

# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

## DR. STRANGEVAX



## VACCINATE THE WORLD



**30 March 2021**

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## VACCINATING THE WORLD

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: "DR. STRANGEVAX: VACCINATE THE

WORLD."

According to MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, if you don't want the jab, you're an "idiot" and a "moron" who should crawl back into your "cave."

As we have detailed in this and other issues of the Trends Journal, Freedom, Peace & Justice have been stolen from most of the people on Earth. Anyone disagreeing with the "authorities" should go live in a "cave." Facts and science do not matter. Only following orders are what counts.

But.. do the leaders in charge who are telling us what to do really have our best interests at heart?

Every issue of **Trends Journal** is packed with information that encompasses the socioeconomic and geopolitical landscape and narrows it down to the critical trends that will shape the future.

Thank you for subscribing, and please spread the word for others to subscribe. The future of our Freedom is at stake. The more subscribers we have, the more we can do.

Best wishes,

*Gerald Celente, Publisher*

## COMMENTS

### BATTY EXPLANATIONS

When are they going to tell exactly how this virus started? I don't think someone ate a bat. 9-11 caused a war in the middle east That caused millions to die. Now a virus that caused millions to die. Funny how this stuff happens.

**Don O'malley**

### "WOKE" VS VIGILANT

I think once the vast majority of Americans have rolled up their sleeve for the gene therapy and the Harris administration succeeds in wiping their feet on the 2A, the Fed will pull out the rug from under all the markets. An extended 'bank holiday' may be in the cards as well.

But there is a chance that just enough people have woken up to this sham and will continue to resist the jab and fight for their right to bear arms as a means of protection and a hedge against tyranny to upset the globalist plans..

**Paul Sacco**

### THE PRICE OF OIL

I think an Iran war is going to start in the Biden administration with a false flag in the strait of Hormuz.

That should Jack up oil prices.

**Chris Hirose**

### THE BEST MEDICINE

I have been whole food plant-based for many years now. I never get sick with colds or flus or any other ailments for that

matter. However, this is different than 'vegan' or 'vegetarian' in that I stay away from processed foods (which many vegans eat and Mr. Gates makes through the production of Frankenfoods) and I have no dairy (which vegetarians still consume) since that is just like the meats – highly processed now and more of a pharmaceutical as opposed to food. Not sure what we'll do when Gates, et al start making more of their 'faux-meat' products. There are so many GMOs in foods now too, that you really have to know what to shop for and it's definitely getting expensive. All part of the plan, I suppose.

**Kellie Auld**

### **HEADS IN SAND**

Human nature being what it is, the fall of the once mighty US from its self-erected pedestal will not come easily nor resignedly by either the movers and shakers or the general populace. A wounded elephant is never more dangerous than when on its last legs.

Its closest allies, the anglophone puppets of the "empire" like Australia, especially, are going to find it hard to adjust to dealing with a new and alien global master too. However, they will have to come to terms with the new order sooner rather than later, like it or not or decline into irrelevance. It's going to be the Asian Century with China the obvious dominant power.

Australia, an outpost of the West on Asia's doorstep, should be in the box seat for the future ride. Unfortunately, its self-serving and stupid political class is in lockstep with the US military-industrial complex, aka "the Deep State", and it will sink to Third World status unless a change of thinking comes about soon. With an

Asian-Australian population around 15 percent (that includes a lot of South Asians as well as East Asians) that change in thinking could happen, sooner than some think. Before that happens though the 'ancien regime' seems to prefer the Ostridge habit of sticking the head in the sand and hoping reality will go away.

**ChrisQ**

### **WEF ALARM BELLS**

Alarm bells should be going off! How dare you have disposable income, we of the WEF forbid it; we will have to cut the benefits that we have been taxing you for these past 50 years.

**alachiropactic**

### **CORONA FACTS AND FIGURES**

Poverty has been endemic throughout the Earth during my lifetime. As far as I can discern, the poor have always been on Earth but in recent years, political corruption and Central Banks and Rich and Super Rich have undermined the vast Middle Class to create a class of SERFs for the future. The reason we are more sensitive to the plight of the impoverished is because it is more visible, homelessness is pervaded on every continent and growing exponentially, the rich are stealing natural resources rather than sharing them and the wealth with the populace. I guess GREED has no bounds and the poor will multiply faster as a small minority of Rich and Elite control the resources and majority of wealth!!!

**harlow53**



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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

On the equity market front, it's another day of money junkie addicts hooked on making all the money they can and the Bankster Mob injecting them with monetary methadone to keep them on their ripping-off-the-system high.

Over the last few weeks, the stock market news was about Greensill Capital, run by Lex Greensill, the Australian “financial” firm (i.e., gambling operation) that was valued at \$3.5 billion less than two years ago... that went bust this month.

As we keep quoting one of America's great comedians, George Carlin, “It's one big club, and you ain't in it.” One of the club members, the former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, who was hired by Greensill to get the company access to COVID loan schemes and other deals, is now facing a probe by the U.K. Committee on Standards in Public Life. The scheme was first reported by the *Financial Times*.



Now the latest equity market news, that first broke on Thursday, is about the hedge fund (i.e., gambling operation) Archegos Capital Management's \$30 billion meltdown and the hit to the Bankster Mob that funded them... of which Nomura and Credit Suisse took the biggest hits.

We note these occurrences to illustrate how rigged the equity markets are and how Wall Street is completely disconnected to Main Street.

Need proof?

Who on Main Street would know what "Archego Capital Management" is, what they do, and what it means?

As we have documented, and Gregory Mannarino continues to detail in his "Trends in the Markets" column, the equity markets are on an artificial high, pumped by the Federal Reserve Bank, which has injected scores of trillions into the system since the Panic of '08 to keep the money junkies on their high.

When will it collapse?

The warning signs are flashing.

All it will take is a wild card meltdown of hedge funds, private equity groups, and so-called investment banks, the special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) racket of taking private companies public... which will mirror the sub-prime, mortgage-backed securities Bankster scam that set off the Panic of '08.

And, of course, there are the record-low interest rates that have stalled the "Greatest Depression" by flooding the economic system with cheap money, plus the trillions pumped in by Washington as the nation slumps into a \$28 trillion debt load.

As we have forecast, despite the Federal Reserve saying rates would remain near zero until around 2024, in fact, they are already rising and the damage is

clear: the more it costs to borrow, the less will be borrowed, and the less that's borrowed, the deeper the economy will sink.

On the housing front, for example, with mortgage rates hitting record lows, there was a \$3 trillion refinancing splurge in 2020... the best year ever.

But now with rates up from their historic lows, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported that less than 61 percent of mortgage applications last week were for refinancing, down from 75 percent in January,

As rates go higher, Fannie Mae projects 13 percent fewer home loans this year, after hitting a record \$4.5 trillion last year.

To illustrate the inequity of the equity markets repeatedly hitting record highs since the COVID War broke out last year, while much of the world's economy was locked down, this headline from the *Financial Times* on 24 April 2020, says it all:

### **Investors baffled by soaring stocks in 'monster' depression**

The article went on to say, "The divergence between the flying stock market and the dying economy is so extreme, it is leaving many analysts scrambling for explanations."

Yes, it made no sense then... or now. And the "explanation" is that the markets are rigged... artificially pumped up with monetary methadone by the Bankster Mob.

With our forecast for inflation to continue to rise, interest rates will also be pushed up. And as we just illustrated with the housing sector, the higher rates go, the deeper the economy will fall. As it goes down, so, too, will Wall Street.

When the markets crash, America and the world will dive deeply into the "Greatest Depression."



Today, the Dow fell 100 points from its latest record high.

**Gold/Silver:** Both precious metals got bashed today with gold and silver prices shedding some 2 percent as Treasury yields moved up and the dollar gained strength.

On the expectations that Congress will push through President Biden's \$3 trillion infrastructure plan, U.S. 10-year Treasury yields rose to a 14-month peak. With high hopes for a strong economic "Biden Bounce," the demand for safe-haven assets has diminished among investors.

Contrary to what the equity markets are selling, on the commodities front, however, there is a declining expectation for strong economic growth.

As we have noted, copper prices, which jumped 67 percent over the past year, continued their decline, falling some 1.6 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... yet, the declining prices are being ignored by the Wall Street gamblers.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *How low will gold and silver go? We maintain our forecast that gold's low breakout point is \$1,650 per ounce. Should it hit that level, the downside risk is around \$1,550 per ounce.*

*As for silver, should it break below \$22 per ounce, the downside risk is in the \$17 per ounce range.*

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

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

*When the equity markets crash – and it is a matter of when, not if – precious metal prices will spike.*

**Oil:** Again, contrary to The Street's expectations for a soaring economy, Crude oil fell 1.51 percent today on lower demand expectations. Closing at \$60 per barrel, Crude is down some \$6 from its recent high.

Indeed, with the dread spreading of pandemic "doom" and fears of new coronavirus lockdowns, oil supply is outstripping demand despite the OPEC+ production cutbacks that have kept millions of barrels a day off the market.

**Bitcoin:** Bitcoin, at \$58,816 as we go to press, is up nearly \$4,000 from its trading range over the past four weeks. While gold and silver prices are slumping, major cryptocurrencies continue to rise as new breeds of "investors" seek the digital coins printed on nothing and backed by nothing as safe-haven assets.

What will bring the crypto market down is when governments ban them and when they grab market share from them as more national currencies go digital.

Until that time, it is anybody's guess as to how high they can fly. On the downside, we maintain our 5 January forecast that the breakout point for the coin heading toward the end of the crypto rush will be when prices fall below \$25,000 per coin.

## **NEW JOBLESS CLAIMS LOWEST IN A YEAR**



In the week ending 20 March, 684,000 people filed new claims for unemployment benefits, the U.S. Labor Department reported, the first time new claims have fallen below 700,000 since mid-March 2020.



New claims fell by 97,000 from the previous week's total of 781,000.

New claims in Illinois plunged 80 percent from the week before; Ohio's filings were down by a third.

New claims for benefits under the federal program for gig workers and other self-employed people shrank to 241,000 from 284,000 the previous week.

The total number of new claims in all programs dipped below one million for the first time since the pandemic began, with the economy adding 379,000 net new jobs in February, the Labor Department said.

18.9 million people continued to collect unemployment benefits during the week, up from 18.2 million the week before.

About a third of those out-of-workers have been jobless for six months or longer. Typically, people without work for that long find it difficult to land jobs even in a recovering economy.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Estimates are that an additional four million previously employed people have stopped looking for work. In the U.S.S.A., once an unemployed person no longer collects unemployment insurance, they are no longer counted as unemployed.

*Also, upticks in COVID infections in several states and the dire warnings of "Doom" by the director of the CDC, as we have detailed in this **Trends Journal**, warning of a new wave of infections, will stymie the economic recovery and workers' return to their jobs.*

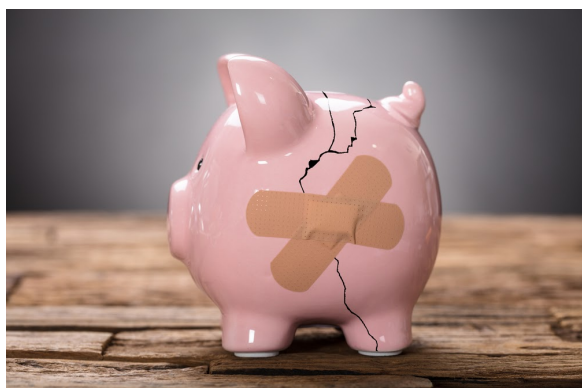
*Indeed, fear continues to be spread as this warning is splashed across Bloomberg's home page:*

***U.S. Covid Deaths Expected to Rise Soon with New Wave Emerging***

*Before politicians launched the COVID War, the number of new weekly unemployment claims had never reached 700,000. And, according to [shadowstats.com](https://shadowstats.com), as of February, the real unemployment number in the U.S. is 25.8 percent.*

*We forecast unemployment will temporarily decline as trillions more are injected into the economy to pump it up. When Wall Street crashes, however, which it inevitably will do, the reality of the artificially propped-up equities and the economy will spread across Main Street, thus sharply elevating unemployment levels.*

## **POWELL: U.S. DEBT LEVEL IS MANAGEABLE**



The U.S. government can manage its record new \$28 trillion levels of debt, Jerome Powell, chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, said in a 25 March interview on National Public Radio.

“Given the low level of interest rates, there’s no issue about the United States being able to service its debt at this time or in the foreseeable future,” he said.

“When the economy is back to full employment and taxes are rolling in and we’re in a strong economy again... it will be appropriate to return to the issue of getting back on a sustainable fiscal path,” Powell acknowledged.

“That time is not now,” he added.

However, policymakers should work to brake the debt’s rise once the economy has recovered, he added.

Three rounds of federal economic stimulus have swelled the debt from 79.2 percent of GDP at the end of fiscal 2019 to 102.3 percent by the time the current fiscal year ends this 30 September, the Congressional Budget Office has said.

Because the Fed has held interest rates so low, the U.S. currently pays less in interest than it did in 2007 during the Great Recession, although the amount owed has tripled, treasury secretary Janet Yellin noted last week in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

She also called for Congress to raise revenues at a later date to pay for higher spending.

“About one in every seven dollars we collect this year is going out in interest expense,” Senator Rick Scott complained on 23 March on *Fox Business*.

“Inflation is going up and it’s caused by a federal government and Federal Reserve that doesn’t know how reality works,” he said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The Federal Reserve has the power to keep interest rates close to zero, so they can cheaply service the massive government debt. The Fed will continue to buy massive amounts of treasury and corporate securities, i.e. “junk bonds,” which it currently does at a rate of \$120 billion a month.*

*However, as we have continually detailed in the **Trends Journal**, inflation rates will sharply rise and when they do, so, too, will interest rates. Thus, the higher the interest rates, the more it will cost to service the debt load. As we have noted in this issue, the effects of the rising rates are being evidenced by the declines in the housing market sectors.*

*Should the Fed decide to keep interest rates low despite rising inflation to keep the markets and economy on their highs, inflation rates will spike, the U.S. dollar will decline, and gold and silver prices will spike as investors seek safe-haven assets.*

## DEMOCRATS MULL TAX HIKES



Democrats in the U.S. Congress are considering raising corporate taxes and the marginal tax rate on individuals, in part to pay for President Biden's upcoming proposal to spend about \$1.5 trillion on a first-round infrastructure plan and the same amount for education programs and

to reduce poverty, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The tax hikes would be divided into two parts, according to insiders cited by the *WSJ*.

The corporate tax boosts would be part of the infrastructure legislation; the individual rate hikes and increases to capital gains taxes would be tied to education and anti-poverty legislation, the sources said.

The increases are possible, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said last week, according to an aide cited by the *WSJ*. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he has had several discussions with White House officials about various possibilities.

One such option being considered is to raise the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28, which Biden proposed during his presidential campaign.

Biden also suggested jacking the highest personal income tax rate from 37 percent to 39.6 and taxing capital gains as regular income for the highest-income earners.

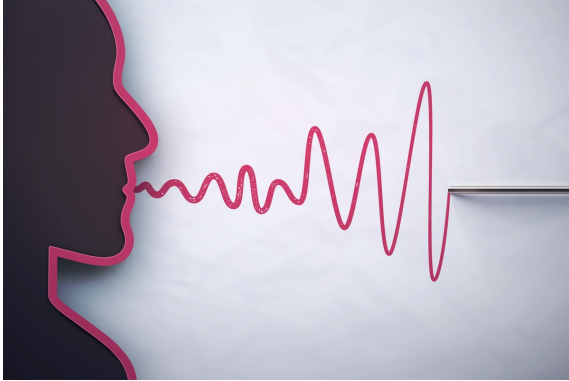
Biden has said any tax increase he backs will not affect households earning less than \$400,000 a year.



***TREND FORECAST:*** Will taxes rise, who will they hit the most, what will it mean?

For more details, see the new articles in this issue, [“RICHEST AMERICANS BEAT THE TAXMAN”](#) and [“BILLIONAIRES BEAT TAXES: LITTLE PEOPLE PAY.”](#)

## **STIMULUS POSES NO INFLATION DANGER, POWELL SAYS**



The new \$1.9-trillion stimulus Congress has pumped into the U.S. economy is unlikely to spark prolonged inflation, Jerome Powell, chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, told the House Financial Services Committee in testimony on 23 March.

If inflation does pose a problem, the Fed has the tools it needs to control it, Powell added.

“We might see some upward pressure on prices,” he acknowledged. “Our best view is that the effect on inflation will be neither particularly large nor persistent,” he said.

Some economists have warned that the stimulus, which includes a \$1,400 stipend for most U.S. adults, will coincide with a rebounding economy and set prices on a runaway course.

Yields on treasury securities have more than doubled in recent months as investors expect prices to rise with the economy’s returning strength.

Powell also repeated his past comments that the economy is improving as a result of the successful vaccination campaign coupled with continued safety measures such as masking and social distancing.

Any recovery, however, is far from complete, he cautioned.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have noted in the U.S. Markets Overview, inflation will rise, the value of the dollar will decline, and it will cost more to service the nation's \$28 trillion debt load.*

*Indeed, by the words of Powell, it is a complete act of irresponsibility for anyone to recommend that someone – business, individual, or government – go extremely deep in debt by borrowing massive amounts of money on the hopes of recovering lost market share, bad investments, etc. Yet, there is no criticism of these statements from the Fed that are anathema to sound economic policy.*

## SPACs RAISE REGULATORS' CONCERNS



Wall Street's favorite new gimmick, which we noted in last week's **Trends Journal** and this one – special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) – is drawing interest from regulators, which sent SPAC index prices tumbling last week. (See last week's

[“U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW”](#) for more on SPACs.)

A SPAC is a company that makes no product, performs no service, nor markets anything other than itself. Investors buy shares, often priced at \$10 each, and the money is put into a trust. When the SPAC's wallet is fat enough, it looks for a company to buy.

When the SPAC buys a company, the SPAC itself disappears and the shares become shares in the company the SPAC bought.

More than 700 SPACs have flooded onto New York stock exchanges in the past 12 months, seeking to raise \$227 billion, *Bloomberg* reported. In 2020, 248 SPACs raised \$83 billion, according to the *Harvard Business Review*; in January

this year, SPACs took in \$26 billion, the magazine said in a February article titled, “The SPAC Bubble is About to Burst.”

The frenzy has lured major Wall Street firms as well as celebrities including Shaquille O’Neal and Alex Rodriguez, which has prompted regulators to take a look.

News of regulators’ interest pushed the value of Pershing Square Tontine Holdings, a SPAC hothouse, down more than 6 percent; Social Capital Hedosophia sank 8 percent on 25 March. The IPOX SPAC Index slid into a multi-day selloff, although the index remains up 45 percent since last August, compared to the S&P’s 20-percent lift since then.

Regulators are about to send letters to major SPAC players asking them to detail any possible dangers that could arise from underwriting the wave of SPACs, *Bloomberg* reported, citing two people familiar with the agency’s plan.

The agency is fact-finding, *Bloomberg* said, but could open an investigation if concerns warrant.

## AMERICANS STILL FLEEING URBAN CENTERS



A record 31.2 percent of people using real estate brokerage Redfin’s website to look for new homes in January and February were searching outside of their current residence areas, the company said.

The number was 26 percent for the same period last year, which predated the COVID pandemic.

As more employers allow workers to work from home, more people are relocating to cheaper, more spacious homes or to be closer to family, analysts say.

The net migration by Redfin users out of Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco “increased significantly” year over year, Redfin said in a statement announcing its finding.

The net outflow from the District of Columbia and Seattle more than doubled, the report noted.

However, migrants did not necessarily travel far.

Philadelphia, with an average home price of \$238,000, was the most popular destination for refugees from the New York City area, where home prices average \$598,000.

Migrants leaving San Francisco most often resettled in Sacramento; home prices average \$658,000 and \$490,000, respectively, in those cities.

Because a record number of people are searching for homes outside of their current metro centers even as the economy begins to recover, “the rise in moving from one part of the country to another is likely to outlast the pandemic,” Redfin CEO Daryl Fairweather said in comments quoted by *Fox Business*.

“For many Americans, one long-lasting effect of the pandemic and remote work is the freedom to live where they want to,” he said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *This is old news to Trends Journal subscribers, as we had forecast this when the COVID War was launched in March 2020. The move from big cities trend will continue as more people work from home, unemployment rises, and people can’t afford high rents and as urban decay, i.e., crime and homelessness, increases.*



*There will be new generations, however, of young city dwellers moving into urban areas as rents decline and it is more affordable to open businesses and rent apartments. according to real estate firm JLL, rents for expensive office space, including concessions, fell around 17 percent over the past year in New York and San Francisco and 13 percent nationwide.*

*While this will spark some life back in the cities, it will not be sufficient to reverse the downturn.*

## **REAL ESTATE AGENTS OUTNUMBER HOUSES FOR SALE**



On 31 January, there were 1.04 million homes for sale in the U.S., according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), 26 percent fewer than a year earlier and the lowest on record since at least 1982.

On the same date, the NAR listed 1.45 million members.

The only other time agents have outnumbered houses was briefly in December 2019.

The current lopsided ratio took hold in October 2020 and has persisted since then.

The NAR's membership reached 1.37 million in October 2006, shortly after the housing bubble swelled to its largest. It then shrank by about a third to 960,000 in March 2012 in the wake of the real estate crash that set off the Great Recession.

The NAR's membership has grown every year since.

A large number of new agents joined the profession last year as people laid off from other jobs saw an opportunity: the housing market was booming and, in most states, becoming a residential real estate agent requires only taking a course and passing a test.

Real estate brokerage Redfin Corp. is adding an average of 162 new agents a week to its national network, the company told the *Wall Street Journal*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *This is reminiscent of the Dotcom boom when people were flooding into the sector selling and marketing what was being invented, real or fake. Then when the Dotcom busted, they jumped into the real estate market as it took off in the early 2000s.*

*As for now, yes, the real estate market (not commercial and/or big city urban) will continue to expand so long as interest rates stay low. However, when the equity markets crash, so, too, will there be a drastic cut back in the real estate housing market.*

## **MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOME OWNERSHIP ON THE RISE**



From April through June 2020, 15 percent of homes sold were bought by multigenerational families, up 11 percent July 2019 through March 2020 and the highest rate since at least 2012, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

The trend began in previous years with Millennials moving in with parents in a difficult job market. Also, more elder parents were occupying in-law apartments or backyard cottages at their children's homes.

The COVID pandemic accelerated the trend, analysts say, with many adult children wanting to ensure parents were not alone during the crisis.

Also, the current soaring housing market has priced many individuals out. Spreading down payments and monthly mortgage bills across generations creates opportunities for ownership that otherwise could not exist.

About 3 percent of homes listed in February on real estate website Zillow.com had language highlighting multigenerational possibilities, such as “In-law cottage” or “granny suite,” the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

These homes listed for an average of \$598,000 and sold 23 percent faster last month than a year earlier, Zillow said.

The forces pushing generations together are growing: all homes on Zillow sold 14 percent faster last month than in February 2020 and carried an average listing price of \$353,000, up 15 percent month over month.

The median U.S. home price in January was \$303,900, up 14 percent year on year, according to the NAR.

***TRENDPOST:*** Home prices have set record highs, the number of homes for sale has plunged to record lows, and building materials are in short supply. With millions of people out of work and millions more struggling to recover from losses they incurred during the economic shutdown, the trend toward multigenerational homeownership will grow through the next several years.

## NEW YORK BUSINESSES WARN GOVERNOR AGAINST TAX HIKE



Businesses in New York state are calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to not enact a range of tax increases the state’s legislature passed in mid-March.

The legislature raised corporate franchise and income tax rates to add \$6.5 billion to the state's treasury next year; a proposed surcharge on capital-gains income would raise a similar amount.

Cuomo has proposed a budget for the next fiscal year that would raise \$1.5 billion through a temporary surcharge on annual incomes above \$4 million.

