

# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®



## The WIZARD of COVID

*Who is Behind the Curtain?*



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## WIZARD OF COVID

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: "THE WIZARD OF COVID: Who is

Behind the Curtain?"

When you look at the cast of characters running the world – Cowardly Lions, Scarecrows, Tin Men, Wicked Witches... it's a freak show of lies and misinformation that has convinced the majority of people to march off and fight their COVID War.

As we've been documenting for a year now, we provide scientific facts and hard data of who is dying from the virus, and where, why, and how. We counter every line of B.S. the WIZARD of COVID has been selling that has destroyed hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods.

And now, despite virus deaths and cases dropping, the mainstream is selling the fear that a more deadly coronavirus variant will spread across the planet.

Yes, there is danger ahead, and it's not the virus. It is the mental illness of deranged narcissists, psychopaths, sociopaths, and pathological liars ... soldiers of the WIZARD – politicians and bureaucrats that are destroying the liberty, love, joy, and beauty of life.

Can it change?

Yes, it can. It's up to us to do it.

Pace e Amore,

*Gerald Celente, Publisher*

## RED ALERT

After the WEF, WHO, BIG PHARMA, GOVERNMENT TYRANTS and businesses laid off the workforce's across the world, the loss of jobs and income for approximately 10 million Americans alone will lead to a large number of bankruptcies and homeless in addition to the current homeless population.

What no one is fully aware of is that the Fed and Treasury are standing in the wings to capitalize on the opportunity to use the Banksters, hedge funds, venture capital funds and Treasury to buy the foreclosed properties at a fire sale price using loans from the governments at the expense of the American taxpayer. In reality the people who were paying taxes were paying mortgages and contributing to a vibrant society. Now they have had their assets and wealth stolen from them and will be forced into serfdom under a Green New Deal. as we "Build Back Better" per Biden's Administration and EU and WEF plans are adopted.

**harlow53**

## CRYPTO CUT

Just saw that it is likely that the regulators will force the cryptocurrency exchanges to comply with money laundering laws, like they do with banks.

The USA did a pretty good job of getting the Swiss banks to bend to their will regarding protected client information.

Just wondering, how is it the US government knows there is money laundering activity in the cryptocurrency space? Or is that just an excuse to make sure they get their 20% cut?

**Paul Sacco**

### **PEOPLE GET READY**

My husband and I are in our 70's and are very healthy. We walk 3 miles a day, eat healthy and clean food; know the importance of supplements. We are blessed to live in Texas but live only 20 miles north of Houston. We love our home but have decided to move back to the Texas Hill Country to live on his family ranch. There we can expand our garden, and be with like minded patriots. We are all hard workers, team players and God loving Christians. The time will come when the Elites will turn the tables and we will be ready. We all have concealed carry licenses but open carry on the ranch. It's time to find like minded people, people with skills, drive, determination and loyalty. The road ahead is going to be a wild one.

**Jean Jacoby**

### **THE DAY HAS ARRIVED**

Sad article, but a true one, never, never thought I would live to see such times here in the USA. My grandfather during the depression would hop on trains seeking jobs. One time a guy jumped him and took his money. My grandfather asked the guy "could you at least give me a nickel so I can write to my mother", and the guy threw down a nickel. You know that sure wouldn't happen now.

**Teresa Eiler**

### **THE NOT-DECIDER IN CHIEF**

Me thinks Mr. Biden is deciding nothing – just observe the poor guy. He can't get through a 5 minute statement without further humiliating embarrassment & forgetfulness. Note the delay of his 1st State of the Union Address – traditionally held before the 1st of March, and at the minimum, a 45 minute speech. His handlers have a monumental challenge on their hands there, and it will be worth keeping an eye on to see what they come up with.

**lnelsonv**

### **ADDITIVES SUBTRACTED HEALTH**

In the 1950's they started using fluoride in tooth paste and adding it to water. This was pushed by the aluminum industry who went so far that they proposed laws and got them passed by are caring political class to make it illegal to say that aluminum and it's by products are unhealthy when put in our food / water supplies.

Hence the addition of aluminum, a severe neurotoxin to baking powder. Pure food laws that were on the books were stripped and the quality of our food stuffs has been going down hill since. Only in the recent past has the public's awareness made some of these practices so unprofitable that they have been discontinued.

As far as "modern" food processing and additives to our food supplies / practices as being superior to that of aboriginal food supplies / practices, I would suggest you read, "Nutrition and Physical Degeneration" by Weston A. Price, DDS and you will see the tragedy caused by using processed foods on people that occurs within one generation of using this food of little nutritional value.

**a1achiropractic**



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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

As we have been noting since the COVID War began one year ago and most of the planet was locked down, it made absolutely no sense for the wide range of equities to keep hitting new highs.

In the real world, the socio-economic devastation of draconian shelter-in-place orders is in front of everyone's eyes. "For Rent" signs are splashed across cities far and wide. Once-bustling roads are nearly empty... especially at night. People walk around masked up, looking down, and mumbling to each other.

As we have detailed extensively in the **Trends Journal** and will continue to do so, the facts don't matter. The fear and hysteria that has been sold to the people by the Presstitutes, such as CNN, which has admitted that promoting the COVID War boosts their rating and makes them money, keep selling a steady stream of

lies... and the people are buying it. (See our article in this issue, [“CNN DOUBLES DOWN ON FEAR PORN AFTER TEXAS RE-OPENS.”](#))

Yes, some states have opened up in America, but many are still on COVID War Alert. And the economic devastation continues to take its toll. The hospitality sectors, tourism, restaurants, conventions, trade shows, theaters, cinema, entertainment venues... empty, dead, dying.

That's the reality on Main Street, which has absolutely no connection to Wall Street.

Yesterday, technology stocks continued their decline, with the NASDAQ falling 2.4 percent, pushing the index into correction territory... down 10 percent from its 12 February record high.

With the \$2 trillion stimulus ready to be injected into the U.S. economy, and a supposed return to a pre-COVID-War world, the prospects for less hi-tech life plus rising bond yields have erased the shine from the highly-traded sector.

Yields on 10-year U.S. Treasury bonds were up for the fourth straight session, hitting 1.594 percent... their highest since 19 February 2020, just before World War COVID was launched.

That was yesterday. Today, bond yields weakened, and in a blink of a market eye – buy-the-dips – gamblers pushed the NASDAQ up 3.69 percent. The recent, big-hit tech losers such as Tesla, which was sharply down over the past five trading days, spiked 20 percent. The other previously shrinking big techs such as Amazon, Netflix, Apple, and Microsoft closed up some 3 percent.

Meanwhile, the Dow, up 1 percent earlier in the day, erased most of its gains in the last hour, closing up continues to move higher, closing up 30 points

How can this be? What and who are driving up equities for an entire year since the COVID War devastated most economies across the globe?



In the U.S., for example, tens of millions of lives and livelihoods were destroyed; businesses gone bust will never return; commercial real estate is tanking in once-thriving metropolitan cities; corporate debt loads are climbing; ten million are unemployed.

Without a doubt, Washington's \$2 trillion monetary injection into the U.S. economy will inflate economic growth for the next several months, but there is a much larger inflation injection that is artificially propping up equities. It's courtesy of ["THE FED: INFLATE BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY"](#)... The Federal Reserve scheme Gregory Mannarino details in this issue of the **Trends Journal**.

**GOLD.** With the dollar index weakening and bond yields falling, gold and silver prices moved sharply higher. Gold closed up \$36.10, closing at \$1,714, and silver was up 75 cents, closing at \$26.02, both sharply rebounding from yesterday's lows.

Since gold's recent decline, we have now identified its low breakout point at \$1,650 per ounce. Should it hit that level, the downside risk is around \$1,550 per ounce. As for silver, should it break below \$22 per ounce, the downside risk is in the \$17 per ounce range. Considering silver is the most efficient conductor of electricity and its strategic demand in both hi-tech and heavy industry, we do not forecast it will break below that range.

We maintain our forecast for gold to break above \$2,100 per ounce this year and silver to move above \$50 per ounce. And, we also note, among the factors holding back price hikes in gold is that money that would have been flowing into the precious metal has found its way into cryptocurrencies... "gold" for the younger generations.

**OIL.** While Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate fell some 65 cents and 88 cents a barrel, respectively, today, they are still trading near their yearly highs. With more stimulus money being pumped into economies, there will be an increase in oil demand, thus keeping prices in their current range.

This, in turn, will hit consumers and businesses, further pushing up the inflation index.

As we have noted, should military tensions break out in the Middle East and oil prices spike toward the \$100 per barrel range, it will be a spark that could crash equity markets and drive the global economy deeper into the “Greatest Depression.”

## **Rigged Game**

Worried that COVID War might still cripple a global economic recovery, the OPEC+ cartel agreed at their 4 March meeting to not raise production levels.

Under the current plan, Saudi Arabia will continue to restrict production by one million barrels a day at least through April. The country then will raise production “eventually and gradually” in future months, depending on market conditions.

As part of the agreement, Russia and Kazakhstan are allowed small production increases.

OPEC and its partners plan to meet monthly to review market conditions and production levels.

**BITCOIN:** The Bitcoin boom continues. After hitting a high of \$58,341 two weeks ago, Bitcoin was trading in the \$47,000 per coin range. Today, it’s back above \$54,000.

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

## JOBLESS CLAIMS EDGE HIGHER WHILE PRODUCTIVITY FALLS



New claims for unemployment benefits rose to 745,000 in the week ended 27 February, up slightly from the previous week's adjusted tally of 736,000 but slightly below analysts' expectation of 750,000, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

Private-sector employers added only 117,000 jobs in February, according to a 3 March report from ADP. That figure is barely half of the 225,000 that Dow Jones had predicted.

Ten million people who want to work remain jobless, and 18 million are still receiving some form of unemployment compensation, according to the Labor Department.

However, 18 million is one million less than in the previous week, due to reductions in claims by gig workers and others not eligible for regular state jobless support as well as by those whose other benefits have expired.

Productivity among U.S. non-farm workers – the amount of value contributed hourly to the GDP by the average worker – shrank by a 4.2-percent annualized rate in 2020's last quarter, the steepest drop since 1981, the Labor Department also reported.

The rate was a revision to the previously announced contraction of 4.8 percent.

Still, the productivity rate was 2.4 percent higher in the period than it was in 2019's fourth quarter.



## NEW HIRING SIGNALS MOMENTUM IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY



The U.S. economy created 379,000 net new jobs in February, 355,000 of which were in restaurants, hotels, and other hospitality businesses, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

The leisure and hospitality industries cast off 500,000 jobs in December and January; therefore, the February gains signal a fundamental turn in the economy, some analysts say.

The manufacturing and service sectors also added jobs. Non-hospital health care offices, such as dentists and chiropractors, added a net 36,000 jobs and have now recovered almost all of the one million jobs they cut while the pandemic was raging.

Online retail, residential construction, and warehousing now employ more workers than in February 2020.

Employment at pharmacies, where people can be vaccinated, is growing faster than in the retail sector overall.

The unemployment rate edged down to 6.2 percent last month, less than half the 15-percent rate reached in the depths of the pandemic.

“Consumers may not be willing to fly on an airplane but appear willing to dine in at a neighborhood restaurant,” economist Nela Richardson at Automatic Data Processing commented to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Household incomes grew in January as federal stimulus payments and extended unemployment benefits arrived in people’s bank accounts. Households are buying more manufactured goods such as appliances, and furniture and housing sales are at 14-year highs.

The economy, however, remains 9.5 million jobs smaller than it was at the end of 2019 and is still shedding jobs, with leisure and hospitality businesses employing 3.5 million fewer people than a year ago.

The construction industry dropped 61,000 workers last month, the Labor Department's February figures show. Manufacturing gained jobs last month but still has 651,000 fewer workers than the year before. The retail sector remains 363,000 jobs smaller than before the pandemic.

Government agencies dumped another 86,000 workers in January and now have 1.4 million fewer employees than in February 2020.

Black unemployment defied the trend and rose in February, from 9.2 percent to 9.8, while joblessness among other ethnic groups fell. Workers lacking a high-school diploma lost ground, seeing their jobless rate rise in January from 9.1 percent to 10.1. Meanwhile, the rate for workers with a bachelor's degree slipped below 4 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *At the current pace, it will take up until 2024 before the economy can support the same number of jobs it did before the COVID War began, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Thus, while old jobs will come back, new ones will not be created.*

*And, as more money is pumped into the economy, more people will be employed and the jobless numbers will decline. We continue to note this is an artificially-propped-up economy, and we maintain our forecast that when the overvalued equity markets crash on Wall Street, it will send Main Street deeper into the "Greatest Depression."*

## DOLLAR'S SURPRISING STRENGTH COULD HOBBLE RECOVERY



With the dollar steady through late 2020, while down today, its value has grown 2 percent this year against the collection of major foreign currencies measured by the ICE Dollar Value Index.

A strong dollar could dampen a global economic recovery, making U.S. products more expensive abroad and damaging emerging nations' ability to repay dollar-based debt.

If the dollar “snaps and strengthens suddenly, we could see an emerging-market selloff,” Salman Ahmed, global macroeconomist at Fidelity International, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The general analyst's consensus was for a 20-percent slide for the dollar after last November's presidential election; instead, the buck lost only 3.3 percent, settling at its 5 January low of 89.44 and since climbing back above 92.

The buck has gained 4 percent on Japan's yen this year and 5 percent on the French franc, a typical shift when investors have a greater appetite for risk, analysts say.

The dollar also has risen 1.7 percent on the euro, blunting the euro's advantage in an economic recovery.

“Europe is not as healthy as the U.S. because the vaccine rollout [in Europe] is going badly,” Ken Veksler, chief investment officer of Accumen Management, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Europe has vaccinated only 8 people in every 100, while the U.S. has jabbed 24 and the U.K. 32, according to Our World in Data. Considering the media and



Wall Street selling an economic recovery that is COVID vaccine-related, a slower vaccine rollout will delay countries' decisions to reopen their economies.

The dollar's newfound strength also could be powered by rising bond yields: rates on 10-year U.S. Treasuries have shot up half a percent this year, a better gain than most other countries can offer, making dollars a more attractive place to store value.

Higher U.S. yields, however, typically bring financial constraints elsewhere around the globe.

U.S. equity markets have shown no concerns about the dollar's possible shadow over the recovery's short-term inevitability; share prices continue to soar higher on the expectation of a robust turnaround this summer.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Considering the massive amount of stimulus injected into the U.S. economy, the \$28 billion national debt level that keeps growing and the zero-interest-rate policy... until those trends are reversed, we maintain our forecast for a weakening dollar throughout the year.*

## **FED REPORT SEES U.S. ECONOMY BEGINNING TO RECOVER**



The U.S. Federal Reserve's "Beige Book," a collection of business anecdotes and comments the central bank publishes eight times a year, confirms signs of an economic recovery and finds businesses' optimism returning, according to the edition released on 3 March.

"Economic activity expanded modestly from January to mid-February," the Fed reported, and "most businesses remain optimistic regarding the next six to 12

months,” although hotels, restaurants, and other businesses in leisure and entertainment “continue to be restrained by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.”

Manufacturing expanded somewhat despite continuing glitches in logistics and supply chains, the Fed found.

The U.S. economy grew in eight of the Fed’s 12 geographic regions, with the Northeast showing mixed results. The New York City area’s economy contracted slightly, with greater Boston showing variations across economic sectors.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have detailed, the economic growth trajectory will continue to expand as stimulus money is pumped into the economy. Absent a wild card – such as spiking oil prices, military conflicts, natural disasters, etc. – there will be strong economic growth in the coming several months. Along with rising economic growth, we maintain our forecast for rising inflation, which may, in turn, reverse the Federal Reserve’s zero-interest-rate policy.*

## **FED WILL HOLD POLICY STEADY, POWELL SAYS**



The U.S. Federal Reserve will not tighten monetary policy, Fed chair Jerome Powell reiterated on 4 March at the *Wall Street Journal* Jobs Summit.

“We’re still a long way from our goals of maximum employment and inflation averaging 2 percent over time,” he said.

With the U.S. economy still about ten million jobs short of its pre-pandemic payroll, “it will take some time to get back to maximum employment,” he cautioned.

The Fed has held its overnight interbank rate near zero since March 2020 and has been buying about \$120 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage-backed securities to hold long-term interest rates near that level.

Powell offered no indication that the Fed will seek to stem the continuing rise in bond yields, which caused stocks to fall and bond yields to rise further on the day.

Asked about the rise in rates, Powell said it was “something notable and had caught my attention” but offered no policy responses.

“I would be concerned about disorderly conditions in markets or a persistent tightening in financial conditions that threatens the achievement of our goals,” he added.

Treasury bond yields are rising on expectations of an economic recovery that could spark inflation, driving bond values down and yields up even more.

“The market was looking for some reassurance” from Powell about rates “and didn’t get it,” Krishna Guha, chief of global policy and central bank strategy at Evercore ISI, said to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Fed does not “appear particularly concerned about the current level of yields, which is significantly higher than it was two weeks ago,” he noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Should interest rates move higher, the housing boom will reverse and so, too, will equity markets... both of which will trend from boom to bust. Tracking the recent, modest increase, fixed rates for 30-year mortgages rose past 3 percent for the first time since July, lender Freddie Mac reported. The hike is reducing the number of mortgage applications now coming to lenders, the WSJ said.*

## TRADE DEFICIT WORSENERD IN JANUARY



The gap between the value of U.S. imports and exports widened 1.9 percent to \$68.2 billion in January, the Commerce Department reported, as American consumers bought more pharmaceuticals, cell phones, flat-screen televisions, and other electronic items.

Imports grew 1.2 percent to \$260.2 billion in January from December, returning to pre-pandemic levels, while exports added 1 percent to reach \$191.9 billion for the month.

The U.S. shipped more industrial machinery, petroleum products, and computer chips as more foreign countries loosened lockdowns and began to reopen their economies.

Consumer spending jumped 5.3 percent month to month, boosted partly by December's round of government stimulus checks.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have noted, go back to 2017. From the day Donald Trump took office until the COVID War began last February, a week did not go by where the "experts" used the ruse that the equity markets were moving up or down on the U.S. vs. China Trade War battle.*

*The annual U.S. trade deficit was \$481 billion in 2016 when Donald Trump became president and rose by almost a third to \$678.7 billion at the end of December 2020, according to a 5 February report from the U.S. Commerce Department.*

*We maintain our forecast that the 21st century will be the Chinese century since the business of China is business and the business of America has been war.*

**TREND FORECAST:** To see where the trade gap is moving and what to expect next, please see “[TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA.](#)”

## AIRLINES STILL LIVING ON FEDERAL AID



President Biden’s \$1.9-trillion economic rescue plan includes \$14 billion in payroll support for U.S. airlines and \$1 billion for their contractors, bringing the government’s total support for the industry to more than \$63 billion since the COVID pandemic began.

The newest bailout is unlikely to be enough to prevent layoffs across the industry, with air travel not expected to return to pre-pandemic volumes until at least 2024, according to the International Air Transport Association.

After 2008’s Great Recession, airlines took six years to return to 2007’s passenger volumes.

“The industry is still completely upside down,” consultant Mike Barton at Flightpath Economics told the *Financial Times*. “Does another extension” of the bailout money “simply delay the inevitable” firings?

The airlines furloughed tens of thousands of workers when the first round of the so-called Payroll Support Program (PSP) expired 1 September, then recalled most when Congress extended the money in December. The new cash infusion will run out on 1 October.

Among the four main U.S. passenger lines, PSP funds accounted for 43 cents of every dollar the airlines reported in December as cash and short-term investment.



So far, the U.S. Treasury has disbursed about \$35 billion of the \$48 billion Congress has set aside for the air passenger industry, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation reported.

In return, the government is receiving warrants to buy shares in the companies, which could leave U.S. taxpayers owning 8 to 20 percent of the country's major airlines.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Under the best conditions, the airline industry is not expected to recover from the COVID War until 2023... or much later, since it will continue to decline until people feel safe to travel. If a Green Vaccination passport is mandatory, however, there will be a large percentage of “Don’t Vax Me” citizens who would rather not fly than get the jab.*

*Moreover, as we have noted, with more people working from home and meetings online becoming the new ABnormal, business travel, which accounts for 75 percent of airline profits, will not rebound to previous heights.*

## **OFFICE WORKERS’ SLOW RETURN ENDANGERS LANDLORDS, CITY FINANCES**



Across the U.S., about a quarter of office workers sent home during the pandemic have returned, according to Kastle Systems, a firm that records employee card swipes in 3,600 buildings around the country.

