rarely "claim lives or cause extensive damage but their frequency has increased in recent months."

Tim Lenderking, a special U.S. envoy, presented the Houthis with a proposal to stop the fighting in the country and said, "If we cannot make progress now, the country will spiral into greater conflict and instability."

TRENDPOST: *Yesterday, Saudi Arabia announced a cease-fire proposal that includes reopening of both the airport in the capital of Sana'a and the country's largest port at Hodeidah, under supervision by the United Nations.*

At a press conference, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said,

"We want the guns to fall completely silent. That is the initiative and that is the only thing that can really help us get to the next step. We hope that we can have a cease-fire immediately, but the onus is on the Houthis."

In response to the Saudi initiative, Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdel Salam replied,

"Any positions or initiatives that don't recognize that Yemen has been subjected to hostility and blockade for six years, and don't separate the humanitarian aspect from any political or military bargain or lift the blockade are nothing new or serious."

As to what to expect, the Wall Street Journal quoted Peter Salisbury, a Yemen specialist with the International Crisis Group, who said, "The Saudi offer and the

Houthi response more than anything show us that the gap between them hasn't narrowed that much since last year, but that they are a little closer."

With Saudi Arabia's oil giant Aramco announcing on Sunday that its profits were nearly halved in 2020 to \$49 billion, the cost of their ongoing Yemen War, particularly as oil prices again decline, is also more than the Saudi's can afford.

MYANMAR PROTESTERS HIT WHERE IT HURTS



As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, tens of thousands of protesters have been taking to the streets in Myanmar to fight for democracy after a military coup in the country on 1 February upended the country's democracy and resulted in the arrest of its leader Aung

San Suu Kyi.

The protesters – many of them young people – face an emboldened police force backed by the military. These officers seem to have a willingness to use live rounds on protesters who have gathered by the thousands in main cities. The death toll, as of Sunday, was up to at least 248. *Al Jazeera* reported that virtually all those killed are shooting victims and most suffered gunshots to the head.

There have been about 2,330 arrests, and streets in major cities resemble war zones, with burning tires and makeshift barricades in place. Martial law has been imposed in districts in Yangon and Mandalay, and last week, there was a 24-hour shutdown of mobile internet.

Western sanctions seem to be ineffective, and protesters know they are no match against heavily-armed and military-backed security forces. Thus, an underground movement emerged that is intent on destroying the country's

economy from the inside out. Doctors and nurses have stayed home from hospitals, and banks have remained closed because tellers don't arrive to work.

The *WSWS* news site reported that about 1,000 railway workers and their families fled their homes amid the strike, and up to 70 doctors and other health care workers moved rather than return to work.

The fallout has been foreign companies suspending orders and crops that are ready to be shipped to the market but don't have anyone to haul them. H&M was one of the clothing chains that announced it would suspend orders.

Some businesses in the country told the *Financial Times* this week that although they support the protesters up against the military junta, these economy-killing tactics might end up paralyzing the country and wiping out the past decade of gains.

One chief executive told the paper that the civil disobedience movement has been successful in "bringing things to a halt."

"I guess that is its purpose, but it is a bit of a dangerous game," the executive said. Peter Mumford, an analyst, told the paper, "If Myanmar collapses into chaos, there would be a significant destabilizing impact on neighboring Thailand and regional supply chains."

Protesters in Myanmar have raised three-finger salutes, which were embraced by protesters last year in Thailand as a symbol of resistance. The protesters carried placards that read, "Reject the military coup" and "Justice for Myanmar."

Martial Law Imposed

The military has been cracking down on protesters in areas described in reports as working-class suburbs.

MRTV, the state broadcaster, said last week that the military planned to take over courts and dole out sentences. The only person who could issue a reprieve is General Min Aung Hlaing, the top military leader in the country.

WSWS reported authorities in Malaysia warned residents if they failed to remove roadblocks that were put in place to block soldiers, the soldiers have the right to open fire into their homes.

TREND FORECAST: Yesterday, the United States and the European Union imposed sanctions on several of Myanmar's military and government officials in retaliation for the military coup and the crackdown on protesters.

While we forecast it will have little impact, the statement by EU's foreign ministers declared that the sanctions were part of the bloc's "robust response to the illegitimate over-throwing of the democratically-elected government and the brutal repression by the junta against peaceful protesters."

We maintain our forecast that military rule will continue in Myanmar, and threats by the U.N., the United States, and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called "democracy" to Myanmar.