In a letter to Cuomo and Democratic legislative leaders, 250 of the state's highest-profile executives said the tax hikes would jeopardize the state's economic recovery, and the new federal \$1.9-trillion stimulus makes any increases unnecessary.

The executives also warned that the tax hikes could persuade high-income earners who left the state during the pandemic to decide to change their permanent residences to lower-tax states, depriving New York of more revenue than the new taxes would bring in.

“Many members of our workforce have resettled their families in other locations, generally with far lower taxes than New York, and the proposed tax increases will make it harder to get them to return,” the executives wrote in their letter.

The state's highest-earning 5 percent of workers pay about 60 percent of the state's \$50-billion annual revenue raised through income taxes, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The letter was signed by the chief executives of BlackRock, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and News Corp., among others.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As economies go down, politicians will keep pushing for higher property, sales, and school taxes. Cities and states with the lowest taxes will attract both businesses and individuals wanting to escape high-tax areas.*



*We continue to forecast strong anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment political movements... many of which will attract Donald Trump supporters which are a major sector of society.*

*For more information and forecasts of taxes, see our new article, [“DEMOCRATS MULL TAX HIKES.”](#)*

## **ROCK-BOTTOM RENTS MAY REVIVE NYC BUSINESS ECONOMY**



Since the 1990s, Manhattan's property prices have been rising, squeezing out many small businesses.

Then the COVID War was launched last March and the City that never sleeps was put to bed by the governor and mayor of

the state.

From 1 March to 1 September 2020, 7,100 businesses in the city closed permanently, review website Yelp reported.

Now a rash of empty storefronts has pushed rates down to their lowest in recent memory. And young people who couldn't afford the sky-high rents are starting to fill the empty spaces that landlords are pleased to get something from rather than nothing.

New York State saw more new businesses open last year than at any time since 2007 during the Great Recession, according to data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

More than twice as many New York City business leases were signed in February this year as during the low point of 2020's economic crunch, data firm CoStar reported.

Manhattan had become “richer and richer and less and less interesting,” Fred Wilson, co-founder of the Union Square Ventures investment firm, told the *Wall Street Journal*. “Lower rents, if they are sustained, will be terrific for street-level retail and restaurants.”

With employers requiring fewer workers to come downtown, pressures to keep rents low are likely to continue, encouraging new businesses to start and existing ones to trade up to better space,

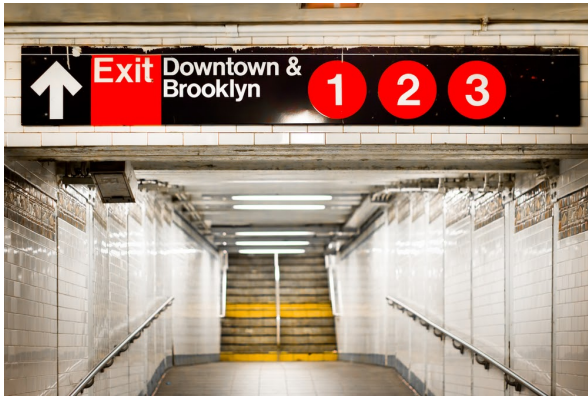
During the economic crisis, residential rents also dropped in Manhattan by an average of 12 percent, Moody’s Analytics found.

Apartment rents had soared 230 percent since 1990 to \$4,751 in 2019, about triple the national average, according to Moody's, while the median U.S. household income grew only 114 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we note in our new article, [“AMERICANS STILL FLEEING URBAN CENTERS,”](#) there will be new generations of young city dwellers moving into urban areas as rents decline and it is more affordable to open businesses and rent apartments.*

*Moreover, it will also spark an entirely new art, style, fashion, and food movements as young millennials and Generation Z create their vision of the present that has been left vacant by the current exodus of former city dwellers to suburban and exurban areas.*

## NEW YORK'S SUBWAY SYSTEM FACES A CASH-STARVED FUTURE



After plummeting 93 percent at the depths of the pandemic last spring, ridership on New York City's subway system has crawled back up to about 33 percent of 2019 levels, *The New York Times* reported.

Federal aid, plus \$6 billion more dollars earmarked for the system in President Biden's newest stimulus plan, has enabled the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), which operates the subway system, to survive.

However, about 40 percent of the system's usual budget comes from riders' fares, a higher proportion than most other U.S. urban public transport systems.

Before the pandemic, eight million people – more than half of the metro region's population – rode the subways every weekday.

Many of those riders may never return: fewer than half the number of people who worked in Manhattan offices in 2019 will work there in future years, according to a recent survey by the nonprofit Partnership for New York City (PNYC)

The pandemic accelerated a trend already allowing more office workers to remain at home. That, and the City's pricey apartments, has driven a number of residents out of the metro area entirely.

Already, the MTA has cut back service on its Metro-North and Long Island commuter routes, where ridership has stalled at about a quarter of 2019's volume and may be forced to run fewer trains inside the City, including during rush hours.

Ridership could return to as high as 92 percent of 2019's numbers, but not until at least 2024, an analysis by consulting firm McKinsey & Co. determined.

Bus ridership has risen to 40 percent of 2019 levels, besting the subway system's numbers, the MTA recently reported.

"Commuter culture is going to change," Kathryn Wylde, PNYC president, commented to the *NYT*.

"People are looking for more flexibility and more options which improve their quality of life," she said. "That's a legacy of the pandemic."

***TREND FORECAST:*** Yes, the "consumer culture" has changed and there is now more "flexibility." As we had forecast since the onset of the COVID War, when Silicon Valley was the first to tell their staffs to work from home, new 21st-century work-at-home and online schooling trends were launched.

*Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and die. These trends have just been born, and they will accelerate. Thus, there will be less commuting, and America's third-world rotted commuter rail service will continue its decline.*

*To illustrate the speed of change, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Salesforce.com, and PricewaterhouseCoopers are among the major firms looking to unload big blocks of commercial office space, the latest sign that remote work is here to stay, the Wall Street Journal reported today.*

*Not only will this push down commercial real estate prices lower as we have forecast, but it will also destroy the many businesses in numerous sectors that depend on commuter and business traffic.*



## NEWS CORP WILL BUY INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY



News Corp, the Murdoch family empire that owns the *Wall Street Journal*, will buy the *Investor's Business Daily* (IBD) newspaper and website for \$275 million, News Corp has announced.

IBD will remain a separate brand and will be operated by News Corp's Dow Jones unit, which publishes *Barron's* and *MarketWatch*, as well as the *WSJ*, the company said.

IBD's 100,000 subscribers have scant overlap with the audience for Dow Jones' existing publications, creating opportunities for cross-selling, News Corp CEO Robert Thomson said in a comment quoted by the *WSJ*.

IBD has "done a better job than most" at transitioning to a digital world, Thomson said, with 90 percent of its revenues coming from online sales.

News Corp expects the acquisition to "significantly" improve Dow Jones' profits, which in 2020's final quarter, posted its largest quarterly profit since 2007.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this to further detail the concentration of ownership among the "Bigs" and their monopolistic control of the sectors they own.*

*On the media front, just six mega-corporations control 90 percent of America's media. Thus, the fewer that own it, the less diversity in what is being reported and the more control of what is being sold as "News."*

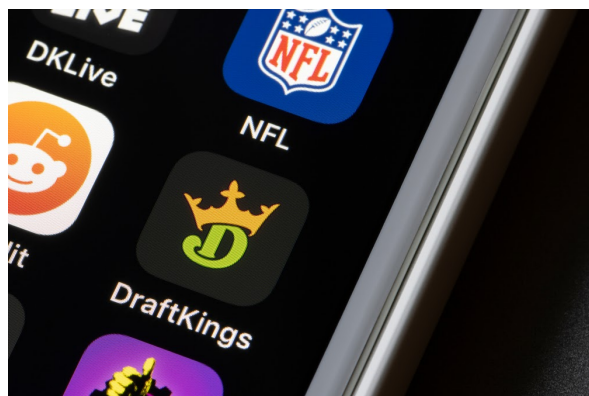
*Indeed, Jim Morrison, the lead singer of Doors, got it right decades ago when he said, "Whoever controls the media, controls the mind."*

*As we have detailed, "mind control" it is. From launching the long cast of U.S. Wars to the current COVID War, to selling their agendas as we have detailed over*

the decades in the **Trends Journal**, freedom of speech and thought are now outlawed in the U.S.S.A. Not only is the mainstream media controlled by a few, so, too, is social media controlled by less than a handful of Big-Tech oligarchs.

Since we believe the truth will set you free, at the **Trends Journal**, our mission is the Truth in Trends. Therefore, please continue to support us and spread the word. The more subscribers we have, the more we can do. And in these times of monopolistic media giants in control, as evidenced, their agendas and bottom line come first, not the truth.

## PLAN WITHDRAWN THAT WOULD LIST NFL GAMES ON FUTURES MARKET



A proposal to write futures contracts on National Football League games was withdrawn by ErisX, its creator, as the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission reportedly was preparing to reject the plan.

The commission had decided to reject the plan on grounds that it promotes gambling and “is contrary to the public interest,” according to an unnamed insider cited by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Futures contracts are used to speculate on the rise and fall of future prices or to defend against the risk of future prices shifting against a buyer or seller.

ErisX, a cryptocurrency exchange, said its NFL futures would help sports books and other sports-related businesses to hedge risk.

ErisX will revise and strengthen its proposal after it consults with sports-related businesses and sports leagues, CEO Thomas Chippas said in a *WSJ* interview.

“Some additional time to engage with the industry could strengthen the base of support for these contracts,” Chippas said.

In 2018, a U.S. Supreme Court decision opened the door to sports betting in states other than Nevada. Now 25 states and the District of Columbia allow wagering on games.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this article to illustrate the deep levels of hypocrisy and lunacy that has, and is, dictated by politicians along with a rigged court system filled with bureaucrats that are members of “The Club.”*

*These are the same people that destroyed the lives of millions for “illegally” gambling, be it the mobs or people playing poker or shooting dice at their “club.”*

*But now, as with lotto, which was previously called “playing the numbers,” when the politicians take control and can steal money in the name of “taxes,” what they once deemed a disgrace to humanity is now just a revenue stream into their pockets and their business associates that give them paybacks imbeciles call “campaign contributions.”*

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## **BANKS FACE MASSIVE LOSSES AS HEDGE FUND DEFAULTS**

As we noted in the U.S. Markets Overview, one of the reasons for the fall in today's Dow was growing concern over what we term the "Archegos Capital Management calamity," which illustrates how rigged the equity markets are and how Wall Street is completely disconnected with Main Street.

Credit Suisse and Nomura are among the banks warning of significant first-quarter losses after a hedge fund reported to be Archegos Capital Management was unable to meet margin calls and its lenders forced it to dump its stock holdings to raise cash, forcing share prices for many companies into a tailspin.

Share prices of Viacom, Discovery, Tencent, Baidu, and other prominent companies plunged last week as the hedge fund flooded their shares into the market.

It is “premature” to specify how much money Credit Suisse has lost, the company said in a statement, but the amount “could be highly significant and material to our first quarter results.”

The loss at Nomura, Japan’s largest bank, is estimated at \$2 billion, *CNBC* reported.

Credit Suisse’s share price dropped 14 percent on the news; Nomura’s fell 16 percent.

“It seems that Nomura and Credit Suisse’s risk management was maybe not as stringent as it should have been,” Morningstar equity analyst Johann Scholtz told *CNBC*.

The loss adds to Credit Suisse’s catalog of crises: the bank is out a reported \$10 billion with the collapse in March of supply-chain financier Greensill Capital. Credit Suisse also was touched by scandals that embroiled clients Luckin Coffee and Wirecard, and the bank’s CEO resigned in February 2020 amid its own scandal involving spying on senior executives.

This latest debacle gives “pause for thought” about Credit Suisse’s management, Scholtz said.

On 22 March, Bank of America downgraded Credit Suisse’s stock to neutral and reduced its expectations for the bank’s profit and buyback forecasts for 2021 by \$500 million Swiss francs, or about \$533 million.

Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley were among other banks forcing the fund to liquidate its holdings, according to *CNBC*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we noted, all it will take are wild card meltdowns of hedge funds, private equity groups, and so-called investment banks, the Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) racket of taking private companies public... which will mirror the sub-prime, mortgage-backed securities Bankster scam that set off the Panic of '08. And when Wall Street crashes, the reality of*



*the COVID War, which has destroyed hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods, will devastate Main Street.*

## IMF WARNS AGAIN OF DIVERGING RECOVERIES



Although the global economy has slightly recovered from the COVID War that resulted in massive lockdowns, broad areas and populations are being left behind, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has again warned.

“We are seeing overall improvement in the global economy, but with many countries and people...left behind,” IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said in a 25 March statement.

“We have described it in the past as diverging recoveries and countries being at very different levels and... we’re still seeing that broad picture.”

The recovery faces “extraordinary uncertainty,” and the world’s economy will lose \$22 trillion through 2025 due to the pandemic and resulting economic collapse, Rice noted.

President Biden’s \$1.9-trillion stimulus plan will boost U.S. economic growth by 5 or 6 percent over the next three years and also will aid the global rebound, the IMF said earlier this month.

Biden also is expected to unveil an infrastructure proposal with a price tag of as much as \$3 trillion, which likely would raise the U.S.’s already record debt and deficit levels.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The Biden Bounce will be temporary. When the equity markets crash, the reality of the damage caused by the unprecedented*

*lockdowns of entire nations that have destroyed numerous business sectors such as tourism, hospitality, restaurant, conventions, trade shows, entertainment, theatre, concerts, etc., will usher in the “Greatest Depression.”*

## **IN EUROPE, MORTGAGE LENDERS PAY BORROWERS**



In Portugal and Denmark, where commercial interest rates have dipped below zero, some people with mortgages collect monthly payments from their lenders.

Negative mortgage interest rates made their debut in 2014 when the European Central Bank cut benchmark rates to -0.25 percent to spark the Eurozone's lagging economy.

The arrangement was intended to be brief but the bank continued it to intubate the region's failing economy through 2020's financial collapse.

That overarching negative rate has driven variable mortgage rates at some commercial banks to move against the lenders.

In Portugal, some variable-rate mortgages are linked to the Euribor, the rate banks pay to borrow from each other. The rate in 2008 was about 5 percent; most recently, it was a record low -0.54 percent.

One mortgage holder who took her loan in 2008 received a \$45 payment from her bank last month, even though she still is making mortgage payments.

About 12 percent of mortgages held by Portugal's Caixa Geral de Depositos have gone negative, roughly 50 percent more than in 2020, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Nykredit, Denmark's largest mortgage lender, said more than half of its loans with a repayment period of up to ten years are now negative. The proportion is growing because rates are being adjusted, the bank said.

However, the bank adds an administrative charge to the mortgage payment, which allows the bank to stay in the black instead of paying borrowers.

Denmark's benchmark interest rate has been negative since 2012. "We just got used to it," one borrower told the *WSJ*.

In Spain, most mortgages also are tied to the Euribor. However, the country has passed a law that commercial interest rates can never fall into negative numbers.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We note this article to further illustrate the unprecedented measures being taken to pump up failing economies. Despite these negative interest rates, much of Europe was heading into recession in late 2019, before the 2020 COVID War was launched.*

*Thus, when interest rates rise, as they will when inflation moves higher, the current slow growth trends will reverse into the "Greatest Depression" as the cost of borrowing rises along with debt burdens.*

## JAPAN SETS RECORD BUDGET



For the ninth consecutive year, Japan's legislature has passed a record-high budget, this time calling for ¥106.61 trillion to expand the social safety net to care for the world's oldest population, handle increased national defense costs, and pay bills related to the COVID pandemic.

Defense spending climbed to ¥5.34 trillion, its seventh consecutive record, as the country flexes its muscle in cyber defense and outer space. The defense budget includes ¥33.5 billion to develop a missile system capable of striking Chinese vessels from a distance farther than the ships' missiles could retaliate from.

The overall budget could grow further if prime minister Yoshihide Suga calls for expanded outlays to meet rising or unexpected costs. Last year, the budget rose from ¥102.66 trillion to ¥175.69 trillion when bills piled up.

Japan's government debt ballooned to ¥1.1 quadrillion at the end of fiscal 2019, more than three times the country's annual economic output.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Japan's economy will continue to decline. And the more cheap money being pumped into the system, the lower its currency will fall.*

## **TURKEY'S FINANCIAL MARKETS CRASH AFTER AGBAL FIRING**



On 22 March, Turkey's financial markets seized up and its currency's value slid after the weekend firing of central bank governor Naci Agbal.

The lira, Turkey's currency, lost 11 percent of its value for the week and the Borsa Istanbul 100 stock index fell 9.6 percent. Of the \$16 billion in currency swaps that came to Turkey during Agbal's term, investors yanked more than \$6.5 billion out of the country in two days.

Thirty-six hours before being fired, Agbal raised the central bank's interest rates for a second time since his November appointment as the bank's chief.

During his tenure, Agbal raised rates twice, totaling 8.75 percentage points in hikes. That pushed the benchmark rate to 19 percent, 3.4 percentage points above the country's rampaging inflation rate of 15.6 percent.

The slim difference would allow investments using lira to make a profit above inflation, theoretically spurring business investment in Turkey's sagging economy.

The lira gained 18 percent in value during Agbal's term, the currency's best showing since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2006.

However, Agbal's rate increases contradicted Turkish president Recep Erdogan's belief that rising interest rates worsen inflation as well as hinder economic growth.

Erdogan replaced Agbal with economist Sahap Kavcioglu, who shares Erdogan's belief that high interest rates cause more problems than they solve.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The sinking lira and rising inflation are symptoms of a much more troubling Turkish socioeconomic and geopolitical environment. (See our 23 March article, ["TURKEY: NO POLITICAL OPPOSITION PERMITTED."](#))*

*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.*

## LIGHTS ARE COMING BACK ON IN AIRPORT SHOPS



Not only airlines were crippled by the global collapse of air travel last year; U.S. airport shops and restaurants will lose \$3.4 billion from July 2020 through December 2021, according to the Airport Restaurant and Retail Association.



The figure equals about three years' profit for airport retailers.

Dubai Duty Free, a leading operator of airport retail stores, saw global revenue plunge 65 percent last year to \$697 million from a record \$2 billion in sales in 2019, the trade journal *Moodie Davitt Report* said.

Dufry, the Swiss retailer that owns the Hudson chain of airport stores, closed 700 of the brand's 1,000 stores in the depths of the travel industry's collapse last year and reported 2020 revenues 72 percent less than 2019's, the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

Now travelers are returning to airports – and airport shops. By early March, Dufry had reopened 635 of the 700 Hudson stores it had shut.

“We expect a resuming of travel, especially domestic and inter-regional travel,” by August, Dufry CEO Julian Gonzales, told the *WSJ*.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Travelers may be returning to the skies, but a financial recovery by the airlines and airport retailers will lag the overall rebound. In the U.S., as many as a quarter of the population may refuse to be vaccinated and will wait for “herd immunity” to develop before sealing themselves in an airplane full of strangers.*

*Also, with moves for vaccination passports to be mandatory whether taking a cruise, flying, or entering countries, the number of travelers will greatly diminish, especially among Europeans where there is growing resistance to getting the jab following the reported negative side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine.*

## TWO DEALS CONTINUE BOOK INDUSTRY'S CONSOLIDATION



News Corp, the owner of the *Wall Street Journal* and other business periodicals, has agreed to pay \$349 million to buy the consumer or “trade” book division of Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

It was not specified whether Houghton would remain as its own brand or be subsumed by News Corp’s HarperCollins book imprint.

Houghton’s list of authors includes George Orwell, Philip Roth, and J.R.R. Tolkien, among other well-known names.

HarperCollins CEO Brian Murray called Houghton’s catalog a “crown jewel” and said Houghton’s strength in children’s publishing would accelerate HarperCollins’ growth in that market.

The deal also will bring HarperCollins \$20 million in annual savings through efficiencies in manufacturing and distribution, Murray said.

The sale will allow Houghton to pay down debt and continue its transition to digitally-based educational publishing, two goals the company set last fall when it put its trade book division up for sale.

News Corp is focusing on areas it has targeted for growth, including trade books and its Dow Jones business publishing operation.

Meanwhile, Britain’s Competition and Markets Authority is reviewing a plan by Penguin RandomHouse, the world’s largest consumer book publisher, to buy rival Simon & Schuster. The deal would combine two of the world’s largest publishing houses.

In November, German media conglomerate Bertelsmann SE, Penguin's parent company, agreed to buy Simon & Schuster from its current owner Viacom for \$2.18 billion.

The Authors Guild, the leading U.S. trade group for authors, has opposed the deal, claiming that the combined entity would "account for approximately 50 percent of all the trade books published, creating a huge imbalance in the U.S. publishing industry" and giving the new company monopoly power to set payment rates and terms offered to authors.

Penguin RandomHouse published 25 percent of all consumer books in the U.S. from 1 January through 24 October 2020, according to industry data firm NPD BookScan; Simon& Schuster accounted for 9.1 percent, NPD reported.

British regulators have set 19 May as the date on which they will decide whether to carry out a more detailed investigation of the proposed takeover.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We note this article to again illustrate the consolidation of business and how with only a few owning everything, there will be less competition. And the less completion, the less need for innovation and creativity since market shares are not being challenged.*

*With books, as with the general media, when one company owns most of the sector, as with New Corp owning much of the print and broadcast media, they sell their agenda.*

*We detailed this reality by quoting Fox's Lachlan Murdoch, who admitted that Fox News was not about journalism but rather market share. He was quoted by the Financial Times last month saying, "We will stick where we are and we think that is exactly right and is the best thing for business. We believe where we are targeted, to the centre-right, is exactly where we should be targeted."*

*There it is: "the best thing for business" is their being "targeted, to the centre-right," which is anathema to journalism and the word, "news" should not be associated with Fox.*

## OIL TRADER CHARGED WITH MARKET MANIPULATION



Emilio Heredia Collado, a former oil trader with Glencore PLC, an Anglo-Swiss mining and commodity trading firm, has pleaded guilty in a San Francisco federal court to a conspiracy charge that he manipulated fuel oil prices from September 2012 to August 2016.

Heredia directed other traders to enter buy or sell orders through the S&P Global Platts oil price index platform so prices on the index would move in a direction that would improve profits for his transactions, prosecutors said.

Traders admitted manipulating the index in 2013, the *Wall Street Journal* revealed in an investigation, reporting that European regulators had looked into charges that Glencore, Gunvor Group, and Vitol, a Dutch trading company, had fiddled prices through Platts.

Platts officials said at the time they were unaware their index had been used to skew prices.

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission probed similar charges more than a decade ago.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We have been reporting over the decades of how the markets are rigged. Nothing has changed. And those who are caught usually get a slap on the financial wrist. Considering the revolving door monitoring the trading markets, most of the criminal acts continue unabated.*

*This is what we wrote last September when JPMorgan Chase got caught rigging the precious metals market.*

*Here is the latest from CNBC:*

*JPMorgan Chase is set to pay \$920 million to resolve probes from three U.S. government agencies over its role in the alleged manipulation of metal and Treasury's markets.*

*The figure was released Tuesday by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in a statement from Commissioner Dan Berkovitz. Last week, news reports indicated the New York-based bank was nearing a settlement of almost \$1 billion.*

*For eight years, a group of traders at JPMorgan systematically “spoofed” precious metals and Treasury futures markets by entering hundreds of thousands of orders with the intent to cancel them before execution,” Berkovitz said. “The Commission’s Order finds that JPMorgan manipulated these markets and failed to diligently supervise its traders.”*

*The language is a farce.*

*Government B.S. spewed out for the Presstitutes to sell.*

*“Resolve probes,” “alleged manipulation,” “systematically ‘spoofed’ precious metals market.”*

*How about: “Greedy, lowlife criminals were again caught stealing... destroying the lives and life savings of honest people who invested in precious metals.”*

*But don’t call them criminals.*

*They’re “White Shoe Boys”... and they come in all races, creeds, and colors.*



*One of them was President Obama's Attorney General, Eric Holder, who, when The Banksters fleeced the American public out of trillions of dollars, he declared the "Too Big to Fail" were Too Big for Jail.*

*We note the government's slap on the Banksters' wrist with minor fines compared to the money they made and lives they ruined... and continue to ruin.*

## TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA



As we reported in the Geopolitical section of this **Trends Journal**, as evidenced by the recent meeting with U.S. and Chinese government officials, Beijing will not take orders or follow rules set by Washington. (See or 23 March 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.