In Chicago and San Francisco, fewer than 20 percent of desk jockeys have returned; in Texas, where COVID-related strictures have been looser, about a third of workers are back at their desks.

In Manhattan, where more than 80 percent of white collars are still working at home, 27 percent of all sublet office space is available to rent, a 50-percent increase in the last 12 months.

How and when those workers will return is a matter of debate.

More than 55 percent of at-home workers would like to remain there at least three days a week even after the pandemic has passed, a December 2020 PwC survey found. However, the same survey shows that 68 percent of bosses want their staff in the office at least three days a week.

The future of the commercial real estate and downtown economies rests heavily on the result of that debate.

This year, municipal governments face losing as much as 10 percent of their pre-pandemic property tax revenues, *The New York Times* reported; cities and towns rely on those taxes for 30 percent or more of their general budgets.

Also, the absence of commuters starves the ecosystems of restaurants, shops, services, and entertainment venues that office workers frequent. As those businesses wither and die, tax-paying jobs are lost and properties stand idle, giving cities even less revenue from sales and property taxes.

Nationwide, American cities could confront a \$90-billion budget shortfall this year, according to the National League of Cities.

Cities' dire outlook is equaled by the \$16-trillion commercial real estate sector's bleak future.

Due to the home-working trend's acceleration during the COVID pandemic, empty office space in Los Angeles, New York City, and Seattle grew by 25 percent last year and ballooned 75 percent in San Francisco, data from analysis firm CoStar shows.

Companies' plans for future office space are in flux, property owners and brokers told the *NYT*.

In some large urban centers, 25 percent of rents are delinquent, Victor Calanog, Moody's chief of commercial real estate economics, said in a report quoted by the *NYT*.

The value of U.S. retail properties will decline 16.5 percent in the retail sector and 12.6 percent for office space by the end of this year before beginning to rise again in 2022, ratings service Moody's has predicted.

"A worrying scenario is that the economic impact" of the lockdown "outlasts the policy support programs currently in place," Esther George, president of Kansas City's Federal Reserve Bank, said in a February speech. "Should that occur, many renters and businesses could find themselves unable to meet their obligations, forcing banks to realize losses on existing loans and weighing... on broader economic activity."

Demand for office space could permanently shrink by 15 percent and 20 percent of existing retail storefronts could disappear in the pandemic's aftermath, according to CBRE, a real estate services and analysis firm.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As city revenue decline, politicians will push through tax increases. In turn, as we have forecast, there will be strong anti-tax movements spreading across the nation.*

*See our new article, "ONE-THIRD OF U.S. WORKERS WILL QUIT IF FORCED TO RETURN TO OFFICE" for our workplace/real estate trend forecasts.*

## EXXON LAUNCHES NEW BUSINESS UNIT TO CASH IN ON CARBON CAPTURE



Seeing carbon capture as a \$2-trillion annual market by 2040, ExxonMobil is organizing its hodgepodge of 20 such projects into a new business unit named Low Carbon Solutions, CEO Darren Woods announced during a 3 March investor presentation.

“Carbon capture” is an increasingly popular area of R&D that extracts carbon dioxide from air and locks it away in long-term storage in an attempt to moderate the climate crisis.

Previously, the company scoffed at the idea of capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide emissions, saying that the notion made no economic sense without massive government subsidies.

However, three things have changed.

First, carbon capture technologies have become more economically efficient.

Second, companies are reaching for those more-efficient technologies as they become more environmentally aware and struggle to meet their emissions-reduction promises to consumers.

In recent days, FedEx announced a \$100-million bequest to Yale University to establish the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture.

Third, ExxonMobil is beset by increasing pressure from shareholders, including activist group Engine No. 1 and D.E. Shaw & Co., an investment management firm, to reduce its products’ carbon contribution to the atmosphere.

Carbon capture is an easy step for Exxon, which already uses CO<sub>2</sub> in oil production: when an oil well stops flowing, oil companies routinely pump CO<sub>2</sub> into the underlying rock formations to pressurize them, which drives the last bits of oil to the surface.

Exxon not only collects more oil by gathering and pumping CO<sub>2</sub> into the ground but also can claim credit for sequestering a greenhouse gas.

“ExxonMobil’s newly formed Low Carbon Solutions business helps mitigate energy transition uncertainty while also offering new attractive growth options for the company,” analysts at Morgan Stanley wrote in a research note last week.

Woods went so far as to say that Exxon “is supportive of that ambition” to take as much carbon from the atmosphere as its products put in and “the recognition of the challenge is continuing to grow.”

He made the comments in a 3 March interview with *The New York Times*. The business of carbon capture “is underpinned by government support and this can be shaky over the long term,” energy analyst Peter McNally at Third Bridge Group, noted in a comment quoted by *Business Insider*.

Exxon’s share price has gained more than 50 percent this year as crude oil has topped \$65 a barrel and returned to its pre-pandemic price range.

***TRENDPOST:*** Exxon’s transformation from denier-in-chief that concentrating carbon in the atmosphere can affect climate to an opportunistic embracer of carbon capture marks a major shift in the oil industry.

*Other companies, including BP and Royal Dutch Shell, have begun their transitions from being oil companies to being energy companies. Now that the world's largest petroleum producer is beginning its own transition, though a small step, no doubt should remain that the Oil Age's demise is well underway.*



## CONCERT VENUES PLAN SUMMER AND FALL REOPENINGS



Live Nation Entertainment, the largest U.S. concert promoter, expects to begin offering live outdoor amphitheater shows before August, CEO Michael Rapino said in a 4 March call with investors.

About 83 percent of customers held onto their previously-purchased tickets awaiting shows to be rescheduled instead of asking for a refund during the economic shutdown, he noted.

“We expect people will be willing to put on their puffers and enjoy some shows to make up for lost time,” he said.

The company's share price, which crashed by 92 percent last year as live shows were canceled, has risen about 30 percent in the past 30 days.

AEG Presents should open the doors to club and theater performances no later than this fall, CEO Jay Marciano said in comments quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*.

The companies made their announcements after President Biden said the U.S. would have enough COVID vaccine doses to inoculate all adults in the country by June.

“As vaccine rollout and testing capacity increases, we’ll start to see fall tours indoors,” Jeffrey Hasson, senior agent at United Talent Agency, told the *WSJ*.

In the U.K., live shows will be permitted as of 21 June, the government announced. After the announcement, Live Nation sold 100,000 tickets to its Reading and Leeds festivals in August in 72 hours; fans grabbed 70,000 tickets to the booker’s Creamfields festival in 48 hours, the company reported.

Although social distancing will be lifted, concerts in the future will also be streamed live for those still reluctant to be part of a crowd.

Also, touchless technologies such as card-swipe entries and ordering food and beverages by app are likely to become the new norm at events, the *WSJ* noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** “Roaring 21” is alive, and locked-down younger generations are ready to break loose and are, as illustrated by Anthony Freda in last week's cover of the ***Trends Journal***... *Bustin’ Out*.

*What is missing, however, is that a new generation wants new sounds and styles that the old-timers running the "industry" have not identified.*

*OnTrendpreneurs® who are free to think for themselves and are outside the molded class will profit handsomely by filling the gaps with hot, new products that touch the hearts and warm the souls of the “Youth Revolution” generation.*

*What are they, what do they look like, what do they sound like? At The Trends Research Institute, we have identified key elements that will shape the aspects of the future entertainment and fashion industry sectors.*

## **SINCLAIR REPORTS LOSS, WILL CUT JOBS**



Sinclair Broadcasting, which operates 186 television stations in 87 U.S. markets, will cut 5 percent of its 9,211 employees, the company said in a statement.

Sinclair also reported fourth-quarter revenues shrank 7 percent year on year.

The company had previously cut capital investment as well as discretionary and non-essential spending.

Sinclair avoided layoffs longer than several other broadcasting firms that laid off workers last year, CEO Chris Ripley noted in a staff memo announcing the job cuts, adding “this is one of the most difficult messages of my career.”

***TRENDPOST:*** We note this cut in staff to further illustrate the backwardness of the mainstream media and the shallowness of their approach by targeting marketing sectors that appeal to political beliefs rather than the general market sensitivities.

### ***Fair and Balanced? FU!***

*This was made clear by Fox News Corp. CEO Lachlan Murdoch said last week at a Morgan Stanley investor conference that his network would benefit from Biden's presidency because it would play the role of “the loyal opposition.”*

*Murdock bragged, “The main beneficiary of the Trump administration from a ratings point of view was MSNBC... and that’s because they were the loyal opposition... our job is now with the Biden administration, and you’ll see our ratings really improve from here.”*

*Thus, by their words and deeds, they are not journalists, since they have stated their clear agenda is to build “ratings.”*

*At the **Trends Journal**, we are political atheists. Unlike mainstream media Presstitutes, we do not target groups to improve our subscription base, rather we report on the current events forming future trends, assess their implications, and provide trend forecasts and analyses... which the mainstream media lacks in both the skills and intent to do so.*

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS DRIVE ASIAN STOCK BOOM: READY TO BUST?

As the COVID War wanes, money is flooding into Asian stock markets, with young individuals pouring money into markets in their first forays into investing.

Trading volumes on exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen, the region's largest, are climbing toward boom levels last seen in 2014 and 2015; volumes on Hong Kong and Seoul trading floors have set records.

Novice investors in India, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Vietnam also are taking part in the craze.

Electronic order-book trading on the Hong Kong and Shanghai exchanges more than doubled in January, year on year, to \$1.37 trillion and \$517 billion, respectively; South Korea's volume more than tripled to \$709 million, according to data from the World Federation of Exchanges.

The trading frenzy has been a boon to online brokerages and exchange operators such as Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, share prices for which also have set a new record.

“We’ve seen armies of Asia retail investors appear and invest in sizes that are mind-boggling, both in terms of trading volume and the value of share traded,” marveled Herald van der Linde, head of Asia-Pacific equities strategy at HSBC, in a comment to the *Wall Street Journal*.

On 3 March, individuals made up 49 percent of trading by value on Seoul’s benchmark Kospi exchange, almost a 20-percent gain year over year. In Hong Kong, the frenzied trading pace prompted the government to raise taxes on trades by 30 percent, which could cut the value of trades by a tenth, analysts calculated.

As in the U.S., people bunkered at home with time to spare discovered trading apps; in South Korea, Instagram and Youtube personalities have enticed a new corps of day traders.

Much of the action has focused on consumer, pharmaceutical, and tech companies, seen as “momentum stocks” during the global economic shutdown.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Once again, the markets are being artificially propped up, this time by a new generation of online gamblers. We forecast the stage is being set for another Dot-com bust, in the sense that companies whose stocks pay no dividends, and are losing money... but whose share prices keep spiking. And now, as back then, the markets are being flooded with rookie gamblers, who once they lose what they bet, won’t have any money to get back in the game.*

*We are already seeing a sharp pullback in Chinese equities. Yesterday, the Shanghai Composite Index fell 2.3 percent. The nation’s CSI 300 index of the 300 largest stocks fell 3.5 percent on Monday.*



*Word from Beijing is that the Xi government is worried about the equity bubble being formed in both the equity and real estate sectors, and they will be cutting back on stimulus measures to curb growing debt levels.*

## **U.K. TO HIKE TAXES**



Britain has become the first major nation to announce it will raise taxes after its economy recovers.

Corporate taxes will rise from 19 percent to 25 percent in April 2023, and tax-free allowances on personal income taxes will

be suspended, treasury chief Rishi Sunak announced.

The two measures are expected to bring £65 billion – the equivalent of about \$91 billion – to the British treasury by March 2026, the government said.

Current government support for jobless workers and shuttered businesses will be extended through September, Sunak said.

The U.K.'s economy will be performing at pre-pandemic levels by the second quarter of 2022, the independent Office of Budgetary Responsibility has predicted, after Britain suffered one of the world's deadliest COVID outbreaks and the worst economic contraction among Group of Seven countries as well as its worst GDP collapse in 300 years.

The country has given at least one dose of COVID vaccine to a third of its adult population and is on schedule to have fully vaccinated all adults by August. It is assumed that the more people that get vaccinated, the quicker the government will unlock the nation.

**TRENDPOST:** Britain's announced plan to raise taxes to begin to pay off massive debt incurred by locking down its economy is more of what will come across nations and around the world. As we have forecast, the higher taxes rise, the faster political anti-tax movements will grow.

## BRITISH-EUROPEAN TRADE MIRED IN BUREAUCRACY



In January, French exports to the U.K. were 13 percent fewer than the previous six months' average. German exports to Britain were down 30 percent year over year, Italy's 38 percent.

For the month, Italy imported 70 percent fewer items from Britain.

"I have a hard time deciding what is the impact of Brexit and what is simply the impact of coronavirus," which already has slashed trade among western nations, Gilles Moec, chief economist at Axa, a French insurer, told the *Financial Times*.

Much of the losses are due to newly complex customs requirements, mandates for health certificates for some items, higher shipping costs, and difficulty in finding transport.

Some trucking firms reportedly are now refusing to make the crossing between Britain and Europe due to sometimes days-long delays in trips that previously took a few hours.

In 2020, Europe's exports to the U.K. dropped 13.2 percent; Britain's exports to Europe were down 13.90 percent.

Britain's exports to Europe have fallen from 17 percent of its total exports to 14 percent since the Brexit referendum passed in 2016, according to Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have noted, even in the best of times, the implications of the Brexit deal would dampen U.K. economic growth projections.

*Now, with economies shut down in ways that were unimaginable this time last year, the economic devastation will escalate in the U.K. as the “Greatest Depression” worsens.*

## LEBANON’S CURRENCY FALLS TO RECORD LOW, SPARKING UNREST



The Lebanese pound traded at a record-low 10,000 to the U.S. dollar on the country’s black market on 2 March, about 85 percent below its official exchange rate.

The pound has lost 20 percent of its value this year.

Food prices rose at an annual rate of 400 percent in December and 45 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, the World Bank estimates.

Protesters blocked roads and set fires in dumpsters around the country, reminiscent of anti-government demonstrations in October 2019 when thousands filled the streets to decry a regressive tax plan and a government paralyzed by gridlock and corruption, as the **Trends Journal** reported at the time.

The COVID pandemic “added to the prevailing frustration... plus now [people] are more desperate,” Sami Nader, director of the Levant Institute for Strategic Affairs, said in a comment quoted by the *Financial Times*.

The government of prime minister Hassan Diab collapsed in the aftermath, leaving his cabinet to manage the country. Since then, bailout talks with the

International Monetary Fund have shut down and the country still has no plan to rescue the economy.

Lebanon defaulted on its sovereign debt a year ago and its banks are stuck in a liquidity crisis, making it virtually impossible for the nation to borrow more money.

The country's economy shrank by 20 percent during 2020, according to the *FT*.

In Syria, next door to Lebanon, the currency's value has fallen by almost a third this year, recently trading at a record low of S£3,750 to the U.S. dollar.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *To see where Lebanon is heading and what the implications will be, see our new article, [“LEBANON FACES FINANCIAL MELTDOWN.”](#)*

## TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA



As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century – the 21st century will be the Chinese century.

The business of China is business; the business of America is war. While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure.

The following overview of the current economic trends further paints the ups and downs of China's economic future. On the geopolitical front, see our new article, [“CHINA 2021: THE CHINESE CENTURY”](#) to see where the nation is heading and obstacles it will face.

**CHINA TARGETS 6-PERCENT GROWTH IN 2021.** China's government has set a goal of 6-percent GDP growth in 2021 and will create 11 million urban jobs this year, Premier Li Keqiang told the country's parliament at its 4 March annual meeting.

The goals are seen as modest. China's economy grew more than 6 percent annually in 2017, 2018, and 2019 and sprouted 11.9 million urban jobs in 2020 amid the pandemic.

Li's announcement jolted stock prices upward briefly before falling back on realizing the goals were not unusually ambitious.

"The Chinese economy should coast to the target growth rate," Jeremy Stevens, China economist at Standard Bank, said to the *Financial Times*. "Eight percent is plausible."

The subdued growth rates come as Chinese officials eye rising debt levels; the country's debt-to-GDP ratio soared to 270 percent in 2020.

"The authorities are determined to de-leverage the economy and de-risk the financial system," economist Diana Choyleva at Enodo Economics, told *FT*. "The coronavirus has undone the gradual but good work of the previous couple of years in pursuit of these goals."

The parliament also approved a five-year plan emphasizing "self-reliance" in key technologies such as computer chips.

In addition, assembly members heard that authorities will further limit Hong Kong's pro-pro-democracy movement and will hike military spending by 6.8 percent, following last year's 6.6-percent boost.

Worsening relations with the U.S. have created "drastic changes" in China's external security outlook, forcing a larger military budget, according to China military analyst Li Nexiong, quoted in *FT*.



**CHINA'S EXPORT BOOM CONTINUES.** China's export volume in January and February this year exceeded that in the same period a year ago by 60.6 percent, the government's General Administration of Customs has reported.

In February alone, exports grew by 154.9 percent year on year, a record year-over-year surge.

Economists polled by the *Wall Street Journal* had expected a 40-percent gain for the two-month stretch.

Imports in January and February expanded by 22.2 percent over the same two months last year, more than tripling December's 6.5-percent growth.

China recorded a trade surplus of \$103.25 billion for the two months, almost doubling economists' prediction of \$57.7 billion.

The massive difference between the 2021 and 2020 reporting periods is due to China's economic shutdown in early 2020 amid the COVID pandemic, compared to China's early resurgence from the freeze combined with other countries' economic re-openings now underway.

**DEFAULTS RISING AS CHINESE GOVERNMENT THROTTLES BACK SUPPORTS.** China Fortune Development Land Co., which builds industrial parks, defaulted on a \$530-million note due 28 February, worrying investors about the outlook for the company's entire \$9.8 billion in bonded debt, including \$4.6 billion in dollar-based loans from foreign investors.

The company said it has missed payments on \$1.7 billion in domestic loans and offshore bonds and is seeking "consensual resolution" with those bondholders as it tries to raise cash.

After the default, Fitch Ratings downgraded the company's credit rating to "restricted default."

The default placed the company among the ranks of chip-maker Tsinghua Unigroup, commodity trader Tewoo Group, and other Chinese businesses unable to pay back their loans.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *China will not let its economy collapse. While it may slow down growth, it will, like other nations, do all it can to avert a recession.*

## GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



**DISNEY TO CLOSE AT LEAST 60 STORES IN NORTH AMERICA.** The entertainment giant will shift more attention to online sales and close storefronts to save rent as more shoppers buy from its Internet sites.

“While consumer behavior has shifted toward online shopping, the global pandemic has changed what consumers expect from a retailer,” Stephanie Young, president of Disney’s consumer products, games, and publishing operations, said in a statement announcing the closures.

Disney’s parks, experiences, and products division lost \$119 million in its most recent quarter, the company reported last month, compared to a \$2.5-billion profit for the period a year previous.

**DINE BRANDS GLOBAL GOES HUNGRY IN FOURTH QUARTER.** The owner of the Applebee’s and IHOP restaurant chains reported losing \$1.56 million in 2020’s final quarter, compared to a profit of \$27.4 million in the same period in 2019.

Revenue for the period fell to \$196 million from \$227.5 year on year.

Sales for the period were off 18 percent for Applebee's and 30 percent for IHOP.

At the end of 2020, about 400 of the company's dining rooms were closed. Now, however, almost all of Applebee's 1,600 seating areas have reopened, the company said.

**LUFTHANSA SAYS NO RECOVERY UNTIL 2025.** Germany's flagship airline lost a record €5.5 billion last year, flew 74 percent fewer passengers than in 2019 and says it will not regain 90 percent of its pre-pandemic schedules and passenger levels until 2025 at the earliest.

The airline received a €9-billion bailout from Austria, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland last year, with the German government buying 20 percent of the company.

Still, Lufthansa is burning through €300 million a month, it said in announcing its 2020 results, and warned it likely will fly this year at no more than 50 percent of its 2019 capacity.