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

While the media reports on the current, brutal conditions being imposed on the nation by its military, long forgotten and never mentioned is how the nation was savagely colonized by the British for over 100 years (1824-1948).

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



FREEDOM DEAD IN D.C.

In America, the so-called “Land of the Free,” the security apparatus at the U.S. Capitol that was put together in response to the 6 January riot will remain in place through at least the spring.

The New York Times reported that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin signed off on a plan to keep about 2,300 National Guard troops in place at the Capitol. The paper said the measure will cost \$521 million to continue through May.

On 19 January, the **Trends Journal** ran the article, [“RAND PAUL: CAPITOL SECURITY ‘RIDICULOUS’ AFTER RIOT,”](#) which explained political backlash the Biden administration received from Republican members of Congress who called the measures politically-motivated and excessive. These lawmakers accuse Democrats of using these troops to score political points and to remind the public about the 6 January riot that broke out there.

CNN, citing unnamed sources, reported on Friday that leaders in Congress are considering a \$2 billion package to “bolster security around the US Capitol and

shore up vulnerabilities.” The report said the bill would include a permanent fence around the building and the hiring of hundreds of new security officers.

Republicans such as House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy have been critical of Lt. Gen. Russell Honoré, who was tapped by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to investigate the failings on the day of the attack.

McCarthy said, “I don’t think Honoré should have been in charge of this, based upon his comments, not long ago but short ago. He had a preconceived notion that was wrong, so I discussed regarding a report entirely because of that.”

TRENDPOST: Long forgotten in America was the inauguration of Joseph Biden in Washington, D.C. this past January, which was locked down and patrolled by nearly 30,000 U.S. military under the guise there would be domestic terrorists that would violently disrupt his swearing-in.

We note this to exemplify how the fish rots from the head down. The loss of freedom and complete militarization of the nation's Capitol is representative of the loss of Constitutional and Bill of Rights imposed upon citizens throughout the nation, as exemplified by the Executive Order lockdowns in the surveillance state of America.

EVIDENCE SHOWS CAPITOL RIOT WAS NOT PLANNED



Prosecutors investigating the 6 January attack on the Capitol have reportedly been unsuccessful in finding evidence that these militia groups devised an attack plan.

“There is no discussion of forcibly entering the Capitol until January 6, 2021,” prosecutors said, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. “However, there is talk about being prepared for violence.”

Kathryn Rakoczy, an assistant U.S. attorney, told a court on Friday that the goal of the rioters was to “stop the certification [of President Biden’s win]. Part of the reason there wasn’t as concrete a plan was because they were waiting to see what leadership did.”

Former President Trump had been raising claims of widespread voter fraud in the election, which was seen by his critics as the main culprit of the riot. Trump revealed he had offered to call up 10,000 National Guard troops to be on hand for the protest, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi turned down the offer.

Michael Sherwin, the former top prosecutor looking into the attack, told *60 Minutes* on Sunday about 400 rioters have been charged and said there is a chance some could be hit with sedition charges, which carry up to a 20-year prison sentence. He also seemed to leave open the possibility that former President Trump could face charges for being the “magnet” that brought the rioters to the area that day.

TRENDPOST: *The fact that the 6 January Capitol riots were not planned by domestic terrorists was barely reported in the mainstream media. For those who carried the story, it was in and out of the news in one day. Yet, despite these facts, the majority of the population believes the storming of the Capitol was planned, and they accept the passage of new laws and procedures that are ostensibly designed to prevent future insurrections.*

G.W. BUSH: “SICK TO MY STOMACH” OR SICK IN THE HEAD?



Former President George W. Bush said in an interview last week that the 6 January riot at the U.S. Capitol left him “sick to my stomach” and he is “still disturbed” when he thinks about it.

Bush, who was interviewed by the *Texas Tribune*, said the riot “undermines rule of law and the ability to express yourself in peaceful ways in the public square. This was an expression that was not peaceful.”

Bush’s comments came during a promotional tour for his book, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America’s Immigrants* and were recorded on 24 February. Bush also talked about the 2020 election and threw water on Trump’s claim that the election was stolen.

“I think the election, all elections have some kind of improprieties,” said Bush, who won the disputed “hanging chads” 2000 election against Al Gore. “I think... the results of this selection, though, were confirmed when Joe Biden got inaugurated as president,” he said.