### **CHINA, IRAN SIGN MAJOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

**DEAL.** On 27 March, the foreign ministers of China and Iran signed the 25-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, in which China has agreed to invest \$400 billion in Iran in exchange for access to Iran's oil supplies.

The pact covers a range of other issues, including agriculture, cultural exchange, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and transportation.

The two nations also will share military training, research, and intelligence, according to *The New York Times*.

The deal has been in negotiations since Chinese president Xi Jinping visited Tehran in January 2016 and is Iran's largest-ever international cooperation agreement.

In 2001, Iran signed a compact with Russia to cooperate in nuclear development. That treaty is scheduled to end this year. Iran and China participated with Russia in a naval exercise in the Indian Ocean in 2019.

China is Iran's chief trading partner, with about \$20 billion in goods and services exchanged annually between the two countries. The trade peaked at \$52 billion in 2014 but has waned since due to sagging oil prices and international sanctions imposed against Iran in 2018 because of its efforts to build nuclear weapons.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The China-Iran deal voids any leverage the U.S. and its allies have to enforce the international agreement limiting Iran's development of nuclear weapons. China can not only replace the West as a customer for Iranian oil – its chief export – but also can supply Iran with virtually all of the goods the West is withholding from Iran under the sanctions.*

*Backed by China, Iran is preparing to host direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians, the NYT reported. Israel is unlikely to take part in discussions hosted by one of its most bitter enemies, but Iran's offer signals its sense of its growing power in the region that its new ties to China have given it.*

*The China-Iran compact marks a new expansion of China's international power and reach and a weakening of U.S. influence. As we have forecast: The 20<sup>th</sup> century was the American century, the 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Chinese century.*

**CHINESE CITIZENS PROTEST WESTERN BAN ON XINJIANG COTTON.** In the wake of February's U.S. ban on cotton fabric and clothing made in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, Chinese consumers are lashing out with boycotts of their own against Adidas, Nike, Swedish clothing maker H&M, and other western companies.

The U.S. ban was imposed following evidence that Xinjiang's cotton was produced by enslaved Uighurs, a Moslem minority that the Chinese government has been accused of trying to exterminate.

In March 2020, the U.K.-based Business and Human Rights Centre named 83 major Chinese brands it said were benefiting directly or indirectly from Uighur slave labor.

Last week in China, the hashtag #ISupportXinjiangCotton garnered 4.5 billion Internet views and sparked 28 million discussions.

"All foreign companies must get out of China," one person commented.

"China's national interests are greater than all," another wrote.

More than 30 Chinese celebrities have ended their endorsements of Nike and Adidas. Renmin University in Beijing has removed Nike's logo from its athletic fields. Nike's logo on the shirt worn by an actor in a popular television drama was blurred out.

Social media sites show videos of people slashing H&M clothing and burning Nike shoes while shouting, "I won't let you rumormongers grab my money any more!"

Western officials dismissed the protests as being organized and mandated by the Chinese government. However, this time the grassroots outrage is spontaneous, the *Global Times* reported, citing comments from inside observers.

Chinese nationalism has grown with the country's rise as a major power, the *GT* noted, and the government is allowing the public to be the face of protest in this case while Beijing works to maintain smooth government-to-government relations with the West.

**H&M: DISPARAGE CHINA, LOSE BUSINESS.** H&M, the world's second-largest clothing retailer, faced severe backlash in China and calls for a boycott after a statement the company made about Xinjiang back in September emerged on a Chinese social media site.

The ruling Communist Party last week posted a statement from the Swedish company that said it was “deeply concerned” about reports of forced labor to produce cotton in the country's western region.

The *Associated Press*, citing foreign governments and researchers, reported there could be more than a million Uyghurs and others confined to detention camps in Xinjiang.

The statement from H&M has been a source of anger for many on social media in the country and even prompted some national celebrities to denounce the company. *CNN* reported that Huang Xuan, an actor who was a brand ambassador for the clothing store, announced he would no longer work for the company.

China's Communist Youth League also condemned the H&M statement, saying, “Spreading rumors to boycott Xinjiang cotton while trying to make money in China? Wishful thinking!”

The *Wall Street Journal* reported the post was shared 30,000 times.

H&M was forced to issue a statement and said the comment did not “represent any political position.”

“H&M Group always respects Chinese consumers. We are committed to long-term investment and development in China,” the statement read. That did not stop stores across the country from being shuttered and its 500 locations being removed from the Apple map.

The *CNN* report said that a short time after H&M was forced to try and put out its PR fire, Nike was also ensnared by the social media mob in the country.

The report pointed out Nike said in a statement a year ago that it “does not source products from [Xinjiang] and we have confirmed with our contract suppliers that they are not using textiles or spun yarn from the region.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *H&M, Nike... name the company that is doing business in China and watch how each one that wants to expand its market share in the nation of 1.4 billion people will bow down and suck up to Communist China’s demands and not criticize its government.*

*It is estimated that over the next nine years, more than 70 percent of China’s population will be middle class, consuming nearly \$10 trillion in consumer goods and services.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *For any reader of this magazine, the swift backlash that H&M and Nike faced by the Chinese public should not be a surprise. VOA News reported that shortly after the tense U.S.-China talks in Anchorage earlier this month, quotes from the country’s top diplomat, Yang Jiechi –who squared off with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken – have been appearing on handbags, umbrellas, and mobile phone cases. The report pointed to a tote bag that reads, “The U.S. is in no position to talk down to China,” which can be yours for \$13.*

*On 3 November, we ran the article, “[CHINA’S SURGE IN NATIONALISM RAISES CONCERN](#).” The report pointed out that in 2018, Yu Zhengsheng, a top Chinese official, told the annual Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference that patriotism has been a top priority.*

*The AP said President Xi Jinping’s goal was to “mobilize all the sons and daughters of [ethnic Chinese] to work together for the greater national interests and the realization of the Chinese Dream” – to be the world’s top power.*

*As Gerald Celente has long noted, “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.”*



*And, as we have been reporting, 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.*

*We also see how companies are forced to bow to China because of its vast market. China is H&M's fourth-biggest market and has been removed by major e-commerce and service apps in the country simply for saying it has "deep concern" about reports of camps that contain Uyghurs where human rights abuses have occurred. China insists these are "job training" facilities. The European Union, Britain, Canada, and the U.S. have imposed sanctions on Chinese officials over these reports.*

**HSBC'S ROAMING BANKERS DRUM UP CHINA BUSINESS.** British financial giant HSBC is letting out a squad of footloose financial planners in the Chinese coastal cities of Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenzhen to track down potential wealthy customers and offer them banking, insurance, and investment services.

Instead of offices and desks, the roaming bankers will have digital tablets.

The venture, dubbed HSBC Pinnacle, will operate from a digital platform in Shanghai. The company says it is the first to be licensed by China for such a venture.

Pinnacle is a key pilot project in the bank's three strategies to spur its sagging fortunes: focusing on Asia, specializing in wealth management, and generating more income through fee-based services and less through lending.

China's middle class in need of such services will number 600 million people by 2028, almost twice the entire current U.S. population, the bank calculates.

Initially, HSBC's team will seek out individuals with at least \$100,000 to invest, a market already crowded by AIA Group, China Merchants Bank, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and other domestic and international institutions.

HSBC's advantage: "We believe the right way to engage is a digital and people-blended service," Trista Sun, Pinnacle's chief, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Competition will be stiff.

"The American financial services industry is cleaning up in China," Sherard Cowper-Coles, HSBC's public relations chief, commented to the *WSJ*. "The big American banks [and] investment houses are making huge progress."

However, HSBC has advantages others don't.

The bank was founded in Shanghai in 1865, in 1984 became the first foreign bank to be licensed to operate on the mainland, and has 160 branches throughout the country. About a quarter of HSBC's 226,000-person workforce is in China.

HSBC's personal banking and wealth management division lost \$34 million on the mainland last year while earning \$4.93 billion in profit in Hong Kong.

Pinnacle is an effort not only to correct that deficit but to make the division the bank's signature operation in China.

***TREND FORECAST: HSBC sees the future in China as does the big business of the world. Considering its Hong Kong roots and Asian connections, the company is well-positioned to gain a greater banking share from the mainland and Asian nations.***

## GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



### **CINEWORLD LOSES \$3 BILLION, GOES DEEPER INTO DEBT.**

The world's second-largest chain of movie theaters lost \$3 billion in 2020, compared to earning \$212 million in profit in 2019.

Revenues for the year were down 80 percent to \$852 million, Cineworld reported.

Box-office receipts likely will not return to 2019 levels until 2024, CEO Mooky Greidinger told the *Financial Times*.

The company's future depends on the number of new studio releases, the lifting of restrictions on the number of patrons allowed into theaters, and the public's willingness to come back, Cineworld said in a statement.

To help it survive, the company is asking its investors permission to issue another \$213 million in convertible bonds that would mature in 2025. The bond issue would follow a November arrangement giving the chain an emergency loan from various lenders.

The global shutdown forced most of Cineworld's 767 theaters to remain closed for months.

"Unless cinemas reopen successfully in May, further rent reductions are negotiated, and a tax refund is received in April, Cineworld will almost certainly have to rely on additional liquidity" – in other words, borrow more money – Citi analyst Natasha Brilliant said to the *FT*.

**OFFICE DEPOT SHUTS THREE OF SEVEN STORES IN FRESNO AREA.** The big-box office supplies retailer has begun going-out-of-business sales at the three stores, which are slated to close on 15 May, the company said.

The stores are closing as part of Office Depot's plan to "optimize its retail footprint," likely meaning that the company opened too many stores in one area and is now correcting that mistake in a shrunken, post-pandemic retail landscape.

Last May, Office Depot revealed a plan to fire 13,100 workers and close an unspecified number of its 1,100 stores by the end of 2022, including 90 stores by the end of this year.

Sales at the company's brick-and-mortar stores may account for no more than 20 percent of the chain's sales by mid-2022, CFO Joe Lower told an investors conference in June 2019.

In place of those sales, Office Depot is strengthening its reportedly profitable business-to-business services, which includes direct mail, graphic design, packing and shipping, and tech support.

Office Depot's 2020 sales registered 8.9 percent below 2019's, the company has reported.

The ODP Corporation, which owns Office Depot, also owns the Office Max office supply chain.

# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## CENTRAL BANKS WILL KEEP THE ECONOMY SHUT DOWN

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

Make no mistake about it. The global economy WILL NOT be allowed to reopen by design.

*What is the end game here?*

SIMPLE. Allow the central banks to finish what they started: to be the lender and buyer of last resort.

From their inception, central banks have had one goal: **To own it all.** And what better way to pull that off other than causing a shutdown of the world economy and then NOT ALLOWING IT TO REOPEN?

Let's cover recent events.



Currently, there is a cargo ship wedged in the Suez Canal that is causing major supply disruptions across the globe.

Here is the truth: they can move the ship at any time they want, *and they will at a time of their choosing.*

This ship wedged in the canal is their latest effort to keep the global economy, and hence the money velocity from moving higher.

Money velocity is the rate at which cash moves through the economy, which, just last week, hit a record low. Central banks need the money velocity to stay low, a concept I have outlined previously in the **Trends Journal**. (See my 21 July article, [“THE ENGINEERED EXTINCTION OF THE USD.”](#))

This allows central banks to inflate on a massive scale and, therefore, move closer to becoming the owners of everything. As a recent example, in just the last year, the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet has ballooned 100 percent. The higher the Fed’s balance sheet inflates, the higher the stock market will go.

Generally, when an “accident” of the magnitude of a ship blocking a major supply route occurs, a major investigation ensues... but, what are we hearing? SILENCE.

Prior to the blockage of the Suez Canal, a major supply route, several countries around the world again instituted more lockdowns, which I had said would happen as “new and worse variants” of the COVID virus keep springing up.

Moreover, here are some other events I believe will happen:

1. Expect new COVID variants to mysteriously pop up.
2. Expect more re-shutdowns of economies around the world despite record amounts of people getting the jab.
3. Expect reports of COVID cases continuing to rise.

4. Expect more supply/supply route disruptions. (Just this past weekend, an Indonesian oil refinery was leveled to the ground. A lightning strike is being blamed.)

As I started off in this article, the world economy **will not be allowed to reopen** until the central banks have finished their grand plan and the fulfillment of their endgame which is, again, to own it all.

As we now stand, central banks around the world are indeed awfully close to fulfilling their objective, so BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## KNOW YOUR ENEMY

by *Bradley J. Steiner*, *American Combato*

The great warrior-sage Sun Tzu, a genius who predated Jesus Christ and whose Masterwork, *The Art of War*, is still studied in military training academies and intelligence agencies worldwide, advised:

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

“Knowing the enemy,” as far as Survivalism is concerned, means knowing the human predator; knowing that form of bipedal sewage that infects human society and preys on people – robbing, beating, terrorizing, murdering, and raping them. By understanding what this vermin *looks for* and *seeks out* in people they decide to victimize, you will drastically decrease your chances of

being targeted because you will be able to reduce the indicators of vulnerability that attract these swine.

First off, I want to stress that the violent types are not looking for a fight. They want victims. Hence, they select those who appear to themselves to be easy marks. Look like you can't handle yourself; walk in a slouch, stumbling along carelessly, and that is one sign to a predator that says, "good victim."

Appear to be hesitant, weak, timid, unsure, perhaps lost in a part of the city where the predator observes you, and he may well assume you look like an attractive *next target*.

Appear distracted, look like all that's on your mind is your cell phone conversation, the texting you're absorbed in, or you are lost in thoughts occupying you to the point of making you look like you are preoccupied as you walk, and you may just be irresistible to some brainless punk who has abandoned his humanity and makes a business of preying upon people.

**Lesson:** Look alive and poised, like you know where you are headed whenever you are out and about. Head up. Brisk steps. Upright posture.

*(Note: I love the idea of carrying a stout walking stick. The English blackthorns tend to be my favorite, but any hardwood walking stick will do. You don't even need to speak softly, as Teddy Roosevelt advised; just having that big stick in your hand tends to send a message to the street jackals.)*

A second tipoff, closely related to the first, that attracts the street manure is *being inattentive*. Not noticing or paying attention to who and what is around you. Some people are so distracted when they go about their business, it would be very easy to follow them for blocks and they wouldn't have a clue they were being followed. These people are great targets for "knockout punching," abduction, and mugging.

Remember: You can be a highly-skilled black belt, *but if you are taken by surprise by someone who strikes quickly and well, you are toast!*

I once proved to students in a protective service training course I taught how easily some people can be followed. I picked out an individual at random and followed him for about five blocks – until he entered the building where he was headed – without him noticing, turning his head, or pausing *once!* Had I been targeting this man, it would have been a simple matter to take him completely by surprise.

**Lesson:** Maintain a steady commitment to situational awareness – alertness! Notice things. Notice people. If you see the same face twice in your vicinity, *take counter-surveillance action*. Do not dismiss anyone or anything that gives you a "gut" feeling of uneasiness, and *never* dismiss anyone whom you observe to be possibly trailing you.

My opinion is that private citizens, where and when legal, should be armed with a handgun they know how to use in personal defense. If you carry a walking stick as well, you might be able to fend off a scumbag without the need to use your sidearm; or you might need to use your walking stick to create an opportunity to draw your sidearm. Think about that. You can never be “too prepared.”

A third thing that attracts predators is finding that their potential target is *alone*. Yes, people in pairs and in groups do get attacked; but given a choice, the violent felon picks the *solitary* victim.

**Lesson:** Whenever you are out alone, be super-alert and super-poised so if trouble comes to you, you will be ready to meet and defeat it. And when with company, do not assume you are safe, automatically, because of numbers. Be *ready* whether alone or with others.

Remember Sun Tzu's counsel; it has stood the test of thousands of years experience in war and peacetime. It is sure to help you.

Human predators are like predatory animals in the jungle. They select and target the weak. Of course, it is always wonderful to hear of one of the damn human



bacteria picking a target that is not weak and getting his head blown off or being beaten to a broken, bloody pulp for his efforts.

Ah... let me dwell on that last thought. It really is delightful.

*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



## ADD YEARS TO YOUR LIFE BY PROTECTING YOUR BRAIN

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

As of the end of 2019, there were 117 million people over the age of 50 living in the U.S. They make up the largest group of aging people in our country's history. Most of these individuals are overweight or obese, eat a poor diet, and have pre-existing illnesses. Many experience a high-stress lifestyle and turn to poor habits for a short-lived "fix." Many are prescribed one or more likely two or three medications.

Making matters worse is our healthcare system, which is overtaxed, crumbling, and places little to no emphasis on prevention. Given this sad state of affairs, it is not surprising that the country is in a pandemic of brain dysfunction, depression and anxiety, oxidative stress, and inflammation leading to dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and insomnia.

Mental health conditions that have been labeled "age-related" are most often the result of neglecting our bodies and brains. For a moment, consider that right

now [one in three seniors die](#) with Alzheimer's or some type of dementia. Healthcare experts tell us that this upward trend is increasing rapidly. Therefore, some very radical and fundamental changes must be undertaken. Since it is unlikely the pharmaceutical industry's puppets in our federal health agencies will sound the alarm, we must begin to become responsible for our brain's health and sustain mental resilience ourselves.

Most of us know that physical exertion is good for our bodies – but it is also essential for our brains. Exercise should be a natural part of your life, whatever your age. If you do not exercise regularly or feel that you are too old to embark on a physical fitness program, you can begin to build a stronger body and brain by simply taking frequent walks. Studies show that senior citizens who walk regularly record significant improvement in memory skills compared to those living a sedentary lifestyle. Walking can also improve learning ability, concentration, and abstract reasoning.

One long-term Stanford University [study](#) tracked a group of older men and women with no signs of dementia over a seven-year period. Those with high participation in leisure activities, including walking and exercise, were 38 percent less likely than others in the study to develop dementia.

In his book *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers*, Stanford neuroendocrinologist Dr. Robert Sapolsky writes about a University of California in San Francisco study that measured the brain function of nearly 6,000 women during an eight-year period. The study found that no matter how much or how little exercise the women undertook, there was a direct correlation to cognitive performance. It wasn't simply a matter of all or nothing. For every extra mile walked per week, there was a 13 percent lower chance of cognitive decline.

But walking is not your only choice. There is dancing, gardening, yoga, tai-chi, and very basic gentle exercises that are readily available. Based on my observations after leading many anti-aging retreats, I estimate that the protective effects of regular activity against cognitive decline may be as high as 40 percent. Just be certain that you begin slowly if you are just starting, and then gradually work up to about 30 minutes of exercise at least five days per week.

In addition to exercise and a healthy diet, the quality of the state of our mind is crucial. As we grow older, we can experience a sense of isolation and perhaps feel like giving up and withdrawing from social interaction. This has become a growing trend now after lockdowns, social distancing, mask-wearing, and the rising sense of fear and distrust that reinforce further isolation. This type of shutting down of the emotions, intellect, and inner vitality is as unhealthy for our brains as the more easily recognized damaging habits of poor diet and a lack of exercise.

Numerous studies have shown that people who have a strong sense of purpose and meaning in their lives are the most likely to thrive in their later years. Authentic purpose does not pertain to how much education you have received, the size of your bank account, or the length of your investment portfolio. It may relate to your life career but neither is that a reliable guarantee. More important is the quality of our relationships. Frequent contact with family and friends, participating in one's community, feeling satisfied with one's accomplishments, and not entertaining guilt over failures are key in maintaining mental health.

A positive outlook and ongoing social involvement are essential for keeping our brains stimulated and vital as we age. Many studies have found that mentally active people have a wider range of interests and farther-reaching perspectives. Those with a greater number of social contacts reach old age with healthier feelings of psychophysical peace and well-being.

We have all heard about how stress can adversely affect our entire body. Once stress triggers the sympathetic nervous system, hormones are secreted, and there is a cascade of physiological changes that prepare the body for impending illness. A stress response is obviously beneficial when we front danger, but it also suppresses the immune system. Constant exposure to stress also contributes to oxidation that has an enormous toll on our mental faculties.

Practicing meditation has been shown to be immensely valuable for brain health. I recall once inviting Prof. Richard Davidson, a neuroscientist at the University of Wisconsin, on my radio broadcast to discuss his research to evaluate the effects

of meditation on Tibetan Buddhist monks. The results, according to Dr. Davidson, showed that the brain is capable of being trained and physically modified in ways few people can imagine. In fact, the brain's neural network is remarkably malleable and flexible, known as "neuroplasticity." This amazing organ that grows and learns through interacting with the world through perception and action can continually adapt and rewire itself to preserve mental lucidity, vividness, and clarity.

When the monks' brains were measured with fMRI scans, Davidson found that the ones who were the most accomplished practitioners of meditation had brain waves that were far better organized and synchronized compared to those of novices who were less experienced meditators or the average person who does not meditate at all. The more years spent meditating, the higher the gamma wave activity, which is extremely rare and only recorded during very heightened states of conscious awareness. In previous studies, mental activities such as concentration, memory, learning, and sharpness of awareness were associated with this kind of high-level neural coordination.

Research in this area is ongoing, and many other benefits are being discovered regularly. I do not doubt that meditation is a powerful tool in promoting a healthy brain, and there seems to be strong evidence that it can even counter the loss of cognitive clarity, memory, and dementia.

The good news is that it is never too late to learn meditation. As we get older, and consequently wiser, many late starters find it more easy, rewarding, and enjoyable than they had expected. So simply adopting a healthy energy-enriching diet, regular exercise, and some method of meditative discipline to preserve mental acuity, calm, and stability is a simple formula that can assure many rewarding and satisfying years ahead.



# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## CONGRESS PRESSURES BIG TECH TO CENSOR EVEN MORE

When Jack Dorsey is the last person in the room speaking out for freedom of speech, you know something's very wrong in America.

But that's how it was at a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing held on 25 March 2021. The Twitter CEO, along with Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google/Alphabet lead Sundar Pichai were called in to answer questions about their media platforms.

Questions by controlling Democrats on the committee mostly threatened the tech execs with repercussions if they failed to censor and purge their platforms even more than they're already doing.

At one point, it was Dorsey who took a rhetorical stand. "I don't think we should be the arbiters of truth and I don't think the government should be either."

The fact that he attended the “virtual hearing” at a kitchen table, in front of a pile of plates and glasses, underscored his pose of contempt for the proceedings. Nevertheless, Twitter has been at the forefront of tech censorship.

The banning began soon after the insurgent 2016 election victory of Donald Trump, who effectively ran against both the Democrat and Republican parties. Populist, pro-freedom voices like Alex Jones and Laura Loomer were stripped of their accounts. GAB, an upstart social media platform, had its app removed from Google Play and Apple app stores, as was the InfoWars app.

The Big Socials ramped up censorship of pro-Trump and anti-lockdown influencers and average citizens in 2020 and early 2021. Everyone from the polite PragerU to the *Epoch Times* newspaper, to the President himself ended up on the wrong side of the censors. Sidney Powell, Michael Flynn, MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, and even the careful YouTube channel RightSide Broadcasting experienced censorship.

Twitter infamously censored tweets (i.e., short messages) of President Trump during the 2020 Presidential campaign. Then, following a huge citizen protest against election irregularities in Washington, D.C. on 6 January, the platform issued Trump a “lifetime” ban.

But it went even further. The Parler social media platform associated with Dan Bongino was taken offline when Amazon cut off its web services. Payment processors, banks, web host providers, and fundraising sites have all colluded in purging and preventing alternative political viewpoints and voices from being heard.