The carrier plans to permanently retire 100 passenger jets and lop another 10,000 workers from its payroll after cutting 30,000 last year. That will leave Lufthansa with about 100,000 employees.

In January, global air passenger traffic was 72 percent below that in the same month in 2020, according to the International Air Transport Association.

**QANTAS URGES HALT TO BORDER CLOSURES.** Australia's national airline has warned that closing the country's borders during the current vaccination campaign could result in "huge" layoffs by the carrier.

Qantas, which slashed its payroll and grounded most of its fleet in 2020, reported in late February that it has lost \$1 billion during the first half of its current fiscal year.

Bookings could reach 50 percent of pre-pandemic levels by November, in time for the December travel season, if Australia concludes a successful vaccination

program by its target date of late October, CEO Andrew David told a parliamentary committee last week.

Qantas projects it will not return to its 2019 schedules and passenger volumes until 2024.

**WASHINGTON PRIME GROUP SAID TO BE PREPARING FOR BANKRUPTCY.** The real estate trust, which owns about 100 shopping malls across the U.S., missed a \$23-million interest payment on its debt last month.

That failure began a 30-day grace period, during which the company is said to be in discussions with lenders. However, those discussions have not been productive, *Bloomberg* reported.

Washington is preparing a bankruptcy plan in case the talks fail, *Bloomberg* said.

The company's malls are largely graded B and C, meaning that their stores bring in fewer dollars per square foot than prime A-grade sites.

Washington's shares fell as much as 63 percent on the news, dropping further on 5 March to close at \$2. The company's stock price has fallen about 80 percent over the past 12 months.

In November, mall owners CBL and Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust filed for bankruptcy in the wake of the months-long economic shutdown.

**EL CORTE INGLÈS SHUTS STORES, LAYS OFF 3,500.** One of Europe's largest retailers, the Spanish chain, will abandon 12 of its 100 stores in its native country and cut 3,500 workers from its payroll, the largest layoff in the company's 81-year history.

The company attributed the moves to economic damage done during the pandemic and national lockdown. However, the chain's stores were closed for

only six weeks and, from June through August, El Cortes reported a €64-million profit.

The company began closing stores in 2019, with storefronts going dark in Seville and Cadiz. The latest closure, in the city of Linares, will cancel 223 jobs in a city with Spain's highest unemployment rate at more than 30 percent among adults and 50 percent among youth.

Joblessness there sparked street protests, which police put down with pellet ammunition.

Unions representing the newly-unemployed workers did not protest the layoffs but pledged to seek termination payments for the workers "above legal limits."



# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## THE FED: INFLATE BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY

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

Today, we stand on the threshold of a massive shift in central bank monetary policy, which can be described in one word: INFLATE.

Every possible reason, real or engineered, is being utilized to allow world central banks – none more so than the Federal Reserve – to inflate on an epic scale.

World central banks are inflating beyond anyone's wildest imagination. *Yet, not a word is being spoken about this on a single mainstream financial news network.*

While it's true that in the United States, it is commonly known the Fed has been in the "rate-suppression business" full-bore since the market meltdown of 2008, and the dynamics of this are evolving. Now, the new acronym being thrown around is "YCC."

## What is YCC?

YCC stands for “Yield Curve Control.” It is a mechanism whereby a central bank (the Federal Reserve in this case) targets either a specific part of the yield curve or the entire curve itself to regulate bond yields. Thus, this alters the shape of the yield curve. YCC is done by allowing a central bank to buy and/or sell bonds in any amount they feel is necessary to keep the yields fixed as close as possible to a specific target price.

YCC is yet another scheme, on a massive scale, to rig the debt market.

YCC allows the Federal Reserve to create *any* amount of cash needed to implement it.

Moreover, there is another effect of YCC: a “multiple expansion cycle” in equity prices. This means investors are willing to pay more to own shares of stock. The end result is simple... the stock market inflates.

The Federal Reserve wants to implement YCC and will go to great lengths to achieve it.

For example, over the past few weeks, the market has witnessed considerable turmoil in the debt market itself, and bond yields have risen alarmingly. When the bond market reacts wildly, it hits stock prices, and investors get spooked. In fact, several Fed presidents have come forward expressing “concern” over the recent instability in the debt market. (For good reason – it’s a charade!)

The Federal Reserve is looking for any reason and will create reasons as well, to achieve their objective of FULL YCC: managing the entire yield curve and, henceforth, the overall market.

The debt market runs the entire show, so to speak, and it subsequently dictates how much someone is willing to pay for an asset.

As an example, low rates inflate real estate prices. Low rates also create a multiples expansion cycle in stock markets. YCC would serve to hyper-inflate real estate and stock prices while, at the same time, devaluing the dollar.

## **The Goals of the Fed**

The Federal Reserve knows exactly what it is doing and how to get there.

The Fed wants to vastly inflate its balance sheet, buying as many assets as it can along the way.

The Fed wants to control asset prices.

The Fed wants to be the lender and buyer of last resort, and YCC is yet another mechanism to make that happen.

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## ROADBLOCKS BY “DEMONSTRATORS”

by *Bradley J. Steiner*

I hope you appreciate why the word *demonstrators* is in quotes. These outrageous, violent, disruptive, dangerous, destructive, uncivilized bastards are nothing less than riotous insurgents and criminals who, by their antisocial displays of gunfire, arson, vandalism, mob-like presence, intimidation, assault, and socialistic leanings *threaten our very way of life*.

A sad fact of urban living (and quite likely of *suburban* and even *rural* living if this atrocious phenomenon is not decisively ended) is that you and I, and every decent citizen of this Republic, will live with the possibility of needing to contend with these rodents on our own.

Frankly, this would not be a very bad thing, as the armed and angry decent citizenry of America could and would *easily* crush these roaches and eliminate the problem within hours – if only they were unleashed. Disgracefully – and in a sense *terrifyingly* – we have seen how perfectly innocent persons (Rittenhouse,

the McCloskeys, etc.) have been persecuted and pilloried for doing nothing more than exercising their God-given right to self and home protection.

These occurrences portend pure evil. When the very basic rights of individuals are no longer recognized, let alone their exercise permitted, a state of tyranny or anarchy exists – and nothing is more contrary to the American spirit and culture than these plagues upon mankind.

So, what can you do if you are ever faced with intrusion by a leftist garbage mob? How to defend yourself? *Can* you defend yourself? How should you go about it?

One person cannot oppose a mindless, violent, rioting mob. Even armed with serious ordnance, overwhelming numbers must be countered by a countervailing trained military force... *or the mob must be avoided.*

A popular tactic of the scum is to block a highway, street, or road. Often, when the response they receive from the occupant(s) of a stopped vehicle is not congruent with their insane ravings, a potentially lethal attack is launched. The driver and occupants are physically attacked, dragged from their car, and beaten or shot. *Yes, really.* Don't be so shocked that the co-opted, corrupt, criminal mainstream media refuses to report or mention this. The lousy hacks keep mouthing the party line that the "demonstrators" are "peaceful."

Following, or along with, any attack on the vehicle's occupants, the vehicle itself is often attacked. It is set afire and/or smashed and overturned.

My point is that obviously a serious potential danger is afoot whenever *any* confrontation threatens with any collection of the rodents. Realize that. *Do not listen to the media and propagandistic lies that insist these rioting insurgents are "peaceful demonstrators."*

**SMARTEST POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE ACTION: AVOID ALL CONTACT WITH THESE CREATURES!**



Check the news and stay abreast of where and when the rioters are to appear. Do not go near that area if you can avoid doing so. If you happen to come on a surprise appearance of this garbage while you are on your way somewhere, STOP. Get the hell out of there. Never mind "you'll be late" or "it's an inconvenience." Contact with these criminals will make you a lot later, and will be – I guarantee – a helluva lot more inconvenient!

My advice, as I hope you already know, is to go armed (legally, according to the law's requirements for your doing so, I again stress) *wherever and whenever possible*. If, may God forbid, you are attacked in your vehicle – unable to escape the scene – and you are attacked by a mob of perhaps armed insurgents, you will need that gun! And, believe me, such situations have already occurred. Thank goodness in instances when a vehicle's occupant was attacked by an armed "demonstrator" and the driver (properly) shot the rioting thug down with a licensed handgun, the driver was *not* arrested or charged. You can hope for this. But even if you *are* charged, you'll be alive. And that's what matters.

Never, never, never, ever defy the mob directly and drive through them. I understand that white-hot rage and indignation could well arise in such an instance, but do not give into it. Stay cool and react properly. Back up and turn off in another direction. *No confrontation*.

The only time any engagement with the garbage should occur is when *they approach you and you cannot get away from the scene but are forced to defend yourself*.

Years ago, when I trained in counter ambush driving, I was taught two tactics I will now pass on to you. I do so with the caveat that you:

**Bear full responsibility for your use, misuse, or abuse of this or any tactical instruction I pass on to you. I already specified: absolutely no use of aggressive actions of any kind should be made, except in unavoidable need of lawful self-defense.**

1. RAMMING of a vehicle that blocks your way is done by directing your vehicle toward the front or rear end of the blocking vehicle. You must literally *drive right through*, no hesitations, pauses, or waffling. Slam full force and *continue to step on the gas and drive!*

2. ARMED or massed rioters who are perceived to be a direct threat to your life by blocking and aggressively approaching your vehicle *and who cannot be otherwise avoided* are dealt with by driving at full speed through them... running down any life-threatening individuals who are in the direct path of your vehicle and who do not move out of the way.

Drive onto a sidewalk, if you must, and *keep driving!* On no account allow yourself to stop your vehicle. An interesting fact is that there has *never* been a successful attack/ambush against any vehicle – even by armed and trained terrorists – when that vehicle *continued driving and was not and could not be brought to a stop*. Once stopped, you are a stationary target, a “sitting duck” as it were; and God knows you cannot allow that to happen.

Ruthless stuff. But so is rioting and attacking drivers and their vehicles – often leading to maiming or killing them.

I pass this information on to you in good faith and again with the emphasis that it is to be used only in the unavoidable defense of life and limb. Anger and outrage and indignation must be controlled, for your own good. These emotions by themselves never justify forceful action.

Let’s both hope this instruction remains forever purely theoretical and you *never* need to use it.

*In Memoriam: our beloved friend, Bradley J. Steiner, passed away on December 5, 2020.*

*In his legacy, we are fighting the “Brad Steiner fight” – the good fight. The fight for each person to be the person they want to be and to protect themselves*

*when their lives are being viciously threatened by enemies of Freedom, Peace, and Justice.*

*In Memoriam:*

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

*In his legacy, we are fighting the “Brad Steiner fight” – the good fight. The fight for each person to be the person they want to be and to protect themselves when their lives are being viciously threatened by enemies of Freedom, Peace, and Justice.*

# TRENDS IN GETTING HEALTHY



## THE BENEFITS OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

By *Dr. Gary Null and Richard Gale*

Modern conventional medicine has increasingly become a culture of scientific and historical denialism. Although portending to be an objective discipline of eternal progress, the medical establishment more often than not denies the insights, discoveries, medical systems, and methodologies of the distant past and non-Western cultures.

Modern allopathic medicine has been racing rapidly toward a retro-future with blind faith in new engineered, synthetic drugs as the only solutions. Sadly, this pursuit is misconstrued as synonymous with important medical breakthroughs and the evolution of scientific medicine. Yet as the statistics show, modern medicine is on a collision course with itself, and this is especially evident in conventional medicine's increasing failures to fight life-threatening diseases and confront the annual rise in medical-based injuries and deaths.

On graduation, every new physician repeats, “I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan.” The Oath, supposedly written by the wise Greek sage Hippocrates, goes on to say, “I will use those dietary regimens which will benefit my patients according to my greatest ability and judgment, and I will do no harm or injustice to them.”

Hippocrates was a naturalist. Unlike physicians today, he was an expert in the healing powers found in the natural world and was a keen observer of the health benefits of different foods, plants, and herbs. Modern allopathic doctors, however, are not only largely ignorant about the natural world around them but also are far removed from the Oath they dedicate themselves to.

How well has modern medicine lived up to its oath?

Adverse drug events (ADEs) are rising. They have become a plague on public health and our healthcare system. In 2019, prescription drug-related deaths reached an all-time high of 71,000, greater than the number of American soldiers killed during the entire Vietnam War. Yet, a *US News* report believes the actual figure is much higher. Annually, prescription drug injuries are between 1.3 and 1.6 million events. Every day, over 4,000 Americans experience a serious drug reaction requiring hospitalization. And an additional 770,000 people have ADEs during hospital stays. Therefore, when we consider there are nearly a million physicians in the U.S., potentially every physician in America has contributed to ADEs.

No legitimate and highly developed alternative or natural medical practice has such a dismal track record of illness and death. Nevertheless, when a rare ADE, poisoning, or death does occur, the medical establishment and its paid-off media are quick to report the incident as a national crisis and condemn the use of traditional natural medical practice.

According to the WHO, 80 percent of the world's population uses herbal medicine. And this trend is increasing exponentially. With healthcare costs escalating annually and prescription ADE's on the increase as more and more



drugs are fast-tracked through the federal regulatory hurdles, relying solely on allopathic medicine is a horrible bargain.

Dr. Dominic Lu at the University of Pennsylvania and president of the American Society for Advancement of Anesthesia and Sedation recommends that Chinese herbal and Western medicine might complement each other if we make the effort to investigate their synergistic therapeutic effects. Lu believes oriental concepts of the human body should be further included in higher educational health science curriculums.

For several millennia, the history of medicine in China, and later Japan and Korea, has been one long exploration into the therapeutic effect of numerous plants and herbs and their synergistic effects. Modern drug-based medicine as we know it today has only been around for just over a century, commencing with the 1910 Flexner Report funded by the Carnegie Foundation. The National Institutes of Health's PubMed database in the National Library of Medicine contains over 181,000 peer-reviewed papers and research referring to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

Regardless of mainstream medicine's efforts to diminish Asian medicine's efficacy and successes, TCM is booming and extraordinary research continues to pump out positive discoveries. Even Bayer Pharmaceutical purchased the Chinese herbal company Dihon Pharmaceutical Group because of the huge potential for discovering powerful phytochemicals to treat a wide variety of diseases. Helmut Kaiser Consultancy in Germany predicts that annual revenues in Chinese botanicals will triple by 2025 from 2015 revenues of \$17 billion. A Morgan Stanley review found that even among Chinese physicians trained in Western medical schools, TCM is being used as the first line of defense against disease in 30 percent of medical cases, and it is included throughout Chinese clinics and hospitals for treating SARS-CoV2 infections.

Most evidence-based medical reviews of research conducted on the efficacy of specific Chinese herbs fail to take into account that Chinese herbology is a complete system. It is unrealistic to research a single traditional Chinese herb and reach a scientific consensus. An herbal concoction can include up to 18 or

more ingredients, and these are simmered for hours to produce therapeutic properties useful for the treatment of a particular disease. This was noted in a Cochrane Database meta-analysis of Chinese medical herbs for treating acute pancreatitis. It is estimated that there are over 13,000 different medicinal ingredients found in the annals of Chinese medical texts and well over 100,000 unique decoctions and recipes.

Taking one example of TCM's herbal combination synergistic effects is the duo *Coptidis rhizoma* and *Evodia rutaecarpa*. In traditional practice, the formula has been given for centuries to treat gastric conditions and to quickly heal ulcers. Modern research has shown that together these herbs inhibit the pathogenic bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, which frequently accompanies ulcers. In the U.S., approximately 20 percent of people under 40 years and over 50 percent of those about 60 years are estimated to have an *H. pylori* infection that is responsible for gastritis, stomach and duodenal ulcers, gastric lymphoma, or stomach cancer. The herbs also contain limonene – an antineoplastic molecule – and gamolenic acid used in modern pharmaceutical anti-tumor treatments.

We may also look back at the 2017-2018 swine flu season. The promised vaccine was a dud and according to the CDC was only 36 percent effective. Later research at Rice University determined the vaccine was at best 20 percent effective.

With conventional medicine and our federal health agencies failing to protect the public, I, along with tens of thousands of other people experiencing the onset of flu-like symptoms, rushed to purchase the Chinese herbal cold formula *Nin Jiom Pei Pa Koa* for as little as \$6.00 in New York City's Chinatown. *Pei Pa Koa* is one of the most popular cold, flu, and cough remedies across East Asia and Singapore. It was first formulated during the Qing dynasty in the 17th century. The results were immediate, and when we desire a rapid and safe treatment for a health condition, that's all that matters.

# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## ERASING HISTORY MAKING REAL HISTORY IN 2021

First, they came for *Song of The South*.

Disney is now holding monthly meetings to determine what to censor among its entertainment properties, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The company “convenes an eclectic group of advisers via videoconference to tell the media conglomerate what it and the many entertainment companies it has acquired over its nearly 100-year history have gotten wrong.”

The censoring news comes quickly after Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced it would no longer publish six titles in its catalog, due to “racist” imagery and other perceived problematic aspects.

Hollywood is also ramping up scrutiny of movies and television shows, with an eye toward banning and digitally tampering with historic works. *The Muppet*

*Show* made news for a new release on distribution channels, but absent of certain scenes and even whole episodes deemed bigoted or insensitive. Before that, *The Dukes of Hazzard* was an easy target for the Confederate flag painted prominently on top of the show's iconic souped-up rambler, nicknamed the "General Lee."

Corporations and the government control a vast majority of important modern intellectual properties. Governments oversee public school textbook creation and what works by authors are included in teaching curriculums.

Corporations have benefited from legal extensions of copyrights, which have served as a lock on practically the entire 20<sup>th</sup>-century creative output. They have spent vast amounts of money buying out lucrative properties by musical artists and pop-culture visionaries like George Lucas and Stan Lee of Marvel Comics. The law has even allowed the altering of public domain works to effectively take them out of the public domain.

Meanwhile, technical advances allow virtually seamless altering of visual works such as movies.

The net of what to censor and change grows wider. This past week, *Psycho*, Alfred Hitchcock's famed 1960s thriller, became the latest film on the altering block for running afoul of the new censors. All-time classics like *Gone With The Wind* and others have earned warnings and explanations on new digital releases, "educating" viewers about stereotypical depictions in the works.

And then they came for Dr. Seuss. Former President Obama once credited Theodor Seuss Geisel for being a hugely positive influence in his life and thinking about the world. His comments at the time were considered entirely uncontroversial. But that was 2015.

Geisel, a progressive in his own day, has now run afoul of woke cancel culture. The company built off him announced they would no longer publish six Dr. Seuss books that exhibited "racist" imagery and other problematic aspects. His early bestseller *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, along with others

on the banned list, were quickly snapped up from Amazon and eBay and skyrocketed in value. Then eBay announced it was itself banning the further sale of at least some of the works, although plenty of auctions on the site still featured sales at steep prices.

The penchant for re-writing history in America first reared its head in academic institutions. The recent “1619 Project” championed by *The New York Times* was only the most recent clarion call to rewrite American history as something fundamentally originated in racism. The new Biden administration has nixed efforts of former President Trump to preserve a more balanced view of American history that includes the positive, human freedom-enlarging aspirations and accomplishments of the nation. Under Biden, the extremist and anti-historical 1619 Project is being quickly resurrected.

The movement has been spreading for some time beyond non-fictional history. Fictional works, including classics that were explicitly written to champion the humanity of minorities, including *Huckleberry Finn* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*, have seen reassessments based on “woke” principles.

Not so long ago, Americans, even in academic and media circles, at least claimed to be appalled when Muslims in Turkey, Afghanistan, and elsewhere were destroying western works of antiquity. But the new American Taliban, which corporately “owns” intellectual properties far beyond the lives of the people who created those works, feel more and more entitled to alter and even destroy America’s common cultural history.

[UPDATE AS WE GO TO PRESS: *The New York Post* is reporting that the Disney+ streaming service will add the classics “Dumbo,” “Peter Pan” “Swiss Family Robinson” and the “The Aristocats” to a list of movies that will not show up on the profiles of viewers aged seven and under. Among the reasons, says Disney, was a scene in *Dumbo* featuring singing crows, which “pay(s) homage to racist minstrel shows”.

## SATELLITE PHONES: MORE SECURE & LESS TRACKABLE THAN CELL PHONES?



Satellites are considered to have advantages over much more common cell phones when it comes to issues like security and privacy. But they may be just as prone to hacking and other compromises, according to some new research.