TRENDPOST: *Last Saturday, 20 March, marked the 18th year of the Iraq War, launched by G.W. Bush based on the lies that he, his administration, and the American media sold to the public that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.*

Long forgotten, a Google search will show that the anniversary of the war, which has devastated Iraq, was barely covered by the mainstream media.

So, to exemplify the level of imbecilic condescension being dumped on the public, who, with a brain bigger than a lying Bush and the Prostitutes who put out for him, would give a damn that this mentally deranged, low-life murderer of millions was “disturbed” or sick to his stomach?

\$4 TRILLION FOR BILLIONAIRES AS MIDDLE CLASS SHRINKS



As we have reported since governments imposed lockdowns on all non-essential businesses and permitted only the big box stores and other multinational “essentials”

to do business when they launched the COVID War, the rich have gotten richer while the rest of the world has gotten poorer.

Indeed, billionaires saw their wealth increase by some \$4 trillion between 18 March and 31 December, according to Oxfam. “The increase in the wealth of the 10 richest billionaires since the crisis began is more than enough to prevent anyone on Earth from falling into poverty because of the virus and to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine for all,” their report concluded.

On the downside, the World Bank reported last week that for the first time since the 1990s, the global middle class decreased. They blamed it on the coronavirus outbreak.

Citing a Pew Research Center study, *Bloomberg* reported that the middle class worldwide dropped by 90 million people to about 2.5 billion. The report identified the middle class as those making \$10 to \$50 a day. Rakesh Kochhar, the author of the study, said the official count does not truly reflect the total impact and said that 62 million people considered “high income” saw their income drop to the middle tier group, the report said.

According to The Pew analysis:

“The global middle class encompassed 54 million fewer people in 2020 than the number projected prior to the onset of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the number of poor is estimated to have been 131 higher because of the recession.”

The Pew report said the countries most impacted were in South Asia, specifically India. Sub-Saharan Africa also “accounted for the most of the increase in poverty, reversing years of progress.”

“In modern history, it is hard to come up with examples where you saw such a sharp downturn in global economic growth,” Kochhar said, according to *Bloomberg*.

The report said there was a separate report on household incomes around the world, and it found that about two-thirds saw incomes fall in the past year.

TRENDPOST: *The Bloomberg report said the World Bank estimates up to 124 million people around the world experienced extreme poverty in 2020, where households earned less than \$1.90 per day. The report said the number is not expected to improve in 2021 and is expected to reach 163 million.*