### **The Big Lie of “Go Build Your Own”**

The media and Democrats’ familiar counter to conservatives being banned off socials had been, “go build your own.” But the Parler and earlier GAB takedowns exposed the reality that radical leftists have no intention of allowing an alternative social media ecosystem to exist.

And so it was at the committee hearing. Led by Democrats including Committee Chair Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. and Chairs of two of its Subcommittees, Mike Doyle and Jan Schakowsky, the hearing went full Unconstitutional.

Democrats cast perfectly legal, First Amendment protected speech they are explicitly bound to uphold as elected officials, as dangerous and requiring censorship. They also repeatedly threatened the social media platforms with reprisals for not acting even more to carry out programs against political opponents.

According to reporter Glenn Greenwald, himself censored from a media site he helped create, Democrats continued to try to cast their political opponents as terrorists:

At one point toward the end of the hearing, Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), in the context of the January 6 riot, actually suggested that the government should create a list of organizations they unilaterally deem to be “domestic terror organization” and then provide it tech companies as guidance for what discussions they should “track and remove”: in other words, treat these groups the same was as ISIS and Al Qaeda.

If Fletcher and other Democrats have their way, Dennis Prager and Mike Lindell may soon be categorized as domestic terrorists. In fact, senators including Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley have already been pilloried as such by political opponents, including New York representative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez.

### **Congress Illegally Coercing Censorship**

Other committee members, among them some Republicans, threatened to strip social media platforms of current legal “Section 230” protections against being sued for content posted by their users. Publishers who curate and decide content on their sites or publications are not protected in the same way from lawsuits and sanctions as so-called “neutral” platforms.

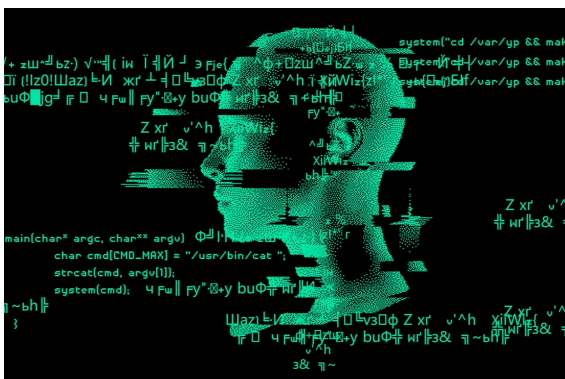
Meanwhile, the FBI is still tracking down, intimidating, and even arresting and locking up Washington, D.C. protesters who were completely peaceful and lawful. Several people, including police officers, have lost their jobs for merely attending the protest in their off-hours.

Between the actual illegal abuse of power by elected officials in Congress, and the general ideological willingness of tech companies to reduce their platforms to propaganda outlets for the establishment, the hearings added up to a sad public display.

And as Greenwald pointed out about the hearings, it's not just conservative voices that are being snuffed out, although those voices have borne the brunt of attacks. Anti-establishment voices in general have faced purges. Try voicing any skepticism of COVID vaccines or government lockdowns, for example. Question transgenderism or critical race theory. Cite actual racial breakdowns of crime statistics from the Federal government's own data compilation. Say "Wuhan Virus."

All of the above have been enough for average Americans to be censored, de-monetized, de-platformed, and digitally de-personed off of the internet. Average Americans are not only not in Kansas anymore. They're being quickly shuttled toward a Xinjiang-like province of China.

## HUMANS SUBJECT TO mRNA "SOFTWARE UPDATES"



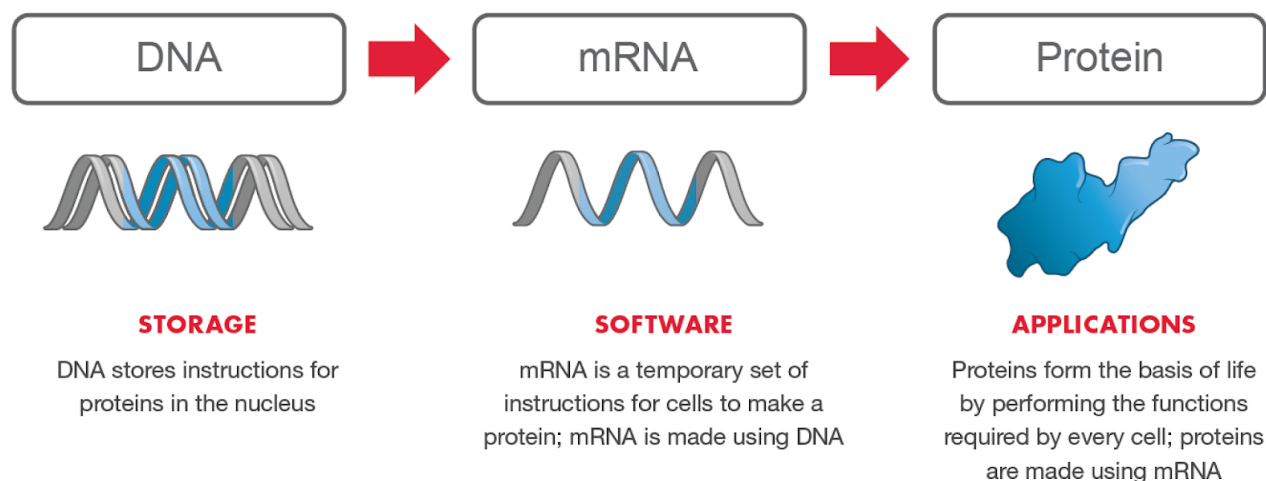
For anyone who believes the COVID vaccines are a unique phenomenon, guess again.

Moderna, a company at the forefront in developing a COVID vaccine, envisions its mRNA technology as an "operating

system” delivering the “software of life,” complete with frequent updates. Only with humans as the recipients.

The Moderna website has a [page](#) devoted to explaining that mRNA technology is meant to deliver much more to people than just a one-time vaccine. Under the heading, “Our Operating System,” complete with a nifty graphic, it explains:

Recognizing the broad potential of mRNA science, we set out to create an mRNA technology platform that functions very much like an operating system on a computer. It is designed so that it can plug and play interchangeably with different programs. In our case, the “program” or “app” is our mRNA drug—the unique mRNA sequence that codes for a protein.



Those “application” proteins created by Moderna’s “operating system,” and “software” are designed to occur...inside people.

The Moderna website explains their expansive designs in terms of a “Software of Life” in another section:

Generally, the only thing that changes from one potential mRNA medicine to another is the coding region—the actual genetic code that instructs ribosomes to make protein. Utilizing these instruction sets gives our investigational mRNA medicines a software-like quality. We also have the



ability to combine different mRNA sequences encoding for different proteins in a single mRNA investigational medicine.

We are leveraging the flexibility afforded by our platform and the fundamental role mRNA plays in protein synthesis to pursue mRNA medicines for a broad spectrum of diseases.

If the technology Moderna is touting were strictly voluntary, like traditional medical treatments, that might be one thing. But that very notion is being tested right now in the “crisis” vaccine rollout.

Governments around the world, spurred on and advised by globalist entities such as the WHO, the World Economic Forum, the U.N., and others, are edging closer and closer to making COVID vaccines compulsory. There seems little doubt that if the drive meets with no resistance, people are likely to be subject to whatever future “updates” technocratic elites decide are necessary for humankind.

Moderna’s language describing its innovations is quite literally de-humanizing. It likens humans to machines and extols “programming” them to build proteins that trigger other events, whether immunological responses or “fixes” to diseases.

Unfortunately, that language is about more than analogies and semantics. It underscores a technocratic view about what humans are, and what boundaries are acceptable in pushing invasive experimental technologies into their bodies.

## **FOR TECHNOCRATIC ELITES, THERE IS NO “NATURAL”**



“Man the toolmaker” is an old trope defining what sets humans apart from other creatures. But what happens when what we’re changing is ourselves, as well as the world around us?

“Gender fluidity,” “transhumanism,” chimeric experimentation, radical “Great Resets” and compulsory “mRNA vaccines” can all be seen as facets of the same impulse: disregard for, or outright obliteration of the natural. According to this worldview, what exists is not ultimately fixed or immutably defined. Any aspect of “nature” is malleable to human will, imagination, and technology.

Understanding that mindset and modus operandi is key to unlocking the technocratic worldview and proscriptions for “progress.”

A recent [article](#) by Mathew Lu at the American Mind website explored some of the rationales of the worldview. He noted, “We now live a new ‘ethics of modernity’ that has habituated nearly all of us to modes of life and ways of being that are fundamentally alienated from human nature as traditionally understood.”

Lu argues that changes in mathematics and science, from apprehending an inherent “nature” of reality via geometry, etc., underwent radical reinvention beginning in the enlightenment, and culminating with modern mathematics and science. The new science is all about constructing new solutions, models, and realities, as pointed out in works like David Lachterman’s *Ethics Of Geometry*.

As Lu notes about Lachterman’s work:

Modern mathematics “is essentially occupied with the solution of problems, not with the proof of theorems,” and so, for the moderns, “mathematics is most fertilely pursued as the ‘construction of problems or equations’ — that is, as the transposition of mathematical intelligibility and certainty from the algebraic to the geometrical domain, or from the interior forum of the mind to the external forum of space and body.” In other words, where the old mathematics described what its practitioners saw as immutable and given in the world around them, in the new mathematics, it is the practitioners’ ideas that are primary. The culmination of the modern project seeks to conform the world to the mind instead of the mind to the world.

## An Infinitely Malleable “Reality”?

Lu argues that a view of the world as infinitely malleable has had widespread implications in society and politics, morality, and popular culture. Technological innovations have made seemingly impossible things possible.

“Predictive modeling” is used instead of accrued real-world data to roll out mass crisis health initiatives such as the worldwide COVID vaccinations. AI-powered algorithms decide what information we access and view. Whole populations are surveilled and assigned credit scores to modify and conform behaviors to the desires of political masters.

Scientists are moving quickly from genetically modifying plants to modifying people. So-called chimeric experimentation, or mixing the human genome with that of other animals, a scenario evoked by H.G. Wells in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, is already happening.

In crucial respects, “natural” is longer considered “inevitable” or even standard.

Lu explained some of the conceits and consequences of the intellectual un-bounding of the will from any recognition of limits.

It is precisely this kind of distancing between model and reality that enables us to even take seriously, much less believe, a “woke” claim like someone is actually a “woman in a man’s body.” As we become more and more accustomed to living in a world of models, we eventually see ourselves and our bodies as part of our own self-generated abstractions. This ethos also explains why “intellectuals” were originally more readily drawn into thinking this way than “normal” people. People who work with their hands are much more intimately familiar with the straightforward intransigence of material reality to the human will. Wood, steel, and stone will ultimately yield, but only after a great deal of effort and a deep understanding of their proper natures. Master craftsmen become so only because they accustom themselves to the intrinsic properties of their materials and tools.

## Rooted In Delusion

The pretensions of the technocratic mindset to upend notions of the natural as it applies to the sexes is a current rage. In a piece titled, [“The War On Sex”](#), Alexander Riley, a Professor of Sociology at Bucknell University, noted:

But humans and nature cannot so easily be pried apart. The evidence of the biological reality of the sex difference—not just in gonads and sex cells, but in personality characteristics and behavioral profiles, on average—is overwhelming, and science is daily producing more. Male and female brains are structurally different in ways that map on to the emerging neuroscientific knowledge on how brain structure affects behavior and capabilities. The feminist claim that these differences are wholly a product of socialization becomes more implausible the more we know. In societies where egalitarian gender ideology is arguably most widespread, such as in Northern Europe, there has been no disappearance of traditional sex differences in choices concerning careers. Men are still overrepresented in fields that focus on systems and objects, and women are still the overwhelming majority in fields dedicated to extensive human interaction and social services.

The article also countered claims that “intersex” individuals (i.e., people with some physiological traits of both males and females) were a statistically significant portion of the human population:

The true estimate of intersex individuals [Physician and Psychologist] Leonard Sax argued, is roughly 0.018%, about 100 times lower than Fausto-Sterling’s estimate. That is, more than 99.98% of humans are clearly either male or female in terms of biological sex.

## Every New Is Old Again

In important respects, the idea of limitless transcendence, or living without bounds, is hardly new. It’s a notion as old as Adam. In the modern age, its

conceits have shifted from religious and philosophic, to grounds more typically cloaked in science. Dizzying advances in technology have fueled a sense of inevitability to the technocratic worldview. But can nature really be defied?

Throughout much of history, elites didn't seek so much to deny limits for themselves, as to align themselves with the gods, who were above the lot of average humans. From the Pharaoh to the "sun king" Louis XIV, to Emperor Hirohito in the 20th century, the authority of Kings to dictate, transgress, and live by a different standard was tied to their literal blood connection with deities.

Modernity famously abandoned God. But if anything, the modern technocratic mindset has only accelerated God-like aspirations for humans – or at least a privileged subset. Technocrats regularly envision enhancing themselves in virtually every respect to become, not more human, but less so.

Merging with machines is proposed to gain the mental prowess of supercomputers and the strength of robotics. Leveraging information and systems of technocratic control are seen as ways of assuming God-like powers over the average, unwashed (i.e., carbon-dirty, over-breeding, over-consuming, and now literally virus-contaminated) masses. Altering genetics is seen as a path for changing any physiological destiny.

Augmented omniscience, unprecedented societal power over others, and indefinite life extension are all considered not only within reach but perfectly desirable, by the technocratic elite. What those unbounded desires mean for the rest of us, however, is already progressively spelling, not Utopia, but a hell on earth.

## SMART CITIES WILL BE DIGITAL PRISONS



To paraphrase Charles Dickens, “It was the best of intentions, it was the worst of ideas...”

Unaccountable, billionaire-funded organizations are leading the charge to “smart cities” designed to comprehensively model behaviors and control the activities of inhabitants. That’s according to Derek Boze of the [Last American Vagabond](#) news blog and reported in *Blacklisted News*.

The purpose of architectural engineering is... well, engineering humans. Lofty-sounding utopian goals include ending “systemic” racism, (i.e., racism that can’t be established via traditional notions of evidence and common sense), overcrowding (fueled by immigration, not actual American citizen birth rates), and crime (most prevalent in urban areas controlled by leftists peddling further “solutions” like smart cities).

But the actual proscriptions for city designs and “features” are anything but utopian. They would diminish privacy, do away with the dignity and incentives of property ownership, and curtail freedom of movement. If that sounds a lot like the lockdowns of 2020 with some bread and circus bells and whistles, you’re getting the idea.

Billionaires like Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos via his media mouthpiece *The Washington Post*, George Soros, Klaus Schwab, and partners at the U.N. all have a hand in pushing the Smart City agenda. In fact, it’s part of the so-called “Great Reset,” predicated on a very old communist paradigm. The radical fever-dreams of Marx and acolytes like Vladimir Lenin systematically rejected everything of the organically established, evolved order of life. The motivating epicenter of their history-poisoning cult has always been to “make everything new,” according to



the artificial mental constructs created by their grandiose and often tragically absurd visions.

And “making everything new,” dressed up with technocratic capabilities and innovations, is what the Great Reset and the Smart City are all about. As Derek Boze outlines:

A Smart City is promoted as an urban environment which “uses data and emerging technologies to improve the quality of life for citizens, share information with the public, drive economic growth and build a more inclusive society.” This city would involve the use of technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, and drones to “improve citizens’ lives and solve the challenges of today while preparing to address those of tomorrow.”

What could go wrong with a human existence monitored by drones and artificial intelligence, where all actions are digitally captured and used to decide and dictate allowed behaviors and activities? Everything, when one considers that smart cities are really designed to further separate the masters of the universe who control it and those being controlled.

### **Quickly Being Prototyped And Rolled Out**

“Smart Cities” aren’t just fodder for books, whitepapers, and conjecture. Components and protocols are being designed and even implemented right now. In November 2020, not wasting the opportunities presented by the largely elite manufactured COVID crisis, the WEF selected 36 cities to “pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities developed by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance” (GSCA).

Pioneer cities include Barcelona, Spain; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; London, United Kingdom; Mexico City, Mexico, and San José, United States.

A major feature of the Smart City is the invasive use of technology to surveil, control, and collect information from citizens. As described by the GSCA:

To support their booming urban populations, many cities have come to rely on the internet of things (IoT)—that is, the world’s ever-expanding network of connected devices—to collect, share and analyze real-time data on urban environments. The data gathered using IoT technologies are helping these “smart cities” to combat crime, reduce pollution, decrease traffic congestion, improve disaster preparedness, and more. However, it is also raising growing concerns about privacy, security, and other risks.

What’s not built into the technological surveillance and data collection envisioned by the “pioneering” program? Traditional Constitutional limits on privacy or respect and attention to legal, long-established human freedoms.

Other components of the Smart City include controlling human activities via “sustainable development” and considerations of “equity.” These terms really mean limiting the ability of average people to work, innovate, and create wealth for themselves, and controlling what wealth they do manage to create.

In that vein, living quarters, the ability to acquire and use land, and the ability to transact freely for mutual benefit to accrue wealth and satisfy desires and demands of fellow citizens will no longer be in the hands of citizens themselves. The idea of contracting and interacting in relative freedom isn’t a feature of the Smart City.

As for the governance of the comprehensive impositions? Well, that would be handled by the GSCA and the WEF of course, funneled down to local authorities. Think of the “comprehensive plan” rubric, familiar to anyone who has attended a few, local town or city council meetings over the past two decades. These proscriptions from higher authorities and funders have radically changed the process of deciding land use and regulations from a citizen to local legislator approach, to a higher authority to local legislator system of control.

And the top-down, undemocratic design of the Smart City is perhaps the ultimate tell that the whole concept isn't really about improving the lives of average citizens. They really have no say or input, regarding the far away, global entities and authorities designing and pushing it.

The mega-powerful technocratic elites and privileged political and government authorities won't be subject to the same limitations and protocols as the inhabitants trapped in the dystopian landscape of AI-powered city prisons. They almost certainly won't be the ones living in them. They will have grand escapes, with scads of private property and total privacy.

The goal of the Smart City is to systematically reduce, in the near future term, the nuisance of non-essential masses, given to over-consuming, and defiling the earth via physical occupation and despoliation, carbon emissions, spread of disease, etc. And in the only slightly longer scheme of things, perhaps via genetic intervention and more explicit and stringent birth rate control, the Smart City is designed to eliminate the problem entirely.

## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



**AMAZON CITES “SAFETY” TO BIOMETRICALLY TRACK DRIVERS.** This week, Amazon rolled out new requirements for delivery drivers to consent to biometric tracking or lose their jobs.

The AI-powered surveillance system utilizes cameras and tracks drivers' location, their bodily movements, and other biometric data.

An Amazon consent form drivers are now required to sign, titled “Vehicle Technology and Biometric Consent,” reads in part:

At Amazon, we are continuously evaluating technologies that make it easier for drivers (referred to in this consent as “Delivery Associates”) to deliver packages safely and securely, as well as improve the quality of delivery experience for Delivery Associates and Customers. The vehicles you operate while making deliveries may come equipped with technology such as telematics devices that collect GPS and video and photograph capabilities, and sensors (the “Technology”). The vehicles are video-monitored by cameras that are both internal and external and that operate while the ignition is on and for up to 20 minutes after the ignition is turned off...

According to the form, the technology can also track vehicle location and movement, including miles driven, speed, acceleration, braking, turns, and following distance.

Amazon is claiming “safety,” the clarion call of control and surveillance, as the main reason for their new comprehensive tracking. But they admit “quality of the delivery experience” and simply monitoring workers are also reasons for the new tracking systems. The technology even touts interactive watchfulness, including prompting drivers when driving “distractions” are presented.

The consent form makes clear that biometric data is collected and retained at the discretion of the company for up to 30 days:

Amazon may also use certain Technology that processes Biometric information, including onboard safety camera technology which collects your photograph for the purpose of confirming your identity and connecting you to your driver account. Using your photograph, this Technology may create Biometric information, and collect, store and use Biometric information from such photographs. Using this technology, Amazon generally retains a user’s Biometric Information only for as long as it takes to complete the verification of your identity and associating the Technology to your driver account but may retain Biometric Information for up to 30 days after it is generated.

As a condition of delivering Amazon packages, you consent to the use of the Technology and collection of data...

There are currently around 75,000 Amazon delivery drivers. But reports about the new invasive requirements have noted that they don't just apply to Amazon employees, but to employees of companies contracting with Amazon to deliver packages.

Just last month, Amazon announced they were installing AI-powered four-lens cameras in all of its Amazon-branded delivery vans. Meanwhile, outlets including *Reuters* have reported that some drivers are quitting over the intrusiveness of the new protocols. Drivers have related incidents where AI-powered cameras have creepily sensed and reacted to yawns and other facial and body movements.

**HOMEWORKERS IN FRANCE FACE AI-WEBCAM MONITORING.** A French outsourcing company is implementing AI-surveillance to monitor its 380,000 workers.

According to *The Guardian* and other news sources, Teleperformance announced deployment of an AI-powered webcam system that will monitor home-based workers to ensure they aren't checking their phones, surfing the web, leaving their desks, or otherwise engaging in non-work activities. *The Guardian* utilizes workers from Teleperformance, which boasts a workforce that is located in 32 countries around the world.

According to Teleperformance, their cameras scan at random intervals to determine "breaches of work rules during a shift." If a violation is observed by the AI-watching technology, the camera snaps a photo and sends it to a manager, who has 20 days to act.

Beyond cracking down on "slackers," Teleperformance claims their surveillance is also being forced on their workers for the lofty purpose of "risk mitigation and data security, which is required by most of our customers."

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



### **AVANTI FINANCIAL GROUP SET TO PREMIERE CRYPTO BANK.**

A bank capitalized by and optimized to deal in cryptocurrencies may be just around the corner. The Avanti Financial Group, based in Longwood, FL, says it has raised \$44 million

so far in its funding efforts.

Companies including Coinbase, Binance.US, Morgan Creek Digital, Madison Paige Ventures, AP Capital, and Susquehanna Private Equity Investments have all invested in the bank start-up.

“Our roadmap includes offering API-based U.S. dollar payment services for wires, ACH and SWIFT; issuance of our tokenized, programmable U.S. dollar called Avit; and custody and on-/off-ramp services for bitcoin and other digital assets,” said Avanti founder and CEO Caitlin Long.

“Avit” would represent a mediating “stable coin” pegged to the value of the U.S. dollar. Avanti has no plans of becoming a consumer exchange and will be for institutional investors only.

Long noted that the firm has received over 2,500 would-be customer inquiries since announcing plans to gain bank charter approval. Avanti was founded in 2020 as a Wyoming bank, compliant in bridging U.S. dollar payments and digital assets such as Bitcoin. It is only the second crypto company to earn that status, following Kraken Financial, which received a bank charter in September 2020.

### **BITCOIN IN FOR A WILD RISE ACCORDING TO MICROSTRATEGY CEO.**

Bitcoin, the first and most widely adopted cryptocurrency, has recently wavered



repeatedly between the \$45,000 and \$60,000 range, after a dizzying climb over the past 14 months.

It seems everyone has a prediction and a “bet” of one kind or another on what the future holds for Bitcoin to cryptos in general. Government authorities tied to profligate inflation of the U.S. dollar, including Janet Yellin, have talked down Bitcoin and other cryptos, for obvious reasons. Bill Gates chimed in with characteristic elitist control freak concern.

Others, including Elon Musk and Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy, have made no bones about their enthusiasm for decentralized digital currencies resistant to government control and inflationary policies.

This past week, the CEO MicroStrategy, a NASDAQ-listed intelligence firm, staked his company’s reputation on a prediction that Bitcoin was destined to see some heady future gains in value.

“I can see bitcoin going to a million. I can see it going to \$5 million,” said Michael Saylor. “Because if it simply replaces all the indexes as a monetary index money, why shouldn’t it go to \$100 trillion in market cap or something?”

Saylor’s comments, made in an interview with FamilyOffice, are extremely bullish, to say the least. But others, including the CEO of Kraken Financial, the first chartered crypto bank in the U.S., have also predicted eventual price rises of Bitcoin to at least \$1 million.