A project by several Chinese engineers was successful in breaching a common type of encryption used on satellite phones. The attack method, based on prior research by German academicians, was able to crack the GMR-2 cipher encryption on phones so fast, conversations could be eavesdropped in near real-time.

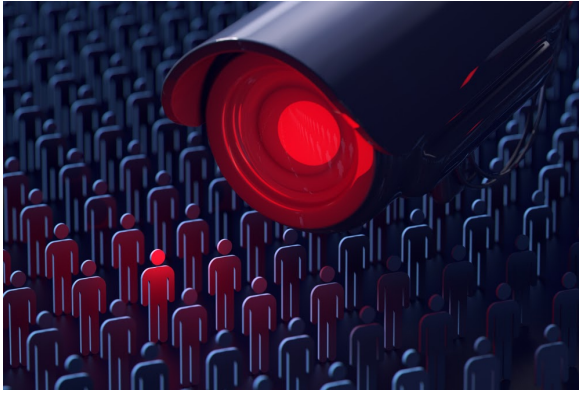
The findings were published recently by researchers for the International Association for Cryptologic Research. Major firms including the British telecom Inmarsat could be affected by the successful hack since their systems are among those that utilize the vulnerable encryption type.

The Chinese researchers used something called an inversion attack on satellite streams, to eventually deduce an encryption key, then were successful in reversing the encryption procedure to disclose the encryption key directly from the output keystream data.

“This indicates that the inversion attack is very efficient and practical which could lead to a real-time crack on the GMR-2 cipher,” said the research paper. “The experimental results on a 3.3GHz platform demonstrate that the 64-bit encryption-key can be completely retrieved in around 0.02s.”



## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



The subject of cell phones and geolocation data was brought up by several senators at a Joint Committee hearing concerning the 6 January Capitol protests. At the hearing, Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Josh Hawley (R-Missouri) both had pointed questions for FBI Director

Christopher Wray.

Lee told Wray that he was concerned citizens were being “inexplicably” contacted by FBI agents who knew of their presence in the district “with no other explanation, perhaps, other than the use of geolocation data.”

“Are you geolocating people, through the FBI, based on where they were on January?” Lee asked Wray.

“I think there may be some instances in which geolocation has been an investigative tool, but I can’t speak to any specific situation,” Wray responded to Lee’s question.

“What’s your basis for authority?” Lee asked. “Are you using national security letters?”

“I don’t believe in any instance we are using national security letters for investigation of the Capitol.”

The FBI has aggressively pursued investigations and charges against 6 January Capitol protesters, making over 350 arrests so far in connection with the event. Many believe the FBI’s actions have crossed a line into unconstitutional criminalization of political protest.

The FBI is also drawing scrutiny over how it is abusing authorities to hunt down, identify, and apprehend those who may have been at the protest. During the Senate hearing, Lee queried Wray about possible FISA court involvement, which Wray denied. He also asked whether the FBI was using warrants “predicated on probable cause.”

“We certainly have executed a number of warrants in the course of the investigation of January,” Wray said. “All of our investigative work in response to the Capitol [protest] has been under the legal authorities that we have in consultation with the [DOJ] and the prosecutors.”

Senator Hawley asked the FBI Director if his position on the use of geolocation data is that he doesn’t know whether the bureau has “scooped up” geolocation data and metadata cell phone records from cell phone towers. “Do you not know, or are you saying maybe it has or maybe it hasn’t? Tell me what you know about this.”

“So when it comes to geolocation data specifically—again, not in a specific instance, but just even the use of geolocation data—I would not be surprised to learn—but I do not know for a fact—that we were using geolocation data under any situation with connection with the investigation of [January ],” answered Wray. “But again, we do use geolocation data under different authorities and specific instances.”

## **POLITICAL SUPPRESSION GONE WRONG**



At around the same time FBI Director Christopher Wray was being grilled in the Senate over his agency’s heavy-handed crackdown on 6 January Capitol protesters, new facts were emerging:

- Not a single firearms violation or confiscation occurred on Capitol grounds during 6 January protests
- The U.S. Army advised against sending in troops to quell the protests, which spilled into the Capitol building after weak resistance.
- President Trump offered to station 10,000 National Guard troops in D.C. for the protests, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi turned the offer down
- The claim that a Capitol police officer was murdered by being hit over the head by a fire extinguisher, cited in impeachment proceedings against President Trump, has been debunked
- As Capitol protesters are being rounded up by the hundreds using questionable or outright illegal means by the FBI, charges against violent and vandalizing BLM and Antifa protesters are being dropped in Portland and elsewhere

Capitol police announced that no shots had been fired by any citizens during the Capitol protests, and not a signal firearm had been recovered on Capitol grounds as part of any violation.

Some estimates say several hundred thousand protesters were in Washington, D.C. on 6 January, protesting the highly irregular Presidential election.

“The only shots fired were the ones that resulted in the death of the one lady,” said Wisconsin Senator Ron Sanborn said during a joint Senate oversight hearing into the events. He was referring to Ashli Babbitt, an eleven-year Air Force veteran and protester that day. Babbitt, who was unarmed and presenting no grave threat to anyone, was shot and killed by a Capitol Police officer while perched in a window, trying to enter the inner Capitol chambers area. Her death was caught on video.

Conversely, a sensationalized story of a Capitol guard who supposedly died as a result of being bashed over the head by a fire extinguisher has proven to be

false. Asked about the cause of death of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, Christopher Wray said, “We’re not at a point where we can disclose or confirm the cause of death.”

“The insurrectionists killed a Capitol Police officer by striking him in the head with a fire extinguisher,” according to a House Democrats’ impeachment memo. The charge was based on a *New York Times* account. Wray said nothing at the time of the impeachment, which nonetheless failed.

It has also now been learned that Army generals advised against deploying soldiers to the Capitol during the protest due to optics. That’s according to Maj. General William J. Walker, head of the Washington, DC National Guard.

And in his CPAC speech last week, former President Trump revealed he had offered to call up 10,000 National Guard troops to be on hand for the 6 January protest, but Nancy Pelosi turned down the offer.

At the same time, hundreds of Capitol protesters are now being tracked down and arrested, charges against dozens of violent and vandalizing protesters from 2020 BLM and Antifa riots have been quietly dismissed in Portland.

Before the election, former Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton exhorted Joe Biden not to concede “under any circumstances,” no matter what the results. But Democrats and the media changed their tune after vote counts were stopped in multiple states on election night, something unprecedented. Overnight surges of votes then appeared in key Democrat-controlled urban enclaves in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia, and elsewhere, overcoming what seemed like insurmountable Trump margins of projected victory in those states.

Since the election, Democrats and tech giants including Google via YouTube, as well as Twitter and Facebook, have tried to make it verboten to question, nevermind protesting the election outcome. Anyone claiming or presenting evidence of fraud has been subject to take-downs of comments and videos, and they have been banned off of de facto monopolistic platforms that now control public discourse in America.

Courts including the Supreme Court have mostly turned away hearing cases on the merits, citing “lack of standing” and other dubious legal technicalities.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



**PAYPAL EYES “CURV”-Y MOVE INTO CRYPTOS.** Leading online payments processor PayPal is negotiating to acquire Curv, a NY-based cryptocurrency company, according to *Bloomberg*.

Dozens of clients reportedly use its products. This past November, PayPal started to let clients buy, sell, and keep some cryptocurrencies in their wallets. The move was seen as a reaction to the inevitable wider adoption of cryptocurrency, the payments industry newsletter PYMNTS reported.

Some observers still think the current interest in cryptos like Bitcoin will be superseded by a U.S.-issued “digital dollar.”

“I think ultimately, the digital dollar is going to become a thing, and that is going to allow for better, cheaper, faster payments,” Ternio CEO Daniel Gouldman has told PYMNTS. “It’s going to completely change the way we interact with money in a way that I don’t think we’re used to because we’re so used to banks.”

Ternio has a suite of products that make it easier for banks to facilitate cryptocurrency transactions, including crypto credit cards and bank accounts. Gouldman says cryptos still face many regulatory obstacles, consumer concerns, and business uncertainties. But moves like the ones PayPal has already made and is now considering with Curv keeps blockchain technologies in the news and on peoples’ minds.

**CHINA LEADS WORLD IN DEVELOPING ITS OWN DIGITAL CURRENCY.** As reported previously in the **Trends Journal**, China has been testing government-issued digital currencies in selected provinces, including a trial composing 400 million people in August 2020. More recently, they spread an initial offering of “digital yuan” during the recently celebrated lunar New Year.

China has been ahead of the curve with digital payments in general. Over the past several years, the country has used Mobile pay, mostly through the Alibaba-affiliated Alipay app and Tencent’s WeChat Pay, to replace cash as the predominant form of consumer payment in the country.

China’s aggressive efforts do not bode well for the U.S., which still enjoys a tremendous advantage of the U.S. dollar’s use as the world’s reserve and exchange currency.

The implications of China’s current edge in developing its national digital currency have deeper implications. Such a currency – and, more specifically, minute control of every aspect of it – would undoubtedly be leveraged to economic and social “advantage” by China’s totalitarian regime.

“This is about more than just money. It’s about developing new tools to collect data and leverage that data so that the Chinese economy is more intelligent and based on real-time information.” So says Yaya Fanusie, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security. The think tank focuses on Chinese threats regarding national security, and Fanusie authored a recent paper concerning Chinese digital currency programs.

The digital Yuan is vastly different from decentralized currencies like Bitcoin or Monero. The latter examples were designed to be highly resistant to control by any group or government. Monero in particular has even more “resistance” built in, since its ledger, or recordings of transactions, is thoroughly anonymized.

Digital currencies created by central banks will almost certainly provide governments with the means to tightly control every aspect of transactions.



They could be used to instantly cut-off the financial abilities of disfavored individuals and organizations, as well as tracking and cracking down on political dissidents.

More than 60 countries have made at least some forays into testing and developing digital currencies in the past year. So far, the U.S. has not been leading the way. Sweden is conducting real-world trials of a digital krona, and even the Bahamas has made a digital “Sand Dollar” available to its citizens.

The U.S. has moved relatively slowly so far in developing a digital dollar, that is likely changing. While talking down the prospects of Bitcoin, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said recently that a digital dollar was “absolutely worth looking at,” since it “could result in faster, safer, and cheaper payments.”

# TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



## MORE LOCKDOWN FAILURES

Open up or lockdown? That is the multi-trillion-dollar question... for a year.

It was on 20 March, just shy of a year ago, that Governor Gavin Newsom declared California the first U.S. state to lock down to deal with the coronavirus. Later that day, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York followed suit and issued a state-wide edict that non-essential workers must stay at home. At a televised news briefing, a series of which would later earn him an Emmy Award, Cuomo announced,

“I accept full responsibility. If someone is unhappy, if somebody wants to blame someone, or complain about someone, blame me. There is no one else who is responsible for this decision.”

On 6 May, however, *CNBC* reported, “Cuomo says it’s ‘shocking’ most new coronavirus hospitalizations are people who had been staying home.”

In the weeks to follow, dozens of states ordered their versions of lockdown impositions.

Globally, as reported by the *BBC* on 7 April, “Well over 100 countries worldwide had instituted either a full or partial lockdown by the end of March 2020, affecting billions of people.”

Now, as we make our way through March 2021, despite continued lockdowns in many states and having the most expensive health care system by far, the U.S. continues to lead the world in COVID deaths, ranking the sixth-highest in death rates among major countries.

As for Sweden, the nation the mainstream press continually attacked for not having locked down, their COVID death rate per 100,000 is 125.56 compared to the U.S. at 155.56. But these facts are ignored. Instead, COVID Fear and Hysteria are continually sold.

## **Lockdown-itis**

Not only are lockdowns still prevalent across the U.S., again, but there is also no scientific data to support them, and there has been no consistent strategy among the various imposed restrictions. This continues to validate our **Trends Journal** article from 26 May 2020, [“COVID RULES & REGULATIONS: POLITICIANS MAKING THEM UP AS THEY GO.”](#)

On 5 January 2021, we detailed the continuous false claims, policy reversals, and inconsistencies in the ongoing shutdown orders in our article [“COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES.”](#)

## **The U.S. States with the Most Restrictions**

On 4 March, *USA Today* provided data on current lockdowns, reporting that:

“Across the United States, officials are rolling out a patchwork of restrictions on social distancing. The orders vary by state, country, and even city. Restrictions are ramping up in many areas as cases surge nationwide. Health officials warn that easing restrictions too soon could bring new outbreaks, but many states forged ahead.”

According to the report, while a majority of states (39) are easing restrictions, only four states have lifted all lockdown orders: Texas, Florida, Missouri, and Iowa.

One consistent trend across all 50 states: people, tired of the continuing isolation, are leaving home more often.

It’s important to note that while a majority of states qualify as “easing restrictions,” they are still imposing many limits that continue to crush businesses and jobs. Some examples:

- In New York City, restaurants were allowed open indoor dining at 25 percent capacity. New rules will allow ten people indoors or 25 people outdoors at residential homes, up from the current ten. Movie theaters could reopen at 25 percent capacity. Bars and restaurants can stay open another hour longer. For the rest of the state, restaurant occupancy is now at 75 percent.
- In North Carolina, gyms, barbers, retail establishments, restaurants, and breweries can only operate at 50-percent capacity.
- In California, Governor Gavin Newsom’s office issued revised guidelines for indoor church services but left in place restrictions on singing and chanting.
- In Illinois, indoor service at bars can resume with an occupancy limit of 25 percent, and only six people can be at a table at a time. Retail and personal care services have capacity limits of 50 percent.

- In Pennsylvania, revised guidelines allow indoor venues to permit people at 15-percent capacity while outdoor settings, such as sports stadiums, can admit crowds up to 20 percent of capacity. Prior, indoor events had been limited to 10-percent occupancy with a cap of 500.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite ongoing fears of deadly new strains, as promoted on Sunday by Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, “We are in the eye of the hurricane right now,” so get ready for “some tough days ahead.” Osterholm also said states will begin a “steady stream of reopenings by late spring.”*

*Why? The bottom line: states cannot afford to be locked down, and with \$2 trillion of stimulus money injected into the economy, the spigot has been turned on for a hot money surge.*

## **MASK MANDATES RECEDING?**



As frustration grows with year-long lockdown impositions, more states in the U.S. are ending mask-wearing mandates.

While 36 states still have official mask-wearing requirements, last Tuesday, Texas Governor Greg Abbot announced, “It’s time to open Texas 100 percent and end the statewide mask order.” The same day, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves stated, “Starting tomorrow, we are lifting all of our county mask mandates, and businesses will be able to operate at full capacity without any state-imposed rules.” Montana, Iowa, and North Dakota previously lifted mask-wearing edicts.

The two governors made it clear they and the majority of their citizens have had enough with lockdowns and masks. Governor Abbott added, “We are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their

own destiny.” Governor Reeves declared, “We are getting out of the business of telling people what they can and cannot do.”

On 5 February, Republican Governor Kim Reynolds of Iowa removed the mask requirement as well as all coronavirus restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities.

Eleven states had never imposed mask mandates: Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

## **Biden Backlash**

Angry over Texas and Mississippi ending statewide mask mandates, President Biden declared last Wednesday, “The last thing—the last thing we need is the Neanderthal thinking that in the meantime, everything’s fine, take off your mask.”

While the president refers to mask-wearing resistance as “Neanderthal thinking,” as an *ABC News* report on 11 February noted, the president continues to use military language when discussing COVID-19: “President Joe Biden’s team is styling itself on war footing as it attacks the coronavirus pandemic.”

The media and Biden administration continues to promote mask mandates as a necessary sacrifice for fighting the COVID war.

Christal Hayes wrote in *USA Today* last Thursday that the rolling back of mask mandates in five states is “leaving many to wonder whether other states will join the tide and alter how the country is dealing with COVID-19 at a crucial moment in the fight against the disease.”

The Biden administration is scrambling to dissuade other states from relaxing COVID restrictions. Governor Abbott of Texas came under particular fire from White House senior COVID-19 advisor Andy Slavitt:

“We think it’s a mistake to lift these mandates too early. Masks are saving a lot of lives. The president has been clear about the fact that in the first 100 days of this administration, we could save 50,000 lives if we stick to this. I’m hoping that the businesses, and the community and people in Texas, the mayors, the county, will rethink this. I hope the governor rethinks this. It’s only a small piece of cloth that’s needed.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The statement from the White House that “it’s only a small piece of cloth that’s needed” is factually false. As regularly covered in the **Trends Journal**, there is no substantial scientific proof that masks are effective at stopping the spread of the coronavirus. Here are just a few of our articles about this:*

*UNMASKING THE TRUTH (PART I)*

*EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON’T WORK*

*MASK UP AND DIE?*

*DANISH STUDY: MASKS OFFER VERY LIMITED PROTECTION*

## **Make it Up**

The patchwork of confusing, varied restrictions in different states continues across the country. While the majority of Republican political figures favor more freedom and fewer restrictions, last Thursday, Republican Alabama Governor Kay Ivey stated, “There’s no question that wearing masks has been one of my greatest tools in combating the spread of the virus.”

In Alabama, the governor’s order requires people to wear masks anywhere in public where a six-foot distance can’t be maintained. Masks are also mandated in schools from second grade through college.

While Governor Ivey stated she will finally lift the mask mandate on 9 April, she added, “Even when we lift the mask order, I will continue to wear my mask while



I'm around others and strongly urge my fellow citizens to use common sense and do the same thing."

**TRENDPOST:** *Indeed, for a person such as Governor Ivey to wear a mask, considering she is 76 years old and a lung cancer victim, her decision to "wear a mask when around others" may make sense for her, but it does not hold true in general.*

*Indeed, the Danish study cited in our above article proves the ineffectiveness of mask wearing, facts the governor and others across the world ignore. Instead, they sell her pitch that "There's no question that wearing masks has been one of my greatest tools in combating the spread of the virus."*

*We have reported on this in the **Trends Journal** and our Trends in The News broadcasts and we will continue to do so since Presstitutes and politicians ignore the facts and continually promote the must-wear-mask masquerade.*

*We reported on the 18 November Danish study that showed after one month, the difference in infection rates between those regularly wearing masks (1.8 percent) was only 0.3 percent less than those who never put on a mask (2.1 percent).*

*According to the authors of the study, conducted by the Copenhagen University Hospital, "The study does not confirm the expected halving of the risk of infection for people wearing face masks."*

*In an article from 18 November, regarding the results of the Danish study, even Reuters reported: "The findings are consistent with previous research. Health experts have long said a mask provides only limited protection for the person wearing it."*

*While most governments and political leaders strongly advocate mandatory mask-wearing, the Danish study confirms what a Japanese study revealed last July. Research conducted by Kazunari Onishi, associate professor at St. Luke's International University in Tokyo, showed that with the typical cloth mask worn by*

*the majority of the Japanese public, there was “a 100-percent rate in terms of airborne particles penetrating the fabric and through the gap between masks and faces, substantially raising the risk of infection.”*

**TRENDPOST:** *The following are just a few of the past articles from the **Trends Journal** that detail the ineffectiveness and dangers of constant mask wearing:*

FACING THE TRUTH, PART III: MASKS CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS

GERMAN DOC: MANDATORY MASK-WEARING IS “CRIMINAL”

EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON'T WORK

## DOUBLE MASK? DOUBLE-DOWN FAILURE



“Double, double, toil and trouble.”

This famous line is from the witches’ song in Shakespeare’s *“Macbeth.”*

And who better to pitch the witches’ brew than Dr. Anthony Fauci, America’s politically-anointed infectious disease expert who, from sucking off the public tit, makes nearly \$500,000 a year? At the end of January, Fauci announced on national TV that “it makes common sense” to double up on

masks.

As the 10 February headline on *NPR*’s website proclaimed:

**CDC Says Double-Masking Offers More Protection Against the Coronavirus**

The article explained how the CDC was now recommending that “wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask offers more protection against the coronavirus, as does tying knots on the ear loops of surgical masks. Those findings prompted new guidance on how to improve mask fit at a time of concern over fast-spreading variants of the virus.”