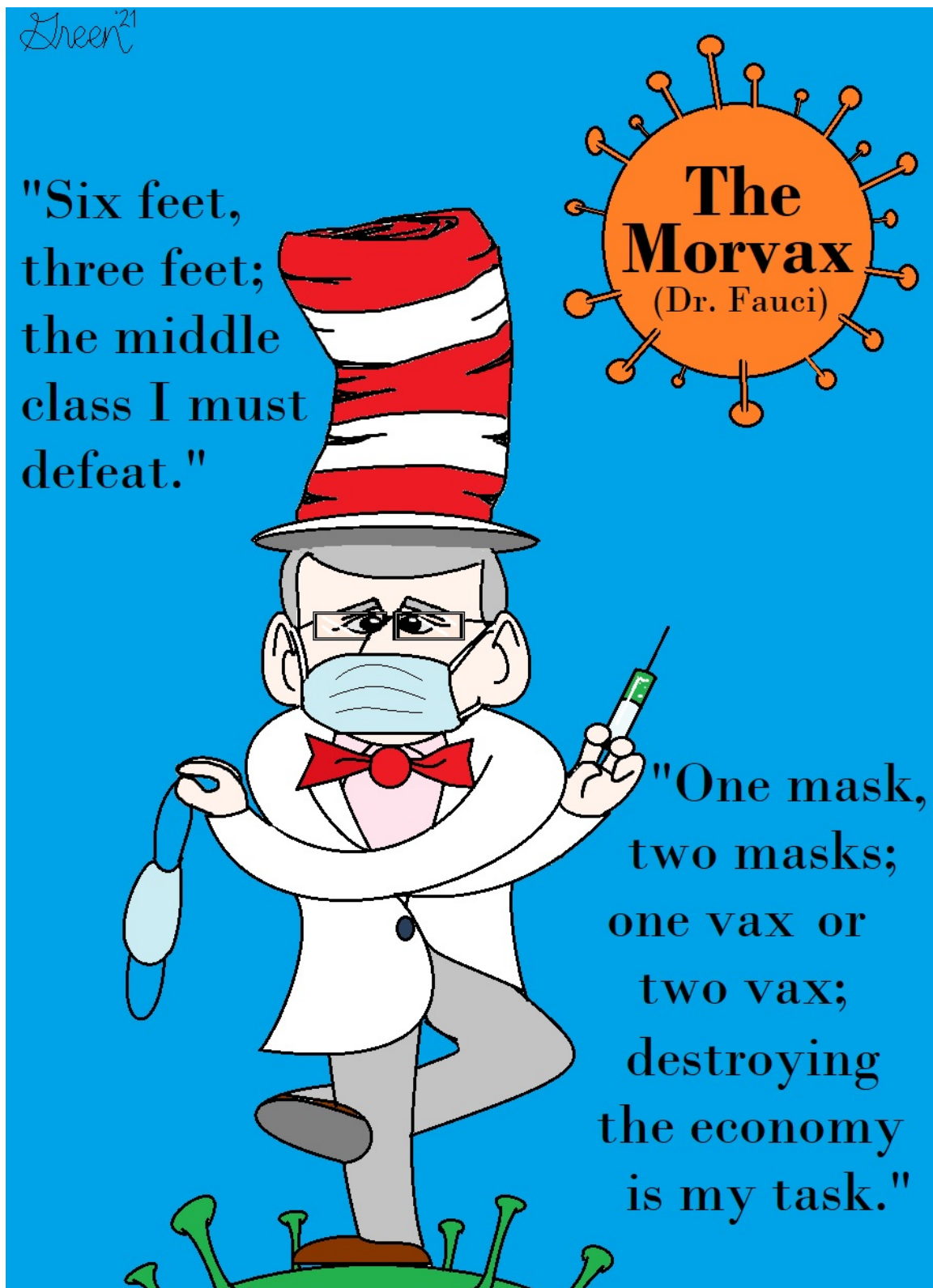
On 13 October, the **Trends Journal** published the article, “**COVID LOCKDOWNS SPIKE EXTREME POVERTY**,” which pointed to a report from the World Bank that said extreme poverty has impacted urban areas and those with higher education levels. Sub-Saharan Africa, which already had about 440 million in extreme poverty, is preparing for a 42-percent rise.

As Gerald Celente has long said, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” Therefore, as socioeconomic conditions continue to deteriorate, “**NEW WORLD DISORDER**,” one of our 2020 Top Trends, will escalate as billions take to the streets, demonstrating against the lack of basic living standards, crime, violence, and government corruption.

Also, the poorer and more desperate people become, the more they will do to flee their homeland, thus increasing the refugee and migrant crisis, which, in turn, will accelerate populist movements in nations not wanting foreigners to enter their country.

THE ART OF TRENDS

"The Morvax" by *Stephen Green*



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

A FIRST: SCIENTISTS TELEPORT DATA BETWEEN COMPUTER CHIPS

For the first time, scientists have sent data instantly between two computer chips that are neither physically nor electronically connected. Showing that's possible breaks open a path to a quantum Internet and distributed quantum computing, which would combine virtually unimaginable computer power and speed.

This teleportation of data between two chips is made possible by something called “quantum entanglement.”

These entangled states typically are created using photons. Beaming a laser through a particular kind of crystal can split a single photon into a pair of entangled photons. When the entangled objects are separated, in theory, no matter how far, changing one instantly creates the same change in the other.

Einstein called quantum entanglement “spooky” because no one can explain it.

Once the researchers – one group at the University of Bristol, another at the Technical University of Denmark – had placed an entangled photon on each of two computer chips, they then altered one and watched the other instantly adopt the same change. The experiment was successful 91 percent of the time, using a variety of alterations to the photons.

The scientists also were able to entangle up to four photons and swap data among particles that had never been entangled by an intermediary.

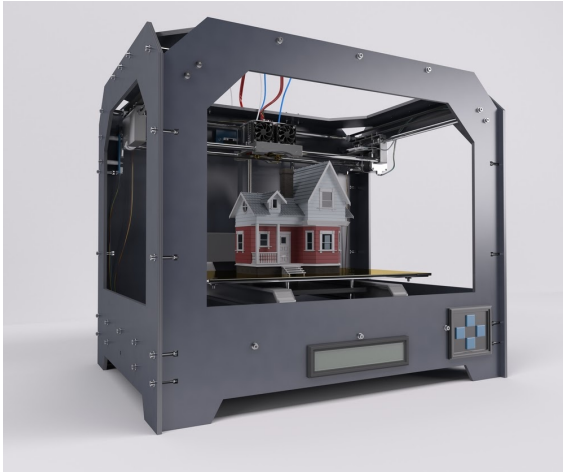
The feat comes at a time when engineers at Germany's Max Planck Institute report success in entangled atoms by striking them with a photon and creating a logic gate – a rudimentary quantum computer.