The head of MicroStrategy said he expects Bitcoin to continue to outperform top tech and entertainment-related stocks like Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix, and Google. Those stocks have little chance of growing by a factor of ten from their current point, though they will perhaps triple in value over time, says Saylor.

In contrast, he noted that Bitcoin has several factors which point to much more explosive upside potential. He said the Bitcoin network is the dominant one in the cryptocurrency space, and that “everybody decided it’s the network.” He

also pointed out that it's "growing 200% a year every year for 12 years running. That's the signal."

According to the market intelligence specialist, Bitcoin is underpriced. Its current valuation of \$1.2 trillion is far below what he sees as a "\$200 to \$300 trillion addressable market." He also pointed to a huge and obvious problem it's fixing: over-inflated, fiat currencies being issued by central banks.

MicroStrategy has made no secret that it has been buying Bitcoin throughout the cryptocurrency's bull run. The firm currently holds 91,326 coins, valued at over \$4.76 billion.

# TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



## TEXAS REOPENS: CASES DOWN, CDC SPREADS FEAR

The *Daily Mail*'s top story on its website this past Sunday referenced the state of Texas's decision to "100 percent" reopen. They noted President Biden's criticism of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, with Biden saying, "The last thing—the last thing we need is the Neanderthal thinking that in the meantime, everything's fine, take off your mask."

On 9 March, the **Trends Journal** ran the article, "[MASK MANDATES RECEDING?](#)," which noted that Abbott had said at the time, "We are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny." Governor Reeves of Mississippi declared, "We are getting out of the business of telling people what they can and cannot do."

The *Daily Mail* went on to report that in the two weeks since Abbott lifted the statewide mask mandate, opened up the economy, and retracted all the COVID War rules, the number of those infected dropped substantially.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that on 2 March, the day Abbott announced the move, the state had a seven-day average of about 4,900 new cases; the state's seven-day average last week was about 3,400.

Abbott took to Twitter on Saturday: "Today Texas hit an all-time record low for the 7-day Covid positivity rate: 5.27%. It's been below 6% for 5 days & below 10% for an entire month."

Despite the declines in Texas (a state of 29 million with a recorded 48,338 COVID victims compared to "locked down" New York, with 19.5 million residents and some 50,319 COVID deaths)... on Friday, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said, "We know from prior surges that if we don't control things now, there is a real potential for the epidemic curve to soar."

"Soar" it has not. On Friday, there were over 77,000 cases in the U.S. according to Johns Hopkins University; the next day they fell to 61,000 cases. And never reported by the mainstream media is the fact that the recovery rate from the "cases" is, according to the CDC, an estimated 99.7 percent. For those aged one to 20 years, it is 99.997 percent.

## **Doom on the Doorstep**

Doubling down on the spreading fear and hysteria, and ignoring the Texas facts, CDC Director Walensky told the world on Monday that the U.S. is facing "impending doom." At a press conference, she said we all should bow down, suck up, and listen to her now because:

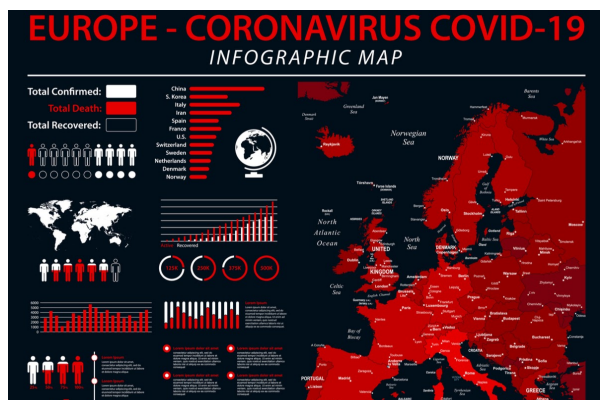
"I have to share the truth and I have to hope and trust you will listen... I'm going to lose the script, and I'm going to reflect on the recurring feeling I have of impending doom... right now I'm scared."

So, there you have it. “Impending doom”! And since Walensky is “scared,” despite the facts of who is dying from the virus, why, where, and how and that the lockdown measures are failures – We the People should be as “scared” as she is.

As the vaccination data proves, the majority of people are terrified of the virus. It is reported that some 72 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have been vaccinated.

***TRENDPOST:*** Since January 2020, when the COVID War was launched from China, the ***Trends Journal*** has continually reported that Presstitutes, politicians, and their bureaucrats ignore the facts and continually promote COVID War lockdowns, social distancing, mask-wearing, sanitizing, capacity regulations, and other new ABnormal rules that lack scientific data.

## FRANCE, GERMANY, UK, DENMARK, CANADA: UPDATES



**France:** President Emmanuel Macron, who has faced recent scrutiny over a third wave of coronavirus infections in France, said, “There won’t be a mea culpa from me.” He said he does not have remorse and “won’t acknowledge failure” based on what officials knew at the time.

*The New York Times* noted that Olivier Véran, the country’s health minister, announced that three more regions would be forced to employ “braking measures” over the next four weeks, which will require individuals to stay within six miles of their homes.

According to the *NYT*, rather than labeling the restrictions for what they are, Véran referred to the spicy movie “Fifty Shades of Grey” when he called them “50 shades of measures that take into account the epidemic situation.”

The *Associated Press* reported that France has endorsed a so-called “third way” to try and return to somewhat normal life while enforcing strict guidelines, but the country has seen a surge in cases and ICUs are operating “at or beyond capacity” in Paris, the report said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *While President Macron states that he is opposed to again locking down the nation, in effect, it had been mostly locked down already, with curfews and restrictions he supported.*

*Again, absent in the media coverage is the fact that Sweden, which has stayed open, has a COVID death rate of 130.14 people per 100,000 who died from the virus over the past year, compared to a 137.74 per 100,000 person rate in locked-down, curfewed, socially-distanced, sheltered-in-place France.*

**Germany:** Unlike her counterpart in France, who said he will never say sorry, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced last week that she made a “mistake” when she announced a five-day shutdown over Easter.

In our article last week, “[MERKEL’S PARTY HIT BY DIRTY MASK DEALS](#),” we reported on three German MPs from Merkel’s party who were forced to resign for making hundreds of thousands of euros for allegedly doing dirty government deals with mask manufacturers.

Merkel, the head of the Christian Democrats, was praised early on for her handling of the virus, but the public has become more critical of its protracted lockdown. *The New York Times* reported that Merkel has faced criticism from within her party and others for a full year of on-again, off-again lockdowns.

“Since yesterday we have furious farmers, merchants and butchers on the line,” Jana Schimke, a member of Merkel’s party, wrote online. Siegfried Russwurm, the president of the Federation of German Industries, told *The Times* there is concern the lockdowns in the country are causing “long-lasting, irreparable damage.”



The paper reported some Germans have expressed frustration with Merkel's inconsistencies and her decision to halt the AstraZeneca vaccine but then giving it her blessing is a sign of being erratic.

*The Times'* report pointed out there are also websites fueling skepticism and "conspiracy theories" about lockdown efforts in the country with little to show for it in terms of infection rates.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As with all of the mainstream media, The New York Times, the self-anointed "Paper of Record" that declares they are the only ones which publish "All the News That's Fit to Print," disparages those who don't swallow their propaganda, calling it "conspiracy theories."*

*We note this language to continue to illustrate how censorship will increase, and only the message from the establishment-in-charge will be fed to the Peasants of Slavelandia.*

*Thus, we bring to your attention the importance of supporting independent news sources such as the **Trends Journal**, which publishes the Truth in Trends... and not lies and deceit from the Presstitute media who get paid to put out by their corporate pimps and government whoremasters.*

*Indeed, we have detailed how The New York Times and other mainstream news outlets have sold – and keep selling, as with the COVID War – U.S. invasions and destruction of foreign nations based on lies. (See the 2007 FAIRNESS & ACCURACY IN REPORTING article [here](#).)*

**U.K.:** England announced last week its plans to lift COVID-19 restrictions that have been in place to dissuade citizens from attending protests, but the new guidelines will still come with various restrictions ranging from who can organize these rallies to demanding that social distancing is enforced.

The new crime bill working its way through Parliament would give the police sweeping powers to stop nonviolent demonstrations and crack down on street protests.

*The Guardian* reported last week that from 29 March, the rules opposed to mass gatherings due to COVID will be eased so long as the organizer of the protest is a political body, business, or charity.

## **No Protests Permitted**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was critical of protests that broke out in Bristol on Saturday resulting in ten arrests. Johnson tweeted:

“Last night saw disgraceful attacks against police officers in Bristol. Our officers should not have to face having bricks, bottles, and fireworks being thrown at them by a mob intent on violence and causing damage to property. The police have my full support.”

*Reuters* reported that protesters in Manchester blocked tram tracks to lash out at the policing bill. The protest on Saturday was described by police as “largely peaceful,” but some protesters were blamed for causing “significant disruption to transport networks and members of the public,” according to *Euronews.com*.

The protests have been referred to as “Kill the Bill” rallies. The Good Law Project, a British governance watchdog, said the bill “represents a serious threat to the right to protest,” and called for the portions of the legislation that deal with protests to be dropped.

Britain experienced a so-called “Happy Monday” after some restrictions were lifted on indoor gatherings and the expiration of the “stay at home” rule. *CNBC* reported that traveling abroad is still prohibited, unless for essential reasons.

## More Protests

An anti-lockdown protest broke out in Bradford on Sunday that resulted in 13 arrests and over a dozen fines, the *BBC* reported.

“There was a small group of protesters who tried to break away from the protest and make their way to a vaccination clinic,” Oz Khan, the temporary chief constable of West Yorkshire Police, told the *BBC*. “Officers intervened to stop this from happening.”

He said the protest was mainly peaceful and reported “no significant disorder.”

***TRENDPOST:*** While the Prime Minister shot his mouth off that there were “disgraceful attacks against police officers” in the Bristol protests, he had lockjaw two weeks ago when the police, who “have my full support,” beat up men and women protesting the murder of Sarah Everard by a police officer charged with her kidnapping and killing.

*Indeed, Johnson’s only comment from the police beatings, brutality, and arrests of the peaceful protesters was that he was “deeply concerned.”*

*Again, as the late, great comedian George Carlin had said, “It’s one big club, and you ain’t in it.” With few exceptions, the police protect the leaders of governments, and when protests break out, they are no longer protectors of the people.*

**Denmark:** Hundreds of protesters gathered in Copenhagen on Saturday to voice their criticism of the country’s new penal code that calls for twice the sentence for any crime connected to the COVID outbreak, *thelocal.dk* reported.

These protesters also lashed out against the government’s plan to create “corona passports,” the report said.

The report said the protests consisted of mainly young people who walked through the streets. The website estimated about 600 took part in the rally,

which resulted in one arrest when a protester allegedly tossed a firecracker at police.

The report said the main focus of the protest was the criminal penalty increase for any COVID-19 infraction. It pointed to a 30-year-old woman who was convicted of “gross disturbance of public order as well as the use of violence against police,” and given a two-year prison sentence instead of one. The report said some of the protesters shouted, “Free Nanna!”

The country of 5.8 million has had a total of 228,000 cases and 2,414 deaths since the start of the outbreak. *TheLocal.dk* report said the country has been under partial lockdown since December, which includes the closures of bars and restaurants.

**Canada:** A Jewish group in Calgary, Alberta, criticized a 20 March protest in the city because some of the participants used Holocaust imagery to express their anger over mask-wearing and lockdown orders.

*Newsweek* reported that B’nai Brith Canada lashed out at protesters photographed with a yellow Star of David that was marked with “Mask Exempt.”

Michael Mostyn, the CEO of the activist group, said in a statement,

“[The] abuse of the memory of the Holocaust to serve a toxic and conspiratorial agenda must stop. There is room for a healthy debate in Canadian society on how to tackle COVID-19, but cheap use of Holocaust imagery is horrifying and beyond the pale.”

The report said Mostyn’s group was critical of a woman in Vancouver who sold T-shirts with the Star of David with the word “Covidcaust.” She reportedly stopped selling the shirts.

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer who has recommended that when people have sex they should be masked up, said the circulation of the virus within the younger population “presents an ongoing risk for spread into

high-risk populations and settings, and continuing transmission in the community.”

Dr. Raywat Deonandan, an epidemiologist at the University of Ottawa, told CTV News that variants have almost created “a brand new pandemic.”

“This is not the same disease we’ve been dealing with for the past year. The new variants are a dire threat, they’re... more transmissible and lethal so our old mitigation strategies might not be sufficient,” Deonandan told the news channel.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Completely ignored by the media, the politicians, and the so-called “health experts” are the facts of who is dying of the virus in Canada and why.*

*As we reported in the 16 March **Trends Journal**, “CANADA LOCKDOWN: NURSING HOMES’ VICTIMS OF COVID,” The Lancet reported that 80 percent of the deaths in Canada tied to the virus occurred in nursing homes. Yet, rather than take measures to protect those most vulnerable, mandates and statements are issued that ignore the facts and blame the spreading of the virus and the deaths on those who are not responsible for them. Thus, they lock down businesses and enforce rules that are unrelated to who is being killed by the virus and why.*

## MOVING OUT, WON’T EAT OUT



A recent study revealed that 31 percent of young adults – those between the ages of 18 to 31 – have decided to pack their bags and relocate during the COVID outbreak.

ZeroHedge reported the survey found that one of the main reasons they left were to be closer to friends and family. About 27 percent of those polled said their

decision was based on affordability, and another 21 percent said they moved for a job.

A *Bankrate/YouGov* survey found that about 26 percent of millennials and 10 percent of Generation Xers moved during the outbreak.

Zach Wichter, a Bankrate analyst, told *Yahoo! Finance* that these individuals “are going places where they may be able to get a little more space, a little more bang for their buck, but not going to the middle of a cornfield for the most part.”

## **No Fine Dining**

A Harris Poll survey conducted for *USA Today* showed that many Americans are hesitant to eat out even after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Between 25 and 30 percent of those polled said they intend to wait until the country reaches herd immunity, which means that at least 70 percent of Americans have been vaccinated. As of last week, more than 25 percent of the population received a COVID-19 dose.

The survey – which was conducted earlier this month – also pointed out that 33 percent of Americans said they would feel safe at restaurants after their second dose. The paper said that in January, the number was at 29 percent.

The poll also showed only 7 percent of Americans said they would feel comfortable dining out after their first dose.

The Harris poll showed that 23 percent of those polled said they will not feel safe until the country reaches herd immunity, and 27 percent would refuse to travel by plane. The *USA Today* report noted about 32 percent said they would be hesitant to attend a concert and sporting event.

***TREND FORECAST: Facts don't matter, fear and what is being sold to the public is what counts. First, the COVID vaccine has not been approved by the***



*FDA. It was rushed out to the public to fight the COVID War under the battle cry of Operation Warp Speed.*

*Instead of approving the vaccine – which would mean the FDA makes it official that the jab is safe and effective – they rushed it out to the public under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authority. This gives them the freedom to do what they wish despite the lack of data to support the vaccine’s efficacy, safety... and dangers.*

*Secondly, uninterested in the facts, the general public swallows what Big Pharma – i.e., Drug Dealers who fill the pockets of politicians with bribes called campaign contributions and shovel billions into the pockets of mainstream media with ad revenue – sell them.*

*With the non-stop spreading of COVID fear and anxiety now part of the nation’s culture, it will slow down an economic bounce-back in tourism, conventions, hospitality, restaurants, concerts, trade shows, travel, theater, and other sectors where people socialize and congregate.*

**TRENDPOST:** *As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, the efficacy of COVID vaccines is questionable. Yesterday on the AutomaticEarth.com website is the article, “Vaccines Do Not Completely Stop Transmission, JCVI Member Says.” They go on to quote Prof. Anthony Harnden, deputy chair of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), who told the BBC on Sunday that the vaccine only reduces transmission by about 50 percent, and those who got the jab can still catch the virus and spread it to others.*

*Harnden said,*

*“There’s some good evidence now from Public Health England and from the Oxford/AstraZeneca trials that the vaccines do prevent transmission. But they don’t completely prevent transmission. The figures are still being calculated, but it’s in the order of 50%. So, there will be some reduction in transmission, no doubt at all, but it’s still possible, even though you’ve been vaccinated, to get infected, have no symptoms and transmit it to*

*others. That's why it's important that all those who get vaccinated still stick to the rules."*

*Therefore, the message is "get the shot even though there has been no long-term testing and you still have a 50-50 chance of getting the virus and transmitting it despite being jabbed"... and keep living in fear, which means wear your mask, don't socialize, stay home... and stay miserable.*

## **LOCKDOWNS CREATE CHILD SUICIDE EPIDEMIC**



When politicians launched the COVID War in March 2020, we had forecast it would destroy the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions... far more than the virus would kill.

While the mainstream media continues to focus on the virus, the year-long lockdowns have created much more serious epidemics, including child suicide.

Last Tuesday, the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) published the article titled, "Child Suicide is Becoming an 'International Epidemic' Amid Restricted Pandemic Life, Doctors Warn."

The article notes,

"The damage we're inflicting on children is too devastating to be waved away in the name of public health—it's quickly becoming an emergency in its own right."

The FEE article refers to an *Associated Press* interview with Dr. David Greenhorn, who works in the emergency department in the U.K.'s Bradford Royal Infirmary. Dr. Greenhorn emphasizes that the stress and anxiety of the

extensive lockdown have caused the number of child suicide attempts to rise from a few each week to several every day. He states,

“This is an international epidemic, and we are not recognizing it... In an 8-year-old’s life, a year is a really, really, really long time. They are fed up. They can’t see an end to it.”

Dr. Richard Delorme, who heads the psychiatric department at one of the largest children’s hospitals in France, gave a similar warning, referring to the devastating mental health breakdowns caused by kids stuck in a continuing lockdown culture:

“What they tell you about is a chaotic world, of ‘Yes, I’m not doing my activities any more,’ ‘I’m no longer doing my music,’ ‘Going to school is hard in the mornings,’ ‘I am having difficulty waking up,’ ‘I am fed up with the mask’...

We are very surprised by the intensity of the desire to die among children who may be 12 or 13 years old. We sometimes have children of 9 who already want to die.”

The hospital where Dr. Delorme heads the psychiatric department has reported a rise from approximately 20 suicide attempts each month to more than double that now.

Here in the U.S., the CDC reported that 25 percent of young adults considered suicide during the lockdowns, while overall mental health and suicide rates appear to have spiked as well.

## **The Bigger Picture**

This terrible crisis of increasing child suicide attempts is part of the ongoing scientific data showing conclusively that the adverse effects from year-long lockdowns are far greater than the coronavirus itself.

Brad Palumbo, an Opinion Editor at FEE, writes in the 24 March article:

“When it comes to lockdowns, we’ve extensively documented the unintended consequences at FEE, including isolation, depression, suicidality, unemployment, drug abuse, domestic violence, and more. Such severe second-order effects offer a painful reminder of why policymakers should be humble in the scope of their actions. Sweeping lockdowns are anything but humble: They presume that bureaucrats in an office somewhere can save society with top-down orders and nothing will go wrong.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Beyond forecasting the devastating effects of the made-up, lacking-scientific-data rules imposed upon societies by the lockdowns, the Trends Journal has been detailing the failures of extended lockdowns.*

*Here are a few examples:*

***COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES***

***MEDICAL EXPERTS: LOCKDOWNS WORSE THAN COVID-19***

***DON'T LOCK DOWN, DOCS DEMAND***

***W.H.O. NOW SAYS “WE DO NOT ADVOCATE LOCKDOWNS”***

*And going back to 14 April of last year, in our article “**SHUT DOWNS & SHUT INS,**” we wrote:*

*Taking advantage of successful fear campaigns, political leaders continue to shut down economies and shut in their citizens based on their individual temperament rather than hard data. As of last week, over 100 countries were in full or partial lockdown affecting billions of people.*

## A YEAR IN LOCKDOWN = U.S. “STRESS” PANDEMIC



On 11 March, marking just about one year since the lockdowns began in the U.S., the American Psychological Association (APA) published its “Stress in America” poll. The results show a particularly dangerous rise in weight gain and alcoholism.

The Harris Poll taken for the APA reveals:

“A majority of adults (61%) experienced undesired weight changes – weight gain or loss – since the pandemic started, with 42% reporting they gained more weight than they intended.

Of those gaining weight, they gained an average of 29 pounds... and 10% said they gained more than 50 pounds.... Such changes come with significant health risks, including higher vulnerability to serious illness from the coronavirus.

For the 18% of Americans who said they lost more weight than they wanted to, the average amount of weight lost was 26 pounds.

Adults also reported unwanted changes in sleep and increased alcohol consumption. Two in 3 (67%) said they have been sleeping more or less than desired since the pandemic started. Nearly 1 in 4 adults (23%) reported drinking more alcohol to cope with their stress.”

Commenting on alarming stress caused by the extended lockdowns, Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Jr., chief executive of the APA, stated,

“We’ve been concerned throughout this pandemic about the level of prolonged stress, exacerbated by the grief, trauma and isolation that Americans are experiencing. This survey reveals a secondary crisis that is

likely to have persistent, serious mental and physical health consequences for years to come.”

The APA reports that those who’ve suffered the most have been parents with children under 18. As bad as the mental health decline numbers are for adults in general (about 30 percent), almost half of all mothers whose children have not been allowed back into classrooms suffered mental health issues.

And more than half of fathers, according to the poll, gained weight and have increased alcohol consumption to deal with the increased stress.

Additional data revealed by the Harris Poll:

“The majority of essential workers (54%), such as health care workers and people who work in law enforcement said they have relied on a lot of unhealthy habits to get through the pandemic.

3 in 4 (75%) said they could have used more emotional support than they received since the pandemic began. Essential workers were more than twice as likely as adults who are not essential workers to have received treatment from a mental health professional.

Hispanic adults were most likely to report undesired changes to sleep (78% Hispanic vs. 76% Black, 63% white and 61% Asian), physical activity levels (87% Hispanic vs. 84% Black, 81% Asian and 79% white) and weight (71% Hispanic vs. 64% Black, 58% white and 54% Asian).

Since the pandemic began. Black Americans were most likely to report feelings of concern about the future. More than half said they do not feel comfortable going back to living life like they used to before the pandemic and that they feel uneasy about adjusting to in-person interaction once the pandemic ends.”



## Vaccines Offer Little Confidence

While the mainstream media continues to pump up vaccinations as the solution to the pandemic, this poll shows:

“Overall, Americans are hesitant about the future, regardless of vaccination status. Just about 50 percent responding said they were not confident they would adjust well to being close to people again even when the coronavirus loses its strength. Adults who got the shots were equally despondent about the future as those who haven’t.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With each new year, during what used to be called the “Flu season” – before the COVID War began and the flu disappeared from the face of the earth – the politicians, media, and Big Pharma will be pumping the “Next Wave” of COVID Fear, selling the public on the need to get vaccinated and re-vaccinated.*

*Thus, there will still be large segments of the population afraid to resume a standard of living that existed before the COVID War was launched in March 2020. As a result, the economy will continue to steadily contract, pushing the world further into the “Greatest Depression.”*

## “STUMBLING IN THE DARK”: SCHOOLS TRY TO REOPEN



As reported last week in our article, **“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.

Our article went on to show how these hyper-fearful warnings are not validated by hard, scientific data. In fact, many schools that have reopened have learned how to keep students and teachers safe.

On 22 March, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article titled:

### **Some Schools Have Been Open for Months. Here's What They Learned**

Highlights from the article include:

“Some of what they learned is consistent with what many scientists have been touting—that masking, ventilation, distancing, and regular testing when possible are effective ways to reduce transmission of Covid-19 in schools. Other once-lauded tactics, such as daily temperature checks and deep cleaning of surfaces, have become lower priorities.

They also have learned that teachers, not their students, are likely the primary transmitters of the virus in grade schools, that children are likely most at risk of infection during lunchtime, and that tools such as portable air cleaners and carbon-dioxide monitors can help.