## **Two Masks Not Better Than One**

But now, the CDC prompt for doubling masks has run into trouble. As a *Reuters* headline reported last Friday:

### **Japan supercomputer shows doubling masks offers little help preventing viral spread**

The supercomputer, located at Riken and Kobe University, generated simulations that modeled the spread of virus particles based on different combinations of masks. Adding a second mask added only 4 percent protection. The *Reuters* article points out that “wearing two non-woven masks isn’t useful because air resistance builds up and causes leakage around the edges.”

In the words of the researchers, “The performance of double masking simply does not add up.”

The computer models also showed that when masks are not worn tightly and properly, their effectiveness in blocking viral droplets falls considerably.

In addition to putting out recommendations that “don’t add up,” the updated CDC mask guidelines in February were ridiculously complicated. As the *Japan Times* wrote last Friday,

“The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last month that fitting a cloth mask over a medical procedure mask—and knotting the ear loops of a medical procedure mask and then tucking in and flattening the extra material close to the face—substantially reduced exposure from

infected wearers and exposure of uninfected wearers, highlighting the importance of good fit to maximize mask effectiveness.”

A look at the CDC’s website containing the new guidelines shows even more complicated instructions:

**“Check that it Fits Snugly over your nose, mouth, and chin**

- Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask.
- Make sure no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.
- If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.

**Add Layers of material**

2 ways to layer

- Use a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric.
- Wear a disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.
  - The cloth mask should push the edges of the disposable mask against your face.

**Make sure you can see and breathe easily.”**

It should be noted that the lead researcher of the supercomputer simulations in Japan, Makoto Tsubokura, added that “masks have limits in their effects to curb the spread of droplets.”

***TRENDPOST:*** On 12 February, *althealthworks.com*, a website that focuses on news about natural health, revealed that an article posted on the Microsoft News website detailing potential health risks from long-term mask wearing was taken down. According to *althealthworks.com*:

*“The potential side effects include the following according to several doctors quoted by MSN.com:*

**“Shortness of Breath and Lightheadedness:** According to Dr. Lili Barsky, any activities that result in the expulsion of air, such as talking, singing and exercising can result ‘in the accumulation of carbon dioxide between the face and the mask.’

*The symptoms are seen due to increases in CO2 levels in the body according to Dr. Rashmi Byakodi as mentioned in the MSN article. ‘Breathing over exhaled air that turns into carbon dioxide might make you feel dizzy.’*

**Headaches:** According to Dr. Byakodi, ‘Headaches may occur due to the band fitting around the head all day, stress from breathing through the mask, or slight changes in oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the blood.’

**Dermatitis:** Some people’s skin may break out, and scarring around the area where the mask is worn may result in some cases.

**Weakened Immune System:** Perhaps the most troubling of all symptoms on the list of doctor warnings, the immune system can be greatly weakened by low oxygen levels in the tissues as noted by Dr. Esteban Kosak in the article.”

**TRENDPOST:** On 12 May 2020, Microsoft News posted an article titled, [“9 Side Effects of Wearing Face Masks,”](#) which has not yet been taken down. Among the troubling side effects were restricted airflow, a false sense of protection, and the potential for masks not properly and consistently washed to spread the virus... facts and data we have been reporting since the COVID War was launched last year.

## CDC: FACE MASK MANDATE DECEPTION



According to the new CDC findings released on Friday, it concludes that mask mandates were associated with an average 1.32 percent decrease in the growth rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths during the first 100 days after the mask policy was implemented.

That's it. Yet, despite a measly 1.32 percent decrease in stopping the coronavirus from spreading, much of the nation and most of the world have imposed strict mask-wearing mandates.

Indeed, to promote fear and hysteria, on 5 March, *AP* led off with the headline:

## Study Finds Mask Mandates, Dining Out Influence Virus Spread

Their summary of the CDC's report states:

“Mandating masks was associated with a decrease in daily COVID-19 case and death growth rates” and “allowing on-premises restaurant dining was associated with an increase in daily COVID-19 case growth rates.”

## Masked-Up For What?

The facts of the study prove, however, that the decrease in infections from wearing a mask was negligible, as were the increases based on dining indoors.

Regarding masks, the report showed that:

“Mask mandates were associated with a 0.5 percentage point decrease in daily COVID-19 case growth rates 1–20 days after implementation and

decreases of 1.1, 1.5, 1.7, and 1.8 percentage points 21–40, 41–60, 61–80, and 81–100 days, respectively, after.

Mask mandates were associated with a 0.7 percentage point decrease ( $p = 0.03$ ) in daily COVID-19 death growth rates 1–20 days after implementation and decreases of 1.0, 1.4, 1.6, and 1.9 percentage points 21–40, 41–60, 61–80, and 81–100 days, respectively, after implementation.”

## The Deception

It should also be noted that the CDC issued a report last September showing of those studied who contracted COVID-19, 85 percent either always or almost always wore a mask.

As the **Trends Journal** has been reporting for months, there is ample evidence that masks do not prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

See some of our articles:

[MASK UP AND DIE?](#)

[MASK MADNESS CONTINUES](#)

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

In addition, not mentioned in the *AP* article is the fact that prolonged mask-wearing is causing significant health issues from skin infections (“maskne”) and persistent coughing to serious respiratory illnesses.

See some of our past articles on the negative health effects of mask-wearing:

[WEAR MASKS, GET SICK](#)

[FACING THE TRUTH, PART III: MASKS CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS](#)



## GERMAN DOC: MANDATORY MASK-WEARING IS “CRIMINAL”

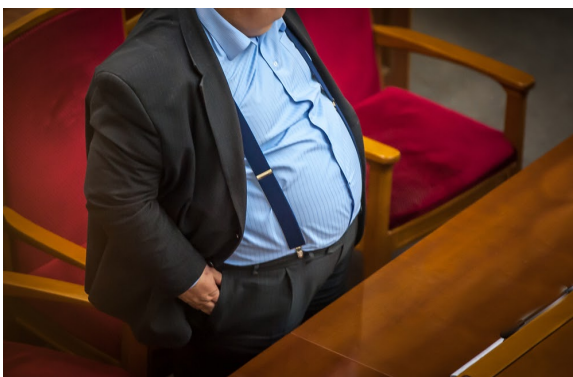
As for the increase in infection rates based on indoor dining, again the claims are flimsy. According to the new CDC report:

“During the study period, states allowed restaurants to reopen for on-premises dining in 3,076 (97.9%) U.S. counties. Changes in daily COVID-19 case and death growth rates were not statistically significant 1–20 and 21–40 days after restrictions were lifted... 0.91.2 and 1.1 percentage point increases in the case growth rate 41–60, 61–80, and 81–100 days, respectively, after restrictions were lifted. Allowing on-premises dining at restaurants was associated with 2.2 and 3.0 percentage point increases in the death growth rate 61–80 and 81–100 days, respectively.”

**TRENDPOST:** *In effect, the cost of masking up, according to the CDC, is not worth the price. The AP article concludes with the CDC report, which states, “Prohibiting on-premises restaurant dining might assist in limiting potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2; however, such orders might disrupt daily life and have an adverse impact on the economy and the food services industry.”*

*Note the key phrase: “might assist in limiting exposure” when the facts show the exposure limit is minuscule.*

## COVID-19 & OBESITY: THE MORE YOU WEIGH, THE WORSE OFF YOU ARE



Since the COVID War began last year, the **Trends Journal** reported the facts of who was dying from the virus, why, and where.

Again, it is mostly the elderly, those over 65 years of age, and people suffering from

pre-existing chronic conditions such as obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Now, a year later, *Bloomberg News* reported on 4 March,

“Countries where more than half of adults are overweight have recorded COVID-19 mortality rates in excess of 10 times those in other nations, according to a report by the World Obesity Federation.”

The alarming fact is that across the globe, obesity has nearly tripled over the last 40 years, and the trend continues to grow. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has called obesity “a global pandemic.”

The report issued last Thursday by the World Obesity Federation stated that if every country had lowered its percentage of obese citizens to under 50 percent of the total population, hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 deaths could have been prevented.

The U.S. (which still leads all modern, industrialized countries in obesity rates) and the U.K., France, and Brazil, which also suffer high rates, are among the countries with the highest death rates from COVID-19.

*Forbes* magazine, analyzing the data from the recent report, cited these key takeaways:

- “2.2 million of the pandemic’s 2.5 million global deaths were in countries with high levels of obesity.
- The report found death rates were 10x higher in countries where more than 50% of the population is overweight, pointing to the U.K. and the U.S. as examples.
- The U.K. has the third-highest death rate in the world (184 deaths per 100,000 population) and the fourth-highest obesity rate with 63.7% of adults classifying as overweight, closely followed by the

U.S., which has 152.49 deaths per 100,000 and 67.9% of the population living with obesity.”

**TRENDPOST:** *Yesterday, the CDC reported the vast majority of Americans who contracted the virus and were hospitalized, put on a ventilator, or died from COVID-19 were either obese or overweight. Their report stated that between March to December 2020, 27.8 percent of these victims were overweight and 50.2 percent were obese.*

*Thus, with some 70 percent of Americans overweight, of which 42 percent are obese, the U.S. is #1 in COVID deaths.*

*See some of our past articles on the link between obesity and COVID:*

[\*JUNK FOOD VS. COVID-19: THE WINNER IS?\*](#)

[\*THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM\*](#)

[\*COVID VICTIMS: THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL\*](#)

## **CDC FAILS TO PROVE MISSING LINK**



The CDC is claiming a link between dining in restaurants and increased cases of COVID. *The New York Times*, reporting on Saturday, wrote,

“Federal researchers also found that counties opening restaurants for on-premises dining—indoors or outdoors—saw a rise in daily infections about six weeks later, and an increase in COVID-19 death rates about two months later.”

After admitting the study was not conclusive (“The study does not prove cause and effect”), the article goes on to claim “but the findings square with other research showing that masks prevent infection and that indoor spaces foster the spread of the virus through aerosols, tiny respiratory particles that linger in the air.”

(See our article in this issue, “[MASK MANDATES RECEDING?](#),” which cites four of the dozens of articles with scientific data we’ve published showing mask-wearing is ineffective at slowing the spread of COVID.)

While the CDC has not provided sufficient evidence, its director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, is quoted in the article,

“You have decreases in cases and deaths when you wear masks, and you have increases in cases and deaths when you have in-person restaurant dining. And so, we would advocate for policies, certainly while we’re at this plateau of a high number of cases, that would listen to that public health science.”

The National Restaurant Association, advocating for about one million restaurants and food-related services, called the CDC study “an ill-informed attack on the industry hardest-hit by the pandemic.” The association pointed out the important fact that the CDC report “did not control for factors other than restaurant dining—such as business closures and other policies—that might have contributed to coronavirus infections and deaths.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *In addition to strongly advocating restaurants not be reopened, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky stated last Friday that overall, continued vigilance against the coronavirus is required due to recent “upticks.” She failed to mention that in comparison to “upticks” in cases, the continued lockdowns aren’t just causing “upticks” but devastating increases in teenage suicides, child malnutrition, an epidemic of depression issues, and severe economic stress.*

*Absent from this NYT article is the fact that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo reported data last December, just before he prohibited indoor dining in NYC*

*restaurants, showing restaurants and bars account for a mere 1.4 percent of COVID-19 infection spreading in New York.*

## EU GREEN PASS FOR VACCINATED



The European Commission introduced its plans to produce a “Digital Green Pass” that would alert travel authorities if a traveler has been jabbed by a coronavirus vaccine, a report said.

*Euronews* reported that a draft of the law indicated that besides a coronavirus inoculation, the pass will also contain other medical “statements.” If all goes well, the bill could be introduced by July.

Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the commission, reportedly said, “The Digital Green Pass should facilitate Europeans’ lives. The aim is to gradually enable them to move safely in the European Union or abroad—for work or tourism.

The move has been praised by leaders in the bloc, such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who said, “Everyone agreed that we need a digital vaccination certificate.”

The *Euronews* report pointed out that many countries in Europe rely on a profitable summer travel season; Greece became the first country to issue a vaccination certificate. The country will be open to tourists from Israel if they’ve been vaccinated.

The *BBC* also reported that Cyprus announced it will welcome British tourists beginning 1 May, so long as they’ve received both jabs of the Pfizer or Moderna shots.

The report stated 27 million jobs in Europe are based on tourism, which amounts for about 10 percent of the European Union's GDP, considering the other industries that rely on travel, at least on the periphery.

The **Trends Journal** reported last month that Israel announced its own Green Passport, which would allow its citizens to have access to various venues like theaters and hotels.

***TREND FORECAST: No COVID Jab, no Freedom. We maintain our forecast for strong anti-vax political movements in nations across the globe. To date, according to the CDC, some 17.7 percent of Americans have been COVID vaccinated since distribution began in December.***

*It should also be noted that Europe's COVID vaccination rate is much lower. For example, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Norway, Belgium, and Greece have, according to Euronews, on average, about a 3-percent vaccination rate.*

*Thus, we see limited Green Passport dictates that will prevent the un-vaccinated to travel, go to sporting events, concerts, etc.*

## GERMANY LOOSENS GUIDELINES ON LOCKDOWNS



On Monday, many German states announced loosened coronavirus restrictions, which have been in place for months, including allowing people from one household to meet with those from another.

DW.com reported, however, that in many instances, restrictions are still in place. For example, these newly-approved gatherings must be limited to five adults, the report said.



Germany is Europe's largest economy, and many in the country have criticized Chancellor Angela Merkel for being too cautious when it comes to the coronavirus and lockdowns.

Two weeks ago, its Finance Ministry, according to *Reuters*, said,

“The continuing measures to contain the spread of the virus... as well as sentiment indicators suggest that for the next few weeks, overall economic development is expected to remain subdued.”

The report stated that “tax revenues fell by 11.1 percent on the year in January” due to the fallout from the coronavirus.

A report by *CGTN* news said that on 8 March 2020, Germany suffered its first death due to COVID-19. The report stated Merkel addressed the nation at the time, and she said the country faced its most serious challenge since WWII.

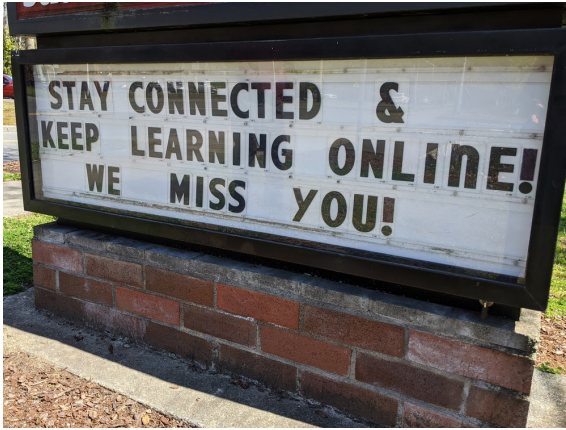
***TREND FORECAST:*** *Christian Schweiger, a visiting professor in the Institute for Political Science at Chemnitz University of Technology, told the outlet,*

*“People see that as very critical. Basically taking away freedoms that are constitutionally guaranteed in Germany without discussing why and how and for how long. In Germany, there is always the superior referee above everything is the Federal Constitutional Court. It hasn't made any major ruling on this, but I expect there will be something coming. People will ask the Federal Court to rule.”*

*There will be growing public resistance to COVID lockdowns. As spring sets in and the weather warms, more nations will lessen COVID restrictions, not only to quell public dissent but to generate taxable income and reverse declining economies.*



## SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS: DON'T RETURN TO SCHOOL



The Seattle Education Association last week voted not to return to in-person classes despite the urging from Governor Jay Inslee who said all teachers could receive the COVID-19 jab.

The *Associated Press* reported that only 36 percent of the state's million public school students are attending some form of in-person learning. *Q13 Fox* reported there has been a miscommunication in the state, and many parents are unclear if their child can return to the classroom.

The report said one of the issues is access to PPE gear like masks and gloves.

The news outlet spoke to Joy Springer, an occupational therapist for the Seattle school district, who said she will not be reporting to school on Monday. Ms. Springer said,

"We want to be back with our students and it's so nice to be back with students, but it needs to be done safely and equitably. We should have access to masks and gloves... I'll tell you right now we come in contact with body fluids a lot throughout our day,"

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The current online learning methods have, by the emerging data, proven to be ineffective.*

*Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and die.*

*"New Millennium" education is a mega-trend we had forecast. As we had forecast at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, when schools across the globe were shut down, it signaled the onset of a 21st-century online learning*

system. Back in 1996, Gerald Celente had forecast this movement, calling it “Interactive U” in his bestselling book, “Trends 2000”:

*“Interactive U” has just been born. The new education system that will replace the current one, which was invented by the Prussians at the onset of the Industrial Revolution, will offer great investment rewards to existing and start-up companies, which create the new learning systems and continue to update them.*

**TREND FORECAST:** Ignored by the major media and politicians is the fact that the COVID recovery rate for those aged 1-20 is 99.997 percent. Moreover, data shows children are not transmitters of the virus.

As we have noted,

*“According to the BBC, a new study from researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the University of Oxford found ‘adults living with very young or primary-school-age children had no increased risk of COVID-19 infection or a related hospital admission.’”*

*Clarifying the question of whether older children are at greater risk of spreading the virus than younger ones, the study showed that “people living with secondary-school-age children had a very small (8 percent) increased risk of a COVID-19 infection, but no increased risk of hospitalization.”*

As we reported in our 23 February **Trends Journal**, in the U.S., just 711 people aged 1-24 have died from the virus, with the monthly average being 0.0000538 percent.

*For states and cities where teachers are opposed to having students attend class in person, there will be anti-school tax movements. With buildings not being occupied and absent of staff, more people will demand paying fewer taxes.*

## CONNECTICUT LIFTS CAPACITY LIMITS IN MOST VENUES



Officials in Connecticut announced last week that the state would lift capacity limits in restaurants and retail shops, while other establishments like barber shops can begin operating at full capacity.

The state's governor made it clear the state would still enforce a mask mandate.

"This is not Texas," said Governor Ned Lamont, according to the paper. "This is not Mississippi. We are maintaining the masks."

Lamont said masks have proven to be effective in slowing the spread of the coronavirus:

"We wanted to emphasize that which works and that which is enforceable... And we know what works is the mask, and we know what works is social distancing, and we know the curfew is something we can enforce."

The report pointed out that some mandates will linger, including positioning tables six feet apart and limiting the number at a table to eight. Bars that do not serve food will be forced to stay closed, the report said. The new guidelines take effect on 19 March.

Besides restaurants, outdoor sporting venues will be able to operate at up to 50-percent capacity, according to the *Hartford Courant*. Indoor sporting events will be capped at 10 percent.

The paper also said travelers who visit the state will no longer be required to quarantine, but it will be recommended.

**TRENDPOST:** We note this article to emphasize both the ignorance and arrogance of Executive Order dictators who do as they wish and are either too ignorant to understand the scientific data or too arrogant to support it. For example, Governor Lamont said, “... we know what works is the mask, and we know what works is social distancing.”

As the data proves, he is wrong on both counts. This issue, as with numerous other **Trends Journals**, cites numerous articles we have written about proving the ineffectiveness of mask wearing.

And, we have reported that the social distancing of six feet is a made-up number that is as ineffective as mask wearing. MIT’s Fluid Dynamics of Disease Transmission Laboratory found sneezing and coughing exhalations cause gaseous clouds that can travel up to 27 feet... not six feet!

Yet, the Presstitutes give their “Honorable” politicians a free ride on the constant train of lies they have used to destroy hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods, as they declare themselves heroes in fighting the COVID War.

## ONE-THIRD U.S. WORKERS WILL QUIT IF FORCED TO RETURN TO OFFICE



Studyfinds.org reported on a poll commissioned by Wisetail, a software company, and conducted by OnePoll. The poll asked 2,000 Americans about working from home during the pandemic and found that many have embraced life free of commuting, nosy coworkers, and even

getting dressed for work.

The survey found that 39 percent of workers said they would take a cut in salary to continue working from home.

**TREND FORECAST:** Commercial real estate brokers may tremble at the results of this recent poll. This is part of the New ABnormal, where more people will be doing much less commuting than they did before the COVID War.

In our 20 October article, [“WORK FROM HOME = CITY REAL ESTATE DOWN,”](#) we reported how the ease of working from home is going to put immense strain on the commercial real estate sector, especially in once-thriving metropolitan areas such as New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, etc.