Quantum computers exploit another oddity of quantum physics, which says that subatomic particles can, put simply, be themselves and their opposites at the same time.

Applying that to computers, a “qubit” – typically a photon in place of a semiconductor – can be both positive and negative, a one and a zero, or open and closed at the same time. That allows quantum computers to store orders of magnitude more information and operate orders of magnitude faster than today's silicon versions.

TRENDPOST: *Because of the complex architecture and vast expense involved in creating quantum computers, they will not be in your smartphone for decades yet. However, their power will make them cost-effective in major research labs, where they will solve problems and make discoveries that could take humans centuries to achieve without their aid.*

FIRST U.S. 3D-PRINTED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



Mighty Buildings, an Oakland, CA company, is building the first U.S. housing development of entirely 3D-printed houses that will form a net-zero energy neighborhood.

In its factory, the company begins with a steel frame into which it prints panels of stone-like composite that have high insulation values. Traces for plumbing and electric wiring are created by leaving voids through the panels.

The panels for flooring, walls, and roof are shipped to the construction site and bolted together on a slab or foundation.

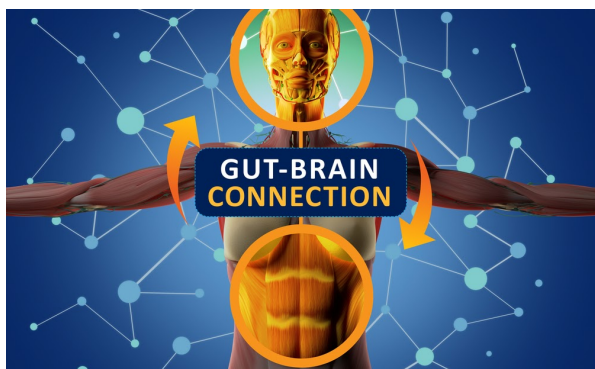
Unlike stick-built construction, the panel method leaves no wood scraps, unused pieces of sheetrock, or other waste.

The new development, in Rancho Mirage, CA, will include 15 homes roofed with solar panels that are intended to provide all of the houses' energy needs. Buyers can add a Tesla Powerwall or similar battery to store electricity on cloudy days – a rare event in a locale that averages 13 overcast days and four inches of rain annually.

TRENDPOST: *The Rancho Mirage development is pricey, but it proves the point that 3D-printed dwellings can be made, stored, and shipped efficiently and quickly. Communities of printed homes assembled on-site can serve as emergency shelters after natural disasters but also as alternatives for homebuyers in times and locations where lumber is both scarce and costly.*

Printed houses are unlikely to replace conventional wood and steel construction in the near future but will take a solid niche share of the housing market after 2030.

GUT BACTERIA MAY CAUSE, AND CURE, SOCIAL MISBEHAVIORS



Your microbiome – the ecosystem of bacteria living in your intestines – has been found to regulate mood and behavior disorders by the signals it sends up the vagus nerve that leads from the gut to the brain.

Specifically, researchers at Baylor University’s medical school have parsed the microbiome to discover that certain kinds of abnormal behavior are caused by the interplay of genes and those bacteria.

Using mice whose genes and microbiomes had been altered for experiments, the team found that hyperactivity is a genetic disorder, while a range of other mood disorders and negative social behavior are a result of “bad” bacteria triumphing over the beneficial in your digestive tract.

To defeat the bad bugs, the scientists added molecules called bipterins into the mice's digestive systems. The addition improved their social functioning, and so did molecules that fostered the creation of gut bipterins.

Bipterins are involved in creating dopamine and serotonin, feel-good chemicals that boost mood and relaxation.

Several yogurt brands contain a bacterium called *L. reuteri*, which the scientists found helpful in nurturing bipterins.

TRENDPOST: An Italian study is underway to treat children with autism with *L. reuteri* to see if the gut bacterium eases symptoms.

The microbiome is medical science's new research frontier. Investigators are finding links between the microbiome and disorders from depression to cancer.

Microbiome research will attract increasing attention and chalk up a range of successes by 2030, rendering a number of chronic conditions treatable by diet instead of drugs.