Some findings run counter to conventional wisdom. Hybrid learning, for example, where students split time between the classroom and home, may be riskier in some cases than full-time in-person classes because children are potentially exposed to more people.

When school started last fall, superintendent Grant Rivera of the Marietta School District in Georgia, felt like a man stumbling in the dark as he and his staff tried to figure out how to keep students and teachers safe. ‘We didn’t have the understanding of what was spreading the disease. We threw everything at the wall to try and figure out what would work.’

At first, Dr. Rivera said he feared the virus was primarily spread on desks and doorknobs and high school students chatting with each other in the hallways. A CDC investigation found that wasn't the case. Instead, the virus was getting a foothold because of poor physical distancing among teachers and students.

Researchers have found that the viral spread is most prevalent among young adults and less so among school-age children, and when there is COVID-19 spread in schools, it often originates with the staff.

Less than 10 percent of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. have been among children and adolescents between 5 and 17, the CDC said, and rates of death of COVID are very low among children compared with adults.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *There is still great resistance among teachers’ unions in the United States to return to school. And, if they do, the regulations being imposed on students lack scientific data.*

*As we reported last week, the CDC changed the social distancing regulation for students from six feet to three feet.*

*In our 23 June article, “**MAKE IT UP, THEY WILL BELIEVE IT,**” we wrote that according to research, there was no data to back up the length of the distance:*

*A review of 172 studies cited in the medical journal The Lancet, Professors Heneghan and Jefferson published an article titled, “There’s No Scientific Evidence for COVID Two-Metre Rule.”*

*Their research shows that “only a handful of the articles actually studied COVID-19, and they showed proximity had no impact.” They also concluded, “Much of the evidence in this current outbreak informing policy is poor quality.”*

*The same lack of science has been attributed to the fear being spread by large groups of people gathering. Indeed, the mayor of Miami called a state of emergency last week to stop the Spring Break crowds that were filling the streets.*

*However, as we had also noted in our 23 June **Trends Journal**, following the large Black Lives Matter demonstrations in the U.S. last year, there were no reported “surges” in coronavirus cases, according to the Wall Street Journal article with this headline:*

***Virus Are Not Seen After Protests***

*– WSJ, 19 June 2020*

*Yet, these facts, as with the deadly dangers of hand sanitizers, are barely reported and quickly ignored as COVID rules lacking a scintilla of scientific facts are imposed and re-imposed on entire populations.*

*Indeed, yesterday, President Biden warned,*

*“With cases rising again, variants are spreading, and sadly, some of the reckless behavior we’ve seen on television over the past few weeks means that more cases are to come in the weeks ahead...”*

*I’m reiterating my call for every governor, mayor and local leader to maintain and reinstate the mask mandate.”*

*Again, as we have detailed with the available scientific data that is available, not only are the vast majority of masks ineffective in stopping the virus, they can be dangerous to one’s health.*

*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*

## **“REBELLIOUS ROCK” SUBMITS TO CLINICAL TRIAL IN BARCELONA**



Indie rockers “Love of Lesbian,” one of Spain’s most popular current bands, were onstage. A crowd of 5,000 fans was in the house.

But the “concert” was one night only, a clinical trial set up with data to be tracked and assessed regarding the safety of possible future events.

Before the experiment, which was conducted in Barcelona, every attendee underwent mass screening and antigen tests. They were then required to wear FFP2 surgical masks.

For many of the young people in the audience, it was the first semblance of a large group social activity they had experienced in over a year, as Spain has taken one of the hardest lines of any nation in the world with respect to lockdowns. In-home quarantines, general confinement, social distancing, and minimal real-world social interaction have been the norm there.

“I’m so very, very excited. It’s been 18 months since we’ve been on stage and one of us up here is in tears!” lead singer Santi Balmes shouted to the crowd after the first song, inspired by the pandemic, called, “Nobody in the Streets.”

As the band played, the crowd was even allowed to leave the stands and gather in front of the stage, mosh-pit style.

The event was organized by a normally unlikely pair: a group of music promoters and Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, just north of Barcelona. The hospital, which is overseeing research, made sure all required protocols were followed.

“We expect it to be completely safe,” said Josep Maria Llibre, a doctor at the hospital. “Over the next 14 days, we will look at how many of the audience test positive for COVID and will report back.”

Some of the measures taken for the event included the use of a special ventilation system, which was touted as making the air quality and safety “superior to a private home.” On the morning of the concert, dance floors at three long-closed Barcelona nightclubs were turned into field hospitals. Nurses administered antigen tests to potential attendees inside white canvas enclosures. Those who tested negative received an entry pass via an app downloaded on their phones.

Ventura Barba, executive director of Barcelona’s Sonar festival, which is one of the organizers, said one of the aims of the concert/clinical trial was “to discover a way in which we can coexist with COVID and hold concerts which are completely safe.”



The European music industry lost 76 percent of its earnings in 2020, according to a study published by Spain's Music Federation.

# TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



## WANT A FREE DONUT? GET VACCINATED

You can't make this up. If you wanted one line to sum up why the "American Dream" is becoming more like a "Nightmare," it could be this line published on the *CNBC* website on 23 March:

"Krispy Kreme Doughnuts is offering anyone—employed or not—with proof of a COVID vaccination a free doughnut."

The promotion makes clear that if you can confirm a jab, the offer is, as *The New York Times* reported on 24 March, "One glazed doughnut per day for the rest of the year."

The promotion was tweeted by the Krispy Kreme Donut company on 22 March:

"We'd like to show sweet support to those who have received the COVID-19 Vaccine. Starting today, bring your Vaccine Card to a Krispy

Kreme shop and get 1 FREE Original Glazed doughnut. No chance to get your Vaccine? This will run thru end of 2021.”

## “Ready to Explode”

One of the main reasons the U.S. has suffered the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world is in large part (pun intended) due to its epidemic level of obesity.

As readers of the **Trends Journal** well know, among those most vulnerable to COVID-19, in addition to the obese, are those with type-2 diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure, all of which are exacerbated by an American diet overloaded with sugar.

In our 11 December 2018 article [“READY TO EXPLODE,”](#) we wrote that in the U.S.:

More people are becoming addicted to fast, processed food, laden with salt, sugar, and unpronounceable chemicals with devastating results to health... Indeed, life expectancy in the U.S. is expected to be only slightly better than that of Bangladesh, a country with considerably lower income.

So, the delicious irony of the Krispy Kreme promotion to encourage Americans to protect their health with an unproven vaccine (one that has not yet received FDA approval) by consuming more sugar and processed chemicals is not lost on anyone paying attention.

While no one can say for sure how successful the vaccinations will be long-term – they were rushed into use through the Emergency Use Authorization despite using a never-before administered mRNA technology – what is known *for certain* are the severe health risks of a sugar-saturated diet.

The mainstream media is glad to play along with the vaccine cheerleading campaign. *MSNBC.com*, reporting on these new, promotional incentives to get Americans shot in the arm, opens their article with the line:

“Getting America vaccinated will go a long way toward helping the country return to some sort of normal. Now some businesses are doing their part to sweeten the pot.”

“Helping the country return to some sort of normal”?

The new “normal,” then, is complacency about some 70 percent of Americans being either clinically obese or significantly overweight.

The Krispy Kreme donut promotion is a perfect “vicious cycle”: motivate Americans to get vaccinated as the solution to COVID-19 while eating the junk food that is making them fat and more vulnerable to the virus.

American ingenuity.

## **Bad Comedy Show**

The “Get a jab, get a donut” promotional campaign came under fire from some health advocates. Former Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen tweeted,

“If someone indeed eats an Original Glazed #KrispyKreme donut every day as your offer provides, and changed no other aspects of their diet/exercise, they’d gain approximately 15 pounds by the end of 2021.”

The CEO of a smoking cessation website, Eugene Gu, tweeted,

“Krispy Kreme offering free doughnuts for getting vaccinated is like Marlboro offering free cigarettes for getting a flu shot.”

And one Twitter comment read:

“I can’t believe people actually fall for this propaganda... amazing how many weak minded gullible ignorant people are walking around this planet

right now... throw your life away... reprogram your DNA... all for a card showing you cooperated...and a donut.”

## **Donut Mogul Gets Defensive**

Krispy Kreme CEO Mike Tattersfield defended his company’s campaign in an interview with *Yahoo Finance* last Saturday: “Folks that want to get a vaccine, if they decide to combine a Krispy Kreme pickup [for] a doughnut, they can. That’s how we look at it ... generosity.” (Note: without question, the donuts are adding to the “generosity” of the American waistline.)

Tattersfield added, “I drop off a lot of doughnuts to the healthcare system. They’re very appreciative, given the days that they have to work... people are always looking for a little sweet treat break. It’s okay.”

Some medical professionals endorsed the promotion. Dr. Ashish Jha, a physician and dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, tweeted:

“Pleased @krispykreme is offering up free daily donut for those who have been vaccinated. If that sweetens the deal for you to get vaccinated, I’m all in. And right now, I’d rather not hear about donuts and weight gain Pandemic, people. Pandemic.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Only in America can dropping off baskets of junk food to healthcare workers be considered normal.*

*As for Dr. Jha, the dean of Brown University School of Public Health, a [photo](#) depicts him as being a man with a bulging belly... hardly representative of natural healing or someone fit/in top shape, thus a junk food supporter.*

*It should also be pointed out that the Yahoo Finance article (following in line with mainstream media like CNBC), in defending vaccines and junk food, had this line in its report: “The donut chain’s well-meaning (and literally sweet) incentive sparked some backlash on social media.”*

*“Well-meaning?” To whom? As Americans get fatter, Krispy Kreme’s bottom line gets fatter along with them.*

*As Yahoo Finance puts it, “The company may be on its way to an even bigger year in sales if customers get lured in by the prospect of a free donut every day of the year.” (In 2019, Krispy Kreme generated \$887 million in sales.)*

## **GERMANY: NO TEST, NO ENTRY**



The German health ministry announced the country would enforce mandatory COVID tests for all arriving flights due to the recent uptick in new cases, according to *Deutsche Welle*.

The report pointed out restrictions and demands on travelers directly impacted by the rule, which extended on the previous testing of all those arriving from a COVID hot spot. The new rules are expected to last until mid-May.

Travelers must take the test before their departure and pay for the tests themselves. Anyone who tests positive will be required to quarantine at their own cost according to local rules.

Airline crews are exempt.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Between the fear that people have of catching the virus and the demands being imposed by some nations, including mandatory vaccinations, vaccine passports, and COVID testing decrees, numerous business sectors such as tourism, hospitality, restaurants, trade shows, concerts, etc., will not regain pre-COVID War market share.*



*On Sunday, Thierry Breton, the head of the European Commission vaccines task force, told RTL radio and TV channel LCI that “within two to three months” new vaccine “health passports” would be available and “a health certificate that demonstrates your condition” will allow travel to resume across Europe.*

## **BIDEN PUSHING HARD FOR VACCINE PASSPORT**



As we’ve been covering in the **Trends Journal** for months, Israel and the European Union have been leading the charge for a “Green Passport,” which would require proof of vaccination before being allowed to travel freely.

For more on this, see our articles: 2 March: [NO JAB, NO FREEDOM](#), 19 January: [AIRLINES & BUSINESSES: NO JAB, NO ENTRY](#), and 9 February: [VACCINE PASSPORTS WILL END UP TRACKING EVERYTHING](#).

Now, the Biden Administration is working with private corporations on a U.S. version of a “vaccine passport.”

According to a report in the San Diego Union on Sunday:

“The effort has gained momentum amid President Joe Biden’s pledge that the nation will start to regain normalcy this summer and with a growing number of companies—from cruise lines to sports teams—saying they will require proof of vaccination before opening their doors again.”

The federal effort is being led by the Department of Health and Human Services where five officials “spoke on condition of anonymity” to a *San Diego Union-Tribune* reporter. The White House “declined to answer questions about the passport initiative.”

The White House effort is headed by coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients who stated at a 12 March briefing that the passport would be “designed from the start to protect people’s privacy.”

Advocates for the passports say they will be free and easily available through smartphone apps, which would show a scannable code comparable to an airline boarding pass. Those without smartphones could print out the vaccine passport.

One of the cheerleaders for the vaccination passport effort is the Vaccination Credential Initiative (VCI), a group working on creating across-the-board standards for tracking the records of those who choose to get jabbed. One of the VCI’s advisors, Dr. Brian Anderson, is quoted:

“The busboy, the janitor, the waiter that works at a restaurant, wants to be surrounded by employees that are going back to work safely—and wants to have the patrons ideally be safe as well.”

*The San Diego Union-Tribune* got hold of slides presented at a 2 March session convened by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, which included officials from departments of Health, Homeland Security, and NASA, among others.

Some of the slides “warned of the confusing array of efforts underway to create credentials” and that the “chaotic and ineffective vaccine credential approach could hamper our pandemic response by undercutting public trust and confidence.” Concerns include the ability to hack the system and to create forgeries and counterfeit passports.

## **Backlash Opposition Expected**

Some of those attending the 2 March session made it clear they thought the initiative would backfire. One claimed he would personally change his travel plans to avoid the need for the proposed passport, and others agreed there needed to be “a careful balance: Encourage shots and support the

private-sector initiatives, but don't put too much federal emphasis on the looming passports."

Brian Castrucci, of the public health group the Beaumont Foundation, was blunt:

"If it became a government mandate, it would go down a dark road very quickly... If it becomes a credential... a 'needing your papers,' if you will. That could be dangerous—and it could turn off people."

As reported by *Advisory Board.com* on 23 March:

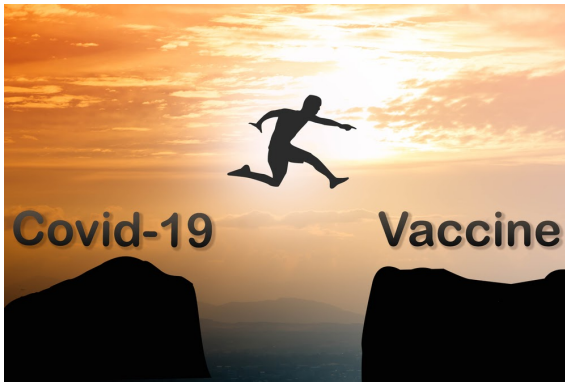
"The Electronic Frontier Foundation, for instance, has said using digital vaccine passports that are smartphone-based for people to access public places would result in a two-tiered system that keeps people without access to cellphones or testing out of work, stores, or schools."

Nicole Errett, a public health expert at the University of Washington, weighed in by saying, "If vaccines become a passport to doing different things, we're going to see the communities that have been already hardest hit by COVID being left behind."

Speaking for the majority at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology session, Kristen McGovern, a partner in the health-care consultancy Sirona Strategies, stated, "Many people see this as a key aspect to getting things closer to normal."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that a sizable segment of the population will be opposed to getting vaccinated. Thus, there will be an anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment movement. It will sow the seeds for a new political party that will attract a large segment of both Donald Trump supporters and libertarians.*

## ABC NEWS PUSHES VAX CARDS AS “TICKET TO FREEDOM”



A website article by an *ABC News* paid medical mouthpiece this past week exhorted vaccine takers not to lose track of their vaccination cards.

Dr. Leah Croll, M.D., a neurology resident at NYU Langone Health and a

“contributor to the ABC News Medical Unit,” said COVID vaccination cards “could be your ticket to freedom in the coming months—so it should be protected as such.”

Predictably, the comment section for her story was disabled, allowing no say for those who might have opinions of their own about vaccination-tied restrictions.

Croll noted that vaccination cards contain information including the brand of vaccine received and the date(s) of immunization. She said that according to public health experts, “It’s crucial to keep that information handy in case you need it to prove your vaccination status or to streamline possible future booster shots.”

Many people lining up to get their vaccinations aren’t aware of Croll’s suggestion that the current COVID vaccines are likely just the first in an endless series of “booster” vaccinations, just as many Americans are deceived about the actual lethality of the virus, which is much lower than many government authorities and media experts have proclaimed over the course of the pandemic.

New studies, including a recent antibody study done by Lenexa, a Kentucky-based medical insurance provider, have indicated that actual cases of coronavirus infection have likely been undercounted by as much as 50 percent. That means the death rate from the virus is even lower than the under one-percent figure now generally accepted.

Real-world data continues to pour in how the COVID pandemic has been wildly overblown, mismanaged, and “mis-modeled.”

### **Tragic Mismanagement and Wrong Predictions Covered Up by Media**

States such as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Michigan forced elderly COVID-positive patients back into nursing homes to infect others during the early months of the pandemic, with tragic consequences.

At the same time, they ignored rapidly emerging data that otherwise healthy people under 60 had very little risk of being seriously affected by the virus, and those under 18 were practically impervious to it. Despite the data, which is now crystal clear, whole populations have been lurching in and out of various levels and “color codes” of lockdowns.

As many as a third of small businesses failed in 2020 in states that opted for rigid lockdowns. Workers deemed “unessential” have lived in limbo, existing on extended unemployment benefits, periodic COVID checks, and temporary reprieves from college debt payments and even rent payments.

Quality of education, conducted for the most part remotely, has plummeted, more so for minority populations.

No matter. Governments, Big Pharma, Big Tech, and consumer giants like Amazon and Walmart have obscenely increased their power and profited in one way or another off the pandemic, compared to the average American. And, so, it is not surprising that corporate media and social platforms continue to propagandize for acquiescence to invasive controls, surveillance, and medical interventions.

Ironically, the most invasive medical intervention ever foisted on Americans is being pushed in the name of restoring “Freedom.” As Croll noted in her article, “Proof of vaccination may allow us to begin resuming our normal activities in the near future.”

Speaking about the use of vaccination cards for possible further future vaccinations, Croll referenced Dr. Krutika Kuppalli, vice chair of the Infectious Diseases Society of America's global health committee and "an emerging leader in biosecurity" at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

"Although vaccine studies are still ongoing, the vaccine brand and lot number in your card may be relevant when the time comes for a booster dose," Croll noted about Kuppalli's recommendations.

If "Johns Hopkins" rings a bell, perhaps it's because the Center for Health Security was a main player in "Event 201," a 2018 exercise that simulated a pandemic, complete with draconian restrictions and vaccine rollouts that just happened to presage much of what has now occurred with the COVID pandemic.

## **WHITE HOUSE PUSHES COVID JAB CAMPAIGN**



According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, there are still about 42 percent of Americans holding off on getting vaccinated. In a movement to get them to take the jab, the \$1.9 trillion COVID Relief Bill recently passed by Congress contains about \$1.5 million for a media promotion to deal with vaccine hesitancy.

But beyond that small amount, as the headline on the *EHS Today* website blared:

### **New Ad Campaign Encourages Americans to Get COVID-19 Vaccines**



The campaign, part of a larger \$250 million COVID-19 education campaign, will try to convince the hesitant to get the shot.

Overall, the government promotion campaign is primarily aimed at what the establishment calls "conservatives" who are among the most vaccine-hesitant.

As the *Wall Street Journal* reported last Wednesday, "The Biden administration is enlisting the help of groups including the Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc. and NASCAR, both popular among conservative voters."

The Ad Council, a nonprofit that produces public-service commercials, is said to have invested some \$50 million to promote the vaccine. The *WSJ* reported that they, along with the COVID Collaborative, a coalition of leaders in education, health, and economics, announced a campaign that will run during time donated by media across TV and digital media platforms.

The promotional campaign will feature videos including singer Willie Nelson and star athletes from Major League Baseball, the NFL, and the NBA.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the Christian Broadcasting Network "welcomes the Biden team effort." NASCAR also officially welcomed the White House initiative and is working with local governments to convert race tracks into vaccination sites.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps said, "It's critically important to us that we, as an industry, continue to play a meaningful role in the fight against COVID."

Noting that in rural areas only 31 percent of people say they will definitely get vaccinated, compared to 42 percent in urban areas, the *Journal* said that the White House is engaging the American Farm Bureau Federation to get on board the vaccination express.

They said its Federation president, Zippy Duvall, confirmed his organization is now "highlighting the importance of vaccinations for workers in the food-supply chain."

The Director of the National Institutes of Health, Francis Collins, appeared on the Christian Broadcasting Network to both encourage getting the shots and respond to conservative criticism from abortion opponents angry over vaccines using fetal cells from abortions that are used in testing laboratories. Johnson & Johnson came under criticism from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for using these fetal cells.

***TRENDPOST:*** Again, we note that the freedom of speech to question the efficacy and safety of the COVID vaccines is prohibited while the establishment, pouring in countless millions to sell the jab, are permitted to do and say as they wish. Thus, this “Get Happy, Get Vaxed” campaign is undeniable evidence of not only the loss of freedom of speech but that big money rules and controls the nation.

## GET-A-JAB INCENTIVES



In addition to the Krispy Kreme junk-food donut promotion, other companies are joining in the push to get Americans vaccinated.

According to the *CNBC* report:

“Kroger is awarding employees \$100 in store credit in addition to a one-time \$100 payment for taking the vaccine. Publix said it will give associates a \$125 gift card to use in the store after they get both doses.

In Cleveland, Chagrin Cinemas is giving out free popcorn through the end of April to moviegoers with a vaccination card and Market Garden Brewery is offering 10-cent beers to the first 2021 adults who bring their completed card.

The Greenhouse of Walled Lake, a marijuana dispensary in Walled Lake, Michigan, is giving anyone over the age of 21 with proof of vaccination a free pre-rolled joint. The ‘Pot for Shots’ promotion is a ‘way of saying thank you for helping to end this pandemic and getting us back to normal,’ the dispensary said.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have reported, those opposed to and/or who question the efficacy and safeness of the COVID vaccines are banned from the mainstream media and social media platforms.*

*As the cover of last week’s **Trends Journal** clearly illustrates, Drug Dealers and Money Junkies are in control.*

## **ASTRAZENECA VACCINE DATA UNDER FIRE**

In the 9 February **Trends Journal** and subsequent issues, we have been reporting on problems associated with the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine. We had noted that Switzerland’s health agency said it would not administer the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine because the data “available and evaluated to date [is] not yet sufficient.”

A number of European countries followed the Swiss, stopping the jab over concerns of adverse effects, namely blood clots.

Now, there are concerns in the U.S. as well. On 24 March, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article with the headline:

### **U.S. Health Officials Raise Concerns Over AstraZeneca Vaccine Data**

The independent monitoring board that provided oversight of the safety vaccine trials has revealed that AstraZeneca producers of the vaccine “might have relied on out-of-date information.”

The U.K. drug company, whose net worth according to macrotrends is \$132.91 billion, said it would “update” data being questioned for accuracy. According to the *Wall Street Journal* report:

“The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) said it had been informed by the independent data-monitoring board working with AstraZeneca on the U.S. trials that the drug company might have used out-of-date information in its public disclosure of the vaccine’s effectiveness...

AstraZeneca PLC said it would update and reissue later this week efficacy data from human trials of its COVID-19 vaccine after U.S. officials took the rare move of publicly questioning their accuracy—the latest misstep by the British drug giant as it struggles to get its shot into American arms.”

The Director of the Institute is Dr. Anthony Fauci, also the lead medical advisor to President Biden, who said last Tuesday he was “kind of stunned” by the questions surrounding the accuracy of AstraZeneca’s data: “Any type of thing like this could unfortunately contribute to a lack of confidence in the process.” Dr. Fauci referred to the inaccurate data as an “unforced error.”

## **A Real Mess**

*Nature.com* reported last Wednesday about concerns over the AstraZeneca vaccine:

“The road keeps getting bumpier for a vaccine that most researchers say is safe and effective and has huge potential to protect large swathes of the world’s population.”

The report quoted Dr. Eric Topol, director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in La Jolla California, who said, “The world, the species, depends on this vaccine. This is 2.5 billion people’s worth of vaccine.” He added that the questions surrounding AstraZeneca are “a real mess.”

Over 20 million doses of the vaccine have been injected. Many health experts are counting on this particular vaccine because it doesn't require the complicated and expensive storage requirements of the other vaccines.