**TRENDPOST:** The best is still the worst. Imagine, just one year ago, before politicians launched the COVID War, it would be “good news” that Dallas is wining the “go back to the office” trend with just 35 percent of employees back inside office buildings, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The WSJ, which cited Kastle Systems, a nationwide security company that tracks those ubiquitous office access cards, reported that out of ten major cities in the U.S., only about 20 to 25 percent of office workers have returned to their cubicles.

**TRENDPOST:** Executives are weighing options as remote working is becoming a reality, considering employee compensation and tax costs for remote workers in different states.

Companies like Facebook said they would gather information from their employees’ VPNs to determine their location for tax purposes. One of the issues is concerns that employees might not be honest when claiming they left the state. The Wall Street Journal reported that these companies and workers have to pay the appropriate taxes for these positions. The report said Facebook decided against tracking the employees.

The report also said Facebook informed some employees that their location could affect their salary if they move to locations with different labor costs.



*Jimmy Etheredge, the North American CEO of the consulting firm Accenture PLC, told the Journal there are a number of companies weighing pay changes for employees who leave pricey cities.*

*“Almost all of them have a cost-of-living element in their compensation,” he told the paper. “As they’re thinking through this future of work that may involve more remote working, that may involve talent in places they did not necessarily have before, they will look to make adjustments.”*

## **NYC GRAFFITI LOOK LIKE “WAR ZONES”**



Not only have homicides in New York City risen sharply, up 41 percent in 2020 compared to before the COVID War was launched, but police are also reporting a jump in graffiti complaints in 2020.

The *Daily Mail* reported the NYPD received 6,000 complaints last year, and some residents have said the cat is already out of the bag.

Dewar’s, a Jamaican restaurant in Brooklyn, posted on Twitter,

“This has been going on too long and I’ve asked on several occasions what can I use to remove the graffiti from the glass of an establishment in Crown Heights to no avail. The graffiti on the walls and shutters are easy to remove by painting. Nostrand Ave looks like a war zone.”

The *New York Post* reported the NYPD announced a new email address, [Graffiti@nypd.org](mailto:Graffiti@nypd.org), which allows residents to report vandalism in their neighborhood. This is part of the project that includes “Clean up days,” where New Yorkers can volunteer to help paint over graffiti.

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea told the paper,

“It’s been a tough year, not just for New York City but across this whole country. This is about moving forward, it’s about the recovery, it’s about coming out together and cleaning up. That’s the big statement we want to make.”

Shea blamed a confluence of issues, from the death of George Floyd to the COVID outbreak.

***TRENDPOST:*** As Gerald Celente has long noted, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”

*Again, we have warned the worst is not only yet to come, it will become a way of life. Gangs will grow in power. Expect thefts, robberies, and violent crimes to increase now and also when the shut-ins end. New York City has experienced a 95-percent increase in shootings compared to 2019 and a 38-percent increase in homicides.*

*The extent of the damage caused by the COVID War is not yet known, but the **Trends Journal** has warned that the subsequent lockdowns would lead to an epidemic of despair among the young and old. Knowing at the onset of the COVID War last February that crime would dramatically escalate, we added our “Survivalism” column as an essential element of the **Trends Journal**.*

## DRIVE-THROUGH RESTAURANTS THE NEW ABNORMAL



Restaurants across the U.S. have reported an increase in sales generated by drive-throughs, which offer customers a socially-distanced chance at grabbing a quick meal.



The *Wall Street Journal* reported that restaurants not traditionally offering customers the option have begun installing it to meet demand.

Shake Shack has announced its first drive-through at a location in Orlando, the report said. Chains like Chipotle and Restaurant Brands International, which owns Burger King, also announced plans to reinvest in drive-throughs to meet customers' demand.

The paper spoke to a partner at a real estate firm in Alabama who said properties with drive-throughs or the space to construct one often fetch 10 to 20 percent higher rents. The executive told the paper that seven of his firm's properties have these additions.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We note this fact to illustrate how, along with online learning and a new hi-tech world of social media, with more people ordering take-out food – whether eating it alone in their cars or bringing it home – there will be a continuing downgrade of people interacting with others and making new acquaintances.*

# TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



## NEW YORK STATE: GET YOUR COVID PASSPORT

Last Tuesday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the pilot program of the “Excelsior Pass... a smartphone app developed through a partnership between the state and IBM, [which] will serve as a passport confirming one’s negative coronavirus test results or proof of vaccination.”

The governor stated,

“As we begin reopening the valves on different sectors of our economy, we are putting guidelines in place to ensure individuals attending events involving larger gatherings have tested negative for COVID or have been vaccinated to avoid an outbreak of the virus.

The Excelsior Pass will play a critical role in getting information to venues and sites in a secure and streamlined way, allowing us to fast-track the

reopening of these businesses and getting us one step closer to reaching a new normal.”

An alternative for those without a mobile app will be to present an equivalent proof in paper form. Both the phone app and paper alternative were tested at both a Brooklyn Nets basketball game and New York Rangers hockey games. Cuomo guaranteed the system has built-in encryption technology to insure other private medical data is protected. He also said the passport system, for now, is voluntary.

***TRENDPOST:*** While Governor Cuomo insists New York is opening up and relaxing restrictions, try squaring that assessment after reading through dozens of pages of detailed restrictions in place on the official New York State Guidelines published on [its website](#).

*For Sports & Recreation alone, there are six pages filled with hundreds of rules including:*

### ***“Type of Play Allowed***

*Risk factors such as Least ability to: 1. avoid touching of shared equipment, 2. clean/disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or 3. not use shared equipment at all;*

*No more than 2 spectators per player.*

*Ensure 6 ft. distance between individuals at all times, whether indoors or outdoors, unless safety or core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate such a covering for the physical activity (practicing, playing);*

*Ensure patrons/players interact only with their party at their assigned lane/table/board/game. Rigorously clean and disinfect any rented or*

*shared equipment (e.g., bowling balls/shoes, pool/billiard cues/racks, and other game objects) between use.”*

*Note that while event restrictions are “loosening,” major limitations remain. According to the Wall Street Journal, the following rules still apply:*

*“Venues that conduct testing, such as sporting events, will be permitted to have 150 people indoors and 500 people outdoors. Attendees will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing.”*

## **MORE VAX PROBLEMS: ALLERGIC REACTIONS & PFIZER VIOLATIONS**



As the **Trends Journal** reported on 19 January in our article, [“COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS,”](#) the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases confirmed that severe allergic

reactions to the new vaccines were ten times more likely than from the flu vaccine.

The article quoted the website *Medical News Today*:

“Data collected so far showed some 2.7 percent of those who received a COVID-19 vaccine reported a ‘Health Impact Event,’ which means a person is ‘Unable to perform normal daily activities, unable to work and/or required care from a doctor or health care professional.’”

On 2 February, we published additional data in our article, [“STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS”](#):

An article published by *Science* magazine on 1 January stated: “Severe allergy-like reactions in people who received the COVID-19 vaccine

produced by Pfizer and BioNTech in December 2020 may be due to a compound in the packaging of the messenger RNA (mRNA) that forms the vaccine's main ingredient, scientists say.”

Now, in addition to questions about the never-before administered mRNA vaccines, which were rushed into circulation through the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization, a new question has been raised.

As reported last Friday in the article by *SFGate*, “Pfizer Plant Boosting Vaccines Has Repeat Quality Offenses,” it turns out the large plant that is currently ramping up millions of doses of vaccines has been previously cited for multiple health violations.

According to the article,

“Food and Drug Administration inspectors visited the McPherson, Kansas, plant at the end of 2019 into January 2020, according to an inspection report obtained by Bloomberg via a Freedom of Information request. They found the drug giant released medications for sale after failing to thoroughly review quality issues that arose in routine testing, the report shows.”

The report revealed bacteria and mold in areas required to be sterile, and it wasn't the first time. The same health issue was found by inspectors during earlier visits to the pharmaceutical plant. In 2017, the FDA sent Pfizer a warning letter acknowledging “significant violations of current good manufacturing rules.” Drugs were discovered contaminated.

The violations continued:

“During the FDA's visit in 2018, it found that Pfizer had turned up mold in the factory stemming from product residue on the machinery. The company blamed it on inadequate cleaning but then found residue in the same area again months later. FDA inspectors found at their 2020

inspection that Pfizer ‘continues to recover bacterial and/or mold isolates from critical zones.’”

A Pfizer spokesperson, Sharon Castillo, released a statement that read, “We place the utmost emphasis on patient safety and product quality at every step in our manufacturing processes.”

Pfizer has said it will be producing an additional 200 million doses by the end of May. These doses will be packaged and shipped from this Kansas facility.

Despite shorter safety trials and pressure to get vaccines out as quickly as possible under Operation Warp Speed, the FDA issued a statement last Thursday that it “used all available tools and information to assess compliance with current good manufacturing practice requirements for each manufacturing site and included several conditions in the letter of authorization to ensure compliance.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Despite legitimate concerns about the safety of the never-before administered mRNA vaccines, which were tested for only two months and released under the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization, now, the added concerns of safety violations at a major Pfizer plant, President Biden’s “war” campaign against the coronavirus seems to be working.*

*According to the Wall Street Journal, on Saturday, 69 percent of Americans have either been vaccinated or plan to.*

*Last November, only 60 percent said they would definitely get jabbed. This increase is even greater among African-Americans where only 42 percent were planning on getting the shots last November compared to over 60 percent as of mid-February. The article writes that “to reach population level immunity, and stop the spread of COVID-19... between 70 and 80 percent of the population must develop immunity, scientists say.”*

## MAINSTREAM MEDIA PUMPS UP NEW VACCINE STUDY



On 4 March, media ranging from the *Financial Times* to the San Diego ABC affiliate gave a cheerful review of a new study from the La Jolla Institute for Immunology.

As the ABC affiliate reported, “New research suggests an important class of immune cells generated by the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not fooled by the four most concerning coronavirus variants.”

Media and political leaders looking to convince citizens from breaking lockdown restrictions continue to raise concerns over new variants of the coronavirus, despite the fact that all viruses mutate and no evidence has been provided to prove the variants are as infectious as the original.

The ABC news report states that the new study:

“Offers an encouraging clue that the T cells produced by the vaccines can still prevent severe disease from the trickiest known variants, even ones with mutations that might elude antibodies.... However, the scientists caution the results are based on a collection of lab tests and are not definitive clinical proof. The research was posted on a pre-print server, meaning it has not yet undergone peer review.”

***TRENDPOST:*** Note the phrase “encouraging clue” (cheerleading), “trickiest known variants” (scare tactic), and then the admission that the lab tests “are not definitive clinical proof.”

*If there’s no definitive scientific proof, why an article touting its importance?*



*Further evidence of over-stating the quality of the study is the quote from Dr. Alessandro Sette, one of the lead researchers: “It is exciting for us, but I want to make sure we do not over-interpret these results.”*

*He added, “We still need to wear masks and be socially distanced and most importantly vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible.”*

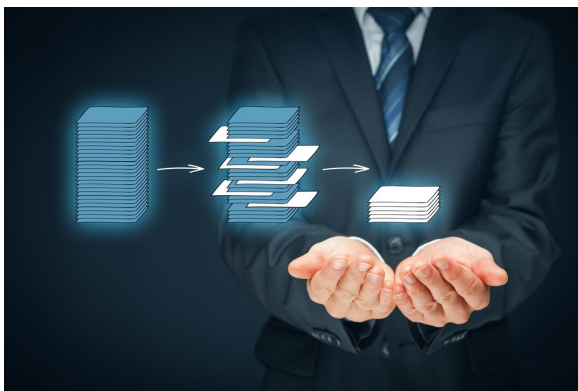
*The report continues its theme of pumping up the study while admitting its weakness: “Still, doctors who were not involved in the study said it offered a glimmer of hope. ‘I think it’s great news,’ said Dr. Christian Ramers of Family Health Centers of San Diego.”*

*Any “glimmer” gets headlines while lack of empirical, scientific proof gets played down.*

*The ABC report concludes with lead researcher Dr. Sette admitting the results of the study “doesn’t mean these people are protected against the virus, but it’s plausible that they might be infected with a less severe disease.”*

*Note the words “plausible” (not probable) and “might” (not won’t).*

## **DATA MINING: NEW VACCINE REGIME RAKING IN MONEY**



The many billions funded by taxpayers to develop and buy vaccines from Big Pharmaceuticals including Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson is just one aspect of “following the money” in the COVID pandemic saga.

The lockdowns, which saw giants from retail and restaurant industries experience explosive growth in 2020, while small and local businesses were decimated, is another obvious part of the equation.

But less talked about is the money on the backend to be made from companies mining all the new data American citizens are being forced to fork over while taking their COVID tests and getting their vaccines.

According to recent reports, drug chains including CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens are collecting data from millions of customers signing up for shots, enrolling them in patient systems and making recipients register customer profiles.

The retailers admit the information is being culled to promote their stores and services, and to do things like target marketing in sophisticated ways, based on the supplied user data.

“Every one of these customers is coming through our digital front end, so we have their email, we have their text message, and we have the ability to communicate with them regularly,” said CVS CEO Jonathan Roberts.

Of course, the companies also claim the data they’re collecting is first and foremost “critical” in streamlining the administering of vaccinations and “improving record-keeping.” They say requiring the info also ensures only qualified people are receiving shots.

CVS and the other companies sucking up data from citizens who were never in their systems before openly admit they plan to mine it to the fullest. Roberts said CVS will “stay in touch” with vaccine recipients beyond receiving their second shot and use information gleaned from the vaccine administration to better market to them.

Some eight million people who received a COVID test from CVS in 2020 hadn’t filled a prescription with the company in the prior 12 months. So there’s no doubt the chain, as well as others, are getting a treasure trove of potential new customer data.

The participation of drug chains in dispensing vaccines is part of a federal program to get vaccines out to millions of Americans as fast as possible. Shares of CVS, which also owns Walgreens, rose 6 percent when the federal program was first announced.

Data mining is the backend method by which the drug companies are being allowed to profit from their role in the vaccination process. When it comes to COVID, normal restrictions against forcing users to hand over personal data to retailers don't apply.

Those retailers are reportedly taking various approaches in gathering and using data. At Walmart, vaccine-takers have to create a “patient profile” in the company’s online system. Meanwhile, Hartig Drug Stores, a midwest chain, is analyzing what people buy when they come to receive vaccinations, according to CEO Charlie Hartig.

As far as products that may help ease the pain associated with side effects of the vax? “We encourage the products we have in the store and encourage [the] purchase of those,” said Hartig.

## VACCINE MISCARRIAGES DRAW SCRUTINY



The CDC’s VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) database has recorded that at least 34 women experienced spontaneous miscarriages or stillbirths after receiving a COVID vaccine.

Most of the reported miscarriages occurred in the first trimester, according to *The*

*Epoch Times* and other reports. Twenty-five of the reported cases were associated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The VAERS system is widely considered inadequate in terms of fully and accurately accounting for adverse vaccine events, but, at present, it's the only publicly known and available system the government is using.

At least some medical professionals have expressed concerns that experimental COVID vaccines have not been sufficiently tested to ensure women who are pregnant or lactating are not putting their children at undue risk by receiving a vaccination. Pregnant or lactating women were excluded from both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine trials, though they are part of new ongoing trial phases.

Interestingly, none of the current COVID vaccines, including the recently approved Johnson & Johnson version, was created using previous technology involving the attenuated presence of the virus in vaccines. The most often cited reason for the lack of a more traditional type of vaccine is the cost and time required to produce one.

With regard to the VAERS reported miscarriages, *The Epoch Times* cited one case of a Tennessee physician suffering a miscarriage 13 days after being immunized. The 31-year-old woman, who was five-weeks pregnant at the time she was vaccinated, had no known allergies or medical history.

In another case, a 33-year-old Indiana nurse experienced a miscarriage just five days after receiving her second Pfizer vaccine. The 33-year-old also reported that the adverse event caused a detectable birth defect.

And a Michigan woman said she noticed her unborn baby's movements decreased two days after her first dose of vaccine. She delivered a stillborn child at 29 weeks.

Pfizer and Moderna have not responded to press requests for comments about the incidents, and neither has the FDA, which co-administers the VAERS database system with the CDC.

In January, the WHO issued a news release advising pregnant women against taking Pfizer's version of the COVID vaccine, unless they were "at high risk" of exposure:

"Pregnant women are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 than non-pregnant women, and COVID-19 has been associated with an increased risk of preterm birth... However, due to insufficient data, WHO does not recommend the vaccination of pregnant women at this time."

In March, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) came out against the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for other reasons related to unborn children. A statement released discouraged Catholics from receiving the newly approved vaccine because the DNA-based technology involved the use of abortion-derived cell lines.

## **CNN DOUBLES DOWN ON FEAR PORN AFTER TEXAS RE-OPENS**



Reading the tea leaves of public fatigue over lockdowns and mask mandates, Texas Governor Gregg Abbott pivoted last week, calling for his state to fully re-open. Other states including Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama quickly followed up with similar announcements.

But *CNN* quickly attacked. During a 4 March segment on their afternoon "Newsroom" covering Johnson & Johnson's newly-approved COVID vaccine, they spotlighted voices apparently advocating quasi-permanent lockdowns, based on fears of new COVID variants and lack of sufficient vaccines.

“This is a scary virus and we already know that. We underestimate it at our peril,” said Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo of the Birmingham School of Medicine at the University of Alabama.

Reporter Nick Watt’s voice-over intoned about the possibility of mutated viruses infecting people who survived the original COVID-19 strain:

“Study of a surge in Manaus late last year found the variant first identified in Brazil was likely to blame and could more easily re-infect people who’ve already been infected. The research is not yet published.”

And a clip of Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, chimed in, “Variants are starting to take over and if they become dominant and we relax restrictions, I think we can absolutely see a huge spike.”

CNN juxtaposed the warnings with Governor Abbott’s pronouncement, “It is now time to open Texas 100 percent.”

The reporter’s voice-over ominously explained, “And one week from tomorrow, the mask mandate will end, and every business can reopen, no restrictions.”

***TRENDPOST:*** Typically, CNN’s reporting contained zero information on the disastrous economic, educational, social, and health consequences of the lockdowns. They also failed to note that strict lockdown states including New York and California have fared no better overall during the COVID saga of the past year than states such as Florida and South Dakota, which governed with a much lighter hand.



# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## ITALY: POPULIST MOVEMENTS DEAD

Giuseppe Conte, the former Italian prime minister who was recently replaced by Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, will lead the country's Five Star Movement that was once championed as an anti-euro populist party.

In our 26 January article, [“ITALY’S CONTE PREVAILS IN CONFIDENCE VOTE, NOW RESIGNS,”](#) we reported that Conte resigned from his leadership post due to criticism over his handling of the coronavirus outbreak.

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

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we reported, the Northern League and the Five Star Movement – both anti-E.U., anti-euro, anti-globalization political movements – joined in support of Bankster Mario Draghi as Prime Minister. With Draghi’s

*unblemished track record with the Goldman Sachs Gang, the World Bank, and the European Central Bank, the evidence is crystal clear: the Banksters are in charge of Italy.*

*Thus, the populist movements and what they pretend to represent are dead in Italy. While there may be a bounce-back from the Northern League, with Conte leading the Five Star Movement, it will further dissolve in popularity.*

## **BIDEN RENEWS “STATE OF EMERGENCY” SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA**



Picking up where former President Trump left off – and despite recent overtures by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to restore relationships – the Biden administration renewed a declaration of national emergency, which is the legal framework to impose strict sanctions

against the Maduro regime.

Despite the hardship the sanctions have imposed on the general population of Venezuela and the implications of the COVID War that has wracked the nation, President Biden made it clear that more suffering would be imposed unless the Maduro government bent to its demands.

*WSWS.com* reported that Alena Douhan, a U.N. human rights special rapporteur, called for countries such as the U.S. and Portugal to lift some of these sanctions due to the impact of the sanctions and coronavirus in the country.

### **Stolen Money**

Caracas has been frozen out of offshore bank accounts worth billions. Ms. Douhan said that, based on early findings, the national emergency declaration

that began in 2015, under former President Obama, is in violation of international law and constitutes an “intervention in the domestic affairs of Venezuela.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently spoke with Juan Guaidó, whom he referred to as the country’s interim president.