As part of the “real mess” surrounding this vaccine, the *New Yorker*, in an article published last Tuesday titled, “Why There Is So Much Confusion About the AstraZeneca Vaccine?” wrote that AstraZeneca safety trials were questionable:

“Why wouldn't AstraZeneca have controlled for age in testing two dosing regimens? Because, it turned out, the different levels had not been part of the original study design; the setup was apparently an attempt to make the best of a measuring error late in the production process.

There were other questions about the initial trials. The participants did not seem as representative as they might have been: Why weren't more elderly people enrolled, or more diverse populations? Why did AstraZeneca make it harder to untangle its data from the outset, by conflating results from different study sites (in the U.K. and Brazil) that dealt with the data in somewhat different ways?”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The website EudraVigilance was established in Europe to track adverse side effects from pharmaceutical drugs. According to Global Research, the latest data reported on 13 March revealed 3,964 deaths and 162,610 injuries as a result of the three COVID vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer-BioNtech, and AstraZeneca.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Again, while We the People are banned from the mainstream and social media to question the safety and efficacy of the “Operation Warp Speed” vaccine that has not been officially approved by the FDA, only the establishment “experts” are permitted to be heard... and followed.*

*The Financial Times reported that a group called the “Center for Countering Digital Hate” (CCDH) is “urging” Facebook, Google, and Twitter to deny access to about a dozen individuals critical of the COVID vaccinations, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr.*

*The most pressure is coming from 12 Democratic state attorneys-general who want social media to curb “anti-vaccine misinformation.”*

*Last Thursday, the heads of Facebook, Google, and Twitter appeared before a congressional committee to answer questions about “online extremism and misinformation.”*

## **NO JAB, NO COLLEGE**



On Thursday, *The New York Times* reported that Rutgers University in New Jersey will require all students to offer proof of vaccination to return to campus next fall.

The Rutgers president, Jonathan Holloway, issued a statement that included, “Adding COVID-19 vaccination to our student immunization requirements will help provide a safer and more robust college experience for our students.”

His announcement was followed on Friday by word of a “study that will be conducted on 20 other campuses to see if people who have been immunized can still spread the virus.”

As *The New York Times* reported,

“[According to] the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people who have been fully vaccinated do not need masks in small indoor gatherings with others who have been inoculated, but should still wear them in public. This is because clinical trials of the vaccines focus on whether they prevent serious illness and death—not whether vaccinated people could be infected, even only briefly, and transmit the virus.”



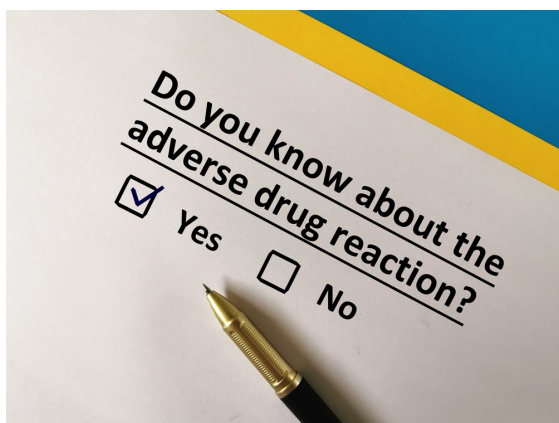
The study will have half the 12,000 students from 20 universities jabbed with the Moderna vaccine as soon as they arrive on campus. All 12,000 “will swab their noses daily to check for the virus and, from time to time, provide blood samples for antibody screening.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The push for mass vaccinations, even to those not catching the virus, will become mandatory at many levels of society.*

*As we have reported, the recovery rate for people ages 1 to 20 is 99.997 percent, yet they are and will be forced to get vaccinated. Indeed, Pfizer has begun testing its COVID Jab on children under the age of 12.*

*Despite the massive ad campaigns, etc., there will be a sizeable sector of society that will refuse the vaccination. Thus, we maintain our forecast for anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-establishment political movements.*

## VACCINE FAST FACTS



The EU reported this past week that 3,964 were killed by COVID vaccines and 162,610 injured, according to collected data. That's according to Eudravigilance, a database of suspected adverse reaction reports, though data reporting from the system typically lags by several weeks.

The database is similar to the VAERS self-reporting system used by the FDA and CDC in the United States.

As for VAERS, the latest numbers as of 19 March show:

- 2,050 deaths following COVID vaccine injections

- 44,606 recorded adverse reactions
- 826 permanent disabilities
- 7,456 emergency room/doctor visits
- 4,442 hospitalizations
- 1,318 life-threatening incidents
- 52 birth defects

Though VAERS data is virtually the only Federal government data system officially tracking side effects of the COVID vaccines, the mainstream media has mostly ignored information reported there. Not only that, in a perverse twist of their efforts at propaganda, they have actively labeled news sites and organizations that cite VAERS data as "fake news."

In the U.S., 137 million total doses have been given, including an average of 2.62 million per day over the past week. In his first Presidential news conference, Biden announced an updated goal to reach 200 million dispensed vaccines in his first 100 days in office.

Worldwide, more than 518 million COVID vaccine doses have been administered in 140 countries. The U.S., along with Israel, the U.K., and the UAE have the highest rates of vaccination. Much of Russia, China, and South America have comparatively lower vaccination rates. China, for example, has vaccinated just 3.3 percent of its population so far, according to *Bloomberg*.

Africa remains among one of the least-vaccinated regions in the world. In South America, only Chile, with 24 percent of its population vaccinated, has been on a pace with America and European nations.

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## MYANMAR: ANOTHER DAY, MORE BLOODSHED

As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, since 1 February, tens of thousands of protesters in Myanmar have taken to the streets to fight for democracy after a military coup overturned recent election results and arrested the civilian leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who reportedly won by a landslide this past November.

The protesters – many of them young people – face an emboldened police force backed by the military.

*CNN*, citing the independent *Myanmar Now* news outlet, reported protesters experienced their bloodiest day on Saturday after at least 114 were killed in more than two dozen cities across the country.

The killings on Saturday included a 13-year-old girl who was shot inside her home after government forces fired indiscriminately into residences in the Mandalay region, *CNN* reported. A boy, about five years old, was also counted

as one of the casualties in the region. The report said about 20 minors have been killed since protests broke out in the country.

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a nonprofit, put the death toll in the country at about 328 before Saturday's crackdown.

Saturday's killings prompted 12 defense chiefs, including those from Denmark, Australia, the U.K., Germany, Italy, and the U.S. to issue the following statement:

"As Chiefs of Defense, we condemn the use of lethal force against unarmed people by the Myanmar Armed Forces and associated security services. A professional military follows international standards for conduct and is responsible for protecting—not harming—the people it serves. We urge the Myanmar Armed Forces to cease violence and work to restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar that it has lost through its actions."

The U.S. Embassy in Myanmar and the European Union also condemned the killings.

"On Myanmar's Armed Forces Day, security forces are murdering unarmed civilians, including children, the very people they swore to protect. This bloodshed is horrifying," Thomas Vajda, the U.S. Ambassador to the country, said, according to *CNN*.

The *AP* reported the country's military marked its Armed Forces Day holiday with a parade in the country's capital. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, who has taken control of the country, said during the parade in Naypyitaw that the military would work to protect the country's citizens and work toward democracy. The *AP* reported he did not refer to the protests during his nationally-televised address.

The junta claimed widespread election fraud in the country's November elections that handed Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party with sweeping victories.

The military justified the killings by blaming demonstrators due to their occasional use of Molotov cocktails and “rioting.” The *AP* reported that protesters in Yangon were seen brandishing bows and arrows.

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

## **Economic Devastation**

The World Bank recently reported that the country’s economy is expected to contract by 10 percent in 2021, which is in stark contrast to its prediction in October that the country’s GDP could grow by 5.9 percent, according to *Reuters*.

The *CNN* report said the country’s state television warned residents they risked being shot in the head or back if they took to the streets in weekend protests. The warning seemed to many to be a threat because so many protesters who have been killed had been shot in the head.

“They are killing us like birds or chickens, even in our homes,” Thu Ya Zaw, a protester, told *Reuters*. “We’ll keep protesting regardless... We must fight until the junta falls.

***TRENDPOST:*** While nations such as the U.S., the U.K., and others condemn the military action taken against the citizens of Myanmar, most of these countries have slaughtered millions in their ongoing Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and other wars they have launched and/or supported.

*Thus, their acts of murder are committed in the name of bringing freedom and democracy to regimes they wish to overthrow and whose countries they want to control, mostly to steal their natural resources.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** 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 the country.

*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.*

*Russia announced last week that it hoped to strengthen military ties with Myanmar after top military officials met in Naypyitaw a day before the parade. Reuters said the meeting “is the firmest sign yet of Russia’s support for the new military rulers in Myanmar.”*

*Russia and China have been the largest source of arms for Myanmar since 2008, providing \$835 million and \$1.5 billion, respectively, according to the Financial Times.*

*A representative for the campaign group “Justice for Myanmar” told Reuters they are “appalled” Russian officials would “legitimize the illegal military junta.”*

*Alexander Fomin, the Russian envoy, met with Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council of Myanmar, and assured him that Moscow was “committed to a strategy aimed at bolstering relations between the two countries.”*

*The FT reported Russia’s defense ministry issued a statement that addressed Moscow and Naypyitaw’s “rapidly developing mutually beneficial relations in the military sphere” and that they “reaffirmed their intention to make the most of the existing potential in order to deepen military and military-technical co-operation in the spirit of strategic partnership.”*



## BIDEN TO FIX BORDER SURGE?



Last week, President Biden faced growing criticism over his administration's handling of the crisis at the U.S. border with Mexico. The administration announced more aggressive measures, and it tapped Vice President Kamala Harris to work out a diplomatic solution

with Central American countries and Mexico.

President Biden has been knocked by Republicans but also by the presidents of Mexico and El Salvador.

### Blame Biden

Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador said at a news conference last week,

“Expectations were created that with President Biden’s government there would be a better treatment of migrants. This has caused Central American migrants, and also from our country, to want to cross the border thinking that it is easier to do.”

El Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele told *Fox News* earlier this month that citizens are needed there to help build the economy, and despite his best efforts to keep them from leaving the nation, Biden’s alleged support for immigrants is hurting both countries:

“If you send hardworking people and talented people and people who want to risk it just to go to work, you want to keep them here because those will be the drivers of your economy. You don’t want them there so that they can send a remittance, which would be a small portion of what they would earn and produce; you want them to produce here.”

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested 97,000 migrants trying to enter the U.S. in February, the most since 2019. The paper reported that an average of 523 unaccompanied children are being apprehended each day at the border, and the U.S. is having difficulty housing them.

The *Associated Press* reported the administration opened 10,000 new beds in convention centers across the south, including a new 3,000-person facility in San Antonio and a 1,400-person location in the San Diego convention center.

Despite criticism of Washington's handling of the border crisis, including Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, who called VP Harris the "worst possible choice" for the job, Biden said his second-in-command is up for the challenge.

"When she speaks, she speaks for me," he said.

## **Republicans Visit Border**

A group of Republican Senators visited Donna, TX, to get an idea of the situation unfolding at the southern border. The group reported that Biden officials asked them to delete pictures showing the squalid conditions.

"None of us would have gone down there if we were going to be muzzled," Senator Mike Braun told the *Washington Examiner*. The paper said the facility Braun visited is running at 700-percent capacity.

Braun told the paper that the senators could hear "smugglers and coyotes" from the other side of the border with the Rio Grande essentially taunting Border Patrol agents. Braun said,

"Most of it in Spanish, telling the border guards that whatever you do, we're coming... That kind of hit home in such an anecdotal way because it is one story that kind of is a metaphor for what's happening all up and down the border."

**TREND FORECAST:** According to a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll, 7 percent of Americans disagree with how the Biden administration is handling the border crisis.

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

## CHINA HITS BACK: DOUBLES UP ON SANCTIONS



As we reported in the **Trends Journal** last week, just a day before the U.S. meeting with Chinese officials on 19 March in Anchorage, AK, the U.S. slapped 24 Chinese officials with economic sanctions, which prompted one of the officials from Beijing to say, “This is not supposed to be

the way one should welcome his guests.”

Then, on 22 March, the U.S., U.K., European Union, and Canada joined together to impose on top Chinese officials in protest of what they said are human rights violations against the Uyghur minority. They accused Chinese officials of being “responsible for serious human rights violations in China, in particular large-scale arbitrary detentions inflicted upon Uyghurs and people from other Muslim ethnic minorities.”

## Payback’s a Bitch

Four days later, in retaliation, China announced it would impose sanctions on four entities in the U.K. for spreading “lies and disinformation” about the conditions in Xinjiang province and allegations of large-scale human rights abuses.

CNBC reported that in addition to the entities, nine individuals will have their assets frozen in China as a result of the sanctions.

Officials in the U.S. and Canada have also been hit with sanctions from Beijing on Saturday, according to a report in *The Hill*. The move prompted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to condemn the move as “baseless.” According to the report, Blinken said,

“Beijing’s attempts to intimidate and silence those speaking out for human rights and fundamental freedoms only contribute to the growing international scrutiny of the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang.”

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement the sanctions that have been imposed are “an attack on transparency and freedom of expression.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we detailed last week in our article, **“CHINA TELLS U.S. TO FU,”** we continue to note that China will not play a secondary role to the U.S. or any nation. No longer do U.S. politicians, the Defense Department, the media, nor the American people chant, “We’re #1.” Indeed, by the decade’s end, that will be the Chinese refrain. Thus, for any actions taken by the U.S. and its allies, Beijing will double up on retaliation.

## CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME



The Taiwanese military said last Friday that 20 Chinese combat aircraft, including four H-6K bombers and 10 J-16 fighters, conducted exercises that some familiar with the operation said looked like a simulation of an attack against U.S. warships sailing in the region,

according to *Reuters*.

Indeed, last month, we ran the article, “[CHINA MILITARY. READY FOR WAR?](#),” which focused on the Chinese military conducting exercises that simulated an attack on U.S. aircraft carriers.

The *Financial Times*, citing intelligence officials from the U.S. and other countries, reported at the time that the pilots in the H-6 bombers used the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier group, which is in the South China Sea, as their mock target. The paper reported these intel officials said they gathered the information from cockpit conversations between pilots for the People’s Liberation Army during the exercise.

Taiwan’s military has reported near-daily incursions by the Chinese military, but Friday’s incident reached a level not seen, and it has the U.S. concerned about a Chinese attack on Taiwan, according to a report in *Axios*.

Adm. John Aquilino, selected to be the next commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he believes an attack on Taipei is “much closer to us than most think.” According to *CNN*, Aquilino said,

“We’ve seen aggressive actions earlier than we anticipated, whether it be on the Indian border or whether it be in Hong Kong or whether it be against the Uighurs. We’ve seen things that I don’t think we expected, and that’s why I continue to talk about a sense of urgency. We ought to be prepared today.”

Col. Wu Qian, China’s Defense Ministry spokesman, said in January that Taiwan is an “inalienable part of China.”

“The PLA will take all necessary measures to resolutely defeat any attempt by the ‘Taiwan independence’ separatists, and firmly defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” he said, according to the network.

Taiwan said it monitored the Chinese jets off its southwestern coast and communicated with the pilots through radio. The planes flew over the Bashi Channel, which is frequented by U.S. ships.

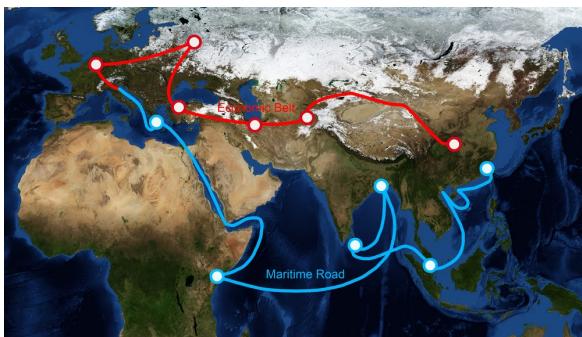
***TREND FORECAST:*** *Beijing has long declared that Taiwan is part of its territory under its “One China Principle,” and it is the mainland’s territory under its Constitution. We forecast that just as Beijing has clamped down on Hong Kong protests and taken full control, so, too, will they take control of Taiwan when they are ready.*

*Despite condemnations when they do so, there will be no military forces from other nations that will challenge Communist China’s military might. Indeed, America, with the largest military in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations such as Afghanistan after invading that nation some 20 years ago.*

*Thus, despite a lot of tough talk by American politicians, we maintain our forecast that 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.*

*Should war break out between China and Taiwan, we forecast the Taiwanese military will not aggressively fight back, since doing so would result in millions of deaths and mass destruction.*

## **BIDEN VS. CHINA’S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: U.S. LOSES**



President Biden spoke with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson last week to pitch a massive project to challenge China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road. It was launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013.



*Al Jazeera* reported Biden told Johnson that democratic countries in the region should have a plan that rivals China's.

The Council on Foreign Relations refers to BRI as a colossal infrastructure project that could “usher in a new era of trade and growth for economies in Asia and beyond.”

The *CFR* report said that under former President Trump, Washington voiced concern about the initiative but “struggled to offer governments in the region a more appealing economic vision.”

Jacob J. Lew, a visiting professor at Columbia University who was the U.S. Treasury secretary, wrote in *Barron's* last week that the implementation of the BRI is a serious risk for host countries due to “worrying debt levels” and the “displacement of U.S. companies” to give way to an “increasing dependence on China.”

President Biden said he suggested a similar initiative “pulling from the Democratic states, helping those communities around the world that, in fact, need help.”

*Reuters* reported last week that Biden made it clear Beijing would not surpass Washington, D.C., in power during his term in the White House, and he is willing to invest heavily to follow through on the promise.

“China has an overall goal... to become the leading country in the world, the wealthiest country in the world, and the most powerful country in the world. That's not going to happen on my watch because the United States is going to continue to grow,” Biden said, according to *Reuters*.

Biden insisted he does not want a confrontation.

The *Al Jazeera* report, citing a Refinitiv database, reported that more than 100 countries in the region have signed on with Chinese projects, which will focus on infrastructure projects like railways and highways.

**TREND FORECAST:** *The United States and Europe will lose in the economic challenge against China. While President Biden stated that Beijing would not surpass Washington in power during his term in the White House, that has zero to do with U.S. policy or the Biden administration.*

*The hard facts and analyses project China to surpass the U.S. as the world's largest economy by 2028.*

*As we have long noted, the business of America has been war, and the business of China is business. The 20th century was the American century, and as we have forecast the 21st century will be China's... and one of our 10 Top Trends for 2021, is "China 2021."*

*As we have been reporting, former President Bill Clinton brought China into the World Trade Association in 2000 (which Senator Joe Biden supported), and China's GDP at the time accounted for a 3.6-percent share of the world's economy. Now, just 20 years later, it has grabbed a nearly 18-percent share.*

*Thus, as China expands its domestic economy and continues to develop its BRI, it will continue to grow in financial and military power as the United States and Europe decline.*

## **U.S. GLOBAL FREEDOM RANKING: THIRD WORLD**



Freedom House issued a report last week that listed the U.S. below countries like Mongolia and Argentina in its global freedom rankings.

*The Independent* reported that the position marks an 11-point drop over the

past ten years and pins the blame on the political tension, the influence of money in politics, and racial inequality.

“Dropping 11 points is unusual, especially for an established democracy, because they tend to be more stable in our scores,” Sarah Repucci, the vice president of research and analysis at the watchdog, said, according to the paper. The report noted the U.S. received an 83 out of 100. The countries that received the highest scores were Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

The U.S. is tied with Romania and Croatia on the list.

***TRENDPOST:*** *By its deeds and actions, America, the nation that launches wars under the guise of bringing “Freedom and Democracy,” has declined into third-world freedom status. The loss of Constitutional and Bill of Rights greatly accelerated following 9/11 and has now reached unprecedented government control/censorship levels since the COVID-19 War was launched in March 2020. It should also be noted that March is the "march off to war" month that Americans marched off to the Iraq and Libyan Wars.*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## SPERM DOWN FOR THE COUNT, PENISES FALLING SHORT

Erin Brockovich knows a lot about severe health issues caused by chemical pollution. As a legal clerk in 1996, she was the driving force behind the largest water pollution settlement ever paid when the law firm she worked at sued the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) for \$333 million.

The utility giant had been covering up its contamination of groundwater that had caused serious cancer and other debilitating diseases in over 650 customers. The case was made into the successful movie, *Erin Brockovich*.

She has helped win additional, major cases against polluters since.

On 14 March, Erin Brockovich exposed the reality that overwhelming tons of toxic chemicals are causing hormone-damaging consequences world-wide. Her article in *The Guardian* is titled, “Plummeting sperm counts, shrinking penises: toxic chemicals threaten humanity.”

Her article begins:

“The end of humankind? It may be coming sooner than we think, thanks to hormone-disrupting chemicals that are decimating fertility at an alarming rate around the globe. A new book called ‘Countdown’ by Shanna Swan, an environmental and reproductive epidemiologist at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, finds that sperm counts have dropped almost 60% since 1973.

Following the trajectory we are on, Swan’s research suggests sperm counts could reach zero by 2045. Zero. Let that sink in. That would mean no babies. No reproduction. No more humans. Forgive me for asking: why isn’t the UN calling an emergency meeting on this right now?”

The article notes that chemicals breaking down and causing this global crisis are used to make items ranging from plastic products, personal hygiene cleaners, waterproofing, industrial, and home carpets and many of the electronic appliances found in homes and offices.

Among the most toxic are PFAS, which are often referred to as “forever chemicals,” due to their resistance to breaking down and showing up in millions of human bodies. Commenting on PFAS, Ms. Brockovich writes,

“They just accumulate and accumulate—doing more and more damage, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day. Now, it seems, humanity is reaching a breaking point.”

The book she refers to, *Countdown*, reveals data showing that a typical woman in her twenties today is significantly less fertile than previous generations, and the average male has only about half the sperm count compared to two generations ago.

The author, epidemiologist Dr. Shanna Swan, writes, “The current state of reproductive affairs can’t continue much longer without threatening human survival. It’s a global existential crisis. That’s not hyperbole. That’s just science.”

## Shrinking Manhood

Dr. Swan's research also discloses that PFAs are causing "reduction of semen quality, testicular volume, and penile length." The Kirkus review of the book states,

"Writing about the lack of awareness regarding commonly used chemicals that are harming humans and the environment—not to mention policies to limit or eliminate them—she (Dr. Swan) asks with justified anger, "Where is the outrage on this issue?!"

## Children at Risk

Ms. Brockovich adds that one of the most severe results of chemical pollution worldwide is its effect on young children:

"In the United States, a scientific study found phthalate exposure 'widespread' in infants, and that the chemicals were found in the urine of babies who came into contact with baby shampoos, lotions, and powders. Still, aggressive regulation is lacking, not least because of lobbying by chemical industry giants."

***TRENDPOST:*** Yes, "aggressive regulation is lacking, not least because of lobbying by chemical industry giants." As we have noted for decades, "democracy" is dead. Governments are run by their corporate masters. As Gerald Celente says, politicians are paid off to do what they are told:

*Morons and imbeciles call it "campaign contributions." Adults call it bribes and payoffs. And because most politicians never had a real job in their lives, they get paid off cheaply.*

*It is not a "representative" form of government since the politicians represent those who pay them off and the government is a revolving door... agency heads, diplomats, political leaders, etc., rotate between corporations and government jobs.*



## SNACK FOOD PRESERVATIVE ATTACKS IMMUNE SYSTEM

Last Thursday, *StudyFinds.org* published research results from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) showing that a preservative found in over 1,000 snack “treats” contains a chemical that disrupts the human immune system. And it can weaken the effectiveness of vaccines, including those for COVID-19.

The study, “Preservative in Pop-Tarts, Cheez-Its, hundreds of popular foods may harm immune system,” focuses on the chemical tert-butylhydroquinone or TBHQ. According to the article,

“Researchers looked at data from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Toxicity Forecaster, or ToxCast, during their study. Along with examining health hazards from preservatives, the team studied ‘forever chemicals,’ or PFAS. These chemicals, commonly used in making food packaging, can migrate from the wrappers to the food itself.”

“Forever chemicals” get their name because they are synthetic chemicals that never fully break down over time.

The analysis reveals that TBHQ, a “forever chemical,” has been used by the processed foods industry for decades and for only one reason: to prolong shelf life.

Unfortunately, in many cases, it can shorten the healthy life of those who consume it. The ToxCast analysis shows that “recent studies find there may also be a link between PFAS exposure and the severity of COVID-19.”

Where is the FDA on this issue, which is supposed to monitor food safety? The article states,

“Researchers contend the U.S. Food and Drug Administration doesn’t consider the latest science when regulating food additives. Although companies can legally add certain products to foods, The Environmental Working Group [EWG] finds some may increase cancer risk, harm the nervous system, or disrupt hormone levels.”

The article further points out that the FDA “allows food manufacturers to determine which chemicals are safe for consumption. Preservatives like TBHQ were approved to use years ago and have not been reassessed since then.”

As a result of the FDA not pursuing food safety, but leaving this preservative issue up to the billion-dollar snack food industry, Scott Faber, senior vice president for government affairs at EWG, says:

“Food manufacturers have no incentive to change their formulas.

Too often, the FDA allows the food and chemical industry to determine which ingredients are safe for consumption. Our research shows how important it is that the FDA take a second look at these ingredients and test all food chemicals for safety.”

The article also notes that the dangerous TBHQ is not always listed as an ingredient, so even those who carefully read food labels cannot be sure these processed foods aren’t potentially toxic.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we continue to note since the outbreak of the COVID War, in which some 2.8 million reportedly have died over the past 15 months worldwide, considering the tons of chemicals, pesticides, preservatives, artificial colors, artificial flavors, artificial ingredients, drug residues, etc., pumped into the earth, water air – and our bodies – tens of millions are dying each year from these toxins... yet, it is barely reported.*

*Instead, day after day=, the Prostitutes, politicians, and bureaucrats spread the fear of COVID while ignoring these deadly facts.*

## HAND SANITIZERS CAN CAUSE CANCER



What we wrote about in our 23 June article, [“MAKE IT UP, THEY WILL BELIEVE IT”](#) persists unabated.

Back then, we wrote about the hand-sanitizing craze that had gripped the nation and how the FDA warned that nine alcohol-based hand sanitizers manufactured by Eskbiochem SA de CV in Mexico contained a toxic substance that could result in death when absorbed through the skin or if ingested. They said, “Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning.”

Clearly more deadly to young people who are not dying from coronavirus, the FDA went on to report, “Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, permanent damage to the nervous system, or death.”

Scared to death that the virus would kill them if they got it on their hands, along with the rush to buy toilet paper, people panicked and started cleaning out large stores such as Walmart of all hand sanitizers.

On 4 November, the CDC updated its website with the report titled, “Hand Washing: Clean Hands Saves Lives.” It stated,

“Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to those around you.”

The only signal from the CDC of any danger from using hand sanitizer was its 8 August warning not to drink it, as it is poisonous when ingested.

## Sanitized to Death

But last Thursday, *Bloomberg News* reported,

“Some widely available hand sanitizers that American consumers snapped up last year to ward off coronavirus infection contain high levels of a chemical known to cause cancer, a testing firm’s analysis found.”

They noted that after the most commonly produced hand sanitizers were quickly swept off the shelves by consumers frightened of the coronavirus, retail stores re-stocked with alternative brands containing dangerously high amounts of benzene, despite the WHO considering benzene to be as toxic as asbestos.

According to the *Bloomberg* report, Valisure, a Connecticut pharmacy that tests for product safety,

“Analyzed 260 bottles from 168 brands and found 17% of the samples contained detectable levels of benzene. Twenty-one bottles, or 8%, contained benzene above two parts per million, a temporary limit the Food and Drug Administration set for liquid hand sanitizers to ease the supply squeeze.”

Last June, the FDA said these levels of benzene “can be tolerated for a relatively short period of time.” A spokesperson for the FDA, Jeremy Kahn, told *Bloomberg*, “The FDA tests hand sanitizers and works with companies, when appropriate, to recall products. The FDA encourages retailers to remove products from store shelves and online marketplaces when quality issues arise.”

Nonetheless, as *Bloomberg* reports, “Some of these tainted sanitizers were found for sale at Amazon.com Inc. and Target Corp. outlets.”

Valisure’s test results were confirmed by the Chemical and Biophysical Instrumentation Center at Yale University and the private lab Boston Analytical.

**TRENDPOST:** *Once again, we see the devastating effects of fear-mongering politicians and their health officials. Despite evidence that the coronavirus does not, as these “experts” had warned, get transmitted by touching surfaces, scared consumers continue to sweep hand sanitizers off the shelves. As reported in our 26 May **Trends Journal** article, [“SPREADING FEAR, IGNORING FACTS”](#):*

*And now, with much of the world wearing rubber gloves to help protect oneself from getting the virus, last Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed COVID-19 does not spread in as frightening a way as presented by political leaders and magnified by the mainstream media.*

*In an about-face, after warning that people can become infected by touching surfaces and physical items that have the virus on them, the CDC now claims the virus “does not spread easily” by touching surfaces such as door handles and mail order boxes.*

## **RICHEST AMERICANS BEAT THE TAXMAN**



In keeping with the “American way”: A slap on the wrist for the rich and political class and punishment to the fullest extent of the law for the plantation workers of Slavelandia. On the tax front, while the IRS will destroy the lives of the peasants cheating, failing, or unable to pay taxes,

the richest steal as they wish.

The top 1 percent of Americans fail to report about 21 percent of their yearly income by using sophisticated strategies available to the upper class – such as offshore tax avoidance commonly missed by audits – according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The paper, citing a study by the IRS and economists at the London School of Economics, reported the top 0.1 percent's unreported income could be twice as high as earlier believed by the agency. The University of Chicago Booth School of Business ran a report in 2014 that identified the 0.1 percent as those families that earned at least \$1.5 million a year, or about 160,000 families. The top 0.01 percent, or 16,000 families, had an annual income of \$7 million, the report said.

Daniel Reck, the report's lead author, said many of these Americans have used partnerships and other entities to avoid taxes, which could be tougher for the IRS to identify:

"There is more revenue than you might have thought at the very top... What's needed is a broader strategy that involves increased scrutiny of pass-through businesses [and] investments in the comprehensive audits that the IRS does in its global high-wealth program."

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *Back in the 1950s, the 1 percent were taxed at a 91 percent tax rate according to a study by Thomas Piketty/Emmanuel Saez. Today, the top 1 percent paid a 26.8-percent average individual income tax rate.*

*As for the 1 percent among the gambler class (i.e., hedge funds), according to Investopedia, hedge fund managers are compensated using carried interest:*

*"The income they receive from the fund is taxed as a return on investment as opposed to a salary or compensation for services rendered. The incentive fee is taxed at the long-term capital gains rate of 23.8%—20% on net capital gains and another 3.8% for the net income tax on investments—as opposed to ordinary income tax rates, where the top rate is 37%.*

*This represents significant tax savings for hedge fund managers."*

*Thus, we propose the billionaire and gambler hedge-fund class be taxed at the 1950s' 90-percent rate and all of the off-shore and other tax loopholes designed for the 1 percent to beat the system be eliminated.*



## BILLIONAIRES BEAT TAXES: LITTLE PEOPLE PAY



Chuck Collins, the great-grandson of Oscar Mayer, the cold-cut magnate, wrote a new book, *The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions*, which focuses on the great lengths the super-rich go through to avoid taxes and keep their wealth in the family.

The *New York Post* reported that the book identifies what he dubbed as the lucrative “Wealth Defense Industry.” Collins, who the paper pointed out donated his \$500,000 inheritance, said that about 90,000 professionals around the world have dedicated their lives to see to it that their wealthy employer pays as little as possible in taxes. As Collins told the paper,

“The wealth defenders are a booming sector of the white-collar workforce around the world... They are the gatekeepers—the lawyers and accountants with expertise in Trusts and Estates, tax law, incorporation, and business transactions. What the industry euphemistically calls ‘tax efficiency.’”

He also told the *Post* there are tens of thousands of people who “wake up every morning and say, ‘How can I help this billionaire pass as much money as possible to his children with the lowest taxes?’ That is their mission in life.”

The paper, citing the global Tax Justice Network, estimated in 2015, there was about \$24 trillion to \$32 trillion in hidden wealth—or 10 to 12 percent of the total wealth in the world.

The paper pointed to another report in the *Wall Street Journal* that said the IRS estimates the country's 1 percent fail to report about 21 percent of their income to the IRS.

The paper also pointed out that companies like Apple file their patents overseas – owned by subsidiary corporations to enjoy “low or no taxes on royalty income from intellectual property.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *When Donald Trump ran for president in 2016, his main pledges were to reduce taxes, build the wall, stop immigrants from flooding into the U.S., and rebuild the nation's rotting infrastructure.*

*The only promise he kept was to lower taxes... for the richest Americans. According to the Tax Policy Center, the 1 percent got almost 83 percent of the benefits from Trump's 2017 tax bill. And, as we have detailed, rather than investing in capital expenditures, the mega-companies spent nearly \$1 trillion of their tax breaks on stock buybacks... which, in turn, pushed the value of their equities higher.*

*We forecast there will be growing political movements against the 1 percent as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and incomes decline... while federal, state, and city taxes are raised on consumer goods and services, school and property, etc.*

## **SUSAN RICE: WORTH \$37.9M, PLUS VAX DRUG STOCK**



It pays to get into politics.

Susan Rice, who served on President Clinton's National Security Council, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, National Security Advisor under President Obama, and now heads President Biden's Domestic Policy

Council... has assets of at least \$37.9 million from speaking engagements, stock options, and a gig at Netflix.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Rice resigned from her post on the board of directors at Netflix. She joined the company (which also gave Obama an undisclosed deal) in 2018 and sold “less than a third” of the stock options, which amounted to \$305,275.

The paper also reported that Rice benefited from holding shares in two companies at the center of the U.S.’s COVID-19 vaccine rollout: Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer.

The paper reported she has up to \$5 million in J&J shares and up to \$50,000 in Pfizer.

Rice is among the wealthiest members of Biden’s team and, according to *ABC News*, reported between \$36 million and \$149 million in various assets in recent disclosures.

A White House spokesperson told *ABC News*:

“These White House officials are experienced government leaders whose past private sector experience is part of a broad and diverse skill set they bring to government service... They have returned to government because of their deep commitment to public service, their desire to help bring our nation out of this time of crisis, and their strong belief that government can work for the American people.”

***PUBLISHER’S NOTE:*** *As per the White House statement pumping up Ms. Rice (who was also a strong proponent of overthrowing Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi), as an experienced government leader, etc., the late, great comedian George Carlin accurately said, “It’s one big club, and you ain’t in it.”*

*The entire “game” is rigged right in front of everyone’s eyes. A review of Susan Rice’s political history solidifies her as a solid member of the Washington Club...*

*the enforcers and enablers of the Bankster Bandits, the military/industrial/intelligence complex, and the Wall Street Gang.*

*And, once again detailing the tightness of the Club's circle, Mr. Rice is married to Ian Cameron, a former ABC News executive producer.*

## **NEW YORK STATE: POT GOING LEGAL**



New York politicians on Saturday agreed on a deal that could potentially lead to the legalization of recreational marijuana for adults in the state.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that under the agreement, residents in the state would be allowed to cultivate the product for personal use and a new state regulator would be established. The bill calls for the decriminalization of possession of up to three ounces. The bill also allows home growing of “three mature and three immature plants per adult for both medical patients and in the adult-use program, with a maximum of six mature and six immature plants per household.”

The report said that officials in the state will also begin studying the drug's effect on drivers and if they are inebriated after use. Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed the legislation in his state budget. The paper pointed out that similar proposals have been included in previous budgets, but did not pass the Assembly and Senate.

The state reportedly estimates that when the program matures, it could bring in about \$300 million in additional revenue for the state. The proposal calls for a 9-percent tax on retail sales and towns can add on an additional 4 percent, the report said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The deeper states go into debt, the more laws they will pass that will bring them revenue. What was a punishable crime before – such as “numbers running” when the mob ran it and “Lotto: You Gotta Be in It to Win It” – became legal when the political mob took over.*

*Yes, the same political gang that criminalized it and destroyed the lives of millions for smoking it when they weren’t making money off it, but will legalize it so they can raise taxes to pay for their salaries, pensions, and benefits... and get a cut of the action in the name of campaign contributions.*

*Thus, more states – and nations – will be legalizing cannabis to raise tax revenue.*

## KROGER WANTS DRUG DEALS



Kroger, the Cincinnati-based supermarket giant that generated record sales in 2020, is reportedly focused on its pharmacy business to continue to drive growth in the future.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Kroger’s stores have been providing customers with COVID-related services, including testing and prescription deliveries, and it has benefited from an increase in sales.

“COVID has taught us that pharmacy is always really important and will be important as we go forward,” Rodney McMullen, Kroger’s CEO, said in an interview, according to the Journal.

The paper reported that the company operates 2,250 pharmacies and 220 clinics across the U.S., mainly focused in the Midwest. The numbers make it the country’s fourth-largest pharmacy operator. The paper also pointed out that its

competitor, Walmart, has also focused on healthcare as a driver for future business.

The Journal pointed out that the supermarket administered 138 million vaccines, including 78,100 to its employees.

“Vaccination is a huge opportunity to engage with customers,” Colleen Lindholz, president of Kroger’s health business and a pharmacist by training, told the paper.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The bigger Big Pharma grows, the greater the demand by the general public for drugs and vaccinations, the wider the push for big retail to gain market shares of this growing sector.*

*Indeed, as evidenced by the rush to get vaccinated and the propaganda campaigns to convince the public to get jabbed, the larger the market sector will grow. Pushed into the marketplace, the more retail business will sell their services.*

*As we had noted since the outbreak of the COVID War, not a peep from the Prostitutes or politicians about getting healthy and building immune systems to fight the virus.*

*NO! The mainstream message is clear. The only way to win the COVID War is to get shot... shot in the arm.*

*While the masses will follow government mandates, there is a large sector of society that will advance toward Whole Health Healing which, in turn, will provide rewarding OnTrendpreneur® opportunities.*

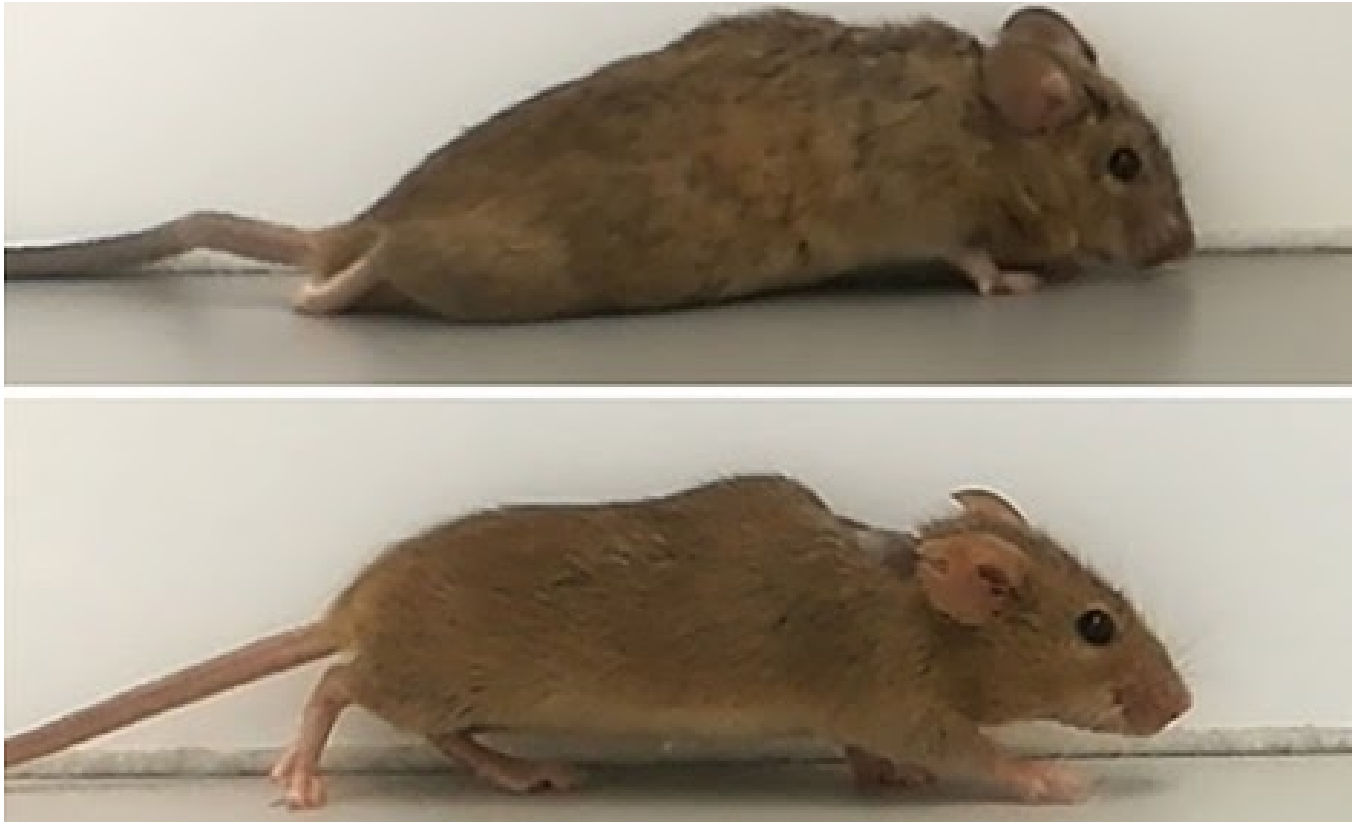


# THE ART OF TRENDS

“Two Parties, One Agenda” by *Stephen Green*



# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## PROTEIN ALLOWS PARALYZED MICE TO WALK AGAIN

Researchers at Germany's Ruhr University Bochum have reached a goal sought for centuries by medical science: how to make legs paralyzed by a massive spinal cord injury walk again.

The spine's nerve fibers, once damaged or cut, are unable to regenerate themselves. As a result, communication is lost between the mind and the body below the damaged point of the spinal cord.

Scientists have had some luck restoring lost function by transplanting nose nerve cells, which can regenerate, into the spinal cords of paralyzed dogs.

But the German team bypassed the spine entirely and went directly to the brain.

They genetically altered a naturally occurring protein that fosters communication among cells so that the protein would spark nerve cell regeneration. Then they injected the protein directly into the motor-control portion of the brains in mice whose spinal cords had been crushed, completely paralyzing their rear legs.

After two to three weeks, the mice were walking normally on all fours again.

The brain not only began producing the designer protein but also passed instructions to make it down through the body's neural network. The instructions reached the spinal cord and its branch nerves and caused the network to repair or replace the spinal cord's damaged nerves.

The German scientists now are testing how long after the injury the treatment will work.

While Bochum's researchers were publishing their findings, a group at the University of California at Los Angeles was showing another way to help spinal cords knit themselves back together.

The California bioscientists injected the spinal cord injury site in mice with a microscopic scaffold made of hyaluronic acid, which occurs naturally throughout the body and retains moisture in tissues.

The researchers loaded pores in the scaffold with genes that foster the creation of "brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)," a protein that makes new nerve cells.

Eight weeks after the injection, the scientists found that the damaged spinal cords had made notable progress in repairing themselves compared to mice that had received the scaffold but no genes to make BDNF.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The new work hints at ways in which humans who've lost control over their legs might regain it, as well as new approaches to treating*

*neurodegenerative diseases, designing prosthetic devices, and even brain-machine interfaces.*

*By mid-century, paraplegia – loss of the use of legs – is likely to be a reversible condition.*

*Photo credit: Ruhr University Bochum*

## **OLD MACDONALD HAS A NEW AUTONOMOUS TRACTOR**



Self-driving vehicles aren't confined to roadways. They're making their way into farm fields to make growing crops more efficient with less human labor.

Companies such as Case, CNH, and Kubota, among others, are fielding tractors that can identify and automatically attach themselves to specific pieces of equipment; follow pre-mapped paths to designated fields; and drive in prescribed patterns over acreage to plow, plant, fertilize, and harvest.

Off-road commercial vehicles generally haul heavier loads for longer times over rougher terrains than cars and pickup trucks. To extend work time and heft, the Autonomous Tractor Corp. has coupled a traditional tractor engine to a generator that sends power to an electric motor at each of a tractor's four wheels.

The arrangement cuts fuel costs by 30 percent while extending the vehicle's life fivefold before a replacement or major rebuild is needed, the company says.

Farmers can monitor their self-driving machines remotely through GPS software and onboard cameras; tractor-specific software also lets operators check fuel levels and other vital signs on their computers or mobiles.

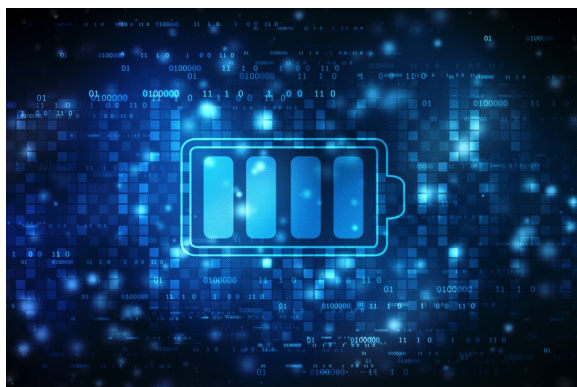
When an autonomous tractor encounters an obstacle – a fallen tree, for example – it can send an audio alert to the farmer’s tablet or smartphone. The farmer can then remotely draw a path for the tractor around the obstacle.

If something like a wandering cow crosses in front of the tractor, it will pause until the obstacle has moved on, then resume its pre-programmed routine.

***TRENDPOST:*** Self-driving tractors can handle routine fieldwork 24 hours a day, not only giving farmers their time back to handle work that can’t be automated but also rushing a harvest if heavy weather is closing in.

*Combining smart, self-driving tractors working the fields with drones monitoring crop health, soil moisture, and other factors will define the future of commodity-crop farming in a world in which more people have to be fed with more crops grown on less land by fewer people.*

## BREAKTHROUGH IN MASSLESS BATTERIES



What if your electric car didn’t *have* a battery but *was* a battery?

Turning a car chassis into a battery would save space inside for more people and cargo, save weight, and probably even cut cost.

Engineers have been trying for years to turn structural components into energy storage cells. But past attempts have yielded either good mechanical properties or good electrical properties but never both together.

Now researchers at Sweden’s Chalmers University of Technology have fashioned a carbon-fiber version that delivers both: adequate strength to serve

as structural members of a vehicle while delivering ten times more power than previous designs.

The new material uses carbon fiber as a negative electrode but has a positive terminal made from aluminum coated with lithium iron phosphate. The terminals are separated by a fiberglass fabric with a solid electrolyte built in.

The resulting panels have about 20 percent the energy density of current lithium-ion batteries. However, a vehicle with power cells as its framework instead of carrying a literal ton of batteries would require far less energy to travel the same distance between charges.

Financed by Sweden's space agency, the Chalmers team is now replacing the aluminum terminal with a carbon fiber version to add structural strength and swapping the fiberglass fabric for a thinner engineered material that will speed charging and boost the cells' efficiency.

The new version will triple the prototype's energy density and produce a material as strong as aluminum but weighing far less.

The project is scheduled to be completed within two years.

The batteries are referred to as "massless" because if the power cell becomes part of a device's structure, the separate mass of the battery disappears.

***TRENDPOST:*** *A commercially practical, massless battery would revolutionize the electric vehicle industry. If Chalmers' breakthrough can be market-ready by 2025, it could be on the road before this decade is over*