Guaidó’s strongest support continues to be from the U.S. government. In the **Trends Journal’s** 26 January article, “[BIDEN RECOGNIZES VENEZUELA’S GUAIDÓ AS PRESIDENT](#),” we reported that many in the country see Guaidó as a fading star. In January, he called for street protests to oppose the Maduro government. Unlike the tens of thousands Guaidó mobilized a year ago after declaring himself interim president, this time, only a few hundred people turned out.

*Reuters* reported the country is facing hyperinflation, and its central bank is set to introduce a new banknote worth 1 million bolivars, or 52 U.S. cents. Most Venezuelans use U.S. dollars for daily transactions.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *There wasn’t a U.S. war that was started after Joe Biden got elected to Congress in 1972 which he didn’t support. As an ardent, long-term team member of the U.S. military/industrial/intelligence complex, we forecast President Biden will continue to support current wars and conflicts and wage future U.S. foreign military interventions in the name of bringing freedom and democracy to foreign nations.*

## **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION: DON’T PROBE ISRAELI WAR CRIMES**



In the **Trends Journal’s** 9 February article, “[ICC TO PROBE ISRAELI WAR CRIMES](#),” we reported on the International Criminal Court’s decision to investigate allegations of war crimes against Israel for its role in the 2014 Gaza

War, otherwise known as “Operation Protective Edge.”

Israel quickly called the move politically motivated with no legal standing, and the Biden administration agreed.

Last week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a statement declaring the U.S. “firmly opposes” the case and blasted the court for unfairly targeting Israel.

Blinken said in a statement Wednesday that the U.S. is “disappointed” by the ICC’s decision:

“The ICC has no jurisdiction over this matter... Israel is not a party to the ICC and has not consented to the Court’s jurisdiction, and we have serious concerns about the ICC’s attempts to exercise its jurisdiction over Israeli personnel.”

Palestinians at the time praised the ICC for opening up the investigation.

In 2015, a U.N. investigation found that both Israeli and Palestinian militants could have committed war crimes during the conflict, the *BBC* reported. The fight lasted for 50 days and ended in a truce, the report said. But the deal was reached after 2,251 Palestinians were killed, including 1,462 civilians. Israel suffered the deaths of 67 soldiers and six civilians.

Last month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the investigation proves the body cares little about the law and is simply a political body:

“The court ignores real war crimes and instead persecutes the state of Israel, a state with a firm Democratic regime, which sanctifies the rule of law, and is not a member of the court.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As with the Trump and previous American administrations, Israel will continue to receive special treatment status regardless of their violations of international law, such as the taking of Palestinian land under the name of “settlements.”*

*Indeed, just before Biden was sworn into office, in violation of international law, the Israeli government approved 2,600 housing units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Israel took control of the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 war.*

*Under international law, Israeli settlements are illegal. They violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that states, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.”*

*The U.N. Security Council, the U.N. General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice, and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed the Fourth Geneva Convention applies, that this is occupied territory, and Israeli settlements there are illegal.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In May 2018, in violation of international law, President Trump moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and he proclaimed Israel has the right to take control of Syria’s Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 war.*

*Thus, as evidenced by the recent statement from America’s new Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, the Biden administration will continue to support Israel’s decisions regardless of their illegality.*

*Moreover, should tensions escalate in the region, as we forecast, right or wrong, the Biden administration, as with past ones, will support Israel.*



## ISRAEL: TARGET IRAN



Benny Gantz, the Israeli defense minister, said in an interview last week that his country stands ready to act alone if Iran continues to accelerate its nuclear program, and the country is updating its plans to strike Tehran's nuclear facilities.

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

"The Iranian nuclear escalation must be stalled," Gantz said. "If not, we must stand independently and we must defend ourselves by ourselves."

The *Associated Press* reported that Gantz last week mentioned developing a "special security arrangement" with its new allies in the region, including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

"I don't think it's going to be a defense pact but we are going to develop defense relations with every country that we've established relations with," he told *Reuters*.

The *AP* reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently met with an ambassador from the UAE at his office and said, "We're changing the Middle East. We're changing the world."

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that Netanyahu recently told Vice President Harris that Israel was committed to preventing Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

***TRENDPOST:*** While the media continues to report on Israel's determination to stop Iran from going nuclear, rarely is it noted that according to the Center for



*Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Israel possesses 90 plutonium-based nuclear warheads and has produced enough plutonium for 100-200 weapons.*

*Thus, it is OK for Israel and other nations to have nuclear weapons, but not Iran... or, for that matter, North Korea. Only nations sanctified by a higher political order are permitted to have nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction. And, as evidenced with Iraq, whether they possess them or not, the very thought of it is enough to invade and destroy an “enemy” nation.*

*It should also be noted that despite the lack of evidence, the U.S. media supported the George W. Bush lie, blackballing and/or denouncing those who provided counterintelligence and/or were against the Iraq war. (See [the FAIR article](#) from March 2007.)*

## **PROTESTS RAGE IN MYANMAR DESPITE MILITARY CRACKDOWN**



As we reported in our 9 February article, [“MYANMAR PROTESTS SURGE, JUNTA CLAMPS DOWN,”](#) protests in Myanmar have raged across the country since the 1 February coup, and demonstrators risk jail and a growing assertiveness by the military-backed police in the country.

The protesters are demanding the release of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and others arrested by the military as well as for the civilian government to be put back in power. The generals have declared a year-long state of emergency and ousted Myanmar’s leadership, accusing Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy Party (NLD) of rigging last November’s general election.

Suu Kyi's party called on the country of 54.05 million to "protest against the coup." The report said her party easily won the election in November, but the military has not accepted the results.

### **Barely a Peep from Presstitutes**

Reports say that more than 54 people have been killed, including 38 last Wednesday. Yet, the killings have not deterred thousands more protesters from taking to the streets in major hubs throughout the country, including its largest city, Yangon, where protesters built roadblocks. Authorities later fired tear gas and rubber bullets to break up the demonstrations.

A 19-year-old protester named Angel was killed on Wednesday after being shot in the head. She was a dancer and taekwondo champion, according to *Reuters*. Before she attended the protest in Mandalay, she took to Facebook to identify her blood type and requested that her organs be donated if she died. One witness told the news agency that moments before police opened fire, Angel said, "We won't run," and "Blood must not be shed."

On Friday, Singapore called the police crackdown on protesters a "national shame," according to *Reuters*. Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's foreign minister, said, "It's the height of national shame for the armed forces of any country to turn its arms against its own people."

*The Economist* reported that anti-coup protesters have been seen with posters condemning China for supporting the military junta and call on the U.S. to intervene.

*DW.com* reported that besides the traditional street protests, protesters in the country have also taken part in a "Civil Disobedience Movement," which has threatened the country's infrastructure. The movement prompted the government to warn civil servants from staying home from their jobs and said if they do not go to work by 8 March, they should consider themselves fired.

The report said this protest has been felt “at every level of the national infrastructure” including closed hospitals and banks.

Last month, we reported that bank employees in Myanmar have followed the lead of workers in other industries who decided to stop showing up to work to further damage the country’s economic infrastructure amid the coup.

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

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We had forecast three weeks ago that military rule will continue in Myanmar, and threats by the U.N., the U.S., and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called “Democracy” to Myanmar. The DW.com report said these generals have shown no interest in bowing to international pressure. Despite protests continuing throughout the country, even their attendance seems to be diminishing.*

*Moreover, this is also a major element of the “Youth Revolution” megatrend we had forecast as a Top Trend for 2021. Thus, while the rebellion will be stamped down by the military, the young people with no future of freedom, peace, or justice will continue their uprisings in Myanmar and many other nations.*

## THAI PROTESTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS, DEFYING ORDERS



Protests broke out in Bangkok last week demanding the release of fellow demonstrators who were arrested last year during violent rallies calling for the resignation of the country’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

As noted in the **Trends Journal's** 10 November 2020 article, [“PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS CONTINUE TO RAGE IN THAILAND,”](#) many of the disenfranchised youth in Thailand took aim at the country's monarchy. The penalty these protesters faced at the time was 15 years in prison for insulting or threatening the king.

Protesters wanted Prayuth to resign and want the country to take steps toward becoming more democratic. These include an amendment to the constitution and reforms to the monarchy. Protesters said King Vajiralongkorn wields too much power. They also resent that the monarchy controls a fortune of about \$40 billion.

*Al Jazeera* reported courts in the country have taken an aggressive stance against the protesters and, in many cases, have denied bail requests. The protests that have been organized are seen as an affront on Prayuth, who called on demonstrators to stay home due to the risk of coronavirus.

One of the top officials from the Bangkok Metropolitan Police Bureau said at a news conference, “Protests are illegal. Anyone who joined or invites others to join is breaking the law.”

The report pointed out that Prayuth, a former army commander, became prime minister in 2014 after a military coup.

“We have to love each other and be united, not divided, and respect the law,” he said, according to the report.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have written, discontent in Thailand has been brewing since the 2014 military coup d'état.*

*As with the Hong Kong protesters, who ignited the uprising in 2019, and the recent Myanmar protests, many of the demonstrators are young adults, the foundation of the “Youth Revolution.”*

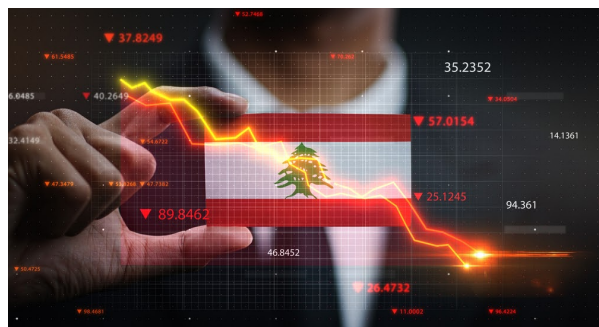
*As reported by UNICEF, the youth unemployment rate in Thailand is seven times higher compared to the total population. Thailand's economy's real GDP contracted 6.1 percent in 2020, its fastest pace in decades, according to Nikkei Asia.*

*Thus, as economic conditions decline and with nothing left to lose, the youth protests will continue and the military suppression will escalate.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *Youth Revolutions against ruling powers will continue to grow in cities and towns across the globe. Here is the key that explains why: About 41 percent of the global population are under 24. They're angry about the lack of well-paying jobs, rising costs, austerity measures, and corrupt governments. They see the expanding gap between rich and poor.*

*Based on data from Credit Suisse, the wealthiest "one percent" of the world's population now owns more than half the world's wealth. Furthermore, this one percent saw their share grow at the fastest rate ever over the past 18 years.*

## LEBANON FACES FINANCIAL MELTDOWN



The Lebanese pound collapsed last week to 10,000 to the U.S. dollar, which has added more fuel to rising poverty rates, declining living standards, and political instability... which had intensified before the COVID War began last year.

Indeed, back in October 2019, we reported in the **Trends Journal** that in Lebanon, an estimated one million Lebanese took to the streets to protest harsh austerity measures, which have deepened financial distress on all but the rich.

Throughout Beirut, anti-government graffiti such as "Down with the rule of the mafia" and protestors chanting "Thieves, thieves"... calling out politicians they

say have stolen billions of dollars from them, aided by Bankster laws that allow them to do it.

Protesters are back in Beirut and took to the streets again last week. One of the protesters, Tawfik Marei, told *Reuters*, “They’re taking away our dignity. We came down today to say no we have dignity... We are not insects. They are controlling the dollar for your interests to steal money from the people.”

He continued, “If I can still afford to get bread to feed my kids, others can’t. I’m telling everyone to go down to the streets for these people.”

In its attempt to climb out of a financial crisis, the government has locked people out of their bank accounts that hold U.S. dollars. More protesters took the streets on Saturday in front of a Beirut bank demanding access to their accounts.

The country’s March 2020 default on a \$1.2 billion Eurobond plus the coronavirus outbreak have contributed to the crisis.

*WSWS.com* reported that half of the country’s six million people live in poverty. The pound’s crash has contributed to exorbitant food prices. The minimum wage in the country fell in real terms to \$67 a month, the report said. Two months ago, the minimum wage was about \$450 per month. The report said the World Bank warned that Beirut could face an “arduous and prolonged depression.”

Lebanese President Michel Aoun called on the country’s Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, who resigned from the post in October 2019 after protests broke out in the country over its economy. Aoun wants to form a new government, but *WSWS.com* reported they have hit roadblocks because they fail to agree on members who would “encompass their different patronage networks.”

A new cabinet could help bring in billions in international aid, the *Reuters* report said.



Caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab urged these leaders to form a new government and pointed to a viral video on social media that showed people fighting over powdered milk.

“Doesn’t the scramble for milk constitute a sufficient incentive to transcend formalities and rough out the edges in order to form a government?”

## **Syria also Suffers**

The *WSWS* reported that the Syrian economy is closely tied to Lebanon’s, and Damascus’ pound also hit record lows last week, trading on the black market at 4,000 pounds to the U.S. dollar. (The official number was 1,256 pounds to the dollar. At the start of the mid-March 2011 conflict, the Syrian pound was valued at 47 pounds to the dollar, according to the *Associated Press*.)

Most Syrians survive on about 90,000 pounds a month, which is equivalent to \$22.50, according to the report. The report said about 80 percent of Syrians live below the poverty line.

Damascus has dealt with a multi-pronged hit on its economy from war launched against it by the U.S. under President Obama, Turkey, and Western allies plus trade and other sanctions. The *AP* reported it is believed Syrians also keep their money in Lebanese banks and are unable to access it.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we reported last August, a massive explosion ripped through the heart of Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon, killing some 200 people and injuring an estimated 6,000.*

*On top of the loss of life, estimated property damage hovers between \$3-15 billion, and hundreds of thousands are now homeless due to the explosion’s widespread damage.*

*With deep anti-government rage running through the streets, the future of the nation, which keeps sinking deeper into socioeconomic and political despair, will ignite civil and possibly regional wars.*

## **U.N. WARNS LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC DISASTER LOOMING**



The U.N.'s Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean warned last week that the COVID-19 outbreak threatens another “lost decade” for what the commission called the world’s worst-affected developing region in the world.

The *Financial Times* reported the commission said extreme poverty in the region is at its worst level in 20 years and impacts 78 million people. The report said there are about 208 million people in the region, with over a third living in poverty.

“The effects of the coronavirus pandemic has spread to all areas of human life, altering the way we interact, paralyzing economies, and generating profound changes in societies,” the agency said. The report said analysts do not expect the region to hit herd immunity until possibly well into next year.

*Reuters* reported that employment in Latin America, even in the best of times, is usually informal, which leaves workers vulnerable to slowdowns. The report said inequalities have been inching upward in recent years even before the coronavirus. The GDPs from these countries grew by a sluggish 0.3 percent, and overall poverty increased from 27.8 percent to 30.5 percent. There is concern the virus could result in a “generational catastrophe.”

The *FT* reported that women and children seem to be the most impacted by the virus. The report said schools have been closed there for a longer period than other nations, and about 60 percent of children have missed an entire year.

“In Latin America and the Caribbean, the loss will be more disastrous and far-ranging than in any other region for children, for parents, and for the society at large,” UNICEF said, according to the *FT*.

## **Virus Spread**

Aside from its economic slump and troubling poverty numbers, Latin America and the Caribbean have done poorly in preventing the spread of COVID. *Reuters* reported that out of every 100 new cases worldwide, on average, 24 of those cases are from one of these countries.

As of Sunday, there have been 687,000 recorded deaths and at least 21,699,000 infections. The country with the most deaths is Brazil, which recorded more than 246,000 deaths. Its economy is expected to decline by 6 percent in 2020.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have forecast, the spiraling downward situation in Latin America will result in a pronounced increase of migrants coming into America... many of whom are unaccompanied children.*

*Reports noted that last week alone, Border Patrol agents said about 350 children are crossing into the U.S. per day from Mexico, which the New York Post reported is more than quadruple from last fall.*

*Axios reported the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) said that “[its] shelter system is at 94 percent occupancy and is expected to reach its maximum this month.” The report said a group from Biden’s team is considering visiting the border to get a grasp of the situation. The HHS has already opened overflow shelters.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Beyond Latin America, as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and poverty, crime, corruption, and violence rises, with people losing*

*everything and having nothing left to lose, they will be leaving their homeland for safe-haven nations.*

*As the migration trend accelerates, so, too, will anti-immigration populist parties.*

## TOP TREND 2021:THE RISE OF CHINA



**CHINA'S XI: "EAST IS RISING, WEST IS DECLINING."** President Xi Jinping said in a closed-door meeting last month that China is on the ascent while the U.S. is on the descent and continues to be its biggest "source of chaos."

"The United States is the biggest threat to our country's development and security," he said, according to *The New York Times*, citing an official who recalled the meeting. The paper reported that Xi has been trying to bolster the country's confidence but has continued to warn about the West's strength, saying things like, "The West is strong and the East is weak."

China said last week that it would target a 2021 GDP growth of 6 percent, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. The paper reported that economists believe China's economy will grow by 8 percent or more.

Beijing also announced it would increase military spending by 7 percent, according to *Bloomberg*. The country has allocated \$208.6 billion to its 2022 defense budget. *Fox News* reported that Republicans on the House Armed Service Committee, led by Representative Mike Rogers from Alabama, countered the Chinese announcement by urging President Biden in a letter to increase military spending.

"The Chinese Communist Party increased its defense spending by over 75 percent in the last decade," the letter read, according to the report. It continued,

“If we do nothing, over the next decade, China will fully modernize its military, potentially bringing it into parity with our own.”

***TRENDPOST:*** According to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, the United States spends more on defense (\$732 billion) than the top ten countries combined (\$726 billion). China leads the ten other countries with an estimated \$209 billion military budget.

## **CHINA SET TO SURPASS US ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. A**

congressional commission warned last week that China could, within the next decade, “surpass the U.S. as the world’s AI superpower,” according to the *Financial Times*.

“We are very close to losing the cutting edge of microelectronics which power our companies and our military because of our reliance on Taiwan,” Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google, said, according to the paper.

Taiwan is one of the world’s biggest suppliers of microchips, but the study determined that the U.S. should make the production of these chips in the U.S. a priority.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have long been reporting, when China was granted permission to enter the World Trade Organization in 2001, European and American manufacturers gave the third-world nation at the time the most advanced industrial production and hi-technology processes, so they could manufacture in China using cheap labor and sell it abroad at marked-up prices to make greater profit margins.

*Now, 20 years later, having been given the keys to the manufacturing and hi-tech vaults, China has what it needs to excel in those areas without foreign nation input.*

**CHINA: SPENDING MORE TO MAKE CITIZENS LIVE LONGER.** The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week that one of Beijing's top domestic priorities is to get its population to live longer to make up for the lag in births in the country.

The report said the officials in Beijing are concerned about its aging population and its effect on the economy. The country is home to 1.4 billion people, and its projected future workforce is contracting.

The *Journal* reported that the country may have seen its lowest birth rate in decades last year and pointed to a consulting firm based in London that estimates the country's workforce will shrink by more than 0.5 percent this year.

The goal of the 14th five-year plan is to increase the life expectancy in the country to above 78 by 2025, the *Journal* reported. The plan seeks economic and social change and provides a basic pension to 95 percent of the country's retirees, up from the current 91 percent.

The report said Beijing also plans to make it more appealing to have children by making daycare more affordable and extending maternity leave.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Unlike China, most Western nations are silent on spending more to improve the public's health.*

*As the COVID War rages, and as the data proves, which we detail in this and other issues of the **Trends Journal** – obesity and Type 2 diabetes are among the killer comorbidities in the U.S. and U.K. – yet, not a word from governments, Presstitutes, or politicians about building immune systems and spending more money to teach and help people to get healthy.*

**U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND: NEED MORE MONEY TO COUNTER CHINA.**

Admiral Philip Davidson, the leader of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, on Thursday told a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that the \$27 billion Pacific Deterrence Initiative is worth the price tag.



Davidson compared the amount to what is spent on the European Defense Initiative, which fluctuates between \$4.8 and \$6.5 billion each year. Under the PDI request, the \$27 billion would be spread out between 2022 and 2027. Part of the budget will be earmarked for a radar system in Pulau, Guam, with a hefty price tag of \$200 million, along with \$2.3 billion in what the report identified as space-based radars.

“It’s been fascinating to me, the relative ease at which the conversation happens year to year when it comes to the EDI when compared to PDI,” Davidson told the American Enterprise Institute, according to *DefenseNews.com*.

*Nikkei Asia*, the Japanese outlet, reported that one of the PDI documents submitted to Congress said one of the greatest dangers to the U.S. is the “erosion of conventional deterrence.”

“Without a valid and convincing conventional deterrent, China is emboldened to take action in the region and globally to supplant U.S. interests. As the Indo-Pacific’s military balance becomes more unfavorable, the U.S. accumulates additional risk that may embolden adversaries to unilaterally attempt to change the status quo.”

*Defense News* reported that along with the Guam radar system, the PDI budget would include a long-range missile system that would stretch from south Japan to Malaysia, which reportedly would be able to strike mainland China.

Some of the other items mentioned on the PDI include:

- \$1.6 billion for an Aegis Ashore missile defense site on Guam,
- \$4.6 billion on a “Power Projection, Dispersal, and Training Facilities within the U.S. territories, as well as Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

As the *Trends Journal* reported last month, the Biden administration has said China will be its top international priority. During his first visit to the Pentagon as president last month, Biden announced that he would form a task force that will

form a policy to counter China during his first term. He called Beijing “our most serious competitor.”

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

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

**BLINKEN: CHINA IS THE BIGGEST ‘GEOPOLITICAL TEST’ OF THE CENTURY.** U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a speech last Wednesday that Washington’s relationship with Beijing will be the greatest test in the 21st Century.

Blinken said that China is the only country “with the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to seriously challenge the stable and open international system—all the rules, values, and relationships that make the world work the way we want it to, because it ultimately serves the interests and reflects the values of the American people.”

The head diplomat, who addressed the State Department via video presentation, said the Chinese threat trumps other countries and regions like Russia and the Middle East. He said the “common denominator is the need to engage China from a position of strength.”

His speech reportedly seemed to reflect a 24-page “interim” strategy that deals with national security. One item in the document mentioned the need to restore U.S. credibility and reassert a “forward-looking global leadership” that will “ensure that America, not China, set the international agenda.” One of the administration’s reported goals is to strengthen its relationship with countries like Japan, India, and Australia.

***TRENDPOST:*** A Pew Research Center released a poll on Thursday that showed nine in ten Americans view Beijing as either a competitor or outright enemy, according to the Wall Street Journal. Only 53 percent of those polled believe Biden will be able to reign in Beijing's influence on the global economy.

***TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA:*** As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century – the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business; the business of America is war.

*While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure.*

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

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## HOUSE CANCELS SESSION OVER POSSIBLE MILITIA PLOT

Congressman Steny Hoyer announced last week that all legislative issues would wrap up before Thursday due to a Capitol Police warning that a militia group was planning to storm the Capitol on 4 March.

The chatter centered on the fear that so-called QAnon supporters marked the date as the day former President Trump would be inaugurated, according to a bulletin from the FBI and DHS, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. The report said these domestic extremists are still inspired by allegations of election fraud.

Congressman Michael McCaul told *CNN* that the former president should tell these people to “stand down.”

In our 19 January article, [“RAND PAUL: CAPITOL SECURITY ‘RIDICULOUS’ AFTER RIOT,”](#) we reported on the increase in security around Washington, D.C., due to the deadly 6 January raid on the Capitol. Senator Rand Paul said earlier that the newly-implemented security apparatus looks like a “militarized zone.”

The *WSJ* reported that Melissa Smislov, a top intelligence official at DHS, was asked by a Senate committee last week about shortcomings prior to January's riots and why a warning was not issued. She said that in hindsight, a warning probably should have been issued.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this to emphasize how intelligence agencies double up on failure to take protective measures after they have failed to prevent an incident they didn't see coming.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *We also note this to again illustrate America's oxymoron named "intelligence" agencies. With unblemished track records of failure of intelligence strategies – from long before 9/11 to the recent riots – they double up on robbing citizens of their privacy, rights, and freedom by imposing strict measures in the name of "security."*

*Indeed, security fences now surround the White House and Capitol building, and legislators are forced to walk through metal detectors and get frisked before entering... measures completely unrelated to the riots.*

*What fools would try to launch an attack on the Capitol knowing it was militarized... or would they wait 24 hours before the troops left and opened it up? Again, agencies double down on failures and the media bows down to demented demands.*

## **ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CHARGE OF CUOMO HARASSMENT**



A former aide of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said in a damning interview last week that she believed Cuomo was angling to sleep with her and claimed he asked her questions about her sex life.

Charlotte Bennett, who worked as a health policy adviser in Cuomo's administration until this past November, was the second woman at the time to come forward to level sex harassment claims against the governor. Lindsey Boylan, a former aide who is currently running for Manhattan Borough President, was the first to claim sexual harassment against Cuomo.

Ms. Bennett said in the interview that Cuomo asked her about her personal history as a survivor of sexual assault. She said, "So he goes, 'You were raped. You were raped and abused and assaulted.'" Bennett also said Cuomo asked her if she had difficulty being intimate with someone because of her trauma.

"The governor asked if I was sensitive to intimacy," she said.

Ms. Bennett, 25, pointed to an instance in June 2020 when she thought Cuomo made it clear that he wanted to sleep with her. She told *CBS News* he called her into the office on a Saturday and asked her about how to use an iPhone, then the two separated.

"And finally, he calls me back in and asks if I've found him a girlfriend yet," she recalled. She said she responded no and that she "was working on it."

He allegedly told her he was lonely and looking for a girlfriend.

"I thought, he's trying to sleep with me. The governor is trying to sleep with me and I'm deeply uncomfortable and I have to get out of this room as soon as possible," she said.

Norah O'Donnell, the *CBS* reporter, asked what made her think Cuomo wanted sex?

Ms. Bennett replied, "Without explicitly saying it, he—he implied to me that I was old enough for him and he was lonely." She mentioned she thought the governor felt emboldened by the fawning national attention he received for his handling of COVID.



“Absolutely, I think he felt like he was untouchable in a lot of ways.”

Cuomo has denied most of the allegations against him but said he “now understands that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable. It was unintentional and I truly and deeply apologize for it. I feel awful about it, and frankly, I am embarrassed by it, and that’s not easy to say but that’s the truth.”

## **New Accuser**

Ana Liss, a 35-year-old who works as the director of planning and development for New York’s Monroe County, told the *Wall Street Journal* in a story published Saturday that Cuomo once kissed her hand and asked her personal questions like if she had a boyfriend.

Ms. Liss said that at first, she didn’t pay the comments much mind, but they eventually wore on her and it began to feel as though the governor was patronizing her. She said his remarks were not appropriate in “any setting.”

Cuomo’s office seemed to take a tougher stance on Liss’s comments. The *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper reported that an adviser to Cuomo issued the statement:

“Reporters and photographers have covered the governor for 14 years watching him kiss men and women and posing for pictures. At the public open house mansion reception, there are hundreds of people, and he poses for hundreds of pictures. That’s what people in politics do.”

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

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

*Indeed, his days as governor are numbered.*

## **CUOMO GETS STRIPPED, BUT NOT IN THE WAY HE WANTED**



On Friday, New York State's Senate voted on legislation that prevents Governor Andrew Cuomo from issuing new coronavirus-related emergency orders, which was seen as a stinging rebuke from the Democrat-controlled body.

Cuomo finds himself at the nadir of his governorship and faces two scandals that pose a threat to his administration. He is accused of sexual harassment by multiple women, and his top aides are accused of trying to hide COVID-19 deaths tied to nursing homes in the state.

Cuomo has rejected growing calls to resign, and the state eventually acknowledged that at least 15,000 nursing home residents died, a significant jump from the 8,700 figure they had been publicizing, according to the *Associated Press*. There is currently a federal probe.

The bill limits the emergency powers handed to him in March 2020 at the onset of the outbreak.

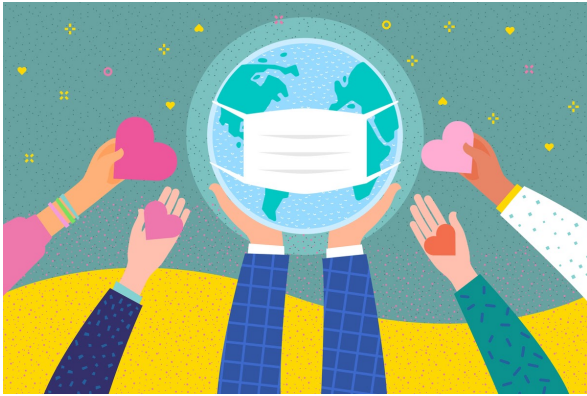
Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a Democrat from Yonkers, said Sunday that Cuomo needs to resign:

“Every day there is another account that is drawing away from the business of government... We have allegations about sexual harassment, a toxic work environment, the loss of credibility surrounding the COVID-19

nursing home data and questions about the construction of a major infrastructure project.

New York is still in the midst of this pandemic and is still facing the societal, health and economic impacts of it. We need to govern without daily distraction. For the good of the state, Governor Cuomo must resign.”

## CNN AGAIN ADMITS SELLING COVID BOOSTS RATINGS



Jason Kilar, the CEO of WarnerMedia, *CNN*’s parent company, was asked last week about how the network could keep its high ratings, and he essentially said, as did CEO Jeff Zucker last April, to keep selling COVID Fear and Hysteria.

At a Morgan Stanley Technology, Media, and Telecom Conference, Kilar said,

“It turns out that pandemic is a pretty big part of the news cycle, and that’s not going away anytime soon... If you take a look at the ratings and the performance, it’s going well. And I think it’s going well because... as it turns out that the pandemic and the way that we can help inform and contextualize the pandemic, turns out it’s really good for ratings.”

*The Hill* reported that in January, *CNN* beat *Fox News* in ratings, but in February, *Fox News* defeated both *CNN* and *MSNBC* in primetime viewership.

Last April, we reported on the *Wall Street Journal* article, neglected by the mainstream media following Kilar’s “good for rating” comment, which illustrates it’s not news that counts with Presstitutes, it’s only the bottom line.

The mainstream media’s “bottom line” is selling the COVID War to boost ratings:

“On a recent conference call, CNN chief Jeff Zucker urged editors and producers at the network not to shift focus from coronavirus new updates despite weeks of wall-to-wall coverage of the pandemic.

‘You need to stay on the news,’ Mr. Zucker said, according to a person who listened. ‘People are coming to CNN for the news right now.’

TV ratings suggest his hunch was on target. CNN and other cable news outlets could scarcely imagine that anything could juice viewership like the 2016 U.S. presidential election and its aftermath; but ratings have soared during the pandemic, reaching levels well above those when ‘Russian interference’ and ‘Mueller report’ dominated the news.

CNN has averaged 2.2 million total viewers in prime time through the first week of April, more than double its viewership in the fourth quarter of 2019, and roughly 57% higher than its election-season peak, according to Nielsen data. Fox News is up nearly 50% since the end of last year to over four million viewers, increasing its lead over its two main rivals. MSNBC has seen the smallest lift. The three networks’ websites all saw big audience gains, too. – *Wall Street Journal*, 16 April 2020

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Democracy is dead. There is no free speech or free mainstream media journalism in the United States. The only people featured on the MSM are those who follow and promote their agendas.*

*What we are witnessing now is unprecedented in modern American history. Politicians issue draconian, dictatorial rules that must be followed, and the mainstream media overtly ban all those who don’t agree with their narrative.*

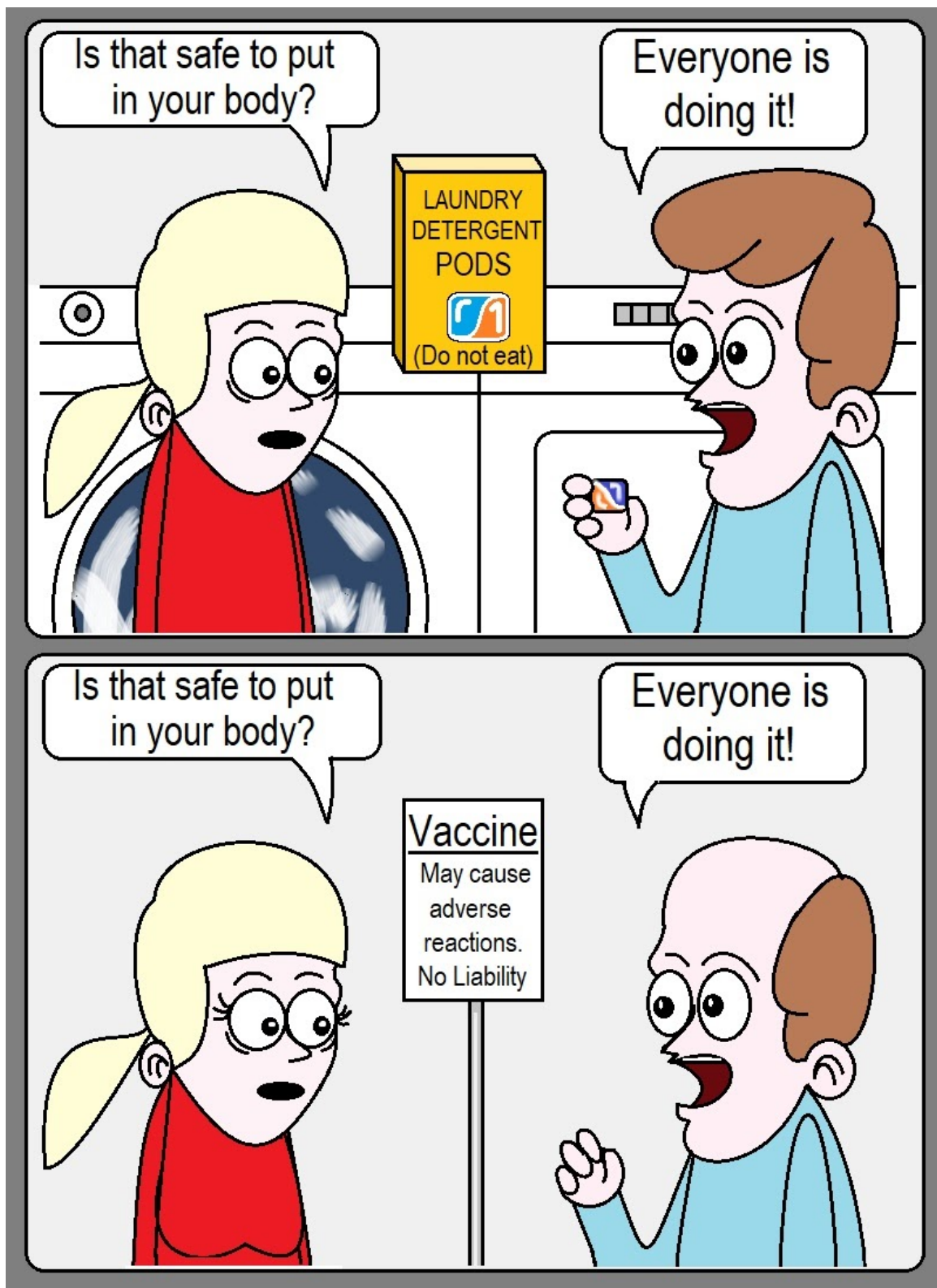
*And as evidenced by the so-called “social media” networks, no one is permitted to post statements or broadcasts that do not agree with what they believe.*

*As economic conditions deteriorate, social unrest will dramatically escalate and, as proven by the social media tech giants, government dissent, i.e., not following*

*the orders of mentally-deranged politicians who are “manipulative and devious typically to gain advancement” will be prohibited.*

# THE ART OF TRENDS

“Everyone Is Doing It” by *Stephen Green*





# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## STEEL INDUSTRY GOES GREEN

While much of the rest of the world is focused on making greener fuels for cars, a new venture in Europe has backed up a step and is piloting a process to make green steel for tomorrow's zero-emission vehicles.

Building vehicles use 17 percent of the world's 1.8-billion-ton steel production each year, according to the World Steel Association. Making all that steel takes a lot of heat, which now comes from burning fossil fuels. As a result, producing steel releases about 7 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

Now EIT InnoEnergy, an investment fund, is backing H2 Green Steel (H2GS), a venture that is planning to run a steel plant in northern Sweden without fossil fuels.

The plant will include a “cracking” facility that will use renewable energy – largely wind and water power – to break apart the hydrogen and oxygen in water and

harvest the hydrogen to fuel the steel plant, hence the “H2,” the chemical symbol for “hydrogen” in the project’s name.

H2GS expects to be making steel by 2024 and turning out five million tons a year by 2030.

H2GS is the first venture in EIT InnoEnergy's European Green Hydrogen Acceleration Center, "a key enabler of industrial value chains and clean tech innovation, with the aim of developing an annual €100B green hydrogen economy by 2025 that could create half a million direct and indirect jobs across the green hydrogen value chain," EIT said in a public statement related to the project.

H2GS plans to market its green steel to European carmakers producing vehicles that run on renewable energy, including hydrogen.

***TRENDPOST:*** *“Green hydrogen” is having a moment: interest in hydrogen has been stirring in the steel industry in recent years, three European steel firms are collaborating on a pilot project, and Saudi Arabia is building a green hydrogen facility in hopes of becoming a global hydrogen superpower (see our 15 September article, “[SAUDI ARABIA AIMS TO BECOME A NEW ENERGY POWERHOUSE.](#)”)*

*Although the technology lags solar and wind power’s advanced stage of development, hydrogen will continue to advance to take a respectable share of the renewable energy market by 2035.*

## UTILITIES FORM ELECTRIC HIGHWAY COALITION



Six U.S. electric companies – Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, Entergy, the Southern Company, the Southwestern Electric Power Company, and the Tennessee Valley Authority – have banded together to create the Electric Highway Coalition (EHC).

Together, the utilities will install a seamless network of electric car fast chargers along major highways covering the southeast and south-central U.S.; north to Chicago; and east to Washington, D.C.

Last month, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the state’s conservation department partnered to install fast chargers every 50 miles along Tennessee’s interstates and main state highways.

Fast chargers can refuel an electric passenger vehicle in 30 minutes or less, compared to the eight hours a slow charger typically needs.

The utilities are in the process of determining locations for chargers within their service areas. The chargers are planned to be located at tourist stops, so travelers can eat and shop while their vehicles are made road-ready again.

The six EHC utilities are recruiting other power companies to join their group, to create a nationwide web of fast chargers that will enable electric vehicles to have the coast-to-coast travel capacity of gas buggies.

There will be as many as 35 million EVs on U.S. roads by 2030, according to the American Public Power Association, a trade group of 1,400 electric utilities.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The two barriers to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles have been their range, averaging less than 300 miles on a full charge, and the means to recharge vehicles quickly along public roads.*

*Battery technology is making breakthroughs that could more than double current ranges between charges (see our 15 December article, “[NEW BATTERY COULD DOUBLE EV RANGE, SLASH CHARGING TIMES](#),”) and the Electric Highway Coalition will go a long distance toward solving the refueling issue.*

*The EHC’s project will further hasten public adoption of electric vehicles and the demise of Big Oil.*

*Photo credit: Tennessee Valley Authority*

## **RAISE A GLASS TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



Every pound of cheese gives its maker nine pounds of leftover whey to get rid of. Some are turned into protein powder, pig feed, or fertilizer; but more than half of the 100 billion pounds made annually in the U.S. alone is dumped as garbage.

Now some will make their way into Wheyward Spirit, a hard liquor created by food scientist Emily Darchuk, who's worked with NASA to create "space food" for astronauts.

The booze reportedly has a light taste with oaky notes of vanilla, but Darchuk isn't in the business just to make cocktails.

Her venture is equally intended to add value for dairy farmers and cheesemakers and to ease the trash burden on locales where whey is dumped; also, distilling

her spirits from whey uses less energy and less water than making spirits from grains, she says.

Perhaps more important, it's another intriguing exemplar of the steady growth of the circular economy, in which waste from one process or product becomes feedstock for another.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Darchuk's venture will draw attention not only from liquor connoisseurs but also from environmentally-aware drinkers enticed by the brand's stewardship of resources.*

*This two-pronged marketing approach will characterize products rising out of the evolving circular economy and will give them an advantage in the market, particularly in drawing younger aficionados.*

*Photo credit: Wheyward Spirit*